



Great Bike Tours

South Carolina Coast 2027 Hilton Head to Charleston

Our six-day coastal bike vacation explores the flat coastal plain & waterways between Hilton Head Island and Charleston, South Carolina. Warmed by the Southern breezes and shaded by live oak trees and stately palms, we'll spend a relaxing week cycling past old plantations and antebellum towns, as well as exploring the local waterways by boat.

Tour Length

6 Days/5 nights

2027 Tour Dates

April 18-23

Tour Start

Savannah, GA

Tour End

Charleston, SC or
Savannah, GA

Cost of the 2027

Tour

\$4,495 per person

Single supplement +\$1,000

Level of Difficulty

Easy – 15-30 miles/day, with total mileage of 70-125. Lots of flat routes on paved bike paths, some roads, and along the beach! Cycle at your own pace. Get a lift in the van whenever you like. E-bikes available (limited supply).

Accommodations

All week we stay at deluxe Inns near the water: two nights on Hilton Head Island ([Beach House Resort](#)), one night in historic Beaufort ([City Loft Hotel](#)), and two nights in Charleston ([HarbourView Inn](#)).



Highlights

- **Visit famous Hilton Head Island** – we are the *only* major bike tour company to include award-winning Hilton Head Island on their itinerary
- **Enjoy over 160 miles of paved bike paths**, cycling beneath magnificent live oaks trees cloaked in Spanish Moss
- **Relax on a nature cruise** of the calm estuary waters that serve as critical spawning grounds for fish, shellfish, and birds
- **Smile & laugh as you cycle on the hard-packed beach** at Hilton Head (we supply a separate beach cruiser)
- **Enjoy a pickleball clinic** with your fellow travelers
- **Horse-drawn carriage ride** past the stunning antebellum homes of historic Beaufort, learning about the city's history, from Revolutionary times to modern-day movie making (*The Big Chill, The Prince of Tides, Forrest Gump*)
- **Two-hour dolphin sail** on Charleston's only three-masted tall ship, rated one of the top 5 activities in town
- **Don't miss the new International African American Museum** in Charleston
- **Private walking tour of historic Charleston**, rated the #1 activity in town
- **Enjoy the cooler weather** in April (average max temp is 76 degrees), before it gets too hot, and before the crowds arrive

What's Included?

- 6 full days of bike riding, boat trips, and other activities
- 5 nights of lodging near (or overlooking) the water
- 10 meals (5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners), catering to all dietary needs
- Free use of our [bikes](#) (one bike for paved roads & trails, and another bike for the hard-packed beach), along with a helmet, rear rack bag for carrying personal items, rear safety light & triangle, water bottle & T-shirt. E-bikes available (limited supply)
- Superior level of support throughout your stay (each trip comes with two 15-passenger vans and three professional [bike tour guides](#))
- *Ride with GPS* navigation (using your own phone) or paper route notes & maps
- 2 water activities (nature cruise and sailboat ride)
- Exclusive GBT activities, including: a pickleball clinic (equipment provided); a horse-drawn carriage ride in Beaufort; walking tour of historic Charleston; and a narrated tour of the first self-governed town for freed slaves in the U.S.
- Full access to our online photo gallery with photos/videos from your trip
- Small group size of 15-20 people

Detailed Itinerary

Pre-tour (Saturday) — Arrive in Savannah, GA

Since our tour starts in Savannah on Sunday morning, it makes sense to arrive on Saturday (or earlier). We can provide plenty of suggestions for activities in and around Savannah. We

suggest that you stay at the designated airport hotels (where we'll meet you on Sunday morning). For further travel details, please request our "Travel Information" document for South Carolina.

