

## Art, history and culture aplenty

### An American classic, a Southern gem, the towns of Myrtle Beach have endless stories to tell

Within a varied nation, the south is a place rich in history that has defined the strong cultural landscape of Myrtle Beach. From the craftsmanship of glass blowing in Conway and on Pawley's Island, to the stately rice plantations with endless stories to tell— and even the coming together of a community to compete for the Grand Strand's best Chicken Bog – Myrtle Beach is redolent of its heritage, and, with Southern Hospitality in mind, welcomes visitors to indulge in its local customs.

### Historical homes

#### Atalaya Castle

It took two years in the early 1930s for construction to be complete on the Spanish-style castle of sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington and her husband, Archer. It was no small feat, as the castle's living quarters consisted of 30 rooms. Anna Huntington's studio opened onto a courtyard, where she worked on her sculptures. In 1984, the castle was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a national historic landmark. Visitors traveling to Murrells Inlet can see the castle when they visit Huntington Beach State Park. In the fall, the castle also plays host to the annual Atalaya Arts and Crafts Festival.

#### Bryan House

Recently renovated, the Bryan House is the headquarters of the Horry County Historical Society located in Conway, SC in the former residence of the W.L. Bryan family, Mr. Bryan being the Clerk for Court for Horry County. It is also located on the former site of the first Burroughs Graded School, 1879-1903 that burned in a fire. For many years, the Bryan House served as a home for many female schoolteachers who boarded there. The Bryan House offers tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays and afternoon teas. For more information, call (843) 488-1966.

#### The Hagood House Inn

Situated in the quaint community of Aynor, S.C., The Hagood House Inn delivers a historic journey back into the early twentieth century to its guests, with its old South-style wrap around porches and rockers, lovely gardens that include a 200 year old pecan tree, claw-foot tubs and wash basins circa 1900, along with a nice helping of picturesque common areas that contain an old baby grand piano, exquisite furnishings and a cozy library with fireplace. The Hagood House is a bed and breakfast and also host's weddings and receptions. For more information, call (866) 344-9337 or visit [www.thehagoodhouseinn.com](http://www.thehagoodhouseinn.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](http://www.hobcawbarony.org).



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### **Hopsewee Plantation**

Located just south of Georgetown in the historic heart of the Myrtle Beach area, Hopsewee dates back to 1740 and was formerly a rice plantation and home to Thomas Lynch, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The plantation has an impressive collection of antique furniture and showcases beautifully manicured landscapes. For an extra dose of local history, the nearby Rice Museum provides visitors with a glimpse into pre-Civil War life in the area through maps, artifacts, exhibits and dioramas depicting life on rice plantations. The plantation is open Tuesday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. The plantation's tearoom is open by reservation. For more information, call (843) 546-7891, or visit [www.hopsewee.com](http://www.hopsewee.com).

### **Litchfield Plantation**

Approaching Litchfield Plantation through a canopy of majestic Oak Trees instantly conjures images of the Old South for visitors to Myrtle Beach. This one-time coastal rice plantation now houses a variety of upscale lodging options spread across 600 acres of beautiful landscape. Classically opulent room décor and a variety of formal dining options that include the prestigious Carriage House Club provide visitors with an opportunity to be enveloped by local history throughout their stay. For more information, call (800) 869-1410, or visit [www.litchfieldplantation.com](http://www.litchfieldplantation.com).

### **Kaminski House**

For more than 240 years, the Kaminski House has been a staple on Front Street in the historic heart of Georgetown. It is considered Georgian in design, as it was built during the reign of King George III of Great Britain. The exact date of its construction is unknown, but the year 1769 is ascribed to it for historical context. It has gone through a series of owners over the course of its illustrious history, culminating in the home, its contents and the grounds being bequeathed to the city of Georgetown in 1972 following the death of Julia Kaminski. This two-story home houses a collection of 18th and 19th century American and European furnishings within its rooms. The Kaminski House Museum is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Those wanting tour times can call (843) 546-7706.

