

## 10-Day Southeast Road Trip to North Carolina, Georgia, and South Carolina

From kimdawley.com

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This is our family post-vaccine celebration trip! We looked at a lot of possible US destinations that would be good in May, and we went back and forth about driving vs. flying, but flying opened up many more options. Savannah has been on my wish list for a while, so I started there in piecing together the itinerary. I played around a LOT with the various options for where to fly into and out of, and the combination of airfare and rental car costs was a significant factor for our decision to fly into Raleigh-Durham, NC and out of Charleston, SC. And the path we landed on enabled us to see 3 cities in each state.

### Day 1 – Wednesday, Raleigh-Durham, NC

This is predominantly a travel day, as our flight didn't get in until 4pm. There was a pandemic-induced rental car shortage, but we got ours easily and headed straight to Wegmans in Raleigh to pick up some snacks and drinks to keep in the car – we pack a soft-side cooler in our luggage whenever space permits.

We ended up doing two things in our limited time. First we walked a stretch on the **Neuse River Greenway Trail** in Raleigh—a 27.5-mile paved, uninterrupted greenway with winding boardwalk areas and suspension bridges crossing over wetlands. We parked at the Falls Lake Trailhead (address for GPS: 12098 Old Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh, NC 27614), and if we had more time and it was just me and Tom, we'd have rented bikes from THE BIKE GUY 9745 Fonville Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587 at \$25/hr.

We then headed to Durham to drive around **Duke University**, and perhaps get a Duke sweatshirt at the. Unfortunately, only students and faculty were allowed inside, but we enjoyed our drive around campus. We drove through a few campuses on this trip, not because anyone's looking, but just because we didn't look outside of the Northeast and were curious how these southern campuses compared.

#### OTHER IDEAS:

- **Duke Lemur Center** in Durham, NC – closed due to pandemic or would have been a top item
- **Raleigh Municipal Rose Garden** 301 Pogue Street, Raleigh NC 27607 —a landmark at the center of the Raleigh Little Theatre campus. It's a serene, relaxing atmosphere accessed freely from sunrise to sunset. The Raleigh Rose Garden is open to the public during all hours, 365 days a year. 11 minutes from Wegmans.
- **Museum of Natural Sciences** (if raining) Raleigh, NC <http://naturalsciences.org/>
- Things to do are on the Duke campus include the **Sarah P. Duke Gardens**, **Nasher Museum of Art**, and the **Duke Chapel**. The best starting point for your visit to Durham is in the CCB square, where you can get a photo of "Major," the bronze bull statue, and orientate yourself before exploring on foot. Another active way to see Durham is with a mural passport from the visitor center, where you can find and check off the 30 artistic murals on buildings throughout the city. Find out more about the best places to visit with our list of the top attractions and things to do in Durham.

- **UNC Morehead Planetarium and Science Center** – only open on Sat and Sun
- Things to do in Chapel Hill, NC <https://imfixintoblog.com/2019/03/fun-things-to-do-in-chapel-hill-nc.html>

## Day 2 – Thursday, Greensboro, NC

Drive: Durham/Chapel Hill to Greensboro (1 hour)

We have been curious about furniture shopping in North Carolina and decided to take this opportunity to check it out. Choosing where to go was incredibly intimidating, and we ultimately landed on **FURNITURELAND SOUTH** (5635 Riverdale Dr., Jamestown, 336-822-3000. FurniturelandSouth.com) – self-described as the world's largest furniture store, with 1.3 million square feet of showroom space. Got some interesting ideas, but even discounted prices were way more \$\$ than where we shop up here, so we didn't buy anything.

We also went to Antique Marketplace on Burnt Poplar Road (not much of interest to us) and walked around downtown Greensboro and enjoyed the art. We ate dinner outside at **Darryl's** which was quite good.

OTHER IDEAS:

Greensboro, NC, <https://www.visitgreensboronc.com/>

- **GATEWAY GARDENS** - The park features a visitor center, the Rain Garden and Walled Pond, the Michel Family Children's Garden, and the Greensboro Heritage Garden, which includes the Heritage Plaza, Icon Water Feature, and Entry Wall. Unique public artwork is displayed throughout the garden. Greensboro's public gardens are facilities of the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Dept., developed in cooperation with Greensboro Beautiful, Inc. Free. 2924 E. Gate City Blvd. Hours: May-Aug., 8 am-8 pm; 336-373-2199. *GreensboroBeautiful.org*
- **CELEBRATION STATION** - America's location for family, fun and food! Home of the largest outdoor go-kart track in Greensboro! Accompanied by blaster bumper boats, 36 holes of miniature golf, batting cages and over 100 video/arcade games. Open all year! 4315 Big Tree Way, off I-40 and Wendover Ave. 336-316-0606. *celebrationstation.com for seasonal hours.* Sun-Thur 12pm-9pm

## Day 3 – Friday, Charlotte, NC

Drive: Greensboro NC to Charlotte NC (1 hr, 15 mins south).

