

The Best Beaches for Camping in the U.S.

Grab your tent and your swimsuit.

When it comes to making weekend travel plans for the summer, you have a lot of options. Perhaps you want to sit in the sun with a beach chair, sunscreen, and a good book and just take in the surf. Or, perhaps you'd like to get your fill of the great outdoors and pitch a tent in the wilderness while the weather is still sunny.

Or, perhaps you can do both?

Campgrounds aren't limited to a particular landscape. While quintessential camping in the mountains is certainly fun and rewarding, it can also be a fulfilling and unique experience to light your campfire right by the ocean.

Luckily, there are several picturesque beaches across the U.S. where you can set up camp. The gorgeous vistas of Hawaii are obviously a popular place for campers to trek during the summer months, but you can also find excellent ocean-side campgrounds from sea to shining sea on the mainland.

The west coast, from California to Washington State, is a treasure trove of campground gems that give you excellent access to the Pacific Ocean. Back east, states along the eastern seaboard like Maryland, North and South Carolina, Florida, and Massachusetts have dozens of grounds that cater to campers of all experience levels.

And the best part about all of these places is that not only can you enjoy s'mores by the fire at night, you can also soak in the summer sun by day. All of the campgrounds listed below allow people to get close to the water or even camp right by the surf. Some even have grounds that allow RVs and campers.

Take a look at some of these incredible beaches with accessible campgrounds for people who want their beach day to never end.

11. Cape Lookout National Seashore: Harkers Island, North Carolina



Anyone who is looking to really rough it should definitely take a trip to this campground in North Carolina. There are no formal campsites and few amenities, so you'll mostly have to fend for yourself, but the gorgeous, sandy beach and beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean are tough to beat. In general, you actually don't need a permit unless you have a party of 25 or more. More information can be found on the National Park Service website.