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Kure Beach, North Carolina's small wonder, offers a naturally beautiful setting in a peaceful, small-town atmosphere. The coastal community allows visitors to fully relax while they enjoy nature unspoiled, island tours, outdoor concerts and nearby signature state attractions, including Fort Fisher State Historic Site and the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. The area is known for having great weather and fairly mild temperatures year-round. Kure Beach is located within an easy 30-minute drive from Wilmington, which was voted as one of "The South's Best Cities" by readers of *Southern Living* magazine and is home to more than 200 restaurants, shops and attractions in the downtown area alone.

WHAT'S NEW AT KURE BEACH**New Exhibits**

Recently ranked among the "25 Best Aquariums of the U.S." by VacationIdea.com, the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher is debuting three new exhibits this spring. Go under the sea to explore the Caribbean Corals habitat, a mega-sized jellyfish exhibit and a habitat for two rescued owls.

Oceanfront Entertainment

Find new entertainment at Ocean Front Park, the town's largest public green space. In addition to Turtle Talks, the Kure Beach Market and Story Time by the Sea, the park will also host a new program, Up and Active, on Thursdays from June through August. Join Lynne and the Wave for an hour of music, games, face painting and fun for all.

Find Your Zen

Kure Beach Yoga is here to nama-stay. Striving to make yoga accessible to all, the new studio offers classes held outside on the beach or at Ocean Front Park, in addition to indoor classes at the Community Center. Sync your breath with the rhythm of the sea during a yoga class that will leave you feeling Zen.

SAMPLE STORYLINES**Kid-Friendly**

Few things are as rewarding as a successful family vacation – especially when the kids are kept engaged and entertained with minimal effort. Named "One of the Best Family Vacations in the Southeast" by TripSavvy.com, Kure Beach is one of those magical places where kids can be kids without overwhelming crowds and commercialism. Thanks to kid-friendly finds from an award-winning aquarium and oceanfront park to a disc golf course, historic fishing pier and state historic site, families keep coming back year after year.

Landmark Attractions

Located at the southern tip of Kure Beach, Fort Fisher is home to two of North Carolina's landmark attractions, the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher – named a top aquarium in the U.S. by Trip Advisor multiple times – and Fort Fisher State Historic Site. The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher has more than 2,500 animal residents. Other highlights include Luna, the Aquarium's beloved albino alligator; a family of Asian small-clawed otters; and Adventure Reef, an outdoor interactive play area for kids. Located at the south end of Kure Beach, Fort Fisher was home to the Civil War's largest amphibious battle.



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Pinterest: pinterest.com/kurebeachnc | **YouTube:** youtube.com/user/visitkurebeachnc

Eco-Tourism

Take a boat or guided kayak tour to Zeke's Island Reserve, a sanctuary to many different shorebirds as well as other coastal wildlife. The estuarine reserve, made up of a collection of isolated islands, is home to miles of pristine shoreline and several different habitats, including tidal flats, salt marshes, shrub thicket, maritime forest, sand dunes and ocean beach. Visitors can enjoy a variety of activities there such as kayaking, hiking, shelling, fishing and birdwatching.

History

Located at the south end of Kure Beach is Fort Fisher, a fort used during the Civil War to protect the vital trading routes of the port of Wilmington and the site of the largest land-sea battle of the war. Approximately 10% of the fort still stands today. Attend historical reenactments and tour the grounds at Fort Fisher State Historic Site.

Shipwrecks at the Shore

Kure Beach is home to hundreds of fascinating sites that can be seen far below the surface including North Carolina's First Heritage Dive Site - *The Condor*. The Civil War blockade runner is one of the best-preserved shipwrecks on the North Carolina coast and can be explored just off the southern tip of Kure Beach at Fort Fisher. In addition to a host of historic shipwrecks, visitors can discover fascinating prehistoric fossils on the ocean's natural ledges. The North Carolina Underwater Archeology Branch, located at Fort Fisher State Historic Site at Kure Beach, is responsible for everything found in North Carolina waters.

Fishing

Whether you're a fan of pier fishing, surf fishing or offshore fishing, the waters surrounding Kure Beach are home to some of the best offshore and inshore fishing in North Carolina. For those anglers looking for some competition, Kure Beach hosts numerous tournaments throughout the year like the annual Pleasure Island Surf Fishing Challenge in October.

Pet-Friendly

Bring your four-legged friend with you during your next trip to Kure Beach. During the off-season (Oct. 1 through March 31), leashed dogs are allowed on the beach. Dogs are allowed year-round at the Fort Fisher State Recreation Area. You can also take your furry friend to the Gurney Hood Barking Lot at Joe Eakes Park, where they can run and play off-leash. The area also offers several pet-friendly accommodations.

Vintage Experiences for New Generations

From Fort Fisher State Historic Site to the Kure Beach Fishing Pier, to beach motels with modern amenities, the past and the present come together in harmony at Kure Beach. There's plenty to keep young kids entertained while still offering a peaceful retreat for parents and grandparents alike, making it an ideal destination for travelers of all ages.

Ocean Front Park

Ocean Front Park is Kure Beach's largest public green space. Located in the heart of Kure Beach's quaint business district near the town's iconic fishing pier, the park features a boardwalk, a playground for small children, swings, oceanfront benches and public restrooms. One of the biggest attractions at the park is an open-air pavilion with a stage area used for concerts, weddings, yoga classes and educational events. The park hosts special events throughout the year like the Boogie in the Park free concert series, Turtle Talks and Story Time by the Sea.

Baby Boomer Travel

Adults aged 50+ are seeking getaways that provide an escape from their normal, everyday priorities as a way to relax and connect with family and passions, and there's no better place to do just that than at Kure Beach. This coastal community is well known for its natural and beautiful scenery and small town atmosphere. From bird watching to searching for seashells to disc golf, there are plenty of ways to unplug.

Military Travel

Kure Beach is less than two hours away from North Carolina's two largest military bases: Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune. Military history and influence in Kure Beach is tangible everywhere you turn, from Fort Fisher State Historic Site to Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Area. Thanks to military-friendly lodging options and activities, military travelers and their loved ones can unwind and relax together in a small town atmosphere during the fall with fewer crowds, off-season lodging rates and mild temperatures.

Road Trip Escape

Whether your family is in search of a weekend getaway, your group of friends or significant other is planning a trip or you're contemplating a solo excursion, Kure Beach is the perfect place to escape. It's easy to get to our quaint island town via a quick car ride whether you're already in-state or coming from a neighboring state. Spend the night in a charming inn or vintage motel, or stay like a local in one of our vacation rentals. Experience the island's natural beauty with a variety of outdoor and wellness activities or take time to wander through one of the state's signature attractions at Fort Fisher. Enjoy a relaxing quick trip in Kure Beach whenever you're looking to get away.

Hidden Gems

Escape to one of the few remaining undeveloped stretches of shoreline on the southern coast at Fort Fisher State Recreation Area, a popular park for sunbathing, surf fishing, shelling and birding. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are allowed seasonally with required permits. Located near the coast of Fort Fisher, Kure Beach's coquina rock formation is host to a very rare and distinctive mossy hard rock outcropping. Only visible during low tide, the rock is cemented together by seashells and coral with an estimated origin ranging from 12,000 to 80,000 years ago.

