FOLLY BEACH, SC

Charleston's Beach Town

Folly Beach, South Carolina is one of America's last true beach towns. Just minutes from historic downtown Charleston, Folly Beach is a 12 square mile barrier island that is packed with things to do, see and eat. This is a funky, laid-back, come-as-you-are kind of beach. The pace is invitingly slow, the people are captivating and the shops and restaurants will receive you with good old fashioned southern charm and hospitality. It won't take long for you to feel right at home.

Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and the Folly River, visitors enjoy six miles of wide beaches, surfing, fishing, biking, kayaking, boating, eco-tours, and sea-wildlife including several endangered species. The sunrises and sunsets on Folly are legendary, so make sure you have plenty of space on your camera or smart phone … seriously, free up lots of space!

A few steps from the beach, downtown Folly features an eclectic array of locally owned stores and restaurants. Fun bohemian clothing, beach knick-knacks and surf shops are mixed with fantastic seafood restaurants, casual cafes and one-of-a-kind bars. With live music coming from all directions and colorful cocktails calling your name, your cares will melt away as you become lost in the Folly lifestyle. And when the sun goes down, Center Street becomes a lively mix of beach-casual nightlife and rooftop dance clubs.

Whether you need a beach front home for a large group or a romantic room for the two of you, Folly Beach is the perfect spot for vacations, reunions, beach weddings, or just a quick weekend get-away. Come visit us at 'The Edge of America' …

you'll love life on the edge.

Facts & Figures

AREA
of the island and beaches

Total: **18.9** square miles

BUSINESS & ACCOMMODATIONS

167 rooms in hotels, bed & breakfasts

2300 rooms in vacation rentals

25+ restaurants

15+ retail stores / shopping

15+ tours / attractions companies

3 places of worship

Facts & Figures

CLIMATE

Average Temperatures

February: ↑ 60°F ↓ 45°F
May: ↑ 80°F ↓ 67°F
August: ↑ 87°F ↓ 76°F
November: ↑ 68°F ↓ 53°F

PLACES OF INTEREST

Morris Island Lighthouse
Folly Fishing Pier
Porgy & Bess House
Folly River Park
Charleston County Park at the West End
Bark Park
Pirate Park

PERMANENT RESIDENTS

2,708

as of 2013

DRIVING DISTANCE TO AIRPORT AND MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

Charleston International Airport - CHS: 17.5 miles, appx 35-40 mins
Downtown Charleston: 10 miles, appx 18 mins
Fort Sumter Tour Ferry: 11.7 miles, appx 20 mins
USS Yorktown: 16 miles, appx 25 mins
Charleston Tea Plantation: 25 miles, appx 40 mins

Plantations & Gardens:
- **McLeod Plantation:** 8.4 miles, appx 14 mins
- **Drayton Hall:** 20 miles, appx 35 mins
- **Boone Hall:** 21.9 miles, appx 40 mins
- **Middleton Place & Magnolia Plantation:** 24 miles, appx 45 mins

DRIVING DISTANCE FROM MAJOR CITIES

Asheville: 277 miles, appx 4 hrs
Atlanta: 318 miles, appx 4 hrs 45 mins
Charlotte: 219 miles, appx 3 hrs 15 mins
Columbia: 124 miles, appx 2 hrs
Florence: 146 miles, appx 2 hrs 15 mins
Greenville: 223 miles, appx 3 hrs 15 mins
Jacksonville: 246 miles, appx 3 hrs 45 mins
Myrtle Beach: 106 miles, appx 2 hrs 10 mins
Nashville: 567 miles, appx 8 hrs 15 mins
Raleigh: 290 miles, appx 4 hrs 10 mins
Richmond: 434 miles, appx 6 hrs 15 mins
Savannah: 115 miles, appx 2 hrs

What to Do

You'll never believe what we can fit into 12 square miles. We may be laid-back but we like to take advantage of the natural amusement park that surrounds our beach town. Our quaint little island can keep you busy from morning until night.

FOLLY BEACH ECO-TOURISM

Many of the activities and tours on Folly Beach are focused on our ecology. With thousands of fascinating life forms indigenous to our land and water, you will be mesmerized by our "locals". Several endangered species call Folly home, including the loggerhead sea-turtle and Wilson's plover, so please, adhere to stated rules in respect to these creatures and help us ensure their continued protection.

Look for the "Folly Beach Eco-Tourism" icon throughout this press kit.

Fun on the Water

SURFING

Folly Beach is one of the premiere surfing destinations on the East Coast. You'll find surfers all along the beach, but the most popular spot is The Washout, a strip of beach that catches the biggest waves in the area. Whether you're an avid surfer or just want to give it a try, grab your board (or rent one at any of our surf shops) and catch a wave.

