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WHAT'S NEW IN SOUTH CAROLINA: 2027

New stays, big milestones and bold plans across the Palmetto State

As the new year approaches, South Carolina is unveiling an array of new attractions, experiences, hotels, culinary hot spots and more, all of which bring the spirit of the destination to life for visitors. See what's new below.

Arts, Culture & Entertainment

Jim Shore Museum Experience (Rock Hill)
A 22,000-square-foot museum dedicated to artist Jim Shore is slated to open in late 2026 at 109 Hampton Street in downtown Rock Hill, giving visitors a new reason to explore the city in 2027. It will feature rotating galleries, a video immersion experience, behind-the-scenes looks at his creative process and a museum-exclusive gift shop.

Seneca Center for the Arts (Seneca)
The new Seneca Center for the Arts is on track to finish construction by the end of 2026. The facility features a state-of-the-art venue where theater, music, dance, visual arts, workshops, and educational programs come together to inspire connection and creativity for people of all ages.

Beneath Still Waters: The History of Lake Hartwell (Anderson)
The Anderson County Museum opens a new temporary exhibit in February 2027. Beneath Still Waters explores the historic sites now beneath Lake Hartwell, the construction of the dam and the lake's impact on Anderson County to the present day.

Sumter Opera House
The historic Sumter Opera House is on track to reopen in 2027 following a major renovation. The 550-seat venue has served as a performing arts and civic hub for more than 130 years. The renovation keeps the building's art deco plaster details and adds new seating, a restructured balcony and improved accessibility.

Trueline (Greenville)
A new 1,700-capacity music venue is coming to Greenville in 2027 from a co-founder of House of Blues. Trueline will feature a tiered main concert hall with a mezzanine, plus a 200-capacity intimate performance space, rooftop terrace and courtyard. The venue will host more than 130 shows annually, along with festivals, dance parties and other events.

Anderson County Civic Center Amphitheater
The Anderson County Civic Center is undergoing construction on a new amphitheater designed to expand the venue's capacity for concerts and other live events. Construction is expected to continue into 2027, including a permanent seating area, a VIP section, upgraded bathrooms and a new backstage area.

Myrtle Beach Performing Arts Center
The former Broadway Theater is being revitalized as a 300-seat, state-of-the-art performing arts center through a partnership between the City of Myrtle Beach and Coastal Carolina University. The project will further strengthen Myrtle Beach's Arts & Innovation District and expand the city's live-performance offerings.

Attractions & Destination Developments

Phillips Family Farm at Greenville
The Greenville Zoo is creating the $3.6 million Phillips Family Farm, the largest project in the zoo's 65-year history. Opening in early 2027, the new 6,600-square-foot barn, two smaller barns and second-floor event space will provide expanded habitats for Flemish Giant rabbits, Highland cattle, alpacas, KuneKune pigs, American barn owls and miniature Mediterranean donkeys.

Cinzia Spa Expansion (North Myrtle Beach)
Cinzia Spa in North Myrtle Beach enters 2027 after a $5 million renovation and expansion. The spa now has 15 treatment rooms, redesigned locker rooms and lobby, and a new thermal Water Journey with a cold plunge, vitality pools, sauna, steam room and heated stone loungers.

Sandy Harbor Family Fun Center Expansion (Myrtle Beach)
In Myrtle Beach, Ocean Lakes Family Campground is significantly expanding its Sandy Harbor Family Fun Center water park, including a resort-style outdoor pool with private cabanas and a climate-controlled indoor facility with a current channel, children's splash pool and aquatic play area, two slides and new food service. The opening is planned for Memorial Day weekend 2027.

Family Kingdom Amusement Park New Roller Coaster (Myrtle Beach)
Family Kingdom is adding a custom RMC-manufactured single-rail roller coaster to its lineup, which includes the iconic Swamp Fox. Standing 100 feet tall and reaching speeds of 50 mph, the new coaster will feature a track layout designed specifically for Myrtle Beach. Three additional rides are also planned for 2027.

