

Showing off the Upstate

Where do local business people take clients, family, friends?

EMILY PAYNE, EDITORIAL ASSISTANT



Mark Crocker, a partner with CPA firm Dixon Hughes PLLC, uses the shock value of Greenville's redevelopment to entertain his guests:

Crocker

"I strategically drive guests through the West End to get their reaction. It's shocking to people who may have worked here in the '80s or '90s. And if I'm bringing a golfer into town, I take them to Chanticleer."



Fluor Field is one of the West End's many new developments.

Richard McDuff, shareholder at law firm Leatherwood Walker Todd & Mann PC, entertains a mix of business clients and family. He eschews more developed Upstate locations in favor of natural beauty:



McDuff

"I live in Lake Keowee, so I love to take clients out there to fish and see Lake Jocassee and go to the mountains. The combination of both the mountains and the water is unbeatable."



The movie "Leatherheads" was filmed at the Westin Poinsett hotel last year.

Fabian Unterzaucher, general manager of the Westin Poinsett in downtown Greenville, likes to show his family and friends from Germany the Pelzer International Rodeo, if it's the right time of year.

"It depends on where out-of-towners come from. You just don't have rodeos in Germany. It's all about showing people something they don't see at home."

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Visitors to Hollywild Animal Park feed llamas and an ostrich on the safari ride.

Off the beaten path

Ten surprising Upstate tourist spots

ELIZABETH MORRISEY, STAFF WRITER

The Upstate is intent on increasing its share of tourism industry dollars, but where is there for a visitor to go, besides the obvious (downtown)?

GSABUSINESS spoke with tourism experts and found some interesting places that attract out-of-town visitors — some of which you may not be familiar with.

FRED W. SYMMES CHAPEL, NORTHERN GREENVILLE COUNTY

If you're looking for a pretty place in the Upstate, try the outdoor chapel at YMCA Camp Greenville.

On the border of South Carolina and North Carolina, the chapel, known as Pretty Place, was built in 1941 and was donated by Symmes for the enjoyment of the boys and girls who camp there each summer.

"Pretty Place is a peaceful, hidden gem," says Lauren Posta, marketing manager for the Greenville Convention & Visitors Bureau. "It has spectacular views of Standing Stone Mountain."

The chapel is a popular place for weddings and special events and is often booked on weekends. Camp Greenville has been in existence since 1912 and covers 1,600 acres.

For information, visit www.campgreenville.org/chapel.htm.

S.C. TENNIS HALL OF FAME, BELTON

Located in the historic Belton Depot, the South Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame honors the state's top professional and amateur players, as well as tennis officials. Trophies, rackets and other tennis memorabilia are on display.

"It's a great collection of memorabilia from the hall's members, which includes items from four Wimbledon champions," says Glenn Brill, executive director of the Anderson Convention and Visitors Bureau.

It is operated by the South Carolina Tennis Patrons Foundation and underwent a renovation in 2007. Portraits of the inductees are painted by artist Wayland Moore, a Belton native.

For information, visit www.beltontennis.com.

OLD STONE CHURCH, HIGHWAY 76

Built in 1797, the Old Stone Church still stands off U.S. Highway 76 between Pendleton and Clemson. One of the church's original elders was Gen. Andrew Pickens, who is buried in the church's cemetery along with Gen. Robert Anderson.

Brill says the church was built to double as a fort in case of Indian attack. It was the first church in South Carolina to allow slaves as members of the congregation and also played the role of a school, in 1919 holding the first Sunday school class in the Upstate.

For information, visit www.cityofclemson.org.



"Pretty Place" is an outdoor chapel at the YMCA Camp Greenville. It overlooks Standing Stone Mountain and is often booked for weddings and other events.

HUB-BUB, SPARTANBURG

Hub-Bub, meaning a loud noise of many voices, is home to many young artists and offers the public year-round entertainment, including films, concerts, art exhibits, plays and workshops.

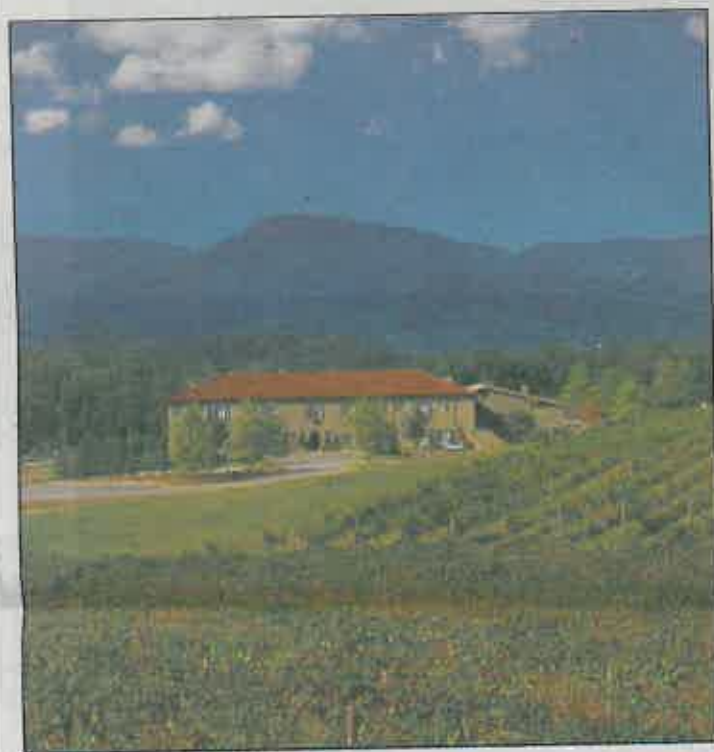
The artists-in-residence program attracts artists from around the country, who live in the building, create art and interact with the community. Artists can live rent-free for one year to advance their career while working part time for Hub-Bub.

