

north carolina's
brunswick islands

fact sheet

Location

The Brunswick Islands lie between Wilmington, North Carolina, to the north and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to the south. Situated along North Carolina's southernmost stretch of coastline, the islands claim over 45 miles of sand and surf.

Areas of Interest

North Carolina's Brunswick Islands include Bald Head Island, Caswell Beach, Holden Beach, Oak Island, Ocean Isle Beach, and Sunset Beach. Though technically not islands, the neighboring port and inland towns, such as Boiling Spring Lakes, Bolivia, Calabash, Carolina Shores, Leland, Shallotte, Southport, St. James, Supply, Varnamtown, and Winnabow, are also included in the region.

Average Temperatures

Month	Air (max/min)	Water	Month	Air (max/min)	Water
January	55/34	49	July	89/72	80
February	8/36	51	August	88/71	80
March	66/43	56	September	85/65	77
April	74/51	66	October	77/54	77
May	81/59	71	November	69/45	70
June	85/68	79	December	59/38	50

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County Population

103,160 (2008)

Major Access Roads

Interstate 95

Interstate 40

Airports

Wilmington International Airport	37 miles away from Shallotte	910-341-4333
Brunswick County Airport	3 miles from Southport	910-457-6483
Ocean Isle Beach Airport	1 mile north of Ocean Isle Beach	910-579-2166
Myrtle Beach International Airport, SC	40 miles away from Shallotte	803-448-1589

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Approximate Distance and Driving Time to Shallotte
from Major Cities in the Southeast

Asheville, NC	356 miles	6.5 hours
Atlanta, GA	411 miles	7.5 hours
Charleston, SC	155 miles	3 hours
Charlotte, NC	209 miles	4 hours
Columbia, SC	200 miles	4 hours
Fayetteville, NC	116 miles	2 hours
Raleigh, NC	152 miles	3 hours
Richmond, VA	300 miles	5.25 hours
Wilmington, NC	24 miles	40 minutes
Winston-Salem, NC	264 miles	4.5 hours

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Peak Season

For accommodations, peak season runs from May through August. For golf courses, peak season is generally from mid-February through mid-May and October through November. It's best to call ahead for reservations and tee times during the peak season.

Value Season

Savvy visitors make the most of the autumn and winter months, when the kids head back to school. The weather is still remarkably mild, and the great savings of off-season rates take effect.

Accommodations

Visitors to the area may choose from a host of excellent accommodations in a wide range of price categories. By far, the most popular choice on the islands is to stay oceanfront in one of the many beach home rentals.

Beaches

With some of the most beautiful beaches on the East Coast, naturally the biggest attractions in the Brunswick Islands are the sun, sand and surf. Due to the rare east-west orientation of the islands, at certain times of the year, you can watch the sun both rise and set over water.

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You'll find more beach for your blanket in North Carolina's Brunswick Islands. Each island and town—including **Bald Head Island, Calabash, Caswell Beach, Holden Beach, Leland, Oak Island, Ocean Isle Beach, Shallotte, Southport, and Sunset Beach**—is a unique destination. Stroll our 45 miles of white-sand beaches, marvel at sea turtles as they inch their way to the ocean, or climb North Carolina's oldest lighthouse. Celebrate the area's coastal heritage with events like the **NC Oyster Festival (Oct 16–17, 2010), NC Festival by the Sea (Oct 30–31, 2010), Christmas by the Sea (Dec 3–18, 2010), and Day at the Docks (April 24–25, 2010)**. History buffs will enjoy touring historic homes and forts. Anglers can spend the day casting their lines from local piers or from the deck of a deep sea charter boat.

