# 8 Affordable Places For A Beach Vacation In Th Carolinas

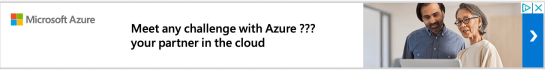
Discover budget-friendly beach getaways in the Carolinas—from charming towns to pristine shores, find your affordable slice of paradise.

BY **JOANE ACAR** PUBLISHED 5 DAYS AGO

*Myrtle Beach South Carolina SC Boardwalk Sunrise.*

SUMMARY

- **Discover affordable beach destinations in the Carolinas with budget-friendly accommodations and activities for a memorable vacation experience.**
- **From pristine coastlines to diverse attractions, the Carolinas offer a range of options to suit every beach lover's style and budget.**
- **Whether you prefer lively vibes, tranquil atmospheres, or natural beauty, there's a spot in the Carolinas waiting to provide a wallet-friendly getaway.**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Looking to unwind on a sandy beach without draining your wallet? Consider the Carolinas, where you'll find an abundance of affordable coastal destinations. Nestled along the southeastern coast of the United States, the Carolinas offer something for every beach lover. Whether you prefer the lively vibe of Myrtle Beach, the relaxed atmosphere of Topsail Beach, or the natural beauty of Cape Hatteras National Seashore, there's a spot that fits your style and budget.

With miles of pristine coastline and plenty of budget-friendly activities like swimming, fishing, and hiking, you can enjoy a memorable beach vacation without overspending. So pack your bags and get ready for an affordable beach vacation in these places in the Carolinas.

BUCKET LIST THINGS T

**Note**

From North to South Carolina, we've curated a list that includes cost-effective accommodations, with a maximum rate of $120 per night, ensuring a wallet-friendly experience for individuals or couples.

Additionally, we've provided links to trusted sources for further information on attractions and estimated costs for a 1-week vacation, catering to budget-conscious travelers looking to enjoy the sun, sand, and sea without breaking the bank.

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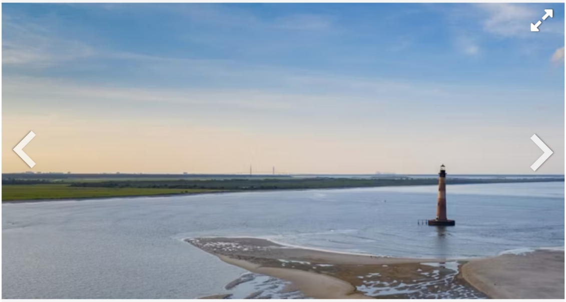
## Folly Beach, South Carolina

*The average cost for one person to visit for a week is $1,993 and $3,284 for two people*



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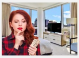

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FOLLY BEACH

For an authentic beach experience with a nostalgic twist, Folly Beach near Charleston is a must-visit destination. This beach exudes an old-fashioned charm reminiscent of South Carolina's shores of yesteryear. While surfing enthusiasts revel in the waves, swimmers should be mindful of the groins that can add an extra challenge to swimming. However, don't let that deter you; Folly Beach offers affordable rental options, making it a prime choice for a budget-friendly getaway filled with summer fun.

Folly Beach, known as "The Edge of America," attracts visitors for its laid-back beach lifestyle, excellent pier and surf fishing, diverse dining options, live music scene, and premier surfing spots.

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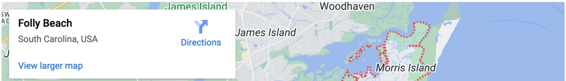
| | **Beaches, Activities, And Accommodations** | **Pricing** |
|---|---|---|
| **Affordable Beaches In The Area** | **Folly Beach** | $8 per adult (price varies by group size) |
| **Things To Do** | **Folly Beach County Park** | $10 admission, $5+ parking |
| | Folly Beach Pier, **Morris Island Lighthouse** | Free |
| | **Morris Island Lighthouse Tour** with Charleston Outdoor Adventures | $47 adults, $27 children (12 and under) |
| **Where To Stay** | **Beachside Boutique Inn** | Starting at $165 per night |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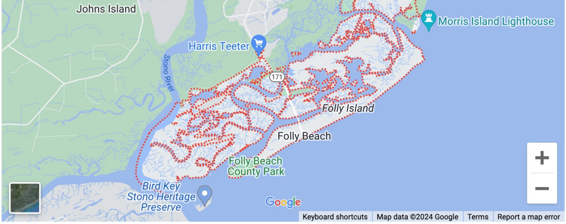
James Island
Morris Island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## 7

