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# Myrtle Beach Where to Stay Guide

## Myrtle Beach, 7 Days

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# Guide Description

**AUTHOR NOTE:** Let's be honest, finding the perfect Myrtle Beach hotel is comparable to finding a needle in a haystack. There are so many questions to answer to narrow down your list. Do I want a budget hotel? Do I want to be on the strip? Do I want easy beach access? These are all important questions to ask when narrowing down your choices and choosing the right Myrtle Beach hotel to spend your vacation. You find a lot of different lodging accommodations in Myrtle Beach, from budget hotels to condos to high-rising resorts. What you won't find are many cozy bed and breakfasts that you see in many southern cities. If you want to stay in a high-rise hotel in Myrtle Beach, then it's just determining what you want. Features of Myrtle Beach hotels range from on-site restaurants to indoor pools to golf courses to lazy rivers. For a luxurious beach experience, you may consider one of the resorts or condo style hotels Myrtle Beach has to offer. Two of the more popular Myrtle Beach hotels include the famous Breakers hotel, which features beautiful landscaped grounds right on the ocean and the Kingston Plantation Condos, which are a little farther north, but feature one of the largest resorts on the east coast with over 1,300 rooms to choose from.

**contact:**

tel: +1 843 449 0006

fax: +1 843 497 1017

<http://www.hiltonlinks.com/link.asp>

**location:**

9800 Queensway Blvd  
Myrtle Beach SC 29572-5266

## 1 Kingston Plantation Condos

Hotels.com

**DESCRIPTION:** This is the most desirable and one of the best-landscaped hotel and condominium complexes in Myrtle Beach. Set on 145 rolling acres of intensely manicured gardens, it combines a conventional hotel -- the 20-story Embassy Suites -- with a labyrinthine collection of individually owned one-, two-, and three-bedroom villas and condos. Be sure to specify your tastes in condo living, either when you reserve or at the time of check-in -- some units are in soaring high-rises, others are low-slung town house-style accommodations. A few are free-standing, woodsy-looking buildings in their own right. Registration for every guest room within Kingston Plantation, regardless of its design and venue, is within the lobby of the above-mentioned Embassy Suites Hotel, which was extensively renovated during 2007 and 2008. Each of the conventional hotel rooms contains a kitchen, dining area, living room, and at least one bedroom, and is outfitted with a private balcony and a tasteful blend of light-grained woods and pale sand-and-sea colors. Residents of Embassy Suites benefit from slightly more intensive service rituals than those in the outlying condos and villas. For such an enormous resort development, it's surprising to find only two restaurants, **Fish Eye Grill** (open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner) and the dinner-only **Omaha Steakhouse**, on the premises. Both are set on the ground floor of the high-rise Embassy Suites. © Frommer's

**location:**

151 Seawatch Drive  
Myrtle Beach SC 29572

## 2 Seawatch Plantation Resort

**DESCRIPTION:** Here is a resort complex built around fun. It is comprised of three villa complexes and two oceanfront towers. From the attractive fountain lagoon that welcomes you to the private boardwalks that take you directly to the beach, SeaWatch Plantation is a quiet oasis near one of the most exciting cities in the world. Condos have oceanfront or ocean views and all have access to the amenities throughout the resort. © TravelWeb

**location:**

10000 Beach Club Drive  
Tower 2  
Myrtle Beach SC 29572-5304

## 3 Royale Palms Condos

**DESCRIPTION: Location.**

Royale Palms Condominiums is located on the beach in Myrtle Beach, close to Dunes Golf and Beach Club, The Carolina Opry, and Alabama Theatre. Other points of interest near this condo include Northwood Shopping Plaza and Barefoot Landing. **Property Features.**

Royale Palms Condominiums features a coffee shop/café and a bar/lounge. Room service is available during limited hours. Recreational amenities include an outdoor pool. This 3.5-star property has a 24-hour business center and offers small meeting rooms and limo/town car service. Wireless and wired high-speed Internet access is available in public areas (surcharges apply). This Myrtle Beach property has 2787 square meters of event space consisting of conference/meeting rooms and a ballroom. The property has a complimentary area



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shuttle which runs to destinations within 3 mi. Wedding services and concierge services are available. Additional property amenities include multilingual staff, gift shops/newsstands, and laundry facilities. Guests have access to a partner property's indoor pool, health club, and recreational facilities. This is a smoke-free property. **Guestrooms.**

276 air-conditioned guestrooms at Royale Palms Condominiums feature CD players and washers/dryers. Balconies offer ocean or garden views. These individually furnished and decorated rooms include separate dining areas. Refrigerators, microwaves, and coffee/tea makers are offered. Bathrooms feature complimentary toiletries and hair dryers. Wired high-speed and wireless Internet access is available for a surcharge. In addition to complimentary weekday newspapers, guestrooms offer phones with voice mail. 32-inch LCD televisions have cable channels and free movie channels. Electronic check-out, irons/ironing boards, and clock radios are also provided. Housekeeping is available daily.

Notifications and Fees:

A resort fee is included in the total price displayed. Connecting/ adjoining rooms may be available, subject to availability. Guests can request connecting/ adjoining rooms by contacting the property directly, using the contact information on the booking confirmation.

The following fees and deposits are charged by the property at time of service, check-in, or check-out. Self parking fee: USD 9.71 per night (in/out privileges) Valet parking fee: USD 15 per night

The above list may not be comprehensive. Fees and deposits may not include tax and are subject to change.

