

# 12 Best Beach Towns on the East Coast

Travel to the best beach towns on the East Coast for fresh seafood, buzzy boardwalks, and leisurely days under the sun.

By [Lydia Mansel](#) | Published on May 12, 2024



From the rocky shoreline of New England down to the flat beaches of the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida, the Eastern Seaboard is a region that shines its brightest in the warmer months. As temperatures increase, many travelers make the journey to their favorite East Coast beach towns to soak up the restorative, nostalgic nature that comes with salt water, sand, and good old-fashioned summer fun.

“East Coast beach towns have a certain distinct charm that you have to experience yourself to fully embrace,” says Katie Cosgrove, the director of sales and marketing at [Ashore Resort & Beach Club](#) in Ocean City, Maryland. “These towns tend to be more laid back, with an appeal for every type of traveler — whether it's families, beach week groups looking for nightlife, couples looking for a getaway, and everyone in between.” Plus, she adds, most of these destinations are relatively close to larger cities — like Savannah, Richmond, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City — which “makes for a quick and easy getaway for urban dwellers.”

With summer right around the corner, we had a few local experts, including Cosgrove, share their picks for the best beach towns on the East Coast. See which ones made the cut below.



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“Newport is filled with amazing history and incredible food,” says Caroline Broome, founder and designer of [Tillie](#), a Palm Beach-based fashion brand. While some beach towns veer toward cute and kitschy, Newport is all about the glamor; if you’ve watched *The Gilded Age* on HBO, you may remember the mansions, the cocktail parties, and all of the social drama between Manhattan’s elite as they enjoyed summers in Newport. Modern-day Newport still holds onto that level of glitz, with several luxury hotels welcoming travelers to the seaside destination. Broome recommends staying at the historic [Castle Hill Inn](#), but there’s also [The Chanler at Cliff Walk](#), [The Brenton Hotel](#), and [The Vanderbilt, Auberge Resorts Collection](#). During your stay, be sure to check off all of the classic Newport activities: Go sailing, explore the 3.5-mile scenic [Cliff Walk](#), and visit the [International Tennis Hall of Fame](#).