# Pawleys Island, South Carolina

***The average cost for one person to visit for a week is $1,338 and $2,440 for two people***

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*Boardwalk and marsh in Pawleys Island, South Carolina*

Pawleys Island is a hidden gem known for its tranquility and affordability. Offering a serene ambiance ideal for unwinding by the ocean's edge, Pawleys Island provides an accessible gateway to South Carolina's stunning beaches, with an average week-long stay costing around $2,160.

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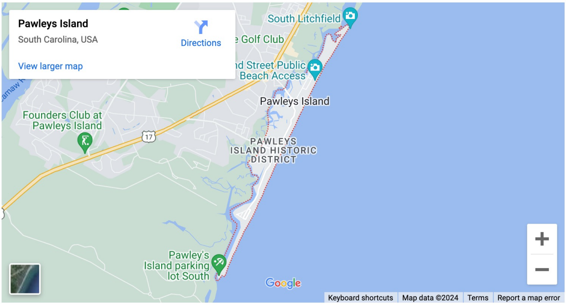
The town boasts the largest free public beach access lot in Georgetown County, along with eight other public beach access points, offering visitors ample parking options. Pawleys Island stands out as an affordable destination that doesn't compromise on beauty or relaxation.

| | **Beaches, Activities, And Accommodations** | **Pricing** |
|---|---|---|
| **Affordable Beaches In The Area** | **Litchfield Beach** | Free |
| | **Huntington Beach State Park** | $8 adults, $5 state resident seniors, $4 children (6-15), free for children under 5 |
| **Things To Do** | **Brookgreen Gardens** | $22 adults, $12 children (4-12), free for children under 3 |
| | Downtown Georgetown, and historic Pawleys Island Chapel | Free |
| **Where To Stay** | **Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort** | Starting at $110 per night |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Pawleys Island
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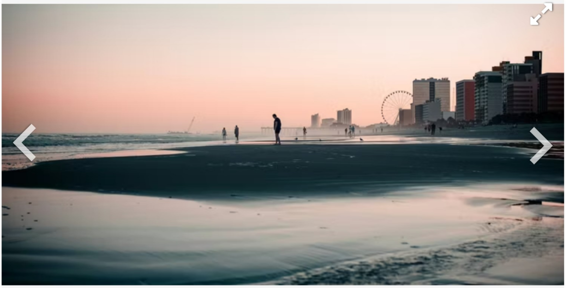
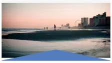
## Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

***The average cost for one person to visit for a week is $1,214 and $2,427 for two people***





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Situated along the picturesque coastline of South Carolina, Myrtle Beach offers a wealth of affordable beachfront accommodations, ensuring a wallet-friendly vacation.

In the Myrtle Beach area, you'll find two state parks that offer public beach access along with a host of other attractions. Myrtle Beach State Park, the first state park in South Carolina, stretches for one mile right in the heart of Myrtle Beach. It's not just a beach, there are campsites for those who want to stay overnight, educational activities for all ages, and even a pier where you can try your hand at fishing.

Just a bit further south in Murrells Inlet, you'll discover Huntington Beach State Park. Here, you'll find a spacious, wide-open beach perfect for soaking up the sun and splashing in the waves. Huntington Beach is also home to the historic Atalaya Castle, a stunning landmark that's sure to transport you back in time. And if you're a nature lover, you'll appreciate the park's salt marshes, which you can explore either by strolling along the boardwalk or paddling through the waters in a kayak.