**contact:**

tel: 888/854-0558  
www.thecaravelle.com

**location:**

6900A N. Ocean Blvd  
Myrtle Beach SC 29577

4 **Caravelle Resort**

**DESCRIPTION:** One of Myrtle Beaches' older hotels, this 6-decades-old, 15-story workhouse took a new lease on life in 2007 after a radical \$8-million renovation improved its standards, revved up its look, and brought it back into the spotlight. To a modern structure was added a variety of swimming pools, a "lazy river" for inner-tube rides, and facilities that might remind you of a children's summer camp. Overall, the rebuilt and reorganized Caravelle is a good, middle-of-the-road choice for families. It's north of the congestion of downtown Myrtle Beach, within the "Golden Mile" of hotels and upscale residential real estate. Its 2007 reorganization gathered as many as eight additional nearby buildings, many of them once-independent resort hotels in their own right, into its fold. Each guest room has a kitchen, so families can save money by making their own meals. © Frommer's



Hotels.com

**contact:**

tel: +1 843 444 4444  
fax: +1 843 626 5001  
<http://www.breakers.com/>

**location:**

2006 N. Ocean Boulevard  
Myrtle Beach SC 29577-3222

**5 Breakers Resort Hotel & North Tower**

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a longtime family favorite whose growth over the past decades has paralleled that of Myrtle Beach itself. It consists of seven beachfront towers, six of them adjacent to each other, the seventh (the North Tower) within 6 blocks of the others. Boasting one of the best beachfront locations in Myrtle Beach, the complex is unified with a series of swimming pools whose interconnected waters include a scaled-down model of a pirate schooner, the surfaces of which double as suntanning space. You can book here on any number of plans, within a wide configuration of accommodations, from tastefully furnished guest rooms to efficiencies with kitchenettes, and even one- to three-bedroom suites. Extra beds in the form of foldout sofas, Murphy beds, and twin sets of doubles make for flexible family units. Within this sprawling resort, a relatively stylish corner is the North Tower (ca. 1990), a soaring yellow-and-white boutique hotel with its own registration desk and some 140 condos, which join the rental pool of the Breakers whenever their individual owners are not on-site. © Frommer's



Hotels.com

**location:**

10000 Beach Club Drive  
Myrtle Beach SC 29572-5304

**6 Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort**

**DESCRIPTION: Location.**

Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort is located on the beach in Myrtle Beach, close to Dunes Golf and Beach Club, The Carolina Opry, and Alabama Theatre. Other points of interest near this resort include Barefoot Landing and House of Blues Myrtle Beach. **Resort Features.**

Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort features a restaurant, a poolside bar, and a bar/lounge. Room service is available during limited hours. Recreational amenities include a complimentary waterpark with a waterslide. Also located on site are an outdoor pool, a health club, a children's pool, and a sauna. The property's full-service health spa has body treatments, facials, and beauty services. This 3.5-star property offers small meeting rooms, audiovisual equipment, and business services. Wireless Internet access (surcharge) is available in public areas. This Myrtle Beach property has 1440 square meters of event space consisting of banquet facilities, conference/meeting rooms, a ballroom, and exhibit space. The property has a shopping center shuttle, which is complimentary. Wedding services and tour assistance are available. Guest parking is available for a surcharge. Additional property amenities include a concierge desk, an arcade/game room, and gift shops/newsstands.

**Guestrooms.**

385 air-conditioned guestrooms at Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort feature coffee/tea makers and safes. Balconies offer ocean views. Beds come with triple sheeting. Refrigerators and microwaves are offered. Bathrooms feature makeup/shaving mirrors, complimentary toiletries, and hair dryers. Wireless Internet access is available for a surcharge. In addition to desks and complimentary weekday newspapers, guestrooms offer free local calls (restrictions may apply). Televisions have pay movies. Rooms also include blackout drapes/curtains and



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electronic check-out. Guests may request in-room massages and wake-up calls. Housekeeping is available daily.

Notifications and Fees:

Reservations are required for massage services and spa treatments. Reservations can be made by contacting the resort prior to arrival, using the contact information on the booking confirmation. Minimum Spring Break check-in age is 21 years old. Children 18 years old and younger stay free when occupying the parent or guardian's room, using existing bedding.

The following fees and deposits are charged by the property at time of service, check-in, or check-out. Self parking fee: USD 8.99 per day Valet parking fee: USD 15 per day Fee for wireless Internet in all public areas: USD 9.95 (for 24 hours, rates may vary) Fee for in-room wireless Internet: USD 9.95 (for 24 hours, rates may vary)

The above list may not be comprehensive. Fees and deposits may not include tax and are subject to change.

**location:**  
2101 NORTH OAK STREET  
Myrtle Beach SC 29577

## 7 Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel

**DESCRIPTION:** - Full Service - Hotel Year Built - 2003 Year Remodeled - 2003 Additional Property Description - We are just two blocks from the ocean and four blocks from Broadway at the Beach..Myrtle Beach\*s largest entertainment complex. Plus..we are only 10 minutes from Myrtle Beach Airport and we are conveniently attached to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center..offering a combined total of 200000 square feet of conference space. Sunbathe/stroll/swim or fish on the wide beaches of the Atlantic Ocean. Or enjoy unique shopping..casual dining..a variety of attractions..and exciting nightlife at Broadway at the Beach. Enjoy dinner in Vidalia\*s Restaurant or an afternoon cocktail at M-Bar..offering complimentary wireless High Speed Internet Access. Find total comfort in our 400 spacious guest rooms. Stay connected to those at home or at work using the High Speed Internet Access.



