



Local Discovery Cruises



On June 11, 2024, four boats headed out for a Local Discovery Cruise (formerly Magellan Cruises) to learn about the Port Royal Sound, Daws Island, Victoria Bluff, and the Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge. The weather for the day was perfect, sunny skies, mild temperatures, and most importantly, calm waters in the Port Royal Sound.

After meeting in Skull Creek, our first destination was the Port Royal Sound where we discussed its unique geography and how that in turn shapes the nature and wildlife in the area that we call home. We then explored the Battle of the Port Royal Sound and how this naval skirmish impacted the outcome of the Civil War.

Our next stop was Daws Island, a place where time seemed to stand still. We learned about the archeological digs that have uncovered remnants of Native American settlements, offering a glimpse into the lives of those who inhabited this land centuries ago.

Leaving Daws behind, we cruised towards Victoria Bluff. This pristine spot, now a Colleton Plantation, was once slated for a massive chemical plant. Thankfully, local conservation efforts triumphed, preventing a development that would have forever altered the delicate balance of the Lowcountry ecosystem.

Finally, we arrived at Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge, a sanctuary teeming with life. We learned about the early inhabitants of the island and how its use changed over the decades until it became a wildlife refuge and its vital role in protecting endangered species and preserving the natural beauty of the Lowcountry.

From this final stop, some of us had a picnic, some swam, and others went on to their next adventure. I think we were all left with the feeling that today's cruise wasn't just a scenic trip; it was a journey through time, leaving us with a deeper understanding and a renewed sense of wonder for the Lowcountry we are fortunate enough to call home.



Joining the cruise were Andrew Buzzelli, Debbie Buzzelli, Dan Allen Sarah Allen, Steve Krakomperber, Tammi Krakomperber, Deidra Edwards and Steve Mengert.



Leading the cruise was Brad Loescher, Amy Loescher, Paul Hoyte and Nancy Stermer (official photographer, not pictured.)



Gus on Dolphin watch.