### **Mansfield Plantation**

Mansfield Plantation was established in 1718 on the banks of the Black River in historic Georgetown and covers nearly 1,000 acres. This historic plantation is recognized as one of the most architecturally intact rice plantations in South Carolina. It is a member of the National Register of Historic Places and is now owned and operated by the descendent of the original Parker family owners, John Rutledge Parker and his wife Sallie Middleton, Jr. It is now a bed and breakfast and also offers guided tours and education programs. For more information, call 1-866-717-1776 or visit [www.mansfieldplantation.com](http://www.mansfieldplantation.com).

### **Sea View Inn**

Since 1937, Sea View Inn has served as a tranquil "barefoot paradise." Located on a private beach in the middle of Pawley's Island, SC, the inn offers guests a comfortable and casual hideaway, full of charm and hospitality. Steeped in tradition and history, this beachfront escape is perfect for those looking to take a break from the everyday hustle and bustle, to enjoy the South Carolina coast at its finest. For more information, call (843) 237-4253 or visit [www.seaviewinn.net](http://www.seaviewinn.net).

### **Wedgefield Plantation**

Dating back to South Carolina's Colonial Period, the Wedgefield Plantation is an iconic landmark in history and Southern culture, once serving as a prison during the Revolutionary War. Located at the southern end of the Grand Strand, the lush surroundings are also home to a golf course and restaurant. For more information, call (843) 448-2124 or visit [www.wedgefield.com](http://www.wedgefield.com).



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## Museums and cultural landmarks

### 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](http://www.Brookgreen.com).

### 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 home site 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](http://www.carolinasafari.com).

### Children's Museum of South Carolina

Have you ever stood inside a bubble? Or taken a ride in a magic school bus? The Children's Museum of South Carolina delivers the magic of discovery, and the fun of interactive learning. A great place for children and multi-generational families, the museum provides an environment where everyone is encouraged to touch, explore and play. For additional information, call (843) 946-9469, or visit [CMSCKids.org](http://CMSCKids.org).

### Conway Glass Gallery and Studio

Located in historic, downtown Conway, Conway Glass Gallery & Studio is owned by Ed and Barbara Streeter. They collaborate on design and color, working as a team to create their colorful collection of blown glass. The couple also teaches classes in glass blowing, glass bead making and glass fusing. In addition, they hold free public demonstrations of glass blowing throughout the year to increase the appreciation of the traditional craft of glass blowing. For more information, call (843) 248-4527 or visit [www.conwayglass.com](http://www.conwayglass.com).

### Conway Riverwalk

Running along the Waccamaw River in downtown Conway, this sprawling trail takes walkers past the blackwater river and a number of older buildings, marinas and picnic areas. One of the highlights strollers will come across is the Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge. Built in 1937 to honor Horry County citizens who served in battles from the American Revolution to World War I, the 1,270-foot-long bridge has vertical and horizontal curves, cast-iron lampposts and Gothic-styled arches. This architectural wonder earned a spot in the National Historic Register. In 1993, the S.C. Department of Highways and Public Transportation described the bridge's arches as "a lavish treatment seldom seen in South Carolina bridges."



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### **Franklin G. Burroughs – Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum**

Considered the Grand Strand's home for contemporary visual art in all mediums since 1977, The Art Museum has been a showcase for living Southern artists that include Myrtle Beach's own Alex Powers, Dixie Dugan, and Ouida Salvo. Housed in a restored 1920s beach cottage with signature green-striped awnings and picturesque tea porch, the Museum has 10 galleries with visual art exhibitions changing throughout the year. The Museum also boasts works of historic regional significance including The Waccamaw Arts and Crafts Guild Collection and the Bishop Collection of Antique Maps and Prints. The Museum has exhibited works from some of America's foremost names in the world of art, including those of John James Audubon, Ansel Adams and Jasper Johns. Special events are offered regularly. The museum is open Tuesday – Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (843) 238-2510 or visit [www.myrtlebeachartmuseum.org](http://www.myrtlebeachartmuseum.org).

