

Beach

Hilton Marco Island - Editorial Review

Just returned from a glorious week staying at the Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort and Spa in Marco Island, Florida. It's close to Naples, the Everglades, Ft. Myers - the largest of Florida's Ten Thousand Islands located right on the Gulf of Mexico. This hotel has an intimate country club feel. There are 297 rooms with 4 two bedroom penthouse suites. Standard accommodations are all junior suites with sleeper sofas, flat screen TV's, coffee/tea service, bathrobes, refrigerators and a furnished balcony - be sure to ask for a gulf view room - it's definitely worth it! They will print out your boarding passes before you depart and you have 24 hour access to free internet in the business center.

The spa is new and very plush - the restaurants serve scrumptious meals throughout the day and evening and the atmosphere in the bar is casual elegance. Parking is located on site, but there is a nominal daily charge. The biggest plus is the location on the gorgeous white sand beach - chairs and towels are free at the pool and on the beach - there is a charge for umbrellas if you plan to spend the whole day on the beach. Customer service is a top priority and it shows. I highly recommend this property and a stay in Marco Island!

Hilton Marco Island
239-394-5000

Ontario, Canada
Wasaga Beach

Who said there have to be palm trees on the beach? For a different, inexpensive and nostalgic type of beach vacation, why not try a fresh water beach? There are a wide assortment of motels and B&B's to select.

Wasaga Beach is hailed as one of the premier tourist destinations in Ontario. For over a century tourists have traveled to the welcoming shores of southern Georgian Bay to stroll along the 14 kilometres of white sand beach, swim in warm, clean waters and enjoy the panoramic mountain views across the bay. Perhaps the best kept secret is their endless recreation trails for hiking, cycling, cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

For those visitors who want to enjoy something quieter, why not take a visit to the Wasaga Nordic Centre and take a hike on the Blueberry Trails.

Wasaga Beach
705-429-3844

North Carolina

In a world where everything seems to get bigger and busier, Sea Trail's vacation packages focus has been on keeping things simple, yet perfect. Quietly tucked away on the southernmost coast of North Carolina in Sunset Beach, Sea Trail has escaped the hectic pace of the world around it. Guests can enjoy 54 holes of championship golf, swim & fitness centers, dining and even activities for the children. Sea Trail offers condominiums and villa-style suites to fit every lifestyle, ranging from one to four bedrooms. Sea Trail is located just South of historic Wilmington, North Carolina and north of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in the beautiful coastal village of Sunset Beach. Officially incorporated in 1963, Sunset Beach has been a quietly kept secret of natives and dedicated beach lovers. Over the decades it has remained a wholesome, family-oriented community and was recently ranked as the #1 barrier island on the North Carolina coast.

Sea Trail
<http://seatrail.com/resort/index.cfm>
888-229-5747

Mozambique

Mozambique offers world-class accommodation, pristine beaches, adventure activities including fantastic diving, snorkelling, fishing, and a diverse culture with a trading history with China, Persia, India and Europe. Mozambique was known for its fine gold and ivory, as well as having been active in the slave trade. It is safe and despite its regained popularity, this warm-hearted country remains for the most part un-commercialised, and gives an open-armed welcome to those willing to explore its pleasures and treasures. Mozambique is an enormous country, encompassing some 800 000 square km, with a coastline extending roughly 2 500km along the Indian Ocean in the southeast of Africa. At the northern-most extreme is Cabo Delgado province, including the Quirimba Archipelago. A recently established National Park (Cabo Delgado Biodiversity Project) offers visitors both marine and land environments to explore. With top-notch diving, fishing and bird watching, this is a remote piece of paradise. Perfect for those wanting to combine solitude with an experience of a lifetime.

Unusual Destinations

<http://www.unusualdestinations.com/mozambique.html>

27(0) 11 706 1991

Caladesi Island, Florida

This is truly a gem of a find. I was in the Tampa area last year and stumbled upon this incredible stretch of beach. One of the few completely natural islands along Florida's Gulf Coast, Caladesi's white sand shores have been rated as one of the nation's best beaches. The park is accessible only by private boat or ferry from Honeymoon Island State Park. Beach lovers can enjoy swimming, sunbathing, and beachcombing. Saltwater anglers can fish from their boats or throw a line out into the surf. Nature enthusiasts watch wildlife while hiking the three mile nature trail through the island's interior or paddling a three mile kayak trail through the mangroves and bay. Picnic tables and shelters are located near the beach; picnic pavilions can be reserved for a fee. The park has a marina with electric and water hookups for boaters. The park also has a snack bar and gift shop. However, you must know that you can only be there for a four hour period at a time, but it's well worth the trip.