On our way to Charlotte we saw a highway sign for High Point University and decided to take a quick detour and check it out. Oh my goodness, what a gorgeous campus, unlike anything we had toured in the Northeast with a pool at the activity center, fountains flowing on an empty campus, and white rocking chairs on every dorm room balcony. The guard at the gate was very friendly and let us take a quick drive around, and Megan bought a sweatshirt at the bookstore. Then we got back on the road to Charlotte.

Our Charlotte activities, although fun, were probably not all that representative of Charlotte for a variety of reasons. First, I ran across information for the Day Spa at the Ballantyne Hotel and thought that massages would make a chill girl's day as an early birthday gift for Caitlin and spending the day on the gorgeous grounds would be fun for all. However, the spa was totally booked and IMHO the hotel cost without the spa didn't make sense. But once I had the massage idea planted it stuck, and we ended up going to the **OM Spa Charlotte**. It was a great massage for sure, but not particularly unique to the Charlotte area. Tom decided to explore the area during the time and let's just say was not a fan of the street layout and traffic; several times during the day we had to cut across several lanes of heavy traffic to get on and then off roads with little warning. This experience made us less interested in driving across town that evening.

After the massages we made a short stop at the **McGill Rose Garden** (GPS: 940 N Davidson St), which is "over an acre large and covered in more than 1,000 rose bushes, as well as fountains, sculptures, and benches along its winding paths." They were setting up for an evening wedding so we weren't there long but it was a cute stop. And we made an impromptu stop at **Pelican's Snowcones** just up the street which was a nice treat to cool off.

We had a happy interruption to our evening plans in Charlotte [evening yoga and a free concert at the **U.S. National Whitewater Center**]. Caitlin received a call from her dream internship at the Television Academy asking for a zoom interview at 6pm. So we headed to the hotel early to get her set up (we ended up paying to upgrade the internet speed) and the 3 of us walked to a local bar for appetizers. These ended up being quite filling so we just brought pizza back for Caitlin and called it an early night. This turned out to be a very successful evening as Caitlin got the summer marketing internship and learned a lot while promoting the September Emmy awards.

#### OTHER IDEAS:

- **U.S. National Whitewater Center**, 5000 Whitewater Center Parkway, Charlotte, \$6 parking pass
  - Free Outdoor Concert, Jon Stickley Trio, all instrumental, bluegrass, only if something else to do there. Time 7-10pm, River Jam Stage, FREE and open to the public, rain or shine.
  - Fun Flow Yoga – 6:30pm
  - Options include zip lines (\$59pp day pass), ropes courses, family white water rafting (30 min safety, on water for an hour, \$49pp), climbing walls (\$25pp), mountain biking (\$30pp)
- **Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden** (25 miles away) – very pretty but pricey at \$15p, perhaps the next best thing to do if National Whitewater Center doesn't work out.
- **IF RAINING: Concord Mills Shopping & Entertainment** (30 miles) – has a Cinnabon and a Steak and Shake, there's a Dave N Busters and The Speedpark at Concord Mills (Attractions include 4 Go Kart Tracks, 18 hole Mini Golf, Spider Jump, 8 Story High Spider Web Climb, 110ft Fun Slide, Arcade Games and concession stand).
- Carowinds Amusement Park & Water Park (11 miles) – NOPE, opens 5/22
- Discovery Place and IMAX Theatre (17 miles) – NO, looks too similar to Boston's Museum of Science
- Charlotte Motor Speedway (33 miles) – possibly – fast pass tour, stay in car, tour done over car radio, one hour long, \$30/car, ONLY AVAILABLE AT 2:30, TOO TIGHT WITH MESSAGES
- NASCAR® Hall of Fame (17 miles) – 10am-5pm, \$25pp

#### Day 4 – Saturday, Greenville, SC

Drive: Charlotte NC to Greenville SC (1 hour, 45 mins)

First, I want to give a huge shoutout to the **tourism page for Greenville** [[www.visitgreenvillesc.com](http://www.visitgreenvillesc.com)]. I find most town pages to leave a lot to be desired, but I was looking for places to stop between Charlotte and Atlanta and after spending time on this page decided to not only stop here, but to spend a whole day here.

