

myrtle beach stay and play guide

Myrtle Beach Stay and Play Guide

Myrtle Beach, a jewel on the South Carolina coast, is renowned for its stunning beaches, vibrant nightlife, and a plethora of activities that cater to all ages. Whether you're planning a family vacation, a romantic getaway, or a solo adventure, this guide will help you navigate the best accommodations, activities, and dining options in Myrtle Beach. Here, we'll delve into the essentials you need to make the most of your stay and play experience.

Where to Stay in Myrtle Beach

Myrtle Beach offers a wide variety of accommodations to fit every budget and preference. From luxurious resorts to cozy beachfront motels, you'll find the perfect place to call home during your visit.

Resorts and Hotels

1. **Marriott Myrtle Beach Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes:** This upscale hotel features oceanfront views, a full-service spa, and direct beach access, making it a top choice for luxury seekers.
2. **Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort:** Located in the heart of the Grand Strand, this resort offers a variety of amenities, including pools, dining options, and easy access to the beach.
3. **Ocean Reef Resort:** Known for its family-friendly atmosphere, the Ocean Reef features water slides, lazy rivers, and multiple dining options, making it a hit with kids and adults alike.
4. **The Caravelle Resort:** This resort is perfect for budget-conscious travelers, offering comfortable accommodations without sacrificing access to beach fun.

Vacation Rentals

For those who prefer a home-away-from-home experience, consider renting a beach house or condo. Websites like Airbnb and Vrbo offer a plethora of options, from beachfront properties to charming inland retreats.

Benefits of Vacation Rentals:

- More space for families or groups
- Kitchen facilities for self-catering
- Local neighborhood experience

Top Activities in Myrtle Beach

Myrtle Beach is brimming with activities that cater to all interests. Whether you're a nature lover, thrill-seeker, or history buff, there's something for everyone.

Beach Activities

1. **Swimming and Sunbathing:** The main draw of Myrtle Beach is its 60 miles of sandy shores. Enjoy a day soaking up the sun or taking a dip in the Atlantic Ocean.
2. **Water Sports:** Try your hand at jet skiing, parasailing, or paddleboarding. Rentals are available along the beach, making it easy to get started.
3. **Beach Volleyball:** Many beach access points have volleyball nets set up. Join a game or start one with friends!

Attractions and Entertainment

1. **Broadway at the Beach:** This entertainment complex features shopping, dining, and attractions like Ripley's Aquarium and WonderWorks.
2. **Myrtle Beach SkyWheel:** Take a ride on this iconic Ferris wheel for stunning aerial views of the beach and surrounding areas.
3. **Family Kingdom Amusement Park:** A classic seaside amusement park, Family Kingdom offers rides and games for all ages.
4. **Tanger Outlets:** Shop for deals at these popular outlet malls featuring a variety of brand-name stores.

Outdoor Adventures

1. **Golfing:** Myrtle Beach is known as the "Golf Capital of the World." With over 100 golf courses, you can find courses for every skill level.
2. **Fishing:** Whether you prefer deep-sea fishing or pier fishing, Myrtle Beach offers numerous options for fishing enthusiasts.
3. **Nature Trails:** Explore the natural beauty of the area through hiking and biking trails at places like Myrtle Beach State Park and Huntington Beach State Park.

Dining Options in Myrtle Beach

Myrtle Beach's dining scene is as diverse as its activities. From fresh seafood to international cuisine, you'll find an array of options to satisfy your taste buds.

Seafood Restaurants

1. Sea Captain's House: This oceanfront restaurant is famous for its fresh seafood and stunning views. Don't miss their shrimp and grits!
2. Crab House: Known for its laid-back atmosphere, Crab House offers a variety of crab dishes and other seafood favorites.
3. Mickey's Seafood: A local gem, Mickey's is praised for its fresh catch and casual vibe. Be sure to try their fish tacos!

