

Beach Cams: Weather Updates or Pure Voyeurism?

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Ever wanted to know what the weather was like at a beach anywhere in the world without going there? Well, Earthcam.com has cameras and links to cameras in a lot of places to allow you to watch what's going on in the world in real time without stepping outside. Now, they have a Summer Cam which allows you to check beach weather, crowds, etc. without getting sand on your feet. Some of them allows anyone to control the camera yourself and that's where it gets interesting because you realize, when someone else moves the camera, that not everyone is just checking the weather.

Wildwood, New Jersey

For two consecutive days, June 23 and 24, nothing happened on this camera. But at 10:53 am on June 25, the camera caught people walking around on the beach, a girl standing with her bike and some pretty beautiful weather.



AF/Getty Images

The Pink Pony Pub Cam in Gulf Shores, Alabama

This camera allows you to control the direction in which the camera looks. So on June 23, it caught two guys talking on a bench; on June 24, a person fished from the pier on what appeared to be a very nice day. And quite a bit of action took place on June 25, even in the very early hours: Just before 4 am, two people got out of their SUV and walked toward the beach to do god knows what -- but the weather was nice. After that, a motorcycle passed them on the beach.

At that point another anonymous voyeur on the Internet took control of the camera and pointed it at a parked mini-van with about three to four people inside. A man gets into the driver seat before yet another Internet voyeur gets control of the camera and moves it away from the van. By the time, it turns back to the parking lot, the van is gone.

At 10:54 am, the same morning, another voyeur has control, watching a lady in a bikini talk on her cell phone. This guy is not checking the weather although it looks like it's sunny. The lady has no idea that me and the stranger are watching her from another state. The stranger changes direction to peek at the jet ski rental then to look at people playing in the water.

The Sea n' Suds Cam in Gulf Shores, Alabama

Another of the cameras which allows Internet users to control the angle -- but this one is not quite as active as the Pink Pony Pub. A little after 7 am on June 24, two people walk on the beach and one of them is holding a metal detector. Then at 11 am on June 25, large crowds of people are out on the beach. An anonymous voyeur is controlling the camera -- looking at boats in the ocean then at the general beach population. Not much of a voyeur, this one.

Venice Beach, California

In general, not much going on in front of this camera. On June 23, two guys play hackey sack just before 10 pm. And then there's pretty much nothing else for the next three days aside from regular beach goers. The weather's pretty nice though.

The Boardwalk Beach Cam in Bethany Beach, Delaware

This one faces what looks to be a really nice boardwalk. Over three days of observation, nothing much happens on this beach. On June 25, I spent several minutes of my life watching a group of people with a man in a wheelchair walk around on the beach, occasionally stopping to take pictures. Nothing really exciting happened.

Key West, Florida on Duval St.

The cameras positioned in front of bars tend to be the most exciting ones. But even observing Duval Street doesn't make idle Internet voyeurism worth it. This camera offered up some pretty useful information though when it started raining at 11 am on June 25. People were out with umbrellas and had I lived in the area, I would have known that I needed an umbrella if I would be heading to Duval Street.

The On The Cove Cam at Lanes Cove, Massachusetts

Checking this camera at night appears to be pretty useless. Without any light, it's hard to see anything discerning this area as a cove. It could have been somebody's living room in the dark. On the morning of June 24, the camera caught a few boats wading through the mud but no one was out. Then, a little after 11 am the following morning, trucks bull up to the cove as the tide comes in. The weather is nice with a temperature around 62°.

Holden Beach, North Carolina

Facing a beautiful but pretty quiet beach, this camera caught very little even on a few gorgeous June days. Over the three days of observation, I got little more information than the weather, which was sunny and around 82°.

Lookout Deck Cam of Louie's Backyard in South Padre Island

Even a popular night spot on South Padre Island doesn't turn up much over three days. This place seems to have an early last call and it doesn't open before noon. Not much to report here. Even the weather was boring.

Overall, these cameras are good for checking weather. It's rare to find anything interesting for a voyeur type. Plus, it's creepy to use these for watching people.