

## KIAWAH PARTNERS

# DEVELOPMENT OF KIAWAH ISLAND OVERVIEW

This 10,000-acre, residential-resort community is a barrier island on the Atlantic coast 21 miles south of historic Charleston, South Carolina. The name Kiawah (pronounced KEY-o-wah) comes from the Native American tribe that hunted and fished on these lands during the 1600s. Today, Kiawah Island is home to some 4,100 residential properties and a world-class resort. The island accommodates more than 400,000 visitors annually.

Development began on Kiawah in the mid-1970s when a multi-disciplined planning team was assembled and charged with a single overriding premise – protect the Island’s spectacular natural beauty. This team of scientists, historians, and environmentalists conducted a \$1.3 million study over the course of 16 months. From the study’s findings, a blueprint was crafted to balance the social, recreational, and commercial needs of Kiawah’s future residents with nature.

Kiawah Partners purchased the Island in 1988 and adopted that blueprint as its own. Deciding to focus on the Island’s overall development, rather than the day-to-day operation of a resort, Kiawah Partners sold the resort amenities the following year. That separate company, now known as Kiawah Island Golf Resort, recently opened in 2004, The Sanctuary, a luxury oceanfront hotel, featuring 255 rooms as well as dining, conference, and recreation facilities, including a spa, fitness center, and indoor and outdoor pools.

Kiawah’s development plan remains the model for conservation, enhancement of open space, and preservation of the Island’s environmental integrity. It incorporates substantial ocean setbacks to protect the dunes, plus a comprehensive greenbelt system that includes 305 acres of lakes and ponds, 123 acres of parks and common land, and nearly 5,000 acres of marshland.

Resort amenities – accommodations, dining, shopping, meeting, recreation, and beach facilities – are clustered to encourage walking and permit efficient operation. Pool and tennis complexes are centralized, rather than duplicated in each neighborhood, to preserve green space. Homes are designed to blend with their surroundings. Landscaping procedures emphasize tree preservation and the planting of native species.

This enduring natural beauty sets the stage for sensational golf. The community is home to seven courses that easily fit this description – Cougar Point (by Gary Player), Turtle Point (by Jack Nicklaus), Osprey Point (by Tom Fazio), The Ocean Course (by Pete Dye), Oak Point (by Clyde Johnston), The River Course (by Tom Fazio), and most recently, Tom Watson’s *Cassique*. The River Course and *Cassique* are part of The Kiawah Island Club, a private-membership club exclusively for Kiawah Island property owners.

Complementing the golf is a full spectrum of recreational opportunities. The island’s 10-mile long, carefully preserved beach is consistently rated as one of America’s top beaches; thirty miles of paved biking and hiking trails link the community. Two highly regarded tennis complexes boast 23 clay courts and five hard courts. A central 21-acre park includes a children’s playground and pool complex as well as basketball and volleyball courts. And just up the coast is Charleston, America’s most romantic city, with numerous options for dining, shopping, and entertainment.

*Kiawah Partners is the master developer of Kiawah Island, a 10,000-acre barrier island located 21 miles south of Charleston, South Carolina. The company’s subsidiaries include Kiawah Island Real Estate; The Kiawah Island Club, which encompasses the Tom Fazio-designed River Course, the Tom Watson-designed Cassique, The Beach Club by Robert A.M. Stern and Sasanqua, the Members-only spa; Freshfields Village; The Lodge at Doonbeg in Ireland; and Christophe Harbour in St. Kitts. For more information, visit [www.Kiawah.com](http://www.Kiawah.com), or contact Mike Touhill, KP Director of Public Relations, (843) 768-6529, [MTouhill@Kiawah.com](mailto:MTouhill@Kiawah.com).*