

# UPROXX

## The Last, Best ‘Super Secret’ Beaches Left In The United States

There’s a certain mythos ascribed to finding a “secret beach.” The very phrase conjures visions of *The Blue Lagoon*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and *Treasure Island*. It’s deeply sensual, evokes adventure, and promises silent reflection. Year after year, travelers and vagabonds scour the globe to find isolated slivers of sand. Just ask Leonardo DiCaprio — who nailed the giddy joy of arriving at his own private paradise in the movie *The Beach* and has a secluded resort launching in Belize later this year.

Here in the United States, secret beaches abound. This sounds absurd in a country of 300 million, but our endless stretches of coastline, rivers, and lakes afford us plenty of chances to escape the crowds and bask on the warm sand. With summer ’19 upon us, I asked Uproxx writers to share their favorite secret beaches in the country.

I hadn’t heard of most of their answers, which is an excellent sign.

# SHACKLEFORD BANKS — CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE, NORTH CAROLINA



Many people visit the famed beaches of North Carolina's outer banks, but far fewer have heard of Shackleford Banks — the southernmost island of Cape Lookout National Seashore.

The whole region is a collection of undeveloped barrier islands. Undeveloped and remote beaches are great, but the 8.5 mile long Shackleford Banks has something special: over 100 feral horses that inhabit the island. As if wild horses on a beach wasn't enough, Shackleford Banks also boasts miles of beautiful untouched coastline full of scallops, shells, and crabs. There are no services on Shackleford Banks, and because you must take a ferry or personal watercraft to the island, it truly feels like you've stumbled upon a deserted island. Once you get there, it's the perfect place to relax, swim, fish, kayak, birdwatch, or shell. Bring everything you need for a beach day: sunscreen, chairs, bug spray and snacks. Don't forget water — there isn't any on the island.

If you have a couple days, camp! Beach camping is free on the island, and chances are you'll be the only one there. Ferries leave frequently from downtown Beaufort, NC and from Harkers Island Visitors Center. Twenty minutes and \$15 later you're in a whole new world.