

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

28 Best Beaches on the East Coast — From Maine to Florida

These East Coast beaches have blue waters, soft sand, and fun activities for everyone.

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The East Coast of the U.S. is home to some seriously stunning landscapes, from rugged mountains to pastoral valleys. But no area showcases that natural artistry more than its gorgeous coastline.

The states bordering the eastern shore encompass nearly 30,000 miles of coastline, according to the NOAA Office for Coastal Management, stretching from Maine to Florida. But with all that coastline, it may be hard to whittle down which beach to visit.

Before we dig into our picks, though, let us start by saying there are plenty more beaches worthy of their day in the sun and your vacation time. So, by no means is this list ranked, exhaustive, or a slight to other local favorites. However, to keep things simple, we've compiled a list of two beaches per state along the coast. Here are 28 of the best beaches on the East Coast.

North Carolina



Emerald Isle

For another island beach experience, make your way to Emerald Isle, which has fewer than 4,000 permanent residents, but swells to a much larger size when the weather is nice, thanks to its striking beach. Those looking to get out on the water can book a fishing charter to see the beach from a whole new perspective (and perhaps catch dinner while they're at it).