

Family fun in the sun

Endless opportunities to play

The Myrtle Beach area has been long renowned for its numerous attractions and activities for every interest. Whether your preferences include riding a roller coaster, zooming around a racetrack, hitting a golf ball, observing wildlife and nature, or chilling out on the beach or at a water park, the Myrtle Beach area provides a ticket to fun for everyone in the family, young and old. Here is a list of just some of the not-to-miss attractions:

Adventure and discover

Backstage Mirror Maze

A mirror and laser maze attraction with a theme based on actual bank robberies in New York in the 1930s opened in April 2012 at Broadway at the Beach. Backstage Mirror Maze and the Vault Laser Maze are in a 2,500 square foot space next to Landry's Seafood House. The attraction is based on an attempted robbery of a bank in New York's Times Square in the 1930s and customers will have to find their way through the maze like the robbers had to go through the backstage of theaters as they tried to escape. For more information, visit www.backstagemirrormaze.com.

Cherry Grove Beach Pier

Fishing enthusiasts visiting Myrtle Beach will find Cherry Grove Beach Pier as the first stop on their tour. Regulars who come to the 985-foot long pier can boast that one of the Grand Strand's biggest catches – a 1,780-pound tiger shark – was nabbed right here. If fishing isn't your thing, the pier's two-tier deck offers spectacular views of the nearby Atlantic. There's also a pier house that offers snacks and shopping. For more information, call (843) 249-1625.

Children's Museum of South Carolina

Have you ever stood inside a bubble? Or taken a ride in a magic school bus? The Children's Museum of South Carolina delivers the magic of discovery, and the fun of interactive learning. A great place for children and multi-generational families, the museum provides an environment where everyone is encouraged to touch, explore and play. For additional information, call (843) 946-9469, or visit CMSCKids.org.

Dragon's Lair Fantasy Golf

How many miniature golf courses can boast of a 30-foot, fire-breathing dragon? That's just what you'll find, and a whole lot more, at Dragon's Lair Fantasy Golf at Broadway at the Beach. Test your putt-putt skills while wandering through caves and castles. It's guaranteed fun for the whole family. For more information, call (843) 913-9301.

Fireworks Displays

What better way to spend a summer evening than gathering the family together for a dazzling light show in the sky? Throughout the summer months, the Myrtle Beach area plays host two weekly fireworks shows. Barefoot Landing sets theirs off on Mondays at 10:15 p.m., Broadway at the Beach on Tuesdays at 10 p.m., and Second Avenue Pier on Wednesdays at 10 p.m. So grab a blanket or a chair and enjoy the show!

The Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum

Myrtle Beach's area art museum is dedicated to being one of the finest visual arts museums in the Carolinas. Housed in the Springmaid Villa, the museum first opened its doors to the public in 1997. For budding young artists, the museum offers its Summer Art Adventures program for children, which runs from June through August. For more information, call (843) 238-2510 or go to www.myrtlebeachartmuseum.org.



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Helicopter Tours

There's nothing quite like a view from above. Take the family on a helicopter ride, and enjoy the sights of the Grand Strand from a few thousand feet in the air. You'll truly have the best seat in the house when you sign up with a tour from such companies as Helicopter Adventures. The sky's definitely the limit!

Hollywood Wax Museum

A new two-story Hollywood Wax Museum attraction opened in early summer 2014 at the former NASCAR Café location in Myrtle Beach. Visitors can take a tour through Hollywood and view many of its stars past and present. The Hollywood Wax Museum is the only museum in the country devoted entirely to celebrity figures. For more information, visit www.hollywoodwaxmuseum.com/myrtle-beach

Jungle Lagoon Miniature Golf

This isn't your ordinary miniature golf course. Jungle Lagoon offers two 18-hole courses to help hone your putting skills. As you're playing, take the time to admire the lush tropical greenery, waterfalls, caves and life-like animals. You'll also be treated to a panoramic view of Myrtle Beach from the course's lookout. For more information, call (843) 626-7894.