FISHING

Folly Beach offers all the variety a fisherman could want. Enjoy bountiful surf fishing, river fishing, pier fishing and deep-sea sport fishing year-round due to the Lowcountry's mild temperatures. The common catches on Folly are spotted sea trout, sheepshead, black drum, Spanish mackerel, king mackerel, bluefish, whiting, pompano, red drum, flounder and perch. Try your hand at crabbing, oystering or claming while you're here.

ECO-TOURS & EXCURSIONS

Explore the natural beauty of Folly Beach through a variety of sightseeing tours and excursions available both on land and on water. Wave hello to the friendly dolphins, spend some time bird watching, take an environmental eco-cruise through the salt-marshes or learn the Civil War history of the Morris Island Lighthouse.

WATER SPORTS

A trip to Folly Beach isn't complete without venturing out on top of the water. Kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, jet skis, parasailing, relaxing sail boat cruises - you name it. Go it on your own or take a guided tour. The options are endless!

Fun on the Land

EXPLORE THE ISLAND

When you're looking for a little on-land adventure, rent a bicycle and cruise the island. With several parks and lots of nature trails, you'll get to experience the beauty of Folly from different perspectives. Insider Tip: The sunset from the marina is a must see!

DINING

As casual as the vibe is on Folly, you'll find that we are serious about our food. From fresh seafood & local oysters to big juicy steaks; traditional southern and American fare to sushi, Mexican and Mediterranean; breakfast, lunch, dinner and late night, we're sure to satisfy your appetite.

THE FOLLY PIER

Fishing, walking, birding, and the opportunity to enjoy breathtaking views of the "Edge of America" are just some of the possibilities at the Edwin S. Taylor Folly Beach Fishing Pier. The pier stretches 1,045 feet into the Atlantic Ocean. At 25-feet wide and 23-feet above sea level, the pier is the 2nd longest on the east coast and offers not only spectacular views but also special events and dining.

NIGHTLIFE

What are you in the mood for? A relaxing evening overlooking the water with a nice bottle of wine. Or maybe a bucket of beer and some live music by one of the many local bands? From upscale social clubs to good old watering holes... we've got you covered. With the options on Folly, your evening will be anything you want it to be.

SHOPPING

Take a break from the beach and stroll down Center Street for some Folly Beach shopping. There are plenty of stores and boutiques to choose from offering everything from fun casual clothes to souvenirs, or any of those beach essentials you forgot at home!

Take a short ride off the island...

GOLF & TENNIS

There are dozens of world-class golf courses within miles of Folly Beach – perfect for all levels of play. **Here are just a few:**

- Just up the road from Folly is the **Charleston Municipal Golf Course.** The "Muni" is a golfer-friendly course. Most days, 18-holers play in less than 4 hours. One of the few walkable golf courses in Charleston, The City Course boasts 6 sets of tees to accommodate all playing levels.

- **Kiawah Island Golf Resort** offers five championship golf courses in a beautiful, natural setting. Each of the five courses was designed by a legendary course architect: Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Fazio, Gary Player and Clyde Johnson.

- Whether you are just looking for an enjoyable round of golf or some professional golf instruction, **Shadowmoss Plantation Golf Club** has everything you need including rental clubs, a driving range, a putting green, chipping green, and a fully stocked pro shop with the finest in quality apparel and equipment.

- Set amidst South Carolina Lowcountry breezes from the Intracoastal Waterway and centuries-old live oaks, **The Links at Stono Ferry** is a Ron Garl design. Wage your own war on the site of a historic Revolutionary War battle.

- One round on **Patriots Point Links** in Mt. Pleasant will confirm this harborside course's popularity. A subtle and rolling course, sits on the edge of Charleston Harbor offering some of the most spectacular views.

- There are plenty of tennis courts near Folly Beach including **Maybank Tennis Center** which features 8 lighted hard courts and 5 clay courts that are available to rent on an hourly basis.

DOWNTOWN CHARLESTON

Over the past several years, Charleston has been catapulted into the limelight on an international level with awards are being showered on the city left and right. Charleston has been voted **#1 Best U.S. City by *Condé Nast Traveler*** Readers' Choice Awards (2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011) and ***Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards** (2015, 2014, 2013).

Take a short ride from Folly onto the Charleston peninsula to experience the history, the food, the shopping and the wonderfully friendly people. Make sure to visit the City Market, take a tour of antebellum mansions on The Battery in a horse-drawn carriage, pop into the shops and boutiques on King Street and catch a live concert or a play.

Charleston area cuisine:
The Charleston culinary scene is world-renowned. Award winning chefs and restaurants drive Charleston's eclectic mix of styles and flavors. From five-star restaurants to hole-in-the-wall joints, you simply can't go wrong. Make sure to order some of Charleston's signature dishes including **Shrimp & Grits** and **She Crab Soup**.

