

Southeast Getaway Travel Newsletter

February 2011

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Most Romantic Places in the Southeast



Blackberry Farm, Walland, TN
Blackberry Farm is a place to forget the present and remember the past. Indulge your senses with sites, sounds, and smells that are all a treat. Blackberry Farm's hospitality and slow pace are like the rocking chairs on the front porch -- perfectly serene. Surrounded by the great natural beauty of the Smoky Mountains, this country house hotel is designed to feel welcoming, as if you are returning home after a long trip. The interior of the hotel has carefully collected furnishings which balance comfort and elegance. Each of the 44 guest bedrooms are adorned with antiques, fine art, and cozy finishing touches like down comforters. Blackberry Farm provides a variety of opportunities that make use out of the estate's 1,100 acres of secluded mountain lands, and panoramic views. Hikers, joggers, anglers, wildflower enthusiasts, and cyclists will all find a place for their leisure. Lawn sports and activities include tennis, swimming, shuffleboard, trout and bass fishing. Of course, the staff will tell you that their favorite activity is selecting a rocking chair on the front terrace and letting the spirit of the Smokies lull them into a Blackberry state of mind. [For Accommodations](#)

Kiawah Island, SC
Kiawah's 10,000 natural woodland acres stretch along a windswept Atlantic and create 10 miles of spectacular unspoiled beach. This natural haven for wildlife - shy, tawny deer, Blue Heron and Snowy Egret - has an average year-round temperature of 65-degrees. Luxury accommodations are carefully tucked away in two resort villages offering exquisite dining and shopping delights. Only a short drive away (21 miles by road) is historic Charleston, with it's incredible collection of colonial and antebellum homes. Charleston's picturesque gardens, famous old forts and outlying plantations, all bring three centuries of American heritage into focus like no other city. [For Kiawah accommodations](#)

Romance at a New England style inn. Destin, FL,
The Henderson Park Inn, a beachside bed and breakfast located on a cul de sac adjacent to Henderson State Park. It was a New England style storm-weathered shingled building with a wrap around porch and turrets. It reminded me so much of Rhode Island and Maine. It turns out that the owner was from Maine and his sons built it for him as a reminder of home. We went into the lobby collecting menus and rate sheets and the front desk clerk told us to walk around and check out the back porch and the Veranda restaurant. The waitress was resetting the tables for dinner using gorgeous white and gold embossed plates. It was incredibly elegant yet warm and inviting. [For Destin Accommodation](#)

Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Find incredible romance on "The Water Bus" which travels the city canals. between Las Olas Boulevard and the area where Opa is located. It was only \$10 a person for all day and ran until after midnight. The water bus made 10 stops and was one and a half hours from stop 1 to 11. This is a MUST DO when you come to Ft Lauderdale. The cool canals are refreshing and the views of mansions and yachts are hard to match. Stop at the beach is positively breathtaking. Pastel blue water with soft white sand and palm trees just blowing in the wind. Have a large cold beer at the Oasis Cafe which begins the beach drive at Ocean Blvd. Hopping back on the water bus and headed for the final destination at Shooters which Opa turned out to be right next to. Another absolutely MUST DO on your trip to Ft Lauderdale is a trip to Opa for dinner. What an incredible romantic time. The restaurant is located right on the canal two steps from the water bus landing and there are tables right over the canal. The food was both inexpensive and excellent. They serve a delicious rustic hummus with pita and we ordered two different Greek white wines to try. Try stuffed red bell peppers and Pasticcio, a macaroni, ground meat, and béchamel sauce casserole. They were both \$9 and incredible. Try two red Greek wines for under \$5 and a Baklava to take home. During the meal the wait staff locked arms and danced around the restaurant while the hostess threw cocktail napkins into the air and belly dancers danced on tables. [For Ft. Lauderdale Accommodations](#)

Dear Harry,

Romance makes this month so special. Plan a romantic escape for Valentine's Day this year. There are so many destinations in the southeast to choose from. Plan early because reservations go quickly. We have some great suggestions in our feature article on "**Most Romantic Spots.**"

• What's happening in Feb and March Near You

Time for a Maridi Gras

Pensacola, FL holds a parade on March 5 Downtown along Spring, Garden or Palafox street around 2 PM for the winding float parade.