"Their efforts have put downtown Spartanburg - known as Hub City - on the map of cool destinations," says Lauren Ponder, sales manager for Spartanburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Its venue, called the Showroom Gallery and Performance Hall, serves as a place for progressive art, film, music, poetry slams and other."

For information, visit www.hub-bub.com.

LA BASTIDE FRENCH COUNTRY INN, HIGHWAY 25

Off U.S. Highway 25 north of Travelers Rest, La Bastide is part of The Cliffs Communities and offers French-style guest suites with fireplaces, whirlpools and vineyard and mountain views.



French-style suites are available at La Bastide French Country Inn. It is owned by The Cliffs Communities and is north of Travelers Rest.

"It features provincial cuisine, French antiques and an unsurpassed view," Posta says.

The inn also accommodates corporate events, offering a boardroom that can seat up to 20 people. The restaurant offers a terrace and hosts wine-tasting dinners.

For information, visit www.cliffscommunities.com/la-bastide/.

THE SEAY HOUSE, SPARTANBURG

The Seay House is believed to be the oldest home still standing in the Spartanburg city limits. The small, rural farmstead was built in the late 18th century.

"The Seay House is built, in part, with hand-hewn logs on a fieldstone foundation. The furnishings are either original or of the period," says Ponder.

It was the home of Kinsman Seay and his three daughters and they ran the farm until the late 19th century. The core of the house is a log cabin, with other rooms added during the Victorian era.

For information visit www.spartanburghistory.org.

BOB CAMPBELL GEOLOGY MUSEUM, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

If you're looking for something different than South Carolina's red clay, you can see the state's geological history at the Bob Campbell Geology Museum at Clemson University. Fossils, minerals, meteorites and mining artifacts are just a few of the collections at the museum, which is part of the university's botanical garden.



The Seay House is believed to be the oldest home in Spartanburg's city limits.

"It's an amazing collection of minerals from around the world, including glowing rocks, fossils and meteorites," says Brill.

For information, visit www.clemson.edu/geomuseum.

SPLIT CREEK FARM, ANDERSON

Split Creek Farm is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and became a Grade-A Dairy Barn in 1985.

It includes milking and cheese operations and a kid nursery. The farm hosts several festivals each year and also has a retail shop. On a tour, visitors can learn about different breeds of dairy goats and the management of the goat herds.

"You can see the goat herd, including the cute baby goats, then buy the product their milk produces," says Brill. "The farm makes award-winning cheese, fudge and goat milk."

For information, visit www.splitcreek.com.

HOLLYWILD ANIMAL PARK, INMAN

Hollywild boasts 100 acres of 500 rare and exotic animals. Some have been featured in movies such as "Last of the Mohicans" and "The Big Chill" while others have appeared in television commercials for products such as Nikon and Land Rover.

"Hollywild offers a unique opportunity to hand-feed and have personal contact with many of the animals," says Posta.

Patrons can go on a safari or take a train ride. The park, which is run by a nonprofit organization, also holds birthday parties and provides teaching materials.

For information, visit www.hollywild.com.

RIVER BEND SPORTSMAN'S RESORT, INMAN

The resort, on a 550-acre plantation, is available for individuals or corporate gatherings and offers meeting rooms, projection equipment, meals and lodging.

"The activities featured here are sporting clays, American skeet range, five-stand sporting range and rifle and pistol range," says Ponder. "From Oct. 1 until Apr. 1,



River Bend offers quail, pheasant, chukar and duck hunting. They also have deer and turkey hunting."

River Bend offers a summer camp for kids, where they attend shooting program activities. Other offerings include archery, game identification, turkey calling and paintball. ☞

For information, visit www.river-bend.com.

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Davis

Emmett "Mett" Davis, corporate vice president of Davis and Floyd Inc., uses this backup plan when his guests aren't in town long enough to visit the mountains or play sports:

"I like to put them in the car and show them the ICAR/Verdae area, because it's getting done right. People I work with are planners and engineers who don't have a mental image of BMW (and) Michelin being here in such a grand environment."

Bo McDonald, partner with Mustard N' Relish Marketing Communications, shows his guests places that make the Upstate unique:



McDonald

"I like to take them to Falls Park. It shows out-of-towners that Greenville is investing in itself. Then I take them to Azia for dinner. There are a lot of unique dining establishments, but it's nice to be this far from the coast and still be able to get such high-quality seafood and sushi."



Falls Park attracts many downtown Greenville visitors.



Pilgrim

For both potential donors and family and friends, **Lynn Pilgrim**, Clemson University assistant director of annual giving, takes visitors on campus:

"Working for the university, many of my friends and family members come for football games. I take donors to The '55 Exchange for Clemson ice cream. There's a lot to do on campus from a personal standpoint."

Brad Wyche, executive director of Upstate Forever, likes to show off both the Upstate's cities and country:



Wyche

"We've done a good job revitalizing downtowns in the Upstate. I also take them to the area north of Highway 11. We have places that include stunning scenic vistas, waterfalls. We've got natural beauty and high-quality development." ☞