

AXIOS Charlotte

The best beaches in North Carolina

Emerald Isle



Emerald Isle is part of [The Crystal Coast](#) — an 85-mile stretch of beaches often called the southern outer banks. Photo courtesy of VisitNC

A favorite of Triangle residents craving a nearby getaway from the city.

Great for: Laid-back family hangouts and ditching the city for a long weekend. And for following in the footsteps of renowned writer David Sedaris, who grew up in Raleigh and bought a house at Emerald Isle called [The Sea Section](#).

Check out: The remote end of the island called The Point, [Fort Macon State Park](#) and the restaurants and bars clustered around downtown Morehead City, like [Sugarloaf Island Deli and Yellowfin Pub](#).

- For excursions, try paddle boarding yoga with [Emerald Isle Paddle Tours](#), shuck your own oysters straight from the water on a boat tour with [Sea Shore Oyster Company](#) or get a glimpse of the wild horses of Shackleford Banks (and maybe even dolphins) with [Crystal Coast EcoTours](#).

Distance: About 2.5 hours from Raleigh; roughly 5 hours from Charlotte.