

INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS CREATE MEMORABLE FAMILY TRAVEL EXPERIENCES AT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA'S NEWEST LUXURY HOTEL

More than a Kids' Club, The Beach Club's Mini-Mariners Program and Teen Activities Help Families Detox from Digital Devices and Create Rituals that Embrace the Great Outdoors

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Located on a peninsula, perched next to Charleston Harbor Marina, the largest in all of the Carolinas, families staying at the newly opened Beach Club hotel will find endless ways to keep kids ages Pre-K to teens, entertained, enlightened and most of all enthralled by maritime adventures and tech-free exploration of museums, local beaches, and even visits to the nearby police department. This immersion into the local culture of Charleston combined with on-site activities creates a unique atmosphere for family vacations. An evening activity of roasting marshmallows at the beachfront fire pit, followed by making a wish upon a shell and tossing it into the ocean creates a ritual that studies show are calming to children, providing a focal point from distraction and teaching them to live in the moment. This experiential type of digital detox is becoming more important to parents as the younger generations become more connected to and dependent on their devices.

Amy Smith, Recreation Manager and Captain of the Mini Mariner program notes how being around the water affects behavior, "Our location on Charleston Harbor and close proximity to downtown gives us the best of both worlds – exploring this amazing city through weekly field trips and getting the kids out into nature. Being near the water has a very calming effect on children and teens; and science shows it can make people happier and healthier."

It's not only the family activities that parents love about <u>The Beach Club at Charleston Harbor</u>. One of the most popular accommodations in the 92-room oceanfront boutique hotel are the family parlor rooms, which feature a separate closed-door bedroom for the kids with two twin beds – ensuring the parents get some private time after the little ones go to sleep. Every room features a spacious balcony with chairs to enjoy a late night dessert or glass of wine overlooking the expansive views of downtown Charleston, the Arthur Ravenel Bridge, USS Yorktown and the masts and sails of the beautiful boats docked in the marina.

A popcorn-stocked private movie theater seating 30 guests can be utilized as a rainy day backup plan for outdoor activities, as well as provide the scene for Cinema Saturdays – where movies and oversized leather recliners await the entire family throughout the summer months. A 30,000 square foot pool deck provides amble space for children to act their age, while a separate pool for adults with private cabanas keep relaxation time an integral part of family vacation.

Kids ages 5-12 will enjoy the Mini-Mariners Kids' Camp, which encourages children to step away from technology and engage in the environment around them by making weather instruments, interacting with ocean life, hunting for shark teeth, painting, fossil digging and piñata making with items from the earth. The Mini-Mariners Kids' Camp is available seasonally from 9 am to noon, Monday-Friday. The price is \$35 per day or \$150 per week and lunch is included.

Sample theme weeks include:

Arts in Nature

Children will be mesmerized as they wander the woods to discover how color is used in nature. They will make paint from plants, draw the natural world on canvas, take photographs, stencil and stamp using wildlife for inspiration. Activities include: Play Dough Making, Painting Games, Create a Piñata, Canvas Drawing, Face Painting, Parachute Games, Limbo and Hula Hoopla. *Field trip to the Children's Museum*.

Everyday Superheroes

Campers will learn the importance of putting others before themselves. Kids look at comic book characters and everyday heroes as examples of heroism during this fun packed week of crime fighting adventure! Activities include: Making Capes, Comics, Masks, and more. *Field trip to the Mt. Pleasant Police Department*.

Creature Feature

Campers dig into the world of spiders, worms, and other creepy crawlers inhabiting the soil. Activities include: Caterpillar Crawl, Antenna Hats, Bug Hunt, and Bug Banners, and Dirt Pudding. *Field trip to the Aquarium*.

Getting Sharky with it

Kids will learn about shark myths and legends from around the world and spend some quality time hunting for teeth and discovering the distinctive adaptations, superb senses, and unique anatomy that propel sharks to the top of the food chain. Activities include: Crabbing, Shark Tooth Hunt, Shark Necklaces, Crab Races and Shark Tales. *Field trip to the beach at Sullivan's Island*.

Outdoor Detectives

Kids will hike, hunt, and fish their way to fascinating clues to satisfy curious minds. Each day nature will inspire activities by what is found; whether crabs, dolphins, birds or lizards. Activities include: Go Undercover; Solve a Mystery, Create Secret Codes and Spy Badges, Fishing, Crab Races and Hunts. *Field trip to the Mt. Pleasant Police Department*.

Dinosaur Days

Budding paleontologists go where no campers have gone before. Kids will learn about the mysteries of Earth's past through the prehistoric creatures that once roamed the earth. Activities include: Fossil Dig, Dinosaur Rubbings, Ancient Egg Relays, Fishing, Pin the Dinosaur, Sand Art, Fossil Hunt Sand Castles, and Crab Races. *Field trip to the Mason Brown Natural History Museum*.

Weather Watchers

Explore the world of weather by launching a weather balloon, simulating a tornado, and creating a cloud in a jar. Kids will learn about exciting weather phenomena, and make their own weather instruments, opening their eyes to the world of meteorology. Activities include: Explore a Mad Scientist Laboratory, Flubber, Volcano Eruption, Rocket Blast Off and Molecular Madness. *Field trip to a local weather station*.

Teenagers can find outlets for exploration with physical activities such as checking out a complimentary bicycle, hitting a nature trail or jumping on the trolley to the nearby beach to test their balance on a kayak or Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) in the cool coastal waters. Ping pong tables, beach volleyball, ladder golf, cornhole, bocce and horseshoes are accessible for teens, along with a giant outdoor chess set, located next to the resort pool. The area's number one rated tourist attraction on TripAdvisor, Patriot's Point is a 10-minute walk from the property and each night, March-December 2017 there is a Haunted Ghost Tour of the USS Yorktown, a WWII aircraft carrier. Golf is located nearby and sailing lessons and private fishing excursions can be arranged through the Charleston Harbor Marina.

For more information and reservations, visit <u>www.charlestonharborresort.com/thebeachclub.com</u> or call (843) 856-0028. Fans can also follow The Beach Club Charleston on Facebook and @beachclubcharleston on Instagram.

About Leading Hotels of the World

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About The Beach Club at Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina

Pairing Southern hospitality and luxury amenities, The Beach Club at Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina is part of the Leading Hotels of the World collection and is located minutes away from Charleston's acclaimed historic district. Each guestroom features elegant décor and stunning views of Charleston's waterfront. The Beach Club was named one of Fodor's Best New Hotels in the World in 2016.