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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.

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- > 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

<http://www.perfectgolfvacations.com>

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

<http://www.perfectgolfvacations.blogspot.com>

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### **Tips For Taking A Caribbean Vacation During Hurricane Season**

**By Jolana Klobouk**

The official Caribbean hurricane season stretches from June 1 – November 30. It's rare to see a large storm in either June or November and most major hurricanes occur between August and October, with the peak season usually being September.

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The upside is that prices are lower for the Caribbean during this time and resorts are less crowded. So what do you do if you want to get away during hurricane season?

**Buy Travel Insurance** You must buy the trip cancellation insurance before the storm is announced, otherwise it will be deemed a pre-existing condition, so always purchase insurance the same day you book your trip to be safe. Most travel insurance policies will cover a trip disrupted because of a hurricane when you are forced to arrive late or leave early for your trip, but you'll be reimbursed only for the affected days until the airport or resort reopens. You will usually be reimbursed for the days you are forced to stay at a resort during a hurricane, but be sure to always read the fine print on your policy to make sure you know what they will actually cover.

**Try to Avoid the Storms Track** hurricanes online with weather websites during the season. Some good sites include:

The National Weather Service – National Hurricane Center

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Hurricane & Storm Tracking for the Atlantic & Pacific Oceans

<http://hurricane.terrapin.com>

Hurricane News and Information

<http://www.hurricanetrack.com>

Weather.com Tropical Storm Center

<http://www.weather.com/newscenter/tropical/>

**Pick Your Location Well** When planning a trip to the Caribbean during hurricane season, it is good to know that hurricanes are less likely the further south you go. The islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and St. Vincent, including the islands below them, are the least hit by hurricanes. However, as Grenada discovered in 2004 with Hurricane Ivan, never say never and keep in mind that hurricanes are unpredictable.

**Go on a Cruise** The good thing about cruises is that they can usually sail around the worst of a storm. And today's ships are extraordinarily safe and with the advanced weather tracking available today, bad weather is something they can avoid. The downside is that the cruise line always reserves the right to reschedule port calls and change itineraries for weather-related reasons and therefore you may not get to visit the places you had hoped to.

**Pick a Resort That Offers a "Hurricane Guarantee"** Recently, many of the largest resorts and resort chains, have started instituting a "hurricane guarantee," offering guests their money back for days lost to bad weather. For example, in the unlikely event that hurricane force winds (as defined by the U.S. National Weather Service) directly hit the Sandals or Beaches resorts while you are a guest,

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interrupting the use of all the included activities, Sandals or Beaches Resorts will offer a free replacement vacation to be taken at any Sandals or Beaches Resort of your choice. Go to

<http://www.best-family-beach-vacations.com/caribbean-hurricane-season.html>

for more resorts that

offer hurricane guarantees.

**Make the Best of It.** If you do get caught on vacation during a hurricane, try to make the best of it. As long as there is no danger present, relax indoors and focus on other activities.

My husband and I got caught in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico during hurricane Keith in 2000. He was still my boyfriend at that time and unbeknownst to me, he planned to propose on our second evening there. We got dressed for dinner and arrived at the hotel restaurant to find it boarded up. We saw the line up in the hotel lobby, everyone was being evacuated from the hotel to one farther up the coast. We ran back to our room, packed and got on the next bus out – not the evening my husband had planned!

When we checked into our room at the new hotel a few hours later, he still had the engagement ring burning a hole in his pocket. The winds were blowing and it was raining so the romantic walk on the beach he had been hoping for was out. He couldn't put it off any longer so he dropped to one knee and proposed then and there. It was definitely a memorable evening, hurricane and all!

Jolana Klobouk is a former travel agent who has traveled extensively for work and vacations with her family. She is currently the editor of three travel websites. For more travel information visit:

<http://www.best-family-beach-vacations.com>

and

<http://www.FlyFromCanada.com>



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