



FUN & GAMES: SPORTS ABOUND IN SOUTH CAROLINA'S POPULAR MYRTLE BEACH AREA

If deciding where to go on a vacation is an annual dilemma, Myrtle Beach can surely fulfill the desires of every active family's varying ages and personalities. Though long referred to as the "seaside golf capital of the world," the Myrtle Beach area has a new moniker -- Sportstown USA -- thanks to *Sports Illustrated* magazine and the National Recreation and Park Association. Offering hundreds of thrilling options, such as zooming around a racetrack, hitting a golf ball, tennis, horse excursions, observing wildlife and nature by bike, or even dolphin watching cruises, Myrtle Beach area provides your ticket to fun.

60 MILES OF BEACH ACROSS 12 CITIES

Naturally, the fun begins at the beach, the Myrtle Beach area's No. 1 attraction. Sixty miles of coastline provide visitors with all the necessary resources for an ideal getaway; and it's no wonder the Myrtle Beach area of South Carolina has been named the "World's Best Beach" by *Yahoo! Travel* or "Favorite Beach Town" by *Southern Living*.

JUST ADD WATER: SAIL, SURF, KAYAK, DIVE

Sailboat, Jet Ski, canoe and kayak rentals are offered up and down the Grand Strand. For those looking to descend below the water, there are several historical shipwrecks that can be explored via scuba diving, including the *Hebe*, a Dutch merchant ship, *St. Cathan*, a British submarine chaser, and the *Richmond*, a passenger ship that sank off the shores of the Grand Strand. Other above-water activities along the beach include parasailing, surfing, boogie-boarding, windsurfing and kite surfing.

Hook, Line and Sinker: Fishing

Fishing along the Grand Strand can be enjoyed from one of eight fishing piers located along the beach, as well as from backwater creeks between Georgetown and Little River – where the crabbing is also great! More serious anglers can board a boat for bottom fishing, or venture all the way to the Gulf Stream, just 60 miles offshore, for true deep-sea sports fishing experiences.

Also, each year, visitors can enjoy the Grand Strand Fishing Rodeo. Anglers of all ages enter for a chance to win cash and other prizes totaling more than \$20,000. From April – October, fisherman can enter their catch... caught from pier, surf, inlet or deep sea and you could win monthly decals, shoulder patches, cash and merchandise.

For more information about Myrtle Beach fishing trips, parasailing or water activities, contact:

- ***Capt. Dick's Deep Sea Fishing & Water sports***, www.capt dicks.com; (843) 651-3676
- ***Captain Smiley Charters***, www.captainsmileyfishingcharters.com; (843) 361-7445
- ***Downwind Sails***, www.downwindsailsmyrtlebeach.com; (843) 448-7245
- ***Enchanted Sailing Charters***, www.downwindsailsmyrtlebeach.com; (843) 241-6874
- ***Express Watersports***, www.expresswatersports.com; (866) 566-9338
- ***Fishhook Charters***, www.fishhookcharters.com; (843) 283-7692
- ***Getaway Adventures***, (843) 663-1100
- ***Little River Fishing Fleet***, www.littleriverfleet.com; (843) 249-1100
- ***Longway Fishing Charters***, www.longwaycharters.com; (843) 249-7813
- ***Lucky Strike Charters***, www.luckystrikesportfishingcharters.com; (843) 249-2049
- ***Myrtle Beach Watersports***, <http://myrtlebeachwatersports.com>; (843) 651-9915
- ***New Double "R" Charter Fishing***, www.newdoubler.com; (843) 249-1889
- ***Ocean Watersports***, www.parasailmyrtlebeach.com; (843) 445-7777

- **Shallow Minded Inshore Charters**, www.fishmyrtlebeach.com; (843)-458-3055
- **Thomas Outdoors Watersports**, www.mbjetski.com; (843) 663-RIDE

A Pier to Remember

Whether dangling your feet on the end of the dock, catching a boat tour, renting a jet ski, embarking on a dolphin watch cruise, or just enjoying the ocean scenery; the communities of Myrtle Beach offer up plenty of piers and locations to catch whatever wave you wish:

