

Myrtle Beach Family Week: Sand, Slides, and a Hotel That Matches Its Photos

A seven-night oceanfront week for two adults and two kids (7 and 10), built around lazy mornings on the sand, one big waterpark blowout, a boardwalk evening, and a hotel picked with fresh, current sources, not glossy 2009 marketing shots.

o) Your Trip at a Glance

Detail	Your plan
Dates	Saturday, August 1 to Saturday, August 8, 2026 (7 nights)
Group	2 adults + 2 kids (ages 7 and 10)
Budget	Up to \$3,000 total
Must-haves	Oceanfront lodging with a pool and lazy river; family suite or condo; beach mornings; one waterpark day; a boardwalk evening; minigolf
Food	Condo breakfasts; seafood dinners; one buffet the kids get to pick
Travel	Driving from Charlotte, NC
Special request	Hotel picked from CURRENT sources only: recent review status, last renovation if findable, honest price range with an as-of date, resort fees and parking fees called out separately

1) At a Glance

Item	Pick	Key facts (as of June 2026)
Home base	Dunes Village Resort, 2-bedroom oceanfront condo	Myrtle Beach's only indoor waterpark with an indoor lazy river, included with the stay. 5200 North Ocean Blvd.
Alternative hotel	Sea Crest Oceanfront Resort	Two lazy rivers + children's water park, all included. 803 South Ocean Blvd.
Waterpark day	Myrtle Waves	Online: over 48" \$49.99+tax, under 48" \$39.99+tax, age 2 & under free.
Boardwalk evening	SkyWheel + Boardwalk	Adults \$19.99+tax, kids 3–11 \$15.99+tax.
Seafood dinner	Sea Captain's House	Oceanfront, dinner 4:00–10:00 PM daily. 3002 N Ocean Blvd.
Buffet (kids' pick)	Captain George's or Giant Crab	All-you-can-eat seafood, confirm hours before you go.

Item	Pick	Key facts (as of June 2026)
Minigolf	Hawaiian Rumble	"Rated #1 in the world" volcano course, North Myrtle Beach.
Drive	Charlotte → Myrtle Beach	About 170 miles, roughly 3.5 hours via US-74 E and SC-9.

1b) The Recommendation (and Why)

Book the Dunes Village Resort in a 2-bedroom oceanfront condo. It is the single cleanest match to everything you asked for. Dunes Village is home to the largest indoor waterpark in Myrtle Beach, all 30,000 square feet of it, with no additional fees to play, it is included with your stay. Crucially for your "lazy river" must-have, you and the kids can lay back and relax in the indoor lazy river that winds around the water park, or grab one of the single or double tubes provided at the resort, hop in, and float worry-free. That indoor river is a genuine trip-saver on the one or two afternoons when a Gulf-stream thunderstorm rolls through, which August reliably delivers.

On the "match its photos" front, Dunes Village is a currently active, well-run property, not a faded relic: it holds a BBB A+ rating and a TripAdvisor "Best of the Best" award. The condos are proper family units, not a tired motel room: rooms include full kitchens, private balconies with ocean or partial-ocean views, multiple flat-screen TVs, complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi, and washers and dryers in select units, across studios and two-, three-, and four-bedroom condos. The Oceanfront 2 BR Condo runs about 1,357 sqft, sleeps up to 6, and has two private bedrooms, one with two queens and a king in the master, which is plenty of room for two adults and two kids to spread out. The full kitchen is exactly what makes your "condo breakfasts" plan work.

Best alternative: Sea Crest Oceanfront Resort. If Dunes Village is booked or over budget on your dates, Sea Crest is the strong runner-up and actually beats it on outdoor water variety. Sea Crest boasts more than nine unique family-friendly water features including several indoor and outdoor pools and whirlpools, two lazy rivers, and more, all included with your stay. Kids get an on-site water park with a silly spray submarine, a shipwreck park, and other interactive features designed for children. Its fitness center is newly remodeled, another sign of a property being kept current rather than coasting on old photos. The trade-off: Sea Crest's lazy rivers are outdoor, so they are weather-dependent in a way Dunes Village's indoor river is not.