Family-Friendly Dining

1. Damon's Grill: This family-friendly restaurant features a fun atmosphere, a diverse menu, and waterfront views.
2. Johnny Rockets: Enjoy classic American diner food in a retro setting, perfect for families with kids.
3. Pizza Ranch: For those craving pizza, this restaurant offers a variety of pizzas and a fun, casual dining experience.

Fine Dining

1. Aspen Grille: This upscale steakhouse is perfect for a special night out. Their menu features prime cuts and local ingredients.
2. The Melting Pot: Experience the unique dining experience of fondue in a romantic setting, ideal for couples.
3. Collective Coffee: For a more relaxed atmosphere, visit this artisanal coffee shop that also serves light bites and pastries.

Nightlife in Myrtle Beach

When the sun sets, Myrtle Beach comes alive with a vibrant nightlife scene. From lively bars to family-friendly shows, there's no shortage of evening entertainment.

Bars and Clubs

1. The Bowery: A historic bar and live music venue, The Bowery is known for its country music scene and friendly atmosphere.
2. Margaritaville: Inspired by Jimmy Buffett's music, this Caribbean-themed restaurant and bar is a great place to enjoy drinks and live entertainment.
3. Ocean Annie's Beach Bar: Located right on the beach, enjoy live music and tropical drinks while watching the waves.

Shows and Entertainment

1. Alabama Theatre: Catch a live performance featuring music, dance, and comedy at this renowned venue.
2. Carolina Opry: Known for its award-winning shows, the Carolina Opry offers a unique blend of music and comedy.
3. Pirates Voyage Dinner & Show: Enjoy a thrilling pirate-themed dinner show that's perfect for families.

Tips for Your Myrtle Beach Vacation

- Plan Ahead: Book accommodations and dining reservations in advance, especially during peak season.
- Check the Weather: Be prepared for changing weather conditions, and pack accordingly.
- Stay Hydrated: The beach can be hot, so drink plenty of water, especially if you're spending all day in the sun.
- Arrive Early: Popular attractions can get crowded, so arriving early can help you beat the rush.
- Explore Off the Beaten Path: While Myrtle Beach has many popular spots, don't hesitate to explore lesser-known attractions and local favorites.

Conclusion

Myrtle Beach is a fantastic destination that offers a little something for everyone. With its beautiful beaches, a wide array of activities, and delicious dining options, you can create unforgettable memories during your stay. Whether you're playing in the surf, exploring local attractions, or enjoying a night out, this guide should help you make the most of your Myrtle Beach adventure. Happy travels!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the best resorts in Myrtle Beach for a stay and play experience?

Some of the best resorts in Myrtle Beach for a stay and play experience include the Marina Inn at Grande Dunes, Ocean 22 by Hilton, and the Dunes Village Resort, all of which offer amenities like golf packages, pools, and beachfront access.

What are the top golf courses in Myrtle Beach for visitors?

Top golf courses in Myrtle Beach include the Dunes Golf and Beach Club, Tidewater Golf Club, and Pine Lakes Country Club, each offering unique challenges and beautiful scenery for golfers of all skill levels.

What activities are available for families in Myrtle Beach?

Families can enjoy activities such as visiting the Myrtle Beach Boardwalk, exploring Ripley's Aquarium, spending the day at Family Kingdom Amusement Park, and enjoying mini-golf at one of the many themed courses.

When is the best time to visit Myrtle Beach for a stay and play vacation?

The best time to visit Myrtle Beach for a stay and play vacation is during the spring (March to May) and fall (September to November) when the weather is pleasant, and crowds are smaller compared to the summer peak season.

Are there any all-inclusive options for staying and playing in Myrtle Beach?

While Myrtle Beach does not have traditional all-inclusive resorts, many hotels and resorts offer packages that include meals, golf rounds, and other activities, providing a similar experience.

What dining options are recommended for a stay and play trip in Myrtle Beach?

Recommended dining options include seafood at The Sea Captain's House, Southern cuisine at Paula Deen's Family Kitchen, and casual bites at the Myrtle Beach SkyWheel's SkyBar, catering to a variety of tastes and budgets.

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