

Aiken, South Carolina
A HAVEN FOR
Horses
And the people who love them.



Aiken is twenty miles from Augusta, GA and only 2.5 hours from both Atlanta and Charleston, SC.

urban forest ecosystem and site of one of the oldest annual horse shows in the US. The 70 miles of trails are a favorite of equestrians, hikers, joggers and dog walkers. Aiken is also home to Three Runs Plantation, a 2400-acre equestrian community with competition arenas and 30 miles of groomed trails.

Celebrating the area's racing history, Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum is located within Hopeland Gardens, a 14-acre estate and public garden. Aiken Polo Club is also one of the nation's oldest. From fox hunting to horse drawn carriages, Aiken is the setting for unique and beloved equestrian traditions and has the infrastructure, professional training and veterinary services to support it. Event riders can benefit from schooling sessions with many elite event riders, improving their dressage and jumping skills with lessons from top trainers in town. Every year more and more eventers and dressage riders who have discovered the benefits of wintering in Aiken are making it their year-round home.

Come for the horses, but be sure to explore the rest of Aiken, too. Soak up the beauty and soak in the gracious hospitality. You're going to love it here.



The Avenue of Oaks on South Boundary creates a welcoming tree canopy into the town of Aiken.

If you just happened upon historic Aiken, South Carolina, it is the kind of town you might daydream of living in. But most people arrive here on purpose, by way of their love of horses and a lifestyle that centers around equestrian traditions and pursuits. There's more to Aiken, though, than the rolling pastures and barns that dot the landscape. The area is one of idyllic natural beauty, where age-old oaks are draped in moss and spring arrives in a profusion of azaleas. The

temperate climate is perfect for enjoying outdoor activities year-round, of which a busy calendar of equestrian-related events is only the beginning. Golfers love it here and so do hikers, history lovers, garden admirers and antiques aficionados.

Aiken is a small southern town with a big sense of place. At the turn of the 19th century, it became established as a popular winter retreat for the very wealthy and the



Horse drawn carriages are a common sight on the streets of downtown Aiken.

historic architecture reflects that era. Today it is as picturesque as it is progressive, with the population hovering around 30,000. Great care and planning have gone into cultivating an inviting downtown area and vibrant cultural scene. The streets are lined with shops and restaurants and perfect for strolling, with many mansions and gardens open to the public.

Just a half-hour from Augusta National Golf

Course, setting of the famed Masters Tournament, Aiken is a haven for golfers of all skill levels with excellent public and private courses in the area. It's also a naturalists' paradise. Excellent parks, nature preserves and extensive hiking trails are favorite destinations, as is 2,100-acre Hitchcock Woods, a major



Aiken's beautiful equestrian community, Three Runs Plantation.

To learn more about Aiken go to www.visitaikensc.com

To learn more about Three Runs Plantation go to www.threerunsplantation.com