Long Bay Symphony

The Grand Strand's professional symphony continues making beautiful music. The group performs symphonies, chamber orchestras and pops concerts throughout the year. Additionally, they remain focused on educational opportunities such as the Long Bay Symphony Youth Orchestra and Musicians in the Schools. For more information, call (843) 448-8379 or go to www.longbaysymphony.com.

The Lowcountry Zoo at Brookgreen Gardens

The Lowcountry Zoo at Brookgreen Gardens is the only zoo on the coast of North and South Carolina that is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums - America's most respected organization for zoos and aquariums. The zoo features a collection of animals native to the woods, swamps and waters of the Lowcountry, along with domestic animals of the plantation and cypress aviary. The zoo's reflection of its native environment provides visitors with an experience that is truly unique. For more information, please visit www.brookgreen.org.

Music Destinations

Whatever your taste in music, you're sure to get your fill along the Grand Strand. In the summer months, a number of local venues play host to an eclectic variety of musical offerings. The Boathouse's free summer concert series is every Sunday afternoon during peak season and has featured such acts as Coolio and Saliva; Hot Summer Nights at Myrtle Beach's Plyler Park are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays through August and bring together a string of local talent; the Rivertown Bluegrass Society will entertain the masses the third Saturday of the month at Horry-Georgetown Technical College's Burroughs and Chapin Auditorium; North Myrtle Beach's Music on Main Summer Concert Series can be enjoyed every Thursday, while their Summer Concert Series is the third Friday of the month from May through September at the North Myrtle Beach Park and Sports Complex; and music lovers will enjoy Sunday Celebrations along the Myrtle Beach Boardwalk.

Myrtle Beach Pelicans

Take me out to the ballgame! After a seven-year absence, baseball returned to the Grand Strand in 1999 in the form of the Class-A Advanced Myrtle Beach Pelicans. The 2015 season is their inaugural season to be affiliated with the Chicago Cubs. A trip to Myrtle Beach's own "Field of Dreams" is the perfect summertime activity for the whole family. Get your tickets and come out to see mascot Splash and the entire team as they take the field. For more information, go to www.milb.com.



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Pier 14

Located in the heart of Myrtle Beach, just next door to the world-famous SkyWheel, Pier 14 offers amazing scenery, great fishing and a fantastic restaurant that bears the same name with a menu consisting mainly of seafood options. There's also a little shop offering a full line of sports accessories and other gifts. Fishing passes and rentals are good for the whole day, so you can leave and return at your leisure. For more information, call (843) 448-6500.

Ripley's Aquarium at Broadway at the Beach

Sharks, jellyfish, stingrays and exotic fish are just a few of the creatures you'll encounter at Ripley's Aquarium. Among the aquarium's must-see exhibits is the "Dangerous Reef," where visitors can glide along a 340-foot moving path and come face-to-face with giant stingrays, a green sea turtle and lot and lots of sharks. In the summer of 2015, the aquarium opened its new "Planet Jellies" exhibit. Other Ripley's attractions on the Grand Strand include Ripley's Haunted Adventure, Ripley's Moving Theater and Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum. For additional information, call (800) 734-8888, or visit www.RipleysAquarium.com.

Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum

Featuring more than 500 unusual and macabre exhibits, Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum will stimulate the mind and senses, from a roller coaster made of matchsticks to vampire skulls! Even the outside of the building will boggle travelers' minds as it is designed to look like a hurricane-ravaged building about to fall to pieces. For more information please visit www.ripleys.com/myrtlebeach or call (800) 734-8888.

Ripley's Haunted Adventure

For those brave enough to enter, Ripley's Haunted Adventure takes visitors on a tour of the old Grimsby & Streaper Casket Company. The company was originally run by two men from 1891 until they mysteriously disappeared one fateful day. Legend has it that the disappearances and odd happenings about town were blamed on the fact that the company was built over a cave called The Sink- where many entered but never returned. For more information please visit www.ripleys.com/myrtlebeach or call (800) 734-8888.

