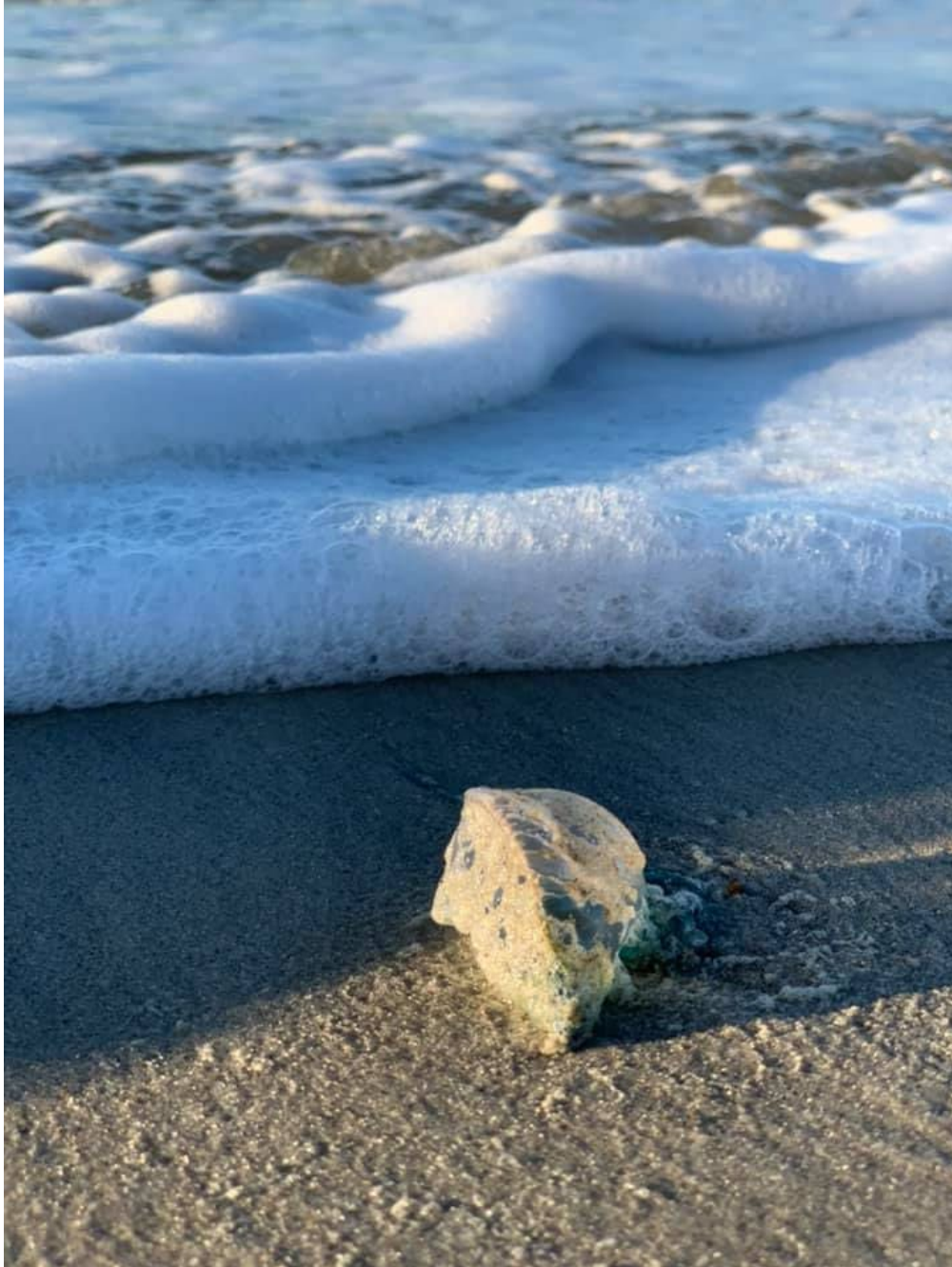


Choosing the Perfect Beach Vacation Rental



A [beach vacation in Oak Island](#) is appealing for many reasons. Having a home to relax in with the ocean but steps away and all the conveniences of "home" at your fingertips makes for a memory-filled and enjoyable retreat. This type of vacation is perfect for families, couples or friends groups to enjoy.

To get the most out of your Oak Island vacation, it's important to pick the right short term beach rental house for your stay. Here are a few tips.

