

Fall in love with Brookgreen Gardens



Photos by Stephanie Edwards

By **STEPHANIE EDWARDS**
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Just as a beautiful butterfly emerges from a tattered cocoon, Brookgreen Gardens — an amazing collection of gardens — were developed out of 9,000 acres of forgotten, wild lands.

During the 1840s this land was home to rice plantations, but abolition brought this to an end. Homes on the land were abandoned, and the land became overgrown.

Almost 100 years later, Archer and Anna Huntington saw the land's natural beauty and potential.

The couple went to great lengths to restore the

land's breathtaking views and began designing a collection of gardens, laid out in a butterfly design.

Brookgreen Gardens stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Waccamaw River in Murrells Inlet, S.C., about 30 minutes south of Myrtle Beach.

The highlights of the attraction are the timeless sculptures created by Anna Huntington.

In addition to Huntington's work, the gardens are home to more than 1,200 sculptures by 300 artists.

Flowers, trees, shrubs, and fountains all play a role in framing some of the most beautiful sculptures in the country.

The colors and shapes of the plants complement the artwork and structures in very unique ways.

Among the more striking group of sculptures is the Fountain of the Muses, which incorporates colorful flowers and water features with sculptures of the fabled muses.

Also located in Brookgreen Gardens is the Lowcountry Zoo, the only zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums on the coast of North and South Carolina.

The animals at Brookgreen Gardens are native to the area and have been deemed unable to live in the wild due to being raised in captivity or having been disabled due to serious injury.

These animals include alligators, bald eagles, barred owls, great horned owls, grey foxes, red foxes, red-tail hawks, river otters, white-tailed deer



and wild turkeys.

The zoo also features the Cypress Aviary, the only known aviary to be built over an existing cypress swamp. Some of the species include black-crowned night herons, egrets, fulvous whistling ducks, great blue herons, hooded mergansers, ibises, redhead ducks and wood ducks.

To truly appreciate everything that makes Brookgreen Gardens special, be sure to give yourself several hours to wander around, studying art — both that created by man and that created by God.

To get to Brookgreen Gardens from Myrtle Beach, follow U.S. Highway 17 South for 21 miles.

For more information, visit the Web site — www.brookgreengardens.com.

Broadway on the Beach is a blast

By **STEPHANIE EDWARDS**
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Whether you're hungry, looking for entertainment or wanting to shop, Myrtle Beach's Broadway at the Beach has what you need.

The 350-acre complex is home to 19 restaurants, 100 shops, several tourist attractions and hotels, all of which surround a 23-acre lake.

The collection of attractions is set up into several different areas from the New England Fishing Village East and West, Heroes Harbor, Caribbean Village and Charleston Boardwalk.

One attraction that seems to gather quite the crowd is the Dragon's Lair Fantasy Golf, which has two courses that lead golfers through castle turrets and onto pirate ships.

Each hole has a new challenge for players to attempt. The courses are both very well-thought-out and provide amusement for both novice and expert miniature golfers.

A portion of Broadway at the Beach — Pavilion Nostalgia Park — is a tribute to Myrtle Beach's past. The original Pavilion Amusement Park opened in 1948, but closed to make way for

the opening of the newer theme park. Nine of the original park's rides remain. These include the Herschell-Spillman Carousel, Wave Rider, adult and kiddie Pirate Rides, the Caterpillar, Dune Buggy, Boat and Teacup Rides. Park goers who are feeling especially nostalgic will want to play the midway skill games, visit the Pavilion Museum and shop in the old timey gift shop.

Some of the featured restaurants and nightspots include the Hard Rock Café, Joe's Crab Shack, Johnny Rocket's, Key West Grill, Planet Hollywood,



Photo by Stephanie Edwards

Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, KISS Coffeehouse and Yamato Steakhouse of Japan. All of these cafes, bars and grills seemed to have quite the following, with tons of fun loving fans lined up waiting for a

delicious, fun meal.

Shops selling everything from salsa to jewelry are plentiful at Broadway at the Beach, where you can spend either a lunch hour or a couple of days having fun.

Broadway at the Beach is located just off Highway 17 in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

For more information, visit the Web site — www.broadwayatthebeach.com.

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