



**South Carolina**  
**20 Jan 2017**

247-2017-03

**Congratulations!!**

**Clemson beats  
Alabama 35 to 31  
to win the 2016-2017  
College Football  
Playoff National  
Championship**



**Clemson  
University  
Tiger Paw**



**Where is Clemson? You do know where South Carolina is in the United States, right? It borders Georgia to the south, North Carolina to north and west, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Did you know that Clemson University was in South Carolina? Okay, maybe you knew that, but did you know that it is in the City of Clemson? Well, maybe you knew that too, but do you know where the city of Clemson is in South Carolina? Unless you are from that area you probably didn't know that the city of Clemson is located The Upcountry District which is in the Northwest corner of South Carolina. In this article, we are going to learn some things about South Carolina and we will do it by looking at the 10 major districts in the state.**



As you can see on the above map, there are 10 districts or regions in South Carolina that include:

**The Upcountry**

**Old 96 District**

**Thoroughbred Country**

**Pee Dee Country**

**Greater Charleston**

**Olde English District**

**Greater Columbia**

**Santee Cooper Country**

**Grand Strand**

**Golden Corner**

The other areas on the map are Sumter National Forest (NF) and Francis Marion National Forest (NF). The Sumter NF consists of 370,442 acres which are divided into several non-contiguous sections in western South Carolina. The Sumter NF is named for Thomas Sumter, a leader of patriot regular and military forces in the South Carolina piedmont during the American Revolution. The Francis Marion NF is located north of Charleston. It is named for revolutionary war hero Francis Marion, who was known to the British as the Swamp Fox. It lies entirely within the Middle Atlantic coastal subtropical coniferous forests. The park is contained entirely in the counties of Charleston and Berkeley and is 258,864 acres in size.

## THE UPCOUNTRY



South Carolina's Upcountry region is tucked into the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains midway between Charlotte, NC and Atlanta, GA. The area boasts more than 150 waterfalls, three major freshwater lakes, The Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River, The Cherokee Foothills National Scenic Byway, thousands of acres of parks, and hundreds of miles of hiking, biking and horseback riding trails.



The Upcountry region's population is about 1,500,000 people. Most of these people live along the commerce-rich I-85 corridor in Greenville county (453,000), Spartanburg country (287,000) and Anderson county (190,000).

### Clemson

The population of the city is about 14,000 people not counting the 18,000 students going to Clemson University. Clemson is approximately 27 miles west of downtown Greenville and 15 miles north of Anderson. The city is situated near the northwestern corner of South Carolina on the shores of Lake Hartwell.



Lake Hartwell



Clemson Memorial Stadium

The city of Clemson's character is largely defined by Clemson University, a large public university that dates back to 1889. The university is the cultural center of the city, even though a small multi-block downtown with housing, retail and restaurants is directly to the north of the campus. The community was originally named Calhoun and was renamed Clemson in 1943.

### **OLDE ENGLISH DISTRICT**

You don't have to be a history lover to enjoy traveling through South Carolina's Olde English District, but you will certainly learn about some of America's earliest events along the way. Made up of Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, and York counties as well as the cities and towns of Camden, Chester, Chesterfield, Clover, Kershaw, Lancaster, Pageland, Rock Hill, Winnsboro, and York. The largest city in the district is Rock Hill with a population of about 70,000. Next largest town is Lancaster with a population of about 10,200. All of the other towns are small with populations of less than 8,000.



**Olde English District Logo**



**Several Revolutionary War Sites**



**Upon Moon River Plantation House**



**One of many Golf Courses in District**

**The Olde English District takes you off the Interstate and down the back roads, where family farms still flourish, museums and old plantation homes reveal the past, and parks and outdoor attractions provide fun for all ages. Yes, there are lots of golf courses in Olde English District. It is in the north central area of the state. The district received its name because of the region's early settlement by the English in the mid-1770s. There were several Revolutionary War battles fought in the area including the Battle of Kings Mountain.**



### **South Carolina Railroad Museum**

**The South Carolina Railroad Museum in the town of Winnsboro features a walk-through display train featuring a 100 years old Norfolk business car, a Southern Post Office car, Nickle Plate caboose and static display cars. 10-mile round-trip scenic train rides are also available.**

