

HILTON HEAD ISLAND · LOCAL GUIDE

Hilton Head Island in August

Weather, crowds, events, and the best things to do

Plan your perfect August vacation on Hilton Head Island. Discover the best activities, events, restaurants, and insider tips for visiting during August.

> **THE QUICK ANSWER**
>
> August on Hilton Head Island means highs near 89°, warm 84° ocean water, and a summer packed with beach days, seafood feasts, sunset cruises, and festivals. Crowds are high early in the month and ease up by mid-to-late August.

It's a great pick for anyone craving a fun and relaxing vacation—and here you'll find everything you need to know about why August is one of the best times to explore the island.

Weather in August
Crowd Levels
Top Things To Do
Events & Festivals
Where to Eat
Where to Stay & Booking Tips
Questions, Answered

LAST UPDATED JANUARY 18, 2026 · HOST & HOME, HILTON HEAD ISLAND

89°
AVERAGE HIGH

74°
OVERNIGHT LOWS

Busy
CROWD LEVELS

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Weather in August

89°
AVERAGE HIGH

84°
WATER TEMPERATURE

74°
AVERAGE LOW



August is peak summer on Hilton Head Island—warm mornings, sizzling afternoons, and evenings that feel like a soft coastal breeze. Here's what to expect:

- **Average high:** 89°F (32°C)
- **Average low:** 74°F (23°C)
- **Water temperature:** 84°F (29°C)
- **Rainfall:** 7.3 inches
- **Humidity:** high, with tropical breezes

What does this mean for you? The ocean feels like a warm bath, perfect for swimming and paddle boarding. Pop-up showers happen—plan outdoor adventures in the morning and save indoor fun for the afternoon—and pack the SPF, a wide-brim hat, and a water bottle.

Pro tip: Late August sees slightly less humidity and fewer pop-up showers.

TIMING YOUR TRIP

Crowd Levels

August kicks off with a bang on Hilton Head Island as families wrap up summer vacations. Expect high crowds in early August, with busy beaches, packed restaurants, and wait times at attractions.

- **Early August:** high crowds and heavy traffic on and off the island—give yourself extra time
- **Mid-to-late August:** things slow down, with quieter beaches and easier reservations

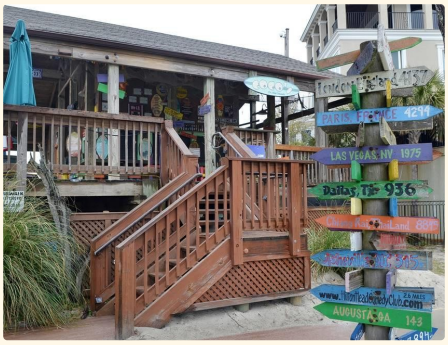
For a more laid-back vibe with all the perks, plan your trip for late August.



NINE IDEAS FOR THE MONTH

Top Things To Do

From classic beach days to fun adventures outside, August is prime time for unforgettable fun. Here's our must-do list.



01

Sand Volleyball & Beach Day at Coco's on the Beach

This hidden gem sits on less-crowded Singleton Beach. The fun beach bar has great burgers, beach snacks (we love the mini corn dogs), cocktails, and sand volleyball.

- Access Coco's through Hilton Head Resort, or walk down the beach from Burkes Beach
- Sitting right on the ocean, you get gorgeous views plus showers and restrooms



02

Dolphin Watching Tour

August is peak season for dolphin sightings. Catch a guided boat tour and spot pods leaping beside you.

- Book with: Dolphin Discoveries or Island Explorer



03

Game Night at Local Legend Brewing Company

Enjoy a spacious indoor and outdoor beer garden with darts, pool table, and cornhole. Live music and yummy food!

- **Ales & Tales:** pull up a chair, grab a pint, and tune in to the live weekly podcast
- **Live Music:** a great lineup while you play games or relax



04

Bike the Island

With 60+ miles of bike paths, explore shaded trails or ride along the beach during low tide.

- Rent from: Hilton Head Bicycle Company

Harbour Views, Hats, and Wildlife



05

Spend the Day Exploring Sea Pines

One of Hilton Head's top destinations. Start with a bike ride along scenic trails, then head to Harbour Town to shop, dine, and take in views of the famous lighthouse. Relax on the beach or tee off at world-class golf courses.

- Top spots: Sea Pines Beach Club, Salty Dog Cafe, Harbour Town Lighthouse, and Lawton Stables



06

Sunset Dinner Cruise

Dine while you float under a glowing sky with music and cocktails.

