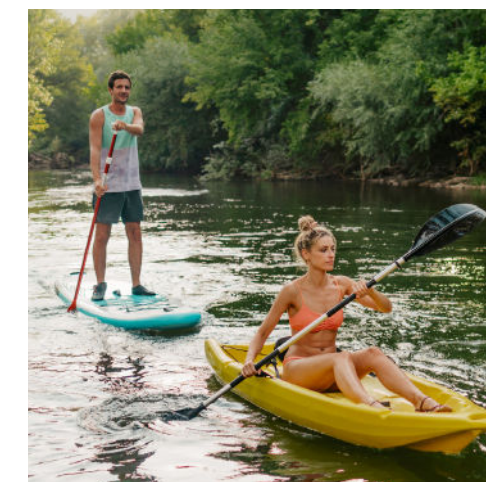
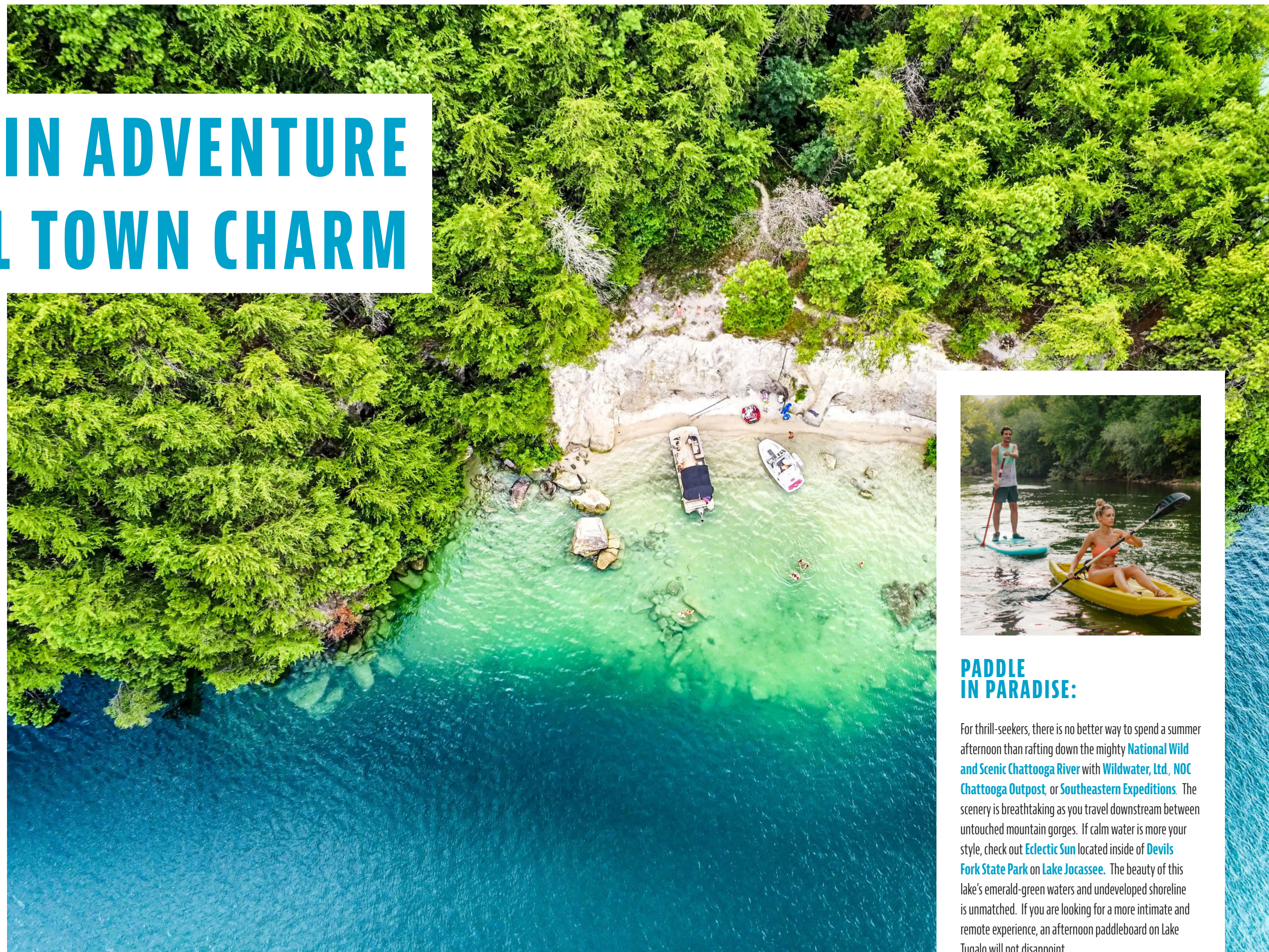


