

Dine and Doze



Take in the view at the Inn on the Ocean.

Whether your travels are for business or pleasure, you'll need two things: a good meal and a place to sleep. And Ocean City provides, no matter your tastes. From casual family dining to Continental specialties, from boutique hotels to full-service resorts, the area's restaurants and hotels offer something for every need.

WHERE TO EAT

Dumser's Dairyland

A part of the boardwalk landscape since 1939, Dumser's is famous for its ice cream — with an entire menu devoted just to sundaes, shakes, and other sweet treats. At its two Coastal Highway locations, lunch and dinner menu items include hamburgers, sandwiches, and fried chicken. 4901 Coastal Hwy.; 12305 Coastal Hwy.; and the boardwalk. 410-250-5543, beach-net.com/dumsters.

Embers Restaurant

Prime rib, snow crab legs, and stuffed scallops highlight the menu of this award-winning restaurant. Six years of being voted the People's Choice Best Seafood Buffet has put Embers in a category all its own. Executive chef Paul Suplee presides over a kitchen that offers seafood, steaks, salads, soups, and pastas. Save room for strawberry shortcake for dessert. 24th St. and Coastal Hwy., 410-289-3322, embers.com.

Fager's Island Restaurant & Bar

From Sunday jazz brunch to Saturday dinner and dancing, Fager's has your week's meals — and entertainment — covered. Choose from an array of sandwiches, salads, steaks, and seafood platters. To finish your meal, try an Island Coffee: java combined with a selection of liqueurs, such as Tia Maria, Chambord, or Frangelico. Later, take in a band or DJ on the deck. 201 60th St. in the Bay, 410-524-5500 or 888-371-5400, fagers.com/restaurant/.

Marlin Moon Grille

Traditional dishes of steaks, pasta, and seafood comprise the menu at Marlin Moon Grille. Add one of the restaurant's many wines to the entree and you have a memorable meal. The restaurant is also the winner of a 2006 Wine Spectator Award. 12806 Ocean Gateway, 410-213-1618, marlinmoongrille.com.

Phillips By the Sea

They started with a little crab house 50

years ago, and now the Phillips family's group of restaurants makes seafood lovers happy up and down the East Coast. Serving up the ubiquitous crab as well as other ocean fare, Phillips' three Ocean City locations give a true taste of the sea. Located in the Phillips Beach Plaza Hotel, Phillips By the Sea offers ocean views and live piano music in a Victorian-style dining room. 1301 Atlantic Ave., 410-289-9121, phillipsseafood.com.

Reflections Restaurant

American and French cuisine, combined with an award-winning wine list and a completely nonsmoking environment, set the atmosphere of Reflections. Some entrees, such as the symphonia de la mer — a medley of lobster, scallops, and shrimp — are cooked tableside. Reservations recommended. 67th St. and Coastal Hwy., 410-524-5252, ocmdhotels.com/reflections

Sunset Grille

Across the bay from Ocean City's hustle and bustle, Sunset Grille offers waterfront relaxation. With daily lunch specials, a raw bar, and an array of sunset-themed cocktails (try the sunset cosmopolitan), it's a prime spot for a midday escape. 12933 Sunset Ave., 410-213-8110, ocunsettingrille.com.

WHERE TO STAY

Castle in the Sand

Perfect for the family vacation, Castle in the Sand is designed to accommodate all ages. Run out to the beach and play with the kids, stay in and swim in the Olympic-sized pool, or do some shopping just a few minutes away. Dining is available at the hotel. Open seasonally. 3701 Atlantic Ave., 410-289-6846 or 800-552-SAND, castleinthesand.com.

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel

This full-service hotel includes anything you'd need on vacation: a place to sleep, a spa for relaxing, daytime activities nearby, and nightlife. Golf packages are available, as are meeting rooms to accommodate groups of up to 800. The

Clarion is an affordable getaway that has it all. 10100 Coastal Hwy., 800-638-2100, clarionoc.com.

Dunes Manor Hotel

The hotel was designed in the Victorian style, and each of the 170 rooms has an oceanfront view. One block from the boardwalk, the Dunes Manor is located just close enough to enjoy all the activities of Ocean City and still maintain a comfortable atmosphere to rest. 2800 Baltimore Ave., 800-523-2888 or 410-289-1100, dunesmanor.com.

The Edge

Just a few years old, this hotel has already become one of the best settings for a relaxing stay in the Ocean City area. Located on Fager's Island near the Isle of Wight Bay, the hotel has 12 unique suites with double Jacuzzis, fireplaces, and featherbeds. In-room continental breakfast is available. 201 60th St. in the Bay, 410-524-5400, fagers.com/edge.

Hilton Suites Ocean City Oceanfront

This all-suite property is just steps from the boardwalk and the beach. If you tire of salt water, take advantage of the hotel's two private pools. Later, dine at one of the Hilton's three restaurants or relax on your private oceanfront balcony. Bring the family: The three-bedroom penthouse suites sleep ten. 32nd St. and Oceanside, 410-289-6444, 866-729-3200, oceancityhilton.com.

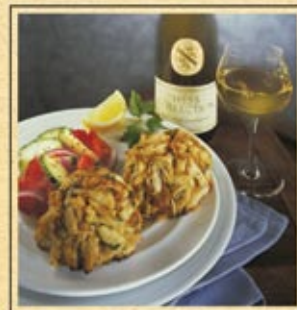
Inn on the Ocean

As Maryland's only oceanfront bed-and-breakfast, the Inn on the Ocean has a unique setting. The six themed rooms add to the charm and elegance of this property, once voted best B&B on the eastern seaboard. The boardwalk is nearby, and fishing and golfing are just a short drive away. 1001 Atlantic Ave., 410-289-8894 or 888-226-6223, innontheocean.com.

— Compiled by Whitney Kislung

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