

Myrtle Beach Travel Guide

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Things to do in Myrtle Beach

Beaches & Coastal Areas

Myrtle Beach anchors the 60-mile **Grand Strand**, a nearly unbroken run of wide, white-sand Atlantic beaches. Public access, gentle surf, and warm water make it one of the most family-friendly beach destinations on the East Coast.



Must See

Myrtle Beach State Park

half day No Booking Needed



Map

A protected stretch of **undeveloped shoreline** south of the main tourist strip, with maritime forest trails, a fishing pier, and campground. A quieter alternative to the crowded downtown beach, popular for surf fishing and birdwatching.



Must See

Myrtle Beach Boardwalk Beach

half day No Booking Needed



Map

The classic **central beach** stretching alongside the Myrtle Beach Boardwalk, with lifeguards in summer, easy access from downtown hotels, and the SkyWheel as a landmark. Busiest and liveliest section of the Grand Strand.



Top Pick

Huntington Beach State Park

half day No Booking Needed



Map

A short drive south, this park pairs a **pristine beach** with salt marsh trails, alligator-spotting causeways, and the historic Atalaya Castle. One of the top birdwatching spots on the East Coast.

Tips for Beaches & Coastal Areas

- Public beach access points are marked along Ocean Boulevard — no need to enter through a hotel.
- Rip currents can occur; always swim near a lifeguard stand and heed flag warnings.
- Summer afternoons often bring brief thunderstorms — plan beach time for morning.



Nightlife & Entertainment

Myrtle Beach built its reputation as a **family entertainment capital**: a mile-long oceanfront boardwalk, a giant observation wheel, water parks, and mini-golf courses on nearly every block.



Must See

Myrtle Beach Boardwalk & Promenade

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **1.2-mile oceanfront boardwalk** lined with shops, arcades, ice cream stands, and street performers. The social heart of the city, especially lively at sunset and during the nightly Sweet Frog fireworks in summer.



Must See

Book Ahead

Myrtle Beach SkyWheel

30-45 minutes Book Ahead



Map

A **187-foot observation wheel** on the boardwalk offering panoramic ocean and coastline views from climate-controlled gondolas. Especially striking lit up at night or during sunset.



Must See

Broadway at the Beach

half day No Booking Needed



Map

A sprawling **lakefront entertainment complex** with shops, restaurants, mini-golf, an aquarium, and a nightlife district — effectively a self-contained resort town within Myrtle Beach.



Must See

Murrells Inlet Marshwalk

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A half-mile boardwalk hugging the salt marsh in nearby Murrells Inlet, the **Marshwalk** strings together a dozen-plus bars and restaurants with live music, raw bars, and sweeping sunset views over the water. Spots like Drunken Jack's, Dead Dog Saloon, and Wahoo's Fish House keep bands playing well into the night, and the wooden walkway makes bar-hopping easy.

It is especially popular for *watching the sun drop behind the marsh grass* with a cold drink in hand before the music picks up. Expect classic rock and country cover bands, fresh seafood, and a mix of locals and vacationers. Arrive early for a rail-side table if a big sunset crowd is expected.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach

1.5-2 hours Book Ahead



Map

A large aquarium at Broadway at the Beach with a **moving glide-path tunnel** through a shark tank, touch pools, and penguin exhibits. A reliable rainy-day option for families.





Top Pick

Fat Harold's Beach Club

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A Myrtle Beach institution since 1993, **Fat Harold's** is the spiritual home of Carolina shag dancing, the official state dance of South Carolina. The wide wooden dance floor, vintage jukebox hits, and beach music playlists draw both lifelong shaggers and curious first-timers who get pulled in for a free lesson. It sits right along Ocean Boulevard in the heart of the historic Golden Mile strip.

Expect a friendly, unpretentious crowd, cold beer, and a soundtrack of Motown and beach music classics rather than modern club hits. Weeknights often feature dance lessons, while weekends bring live bands and a packed floor. It is *the* stop for anyone wanting an authentic taste of the regions signature dance culture.



