



GINGERBREAD COMPETITION

ADULT THIRD PLACE 2011

# Best Southern Fests

DISCOVER HIDDEN TREASURES AND SAMPLE TRADITIONAL DELIGHTS WHILE EXPLORING THE LOW-COUNTRY'S TAKE ON A WINTER WONDERLAND.

ANGELA GUNN

## Island Treasures on Jekyll Island

**WHEN:** January 1 – February 28

**WHERE:** Jekyll Island, Georgia

**THE LOWDOWN:** Hunt for hidden treasures with the whole family starting New Year's Day. Beautiful glass floats handcrafted by artists from across the country are hidden all over Jekyll Island. Each island treasure has a unique design and has been created using the same glass art techniques that have been used for the last 2,000 years. Treasure hunters can also continue the search on [Jekyllisland.com](http://Jekyllisland.com).

**INSIDER'S TIP:** "Like" the Jekyll Island Authority on Facebook to get QR codes that let hunters unlock clues released in January.

**MORE INFO:** [jekyllisland.com](http://jekyllisland.com)

## The National Gingerbread House Competition

**WHEN:** December 2012 – January 2, 2013

**WHERE:** Asheville, North Carolina

**THE LOWDOWN:** This year marks the 20th anniversary of the National Gingerbread House Competition and the 100th anniversary of the opening of The Grove Park Inn. Culinary experts and rising stars will judge contestants from all over the country and award the grand prize winner over \$7,500 in cash and prizes. Admission is free, and visitors can enjoy the festive displays throughout the inn or stay warm by the giant fireplaces in the grand lobby.

**INSIDER'S TIP:** During the third

week of December, prize-winning gingerbread houses will be in New York City for a TV appearance.

**MORE INFO:** [groveparkinn.com](http://groveparkinn.com)

## Holiday Festival on Daniel Island

**WHEN:** December 1

**WHERE:** Daniel Island, South Carolina

**THE LOWDOWN:** This world-class sports venue is transformed into a magical winter wonderland and includes an ice skating rink to keep the whole family happy while visitors shop for bargains and unique gifts from Charleston's most popular vendors. There will be music, food, entertainment and a special appearance from Santa at The Tennis Center.

**INSIDER'S TIP:** ATMs are available on site for shoppers who don't wish to bring cash.

**MORE INFO:** [dicommunity.org](http://dicommunity.org)

## Fairchild's 7th Annual International Chocolate Festival

**WHEN:** January 25 – 27

**WHERE:** Coral Gables, Florida

**THE LOWDOWN:** For some warm winter fun, head to the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden for their International Chocolate Festival. Learn how chocolate grows on trees in Fairchild's rain-

forest, which is the cacao tree's native habitat. Local chocolatiers provide samples, and some of Miami's top chefs will reveal how chocolate can be used in dishes both savory and sweet.

**INSIDER'S TIP:** Eco-conscious visitors that walk, ride a bike or take public transit to the festival receive a discount on admission.

**MORE INFO:** [fairchildgarden.org](http://fairchildgarden.org)

## 38th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes

**WHEN:** December 7-9

**WHERE:** Savannah, Georgia

**THE LOWDOWN:** See The Hostess City in all its winter glory during the Annual Holiday Tour of Homes. The tour starts Friday night at the City Market Open House, and Saturday features classic tours of Savannah's historic homes, many of which have been dressed up for the holidays. Tea will also be served by ladies in Victorian dress in one of the restored mansions. Sunday concludes the tour with private inns decorated for the holidays.

**INSIDER'S TIP:** On Saturday evening, visitors can tour homes on foot or use the complimentary trolley shuttle service.

**MORE INFO:** [dnaholidaytour.com](http://dnaholidaytour.com)



TOUR OF HOMES