>[For accommodations in Pensacola, FL](#)

In Miami The Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival is held February 24-27. This festival, which features Rmerial Lagasse and Martha Stewart, also offers samples from the Wine Spectators's Wine Seminar Series and nivvles at the Whole Foods Market Grand Tating Village.

[For Accommodations in Miami](#)

Thomasville, GA and the Thomasville Entertainment Foundation present Chris Botti on February 17. This Grammy Award-winning trumpeter brings his talents to the city's Cultural Center as part of a concert series.

[For Accommodations in Thomasville Ga](#)

Savannah holds it's Irish Festival February 18-20. Georgia's most Irish city offers food and musical performances in the civic center with the huge parade on March 17.

[For accommodations in Savannah](#)

• Festivals of the South

Alabama Shakespeare Festival True. Civil War Dramas In montgomery from Feb 4 to March 20, "The Flagmaker of Market Street" and from FEB 18 to the 20 "Blood Divided".

[For Accommodation in Montgomery, AL](#)

Mississippi hosts the Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration which was the recipient of the 2011 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. From February 24-27 "Field of Drewam: Sports in the South"

the 2011 Spring Pilgrimage takes place March 12 to the 16

[For Accommodations in Natchez](#)

The Southern Spring Home & Garden Show held March 2-6 at the Park Expo & Conference Center 2500 E Independence BVD, Charlotte, NC

About Charlotte

Charlotte has the air of a congenial southern town, where hospitality is taken seriously and guests are made to feel not only welcome but at home. At the same time, it is a bustling cosmopolitan city, and also home to the NFL Panthers and the NBA Hornets. Charlotte's outdoor activities include sightseeing in the surrounding countryside as well as a number of more structured events. Charlotte offers over 14,000 acres of parks and 17 designated recreation centers. Charlotte Metro Zoo prides itself on letting visitors "see the animals up close at a safe distance," including its prized collection of large primates, bears, and big cats. The Lazy 5 Ranch allows visitors to drive through a real ranch and look at over 600 animals. Visitors can enjoy the 3 ½ miles safari drive in their own cars or in horse-drawn wagons. Some outdoor enthusiasts will appreciate Balloons Over Carolina, offering one-hour balloon rides over Charlotte and the surrounding environs 7 days a week. Two large lakes nearby encourage a variety of water sports including water skiing, boating and fishing.

The city's museums and galleries display many of the much sought after crafts produced by area residents. The Brem House Artisans Gallery and the Fieldcrest Cannon Textile Museum offer visitors a look at local handicrafts from times past and from the present. The First Light Fine-Craft Gallery and the Harris Holt Gallery also showcase local artists and their creative talents. For more traditional art offerings, visitors should seek out the Mint Art Museum, the first art museum in North Carolina. Children love Discovery Place, which is rated one of the top hands-on science museums in the country.

[For Accommodations in Charlotte](#)

• Storytelling Festival Rock Hill, SC

In Rock Hill, SC on March 17-18 there is the **2011 Storytelling Festival**. [About Rock Hill and this festival](#) Enjoy warm Southern hospitality and leave the cold winter months behind. Listen to mesmerizing stories filled with humor, mystery and adventure to stories for all ages that span all cultures

to stories of mighty heroes, myths, and legends to stories that celebrate our history and heritage to stories that make us laugh and cry.

Experience the magic of stories that come to life through timeless tales spun by the Masters!

[Southeast Tourism Society Top 20 Events](#)

[For Accommodations in Rock Hill, SC](#)

2011 Event Schedule

THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY MARCH 17-19

Enjoy tale-tellin' and music at its best at the 2011 Patchwork Tales Storytelling Festival, held in Rock Hill, S.C. Join us for this unique celebration of stories and music for adults, teens and children, featuring nationally and internationally renowned storytellers, musicians, and other performing artists.

