

D26 CRUISE & RENDEZVOUS

Description of Events

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

Beaufort Sunset Cruise: Run, Forrest, Run! Forrest Gump famously ran across the United States and in one scene he ran over a bridge and was welcomed to Mississippi. That bridge was actually the swing Bridge connecting Beaufort to Lady's Island, SC. The swing bridge will certainly be part of our cruise as we head north on the Beaufort River... turn and float west down Factory Creek. A leisurely cruise under the swing bridge, past the beautiful downtown park and marina, passing the hospital and yacht club. We will pass the Port Royal Marina as we pass under the bridge connecting Lady's Island to Port Royal. A little further south we will come upon Sands Beach...an area which usually provides a great dolphin show. Length: Approximately 1.5 hrs. Each boat is responsible for its own refreshments

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Hilton Head Sunset Cruise: Pinckney Island is located to the West across Skull Creek from Hilton Head Island and is bordered by Mackay Creek to the West. Pinckney Island was once the plantation of Major General Charles Pinckney but since 1975 has been a National Wildlife Refuge. This cruise will depart Hilton Head Island late in the afternoon and we will cruise around the north end of Pinckney Island into Mackay Creek. We will cruise south on Mackay Creek and anchor up as we watch a beautiful sunset. We will then cruise around the south end of Pinckney under the Hilton Bridges and back up into Skull Creek. This cruise is expected to last about 2 hours and each boat will be responsible for its own refreshments.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021

Because this cruise is so unique, Beaufort and Hilton Head have agreed this will be the cruise of the day. Daufuskie Island is located between Hilton Head Island and Savannah and is accessible only by boat. It is a remote retreat from modern life and there one can catch a glimpse of how the Lowcountry's sea islands looked and felt before bridges and causeways opened them up to development. Pat Conroy's book "The Water is Wide" recounts his teaching experience on Daufuskie island in the 1960's. If you have not already read this book, read it before your visit... or watch the movie "Conrack" starring Jon Voight. A number of possible activities await us on Daufuskie... A guided tour led by Daufuskie resident and student of Pat Conroy, Sallie Ann Robinson OR a self-guided tour on a rented golf cart. Enjoy time on one of the prettiest beaches in the Low Country and lunch at the Daufuskie Crab Company or Lucy Bell's Cafe. Beaufort will depart early morning to cross Port Royal Sound and rendezvous with Hilton Head where we will continue to cruise the Intercoastal Waterway to Freeport Landing on Daufuskie Island. Beaufort will plan a return in the afternoon while Hilton Head will make this a full day event.

Island Tour with Sallie Ann Robinson \$70

Transportation around Daufuskie Island is included with this tour. We can take up to 25 people on each tour. Tours are 11am-2pm and 2pm-5pm. Those traveling from Beaufort will be put on the first tour. Send in your registration forms early to be assured a reservation. Contact Hilton Head representative Craig Loomis for more information.

Food choices on Daufuskie are Daufuskie Crab Company which is right at Freeport Marina and Lucy Belles which can only be accessed by golf cart.

Free docking, lively marina with food and beverage for purchase.

To reserve a golf cart, call ahead: <https://tourdaufuskie.com/tour/daufuskie-island-daily-golf-cart-rentals/> or call: 843.842.9449 (approximately \$70 for the day)

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021

Beaufort Loop: This 3.5 hour cruise will take us up the Beaufort River, across the Whale Branch and down the Broad River into Port Royal Sound and finish at Battery Creek. There is a 20' clearance restriction at the Whale Branch as it crosses under Hwy 21. **This cruise is intended for fast boats.** We have a lot of territory to cover and many treacherous sand bars to navigate. It is important to stay together so no one gets grounded. We will anchor once we are through the Whale Branch to marvel at the view and enjoy our (optional) box lunch. The Cruise will be 3.5 hrs.

