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Myrtle Beach Golf – Quantity & Quality

By Ernie Horning

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Myrtle Beach is the best of both worlds for every golfer, QUALITY and QUANTITY. The Grand Strand has over 120 courses designed by the best in the game: Dye, Jones, Nicklaus, Palmer, and Fazio to name a few. Over 1 Million golfers played there in 2004. You will find the largest assortment of quality courses to test your game, both mentally and physically.

Ten years ago, our group of relatives, friends, and friends of friends, began our now yearly trek to this golf capital of the world. Although our line-up of players and courses alters slightly from year to year, one constant remains, that is the great golf bargains we have found in this golf mecca. Planning for the next years trip begins even before we putt out on the 18th hole of our final day. We don't want it to end, and we can't wait for the next trip to begin.

Living in the northeast, we play some great courses in PA, MD, and VA throughtout the year. But to us, it is all is just a warm-up to our late August mini-tour of this South Carolina beach town. With most of us approaching our late 40's or early 50's, it's the one time of year the wives let us indulge in a week of golf heaven, and we really get to be boys again (it pays to have picked the right mate). Since we have already fulfilled our families' summer vacation obligations, and the yard work is winding down, late August is the perfect time for our trip to paradise.

Playing Myrtle Beach in late August finds courses 1/2 to 1/3 of their premium peak season rates. Along with the lower hotel fees for this late season visit, we easily justify the trip. Crowds are low, most kids are back in school, and there are times when we are literally the only golfers on the course. Play is fast and cheap, so we have to go 36 holes!

We play combinations of "related" or "sister" courses like True Blue & Caledonia. Or, Tidewater & Grande Dunes. Many combinations like these provide substantial discounts for same day play, some even offer discounts for playing both in the same week. Complexes like the Legends or Wild Wing, have numerous courses on the same property where after a quick shower and lunch at their fantastic facilities, we are well tuned for a second 18 holes. Tee Times are in abundance for most of these top quality courses, we rarely run into a problem getting on a course. These are some of the best courses

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in the world. Where else can you play a TPC course for a replay rate of only \$40–\$50? The fee includes the same friendly accommodating staff, cart, practice range, full use of the facilities, locker room, restaurants, bar, and of course, the COURSE! All for a fraction of the peak season rates!

Private Membership courses are available for play as well. For example, stay at the "Caravelle", and Tee Times are available at "the Dunes" Golf & Beach Club. Newly renovated by Rees Jones, this course is a spectacular play, and former home of the PGA Senior Championship. Play it again the same day and pay less than you would for your regular muni-course back home. Intimidated by the courses? Don't be, 4 or 5 sets of tees are available on most courses to accommodate almost all levels of play. Still not sure? Call the course. We have found the staff at any of these facilities always willing to help in providing information on any of the courses in the Grand Strand.

Check the local paper daily, as specials and bargains on golf are advertised regularly. Most hotels even have their own golf coordinator to assist you with tee times, course selections, and even transportation.

When you are finished with your golf for the day, you will find the restaurants and nightly attractions as equally accessible and outstanding as the golf courses.

Lose a few balls? Break a club? Run out of tees? No problem. There is more than an ample supply of quaint little golf shoppes and massive bargain golf stores up and down the Grand Strand.

Three things you need to consider when taking advantage of these great golf bargains this time of year, and we have experienced all of them at one time or another. First, is the heat and humidity. Although it is typically not bad in the morning rounds, we experienced a few afternoon rounds which were quite uncomfortable. Second, it is hurricane season. In the past 10 years we were only pulled off a course once to evacuate. However, most courses were open the next day. Third, the "Dupont Amateur", one of the largest amateur golf tournaments in the world. There are still more than enough courses, but you may have to avoid a few. The schedule of courses used for this tournament is listed daily in the local paper, (We simply plan our trip one week earlier. Although it really isn't necessary, we are just anxious to get there and "tee it up".)

Myrtle Beach in late August is a truly great golf bargain. A large quantity of quality courses to suit every golfer's game and budget. We'll be there!

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Myrtle Beach Golf Vacations and Hurricanes - How to Weather the Storm?

By Evans Putman

Myrtle Beach Golf Vacations and Hurricanes How to Weather the Storm

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Hurricane season in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina runs from June through November each year. The peak months for hurricane activity are August and September. If you are planning a Myrtle Beach golf vacation during these times of the year, you should prepare yourself before arriving at your golf destination. This article provides tips and advice on how to weather any storm the tropics might throw at you while enjoying your golf vacation.

NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, predicts that 2005 will be another above-average Atlantic hurricane season. The organization predicts 12 to 15 tropical storms, 7 to 9 hurricanes and 3 to 5 major hurricanes. Vacationing golfers should not take these predictions lightly. We have already seen one of the busiest Julys in the history of hurricane tracking.

Golfers should not let these predictions deter them from taking a golf trip to the Myrtle Beach area during the summer and fall seasons. Summer golf deals along the Grand Strand are hotter than our southern summers. Also, fall in Myrtle Beach provides golfers with dropping accommodation rates to accompany falling temperatures and humidity.

If you are unlucky enough to be right in the middle of a golf vacation when a hurricane takes aim at the coast of the Carolinas, don't worry. Unlike an unexpected afternoon thunderstorm, hurricanes do not sneak up on the South Carolina coast. This gives vacationing golfers plenty of time to leave before the situation gets dangerous.

The best piece of advice we can offer if you plan on visiting the Grand Strand golf area during hurricane season is to keep an eye on the extended Myrtle Beach weather forecast. If a hurricane approaches during your trip, don't panic. As soon as it looks like you may need to abandon your golf vacation, begin following these steps.

- > Watch the local weather station and follow their advice.
- > Check on earlier flights and arrive earlier at the airport.
- > Fill car with a full tank of gas at first sign of hurricane.
- > Map out evacuation routes before your leave.
- > Pack water and food in case of traffic jams when driving.
- > Don't wait until the last minute to evacuate.

Most golf packages provide refunds or rain checks in the event of cancellations and evacuations due to hurricanes. Make sure to ask about this before booking your Myrtle Beach golf vacation. Even if you are not planning a Myrtle Beach golf trip during hurricane season, go ahead and ask your golf package

provider about refunds and cancellations caused by bad weather.

Whatever you do, don't take the threat of hurricanes lightly. Pay attention to local weather forecasts. Listen to local officials. Follow the steps above and give yourself plenty of time to evacuate your golf vacation destination safely.

Author Evans Putman is the Owner of

your source for the best

golf destination information. We deliver "Truth in Golf Travel". PerfectGolfVacations.com delivers the best local market information and word-of-mouth recommendations from golf destinations like Myrtle Beach, Las Vegas, Ireland, Hilton Head, and more. Keep current with updates, news and specials at our



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