

The 12 best beaches in North Carolina for every kind of beachgoer

Everyone from partygoers and outdoor enthusiasts to introverts and families can find their ideal beach vacation in North Carolina.



Beach, please. Do you think beaches are only for hordes of sunbathing frolickers? There are as many beaches as there are types of people, and North Carolina happens to be home to awesome beaches that are suitable for all kinds of folks. Whether you're looking for family-friendly fun, lively nightlife, outdoor adventures, or solitary pleasures, you'll find a North Carolina beach suited just for you.

For Nightlife

Atlantic Beach

For a more laid-back type of nightlife, hit up Atlantic Beach. With an energetic, yet comfortable, vibe, it offers a nice selection of local bars with something for everyone, from craft beer enthusiasts (head to [Idle Hour Biergarten](#)) and wine lovers (don't miss [Going Coastal Winery](#)). There's also live music at [The Topsy Turtle Tavern](#) and [The Tackle Box Tavern](#), which is open daily until 2 a.m. Cut a rug at [Memories Beach Club](#), one of the area's only spots to enjoy classic Carolina Beach Music and Shag dancing.

For outdoor recreation

Emerald Isle

In addition to a slew of activities you can enjoy in its aptly named green-hued waters, like swimming, fishing, surfing, and boating along its 12 miles of coastline, Emerald Isle also offers fun land-based activities at the 41-acre [Emerald Isle Woods Park](#). Here, visitors can hike, bike, and walk while taking in soothing scenic vistas. There's also disc golf at the 18-hole [Emerald Woods Disc Golf Course](#). The semi-private [Star Hill Golf Club](#) (technically located roughly 15 minutes away in nearby Cape Carteret) is open to the public and features three 9-hole courses.

Want something a little less athletic? Hit up [The Golfin' Dolphin](#), (also in Cape Carteret), where you'll find mini golf, go-karts, a driving range, and elevated ropes courses with its Sky Trail.