

HILTON HEAD ISLAND · LOCAL GUIDE

Hilton Head Island in March

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

Thinking about visiting Hilton Head Island in March? Excellent timing. March is when the island starts to gently wake up from winter—longer days, warmer sunshine, and a noticeable buzz in the air without the full-on spring break chaos (at least early in the month).

> **The Quick Answer**
>
> March on Hilton Head Island means highs near 68°, moderate and building crowds, and a calendar filled with local favorites like the Hilton Head IrishFest, the Wine and Food Festival, and WingFest. Whether you're planning a family getaway, a couples escape, or an early spring recharge, March delivers the best of both worlds.

It's the sweet spot between quiet winter calm and lively spring energy. You'll see blooming landscapes, golfers everywhere, and locals happily lingering outdoors again.

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

LAST UPDATED FEBRUARY 11, 2026 · HOST & HOME, HILTON HEAD ISLAND

68°
AVERAGE HIGH

50°
OVERNIGHT LOWS

Moderate
CROWD LEVELS

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Weather in March

68°
AVERAGE HIGH

59°
OCEAN TEMPERATURE

50°
OVERNIGHT LOWS



Sunny skies, warming afternoons, and fresh coastal breezes.

March weather is pleasantly mild and increasingly spring-like, making it one of the most enjoyable months to be outside on the island. Here's what to expect:

- **Daytime highs** average around 66–70°F (19–21°C) — ideal for beach walks, biking, and patio dining
- **Evening lows** dip to about 48–52°F (9–11°C) — light layers still recommended
- **Ocean temperatures** hover near 58–60°F (14–16°C) — refreshing but still chilly for swimming
- **Low humidity** keeps days comfortable
- **Rainfall** is moderate, with occasional spring showers
- **Sunshine hours increase**, making everything feel brighter and more alive

Compared to February, March feels warmer, greener, and more energetic—without the summer heat.

TIMING YOUR TRIP

Crowd Levels



Lively, but still manageable—especially early in the month.

March marks the beginning of the spring travel season on Hilton Head Island. Crowd levels slowly increase, particularly toward mid-to-late March as spring break approaches. Expect:

- Light to moderate crowds early March
- More activity around beaches and attractions later in the month
- Restaurants still accessible with minimal waits (especially weekdays)
- Strong demand for vacation rentals—booking early is key

If you want a balance of energy and ease, early March is ideal. Late March brings more buzz and family-friendly fun.

EIGHT IDEAS FOR THE MONTH

Top Things To Do

March is when the island starts to bloom—longer days, warmer sunshine, and just the right amount of spring energy. It's the perfect mix of outdoor adventure and relaxed coastal charm.



01

Bike Beneath Blooming Oaks

With warmer temperatures and fresh greenery popping up across the island, March is one of the best months to explore Hilton Head's 60+ miles of paved bike paths. Ride through Sea Pines, cruise along the beach at low tide, or wander shaded neighborhood trails.



02

Play Championship Golf in Peak Season

March is prime golf season. Comfortable temperatures, pristine course conditions, and longer daylight hours make tee times especially desirable. Book early—this is one of the busiest months for island golf.



03

Spend a Full Day at the Beach

While the ocean is still brisk, beach days are absolutely back. Pack a chair, bring a book, search for shells, or simply soak up the warmer sun without summer humidity.



04

Celebrate at the Hilton Head Irish Festival

Get into the St. Patrick's Day spirit with live Irish music, dancing, festive food, and family-friendly activities. It's one of March's most lively and colorful events on the island.

Cruises, Wildlife, and Patio Season



05

Take a Dolphin or Sunset Cruise

Spring skies and calmer waters make March ideal for boat tours. Dolphin sightings are common, and sunset cruises feel especially magical as the days grow longer.



06

Explore Pinckney Island & Nature Preserves

March is a fantastic month for wildlife spotting. Visit Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge or the Coastal Discovery Museum trails to see migratory birds, blooming wildflowers, and active marsh life.