Top Pick

Bourbon Street Nightclub

2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of the largest club complexes on the Grand Strand, **Bourbon Street** packs multiple rooms and outdoor decks under one roof along Ocean Boulevard, mixing DJ sets, live bands, and karaoke across different nights. Late-night crowds gather for hip-hop and top-40 dancing, while an outdoor patio offers a breather with beach views.

The club draws a younger, energetic crowd and stays open into the early morning hours on weekends. Multiple bars mean shorter waits for drinks even at peak capacity, and rotating theme nights keep repeat visitors coming back. It is a solid pick for travelers wanting a *classic beach-town club night* rather than a quiet lounge.



Notable

Family Kingdom Amusement Park

half day No Booking Needed



Map

An **old-school oceanfront amusement park** with a wooden roller coaster (Swamp Fox, built 1966), Ferris wheel, and adjoining water park — classic boardwalk-carnival atmosphere right on the sand.



Notable

Ocean Annie's Beach Bar

1-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A beachfront tiki-style bar built right into the sand behind the Michael Beach Resort, **Ocean Annie's** is a daytime-into-evening institution known for its swim-up pool bar, live DJs, and dance parties with sand between your toes. It has operated for decades as a Myrtle Beach warm-weather tradition.

Crowds gather through the afternoon and stay for sunset, with beach games, cold frozen drinks, and open-air dancing under string lights. Its **oceanfront setting** makes it one of the more scenic nightlife spots on the Grand Strand, best enjoyed on a warm evening before the music winds down around dusk into early night.

Tips for Nightlife & Entertainment

- Buy SkyWheel and aquarium tickets online in advance to skip ticket-counter lines in peak summer.
- Broadway at the Beach parking fills up fast on weekend evenings — arrive before 5pm.
- Many mini-golf courses offer free replay if you get a hole-in-one on the final hole.
- Most bars along Ocean Boulevard and the Marshwalk have no cover charge on weeknights, but clubs often charge admission on weekends.
- The Marshwalk is best reached by car or rideshare from central Myrtle Beach, about a 15-20 minute drive south.
- Bring ID even if you are clearly over 21, as South Carolina venues check everyone at the door.
- Sunset happens earlier in fall and winter, so check the time if a marsh or beach sunset view is the goal.



Golf

Myrtle Beach is the **self-proclaimed "Golf Capital of the World"**, with roughly 80 courses in the metro area spanning championship links, oceanfront layouts, and affordable public courses.



[Top Pick](#) [Book Ahead](#)
TPC Myrtle Beach
4-5 hours [Book Ahead](#)



[Map](#)

A **Tom Fazio-designed championship course** and one of the area's most acclaimed, blending Lowcountry marshland with classic parkland design. Regularly ranked among the top public courses in South Carolina.



[Top Pick](#) [Book Ahead](#)
Caledonia Golf & Fish Club
4-5 hours [Book Ahead](#)



[Map](#)

A **Mike Strantz design** built on a former rice plantation, consistently ranked among the best courses in the U.S. Known for dramatic live-oak-lined fairways and a scenic, walkable layout.

Tips for Golf

- Book tee times well ahead for spring and fall — the shoulder seasons are peak golf demand.
- Many resorts sell multi-course golf packages that undercut booking rounds individually.
- Summer offers the cheapest rates but comes with heat and afternoon thunderstorms.



Parks & Gardens

Beyond the beach, the Grand Strand has **maritime forests, salt marshes, and river swamps** that offer a quieter, wilder side of the coast.



Notable

Myrtle Beach State Park Nature Trails

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Easy walking trails through **maritime forest** just behind the dunes, with a small nature center covering local flora and fauna. A shaded break from the beach heat.



Optional

Waccatee Zoological Farm

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A rustic, low-cost **private zoo and rescue farm** a short drive from downtown, home to alligators, bison, and exotic birds in a laid-back, walk-through setting.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Bring insect repellent for forest and marsh trails, especially in summer.
- Waccatee Zoo is cash-only at the gate.



