Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, was named for the abundant wax myrtle bushes growing in the area. Originally called Long Bay Withers, and then New Town, the name Myrtle Beach was selected in a contest held in 1900. Myrtle Beach is the hub of the Grand Strand, which consists of more than 60 miles of beach beginning at Little River and ending at Georgetown.

Museums in Myrtle Beach include the Franklin G. Burroughs and Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum, the Children’s Museum of South Carolina, and the Historic Myrtle Beach Train Depot. The South Carolina Civil War Museum houses a collection of period weapons, uniforms, gowns and petticoats, books, newspapers, and an exhibit on socioeconomic causes of the war. The Historic Myrtle Beach Colored School Museum and Education Center commemorates the original Myrtle Beach Colored School which served African-American students between 1932 and 1953. Wheels of Yesteryear car museum showcases over 50 classic cars and trucks owned and restored by car enthusiast Paul Cummings. The former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base is recognized with historical markers at the former front and back gates. Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Odditorium in Myrtle Beach features the largest collection of odd and unusual items.

Performing arts include The Carolina Opry, which performs a medley of musical styles; Good Vibrations, which showcases the hits of the 60s, 70s and 80s; Legends in Concert, which features superstar look-alikes; Broadway theatre productions, live entertainment shows, and musicals from around the world; and local concerts and community theater.

**Neighborhoods**

Myrtle Beach offers many residential neighborhoods. Pine Lakes is the oldest community, and its Pine Lakes International Country Club is home to the first golf course built in Myrtle Beach. It has the only stretch of beach without hotels or condominiums. The single-family homes vary in style and size and range in age from 10 to more than 70 years. Also located in the north end of the city, The Grande Dunes is a master-planned community constructed in Mediterranean-style architecture and consists of golf course homes, custom-built homes with intercoastal views, maintenance-free villas, marina condominiums, and ocean front houses. Some communities are gated. New construction is available.

In the central area, Pelican Harbour is a small neighborhood of mostly raised 3- and 4-bedroom beach homes with 2-car garages underneath the living space. Myrtlewood Villas features three condominium developments with units of various sizes and are located near the Myrtlewood Golf Course. Plantation Point is located near the golf course and comprises custom-built homes of a variety of sizes and shapes. Some homes have access to the waterway from their own private docks, whereas others have golf course views. Patio-type homes are also available.

Located on the site of the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, The Market Common is a new master planned urban village community and offers condominiums, rentals, and single-family homes.

**Parks and Recreation**

Myrtle Beach has 10 miles of beach, 5 golf courses, 17 playgrounds, 4 recreation centers, 2 tennis centers, 2 indoor swimming pools, 2 complexes with ball fields, a roller rink, and a skateboard park. Myrtle Beach State Park has campgrounds, cabins, a fishing pier, a Nature center, and a 1-mile stretch of relatively undeveloped beach. Ripley’s Aquarium has 10,000 exotic sea creatures that comprise more than 350 individual species.

The many amusement parks that are located in Myrtle Beach include: Family Kingdom Amusement Park and oceanfront Water Park, WonderWorks, MagiQuest Myrtle Beach, NASCAR SpeedPark Myrtle Beach, the Myrtle Beach SkyWheel, and Myrtle Waves Water Park. Ripley’s Haunted Adventure, Ripley’s 3D Moving Theater, Ripley’s Marvelous Mirror Maze.

**Education**

Horry County Schools educates over 4,200 Myrtle Beach students in 3 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 1 high school. Myrtle Beach high school students can also participate in special county-wide programs. The Scholars Academy provides advanced learners with the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma and as much as two years of college course credits from Coastal Carolina University. At Horry County Schools Early College, students obtain a high school diploma and an associate degree. The Academy for Technology & Health Care, and the Academy for Arts, Science & Technology are organized around specific career majors. A virtual school is available for students in grades 6 through 12.

Higher education is available at Horry-Georgetown Technical College, which is a comprehensive two-year community/technical college and offers more than 70 programs of study. Coastal Carolina University offers degrees in theology. Webster University-Myrtle Beach Metropolitan Campus offers several master’s degree programs on campus and other programs online.

**Health Care**

Myrtle Beach has one medical center with 219 acute care beds.

**City Stats**

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<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
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<td>Per Capita Personal Income, Myrtle Beach-North Myrtle Beach-Conway, SC, MSA</td>
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Photograph courtesy of the Myrtle Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.