Bonaire Park (Summerville)
A nearly $47 million mixed-use destination is taking shape in historic Downtown Summerville. Bonaire Park will combine boutique shopping, upscale short-term accommodations, 23 luxury row homes, a central pocket park and a nearly 7,000-square-foot signature restaurant with rooftop dining and bar space.

Blacksburg and Fair Play Welcome Centers (The Upcountry)
Originally built in 1970, the Blacksburg and Fair Play Welcome Centers serve an average of a million visitors per year. The new 10,000-square-foot Fair Play and Blacksburg Welcome Centers, opening in

early 2027, will more than double the size of the previous facility, offering expanded restroom facilities and enhanced amenities for travelers. Modern features will include self-service information kiosks, digital guestbooks, weather and travel condition monitors, and nationally certified travel counselors equipped with tablets to assist visitors. A vending area accessible 24 hours a day will provide indoor seating for dining and relaxation, while a private Family Room will accommodate guests who need space for breastfeeding or using breathing treatment equipment. Conveniently located closer to the lake and traffic, the Fair Play center will feature a wraparound front porch with scenic views of Lake Hartwell, as well as a stone water fountain to promote the waterfalls found throughout the Upstate. Both designs reflect the Upstate region's Appalachian Foothills heritage through the use of natural stone and wood.

Outdoors & Nature

Summerville Preserve
A new fishing pier, boardwalks, dock and parking area along the Ashley River in Summerville are expected to open in fall 2026, creating an expanded waterfront experience for visitors to enjoy throughout 2027. The Summerville Preserve will provide additional opportunities for fishing, walking and connecting with the Ashley River's natural landscape.

Summerville Skatepark
A custom 10,000-square-foot skatepark is coming to Summerville, creating a new destination for skateboarders and wheeled recreation enthusiasts. The purpose-built facility is expected to open in late spring or early summer 2027.

Kingston Boardwalk Trail & Ferry Project (Conway)
Conway is expanding its riverfront experience with the planned Kingston Boardwalk Trail and Ferry Project. With a planned opening in 2027, the project will add ADA-accessible floating docks and a pedestrian and bicycle ferry across the Waccamaw River, connecting the existing Riverwalk with a new boardwalk and trail system extending toward Depot Road.

Conway Riverwalk & Outdoor Recreation Expansion
Conway continues to build on its Waccamaw River setting with expanded boardwalks, trails and waterfront access. Existing Riverwalk improvements are creating additional pedestrian connections through downtown, while planned ferry and trail enhancements will further expand opportunities to walk, bike and experience the riverfront.

Dearborn Island State Park (Great Falls)
A planned state park on Dearborn Island near Great Falls has a tentative 2027 opening. Plans call for hiking trails, scenic viewing areas, primitive camping, a yurt village and interpretive exhibits on the Mount Dearborn Arsenal, built in 1803.

Riverfront Park & Three Rivers Greenway (Columbia)
A long-term vision for Columbia's nearly 96-acre riverfront district is taking shape along the Congaree River, with plans for a premier multi-purpose public park that supports community engagement, environmental sustainability and economic development. The project will connect Riverfront Park with the existing Granby Park through trails, picnic areas, water access and natural gardens. The Three Rivers Greenway completes the picture: a planned bridge across the Broad River will link the Saluda Riverwalk

to Riverfront Park and the canal, creating a connected river trail from Granby Park in Cayce to the Lake Murray Dam and growing the greenway from 15.5 to 27 miles.

Ramsey Grove State Park (Georgetown)
Ramsey Grove State Park is in the planning and development process and is open as of October 1, 2026. This is a soft-opening phase for the park. During this time, sections of the park will be open with limited hours of operation. Surrounded by majestic oaks, river breezes and historic architecture, this plantation offers a unique glimpse into the past while inviting reflection on the many chapters of its history.

