

The beach is extra sweet in Clearwater, Florida

Sand and sensational food make this a must-visit Florida destination



Sunset in Clearwater
PHOTO: KELLEY SCARSBROOK

COMMENT

Tweet 3 +1 0 Pin it Share



Kelley Scarsbrook
Published: July 7, 2013, 9:38 pm
Updated: 5 hours ago

A A A

I'm sitting in the sand in Clearwater, Florida, looking out at one of the most beautiful sunsets I've ever seen. My hand casually touches the sugary sand as it cascades through my fingers. The temperature is perfect as I inhale the sweet ocean air. This is like every experience on a beach, right?

Wrong.

So what makes Clearwater so special?

First, I'm sitting down for a dinner in the sand – literally. My table and seat are constructed entirely out of sand. I'm being served a five-course meal by the Hyatt's SHOR American Seafood Grill – and it's spectacular.



Dinner in the Sand with friends during Sugar Sand Festival in Clearwater.

Behind me is 1,000 tons of sand that has miraculously been transformed into beautiful works of art sand sculptures.

It's one of the many incredible things I saw at the inaugural Frenchy's Sugar Sand Festival (part of the 60th anniversary of [Fun n Sun Festival](#)) this year.

The 10-day event is just one of many events Clearwater has become known for, to encourage tourism, bring the community together, and create a niche for itself in an ever-saturated beach state.



Follow Us



Marketing channel strategy

www.BIWORLDWIDE.com/Sales-Channel
Keep Your Channel Partners Engaged. Read BI WORLDWIDE's Top Strategy!

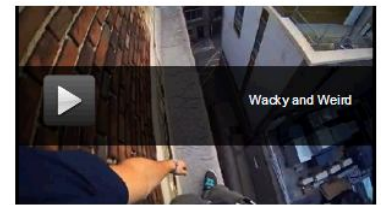
250 Business Cards - \$10

vistaprint.com/customizedbizcards
Free Shipping. Design your Premium Business Cards Online. All for \$10.

Minuteman Press

www.dunedin.minutemanpress.com
Full Printing and Graphics Center 20% off of your first order AdChoices

Video of the Day



Most Popular Stories



Toronto Maple Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf marries actress Elisha Cuthbert

10 PHOTOS



Photos: Toronto storm exceeds Hurricane Hazel levels

62 PHOTOS



What must Vancouver Canucks new/old goalie Roberto Luongo be thinking?



Brazilian fans kill and quarter referee who stabbed soccer player to death



Lac-Mégantic train derailment, explosion: what we know 48 hours later



Kelley Scarsbrook

Kelley Scarsbrook is a travel writer for Canada.com covering both national and international travel and lifestyle trends. From hiking Arizona's Grand Canyon, to kayaking through Costa Rica's rainforests... [read more](#)

FOLLOW ME



THE SCARSBROOK FILE

TRAVEL / 2 WEEKS AGO

What's hot in cruising this year

Sections

- News
- Entertainment
- Health
- Life
- Business
- Financial Post Biz
- Technology
- Sports
- Travel
- Cars
- Homes
- Obituaries

Discussions

- LAC MEGANTIC DISASTER
- TORONTO FLOOD
- RETAILING
- TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS
- NHL
- OTTAWA SENATORS
- NBA
- INGREDIENT OF THE WEEK

SEE ALL

Voices

- Andrew Coyne
- Bruce Arthur
- Ishmael Daro
- Jon Dekel
- Lauren Strapagiel
- Marc Weisblott
- Matthew Fisher
- Michael Den Tandt

SEE ALL



One of the amazing sand sculptures at the Sugar Sand Festival in Clearwater.

It's also probably why it was recently [voted Florida's best beach town by USA Today](#).

Clearwater is a destination that makes you feel welcome the moment you arrive. And I'm not just talking about the people who work in the service industry. I mean the locals, too.

The traffic actually stops and motions for pedestrians to cross over to the beach, and the locals smile and talk to you. It's more than just a beach town; it's a tight community that takes pride in itself.



Clearwater Beach

The dining experiences in Clearwater offers up something for everyone and is a gastronomic delight. From the famous grouper sandwich at [Frenchy's South Beach Café](#), to the fine dining experience at [Caretta on the Gulf](#) at the Sand Pearl to drinks and appetizers at [Jimmy's Crow's Nest](#) on the rooftop of the Pier House 60 Marina Hotel (which provides beautiful views of Clearwater).

