

THE ANDES • KENAN THOMPSON • JAPANESE GIN

UNITED 

Hemispheres

FEBRUARY 2019

Three Perfect
Days

Charleston

South Carolina

Where you
can stroll past
houses that
predate the
Declaration of
Independence

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



DAY

3

► Catching waves, slurping oysters, and looking through an artist's lens

This page, from top: the Panic Button cocktail at The Living Room, in The Dewberry; a brick walkway at Waterfront Park; opposite page: Leon's Oyster Shop

Oh, biscuits, how I love you. This morning we feast at **Callie's Hot Little Biscuit** on King Street, where the line is already out the door by 8:30 a.m. We dig into a variety of fluffy buttermilk creations: plain, cheddar-chive, blackberry jam-topped. I pop the mini cinnamon ones like Cheetos. I want to get some to go, but I know we have a full day of eating ahead.

But first, a beach excursion to **Sullivan's Island**. We rent a



car for the day and cruise over the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge, with its two diamond-shaped cable towers, through Mount Pleasant, and on to the sand-lined streets of Sullivan's in just 25 minutes. On the agenda: roll up our pants and splash in the waves, hunt for seashells, and admire the gorgeous three-story cottages lining the wide beach. Calder keeps his eyes peeled for sea turtles to rescue and is amazed to learn

that this ocean is the same one we have in New York.

All this oceanside action has us hungry for some seafood, so we drive back into town for lunch at **Leon's Oyster Shop**, a fun spot on the upper reaches of King Street famous for oysters, yes, but also fried chicken. The space, a former auto body shop, is kitted out in fairy lights and maritime paintings. Chris and I fight over the last of the chargrilled oysters, which taste like ocean and fire bathed in butter, while Calder happily munches his fried shrimp. I move on to the fried chicken sandwich, moist and crunchy and served with a cooling cucumber and sesame seed salad, and Chris opts for the seafood fry-up. Calder declares his rainbow sprinkle-topped soft-serve better than Mister Softee in New York.





This page: Sullivan's Island; **opposite page:** the pecan-smoked fish spread at Parcel 32

We check into our new digs, **The Dewberry**, a hip Mid-Century Modern-style hotel that opened in 2016 in a former 1960s federal building, and while all we want to do is take a nap, we rally and cross Marion Square to **The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston**. I'm eager to see the current exhibit, *Southbound: Photographs of and About the New South*, which runs through March and features images taken by 56 21st-century artists exploring their perceptions of the American South. The variety is astounding. There are shots of Civil War reenactors, Black Lives Matter marches, empty storefronts, migrant workers,

and high school homecoming queens. Seeing all these snippets of life makes me think that there's not just one South—it's impossible to generalize about or judge such a wide swath of our country.

Calder's beat and not up for a restaurant meal; Chris gamely offers to take him back to the hotel for some takeout so I can keep my res at

Parcel 32, a new Lowcountry-Caribbean restaurant with an airy, outside-in design. I take a seat at the bar and get the pirate-inspired Anne Bonny rum cocktail (and somehow refrain from making an "arrrr" joke). Serendipitously, Band of Horses' "The Funeral" plays over the stereo. Even though I'm dining alone, I order as if I'm

with the fam: I start with a pecan-smoked fish spread served with Ritz crackers and pecan-meal hush puppies topped with pimento cheese and Benton's bacon powder. (I need a jar of that in my life.) Next are short ribs, fragrant with clove, allspice, and nutmeg atop a bed of creamy coconut-milk Carolina Gold rice grits.

WHERE TO STAY

The Dewberry

This former federal office building is now one of the most stylish hotels in town, with vintage Mid-Century Modern furniture as well as bespoke pieces (floral armoires and a brass recreation of an 1861 city map). Cypress wood lines the walls of the spa, where treatments utilize local rice and dewberry. Relax further with a drink at the new rooftop bar, the **Citrus Club**. From \$350, thedewberrycharleston.com

Belmond Charleston Place

A modern grande dame smack in the middle of the Historic District, the Belmond offers a luxurious stay for honeymooners and families alike. Splendor abounds, from the hand-blown glass chandelier in the lobby to the retractable-glass-roofed saltwater pool, but the vibe is easygoing and friendly. Book a Club-level room for added perks, such as a buffet breakfast and cocktail-hour libations and bites. From \$325, belmond.com