Beachfront Property or Nearby Home

The old saying is correct, location is everything. For many beach travelers, the ideal location is beachfront, but this isn't true for everyone. True beachfront rentals are convenient for those planning to spend all of their time on the shores of Oak Island, but they're also oftentimes quite expensive. This is especially true during peak seasons.

Some families find that the better option is to stay a few streets or a short walk away from the beach. A home closer to the intracoastal waterway or a few blocks away from public beach access might be more convenient and cost effective.

Groups of adults or families traveling with older children might find that the cost savings is worth hauling their gear to the sands or [renting a golf cart](#) to make the short commute easier. Budgeting for a golf cart is likely significantly less expensive than paying the upcharge for a beachfront vacation rental, leaving more money for other things you might want to enjoy at the beach - like eating dinner out or enjoying [putt putt](#) or a round of golf at a nearby course.

Amenities in Your Beach Home



As much as you're certain to enjoy time at the beach while you're vacationing, it's important to consider that much of your time will be spent in the home itself. Consider what amenities are most important to you to make your vacation comfortable.

Does the home have the right number of bedrooms, beds and bathrooms for your party size? Are there bathrooms on each level of the home? Are both tub and shower options available?

A well-stocked kitchen is essential for most vacationers who plan to do at least some of their dining at home. This not only makes meal preparation easier, but it can make your vacation less expensive too. Look for an open kitchen that makes it possible for you to prepare meals while still mingling with your family and friends.

Ask if the kitchen is stocked with the appliances you need - a coffee maker, microwave, air fryer, toaster oven, oven and stove are a few things to consider. Vacation property owners who want to make your vacation as enjoyable as possible also provide adequate dishes, glasses, cups, silverware and things like a can opener and wine bottle opener for your convenience.

A dishwasher and garbage disposal make cleanup easier, giving you more time to enjoy all the fun of your beach vacation. As does a washer and dryer, preferably conveniently located within the home.

Additional amenities to consider are towels and bedding - if they're not provided and you won't be bringing your own, account for the extra cost in your rental expenses.

A starter supply of dish soap, laundry soap, toilet paper and paper towels make it possible to start enjoying your vacation without having to immediately run to the store.

Beach chairs, toys, and umbrellas are nice additions to your beach vacation rental. Ask if they're provided, and, if so, where they're stored. If they aren't and you won't be bringing your own, have an idea of where you can purchase or rent the things you need to make your vacation fun and comfortable.

Downtime or poor weather might keep you indoors for some of your vacation, so look for a home that's well-stocked with board games, television sets, internet access and other amenities that help to make this time more enjoyable.

Pool or No Pool?



The choice of whether or not to rent a home with a pool is a personal one, but having traveled to many different destinations, I'm firmly on team pool.

Nothing beats the waves and sands of Oak Island, but it's nice to have a way to get wet without having to venture to the sand.

A pool provides great recreational opportunities for you and all your guests while someone is grilling out or preparing dinner inside. Additionally, a pool can be enjoyed after dark, when it isn't as safe or practical to enter the ocean waters.

Another thing to keep in mind - even on a perfect and sunny day, the ocean may have a [red flag warning](#), meaning you can't actually swim safely due to high rip currents. This can, of course, be a major bummer on a beach trip if you don't have a safe alternative for continuing the fun. A pool in your backyard provides such an option and helps to keep the laughter going even when the waves aren't safe to body surf in.

Booking Your Beach Vacation

Once you have an idea about the beach vacation rental you're interested in, it's time to check out your options and get ready to book. To protect yourself throughout this step, always go through a reputable rental site.

Sites like [iTrip](#), VRBO and Airbnb are great options, as is going directly through the property management company or even the property owner, if you have a relationship with them. Be sure to check reviews, but don't exclusively rely on them. Sometimes a property with fewer reviews is newer to the site or a hidden gem. You might get a great experience and / or deal, should you decide to book it. Be sure to leave your own review after your stay!

When booking through one of the larger rental sites, look for the "premier host" or "superhost" tag. This ensures that you are working with a professional who strives to provide the very best guest experience.



Finding the perfect beach vacation rental home takes a bit of time, but it's well worth the effort. Once you locate the property that is right for you, the serene Oak Island ocean waves are certain to melt your troubles away and leave you with plenty of opportunities to make memories with people who are special to you.

Take your time, do your homework, and understand your priorities, and you'll be well on your way to finding the home that is perfect for you.