Hotels.com

**location:**  
504 N Ocean Blvd  
Myrtle Beach SC 29577-3916

## 8 Bay View Resort

**DESCRIPTION: Location.**

Bay View Resort is located on the beach in Myrtle Beach, close to Mount Atlanticus Miniature Golf, Broadway at the Beach, and SkyWheel Myrtle Beach. Other points of interest near this condo include Family Kingdom Amusement Park and Chapin Memorial Park. **Property Features.**

Bay View Resort features a restaurant. Recreational amenities include an indoor pool, a children's pool, a lazy river, and a fitness facility. Complimentary wireless Internet access is available in public areas. Guest parking is complimentary. Additional property amenities include a concierge desk, laundry



Hotels.com

facilities, and secure parking. This is a smoke-free property.

**Guestrooms.**

250 air-conditioned guestrooms at Bay View Resort feature coffee/tea makers and blackout drapes/curtains. All accommodations have balconies. Bathrooms feature shower/tub combinations and hair dryers. In addition to safes, guestrooms offer phones with voice mail, as well as free local calls (restrictions may apply). Rooms also include irons/ironing boards and clock radios. Guests may request extra towels/bedding and wake-up calls. Housekeeping is available daily.

**Notifications and Fees:**

Unless otherwise indicated, the charges below are not included in the overall room price. If not included in the overall room price, they will be charged by the property at check-in or check-out. Charges can vary, for example, based on length of stay or the room you book. This property told us they will charge you for the following: Resort fee: USD 11.30 per accommodation, per night (effective 15 January 2013) We have included all charges provided to us by the property. However, charges can vary, for example, based on length of stay or the room you book.

The following fees and deposits are charged by the property at time of service, check-in, or check-out. Deposit: USD 100.00 per stay

The above list may not be comprehensive. Fees and deposits may not include tax and are subject to change.

**contact:**

tel: 888/322-6411

fax: 843/497-3041

www.oceanreefmyrtlebeach.com

**location:**

7100 N. Ocean Blvd

Myrtle Beach SC 29572-3646

**9 Ocean Reef Resort**

**DESCRIPTION:** North of the bustling beach center, this oceanfront resort is better than most other moderately priced choices. It originated in the 1970s as a balconied, boxy-looking rectangle, but it was expanded in 2004 and 2006 with towers positioned on each end. The bar is Caribbean style, complete with bamboo, and the restaurant has tall windows opening onto ocean views. All the rooms and efficiency units are oceanfront and tropically inspired; most have two double beds, good-size bathrooms, and balconies. The best accommodations are the 51 suites (with whirlpool tubs). © Frommer's



Hotels.com

**location:**

141 Grande Dunes Blvd

Myrtle Beach SC 29572

**10 Marriott Oceanwatch At Grande Dunes**

**DESCRIPTION:** Adding a touch of barefoot elegance to Myrtle Beach and South Carolina's Grand Strand is Marriott's OceanWatch Villas at Grande Dunes. Nestled within an exclusive 2200-acre elite residential community, you will discover comfort in spacious two-bedroom, two-bath villas featuring a private balcony, splendid views, a master suite and a full kitchen. Please note that resort development will continue until May 2010. Recreation Vehicles (RVs), mobile homes, trailers, buses, commercial vehicles, etc. cannot be accommodated on site, however, please call the resort directly to obtain information on alternative parking. © TravelWeb

# Myrtle Beach Snapshot

## Local Info

Strung along the southern Atlantic, Myrtle Beach comprises 60 miles of fine sandy coastline, from Little River to Georgetown in South Carolina. The area is known for its expansive beaches, vibrant nightlife and world-class golf course. And the famous resort coast continues to come up with new ways to entertain the summer crowds who come here hoping to find either a little excitement away from their laid-back Southern lifestyle or a little relaxation away from their fast-paced city life. So whether it's enjoying the sunrise with an espresso or reveling in the late-night scene (and enjoying the sunrise with a different sort of beverage) you'll find activities to satisfy your vacation preference.

## Dining, Shopping and Nightlife

Myrtle Beach has several large "entertainment complexes" that provide nearly endless dining, shopping and clubbing options. Barefoot Landing is a large development that features a range of shops, restaurants, bars and golf courses. The eating options here run from steakhouses to crab shacks, many of which offer live music. Broadway at the Beach is a similarly expansive complex, with restaurants, boutiques and nightclubs spread over 350 acres. For something slightly less formulaic, check out the all-night clubs, pubs and karaoke bars lining the seafront or clustered in the local favorite Southern Strand area. If theatrical shows are more to your taste, try the Carolina Opry or the Palace Theater, which features a kid-friendly Christmas on Ice production in the winter months.

## Festivals

Once purely a summer destination, Myrtle Beach is now a year-round tourist spot and it aims to draw all-season visitors with shows, live events and festivals. The Can-Am Days Festival in March coincides with the school holiday in Ontario and naturally attracts a lot of people from north of the border with beach activities, concerts and

sporting events. The Sun Fun Festival is the summer-season opener, with everything from sandcastle contests to the Miss Legs pageant. Foodies are drawn to Coastal Uncorked, a spring event focusing on food and wine. Closing out the summer is the Beach Boogie & BBQ Festival, which includes a barbecue cook-off joined by the likes of the RoBo Smokers and R & K Cookers. (Competing barbecue dishes are available for purchase after the judging is done.)

## Sports and Activities

Beach destinations are, of course, primarily about the outdoors and Myrtle Beach does not disappoint in this department. Along the 60 miles of Atlantic coastline you'll find kayaking, wind surfing, wakeboarding, swimming and more. Chartered and party boats take anglers off for deep-sea fishing. Inland rivers and waterways provide promising opportunities for interesting explorations or a quick romantic getaway. Golf aficionados can enjoy the many well-manicured courses in over 100 locations. Summer is high season but golfers can arrange a reasonable package at one of the less crowded clubs—or come in the offseason. Family-oriented activities revolve around theme parks, which include the NASCAR Speedpark, with seven tracks, a miniature golf course and a rock wall for climbing.

