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Unique Wedding and Honeymoon Options Await Couples in the Daytona Beach Area

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – The Daytona Beach area is a perfect destination for honeymooners and couples who want a getaway filled with sun, surf, and romance.

Couples who desire to wed or renew vows while in the Daytona Beach area will find that there are several unique sites for weddings and receptions. Couples can choose to marry on their favorite stretch of beach, in lush and vibrant gardens or even in the former home of multi-millionaire John D. Rockefeller. Race car fans can make the Daytona International Speedway a part of their memorable day by holding their wedding at its famed Victory Lane and hosting a reception at the Daytona 500 Club overlooking the world-famous superspeedway.

For a beautiful waterfront wedding or reception, the banquet facilities at the Sunset Harbor Yacht Club and Conference Center located at 861 Ballough Road in Daytona Beach offers a luxurious setting. Set on the west bank of the Halifax River, the facility's stunning winding staircase, private Bride's Room and second floor ballroom, complete with balconies and enchanting views, will make any wedding party feel like royalty. Phone (386) 947-9900 or visit www.sunsetharboryc.com.

One of the area's most popular and romantic wedding sites is Chapel in the Garden, 5160 Riverside Drive, Port Orange. Chapel in the Garden is a beautifully restored century-old chapel that is nestled amid ancient oaks, soothing fish ponds, a quaint cottage and brick footpaths on a private estate near the shores of the Halifax River. Receptions, banquets and parties can be held on-site. Planning assistance is available. (386) 763-2285 or visit www.tavernandchapel.com.

Formerly the winter home of multi-millionaire John D. Rockefeller, The Casements, located at 25 Riverside Drive in Ormond Beach, now serves as the city of Ormond Beach's cultural center and museum. The Casements and the property's Rockefeller Gardens are both available for weddings and receptions. Ceremonies can be held only on Saturdays and Sundays. (386) 676-3216. www.thecasements.net.

Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens, 78 East Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach, has lush tropical gardens that offer a beautiful setting complete with a gazebo, labyrinth, nature trails, fish ponds, and fountains. The gardens' waterfalls are perfect backdrops for photographs of the wedding party. (386) 676-3347. www.ormondartmuseum.org.

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Unique Wedding and Honeymoon Options Await Couples in the Daytona Beach Area...

Page 2 of 3

The Coral Sands Inn and Seaside Cottages, located at 1009 Ocean Shore Blvd., Ormond Beach, is another popular wedding location. Well known for its charming oceanfront cottages and garden area, the charming inn is available for oceanfront nuptials, receptions and rehearsal dinners. 1-877-441-1831 (U.S. and Canada), (386) 441-1831 or www.coralsandsinn.com.

Several other Daytona Beach area resorts, hotels, and inns offer year-round honeymoon and romance packages. For more information, visit the "Where To Stay" section on www.DaytonaBeach.com.

Daytona Beach's historic oceanfront Bandshell is another unique location to hold a wedding ceremony. The Bandshell amphitheater is located in Oceanfront Park, just north of the famous Daytona Beach Boardwalk. This outdoor facility, built of coquina shells in 1937, will hold up to 5,000 people for general assembly. For more details, contact the Cultural Services Division of the City of Daytona Beach at 386.671.8250.

Couples may also choose to exchange vows on Daytona Beach's most famous attraction, the beach.

Getting married on Daytona Beach couldn't be made any simpler. Simply notify the Volusia County Beach Services Department of the upcoming event by completing and returning an event application.

Rates to reserve a portion or area of the beach can vary due to event season periods and the size of the event. If you plan to marry between May 1 and October 31 (sea turtle nesting season), a special application for chair and tent set-up must be submitted 45 days prior to the date of the ceremony. For more information visit www.volusia.org/beach.

Those planning to marry in the Daytona Beach area must have a marriage license issued by the state of Florida. A marriage license can be obtained at the Daytona Beach Courthouse Annex located at 125 E. Orange Ave., Room 100. Florida's Marriage Preparation and Preservation Act requires couples seeking a marriage license to complete either a four-hour marriage preparation course or wait three days to receive the license after applying for it. To apply for the license, couples must bring their driver's licenses or other valid photo identification and Social Security cards. Non-U.S. residents should present a passport when applying for a marriage license. If either partner has been married before, a document denoting their official date of divorce must be shown. Couples must be at least 18 years of age to apply for a license. Those under 18 must have parental consent.

The marriage license is good for 60 days. Couples who complete the four-hour preparation course receive a 37 percent discount on marriage license fees. Courthouse hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (386) 257-6013 for more information.

Romance Getaway Fun

While on their romantic getaway, couples will find plenty to see and do. The area's most spectacular attraction, 23-miles of sparkling, white-sandy beaches, is a 24-hour playground that's perfect for moonlit walks or lazily soaking up the afternoon sun. Watersports

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Unique Wedding and Honeymoon Options Await Couples in the Daytona Beach Area...

Page 3 of 3

enthusiasts can choose from a wide range of beach activities, including surfing, paddle boarding, parasailing, bicycling, jet skiing, sea kayaking, volleyball and more.

Couples who enjoy the great outdoors won't want to miss the area's other ecological treasures, such as Tomoka State Park, North Peninsula State Recreation Area, Spruce Creek Preserve, and several artificial reefs located 10-12 miles off Daytona Beach's shore. Nature and outdoor lovers can enjoy a variety of activities at these parks from fishing and scuba diving to canoeing, hiking and camping.

Those seeking cultural enrichment will discover the Daytona Beach area is filled with cultural activities and sites, such as the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens, Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum, and the Southeast Museum of Photography. The Daytona Beach Symphony Society and Peabody Auditorium bring internationally recognized musical and theatrical artists to the area year round.

For couples who remain "kids-at-heart," the Daytona Beach area also offers several fun and action-packed attractions such as Daytona Lagoon waterpark, the Richard Petty Driving Experience and Ride Along Program at Daytona International Speedway, Speed Park Motorsports, and the historic Boardwalk Amusement Area.

If a slower pace is more your speed, try a romantic cruise down the Intracoastal Waterway aboard one of the area's many sailing charters. Enjoy romantic views of the area's historic, downtown, beautiful riverfront estates and perhaps even a manatee or dolphin sighting.

A romantic getaway to the Daytona Beach area would not be complete without shopping trips to historic downtown Daytona Beach, Seabreeze Boulevard or Ormond Beach's Granada Boulevard. These retail and entertainment districts offer visitors fun day and nighttime excursions with their wide variety of fine boutiques, specialty shops, restaurants and nightspots.

For more information on Daytona Beach area accommodations, attractions, wedding and reception sites, please contact the Daytona Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-854-1234 (U.S. and Canada), 386-255-0415 or visit www.DaytonaBeach.com.

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