Shopping & Markets

Myrtle Beach has some of the largest **outlet shopping centers** on the East Coast alongside beach-town boutiques and souvenir markets.



Notable

Tanger Outlets Myrtle Beach

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Two large outlet centers (Hwy 17 and Hwy 501) with **100+ brand-name stores** offering discounted apparel, shoes, and housewares — a popular rainy-day or off-beach activity.



Notable

The Market Common

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

An **open-air lifestyle center** built on a former Air Force base, with boutiques, restaurants, a lake, and green space — a more upscale, walkable shopping district than the boardwalk area.

Tips for Shopping & Markets

- Tanger Outlets' website often has printable coupon booklets for extra in-store discounts.
- The Market Common is a nice spot for an evening walk after dinner.



Christmas Market

Myrtle Beach itself has no European-style Christmas market, but the region makes up for it with dazzling holiday light displays, seasonal ice skating, and one of the South's most celebrated winter traditions just down the coast.

Families short on market stalls will find plenty of festive cheer at the area's boardwalks, gardens, and entertainment districts throughout December.



Must See Book Ahead

Nights of a Thousand Candles at Brookgreen Gardens

2-3 hours Book Ahead



Map

The undisputed highlight of the Grand Strand's holiday season, this beloved event transforms **Brookgreen Gardens** in nearby Murrells Inlet into a glowing wonderland with roughly *3,000 hand-lit candles* alongside elaborate LED displays woven through the historic live oaks and sculpture gardens. Held on select Thursday through Sunday evenings from mid-November into early January, the event also features live music, warm cider, and s'mores stations scattered along the garden paths. It regularly ranks among the top holiday light shows in the United States, and tickets sell out well in advance, so booking ahead is **essential**. Arrive at dusk to watch the candles being lit and allow at least two hours to wander the full grounds, which sit about 20 minutes south of Myrtle Beach.



Top Pick

Broadway at the Beach Holiday Lights and Ice Rink

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

This open-air entertainment complex in the heart of Myrtle Beach turns into a festive hub each December, with a towering lit Christmas tree, seasonal decorations strung across the lakefront promenade, and a temporary **outdoor ice skating rink** that draws locals and visitors alike. Shops and restaurants stay open late for holiday shopping, and the free-to-browse light displays make for an easy evening stroll even without paying for skate rentals. It is a relaxed, family-friendly way to soak up some winter atmosphere without leaving Myrtle Beach proper. Expect crowds on weekends and around Christmas week itself, so weekday evenings offer a quieter visit for photos of the lights reflected on the lake.



Notable

Barefoot Landing Holiday Lights

45-90 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Just north in North Myrtle Beach, this waterfront shopping and dining boardwalk strings thousands of lights along its lakeside walkway each winter, creating a picturesque backdrop for an evening walk. The display is free to enjoy and pairs well with dinner at one of the waterfront restaurants overlooking the lake. It is a quieter, less crowded alternative to the bigger light shows in the area, popular with locals doing their own low-key holiday tour of the Grand Strand. Visit after sunset for the full effect, and check ahead as store hours can shorten slightly in the off-season winter months.





Optional

North Myrtle Beach Christmas Parade

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Early December brings this long-running community parade through Main Street in North Myrtle Beach, complete with festive floats, marching bands, local youth groups, and of course an appearance from **Santa Claus** himself. It is a genuinely local, small-town event rather than a tourist production, giving visitors a glimpse of how the Grand Strand celebrates the season away from the resort strip. Bring a folding chair and arrive early to claim a curbside spot, since the route draws a solid crowd of families. Afterward, nearby shops and restaurants along the parade route stay busy with holiday foot traffic.

Tips for Christmas Market

- Book Nights of a Thousand Candles tickets weeks ahead, as evenings routinely sell out.
- December evenings on the coast can be chilly and windy, so bring a warm layer even though daytime highs stay mild.
- Combine Brookgreen Gardens with a stop in nearby Murrells Inlet for seafood before or after the candlelight event.
- Check exact 2026 dates and hours on each venue's official site before visiting, as holiday schedules shift year to year.



