

north carolina's brunswick islands

An All-Seasons Escape for Triangle Residents

North Carolina's Brunswick Islands is a collection of coastal communities with five barrier islands and 45 miles of wide-open, beautiful beaches — each with its own distinct characteristics. Beyond the temperate weather throughout the year, unforgettable experiences, spectacular scenery, and easily drivable distance from the Raleigh-Durham area, North Carolina's southernmost coast deserves a spot on visitors' lists any time of year.

Stories from North Carolina's Southern coast.

Moments of Reflection by the Ocean

On a secluded stretch of beach on Bird Island near **Sunset Beach** sits the beloved **Kindred Spirit Mailbox**. Its over 50 year legend invites travelers to leave handwritten notes filled with hopes, prayers, memories and dreams in journals tucked inside the weathered mailbox. The peaceful one-mile walk along the beach to reach it has inspired thousands — and even served as inspiration for **Nicholas Sparks' novel *Every Breath***.

Just down the island the **Wind Phone** offers another quiet moment of reflection — a simple phone booth where visitors can "call" loved ones they've lost and speak words left unsaid while listening to the ocean breeze.

Motion Picture Perfect Southport

Named among **"The South's Best" Small Towns** in 2026 by Southern Living, Southport continues to attract the attention of the film industry. Visitors can participate in a guided tour to see locations for iconic scenes from over **40 movies and TV shows**, including ***Safe Haven***, ***A Walk To Remember*** and ***I Know What You Did Last Summer***. More recently, Southport has been the location of several exciting projects including Netflix's ***The Waterfront*** and Amazon Prime's ***The Summer I Turned Pretty***.

The historic maritime town, located just a short drive from Oak Island, has preserved its 18th century roots as a military and fishing town while developing a 21st century vibe with pedestrian-friendly streets lined with antique stores, unique boutiques, art galleries, and great local restaurants serving up fresh seafood.

Experience Larger-Than-Life Art in the Sand

From **Sunset Beach** to **Oak Island**, from sand mazes to driftwood sculptures, art is made in the sand. Beachgoers who are lucky enough to come across the **Sunset Beach Maze Man's** intricately designed sand mazes can take on the challenge of completing them. Hunter Gibbes has created more than 400 beach mazes in the over 20 years since he started, using just a shovel and his imagination.

Visitors can also step out onto the shoreline to find the stunning works of Stuart and Kathy Jones and their skilled team of **Sunset Sand Artists**, a collective of local artists, engineers and passionate community members dedicated to creating intricate sculptures from the sand.

Over on Oak Island, local resident Dean Russell's **Guardians of the Dunes** stand tall among the sea oats.

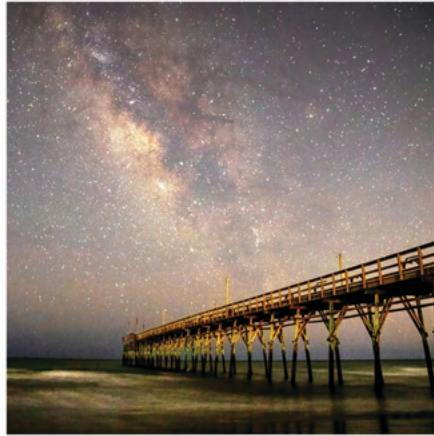


Memories are made beyond the beach too.

From the marshes on the other side of our islands, the stars that grace our skies, a dinner table in the “Seafood Capital of the World,” the natural home of the Venus Flytrap, and the over 20 golf courses designed by legends of golf, the best stories in the Brunswick Islands extend beyond sandy shores.



Embrace marsh madness.



See the stars like never before.



Visit the “Seafood Capital of the World.”



Discover curious creatures.



Play in the steps of legends.

Mark Your Calendar:

North Carolina Rice Festival (March)
North Carolina Fourth of July Festival (July)
U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament (October)
North Carolina Oyster Festival (October)
Southport Wooden Boat Show (November)
Southport Winterfest Flotilla (December)
Oak Island New Year's Lantern Parade (January)

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