

My 11 Favorite Beaches To Visit In North Carolina



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There are so many amazing beaches to visit in North Carolina, it's hard to choose just one favorite! North Carolina boasts 322 miles of shoreline along the Atlantic and more than 25 different beaches offering stunning views and unique experiences. From the vast, sandy shores of Outer Banks to the secluded coves and inlets of the Crystal Coast, there's something for everyone.



SURF LESSONS ON ATLANTIC BEACH
(PHOTO CREDIT: THE CRYSTAL COAST TOURISM AUTHORITY)



CRYSTAL COAST SUNSET
(PHOTO CREDIT: THE CRYSTAL COAST TOURISM AUTHORITY)

8. Atlantic Beach

Part of North Carolina's Crystal Coast, [Atlantic Beach](#) is a favorite family destination. Famous for its crystal clear waters and easily accessible walking trails, they have many fun activities, including swimming, fishing, biking, water sports rentals, and other attractions.

There are many eateries, the [North Carolina Aquarium](#), and some boutiques. [Fort Macon State Park](#) offers a bit of Civil War-era history. To help visitors explore the area on foot, there are four marked walking trails around the city as part of the [Walk Atlantic Beach](#) initiative.

For accommodations, you can find just about everything from the large chain hotels to comfy vacation rentals.

Parking lots along the beach are for a fee and are charged by the hour (credit cards only — no cash).



STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING
(PHOTO CREDIT: THE CRYSTAL COAST TOURISM AUTHORITY)

9. Emerald Isle

Rated the top North Carolina Beach by *U.S. News*, [Emerald Isle](#) offers 12 miles of clean wide beaches, a fishing pier, and a relaxed atmosphere.

You will often see a dolphin or possibly even a wild horse on the beach. There is plenty to do on Emerald Isle with mini-golf courses, a waterslide park, biking trails, a fishing pier, and more.

“The Point” is an ideal spot for catching a spectacular sunset.

Lodging is primarily vacation rentals on and off the beach with only one oceanfront hotel, the [Islander Hotel & Resort](#).

Some access points have free parking and a few charges on weekends only.