- **2nd Avenue Pier**, <http://secondavenuepier.com>; (843) 626-8480
- **Apache Campground Pier**, <http://apachefamilycampground.com>; (800) 553-1749
- **Captain Dick's Marina**, www.captidicks.com; (866) 557-FISH
- **Cherry Grove Fishing Pier**, www.cherrygrovepier.com; (843) 249-1625
- **Myrtle Beach State Park Pier**, <http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/795.aspx>; (843) 238-5325
- **Osprey Marina**, www.ospreymarina.com; (843) 215-5353
- **Pier 14**, www.pier14.com; (843) 448-4314
- **The Pier at Garden City**, www.pieratgardencity.com; (843) 651-9700
- **Springmaid Beach Pier**, <http://springmaidbeach.com>; (843) 315-7156
- **Surfside Beach Fishing Pier**, www.surfsidepier.com; (843) 238-0121
- **Marlin Quay Marina**, www.marlinquaymarina.com; (843) 651-4444

BATTERS UP: PROFESSIONAL AND YOUTH BASEBALL

Myrtle Beach Pelicans

The Myrtle Beach Pelicans is a Texas Ranger Carolina League Class-A affiliate. The team's season begins in April and wraps up in September. Along with exciting sports action, fans are treated to between-inning entertainment that is fun for the whole family. BB&T Field in Myrtle Beach is the team's home field. For more information, telephone (877) 918-TIXX or visit MyrtleBeachPelicans.com.

The Ripken Experience

The Ripken Experience opened in June 2006 as one of the nation's top youth sports facilities, boasting six youth- and three regulation-size baseball fields, each modeled after one of the game's historic ballparks: Polo Grounds, New York; Comiskey Park, Chicago and Forbes Field, Pittsburgh. The Ripken Experience brings tournament play and baseball camps to the Myrtle Beach area. Each of the fields at The Ripken Experience is made from FieldTurf®, the game's most advanced artificial surface. Residents and visitors to the Myrtle Beach area are invited to watch more than 20 youth baseball and softball tournaments annually at The Ripken Experience fields. For more information, telephone (843) 918-7815 or visit TheRipkenExperience.com.

ZOOM, ZOOM: AMATEUR AUTO RACING

Myrtle Beach Speedway

Spectators can enjoy professional and amateur racing on a half-mile, tri-oval asphalt track sanctioned by NASCAR. Races are scheduled every Saturday from April through September, with special events adding to the fun. For more information, call (843) 236-0500 or visit MyrtleBeachSpeedway.com. New for 2012 at the speedway visitors can drive a real racecar or ride as a passenger for a NASCAR Experience.

PUTT PUTT: MINIATURE GOLF

Golf fans of all ages can choose from a myriad of miniature golf themes, from man-eating dinosaurs and lava-spewing volcanoes, to high-seas adventures aboard pirate ships. The Grand Strand is considered the miniature golf capital of the world with 50 miniature golf courses to choose from:

- **Buccaneer Bay Miniature Golf**, (843) 238-3811
- **Captain Hook's Adventure Golf**, (843) 913-7851
- **Dragon's Lair Fantasy Golf**, (843) 913-9301

- **Hawaiian Rumble Miniature Golf**, www.prominigolf.com/rumble.html; (843) 272-7812
- **Hawaiian Village Miniature Golf**, www.prominigolf.com/hawaiian%20village.html; (843) 361-9626
- **Jungle Lagoon Miniature Golf**, www.junglelagoon.com; (843) 626-7894
- **Jungle Safari Golf**, (843) 315-0311
- **Jurassic Mini Golf**, (843) 913-5333
- **Mount Atlanticus Minotaur Goff**, [www. MtAtlanticus.com](http://www.MtAtlanticus.com); (843) 444-1008
- **Pirates Watch Adventure Golf**, (843) 448-8600
- **Shipwreck Island Adventure Golf**, (843) 913-5330
- **Treasure Island Golf**, (843) 449-4754

For a complete list of sports facilities in Myrtle Beach, visit:

<http://www.visitmyrtlebeach.com/sports/facilities.html>

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

###

Media Contact

Ann Marcum

Fahlgren Mortine

614.383.1634

Ann.Marcum@Fahlgren.com