

Best Beach Vacations in North Carolina

With the wind in your face, the salt on your skin, and the smell of fresh ocean water in the air, there is nothing quite like a beach vacation in North Carolina. And, when it comes to vacationing in North Carolina, you'll have plenty of beaches to choose from.

Whether you like a lively beach location that has a lot going on or a more secluded beach getaway, you can find it in North Carolina. Take a look at some of our favorite beach destinations in North Carolina and see which one might be a good fit for you and your family.

Nags Head

As one of the most popular beach destinations in the state of North Carolina, [Nags Head](#) is a commendable beach for both locals and travelers. It is on the north side of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and has a wide array of beach activities for all to enjoy.

In fact, Nags Head is home to Jockey's Ridge State Park, known as the home of the tallest living sand dune located on the Atlantic coast. Just be sure to avoid the [chafing](#)! Leisurely walking on the boardwalk is met with exciting hang gliding opportunities and nature trail exploration at Nags Head, too.

Carolina Beach

Located nearby Wilmington, [Carolina Beach](#) is just a short 20-minute drive from this popular North Carolina city. With family-friendly beaches, a local boardwalk, and plenty of activities, everyone in your family will find something fun and exciting at Carolina Beach.

Restaurants, bike rentals, and arcades cover the boardwalk, while several hiking trails also make their appearance. You can branch out and try the popular Flytrap Trail, which is home to many native Venus Flytrap plants, too! If you're looking for a beach destination with a bustling city nearby, Carolina Beach is a great option, as you can easily take a day trip into Wilmington, as well.

Atlantic Beach

Found on the Morehead City causeway, Atlantic Beach is an optimal destination for families and fishing enthusiasts alike. Here you will find chartered fishing excursions, as well as plenty of opportunities to build sandcastles on the beach or sea turtle spotting.

That's right. Atlantic Beach is a popular hatching destination for sea turtles, so if you visit at the right time of year, you are bound to get a sneak peek into this wonderful experience. In addition, Pine Knoll Shores is a nearby area with a great aquarium that is just a short 10-minute drive from Atlantic Beach.

Emerald Isle

As a destination that is just as catchy as its name, North Carolina's [Emerald Isle](#) is a great fishing spot with beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean. Known for its fishing at the Bogue Inlet Pier, Emerald Isle is also considered as part of North Carolina's Emerald Coast.

With many public access points, a disc golf course, and part of the North Carolina Birding Trail, this beach vacation in North Carolina is great for outdoor enthusiasts. It is also revered as one of North Carolina's best beach vacation spots.

Trust Dryfins For Your Next Beach Getaway!

When you're looking for a great North Carolina beach to head to, consider some of the fantastic options outlined above. Be sure to grab everything you need to hit the [beach in style](#), like a [swim shirt](#) or pair of [trunks](#), and you're sure to have a great time, even if dad tells a few embarrassing jokes along the way.

You'll make memories as a family you'll never forget, so book your beach vacation in North Carolina today!