



Destination Guide: The Grand Strand



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AAA Destination Guide: Official AAA maps, travel information and top picks

AAA Destination Guide: The Grand Strand includes trip-planning information covering AAA recommended attractions and restaurants, exclusive member discounts, maps and more.

The Grand Strand includes the communities of Conway, Georgetown, Little River, Murrells Inlet, Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach and Surfside Beach.

With a 60-mile-long seashore playground, yard after yard of golfable greenspace, dozens of entertainment venues, hundreds of restaurants and acres of shopping options, The Grand Strand measures up to its moniker. But scope alone can overwhelm even the most intrepid traveler. When planning a trip to The Grand Strand, simply follow three lines of thought—relaxation, recreation and entertainment—and let the muses be your guide.

Nothing says relaxation more than beach. Seaside communities as unique as pearls about each other along a seemingly endless string of sand. Myrtle Beach's amusement parks, attractions, piers, boardwalk and innumerable oceanfront accommodations paint a picture of the complete summer by the sea. Serenity, however, has a place in the sun on less-crowded sands on the northern and southern strands.

Some play golf to relax. Others see it as recreation. In the 1970s, farsighted Myrtle Beach businessmen set out to turn a seasonal tourist town with fewer than 10 golf courses into a year-round resort destination. The Grand Strand has more than 115 golf courses ranging from public-access greens to luxury resorts. Simply put, there's a vacation package for every budget.

G-rated family entertainment is a Grand Strand hallmark. The proof lies along US 17 bypass in elegant theaters that consistently present outstanding live variety shows, at top-notch dinner shows like Dixie Stampede, or at one-stop megacenters with shopping, dining, nightlife and amusement venues. And let's not forget Freestyle Music Park or ever-popular attractions such as Ripley's Aquarium and Alligator Adventure, to name a few.

A dizzying lineup of restaurants garners US 17 bypass the nickname "Restaurant Row." But for seafood fresh from the boat, head to Murrells Inlet or Little River.

Bountiful resources lie beyond The Grand Strand's endless swath of beach. For history buffs, there are Lowcountry rice plantations and historic estates; for naturalists, botanical gardens; and for those interested in all-things maritime, quaint coastal villages and charming river towns.

Essentials

First things first. Blitz the beach with your favorite toys—boogie boards, fishing poles or a comfy chair and a steamy novel. Sixty miles of sand and surf offering activities ranging from banana boat rides to parasailing are at your disposal.

When the sun goes down, take in a grand-scale variety show at one of the top four live-entertainment venues: The Carolina Opry and The Palace Theatre in Myrtle Beach; Alabama Theatre in North Myrtle Beach; or Legends in Concert in Surfside Beach. Most theaters offer one long-running production, with secondary shows and concerts playing on off-nights.

Get a little more bang for your entertainment buck at Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show, a AAA GEM attraction in Myrtle Beach. Dinner



is served during an action-packed show featuring singing, dancing, comedy, horsemanship and some very unusual animal acts.

Tee up. The self-proclaimed seaside golf capital of the world has courses made for your handicap by some of golf's greatest architects and players. The roster includes Blackmoor Golf Club in Murrells Inlet, designed by Gary Player; Myrtle Beach National Golf Club, by Arnold Palmer; and Pawleys Plantation Golf Resort, featuring a Jack Nicklaus-designed course.

Essentials Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

Essentials Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#)



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. The Carolina Opry

8901A US 17N
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
Phone: (800) 843-6779

2. The Palace Theatre

1420 Celebrity Cir
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 448-0588

3. Myrtle Beach

4. Alabama Theatre

4750 US 17S
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
Phone: (800) 342-2262

5. North Myrtle Beach

6. Legends in Concert

301 US 17S Bus Rte
Surfside Beach, SC 29575
Phone: (843) 238-7827

7. Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show

8901-B US 17
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 497-9700



8. Pawleys Plantation Golf Resort

70 Tanglewood Dr
Pawleys Island, SC
Phone: (843) 237-6000

9. Brookgreen Gardens

1931 Brookgreen Dr
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
Phone: (800) 849-1931



10. Georgetown

11. Murrells Inlet

Shop, eat and feel the beat at Broadway at the Beach in Myrtle Beach and at Barefoot Landing, its North Myrtle Beach counterpart. Both multipurpose entertainment complexes feature a centerpiece lake surrounded by a boardwalk lined with unique shops, restaurants, attractions and nightclubs.

Don a pair of loafers and head for North Myrtle Beach's Ocean Drive historic district, cradle of Carolina beach music and the shag. If devotees of the state dance had their way, shagging on hardwood floors in beach clubs would be required by state law.

