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Wrightsville Beach, selected as one of the “South’s Best Beach Towns” by editors at *Southern Living* and named one of the “Best Beaches in the U.S.” by MSN.com, is known for its crystal blue waters, spacious beach and active island lifestyle. In this vibrant community where quality and wellness converge, experience world-class watersports, an abundance of outdoor family-friendly activities, rich history, spa outings, boutique shopping, miles of pristine beach, exceptional farm- and sea-to-table dining, and full-service hotels with resort amenities, in addition to a wide selection of vacation rentals, available year-round. This walkable beach town is the perfect place to elevate your beach experience and find ultimate relaxation. Wrightsville Beach is located within an easy 20-minute drive from Historic Downtown 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 WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH**A Fresh Look**

The Holiday Inn Resort Wrightsville Beach is undergoing a major refresh to offer a new look and feel for guests. The refresh will include upgrades to the lobby, restaurants, bars and event spaces, in addition to a new look for guest rooms, pools and outdoor areas. Experience ocean- or harbor-front rooms, on-site dining, outdoor and indoor pools, along with a large playground, a wading pool and KidsClub for the little ones.

Cruise the Coast

Get out on the water with Wrightsville Beach Scenic Tours’ new private charter offering this spring. The Family Beach Party includes a full rental of the Shamrock with room for 20 aboard, a licensed and knowledgeable captain, experienced and friendly mate, an extra-large cooler with soft drinks and water, plus a sound system.

Acres of Airlie

Just across the bridge, discover 67 acres of formal gardens and lakes at Airlie Gardens. A new exhibit featuring rabbits is slated to be unveiled for the summer. Go for the bunnies and stay for favorites like the majestic Airlie Oak, the seasonal Butterfly House and colorful Minnie Evans Bottle Chapel, acres of walking trails and lakes, and hundreds of species of local flora and fauna.

Decades in the Making

The Fred and Alice Stanback Coastal Education Center is celebrating its 40-year anniversary this year. For four decades,

it has offered a uniquely coastal learning experience for all ages including art exhibits inside the historic Palmgren-O’Quinn cottage, as well as the grounds serving as a “Living Classroom” complete with native plants, rain gardens, stormwater-reduction demonstrations, low-impact development landscaping and more. The popular Touch Tank Tuesday program will also return for June and July. Come celebrate the milestone throughout the year and learn a thing or two while having fun.

SAMPLE STORYLINES**Premier Watersport Destination**

Named by readers of *Southern Living* magazine as one of the “South’s Best Beaches,” Wrightsville Beach is known as a premier watersport destination. It was also dubbed North Carolina’s most gifted watersport hub by *Men’s Journal* and recognized as a “Pioneer in East Coast” surfing and the birthplace for surfing in North Carolina.

Wellness Meets Relaxation

Wrightsville Beach, a vibrant island community where quality and wellness converge, is one of the few North Carolina beach destinations that offers convenient access to celebrated dining, upscale shopping opportunities and outdoor activities. Experience world-class watersports like surfing, standup paddleboarding, sailing and kayaking along the sound, Intracoastal Waterway or oceanfront with Blockade Runner Surf to Sound Adventures. Take a walk, jog or run around The Loop – a 2.45-mile trail around the island. Or take to two wheels on the nearby 10-mile River to the Sea Bikeway. Then fade into ultimate relaxation before or after the action and embrace “island time.” Just across the bridge in Wilmington, take advantage of the holistic benefits of time spent in a salt cave to relax and practice mindfulness. Reward yourself with boutique shopping or refresh and recharge with a spa day followed by a sunset boat cruise.

Island Nightlife

Wrightsville Beach offers visitors a welcoming social community and vibrant nightlife scene all year long. The energy of the day’s activities continue into the night with options ranging from live music to local bars, serene lounges and waterfront drinks with a view. There’s something for everyone, no matter your after-dark style.

Holidays

For over 35 years, more than 50,000 people head to the beach over Thanksgiving weekend for the N.C. Holiday Flotilla at



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Wrightsville Beach. The highlight of the weekend-long celebration is the Holiday Boat Parade when the Intracoastal Waterway is transformed into a dazzling display of as many as 30 decorated yachts and boats. Plus, there are more than 50 holiday events taking place in nearby Wilmington, including the spectacular Enchanted Airlie that features more than a million twinkling lights from late November through late December.

