



## 6 Hidden Gem Vacation Destinations You've Never Heard Of

When [making travel plans](#), a lot of people stick with the tried and true locations they've already been to or have heard about before. But what if you could travel to destinations that qualify as hidden gems, places where perhaps the tourist crowds are smaller, the sights spectacular and the costs affordable. [Here are six hidden gem vacation destinations you've probably never heard of.](#)

### The Crystal Coast, North Carolina

Travelers looking for a secluded beachside stay need look no further than North Carolina's Crystal Coast, which offers a variety of outdoor activities celebrating nature's best views, calm blue waters, clear night skies and luscious greenery throughout 85 miles of coastline, according to the Crystal Coast Tourism Development Authority.

The Crystal Coast is an outdoor and nature lover's paradise, with miles of trails, "greenways and blueways" for hiking, walking and paddling. Visitors can check out Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge or the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center. This is definitely the place for those who love to kayak or paddleboard, either alone or with a tour guide. And for those who like a more marine experience, scuba diving enables visitors to view the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" providing access to over 2,000 underwater wrecks.