

FAMILY ROUTE · MYRTLE BEACH, SC

MYRTLE BEACH MADE EASY FOR FAMILIES

Myrtle Beach for families: ocean air, boardwalk fun, and indoor attractions that keep kids busy on rainy afternoons.

Start with a morning on the sand, save the boardwalk for the evening, and choose attractions that suit your kids' ages and the weather.

Ocean Boulevard · Broadway at the Beach · Murrells Inlet · Myrtle Beach State Park

AT A GLANCE

Your Myrtle Beach family guide, in one glance

Check these patterns first, so sun, sand, heat, and nap times fit into your plan.



Arrival morning

Start at the boardwalk or Myrtle Beach State Park, then add a shady spot and a snack break.



Toddlers and preschoolers

Keep beach time in short blocks, pick shallow water and shaded spots, and favor easy indoor play.



Mixed-age crews

Pair one active attraction like WonderWorks with a relaxed evening walk on the boardwalk.



Afternoon storm plan

Keep one indoor attraction on the route, ready for a sudden summer thunderstorm.

ORIENT YOURSELF

Myrtle Beach at a Glance

Plan around one stretch of coast a day, so little ones get shade, snacks, and naps between stops.

ZONE	WHAT'S THERE
Ocean Boulevard	Beachfront hotels, the SkyWheel, Ripley's Aquarium, and the Myrtle Beach Boardwalk.
Broadway at the Beach	Shops, restaurants, and entertainment in one walkable district.
North Myrtle Beach	Quieter beaches, Barefoot Landing shopping, and family-friendly resorts.
Murrells Inlet	MarshWalk, seafood docks, and boat tours into the salt marsh.
Inland & gardens	Brookgreen Gardens, Alligator Adventure, and Warbird Park.
Practical tips	Drink water, reapply sunscreen often, and build in time for snacks, naps, and afternoon storms.
Transit & parking	Park once and walk the boardwalk; check parking rules and fees at each attraction.

Which major attraction fits your family?

DESTINATION	WHY IT WORKS
Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach	Sharks, rays, and touch tanks; plan a relaxed one to two hour visit.
WonderWorks Myrtle Beach	Upside-down rooms and hands-on games; best for tweens and teens.
Pirates Voyage Myrtle Beach	A live pirate show with dinner; a good evening pick for mixed ages.
Hollywood Wax Museum Myrtle Beach	A quick indoor visit with celebrity figures; handy for a rainy hour.
SkyWheel Myrtle Beach	Ocean views from the top; pick a clear evening for the best ride.
Myrtle Beach State Park	Ocean trails, a fishing pier, and shaded picnic spots for little ones.
Myrtle Beach Boardwalk	Arcades, rides, and snack stands; go after dinner when it cools down.
Brookgreen Gardens	Sculpture gardens on shaded paths; choose a short loop for small kids.
Alligator Adventure	Gators, turtles, and a wildlife walk; plan a midday shade break.
Warbird Park Myrtle Beach	Historic aircraft in an open park; a good outdoor break.

Before you book, check each attraction's official site for current hours, timed tickets, stroller rules, and closures.

THE BIG LIST

17 Paid Family Attractions

1. **Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach** for sharks, rays, and touch tanks.
2. **WonderWorks Myrtle Beach** for upside-down rooms and hands-on games.
3. **Pirates Voyage Myrtle Beach** for a live pirate show and dinner.
4. **Hollywood Wax Museum Myrtle Beach** for celebrity figures and photo stops.
5. **SkyWheel Myrtle Beach** for ocean views from the top.
6. Myrtle Waves Water Park for wave pools and slides in summer.
7. Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament for a knights' show and a family dinner.
8. Brookgreen Gardens for sculpture and shaded garden paths.
9. Alligator Adventure for gators and a guided wildlife walk.
10. Dixie Stampede Myrtle Beach for a dinner show with horses.
11. Captain Dan's Dolphin Cruises for a boat ride to spot dolphins.
12. Carolina Opry for musical variety shows.
13. Alabama Theatre for family-friendly stage shows.
14. Themed mini golf on Ocean Boulevard for a short evening game.
15. Go-kart tracks along Kings Highway for older kids.
16. Guided horseback beach rides for a seaside trail with a guide.
17. Murrells Inlet marsh boat tours for birds and sunset views.