What a gorgeous area of the country. We started the day with several stops along the **Blue Ridge Escarpment**, Hwy 11, along the highway US-25. There was a gorgeous overlook at **Caesars Head State Park** [GPS: 8155 Geer Hwy, Cleveland, SC]. We were nervous about parking as it's a small lot, but it wasn't bad as people don't stay that long. We also were considering the Ravin Cliff Falls hike, as it's called easy-ish and ends at Falls that look amazing, but it was closed.

Next we headed to **Jones Gap State Park** (GPS: 303 Jones Gap Road, Marietta, SC), where we paid \$5.30 to reserve a parking spot from 9am-1pm (we also paid \$6pp upon arrival for the hike). We did the Jones Gap Falls hike, a moderate hike that was honestly a bit much for me due to the roots and rocks under foot. But I'm so glad we stuck with it as the falls were like a prize at the end. We also stopped by a random cool overlook on the road back.

We next headed to such a cool park, **Falls Park on the Reedy and the Liberty Bridge**, which has been named a "Top U.S. Park" by TripAdvisor. It was such a cool area, and since we happened to be there on a Saturday afternoon in May we were joined by hundreds of couples taking prom photos and even a couple of wedding parties.

I also really wanted to see some of the **Public Art Walking Tour**, especially the Mice on Main sculptures of 9 tiny bronze mice hidden along a section of Main Street (220 N Main St), inspired by one of our favorite children's books, *Goodnight Moon*. But the hike did us in and I had to read the room that more walking around just wasn't in the cards today.

## Day 5 – Sunday, Helen, GA

Drive: Greenville SC to Helen, GA (1 hour, 45 mins)

Day 5 a.k.a. Caitlin's birthday!

We started the day with such a unique experience – **Toccoa Falls** (GPS: 107 Kincaid Drive, Toccoa Falls, GA). These impressive falls are actually 26 feet higher than Niagara Falls, yet are privately-owned by a college, Toccoa Falls College, and are accessible for a nominal fee through the college's bookstore. After having to work hard yesterday to be rewarded with falls, these were an easy walk down a short path and were much more stunning than expected.

We then proceeded to Helen, GA, which I had originally found as a cool day trip from Atlanta, but it made more sense in our schedule to come here first for a day, and then head to Atlanta. Helen is a very

unique town that has established itself as a replica of a small Bavarian Village nestled in the blue ridge mountains. We spent a good amount of time strolling through the shops in downtown Helen.

We totally lucked out for our next adventure. I was super excited about tubing on the Chattahoochee River that winds through the town center, but the web sites all said it didn't open until Memorial Day weekend. So I was SO excited to see a bus pulling tubes going through town and learn that they open early on nice weekend days, even though they don't advertise it! YAY!! We went through Cool River Tubing (590 Edelweiss Dr., Helen GA) and appreciated the changing rooms and lockers. We opted for the short ride that takes 1-1.5 hours (\$19.50pp) even though they were offering the long ride (2-2.5 hours) at the same price. Pro tip: if you want to go down all together you need to tie all the tubes together. This can also slow you down and require more use of the provided sticks to maneuver around objects, but we went 2 by 2 and never caught up to the girls.

To celebrate Caitlin's birthday we had a special prime rib dinner at **Paul's Steakhouse**, 8537 S Main Street, Helen, GA. It was in a lovely location, right on the river, and we really enjoyed our meals.

#### OTHER IDEAS:

- ANNA RUBY FALLS. Admire the beauty of **Anna Ruby Falls**, a rare double waterfall that is formed just before two creeks merge. Although there are many waterfalls near Helen, Anna Ruby Falls is perhaps the most visitor-friendly, accessed by a paved trail.
- Other area waterfalls: <https://www.chestateeford.com/blogs/2392/take-a-walk-to-these-dahlonge-area-scenic-waterfalls/>
- From where we are staying, they list: Stovall Mill Covered Bridge (8 minute drive), 2617 GA – 255, Sautee Nacoochee

#### Day 6 – Monday, Atlanta, GA

Drive: Helen, GA to Atlanta, GA (1.5 hours)

We started our time in Atlanta with a stop at the **The Swan House at The Atlanta History Center**, the home used in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and *Mockingjay: Part 1* as President Snow's mansion. We just wanted to walk around the grounds and take some photos, which is what we did.