Forget about tacky T-shirts and seashell kitsch. An original Pawleys Island cotton rope hammock, invented by a Lowcountry sea captain in

Forget about tacky T-shirts and seashell kitsch. An original Pawleys Island cotton rope hammock, invented by a Lowcountry sea captain in 1889, is the ultimate souvenir. Now, as then, they're woven by hand in Pawleys Island. Make your selection at The Hammock Shops Village on US 17.

Walk amid one of the world's finest collections of American sculpture in Brookgreen Gardens, a AAA GEM attraction in Murrells Inlet. Installations include pieces by sculptor and gardens co-developer Anna Hyatt Huntington.

Soak up some Lowcountry ambience in three South Strand towns: Georgetown, mid-19th-century export seat of the great Carolina Gold rice empire; Murrells Inlet, a fishing village known for its waterfront seafood restaurants; and Pawleys Island, with several antebellum cottages built by wealthy rice planters. Or head west a few miles and stroll around Conway, a charming river town with one-of-a-kind shops, eateries, art galleries and a collection of moss-clad live oak trees known as Conway's "oldest citizens."

The Grand Strand in 3 Days

Three days is barely enough time to get to know any major destination. But AAA travel editors suggest these activities to make the most of your time in The Grand Strand.

Day 1: Morning

Fuel up on flapjacks. Pancake houses are almost as plentiful as golf courses on The Grand Strand, but try Magnolia's at 26th on N. Ocean Boulevard in Myrtle Beach if you prefer home-style buffets.

All beaches are not created equal. With a fishing pier, maritime forest, nature center, picnic shelters and restrooms, Myrtle Beach State Park is an option for anyone willing to pay a nominal per diem admission. However, families with teens might prefer the availability of water sports, arcades, shops, attractions and fast food near the boardwalk in Myrtle Beach's historic district.

The Grand Strand in 3 Days – Day 1 Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com

Day 1 Details - Get additional information on AAA.com;

AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. Magnolia's at 26th
2605 N Ocean Blvd
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 839-3993

2. Myrtle Beach

3. Hard Rock Cafe
1322 Celebrity Cir
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 946-0007

4. Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville
1114 Celebrity Cir
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 448-5455

5. Ripley's Aquarium
1110 Celebrity Cir
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (800) 734-8888



Afternoon

Shake the sand out of your shoes and head over to Broadway at the Beach for an afternoon of one-stop shopping and dining. Not your typical mall, this villagelike promenade surrounding a huge, man-made lake is the place to stroll outdoors, feed seagulls and buy beachwear, Birkenstock shoes and Brighton accessories. For lunch duck into a familiar pizza, steak or seafood eatery or such theme restaurants as Hard Rock Café and Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville. Amusements include the IMAX 3D Theatre, MagiQuest (an interactive fantasy kingdom) and Ripley's Aquarium.

Evening

Celebrity Square is Broadway at the Beach's eclectic nightlife district. Stick around until the retro, rock or hip-hop music starts at Froggy Bottomz, and later sing along with dueling pianists at Crocodile Rocks. But if you find these aren't your style, just step outside and look around—there are plenty more clubs to choose from.

Day 2: Morning

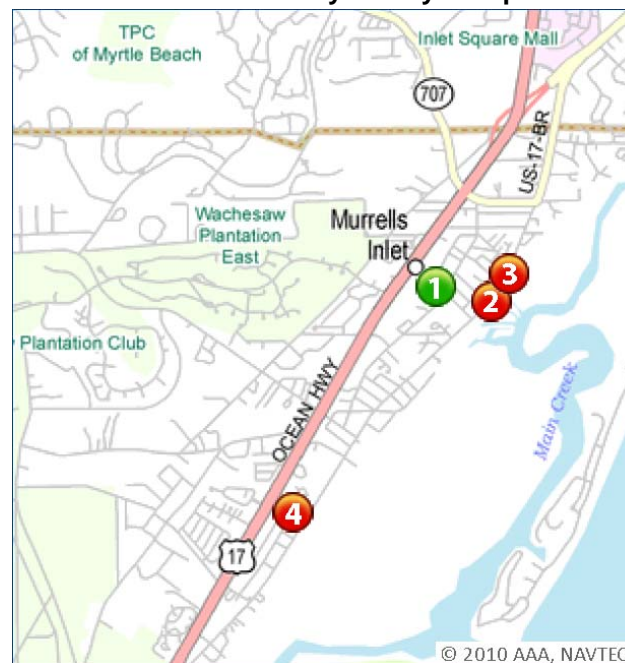
Discover the South Strand. In Murrells Inlet meander among hundreds of American sculptural works framed by lush plantings in Brookgreen Gardens. A series of garden rooms serves as an outdoor museum for a collection of statuary amassed by sculptress Anna Hyatt Huntington and her husband. A trip through this wonderland of bronzes and botanicals can take up to 3 hours. If there's time before lunch, stop at nearby Huntington Beach State Park and tour Atalaya, the Huntington's winter home.

