18 Best Beach Towns in the US

By LAUREN DANA ELLMAN | Published on 01/25/23

A seaside sojourn is always a good idea, and, fortunately, you don't need to travel too far to embark on a relaxing beach getaway. That's because America is home to a slew of incredible beach towns, all of which boast stunning scenery and postcard-worthy vistas. And, should you end up needing a break from the beach, most of them also feature vibrant downtown areas (think: shopping, dining, drinking, and entertainment offerings) or can't-miss nearby attractions (such as historic lighthouses and nature preserves). Here are a few of our favorite beach towns in the U.S., from Alabama to Oregon and beyond.

10 Emerald Isle, North Carolina

of 18

Kyle Little / Getty Images

Beachcombers should head straight to Emerald Isle, where you'll find a 12-mile stretch of sand that's chock-full of gorgeous seashells. The crystal-clear waters and sunny weather are both added bonuses. The [Bogue Inlet Fishing Pier](#) is a popular spot for—you guessed it—fishing, while The Point, which is located at the end of the Isle, offers panoramic water views that are even more spectacular come sunset. Once you've worked up an appetite, chow down at one of many mom-and-pop eateries like [The Trading Post](#), [Surf's Up Grill & Bar](#), [Gaffer's](#), or [Kathryn's Bistro & Martini Bar](#).