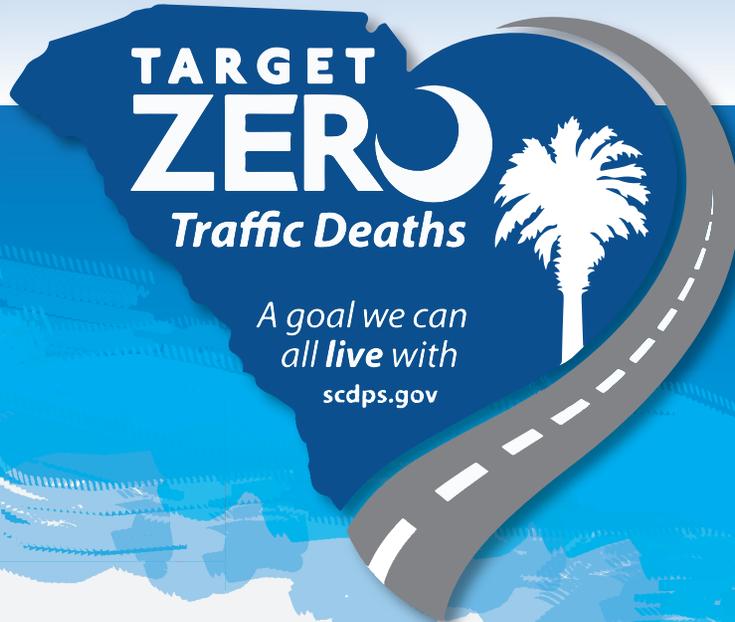


SAVING LIVES IN SOUTH CAROLINA
Because one death is one too many.
Please drive safely.

Traveling to the Beach



Safety Tips



SOUTH CAROLINA
Department of Public Safety

10311 Wilson Boulevard
Blythewood, SC 29016
www.scdps.gov



SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Highway Patrol
www.scdps.gov



The South Carolina Highway Patrol (SCHP) wants to ensure that you and your family have a safe trip as you enjoy your vacation on the South Carolina coast this summer. Here is up-to-date traffic information and tips to help you get there and back safely.

Planning Your Trip

Grand Strand

Expect the heaviest traffic congestion to be on Highway 501 between Conway and Myrtle Beach in Horry County. Saturday is typically the busiest day of the week; SCHP starts seeing an increase in traffic in March, and it will remain congested through Labor Day.

Consider an Alternate Route

- ★ If you are going to the Northern end of the Grand Strand (N. Myrtle Beach, Cherry Grove, Little River), the Highway Patrol advises that SC 22 can be used to bypass the congested U.S. 501 route - the most heavily used artery into the beach. SC Highway 22 intersects with Highway 501 just past Aynor.
- ★ If you are traveling from the Southern End of the Grand Strand (SC 544 at Surfside Beach), take SC Highway 31, which runs parallel to the coast all the way to North Carolina Line.

Lowcountry

Beach visitors to Kiawah, Edisto, Hunting and Fripp Islands should be aware of the areas with narrow shoulders on the single access roads to these islands. All the access roads to these Islands, US 21 to Fripp and Hunting, Main Road to Kiawah and SC 174 to Edisto, have large trees close to the roadway, which warrants paying extra attention to your driving.

If traveling to Hilton Head Island and the traffic in the Bluffton area of US 278 becomes congested, consider using US 21 to SC 170 to US 278 to bypass congestion.

Remember the two-lane roadway access to the islands of the Lowcountry, and plan accordingly. Allow extra time, leave early and try to avoid traveling on the day before a holiday weekend and the last day of the holiday period.

Make certain that beach equipment, bicycles and other vacation gear are properly

secured/attached to your vehicle to prevent them from falling onto the roadway.

Most of our beaches are islands, which means parking is limited. Planning is key to a successful and enjoyable beach trip to the Lowcountry.

General Safety Tips for Navigating Beach Traffic

- ★ Be aware that traffic will become congested especially around hotel check-in and check-out times.
- ★ You can expect heavy, often bumper-to-bumper traffic on arteries leading into the beach areas; patience is key.
- ★ The Highway Patrol sees many minor traffic collisions, aggravating these already heavily traveled arteries.
- ★ Motorists are often unfamiliar with their routes; plan your route before and don't depend on GPS devices exclusively.
- ★ Be aware of motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians in this area.
- ★ Always wear your safety belt and ensure all passengers are buckled up.
- ★ Impaired driving: Don't drink and drive, and report suspected impaired drivers or those driving in a reckless manner by calling *HP (*47).
- ★ Remember, South Carolina law says you can move your vehicle out of traffic if you have a crash with no injuries until an officer can arrive at the scene; this facilitates the flow of traffic.
- ★ Plan to see more law enforcement in and around beach areas. Our presence is to ensure your safety.

How to Get Traffic Information

Consult SCHP Real Time Traffic to find out about active collisions in the area you are traveling:

- ★ <http://www.scdps.gov/schp> Real Time Traffic Map

Check SCDOT's 511 to get roadway information:

- ★ <http://www.511sc.org>

Scan to view
roadway travel
information.