Afternoon

Murrells Inlet is the seafood capital of The Grand Strand, so you don't want to leave the area without sampling such local favorites as she crab soup, grouper sandwiches and a tray of salty raw oysters at one of these fish houses: Captain Dave's Dockside Restaurant, Drunken Jack's Restaurant & Lounge and Russell's Seafood Grill & Raw Bar.

After lunch, head south to Pawleys Island. Said to be one of the first East Coast summer resorts, this tiny residential island features several beach

The Grand Strand in 3 Days – Day 2 Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

Day 2 Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#);

AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)

1. Murrells Inlet

2. Captain Dave's Dockside Restaurant 
4037A US 17 Business Route
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
Phone: (843) 651-5850

3. Drunken Jack's Restaurant & Lounge 
4031 US 17 Business Route
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
Phone: (843) 651-2044

4. Russell's Seafood Grill & Raw Bar 
4609 Hwy 17 Business
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
Phone: (843) 651-0553

The Grand Strand in 3 Days – Day 2 Map



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cottages built by rice planters in the early 1800s; a driving tour brochure is available. Return to the mainland for a stroll through the Hammock Shops. Shaded by tall pine trees, this village houses boutiques linked by winding pedestrian paths with plenty of bench seating, making for a relaxed shopping experience.

Evening

If you're inclined to linger in the Pawleys Island area, we suggest dinner at [The Mayor's House Restaurant & Pub](#), known for fine dining and good service.

Day 2 Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#);

AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

5. Brookgreen Gardens

1931 Brookgreen Dr
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
Phone: (800) 849-1931



7. Atalaya

16148 Ocean Hwy
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
Phone: (843) 237-4440

6. Huntington Beach State Park

16148 Ocean Hwy
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
Phone: (843) 237-4440

8. The Mayor's House Restaurant & Pub

13089 Ocean Hwy
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
Phone: (843) 237-9082

Day 3: Morning

Board the [Great American Riverboat Co.](#)'s *Jungle Princess* Riverboat in Myrtle Beach for a narrated cruise along the Intracoastal Waterway and the Waccamaw River. Departure days and times vary with the season, so a morning sightseeing cruise may not be available. If this is the case, book a later sightseeing excursion, perhaps even a dinner or sunset cruise.

Afternoon

Even if you don't play *real* golf, what's not to like about the miniature version? Nearly 50 putting parks attest to the popularity of this pastime in South Carolina's golfing capital.

Evening

Plan on an early dinner at [Thoroughbreds Chophouse & Seafood Grille](#), an upscale equestrian-themed restaurant in Myrtle Beach, before taking in a live variety show. You can't go wrong with [The Carolina Opry](#), The Strand's longest running show. If you've seen it, choose "One-The Show," at [Alabama Theatre in North Myrtle Beach](#). Both shows have won numerous tourism industry awards.

The Grand Strand in 3 Days – Day 3 Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com

Day 3 Details - Get additional information on AAA.com;

AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds

1. Great American Riverboat Co.

8201 Marina Parkway
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
Phone: (800) 685-6601

**2. Thoroughbreds Chophouse
& Seafood Grille**

9706 N Kings Hwy
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
Phone: (843) 497-2636

3. Green Carolina Opry

8901A US 17N
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
Phone: (800) 843-6779

4. Alabama Theatre

4750 US 17S
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
Phone: (800) 342-2262

5. North Myrtle Beach

Cap off the night with a little dancing at a beach club. Shag dancing is especially popular in the Ocean Drive district of North Myrtle Beach, where it originated in the 1940s and later enjoyed a revival after being named the state dance. Slip on a pair leather-sole loafers and show off your shuffle at Fat Harold's, or join the gallery of spectators wishing they had the smooth moves characteristic of this retro dance style.

Restaurants

Whether your Grand Strand wanderings take you to the northern end, the southern end or Myrtle Beach, the heart of it all, some dining spots are sure to stand out among the rest.

In Myrtle Beach, USDA Prime steak and filet selections dominate the menu at New York Prime, A Steakhouse, but chops and seafood options including lobsters weighing up to 13 pounds also are offered. Side dishes are large enough for two, and the professional wait staff will politely advise you if you may have ordered too much. The small dining room allows guests to watch meals being prepared in an open kitchen while enjoying a glass of wine from an award-winning wine list. Behind this restaurant's rustic facade patrons discover a classic steakhouse with gracious service.

