Inside look at Daytona Beach

Explorer Ponce de Leon, during his 1513 search for the Fountain of Youth, discovered the now-popular DeLeon Springs, located just west of Daytona Beach. Today, the Daytona Beach area entertains nearly 8 million visitors each year.

Perhaps best known for the Daytona International Speedway, the Daytona Beach area is located in Florida’s Central East Coast region. It includes eight communities stretching 23 miles along the Atlantic Coast. The beach is 23 miles long and up to 500 feet wide at low tide. The gentle slope and tides have packed the hard, white sands nearest the ocean, enabling automobile access. Of the 23 miles of beach, 11 miles allow driving and parking during the day and when the tide permits. The sand becomes softer as one moves further inland from the waterline. Sand dunes in the area can reach as high as 25 feet.

Automobile racing became a regular pastime along the hard-packed beaches at the turn of the 20th Century. Ormond Beach became known as the “birthplace of speed” due to the various land speed records set there. In 1947, the National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing was founded in Daytona Beach. Motorsports gained new ground in 1959 with the opening of the Daytona International Speedway, which continues to satisfy hundreds of thousands of speed-hungry fans each year. Visitors come from around the world to relax and recreate on one of the most beautiful, family-friendly beaches in Florida.

The average annual temperature is a warm 70 degrees. The average water temperature is also 70 degrees Fahrenheit. A typical January might range between the mid 60s and low 70s during the day and the 50s at night. Occasionally, there are cooler days between the mid 60s and low 70s during the day and when the tide permits. The sand becomes softer as one moves further inland from the waterline. Sand dunes in the area can reach as high as 25 feet.

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