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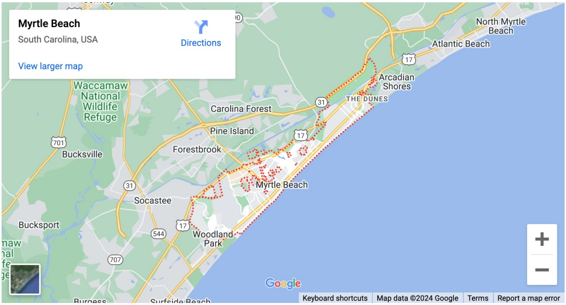
| | Beaches, Activities, And Accommodations | Pricing |
|---|---|---|
| **Affordable Beaches In The Area** | **Surfside Beach** | $3 per hour parking, $15 per day beach access, $4 per hour pier access |
| | **Myrtle Beach State Park** | $8 adults, $5 seniors (65+), $4 children (6-15), free for children under 5 |
| | **Huntington Beach State Park** | $8 adults (16+), $4 children (6-15), free for children under 5 |
| **Things To Do** | **Surfside Beach Fishing Pier** | $12 standard daily fishing, $14 king fishing |
| | **Myrtle Beach Boardwalk** | $5 to $10 daily parking |
| **Where To Stay** | **Ocean Reef Resort** | Starting at $119 per night |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## 5 Emerald Isle, North Carolina

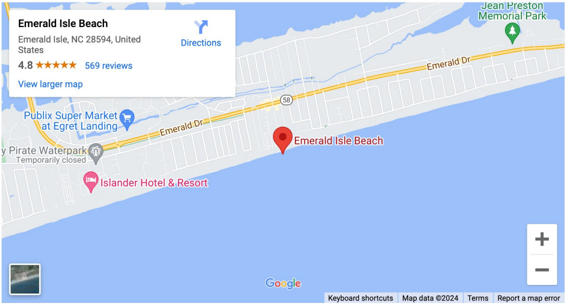
*The average cost for one person to visit for a week is $1,490 and $2,520 for two people*

Emerald Isle, nestled in North Carolina, proudly flaunts its captivating features, vibrant blue-green waters, lush maritime forests, and sprawling marshlands, all encapsulated in its name. Situated along the Crystal Coast, a picturesque 85-mile-long barrier island also referred to as the Southern Outer Banks, its allure is undeniable. However, the true enchantment of the Emerald Isle unfolds gradually.

Despite its proximity to the mainland hustle, this destination beckons visitors to embrace a more leisurely rhythm. It's a place where the sight of fat-tire bicycles outnumbers cars, where time is marked by the reapplication of sunscreen and the gentle tugs on fishing lines, and where evenings belong to nesting sea turtles. In essence, the Emerald Isle stands out as a haven tailored for families seeking tranquility amidst the beauty of the Crystal Coast.

Here are the top activities to savor the unhurried charm of the Emerald Isle. It makes for an affordable 1-week vacation destination due to its range of accommodations catering to various budgets, as well as the multitude of free or low-cost activities such as nature walks, and fishing, allowing families to enjoy a fulfilling getaway without breaking the bank.

| | **Beaches, Activities, And Accommodations** | **Pricing** |
|---|---|---|
| **Affordable Beaches In The Area** | **Emerald Isle Beach** | $2 to $4 per hour for parking |
| **Things To Do** | **Bogue Inlet Fishing Pier** | $10 for bottom fishing, $20 for king fishing |
| | **Fort Macon State Park**, **Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area**, **Cape Lookout National Seashore** | Free |
| **Where To Stay** | **Islander Hotel & Resort** | Starting at $102 per night |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## 4 Hatteras Island, North Carolina

*The average cost for one person to visit for a week is $1,200 and $2,500 for two people*

Hatteras Island, nestled within North Carolina's Outer Banks, is a slice of paradise loved for its natural beauty and untouched coastline. What makes Hatteras Island truly special is its rich maritime heritage and abundance of outdoor activities. Whether you're lounging in the sun, taking a dip in the ocean, casting a line for fishing, or riding the waves on a kiteboard, there's something here for everyone.

