



Your family will find that the same incredible environment that draws you to the miles of unspoiled Kiawah Island beaches has also attracted eagles, egrets and other natural residents. Unspoiled, Lush and relaxed--the natural beauty stretches for miles.

South Carolina Smiles 2006

KIAWAH RETREAT

By Leslie Westlake

Kiawah Island, winner of the recent Reader's Choice Award for Top North American Island, is one of the nation's finest resorts. Golfers, the world over, recognize Pete Dye's Ocean Course, host to the 2012 PGA and 2007 Senior PGA Championships, and site of the 1991 Ryder Cup. The new Sanctuary at Kiawah Island, a 255-room hotel and spa, is located along a 10-mile stretch of spectacular beach and already renowned for its world-class spa, dining and shopping.



At the Mingo Point Oyster Roast, attendees fill up on oysters and barbecue to the sounds of Bluegrass and Beach music.

However, ask any kid under 17 who has had the good fortune to spend time on this sea island near the historic city of Charleston, SC, and they see Kiawah Island from a different perspective. They are more likely to remember the first sighting of a real alligator in one of the island's lagoons, making tie-dye T-shirts in the park, casting crab nets in the salt marsh or watching for sea turtles under a star-filled sky. This island is well versed in the delights of family play and nature education.

Night Heron Park is a popular island destination with activities including magic shows, jugglers and performances by Rick Hubbard and his World Famous Kazoo Band. Summerfest celebrations feature live entertainment, exhibits by local artists, dancing and gladiator jousts.

Kamp Kiawah has a long tradition with vacationers. With fully supervised entertainment for ages 3 to 11, the half- and full-day sessions that include safari adventures, mystical science, field days and more.

Teens need their own space and pool parties, kayaking expeditions, survivor parties are just a few of the activities to keep them entertained.

The following are just a few of the adventures available for kids and families:

A Sea Island Excursion – Go shell collecting for sand dollars and spiral conk shells on a secluded barrier island only accessible by water.

Sunset, Dolphin and River cruises – Take a 40-foot catamaran from nearby Bohicket Marina to learn local history and spot loggerhead turtles and bald eagles.

Sandlapper Nature Cruise – Local naturalists reveal the secrets of coastal wildlife in maritime forests and salt marsh creeks. Watch shorebirds and dolphins, troll the ocean floor and pull crab pots.

Marine Science for Kids – Cruise the North Edisto River Basin and stop at a barrier island beach for some hands-on discussion about the local ecosystem.

All About Crabs – Blue, stone, spider, ghost, fiddler and horseshoe crabs are the stars of this learning experience with a licensed naturalist.

Learn to Fish Clinic – Learn all about knots, proper use of gear, rigging weights and floats, and how to throw a cast net from working captains.

Even without participating in the above activities, families are sure to have a wonderful vacation here. After all, who grows tired of the beach? And don't forget the swimming pools, tennis, golf and shopping at the Straw Market.

Kiawah offers a variety of family-friendly accommodations. Aside from The Sanctuary's hotel rooms and suites, you'll find a wide range of villas and homes where everyone can spread out and enjoy. So, bring the kids, or just act like one, you'll fit in just fine.



Families enjoy casting crab nets in the salt marsh.

FIND OUT MORE...

Kiawah Island Visitor Center

843-768-5116

www.kiawahresort.com



www.DiscoverSouthCarolina.com