SUMMERVILLE, SC
TRAIL GUIDE

Sweet Tea Edition
A comprehensive guide to Summerville, South Carolina’s World Famous Sweet Tea Trail

Dr. Charles Shepard  33.0186° N, 80.1756° W  Pinehurst Plantation

MADE IN U.S.A.
WITH THIS PASSPORT AS YOUR GUIDE,
experience the historic and bold flavors that prevail in the Town of Summerville and earn unique prizes along the way!
WHAT YOU DO:
• Visit the local stops along the South Carolina Sweet Tea Trail and get your trail guide stamped when you make your purchases.

• Stop and see us at the Summerville Visitor Center to show us your stamps, and we'll reward you with the awesome prize(s) you earned!

• Earning four stamps will get you a special Sweet Tea Trail decal sticker. With eight stamps, you will receive an exclusive Tea Trail tea towel. At twelve stamps, you will receive the Official Birth Place of Sweet Tea T-shirt! A fully-stamped book will get you all of these prizes!

( Keep your passport with you at all times, and make sure to ask for the stamp after your purchase! Note: purchase does not have to be sweet tea related)

Summerville Visitor Center
402 N Main St, Summerville, SC 29483
visitsummerville.com
(843) 873-8535
Summerville, South Carolina
Birthplace of Sweet Tea

(1) The Beginning
The tea plant first made its U.S. landing in Summerville in the late 1700s when French explorer and botanist, Andre Michaux, planted tea near Charleston at Middleton Place Plantation.

(2) The US Government
In 1884, almost ten years after two failed attempts to grow tea, (first in Greenville, SC, and then in Georgetown, SC), the federal government became interested in this new tea experiment in the South. An experimental governmental tea farm was established in Summerville.

(3) Dr. Shepard
Four years after the government’s Southern tea experiment, a wealthy and scientific philanthropist named Dr. Charles Shepard acquired 600 acres of the Newington Plantation property and established the Pinehurst Tea Plantation not far from the government’s farm, again in Summerville, South Carolina. He cultivated about 100
acres and built a factory to manufacture and package the tea.

(4) The World’s Fair
Dr. Shepard won the public’s favor at the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair, where his tea won first prize. President Theodore Roosevelt visited Shepard to see the tea-making operation during a trip to the Pine Forest Inn.

(5) Lipton
Dr. Shepard’s plantation thrived until his death in 1915, after which it lay abandoned until 1960. That was when the Lipton Company bought the property. Lipton salvaged the remaining plants and used them to open a research facility on Wadmalaw Island.

(6) Charleston Tea Garden
In 1987, William B. Hall, an expert third-generation tea taster trained in London, purchased the tea farm from Lipton to establish the 127 acre Charleston Tea Garden. In 2003, Bigelow Tea Co. purchased the farm and partnered with Hall. The tea from the Charleston Tea Garden, derivatives of Dr. Shepard’s Camellia sinensis, earned the honor of the Official White House Tea and the Official Hospitality Beverage of South Carolina.

(7) World Record
The Town of Summerville made its way into the record book by setting the Guinness World Record for the World’s Largest (Sweet) Iced Tea on National Iced Tea Day in 2016. Known as “Mason,” the tea container stands over 15 feet tall and can hold up to 2,524 gallons of sweet tea.

Remember to use #sweetteatrail while on your adventure through Summerville.

www.visitsummerville.com/sweet-tea-trail
This charming veteran-owned jewelry store in the heart of downtown Summerville prides itself on service to its customers and community. Get your authentic replica of one tea leaf from the Charleston Tea Plantation’s Spring crop which is derived from the original Summerville Tea Plants. Dreamed up by the team at Hanebrink and blessed by a proper Southern Lady.
Cuppa Manna
100 S Main Street
Mon-Sat: 7am-7pm
Sun: Closed
(843) 900-5840

This corner café provides a vast menu full of baked pastries, specialty drinks, and a relaxing environment to work or unwind. Ask your barista for their Ginger Peach Sweet Tea.

This Little Piggy
100 Central Avenue
Thur-Sat: 11am-8pm
Sun: 11am-3pm
(843) 594-3108

Locally owned pit-cooked barbeque at the corner of West Richardson and Short Central in the heart of Summerville. Serving fresh, pit-cooked pulled, pork, ribs, beef brisket, chicken, hash & rice with all the sides. And, you must try a glass of Award Winning Jack’s Tea.
Step into Four Green Fields and expect the “heart” of Summerville; let Jill or Robin guide you to picking out the best gift or specialty item that is locally crafted and true southern culture. Grab one of many Sweet Tea items for the perfect take home souvenir gifts.