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One of the highlights of Hatteras Island is its close connection to Cape Hatteras National Seashore, featuring some of the most beautiful beaches in the Outer Banks. This protected area offers not only stunning scenery but also hiking trails, birdwatching spots, and historic landmarks like the iconic Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, a symbol of the region's maritime past.

As for places to stay, you'll find everything from cozy beach cottages and vacation rentals to campgrounds and charming hotels. Whether you're seeking solitude or a family-friendly resort, Hatteras Island has accommodation options to suit every taste and budget.

| | Beaches, Activities, And Accommodations | Pricing |
|---|---|---|
| **Affordable Beaches In The Area** | **Cape Hatteras National Seashore**, **Rodanthe Beach**, **Frisco Beach** | Free |
| **Things To Do** | **Bodie Island Lighthouse** | $10 adults, $5 children |
| | **Frisco Native American Museum** | $5 adults, $3 seniors, or $15 per family |
| | **Avon Fishing Pier** | $12 adults, $8 children |
| **Where To Stay** | **Cape Hatteras Motel** | Starting at $101 per night |

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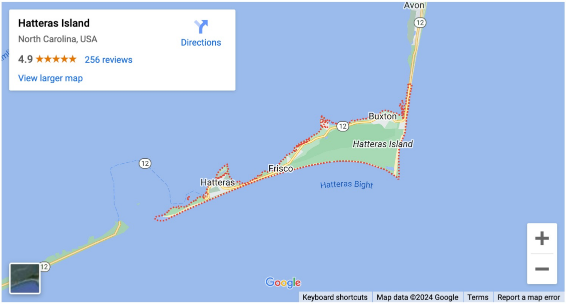
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## 3 Carolina Beach, North Carolina

*The average cost for one person to visit for a week is $1,572 and $2,704 for two people*

Photo by Kevin Dunlap via Unsplash.

*A view of a boardwalk in Carolina Beach, NC*

Carolina Beach is a quaint town on North Carolina's Pleasure Island, and provides another budget-friendly option with a plethora of activities for travelers of all ages. The expansive beach offers ample space for sunbathing and beach games, extending for miles along Pleasure Island's northern end.

Boating and fishing enthusiasts will find Carolina Beach particularly appealing, with access to one of North Carolina's largest selections of recreational fishing fleets at the Carolina Beach Fishing Center and Marina. Carolina Beach Lake Park, noted as the largest freshwater lake closest to saltwater by the Guinness Book of World Records, offers scenic walking paths and an amphitheater hosting concerts.

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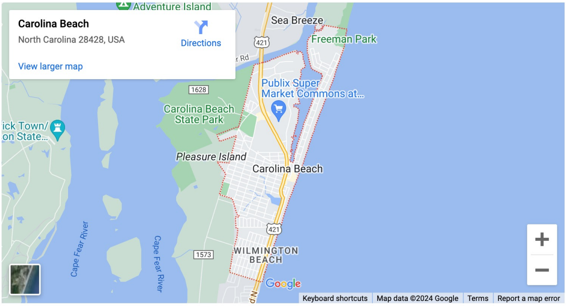
Carolina Beach State Park, spanning 761 acres, features rare Venus flytraps, nature trails, campsites, cabins, and educational programs. Freeman Park is a popular area for surfing, fishing, camping, and four-wheeling, while the Carolina Beach Skate Park at Mike Chappell Park entertains the adventurous.

| | **Beaches, Activities, And Accommodations** | **Pricing** |
|---|---|---|
| **Affordable Beaches In The Area** | **Freeman Park** | $50 per day/vehicle (April to Sept.); $30 per day/vehicle (Oct. to March) |
| | Morris Island | Free |
| **Things To Do** | **Kure Beach Fishing Pier** | $5 per person |
| | **Carolina Beach Lake Park**, **Fort Fisher State Recreation Area**, **Carolina Beach State Park** | Free |
| **Where To Stay** | **The Savannah Inn** | Starting at $117 per night |


Carolina Beach
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## Kure Beach, North Carolina

*The average cost for one person to visit for a week is $1,500 and $3,000 for two people*

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*Public Beach access on Kure Beach on North Carolina's Atlantic coast.*

Located just south of Carolina Beach, Kure Beach is a small and laid-back town providing a tranquil escape for budget travelers. The beach is celebrated for its clean and uncrowded shoreline, ideal for those seeking peace.

