

StyleBlueprint



VACATION IDEAS

The Best Wildlife-Watching Destinations in the South

From wild horses to bottlenose dolphins, the South is teeming with wildlife — and opportunities to view them in their natural habitats! Here are 30+ wildlife-watching destinations to explore. Image: North Carolina's Crystal Coast

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NORTH CAROLINA

From towering Appalachian peaks to windswept coastal plains, North Carolina's diverse landscape provides a haven for all kinds of wildlife. These locations are just a few of the best places to witness North Carolina's incredible biodiversity.



Whether you're hoping to catch a glimpse of wild horses along the Outer Banks or spot an elk grazing in the mountains, North Carolina is full of surprises! Image: [North Carolina's Crystal Coast](#)



[Shackleford Banks](#) is home to over 110 wild horses, descended from Spanish mustangs that were brought in and abandoned by European settlers in the 1500s. They roam freely along the barrier island.



*Wild, majestic horses can be spotted throughout [Shackleford](#) and the [Rachel Carson Reserve](#).
Image: [North Carolina's Crystal Coast](#)*

Accessible only by boat, the [Rachel Carson Reserve](#) is a complex of islands spanning 2,025 acres. This amazing coastal habitat is home to over 200 species of birds, 53 species of fish, 47 species of mollusks and worms, as well as wild horses.