Everything Chic is full of Southern charm and offers a variety of fun, unique, and timeless items. Grab a sweet tea related gift with candles, hand towels, soap and all occasion cards.
**Summerville-Dorchester Museum**
100 East Doty Avenue
Tue-Sat: 10am-4pm
(843) 875-9666

Travel back to the very beginnings of our roots, or, in this case, our tea leaves, via the Summerville-Dorchester Museum.

**Eva’s On Main**
129 S Main Street
Tue-Sun: 9am-3pm
843-873-5081

Southern hospitality served on a plate; one of Summerville’s staples located in the heart of Hutchinson Square. Open for breakfast & lunch, Eva’s is the legacy of a simply southern mom-and-pop restaurant, serving a locally sourced farm-to-table menu. Check out Eva’s made from scratch Signature Sweet Tea Vinaigrette or the occasional Sweet Tea Infused Dessert.
Bakers Garden and BBQ
807 Central Avenue
Thurs-Sat: 11am-7pm
(843) 875-4469

Baker’s is a Summerville hometown original! The low & slow Smoked Pork, Ribs & Brisket are accented with their favorite Sweet Tea and Baker’s Sweet Tea Pecan Pie is a recipe all their own.

Five Loaves Cafe
214 N. Cedar Street
Mon-Fri 11am-9pm
Sat: 10am-3pm 4pm-9pm
Sun: 10am-3pm 4pm-8pm
(843) 804-9410

Located in a beautiful historic home nestled under the oaks you’ll experience the perfect Southern dining experience. Be sure to try their award winning “Summerville Mojito”- which starts with the famous Firefly Sweet Tea Vodka.
Coastal Coffee Roasters
108 E 3rd N St.
Mon-Fri: 7am-2pm
Sat: 7am-5pm
Sun: Closed
(843) 376-4559

Fresh, organic and locally roasted Coastal Coffee Roasters is also home to an in-house café. The large selection of fresh teas make this best cup of coffee on the sweet tea trail a must do.

People Places & Quilts
129 W Richardson Ave.
Mon-Fri: 10-5:30
Sat: 10am-5pm
(843) 871-8872

Voted one of the Top ten quilt stores in the nation with a wide variety of fabrics, including the iced tea print. Located in the historic downtown, the shop is full of Southern Hospitality.
Montreux Bar & Grill
127 W Richardson Ave.
Mon-Sun 11am-2am
(843) 261-1200

Stop by for lunch or dinner and be sure to try Aunt Bees Sweet Tea (bourbon, fresh local honey and fresh squeezed lemon).

Birthplace of Sweet Tea Mural
402 N Main St.
Summerville, SC
(843) 873-8535

Local Artist Kevin Morrissey created our bigger than life Sweet Tea Mural on the Visitor Center in cooperation with the Summerville Chamber of Commerce. Snap a selfie and share pics on social media with us @VisitSummerville using #BirthplaceofSweetTea for your stamp and a chance to be featured.
Stop by anytime day or night and visit Mason-The World’s Largest Sweet Tea. Mason stands over 15 feet tall and can hold up to 2,524 gallons of Sweet Tea. Take a picture and tag us @VisitSummerville with #GWRmason

Right in the heart of downtown you can buy or make your own... Sweet Tea Related signs, door mats and tea towels for purchase and for customers to make. Setup a SWEET class and enjoy being creative with friends, or stop by for one of a kind shopping.
The French Mercantile
211 W Richardson Ave
Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm
(843) 494-3229

The French Mercantile is the hidden gem of the Low Country. You’ll find vintage style tea towels to go along with your sweet southern tea, as well as European & Cottage style home decor & gifts. We have a unique selection of authentic European bread boards, French market baskets, sustainable kitchen products, architectural salvage, and so much more.

Carolina Ale House
191 Sigma Dr.
Summerville, SC
Mon-Sun 11am-2am
(843) 471-1970

Welcome to Carolina Ale House, your place for Food, Sports and Fun. Try a locally-made Firefly Sweet Tea Vodka cocktail or Southern Belle Sangria and you have the perfect combination.
Main Street Reads
115 S Main St.
(843) 875-5171
Mon-Sat 10am-6pm
Sun 11am-4pm
MainStreetReads.com

Local and adorable, Summerville’s #1 indie bookstore is in the heart of downtown, across from Hutchinson Square. Their wonderful selections include sweet tea favorites like Baptized in Sweet Tea, Sweet Tea at Sunrise and Sweet Tea for the Soul, as well as a selection of literary teas and literary tea chocolates!

Cotton Down South
206 W. Richardson Ave.
(843) 285-8292

What can be better than Sweet Tea and Jesus? Take a look at our best selling dough bowl and complete sweet tea product line available at the adorable little yellow cottage with white picket fence just off downtown.
Over 150 vendors & consignors at Antiques & Artisans Village. Antiques, gifts, vintage, local artisans’ creations. Sweet tea candles, wax melts, tea lotions & soaps, teapots, teacups, sweet tea candy, and teas from Charleston Tea Garden. We even TEA-se you with complimentary cookies & candy. It’s a fun place to shop!
Stop in this turn-of-the-century library and use the old-fashioned card catalog to find the featured “Sweet Read.” Take home a complimentary list of recommended titles to start your own Southern literature collection.

