

SMART TIPS FROM OUR 129 TRAVEL EXPERTS

TRAVEL + LEISURE

THE STYLE AND CULTURE ISSUE

OCTOBER 2009

PORTUGAL
MIAMI
ITALY
NEW YORK
PARIS
AND MORE...

**SPECIAL
PULLOUT
GUIDES**

• **WEEKEND
GETAWAYS**

PAGE 71

• **AIRPORT
NAVIGATOR**

PAGE 128

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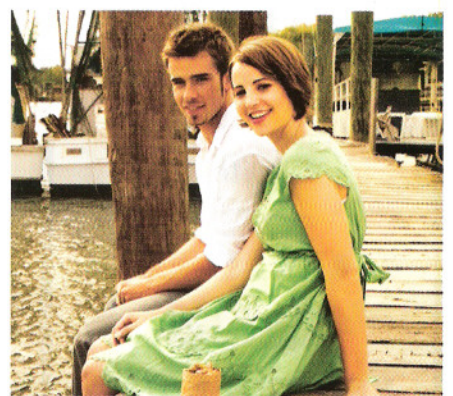
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***20
AMAZING
PLACES
(WHERE THE
DOLLAR STILL
GOES FAR)**

♥ FIND YOUR PASSION IN THE ♥

SOUTHEAST



FALL in the **SOUTHEAST**
IS RIFE WITH FLAVORS
and rich experiences that make it the
PICTURE-PERFECT REGION
to leave stress behind and reconnect with
WHAT YOU LOVE ♥



Produced in cooperation with the Southeast Tourism Society, an organization dedicated to the marketing and promotion of travel and the travel industry within our twelve-member Southeastern States of AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV. Visit our website at: www.EscapetotheSoutheast.com.

Along the coast,
FISHERMEN
HARVEST
**THE SEA'S
BOUNTY,**



while vineyards
SERVE UP
**DELICIOUS
WINES.**



The diverse landscape
BURSTS
with

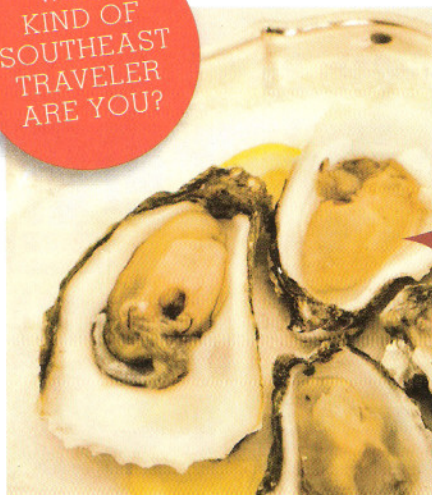
**FALL
COLORS**



**AND THE BRISK
SUNNY SKIES**
fill you with
**BOUNDLESS
ENERGY**
to explore.

**REDISCOVER
EXACTLY WHO
YOU** are in the
**SOUTH
EAST.**

WHAT
KIND OF
SOUTHEAST
TRAVELER
ARE YOU?



1 FOODIE & WINE LOVER

From wineries to delectable restaurants, the Southeast is a smorgasbord of new and old flavors. In South Carolina, the pulsing heat of summer fades into crisp river breezes and Charleston buzzes with cool energy—an energy that sizzles at local restaurants and food fests, like **THE TASTE OF CHARLESTON** (Oct. 9-11). Wild game, superbly fresh seafood, and local greens are plated at the area's world-renowned restaurants, while glasses are filled with spirits brewed in the nearby barrier islands. The season ushers in a time for savory oyster roasts, followed by long evening beach strolls.

On a trip to North Carolina, visitors find themselves staring up at waterfalls, driving along the Blue Ridge Parkway, or casting their fishing lines. Likewise, they're as likely to sit down to a plate of barbecue as they are to freshly hauled oysters and local vino. The food festivals are just as diverse, from **DURHAM'S WORLD BEER FESTIVAL** (Oct. 3) to **LEXINGTON'S 26TH ANNUAL BARBECUE FESTIVAL** (Oct. 24). (For a downloadable map of the state's 80 wineries, go to www.VisitNCWine.com.)

FREE FALL

Log on for online giveaways
each week at **VisitNC.com**
from late September through
early November.

2 OUT DOOR ENTHUSIAST

Along North Carolina's Outer Banks, fall brings prime fishing conditions thanks to the position of the jet stream. It's a great season to get out and cast a line or check out nationally recognized fishing tournaments and events, such as the **31ST ANNUAL U.S. OPEN KING MACKEREL TOURNAMENT** (Oct. 1-3) in Southport. This year also marks the **75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK**, filled with amazing spots to hike, bike, glimpse wildlife, and go on ranger guided tours.

Woman biking on
the Blue Ridge Parkway,
North Carolina; Above:
Freshly harvested oysters.



Don't-Miss Fall Events

An endless blue sky wraps around large oaks in the Southeast and a plethora of events fills the calendar boxes. Here is a sampling:

**SEPT. 24-
OCT. 25**

Tour of
Homes &
Gardens
Charleston,
S.C.

OCT. 3

Annual
Music in the
Mountains
Folk Festival
Burnsville,
N.C.

**OCT.
15-25**

North
Carolina
State Fair
Raleigh,
N.C.

OCT. 15-18

62nd Annual
Craft Fair of
the Southern
Highlands
Asheville,
N.C.

OCT. 17

Bank of
America
500
(NASCAR)
Concord,
N.C.