Rossi's Italian Restaurant has been a Grand Strand mainstay since 1987. Creations such as salmon Florentine and blackened grouper a la Rossi stand out among a wide selection of Italian standards served by a professional wait staff. Statuary, frescos and hand-painted murals lend authenticity to the décor. With an upscale supperclub ambiance, Rossi's is the perfect setting for an elegant night out dressed to the nines, yet guests can feel comfortable arriving from the beach or golf course. Arrive early to enjoy the piano lounge.


Since 1988, Thoroughbreds Chophouse & Seafood Grille has been the premier dining spot on Restaurant Row. With the refined décor of an upscale English country inn, the dining rooms and lounge reflect a polished ambience. Patrons will have no trouble picking winners from a well-organized racing-themed menu that breaks down like this: The Belmont Steaks section, featuring certified Angus beef; The Kentucky Derby, a lineup of veal and chop selections; and The Preakness menu,

featuring the restaurant's signature grouper Nantua and other seafood selections. A well-stocked wine cellar provides guests with a variety of world vintages ranging from light to robust.

Collectors Cafe is a Mediterranean bistro, a European-style café and an art gallery all in one. The chic hot spot offers savory and innovative beef,

Restaurants Details - Get additional information on AAA.com;
AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds

1. New York Prime

A Steakhouse 
 405 28th Ave N
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
 Phone: (843) 448-8081

2. Rossi's Italian Restaurant

9636 N Kings Hwy
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
 Phone: (843) 449-0481

3. Thoroughbreds Chophouse & Seafood Grille

9706 N Kings Hwy
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
 Phone: (843) 497-2636

4. Collectors Cafe

7726 N Kings Hwy
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
 Phone: (843) 449-9370

5. Islamorada Fish Company

10177 N Kings Hwy
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
 Phone: (843) 361-4700

6. Cagney's Old Place

9911 N Kings Hwy
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
 Phone: (843) 449-3824

7. Phillips Crab House

1807 21st Ave N
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
 Phone: (843) 626-2722

8. Angelo's Steak & Pasta

2011 S Kings Hwy
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
 Phone: (843) 626-2800

9. Sea Captain's House

3002 N Ocean Blvd
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
 Phone: (843) 448-8082

10. River City Cafe

404 21st Ave N
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
 Phone: (843) 448-1990

11. Frank's Restaurant & Bar

10434 Ocean Hwy
 Pawleys Island, SC 29585
 Phone: (843) 237-3030

12. Greg Norman's Australian Grille

4930 US 17 S
 North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
 Phone: (843) 361-0000

13. The Parson's Table

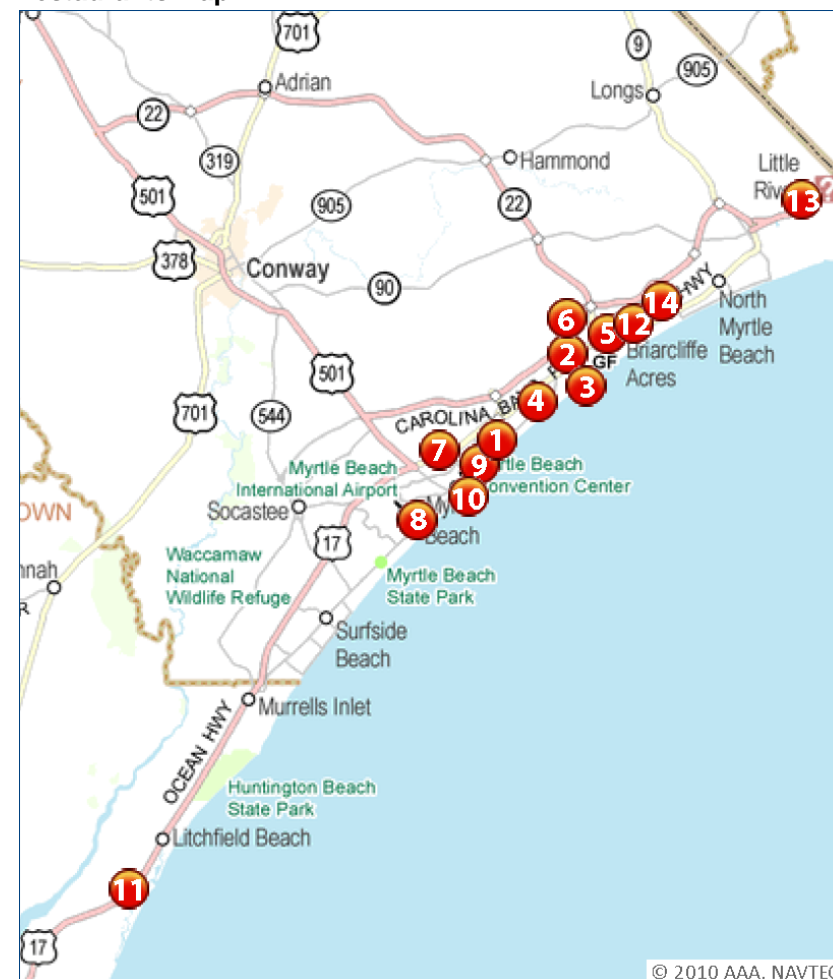
4305 McCorsley Ave
 Little River, SC 29566
 Phone: (843) 249-3702

