

LakeNorman

M A G A Z I N E

A FRESH START

Southern Style In a Huntersville Home

Homefront
Music Series
Brings Talent
to Town

Exploring the
Beaches of
the Crystal
Coast

From the
Farm:
Discover the
Lake's Top
Markets

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(continued)

Lakefront

— Cuisine. Travel. Entertainment. Arts. —

The Crystal Coast

Focus your sights on these four gorgeous destinations
along this 85-mile stretch of pristine beach

COURTESY OF CRYSTAL COAST TOURISM AUTHORITY

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(continued)

Beaufort

What: North Carolina's third-oldest town beckons visitors with its historic charm and walkable downtown. Recently named the coolest small town in America by Travel Budget magazine, Beaufort boasts a scenic waterfront boardwalk, oak-lined streets, beautifully preserved homes, and an eclectic mix of shops, boutiques, and restaurants.

Eat: For epicureans, a wonderful way to explore Beaufort is via Hungry Town Bike Tour (www.hungrytownbiketours.com), during which you can pedal along the town's historic streets and visit many of the area's restaurants for food and wine tastings.

Can't Miss: The postcard-perfect downtown features The North Carolina Maritime Museum (www.ncmaritimemuseums.com) where you can explore the state's natural history with hundreds of exhibits, including one showcasing pirate Blackbeard's flagship, Queen Anne's Revenge, which ran aground here in 1718. To explore Beaufort's wild side, catch the ferry (www.outerbanksferry.com) to Shackleford Banks, where feral horses run free, or to the southern tip of the 56-mile Cape Lookout National Seashore, where you can climb to the top of the 163-foot Cape Lookout Lighthouse and gaze out over the sparkling blue water.





Atlantic Beach

What: Situated along the Bogue Sound, Atlantic Beach is the oldest of Crystal Coast's five resort towns and also one of its most charming. As you cross the bridge off Highway 70, which connects the mainland to the islands, you'll find yourself amongst cozy cottages, expansive beachfront mansions, and 2 miles of near pristine coastline.

Eat: When your stomach starts to rumble, head to family-owned Amos Mosquito's Restaurant & Bar (www.amosmosquitos.com) where you can nosh on fresh seafood, pork chops, steaks, and sushi.

Can't Miss: Though the beach here is the true attraction, Atlantic Beach also boasts bustling retail attractions, an expansive boardwalk, and the beloved, 1,000-foot Oceanana Pier, a popular place for fishing. History buffs will enjoy the 389-acre Fort Macon State Park where you can relax in two scenic beach areas, stroll the miles of walking trails, or simply enjoy a picnic lunch in one of the gazebos. But you'd be remiss if you didn't visit the expansive Civil War defensive fort, which has been painstakingly restored.





Emerald Isle

What: Continuing on N.C. 58, it's only about 8 miles to Emerald Isle. Located on the western end of Bogue Banks, Emerald Isle is one of Crystal Coast's more popular towns, with a variety of accommodations, including spacious beachfront homes loaded with luxurious amenities. If you need help finding the right place to stay, Emerald Isle Realty (www.emeraldislerealty.com) offers more than 700 rentals.

Eat: Grab a bite to eat at The Village Market (www.villagemarketofei.com), a charming little restaurant and shop with delicious

sandwiches, salads, and a full wine and beer list, along with funky, locally-made artwork and gifts.

Can't Miss: A haven for nature lovers with its lush greenery and 5 miles of beaches, Emerald Isle is best explored via surf board. Head to Hot Wax Surf Shop (www.hotwaxsurf.com) where, in addition to surfing and SUP rentals and lessons, the retailer offers guided kayak eco tours of the Intracoastal Waterway, numerous secluded islands, and White Oak River, which runs through hardwood forests and salt marshes teeming with wildlife.