

Naturally yours

Outdoor experiences make the Myrtle Beach area a lush and green Grand Strand

The Myrtle Beach, South Carolina area is home to some of the most bountiful natural beauty in the United States; add its temperate climate and you've got a recipe for outdoor attractions that are easily enjoyed by visitors year-round. From bird-watching in the state parks, to strolling through Brookgreen Gardens or the Murrells Inlet MarshWalk, there is much to discover and appreciate in the Myrtle Beach area's great outdoors.

Barefoot Princess Riverboat

As the Grand Strand's only tour and dinner riverboat, the Barefoot Princess gives participants a unique sight-seeing and dining experience along the Intracoastal Waterway. Sailing out of Barefoot Landing Marina in North Myrtle Beach, the Barefoot Princess Riverboat is available for sightseeing, sunset and dinner voyages throughout the week. Group rates are available. For more information, call (843) 272-6796 or go to www.mbriverboat.com.

Brookgreen Gardens

Considered the finest outdoor presentation of American figurative sculpture in the world, Brookgreen Gardens was created in the early 1930s by Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington on the site of four former rice plantations. Brookgreen Gardens is home to more than 900 works (550 currently displayed) by 300 of the greatest names in American sculpture, past and present. In addition to the Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington Sculpture Garden, visitors can explore the Lowcountry History and Wildlife Preserve, containing acre upon acre of native plants and animals, and the E. Craig Wall Jr. Lowcountry Center, featuring exhibits and educational programs focusing on the area's rich history. Guests can visit varied ecosystems and historic sites via boat or overland aboard Springfield tidal creek excursions and Trekker back-roads excursions. For more information, call (843) 235-6000, or visit www.Brookgreen.com.

Carolina Backwoods ATV Adventure Tours

"Down n' Dirty" or "High n' Dry." Those are the options when visiting Carolina Backwoods ATV Adventure Tours. Situated on the North and South Carolina state line, this private park offers ATV trail tours for the Wilmington, Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach areas. Also available are a limited number of camping sites and a fishing pond. For more information, call (843) 655-3118.

Carolina Safari Jeep Tours

This ecotourism adventure has it all – history, nature, ecology, wildlife and ghostlore – in one trip. Myrtle Beach's rich, natural beauty is the setting for an amazing look at the lowcountry's history, from driving down an oak alley to a former plantation homesite and rice fields planted 300 years ago to barrier island summer homes on "the oldest resort in America." You'll also experience wildlife like alligators and different bird species along the Atlantic Flyway and visit a "haunted," moss shrouded graveyard on the banks of the Waccamaw River. There's even tales of pirates. The three-and-a-half-hour tour takes place within a Jeep that seats up to 14 passengers. For more information visit www.carolinasafari.com.



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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.

Conway Riverwalk

Situated in downtown Conway, SC, the Riverwalk is a fresh boardwalk that winds along the beautiful banks of the Waccamaw River – once called “the boldest river in South Carolina. Visitors to the Riverwalk can partake in a number of activities from canoeing to pontoon and fishing boat rentals. Guided expeditions and walks are also available. For those who opt to simply take a relaxing stroll, there are riverfront dining options or visitors can even pack a picnic from one of the neighboring eateries on Main St. For more information call (843) 248-1700.

Hobcaw Barony

Hobcaw Barony is a 17,500-acre wildlife refuge on the southern end of the Grand Strand on 14 former rice plantations. Its current use - aside from day-tripper visits to its interesting and remote trails - is for the purposes of teaching and/or research in forestry, marine biology, and the care and propagation of wildlife, flora and fauna in connection with colleges and/or universities in the state of South Carolina. Tours are offered throughout the year as well as of the 1930 mansion of Wall Street financier Bernard Baruch who bought the property in 1905. Bernard was a stockbroker, millionaire and advisor to seven presidents some of which visit the family at Hobcaw Barony. A reconstruction era village is also an intact feature of the property. For more information, call (843) 546-4623 or visit www.hobcawbarony.org.

Hopsewee Plantation

Hopsewee Plantation is a South Carolina National Historic Landmark built in 1740 nearly 40 years before the Revolutionary War and once home of Thomas Lynch Jr, signer of the Declaration of Independence. The property is located on the North Santee River and has beautifully landscaped grounds and wooded nature trails. Visitors can tour both the main house and the grounds on weekdays (Monday – Friday) or by appointment. For more information, call (843) 546-7891, or visit www.hopsewee.com

Huntington Beach State Park and Atalaya

Huntington Beach State Park boasts a lagoon, maritime forest, salt marshes and three miles of the most well-preserved beach on the Grand Strand. The lush park environment provides prime habitats for wildlife including alligators and more than 300 recorded species of birds. The park is also home to Atalaya, the former winter home of prominent American sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington, whose works are displayed at Brookgreen Gardens. Other park amenities include a campground, education center, boardwalks and nature trails. For more information, call (843) 237-4440 or visit www.huntingtonbeachsc.org.



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Murrells Inlet Marshwalk

Located in the heart of the “Seafood Capital of South Carolina,” the Murrells Inlet MarshWalk is a beautiful way to enjoy the beauty, wildlife and spectacular scenery of the community of Murrells Inlet’s saltwater estuary. Built along the marshes dotted with picturesque seafood dining establishments, the MarshWalk offers not only a freshly quaint environment, but also a chance to embark on seafaring adventures like boating/fishing excursions and water sports. For more information, visit www.murrellsinletmarshwalk.com.

Myrtle Beach Boardwalk

The new downtown Boardwalk opened in June 2010 and is part of the new efforts the city is taking in order to revamp downtown Myrtle Beach. The mile-long Oceanfront Boardwalk and Promenade is in the area between the 14th Avenue North Pier and the Second Avenue North Pier, and extends all the way to First Avenue. Construction was completed in phases, with the final Boardwalk comprised of three sections: North Dune Walk, Central Boardwalk and South Promenade. The Boardwalk is a project of the Downtown Redevelopment Corporation. www.myrtlebeachdowntown.com

Myrtle Beach State Park

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal Program, Myrtle Beach State Park was the first state park to open to the public. Because of this, the maritime forest was declared a Heritage Trust Site. This popular, 312-acre Park includes a nature center inhabited with snakes, turtles and marine animals, as well as a backyard wildlife habitat featuring a captivating butterfly garden and birdhouses. Both the Myrtle Beach State Park and Huntington Beach State Park are known to be among the best bird-watching locations on the East Coast. Campsites, cabins, apartments and picnic areas are available. For more information call (843) 238-5325 or visit www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/795.aspx.

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.

Rover Tours

Rover Tours offers guests multiple ways to experience South Carolina nature at its finest. From sailing the scenic waters of Winyah Bay aboard the “Jolly Rover”, to gliding through Carolina’s fragile wetlands on the “River Rover,” visitors will be fully immersed in some of the most beautiful sights from around the area. For more information, call (843) 546- 8822 or (800) 705-9063 or visit www.rovertours.com.

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.



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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.

Vereen Memorial Gardens

One of the hidden gems of the Myrtle Beach Area, this park features an array of trails/paths that include boardwalks extending across several beautiful salt marshes and small islands. It is a peaceful sanctuary, enjoying a plethora of shaded areas and along with a scenic gazebo that overlooks the Intracoastal Waterway and the distant waterfront of Little River. For more information contact Horry County Parks and Recreation at (843) 915-5330.

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