BIG MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE SMALL TOWN CHARM

Words by Michelle McCollum



The Cherokee called Oconee “land beside the water,” which is very fitting since it has a National Wild and Scenic River, five drop-dead gorgeous mountain lakes, numerous rivers for paddling, and more waterfalls than you can shake a stick at. And, just as amazing as all of the water activities are all of the mountain activities like hiking, biking, nature viewing, and more. If you are looking for outdoor adventure, look no further than South Carolina’s Golden Corner - Oconee County. So, pack your bags and head to mountains this season. An alternative to the coastal vacation, Oconee has over 500 miles of shoreline ready for you to enjoy...and there are no sharks. We’re just sayin’.

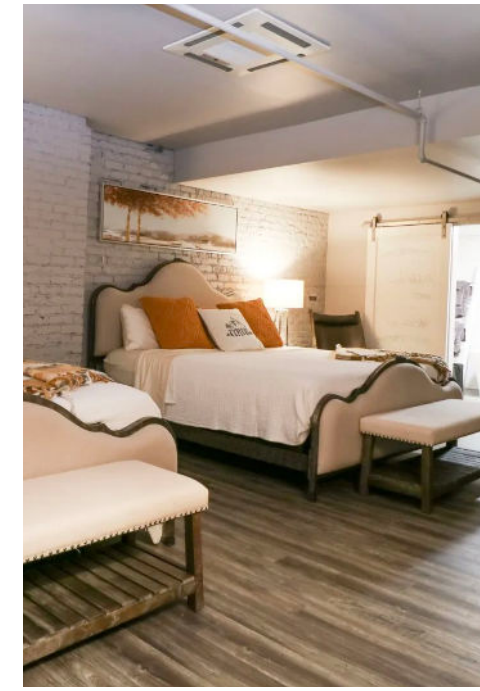


PADDLE IN PARADISE:

For thrill-seekers, there is no better way to spend a summer afternoon than rafting down the mighty [National Wild and Scenic Chattooga River](#) with [Wildwater, Ltd.](#), [NOC Chattooga Outpost](#), or [Southeastern Expeditions](#). The scenery is breathtaking as you travel downstream between untouched mountain gorges. If calm water is more your style, check out [Eclectic Sun](#) located inside of [Devils Fork State Park](#) on [Lake Jocassee](#). The beauty of this lake’s emerald-green waters and undeveloped shoreline is unmatched. If you are looking for a more intimate and remote experience, an afternoon paddleboard on Lake Tugalo will not disappoint.

FEEL THE REEL:

Oconee is a fisherman's wonderland. Largemouth bass, striped bass, smallmouth bass, and bluegill are popular targets for fisherman at all skill levels and [Lakes Hartwell, Keowee, and Jocassee](#) are nationally known as fishing hotspots for these varieties. For those interested in the ever-growing sport of flyfishing, Oconee has you covered there as well. The best wild trout angling is in the [Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area](#), accessible by hiking trails from Walhalla State Fish Hatchery and Burrells Ford Bridge Road. The [East Fork of the Chattooga River](#) is a habitat for wild brown trout and stocked rainbow trout from the Wahalla Fish Hatchery. For all your flyfishing gear, reach out to the experts at [Chattooga River Fly Shop](#). They offer excursions as well.



