



The best waterfront restaurants in America

From dockside seafood shacks to glamorous oceanfront dinners, these are America's best waterfront restaurants.


Friday May 29 2026

America's best waterfront restaurants aren't one-size-fits-all—and that's exactly the point. Across the country, waterfront dining can mean wildly different things: a romantic oceanfront dinner in Hawaii, a lively [beach club in Miami](#), a no-frills seafood spot on California's Central Coast or a boat-access-only restaurant tucked away in coastal Alaska. Some spots are built around freshly caught seafood and local oysters, while others lean into steaks, pasta, brunch, or comfort-food classics. Some are polished and celebratory; others are loud, casual, and centered around cocktails, live music, and sunset views. What ties them together isn't a specific cuisine or price point, but a strong sense of place—whether along a bay, river or ocean. From Rhode Island to Hawaii, these restaurants reflect the full range of waterfront dining experiences across the country.

America's best waterfront restaurants

1. COAST | Watch Hill, Rhode Island



 Photograph: Courtesy OceanHouse

Set inside the historic [Ocean House](#) resort perched high above the Atlantic, [COAST](#) is one of Rhode Island's premier waterfront dining destinations, pairing sweeping ocean views with a refined but approachable New England menu. Seasonal tasting menus highlight local seafood and regional ingredients through dishes like locally sourced scallops, beet-cured fluke, duck confit mole and American wagyu beef, all served in an intimate dining room. Keep in mind that while the restaurant is open to both resort guests and visitors, the atmosphere leans "resort elegant," with jackets preferred for gentlemen and cocktail attire encouraged. Dinner service is also reserved for guests ages 8 and older, adding to the restaurant's refined ambiance.

[Book Online](#)