We then headed for lunch at **Mary Mac's Tearoom** (GPS: 224 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, 404-876-1800) for a true southern meal. My chicken and gravy was delicious, and Megan enjoyed trying the sweet tea and peach cobbler.

We took a few pictures in front of the **World of Coca-Cola**, and then headed to the **Georgia Aquarium**, the largest indoor aquarium in the world. They recommend ordering tickets online in advance to avoid waiting in line at the front gate – we did, this but not until we were done with lunch and knew when we'd be in the area. The staff who answered exhibit questions also asked people to pull up their masks as necessary, which made us feel safe inside. The exhibits were really interesting, and different from our local (Boston) Aquarium – we had such a fun time and stayed until closing.

While we really enjoyed our chosen destinations, we did run into many issues with activities and restaurants not being open on Mondays, and a few closed early due to some sort of emergency response training exercise happening near the Centennial Olympic Park. The **PDF Itinerary** has other options we considered that happened to be closed.

#### OTHER IDEAS:

- **Centennial Olympic Park**, home of the Olympic Games of 1996, is now Atlanta's main hub for art festivals, live entertainment, and various activities for children. The park features the popular Fountain of Rings. THIS WAS CLOSED, perhaps due to emergency personnel training exercises.
- **The CNN Center** is also near the Centennial Olympic Park. From 9 AM until 5 PM, visitors can enjoy a CNN Studio Tour, with a behind-the-scenes look at how one of the largest TV news networks in the country operates.
- **World of Coca-Cola** - a museum filled with films, interactive exhibits, and iconic memorabilia about the most popular soft drink in the world – which coincidentally made its debut in Atlanta back in 1886. Enjoy its 4D theater, as well as the option to taste more than 100 coke products from all over the world. CLOSED AT 5PM
- **Skyline Park, The Roof at Ponce City Market**, 675 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta, This \$30pp ALL ACCESS pass allows you unlimited access to mini golf, all boardwalk games, Hegee Tower ride, 3-story slide, and seasonal ice skating (Nov. 27- Jan. 10) for ages 13 and over. COULDN'T GO CHECK IT OUT WITHOUT PAYING
- **Atlanta Botanical Gardens** – CLOSED MONDAYS
- **SkyView** - The 20-story Ferris wheel takes passengers on a 15-minute ride up and over the city. At night, the ride lights up with millions of LED lights. Open Su-Th noon-11 pm, F noon-midnight, Sa 10 am-midnight. Tickets: adults \$13.89, seniors and military \$12.50, ages 3-12 \$9.26, plus tax. VIP \$50 per person. Look for groupon for tix.
- **Folk Art Park**, Courtland St NE, Atlanta, GA 30308
- Take a short cab/Uber ride to the Virginia Highland area near Piedmont Park and go over to **The Highlander**, with classic pub grub, a nice outdoor patio, pinball, air hockey, and pool tables.

#### Day 7 – Tuesday, Savannah, GA

Drive: Atlanta, GA to Savannah, GA (3.5 hours)

Our drive from Atlanta to Savannah was the longest of the trip, so we wanted to do something either before leaving or ideally en route to break up the drive. We were seriously contemplating the **Drive-thru Pine Mountain Wild Animal Safari** but decided against since it would add 1 hour from Atlanta to the Safari and an extra 30 minutes to Savannah. We did however end up visiting Covington, GA, just a half hour from Atlanta, to see some of the filming locations from *Vampire Diaries* and *Legacies* – this was a fun stop for the girls.

Since Savannah was the impetus for this trip, we stayed at our hotel for 3 nights and planned on spending this afternoon and another full day exploring Savannah, as well as having an additional local beach day too. We were staying in the Historic District so we decided to spend the afternoon and evening exploring the areas in walking distance. We walked through a few of the charming, historic squares on our way to the riverfront. We had an early dinner & drinks at the rooftop bar of Cotton Sail

Hotel, Top Deck. Since Savannah allows open containers we stopped into Wet Willie's to grab a drink and then walked along the river and enjoyed the pretty sunset. Once it got dark we went looking for a rest room and stumbled across the JW Marriott Savannah Plant, which we had no idea was a hotel lobby as it actually looks like a museum. We really had a fun introduction in the city.