HELICOPTER TOUR

If not by land or by sea, why not take to the air to tour Folly and the Charleston area. Charter flights range from personal events (yep, like an engagement) to corporate promotions and entertainment. A heli-flight is a great way to see it all and experience that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS NEAR BY

The Pier	McLeod Plantation	Splash Island Waterpark
Angel Oak	Fort Sumter	USS Yorktown
The Hunley Submarine	Charleston City Market	South Carolina Aquarium

Annual Events on Folly

Folly Beach is well known for our seasonal festivals. From street festivals to beach-wide art and music festivals, Folly Beach knows how to have fun! Most of these annual events take place between early fall and early spring.
A few of Folly's most popular events include:

Bill Murray Look-a-Like POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

The Polar Bear Plunge starts the New Year with a dive into the (barely) cold Atlantic. On Folly, attendees pay homage to local Bill Murray by dressing as their favorite Bill character for the plunge and the day of festivities that follows.

January 1

FOLLY GRAS

A week long, beach-wide Mardi Gras style celebration complete live music, a Folly Gras parade and an all day street party.

February

FOLLYPALOOZA

A cancer benefit that raises money for MUSC Hollings Cancer Center as well as Folly residents who are receiving cancer treatments, this street festival features several stages for live music, an art competition, an auction and carnival atmosphere.

October

FOLLY JAZZ FESTIVAL

Celebrate the music that has been a part of Folly Beach since the Big Bands played on The Pier in the 40's. Visit the house where Gershwin wrote "Porgy & Bess" and enjoy dozens of free musical events during this weekend-long event.

November

TASTE OF FOLLY

A two day celebration of Folly food including local restaurants selling food and drinks on the street, booths housing local vendors, live music, a full kids' area and a silent auction.

January

SEA & SAND FESTIVAL

The longest running annual event on Folly Beach, Sea & Sand draws thousands every year to participate in a 5K run, surf competition, sandcastle building contest, pageant, carnival games and all day street party.

April

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Watch the parade and do some holiday shopping at the Arts & Crafts Show at Folly River Park where local artisans offer their hand-crafted items. Great for unique holiday gifts.

December

NEW YEAR'S EVE FLIP-FLOP DROP

Drop a ball on New Year's Eve? Not here. Gather with fellow revelers on Center Street to watch the giant pair of flip-flops descending from the top of the Tides beachfront hotel at midnight. Happy New Year, y'all!

December 31

Weddings & Events on Folly

WATERFRONT WEDDINGS AND ALL THE EXTRAS

From beach weddings to gorgeous riverfront venues, Folly Beach is the perfect setting for your special day. You can host everything from the rehearsal dinner to the ceremony and even the bachelor or bachelorette party without leaving the island.

Our spacious guest homes provide a blissful beach paradise for family and friends and our romantic hotels and B-n-B's will assure that the wedding night is absolutely perfect.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

This year, plan a meeting or conference that people will actually look forward to! Folly offers meeting spaces for up to 300 people with all of the amenities necessary to make sure your team or organization has a productive gathering.

And when the work day is done, Folly Beach's activities will foster the camaraderie and team development that is critical to a business's success. Golf outings, deep sea fishing trips, group dinners and cocktail parties ... ***trust us, this will be the meeting that your attendees start asking about months in advance.***

Where to Stay

Folly Beach offers a variety of options for your accommodations. From full service hotels to cozy cottages to beachfront houses for large groups, your Folly home is waiting.

RENTALS

FRED HOLLAND REALTY

AVOCET PROPERTIES

CAROLINA ONE

DUNES PROPERTIES

HOMEAWAY FOLLY BEACH VACATION RENTALS

SURFFISH REALTY

AIRBNB

VRBO

MY OCEAN RENTAL

INNS / B&BS

REGATTA INN

WATERS EDGE INN

BEACHSIDE BED AND BREAKFAST

HOLLIDAY INN OF FOLLY BEACH

HOTELS

TIDES FOLLY BEACH

CAMPING

JAMES ISLAND COUNTY PARK

Photos

Visit our website at **VisitFolly.com** to view the full Folly Beach photo gallery.

Recent News

2015 WRITE-UPS:

TravelChannel.com named Folly Beach as one of the Top 16 Things to Do in Charleston – *September 2015*

The Culture Trip named Folly Beach one of the Best Beaches in Charleston, SC. – *August 2015*

Travel + Leisure mentioned Folly Beach in its World Top 10 Cities List, naming Charleston, SC #2 in the World – *July 2015*

AFAR included Folly Beach in its list of the 24 Amazing Beaches in the United States – *June 2015*

Folly Beach landed on the list of America's 20 Coolest Beach Towns by **Matador Network** – *June 2015*

ASBPA named Folly Beach one of the Best Restored Beaches for 2015 – *May 2015*

TravelChannel.com recognized Folly Beach as one of the Top 5 Beaches in South Carolina – *May 2015*

The State included Folly Beach in its list of More Ways to have fun along South Carolina's Coast

Southern Living Magazine named the Regatta Inn on Folly Beach as one of The Best New Hotels in the South 2015