Golf & Sports

Hickory Knob State Resort Park Golf Course (McCormick)
The golf course at Hickory Knob State Resort Park reopened in September 2026, after extensive renovations. All greens were replaced with new TifEagle turf, bunkers were reshaped with new liners, fresh sand and improved drainage, and tee boxes were newly sodded. Paving of the cart paths and bridges on the back nine is still to come. The course sits along the shores of Lake Thurmond.

Cheraw State Park Golf Course
The 18-hole championship golf course at Cheraw State Park is reopening on November 2nd, following renovations that began in March 2026. The revitalized course adds a refreshed golf experience within one of South Carolina's scenic state parks, providing visitors with opportunities to pair a round of golf with the park's broader outdoor recreation offerings.

Candyroot Lodge (Jefferson)
Candyroot Lodge in Jefferson is emerging as a multi-course public golf destination and wellness retreat. The first 18-hole course, a minimalist, walkable design that follows the land's natural sandy ridges, opens for preview play in fall 2026, with a full public debut targeted for spring 2027. Long-term plans call for four 18-hole courses, a lighted par-3 course, lodging, wellness facilities and trails.

North Myrtle Beach Pickleball Complex
North Myrtle Beach is building a $6.5 million pickleball complex. The facility broke ground in 2026 and is scheduled to finish in 2027. It will have 15 lighted courts, including a covered championship court, plus a clubhouse, concessions, restrooms and spectator areas.

Culinary News

Major's Kitchen and Lounge (Florence)
Major's Kitchen and Lounge opened in downtown Florence in October 2026 with a coastal, Southern vibe. A rooftop bar, SOHO Vibes Tables and Taps, tops the property

Can Tho Vietnamese Bistro (Greenville)
Can Tho Vietnamese Bistro soft-opened on Main Street in Greenville in 2026 with a limited menu, with a full opening planned for 2027. Named for the hometown of one of its founders, the restaurant is the vision of three local restaurateurs and serves classic Vietnamese dishes including pho, shaking beef or chicken and banh xeo, a crispy savory crepe.

The Q Station (Greenwood)
Opening Q1 2027, the Q Station in Greenwood will combine the experience of a favorite barbecue restaurant with the hands-on atmosphere of a cooking school. At the heart of the concept is The Hog Pen, where guests can gather around live-fire grills, learn techniques from barbecue professionals and experience the art of cooking over real fire.

Johns Island Dining Boom
Two projects bring new dining to Johns Island in spring 2027. Stono's Oyster House, a waterfront restaurant on the Stono River, will serve oysters and locally sourced Lowcountry seafood and offer about 60 complimentary boat slips for diners arriving by water. South Island Market, a 34-acre mixed-use development, will add restaurants, retail and office space.

357 Brewers (Myrtle Beach)
A new three-plus-acre coastal brewery campus is taking shape at Grande Dunes Marina along the Intracoastal Waterway. Planned to open in summer 2027, the $6.4 million project will feature a 10,000-square-foot brewery with a 15-barrel production system, indoor and outdoor waterfront bars, a coastal-inspired kitchen and the Carolina Music Yard live-music stage.

Hotel & Travel News

Charleston International Airport West Gates Expansion
Charleston International Airport is adding four new gates through its West Gates expansion. The gates connect directly to the airport's federal inspection station to support international flights and increase the airport's gate capacity by 15%. The project is expected to open in early 2027.

Haigler Hotel (Camden)
Camden's landmark clock tower building is being transformed into the Haigler Hotel, a boutique property in historic downtown Camden. The Indigo Road Hospitality Group will operate the hotel and its signature restaurant. The project is targeting an early 2027 opening.

Hampton Inn & Suites Oceanfront Cherry Grove (North Myrtle Beach)
Groundbreaking took place in October 2025 for a Hampton Inn & Suites at 3500 N. Ocean Blvd. in North Myrtle Beach. The property, with 156 one-bedroom suites near Cherry Grove Fishing Pier, is slated to open in early 2027.

