

north carolina's brunswick islands



Find Your Best Beach

With fall quickly approaching, travelers are seeking last-minute warm-weather vacations. Undiscovered and not-to-be-missed, North Carolina's Brunswick Islands is made up of unique coastal communities with five barrier islands and 45 miles of beaches, each famous for its distinct characteristics. Sunset Beach has even been recognized as one of *National Geographic's* "21 Best Beaches in the World." Read on to find your best beach.

- **Sunset Beach | Best Beach with a Secret** – The Kindred Spirit Mailbox sits one mile down the beach from the nearest public access point on Sunset Beach and collects the innermost thoughts and dreams from passersby visitors
- **Ocean Isle Beach | Best Active Beach** – Ocean Isle Beach is a favorite for active travelers with an abundance of adventure and leisure activities both on and off the sand
- **Holden Beach | Best Family Beach** – Holden Beach features small-town charm with lots of activities to keep families busy whether on or off the beach
- **Oak Island | Best Pet-Friendly Beach** – Oak Island serves as a pet lover's paradise equipped with pet-friendly accommodations, multiple dog parks and 10 miles of beaches that allows canines to be off leash from October to March
- **Caswell Beach | Best Lighthouse Beach** – The last lighthouse built in the state, the top of the Oak Island Lighthouse can be accessed by a series of ship ladders with 131 steps
- **Bald Head Island | Best Beach Without Cars** – Reachable only by ferry or private boat, visitors and locals explore the resort-style island by bike, boat and golf cart



Find Once-in-a-Lifetime Experiences

The breathtaking beaches of North Carolina's Brunswick Islands keep visitors coming back year after year. Adding to the appeal of the area's natural beauty are several opportunities for unique and extraordinary experiences. The **uniquely south-facing beaches** allow for a phenomenon to take place every winter season where beachgoers can **see the sun both rise and set over the ocean**. From July through October, visitors can head to the beach at night to join turtle watch programs and hope for a glimpse of **baby loggerhead sea turtles making their way to the ocean** in their first moments of life outside their eggs. The nest hatching process is protected and monitored by volunteers, which is crucial to this endangered species that can live for up to 50 years or more.

Find Festivals Worth the Travel

Visitors can join the communities of the Brunswick Islands for annual events throughout the year. During the fall, the **North Carolina Oyster Festival** features local coastal cuisine, vendors, children's activities and more. The oyster eating contest and oyster stew cook-off are not-to-be-missed. Also in the fall, the **North Carolina Festival by the Sea** is a two-day event that kicks off with a parade and provides entertainment for all ages. It is also the one time a year when visitors and locals can walk across the Holden Beach Bridge.



Find Outdoor Adventure for All

North Carolina's Brunswick Islands should be at the top of every adventure traveler's bucket list with salt and freshwater outings, inland excursions and high-flying fun on the state's southernmost 45 miles of coastline. Travelers looking to venture out into nature can discover offerings for all levels of adventurers. From the surf to the sky, the Brunswick Islands set the bar higher for adventure seekers in the Southeast. Several outfitters throughout the islands offer **canoe, kayak and paddleboard rentals, along with lessons and tours** for those new to the sport or wanting to learn more about the area. The **Shalotte River Swamp Park** in Ocean Isle Beach is a great activity for a day off the sand with 1.25 miles of zip line cable and an aerial adventure park with 53 different challenge elements. Another way to **enjoy the charming island towns and quaint communities is by bike**, and rentals are available throughout the islands. See the Brunswick Islands with a bird's-eye view by either **helicopter tour** or by **climbing the Oak Island Lighthouse**, which has 131 steps to the



top with a series of ship ladders.

Find Pet-Friendly Beaches and Lodging

All of North Carolina's Brunswick Islands' **beaches are pet-friendly** (some have restrictions during the peak summer season) so the whole family can come along on vacation. Beachgoers who don't want to leave their pets behind can check into **more than 10 properties in the area that allow pets** (not including pet-friendly vacation home rentals). A pet-friendly lodging option includes **The Winds Resort Beach Club**, an oceanfront property with beach access to Ocean Isle Beach. Another pet-friendly option is one of the many **vacation rental homes** that offers plenty of space for people and pets, as well as direct beach access for a stress-free vacation. Adding to the appeal, many of the rental properties have outdoor showers suitable for easy cleanup after a day on the sand!



Find Brunswick in the Books

North Carolina's Brunswick Islands' beauty has **caught the eye of international best-selling American novelist and #1 New York Times best seller author, Nicholas Sparks**. Sparks fell in love with North Carolina's Brunswick Islands, and has not only set two of his novels here but has also brought some to life by filming on location in the Brunswick Islands. Sparks' popular novel **Safe Haven was set and filmed in the charming coastal town of Southport**. Adding to the excitement, **Sparks' highly anticipated 20th novel, Every Breath** is released on October 16th and **is set in the romantic beach town of Sunset Beach**. Visitors to the Brunswick Islands can explore the filming and book setting locations made famous from Sparks' novels through walking or golf cart tours. Fans can also stop by the Fort Johnston- Southport Museum to explore movie props and original photos from Safe Haven.

To learn more about North Carolina's Brunswick Islands, visit www.NCBrunswick.com.

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