14. Horst Gasthaus

802 37th Ave S
 North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
 Phone: (843) 272-3351

pasta and seafood creations accompanied by fresh vegetables and light sauces. The menu changes often with the availability of fresh ingredients. Examples include grilled yellowfin tuna over couscous, sautéed scallops in a tomato-scallion-garlic butter sauce with grilled fresh vegetables, and pan-roasted veal chops. Original artwork by local artists adorns the dining room. A comfortable lounge affords patrons an opportunity to enjoy a full pan-roasted veal chops. Original artwork by local artists adorns the dining

Restaurants Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner](http://TripTik.com) on AAA.com

room. A comfortable lounge affords patrons an opportunity to enjoy a full menu of coffee drinks and sumptuous desserts while listening to lively jazz music before, after or in lieu of dinner.

A unique dining experience is almost certain at Islamorada Fish Company. Marine life and wild game motifs decorate two separate dining rooms serving unusual menu items such as Florida lobster, conch, alligator, buffalo burgers, elk steak and a full selection of sushi and sashimi. Fish sandwiches are a specialty of this restaurant chain that got its start as a commercial fishing plant in the Florida Keys in the 1940s. The décor alone is worth the visit.

Open since 1976, Cagney's Old Place is a staple on Restaurant Row. Hearty steaks, a 24-ounce prime rib, broiled lobster tail and signature seafood dishes such as Flounder Cagney—a baked seafood casserole—have made this lively restaurant and nightspot a perennial favorite among locals. The restaurant's décor incorporates eclectic architectural styles and interesting Myrtle Beach memorabilia, thus evoking a nostalgic feel. A children's menu is available.

After more than 50 years of restaurant experience in Maryland, the Phillips family opened Phillips Crab House, a 500-seat restaurant, in Myrtle Beach in 2003. It has been a major draw for families visiting the area ever since. Chesapeake Bay-style flavors infuse selections from a menu heavily influenced by fresh crab. An on-site market sells fresh fish and shellfish for those who want to experiment with their own recipes or ship the restaurant's signature crab cakes, jalapeno crab slammers and crab imperial to friends and family.

Perfectly prepared steaks and traditional Italian dishes are the bill of fare at Angelo's Steak & Pasta. Patrons can order meals cooked to order from a menu with signature dishes such as the Big Daddy Ribeye, flat iron steak with grilled onions and Stilton blue cheese, and lobster medallions tossed with linguine, or they can step up to the extensive Italian buffet. Garlic rolls and a crisp salad accompany every dinner entree. Reasonable prices and early bird specials make this casual dining spot even more appealing.

From beach cottage to guesthouse to restaurant, Sea Captain's House has evolved into a Myrtle Beach favorite. In addition to spectacular ocean views, guests enjoy a large selection of delectable seafood appetizers plus a full menu of seafood, steak, chicken and chop entrees. Friendly staff perform their job in a fashion that exemplifies Southern hospitality. Fresh-catch entrees and chef's specials are featured nightly, adding an element of surprise to every visit.

Within walking distance of the beach, River City Cafe is all about casual dining, which makes it a good bet for a quick meal for families with kids in tow. The food is simple and straightforward—hamburgers, French fries and onion rings, for example. Appetizers, salads, seafood platters and sandwiches ranging from a classic BLT to the restaurant's own version of a Philly cheese steak sub round out a menu with something for everyone. The wait staff wears shorts and signature T-shirts befitting the beachy atmosphere, and they will gladly refill complimentary baskets of peanuts. They don't even mind if you throw the shells on the floor.