Compass by Margaritaville Hotel (North Myrtle Beach)
A second Margaritaville-branded hotel is coming to North Myrtle Beach in spring 2027 at the former Castaway Beach Inn site. The 14-story, approximately 165-unit property will feature a full-service restaurant with 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar & Grill, Provisions Grab & Go, complimentary breakfast, fitness center and meeting space.

The Banter Hotel (Greenville)
The historic former Café and Then Some building in downtown Greenville is being transformed into The Banter, a 17-room boutique hotel. With a planned summer 2027 opening, the property will feature a ground-floor restaurant, rooftop bar, outdoor plaza and basement-level speakeasy.

The Wave at South Forest Beach (Hilton Head Island)
Steps from Coligny Beach on Hilton Head Island, The Wave is a new boutique, residential-style stay from

developer Crevo Capital, designed by Court Atkins Group. The property features 20 multi-bedroom units with private balconies and full kitchens, plus a pool, gym and lounge. It is slated to open in summer 2027.

Plantation House Hotel (Edgefield)
A restoration of the historic Plantation House Hotel, also known as the Edgefield Hotel, is underway in downtown Edgefield. The boutique hotel will feature a restaurant and a speakeasy and is targeting a summer 2027 opening.

The Lantern Hotel (Rock Hill)
A 56-room boutique hotel is taking shape in the historic former Andrew Jackson Hotel building at 223 E. Main Street in downtown Rock Hill. Plans include a restaurant, bar, private speakeasy, event space and private dining room. The Lantern Hotel Rock Hill is slated to open in summer 2027.

Hotel Volant (Charleston)
A new 50-room boutique hotel is under construction in Charleston's French Quarter. The four-story building pairs historic architectural details with a contemporary design and includes a lobby, meeting room and fitness center. Construction for Hotel Volant is targeted to finish in July 2027.

Grand Willow Hotel (Columbia)
Columbia's BullStreet District will welcome the 136-room Grand Willow Hotel in late 2027. Planned amenities include a rooftop restaurant and bar, lobby café, wellness-focused pool and patio with sauna and cold plunge, private cabanas and approximately 5,000 square feet of meeting and event space.

Milestones & Events

2027 Bassmaster Classic (Anderson, March 19–21)
Anderson County and Lake Hartwell will welcome the 2027 Bassmaster Classic, one of the biggest events in competitive bass fishing. The tournament will bring elite anglers and fishing fans from across the country to the Upstate for a high-profile week of competition and outdoor recreation.

The Charleston Festival (April 1-24, 2027)
The Charleston Festival will celebrate its 80th anniversary in 2027, marking eight decades of showcasing and supporting Charleston's architectural heritage, preservation efforts and historic places. The annual celebration gives visitors special access to some of the city's most fascinating historic homes, gardens and sites.

Cooper River Bridge Run (Charleston, April 3, 2027)
One of Charleston's largest annual events reaches a major milestone in 2027 as the Cooper River Bridge Run celebrates its 50th anniversary. The iconic 10K draws thousands of runners and spectators each spring for a memorable course across the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge and a uniquely Charleston race-day experience.

Historic Pendleton Spring Jubilee (April 3–4, 2027)
The Historic Pendleton Spring Jubilee will celebrate its 50th year in 2027. Recognized as the Upstate's oldest juried arts festival, the beloved spring tradition brings artists, makers and visitors together in

Pendleton's historic downtown for a weekend of art, shopping, food and community.

Columbia Food & Wine Festival (April 21-25, 2027)
The Columbia Food & Wine Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2027, bringing together more than 100 chefs, mixologists and culinary artisans for a week of food, drinks and entertainment. Events take place at historic Hampton-Preston Mansion and Gardens and Robert Mills House and Gardens and include live music, chef demonstrations and signature culinary experiences, culminating in the festival's Grand Tasting on Sunday.

ArtFields (Lake City, April 15–May 1, 2027)
ArtFields celebrates its 15th year in Lake City. The festival invites artists from across the Southeast to compete for more than $100,000 in prizes, and for the first time it is accepting proposals for large-scale public art installations in Lake City.

