


# GO

RV Trips and Tips   
5 Drivable Spring Break Getaways  
Is Your Ride Road Ready?



Winter 2021



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# Great Escapes

## 5 SPRING BREAK GETAWAYS FOR EVERY FAMILY

by Kristy Tolley

**LET'S BE HONEST.** If there's ever been a time we've most needed to get away, it's now. After months of working and schooling at home with limited opportunities to get out, we're all probably ready for a change of scenery. Also, last year's spring break plans were likely cancelled due to COVID-19, making a spring break this year even more essential. Whether yours is a family of beach bums or you prefer chasing waterfalls in the woods, there's a bevy of ways to enjoy wide open spaces. Here are five spring break road trips to consider:

### 1 Virginia Beach, VA

Situated where the Chesapeake Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean, Virginia Beach is a popular family-friendly destination. Spend your days along the thriving oceanfront area — a hub of hotels, restaurants and shopping opportunities. Walk or bike along the boardwalk, which stretches some 40 city blocks. Local diversions include the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, Atlantic Fun Park and water sports activities at Rudee Inlet. Just south of the Oceanfront District, Sandbridge is a good bet if you crave a quieter escape. Fewer crowds and a wide beach offer plenty of space to spread out. Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park provide an ideal backdrop for kayaking and hiking. Further afield, other diversions include Colonial Williamsburg and Busch Gardens — within an hour's drive.

#### STAYS

Conveniently located just off the Virginia Beach Boardwalk, Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront boasts perhaps the best pool view in the area. Located on the roof of this 21-story hotel, the infinity pool overlooks the Atlantic Ocean. Other family-centric amenities include a beach playground, cribs, a five-mile bike trail and beach activities (among others). The Historic Cavalier Hotel & Beach Club, a AAA Four Diamond-rated historic gem, was the “go to” resort for presidents, celebrities and iconic authors following its opening in 1927. After facing demolition in 2012, it reopened in 2018 as a member of Marriott's Autograph Collection. Families will enjoy the renovated Beach Club, which offers semi-private beach access, a poolside bar and grill and an infinity pool that overlooks the Atlantic Ocean.

VIRGINIA BEACH OVB; KRISTY TOLLEY; ASCEND HOTELS BEAUFORT HOTEL





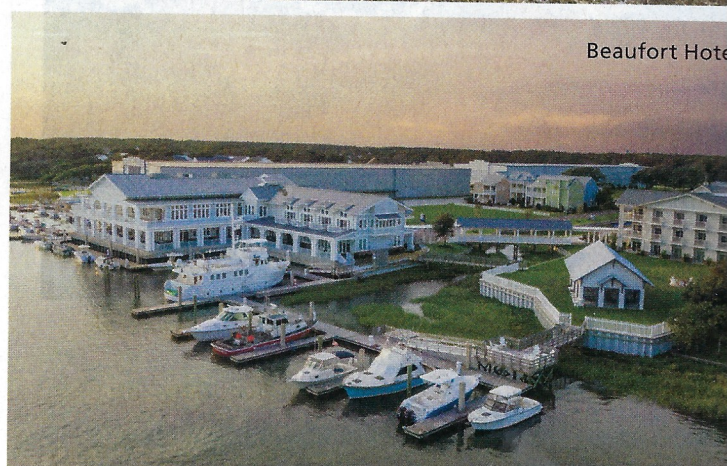
Virginia Beach

## Beaufort, NC

Part of North Carolina's Southern Outer Banks, or Crystal Coast, Beaufort is the third oldest town in the state. Small town charm, outdoor activities and varied dining make it a great spring break escape. Hungry Town Bike Tours provides a fun introduction to the area. The company's guided bike tour highlights historic homes, oceanfront diversions and a burial ground that holds legendary tales. (*AAA Members receive 10 percent off their Hidden Beaufort and Historic Beaufort Walking tours.*) Boat over to Cape Lookout National Seashore, a 56-mile-long stretch of undeveloped beach complete with the distinctive Cape Lookout Lighthouse. Take a ferry to Shackleford Banks to spy the storied wild horses or enjoy a dolphin watch tour with Lookout Cruises, which leaves from the downtown marina. Take in the diverse wildlife found within the Rachel Carson Reserve, including more than 200 species of birds, Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, sea turtles and a small herd of wild horses who make their home here. Nearby in Atlantic Beach, Fort Macon State Park welcomes more than a million visitors each year. On offer are guided tours of the fort, museum exhibits and nature trails. Restored quarters provide a glimpse into the lives of the soldiers who spent time there. After your tour, head across the parking lot for a day at the beach.



Beaufort



Beaufort Hotel

## STAYS

Located on the site of one of the town's former menhaden fish plants, Beaufort Hotel is a far cry from the original rugged structure that served Beaufort's fishing industry for so many years. The 133-room property faces south, providing guests with perfect sunrise and sunset views. Waterfront rooms also look out over the Rachel Carson Reserve. Sip your morning coffee and spy wild horses across the water. Savor a meal at their onsite restaurant 34° North Restaurant, where the menu is only rivaled by the views. (*AAA Members receive 10 percent off their stay.*) For families seeking more privacy, consider renting a home. Nautical Getaway is a spacious waterfront property on the sound. It accommodates up to six guests and includes amenities like a private dock, hot tub, free Wi-Fi and a washing machine. It's also convenient to downtown Beaufort, as well as Atlantic Beach. For more details about Beaufort, read "Weekend Getaway: Beaufort, N.C." at [AAA.com/EditorsEscape](http://AAA.com/EditorsEscape).