Travel Without Kids

Autumn is one of the best times of the year for those traveling without kids to plan a Wrightsville Beach getaway, with exciting nightlife, delicious coastal cuisine, and spectacular fall views like coral sunsets and picturesque sea oats in shades of green and brown. Cheers to a successful adults-only getaway with unique brews at Flying Machine Brewery or in the dog-friendly beer garden at Lighthouse Beer & Wine. Whether travelling solo, as a couple or in a group, plan a fall trip to take advantage of mild temperatures, off-season lodging rates and the less crowded coastline.

Restaurants and Cuisine

Wrightsville Beach is home to some of the best seafood and freshest creations in the area. From waterfront restaurants offering award-winning cuisine, to farm-to-table kitchens with seasonal menus and locally-grown ingredients, to taverns and breweries serving up gourmet burgers and craft beer, there is truly something to satisfy every appetite at Wrightsville Beach. Visitors staying in a vacation rental and preparing a homemade meal may want to check out Motts Channel Seafood, which has some of the freshest seafood around. The annual Taste of Wrightsville Beach showcases the area's top restaurants, cuisine and noted chefs each fall.

Multi-Generational Family Travel

Featured by *Travel + Leisure* as one of the "Best Spring Break Destinations in the U.S.," many families return to spend time at Wrightsville Beach year after year, generation after generation. With year-round outdoor activities, special events, coastal cuisine, shopping, and the beach and Intracoastal Waterway, it's the perfect place to plan a family reunion or vacation. And thanks to the variety of beach homes and cottages for rent, the whole family can stay in one place.

Underwater Adventures

Wrightsville Beach is home to some of the most unique snorkeling and SCUBA experiences. Less than 40 miles off the coast of Wrightsville Beach, divers can find rare giant prehistoric Megalodon teeth in higher concentrations than most other places around the world. Spend your day swimming alongside rainbow-colored marine life while exploring sunken ships, or dive straight into the past to uncover pre-historic fossils. Bring the entire family or friends on a group diving charter. From beginners to the most experienced snorkelers and SCUBA divers, Wrightsville Beach has the perfect marine adventure for every type of diver.

Millennial Travel

Millennials looking for a customized, unique travel experience

with friends can find it at Wrightsville Beach. Learn a new skill like surfing, standup paddleboarding or sailing. Stay active on the water by taking a kayak excursion, or on land by walking or jogging around The Loop. Get a different perspective on the island by taking a scenic cruise with Wrightsville Beach Scenic Tours or schedule a private catered dinner on a remote island with Epic Excursions for an epic experience you will never forget.

Romantic Getaway

Wrightsville Beach boasts romantic locales, fantastic restaurants and a variety of activities for couples. The Wrightsville Beach Mailbox is a must for poets. Classic romantics can seek out spectacular sunrise and sunset views. Locations from TV shows and movies filmed at Wrightsville Beach, including Dawson's Creek, One Tree Hill and The Choice, are perfect destinations for movie buffs. Outdoorsy couples can bond over activities like kayaking and sailing, while foodies can enjoy a romantic meal at everything from casual beachfront cafes to high-end restaurants.

Restore the Coast

Give back to the coast during a getaway to Wrightsville Beach. Surfer's Healing, the original camp for children with autism where notions of aptitude are defied, invites volunteers to aid children riding waves during the annual global event that holds a mission to change the world. Protect endangered sea turtles with the Wrightsville Beach Sea Turtle Project. Keep It Clean provides an opportunity to clean up the beach by collecting trash and encouraging others to dispose of their waste properly. Assist the thousands of others who have worked to restore coastal habitats through various programs with the North Carolina Coastal Federation. Or join Sweetwater Surf Shop's Before Work Surf Club. The club's mission is to keep people stoked about surfing while also encouraging sustainable living, leaving a small carbon footprint and giving back to the community.

Girlfriends' Getaway

Grab your gal pals and take a trip to this vibrant island community that's known for its crystal blue waters and spacious beach where quality and wellness converge. When you've had enough sunbathing, visit one of the island's chic boutiques or indulge in a fresh-to-table feast that will fuel you up for a night out on the town listening to live music. To embark on a wellness journey, sign up for an appointment at a spa, surf or SUP the waterways or take a yoga class on the Crystal Pier overlooking the Atlantic Ocean...namaste!

Enjoy a Long Weekend

Known as North Carolina's most accessible beach, Wrightsville Beach is the ideal destination for a quick road trip to the coast. The island is a convenient drive for travelers in North Carolina and nearby states, making it the perfect home away from home. Check in for the weekend at one of our waterfront lodging options and fuel up for adventure with a healthy breakfast at an area café or juice bar. Get active and spend time on the water with one of our world-class watersports activities or take a remote adventure to Masonboro Island Reserve. Set your watch to island time on your next active staycation or weekend road trip.

