

FREE PRINTABLE FIELD GUIDE



# SOUTH CAROLINA BEACHES SHELL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Common Shells & Where to Find Them

## Tidal Keepsakes

Timeless Coastal Keepsakes, Gathered by the Tide

A coastal field guide for beachcombers of all ages

### INCLUDED BEACH GUIDES

- Botany Bay, SC
- Bull Island, SC
- Edisto Beach, SC
- Folly Beach, SC
- Huntington Beach State Park, SC
- Kiawah Island, SC

Part of the Tidal Keepsakes Regional Shell Guide Collection

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# EDISTO BEACH SHELL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Common Shells & Where to Find Them

### COMMON SHELLS YOU CAN FIND

<p><b>LETTERED OLIVE (STATE SHELL)</b></p> <p>Smooth, olive-shaped shells marked with beautiful letter-like patterns in brown.</p>	<p><b>WHELKS (KNOBBED)</b></p> <p>Spiral shell with rounded "wattle" or "starburst eye" which allows an animal to breathe.</p>	<p><b>WHELKS (CHANNELLED)</b></p> <p>Spiral shell with deep channels or grooves along the whorls.</p>	<p><b>WHELKS (LIGHTNING)</b></p> <p>Spiral shell with a tall spire and lightning-like markings inside the opening.</p>	<p><b>FOSSILS &amp; SHARK TEETH</b></p> <p>Fossilized teeth from sharks; also possible to find bone fragments and other marine fossils.</p>
<p><b>LENG SHELLS</b></p> <p>Long, tubular shells found in pairs; often found in pairs.</p>	<p><b>OYSTERS</b></p> <p>Abundant and large; recycled shells are perfect for reefs and gardens.</p>	<p><b>COCKLES</b></p> <p>Thin, heart-shaped shells with strong ribs, commonly found along tide lines.</p>	<p><b>JINGLE SHELLS</b></p> <p>They, delicate shells that "jingle" when shaken; translucent and golden.</p>	<p><b>SAND DOLLARS</b></p> <p>Flat, round echinoids often found whole in the surf.</p>

### TOP SPOTS FOR SHELLING ON EDISTO

<p><b>THE BEACHS IN THE PARK</b></p> <p>The beaches are excellent for looking for peewees and cockles.</p>	<p><b>FISHING PIER</b></p> <p>Great spot to look for a variety of shells.</p>	<p><b>NORTH END</b></p> <p>Walk the north end of the beach for shells after storms.</p>	<p><b>SEABOOK ISLAND</b></p> <p>Explore the beaches here for a peaceful shelling adventure.</p>
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# BOTANY BAY, SC SHELL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Common Shells & Where to Find Them

A guide for beachcombers of all ages

Botany Bay Heritage Preserve on Edisto Island is a world-class shelling destination, primarily because removing anything—including shells, driftwood, and fossils—is strictly prohibited. This rule has turned its "Boneyard Beach" into a massive, undisturbed showcase of giant treasures that you can admire and photograph but cannot take home.

### TOP FINDING SPOTS AT BOTANY BAY

<p><b>BONEYARD BEACH</b></p> <p>This is the primary attraction. It is littered with thousands of large, inner shells and bleached, submersed trees that act as natural display stands for collectors.</p>	<p><b>HAMMOCK ISLAND</b></p> <p>Reached by a half-mile causeway from the parking lot, this barrier island is densely covered in shells.</p>	<p><b>TREE "ALTARS"</b></p> <p>A local tradition involves shellers hanging impressive Whelk shells and other finds in the branches of the dead palms and oaks along the shoreline for others to see.</p>
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### COMMON SHELLS TO SEE

<p><b>WHELKS (KNOBBED &amp; CHANNELLED)</b></p> <p>Large, spiral shells with knobs or deep channels; often found whole.</p>	<p><b>OYSTERS &amp; HARD CLAMS</b></p> <p>Abundant and large; oyster shells often form massive clusters.</p>	<p><b>BLOOD ARKS &amp; PONDEBROUS ARK</b></p> <p>Thick, heavy shells with strong ribs; Blood Arks are reddish inside.</p>	<p><b>GIANT COCKLES</b></p> <p>High, heart-shaped shells with strong ribs; commonly found along tide lines.</p>	<p><b>LETTERED OLIVES (STATE SHELL)</b></p> <p>Smooth, olive-shaped shells marked with beautiful letter-like patterns in brown or orange.</p>
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# FOLLY BEACH SHELL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Common Shells & Where to Find Them

A guide for beachcombers of all ages

### COMMON SHELLS YOU CAN FIND

<p><b>LIGHTNING WHELK</b></p> <p>Spiral shell with a tall spire and lightning-like markings inside the opening.</p>	<p><b>LETTERED OLIVE (STATE SHELL)</b></p> <p>Smooth, olive-shaped shells marked with beautiful letter-like patterns in brown.</p>	<p><b>SLIPPER SHELLS</b></p> <p>Smooth, glossy shells with a characteristic "slipper" pattern; often found in mixed patterns.</p>	<p><b>COQUINA SHELLS</b></p> <p>They, delicate shells with smooth, glossy surfaces; often found in mixed patterns.</p>	<p><b>LETTERED OLIVES (STATE SHELL)</b></p> <p>Smooth, rounded shells with a spiral "eye" pattern; fossilized and beautiful.</p>
<p><b>BANDED TULIPS</b></p> <p>Elongated, tulip-shaped shells with a flared lip; often found in pairs.</p>	<p><b>AUGERS</b></p> <p>Long, slender, spiral shells with a tapered shape; often found in pairs.</p>	<p><b>SAND DOLLARS</b></p> <p>Flat, round echinoids with a petal pattern on top; often found whole in the surf.</p>	<p><b>SHARK TEETH</b></p> <p>Fossilized teeth from various sharks; commonly found after storms in all sizes.</p>	<p><b>STARFISH</b></p> <p>Found along the shore; the shore; especially after storms.</p>