Honest budget reality: Peak beach-week oceanfront condos in early August are the pricey end of the calendar. A 2-bedroom oceanfront condo for 7 nights is very likely the largest single line in your \$3,000 budget, and it may push you to trim elsewhere (fewer paid attractions, more condo breakfasts and picnics). If the exact-date price for the full oceanfront 2-bedroom lands too high, the smart move is a smaller oceanfront suite or an "angle oceanfront" unit, which the resort describes as just inland in a beachfront tower, not technically oceanfront but still offering beautiful ocean and beach views, and which typically prices lower.

1c) Book Now

What	By when	Where / link
Dunes Village 2 BR oceanfront condo (7 nights)	ASAP, summer beach weeks sell out	dunesvillage.com/... (or call 855-340-7301)

What	By when	Where / link
Alternative: Sea Crest oceanfront suite	ASAP if Dunes is full	seacrestmyrtlebeachresort.com/... (or call 1-800-845-1112)
Myrtle Waves tickets (buy online, cheaper)	A day or two ahead	myrtlewaves.com/...
SkyWheel flight	Same week, or online ahead	skywheelmb.com/...
Sea Captain's House dinner reservation	1–2 weeks ahead for a good time slot	Call 843-448-8082 (direct), online option at seacaptains.com

On the hotel price: hotel rates sit behind a live booking widget, so the binding price for your exact dates (August 1–8, 2026) and occupancy appears at the reservations step. Book direct with the resort at [dunesvillage.com/...](https://dunesvillage.com/) so the exact nightly rate, any resort fee and any parking fee are all disclosed on the confirmation screen, and get them in writing on your confirmation, before you pay.

2) Day-by-Day Plan

Day 1, Saturday, August 1: Drive in & settle

- Late-morning departure from Charlotte. The run is about 170 miles, roughly 3.5 hours via US-74 E and SC-9, plus a rest stop, so plan on 4 hours door to door with a family.
- Check in at Dunes Village, unload, and let the kids burn off the car ride in the indoor waterpark while you unpack.
- Easy first dinner: cook a simple meal in the condo kitchen, or grab takeout so nobody has to get back in the car.
- 💡 **Tip:** Do one grocery run on arrival (breakfast items, snacks, drinks, sunscreen). Condo breakfasts are where this trip saves real money, and the in-room kitchen has a full-size fridge and stove for it. The kitchens include a full-size refrigerator, stove, microwave, granite countertops, sink, and dishwasher.
- ☁️ **Plan B:** If you hit storms on the drive, no problem, the indoor waterpark means the "first swim" happens rain or shine.

Day 2, Sunday, August 2: Beach morning + pool afternoon

- Beach right out front in the morning while it's cooler and the UV is gentler.
- Back to the condo for lunch, then the lazy river and pools all afternoon.
- Dinner in: seafood is tomorrow, tonight is a relaxed condo night.
- 💡 **Tip:** Claim beach shade early. Rent an umbrella from the beach-service crew or bring your own pop-up. August midday sun on the Grand Strand is no joke.

Day 3, Monday, August 3: Waterpark blowout at Myrtle Waves

- This is your big waterpark day. Buying online saves money: general admission over 48" tall is \$49.99 +tax (versus the regular \$54.99) and under 48" is \$39.99 +tax (versus the regular \$44.99); children age 2 and under are free. For your 7- and 10-year-olds, height at the gate decides which tier they pay.
- Address for the GPS: Myrtle Waves Water Park, 3000 Mr. Joe White Avenue, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577; note all sales are final with no refunds even for early weather closures.
- 💡 **Tip:** If a 10-year-old is a thrill-seeker, the FlowRider unlimited-rides upgrade is a cheap wow-factor add-on. The FlowRider Unlimited Rides Upgrade is \$9.99 +tax. It's the surf-simulator that teens and pre-teens obsess over.
- ☁️ **Plan B:** Myrtle Waves is an outdoor park. If Monday looks stormy, swap this day with a beach/pool day later in the week and keep the sunny day for the slides. Your Dunes Village indoor waterpark covers any rained-out afternoon at zero extra cost.

Day 4, Tuesday, August 4: Beach morning + seafood dinner

- Beach and pool by day.
- **Seafood dinner at Sea Captain's House**, your first proper Grand Strand seafood night, right on the ocean. Dinner is served 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Address: 3002 N Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577; phone 843-448-8082. It's a genuine institution, celebrating over 60 years of oceanfront dining, and a recent Best of the Grand Strand 2025 winner and TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice honoree.
- Kid-friendly menu note: there's a dedicated children's menu, and grown-ups have easy crowd-pleasers like southern-style crab cakes served over lowcountry succotash with house-made remoulade and stuffed flounder filled with lump crab stuffing.
- 💡 **Tip:** Reserve ahead. On a busy summer night the wait is real, and their own reviewers recommend booking. Reservations are taken direct by phone at 843-448-8082, with an online reservation option linked from their site. US dinner tipping is 15 to 20 percent of the pre-tax total.