With Kids

Myrtle Beach packs in enough kid-focused entertainment to fill a week without ever touching the sand. From upside-down houses to splash-happy water slides and go-kart tracks built for little drivers, the Grand Strand's family attractions cluster mostly along Highway 17, making it easy to hop between a few in a single day.



Must See

WonderWorks

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Housed in a building that appears to have crash-landed and flipped upside down, **WonderWorks** is an indoor science museum built around more than 100 hands-on exhibits. Kids can lie on a bed of nails, take on a giant bubble challenge, experience a simulated hurricane, or test their reflexes in the sports arena. The upper level houses a laser tag arena and ropes course for an extra fee, while the main exhibit floor is included with general admission and easily fills two to three hours.

It is fully air-conditioned, making it a reliable backup plan on rainy or scorching afternoons, and the sheer novelty of the upside-down architecture makes for a fun photo before you even step inside. *Best suited* to kids roughly five and up who can engage with the interactive stations, though toddlers enjoy the bubble and light exhibits too.



Must See

Myrtle Waves Water Park

Half day (4-6 hours) No Booking Needed



Map

South Carolina's largest water park, **Myrtle Waves**, spreads across 20 acres with slides and pools graded for nearly every age. Younger kids gravitate toward Little Squirt's Cove, a gentle splash zone with mini slides, while older children and teens take on body slides, tube rides, and the wave pool. A lazy river lets the whole family float together at an easy pace.

Lounge chairs and shaded cabanas line the pool decks, and outside food is not permitted, so budget for park concessions or plan to leave and return. It gets crowded on peak summer afternoons, so arriving at opening gives shorter lines on the marquee slides. *Note:* the park typically operates seasonally from late spring through early fall, so check operating dates before visiting outside peak summer.



Top Pick

Children's Museum of South Carolina

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Aimed squarely at toddlers through early elementary kids, the **Children's Museum of South Carolina** fills two floors with themed play areas: a pretend grocery store and bank, a bubble room, a construction zone, and a toddler-only soft-play space. Staff rotate special activities and craft stations throughout the day, and the museum hosts a splash pad and outdoor play area during warmer months.

It is smaller and calmer than the boardwalk's big attractions, which makes it a good fit for younger children who get overwhelmed by crowds and noise. Strollers fit comfortably through the exhibits, and there are quiet nursing and changing facilities on site. *Plan* for a morning visit before nap time, since the museum tends to get busier by early afternoon, especially on weekends and rainy days.





Top Pick

NASCAR SpeedPark

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A go-kart complex built for families, **NASCAR SpeedPark** features seven track configurations ranging from a gentle kiddie loop to multi-level speed tracks for confident teen and adult drivers. Height requirements determine which tracks each child can ride, so families with a range of ages will likely split up across different tracks during a visit. Beyond karting, the park has an arcade, mini golf, and a small Ferris wheel-style attraction.

Tickets are typically sold as points loaded onto a card, which works out cheaper per ride than paying individually if you plan to stay a few hours. Evenings bring cooler temperatures and light displays on some tracks, making *after 5pm* a popular time to visit in summer. Closed-toe shoes are required for all racers.



Notable

Pirates Voyage Dinner & Show

2 hours Book Ahead



Map

Co-created by Dolly Parton, **Pirates Voyage** is a dinner theater built around a full-size ship in a 15-foot indoor lagoon, with acrobats, horses, and pirate stunt performers competing in a good-versus-evil storyline. A four-course meal, eaten by hand pirate-style, is served throughout the roughly two-hour show, and the sword fights, dives, and pyrotechnics keep most kids engaged from start to finish.

Seating is assigned by which pirate crew you cheer for, and arriving early lets families pick seats close to the water action. Because the show involves loud sound effects and occasional flashes, it suits children old enough to sit through a theater performance rather than toddlers. *Booking ahead* is recommended in peak summer weeks, since shows sell out on busy nights.

