

Coastal and Low Country Explorer South Carolina (2)

December 10 - 15, 2020

Provisional Itinerary

Please plan to meet at the Holiday Inn in Surfside Beach, SC on the night of December 10.
The hotel tonight is included in the trip cost.

Day 1: December 11 Surfside Beach

After breakfast we will spend a few hours exploring the winter woodlands of Myrtle Beach State Park where we will look for wintering birds, such as Orange-crowned and Black-and-white Warblers in the vast flocks of Yellow-rumps. The beach and ocean can be excellent for grebes, loons and wintering gulls. The afternoon will be at the excellent Huntington Beach State Park where we will have a walk along the beach to the famous jetty – home of Purple Sandpipers and much more. *Night in Surfside Beach*

Day 2: December 12 Charleston

This morning we will drive down the coast a little to Santee Coastal Reserve. The impoundments and wetlands can be very good for wintering waterfowl and freshwater species. We will spend some time in the long-leaf pine woodlands as well looking for Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow. *Night in Charleston*

Day 3: December 13 Charleston

Magnolia Plantation has always been one of our favorite places and it's easy to get a long list of both water and land species. Ducks, rails, herons and birds of prey are all common and there's always the chance of an over-wintering Least Bittern. Depending on the tide, the afternoon could be spent at Pitt Street Causeway in Mt. Pleasant. This is a great spot for close looks at Clapper Rail, American Oystercatcher, and maybe Seaside or Saltmarsh Sparrows. *Night in Charleston*

Day 4: December 14 Beaufort

Donnelly Wildlife Management Area has a great driving tour, so we will do this 11-mile tour first thing this morning, before driving down to Edisto Beach. Always a favorite hang-out, Edisto can have great views of Scoters and grebes just offshore. The nearby marshes can be good for shorebirds, such as Willet, Short-billed Dowitcher and Black-bellied Plover with always a chance for Hooded Merganser and Clapper Rail. *Night in Beaufort*

Day 5: December 15 Savannah NWR and home

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge is another one of our favorite spots and we will finish our trip with a drive around the Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive. Great Horned Owls should be nesting already and this is a great spot to see Sora, Virginia and even King/Clapper Rails. Northern Harriers hunt over the marshes and there's an outside chance for a wintering Purple Gallinule. After lunch we will begin our drive back to Asheville, NC with a stop at Webb Wildlife Management Area, a great spot for Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow.

This Itinerary is just a guide and is subject to change depending on the birds, weather and whims of the leader!