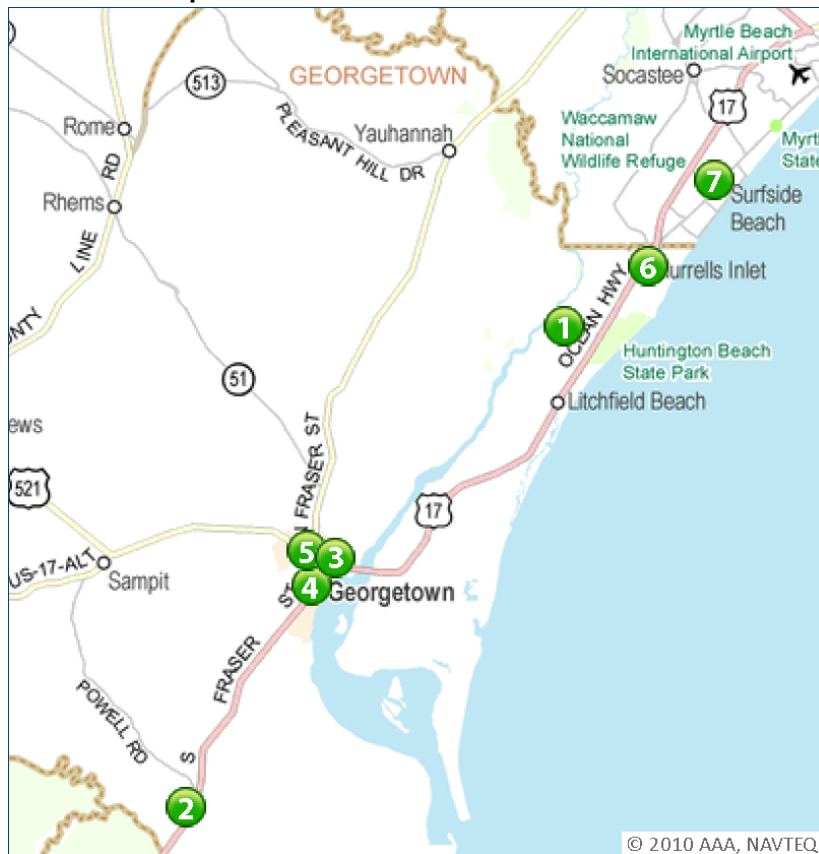
Located in a converted 1930's grocery store, Frank's Restaurant & Bar in Pawleys Island is actually two restaurants in one. Creative American and Lowcountry cuisine is served in a classy atmosphere with fireside seating, candlelit tables and framed French poster art adorning the walls. Portions are generous and prepared over an oak-burning grill. Although seafood dishes are standouts, the chef gives equal attention to beef, chicken, duck, and lamb dishes. Options include grouper with mustard-bacon butter, steak with Clemson blue cheese, mussels with cilantro and jalapeno and seared tuna over Thai rice with warm Asian slaw. Outback at Frank's, at the rear of the main restaurant, offers a separate menu for al fresco dining on a candlelit patio.

The northern end of The Grand Strand is thick with restaurants. Overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway in North Myrtle Beach, Greg Norman's Australian Grille is a magnet for golfers, but it's also a great place for a romantic evening or family outing. Richly appointed with Australian woods, lush leathers and aboriginal artwork, the décor is truly a reflection of the land down under. Elements of Aussie cuisine are skillfully fused with local fresh ingredients to offer a full-featured menu of wood-grilled meat and seafood entrees as well as unique dessert

selections like Australian Banana Xangos—pastry filled with banana cheesecake and topped with caramel and chocolate sauces. Some 250 vintages and more than 25 by-the-glass selections populate the award-winning wine list.

Housed in a restored 1885 Methodist church with original floor-to-ceiling antique stained-glass windows and rough-hewn heart pine floors, The Parson's Table in Little River has been a favorite with locals and tourists alike for more than 20 years. A broad menu features 24-ounce bone-in prime rib, filet mignon au poivre, flounder menuiere, regional mainstay shrimp and grits, quail with oysters and cashew-encrusted rack of lamb.

Attractions Map



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Cheese and crackers, seasonal salad and side dishes accompany the entree, which patrons can complement with wine selected from a nine-page list replete with critical descriptions. Both the chef and the restaurant have received numerous industry awards. An early bird menu is available.

It's Oktoberfest all year long at Horst Gasthaus in North Myrtle Beach. The menu features schnitzel, steak, seafood, sausage platters, daily blue-plate specials and all-you-can-eat pork chops nightly, all of which are prefaced by a traditional cold salad. The combination of traditional German food, beer served in tankards and nightly sing-alongs make for a lively Bavarian dining experience.

Attractions

In an area with dozens of attractions and points of interest, you may have trouble deciding where to spend your time. Here are the highlights for this destination, as chosen by AAA editors. GEMs are "Great Experiences for Members."

