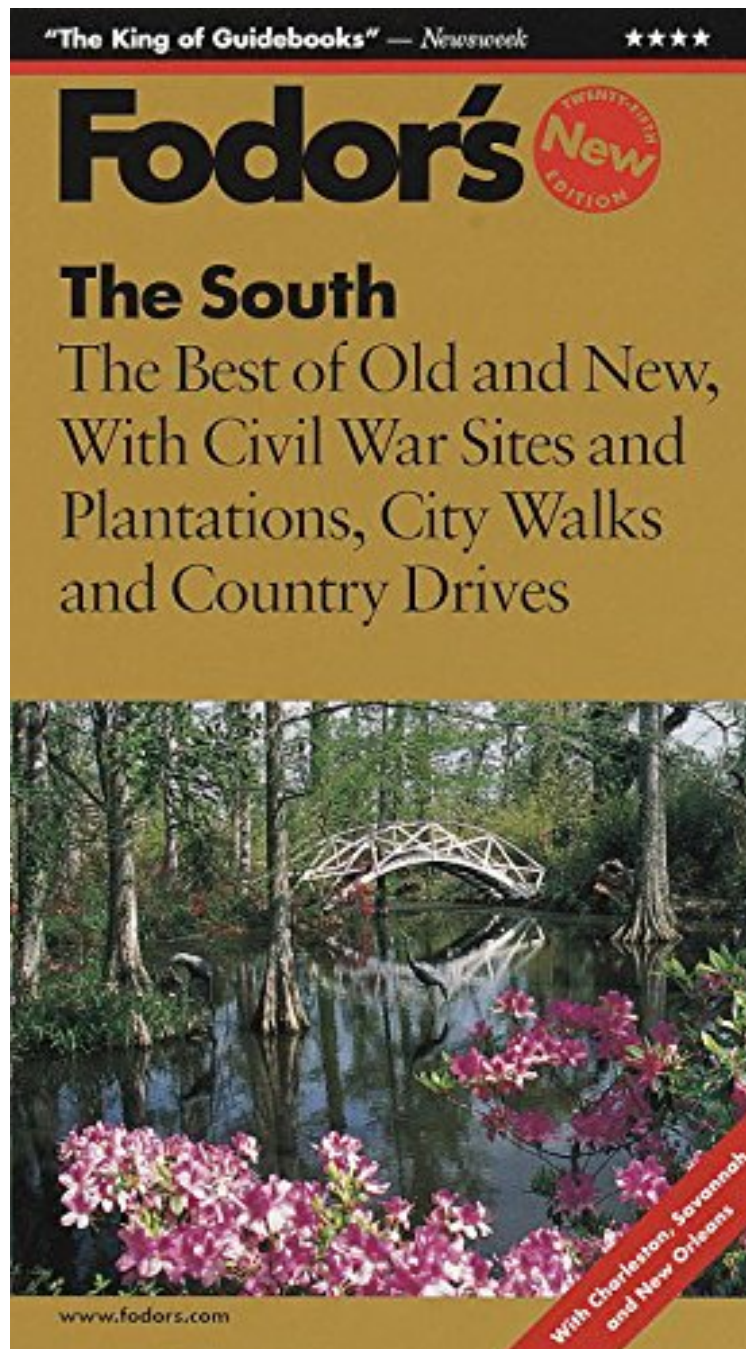


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Fodor's The South, 25th Edition: The Best of Old and New with Civil War Sites, Plantations, City Walks and Country Drives

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Derenda J HamiltonGreat guide!

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seasonings that vary from state to state, or the fine fresh seafood available at casual waterfront eateries or elegant dining rooms all over the coast. Your culinary explorations won't end with Southern cuisines, though. The increasing sophistication of the South has spurred the growth of restaurants that offer everything from good French and Italian fare to Thai and Tex-Mex. History On and off the beaten path, the South is rich in history. The lives of Native Americans, the area's first inhabitants, can be studied in such sites as Moundville Archeological Park in Alabama and the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, North Carolina. You'll find evidence of early French settlers in New Orleans and Mobile, and Old Salem in Winston-Salem re-creates the world of Moravian immigrants. Colonial history comes alive at Revolutionary War sites, whether at Kings Mountain National military Park in Upcountry South Carolina or at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park near Greensboro, North Carolina. Throughout the South you can visit plantation houses or walk through historic districts in cities like Savannah that stand as testimony to the antebellum era. The Civil War is commemorated on the great battlefield of Chickamauga, Shiloh, Vicksburg, and many others, but studying a Civil War monument in a town square can also take you to the heart of that wrenching conflict. In a later era, the South was the birthplace of the Civil Rights movement, and its landmarks and memorials stand proudly across the region, from the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta to the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery. Music Many people would say that the South is inseparable from music, and no visit here would be complete without taking in some performances and exploring the area's music museums. New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz, has plenty of choices, and in South Louisiana you can dance to the beat of Cajun music. The Mississippi Delta and Memphis gave birth to the blues, and on Beale Street and at museums or shrines such as Elvis's Graceland, you can trace the fortunes of the blues and rock and roll. Nashville, with the Grand Ole Opry, is the place for country music, but there's plenty of blues and rock too. Myrtle beach in South Carolina has a large number of country venues too. For fine Bluegrass, you can head to the mountains of western North Carolina. But whether you're in Atlanta or Asheville, clubs and an abundance of musical festivals celebrate a full range of sounds. Classical music isn't neglected, either: Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston is just one showcase, and many cities have fine orchestras and chamber groups. Outdoor Activities and Sports Name your sport and you'll discover superb places to pursue it throughout the South. This is a golfer's paradise, from the courses of Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama to the resorts of North Carolina's Pinehills. Boaters can explore the lakes of South Carolina's Heartland or travel the Intercoastal Waterway, and rivers provide thrilling white-water rafting and excellent flat-water canoeing in every state. All this water holds challenges for anglers, whether in fresh water or out on the ocean. The region's mountains, from the Blue Ridge to the Great Smokies, have well-marked hiking trails, including the Appalachian trail, to help you get away from it all. And if beaches are your passion, take your pick: The white sands of the Gulf Coast, the windswept shores of Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina, the bustling resorts of Myrtle Beach in South Carolina, or Georgia's lush barrier islands, known as the Golden Isles.