### **OLD 96 DISTRICT**

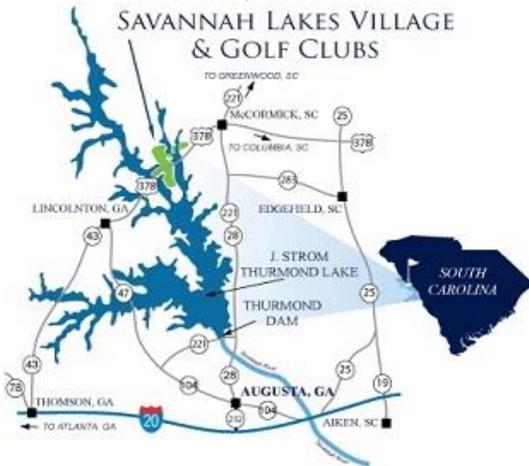


**Rural beauty, Old South mystique, historical significance, abundant natural resources, pristine waterways – that's the Old 96 District! Discover a culture that played a significant part in shaping our country's future and character. The Old 96 District is comprised of Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens and McCormick Counties and is in the western section of South Carolina. Several thousand miles of beautiful and pristine shoreline can be found along South Carolina's Freshwater Coast.**

**With miles and miles of woodlands and forests, Old 96 District is an outdoor enthusiasts dream. Pristine lakes, trails ready for exploration and an abundance of wildlife, beckon folks to South Carolina's great outdoors. Camping is a favorite way to discover all the pleasures of the region's lakes, streams, trails, and woodlands. Just about everywhere you turn in this part of the Palmetto State, there's a breathtaking venue for your outdoor recreation.**

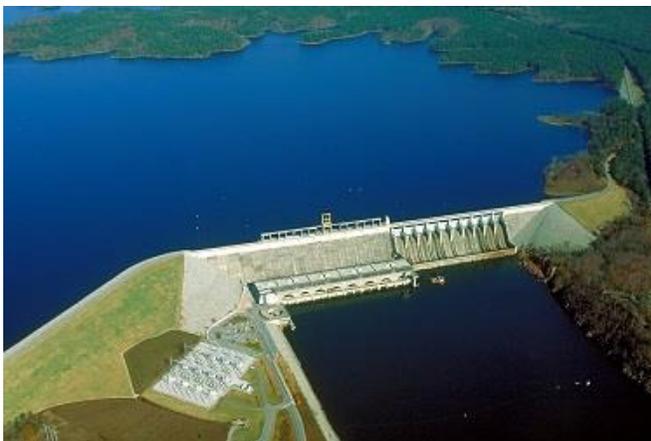
**A little history lesson. In the colonial period, the land around the coast was divided into parishes corresponding to the parishes of the Church of England. As people settled the backcountry, judicial districts and additional counties were formed. This structure continued and grew after the Revolutionary War. The 96 District was created on 29 July 1769 as the most western of the seven original districts within the Province of South Carolina. Its boundaries included the current Abbeville, McCormick, Edgefield, Saluda, Greenwood, Laurens, Union, and Spartanburg counties; much of Cherokee and Newberry counties; and small parts of Aiken and Greenville Counties. The lands further west were Cherokee Indian lands barred to colonial settlers but not to traders nor travelers. In 1800, all counties were renamed as districts. In 1868, the districts were converted back to counties.**

### **Savannah River, Richard B. Russell Lake and J. Strom Thurmond Lake**



**South Carolina’s famous beaches aren’t the only water attraction in the state. The Savannah River and other lakes form the border between South Carolina and Georgia, and the Old 96 District is smack in the middle. Three of the district’s five counties line this coast: Abbeville, McCormick and Edgefield.**

**Abbeville County is home to Richard B. Russell Lake, a part of the Army Corps of Engineers’ lakes. Lake Russell, with over 26,000 acres of water, is perfect for watersports as well as fishing. Largemouth bass, bream, crappie, catfish, trout and bluegill all call this lake home.**



**Richard B. Russell Dam and Lake**



**J. Strom Thurmond Lake**

**Just downstream in McCormick County is J. Strom Thurmond Lake. Named for J. Strom Thurmond, native son of Edgefield, SC, and the longest-serving U.S. senator. Lake Thurmond is the Army Corps of Engineers' largest project east of the Mississippi River. The fish are in abundance here as well, with white-striped and hybrid bass, largemouth bass, crappie and bluegill inhabiting this 71,000 acres lake. The rivers in the area, including the Savannah and Saluda rivers, also provide excellent opportunities for watersports like canoeing and kayaking.**

