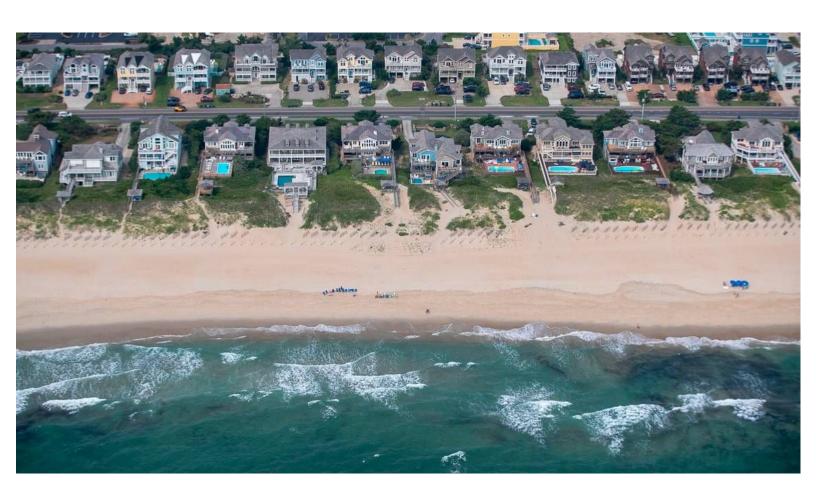
The Charlotte Observer

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

BY CHYNA BLACKMON

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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 <u>15 best beaches in North Carolina</u>, 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 beachlover. 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