

## Experience some of the many festivals across the Authentic Southern States

Mark your calendars! The South of the United States is full of natural, cultural, gastronomic and musical riches. Throughout the year many events celebrate the charms of the region and allow travelers to live a 100% local and authentic experience. Mingle (finally!) with the crowd and enjoy a trip to the South of the USA to meet artists, producers, visitors, guides who will all know how to make you live an unforgettable moment and share with you a little bit of their traditions.



Credit: Hangout Music Festival, Gulf Shores, Alabama

## ALABAMA

The [Hangout Music Festival](#) is located in Gulf Shores, Alabama, just a few miles from the Florida border. It takes place in May is the first and only such festival in Gulf Shores. The stunning backdrop of the beach and sandy walkways make the Hangout Music Festival an enticing destination for music lovers. Here you can enjoy fresh local seafood prepared by famous regional chefs.

The Gulf Shores area is ideal for vacationing, there are vacation rentals including condos, hotels and beach houses, many of which are within walking and biking distance from the festival venue. Travelers looking to book accommodation for the festival can choose from a [wide selection](#).

The Annual [Barber Vintage Festival](#) usually takes place in early October at Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham. It is a gathering of vintage motorcycles and one of the biggest motorcycle festivals in the world. More than 80,000 spectators are present on site to enjoy three days of classic motorcycle races, a fan zone, stunt shows, an exchange with more than 600 vendors and demonstrations.

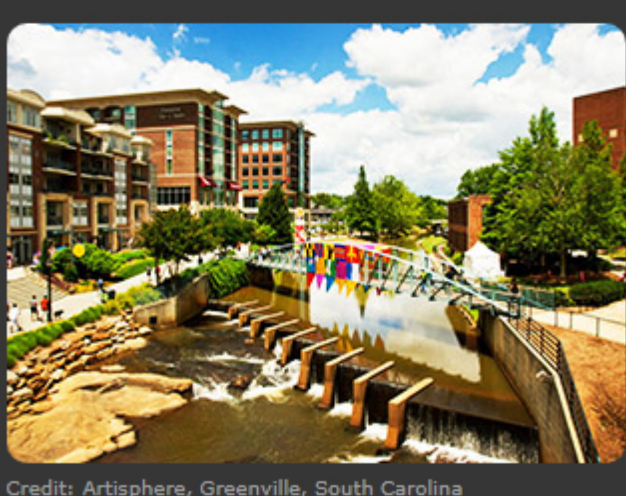
The park is also home to the [Barber Vintage Motorcycle Museum](#), which features the largest collection of vintage motorcycles in the world. During the weekend, the museum extends its opening hours and offers seminars, speakers and demonstrations.



Credit: Barber Vintage Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham, Alabama

## CAROLINE FROM THE SOUTH

Come experience authentic South Carolina people, food and culture. Sit front row at a fashion show, taste 'Frogmore Stew' for the first time, or experience classical ballet at one of the Palmetto State's many festivals.



Credit: Artisphere, Greenville, South Carolina

For a complete list of South Carolina state festivals, visit the official website: [discoversouthcarolina.com](#).

[Hilton Head Island Wine and Food Festival](#) in March. Savor delicious dinners and enjoy events and tastings during the annual Hilton Head Island Wine Festival. On the program: tastings, walks and even live shows. Plus, you won't want to miss the fun and excitement around the infamous Server Race.

[Artisphere](#) in Greenville, is one of South Carolina's biggest arts festivals in May, where more than 100 artists from across the country exhibit everything from abstract paintings and photography to 3D media and more. through live music, artistic performances and much more.

## GEORGIA

[International Cherry Blossom Festival](#) in Macon. Welcome spring with this beautiful spectacle of nature at [Carolyn Crayton Park](#) in the heart of [Macon](#). Every March, the city transforms into a candy-pink paradise as 350,000 Yoshino cherry trees bloom, earning Macon its title of Cherry Blossom Capital of the World.

Developed around the core principles of "love, beauty, and international friendship," the festival has become one of the top 20 events in the southern United States. Cherry Blossom Festival visitors can stay at [1842 Inn](#), an award-winning Bed & Breakfast located in historic Macon, or the [Forty Five Hotel](#), a brand new boutique hotel that pays homage to the city's musical history.

