

## Why You Should Spend Your Next Vacation In A Small Town

They're full of charm and so much more.

By [Susan Hall Mahon](#) | Published on January 3, 2023



Whether coastal, mountain, lakefront, or in between, the small towns that speckle the South are brimming with storybook charm and beckoning with history, culture, hospitality, and beauty. If a small map dot isn't atop your travel bucket list now, these reasons to visit will change your mind.

Whether you crave a [romantic escape](#), a [toes-in-the-sand trip](#), or a [destination that does it up at Christmastime](#), there's a small town that's just right for a visit. Heck, you may even be called to put down roots and join the community.

Here, 9 reasons your next vacation should be to a small town:

### The Slower Pace

Small towns may have sleepy reputations, but with local festivals, farmers' markets, and fairs, you can count on a wealth of ways to stay busy. Compared to a buzzing city or overcrowded beach resort, however, the calmer energy of a small town can feel like a balm. With fewer people and less traffic to contend with, you'll be in for a soothing getaway without the commotion of a bustling destination.

Exploring a quiet place and letting your mind wander, too can be just the escape you need from the daily grind. Just strolling down [Aiken, South Carolina's](#) live oak-lined streets or along [Beaufort, North Carolina's](#) picturesque boardwalks can take you from stressed out to blissed out.



# 10 Iconic US Small Towns You Should Visit This Winter

Explore the festive nature of America's small towns with the 10 most iconic gems tourists should visit this winter.

BY MIA SIMS   PUBLISHED DEC 22, 2022

There's no need to go overseas for a winter vacation - some of the most charming and picturesque small towns in America are right here at home. From the mountains of North Carolina to the shores of Cape Cod, the United States is filled with small towns that offer something for everyone each winter.

Tourists looking for a quiet getaway, a festive holiday atmosphere, or outdoor activities to enjoy in the snow can find all they dream of in this country. Make this winter one to remember forever. Grab the family and plan the flights. Discover a winter wonderland right here in the United States and experience firsthand all of the wonders this country has to offer.

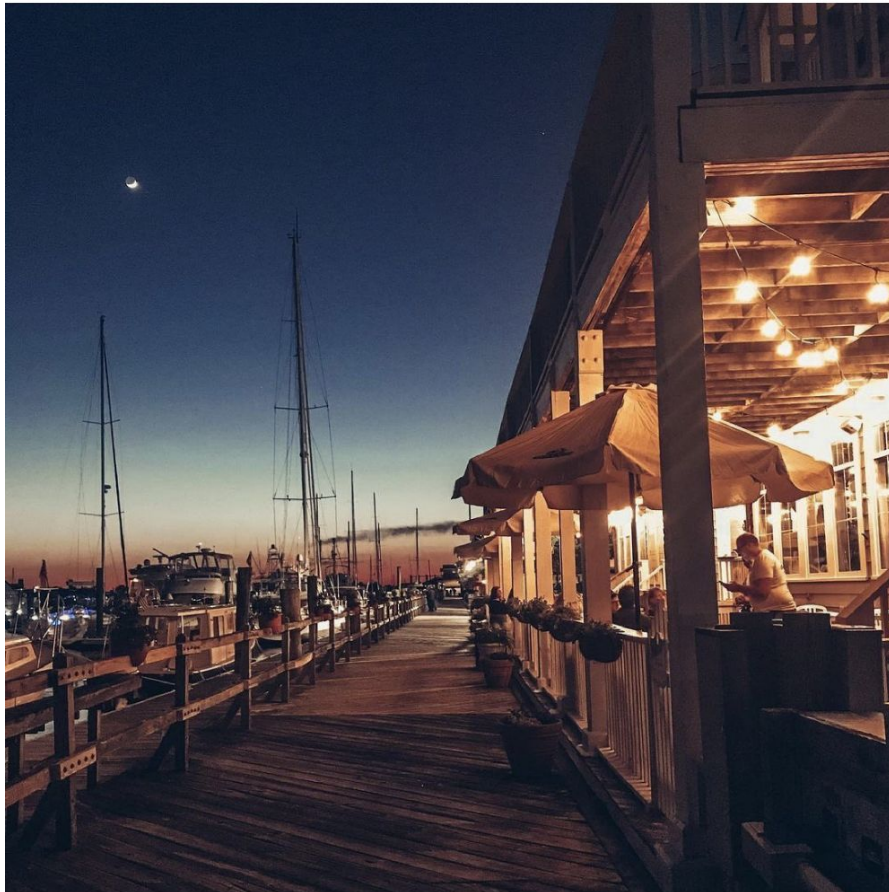


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## Beaufort, North Carolina



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Black Sheep Beaufort

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The charming town of Beaufort is an ideal destination for a winter getaway. Visitors can explore the historic streets or take a boat trip around the harbor. Winter activities include bird watching, kayaking, and exploring the nearby beaches. But the fun doesn't stop there. Beaufort is home to the iconic North Carolina Maritime Museum and the Rachel Carson Estuarine Reserve, which offers plenty of educational opportunities for families visiting with children.

