

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, USA

Twelve miles of Atlantic beach, a candy-striped lighthouse, and Lowcountry marshes teeming with dolphins — Hilton Head is a polished, bikeable island that rewards cruise day-trippers who move fast.

Tender (no cruise pier)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

USD

English

Bike-friendly island

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Harbour Town Marina — no dedicated cruise pier

Best For: Beaches, wildlife, cycling, Gullah heritage

Walk to beach: Coligny Beach ~5 mi from Harbour Town; bike or taxi required

Don't Miss: Harbour Town Lighthouse climb for 360° island views

Getting around: Taxi ✓ \$10–\$35 · Rideshare ✓ Uber, Lyft

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Harbour Town Lighthouse Climb** — Climb the 114-step red-and-white lighthouse (90 ft tall) for sweeping views over the Calibogue Sound, marina, and island canopy.
- Coligny Beach Day** — Hilton Head's most popular public beach offers 12 miles of Atlantic shoreline, free parking, outdoor showers, a splash fountain, and bike rentals.
- Dolphin-Watching Cruise** — Atlantic bottlenose dolphins are resident in the Sound year-round.
- Pinckney Island Wildlife Refuge Bike Ride** — Just off the island, this 4,000-acre refuge has 14 miles of unpaved trails through maritime forest and salt marsh.
- Gullah Heritage Trail Tour** — The Gullah people — descendants of enslaved West Africans — maintained a distinct culture on the Sea Islands.

BEST WALKS

- Harbour Town Marina Loop** 0.5 mi · Easy · 15 min — Circle the marina from the tender dock past boutiques and restaurants to the base of the lighthouse, then along the waterfront back to the dock.
- Coastal Discovery Museum Grounds** 1 mi · Easy · 30–45 min — The museum at Honey Horn Plantation (north end of island) has a self-guided outdoor trail through centuries-old live oaks, salt marsh boardwalks, and gardens.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		73°	61°	9d
Jun		85°	75°	14d
Aug		86°	77°	19d
Sep		83°	73°	15d
Oct		76°	66°	8d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:53AM–7:52PM · Jun 6:16AM–8:30PM · Aug 6:47AM–8:06PM · Sep 7:07AM–7:28PM · Oct 7:26AM–6:49PM