110 booths of antiques and uniques! Check out their special collection of vintage and antique teapots and teacups.
A Southern ladies’ boutique of simple elegance offering apparel, jewelry, handbags, unique accessories and more! Be sure and pick up your one-of-a-kind sweet tea ball cap.

Legend has it that Dr. Shepard introduced Bermuda grass on the grounds of the tea farm where Summerville Country Club now resides. Get Tea-ed off on 18 holes on some of the first grass-covered greens.
The Icehouse brings you eclectic, farm-to-table, Southern fare, with a love and passion for the finest ingredients and flavors to tempt your taste buds. Check out their sweet tea infused bourbon and house-made sweet tea vinaigrette.

Fly is a Modern Apparel boutique located with its sister shops, Sole and Mod in the heart of Summerville. Fresh, up to date and fashion forward, the staff will assist you with the amazing selection of contemporary apparel with accessories, handbags, belts and more.
The Axe Joint
120 S. Main Street
Summerville, SC
Tues-Thurs: 4pm-10pm
Friday: 4pm-12am
Saturday: 11am-12am
Sunday: 2pm-6pm
(843) 285-8549

Summerville's 1st Axe throwing range. Private lanes and drinks with friends makes this a great outing in the heart of downtown. You must try the Sweet Tea Twisted-sicle, co-branded with Cindy’s Twisted Spirits.

Public Works Art Center
135 W Richardson Ave
Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm
(843) 900-3225

Located in the old town Post Office, the art center features three galleries with ever-changing exhibitions, art camps and classes for all ages, working artist studios, special events, and is free and open to everyone. Don't miss the sweet tea-themed items in the on-site gift shop!
Piazza Home
127 Central Avenue
Mon–Fri: 10am-5pm
Saturday: 10am-3pm
(843) 873-8015

Experience Summerville’s finest collection of Home décor, gifts and accessories Piazza Home is a “Visual Feast” according to our customers. Check out our Sweet Tea Summerville Kitchen Towels, Sweet Tea Etched Glassware, and Summerville Sweet Tea Coasters.

Lowcountry Olive Oil
103D S Main St
Mon-Sat: 10am-6pm
(843)695-8327

USAF Veterans Jason and Laurie have been handcrafting uniquely flavored olive oils and vinegars for over 10 years. Stop by for a taste of their Peach Tea Balsamic Vinegar or Summerville Blend Olive Oil. In addition to over 65 flavored oils and vinegars, Lowcountry Olive Oil also features dozens of locally handmade gifts and packaged gourmet foods.
Katie Mae’s Klasy
Flea & Antique Mart
140a W. Richardson Ave.
Summerville, SC
(843) 771-3375

Katie Mae’s has new arrivals weekly and there is always something sweet for the home. Painted furniture that has new life, antiques, refurbished, and beautiful home décor!

The Azalea
Bar & Garden
219 S. Cedar St.
Summerville, SC
(843) 771-2008

In the heart of Downtown Summerville, comes a new place to gather. Inspired by the signature style of Azalea Magazine, The Azalea Bar & Garden will offer craft cocktails by professional mixologists, specialty curated wines, and a selection of local craft beers, all in a charming Southern inspired atmosphere, with old world European touches. Opening Fall 2021.
**Vintage Vibes on Main Street**
200 N Main Street
Mon-Sat: 10:30am-5pm
Sunday: 1pm-5pm
(843) 879-9529

Over 6000 sq feet of vintage treasures including some of the sweetest Tea Cup Sets, repurposed & reimagined as well as Artisan created goods, and more! We proudly offer locally made Charleston Plantation Teas, Benne Wafers, Sweet Tea Candles or our wonderful White Tea Linen & Room Spray!

**Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site**
300 State Park Rd.
9am-6pm: Daylight Saving Time
9am-5pm: Remainder of the year

The remarkably preserved archaeological remains give visitors a peek into the early history of colonial SC. Stand below the towering remains of the brick bell tower, catch a glimpse of a log wharf during low tide or view the fort made of an oyster-shell concrete called tabby. (Use the Ultimate Outsider stamp located on the backside of the information kiosk in the main parking lot for your Trail Guide stamp.)
Remember to use #sweetteatrail while on your adventure through Summerville.

www.visitsummerville.com/sweet-tea-trail

The Sweet Tea Trail is designed to help you explore the wonderment of Summerville. The trail will guide you through the five districts of the town, offering uniquely Southern dining, shopping, historical, and cultural experiences.