## **GREATER COLUMBIA**



**Is it Historic? Gracious? Sultry? Columbia, South Carolina, encompasses each of these and much more! Columbia tantalizes your senses with a relaxing; comfortable pace; an abundance of playgrounds including Lake Murray, rivers, parks, gardens and the Riverbanks Zoo - one of the best in the country; the University of South Carolina and Fort Jackson. History abounds and is celebrated in museums, historic homes and even in repurposed buildings with a new start as shops and restaurants.**

**As the Palmetto State's capital and a college town, Columbia's fiery vibe cultivates a colorful arts scene while an indie spirit envelops several energized entertainment districts overflowing with locally owned boutique shops, eateries, spas and salons, and night spots. For those with an adventurous spirit, the rivers, trails or the Congaree National Park will provide endless fun. Food-lovers have over 450 restaurants to choose from and can pick a new feast for every day and night of the week. The variety is abundant and all with an easy reach. Once you've experienced Columbia, you'll be delighted that you stopped to explore,**

**Columbia is the capital and largest city in South Carolina, with a population of 135,000. It is the center of the Columbia metropolitan statistical area, which has a**

population of about 812,000 people. The name Columbia was a poetic term used for the United States, originating from the name of Christopher Columbus. The city is located approximately 13 miles of the geographic center of South Carolina, and is the primary city of the Midlands (Greater Columbia) region of the state. It lies at the confluence of the Saluda River and the Broad River, which merge at Columbia to form the Congaree River. The Congaree is navigable at high water by barge traffic upriver from the Port of Charleston (approximately 100 miles away through the Santee-Cooper Lakes to within 5 miles of Columbia).

Columbia is home to the University of South Carolina (32,000 students), the state's flagship and largest university, and is also the site of Fort Jackson, the largest United States Army installation for Basic Combat Training. In 1860, the city was the location of the South Carolina Secession Convention, which marked the departure of the first state from the Union in the events leading up to the Civil War.

### Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens



## **THOROUGHBRED COUNTRY**

**Four beautiful counties in western South Carolina where yesterday is preserved for today. History from every American era is evident throughout this region known as Thoroughbred Country. When one hears "thoroughbred", horses is the first thing to pop into their heads. And it's true that Thoroughbred Country has its fair share beautiful stallions and has become a popular destination for horse racing fans. But in addition, this wonderful region is steeped in rich history that tells the American story as well as the South Carolina story. You can explore Civil War battle sites and historic plantation homes. Visit quaint towns where you will find museums rich with history and festivals that display local culture. Churches of the past and stories of the Charleston to Hamburg rail line can also be found. Demonstrations in pottery, frontier trading and blacksmithing will teach you what life was like in colonial times.**



**Hike through an urban forest or let the elegance of a local garden carry you to another time. Notice the Spanish moss gracing enormous live oak trees. Take in the local flora and wildlife at a sanctuary. Ponder over the unusual elliptical phenomenon known as the Carolina Bays. If you desire more active recreation, then paddle the longest free-flowing, Blackwater river in the world. Cool off with a drink from the Healing Springs, whose waters are believed to have curative powers.**



## **SANTEE COOPER COUNTRY**

**Santee Cooper Country is a district in the south central South Carolina area surrounding Lake Moultrie and Lake Marion, which were formed from damming the Santee River and the Cooper River. The district was formed to create and expand tourism, recreation, and development in the region.**



**Record sized Striped Bass**

**Lake-Marion is the largest inland lake in South Carolina, and covers approximately 110,000 acres of land in five counties which includes the counties of Berkeley, Calhoun, Clarendon, Orangeburg, and Sumter. It's called South Carolina's Inland Sea. Along with Lake Moultrie, the Santee Cooper Project created Lake Marion in the 1940s, and today it's considered part of the Santee Lakes Region, which lies in the heart of South Carolina. Both Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie are quite well known for their landlocked striped bass.**

