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chowder crawl all add to the sweet Southern charm of the holidays along the coast.

BY VIRGINIA BROWN



Crystal Coast, N.C.

OSER TO HOME

The southern stretch of the Outer Banks, known as the Crystal Coast, loves celebrating the holidays. In Morehead City, catch breakfast with Santa at Floyd's 1921, a historic home-turned-restaurant at the corner of 4th and Bridges streets. Don't miss the Crystal Coast Christmas Flotilla on Dec. 2, when boats, yachts, kayaks and other vessels deck out for

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the season and float down to Beaufort, where judges from the North Carolina Maritime Museum pick a winner. Morehead City also hosts a popular holiday parade, with floats, hot chocolate and Santa, downtown along Arendell Street. The full town is decorated the Monday before Thanksgiving. EAT

Charleston, S.C.

Sanitary Fish Market and Restaurant has been a Morehead City staple since 1938, offering fried anything-from-the-sea, plus she-crab soup, oyster stew and conch chowder. Southern Salt along the waterfront, and Parrott's on 11th in old downtown Morehead City are also local picks. **STAY**

The Bask Hotel at Big Rock Landing www in downtown Morehead City offers stunning views of the flotilla, while nearby Beaufort boasts bed and breakfasts The Pecan Tree www, Ann Street and Inlet inns.

Wilmington, N.C.

Secure a spot along the waterfront for the annual Holiday Flotilla in Wrightsville Beach, N.C. The event kicks off on Nov. 24 with the Atlantic Marine Launch Party with The Embers featuring Craig Woolard, plus a festive tree lighting celebration and, of course, jolly old Saint Nick. Dec. 9, take a holiday-themed stroll through the past at both the Burgwin-Wright House and Bellamy Mansion Museum for an event