



CHRIS BOSWELL, VIA GETTY IMAGES

Visit Scenic Coastlines That Have Everything

These eight national seashores and lakeshores offer activities from bird-watching to boating to basking in the sun.

DESPITE THE BREATHING ROOM offered by the Great Outdoors, many areas of the 419 National Park Service sites aren't necessarily conducive to social distancing. Many tend to concentrate the public along narrow trails leading to crowded geysers, waterfalls, wildlife-viewing stands or other scenic vistas.

But the eight seashores and lakeshores named here offer a completely different experience. While these federally protected coastlines collectively attract millions of visitors each year, the primary attraction is water and uncrowded stretches of sand that invite picnics, swimming and social distancing. Many of these

sites also allow off-road vehicles and sport hunting — activities that are forbidden in the national parks. And while the heat of summer makes them ideal destinations, most can also be explored throughout the fall and winter.

Note that during the pandemic, the visitor centers, museums, historic buildings and signature lighthouses are likely to be closed to the public — and that groups might be limited to 10 people.

CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE

Directly south of the often-congested Cape Hatteras, N.C., the 56-mile-long Cape Lookout National Seashore bridges three unspoiled barrier islands: North and South Core Banks and Shackleford Banks. Home to wild horses, nesting loggerhead turtles and countless shorebirds, this undeveloped seashore is accessible only by boat, with no roads or stores. Primitive cabins can be rented on the South Core Banks, while camping is allowed throughout the seashore.

Surf-casting is popular, along with hunting, shell collecting, windsurfing, kayaking, motor boating (like most national sea-

shores, areas for personal watercraft and Jet Skis are limited), long beach strolls and four-wheel driving on the two Core islands (scheduled ferries transport motor vehicles). nps.gov/caloc