



Preparing for Your Daufuskie Island Adventure!

Congratulations on choosing our special island for your upcoming vacation! The following information is designed to help you better prepare for your upcoming visit.

Key Contact Information:

Cathie Moore
912-414-0846 Contact starting day of arrival

Deborah Smith
404-414-1282 (Backup if Cathie is not available)

Check-in/Check-out Times

The check-in time at your vacation home is 4:00 pm, and check-out time is 10:00 am. If you arrive early/depart late, you can leave your belongings near your front door, however, Daufuskie Rental Group is not responsible for personal belongings left unattended.

Please note:

- A DRG team member will text or call you on your arrival day and let you know if you can enter your property prior to that check-in time.
- Please DO NOT try to enter the property until you get that call or text, even if it appears that the cleaners are finished. (An inspection and amenities check are also part of the process to make sure your vacation home is ready.)

Other

Please let us know if the number of people in your group changes from the number you provided when you made your reservation. Also, please make sure we have the phone number where we can reach you while you are on the island.

You may need to arrange a cart rental, and in the “Getting Around Daufuskie” section we provide a list of cart providers. Some properties come with one complimentary golf cart. (Usually a 4 seater.) Should the number in your party exceed that legal limit, you will need to rent an additional cart.

If you do need to rent a cart, we recommend you do this as soon as possible as they can be in short supply during busy times.

Getting to Your Departure Dock

From the Savannah Airport, we recommend Diamond Transportation (<https://hiltonheadrides.com>; (843) 247-2156). You may prefer a taxi, Uber, or Lyft.

Boat Service

You will taking a boat to Daufuskie. (Island motto? "No Bridge - No Problem!") You will be able to leave your car in a parking lot maintained by your ferry or water taxi company.

Important Notes:

There has been extra demand for boat services to Daufuskie this year, and you should call as soon as possible for reservations. Contact us if you have any difficulties getting reservations.

We strongly recommend private water taxis if you can get one. The Daufuskie Island Ferry has been very crowded this year and the rates have been increased.

Tell the water taxi services that you were referred by Deborah Smith, of Daufuskie Rental Group.

From Hilton Head/Bluffton Area:

May River Excursions: www.mayriverexcursions.com/daufuskie-water-taxi; 843-304-2878. Bluffton is the last town before Hilton Head. Flexible schedule; 25 minute ride to Daufuskie. Not a covered boat, so bringing a rain jacket is advised.

Hilton Head Island Boat Charters: www.hhiboatcharters.com. 843-892-9440. Captain Neil and Captain David.

Hilton Head by Boat: Goes out of Palmetto Bay Marina. Call Captain Jimmy for availability: 843-304-3847

Sky Pirate Parasail: Goes out of Broad Creek Marina (843) 842-2566. Note: You may be parking a little ways from the dock, so drop off your bags first and then go park.

Daufuskie Island Ferry Company (www.daufuskieislandferry.com) Departs from Buckingham Landing dock off Highway 278 immediately before the bridge to Hilton Head. Four 45-minute roundtrips each day, and one additional evening trip on Fridays. Current rate is \$55 per person roundtrip, with a \$10 a day parking fee at a remote parking lot. Bags limited to one bag less than 50 pounds per guest; you will be charged for additional bags. Gratuity expected for crew if they transport your bags via trailer to the boat. Policies change, and we highly recommend you check the ferry website for current prices and policies.

From Savannah area:

Savannah Ferry Services: Private water taxi by Captain Dan. Recommended for Savannah transport. 912-657-5222.

Bull River Marina; www.bullrivermarina.com/savannah-to-daufuskie-island; 912-897-7300. This service is located between Savannah and Tybee Island. Note:

Arriving by Private Boat - Docking Options

Freeport Marina: 843-785-8242.
Paul Wolff (private dock): 912-844-0222

Getting to Your Vacation Home

Contact Daufuskie Transit to arrange ground transportation from your arrival dock to your vacation home for \$20 per person roundtrip. This is a curb-to-curb service. In making the reservation, they will need the address of your vacation home. (Contact us if you are not sure.)

Daufuskie Transit
daufuskietransit@gmail.com; 843-338-2570
www.daufuskietransit.net for online reservations (preferred)

Additional Info Relating to Your Trip

[Cart Policy](#)

Please don't ask to have your golf cart dropped at the dock for transporting your group, luggage, coolers, etc. in order to avoid the ground transportation costs. Carts are not designed for this purpose.

Departure Request

For departures, please be ready at your reserved time with luggage ready to be loaded. If you are not ready at the appointed time, they may have to leave in order to pick-up another group, and you can end up missing your boat.

Grocery Shopping Services

For Hilton Head/Bluffton boat services, the following grocery shopping service is available and will deliver groceries to your departure dock. (This service is NOT available for Savannah boats nor for HHI Boat Charters.) Please call as soon as possible for this service as they get quite busy.

