

CelebWell

If Nancy Meyers Designed a Beach Destination, It Would Look Like This

Think endless summers, sun-drenched boat days, and pastel-hued beach cottages.



Alexa Mellardo

Nancy Meyers has brought us some of the most beloved rom-coms of our time—*The Holiday*, *Father of the Bride*, *Something's Gotta Give*, *It's Complicated*, and *The Parent Trap*. In doing so, she launched an entire aesthetic. Think endless summers, sun-drenched boat days, beach cottages adorned with vibrant blue hydrangeas, and cozy cardigans paired with a chilled glass of rosé in an Adirondack chair.

On a recent beach getaway to North Carolina's Crystal Coast, I found myself in the center of that very vibe. If Nancy Meyers were to dream up a beach destination, it would look a whole lot like this.

The Crystal Coast exudes "effortless vacation mode"—where the southern hospitality is warm and the flaky buttermilk biscuits are nothing short of divine. This postcard-perfect destination boasts 85 miles of shoreline and 11 charming coastal towns, including two of my personal favorites: Beaufort and Emerald Isle, North Carolina. (I'm convinced Nancy Meyers would have a sun-drenched Victorian home here, complete with a white picket fence and a rose garden tucked in Beaufort's historic downtown.)

Where to Stay: Beaufort's Cottage-Coastal Inn on Turner



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To *truly* step into your very own Nancy Meyers film, a few essentials are non-negotiable. Checking into the Inn on Turner tops the list. This coastal-chic retreat, nestled in the heart of Beaufort's historic waterfront district, welcomes you with fresh cream and blue linens and beach-inspired decor. The innkeepers promise that "each stay is a personalized wellness retreat," and owner-chef Kim Bell delivers on that and more, creating thoughtful itineraries for each guest to explore like a local.

If staying outside the hustle and bustle is more your speed, consider renting a pastel-hued beach cottage with [Emerald Isle Realty](#), where you can wake up to the sound of the waves crashing on the shore. Of course, morning beach walks and collecting seashells are necessary in your Nancy Meyers era!



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What to Do: Beach Cruiser Pedaling, Boutique Shopping, and Sun-Drenched Sailing



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When it comes to activities, head on over to [Bike Beaufort](#) to pick up a sweet beach cruiser for a while. Pedal through the charming downtown and by the quaint historic homes as you get your lay of the land. Be sure to pop into [Beaufort Linen Co.](#) and then [Wind Tide Beaufort](#) for a cozy oversized crewneck.

A private, sun-drenched boat ride with [Crystal Coast EcoTours](#) is another must, where you'll explore the barrier islands, collect sand dollars, and see the wild horses grazing. Captain Jess Hawkins has 30 years of experience as a professional marine biologist under his belt and was incredibly knowledgeable about the aquatic life.

Or, opt for an afternoon shucking experience with [Seashore Oyster Company](#). You'll head out to the oyster farm, learn how to shuck some oysters, and then enjoy the fruits of your labor with a side of champagne.



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For an invigorating outdoor exercise sesh, lace up your hiking shoes to explore the scenic Elliott Coues Nature Trail at [Fort Macon State](#), a brisk 3.2-mile loop that takes you through rolling sand dunes and vibrant, beachy foliage. You'll likely work up a sweat, but the views—and photos—will be well-worth it.

After sun-soaked days spent adventuring, a personalized massage with [Emerald Isle Wellness & Yoga](#) will be very welcomed. The best part? They'll come to you. I scheduled a mobile massage right on the balcony of my beach cottage—and I can't recommend it enough. There's something especially soothing about expert bodywork paired with the feel of a warm ocean breeze on your skin and the sound of the waves crashing ashore.

Where to Eat: Fresh Seafood Galore



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You'll certainly get your fill of fresh seafood on the Crystal Coast—and no complaints here!

When it comes to meals, City Kitchen is a must. The restaurant serves up locally sourced cuisine in an elevated, coastal-chic setting with stunning waterfront views. Another favorite of mine? Bahia Beach House & Surf Bar. The seafood is fresh, the cocktails hit the spot, and the beachy ambiance makes it feel like a true Nancy Meyers getaway. (Pro tip: Kick off your evening with their "Frosé All Day"—you won't be disappointed.)

For an ultra-laidback vibe, slip into a tank and your favorite linen pants, then head to a local favorite: Amos Mosquito's Restaurant & Bar. The blackened fish with coconut rice is a standout, especially when paired with a refreshing Mai Tai.