Mark your calendar for the 86th Annual Atlanta Dogwood Festival in [Piedmont Park](#) (April 8-10, 2022). The Atlanta Dogwood Festival began in 1936 to celebrate the flowering of the dogwood trees and has remained a staple springtime tradition in [Atlanta](#). Virtually every art form imaginable is represented at the festival, with a nationally acclaimed artist's market that includes sculptures, paintings, pottery, jewelry, photography and more.

If you're in town for the festival, stay at the [Midtown Hotel](#) to enjoy a rooftop pool with luxury cabanas, stunning skyline views and an exceptional restaurant. Next door to the hotel is a trendy new restaurant called [Politan Row](#) at Colony Square, which offers a carefully selected mix of local food and drink.

## MISSOURI

Missouri is known for its diversity of arts and culture. Perhaps the best way to experience it is to attend a festival. [Boulevardia](#), in Kansas City in June, is the perfect place for visitors to experience local, Missouri-style music, beer, and food. Dance to your heart's content in a 'silent disco,' where music from the DJ plays through everyone's headphones. Several stages are occupied by artists of all genres.

When it's time to quench your thirst, sample beer from Boulevard Brewery, the Midwest's largest specialty brewer. A trip to Kansas City wouldn't be complete without savoring our award-winning barbecue, which you can do at the many stands. Buy a souvenir at the Makers Market, where locally made items are on display.



Credit: Boulevardia, Kansas City, Mo.

## DID YOU KNOW ?

### ALABAMA

[The National Peanut Festival](#) in Dothan, the largest peanut festival in the country, is held every autumn to honor peanut farmers and celebrate the harvest season.

Festivities include rides, agricultural displays, concerts, beauty contests, arts and crafts displays, competitions, local cuisine, a two-hour parade, and tons of peanuts.

### CAROLINE FROM THE SOUTH

The [annual Spoleto Festival](#), held in May, fills theaters, churches and outdoor spaces in historic Charleston with 17 days and 17 nights of over 140 performances of the finest operas, plays, dances, chamber music and symphony groups as well as choirs from around the world.



Credit: Spoleto USA, Charleston, South Carolina

### GEORGIA

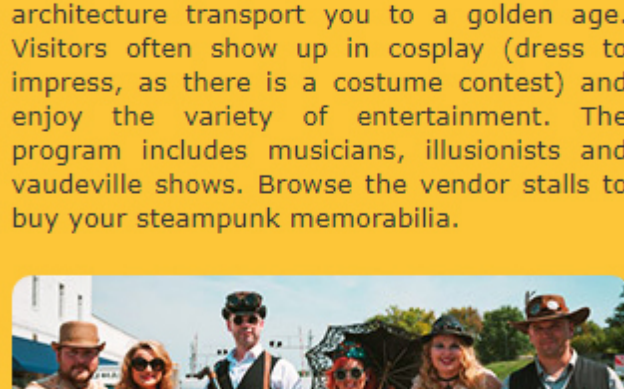
Shrimp & grits is an iconic Southern dish that's especially delicious when made with locally caught Georgia shrimp. At the award-winning [Jekyll Island Shrimp & Grits Festival](#) (November 4-6, 2022), attendees can celebrate this favorite dish by sampling a myriad of variations prepared by celebrity chefs. The highlight of the festival is the Shrimp & Grits Cookoff, where the state's top restaurant chefs compete for the title of "Georgia's Best Shrimp & Grits." Live music and numerous art stalls make this festival a particularly entertaining event at one of Georgia's most beautiful sites.



Credit: Shrimp & grits, Georgia

### MISSOURI

In Hannibal, the [Big River Steampunk Festival](#) takes you back to another era. Victorian clothing, inventions, industry and architecture transport you to a golden age. Visitors often show up in cosplay (dress to impress, as there is a costume contest) and enjoy the variety of entertainment. The program includes musicians, illusionists and vaudeville shows. Browse the vendor stalls to buy your steampunk memorabilia.



Credit: Big River Steampunk Festival, Hannibal, Missouri

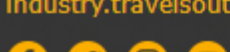
## RESOURCES

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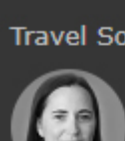
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Travel South USA c/o Article Onze Tourism



Mary Loyola | 06 75 11 55 99

[mloyola@articleonze.com](mailto:mloyola@articleonze.com)