Day 1 (Sunday) – Savannah to Hilton Head Island

The GBT vans will pick you up from the designated Savannah airport hotels at 8:30 am. Alternatively, if you are staying downtown, please meet us at the Savannah Visitors Center at 9:15 am. From here we will shuttle you (30 minutes) to Bluffton, SC (still on the mainland). Following our bike fitting and safety talk, we will begin our first ride of the week, alongside the scenic May River. Following our ride, we'll gather for a picnic lunch in a quiet park beside the river.

At 1:00 pm we'll be picked up by 1-2 boats that will transport us to Hilton Head Island. Not only is this a very scenic way to get to the island, but we'll also enjoy a 1½ hour narrated nature cruise of the region's calm estuaries and salt marshes.

Upon arrival in Hilton Head, our trusty bikes will be waiting for us, ready to take us to the oceanside Beach House Resort, our home for the next two nights. Start your happy hour early by grabbing a drink beside the pool, and then join us for our group dinner at the hotel's restaurant overlooking the ocean.

Accommodations: Beach House Resort, Hilton Head, SC
Biking: 13 miles on quiet roads and bike paths
Meals Included: Picnic Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 (Monday) – Layover Day on Hilton Head

Today you can follow our suggestions for a fun action-packed day, or you can head off on your own to explore Hilton Head, rated as the #1 island in the continental United States. Take a stroll along the wide sand beach, relax in a lounge by the pool, or listen to some live music at the legendary Tiki Hut beach bar.

Following breakfast at the hotel, we plan to introduce you to your beach cruiser. Our ride this morning will be on the hard-packed beaches of Hilton Head, where you'll meet plenty of other locals taking part in this unique Hilton Head tradition. We'll have options of 6-12 miles on the beach, and we'll do our best to send you off in a direction that has a tailwind (or close to it). There are also opportunities to stop at several tiki bars along the way!

Following our lunch at a local café, we then head over to our next activity – pickleball! We offer three options for you to choose from:

1. For those new to the sport, join our private group lesson, followed by some practice games afterwards.
2. For the more skilled players, we will set aside a few courts so that you can challenge your fellow cyclists.
3. The third option would be to skip pickleball altogether, and head back to the hotel to enjoy the pool and the live music.

In the afternoon we will also offer a 23-mile bike ride on the lovely paved biking trails on Hilton Head Island. Dinner is on your own tonight, and there are lots of fine restaurants within walking distance of our hotel.

- Accommodations:** Beach House Resort, Hilton Head, SC
Biking: 6-12 miles on the hard-packed beach, followed by an optional 23 miles on paved bike trails
Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 3 (Tuesday) – Hilton Head to Beaufort

We begin our bike ride immediately after breakfast, heading out on Hilton Head’s famous paved bike trails for the next 17 miles. One of the highlights of this morning is our visit to the Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park, where we are treated to a 45-minute guided tour of the first self-governed town for freed slaves in the United States.

We will then zip you back to Bluffton for lunch. Enjoy walking around this quaint town situated on a high bluff overlooking the May River, source of the world-famous Bluffton oysters. You’ll have opportunities to visit the many galleries in the National Historic District of town.

At 2:00 pm we’ll take a 45-minute van ride to our next hotel in the heart of Beaufort. You can then settle into your rooms for a while, or join us for an optional 5-mile bike ride around town. At 4:00 pm we all re-assemble for a private horse-drawn carriage ride past the stunning antebellum mansions of Beaufort’s National Landmark District, learning about the city’s history, from Revolutionary times to modern-day movie making (including *The Big Chill*, *The Prince of Tides*, and *Forrest Gump*). After experiencing the town’s romantic ambiance, quiet dignity, and incredible architecture, you’ll soon understand why the readers of *Southern Living* magazine rated Beaufort as the “Best Small Southern Town.”

In the evening we’ll gather for a happy hour, followed by our group dinner at a local restaurant overlooking the Harbor River.