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Port Royal Sound History Cruise & Optional Cruise to Beaufort: Port Royal Sound is located between Hilton Head Island and Beaufort and is rich in history. The first Europeans sailed into the Sound in the 1520's. In 1566 Pedro Menendez de Aviles founded the settlement of Santa Elena as a Spanish Colony. As we cruise the Sound you will learn about The Battle of Port Royal Sound in the Civil War, Fort Fremont, built in the late 1800's and Parris Island Marine Corps Base located on Port Royal Sound and the Beaufort River. The cruise will depart early afternoon from Hilton Head. We will cruise into Port Royal Sound and up the Beaufort River towards Beaufort. We will cruise past Fort Walker, Fort Fremont and past Parris Island and St. Helena Island. Those that want to proceed by boat to the Oyster Roast will continue to cruise up the Beaufort River and dock at the Beaufort Waterfront Park. Those not going on to Beaufort will cruise back across the sound to Hilton Head. This cruise will last approximately 2 to 3 hours, longer of course for those that continue on to Beaufort. A box lunch will be available.

Traditional Low Country Oyster Roast
Friday, April 23 4-6 pm
The Pavilion at Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park - Beaufort

The setting is magical. You will catch the warm breeze coming off the Beaufort River as you enjoy this Low Country staple. Never tried a roasted oyster? You're in for a real treat. Low Country oysters are briny and delicious. You'll be granted extra good fortune if you're lucky enough to find a pea crab in your oyster! Don't know how to eat them? Don't worry ... we have lots of experienced shuckers to help. Oyster's aren't on your list of favorite foods? Additional items on the menu include: **pulled pork, pulled chicken, coleslaw, mac & cheese, green beans, cornbread, homemade pickles, all BBQ sauces, all the fixin's for the oysters, cookies and cobbler, water and sweet and unsweetened tea. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.** The Pavilion offers protection from the elements and social distance standards will be practiced. Restroom facilities are a short walk from the pavilion. We will finish up in time for those going to Hilton Head by boat will still have plenty of daylight.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

Morgan (Monkey) Island is one of the Sea Islands, located just north of Beaufort. It is also known as Monkey Island due to its colony of (4,000) free-ranging Rhesus Monkeys. It is one of only two Rhesus Monkey colonies in the U.S. Established in 1979, the research facility was moved from Puerto Rico to Morgan Island. SC DNR owns the island. The monkeys are property of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and protected by federal law. We will drop anchor for a while to increase our chances of an encounter. Seeing the monkeys is not guaranteed. A box lunch will be available. Length of cruise is 3.5 hrs.

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Port Royal Sound Maritime Center - TripAdvisor gives this hidden gem 4.5 (out of 5) stars. The Port Royal Maritime Center is housed in a former oyster canning factory on Lemon Island. The Center sits on the Chechessee River and was established to create awareness and protection of the remarkable and unique Port Royal Sound Ecosystem. Using its 3000 gallon aquarium and exhibits, the Center provides information on the Port Royal Sound. You will learn why the Sound is one of the most productive ecosystems in the world, why the Sound experiences some of the greatest tidal changes on earth and see the large number of the fish and shellfish that call the Port Royal Sound home. This cruise will depart Hilton Head Island mid-morning. We will cruise into Port Royal Sound past the north end of Pinckney Island, past Dawes island and into the Chechessee River. We will dock at the Maritime Center for a tour of the Center. After our time at the Center is over, we will depart and cruise back to Hilton Head with a

short cruise up the Colleton River. Admission to the Maritime Center is free but donations to this non-profit are most welcome. A box lunch will be available. This cruise will be approximately 4 hours including our time at the Maritime Center.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

Due to COVID-19, there will be no farewell breakfast. A chartlet (small chart) for those wanting to do more exploring on their own will be provided. Circumnavigate Parris Island...Archer's Creek is only open to boat traffic on Sundays. Other days the area is a danger zone used for Marine Corp training. Finish off your short cruise by tying up at Fish Camp for a bite to eat. OR Thunderbolt, GA (south) for lunch at Tubby's.