



*The*  
SUMMER  
GUIDE

TO COASTAL NORTH CAROLINA

JESSICA TAYLOR, LUXURY BROKER & TEAM LEADER



# Hey there, *I'm Jessica Taylor*

I'm a Coastal NC real estate agent,  
Gus' mom, and proud local.

Over the past 5 years, I've helped  
many families find home here, and  
have grown even more fond of our  
region along the way. This guide is my  
way of sharing my favorite local spots  
and businesses with you this summer!

*Jessica Taylor*

*...a few things I love about summer in Coastal North Carolina*



*endless BBQs and picnics*



*catching waves*



*the many golfing opportunities!*

SUMMER 2026 EDIT

# SUMMER *bucket* LIST



- ☐ Catch Rock the Docks concerts in Beaufort
- ☐ Sip a soda at New Bern's original Pepsi Store
- ☐ Walk the Loop in Wrightsville Beach at dawn
- ☐ Spot turtle tracks on Topsail Island beaches
- ☐ Ferry to wild Bear Island at Hammocks Beach
- ☐ Browse Olde Beaufort Farmers Market Saturdays
- ☐ Paddle the Trent River from New Bern's docks
- ☐ Shop Dock Street's Riverfront Farmers Market
- ☐ Grab tacos at Shaka Taco in Surf City
- ☐ Celebrate the Sneads Ferry Shrimp Festival
- ☐ Fish the Mackerel Tournament from Morehead
- ☐ Explore blooming gardens at Tryon Palace
- ☐ Tour Battleship NORTH CAROLINA after dark
- ☐ Launch a kayak at Surf City's Soundside Park

# CONCERTS *and* EVENTS

## CARTERET COUNTY

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### **Davey Allison Memorial**

Aug 1 | Carteret County Speedway,  
Swansboro

### **History Museum Lunch & Learn with Connie Mason**

Aug 5 | History Museum of Carteret  
County, Morehead City

### **Rock the Docks Summer Concert Series**

Aug 6 | John Newton Park, Beaufort

### **Chatham County Line**

Aug 7 | 311 Arendell St, Morehead City

### **Jeffrey Earnhardt Racing Experience**

Aug 8 | Carteret County Speedway,  
Swansboro

### **Renegade Monster Trucks**

Aug 15 | Carteret County Speedway,  
Swansboro

### **Police & Thieves LIVE at Jack's**

Aug 15 | Jack's Waterfront Bar, Morehead  
City

### **Kid's Night at the Races**

Aug 22 | Carteret County Speedway,  
Swansboro

### **Mamma Mania! (tribute concert)**

Aug 29 | Crystal Coast Civic Center,  
Morehead City

## CRAVEN COUNTY

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### **National Night Out**

Aug 5 | Union Point Park, New Bern

### **Footloose on the Neuse: "On the Border" (Eagles Tribute)**

Aug 7 | Union Point Park, New Bern

### **City of Havelock Summer Concert Series: Riggsbee Road**

Aug 7 | City Park, Havelock

### **New Bern/Craven County Area Farmers Market**

Saturdays in August | 421 South Front St,  
New Bern

### **New Bern Historical Society Lunch & Learn: "August Reign of Terror"**

Aug 27 | Carolina Colours Pavilion, New  
Bern

### **Grassroots Disaster Preparedness Listening Tour – Stop 7**

Aug 27 | New Bern–Craven County Public  
Library

### **Footloose on the Neuse: "Tell Me Lies" (Fleetwood Mac Experience)**

Aug 28 | Union Point Park, New Bern

## NEW HANOVER COUNTY

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### **Riverfront Farmers Market**

Saturdays in August | Dock Street,  
Wilmington

### **Boardwalk Blast: OC3EANS**

Aug 6 | Carolina Beach Boardwalk

### **The Wallflowers (concert)**

Aug 7 | Greenfield Lake Amphitheater,  
Wilmington

### **Dumpstaphunk (concert)**

Aug 8 | Greenfield Lake Amphitheater,  
Wilmington

### **Boardwalk Blast: The Main Event**

Aug 13 | Carolina Beach Boardwalk

### **Robert Earl Keen – Then and Now**

Aug 16 | Greenfield Lake Amphitheater,  
Wilmington

### **Boardwalk Blast: Frank Grant & The Feelin'**

Aug 20 | Carolina Beach Boardwalk

### **Movies by the Lake (weekly)**

Sundays in August | Carolina Beach Lake  
Park

### **Boardwalk Blast: The Boilin Brothers**

Aug 27 | Carolina Beach Boardwalk

## ONSLOW COUNTY

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### **SwanFest Summer Concert Series**

Sundays in August | Harry C. Pugliese Jr.  
Pavilion, Swansboro

## PENDER COUNTY

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### **Surf City Turtle Talks**

Tuesdays in August | Dock Street,  
Wilmington

### **North Topsail Beach Artisan Market**

Tuesdays in August | North Topsail  
Beach

### **Topsail Beach Craft Market**

Thursdays in August | Topsail Beach

### **Topsail Sounds Concert Series**

Aug 25 | Topsail Beach Town Center

### **Boardwalk Blast: The Main Event**

Aug 13 | Carolina Beach Boardwalk

### **Meet Me at the Sound Summer Concert Series**

Aug 28 | Soundside Park, Surf City

### **Shop the Sound: Craft & Farmers Market**

Aug 28, 8–11am | Soundside Park, Surf City



# SUMMER *eats* *and* DRINKS

## COFFEE

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**Historic Grounds Coffee Shop**, Beaufort

