



## NAVIGATOR

# MYRTLE BEACH

When you dream of your Myrtle Beach vacay, you imagine sounds of ocean waves, have visions of strolling along the grand strand and think of multistory hotels and dining at on-site restaurants. But there is much more to discover about this beautiful city and all that it offers.

BY LESLIE E. ROYAL

Helmed by nationally renowned, award-winning Chef Jamie Saunders, **Johnny D's Waffles and Bakery** is one of the best specialty breakfast restaurants you will ever visit. Delight in the delectable red velvet waffle. Other menu items such as the crab and shrimp omelet, cinnaroll waffle, salmon benedict, bacon cheese fries, brisket tacos, smoked provolone burger as well as chicken fingers with waffles are quite tasty and tantalizing ([johnnydwafflesandbakery.com](http://johnnydwafflesandbakery.com)).

Featuring out-of-this world craft cocktails as well as simply divine modern cuisine, **The Chemist** bistro should certainly be placed on your top-five list of restaurants to visit in Myrtle Beach. You will love their spectacular cocktail presentations, really cool laboratory decor and absolutely delicious cuisine ([chemistbar.com](http://chemistbar.com)).

The city has an array of beachfront accommodations and rentals. But if staying on the beach isn't a priority, there are also plenty of affordable, family-friendly options just off the beach. For example, **Best Western Plus cottages** are unique, budget-friendly homes that have privacy, a front yard, FREE breakfast, backyard with grill,

full kitchen, living room, private bedroom and more ([myrtlebeachbestwestern.com/Cottages-Penthouses](http://myrtlebeachbestwestern.com/Cottages-Penthouses)).

Whether you're craving quick bite or a multicourse experience, **Scatori's Pizzeria and Italian restaurant** is a superb option. For casual dining, enter on the left side and enjoy the oh-so-delicious hand-tossed pies. For upscale dining, literally step right into the elegant restaurant for exceptional cuisine. Delight in the prosciutto-wrapped shrimp, penne ala vodka or veal scatori. Ask Chef Kevin Levine about his sensational five-course chef's dinner ([scatoris.com](http://scatoris.com)).

A popular spring break destination, the city has many family-friendly attractions. **The Pirates of Voyage** offers a spectacular dinner and show. **Ripley's Aquarium**, featuring the Glass Bottom Boat Tour and *The Mermaids*, live and in vivid living color, is a special treat. Enjoy the **Alabama Theatre**, **Carolina Improv Company**, **WonderWorks**, **Hollywood Wax Museum** and other cool attractions ([visitmyrtlebeach.com](http://visitmyrtlebeach.com)).

**The World Famous Blue Crab Festival**, taking place from May 19 to 20, 2018, is an annual festival held on the Historic Little River Waterfront. With admission (starting at \$4), festival guests can enjoy access to live music, specialty food vendors, arts and crafts stands and catered seafood. The youth will enjoy their own kids' zone as adults groove to the sounds of several entertainers that weekend ([bluecrab-festival.org](http://bluecrab-festival.org)).

Ever considered taking a cultural trip to Myrtle Beach? It's the perfect opportunity to blend in a history lesson for the kids while they still have fun frolicking along the beach. **The Green Book of South Carolina** is a great resource to find areas of African American history and interest in the state. Consider visiting sites like Atlantic Beach aka "the Black Pearl," an oceanfront community (now considered a part of North Myrtle Beach), which was once a popular beach destination and business district for African Americans during segregation ([greenbookofsc.com](http://greenbookofsc.com)).