

# **Festivities Shine In The South Carolina Sun**

# The Myrtle Beach area celebrates food, music, and fun year-around

The charm, culture and history of the Myrtle Beach area is on display through a variety of unique festivals and events. Visitors and locals alike can enjoy fun-filled events focused on delectable dishes, historical dates, art, music, culture and entertainment. The Myrtle Beach area offers entertaining and enjoyable festivals throughout the entire year that can infuse vacations with distinctive experiences never to be forgotten.

# **Annual Festivals**

# 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 and festival held in North Myrtle Beach. This annual extravaganza brings in more than 100 parade entries. Early risers can be found frequenting Main Street eateries before the 9 a.m. parade starts. After the parade, Main Street plays host to a large festival guaranteed to keep that Irish spirit alive.

# **Myrtle Beach International Film Festival**

Aspiring actors and directors hope to enthrall audiences with their cinematic offerings each April at the Myrtle Beach International Film Festival. Audiences can view films across many genres and categories from short films and documentaries to animation and music videos.

# North Myrtle Beach Irish Italian International Festival

Each September, nearly 15,000 people enjoy the North Myrtle Beach Irish Italian International Festival. This event celebrates the two different cultures with a day of food, live entertainment and even a spaghetti-eating competition. Children have their own special place at this festival with rides, inflatables and more!

# **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!

#### **Rivertown Music and Craft Beer Festival**

Each May, the quaint community of Conway, SC is host to the Rivertown Music & Craft Beer Festival, offering an array of musical acts in Historic Downtown Conway. Spend the day strolling along the banks of the Waccamaw River while enjoying lively music and delicious beer samples. For more information, call (843) 248-6260.

# **Carolina Country Music Fest**

Each year, the Carolina Country Music Fest brings more than 30 of country's hottest artists to perform in the heart of Myrtle Beach. This three-day festival of music has featured such performers as Luke Bryan, Keith Urban, Darius Rucker, Eric Church, Lady Antebellum, Kenny Chesney, Tim McGraw, Kelsea Ballerini, Cole Swindell, Florida Georgia Line, Deana Carter and many more!

#### **Conway Riverfest**

Enjoy a beautiful summer day celebrating America's Independence in historic Conway. In late June, experience live music, food, a Kids Zone full of activities, an artisan market and everything you'd want from a summer festival complete with small-town charm and Southern hospitality. Cap the day off with the Fireworks Extravaganza.

#### 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 its picturesque restaurants. The day concludes with a spectacular fireworks display in the Inlet, and awards for the best boat and dock decorations.

#### **Myrtle Beach Jazz Festival**

This annual festival merges history and the soulful sounds of jazz along historic Carver St. in Myrtle Beach. Each September, music lovers enjoy regional and local jazz artists along with delicious food and drink during this event designed to keep jazz music alive and celebrate culture and community.

#### **Atalaya Arts and Crafts Festival**

Featuring more than 100 artisans, the Atalaya Arts and Crafts Festival at Huntington Beach State Park showcases fine artwork against a background of natural beauty. The three-day event runs in late September and features fine art, crafts and local cuisine as well as live music.

#### **Aynor Harvest Hoe-Down**

Aynor Harvest Hoe-Down has been a family tradition for many years and is one of the oldest and largest festivals in the Carolinas. This one-day festival occurs in late September and showcases hundreds of craft booths, food vendors, games, and entertainment including a parade and a street dance.

#### **Loris Bog Off**

The Myrtle Beach 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, this October weekend also includes a cooking contest, arts & crafts, a fireworks extravaganza and live entertainment.

# **Little River Shrimp Fest**

Combining the very best in live jazz music and flavorful locally sourced shrimp, the Shrimp Festival in the seafaring community of Little River, SC is a fall afternoon treat held each October.

#### **Murrells Inlet Annual Oyster Roast**

The historic fishing village of Murrells Inlet serves up an afternoon filled with bushels of sweet local oysters during the community's annual Oyster Roast in November. 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 additional information on the Myrtle Beach Area, visit <u>www.VisitMyrtleBeach.com</u>.