### **Freewoods Farm**

Freewoods Farm is located in a rural section of Horry County approximately ten miles southwest of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. After the Civil War, many former slaves settled in or near Freewoods, which is today part of the Burgess community located on State Highway 707 between Socastee and U.S Highway 17. It's the only living history farm museum in the country devoted to recreating life on farms owned by African- Americans and recognizing their contributions through agriculture to the economy of a state and nation. For more information, go to [www.freewoodsfarm.com](http://www.freewoodsfarm.com).

### **Gullah Museum**

The Gullah Museum and Gullah O'man Shop provides educational lectures about the history of the Gullah people who inhabit the southeastern Atlantic coastal region of the US today. Gullah culture has its own language, cuisine and observances that are still practiced. The museum is located off of Highway 17 in Pawleys Island. Daily hours of operation are 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Gullah O'man Shop has handcrafted items in the Gullah tradition – sweetgrass baskets, Gullah clothing, artisan quilts, and Gullah toys. For additional information, call (843) 235-0747.

### **Historic Myrtle Beach Colored School Museum and Education Center**

The Myrtle Beach Colored School served African-American students in the Myrtle Beach area for more than 20 years. Today, a new Historic Myrtle Beach Colored School Museum and Education Center provides a window on that past, as well as a door to the future for all. Thanks to leadership from the City of Myrtle Beach, vision from former students and a partnership among public and private entities, the old school has been preserved in spirit and recreated in fact and continues to fulfill an educational mission. For more information, call (843) 918-1000 or visit [www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com/coloredschool.html](http://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com/coloredschool.html).

### **L.W. Paul Living History Farm**

Return to life during the first half of the twentieth century at the L.W. Paul Living History Farm. Funded by a local businessman, Larry Paul, this 17-acre farm brings to life what it would have been like to live in Horry County from 1900-1955. Visitors can observe and participate in activities that would have been commonplace on traditional family farms during this era including plowing with mules, making lye soap, curing meat and milking cows. Events and demonstrations change to interpret the activities that take place on the Farm annually so there's always something new to see at the L.W. Paul Living History Farm. For more information, visit <http://www.horrycountymuseum.org/events/FarmInfo.pdf>

### **North Myrtle Beach Museum**

The North Myrtle Beach Museum features exhibits and programs focused on stories from the region's first inhabitants to the development of today's tourism industry. North Myrtle Beach has a significant history that began more than 10,000 years ago when Native Americans lived in the bounties of the environment. The museum is open Noon to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays through Sundays. For more information, visit [northmyrtlebeachmuseum.com](http://northmyrtlebeachmuseum.com).



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### **Rice Museum**

The story of the rice culture in Georgetown County is captured here. Through maps, dioramas, artifacts and other exhibits, visitors to the museum gain a knowledge and understanding of a society based on one crop. The museum is located in the Old Market Building, erected in 1842 and the first Georgetown structure to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In the adjacent Maritime History Gallery is Brown's Ferry Vessel, a 50' river freighter built in 1710, sunk around 1730 and the oldest boat in North America. Other exhibits include history of the Kaminski Hardware Company; Gullah history of the S.C. low country; Miss Ruby Forsythe, one of South Carolina's great educators; and Joseph Hayne Rainey, the first African American elected to the U.S. Congress. Visitors are invited to browse in the Museum Gift Shop and the Prevost Gallery, which provides interesting exhibits of art and history on a revolving basis. For more information, call (843) 546-7423 or visit [www.ricemuseum.org](http://www.ricemuseum.org).