- Book with: Spirit of Harbour Town Sunset Dinner Cruise



07

Visit Brims on the Bluff Hat Bar in Old Town Bluffton

Head to charming Old Town Bluffton, just over the bridge, to design your own custom hat and create a one-of-a-kind accessory to remember your trip.

- **Branding:** custom initials, numbers, and symbols
- **Customization:** add feathers, beads, shells, ribbons, and even hand-painted Hilton Head oyster shells
- **Private events:** groups of 6+ can book a private hat-making experience



08

Explore Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge

Stroll or bike through this serene escape filled with wildlife, water, and scenic trails. Guided tours are also available for a more in-depth experience.



09

Try Parasailing or Jet Skiing

Get your adrenaline fix with thrilling watersports along the coast.

WORTH PLANNING AROUND

Events and Festivals

August is full of festivals celebrating summer island-style.



EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT · ALL MONTH

HarbourFest at Shelter Cove

This weekly festival runs all August with live music, fireworks, and family fun every Tuesday night—live tunes and performers for the whole family.



Hilton Head Island Art Festival

Early August. Local and national artists showcase handcrafted art, jewelry, and more.



Whiskey & Wine Sunset Tour

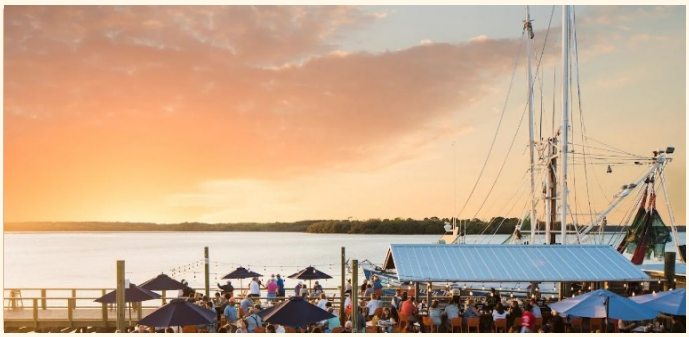
Mid-August. Sip, savor, and sail on a relaxed cruise featuring tastings and appetizers.

Check Host & Home's local event calendar for updates—many events happen outdoors and are weather-dependent.

WHERE WE SEND OUR GUESTS

Where to Eat

Seafood, waterfront views, and rooftop sunsets—August is a great month to eat your way around the island. **Pro tip:** make reservations during early August; by late August, walk-ins get easier.



Hudson's Seafood House on the Docks

Fresh-off-the-boat seafood with water views.



The Crazy Crab

Known for its epic Lowcountry Boil.



A Lowcountry Backyard

A hidden gem for shrimp & grits and fried green tomatoes.



The Salty Dog Cafe

Lively atmosphere and waterfront dining—a Hilton Head staple.



Benny's Coastal Kitchen

A relaxed vibe with killer seafood and the 41 Up rooftop bar, with amazing views.

BOOK DIRECT · NO PLATFORM FEES

Where to Stay

August is a summer favorite, so securing your accommodations early is a smart move.



BOOKING TIPS

Reserve Early

Early August brings the biggest crowds, so book ahead for the first weeks of the month.

A SUMMER MUST

Pools & Beach Access

With 84° water and hot afternoons, a pool or easy beach access makes the most of the heat.

WHERE TO LOOK

Sea Pines

Classic Hilton Head scenery with golf, beaches, and Harbour Town.

Palmetto Dunes

Great for active travelers with golf, tennis, and bike trails.

Forest Beach

Walkable to Coligny Plaza, shops, and restaurants.

> A LOCAL TIP
>
> Flexible on dates? Late August brings quieter beaches, easier reservations, and slightly less humidity.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERED

Before You Book

Is August a good time to visit Hilton Head Island?

Yes—it's hot, sunny, and full of energy, with beach days, sunset cruises, and festivals all month.

Is the ocean warm enough to swim in August?

Absolutely. Water temperatures average about 84°F—it feels like a warm bath.

Is Hilton Head Island crowded in August?

Early August is busy, with high crowds and heavy traffic. By mid-to-late August, things slow down.

What events happen on Hilton Head Island in August?

Highlights include weekly HarbourFest at Shelter Cove, the Hilton Head Island Art Festival, and the Whiskey & Wine Sunset Tour.

When is the best time in August to visit?

For a laid-back vibe with all the perks, plan your trip for late August.

Find Your Hilton Head Stay This August

Let our local team match you with the property that fits. Book direct, and skip the platform fees.

Find your stay →