Summerville Orchestra SC250 Celebration (May 8, 2027)
The Summerville Orchestra celebrates South Carolina's Revolutionary-era history with a free outdoor concert. The program features American music and the premiere of a newly commissioned work inspired by the history of the Summerville area, part of the statewide SC250 commemoration.

Spoleto Festival USA (Charleston, May–June 2027)
Spoleto Festival USA will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2027, bringing world-class opera, theater, dance, music and visual arts to venues throughout Charleston. For more than five decades, the internationally acclaimed festival has transformed the city into a stage each spring.

Charleston Tea Garden Turns 40 (Wadmalaw Island)
The Charleston Tea Garden marks its 40th anniversary in 2027. The garden, founded in 1987, celebrates with its First Flush Celebration, a toast to the first tea of the year made from the 2027 harvest. Guests can sample First Flush tea, sip iced tea outdoors, browse an outdoor market and learn how the tea fields are grown and cared for.

100 Years of Golf in Myrtle Beach
Myrtle Beach will celebrate a century of golf in 2027 as **Pine Lakes Country Club** marks its 100th anniversary. Known as "The Granddaddy," the club opened in 1927 as Myrtle Beach's first golf course and helped launch the Grand Strand's transformation into one of America's premier golf destinations. Today the destination features more than 80 courses designed by renowned architects, from historic fairways and bucket-list public layouts to championship venues such as Dunes Golf and Beach Club, host of the ONEflight Myrtle Beach Classic.

Grand Strand Milestones
Myrtle Beach turns 70 in March 2027. Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach and the Myrtle Beach Art Museum each celebrate 30 years, and Peaches Corner marks 90. In North Myrtle Beach, House of Blues celebrates its 30th anniversary at Barefoot Landing, where it has hosted regional and national acts since 1997.

Soby's Turns 30 (Greenville)
Soby's New South Cuisine marks 30 years on Greenville's South Main Street in 2027. Chef Carl Sobocinski opened the restaurant in 1997 in a once-abandoned building at the south end of Main, helping set the stage for the street's dining scene.

Summerville Turns 180
Summerville marks 180 years since its incorporation in 1847. The town's history is tied to the pine trees that drew visitors seeking a healthful climate and helped shape one of the country's earliest tree-protection traditions.

Conway Turns 295
Conway traces its roots to 1732, when the community was laid out as Kingston on the banks of the Waccamaw River as part of the royal governor's township plan. The town was later renamed Conwayborough and shortened to Conway in 1883. 2027 marks its 295th anniversary, a chance to explore its historic downtown, architecture and Riverwalk.

200 Years of American Railroading (Branchville)
The country marks 200 years since the B&O Railroad was chartered in 1827. In Santee Cooper Country, Branchville is home to the oldest railroad junction in the United States, established in 1840. The Branchville Railroad Shrine & Museum tells the story.

More Milestones in Thoroughbred Country
The Etherredge Center continues its 40th anniversary celebration with its 2027 season. The City of New Ellenton marks its 75th anniversary, and Chappell Farms in Barnwell County honors 100 years.

On the Horizon

Downtown Aiken Hotels
Downtown Aiken is under construction. The former Hotel Aiken is coming down, and three hotels are planned in historic buildings: The Oliver Hotel, The Laureate and Rose Hill, with openings expected between late 2027 and 2028. Rose Hill Estate, a Winter Colony-era property, will combine a boutique hotel with dining, event space and restored gardens.

The Vardry Kimpton Hotel & Residences (Greenville)
Anchoring the corner of Markley and Rhett streets in Greenville, The Vardry Residences is an eight-story mixed-use development one block from South Main Street and Fluor Field. The lower five levels will house The Vardry Kimpton Hotel, and the top three floors will hold 26 private residences, along with 9,500 square feet of curated retail space. The project is slated to open in early 2028.

