VIRGINIA SOUTHERN

“Virginia's Racing Region.”

numerous raceways bring high-speed thrills to attractions, while three major speedways and country roads connect beautiful State Parks and the region’s rich culture. Scenic byways and classic travelers to immerse themselves in the heart of SOUTHERN VIRGINIA invites of outdoor activities, a distinctive local culinary scene and a plethora of things to do. Offering quaint American Main Street communities, a distinctive local culinary scene and a plethora of outdoor activities, SOUTHERN VIRGINIA invites travelers to immerse themselves in the heart of SOUTHERN VIRGINIA.

ICONIC

The MacCallum House gardens began germinating in 1929 on the property of Virginia chief justice Edward Hudgins and his wife, Lucy. Succeeding generations nurtured Lucy’s plants and added fountains, sculptures and other artwork. The idyllic six-acre gardens now host visitors as well as a multitude of flora, including azaleas, dogwoods, herbs, wildflowers and roses. In 1996, museum displays were added to the Hudgins house, including Native American artifacts, local history, art and exhibits on the Thyne Institute, a school established in 1876 to teach African-American children.

PET-FRIENDLY

You’ve heard of dog parks—how about dog paths? The Paw Path at Smith River Sports Complex in Martinsville was created just for canines and their companions. The half-mile Paw Path runs alongside the sedate Smith River and features Fido-focused amenities like a fire hydrant, balance beam and litter bags. The path also benefits plants and pollinators, with more than 300 pollinator-sustaining wildflowers, trees and shrubs representing 50 native and non-invasive plants. Your buddy romps, while you soak in nature.

BUCKET LIST

You know that rush you feel when the lights go green and a swarm of high-speed cars reach speeds of some 200 m.p.h.? Now imagine being inside one of those cars! Step out of imagination and into reality at VIRginia International Raceway. VIR offers many adrenaline-inducing experiences. The ultimate Formula Experience includes instruction, simulators, ride-alongs—plus six driving sessions and an intense night ride. Learn what adrenaline really feels like!

WHAT’S NEW

The 53 sites in 14 counties on the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail®, such as Saint Paul’s College, Greenville County Training School and the Thyne Institute, tell of the struggles that African-Americans, Native Americans and women faced in pursuit of an equal education. Learn about the life of James Solomon Russell on his journey from slavery to Episcopal Priest to educator; of Fattie Buford, who built a hospital and school to help African Americans after the Civil War; and much more.

HIDDEN GEM

“Nothing is worth much if you can’t share it,” according to Robert F. Cage. The artist shared his art in gallery showings and on a 20-acre sculpture garden in his front yard. The Cage Sculpture Farm is home to dozens of large-scale sculptures—some realistic and recognizable, others abstract and fair game for the imagination. Though Cage passed away in 2014 at the age of 91, his sculptures remain for passersby to admire, just off Route 360 near South Boston on Cage Trail.

ASK A LOCAL

“Our region is special because of the people and the variety of things to do—from mountain hikes and fishing the streams to floating on the river and enjoying our local food and beverages! Have a burger at Me’s Burgers and Brews, mountain bike at Anglers Park, throw axes at Grizzly’s Hatchet House, relax by the fire pits at Ballad Brewing—you can do all of this and more!” — Austin Bunn, Ballad Brewing

LOVWORK

“Virginia is for Lovers and Emporia is for Nuts!” is the city’s saying that’s brought to life by their peanut-themed LOVE. Plan your visit around the annual, multi-day Virginia Peanut Festival, a family-friendly tradition that for nearly 60 years has celebrated the Virginia peanut and the farmers who cultivate it.

DID YOU KNOW?

On June 18, 2011, Nick Anderson was on a father-and-son fishing trip at Buggs Island Lake (aka John H. Kerr Reservoir). After a 45-minute battle, Anderson landed a 143-pound blue catfish, the largest ever caught! His whopper of a fishing tale was certified by the International Game Fish Association. With 50,000 acres of fresh water and 800 miles of shoreline, this lake (also the nation’s number one crappie fishing lake) is ready for your visit. Throw in a visit to Smith River Sports Complex and you’ve got a perfect day for a Father-Son fishing trip at Buggs Island Lake.

OFFERINGS

“Virginia is for Lovers and Emporia is for Nuts!” LOVE may have been the theme of the Virginia Peanut Festival, but it wasn’t the theme of the 2011 Virginia Peanut Festival, where dad Nick Anderson landed a 143-pound blue catfish, the largest ever caught! His whopper of a fishing tale was certified by the International Game Fish Association. With 50,000 acres of fresh water and 800 miles of shoreline, this lake (also the nation’s number one crappie fishing lake) is ready for your visit. Throw in a visit to Smith River Sports Complex and you’ve got a perfect day for a Father-Son fishing trip at Buggs Island Lake.

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