1. **Congaree National Park**
   Pick up a self-guided tour brochure and hike along the Boardwalk Trail, then go on a “night walk” and see glowing mushrooms! Paddle along the Cedar Creek Canoe Trail and look for turtles.

2. **Fort Sumter National Monument**
   Become a Junior Ranger! Participate in a ranger program then explore the fort and learn about American history. Go bird watching or try fishing and kayaking in the Charleston Harbor.

3. **Caesars Head State Park**
   Hike the Devil’s Kitchen Passageway, then view Raven Cliff Falls. Look for wildflowers, go bird watching or go fishing! Spend the night camping.

4. **Devil’s Fork State Park**
   Trek the Oconee Bells Nature Trail then go rent a boat to see some of the five waterfalls in the park! Go swimming in Lake Jocassee or go fishing. Camp overnight.

5. **Huntington Beach State Park**
   Look for alligators and birds from the Mullet Pond observation deck then walk along the marsh boardwalk. Play in the ocean or go fishing. Enjoy a picnic then end the day by the campfire.

6. **Hunting Island State Park**
   Visit the lagoon for good fishing or pelican viewing and look for alligators near the visitor center! Walk along the marsh boardwalk or visit the Hunting Island Lighthouse. Spend the night camping.

7. **Cheraw State Park**
   Rent a boat and explore Lake Juniper or go swimming or fishing! Hike the boardwalk then ride your bike and look for wildflowers. Keep an eye out for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

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**Fact Bites!**

- The state is also known as the “Palmetto State.” The palmetto tree appears on the state flag, created in 1861, when South Carolina seceded from the Union.
- Bomb Island on Lake Murray houses about 750,000 purple martin swallows each summer. The flock is even visible on Doppler radar!
- The name “Carolina” derives from the Latin word for Charles honoring King Charles I of England.

All photos courtesy of Frank Lee Ruggles Photography.