07

Dine Outdoors on a Patio

Patio season officially returns in March. Enjoy waterfront dining at Shelter Cove, Harbour Town, or Skull Creek while soaking in fresh spring air.



08

Play Tennis & Pickleball

Racquet sports remain in full swing, with perfect playing temperatures and active club calendars across the island.

WORTH PLANNING AROUND

Events and Festivals

March brings some of the island's most anticipated and festive events.



MARCH 14, 2027 · 2:00 PM

Hilton Head IrishFest & St. Patrick's Day Parade

Now in its 41st year, the Hilton Head Island St. Patrick's Day Parade is South Carolina's oldest—stepping off Sunday, March 14, 2027 at 2:00 PM. The festivities kick off Saturday with a free concert and culminate Sunday with the main parade event. It's the island's way of welcoming spring, and locals and visitors alike go all out with the green attire and Irish spirit.



Hilton Head Wine and Food Festival

A week-long celebration of wine, craft beer, and gourmet cuisine set against the beautiful backdrop of Hilton Head Island. Enjoy tastings of hundreds of wines, spirits, and craft beers, plus chef demonstrations, live music, and a silent auction benefiting local scholarships.



Hilton Head WingFest

A beloved annual island tradition bringing together 20–25 local restaurants to compete for the title of Hilton Head's best wings—serving over 8,000 pounds of chicken wings. Expect a relaxed, fun atmosphere with live music and entertainment.

WHERE WE SEND OUR GUESTS

Where to Eat

March is prime patio season—outdoor dining is back in full swing and local favorites are buzzing with visitors and island residents alike.



Brickyard Pub

A laid-back pub in the Shipyard area with great comfort fare and cold drinks—think burgers, pub bites, and classic American fare with outdoor seating and a lively, social vibe. Ideal for a casual meal mid-day or at happy hour.



Gruby's New York Deli

A beloved island institution serving the authentic New York-style deli experience right in Hilton Head. Since 1986, Gruby's has been known for its hearty, overstuffed sandwiches (like pastrami and corned beef), classic breakfast options, and casual, friendly atmosphere—perfect for a relaxed lunch after a beach walk or bike ride.



San Miguel's Mexican

A Hilton Head staple since 1977, this laid-back waterfront restaurant serves fresh, flavorful Mexican classics like sizzling fajitas, chimichangas, nachos, and award-winning margaritas right on Shelter Cove Harbour, with outdoor seating and occasional live music.

BOOK DIRECT · NO PLATFORM FEES

Where to Stay

March is a popular month, so booking early makes all the difference.



BOOKING TIPS

Reserve Early

March demand rises quickly as spring break approaches—the sooner you book, the more options you'll have.

A WARM-WEATHER MUST

Outdoor Space

Look for homes with balconies, porches, or patios, and consider communities with easy biking and golf access nearby.

WHERE TO LOOK

Sea Pines

Scenic, iconic, and close to Harbour Town.

Palmetto Dunes

Central location with golf, tennis, and beach access.

Forest Beach

Walkable, lively, and close to Coligny.

> A LOCAL TIP
>
> Reserve a couple of months ahead if you can—March demand rises quickly, especially once spring break travel kicks in toward the back half of the month.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERED

Before You Book

Is March a good time to visit Hilton Head Island?

Yes. March brings mild, warming weather, blooming scenery, and a lively-but-manageable pace, especially early in the month before spring break crowds build.

Is the ocean warm enough to swim in March?

Not quite. Water temperatures hover around 58–60°F, refreshing for a wade but still chilly for swimming.

Is Hilton Head Island crowded in March?

Crowds are light to moderate early in the month and build steadily toward mid-to-late March as spring break approaches. Restaurants stay accessible with minimal waits, especially on weekdays.

What events happen on Hilton Head Island in March?

Highlights include the Hilton Head IrishFest & St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Hilton Head Wine and Food Festival, and Hilton Head WingFest.

How far in advance should I book a March rental?

A couple of months ahead is ideal, since demand rises quickly—especially for the back half of the month as spring break travel picks up.

Find Your Hilton Head Stay This March

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

Find your stay →

