

Some of our favorite things to do in Aiken:

SHOPPING

- The main shopping area in downtown is on Laurens Avenue; 'Plum Pudding' is a wonderful kitchen store, 'Tea Garden Gifts' is delightful, 'Nandina Home & Design' is wonderful and 'The Pink Clothing Company' is a great place for clothing. All visitors and long time Aiken residents love 'Old Aiken Market' on Park Avenue. 'The Book Stall' on Hayne has a wonderful selection of books and there is a small sandwich restaurant located in the rear. Equine Devine is artsy & horsey great place for finding beautiful horse paintings and all unique things equine. There are so many wonderful shops that are independently owned & operated that fill the downtown area. The Artist's Parlor, Aiken's Fresh Market, The Farmer's Market, Talbot's on the Southside. Polo Grounds near Talbot's (great people and coffee). Aiken Office Supply (good cards, books , gifts).
- The Aiken Mall, which has a bit of everything! Sears, Penneys, Belk and Dillard Dept Stores, also Bath & Body Works, Kirklands, Books a Million, several other clothing and jewelry stores, a food court, Hobby Lobby, Target, Bed Bath & Beyond to name but a few!

DINING

- For great dining downtown nothing can compare to 'CasaBella Italian Restaurant' on Chesterfield Street. 'Davor's Cafe' is wonderful as is 'Linda's Bistro' on York Street. For lunch 'Sugar Magnolia Café' on Richland Avenue, and for ice cream a well-established little place called 'The Sweet Cow Creamery' is a fun place. Also worth a visit are: Malia's, The Track Kitchen, The Curry Pot (Indian!-AWESOME), Kobe (Japanese), and of course, Ferrando's the BEST Pizzeria!
- Most well known franchises are represented on the south side of town on your way to the Ridge, these include: Outback Steak House, Red Lobster, Applebees, Ruby Tuesday, O'Reilly's etc..

ARTS & CULTURE

- Aiken Community Playhouse' is great – wonderful location surrounded by a beautiful treed media on Newberry Street.
- 'Washington Center for the Performing Arts' has a number of events throughout the year and is great entertainment.
- 'Hopeland Gardens' on Dupree Place is absolutely a must-see at Christmas. Spend the evening walking among the thousands of lighted

displays. They also have a Summer Concert Series and are home to the Aiken Garden Club.

- Aiken County Library is a favorite place of mine. Everyone there is most helpful and the building is historically beautiful. They have a charming section just for young children.
- The Aiken County Historical Museum on Newberry Street is excellent.
- Hitchcock Woods is a great place to visit; ride horses, walk alone or with your best friend (human or canine!)
- 'Aiken Center for the Arts' displays painting, sculpture, jewelry and high quality crafts made by Aiken area artists.
- USCA Etheridge Center host music and cultural events of all types
- Aiken Choral Society puts on a wonderful holiday performance
- Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame
- Planetarium
- 8 Screen cinema
- Riverbanks Zoo and many museums are nearby in Columbia.

EVENTS

- There are so many Equestrian events in the Aiken area – Even if you are not a 'horse' person, it's wonderful to attend the weekly polo matches, Aiken trials and triple crown spring race series, show jumping, the biannual Steeplechase races, Hitchcock horse show in the Woods, Blessing of the hounds at Memorial Gate in Hitchcock Woods, Carriage driving competitions, and on and on. The Balloon Festival is held in September and is good family fun.
- Each year the Women of Woodside hold a HUGE flea market at Odell Weeks Center with hundreds of treasure hunters.
- Our little newspaper 'The Aiken Standard' does a wonderful job in the 'Living on the Go' section every day printing the events for the day and two days in advance. The paper also does some wonderful work with pictures and articles of special events.
- Luminaries downtown at Christmas
- Lights in Hopeland Garden at Christmas.
- We also have the new USC Convocation Centre which puts on shows from The Lippizaner Stallions to musical concerts.