Attractions Details - *Get additional information on [AAA.com](#)*



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. Brookgreen Gardens

1931 Brookgreen Dr
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
Phone: (800) 849-1931



2. Hopsewee Plantation

494 Hopsewee Rd
Georgetown, SC 29440
Phone: (843) 546-7891

3. Rice Museum

633 Front St
Georgetown, SC 29440
Phone: (843) 546-7423

4. Captain Sandy's Tours

343 Ida Dr
Georgetown, SC 29440
Phone: (843) 527-4106

5. Rover Tours

Broad St & Front St
Georgetown, SC 29442
Phone: (843) 546-8822

6. Capt. Dick's

4123 US 17S Bus Rte
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
Phone: (866) 557-3474

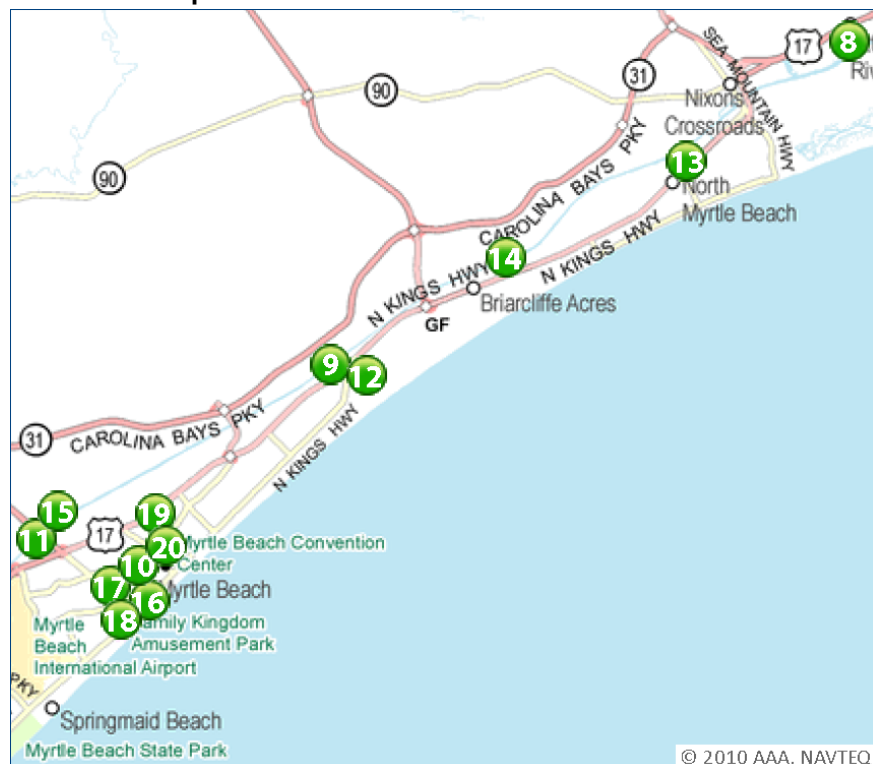
7. Legends in Concert

301 US 17S Bus Rte
Surfside Beach, SC 29575
Phone: (843) 238-7827

Aside from its fabulous beaches, The Grand Strand's premier natural attraction is Brookgreen Gardens, a 9,000-acre collage of landscaped grounds, garden rooms, wildlife habitats, nature trails and historical exhibits flanked by wetlands that once sustained rice plantations. The gardens of this AAA GEM attraction in Murrells Inlet frame hundreds of American sculptural works.

Rice production fortified the Lowcountry's pre-Civil War economy. Hopsewee Plantation near Georgetown comprised seven plantations operated by Thomas Lynch, who married the daughter of Brookgreen Plantation owners. Complement a tour of Hopsewee with a visit to the Rice Museum, and then learn even more about the plantation culture on one of Captain Sandy's Tours of the area's tidal rivers.

Attractions Map



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Attractions Details - Get additional information on AAA.com



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

8. Sea Screamer

4495 Mineola Ave
Little River, SC 29566
Phone: (843) 249-0870

9. Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show

8901-B US 17
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 497-9700



10. Myrtle Beach

11. Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament

2904 Fantasy Way
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
Phone: (800) 436-4386



12. The Carolina Opry

8901A US 17N
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
Phone: (800) 843-6779

13. North Myrtle Beach

14. Alabama Theatre

4750 US 17S
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
Phone: (800) 342-2262

15. Freestyle Music Park

211 George Bishop Pkwy
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
Phone: (843) 236-7625



16. Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium

901 N Ocean Blvd
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 448-2331



17. Ripley's Moving Theater

917 N Ocean Blvd
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 626-0069



18. Ripley's Haunted Adventure

915 N Ocean Blvd
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 916-8971



19. Ripley's Aquarium

1110 Celebrity Cir
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (800) 734-8888



20. Children's Museum of South Carolina

2501 N Kings Hwy
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 946-9469



The Grand Strand's intricate network of waterways sets up endless possibilities for sightseeing cruises. Options include peaceful shelling and lighthouse junkets or a pirate-themed sail on a tall ship offered by [Rover Tours](#) of Georgetown; [Capt. Dick's](#) marsh tours out of Murrells Inlet; and [Sea Screamer](#), an ocean-bound speedboat departing from Little River.

With a four-course, country-style meal and a lively musical show performed in a huge indoor arena, [Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show](#), a AAA GEM attraction in [Myrtle Beach](#), is something to clap about. If you're in the mood to sup with royalty while knights on horseback battle before your eyes, choose [Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament](#).