Ripley's Marvelous Mirror Maze

Ripley's Marvelous Mirror Maze puts a new spin on the traditional house of mirrors. The walk-through attraction features hundreds of floor-to-ceiling mirrors that create nearly 2,000 square feet of mirrored paths, corners and dead ends. With multiple pathways throughout the maze, visitors can experience something new each time. For more information, please visit www.ripleys.com/myrtlebeach or call (800) 734-8888.

Ripley's 4D Moving Theatre

Experience film like never before! Ripley's 4D Moving Theater system combines a high impact 70 mm film experience with computer controlled hydraulic seats that move in sync with the action taking place on the screen. The dynamic surround sound system and extra large screen bring the ride to life – making viewers feel like they are a part of the picture. For more information, please visit www.ripleys.com/myrtlebeach or call (800)734-8888.

Second Avenue Pier

Whether it's fishing, spending time with the family or enjoying a relaxing cocktail against an ocean backdrop, Second Avenue Pier has you covered. Built in 1936, this 906-foot-long pier offers an oceanfront bar and restaurant, as well as gift and tackle shops. During the peak of the summer season, the pier even offers a fireworks show Wednesday nights at 10 p.m. And for guests of the Lighthouse Motel, fishing is free and the restaurant offers 10 percent off your bill. For more information, call (843) 445-7437 or go to www.secondavenuepier.com.

A wide-angle photograph of a sandy beach with waves breaking in the distance. Two people are walking on the beach, their reflections visible in the shallow water. The sky is clear and blue.

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SkyWheel Myrtle Beach

The SkyWheel Myrtle Beach opened in 2011, adding to the newly renovated Myrtle Beach Boardwalk and Promenade. The giant attraction stands at 196 feet (60 meters) and 18 stories high and span two ocean front lots along Ocean Boulevard, on the north side of Plyler Park. It includes 42 glass-enclosed, temperature-controlled gondolas manufactured in Switzerland that can hold six people. The SkyWheel Myrtle Beach's launch included a full service Jimmy Buffett's Landshark Bar and Grill restaurant, observation deck overlooking the ocean and gift shop. The SkyWheel Myrtle Beach also incorporates a complete light show in the evening. This family-friendly attraction is an iconic staple for Myrtle Beach. The SkyWheel Myrtle Beach is owned by Myrtle Beach SkyWheel, LLC, a joint venture between Koch Development Co. and Pacific Development, both of St. Louis, Missouri. For more information, visit www.themyrtlebeachskywheel.com.

Springmaid Pier

At 1,060-feet long and 36-feet wide, this is Myrtle Beach's biggest pier. And it's also the most popular. Locals have voted it "Best Of The Beach" and "Best Pier For Fishing." In 2012, it made MyrtleBeach.com's Top 20 for "101 Don't Miss Things To Do In Myrtle Beach. After reeling in that big catch, enjoy a meal and a drink at BARNacles Bar and Grill. For souvenir enthusiasts, the Fish Tales General Store should be the place to find what you're looking for. For more information, call (843) 315-7156 or go to www.springmaidbeach.com.

WonderWorks Science Center

WonderWorks – a hands-on science attraction – opened in Myrtle Beach in 2011. The attraction is housed at family favorite Broadway at the Beach, and includes peculiar yet whimsical sights such as an upside-down building, a volcano, a lighthouse, and an Egyptian pyramid. In summer 2015, WonderWorks opened a new forensic science exhibit. WonderWorks has four other locations in Orlando, Pigeon Forge, Tenn., Panama City, Fla., and at the Meadowlands Xanadu in New Jersey. The Myrtle Beach site is one of the largest, with about 35,000 to 40,000 square feet of attractions that allow people to feel what it's like to be in an earthquake and hurricane, fly a NASA space shuttle or fighter jet, or ride a virtual rollercoaster. WonderWorks also features two outdoor adventures: the zipline, taking participants 50 feet above water on a course that travels 1,000 feet between towers; and the pirate-themed ropes course, standing a staggering 40 feet tall and spanning three levels. For more information, visit www.wonderworksonline.com.

