

## Myrtle Beach Shifts from Party Town to Top Retirement Spot

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For many years, Myrtle Beach in South Carolina carried a reputation that wasn't exactly flattering. Nicknamed "Dirty Myrtle," the town was famous for its rowdy nightlife, filled with strip clubs, boozy bars, and loud biker rallies. It was a place where partygoers and tourists flocked for fun, but it wasn't exactly known as a peaceful or quiet spot.

Fast forward to today, and Myrtle Beach tells a very different story. The once wild town along a 60-mile stretch of beautiful coastline has transformed into a top destination for retirees. According to recent data from the United States Census Bureau, the number of residents

over the age of 65 has risen sharply, with a 6.3 percent increase just last year. Since 2020, the senior population here has grown by more than 22 percent, the fastest growth rate for any town in the U.S. this decade.

This shift reflects a broader change in Myrtle Beach's identity. While it still attracts more than 18 million tourists every year, the town has become more than just a vacation hotspot. Seniors now make up over a quarter of the approximately 413,000 year-round residents. Instead of late-night parties and biker rallies, the streets are filled with quieter activities. It's common to see seniors playing pickleball, enjoying leisurely walks along the famous mile-long boardwalk, or dining peacefully at outdoor cafes.

City leaders have played a role in this transformation by putting an end to the noisy biker rallies and other disruptive events in the late 2000s. These changes helped reduce the traffic and rowdiness that once dominated the town. Today, Myrtle Beach is known for its family-friendly atmosphere, peaceful neighborhoods, and iconic landmarks like the 200-foot Ferris wheel overlooking the ocean.

For retirees looking to settle down, Myrtle Beach offers a unique combination of natural beauty and a slower pace of life. The ocean breeze, the sound of the waves, and access to a variety of outdoor activities make it an appealing place to call home. Plus, the growing community of seniors means there are plenty of opportunities to connect with others who are enjoying this new chapter in life.

In many ways, Myrtle Beach's transformation is a story of renewal and reinvention. From its wild past to its calm present, the town has successfully shifted gears without losing its charm. It's a reminder that places can evolve, embracing new lifestyles and communities while still welcoming visitors and locals alike.

If you're considering a retirement spot with sunshine, sand, and a friendly community, Myrtle Beach might just be the perfect place to start your next adventure.

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