

Festivities Shine in the South Carolina Sun

The charm, culture and history of the Myrtle Beach area's communities are constantly showcased throughout the year by the many unique festivals and events. From food to music and entertainment, the Myrtle Beach area offers travelers diverting and enjoyable festivals throughout the entire year that can infuse vacations with distinctive experiences never to be forgotten.

Annual Festivals

Murrells Inlet Fourth of July Boat Parade

Each Independence Day, Myrtle Beach locals and guests celebrate in style with the July 4th Boat Parade in Murrells Inlet. Decorated boats sail down the parade route with festival goers watching from equally decorated docks of the Murrells Inlet Marshwalk and picturesque restaurants. The day concludes with a spectacular firework display in the Inlet, and awards for the best boat and dock decorations. For more information, call (843) 651-5675 or visit www.murrellsinletsc.com.

Atalaya Arts and Crafts Festival

Featuring more than 100 artisans, the Atalaya Arts and Crafts Festival at Huntington Beach State Park is sure to bring out everyone's inner Picasso. The three-day event runs Sept. 23-25, 2016 and will also include food and live music. Organizers ask that no dogs and other pets are brought. For more information, call (803) 734-0450 or Huntington Beach State Park at (843) 237-4440.

Aynor Harvest Hoe-Down

Aynor Harvest Hoe-Down is an autumn event the whole family can enjoy. The day-long festival on Sept. 17, 2016 will showcase over 140 craft booths, entertainment, food, games, plus a parade and a street dance to top it all off! For more information, please visit www.aynorschamber.org.

Beach, Boogie & BBQ Festival

The "grand finale" of summer, this Labor Day weekend festival, which draws between 50,000 and 60,000 visitors, features the official barbeque competition of South Carolina, live entertainment and Kids Zone among other events held at Grand Park across from The Market Common. For more information, call (800) 356-3016 or visit www.grandstrandevents.com/beachboogiebbq.

Blue Crab Festival

Each May, the community of Little River, SC plays host to the annual Blue Crab Festival, drawing in excess of 50,000 people who come out to enjoy a weekend of live music, arts and crafts, beautiful seafaring culture, and of course, sweet and savory blue crab! The next Blue Crab Festival will be held on May 14-15, 2016. For more information, call (843) 249-1682 or visit www.bluecrabfestival.org.

Canadian-American Days Festival

Each year in early March, thousands of America's Canadian neighbors and snowbirds visit from the North and scatter throughout the Grand Strand communities in advance of spring for the Canadian-American Days Festival. In 2016, the event will celebrate 55 years of welcoming Canadians and snowbirds to the Myrtle Beach area when it kicks off March 12 and goes through March 20, 2016. The event features activities and discounts, including welcome receptions, military band concerts, athletic tournaments and wildlife and history days. For more information, call (800) 356-3016 or visit www.CanAmDays.com.



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Conway Riverfest

An independence celebration held along the majestic Waccamaw River in downtown Conway, this popular festival returns on June 25, 2016. Attendees can enjoy live entertainment, an artisan market, a tennis tournament, raft race, activities and games for all ages, food, fireworks and much more. For more information, visit www.conwayriverfest.com.

Loris Bog Off

The community of Loris' annual Bog Off is a celebration of heritage expressed through a top notch cooking competition to determine the best Chicken bog – a spicy blend of rice, chicken sausage, onion and black pepper served in a “big ‘ol bowl.” In addition to the competition the weekend also includes a parade, arts/ crafts, and live entertainment. The Loris Bog Off will be celebrated Oct. 15, 2016. For more information, visit www.LorisChamberSC.com.

Murrells Inlet Annual Oyster Roast

The historic fishing village of Murrells Inlet serves up an afternoon filled with bushels and bushels of sweet local oysters during the community's annual Oyster roast on Nov. 19, 2016. Oyster fans can enjoy a great all-you-can-eat afternoon of steamed oysters and great offerings from Dead Dog Saloon, Drunken Jack's, Divine Fish House, Bovine's, River City Cafe and more alongside live music. For more information, call (843) 357-2007 or visit www.murrellsinletsc.com

Myrtle Beach International Film Festival

Aspiring Spielbergs and Scorseses hope to enthrall audiences with their cinematic offerings at the 2015 Myrtle Beach International Film Festival, April 2016 at Broadway at the Beach's Carmike Cinemas. The categories run the gamut from short films and documentaries, to animation and music videos. For more information, go to www.myrtlebeachfilmfestival.com.

North Myrtle Beach Irish Italian International Festival

Around 15,000 people of varying backgrounds and culture are expected out on Main Street this fall for the North Myrtle Beach Irish Italian International Festival. Set for Sept. 26, 2015, this event brings together food, live entertainment and even a spaghetti-eating competition. It's sure to be fun for the whole family. For more information, call (843) 280-5570.

North Myrtle Beach St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival

Come celebrate the luck of the Irish at the Grand Strand's largest St. Patrick's Day parade held in North Myrtle Beach. Happening March 12, 2016, this annual extravaganza brings in over 100 parade entries. Early risers can be found frequenting Main Street eateries before the 9 a.m. so they'll have happy tummies while the parade moves along. After, Main Street plays host to a large festival guaranteed to keep that Irish spirit alive. For more information, call (843) 280-5584.

Rivertown Jazz and Arts Festival (Conway)

This annual festival is held on the banks of the Waccamaw River in downtown Conway. The all-day event highlights jazz and art favorites and delicious food-while providing guests with a lively downtown scene. The festival is scheduled for May 7, 2016. For more information, visit www.conwaymainstreet.com.

Little River ShrimpFest

Combining the very best in live jazz music and flavorful locally sourced shrimp, the Shrimp & Jazz Festival in the seafaring community of Little River, SC is a fall afternoon treat being held Oct. 8-9, 2016. For more information, call (843) 249-6604 or visit www.littleriverchamber.org.