

# ON THE ROAD AGAIN

## The Gamecock welcomes back Carolina Roadtrip

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Asst. Features Editor

Chances are you won't be planning a trip to Charleston at 1:30 on a Sunday morning.

Chances are, as an average USC student, you probably were asleep, passed out or trolling around Five Points while freshman Ben Reyes, along with three other USC students and a visiting College of Charleston student, headed to Charleston — forgoing all time restrictions.

"There was nothing better to do that evening, and we decided to go to Charleston," Reyes said. "It was a spur-of-the-moment event."

Taking the hour-and-some-odd-minute drive for no particular purpose, Reyes and crew had no plans for their evening jaunt. After realizing that most of their hometown College of Charleston friends from Summerville were either asleep or busy when they got there, the travelers were planless.

After not too many minutes of consideration, Reyes and friends ended up at Fanny's, a local 24-hour restaurant. After a hybrid mixture of dinner and breakfast, the group deposited its friend at the College of Charleston and headed back to Columbia.

"The trip was really fun," Reyes said, "and I would do it again because the people I went with made it fun." Yet, all's well that starts well doesn't

always go well. For example, the car Reyes and company were in almost broke down somewhere on Interstate 26.

"That was scary — waking up in the back of the car with the girls checking out the engine under the hood and being in the middle of nowhere on I-26," Reyes said.

Nowadays, roadtrips to everything from football games to nowhere in particular are popular with USC students, which has prompted the creative minds of The Gamecock staff to revamp Carolina Roadtrip, one of last year's regular features.

Initially written by Gamecock Editor in Chief Lee Clontz, Roadtrip is being brought back for weekly publication.

"Roadtrip was something I always enjoyed because it gave students from out of the area a look at what's around in the Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina area," Clontz said.

With the backing of Clontz and other staff members, Roadtrip not only will feature sites around the Southeast, but hopes to branch out into Western, Northern and Midwestern cities.

Included in the weekly Roadtrip will be vital information such as where to go, where to stay and, of course, how to get there. You couldn't go far without the latter bit of information, now could you?

## CAROLINA ROADTRIP

# Myrtle Beach

Forget summers on the Riviera and lounging in a chalet in Switzerland, because anybody who is anybody will vouch that the exotic playgrounds of the rich and famous can't hold a melted candle to the cigarette-buffed sands of Myrtle Beach.

■ **How to get there:** Naturally leaving from Columbia, take Interstate 20 East to Florence. Take U.S. 76 East/301 South from Florence to Marion. Take take U.S. 501 South from Marion to Galivants Ferry, and you can go straight into Myrtle Beach.

■ **So, you're there:** What do you actually do besides actually go to the beach? If you can't find a thing to do in Myrtle Beach, then you're up a creek without a paddle. Luckily, there is something for everyone in Myrtle Beach, ranging from the ultimate in cheesiness to the accepted norm.

■ **The East Coast's longest fishing piers are at Apache Campground in North Myrtle Beach.** It is 1,206 feet of planks perfected for catching some of those famed fishes of the Atlantic. Note that unless you are fishing from a private boat, no license is needed.

■ **Check out Waccamaw Outlet Park in Myrtle Beach for some heavy duty shopping that includes a J. Crew Outlet Store. Barefoot Landing at North**

Myrtle Beach is an outdoor mall located on the waterfront that has shops and specialty boutiques.

■ **A few years ago, Phoebe Cates, Annabeth Gish, Paige Hannah and Bridget Fonda made a pilgrimage back in time to the infamous Pavilion in Myrtle Beach in the movie "Shag."** Check out the real life Pavilion and the Pavilion Amusement Park on 9th Avenue North and Ocean Boulevard. There you can ogle over the 1900 German Pipe Organ and tour the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum. Don't forget to tour the highly reputable Myrtle Beach National Wax Museum, also conveniently located at the Pavilion.

■ **Myrtle Beach wouldn't be Myrtle Beach without a few amusement parks to entertain the masses.** Among the good and bad are the ever classy Myrtle Waves Water Park at Highway 17 Bypass and 10th Avenue North. If your roadtrip includes the whole family, mom, dad and siblings might like to go to the Family Kingdom Amusement Park at 3rd Avenue S. and Ocean Boulevard. The Family Kingdom Amusement Park is a veritable treasure of thrills with the legendary Swamp Fox wooden roller coaster.

■ **If cruising the strip isn't your idea of nightlife, go to the Carolina Opry at the junction of U.S. 17 and 17 Bypass.** There is nightly entertainment not only in the form of patrons but music as well, ranging from country to swing. For

those who can't seem to get enough of the friendly North and South rivalry of the 1860s commonly known as THE CIVIL WAR, go to the Dixie Stampede at the Junction of U.S. 17 and 17 Bypass.

■ **Besides the beach, Myrtle Beach is well known for its 80 championship golf courses designed by such names as Nicklaus, Player, Dya, Fazio and Palmer.** According to the South Carolina Travel Guide, 3.1 million games of golf were played on the courses in 1993. The months of November through February generally are when the green fees (and hotel) are at the lowest.

**More information:**

**Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and Info Center**

1200 Oak Street  
P.O. Box 2115  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578-2115  
(803) 356-3016  
(800) 356-3016

**Myrtle Beach Hospitality Association Reservation Service**

P.O. Box 1303  
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—STEPHANIE SONNENFELD



South Carolina Travel Guide



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