Tips for With Kids

- Group indoor attractions like WonderWorks and the Children's Museum for rainy-day backup plans.
- Buy water park and go-kart tickets online in advance where possible to skip ticket-counter lines.
- Bring reef-safe sunscreen and reapply often at Myrtle Waves, since much of the park has little natural shade.
- Check seasonal operating dates before visiting Myrtle Waves outside the summer months.
- Book dinner-show seats a few days ahead during peak summer weeks to avoid sellouts.



Events Calendar

Myrtle Beach keeps a lively calendar year round, from spring golf tournaments to summer beach concerts and autumn seafood festivals. Below are the recurring 2026 happenings worth planning a trip around, each with its own dates and vibe.



Must See

Sun Fun Summer Concert Series

2-3 hours per event No Booking Needed



Map

Kicking off the summer tourist season, the **Sun Fun Summer Concert Series** runs weekly from **June 5 through August 30, 2026** along the Boardwalk and at Broadway at the Beach. Expect free evening performances from tribute bands, beach music groups, and regional country acts, paired with fireworks on select Fridays. The series traces its roots back to the historic Sun Fun Festival and remains one of the most family-friendly ways to spend a warm evening. Bring a beach chair, grab dinner from a nearby boardwalk vendor, and settle in for sunset shows most weekends. Parking fills quickly near the SkyWheel, so arriving early or walking from a nearby hotel is recommended during peak weeks in July.



Must See

Book Ahead

Carolina Country Music Fest

Multi-day (4 days) Book Ahead



Map

Held right on the sand, the **Carolina Country Music Fest** returns for **June 11 to June 14, 2026**, drawing major touring country acts to a beachfront stage near the Boardwalk. Multi-day passes grant access to daytime pool parties, autograph sessions, and nighttime headline sets, while local bars host official after-parties throughout downtown. Because the festival draws visitors from across the Southeast, hotel rates spike and rooms sell out months ahead, so early booking is strongly recommended. Between sets, the beach itself becomes an extension of the festival grounds, with fans wading in the ocean during breaks. It is the single biggest music draw of the Myrtle Beach summer and a bucket-list stop for country fans.



Top Pick

Canadian-American Days Festival

Multi-day (1 week) No Booking Needed



Map

Every **March**, Myrtle Beach honors its long-standing ties to Canadian snowbirds with the **Canadian-American Days Festival**, running from roughly **March 7 to March 15, 2026**. Expect free concerts on the boardwalk, fireworks, maple-themed treats, and hockey-adjacent street events celebrating the thousands of Canadian visitors who winter in the area. Local hotels and restaurants join in with discounts and themed specials. It is a low-key, family-friendly way to bridge the end of winter and the start of the spring season, and a good excuse to stroll the *Myrtle Beach Boardwalk* before peak-season crowds arrive. Live music stages pop up near the SkyWheel, and many events are free to attend, making this an easy add-on to any early spring visit.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Myrtle Beach Bike Week

Multi-day (10 days) Book Ahead



Map

One of the biggest motorcycle rallies on the East Coast, **Myrtle Beach Bike Week** takes over the Grand Strand from roughly **May 8 to May 17, 2026**. Tens of thousands of riders converge for poker runs, custom bike shows, vendor rows, and live bands at venues up and down Ocean Boulevard. Traffic gets heavy and hotels book up fast, so reservations should be made well ahead of time if attending. Beyond the roar of engines, the event brings a festival energy with food vendors and evening concerts. Even non-riders often come out to watch the parade of custom builds. It is not for anyone seeking a quiet beach week, but it is a signature slice of Myrtle Beach culture each spring.





Top Pick Book Ahead

Myrtle Beach Seafood and Craft Beer Festival

3-4 hours Book Ahead



Map

As the crowds thin and temperatures ease, the **Myrtle Beach Seafood and Craft Beer Festival** takes over Broadway at the Beach from **October 9 to October 11, 2026**. Local restaurants set up tasting booths featuring Lowcountry classics like shrimp and grits, she-crab soup, and fresh oysters, paired with pours from regional breweries. Live music and cooking demonstrations run throughout the weekend, making it a relaxed way to sample the coast's culinary scene in one visit. Tickets typically include a tasting cup and sampling tokens, and lines are shortest during Friday's opening session. The event doubles as a soft farewell to the beach season before cooler weather sets in, with a distinctly local, unhurried feel compared to summer's bigger festivals.