In the Branson tradition, Grand Strand variety shows are big on family appeal. Broadway meets Nashville onstage at [The Carolina Opry](#), Myrtle Beach's longest running show in the theater of the same name. In [North Myrtle Beach](#) the [Alabama Theatre](#), the namesake of the legendary country music group that sang in area clubs during its leaner years, dazzles visitors with its elaborate musical revue "One-the Show" and weekly concerts by top-name performers. Check the company playbill to find out who's performing at [Legends in Concert](#) in Surfside Beach. A star-studded tribute cast—Elvis Presley, Alan Jackson, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, just to name a few—rotates among several Legends venues nationwide.

For an interactive music experience, head to [Freestyle Music Park](#). Myrtle Beach's first theme park has it all covered, from the British invasion to twangy country to local headliners.

Four Myrtle Beach attractions bear the widely recognized Ripley's name. Visitors in the mood for something different will find oddities galore at [Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium](#), movie thrills on a motion simulator ride at [Ripley's Moving Theater](#), a creepy-good time at [Ripley's Haunted Adventure](#) and captivating sea creatures at [Ripley's Aquarium](#).

A rainy day won't dampen your vacation plans if you take the kids to the [Children's Museum of South Carolina](#). Rain or shine, this hands-on discovery center guarantees the little ones hours of activities packed with educational value.

Events

In addition to its many cultural and historic landmarks, this destination hosts a number of exceptional festivals and events that may coincide with your visit. GEMs are "Great Experiences for Members."

Beach music and shag dancing are South Carolina institutions. In early November, the [Carolina Beach Music Awards](#) honors selected performers, songwriters, musicians and others involved in promoting the industry that blossomed in [North Myrtle Beach](#) in the 1960s.

In early March shaggers from across the country show off some serious shuffling at the [National Shag Dancing Championships](#). If you're wondering what shagging is all about, pop into Ocean Drive beach clubs in late April during the [SOS Spring Safari](#) or in mid-September for the [SOS Fall Migration](#) and watch members of the Society of Shaggers dance the night away, maybe even get a shag dancing lesson or two.

For 8 days in mid-March, Grand Strand communities roll out the red carpet for an annual influx of Canadian visitors. Sports tournaments, band concerts and car shows are among the "welcome-back" festivities open to everyone during [Canadian-American Days](#).

When the fishing boats pull out of Little River at daybreak in early May, it's a good bet the catch of the day will include seafood for the [Blue Crab Festival](#). Held since 1981, this annual event also dishes up live entertainment, an arts and crafts show, a classic car show and a children's activity area.

Summertime in [Myrtle Beach](#) is just beachy. In early June the [Sun Fun Festival](#) celebrates the joys of sand, sea and sun with sand-sculpting contests, jet-ski stunt shows, skydiving demonstrations and so much more. Park your beach chair curbside on Ocean Boulevard for the big parade, or plunk it center stage at outdoor concerts.

Festivals highlighting visual and performing arts always draw a crowd. Here are a few anticipated by locals: The Waccamaw Arts & Crafts Guild presents five Art in the Park shows each year from late April to mid-October in Myrtle Beach's Chapin Park. The Rivertown [Music and Arts](#)

Festival in early May takes place in downtown Conway, just steps from the scenic Waccamaw River, itself a thing of beauty.

Considering the accolades it has garnered from industry experts, Myrtle Beach might well be the capital of all things golf. On the weekend before Labor Day, the PGA Tour Superstore World Amateur Handicap Championship dominates some 75 local courses where more than 4,000 non-professionals compete to win a highly coveted title.

London comes to Myrtle Beach in early November. With Victorian streetscapes for a backdrop, replica lampposts lining the aisles, and vendors dressed in late 19th-century costumes, the Dickens Christmas Show and Festivals, a AAA GEM event, creates an irresistible holiday shopping experience.

Content for this destination guide compiled by AAA Travel Editors

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An advertisement for AAA Travel. The headline "It's Your Dream" is written in a large, elegant red script. Below it, the tagline "...That Makes It Ours, Too" is in a smaller blue font. To the left of the text are two small square images: the top one shows a scenic river flowing through a rocky landscape, and the bottom one shows a group of people in red and white uniforms, possibly a marching band. To the right of the tagline, the text reads: "Access AAA.com/travel around the clock to research, plan and book your vacation. Or, let experienced AAA Travel professionals arrange all or part of your dream vacation for you." At the bottom of the ad is a wide red banner. On the left side of the banner is the AAA Travel logo, and on the right side is the text "AAA.com/travel" in white. Above the red banner, there is a collage of travel-related images, including a tiger, a cityscape, a bridge, and the Sydney Opera House.

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