



Wrightsville Beach · NC

Media Contact:

Leah Knepper
919.277.1176

LKnepper@fwv-us.com

Wrightsville Beach is North Carolina's most accessible beach from Interstate 40. It's easier to get here and even easier to stay. Everything visitors need is right on the island, with an abundance of outdoor activities, rich history, the scenic Intracoastal Waterway, miles of beach, family-friendly events, and full-service hotels and rental options. The area is known for having great weather and fairly mild temperatures year-round. Wrightsville Beach is also located within an easy 20-minute drive from Wilmington, which was voted as America's Best Riverfront and is home to more than 200 restaurants, shops and attractions in the downtown area alone.

WHAT'S NEW AT WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

History Tours

The Wrightsville Beach Museum of History is now offering a Loop through History Walking Tour that helps visitors discover the island's history while on foot. Visitors can follow 25 signs placed along The Loop that reveal history on or near that particular site. Guided tours take place on designated dates throughout the year; materials for self-guided tours are also available.

Island Yoga Experience

Wrightsville Beach Scenic Tours has added an Island Yoga Experience on Masonboro Island and has also expanded its custom charters.

Garden Programs

Airlie Gardens will welcome Matthew J. Leavell as the artist for its 2017 summer art exhibit, "Imagine." Leavell, a former Wilmington resident, specializes in steel, cast iron, wood and glass mediums. The exhibit will feature an eclectic assortment of large, colorful, whimsical pieces often constructed of recycled and repurposed materials. Other new offerings at Airlie Gardens include an after-hours Pokemon Go Tour, as well as an expansion of its "An Educator in the Garden" environmental education program.

SAMPLE STORYLINES

Premier Watersport Destination

Wrightsville Beach is quickly becoming known as a premier watersport destination – it was dubbed North Carolina's most naturally gifted watersport hub by Men's Journal, named one of the top surf towns in the world by National Geographic, and recognized as a "Pioneer in East Coast" surfing and the birthplace of surfing in North Carolina. There's something for every watersport enthusiast including boating, kayaking, sailing and sailing lessons, kite boarding, surfing, surf camps, scuba diving and standup paddleboarding (SUP). Wrightsville Beach hosts internationally recognized SUP events throughout the year. The Wrightsville Beach SUP Surfing Pro-Am attracts some of the best professional stand-up surfers in the world in April is immediately followed by the Carolina Cup, which was crowned as one of the world's five major standup paddleboard races by Australia's SUPracer.com.

Active Lifestyle

Wrightsville Beach-goers are all about maintaining an active lifestyle with surfing, paddleboarding, jogging the Loop (a 2.45-mile trail around the island), bike riding, fishing, bird watching and much more. Competitors from near and far make the trip to the area to take part in events like the PPD IRONMAN 70.3 North Carolina and Wrightsville Beach Biathlon.

Island Nightlife

Wrightsville Beach offers visitors a vibrant nightlife scene all year long. No matter what your after-dark style, this coastal community has options ranging from beach bars and waterfront restaurants, local hot spots and everything in between.



Wellness Travel

As more and more travelers are prioritizing personal health and wellness during vacations, it is increasingly important for destinations to offer healthier activities and food options. Wrightsville Beach is not only known for its crystal-blue waters and clean and safe beaches, but also its array of watersports, restorative meditation classes, and nutritious foods for visitors focused on staying healthy while traveling.

Holidays

For over 30 years, more than 50,000 people head to the beach over Thanksgiving weekend for the N.C. Holiday Flotilla at Wrightsville Beach. The highlight of the weekend-long celebration is the Holiday Boat Parade when the Intracoastal Waterway is transformed into a dazzling display of as many as 30 decorated yachts and boats. Wrightsville Beach is home to numerous other events throughout the holiday season. Plus, there are more than 40 holiday events taking place in nearby Wilmington.

Travel Without Kids

Autumn is one of the best times of the year for those traveling without kids to plan a Wrightsville Beach getaway, with exciting nightlife, delicious coastal cuisine, and spectacular fall views like coral sunsets and picturesque sea oats in shades of green and brown. Whether travelling solo, as a couple or in a group, plan a fall trip to take advantage of mild temperatures, affordable lodging and the less crowded coastline.

Home and Gardens

Part of what has made Wrightsville Beach a crown jewel on the Carolina coastline is its well-preserved landscape of historic beach homes, cottages and breathtaking gardens. Wrightsville Beach-goers enjoy exploring nearby Airlie Gardens, a quintessential Southern garden featuring 67 acres of post-Victorian European-style gardens and large freshwater lakes. Another not-to-be-missed activity on the island is to see the historic cottages and homes along Lumina Avenue and Waynick Boulevard.

Restaurants and Cuisine

Wrightsville Beach is home to some of the best seafood and freshest creations in the area. From waterfront restaurants offering award-winning cuisine, to farm-to-table kitchens with seasonal menus and locally-grown ingredients, to taverns serving up gourmet burgers and craft beer, there is truly something to satisfy every appetite at Wrightsville Beach. Visitors staying in a vacation rental and preparing a homemade meal may want to check out Motts Channel Seafood, which has some of the freshest seafood around. The annual Taste of Wrightsville Beach showcases the area's top restaurants, cuisine and noted chefs each October.

Multi-Generational Family Travel

Many families return to spend time at Wrightsville Beach year after year, generation after generation. With year-round outdoor activities, special events, coastal cuisine, shopping, and the beach and Intracoastal Waterway, it's the perfect place to plan a family reunion or vacation. And thanks to the variety of beach homes and cottages for rent, the whole family can stay in one place.

Shopper's Paradise

Known for its quantity and variety of both upscale and budget-friendly shopping options in and around town, Wrightsville Beach is the place to visit if you live to shop while on vacation. From beach souvenirs to funky new fashion boutiques and everything in between, shoppers are sure to get their fix at the island's open-air, pedestrian-friendly shopping villages, chic vintage boutiques, quaint bookstores and interesting art galleries. And just over the bridge is Mayfaire Town Center, an outdoor shopping center offering over 65 shops, 21 eateries and a movie theater.

Underwater Adventure

There's no need to travel to a remote tropical destination to find an underwater adventure: Wrightsville Beach is home to some of the most unique snorkeling and SCUBA experiences. Spend your day swimming alongside rainbow-colored marine life while exploring sunken ships, or dive straight into the past to uncover pre-historic dinosaur fossils. Bring the entire family or friends on a group diving charter. From beginners to the most experienced snorkelers and SCUBA divers, Wrightsville Beach has the perfect marine adventure for every type of diver.

Millennial Travel

Millennials looking for a customized, unique travel experience with friends can find it at Wrightsville Beach. Learn a new skill like surfing or standup paddleboarding. Stay active on the water by taking a kayak excursion, or on land by walking or jogging around The Loop. Get a different perspective on the island by taking a scenic cruise with Wrightsville Beach Scenic Tours. And enjoy a meal and drinks at one of Wrightsville Beach's trendy, non-chain restaurants.

Adrenaline Junkies

Wrightsville Beach has plenty of activities for visitors in search of an adventurous getaway. From kiteboarding and windsurfing to kayak and SUP fishing, surfing, standup paddleboarding (think speedy intracoastal tours and ocean excursions), scuba diving and jet skiing, Wrightsville Beach is the perfect destination for adrenaline junkies.