#### OTHER IDEAS:

- Drive-thru **Pine Mountain Wild Animal Safari**, 1300 Oak Grove Road, Pine Mountain, GA 31822, 706-663-8744, open 10am (\$30ea/\$99for4, plus \$30 rented van for an hour), from Atlanta Take I-85 South to Exit 21. This will put you on I-185 South. Go to Exit 42. Get off and turn left. Go approximately 6.7 miles and turn right on Oak Grove Road. The Park is two miles on your left. <https://animalsafari.com/Georgia/> THINKING NO, SINCE ADDS 1 HOUR FROM ATLANTA TO THERE AND AN ADDITIONAL 30 MINS TO SAVANNAH

#### **Day 8 – Wednesday, Hilton Head Island, SC**

Drive: Savannah, GA to Hilton Head Island, SC (40 mins)

We knew we wanted to have one beach day, and the weather today seemed best for that. Although we considered Jekyll Island, GA in part to get cool photos on Driftwood Beach, we ultimately felt that a more traditional beach day on Hilton Head Island would be better. I chose Coligny Beach, primarily because they offered umbrella and chair rentals and shade is key to beach happiness for our family. Coligny Beach also offered free parking, walking paths, and a shopping plaza. We chose to set up fairly near the Tiki Bar and Beach House restaurant, where we had a nice lunch and easy bathroom access. The weather could not have been better, with enough of a breeze to be comfortable in the shade. It really was a perfect beach day.

#### OTHER IDEAS:

- Day trip to Jekyll Island, GA, one of the Golden Isles of Georgia Barrier Islands (1 hour, 35 mins, via I95). BEACH DAY at Driftwood Beach (for photos) and Great Dunes Park (for swimming/beach), they are 7 mins apart. The barrier islands to the south of Georgia stretch out into the Atlantic and form 150 miles of subtropical coastline that comprise of secluded sandy beaches and beautiful, ancient forests. The most popular and easiest to access of these islands are Jekyll Island, St Simons Island and Sea Island. All are accessible by car and make for a stunningly scenic drive down the coast, peppered with idyllic stop off points at creeks and rivers – not to mention endless beaches. One of the more attractive spots is known as Driftwood Beach, named such because of the intriguing arrangements of driftwood found there.
- Georgia Sea Turtle Center, 214 Stable Road, Corner Of Hopkins & Stable Rd., Jekyll Island, GA 31527, (912) 635-4444, Open daily 9-5, \$10 per adult, limited entry due to Covid, see them at the sea turtle hospital.
- Pinball Palace (before you enter the island)

#### **Day 9 – Thursday, Savannah, GA**

**Forsyth Park** was high on my list of things to see, and I had read several recommendations to get here early to avoid any crowds, so that's just what we did. And it was a very beautiful, picturesque area, not just the fountain, but all the flowers and trees with the Spanish moss. We also hit a few more of the squares on the way back to our hotel.

Then we got in the car to visit the **Wormsloe State Historic Site** [<https://gastateparks.org/Wormsloe>], billed as one of Savannah's can't-miss attractions, and I 100% agree with that assessment. You don't have to pay to get photos at the gate, but you do to take the mile-long drive down the road with towering live oak trees dripping with Spanish moss. We opted to pay the \$10pp to take the drive and then walked around the historic ruins. The tour was fine, but the real star is most certainly the drive.

We stopped in for an afternoon snack at the ice cream institution, **Leopold's Ice Cream** (GPS: 212 E. Broughton St.). It meant waiting in line outside for about 30 minutes, but it tasted so good on a hot afternoon.

It was 90 degrees out so we ended up heading back to the room to chill for a bit before dinner. We ended up having a really nice dinner at **Churchill's** (13 West Bay Street), an English pub. And we ended the day enjoying another walk through the historic district squares, this time at night.

#### OTHER IDEAS:

- **Savannah River Boat cruise**, 90 minutes at \$32pp. Also have dinner ones.
- **Tybee Island** (30 mins from downtown). Whether you love seaside souvenirs or vintage finds, there is plenty to peruse in Tybee's charming shopping district. Be sure to leave room in your suitcase to shop one-of-a-kind jewelry, clothing and art from The Shoppes at 1207. You may already know that alcoholic to-go drinks are allowed on Tybee Island, so what better way to explore than by sipping on your favorite to-go beverage? Enjoy slushies from Wet Willie's or a craft cocktail from The Deck Beachbar. No matter what you choose, we're sure you'll find one that you love!
- **Ghost tour**. TOURS WE SAW NIGHT 1 WERE NOT WEARING MASKS
- **Savannah National Wildlife Refuge** (10 mins outside town) Grab yourself a map at the visitor center and embark on an adventure up and down the waterways in your own canoe, or take a scenic drive on the Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive that you can also cycle along.
- If you're planning to tour Savannah's Historic District, **City Market** is a great place to start. Spread out across four blocks, the open-air marketplace features restored warehouses sheltering everything from restaurants to boutiques to art galleries. When you're not shopping, listening to live music or enjoying a casual bite to eat, simply sit and people-watch. You'll find City Market less than a mile southeast of River Street. Because of its heavy pedestrian traffic, City Market is best reached by foot.
- Toast Savannah from a **Rooftop Bar** – Rocks on the Roof on top of the Bohemian Hotel; Perch, the rooftop bar and lounge on top of Local 11 Ten, a great restaurant near Forsyth Park; Top Deck, the rooftop bar of Cotton Sail Hotel.