Calabash – “Seafood Capital of the World”

For years, Jimmy Durante ended his radio and television shows with the sign-off “Goodnight Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are.” Locals will tell you that Mrs. Calabash was actually Lucille Coleman, an area restaurant owner. In 1940, Durante and his touring group stopped into her restaurant for dinner and struck up a conversation with 28 year-old Lucy. After dinner, as he was leaving, Durante turned to Lucy and said, “Good night, Mrs. Calabash,” and soon after began using the sign-off on his radio show. Times have changed, and radio shows are a thing of the past, but as you stroll along the picturesque river walk of Calabash today, do stop in for a bite at any of the town's varied restaurants, and taste for yourself why the **town's signature seafood preparation—Calabash style—has gained national fame**. A cooking style that deep-fries shrimp, clams, fish, and oysters coated in a light batter, Calabash style is a delicious way to enjoy your favorite types of seafood. In fact, the town proudly holds the title “Seafood Capital of the World”. Which of the family restaurants in Calabash holds the original recipe? No one truly knows, but all taste equally authentic and delicious.

Lighthouses – Beacons of History

Brunswick County boasts two historic lighthouses open to the public, “Old Baldy” on Bald Head Island and Oak Island Lighthouse on Caswell Beach. **Visitors can climb to the top of “Old Baldy,” the state's oldest standing lighthouse**, and enjoy the breathtaking view, as well as tour Smith Island Museum, located in a replica of the 1850s keeper's cottage adjacent to the lighthouse (www.oldbaldy.org). Built in 1957 and

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commissioned in 1958, the **Oak Island Lighthouse** was once the brightest in the United States. Though the lighting fixtures have since changed, and the lighthouse no longer holds that distinction, it maintains one unique feature-- the ship's ladder configuration that leads to the top, a ladder with 131 steps and eight landings. Tours to the second level are available on Wednesdays and Saturdays seasonally from the Wednesday before Memorial Day to the Wednesday after Labor Day. Tours to the top are available year round by appointment only (www.oakislandlighthouse.org).

North Carolina's Golf Coast – Play a Different Course Every Day for Over a Month

One of the country's most popular golfing destinations, the Brunswick Islands are home to world-class golf courses designed by greats like Arnold Palmer, Rees Jones, Dan Maples, Willard Byrd, Tim Cate, Fred Couples, and Hale Irwin, among others. These talented course architects truly showcase their creativity by carving out some of the most playable courses in the country, and depending on which course you choose, you may discover yourself surrounded by water features, marshland, or natural wooded areas. Tim Cate's newest design, Cape Fear National, opened November 2009 in northern Brunswick County just 10 minutes from downtown Wilmington. Just as vacationers are attracted to the un-crowded and laid-back lifestyle of the area, golfers are drawn to the excellently maintained championship courses, where they can always find the perfect tee time. And while Myrtle Beach may be synonymous with coastal Carolina golfing, visitors find that many of the area's top courses are actually located just across the state line in the Brunswick Islands, with **over 30 championship courses in Brunswick County and another 80 within an hour's drive**. The Brunswick Islands are known as **North Carolina's Golf Coast**, a well-deserved title that fits the area to a tee (www.ncbrunswickgolf.com).



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Southport – Small Town Southern Charm

Quite simply, the historic coastal town of Southport is steeped in small-town southern charm. Originally founded as Fort Johnston in 1754, Southport is lined with old oaks, historic homes, quaint shops, and a variety of restaurants. Other highlights include the Adkins–Ruark House (where author Robert Ruark lived as a young boy, now a Bed and Breakfast), the North Carolina Maritime Museum’s Southport branch, and the historic 1843 Chapel of the Cross at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church. It’s also **home to the famed North Carolina Fourth of July Festival**, which draws huge crowds every year (www.nc4thofjuly.com). Southport’s Fourth of July Festival celebration traces its roots back to 1795 when it began as the “Festival of Free Men”. In 2010, the Festival will celebrate its 215th year. Along with nearby Orton Plantation, Southport has served as the set for many feature films.

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Golf

Known as North Carolina's Golf Coast, with over 600 holes in the surrounding area, the Brunswick Islands boast one of the most impressive rosters of golf courses anywhere in the state. Each course is distinctive from the next, in grass, terrain and personality.

Activities

There are numerous indoor and outdoor activities, historical sites and family attractions in the Brunswick Islands. Museums and nearby sites, like the lighthouses, plantations and forts, will appeal to the weekend historian and the simply curious.

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The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

Information sources include: North Carolina Department of Commerce, Brunswick County Tourism Development Authority