



CHARLESTON

If you think that South Carolina is the stuffy South, you have never been to Chucktown.



Originally from New Orleans, tattoo artist Tim Dennis has inked the likes of Tim McGraw, Lil Wayne, and NFL player Anthony Hargrove. Life was all peachy-keen in the Big Easy until Hurricane Katrina came in and wiped out the city. Devastated and determined to make a fresh start, Dennis and his wife relocated to Charleston and opened the city's first tattoo shop, Blu Gorilla (1409 King St.), in 2004. Tattooing had been illegal in South Carolina between 1976 and 2004, so locals would drive to Georgia to get inked, but after Governor Mark Sanford signed an amendment changing the archaic regulations, Dennis swooped in and set up shop. These days, lines are out the door and the accolades keep rolling in. —*Rachel Khona*

SURF AND SHRIMP You may not think of surfing when it comes to Charleston, but nearby Folly Beach's close-knit community makes it one of the East Coast's most energetic surf scenes. "I learned how to surf when I moved here," says Dennis. When you're done working up an appetite on the waves, he recommends trying the shrimp and grits at Rita's Sea-side Grille (2 Center St., Folly Beach). "They serve the best shrimp and grits in the country, hands down."



^ LISTEN TO LIVE MUSIC One of Charleston's best-known music venues, small but intimate Music Farm (32 Ann St.) is the perfect place to see national and local bands up close and personal. "I saw Suicidal Tendencies there," Dennis says. "If you want to hear rock music in Charleston, Music Farm is the place to go." Bands like Ben Folds Five, OK Go, and They Might Be Giants have all played the venue, taking advantage of the rich and clear sound the seasoned vets of Music Farm know how to deliver.

> GET ARTSY For one-stop art supply shopping, nothing is better than Artist and Craftsman's Charleston location (143 Calhoun St.). "They have everything you need to prepare a tattoo," says Dennis. Impeccable customer service and a helpful staff make the store inviting and easy to navigate. Whether you need tracing paper and pencils or help with a more complicated project like building a bench, this is the place to go. The best part? The company is employee-owned, so you're supporting the little people.



^ GET YOUR COMIC ON Indulge your inner superhero at Captain's Comics and Toys (1209 Sam Rittenberg Blvd.). Whether you've been a collector since the Ice Age or you're more of a newbie, Captain's Comics offers everything a comic nerd could ever dream of. Plus, the friendly staff is always happy to help out—even if you don't know Green Lantern's secret identity.



< DINE ON DUCK Tattooed Moose (1137 Morrison Dr.) may be a gastropub, but it hasn't forgotten its Southern roots. A large stuffed moose head and gun rack hang behind the bar, while a sign nearby reads, "We don't serve women here. You have to bring your own." Of the duck sandwich, Dennis says, "To die for. And they have these awesome blue cheese fries." People also come far and wide for that duck club sandwich, featuring duck confit, applewood-smoked bacon, cheddar, and aioli.