

How to Plan a Perfect Beach Weekend

Tips and tricks for unwinding along the Crystal Coast

By Rue Reynold



North Carolina's Crystal Coast

Looking for a getaway that combines sun, southern charm, and a touch of pirate lore? North Carolina's Crystal Coast is the perfect spot. Stretching over 85 miles of sandy beaches and encompassing 11 coastal communities, this area is ideal for a relaxing long weekend. Here's a guide to help you plan your visit.

Explore Beaufort

The charming town of Beaufort has many local delicacies and enchanting experiences to offer. Have lunch and enjoy a drink while gazing out into the crystal-clear waters of Taylor's Creek, where you might catch a glimpse of wild dolphins. Once your belly is full, explore gorgeous nature trails or take a kayak tour through the [Rachel Carson Reserve](#) where wild horses have roamed the land since their 1940s introduction to the reserve. When evening falls, indulge in the town's unique "dock-to-dish" community for dinner. Savor fresh, locally sourced seafood from one of Beaufort's many restaurants ranging from casual to high-end. End the evening with a trip through [Beaufort Ghost Walk](#) where you'll hear tales of the legendary Blackbeard and other local legends.

Discover Morehead City

Start your day in cozy Morehead City with a classic Southern breakfast at [The Banks Grill](#), which features fluffy biscuits, rich gravy and a "soon-to-be-famous" cinnamon roll. Begin the evening with a creative, culinary approach to cocktails by [Arendell Room Bar](#) before ending the night with a dinner of locally sourced steaks and seafood.

Relax in Emerald Isle

For an experience full of attractions yet relaxing retreats, look no further than Emerald Isle, known for rich getaways. Begin your morning at [The Village Market](#) for an outdoor breakfast with crisp air and intriguing sights. After breakfast, take the opportunity to explore the famous marketplace where many unique, handmade items and artistic local treasures can be found. In the afternoon, visit the [North Carolina Aquarium](#) at Pine Knoll Shores to see a living shipwreck, explore the beautiful walking trails, and learn about North Carolina's native sea creatures. End your day with dinner at a beach house or surf bar, enjoying local Carolina oysters while overlooking Emerald Isle's pristine beaches.

From the historic streets of Beaufort to the vibrant waterfront of Morehead City and the beautiful beaches of Emerald Isle, the Crystal Coast offers a perfect blend of relaxation and adventure. Pack your bags and head to the coast for an unforgettable long weekend filled with sun, sea and Southern hospitality.

Visit CrystalCoastNC.org to find more exciting places to explore along North Carolina's Crystal Coast.



North Carolina's Crystal Coast