The activities are boundless. A few of my favourites included riding bikes along the beach-line, riding the waves on a jet ski, para-sailing above the crystal-blue water, dolphin watching on a dinner cruise to fishing excursions for the whole family.



Famous resident, Winter the Dolphin, with friend getting a treat at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

Two other noteworthy mentions are the [Clearwater Marine Aquarium](#) (which is known for its groundbreaking work in marine rescue rehabilitation and release and education). And a fun exhibit to

TRAVEL / 1 MONTH AGO

Victoria, B.C.: Canada's most family-friendly city

TRAVEL / 2 MONTHS AGO

Experience New York without the New York price tag

More Articles

Professional Secure File Sharing

TRY IT FREE FOR 30 DAYS

citrix ShareFile

flyers **TOP FLYERS** More

Current Flyer Toys R Us Canada

Expires this Sears

★ Editor's Pick

ENTERTAINMENT

Want to buy Drake's \$4.2 million Toronto condo?

ENTERTAINMENT

WATCH: Paulina Gretzky sings Britney Spears' 'Oops...I Did It Again' ...in a bra

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

Toronto Maple Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf marries actress Elisha Cuthbert

ADVERTISING

Kraft Peanut Butter bears are creeping out Canada

NEWS

Calgary, Alberta flood: Before and after photos, one week later

take the kids to is "Winter's Dolphin Tale Adventure", which provides a behind the scenes look at the filming of the true-life movie "Dolphin Tale" that took place in Clearwater.

I stayed at the [Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort and Spa](#). My room was enormous and I had an incredible view of the beach and ocean. My suite had a full kitchen, which came in handy when I wanted to cook for myself or store something in my fridge. The view from the pool on the 16th floor is perfection. They even had live entertainment at the pool, which enhanced the experience. One day I even tried one of their 20 air-conditioned poolside cabanas. If you are planning to spend the day at the pool with kids, I highly recommend renting one.

Side note: This hotel also provides a children's pool area, a Camp Hyatt kids club and a spa worth checking out (if you truly want to start your vacation out right).

What I discovered most about Clearwater is that it's laid back, inviting and more than anything else – its fun. What more could a person ask for?

For upcoming activities in Clearwater, you can check them out here: www.visitclearwaterflorida.com

Note: This trip was provided by the City of Clearwater

[Read more Articles from Kelley Scarsbrook](#)

[Twitter.Com/Empowermoms](#)

© COPYRIGHT - POSTMEDIA NEWS

 [REPORT AN ERROR](#)

COMMENT [Switch](#) [Tweet](#) 3 [+1](#) 0 [Pin it](#) [Share](#)

Add a comment...

Post to Facebook [Comment](#)

 Facebook social plugin



Inside canada.com



Gallery: James Island, B.C. for sale – US\$75M



Gallery: Floods cause chaos on Toronto streets



Ingredient of the week: kale



Road test: 2013 Mini Paceman S All4



Video: Strange Inspirations — Summertime nail art

About Us

[Who We Are](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Facebook Commenting FAQs](#)
[Advertise with Us](#)
[Subscribe To Our Newsletters](#)
[Privacy Statement](#)
[Terms](#)
[Copyright & Permissions](#)

Partner Sites

[Driving.ca](#)
[Faceoff.com](#)
[Postmedia Online TV](#)
[Canada.com YouTube channel](#)
[FP Business](#)

Featured Sites

[Ports and Bows](#)
[Driving Blog](#)
[Award Shows](#)

Newspapers

[The National Post](#)
[The Province](#)
[Vancouver Sun](#)
[Edmonton Journal](#)
[Calgary Herald](#)
[Regina Leader-Post](#)
[Saskatoon StarPhoenix](#)
[Windsor Star](#)
[Ottawa Citizen](#)
[The Gazette \(Montreal\)](#)

Marketplace

[Shopping](#)
[Jobs](#)
[Cars](#)
[Homes](#)
[Remembering](#)
[Flyer City](#)
[Infomart](#)

[Site Map](#)



[Manage Subscriptions](#)

[Back to Top](#) ↑