SWEET DREAMS:

Where can you stay overnight? If you enjoy being fully emersed in nature, pitch a tent at one of many parks located in Oconee such as [Oconee State Park](#) or [Chau Ram County Park](#). [Devils Fork State Park](#) has villas perfect for large families and with quaint fireplaces and spacious indoor living areas, they can be enjoyed year-round. [Wildwater, Ltd.](#) in Mountain Rest is the perfect location to experience staying overnight in a Yurt that is just a stone's throw away from rafting and ziplining. If you like adventure during the day, but luxury at night, [Come Sleep in the Trees](#) is a luxury treehouse experience and [Loft's Over Main](#) and [Loft's on Townville](#), are both a unique "main street" experience. Whatever your pleasure, Oconee has it!



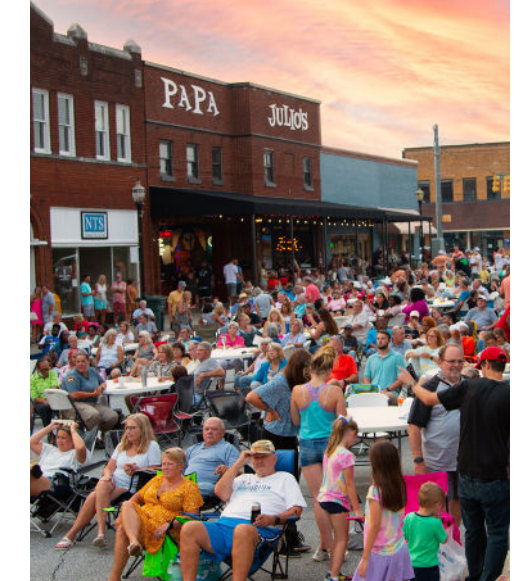
GET YOUR MOTOR RUNNING:

Whether your motor is a Twin-Cam Longblock or your own personal ticker, be prepared for the ride of your life in Oconee County! Rev up your engine and head down the [Cherokee Foothills National Scenic Byway](#) where you can pick up speed along this vast stretch of road. Or, drive past several beautiful waterfalls and one of the most scenic overlooks in South Carolina along the winding [Wigington State Scenic Byway](#). If you're interested in getting your own heart pumping, grab your mountain bike and hit the trails at [Stumphouse Mountain Bike Park](#), a state-of-the-art mountain biking facility that is unique to the Southeast.



COME SIT A SPELL:

Oconee County is not only full of beautiful places, but also beautiful people. Travel into one of their charming small towns and see for yourself why people call the area one of the friendliest places in the South. Spend some time with the locals at [Jazz on the Alley](#) in Downtown Seneca every Thursday evening from April to October (free of charge) or enjoy one of many great performances at the [Walhalla Performing Arts Center](#). Grab a craft beer at [Keowee Brewing Company](#), a glass of wine at [Partners on Wine](#), or, if you're brave, a swig of moonshine from Oconee County's first LEGAL distillery at [Chattooga Belle Farms](#). Food...Oconee's got that covered as well with everything from fine dining to 'meat and threes.' There are way too many to list here but check out [VISITOCONEESC.COM](#) for more information on where to eat, sleep, and explore.



SEE YOU ON THE TRAIL:

Trails, trails, and more trails are available in Oconee County; over 50 to be exact. There are trails to waterfalls such as [Yellow Branch Falls Trail](#) in the [Andrew Pickens Ranger District](#), trails to historic wonders such as the [Stumphouse Tunnel](#) off of Hwy 28, and trails that begin in Oconee and end at the ocean, such as [The Palmetto Trail](#) with its trailhead beginning inside of [Oconee State Park](#). For hikers interested in a weekend hiking adventure, [The Foothills Trail](#) provides many opportunities for accessing trailheads within beautiful Oconee County.

