

## **Hidden Gem! Surfside Beach, South Carolina**

Minutes from the hustle-bustle of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina you'll find the laid back beach community of Surfside Beach. Sherbet hued stilt homes and pastel beachfront properties encourage a slower pace and a relaxed vacation.

With a strong community of year-round residents mixed among the popular returning vacation crowd, Surfside is a top spot on the Grand Strand for families.

Within 10 miles vacationers will find the glitz and excitement of Myrtle Beach to the north and peaceful state parks and fishing towns to the south. Families have the best of both worlds in Surfside. Fill each day with a different type of activity and still retreat to your delightful beachfront home by dusk.

### **Surfside Beach Highlights**

**The Beach:** You'll find the beach is very popular once summer vacation months are in full swing! The soft greyish white sand is ideal for picnics and sunbathing. With lots of shallow surf the kids will enjoy running through the gentle waves and trying their hand at boogie boarding. The wide swath of beach gives adequate room to set up a pavilion or just a few umbrellas for your day by the dunes. What day at the beach would be complete without ice-cream? You'll find a wide variety of flavors, cups or cones, at the town-owned pier in central Surfside Beach. (4.0 stars)

**The Library:** Located just a few blocks from Ocean Boulevard, enjoy the cool air-conditioned library for an afternoon Story Time for toddlers or just relax and read a few books together in one of the comfortable chairs. Check the library's calendar of events for other activities like the "Book-n-Cook" for the older kids! Horry County Memorial Library, [www.hcml.org](http://www.hcml.org) (4.0 stars)

**Movies After Dark:** What a great way to end a perfect beach day! Grab a blanket and some snacks and head down to Martin Field for family friendly movies in the park every Thursday night June through August. (4.0 stars)

**Dining:** Impossible to miss sitting on the corner of Ocean Boulevard at the pier, River City Café is the quintessential rustic beach burger joint. With peanut shells on the floor and walls covered in license plates, you'll definitely get a kick out of this place! Take a night off from cooking at home and try one of the local seafood buffets like Crabby Mike's Calabash Seafood. Quirky, kitschy and fun, the kids are sure to love it! For a more refined experience, head to Malibu of Surfside and satisfy your seafood craving or enjoy a classic Italian entrée from this family owned restaurant. (4.5 stars)

### **Myrtle Beach Highlights**

**Waterparks and Mini-Golf:** Driving north on Highway 17 towards Myrtle Beach you'll find a mini-golf course or waterpark on nearly every corner! (4.5 stars - for the sheer number of them!)

**Entertainment:** Head to [Broadway at the Beach](#) for dinning, attractions and shopping. Visit the Ripley's Aquarium and Wonderworks (the "upside down building") for an afternoon of education and fun. (4.0 stars)

**Alligator Adventure:** Slightly further north is [Alligator Adventure](#) at Barefoot Landing. Spend the day here engaged with hundreds of alligators and crocodiles, including Utan, the largest in North America! In addition there are many varieties of birds, monkeys, turtles, and even kangaroos and wolves. Touch an alligator or if you're really brave participate in the snake handling show. **Bonus Tip!!** You receive a second day free (within 7 days) when you purchase your tickets at Alligator Adventure. (4.5 stars)

### **South of Surfside Beach**

**Huntington Beach State Park:** After the sensory overload of Myrtle Beach, take time to visit a unique [state park](#) in Murrells Inlet. With three nature trails, the longest only 2 miles, enjoy a quieter side of the Grand Strand. Learn about the marshes and spartina grass. Take advantage of the wildlife viewing areas to see snowy egrets, blue crabs and alligators in their natural habitat. With full restroom facilities, interpretive centers and a soft sandy beach, bring a picnic and stay the entire day. (5 stars)

**Brookgreen Gardens:** Almost directly across the street from the state park is [Brookgreen Gardens](#). The combination of artwork, gardens, zoo and history has made this a favorite way to spend the day for many locals. Whimsical and mythological statues grace the manicured gardens and live oak alley. Nature trails, pontoon boat rides and plantation tours bring to life the lowcountry side of South Carolina. (4.0 stars)

**Marsh Walk at Murrells Inlet:** Located on Highway 17, enjoy a heaping of seafood restaurants and a walkway around the saltwater marsh and marina. Help your little ones spy the goats on Goat Island! Have a bite of lunch and do a little people watching on your way back from Brookgreen Gardens. (3.5 stars, restaurants are expensive)

Immerse yourself in a classic east coast beach vacation at Surfside Beach this summer. Contact [Surfside Realty](#) for information on vacation rentals.