**Orangeburg, also known as "The Garden City," is the principal city in the region with a population of about 14,000 people. The city is located 37 miles southeast of Columbia, on the north fork of the Edisto River in the Piedmont area.**

## **PEE DEE COUNTRY**

**This seven-county region, named for the original Native American Pee Dee Indians who inhabited it long ago and subsequently the Pee Dee River, still offers the natural wonders that attracted the Native Americans and early settlers. A sparkling gem of nature's best Pee Dee Country has a unique combination of scenic parks and natural areas as well as a history spanning both Revolutionary and Civil War times, reflected in its wonderfully preserved historic homes, plantations, and buildings. Florence is the primary city in the region with a population of about 38,000 people.**



**Pee Dee River**

**Both cotton and tobacco played an important role in the early growth of the region. The South Carolina Cotton Museum is in Bishopville and has preserved the legacy of the cotton culture in South Carolina and a way of life long gone but still reflected in the present. The South Carolina Tobacco Museum is in the historic train depot in Mullins and depicts farm life and the growing of the “golden leaf” prior to 1950.**



**Darlington Raceway**

**Pee Dee Country offers three beautiful state parks and many local garden parks as well as four scenic rivers. The area also has more than 30 exciting and affordable golf courses! It's no wonder that outdoor activities are popular here! Come chip, putt, paddle, cycle, race, raft, kayak, hike, hunt, fish and just have fun! Race car fans will want to catch a race at the famous Darlington Raceway! Take in the history of the world's greatest spectator sport at the Darlington Raceway Stock Car Museum.**



**One of many Pee Dee Gardens**

**Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge is in the town of McBee which is about 35 miles northwest of Florence. This refuge was established to restore and maintain a longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem. There are 30 man-made lakes and numerous small creeks here that serve as habitat to 190 species of birds, 42 species of mammals, 41 species of reptiles, 25 species of amphibians and over 750 plant species. There are trails, observation towers, viewing platforms and a 9-mile long drive to view the wildlife and the plants.**



**Wild Turkeys**



**Raccoon**

**If you are a hunter or just like to see various wildlife, the Pee Dee region is prime whitetail deer habitat, but other game is just as plentiful. You'll find hogs, wild turkeys, quail, doves, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and many other animals and birds.**

## **GOLDEN CORNER**

Referred to as the “Lowcountry and Resort Islands”, this is the area South of Charleston and North of Savannah. Many residents and visitors say this area is “Near Heaven”.



The South Carolina Lowcountry beckons beach lovers, thrill seekers, history buffs, outdoor enthusiasts, bird watchers, foodies, fishermen, golfers, artists and authors with its laidback lifestyle, lush landscapes, natural attractions and diverse culture. Warmed by Southern breezes, the miles of pristine beaches, expansive marshes and maritime forests found on the sea islands of Hilton Head, Daufuskie, Fripp, St. Helena, and Edisto Islands gradually give way to the historic towns of Beaufort, Port Royal, Bluffton, Walterboro, Hampton and Hardeeville. Further inland you will find fertile farmlands and charming rural communities like Ridgeland, Estill and Varnville, all shaded by stately live oaks and palmettos.

Rivers, railroad tracks, interstate highways and country roads crisscross the four-county area, providing easy access to Lowcountry attractions both on and off the beaten path. Flanked on either side by the Charleston and Hilton Head/Savannah Airports, Amtrak runs through the region stopping in Yemassee.

### **Hilton Head Island**

Hilton Head is a resort town located on an island of the same name in Beaufort County, South Carolina. It is 20 miles northeast of Savannah, Georgia, and 95 miles southwest of Charleston, SC. The island is named after Captain William Hilton, who in 1663 identified a headland near the entrance to Port Royal Sound, which he named

"Hilton's Head" after himself. The island looks like a shoe or a boot! It features 12 miles of beachfront on the Atlantic Ocean and is a popular vacation destination. The year-round population is about 40,000 people although during the peak of the summer vacation season, the population can swell to 150,000 or more.



**Hilton Head Island**

## **GREATER CHARLESTON**

Start a day in Charleston by helping to raise Old Glory high above Fort Sumter, the site where artillery fire sparked the start of the Civil War. The Greater Charleston region of South Carolina is home to historic sites, rolling rivers, lush landscapes, and scenic ocean views.



