



WHAT TO EAT, WHERE TO STAY AND WHAT TO DO IN NORTH CAROLINA'S SOUTHERN OUTER BANKS

Lining the outer banks of North Carolina, flanking the sides of the coarsely ground sand, is a strip of water so crisp, they call it crystal. Not just scenic landscape or purity of resource, but also in spirit. This stretch of land known for 56 miles of protected beaches which preserves the land and water has aptly earned the name, the Crystal Coast. But it's the scattered clusters of local eateries, bars and pubs with the briny taste in the air and adventure-quenching activities that give this travel moment a picture book ending.





EAT

With world-famous fishing, it should come as no surprise that the signature cuisine of the region is seafood.

Want to know where the locals go to eat? Go for a "Hungry Town Bike Tour" where you can see the city and stop in some local favorites for a quick bite, like Clawson's Restaurant and Pub. A Crystal Coast staple since 1905, the homecooked menu offers everything from spicy shrimp and grits, and Caribbean jerk tuna, to a surf and turf burger, and their famous mud pie (plus a great beer selection).





STAY

There are more than 10,000 rooms available on the Crystal Coast amidst hotels, motels, historic bed-and-breakfasts, and beachfront cottages and condos (plus the actual beach — you can set up camp on the islands off the Coast's seashore, accessible by private boat or ferry).

Casa Bianco (pictured here), is a single-family oceanfront cottage featuring all the amenities you could possibly ask for, including a pool, hot tub, covered deck, wet bar, surround sound, covered top deck and, of course, spectacular ocean and sound views.







DO

Whether on water (boating, fishing, diving, kayaking) or land (hiking, shopping, touring, tanning) there are numerous ways to spend your days.

History enthusiasts can visit Ft. Macon, home to a Civil War fort, or Beaufort Old Burying Ground, the oldest of the town's cemeteries, established in the early 1700s. You can also climb the 163-foot high Cape Lookout Lighthouse (the only one in the U.S. bearing a checkered daymark to show direction), or ferry over to the nine-mile-long island of Shackleford Banks to see the wild horses that inhabit the island (which is also home to one of the best shelling beaches where you can find conchs, whelks, sand dollars, Scotch bonnets, olive shells and more).