#### Day 10 – Friday, Charleston, SC

Drive: Savannah, GA to Charleston SC (2 hours)



Today was set to be another 90-degree day, so we wanted to get as early a start as possible, so we were seeing as much as possible before the weather got unbearable.

We started our visit on the waterfront, walking along the **Charleston Battery** lined with gorgeous antebellum homes, including those known as **Rainbow Row**. There were lovely gardens and parks with cool fountains. Though we did our best to stay in the shade, the heat was already an issue by the time we were walking back to our car.

We went to brunch at **Toast!** on Meeting Street, which is known for excellent French toast, and we wholeheartedly agree. Then we headed to John's Island to see the **Angel Oak** [<https://www.angeloaktree.com>] (GPS: 3688 Angel Oak Road, Johns Island, SC), one of the oldest living trees east of the Mississippi. It is 65 feet tall (6 stories), 28 feet in circumference, and it shades an area of 17,000 square feet. It is free to visit, with a good amount of parking, and was well worth the time. It is one of those destinations that is hard to do justice to in photos.

To stay out of the sun, we then went shopping at the **Historic Charleston City Market** [<https://www.thecharlestoncitymarket.com>]. There were lots of fun vendors with unusual items for gifts, and we probably would have stayed longer if more of it were air conditioned vs. cooled by fans. I'd definitely recommend at least a quick stop here. We enjoyed our dinner at **Tattooed Moose**, and I heartily recommend the basket of fries and bowl of gravy. We got to bed early and we stayed in an airport hotel to make the airport drop-off for our early Saturday flight as seamless as possible.

Although I typically don't discuss the activities we didn't end up doing, there were two that just didn't work for us, but that if I were doing this trip again, I'd make some changes to try to fit them in. While I appreciated our extended stay in Savannah, if we didn't already have the reservations, I would have stayed one less night in Savannah and instead driven to Charleston on Thursday night. That way we could have done the **Magnolia Plantation and Gardens** right when they opened at 9am. We then would have flipped seeing the Angel Oak until later in the afternoon and gone straight from there to Bowen's Island to **Charleston Outdoor Adventures to do a sunset kayak to spot dolphins**. It took longer to get across bridges to the "island" parts of town for the Angel Oak, and my family was tired from the heat and not up to another long drive across town to get to the kayaking. I've included info for both activities in the **PDF Itinerary** for you to consider.

#### OTHER IDEAS:

- **MAGNOLIA PLANTATION AND GARDENS** If you have time to tour only one plantation in Charleston, [Magnolia](#) is the one to see. The best plantation for wildlife, it has a zoo that includes petting the animals. You can tour the Drayton family home, visit the gardens, take a nature tram through the grounds, and learn about the history of slavery and freedom. The tickets are \$29pp plus tours added on for \$10pp.
- Spot Dolphins on Kayak Tour - explore an incredibly biodiverse region of Charleston: the tidal marshes. **Charleston Outdoor Adventures**, <https://www.charlestonoutdooradventures.com>, 1871 Bowens Island Road, Charleston. 843-795-0330, \$47pp, 6:15-8:15. Kayakers are guided through the flat waterways by a knowledgeable wildlife expert, moving at little more than a leisurely pace. With tours limited to 12 people, each seated in their own kayak, the likelihood of getting up close and personal with loggerhead turtles or bottlenose dolphins is high.

- **Charleston Fun Park** Get your FUN on with Go-Karts, 36 Holes of Mini-Golf, an Outdoor Axe Throwing Arena, a Virtual Reality Roller Coaster, Bumper Cars, a Full Arcade with Prizes and the all new OMNI VR Battle Arena! And if all that makes you hungry or thirsty... we have snacks like Dippin' Dots, F'Real Milkshakes, chips and drinks (including adult beverages like beer and wine).