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# South Carolina

## Inn at Palmetto Bluff

### BLUFFTON

Halfway between Savannah and Hilton Head lies a long road that winds through miles of Spanish oaks and long leaf pines before parting to reveal a picturesque resort on the banks of the South Carolina Lowcountry. Only, there's nothing resort-ish about this resort. Instead, the Inn at Palmetto Bluff more resembles a mythical Southern town that tumbled out of the pages of a Pat Conroy novel. This 20,000-acre, cultivated coastal retreat sits among a thoughtful maze of cobbled streets with rows of uniquely designed clapboard houses all lined up like Main Street in Mayberry. These houses make the perfect weekend rental if you're traveling with the little ones or a group of friends, but, if you're coming for a romantic getaway, book accommodations with the inn.

The first thing the porters do upon arrival is whisk away your car, not to be seen again for the rest of your stay. No worries, you won't need it. Bikes are the preferred mode of transport around these parts. Leave your bags at the front desk and pedal off to your "room," which is actually one of a bevy of charming private cottages swaddled away among the moss-laded trees and lantern-lit walkways.

Each vaulted-ceiling bungalow comes with a screened-in porch off the back facing stunning vistas of either the lagoon, marsh or saltwater estuary. As throngs of egrets and songbirds take off toward

the sunset, light a romantic fire (fireplaces come standard in every room) and cozy up with luxury linens. And by golly, this may sound odd, but spend some serious relaxation time in the bathroom. Each one is a pristine expanse that includes spa-like steam showers, enormous tubs and luxurious rain massage settings.

Dine at the newly renovated Canoe Club, and between bites of fried green tomato Napoleon topped with jumbo lump crab meat and lobster pot pie, put down your fork to glance upward at the one-of-a-kind ceiling shaped like the hull of a wooden canoe.

The award-winning spa is filled with Lowcountry touches—the wild Carolina Gold rice and mulberry leaf body polish is done with indigenous ingredients and is followed by a leisurely soak in a claw-foot tub on your own secluded porch facing the lagoon.

Even at full capacity, which happens practically every weekend, the resort never feels crowded. Here you can leave behind the cynical workaholic and recover the giddy inner child—the one who rode bikes everywhere. *Rates from \$574, 843.706.6500, [palmettbluffresort.com](http://palmettbluffresort.com)* 

