

# The Southeast Region



## Land and Water

There are twelve states in the Southeast region. Georgia is the largest state in the Southeast, but Florida has the most people.

The Southeast is a region of both lowlands and highlands. The upper part and the lower part of Southeast region have very different landforms. The states in the upper part of the region have rolling hills, rich river valleys and high flat areas called plateaus. The states in the lower part of the region have beaches, swamps, and wetlands.

The Appalachian Mountains cover most of the upper part of the Southeast region. Some of the peaks in the Appalachian Mountains are more than 6,000 feet high. They are the Southeast region's highest landforms. There are many rivers and oak and pine forests in the Appalachian Mountains.



*Named for the blue fog or mist that hangs over the mountains in the valleys, the Smokies were originally settled by the Cherokee.*

The lower part of the Southeast region is known for its beautiful sandy beaches. Along the coast, the land is mostly flat. The coast of the Southeast region includes both the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The low Coastal Plain stretches along the southeastern coast from Virginia to Louisiana. When the ocean rises each day at high tide, seawater flows into this lowland creating many swamps.

The largest and best-known swamps in America are all in the Southeast, located in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Louisiana. The Everglades, a huge low, wetland, covers much of southern Florida. The Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia is the largest swamp in North America.



***Many waterways flow through the flat land of the Everglades.***



***Amicalola Falls in Dawson County, Georgia.***

The Southeast has many rivers. Most of its rivers begin in the Appalachian Mountains. The rivers flow across the Coastal Plain to the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi River carries fertile soil to the huge delta at the Gulf of Mexico. A delta is a triangle-shaped area at the end of a river. Delta soil is fertile and good for farming.

The place where the Appalachian Mountains meet the Coastal Plain is called the fall line. The land drops sharply at this point. As rivers flow over this drop, they form waterfalls. The falling water is used to run machines and to create electricity.

Southerners use their ocean and rivers for recreation. Swimming, fishing, and boating are popular water sports. People here also use the ocean and rivers for transportation. Many port cities have grown up along the coast where rivers reach the sea. One of the busiest port cities is Miami. Miami is located near the

southern tip of Florida. The port of Miami is also home to many cruise ships. Each year, more than three million people leave Miami on cruise ships for vacations at sea. No wonder Miami is also known as the “Cruise Capital of the World.”



***Miami, Florida***