

# Forbes

## 4 Must-Visit Destinations To Celebrate Earth Day With Manatees, Mares And More



As Earth Day draws near, it's time to reflect on the beauty and diversity of our planet's ecosystems. For those with both a serious case of wanderlust and a passion for the environment, there's no better way to celebrate than by immersing yourself in the natural world. Here's a selection of 4 of the best destinations that offer not just a getaway, but a chance to engage with wildlife and contribute to conservation efforts.

From the historic wild horses of North Carolina's Crystal Coast, to the resilient manatees of Fort Myers, and the marine sanctuaries of Santa Barbara, these locations promise authentic encounters with nature.



## **Crystal Coast, North Carolina**

North Carolina's Crystal Coast is filled with incredible opportunities to experience wildlife up-close— both on land and under the sea. Often called the "Graveyard of the Atlantic," it has ideal scuba diving conditions with more than 100 feet of visibility, as well as over 2,000 shipwrecks and abundant marine life. Carefully regulated fishing and regional preservation efforts have helped safeguard the richness in marine species.

Ride the ferry to the Shackleford Banks to see the majesty of the island's famed wild horses. They are the ancestors of horses who survived several Spanish shipwrecks off the coast in the 1500s. Or go for a horse-back ride (on a tamed horse, of course) through the Croatan National Forest. The area's marshes offer lots of opportunity to search for birds and listen to the beautiful songs of numerous species.