

31 Best Beaches on the East Coast

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Destination Ideas

Are you wondering which shorelines have the best beaches on the East Coast? You've surfed to the right place for answers to all of your aquatic questions. The truth is you'll find excellent beaches in nearly every coastal town on the East Coast. But which one is best for you, your family, and your specific beach style is a different matter altogether.

Do you enjoy lounging and relaxing on soft white sand? How about surfing bodacious waves or diving with tropical fish?

Maybe swimming, snorkeling, and exploring via kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards are more your style? Then there's pier, shore, and deep-sea fishing. See what we're getting at?

Whether you like crashing swells, gentle rolling waves, long stretches of secluded sand, or a bustling boardwalk scene, we've got the best East Coast beaches for you.

So, what exactly did we base our beachy opinions on? We tried to choose the best beaches based on a variety of things like soft sand, wave strength, quiet and seclusion, a bustling atmosphere, kid-friendly, and proximity to nightlife. Restrooms and showers were other factors. And, of course, they've gotta have the scenery factor going for them.

Sandy strands from Maine to Miami and the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay to the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) are just sitting there waiting. Well, they're constantly moving (water, ya know), but you know what we mean. Pack the sunscreen and lay out the swimsuits, it's time to hit those East Coast beaches!

16. Emerald Isle Beach – Emerald Isle, North Carolina



Emerald Isle is part of the southern section of the Outer Banks and North Carolina's Crystal Coast (due to its sparkling emerald-colored water and its position as the "crown jewel" of the southern Outer Banks). This pristine beach is located on Bogue Banks Island, a skinny stretch of land between Bogue Sound and the Atlantic.

You'll find approximately 12 miles of beautiful shoreline and ocean views. The sweeping coastline features an array of beach cottages, restaurants, and shops in a small coastal community.

Fun things to do near Emerald Isle

- Bogue Inlet Pier for fishing
- Salty Pirate Water Park
- Fun World Motorsports
- Hammocks Beach State Park
- North Carolina Aquarium in Pine Knoll Shores

Best accommodations near Emerald Isle

- Best Western Plus Silver Creek Inn
- Islander Hotel and Resort
- Lighthouse Suites