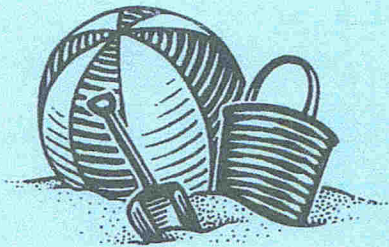


Siesta Key's World Famous Sand



When it comes to white, powdery sand, nothing compares with Siesta Key, Florida. In fact, in the Great International Sand Challenge held in 1987, Siesta Key's Crescent Beach was rated "The World's Finest, Whitest Sand," beating out more than 30 other entries, including the Bahamas and Grand Cayman.

It's clean, it's dazzling white and it feels like confectioner's sugar.

Why? It's the quartz. A recent study of Siesta beach sand by Harvard University's geology department found that the sand was 99 percent pure quartz grains. Those quartz grains are very fine, without any coral or shell fragments, which results in sand with a soft, flour-like texture.

Quartz sand comes from igneous rock, the kind of rock that once was molten. Quartz is a very hard substance, graded at 7 on a hardness scale of 10. Diamonds are rated 10 on this scale. Minerals of hardness 7 cannot be scratched with the point of a steel knife. The most common such substance is granite.



Nobody can calculate how many eons of time have passed since Siesta Key sand first appeared from fragmented rock. But Siesta Key sand is quite old. We know this not only because of the very fine grains, but also because other components of the original rock, such as feldspar, mica and other minerals, have almost completely disappeared, leaving only the extremely hard quartz.

The fine sand has passed through one or more "eolian cycles," as the geologists put it. Those are periods when it was blown about by the wind. Such cycles tend to knock the sharp corners off the quartz grains and help bring about the somewhat angular nature of our sand.

Sand is pretty shifty stuff. No beach is static, because all sand moves. It shifts up and down the coastline because of wind, storms and ocean currents. The shifting dune is a common phenomenon in sandy areas. If the sand is eroding in one place, it's building up somewhere else. The prevailing winds roll the surface sand from the bottom of the windward side of the dune up over the top and down the leeward side, so that with the passage of time, the entire dune may be rolled for miles.

Siesta Key's beaches have also been recognized for cleanliness, water quality and safety by one of the world's top experts, Dr. Stephen Leatherman, (also known as "Dr. Beach") of the National Healthy Beaches Campaign.

So now you know why Siesta Key sand is ranked tops in the world. It feels soft and cool on your bare feet, even in the strongest Florida sun, and that means great beach walking. Sculptors love it too, because it packs down firm and smooth, which makes for awesome sand sculptures at our beach contests.

No wonder so many beach lovers of all ages come to Siesta Key whenever they can. We look forward to seeing you at our beach very soon!



5118 Ocean Blvd., Siesta Key, Florida 34242

What Guests say about a Four

Another Fantastic Week On Siesta Key For Us! We've been coming for five years now and we can't believe how lucky we are to be able to stay here. My wife and two boys *4 & 8) Stay with my wife's parents each year. The drive from northern Illinois is all worth it when we see the Condo out the car window. We are very grateful that you share your condo (the wood floors are a nice touch!!) We can't wait 'til next year!

Thank you – again – for sharing your condo and all that comes with it. We stayed here with our daughter and her husband, and our grandsons. Our memories here will always be cherished. We are sad to leave after only 7 days, but we're already booked for next year, so we have it all to look forward to.

Wow! What a fun vacation! We had perfect weather all week. This was an excellent place for our family to get together – so spacious – the extra baths were nice. We enjoyed the pool, the beach, St. Armand's Circle, and deep sea fishing. We also spent much time at Olaf's Ice Cream. The Crab and Fin was also a favorite. This is one vacation we were all really sad to see end. I wish we could have stayed an extra week! We are traveling back to Ft. Wayne, Indiana tomorrow. Thanks for sharing this place with us.

We have had the best time here at your condo. The view is amazing and the location is just great. Everything here is so beautiful; we don't want to go back to Illinois! We definitely had great memories at the beach and in your home. Your place was all we could ask for and more! Thanks!

Thank you for allowing us to use your beautiful condo! We all had great memories... beach volleyball, the ocean and pool, the sunsets, the clubs and bars, and the late nights out on the lanai finishing off cases of beer!! It was an awesome week!! Thank you so much!!

This is the nicest place that we have ever stayed at. Not to mention the nicest beach! Thanks for making our stay a very memorable one.

This location is great! The village is within walking distance and the beach is right out front. We had a wonderful week!

Bedroom in Siesta Key:

Thank you for having sooo much available for us, and having it all so clean! The toys and the chairs in the storage room are in good shape and very nice. The Lanai was beautiful, and we spent a lot of time out there with the telescope. We went to the beach everyday as well as doing other activities (golfing, kayaking, and Mote Aquarium). Thank you again for the wonderful condo!

Hello! Thank you for sharing your lovely condo with us! We enjoyed our week here. It was great to be so close to the beach. We were out on the beach every day until the children got tired and then came in for their naps. We are from Pennsylvania and it is colder there so we are enjoying the warm sun. We had a beautiful sunny week. Thanks again!

Thank you for sharing your great vacation home with us. What a great place to stay while it's still cold up home in Pennsylvania. We've had a fun week on the beach, at the pool, and everything else!

Our family enjoyed our stay in your home very much. It is quite comfortable here. You have a lovely place. Thank you for sharing it with other families. We are from Iowa City, Iowa and not looking forward to going home where it is quite cold. We love Siesta Key and have been here many times. We look forward to our next visit!

We had a wonderful time staying in your beautiful condo! The view is magnificent, and there was plenty of room for all seven of us. This was "girl's week out," and it has been one of the most relaxing and enjoyable times we have had in many years. If we can ever get this group again, we will definitely stay here. Thanks again for everything.

We have just spent a wonderful week in paradise! Thank you for sharing your home – it was perfect for our whole family! We thought for sure our little one would start crawling here –

(Notes from Guestbook)

but she's holding out on us!!! We sure hope to come back for another week soon.

Our family brought our three year old son plus our son, daughter-in-law, and 18 months old and we had a great time. Every day was sunny and warm. It is definitely a contrast to up state New York where it was cold and snowy! It was 10 degrees at home with snow and wind. Needless to say 75 degrees and sun was a welcome break. We had a wonderful time, beach and pool on a daily basis. It is so great to get to have time with the people you love when the biggest decision of the day is if we go to the beach or the pool or both. Thank you for sharing your home! It was great!

This is a wonderful place. We went to the beach, went fishing, and caught a baby shark on the beach! The "lanai" is great; we loved looking at the ocean all the time. We had a great meal at the Summer house, Sunday Brunch. This is our third time at Siesta key, and it is truly our kind of place. The condo is gorgeous, and has lots of nice personal touch. Thanks!

Well, you were right... the beach, the condo, the weather, its perfect! Hopefully one day I'll have a place like this of my own!

We had a wonderful vacation here in Siesta Key. Your place is absolutely amazing; the lanai, all the furnishings and all the little things that made this our "home away from home." Our children (4yrs. and 20 mos.) had a blast at the beautiful beach. Thanks for allowing us to share your home.

All 9 of us had a great first visit to Siesta Key. We heard about the area on the travel channel. We were not disappointed. The condo and view were both beautiful. Our group includes 5 teenagers who loved the parasailing. All 9 of us went out on Kayak Tour – we told everyone since to go. "WOW". We all took a day trip to Beach Gardens – fun. Thanks for helping us with our great memories. Oh, I can't forget the fireworks display on the 4th – a must see – very well done!