Florida State Parks

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/caladesiisland/>

727-469-5918

Bermuda

The Gulf Stream sends its warm waters and balmy climate straight to Bermuda. That means there's an island paradise waiting for you less than two hours from the Northeastern US. When you land, you'll find four centuries of English tradition that have gone tropical. One of the world's prettiest islands, Bermuda is covered with lush gardens, tidy pastel houses with zig-zag roofs, gorgeous beaches and a long tradition of hospitality toward its visitors.

November through March is Bermuda's secret value season. It's a time when the weather is comfortable and springlike. The beaches are uncrowded. And many hotels feature free nights, free resort credits or special reduced rates. Be sure to inquire about TNT's great winter specials when making your reservation.

TNT Vacations

www.tntvacations.com

888-468-6846

Hawaii

When visiting the Islands of Hawaii you'll find palm-fringed blue lagoons, lush rainforests, hidden gardens, cascading waterfalls, wild rivers running through rugged canyons, and soaring volcanoes. And oh, those beaches -- gold, red, black, and even green sands caressed by miles and miles surf. The possibilities for adventure -- and relaxation -- are limitless. The entire island chain is made of volcanoes; don't miss the opportunity to see one. On Oahu the entire family can hike to the top of the ancient volcano, world-famous Diamond Head. At the other end of the spectrum is fire-breathing Kilauea at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, on the Big Island, where you can get an up-close-and-personal experience with the red-hot lava ooze. On Maui, Haleakala National Park provides a bird's-eye view into a long-dormant volcanic crater.

Rushing waterfalls also dot the Hawaiian landscape, thundering downward into sparkling freshwater pools are some of Hawaii's most beautiful natural wonders. If you're on the Big Island, stop by Rainbow Falls in Hilo or the spectacular 442-foot Akaka Falls, just outside the city. On Maui the Road to Hana offers numerous viewing opportunities; at the end of the drive, you'll find Oheo Gulch (also known as the Seven Sacred Pools), with some of the most dramatic and accessible waterfalls on the islands. Kauai is loaded with waterfalls, especially along the North Shore and in the Wailua area, where you'll find 40-foot Opaekaa Falls.

Pleasant Holidays

www.pleasantholidays.com

800-742-9244

St. Barths

A unique flavor of France, under the sun in the West Indies...St. Barths is beautiful because of the ingenious alliance between the place that Nature made, and the place that men and women have made within it. It's more of a feeling than a catalog of sights, sounds, and smells. Some corner of our minds recognizes that the people here have evolved a way of life that has resulted in things like charm, pride, peace and plenty. St. Barths People resemble rural Americans of

seventy five years ago. They are modest and unpretentious.. A man's word is honored, and business can be done on a handshake. They keep their homes freshly painted, their yards raked. What little class distinction exists between them is economic, not social, and is therefore subject to change at any moment.

Apple Vacations
www.applevacations.com
800-517-2000
Turks and Caicos

Funjet Vacations offers Turks & Caicos all-inclusive vacation packages that give you the best "end to end" vacation experience. A Turks & Caicos Caribbean island vacation package offers beaches, water sports, and golfing. Turks & Caicos are known for the worlds most beautiful beaches, pristine coral reefs, diving, fishing, offshore investments, luxury condominiums and villa vacation rentals. The Islands are protected by a government dedicated to preserving the islands natural beauty. These islands boast the third largest coral reef system in the world and are a perfect destination for visitors in search of pristine stretches of sand and fabulous fishing, snorkling and diving. There are over 40 islands and small cays only eight of which are inhabited.

Funjet Vacations
www.funjet.com
888-558-6654

Adults Only Beach Resorts

Vacation Express offers a selection of adults only vacation packages with resorts specifically designed for adult guests. Some welcome “couples only”; others simply require the guest be of adult age. Minimum age requirements vary by resort, but, in general, 18 is the standard. Some adults only resorts cater to a lively, free-spirited crowd and feature racy games and zany contests. Others are designed for sheer relaxation and self-pampering without the distraction of home and work responsibilities. You’ll find adults only hotels that offer a totally serene environment and those that offer a fun-loving, socially interactive escape with activity and fun on tap throughout the day and long into the night. Vacation Express offers adults only vacation packages to Cancun, the Riviera Maya, Los Cabos and Puerto Vallarta in Mexico and Antigua, Aruba, Barbados, Jamaica, Nassau, Punta Cana (in the Dominican Republic) and St. Lucia.