- **Accommodation:** Beaufort Hotel
- **Address:** 2440 Lennoxville Rd, Beaufort, NC 28516-7898
- **Amenities:** Electric vehicle charging station, Free WiFi, Pool, Fitness Center with Gym / Workout Room, Bar/Lounge, Bicycle rental, Boating, and Highchairs available



# 10 Best Eastern Coast Trails (Out Of 19 Total) That You Shouldn't Miss

Explore some of the best eastern coastal trails to get a taste of the great outdoors!

BY AUNINDITA BHATIA PUBLISHED DEC 22, 2022

Nothing beats the feeling of being outside, breathing in the fresh air, and exploring new hiking trails. East Coast boasts some of the best and most scenic hiking trails in the United States, from rugged coastal paths to peaceful wooded trails.

Would a day spent hiking through the woods along the shore sound like a real kind of adventure? Perhaps more challenging hikes that involve breathtaking ocean views and steep inclines seem more up the alley. Regardless of personal preference, the following 10 best eastern coastal trails are sure to delight and impress. Get those hiking boots ready and start exploring!

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## Cape Lookout National Seashore, North Carolina



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## Cape Lookout National Seashore, North Carolina



Located in the heart of the outer banks, Cape Lookout is a [56-mile barrier island](#) that boasts a variety of coastal ecosystems and secluded hiking trails. It boasts various ranges of wildlife, from wild turkeys and deer to loggerhead turtles and gray foxes. The park also offers stunning coastal views, making it an ideal spot for photography enthusiasts. Be sure to check out the Cape Lookout Lighthouse Trail and climb to the top of the lighthouse for an unparalleled view of the surrounding area. Other [things to do in North Carolina](#) include kayaking, fishing, and exploring the quaint local towns.

# 31 Best Beaches on the East Coast

By: **sandy**

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Last updated: January 2, 2023

## Destination Ideas

Are you wondering which shorelines have the best beaches on the East Coast? You've surfed to the right place for answers to all of your aquatic questions. The truth is you'll find excellent beaches in nearly every coastal town on the East Coast. But which one is best for you, your family, and your specific beach style is a different matter altogether.

Do you enjoy lounging and relaxing on soft white sand? How about surfing bodacious waves or diving with tropical fish?

Maybe swimming, snorkeling, and exploring via kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards are more your style? Then there's pier, shore, and deep-sea fishing. See what we're getting at?

Whether you like crashing swells, gentle rolling waves, long stretches of secluded sand, or a bustling boardwalk scene, we've got the best East Coast beaches for you.

So, what exactly did we base our beachy opinions on? We tried to choose the best beaches based on a variety of things like soft sand, wave strength, quiet and seclusion, a bustling atmosphere, kid-friendly, and proximity to nightlife. Restrooms and showers were other factors. And, of course, they've gotta have the scenery factor going for them.

Sandy strands from Maine to Miami and the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay to the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) are just sitting there waiting. Well, they're constantly moving (water, ya know), but you know what we mean. Pack the sunscreen and lay out the swimsuits, it's time to hit those East Coast beaches!



## 16. Emerald Isle Beach – Emerald Isle, North Carolina



Emerald Isle is part of the southern section of the Outer Banks and North Carolina's Crystal Coast (due to its sparkling emerald-colored water and its position as the "crown jewel" of the southern Outer Banks). This pristine beach is located on Bogue Banks Island, a skinny stretch of land between Bogue Sound and the Atlantic.

You'll find approximately 12 miles of beautiful shoreline and ocean views. The sweeping coastline features an array of beach cottages, restaurants, and shops in a small coastal community.

### Fun things to do near Emerald Isle

- Bogue Inlet Pier for fishing
- Salty Pirate Water Park
- Fun World Motorsports
- Hammocks Beach State Park
- North Carolina Aquarium in Pine Knoll Shores



## Best accommodations near Emerald Isle

- Best Western Plus Silver Creek Inn
- Islander Hotel and Resort
- Lighthouse Suites