



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 Marsh Walk, there is much to discover and appreciate in the Myrtle Beach area's great outdoors.

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.

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.

Lowcountry Plantation Tours

Cap'n Rod Singleton brings a lifetime's experience of tales and folklore to Lowcountry Plantation Tours. A native of the lowcountry, Cap'n Rod weaves into his tours a magical mixture of antebellum history, lowcountry legends and

personal experiences on the water. The year-round tours offer a unique opportunity to experience coastal South Carolina in ways never seen by the land-bound visitor.

The Lowcountry Plantation Tour Boat is a safe, comfortable 56-foot pontoon boat, offering shaded deck seating and clean, modern restrooms. It is fully USCG certified, and handicap accessible. The tours offer visitors a relaxing glimpse into the history and stories of the past. Tours include: Plantation River Tour, Lighthouse Shell Tour and the Ghost Story & Harbor Tour. For more information, call (843) 477-0287 or visit www.lowcountrytours.com.

Murrells Inlet Marsh Walk

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 watersports. For more information visit www.murrellsinletmarshwalk.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.

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.

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.

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.

Waccamaw Riverwalk

Situated in Conway, SC, the Waccamaw 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.

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

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Media Contact

Ann Marcum

Fahlgren Mortine

614.383.1634

Ann.Marcum@Fahlgren.com