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PALM BEACH MAGIC

# COASTAL LIVING®

## Best Beach Towns

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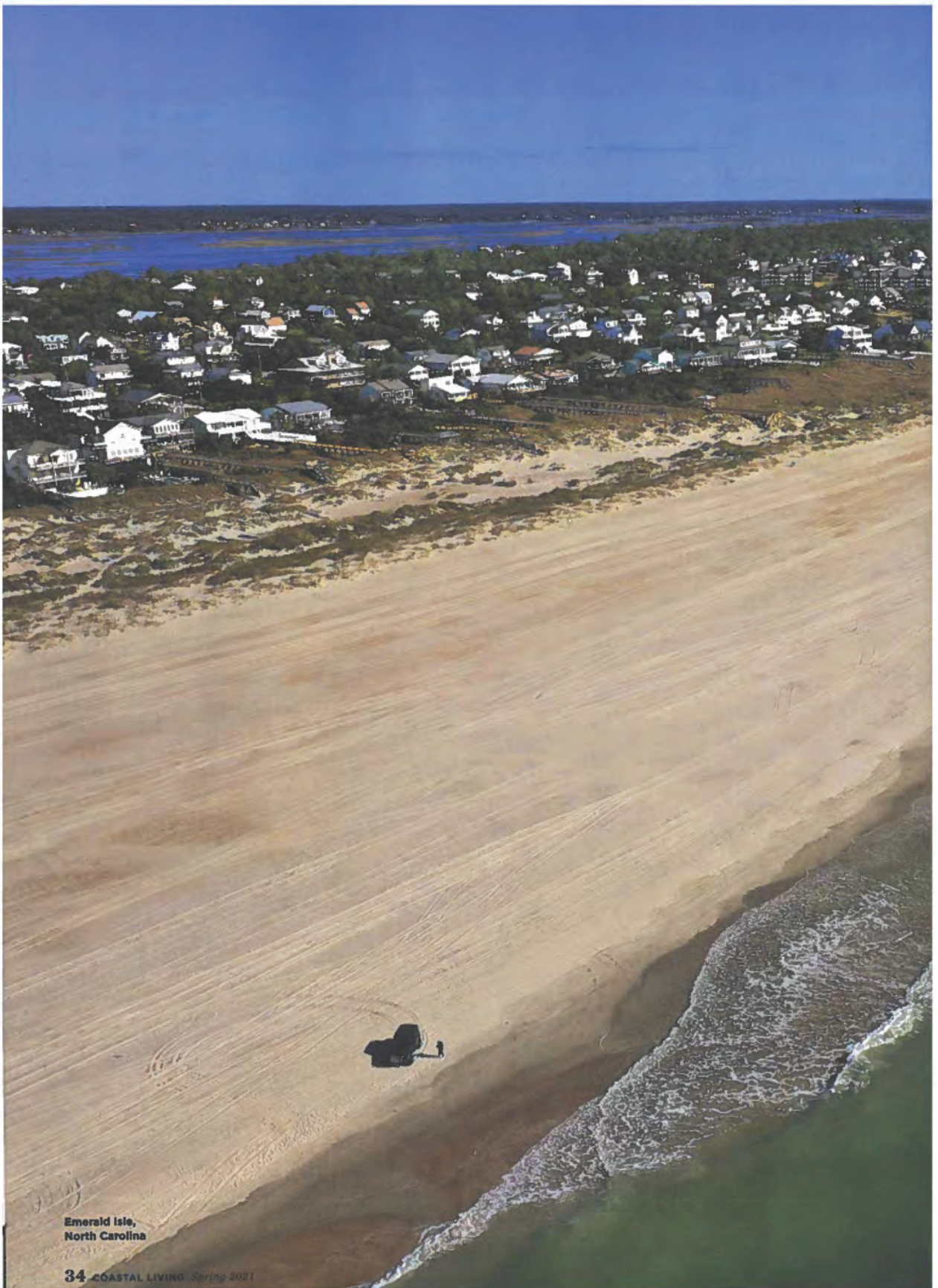


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BHG SPECIALS

THE ZIMMERMAN AGENCY

(continued)



**Emerald Isle,  
North Carolina**

An aerial photograph of a coastal town and beach. The town is built on a slight rise, with numerous houses and buildings. A wide, sandy beach runs along the coast, meeting the ocean. The water is a deep blue, with white waves breaking near the shore. The sky is clear and blue.

2021  
**THE** Best  
Places  
to Live

**ON THE COAST**

More than ever, it's time to move to the wide-open, breeze-blessed beach. Meet 12 towns from East Coast to West, Great Lakes to Gulf, that may just be your dream destination

BY TRACEY MINKIN

BRENDA LEE HAYLER

**THE ZIMMERMAN AGENCY**

(continued)

THE INSIDER'S OUTER BANKS

## Emerald Isle, North Carolina

Tucked at the southern end of North Carolina's famed Outer Banks, this beachy little town (pop. 3,705) has been discovered anew during the pandemic as offering a family-oriented, year-round ideal at a surprisingly affordable price. Chief among its move-of-a-lifetime gifts: a centrally located causeway across Bogue Sound to mainland conveniences, as well as the cultural charms (and great seafood spots) in neighboring communities like Beaufort and Swansboro, says Jim Browder, executive director of the Crystal Coast Tourism Development Authority. Add to that equation a vibrant watersports culture, from kiteboarding and surfing to kayaking and fishing, and it's easy to understand families wanting to move here for good. And what a good vibe it is: "The motto 'Nice Matters' is printed everywhere here," Browder says. "It's a great culture." Plus 12 miles of broad, south-facing beaches along the Atlantic with emerald waters warmed by the Gulf Stream? Now *that's* nice.

**MEDIAN HOME PRICE: \$366,300**



THE PARADISE RESET

## Hale'iwa, Hawai'i

There is no doubt that this <sup>artsy</sup> little O'ahu gem (pop. 3,625) has <sup>strained</sup> over time with visitors' desires to ogle the North Shore's famed competitive surfing scene. But 2020's precipitous tourism drop because of the pandemic (and Hawai'i's careful approach to containing the virus) has reduced a fire hose flow from Honolulu here to a culture-resetting trickle. Which means that life in Hale'iwa feels suddenly like the 1960s again, locals say, with quiet beaches and traffic-free streets. For surf-lovers who can afford the high price tag of small houses (but love the area's firm control on development), this might be the ideal time to embrace North Shore living as the town manages its return to tourism. Meanwhile, the famed shrimp trucks are always on offer, the sea calms down in the summer for snorkeling and swimming, the waterfalls nearby are spectacular, and the hum of big-city culture in Honolulu is just 30 miles away.

**MEDIAN HOME PRICE: \$1,278,600**

FINDING UTOPIA

## HOW WE CHOSE THE WINNERS

To select Best Places to Live on the Coast 2021, the editors consulted a number of reports, studies, and lists, including real estate data and trends. Final selections were based on editorial consideration and geographic diversity. For consistency, populations and median home prices are sourced from Sperling's Best Places ([bestplaces.net](https://www.bestplaces.net)).