M. Heller Hotel (Greenville)
Named in honor of former Greenville Mayor Max Heller, the seven-story M. Heller Hotel will bring 149 guest rooms to a prominent location in downtown Greenville. Beginning construction in late 2026, the Tapestry Collection by Hilton property will include a fitness center, meeting rooms and a restaurant with outdoor seating. The hotel is projected to open in 2028.

Wheels Up (Greenville)
Greenville's newest public park will give wheelsport enthusiasts a dedicated place to skate, bike and play. Wheels Up is planned to include a concrete skate park, asphalt pump track and paved bicycle playground, along with a multi-use greenway connecting to the planned Airport Loop Trail, an extension of the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail. Construction is slated to begin in early 2027, with completion expected in 2028.

Bon Secours Wellness Arena Renovation & Entertainment District (Greenville)
Greenville's Bon Secours Wellness Arena — locally known as "The Well" — is undergoing a $282 million renovation and expansion to be completed in 2029. Plans include Greenville's first 6,000-plus-seat amphitheater, new restaurants and retail, and expanded green public spaces. Once complete, the entertainment district is expected to support 25–30 touring concerts annually, along with more than 25 community events, summer programming and other activations.

Falls Park Conference District & JW Marriott (Greenville)
A major new mixed-use district is planned along Falls Street beside Falls Park on the Reedy, Greenville's iconic 32-acre urban park. To be completed in 2029, the $500 million Falls Park Conference District will center on a new hotel-led conference center, complemented by residential and office space. South Carolina's first JW Marriott will anchor the district and become the largest hotel in Greenville County. The 335-room luxury hotel will transform the historic Bowater Building through adaptive reuse and connect to the future conference center via an elevated pedestrian bridge over Falls Park. Once complete, the district is expected to generate more than 100 new events and over 40,000 additional hotel room nights annually.

AMP: A Music Project (Greenville)
Greenville's Peace Center is expanding into a ten-venue arts and entertainment campus on Main Street by 2030. The $36 million AMP project has already added The Mockingbird, an intimate live music venue that opened in January 2026, and Coach Music Factory, a standing-room-only club in a renovated 1857 carriage factory that opened in February 2026.

County Square Redevelopment (Greenville)
One of the largest urban redevelopment projects in Greenville's history is turning the former county office complex into a mixed-use district that links Falls Park, the West End and the Swamp Rabbit Trail. The multi-phase project is expected to finish in 2030 and will bring more than 20 food, beverage, entertainment and retail tenants, including Whole Foods Market, Pottery Barn and Pins Mechanical.

Drury Inn (Myrtle Beach)
A new 400-room oceanfront Drury Inn is planned for the former Sea Dip Inn site in Myrtle Beach. Construction is expected to begin in 2027 following demolition of the existing property in fall 2026. The development will include a parking garage and pedestrian corridor, adding another major oceanfront lodging option to the Grand Strand.

Grand Bohemian Hotel Columbia
Columbia's first four-star luxury hotel is planned for the redevelopment of the Washington Square Office Building and Washington Plaza garage at Main and Washington streets. The planned Grand Bohemian Hotel is expected to include a full-service spa, ballroom, museum-quality art collection and gallery, restaurants and an annual Salzburg-inspired Christmas Market. No opening date has been announced.

Conway Riverwalk Hotel and Restaurants
A 69-room boutique hotel has been proposed on Kingston Street overlooking Conway's Riverwalk. Plans include a restaurant, a courtyard connecting to the Riverwalk and event space for about 100 people. Two additional restaurants have been proposed next to Bonfire Taqueria along the Riverwalk. The projects are proposed, and no opening dates have been announced.

Grainger Station Waterfront Concept (Conway)
Longer term, a concept for the former Grainger Generating Station property in Conway includes an inland freshwater beach, a 100-slip marina, a 3.5-mile boardwalk and Riverwalk extension, an amphitheater and a mixed-use village with restaurants, shops and a hotel.

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About the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
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