



85 miles of shoreline with endless ways to explore.

Welcome to North Carolina's Crystal Coast, where 85 miles of shoreline and 11 charming waterfront towns are shaped by the waters that surround them. Known as the Southern Outer Banks®, the destination's outdoor adventures, maritime history, local seafood and laid-back coastal lifestyle all flow from the ocean, sounds, rivers and marshes. From days spent on the water to stories rooted along the shore, the Crystal Coast is a place where the landscape shapes the experience at every stretch of the shoreline.

FRESH STORIES FROM THE COAST

See stars — like you can't anywhere else.

Visitors to the Crystal Coast can experience this wondrous International Dark Sky Park year-round, with public astronomy programs hosted regularly by Crystal Coast Stargazers. Among the most popular is a stargazing cruise to Cape Lookout, where guests take a ferry before stepping ashore for a laser-guided tour of the stars led by a NASA Solar System Ambassador.

ecotourism | enjoying nature | conservation | camping

Inside the "Napa Valley of Oysters."

The Crystal Coast has earned its nickname, the "Napa Valley of Oysters," for good reason. Home to a dozen oyster farms, many of them female-owned, as well as one of the nation's largest female-owned caviar producers, the coast is rich in the flavor of its waters. Discover that freshness and authenticity across 150+ local restaurants, the heart and soul of our dock-to-dish dining.

culinary tourism | slow + local | seafood | oysters & merroir

Blackbeard's backyard: dive deep into pirate history.

In Beaufort, North Carolina's oldest waterfront town, history buffs can see artifacts from Blackbeard's famed ship at the North Carolina Maritime Museum or explore a life-sized replica at the "living shipwreck" exhibit in the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. Go even deeper on his exploits with a tour of his former home and the Beaufort Ghost Walk tour. More maritime lore awaits just off the coast from Morehead City, where scuba divers can explore over a thousand shipwrecks in "The Graveyard of the Atlantic."

heritage tourism | nostalgic + personalized | family fun | maritime history

Quick Facts & Faves

- One of the best dive destinations in North America — with 1,000+ shipwrecks for divers to explore.
- Longest fishing season on the Atlantic coast.
- Beaufort has been called "America's Favorite Town" by *Travel + Leisure*.
- Atlantic Beach is ranked among *Coastal Living's* "Best Beaches" in the Southeast.
- Home to Cape Lookout, the first International Dark Sky Park on the East Coast.
- Famous for Fort Macon, one of North Carolina's most visited state parks.
- Haven for the majestic Shackleford Banks wild horses — charter a ferry and catch a glimpse of them roaming free.
- Beautiful south-facing beaches give stunning views of the sunrise and sunset.

Great trips make the best stories.

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO ENJOY THE CRYSTAL COAST. HERE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE IDEAS.

Less crowds, more fun: the family beach vacation you didn't know existed.

Hands-on adventures, lighthouse views and bike rides — without the lines.

Families level up into crowd-free fun when they trade packed beaches for the Crystal Coast. Start at the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores' living shipwreck exhibit, then take a boat to Cape Lookout to admire the iconic lighthouse or enjoy a thrilling UTV excursion. End the day biking the coast, horseback riding or exploring barrier islands on an eco-adventure.



Roots run deep: history lovers find plenty to explore.

Step back in time along a shoreline shaped by centuries.

From a fascinating Civil War fort to Beaufort's centuries-old character to the legendary maritime heritage of these waters, the Crystal Coast offers so much history to explore. Dive deep into the region's rich culture with a stop at the History Museum of Carteret County, stroll through one of NC's oldest cemeteries in Beaufort and let the coastal stories guide you through eras gone by.



The most relaxing beach getaway on the East Coast.

Unplug and unwind on peaceful shores where nature is the star.

Miles of pristine beaches blend natural beauty with breathtaking views, offering endless ways for visitors to relax. Hunt for shells, paddleboard through serene estuaries alongside herons, unwind with sunrise yoga on the beach or catch a glimpse of the Shackleford Banks wild horses.



The Crystal Coast: every season's favorite escape.

BEAUFORT WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL (April)

Indulge in the best food the Crystal Coast has to offer during this four-day festival.

AB BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL (May)

Soak up the best of beach music and practice your shag on the dance floor at this beloved music festival.

BIG ROCK BLUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT (June)

Pro anglers from around the world come for one of the largest sport fishing tournaments in the country.

NC SEAFOOD FESTIVAL (October)

Taste the best of the coast plus tons of fun activities and events at North Carolina's largest three-day festival.

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES (December)

The Crystal Coast lights up for the holiday season with events that include Christmas markets, the Gingerbread Festival, holiday art walks, our famous floating parade, Flotilla and more.

READY TO DIVE IN?

To learn more or plan a visit to the Crystal Coast, please contact:

Karen Gould

Crystal Coast Tourism
(252) 726-8148
karen@crystalcoastnc.org

Lea Komitzky

MMGY
(212) 228-1500
crystalcoastpr@mmgy.com



crystalcoastnc.com

CRYSTAL COAST N.C.