Low Country Grocery Runner

- 1) Online : www.cybervaletgrocery.com
- 2) Email : keri@lowcountrygroceryrunner.com
- 3) Phone : 843-505-8568

Special Vacation Home Requests

1. Sand can be a terrible problem with a beach home, both in terms of keeping it clean and with clogged drains. Please remove your shoes before entering your villa, shake out clothes before putting in washing machine, and rinse off using the hose at the south end of your building after being at the beach.
2. If you hook up a device to a TV or in any other way modify the TV settings, PLEASE make sure the TV is back the way you found it when you leave. Make sure remotes are back in their original rooms. Sign out of Netflix or other streaming services.
3. Help keep your air conditioning in working order by always having doors closed when the air conditioner is running. If not and the system freezes up, it may have to be shut off for 24 hours to get back in working condition.
4. Managing bugs in a coastal property is challenging. Regular pest service is critical in order to prevent roaches and other bugs. If a pest service requests entrance for a regular treatment, PLEASE given them access to your vacation home. They use a product that is not toxic to children and pets.

5. Please only put small debris down your garbage disposal. No coffee grounds, lettuce, raw meat, lemon/orange peels, etc. We will assess a charge should you disregard this rule and clog the disposal, resulting in a service call.
6. Upon departure, please leave your property in the same condition you found it, so that it is ready for cleaning and disinfecting. Check for belongings, including chargers, in every room before departing.
7. Problems? Please let us know so that we can address the issue. (We hate to hear about any issues the first time when reading your property review!)

What To Bring and What's Provided in Your Vacation Home

Groceries

You will be provided with a STARTER SUPPLY of soap, dishwasher soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels and trash bags. There is usually enough of these items to last two or three days. (Bringing extra trash bags is always a good idea.)

There is no grocery store on the island, so most groceries need to be brought over here by boat. (There is, however a General Store with basic supplies.) For convenience, you may want to utilize cybervaletgrocery.com, an online grocery shopping service, which will do your grocery shopping for you and deliver it directly to your boat dock.

Your vacation home has a fully-equipped kitchen, as well as a washer and dryer. Salt and pepper can usually be found in the vacation homes, but not necessarily spices, condiments, oil and vinegar etc.

There will be several ready-to-brew coffee packs and filters in your vacation home. Coffee makers are drip versions unless otherwise indicated.

Most people end up packing more than they need. This is a very casual island and your vacation home does include a washer and dryer.

Avoid coolers with bags and bags of heavy ice. Soft-sided coolers are preferred, but one way or another utilizing ice packs, dry ice, or frozen food instead of heavy ice is much preferred. Our water is a public utility and very safe...no need to bring cases of bottled water. (Our two historic district houses are on well water, but they are regularly tested and the water is pure.)

Clothing and Towels

Your vacation home includes bed and bath linens, but not beach towels.

Beach Chairs - Your property should have at least 4 beach chairs, but no beach umbrella because of recent liability concerns. If one or more of your beach chairs are missing or broken, please contact us for a replacement.

Essential Supplies

Don't forget bug spray, sunscreen/sunblock. Many sunburns have ruined a good vacation! A light rain jacket may also come in handy, and a heavier jacket during our winter months.

Bring any medications you might need, and you may especially want to bring Benadryl or another allergy medication, pain relievers, anti-nausea medication (e.g., Pepto Mismol), and pediatric forms of such medications for your children. Bringing a thermometer is also a good idea.

Grills

All DRG vacation homes have access to a grill.

Gas Grills: All Sandy Lane Villas; the Daufuskie Cottage (133 Avenue of Oaks), the Daufuskie Sunrise Cottage (126 Avenue of Oaks), the Daufuskie Escape Cottage (131 Avenue of Oaks), the Daufuskie Oasis Cottage (129 Avenue of Oaks), the Beautiful Sunrise Villa (105 Easter Beach Villa), the Sea Island 40 Cottage (121 Avenue of Oaks), Beach Retreat Cottage (154 Avenue of Oaks); Beach Bungalow (152 Avenue of Oaks) and all cottages with addresses between 82 and 100 Avenue of Oaks.

There is a small gas grill area at the Sandy Lane Villa complex, located around the end of the north building.

Charcoal grills: For all other properties, you will need to bring charcoal and lighter fluid. There is also usual some of both items located at the D'Fuskies general store

Important: We ask that you clean your grill prior to your departure so that it is ready for the next guests. (Da Dreams House and Tree House guests should clean out their fire pits after they use it, and replace the protective covers.) We will charge any guests \$35 who leaves their grills dirty.

