

2010 Agriculture Heritage 4-Day Itinerary

South Carolina's agricultural heritage is as diverse as its people. Rice and cotton were the major crops of the plantation era and the latter is still widely grown commercially here. Peach growing also is a major venture, with the state producing more than any other except California. South Carolina also is home to the nation's only tea plantation.

The state's history is intrinsically intertwined with its farmers and farmland. Below is a list of places to see and things to do, just a sampling of what's available.

This itinerary only includes sites open year-round. South Carolina also offers seasonal [you-pick farms and roadside markets](#). Find out if [agricultural festivals](#) are going on during your visit. Please be sure to check online or by phone with your specific destination verify days and hours of operation before making final plans.

Day 1: The Upstate/Western S.C.: Hagood Mill, Oconee Heritage Center, Happy Cow Creamery, Split Creek Farm, Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site.

Day 2: The Midlands: Agricultural Heritage Center/S.C. Heritage Corridor Discovery Center, South Carolina State Farmers Market, Adluh Flour, Ellore Heritage Museum.

Day 3: The Lowcountry: Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, Boone Hall, Caw Caw Nature & History Interpretive Center, Charleston Tea Plantation,.

Day 4: The Pee Dee: South Carolina Cotton Museum, Young Plantations, Pee Dee State Farmers Market, McCleod Farms, South Carolina Tobacco Museum.

Itinerary Details

Day 1: Grits, Goats, Cows & Cotton. In the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains, see a working water-powered gristmill at [Hagood Mill](#), built in 1845, near Pickens. Explore Upstate agriculture's role in a former tobacco warehouse that's now the [Oconee Heritage Museum](#) in Walhalla. Fuel up and check out one of the pioneers of organic dairy farming at the [Happy Cow Creamery](#) near Pelzer. Dairy farming of an entirely different breed also can be appreciated at [Split Creek Farm](#), home to championship cheese makers and one of the country's larger goat dairy herds. And then head down the Savannah River Valley to [Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site](#). Home to the pre-Civil War senator who famously proclaimed "Cotton is King", the mansion site near Aiken includes a stately entrance row of magnolia trees, heirloom crop gardens, exhibits and interpretation of the lives of families, black and white, who lived there for generations.

Eating and Sleeping: Research your many options at www.pendletondistrict.org and www.tbredcountry.org.

Day 2: Flour, Farm Life and Ruby Do. Learn about rural farm life at the [Agricultural Heritage Center](#) at the [Clemson University Edisto Research & Education Center](#) in

Blackville. Next door is the [Rivers, Rails & Crossroads Discovery Center](#) operated by the S.C. National Heritage Corridor. Then it's off to Columbia and a stop at [Adluh Flour](#), the iconic flour mill in downtown Columbia, to buy some grits or other ground products produced there since about 1900. For a grand sweep of raw and prepared agricultural products available in South Carolina, stop at the expansive new [South Carolina State Farmers Market](#). Keep going down Interstate 26 to Elloree and a stop at the [Elloree Heritage Museum](#) for a look at a plantation gin house, Ruby Do the mule and more.

Eating and Sleeping: Research your many options at www.columbiacvb.com or www.santecoopercountry.org.

Day 3: Plantations, Tea in Charleston. Check out the experimental crop garden and learn what the original English settlers faced (including musket fire and a naturalistic Animal Forest with bears, cougars and otters) at expansive [Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site](#) on the Ashley River. Cross the Cooper River to [Boone Hall Plantation](#), one of America's oldest working farms, to take in the history (including the iconic avenue of oaks and preserved brick slave cabins) and pick up some fresh produce and prepared farm products. Then back through Charleston and down U.S. 17 for a stop at the [Caw Caw Interpretive Center](#), home to long-abandoned rice fields carved out of the cypress swamps by African slaves. And don't miss [Charleston Tea Plantation](#), 127 acres of camellia plants and America's only homegrown tea-making operation.

Eating and Sleeping: Research your many options at www.explorecharleston.com.

Day 4: Americans have been weaving cotton into cloth since 1790. Learn all about that and more at the [South Carolina Cotton Museum](#) in Bishopville. Pick up some pecans (South Carolina is a major producer) at [Young Plantations'](#) outlet store in Florence and then peruse the plants and produce at the nearby [Pee Dee State Farmers Market](#). Peaches are another major South Carolina crop (we grow more than Georgia) and a good place to get some is at [McLeod Farms](#) near McBee. A year-round market keeps things going when the peaches aren't in season. Finish with a focus on another pivotal crop in South Carolina's history at the [South Carolina Tobacco Museum](#) in Mullins.

Eating and Sleeping: Research your many options at www.peedeetourism.com.

Where to stay, what to eat ...

Each of the destinations on this itinerary offers a wide range of dining and overnight accommodations options. Continue your online exploration at www.DiscoverSouthCarolina.com.