

# The Charlotte Observer

## The 15 best beaches in NC are just a drive away, Southern Living says. Where they are

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It's finally warming up in the Carolinas, which means it's only a matter of time before people hit the coast for vacation.

The Tar Heel State is home to several beaches, but a new report highlights the best destinations ahead of the summer travel season.

Southern Living magazine released the [15 best beaches in North Carolina](#), and Nags Head, about 363 miles from Charlotte, was top of the list.

“With its classic Outer Banks feel, Nags Head is a great destination for any beach-lover. There’s a mix of on-the-beach relaxation (pet-friendly!) and off-the-beach amusements, such as go-kart tracks, a handful of mini-golf courses, several ice cream shops, and good restaurants,” the magazine stated.

[\[BEACH GUIDE: The best beaches in the Carolinas are just a drive away. Here are your top picks.\]](#)

In addition to Nags Head, Southern Living ranked the best beaches across the state, including:

1. [Nags Head](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 363 miles



## 2. [Wrightsville Beach](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 209 miles

## 3. [Kitty Hawk](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 352 miles

## 4. [Topsail Island](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 233 miles

## 5. [Oak Island](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 207 miles

## 6. [Emerald Isle](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 271 miles



7. [Jacksonville](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 286 miles

8. [Bald Head Island](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 217 miles

9. [Cape Hatteras](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 391 miles



10. [Corolla/Currituck Beach](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 375 miles

11. [Atlantic Beach](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 284 miles

## 12. [Carolina Beach](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 211 miles

[\[EAT LIKE A LOCAL at Wrightsville or Carolina Beach.\]](#)

## 13. [Kure Beach](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 215 miles

## 14. [Cape Lookout National Seashore](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 320 miles



This photo from April 2020 shows a group of wild horses on a soundside beach at the Shackleford Banks, according to Cape Lookout National Seashore. *Cape Lookout National Seashore photo*

## 15. [Bear Island in Hammocks Beach State Park](#)

Distance from Charlotte: 260 miles