Medical Emergencies

Should you have need of medical services, call 911 and tell them you are on Daufuskie Island and what your vacation home address is. (Found on the front cover of your welcome notebook.) When necessary, our paramedics will transport emergency

patients to the appropriate medical facility by boat or helicopter. Please call Deborah Smith after calling 911 so that she can help out if needed.

Pets

Not all properties are "pet-friendly." Even those that do accept dogs require a non-refundable pet fee. If you have not paid that fee through the reservation process, please contact us about bringing a dog, and we'll be happy to discuss. We do have pet guidelines, and please let us know if we did not send you those guidelines before your trip or if they are not posted in your vacation home. If you bring a pet, upon departure your property should look as though no pet as there.

Getting Around on Daufuskie

Bikes - To rent bikes, contact Sports Addiction at (843) 815-8281.

Carts

Tour Daufuskie (843) 384-8781 (gas)

Paul Wolff: (912) 844-0222 (gas)

Daufuskie Life: 910-315-4445 (electric)

Island Carts and Services at (843) 505-3937 (gas and electric)

Ron at (843) 341-2327 (electric)

Please note that SC Rules of the Road are in effect for carts, and that careless driving can and has resulted in serious accidents. Any drinking on the cart or evidence of inebriation will be grounds for terminating your cart contract, as will any other deviation from the rules set forth in your cart contract.

Carts should NEVER be driven on the beach because of turtle nests.

Children cannot drive carts! By law, only licensed drivers are allowed to drive.

Drive defensively, and especially at night when visibility can be an issue. Always pull over to the side of the road to let cars and trucks pass you. Make sure you know how to turn on the cart's lights before you go out at night the first time.

If you have a dog with you, keep a firm grip on his/her collar. (There been several very sad incidents when unsecured dogs fell out of carts and broke their necks.)

The bottom line is that carts are fun, but everyone on the cart needs to be careful!

Restaurants and Other Eating Options

There are currently three restaurants on the island, which you can reach by golf cart or by pre-arranged ground transportation. (Note we are expecting a deli/restaurant at the county dock to open in the near future.) All

1) Lucy Bell's Cafe

Located in the Historic District at the intersection of School Road and Benjie's Point. Open for lunch every day except Monday; Outside eating; Take-out.

TEL: (843) 341-6477

2) Old Daufuskie Crab Company at Freeport Marina

TEL: 843-785-6652

Website: www.daufuskiefreeport.com/old-daufuskie-crab-company.htm

Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner. Bands often on weekends; can be crowded. Outside and inside eating; Take-out

3) Bell's on the Beach (on Melrose) TEL: (843) 785-3700

Restaurant/bar located at the end of Avenue of Oaks on Melrose. Open for lunch and dinner most days. Call for prior to your visit for dinner reservations: 843-785-3700.

Outside and screened porch eating provided; Take-out.

4) D'Fuskie's

New general store/deli/pizza place (with an adjoining bar) located at the county/public dock (site of the former Marshside Mama's. Open 7 days a week (insert times) and more limited service (sandwiches and store goods only) on Tuesday and Wednesday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

5) School Grounds

School Grounds is a charming coffee shop located in the back of the Mary Fields School on School Road. Traditional coffee (iced and hot), lattes, frappes, and chai tea are now available. Pam usually has home made muffins or cookies. Generally open 9:00 am - 4:00 pm every day except Sunday. Outside service now provided.

6) Home Delivery Services

Enjoy a home-cooked Southern meal prepared and delivered to your vacation home by **Ernestine Smith**, whose family has been on Daufuskie for more than 150 years. (Tip: Ask that your meal included her famous "Devil Crab," a Daufuskie Gullah delicacy.) Call Ernestine at least a week in advance at 843-298-1880 or 843-842-3011. This service is not always available, depending on Ernestine's schedule.

Renowned chef and cookbook author **Sallie Ann Robinson** will come to your property and provide a cooking lesson while she prepares an authentic Gullah meal. For groups of 8 or more. Call Sallie Ann at (912) 604-8210 for prices and availability.

6) Seafood/Produce

Most Saturdays you will find a shrimp and produce stand from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm on Haig Point Road near the intersection of Church Road. Call us Saturday morning to confirm that this mini-market will be taking place that day. Go early.

7) The Savannah-based **Burger Boat** comes to Daufuskie occasionally. Check the company's FB page for a schedule: <https://www.facebook.com/TheBurgerBoatSAV>

8) Daufuskie Transit provides dinner transportation from your vacation rental to a restaurant of your choice for \$12 per person round trip between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm 7 days a week. Call 843-338-2570 or visit DaufuskieTransit.com to book a reservation.

Freeport General Store

The Freeport General Store is located at the Freeport Marina and carries snacks, soda, bottled water, and tourist gifts, and has an ATM and an ice machine. You can usually find some basic food items here, but we don't recommend depending on the store for any groceries that you absolutely have to have.