© NileGuide

## History

Myrtle Beach's history is a story of persisting, starting over and reinventing. Due to the ecological make-up and relative remoteness from early settlements in Charlestown and inland, it took a while for its founders to realize that the ocean, frequent blue skies, beautiful flowers and shrubs and unusual birds would attract vacationers.

## Chicora

Myrtle Beach's first inhabitants were the American Indian Waccamaw

and Winyah tribes. 'Waccamaw' and 'Chicora' (meaning 'the Land') are names still in use today as the area settlers respectfully tried to preserve the rich Indian heritage. An Indian burial site on Waites Island near Little River, and the remains of an Indian village on Wachesaw Plantation near Murrells Inlet have been preserved.

The Spanish explorer Lucas Vasques de Allyon was the first non-Indian to try to settle in the area in 1526. Within a year, though, the entire settlement died from disease. **The English Arrive**

In the late 1600s, the English were more successful. They began trading with the Indians north of Charles Town (later, Charleston). Eventually, the English established settlements in what are now Horry (location of Myrtle Beach) and Georgetown counties. The main street of Myrtle Beach, King's Highway, became the primary overland route between seaports in northern states and Charleston and Savannah, Ga.

Prince George Parish (now Georgetown) was established in 1730. In the late 1700s, an agricultural economy emerged as rice plantations flourished because of the many marshes and rivers in the area. Indigo and tobacco crops were prosperous as well. Many Americans are surprised to learn about how profitable and important rice was to the Southern economy. You can learn more about it by visiting the Rice Museum in Georgetown from March through November. **Legends and Lumber**

Further north, the famous pirate Edward 'Blackbeard' Teach was busy bullying the waters off the coast of the Grand Strand until his death in 1718. Legend has it that another infamous pirate, Captain Kidd, buried some treasure near Murrells Inlet. Another legend is that of Murrells Inlet's most famous inhabitant, Alice Belin Flagg (1833-1849). It is said that she will appear if you walk around her Pawley's Island grave backwards 13 times.

In the 1820s, Henry Buck moved from Maine and established the first sawmill and the beginnings of the next phase of

## Myrtle Beach Snapshot continued

the area's history. He soon became Horry County's richest citizen by establishing the area as a primary producer of pine timber, tar and turpentine products.

After the Civil War, Franklin G. Burroughs, a young man native to the area, teamed up with Benjamin Collins to form the Burroughs & Collins Company. The two young entrepreneurs expanded their operations from turpentine and mercantile stores to timber, farm credit, riverboats and farming. Burroughs had enough foresight to see Myrtle Beach as a seaside resort, and he and Collins built the first railroad between the beaches and the western part of Horry County.

By 1907, 'New Town,' as Myrtle Beach was known, finally became a popular vacation destination. A contest was held to give the area an official name. Addie Burroughs, the widow of Franklin G. Burroughs, proposed the name 'Myrtle Beach' for the large Wax Myrtle Shrubs with red, purple or white flowers that resemble crinkled crepe paper.

### Myrtle Beach Finds its Niche

Catering to the wealthy, a group of businessmen built the Arcady resort in 1920. The resort included the area's first golf course, Pine Lakes International Country Club, and the lavish Ocean Forest Hotel. Once again, though, Myrtle Beach's economy was thwarted, this time by the Great Depression. Arcady was dissolved, and the Ocean Forest Hotel was razed.

Finally, after the Great Depression and World Wars I and II, Myrtle Beach's economy started to revolve exclusively around tourism, instead of agriculture. For about ten years, the beach tourism industry flourished. Hotels and cottages were built by the dozens. Vacationers flocked to the area in horse carriages and by train. Claude Dunnagan, a local reporter, dubbed Myrtle Beach as "the Grand Strand" in 1949, and the name stuck.

### One More Time

It is no secret that South Carolina's entire coastline is susceptible to hurricanes. In 1954, Hurricane Hazel blew into the area with winds in excess of 150 miles per hour

and wiped out cottages, shops, restaurants and hotels. Myrtle Beach's economy was devastated once more.

The resilience and hard work of the South Carolinians persisted, and Myrtle Beach was rebuilt once again. Taking a lesson from Arcady, the developers built golf courses on the former rice and tobacco plantations, as well as amusement parks, cottages, motels and hotels. The area's economy quickly boomed. The permanent population tripled in the 1970s, and even Hurricane Hugo in 1969 couldn't drown the growth and popularity of the Grand Strand.

Myrtle Beach continued to grow through the 1990s. Now, Myrtle Beach has more than 100 golf courses, 1800 restaurants, nearly a dozen live entertainment venues, and countless other attractions. It is South Carolina's number one tourism destination and has been reported by the Travel Industry of America (TIA) as second only to Orlando as the most popular summer destination in the US.

©

## Hotel Insights

Once you decide to visit the Myrtle Beach area, you won't be sorry. You may, however, have a difficult time deciding where to stay. There are literally hundreds of places of all descriptions on the beach, at golf courses, on the rivers, and at quieter places away from the hustle and bustle of the beaches.

The busiest times of the year are traditionally November, and then March all the way through the first two weeks of September. Most of the 'Snowbirds,' as the winter visitors from northern states are called, arrive shortly after Thanksgiving and stay through March. Golfers swarm to the area in November and then again in March. Of course, prices skyrocket during the busiest months, especially the summer.

