



# Short Stuff

## TRY A KID'S-EYE VIEW OF BEACH RESORTS

By Leslie Westlake

There's a lot you can learn from a kid. They know how to make the most of a beach vacation long before they're old enough to read a vacation guide. They thrive in salt water. Can't wait to be covered in sand. They're not afraid to get face-to-face with nature. They dance like nobody's watching. And, let's face it, they'll eat just about anything.

So, we invite you to gain a new perspective on this vacation. One that measures just about a foot and a half shorter than yourself. Let your inhibitions fly away on an ocean breeze. And think like a child.

First of all, let's get up early. It's sunrise time on the beach, and quite frankly the very best time to be here. Everything is fresh and new. A whole new crop of shells has washed up on shore to be discovered. You have miles and miles of sand all to yourself. You can run all you want, in circles or straight lines. Or let the surf chase you up the shore. Do cartwheels on the firmly packed South Carolina sand. Get a little morning dance going. (Only the gulls are

watching.) It all adds up to a great workout before breakfast.

Now, it's time to get down to some serious fun. Of course, most resorts offer tennis and golf lessons for kids, but depending upon which South Carolina beach resort you choose, you'll also find a wide array of daytime activities. Each different. Each delightful.

### Resort Shorts

**HILTON HEAD ISLAND:** There are many resorts on this family friendly isle. Here are a few activities everyone can enjoy.

The Coastal Discovery Museum offers an assortment of hands-on exhibits, tours and cruises around the island. History and ecology are taught in a way that feels like fun, including a popular exhibit called "Gatorland," where you can touch and interact with American alligators.

Harbourfest is a celebration of all things nautical every Tuesday evening during the summer at Shelter Cove Marina.

The picturesque setting includes a wide array of dining experiences, live music and a great sunset. Boat tours leaving the nearby docks allow you to enjoy the entertainment from the water, dolphin watching or shark fishing expeditions.

Gregg Russell performs free musical concerts at the Liberty Oak in HarbourTown. Families return each year to see him charm audiences with jokes, games and lots of family participation.

**KIAWAH AND SEABROOK ISLANDS:** Both of these sea island gems, within a stone's throw of one another, offer a full array of children's activities including a kids' camp at each resort. Both islands are within a short drive of Charleston for even more family fun.

Kamp Kiawah at Kiawah Island Golf Resort offers a fully supervised program for ages 3 to 11 based at Night Heron Park, a 21-acre wonderland where they can play, swim, enjoy nature talks, scavenger hunts, crabbing, face painting and crafts. Kiawah's Teen Program is staffed with college-age interns and includes paint tag, photo scavenger hunts, "Survivor" contests and comedy workshops.

Koastal Kids at Seabrook Island offers a new theme each day of the week for kids ages 4 to 12: Beach Daze, Koastal Kids Olympics and Wet and Wild are just a few. There's an Island Explorers Club for nature-based fun such as crabbing, beach walks, fishing and clamming. Teens hang out at the recreation pavilion and game room.

**CHARLESTON:** Definitely worth the short trip from the beach. Don't miss the South Carolina Aquarium with 800-plus species. Next door is the IMAX® Theatre and the Fountain Walk complex. Sandlapper Tours offers guided history, nature and ghost tours, and sunset cruises aboard a 45-foot catamaran.

**MYRTLE BEACH AREA:** This is the beach that's just made for family fun. Kids reign supreme among an amazing variety of amusements, awesome miniature golf and entertainment complexes such as Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show, Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament, Ripley's® Aquarium, Alligator Adventure, the South Carolina Children's Museum and theme restaurants such as Hard Rock® Cafe, Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, etc. Of course, there are plenty of opportunities for deep-sea fishing adventures, nature cruises and parasailing.

### Find out more in Places...

Turn to page 114 in the "green pages" for more on Hilton Head Island, page 106 for more on Kiawah and Seabrook Islands, as well as Charleston and page 119 for more on Myrtle Beach.



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