- Accommodations:** City Loft Hotel, Beaufort, SC
Biking: 17 miles on the bike paths in Hilton Head + optional 5 miles in Beaufort
Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 (Wednesday) – Beaufort to Charleston

After a delicious breakfast in town, we’ll head off for a 19-mile bike ride around the Beaufort area. Our journey will take us through the historic downtown area of Beaufort and Port Royal, through a protected wetlands area, and along the entire length of the paved Spanish Moss Trail. Lunch is on us today, at a local café.

Following lunch, we will set off for our only long van shuttle of the week (up to two hours), which will take us to the HarbourView Inn, which will be our accommodations in Charleston for our final two nights.

Prior to settling into your rooms, we highly recommend a visit to the new International African American Museum, which attempts to reckon with Charleston's role in the slave trade (more than 40 percent of all captive Africans were brought into the U.S. here, where they were sold into slavery at auction). The cost per person is \$22.

Upon our arrival at our hotel we'll be treated to a wine & cheese reception, followed by an optional happy hour on their Rooftop Terrace. Our Inn is located in the heart of town, within easy walking distance of all the major attractions & restaurants. Dinner is on your own tonight, and if you wish to put a little south-in-your-mouth, try the local favorites such as shrimp & grits or She-Crab soup.

Accommodations: HarbourView Inn in Charleston, SC
Biking: 19 miles, on quiet roads, a boardwalk, and a paved multi-use trail
Meals Included: Breakfast, lunch

Day 5 (Thursday) – Exploring the Charleston area

Following breakfast at the Inn, we'll take a short van shuttle to the ocean, where we will begin our bike ride. Today's cycle will feature gorgeous scenery on the barrier islands of Sullivan's Island and the Isle of Palms. Along the way, spend some time exploring the Fort Moultrie National Historic Park, or hang out at the local beach. Towards the end of the ride, you'll have the option of engaging in the 2nd most popular activity in Charleston – cycling/walking over the Ravenal Bridge (using a separate cycle path). This will be our only big hill of the day, but we'll be rewarded with fabulous views of the Charleston skyline, retired warships, and the beautiful harbor area.

At 2:00 pm we have set aside some time to explore Charleston, by boat. Join us for a two-hour dolphin sail on Charleston's only three-masted tall ship, the *Schooner Pride*. The relaxing trip aboard this 84-foot boat has been voted "one of the top 5 things to do in Charleston."

In the late afternoon feel free to explore the historic downtown area, by foot. Experience all the southern hospitality and regal refinement that have earned Charleston the right to be called the #1 Best U.S. City (*Travel + Leisure* and *Conde Nast Traveler*). We suggest that you visit the historic Charleston City Market, Rainbow Row, and the Waterfront Park.

In the evening, please join us for a memorable final dinner at one of Charleston's best restaurants. And to top off your day, don't forget the complimentary milk and cookies when you arrive back at the Inn!

Accommodations: HarbourView Inn in Charleston, SC
Biking: Up to 25 miles
Meals Included: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6 (Friday) – Walking Tour in Charleston

This morning we'll walk to local restaurant for breakfast, followed by a private narrated Walking Tour of Charleston. These historic walking tours are rated the #1 most-popular activity in Charleston. Following the tour, you'll have two hours to explore Charleston on your own. You may wish to partake in some last-minute power shopping, or perhaps wander around the Waterfront Park with its spectacular fountains, spacious lawns, and intimate gardens.

Our South Carolina tour will officially end at 12:00 noon in Charleston. You may stay an extra day in Charleston, or we'd be happy to drop you off at the Charleston airport. If anyone has arranged their flight in-and-out-of Savannah (or parked their car at Savannah airport's long-term parking lot), then you're welcome to join us for a van ride back to Savannah airport (arriving around 2:30 pm).

Accommodations: On your own
Biking: None.
Meals Included: Breakfast

If you require further information regarding travel logistics, please request our “South Carolina Travel Information” document.

We hope you enjoy your South Carolina Coast Bike Vacation in April 2027. If you have any questions, or would like to confirm some spaces on this trip, please contact us soon.