**Legends & Peaches**

As U.S. 1 travels through South Carolina, it provides a mellow alternate to Interstate 20. But it gets back to civilization by cutting through Cheraw, Columbia and Aiken.

- In Cheraw, locals celebrate their favorite son, jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie. A park commemorates where he was born, and a statue downtown shows him blowing his horn with cheeks in full puff.
- Visitors stuff their cheeks at McLeod Farms in McBee, which features some of the sweetest peaches in South Carolina. At the farm store, load up on peach jam, peach salsa and peach barbecue sauce.
- In Camden, South Carolina’s oldest inland city, visit the Kershaw-Cornwallis House, once used as a British military headquarters during the Revolutionary War.
- Travel through the state capital and across the Congaree River to Lexington, where an old cotton mill has been turned into shops and restaurants, including the aptly named Old Mill Brewpub.
- Think back to the 1950s and ‘60s when drive-in movie theaters dotted the landscape. “The Big Mo” Drive-In Theatre in Monetta looks like a blast from the past, but shows first-run movies.

**ROADS LESS TRAVELED**

Explore hidden gems along South Carolina’s backroads calling all travelers who prefer to take the scenic route. For a glimpse into South Carolina’s soul, get off the fast lanes and wind through towns captured in time. Roll down the windows to take in the natural beauty, and pull over at quirky roadside attractions along the way. All routes featured here pass through Columbia, the State Capitol, the perfect launching point for a backroads tour of South Carolina.

**DIG IN/TUNE IN**

Check SCBBQTrail.com to find tasty stops along your route. Search “Discover South Carolina Radio” on Pandora to find the perfect playlist.
History Ahead

This scenic alternate to Interstate 26 enters South Carolina in the city of Landrum, passes through Spartanburg and Columbia, and ends just north of Charleston. See history come to life at these stops along the way.

- Landrum boasts the only remaining covered bridge in the state. For strolling, hit the antique shops downtown. For mingling with locals, head to The Hare & Hound Pub.
- In Union, tour Rose Hill Plantation, the former mansion of “Secession Governor” William Henry Gist. The roses and magnolias make the grounds as Southern as it gets.
- St. Matthews is home to the awesome Calhoun County Courthouse, in operation for more than 100 years. For another sentimental journey, stop by the Calhoun County Museum.
- In Holly Hill, Dantzler Plantation is an outstanding example of 19th-century Greek Revival architecture. The home is privately owned by descendants of Dantzler’s family, so view it from the road only.
- As home to the first U.S. tea farm (which moved to Wadmalaw Island and became the Charleston Tea Plantation), Summerville prides itself as the Birthplace of Sweet Tea. The town set a record for brewing 2,500 gallons in a giant Mason jar.

Blooms & Beaches

In the northern part of the state near Fort Mill, Hwy. 21 invites road trippers to get off Interstate 77 and meander. Pick up the casual route again south of Columbia and wind down all the way to the coast.

- Up north in the town of Ridgeway, the World’s Smallest Police Station looks more like a child’s playhouse. In 1990, the officers moved next door to the old fire station, which is about twice as big.
- Take it easy at Blythewood’s Doko Meadows, a 22-acre family park that hosts live music on many weekends in the summer.
- In Orangeburg, Edisto Memorial Gardens spreads over 150 acres of botanical bliss, which once was the site of an 1865 Civil War battle.
- Branchville celebrates its past as a railroad hub with the Railroad Shrine and Museum, the oldest railroad junction in the world.
- If you are at least 44 inches tall, climb the steps to the top of the lighthouse at Hunting Island State Park for $2. The coastal views are worth it.

Down Memory Lane

Highway 321 cuts a direct path north to south through the middle of the state, but expect many bends in the road that lead to historic gems and natural wonders.

- Near McConnells, stop by Historic Brattonsville. The Revolutionary War site features more than 30 historic buildings plus living-history exhibits depicting colonial life.
- Roll into Winnsboro to the South Carolina Railroad Museum, exhibiting traincars from the era that introduced luxury travel. Enjoy your own hour-long rumble down the tracks in an open-air railcar.
- At the State Farmers Market in West Columbia, the market is modern in all the right places but visitors still buy produce off the back of trucks and chat with the folks who bring in the crops.
- In Denmark, stop by the Jim Harrison Gallery. The late artist began his career literally painting Coca-Cola signs. Those red-and-white beacons appear in many of his celebrated paintings.
- The Savannah National Wildlife Refuge in Hardeeville provides a protected habitat for everything from alligators to whitetail deer along the Savannah River. Sit a spell and see what comes to the surface.
176

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