**Downtown Charleston**

**The bridge in the background (previous picture) and at the top of this article is called the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge. It is a cable-stayed bridge over the Cooper River connecting downtown Charleston to Mount Pleasant. The eight-lane bridge opened in 2005 to replace two obsolete cantilever truss bridges. The bridge has a main span of 1,546 feet, the third longest among cable-stayed bridges in the Western Hemisphere.**

**Charleston is the oldest and second-largest city in South Carolina, the county seat of Charleston County, and the principal city in the Charleston–North Charleston–Summerville Metropolitan Statistical Area. The city lies just south of the geographical midpoint of South Carolina's coastline and is located on Charleston Harbor, an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean formed by the confluence of the Ashley and Cooper Rivers. Charleston has a population of about 132,000 people. The population of the Charleston metropolitan area, comprising Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties, is about 730,000—the third-largest in the state.**



**Rainbow Row in Charleston**

**Charleston was founded as Charles Town—honoring King Charles II of England—in 1670. Its initial location at Albemarle Point on the west bank of the Ashley River (now Charles Towne Landing) was abandoned in 1680 for its present site, which became the 5th-largest city in North America within 10 years. Despite its size, it remained unincorporated throughout the colonial period. Its government was handled directly by the state legislature and by its Anglican parish wardens. It adopted its present spelling with its incorporation as a city in 1783 at the close of the Revolutionary War.**

**Known for its rich history, well-preserved architecture, distinguished restaurants, and mannerly people, Charleston is a popular tourist destination and has received many accolades, including "America's Most Friendly City" by Travel + Leisure in 2011 and in 2013 and 2014 and "the most polite and hospitable city in America" by Southern Living magazine in 2015. In 2016, Charleston was ranked the "World's Best City" by Travel + Leisure. Hey, this sounds like my kind of city!**

## **GRAND STRAND**

**South Carolina's Grand Strand, more commonly referred to as Myrtle Beach, has been a favorite destination of vacationers for decades. The area is essentially 60 miles of pristine, sandy beaches in a relatively tropical climate. The beach starts around the Little River and terminates at Winyah Bay. South Carolina is rated as having the fourth best beaches in the United States - after Hawaii, Florida, and California.**

**The population of Myrtle Beach City is about 30,000 with the Myrtle Beach metropolitan area population at about 470,000 people.**



**Grand Strand or Myrtle Beach**

**The term “Strand” is derived from the German word “Strand” meaning "Beach". According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word “Strand” refers to the shore of an ocean, sea, lake, or large river.**



**Myrtle Beach City**

The area has become a major tourist attraction along the Southeastern coast, with its primary city, Myrtle Beach, attracting over ten million visitors each season. It is home to numerous restaurants and theme parks, making it popular with families and college students in the summer and snowbirds during the winter.

### **SUMMARY**

I obtained much of the information presented in this article from the South Carolina Tourist Commission. So, if it reads like one big advertisement for the state, you know why. However, you must admit, South Carolina is a very interesting state. It is one of the states that I have never been to but now I wouldn't mind going there. I would like to visit Charleston to find out if the people there are as friendly as they say.

Did you notice that South Carolina is one of those states where the county you live in or visit is just as important as the town or city? Here is some information and statistics about the whole state of South Carolina:



State Flag

<b>Total Population</b>	<b>About 5 million</b>
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>32,020 square miles</b>
<b>Number of Counties</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Number of Golf Courses</b>	<b>At least 477</b>
<b>Highest Point</b>	<b>Sassafras Mountain 3,560 feet</b>
<b>Largest River</b>	<b>Santee – Drains 40% of state</b>
<b>Longest River</b>	<b>Savannah - 238 miles long</b>
<b>Highest waterfall</b>	<b>Raven Cliff Falls at 400 feet</b>
<b>Miles of coastline</b>	<b>187 miles</b>
<b>Worst Hurricane</b>	<b>Hugo in 1989</b>
<b>Worst Earthquake</b>	<b>7.3 in Charleston in 1886</b>
<b>Most Popular Destinations</b>	<b>1. Myrtle Beach 2. Charleston 3. Hilton Head Island</b>

I got the idea for writing this article during the Clemson – Alabama football game. By the way, I was happy to see Alabama lose – they win way too many games.