Top Pick

Myrtle Beach New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Ring in 2027, the **Myrtle Beach New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop** takes place on **December 31, 2026** at the Boardwalk near the SkyWheel. A giant lighted beach ball descends at midnight above a crowd bundled in coats, followed by fireworks over the Atlantic. Live bands and DJs play through the evening, and nearby restaurants offer prix-fixe dinner specials for the occasion. Unlike bigger-city countdowns, this one keeps a small-town, oceanfront charm, with families and couples mixing along the boardwalk rail. Arrive at least an hour early to claim a good viewing spot near the water, and dress warmly since coastal winter winds can cut through a light jacket quickly.

Tips for Events Calendar

- Book hotels months ahead for Bike Week and Carolina Country Music Fest — these two events sell out the Grand Strand fastest.
- Free boardwalk concerts and festivals get crowded on weekends, so arrive early for good spots and parking.
- Check official event pages close to the date since exact 2026 schedules can shift by a few days.
- Pack layers for the December 31 Beach Ball Drop — coastal nights are colder than daytime temperatures suggest.



Hidden Gems

Beyond the boardwalk and the big-name rides, Myrtle Beach hides a quieter side worth seeking out. These spots trade crowds for salt marsh boardwalks, small museums, and memorial parks that most vacationers drive right past.



Notable

Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Tucked a few blocks from the beach in a quiet residential stretch, this small museum is one of Myrtle Beach's most overlooked cultural stops. It rotates thoughtful exhibits of **regional and contemporary art**, from Lowcountry landscapes to traveling contemporary collections, inside a bright, modern building that feels a world away from the arcade noise nearby. *Admission is free*, which makes it an easy detour on a rainy afternoon or a break from sun exposure. The museum also hosts a permanent collection tied to local history and coastal life, giving visitors context on the area beyond its resort identity. Docents are friendly and low-key, happy to point out favorite pieces without pushing a formal tour. It rarely appears on typical itineraries, so galleries are often nearly empty even during peak season, making it a genuinely peaceful counterpoint to the boardwalk crowds.



Notable

Vereen Memorial Historical Gardens

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

North of the main tourist strip, this quiet preserve sits along the Intracoastal Waterway and is easy to miss unless you already know it exists. A network of **elevated boardwalks and shaded trails** winds through maritime forest, salt marsh, and old family cemetery plots that trace back generations of local history. Interpretive signs explain the site's past as farmland and its role in coastal ecology, but the real draw is simply the stillness: herons wading in the marsh, moss-draped oaks, and boat traffic drifting by on the waterway. It is free to enter and rarely crowded, making it a favorite among locals for an early morning walk or a slow, unhurried escape from beach traffic. There are no vendors or amenities beyond a small parking area, so bring water. *Best visited in cooler morning hours* when wildlife is most active and the light through the canopy is at its softest.



Optional

Warbird Park

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A small, free memorial park in North Myrtle Beach that most vacationers never notice, Warbird Park displays a handful of **vintage military aircraft** on outdoor pedestals, including fighter jets from past conflicts, alongside plaques honoring local veterans. It sits just off the main highway, but its low profile means it rarely draws a crowd, even in the height of summer. Aviation enthusiasts and history buffs can walk right up to the planes for close inspection and photos, something not possible at larger, ticketed museums. The park doubles as a quiet green space with benches and shade trees, making it a pleasant stop to stretch your legs between beach days. *There is no admission fee and no set hours beyond daylight*, so it works well as a short, spontaneous detour. It is a modest but sincere tribute that gives visitors a glimpse of the region's military history away from the resort corridor.





