Awards & Items of Note

Awards
Recent awards and accolades received by Beaufort include:

• Named to the New York Times’ “52 Places to Go in 2016” list (2016)

• Fripp Island named “Best Beach Community of the Year” by Real Estate Scorecard (2016.)

• Beaufort’s annual Water Festival named a “Top 20 Event/Festival of the Year” by the Southeast Tourism Society (2015.)

• Named to Good Housekeeping’s list of “The 50 Most Beautiful Small Towns in America” (2015.)

• Topped Southeastern Traveler’s list of the “Top 5 Beaches in South Carolina” (2015.)

• Topped Travel Channel’s list of “Best Retirement Getaways for 2015.”

• Hunting Island ranked #12 on TripAdvisor’s list of “Top 25 U.S. Beaches” (2015.)

• Named to Southern Living’s list of “Small Towns We Love”; Beaufort was one of five small towns featured and was the lead in the feature story (2014.)

• Named “America’s Happiest Seaside Town” by Coastal Living’s readers (2013.)

• Smithsonian Magazine named Beaufort to its “Best Small Towns in the U.S.” list (2014.)

• Beaufort ranked #1 for healthiest county in South Carolina by the 2014 County Health Rankings.

• Hunting Island ranked #7 on TripAdvisor’s list of “Top 25 U.S. Beaches (2014.)
• TripAdvisor’s Traveler’s Choice Awards featured The Beaufort Inn on its “Top 25 Hotels in the U.S.” list and City Loft Hotel on its “Top 25 Small Hotels in the U.S.” list (2014.)

• USA Today featured Beaufort on its “30 Great Places for Business Travelers” list (2014.)

• The AAA Carolinas recognized The Cuthbert House and The Rhett House Inn with its prestigious AAA Four Diamond Award designation.

• Ranked #3 on Carolina Living’s list of “Top 20 Most Preferred S.C. Destination Towns” (2013.)

• TripAdvisor chose nearby Hunting Beach as one of the “Top 25 Beaches in the U.S.” (2013.)

• CNN Money highlighted the town as one of the “25 Best Places to Retire” (2010.)

• Southern Living’s 13th Annual Readers’ Choice Awards rated Beaufort as the “#1 Best Small Town” (2009.)

• Port Royal was named one of “America’s Coolest Small Towns” by Budget Travel Magazine readers (2009.)

• The city also ranked on the “Top 25 Small City Arts Destination” list by American Style Magazine (2008.)

• Field & Stream named it one of its “Top 20 Fishing Towns in the U.S.” (2008.)

• And National Geographic Adventure listed it as a “Top 50 Adventure Town” and “#7 Waterfront Adventure Town” (2007.)

Items of Note
A popular location site for the movie industry, Beaufort has been the setting for several blockbuster hits. Tours are available for visitors looking to visit iconic movie locations featured in their favorite films. Examples of major motion pictures shot in Beaufort include “The Big Chill,” “The Prince of Tides,” “The Great Santini,” “Forrest Gump,” “Something to Talk About” and “G.I. Jane.”

Beaufort is the birthplace and residence for several influencers and individuals of note, including:
• Candice Glover, season 12 winner of “American Idol” (singer; entertainer)
• Donald Conroy (former USMC colonel; also known as “The Great Santini” and the father of Pat Conroy)
• James Saxon (National Football League player and coach)
• Jazzy Jay (hip-hop disc jockey)
• Joe Frazier (heavyweight boxing champion of the world)
• Kevin Brooks (National Basketball Association and National Basketball League in Australia)
• Leon Keyserling (economist and adviser to President Truman)
• Pat Conroy (author)
• Robert Barnwell (former U.S. Congressman)
• Robert Rhett (former U.S. Congressman and leading secessionist politician)
• Robert Smalls (former slave and Civil War hero who became one of the first African-Americans elected to the U.S. Congress)
• Tom Berenger (actor)