The ideal family vacation should give the family a chance to enjoy one of the most beautiful beaches and outdoor experiences in Florida or anywhere else.

A great variety of outdoor activities can be found on Clearwater Beach: three miles of white sand beaches; a Gulfside and a bayside that are both great for casual, laid-back Florida pursuits such as sailing and fishing, birding and windsurfing, kayaking and paddle-surfing. World class resorts are the norm at Clearwater Beach. Mom can pamper herself at the Spa at Sandpearl while Dad and the kids charter a fishing boat at the Clearwater Municipal Marina. The marina is located at the western end of Clearwater Memorial Causeway which connects the beach to the mainland. Sight-seeing boat tours, para-sailing, dive boats, charter sailboats, speed boat rides and dolphin-sighting excursions depart from the marina. Jet ski rentals and boat rentals are also available at the marina.

At the western end of Clearwater Memorial Causeway, one of the first features to greet the visitor to Clearwater Beach is Pier 60 Park. At Pier 60 Park the whole family can enjoy a great beach playground, free movies on the beach every Friday and Saturday night, and street performers, artisans and crafters at the Sunsets at Pier 60 daily event. Mom and Dad can stroll down the 1,080 foot fishing pier. The romantic tropical moon and cooling Gulf breeze is the backdrop for a Florida vacation that is both exciting and laid-back at the same time.

Mandalay Park – located less than a mile north of the Clearwater Beach Entryway Roundabout at 532 North Mandalay Ave. – has public parking and restroom facilities for the day-tripper. Across the street from the park, Clearwater Beach Family Aquatic Center's pool is great fun for the kids – with waterpark-like play features. There are restroom facilities at both Mandalay Park and the Aquatic Center.

Clearwater Beach Walk along South Gulfview Blvd. is the proof that Clearwater Beach is truly a family-friendly locale. The wide beachfront promenade is dotted with showers, benches with awnings. The way is bordered by sand dunes. The dunes are a natural protection against wind driven erosion; and also give the area a natural ambience which is

remarkable given the fact that the beachfront is lined by huge resorts such as the Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach at 301 South Gulfview Blvd.

Among the plentiful nearby public parking, the closest to Beach Walk is at the northern end of the Beach Walk at the Pier 60 parking lot. There are individual metered spaces placed along the Beach Walk. More public parking is available a bit further south at 332 South Gulfview Blvd. There is also plenty of public parking at the nearby marina.

Clearwater Beach is noted for the luxurious resorts which dot the Gulf-front like multi-faceted jewels: the Sandpearl Resort, 500 Mandalay Ave.; the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort, 400 Mandalay Ave.; and Best Western Sea Wake Beach Resort, 691 Gulfview Blvd. are just a few. But there are also more modest digs to be had on the bayside of the island and to the north of the roundabout along Mandalay Ave. These smaller establishments often retain the old Florida charm that gives Clearwater Beach its unique blend of the posh and casual.

To find out more about Clearwater Beach visit http://www.clearwaterbeach.com/