Optional

Conway Riverwalk

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A short drive inland from the beach, the historic town of Conway offers a wooden **riverwalk along the Waccamaw River** that most Myrtle Beach visitors skip entirely in favor of staying on the coast. The path winds past moss-covered cypress trees, small shops, and cafes housed in restored early-1900s buildings, giving a completely different flavor of the area's culture and history. Boat tours depart from the riverwalk dock for slow cruises through blackwater swamp scenery, spotting alligators, turtles, and wading birds along the way. The town itself retains a genuine small-Southern-city feel, with a historic downtown that predates the resort development along the coast by well over a century. *Evenings bring a relaxed, uncrowded atmosphere* with restaurants overlooking the water. It makes for an easy half-day trip that pairs well with a riverboat tour for anyone wanting to see the region beyond its beaches.

Tips for Hidden Gems

- Rent a bike or scooter to string these spots together without fighting beach-town parking.
- Weekday mornings are quietest, especially at the gardens and Warbird Park.
- Pair a Conway Riverwalk visit with a blackwater swamp boat tour for the best wildlife viewing.
- The art museum is a smart backup plan for a rainy or overcast beach day.

Practical Information

Late spring (May-June) and early fall (September-October) offer the best balance of warm water, manageable crowds, and lower hotel rates. Summer (June-August) is peak season with the warmest ocean temperatures but heavy crowds, higher prices, and daily afternoon thunderstorms. Winter is mild by northern standards but too cool for swimming, with many attractions on reduced hours.

Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR) has direct flights from many East Coast and Midwest cities. The city itself is very car-dependent — most visitors rent a car or drive in, since attractions are spread along a 15+ mile strip of Highway 17 and Ocean Boulevard.

- **Coast RTA** operates local bus routes along the Grand Strand.
- Ride-share (Uber/Lyft) is widely available and often the easiest way to reach the boardwalk from hotels.
- Trolley/beach shuttle services run seasonally along Ocean Boulevard in the main tourist district.

➔ Airport Transfer

Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR) to city center:

- **Taxi:** About 10 minutes to the Boardwalk area, flat rate around \$15 to \$20
- **Rideshare (Uber/Lyft):** Roughly 10 to 15 minutes to most oceanfront hotels, typically \$12 to \$18
- **Hotel shuttle:** Many resorts offer free or low-cost pre-arranged pickup, usually 15 to 20 minutes to check-in
- **Rental car:** All major agencies on site, with the Boardwalk about 10 minutes away via US-17

Best buys include beachwear, saltwater taffy, and pecan/praline candies from boardwalk shops. **Tanger Outlets** and **The Market Common** are the main retail hubs. Prices are fixed — bargaining is not customary in the U.S.

- **Sun Fun Festival** (June) – kickoff to summer with concerts and beach events
- **Fourth of July** – major fireworks along the boardwalk
- **Bike Week / Harley-Davidson Rally** (May) – large motorcycle rally drawing thousands
- **Myrtle Beach Marathon** (February)
- **World Famous Blue Crab Festival** (May, Little River)



Day 1 - Boardwalk & Beach

Morning on the beach near the boardwalk, lunch on the promenade, afternoon rides on the SkyWheel, evening stroll along the Boardwalk with dinner and street performers.

Day 2 - Broadway at the Beach

Full day at Broadway at the Beach: Ripley's Aquarium in the morning, lunch lakeside, shopping and mini-golf in the afternoon, dinner and nightlife in the evening.

Day 3 - Golf & Relax

Morning round of golf at one of the championship courses, afternoon poolside or spa at your resort, sunset dinner overlooking the ocean.

Day 4 - Nature & State Parks

Morning at Myrtle Beach State Park (beach + nature trails), afternoon drive south to Huntington Beach State Park for birdwatching and Atalaya Castle, evening at Murrells Inlet MarshWalk for seafood.

Day 5 - Outlets & Market Common

Morning shopping at Tanger Outlets, afternoon at The Market Common, evening back at the boardwalk for fireworks (in-season) and final beach sunset.