Before you go, check ages, timed-entry slots, seasonal hours, and stroller rules on official sites.

LOWER-COST DAYS

15 Free & Budget-Friendly Places

Pair one paid highlight with a free beach or boardwalk walk, and the day stays easy on the budget.

01 **Myrtle Beach State Park** for ocean trails, shaded picnic spots, and a sheltered beach.

02 **Myrtle Beach Boardwalk** for an ocean-breeze stroll; walking is free.

03 **Warbird Park Myrtle Beach** for outdoor aircraft displays.

04 **Vereen Memorial Gardens** for quiet gardens and stroller-friendly paths.

05 **Horry County Museum** for local history in a short indoor visit.

06 Broadway at the Beach for free walking, fountains, and shop windows.

07 Barefoot Landing for a waterfront stroll past shops and restaurants.

08 Murrells Inlet MarshWalk for a free boardwalk over the salt marsh.

09 Ocean Drive Beach for a quieter stretch of sand and sandcastles.

10 Surfside Beach Pier for ocean views; check fishing rules first.

11 Apache Pier for a walk out over the water; check local rules.

12 Public beach swimming at lifeguarded access points.

13 Sandcastle building on the public beach; bring a bucket and shovel.

14 Sea turtle nest walks in season; follow local viewing rules.

15 Conway Riverwalk for a short, shaded path along the river.



OFF THE BEATEN TRAIL

Local Favorites & Hidden Gems

1. Murrells Inlet docks for fresh seafood and a laid-back dinner.
2. Litchfield Beach for a quieter stretch of sand.
3. Surfside Beach for a small-town feel with fewer crowds.
4. Conway Riverwalk for a historic riverside stroll.
5. Georgetown's historic waterfront for old streets and a short museum visit.
6. Little River for a fishing-village feel and seafood lunches.
7. Market Common in Myrtle Beach for shops and an open lawn.
8. Pawleys Island shops for a relaxed browse and a shady break.

Pick one coastal town per day; shade, a snack, and a short drive keep everyone happy.

WEATHER BACKUP

Rainy-Day & Indoor Picks



For curious ocean fans

Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach for sharks, rays, and touch tanks.



For the littlest ones

Hollywood Wax Museum Myrtle Beach for a short, easy visit with celebrity figures.



For game-loving kids

WonderWorks Myrtle Beach for upside-down rooms and hands-on games.



For a brief break in the rain

Broadway at the Beach for shops, restaurants, and an easy place to wait out a shower.



For grown-ups

Keep a cushion in the schedule for snacks, a dry layer, and one indoor highlight such as a dinner show at **Pirates Voyage Myrtle Beach**.

Confirm each attraction's hours, timed entry, and stroller access on its official website before you go.

BEFORE YOU GO

Myrtle Beach Area Map, Pitfalls & Source Notes

Myrtle Beach Area Attraction Map

ZONE	HIGHLIGHTS
Ocean Boulevard	Ripley's Aquarium, SkyWheel, Myrtle Beach Boardwalk, Myrtle Waves Water Park
Broadway at the Beach	Shops, restaurants, Pirates Voyage, Hollywood Wax Museum
State park & beaches	Myrtle Beach State Park, Ocean Drive Beach, Surfside Beach Pier
Gardens & wildlife	Brookgreen Gardens, Vereen Memorial Gardens, Alligator Adventure
North Myrtle & Inlet	Barefoot Landing, Murrells Inlet MarshWalk, Captain Dan’s Dolphin Cruises
History & river	Horry County Museum, Warbird Park, Conway Riverwalk

Common Planning Mistakes

1. Packing too many stops into one day with toddlers; save the big walk for the cooler morning.
2. Forgetting how hot and humid summer days get; plan beach time before noon and indoor breaks at midday.
3. Assuming every attraction runs its full hours in the off-season; check schedules before you go.
4. Skipping sunscreen and reapplying after swimming; sun on the sand is strong even on cloudy days.
5. Paying for parking without checking rules; some beach zones charge by the hour.
6. Having no plan B for the afternoon thunderstorms that roll in during summer.