Day 5, Wednesday, August 5: Boardwalk evening + SkyWheel

- Slow morning on the sand. Save energy for a big evening on the Myrtle Beach Boardwalk.
- **SkyWheel ride at dusk** for the sparkly ocean-and-lights view. Adults are \$19.99 (plus tax) and children ages 3–11 are \$15.99 (plus tax); ages 2 and under ride free. A flight is 4 revolutions and lasts about 10 to 15 minutes. Address: 1110 N Ocean Blvd; phone 843.839.9200.
- Hours are generous in summer: the SkyWheel is open daily from 11 AM to 12 AM (midnight), so an after-dinner ride works well any night of the week.
- 💡 **Tip:** The SkyWheel is a cashless venue, so bring a card or phone wallet; they take all major credit cards, Apple Pay, and Google Pay. The gondolas are climate-controlled, a blessing in August humidity.
- ☁️ **Plan B:** The wheel may close if winds are sustained above 35 mph or lightning is within a 5-mile radius. If the evening turns rough, walk the covered stretches of the Boardwalk, hit the arcades, and ride another night, your ticket is flexible.

Day 6, Thursday, August 6: Minigolf + the kids' buffet

- Morning beach, afternoon nap or lazy river.
- **Minigolf at Hawaiian Rumble** in North Myrtle Beach, the famous volcano course that markets itself as rated #1 in the world (3210 Hwy 17 S). Confirm the current per-round price and hours on their site (hawaiianrumbleminigolf.com/hours) before you drive up.
- **The kids' buffet pick** for dinner: this is their choice. Two solid all-you-can-eat seafood buffets to hand them:
 - **Giant Crab Seafood** (9597 N Kings Hwy) is the theme-park-ish one kids love. It has a Kids Corner buffet filled with hamburgers, pizza, chicken fingers, corn dogs, hot dogs, and french fries, plus a steam bar with peel-and-eat shrimp, steamed oysters, mussels, clams, and crab legs for the adults. Confirm summer hours and current buffet price by phone before you go.
 - **Captain George's Seafood** is the other well-known Grand Strand seafood buffet and a reliable backup. Check current hours/price at captaingeorges.com.
- 💡 **Tip:** Buffets are your budget-friendly big meal. Go a little early (around 5 PM) to beat the line and get the freshest trays right after a restock.

Day 7, Friday, August 7: Free beach day + last seafood night

- No agenda. Long beach morning, pool and lazy-river afternoon, souvenir shopping.
- Optional second seafood dinner at Sea Captain's House if the family loved it, or a low-key condo dinner to bank money and start packing.
- 💡 **Tip:** Do a "sandy stuff" pack tonight, rinse and dry swimsuits and beach toys so you're not wrangling wet gear at 8 AM checkout.

Day 8, Saturday, August 8: Drive home

- Condo breakfast, final balcony view, check out, and roll back to Charlotte (about 3.5 hours).
- 💡 **Tip:** Leave by mid-morning. Saturday is turnover day on the Grand Strand and Highway 501 clogs, an earlier start dodges the worst of it.

3) Practical Notes, Checklist & Cost Overview

Practical notes

- **Resort fees & parking:** These are the classic Myrtle Beach "gotchas" and you specifically asked to see them separately. Dunes Village and Sea Crest both typically add a resort/amenity fee and may charge for parking; these are not always shown in the headline nightly rate. **Confirm both the resort fee and the parking fee at the booking step on dunesvillage.com/... and ask for them in writing on your confirmation** before you commit.
- **Renovation status:** Both recommended resorts show signs of active, current upkeep (Dunes Village's A+ BBB standing and recent award recognition; Sea Crest's newly remodeled fitness center and a website updated in 2026). Before you book, do a quick scan of the last 2–3 months of TripAdvisor/Google reviews and sort by "most recent" to confirm the rooms match today's photos, exactly the sanity check you asked for.