April and May are somewhat quieter, but by far the most beautiful months. Everywhere you look are azaleas bursting with purple, pink, red and white flowers including Bradford pear trees with delicate, white flowers; herons, egrets and sandpipers are

also prancing about. You may even see an alligator or two, but they become more adventuresome during the warm summer months.

### Helpful Hints for Making Reservations

Many places, large and small, commercial and independent, have similar names with the words 'ocean', 'oceanfront', 'sands', and 'beach' in them, so be careful to choose the one you really want. Also, make your reservations very early. Many families and golfers who return to the area every year make their reservations for the following year while they are here.

### North Myrtle Beach

North Myrtle Beach stretches from Little River to the Briarcliffe Acres community, and includes the four very small communities of Cherry Grove, Ocean Drive, Crescent Beach and Windy Hill.

You won't find as many huge hotels in North Myrtle Beach as in Myrtle Beach, but there are still plenty of places from which to choose on its nine miles of beaches, including hotels, motels, efficiencies, cottages, and condos.

The Best Western Ocean Sands Resort and the Ocean Drive Beach and Golf Resort are typical of the bigger accommodations. Their prices vary greatly depending on the time of the year, and they have rooms, suites, and efficiencies, pools and fitness centers.

If you prefer, you can get away from the beach and stay on the Intercoastal Waterway. A little difficult to find but with quieter surroundings, the Hampton Inn Harbourgate is adjacent to the Intercoastal Waterway and offers marina privileges at Harbourgate Marina. If you can afford it, the spectacular Barefoot Resort North Tower is very beautiful. Away from the beach, it is located across the Intercoastal Waterway from Barefoot Landing, a popular place with shopping, dining, and entertainment. It is surrounded by are four golf courses and 700 acres of wetlands. Barefoot Resort was previously presented with the first-ever award from South Carolina's Governor Jim Hodges for preserving the environment while developing the resort.

## Myrtle Beach Snapshot continued

### Myrtle Beach

As expected, most places to stay in Myrtle Beach are on or very close to the ocean. The number of choices is overwhelming as is the variety — condos, villas, rooms, suites, efficiencies, efficiency suites, cottages — you name it. For a longer stay in a cottage or condo, there are many condo and real estate offices in the area, too.

### Hotel and Motel Chains

Nearly all of the big hotel and motel chains are represented in Myrtle Beach.

The Courtyard Myrtle Beach-Barefoot Landing is actually located in between North Myrtle Beach and Myrtle Beach on Highway 17. It is near 'Restaurant Row' and not far from Barefoot Landing, Veteran's Highway (Route 22), Walmart, and many golf courses.

A Fairfield Inn and a Hampton Inn are at Broadway at the Beach in the heart of Myrtle Beach, although not on the ocean. There are many restaurants, shops, attractions, and live entertainment venues in this area. These inns are also close to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center and BB&T Coastal Field where the Pelicans baseball team plays.

There is a Comfort Inn in North Myrtle Beach, and Comfort Inn & Suites Beach Front Central on the ocean in Myrtle Beach. La Qunita Myrtle Beach Inn and Suites, Quality Inn by the Shore as well as Four Points Hotel (Sheraton) are all located on the beach.

Holiday Inn is well represented on the Grand Strand with a Holiday Express in Restaurant Row and three inns in Myrtle Beach, one in Surfside Beach and one in Murrells Inlet. The Holiday Inn Oceanfront Resort Hotel is a favorite with families as it is near the Myrtle Beach Pavilion and other popular attractions.

Embassy Suites Myrtle Beach at Kingston Plantation is in between North Myrtle Beach and Myrtle Beach 13 miles from the Myrtle Beach airport and near Restaurant Row. You would never know that you're in the

bustling Myrtle Beach, though. Secluded by 145 landscaped acres, every suite offers an ocean view.

### Other Places to Stay

The independent hotels are equally nice and offer the same amenities as the chains.

One of the most popular spots is the Breakers Resort Hotel & North Tower. On the beach but centrally located, this 70-year-old resort offers a 10% discount for weekly stays, AAA members and Senior Citizens. It also has organized activities for the children (in season).

Even if you do not check in at Landmark Resort, pay a visit. It is a huge complex with the 'largest resort indoor pool complex in America'. There are five whirlpools, two 300-ft. Lazy Rivers (indoors and outdoors), a huge indoor pool with a fountain in the middle of it, and, for the young ones, an Indoor Kiddy Pool, a Kiddy Fun Pool and a Kiddy Lazy River.

©

### Restaurants Insights

When it comes to food, Myrtle Beach's tastes are fairly basic. You will find a variety of restaurants, but seafood and steak prevail.

Three things you'll come across repeatedly in South Carolina restaurants are grits, hush puppies and iced tea. Grits are made from corn ground to a thick, creamy consistency and are served with butter. You won't see grits very often at any meal other than breakfast. Hush puppies are small, deep-fried balls of cornmeal, reminiscent of plain donuts. They are served in a lot of the family-style, less expensive seafood restaurants as soon as you sit down at the table. Most restaurants serve 'bottomless glasses' of iced tea all year-round, but you need to specify sweet or unsweetened.

