



Kiawah Island – One of America’s Finest Beaches

Kiawah Island has one of America’s finest beaches – and that’s not just our opinion.

The Travel Channel, in conjunction with renowned “Beachologist” Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, has named Kiawah Island one of America’s Top 10 Beaches. Kiawah’s was ranked number nine in 2008 and ten in 2009 and also called “America’s Best Wildlife Getaway Beach.”

The outstanding natural quality of Kiawah’s beach is a credit to the ongoing efforts of the Town of Kiawah, property owners, our resort staff and their mission to protect Kiawah’s original master plan.

This commitment to preserving Kiawah’s natural beach habitat was one of the reasons that the Animal Planet TV network chose to film its Spring Watch USA show on the island.

Guests at Kiawah can involve themselves in numerous beach-related activities, including ocean seining, biking and kayaking. Moreover, unlike most oceanfront resort communities on the East Coast, The Sanctuary is the only resort hotel on Kiawah’s 10-mile stretch of beach, creating a uniquely pristine and private beach experience for visitors.

Not only is Kiawah’s beach 10 miles long, but also uninterrupted. At low tide there is more than 100 yards of sand from the dunes to the ocean. According to the South Carolina Annual State of the Beaches Report, Kiawah is one of the most stable barrier islands in the state. Island homes are set back behind the secondary dune line and do not encroach on the shoreline.

Kiawah’s beach is also a nesting ground for the Loggerhead Sea Turtle. Thanks mainly to the town-sponsored Turtle Patrol, a federal- and state-permitted program involving island residents, the survival rate of hatchlings is about 90 percent – substantially higher than the typical 10 percent in areas without assistance.

Kiawah has also been named one of the two most romantic beaches on the entire East Coast by *National Geographic Traveler*. Guests can enjoy the Night-blooming jasmine and vibrant colored sweet grasses that border the sea and sloping dunes. Guests can walk the beach and find millions of exquisite seashells, sand dollars and conchs that scatter amid the white, sandy beach that leads to the temperate waters of the Southeastern Atlantic Ocean. Often, dolphins are seen playing in the surf during the day.