Vacation Express
http://www.vacationexpress.com/adults_only/
800-309-4717

Cayman Islands

Grand Cayman island - the largest and most cosmopolitan of the three Cayman Islands, is about 22 miles long with an average width of four miles. George Town, the capital, is on the western shore of Grand Cayman. The wide diversity found in Grand Cayman blends rich local tradition with international influences to create a truly unique atmosphere. From the crystal blue water and powder-white sand of Seven Mile Beach to George Town, the main shopping and financial hub, Grand Cayman offers something for everyone. Dive, snorkel or simply splash in the warm, crystal-clear waters that are the islands' hallmark. Whether you're looking for the adventure of a lifetime or just a few days of respite, Grand Cayman is the quintessential "place to be."

goCayman.com
www.gocayman.ky
345-943-4400
Anguilla

If you're in search of total serenity, Anguilla is the Caribbean travel getaway of your dreams. The beautiful surroundings and relaxed tranquility create the perfect place to enjoy the fine art of taking it easy. Island life centers around the fabulous, pearl-white beaches - and the alluring turquoise waters that offer diving among wrecks, reefs and walls. Plus, the snorkeling, sport fishing and sailing can't be beat.

Back on land, island salt ponds offer excellent bird watching and The Valley sets the scene for fascinating sightseeing. At dusk, beachfront restaurants provide a front row seat for sunset before a sparkling star show takes over the sky. You can also travel a short ferry ride to nearby St. Maarten/St. Martin for casino gaming and nightclubs. This laid-back island with a rich British heritage and some of the finest hotels and resorts in the Caribbean moves at your

own pace, and rejuvenation is part of everyday life!

Anytime Vacations

<http://www.anytimevacations.com/caribbean/anguilla.htm>

800-345-5136

Mexico Vacations

Mexico is an amazing place to vacation. It is ideal for individuals of all ages. A large number of senior citizens travel to Mexico, each year. Despite what many believe, the United States and Europe are not the only vacation destinations that are ideal for senior citizens. If you are able to take the time to examine what Mexico has to offer, you will likely want to schedule your next vacation there. As with any other vacation destination, Mexico has a wide range of activities. Many of these activities are perfect for senior citizens. Just a few of the many activities found in Mexico include relaxing at the beach, taking a boat cruise, or going on a guided tour. If you are only able to select a few of these activities, you will want to examine each activity and determine which one brings you the most excitement.

Mexico is most known for their beautiful, fun, and exciting beaches. If you are interested in relaxing at the beach, you have a number of options to choose from. Due to Mexico's popularity, many public beaches are overcrowded, especially in the spring and summer months. If you would prefer to stay away from large crowds, you may want to consider scheduling your beach vacation at a beach resort.

Mexico beach resorts come in all different sizes and styles. As with most popular beaches, many beach resorts quickly fill up with tourists. Aside from large, well-known resorts, Mexico offers a number of smaller resorts that have a focus on relaxation and privacy. If you are interested in spending your vacation in a private and intimate setting, you may want to consider these types of resorts.

Mexico Country Facts

<http://www.mexicocountryfacts.com/Mexico-Vacations-for-Seniors.html>

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

St. Thomas is an island that is located in the Caribbean. This beautiful island is a part of the Virgin Islands. St. Thomas is most known for its beautiful beaches and romantic getaways, but it is also ideal for senior travel. In most parts of St. Thomas, you will find the environment is warm and inviting.

If you are interested in vacationing in St. Thomas, it is likely that you will want to know what activities and events are available on the island. As with most other popular vacation destinations, St. Thomas has an unlimited number of activities that are perfect for individuals, of all different ages. To make the most out of vacationing in St. Thomas, you may want to examine all of the island events and activities that are ideal for individuals of your age.

As previously mentioned, St. Thomas has an unlimited number of beautiful beaches. These beaches offer a large number of activities that are ideal for seniors, like yourself. Swimming, sunbathing, and relaxing by the shoreline is something that many seniors find joyful. Most St. Thomas resorts have private beaches. These resorts are ideal for vacationers who are looking for privacy.

St. Thomas Vacations

<http://stthomas-vacations.com/St-Thomas-Vacations-for-Seniors.html>

Myrtle Beach

You'll love wintering at the Myrtle Beach Resort! With its many amenities, it has already established itself as the Beach's southern headquarters for "Snow Birds."

Many of our winter guests tell us they can pay the moderate rental rate from their winter utility savings. And our "Longer you Stay, The Less You Pay" plan makes it easier than ever to winter at The Myrtle Beach Resort! At Resort Vacation Services, We Recognize and Value The Business of Senior Citizens.

Resort Vacation Services

<http://www.myrtlebeachresortvacationservices.com/seniors.htm>

888-627-3767