### **The South Carolina Civil War Museum**

This unique collection of Civil War memorabilia comes from owners Ted and Connie Gragg, and consists of artifacts collected by the C.S.S. Pedee Research and Recovery Team at the Mars Bluff Confederate Navy Yard on the Big Pee Dee River. Visitors will find period firearms, swords and one of the gun carriages from the Rockbridge Artillery, which supported Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson. Open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, the museum is located at 4857 U.S. 17 Bypass South in Myrtle Beach. For more information, go to [www.mbisr.com/sccivilwarmuseum.html](http://www.mbisr.com/sccivilwarmuseum.html).

### **South Carolina Hall of Fame**

The South Carolina Hall of Fame is landmark that was created to recognize and honor both contemporary and past citizens who have made outstanding contributions to South Carolina's heritage and progress. Located in the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, inductees include President Andrew Jackson, Senator Strom Thurmond, among others. For more information, go to [www.theofficialschalloffame.com](http://www.theofficialschalloffame.com).

### **South Carolina Maritime Museum**

Located on the waterfront in downtown historic Georgetown, the South Carolina Maritime Museum celebrates the rich maritime history of South Carolina and the Port of Georgetown, the state's second largest seaport. The museum showcases photographs, documents, artifacts and interactive exhibits of South Carolina's maritime history. This includes historic events and stories about South Carolina's oldest operating lighthouse, the largest sailing ship ever built in South Carolina and Georgetown's fishing industry, among others. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, admission is free to guests. For more information, visit [sccaritimuseum.org](http://sccaritimuseum.org).

### **Sports Illustrated/Pine Lakes Country Club**

Sports enthusiasts have scrolled the pages of "Sports Illustrated" for almost 60 years. However, some may not know about the magazine's Myrtle Beach connection. Prior to the release of its premiere issue in 1954, the Pine Lakes Country Club hosted the magazine's first sales conference. Today, visitors to the Pine Lakes Country Club will find a room with press clippings and other mementos from that conference. The course is at 5603 Granddaddy Drive. For more information, go to [www.pinelakes.com](http://www.pinelakes.com).

### **Tours de Sandy Island**

Sandy Island is the last undeveloped true island in the eastern seaboard of South Carolina. Residents have traveled to and from this island to the mainland by boat since becoming inhabitable. Guests will visit the community and experience the rich culture of the 9,000-acre woodland including the old Mount Rena Cemetery, the School Boat, and the Fire House and New Bethel Missionary Baptist church, founded in 1880. Various tours are available Tuesdays through Saturdays. For more



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### **Vereen Memorial Historical Gardens**

Known for its bird watching, the Vereen Memorial Historical Gardens are a small portion of a 400-acre plantation that has been in the Vereen family since the early 1800s. The grounds include the Vereen family cemetery, including Revolutionary War graves, and paths for hikers, joggers and bicyclists looking for an off-the-beaten path trail. For more information, go to [www.scgreatoutdoors.com/park-vereengardens.html](http://www.scgreatoutdoors.com/park-vereengardens.html).

### **Wheels of Yesteryear**

Wheels of Yesteryear is one of the Southeast's most impressive collections of vintage American-made automobiles and trucks. Located in the former Basketville retail location at Hwy 501 and Hwy 31, Wheels of Yesteryear features over 45 classic cars and trucks collected and painstakingly restored by automobile enthusiast Paul Cummings. Cummings' collection consists of over 100 accurately and fully restored cars, which will all be featured in the auto showcase on a rotating basis, year-round. The collection primarily consists of Chrysler/Dodge/Plymouth MOPAR cars, commonly referred to as American Muscle, some Ford Motor Company, GM Division, and AMC Corporation examples of muscle and classic cars of yesteryear. Among the most impressive cars on display are the winged warriors and nostalgia drag cars. For more information, call (704) 604-4664 or visit [www.musclecarsandmore.com](http://www.musclecarsandmore.com).

For additional information on the Myrtle Beach Area, visit [www.VisitMyrtleBeach.com](http://www.VisitMyrtleBeach.com) or call 1.888.Myrtle1.