Pre-festival Events Top of Page

Special programs presented by storyteller Hawk Hurst for Fort Mill second graders and select Pre-K students. Wednesday, March 16. Sponsored by the Arts Council of York County. Thursday, March 17th

Tell Me More Concert

10:00-11:15 a.m Clover School District Auditorium, Clover National storytellers Antonio Rocha and Andy Offutt Irwin present a school concert for Clover second graders. **Down Home: Stories & Folk Music** 2:30-4:30 p.m. Baxter Hood Center, York Technical College, Rock Hill

Don't miss this special concert of timeless tales and traditional music, featuring storyteller and mime artist Antonio Rocha. Comedian, storyteller, and musician Andy Offutt Irwin will also perform. Enjoy the old time country and swing music of the exciting musical duo Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer.

Recommended for adults. Free admission and parking. Limited Seating! Doors open at 2:00 p.m. For advance group seating of 10 or more, please call (803) 981-5840 or (803) 981-5837. Friday, March 18th

Storytelling for Second Graders

9:45-11:15 a.m Regional storytellers share stories with select Rock Hill elementary students. Additional concerts presented by storyteller Tim Lowry. Sponsored by the Arts Council of York County.

Tell Me More Concert

10:00-11:15 a.m McCelvey Center, York National storytellers Antonio Rocha and Andy Offutt Irwin present a school concert for York second graders.

Storytelling Sampler

7:00-9:30 p.m. Baxter Hood Center, York Technical College, Rock Hill Come celebrate and enjoy an evening of humor, mime, and memorable stories with national storytellers Antonio Rocha and Andy Offutt Irwin. The Grammy award-winning musical duo Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer will also entertain, with traditional and contemporary folk music. Recommended for ages 7-adult. Free admission and parking. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Concessions available for purchase. For advance group seating of 10 or more, please call (803) 981-5840 or (803) 981-5837. Saturday, March 19th

Tell It Again! Workshop: I Got a Bullfrog: Folk Rhythms and Songs 8:00-10:00 a.m. York County Main Library, Rock Hill Presented by Grammy award-winning musician, storyteller, author, and television host David Holt. Holt has been collecting songs from old-time Southern mountaineers for over 20 years.

In this workshop, he presents the best of those for singing along. He has also collected rhythms throughout the Southern Mountains. Participants will learn how to play the spoons, hambone (body-slapping rhythms) and the paper bag. Participants are asked to bring a pair of metal spoons to the workshop. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

8:00-8:30 a.m. - Registration & Continental Breakfast 8:30-10:00 a.m. - Workshop For Adults only. Limit 70. Pre-registration recommended. Earn 1 ½ hours of DSS Certification Credit. Pay \$15 at the door or \$10 in advance by March 11. Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer Family Concert 10:30-11:30 a.m. Baxter Hood Center, York Technical College, Rock Hill

Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer are trailblazers in children's and family music. Bring the entire family for this entertaining, engaging, and interactive musical show presented by the Grammy award-winning duo. For all ages. Limited Seating! Doors open at 10:00 a.m. Free admission and parking. For advance group seating of 10 or more, please call (803) 981-5840 or (803) 981-5837. ***NEW Event***

Tell-a-Tale with Crafts 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Baxter Hood Center, York Technical College, Rock Hill Join us for free children's make 'n' take craft activities, sponsored by our generous community partners. Luncheon concessions and festival merchandise will be available for purchase. Saturday Showcase 1:30-3:45 p.m. Baxter Hood Center, York Technical College, Rock Hill Four-time Grammy award-winner David Holt kicks off the afternoon with a solo concert of traditional mountain music and southern folktales. After the intermission, Antonio Rocha and Andy Offutt Irwin return to the stage with more humorous and entertaining tales. 1:30-2:25 p.m. - David Holt in Concert Intermission 2:45-3:45 p.m. - An Afternoon with Antonio Rocha and Andy Offutt Irwin Recommended for ages 7 - adult. Free admission and parking. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. For advance group seating of 10 or more, please call (803) 981-5840 or (803) 981-5837. Ghostly Gallery: Eerie Tales for Teens and Adults 7:00-8:45 p.m. Baxter Hood Center, York Technical College, Rock Hill Muster up your courage, and enter only if you dare! Ghosts, goblins and all things creepy come alive in hair-raising tales at this eerie and frightfully fun festival finale. Featuring national storytellers David Holt and emcee Tim Lowry.

Recommended for grades 6-adult. Free admission and parking. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Concessions available for purchase. For advance group seating of 10 or more, please call (803) 981-5840 or (803) 981-5837.

• Travel Help

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