- **August weather:** Hot, humid, and prone to afternoon thunderstorms and the occasional tropical system. The indoor waterpark at Dunes Village is your all-weather insurance. Keep an eye on the forecast and be ready to flip a beach day and the waterpark day.
- **Tipping (US):** Plan 15 to 20 percent at sit-down restaurants and for any tour or beach-service staff.

Packing & prep checklist

- ☐ Groceries for condo breakfasts + snacks (buy on arrival)
- ☐ Reef-safe sunscreen, after-sun/aloe, hats, sunglasses
- ☐ Beach towels (confirm whether the resort provides them), pop-up shade or umbrella
- ☐ Swim gear for 4, plus a spare set so something's always dry
- ☐ Water shoes (hot sand + waterpark)
- ☐ Refillable water bottles (hydration is no joke in August)
- ☐ A card/phone wallet for cashless spots like the SkyWheel
- ☐ Dinner reservation confirmations + Myrtle Waves e-tickets saved offline
- ☐ Beach toys, a small cooler, reusable bags

Estimated cost overview vs. your \$3,000 budget

Item	Estimate (USD)	Notes
Lodging: Dunes Village 2 BR oceanfront condo, 7 nights	Exact-date binding rate shown at dunesvillage.com/... for August 1–8, 2026	Peak beach week; largest line item. Get the live-widget rate in writing on your confirmation before booking.
Resort fee + parking	Exact amounts confirmed at the booking step; require in writing on confirmation	Billed separately from the room rate
Fuel (round trip Charlotte ↔ MB, ~340 miles)	~\$45–70	Based on typical mid-size vehicle
Groceries (breakfasts + snacks, week)	~\$150–220	Your biggest budget saver
Myrtle Waves (family of 4, online)	~\$180 + tax	2 adults over 48" @ \$49.99, 2 kids depending on height @ \$39.99–49.99; add \$9.99 each for FlowRider if wanted
SkyWheel (2 adults + 2 kids)	~\$71.96 + tax	$\$19.99 \times 2 + \15.99×2
Minigolf (Hawaiian Rumble, family of 4)	~\$40–60	Confirm current price on their site

Item	Estimate (USD)	Notes
Sea Captain's House dinner (family, 1 night)	~\$120–160 + tax + tip	Entrées roughly \$20–35 each
Buffet night (kids' pick)	~\$120–170	All-you-can-eat; confirm current per-person price
Second seafood/casual dinners + treats	~\$150–250	Flexible; trim here if lodging runs high

Bottom line, honestly: the lodging is the lever that matters most, and its exact-date rate plus the separately billed resort and parking fees will decide whether you land under \$3,000. To stay under budget in early August, either (a) book a smaller oceanfront suite or an angle-oceanfront unit at Dunes Village or Sea Crest, (b) lean hard on condo breakfasts and one or two picnic lunches, and (c) treat the second restaurant dinner as optional. The three big "experiences" (Myrtle Waves, SkyWheel, minigolf) together run only around \$300 for the whole family, so once you have the binding room rate in hand you'll know exactly how much cushion you have.

4) Sources

All pages fetched and read; check date: June 2026.

Lodging

- Dunes Village Resort, indoor waterpark & lazy river: [dunesvillage.com/...](https://dunesvillage.com/)
- Dunes Village Resort, room types & kitchens: [dunesvillage.com/...](https://dunesvillage.com/)
- Dunes Village Resort, booking (exact-date rate, resort fee, parking fee): [dunesvillage.com/...](https://dunesvillage.com/)
- Sea Crest Oceanfront Resort, amenities (two lazy rivers, kids' water park): [seacrestmyrtlebeachresort.com/...](https://seacrestmyrtlebeachresort.com/)

Waterpark & attractions

- Myrtle Waves tickets & prices: [myrtlewaves.com/...](https://myrtlewaves.com/)
- SkyWheel tickets & hours: [skywheelmb.com/...](https://skywheelmb.com/)
- SkyWheel FAQ (prices, flight length, weather policy): [skywheelmb.com/...](https://skywheelmb.com/)
- Hawaiian Rumble Minigolf (hours/price): [hawaiianrumbleminigolf.com/...](https://hawaiianrumbleminigolf.com/)

Dining

- Sea Captain's House (hours, menu, reservations, direct phone): seacaptains.com
- Giant Crab Seafood buffet: giantcrab.com
- Captain George's Seafood buffet: captaingeorges.com

Have a fantastic week, and may your hotel look exactly like its listing, sparkling lazy river and all.