### Seafood

Fresh shrimp, oysters, flounder and catfish caught from local waters are always available. One style of seafood you'll often see advertised is Calabash Seafood. Named for the small fishing village on the

North-South Carolina border, the four fish are usually fried and inexpensive. Capt. Bennett's Calabash Seafood in Myrtle Beach on Restaurant Row and in three other locations is popular with families. Children ages 3-5 eat for USD2.95, and children under age three eat free. Its seafood buffet offers a huge variety of fish as well as beef and poultry. Kids under age 5 eat free. The Sea Captain's House Restaurant is another award-winning restaurant worth visiting. Open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner, it offers a wonderful variety of unique fish dishes as well as poultry, steak and pork. Enjoy a wonderful meal and a beautiful ocean vista at the same time. **Steak**

South Carolinians love their steak. Almost every restaurant serves steak even though it is advertised as seafood or other type of restaurant.

When you order one of the delicious, large steaks at the very popular Carolina Roadhouse Restaurant & Bar on King's Highway in Myrtle Beach, be sure to order a salad as well. The honey mustard-hot bacon house dressing is outstanding as are the croissants, which come with it.

The Yamato Steak House of Japan cooks your food right in front of you at your Hibachi table. It offers steak, seafood and chicken and Sushi bars.

### Italian

There are quite a few Italian restaurants scattered up and down the Grand Strand. Chianti South Italian Restaurant in North Myrtle Beach has some of the best homemade pasta and an extensive award-winning wine list. Near Restaurant Row in the Galleria is Rossi's, a large Italian restaurant. Even though prices are in the average range, the food is excellent and the service superb. After dinner, you can listen to piano music in the Eighty-Eights piano bar until 2a.

### Themed Restaurants

For a truly unique experience, be sure to try Medieval Times or Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede dinner and show combinations. Be transported back to the 11th century

## Myrtle Beach Snapshot continued

at Medieval Times. This spectacular show features Andalusian Stallions, incredible horsemanship and jousting tournaments. Oh yes, and dinner is included. Dixie Stampede includes a four-course meal and an impressive show with 32 horses, trick riding, comedy, and buckboard and ostrich racing. The finale is a stirring patriotic number.

If race cars are more your speed, then the NASCAR Café is probably right up your alley. Absolutely everything is race car themed. For example, booths are called 'pits,' appetizers are called 'Qualifying Lap,' and drinks are called 'Liquid Fuel.' You get the idea. There is a race car museum on the grounds, race car go-carts, and a gift shop where you can purchase NASCAR-certified race wear. **Family and Children**

The Spring House Family Restaurant in North Myrtle Beach, Myrtle Beach and Murrells Inlet serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. It is inexpensive and has a large children's menu.

### Upscale

Myrtle Beach is a very informal place. You very rarely need to dress up in more than shorts or slacks and a t-shirt or golf shirt. That doesn't mean, though, that there are not some nice upscale restaurants where you can experience very fine dining. Examples are The Brentwood Restaurant and The Parson's Table in North Myrtle Beach, Greg Norman's Australian Grille at Barefoot Landing, and Cagney's and Thoroughbred's in Restaurant Row. Each is expensive, but the unique menus and elegant décors are worthy of a special occasion.

**Other** For the sports enthusiast, try the Overtime Sports Café in North Myrtle Beach. They have a general menu and TV screens everywhere so that you can watch more than one sport at a time. It tends to be loud as whooping and hollering fans route for their favorite teams.

The Horst Gasthaus is one of two German restaurants in Myrtle Beach. Enjoy

authentic German food and join the sing-along—when your mouth isn't full, that is. ©

### Nightlife Insights

Known as the golf capital of the United States, Myrtle Beach has over 100 golf courses of varying difficulty in the area. Golf is not the only thing to do, though. There are hundreds of other attractions for people of all ages.

### Miniature Golf

Let the 'serious' golfers hack away. If you just want to have fun and relax, there are over 25 miniature golf places in the area. Some of the more exciting are Adventure Falls Golf, Hawaiian Rumble Golf and Jurassic Golf in Myrtle Beach and Mayday Golf in North Myrtle Beach. Each has its own surprises in the form of waterfalls, mountains and monsters that spew steam and grumble and roar.

### Shopping

For golf and tennis equipment and clothes, Martin's Golf & Tennis Superstore in North Myrtle Beach and Myrtle Beach is legendary. Golf Dimensions Superstore runs a close second. It has two locations in North Myrtle Beach and Myrtle Beach.

The entirely enclosed malls in the area are Colonial Mall in North Myrtle Beach and Inlet Mall in Murrells Inlet. Shoppers need not fret, though; there are a zillion strip malls and beach stores where you can find anything and everything from ceramic artichokes to paper mache zebras.

Plan to spend an entire day each at Barefoot Landing and Broadway at the Beach. Barefoot Landing in North Myrtle Beach has over 110 specialty shops, 13 factory direct stores, 12 restaurants, carousel rides, a waterway cruise, and entertainment at the Alabama Theatre. Broadway at the Beach in the heart of Myrtle Beach covers 350 acres and has over 100 shops, 20 restaurants, 10 attractions, pedal boat rentals, an IMAX Discovery Theatre, Ripley's Aquarium, and 10 nightspots.

### Sports/Fitness

If you don't want to abandon your fitness regimen while you visit Myrtle Beach, there is a Gold's Gym and a World Gym. Little River Swim & Fitness Club in Little River offers visitor packages.

Bowling enthusiasts have Little River Lanes, the North Myrtle Beach Bowling Center, the Surfside Bowling and Billiard Center, and Waccamaw Lanes to choose from. The Myrtle Beach Pelicans baseball team, Class A affiliates of the Atlanta Braves, play at BB&T Coastal Field in Myrtle Beach. There are no bad seats and the games are a lot of fun for the whole family.