- **SkyWheel at sunset** – golden light over the Atlantic, best about an hour before sunset
- **Myrtle Beach Boardwalk** at dusk when the lights come on
- **Springmaid Pier** – classic pier silhouette at sunrise
- **Atalaya Castle** at Huntington Beach State Park – historic Spanish-style ruins against dunes
- **Murrells Inlet MarshWalk** at sunset for marsh and boat reflections

Standard U.S. electricity: **120V, 60Hz**, Type A/B plugs (flat two- or three-pin). International visitors from 220-240V countries will need a voltage converter for non-dual-voltage devices, and a plug adapter.

Myrtle Beach is known for its **Calabash-style seafood** — lightly breaded and flash-fried shrimp, flounder, and oysters, named after nearby Calabash, NC. Don't miss:

- **All-you-can-eat seafood buffets**, a Grand Strand institution
- **Shrimp and grits**, a Lowcountry classic
- **She-crab soup**
- Fresh catch at the **Murrells Inlet MarshWalk** restaurants
- Boardwalk staples: funnel cake, saltwater taffy, and soft-serve ice cream

Tourist Passes

SkyWheel + Attractions Combo Tickets

Bundled tickets combining the **SkyWheel** with Ripley's attractions (aquarium, wax museum) at Broadway at the Beach — cheaper than buying each admission separately for families visiting multiple sites.



www.myrtlebeachskywheel.com



Where to Stay in Myrtle Beach

Near the main boardwalk and downtown strip suits first-time visitors and nightlife seekers who want restaurants, arcades, live music, and the SkyWheel within walking distance, though summer crowds and traffic are heaviest here.

North Myrtle Beach and the northern shore is a better fit for **families**, offering quieter beaches, more spacious resort and condo layouts, and easier parking, while still being a short drive from the main attractions.

The **Market Common area** south of the boardwalk appeals to travelers who want a walkable, upscale mix of shops, restaurants, and green space away from the busiest tourist zone, and works well for couples or **business travelers** attending events nearby.

For **budget travelers**, motels and older condo buildings set back a block or two from the oceanfront, especially south of the main strip, offer lower rates while remaining a short walk or drive from the beach.

Myrtle Beach Travel Budget

Myrtle Beach is one of the more affordable US coastal destinations, with daily costs varying widely between the Grand Strand's budget motels and its oceanfront resorts.

- **Budget (about \$110-160/day):** A motel or basic hotel room away from the oceanfront runs \$70-100/night. Meals at pancake houses, seafood shacks, and boardwalk stands cost \$35-45/day. Getting around by Coast RTA bus or on foot along the boardwalk costs \$10-15/day, and free beach time plus a round of mini-golf adds \$20-30.
- **Mid-range (about \$290-395/day):** A 3-star oceanfront hotel or condo costs \$150-220/night. Casual sit-down seafood restaurants and a Calabash-style dinner run \$60-85/day. A rental car or rideshare covers local transport for \$20-30, and attractions like the SkyWheel, Family Kingdom Water Park, or a dolphin-watching cruise add \$60-90.
- **Luxury (about \$620-1,000+/day):** Beachfront resort suites average \$300-500+/night. Fine dining on Ocean Boulevard and steakhouse dinners run \$120-180/day. Private car service or premium rideshare costs \$50-70, while splurges such as a helicopter tour, private fishing charter, or spa day add \$150-250.

Is Myrtle Beach Worth Visiting?

Yes — Myrtle Beach delivers an easy, all-in-one coastal vacation, with 60 miles of golden Atlantic shoreline anchoring a stretch of South Carolina built entirely around visitors.

- **Beach access for everyone:** wide, flat sand and gentle waves make the coastline forgiving for families with young kids, not just experienced swimmers.
- **Boardwalk and entertainment density:** the oceanfront boardwalk, SkyWheel, arcades, and mini-golf courses cluster within walking distance, so a full day of activities needs no car.
- **Golf without the splurge:** the Grand Strand's championship courses are priced and packaged for casual players, not just serious golfers, making a round accessible on almost any trip.

It suits travelers who want a low-effort, high-fun beach trip over a quiet or secluded escape; those seeking untouched nature or a slower pace may prefer a smaller coastal town instead.