Affordable accommodations and a relaxed atmosphere make Kure Beach an attractive option for budget-conscious travelers. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy various activities such as fishing from the Kure Beach Fishing Pier, exploring Fort Fisher State Recreation Area's protected shoreline and scenic trails, or embarking on guided kayak tours of Zeke's Island Reserve. Indoor attractions include the North Carolina Aquarium, offering engaging experiences for curious minds and history buffs alike.

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| | **Beaches, Activities, And Accommodations** | **Pricing** |
|---|---|---|
| **Affordable Beaches In The Area** | **Kure Beach**, **Fort Fisher State Recreation Area** | Free |
| **Things To Do** | **Kure Beach Pier** | $5 per person |
| | **Kure Beach Fishing Pier** | $8 per day |
| | **North Carolina Aquarium** | $13 adults, $11 children (3-12) |
| | **Freeman Park**, **Fort Fisher State Recreation Area's Spring Festival** | $30 to $50 |

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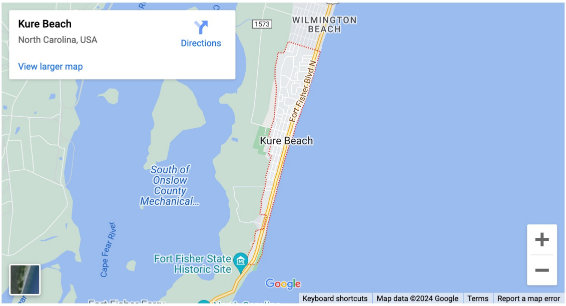
| **Where To Stay** | **Moran Motel** | Starting at $94 per night |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1

# Hammocks Beach State Park, North Carolina

### *The average cost for one person to visit for a week is $1,200 and $2,500 for two people*

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*Sunset over marsh at Hammocks Beach State Park*

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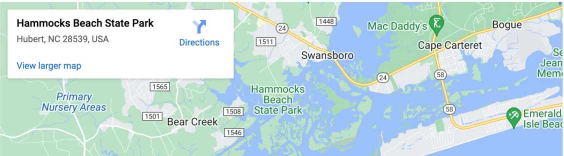
Hammocks Beach State Park is a serene coastal sanctuary nestled along the southern coast of North Carolina. It's a place where the natural beauty of the maritime forest meets the pristine shoreline, offering visitors a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. As you wander through the park's lush trails, you'll be greeted by the soothing sounds of birds chirping and leaves rustling in the gentle breeze. The maritime forest provides a shaded canopy, perfect for a stroll or a peaceful picnic with family and friends.

One of the highlights of Hammocks Beach State Park is Bear Island, a pristine barrier island accessible only by ferry or private boat. Here, you can sink your toes into the soft, sandy beaches and soak up the sun while gazing out at the sparkling waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

For those seeking adventure, the park offers a variety of recreational activities, including kayaking, paddleboarding, and fishing. Whether you're looking to reconnect with nature, embark on an outdoor adventure, or simply relax on the beach, Hammocks Beach State Park offers something for everyone.

Ad

| | **Beaches, Activities, And Accommodations** | **Pricing** |
|---|---|---|
| **Affordable Beaches In The Area** | **Bear Island** (Ferry from April through October leaves from the Hammocks Beach State Park mainland entrance) | $6 adults, $4 children (3-12) and senior citizens (62+) |
| **Things To Do** | **Marsh Boardwalk** | $6 per vehicle |
| **Where To Stay** | **Hampton Inn and Suites Swansboro Near Camp Lejeune** | Starting at $91 per night |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Hubert, NC 28539, USA
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