Shopping Tip: Amidst all the touristy items at this store is a selection of Spartina purses and other accessories, developed by a former Daufuskie resident who now provides her overstock items to the store. All items are half-priced.

Daufuskie's Resorts and Private Communities

Daufuskie's resorts are currently in a transition period and are not currently open.

Melrose visitors will note a certain degree of deterioration with some of the Melrose buildings. However, there are promising developments with the pool, restaurant, and equestrian center now operated by private groups.

Other Activities (Subject to restrictions because of COVID-19)

Beach and Water Activities

The Melrose pool is now open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm every day. Daily fees apply. (Note that some rental properties offer free pool benefits.)

Tour Daufuskie offers beach items such as tents, umbrellas, chairs, coolers, etc for rent. The company also offers kayaking and paddle boarding excursions. Go to www.tourdaufuskie.com for details.

Fishing and Related Activities

Captain Chris offers dolphin-watching, fishing, crabbing, and shrimping excursions. Go to www.mayriverexcursions.com for more information. Please tell him we referred you.

Tours

Tour Daufuskie offers a variety of golf cart tours, including a historic tour and eco tour. Go to: www.tourdaufuskie.com.

A wonderful historic van tour is conducted by our own Sallie Ann Robinson, a 6th generation native islander, and a student of the author, Pat Conroy. Call 912-604-8210

Horseback Riding

The Haig Point Equestrian Center now offers beach and trail rides from the Melrose Equestrian Center. Go to <https://www.daufuskietrailrides.com> for details. Recommend booking in advance of your trip, and (especially during summer days) asking for the first ride of the day.

The Daufuskie Marsh Tacky Society offers rides on the official SC state horse, the Marsh Tacky. (A threatened species of horse originating from Daufuskie and other coastal islands.) Go to ride@DaufuskieMarshTackSociety.org or call 843-368-3636,

Locations of Special Interest

There are many interesting places to visit on Daufuskie, including the locations described below.

The Daufuskie Rum Company (270 Haig Point Road) store: Hours: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Wednesday - Saturday. (No Tours Now Because of Covid)

The Iron Fish Art Gallery (Benjie's Point Road) is always open.

The Bloody Point Lighthouse and Silver Dew Winery (intersection of Beach Road and Pappy's Landing. Open most days, year round.

Daufuskie Blues (Mary Fields School on School Road) Open Saturdays all day, and weekdays from noon to 5:00 pm.

Daufuskie Peach (228 School Road) Generally open in the afternoons, Monday - Saturday. Website: www.daufuskiepeach.com; Email: Daufuskiepeach@gmail.com.

The Daufuskie Island Museum (Old Haig Point Road) is comprised of the historic buildings formerly called the Jane Hamilton School and the Mt Carmel Baptist Church. Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

The Daufuskie Island Community Farm (tel: 843-842-8999) on Haig Point Road.

The Rob Kennedy Historic Trail contains numerous landmarks of great historic and cultural importance. A map will be in your notebook

Church Services

The First Union African Baptist Church holds services every Sunday, and visitors are welcome. Bible Study starts at 9:30 am; Church services begin at 10:00 am, and vacation attire is fine. For more information go to www.fuabchurch.org.

Island Etiquette and Tips

1. Slow down a bit. You'll enjoy your time here more if you can adapt to "Daufuskie Standard Time!"
2. Our vacation home areas are meant to be peaceful destinations for families and others looking for a quiet and secluded stay. If you're coming here to party loudly and consume large amounts of alcohol, we respectfully ask you to choose another destination.
2. Get to know us. Get off the beaten path! Talk to the local folks who are glad to chat with visitors and share stories about Daufuskie's people, history, and culture.
3. Keep our island beautiful. Even one discarded beverage can or plastic bag on the roadside diminishes the beauty of our island. Please don't litter...and go one better by pledging to pick up one piece of roadside trash every day.
4. Protect our wildlife and natural resources. Don't drive your cart on the beach (you can destroy all the eggs in a Loggerhead turtle nest); leave starfish and live sand dollars on the beach, and check larger shells for hermit crabs.

Yes, we have alligators, and these fascinating animals are part of our coastal world. They are usually more wary of people than we are of them. NEVER feed an alligator, as such a practice causes them to lose their fear of humans. It is NEVER acceptable to throw rocks or in any way torment an alligator or any other wildlife. Keep your dogs out of the ponds.

5. Support Our Local Economy Tourism is the life-blood of the island, and we ask our visitors to keep in mind that working folks here face extra economic challenges. Please support our local businesses, and gratuities for good service are always appreciated.

7. Wave! There is a long-standing tradition on the island of waving at the people you pass in golf carts or other vehicles. Show us that you're glad to be here by joining in that tradition!

Other questions prior to your visit? Contact us so that we can help. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you on our beautiful island!