### BEST PLACES TO SHELL ON FOLLY BEACH

<p><b>THE WASHOUT (WEST END)</b></p> <p>A hotspot after storms for unique shells and debris finds.</p>	<p><b>MORRIS ISLAND (SHERMAN'S ISLAND)</b></p> <p>Accessible by boat. Great for unworldly beaches and amazing shells.</p>	<p><b>FOLLY BEACH PIER AREA</b></p> <p>The area around the pier is productive, especially at low tide.</p>	<p><b>SUNRISE &amp; SUNSET WALKS</b></p> <p>Early morning or evening walks often reveal the best treasures.</p>
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# BULL ISLAND (CAPE ROMAIN), SC SHELL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Common Shells & Where to Find Them

A guide for beachcombers of all ages

### COMMON SHELLS YOU CAN FIND

<p><b>SAND DOLLARS</b></p> <p>Flat, round echinoids with a petal pattern on top; often found whole in the surf or tide pools.</p>	<p><b>MOON SNAIL (SHARK'S EYE)</b></p> <p>Smooth, rounded snails with a spiral "eye" pattern; fossilized and beautiful.</p>	<p><b>KNOBBED WHELK</b></p> <p>Spiral shell with rounded knobs or bumps on the whorls; often found whole after storms.</p>	<p><b>LIGHTNING WHELK</b></p> <p>Spiral shell with a tall spire and lightning-like markings inside the opening.</p>	<p><b>FLORIDA HORSE CONCH</b></p> <p>Large, heavy sea snail shells; thick-lipped opening with a pink interior; often with living hermit crabs.</p>
<p><b>BANDED TULIPS</b></p> <p>Elongated, tulip-shaped shells with a flared lip; often found in pairs.</p>	<p><b>LETTERED OLIVES (STATE SHELL)</b></p> <p>Abundant, olive-shaped shells; often found fossilized letter-like patterns in brown.</p>	<p><b>SCALLOPS</b></p> <p>Fan-shaped shells with shallow water and along the weak line.</p>	<p><b>ANGEL WINGS</b></p> <p>Thin, heart-shaped shells; wattle; glossy wings; supporting tide lines.</p>	<p><b>JINGLE SHELLS (TRANSLUCENT)</b></p> <p>They, delicate shells that "jingle" when shaken; translucent and golden.</p>

### PRIME SHELLING LOCATIONS ON BULL ISLAND

<p><b>CAPE ROMAIN WILDLIFE REFUGE</b></p> <p>A protected area with pristine beaches and excellent shelling after storms.</p>	<p><b>NORTH END BEACHES</b></p> <p>Often less crowded and great for finding Whelks, Scallops, and Sand Dollars.</p>	<p><b>TIDAL FLATS</b></p> <p>Explore low-tide areas for Jingle Shells and other tiny treasures.</p>	<p><b>NEAR THE LIGHTHOUSE</b></p> <p>Scenic and productive for spotting Horse Conchs and Shark's Eye Snails.</p>
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# HUNTINGTON BEACH STATE PARK, SC SHELL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Common Shells & Where to Find Them

A guide for beachcombers of all ages

### COMMON SHELLS YOU CAN FIND

<p><b>LETTERED OLIVE (STATE SHELL)</b></p> <p>Smooth, olive-shaped shells marked with beautiful letter-like patterns in brown or orange.</p>	<p><b>MOON SNAIL (SHARK'S EYE)</b></p> <p>Smooth, rounded snails with a spiral "eye" pattern; fossilized and beautiful.</p>	<p><b>KNOBBED WHELK</b></p> <p>Spiral shell with rounded knobs or bumps on the whorls; often found whole after storms.</p>	<p><b>WHELKS (LIGHTNING)</b></p> <p>Spiral shell with a tall spire and lightning-like markings inside the opening.</p>	<p><b>COCKLES</b></p> <p>Thin, heart-shaped shells with strong ribs; commonly found along tide lines.</p>
<p><b>SAND DOLLARS</b></p> <p>Flat, round echinoids with a petal pattern on top; often found whole in the surf.</p>	<p><b>SCALLOPS</b></p> <p>Fan-shaped shells with shallow water and along the weak line.</p>	<p><b>BLOOD ARKS</b></p> <p>Thick, heavy shells with strong ribs; Blood Arks are reddish inside.</p>	<p><b>SHARK TEETH</b></p> <p>Fossilized teeth from various sharks; commonly found after storms.</p>	<p><b>JINGLE SHELLS (TRANSLUCENT)</b></p> <p>They, delicate shells that "jingle" when shaken; translucent and golden.</p>

### TOP SHELLING SPOTS IN THE PARK

<p><b>THE BEACH (NEAR THE LAGOON)</b></p> <p>Explore along the shoreline where shells wash up after tides and storms.</p>	<p><b>AT LOW TIDE</b></p> <p>Wide stretches of beach are exposed, perfect for finding hidden treasures.</p>	<p><b>NEAR THE LIGHTHOUSE AREA</b></p> <p>Scenic and productive for spotting Whelks, Sand Dollars, and Shark Teeth.</p>	<p><b>WRECK LINE</b></p> <p>Focus on the line of seaweed and debris left by the high tide.</p>
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