

Beer and Breweries

Myrtle Beach Is Where Everyone Stops for Hops

The Myrtle Beach area has long been famous for its 60 miles of beautiful, sandy beaches, award-winning seafood and renowned attractions such as The Carolina Opry and the Myrtle Beach SkyWheel. And now, Myrtle Beach is quickly becoming a craft beer mecca along the East Coast. Economic development officials are working to take that next step and convince California-based Stone Brewing Company to open their new East Coast brewery right here along the Grand Strand.

TOURS, TASTINGS AND TIPS

Here are the top ways to truly experience Myrtle Beach's craft brew scene

1. **Piggly Wiggly at The Market Common** – Simply put, this is the best beer selection along the Grand Strand. There's a six-tap growler station and over [600 different craft beers](#) are available year-round.
2. **New South Brewery** – Myrtle Beach's own microbrewery began in 1998, brewing fresh ales and lagers for local restaurants. Today, they can their beer to sell in regional grocery stores. Schedule a free [tour and tasting](#) to learn more about these local brews.
3. **Bumsteads Pub** – A neighborhood bar with the look and feel of a traditional Irish pub, this local favorite has over 150 imported and domestic beers available. Finish them all in the span of a [year](#), and get your name on their wall.
4. **Gordon Biersch Brewery and Restaurant** – A wonderful menu is complemented by the [beers](#) brewed in-house. Their hefeweizen and sommer brau are very popular.
5. **The Crafty Rooster** – Worth the drive to the heart of downtown Conway. They have 14 taps of [craft beer](#) in this Coastal Carolina-themed sports bar. A new craft keg is tapped every Tuesday.
6. **Fire and Smoke Gastropub** – Those looking for something beyond the traditional bar have a new place to visit in the Myrtle Beach area. The [Fire and Smoke Gastropub](#) offers high-end beers, bourbons and cocktails to patrons. Plus, the chefs smoke cheeses, proteins and can even smoke your beverages!
7. **The Homebrewer's Pantry** – Want to give beer-making at home the ol' college try? This new [store](#) in Conway offers homebrew ingredients and equipment for making beer, wine, mead, cider and soda. Classes will also be starting soon.

BEER CELEBRATIONS

Myrtle Beach rolls out the welcome mat year after year for craft beer fans looking to try that new ale, IPA or porter. From the annual Beerfest celebration to the Conway staple Craftyfest, these parties are as fun and unique as the beers themselves.

- **Myrtle Beach Beerfest**

This annual March celebration of all things stout, ale and everything in between enters its sixth year in 2014. Held at the House of Blues, the event gives attendees over 100 craft beers throughout two sessions. There is also plenty of live music.

- **Irish Fest**

St. Patrick's Day gets an early start every with the annual Irish Fest at The Market Common. Attendees have a great selection of craft beers to choose from. There is also a wealth of traditional Irish music and a sea of green. The luck of the Irish will definitely be with you!

- **Beer, BBQ and Bluegrass Festival**

Question: Where can you combine fantastic brews; that mouth-watering Southern staple, barbecue; and all the fine fiddlin' worth dancing to? The answer is April's inaugural Beer, BBQ and Bluegrass Festival.

- **Brew At The Zoo**

Brookgreen Gardens' annual fall craft beer tasting returns every September. It features over 30 regional and national selections, as well as offering participants the rare opportunity to see many of the exhibits at Brookgreen's Lowcountry Zoo at night. As an added bonus, guests receive a signature tasting glass.

- **Oktoberfest**

For the first weekend in October, The Market Common recognizes all the wonderful heritage, food and beer of Germany. The local Oktoberfest celebrates its sixth year in 2014 and offers attendees a large selection of fine German beers to enjoy, plenty of food, a pumpkin patch for the kids and so much more.

- **Craftyfest in Conway**

In early November, Conway's popular Crafty Rooster celebrates its great assortment of craft beers right in the heart of historic downtown Conway, along the Waccamaw River. Attendees can sample dozens of choice brews and enjoy a fine stroll along the Conway Riverwalk.