Thrill seekers wanted

Broadway Grand Prix

This 26-acre race-themed amusement park is an officially licensed property of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing. Guests can experience the excitement of NASCAR on challenging racetracks, a state-of-the-art interactive arcade, two 18-hole themed miniature golf courses, kiddie rides, a souvenir shop and a snack bar. For additional information, call (843) 918-TRAK, or visit NASCARSpeedPark.com.

Family Kingdom Amusement Park & Splashes Oceanfront Water Park

This family-oriented park is the home of the legendary all-wooden roller coaster, the Swamp Fox, along with a state-of-the-art log flume, an interactive laser dark ride called The Pistolero, and the 110-foot Slingshot. Among the park's 33 other rides and attractions is a section called Kiddie Land with 18 rides for young children (including toddlers), and the Grand Stand's only oceanfront water park. New for 2013 the park will see the opening of a new steel roller coaster and three additional rides. For additional information, call (843) 626-3447, or visit Family-Kingdom.com.

Go Ape Treetop Adventure

Set within the North Myrtle Beach Park and Sports Complex, Go Ape includes five ziplines, with two taking you across a 25-acre blue lake on the southeast side of the park. The views are simply stunning! Attendees will also find rope ladders, 40 exciting crossings and two Tarzan swings. For additional information, call (800) 971-8271.



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Myrtle Waves Water Park

South Carolina's largest water park offers 20 acres of themed attractions and more than one million gallons of water. There is also a giant wave pool, lazy river and interactive Saturation Station, along with concessions, volleyball, group facilities, and more. For additional information, call (843) 913-9269, or visit MyrtleWaves.com.

Myrtle Beach Adrenaline Zipline Adventures

This zipline adventure course opened in May 2012 where the former Pavilion Amusement park stood between 8th and 9th Avenues on Ocean Blvd. The former Pavilion site's theme is a "Carolina Beach-shabby-shack" theme. For more information, visit www.mbziplines.com.

NASCAR Racing Experience

Located at the Myrtle Beach Speedway, NASCAR race fans can drive a real NASCAR race car. Following the drivers meeting with a Crew Chief, get a taste of what it's like to drive a real NASCAR Race Car that's been driven by NASCAR drivers like Dale Jr., Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon and many other NASCAR favorites. Timed racing sessions are offered with number of laps varying depending on your driving ability. Get up to 8-10 laps of driving in the Fan Favorite to the Extraordinary Experience with (4) 8 minute timed racing sessions, up to 40 laps of driving. There's no lead car to follow and no instructor riding with you. For more information, call 1-877-RACE-LAP or visit <http://www.nascarracingexperience.com/myrtlebeach>.

Radical Ropes Adventure Park

Step out of your comfort zone and experience excitement from up on high! This exciting addition to the heart of Myrtle Beach offers thrillseekers three high ropes courses stretching up to 55 feet high! Extreme is the optimum word here. This is family fun taken to another level. For more information, call (843) 723-4225.

Soar and Explore

Those with a fear of heights need not apply! This exciting new addition to Broadway at the Beach is a 1,000- foot zipline that takes sends adventurers soaring 50 feet over water. There's also a pirates-themed ropes course that stands 40-feet tall and spans three levels. This course offers 33 different challenges and 3,000 ropes and cables. For more information, call (843) 626-9962.

Water Sports

The wonders of the deep, blue sea can be experienced up close and personal. Spend some time with the marine life of the Atlantic when you and your friends and family use one of the Grand Strand's many scuba diving companies. Or, float several feet above the ocean while parasailing. Organizations like Express Water Sports will ensure you make an under- or above-the-sea memory that will last a lifetime. For more information, go to www.expresswatersports.com.

Wild Water and Wheels Theme Park

This 16-acre park is packed with more than 33 exciting rides, including high-speed flumes, waterfalls, a wave pool, Adventure River Ride, kiddie slides and many other high-energy attractions. There's also miniature golf, a video arcade, food court, picnic facilities and a separate racetrack complex with rides for all ages. For additional information, call (843) 238-3787, or visit Wild-Water.com.

For additional information on the Myrtle Beach area, visit www.VisitMyrtleBeach.com or call 1.888.Myrtle1.