



The Ultimate Coastal Carolina Road Trip: Plan Your OBX Drive Today



Carolina Road Trips Are the Solution to Your Summer Vacation Needs

From Charlotte, drive east across the state to North Carolina's seashores. By starting your coastal tour in Emerald Isle, on Highway 70, you'll get to take in both the Crystal Coast and, later, connect to Highway 12 in the pristine barrier islands known as the Outer Banks. We recommend you give yourself at least a week, with plenty of opportunities to stop along the way. Certainly, this is the type of scenic stretch that practically begs for a proper road trip.

Emerald Isle:

The Crystal Coast, with more than 85 miles of enticing NC beaches, has nine distinct regions. The town of Emerald Isle is a favorite of ours. It's a family-friendly haven for watersports and fishing onshore, offshore, and on the Bogue Inlet Pier. Swing by The Trading Post for a homestyle Southern meal or take a break from the sun to visit the North Carolina Aquarium.



Beaufort:

From Emerald Isle, drive about 30 minutes to [Beaufort](#)

NC's third-oldest waterfront town. There you can walk along the iconic Front Street, for shopping, galleries, and a variety of foodie options. Then, hop a ferry to see Cape Lookout National Seashore. After spending the day, get ready to load the car up to take the ferry from the Crystal Coast to tiny Cedar Island, and then onto Ocracoke.