### Sun and Surf

Myrtle Beach has 60 miles of coastline from Little River down to Georgetown, most of it beautiful sandy beaches. Water sports include swimming, snorkeling, diving, boating, fishing and even surfing. There are dozen of marinas where you can rent boats and personal water craft of all descriptions, or take a scenic cruise on the ocean or on the Waccamaw or Pee Dee Rivers.

### Snakes, Alligators and Sharks, Oh My!

You don't need to be a child to experience Alligator Adventure at Barefoot Landing in North Myrtle Beach. The 15 acres of boardwalk let you walk above and through the natural habitats of over 1000 alligators, crocodiles, and tortoises. On the way, you'll see exotic birds and the reptile house, the Serpentarium.

The Myrtle Beach State Park has various programs during the year and a nature center with live snakes, turtles and marine animals, and a wildlife habitat with a butterfly garden, bird feeders and birdhouses. Huntington Beach State Park in Murrells Inlet offers daily programs on birds, alligators, snakes, whales, dolphins, salt marshes, beachcombing and crabbing.

The people mover in Ripley's Aquarium behind Broadway at the Beach carries you through a see-through tunnel while fish and sharks swim all around you. It also has the largest display of ray sharks

## Myrtle Beach Snapshot continued

on the East Coast, dive shows, marine education presentations, creatures from the Amazon rain forest, octopus, sea dragons, thousands of colorful fish, and rays and horseshoe crabs that you can touch.

### Shows

Myrtle Beach is home to some very talented entertainers and some of the best shows you'll see this side of Las Vegas. Both The Carolina Opry and The Alabama Theatre have received numerous awards for their singing, dancing, and comedy variety shows. At Legends in Concert in Surfside Beach, you'll swear that you're really seeing and hearing the real Elvis and Michael Jackson, among others. Each show features at least five tribute artists. The House of Blues at Barefoot Landing hosts some of the biggest names in country, rock, blues, and soul entertainers. Examples are Blue Oyster Cult, The Neville Brothers and Bruce Hornsby, to name a few. Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament and Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede offer exciting dinner shows.

### For the Thrill of It

When you or the kids get sick of sand in your sandwiches, head to one of the amusement or water parks. Family Kingdom Amusement Park has 30 rides and the largest all-wooden roller coast and Ferris wheel in South Carolina, a carousel, a go-kart track, bumper cars and more. The Grand Prix Family Thrill Park in North Myrtle Beach is divided up into four zones: Kids, Thrill, Race and Laser.

With the price of admission, you can spend an entire day at Family Kingdom Water Park. Try the 185-foot water flume and one of four slides or relax as you drift down the Lazy River. This water park also has separate sections for young ones and toddlers. Myrtle Waves Water Park has 30 rides over 20-acres. Its unique Racin' River's speeding current tests your skill on a skimmer board.

©

## Things to Do Insights

See Myrtle Beach and the area from land, air or sea. Whichever you prefer, there are at least a couple to choose from.

**Land** Be enveloped by a by-gone area of solitude and natural beauty as you meander through the beautiful botanical and sculpture gardens of Brookgreen Gardens. Sit and rest under one of the sprawling Spanish moss or weeping willow trees.

Opened to the public for almost 70 years, Brookgreen Gardens is a haven from the hectic pace of the beaches and other attractions of Myrtle Beach. Located on Route 17 in Murrells Inlet, it is part of a 1900-acre preserve that was once four rice plantations. New Yorkers Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington were so taken by the trees, the wildlife and the nature that they bought the former plantations with the intention of creating a place where Anna and other sculptors could showcase their creations surrounded by nature.

Three hundred acres of botanical and sculpture gardens as well as wildlife and historical exhibits are open to the public. The history of Brookgreen Gardens includes names such as 'Swamp Fox' Francis Marion, George Washington, the painter Washington Allston, Aaron Burr's daughter Theodosia Alston and Julia Peterkin, the Pulitzer Prize author.

You can also tour Atalaya, the Moorish-style winter home and studio of Anna Hyatt Huntington. Located across the street from Brookgreen Gardens in Huntington Beach State Park, the cost is free with admission to the park. During the summer, daily tours start at 2p.

For a nice change of pace, visit La Belle Amie Vineyard in Little River, the Grand Strand's only operating vineyard. The Bellamy family, who has owned the vineyard since the late 1800's, requests that you call ahead of time to arrange a tour. You can go at any time to sample wines and gourmet foods in the tasting room, visit the gift shop where you can purchase the wine and gourmet foods to accompany it,

or sip a glass of wine while you rock on the front porch.

Hear about the true history and the legends of pirates and others as you take a Carolina Safari tour in a safari-style jeep. During this is all-around tour, you will see and learn about the plantations, salt marshes, wild life habitats and more.

A surprising part of South Carolina's history is that the economy was once dependent on rice. At the Rice Museum in Georgetown, you can learn how about rice is grown and cultivated, how it became a staple of many cultures, and life on the South Carolina plantations.

**Sea** If you like boats and being on the water, Myrtle Beach is the place to visit. There are literally dozens of different tours on nearly every kind of vessel you can think of, including speedboat, canoe, kayak, tall ship, catamaran, mini-pontoon boats and bus-boat combination.

How do you go from land directly into the sea without getting into a boat? Take 'The Gator', that's how. This most unusual vessel is a combination bus-boat vehicle is used by Capt. Sandy Vermont for his aptly named Unusual Tours. Starting from Wild Water & Wheels Water Park in Surfside Beach, Capt. Vermont, a colorful character and area naturalist, provides entertaining and educational commentary on the flora and fauna of the area. For a really unusual tour, take a Ghost Story trip on a summer evening.