USD

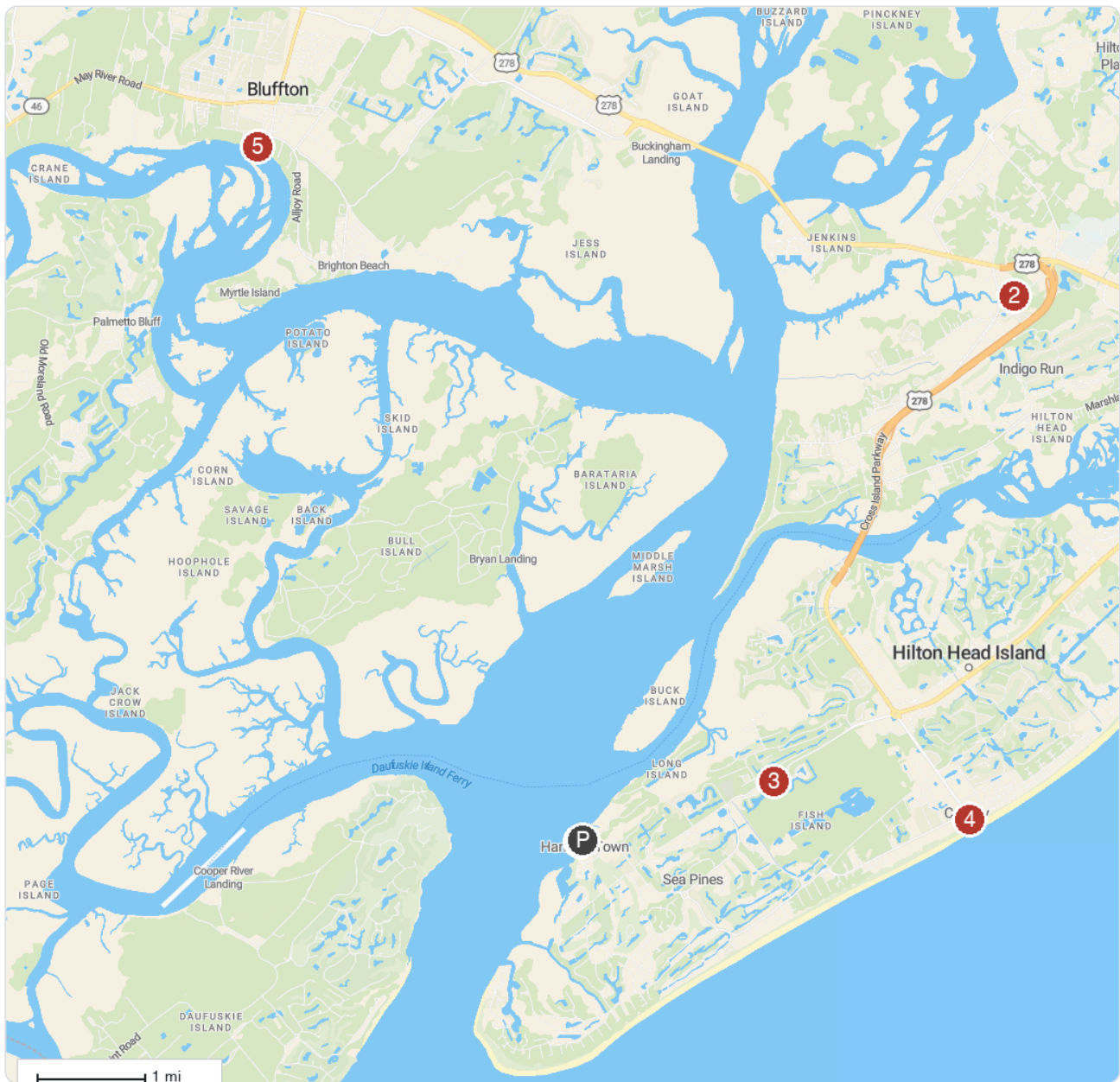
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Tender timing matters: American Cruise Lines ships are small, so tenders run quickly. Larger visiting ships may queue — get your tender ticket early on busy port days.
- Rent a bike at the marina: Hilton Head has a world-class network of paved bike paths. A bike lets you reach Coligny Beach, Folly Field, and mid-island parks in 20–30 minutes.
- USD everywhere, cards widely accepted. The marina village shops, restaurants, and tour operators all take credit cards. ATMs are available at Coligny Plaza and Shelter Cove.
- Summer is hot and humid. Temperatures hit the mid-90s°F (35°C) June–August. Bring sunscreen, water, and light clothing. Spring and fall are ideal.
- Alligators are real. They live in lagoons throughout the island. Stay on paths, don't feed them, and keep children back from pond edges.
- Golf is everywhere but pricey. Harbour Town Golf Links (host of the RBC Heritage PGA Tour event) is a bucket-list course — but greens fees are steep. Book well in advance if golf is your goal.

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1 Harbour Town Lighthouse** Candy-striped 1970 lighthouse at Sea Pines with a small museum and observation deck over the yacht harbor.
- 3 Sea Pines Forest Preserve** 605-acre nature preserve with trails past a Native American shell ring dating back roughly 4,000 years.
- 5 Church of the Cross** Waterfront Episcopal church built in 1972 on Skull Creek, notable for its modern A-frame architecture over the marsh.

- 2 Coastal Discovery Museum** Museum at Honey Horn plantation grounds covering Lowcountry natural history, Gullah culture, and island ecology.
- 4 Coligny Beach Park** Hilton Head's most popular public beach access point, with a boardwalk, showers, and wide sandy shoreline.
- P Cruise port / terminal**