OCT. 24

Citadel vs.
Furman
Football
Game
Charleston,
S.C.

WHAT
KIND OF
SOUTHEAST
TRAVELER
ARE YOU?

Check out one of
the nation's largest
climbing walls

3 SPORTY THRILL SEEKER

Exhilarating white-water rapids and NASCAR races are just the beginning in Charlotte, N.C.



U.S. NATIONAL WHITE-WATER CENTER: Take a guided rafting trip down the rapids of the world's largest man-made white-water river and then refuel at the restaurant's outdoor patio with Southern faves, like fried pickles and barbecue.

CATAWBA RIVER: The U.S. National White-water Center also features 11 miles of hiking, biking, and running trails, as well as flat-water paddling and one of the nation's largest climbing walls.

MEGA ZIP: The new 1,000-foot-long zipline at the U.S. National Whitewater Center accommodates up to four people simultaneously and offers a bird's-eye view of the white-water.

LOWE'S MOTOR SPEEDWAY: Catch a race or see how pit crews train at many NASCAR-themed area attractions.



4 CULTURE CRAVER

Brand-new venues and trendy nightlife make Charlotte one of the Southeast's best scenes.



CHECK OUT THE NEW STROLL DISTRICT:

The NC Music Factory's two venues, The Fillmore and the Uptown Amphitheater bring big names to the stage.

JUST DANCE: Coming soon, sip daiquiris at the high-spirited Wet Willie's; check out Crobar nightclub; and spend an evening at Butter.

STRIKE OUT: Bowling has made a comeback and Strike City is a chic example of next-generation bowling with its glossy lanes and high-backed leather banquettes.

GO GLAM: The five-screen EpiCentre Theaters is a throw-back to the days of the Silver Screen and fancies up the movie-going experience with plush seats and the eclectic Mez restaurant.

Unwind Charlotte

Look closely at Charlotte and you'll discover a lot. A lot of unwinding at our spas. A lot of savoring at our five-star restaurants. And a lot of splurging at our high-end stores and shops. Find a lot more at 800-231-4636 or charlottesgotalot.com. **Charlotte's got a lot.**



TODAY'S E-TRAVELER TWITTER IN THE TREETOPS

Go to VisitNC.com for the latest updates on leaf changes from the mountains to the sea—and the best places to enjoy it. Follow the foliage and coastal fishing reports on Twitter@VisitNC.

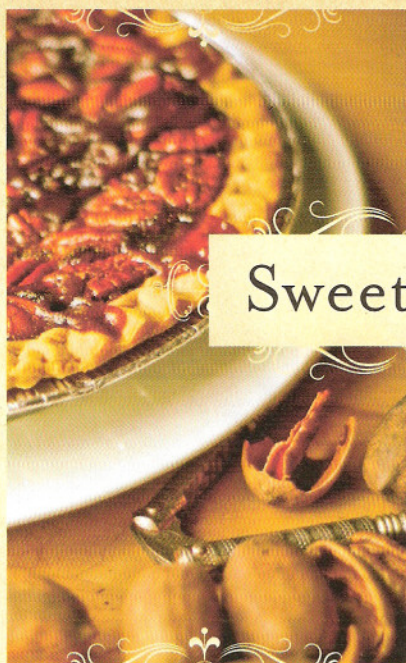


5 SAVVY SHOPPER

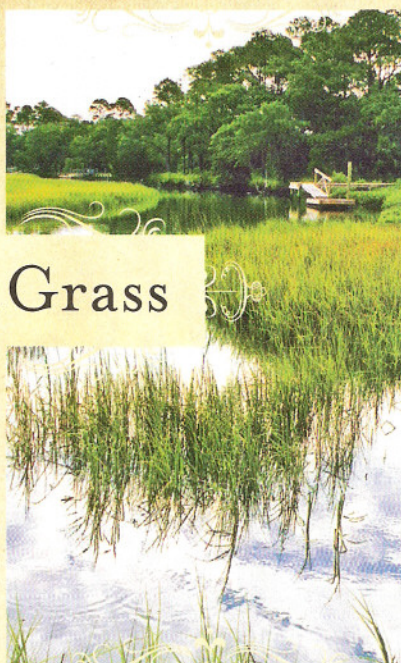
From Miami's casual beach shops to Virginia's cosmopolitan malls, the Southeast offers pretty much any kind of store you might want. Along Charleston's quaint thoroughfares, shop in one-of-a-kind boutiques housed in historical storefronts. Besides designer finds and deals, the Southeast also offers fairs and festivals featuring artisan wares that make impressive gifts—especially around the holidays. In arty Asheville, N.C., crafters showcase their talents at the **62ND ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS** (Oct. 15-18).

6 FAMILY FUNSTER

The lead-up to Halloween is an especially fun time for families to visit the Southeast. Explore North Carolina's legendary ghost stories or follow the notorious footsteps of Blackbeard the Pirate. In mid-October, the **28TH ANNUAL WOOLLY WORM FESTIVAL** (Oct. 17-18) in Banner Elk, N.C., is a whimsical family event featuring crafts, food, mountain music, and prizes, where caterpillars race to determine which one has the honor of predicting winter weather. Later in the month, the **CAROLINA BALLOONFEST** (Oct. 23-25) in Statesville, N.C., is a rainbow-colored hot-air balloon event that parents and kids will love.



Sweet Grass



Served daily. Tasty desserts.
Mouthwatering adventure.

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PLANNING GUIDE

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on the Southeast,
check out the following:

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www.alabama.travel

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www.arkansas.com

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