Glide down either the Waccamaw or the Pee Dee River in your own electric mini-pontoon boat with the River Rats. These 'ratical' half-day, full day, overnight, or two-day trips are an adventure on two of South Carolina's blackest rivers. In addition to pointing out the ecology and creatures of the rivers, the tour guides will teach you to pan fish. Fishing rods and bait are provided for traditional fishing.

If you don't want to get wet or mess up your hair, skip the Sea Thunder boat tour. This hair-raising ride starts out on the Intercoastal Waterway from North Myrtle Beach as a docile tour of Little River and

## Myrtle Beach Snapshot continued

Bird Island. But watch out when this 149-passenger, 65-foot monster gets to the Atlantic Ocean and opens up its twin-turbo charged engines! Tours leave twice a day at 1pm and 4pm.

**Air** One of the only ways to see Myrtle Beach that doesn't include the ocean is in a hot air balloon. Awesome Balloon Flights, Inc., the only ballooning company in the area, will take you floating gently on the currents above Myrtle Beach and the surrounding countryside. The balloon does not go above the ocean for safety reasons.

For a less sedate but no less thrilling ride, try a sightseeing trip in an open cockpit biplane with Classic Air Venture Biplane Rides. Imagine you and a friend side-by-side in the cockpit of a 1940 WACO UPF0-7! Be sure to bring a camera so you can take a picture of the two of you dressed in leather flying jackets, helmets and goggles.

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### Travel Tips

#### Getting There:

#### By Air:

Most airlines flying into Myrtle Beach fly into the Atlanta hub of the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport(+ 1 800 897 1910;<http://www.atlanta-airport.com/>) for connections to the Myrtle Beach International Airport(MYR)(+1 843 448-1589). Airlines that fly to Myrtle Beach include:

Airtran:(+1 800 247 8726;<http://www.airtran.com/>)

Delta Airlines:(+1 800 221 1212;<http://www.delta.com/>)

Pan Am:(+1 800 359 7262;<http://www.flypanam.com/>)

United Airlines:(+1 800 864 8331; International+1 800 538 2929;<http://www.united.com/>)

#### Taxis companies include:

D&K Taxi(+1 843 222 5858)

A-Taxi(+1 843 445 9999)

Anchor Taxi(+1 843 444 0101)

Beachside Taxi(+1 843 448 8888)

Ocean Boulevard Taxi

Carolina Forest Taxi

#### Rental Car companies include:

Avis(+1 800 831 2847;<http://www.avis.com>)

Budget(+1 800 527 0700;<http://www.budget.com>)

Hertz(+1 800 654 3131;<http://www.hertz.com>)

National(+1 800 227 7368;<http://www.nationalcar.com>)

Enterprise(+1 800 736 8227;<http://www.enterprise.com>)

#### Limousine companies include:

A&A Platinum Limousine Service(+1 843 293 7433)

A Midnight Express Limousines(+1 843 236 7910)

Ritz Limousines(+1 843 497 7288)

#### By Train:

Amtrak California(1-800-USA-RAIL;<http://www.amtrakcalifornia.com/>)

#### By Car:

U.S. Highways 17 and 501, and S.C. Highways 9 and 544, provide direct access to the Myrtle Beach area. An additional route, Veterans Highway(SC 22), opened in 2001 and provides easy access from U.S. 501(west of Conway) to U.S. 17 Business at the north end of Myrtle Beach. Interstate travelers use I-95 or I-20 to arrive within close proximity to the Grand Strand, where they pick up a direct route to the area. Once in Myrtle Beach, Ocean Blvd and Kings Hwy(also known as Business Hwy 17) run north and south along the Grand Strand parallel to the Atlantic Ocean. Highway 17 Bypass, a busy section of highway referred to by locals as simply 'the Bypass', is the Grand Strand's westernmost route running parallel to the ocean.

#### Getting Around:

The Coast RTA- Waccamaw Regional Transportation Authority;( +1 843 488 0865;<http://www.golymo.com/>)

Local bus service in Myrtle Beach is available through The Coast RTA, which offers transportation along major thoroughfares and to and from the Grand Strand and neighboring towns. Schedules are available at all Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce offices and online. The Coast RTA buses travel on 22 routes servicing the Coastal Carolina region, including Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Surfside Beach, Conway, Loris, and Aynor.

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out <http://travel.state.gov/>

### Fun Facts

#### Myrtle Beach

**State:** South Carolina

**Country:** United States

#### Myrtle Beach by the Numbers:

Population: 26,600

Elevation: 33 feet

Average Annual Rainfall: 50.4 inches

Average Jan. Temperature: 57 degrees F

Average July Temperature: 81 degrees F

#### Quick Facts:

World famous for 60 miles of beautiful beaches

Major Tourist Destination: the beaches, golf courses

Ethnic Mix: 81.16% Caucasian, 12.76% African American, 4.67% Hispanic, 1.28% Asian

Time Zone: EST

Country Dialing Code: 1

Area Code: 843

## Myrtle Beach Snapshot continued

### Did You Know?

The name of the city originated from a shrub called the wax myrtle, a common plant in the area. The first people to arrive in Myrtle Beach were a group of Spaniards from Hispaniola in 1526 who established the first European settlement 30 miles

south of the beach town called San Miguel de Cauldape; however it was abandoned one year later when the settlers returned to their homeland.

### Orientation:

Located on the Atlantic coast, east of Colombia and Sumter, the city is near

the North Carolina border. Myrtle Beach is close to the cities of Georgetown and Conway. The area is rich in Civil War history and a magnet for those interested in this vital part of Americana.

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