**Crema Brew**, New Bern

**Blue Cup Roastery**, Wilmington

**Bake Bottle & Brew**, Swansboro

**Sundial Coffee & Tea**, Surf City

## DRINKS

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**Tight Lines Pub & Brewing Co.**, Morehead  
City

**The New Village Brewery & Taproom**,  
Havelock

**Good Hops Brewing**, Carolina Beach

**The Clove Hitch Beer Company**,  
Jacksonville

**Surf City Brewing Company**, Hampstead

## RESTAURANTS

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**Rucker John's**, Emerald Isle

**Persimmons Waterfront Restaurant**, New  
Bern

**South Beach Grill**, Wrightsville Beach

**Riverview Cafe**, Sneads Ferry

**The Breezeway Restaurant**, Topsail Beach

## SWEETS

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**AB Ice Cream & Candy Shoppe**, Atlantic  
Beach

**Carolina's Cupcakes**, Havelock

**Heavenly Sweet**, Kure Beach

**Sweeter Things Ice Cream Shack**, Swansboro

**Burgaw Bakery**, Burgaw



# NEW *and* *coming* SOON

**Morehead Motor Company –**

Taking over a building vacant since 2018; opening summer 2026, Morehead City.

**Bear Feet Street Tours –** New guided walking-tour business exploring New Bern history, downtown.

**Tropical Smoothie –** New location, 5621 Carolina Beach Rd., Myrtle Grove; opened Feb 2026.

**Harris Teeter –** New grocery store confirmed for Western Blvd., Jacksonville, next to Academy Sports.

**Driftwood Craft Kitchen and Cocktails –** New restaurant, Hampstead; debuted at Port City Taste 2026.

**Michelle & Laura's Charcuterie**

**Creations –** New cafe/charcuterie shop, Broad Creek area near Emerald Isle.

**King & Lasso –** Cigar lounge, speakeasy-style bar & apartments near the train depot, New Bern.

**Van Gogh Gurt –** New mobile frozen yogurt unit at Azalea Antiques, Wilmington.

**Guthrie's Chicken –** Under construction on Western Blvd., Jacksonville, next to Publix.

**Godwin's Market –** Historic 1949 market reopened under new local owners, Topsail Beach.



# SUMMER *vacations*

## STAYCATIONS

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**DBeaufort Hotel** – sunset spa day on Gallants Channel

**Lawson Creek Park** – sunset picnic on the Neuse

**Airlie Gardens** – ancient oaks & quiet lakeside paths

**New River** – sunset kayak, Jacksonville

**Poplar Grove Plantation** – historic farm & artisans

## BEACHES

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**Radio Island** – secluded sandbar locals love, Beaufort

**Flanners Beach** – quiet river beach, Croatan Forest

**Masonboro Island** – boat-only wild beach escape

**Bear Island** – ferry-only wilderness, Hammocks Beach

**Topsail Beach** – peaceful surf, fewer crowds

## KID-FRIENDLY

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**DNC Maritime Museum** – touch tanks & pirate lore, Beaufort

**Union Point Park** – splash pad & river views, New Bern

**Jungle Rapids** – mini golf & go-karts, Wilmington

**Sturgeon City** – hands-on river discovery, kids love

**Tregembo Animal Park** – mini zoo kids adore, Surf City

## UNDER 4 HR DRIVE

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**Ocracoke Island** – ferry, ponies, timeless charm

**Edenton** – colonial waterfront, tea on the porch

**Charleston, SC** – cobblestones & she-crab soup

**Bald Head Island** – car-free lighthouse escape

**Georgetown, SC** – riverwalk & rice-country history



# FARMERS *markets*

## OLDE BEAUFORT FARMERS' MARKET

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300 Courthouse Sq, Beaufort  
Saturdays, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM

## NEW BERN FARMERS MARKET

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421 S. Front St, New Bern  
Saturdays, 8:00 AM–2:00 PM

## WILMINGTON FARMERS MARKET AT TIDAL CREEK

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5329 Oleander Dr, Wilmington  
Saturdays, 8:00 AM–1:00 PM

## RIVERFRONT FARMERS MARKET

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Dock Street, between 2nd and  
Water Streets, downtown  
Wilmington  
Saturdays, 8:00 AM–1:00 PM

## ONSLOW COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET

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4024 Richlands Hwy, Jacksonville  
Saturdays, 8:00 AM–12:00 PM

## HAMPSTEAD FARMERS MARKET

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2368 Country Club Drive,  
Hampstead  
Thursdays, 4:00 PM–7:00 PM

## SHOP THE SOUND CRAFT & FARMERS MARKET

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Soundside Park, Surf City  
Monthly Saturdays, 8:00 AM–11:00  
AM

## THE FARMERS MARKET @ POPLAR GROVE PLANTATION

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10200 US Highway 17 N, Wilmington  
Wednesdays, 8:00 AM–1:00 PM

# FOR the KIDS



## CAMPS

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**Junior Sailing Program** (NC Maritime Museum, Beaufort)

**Camps at Craven Community College** (New Bern)

**UNCW MarineQuest** (Wilmington)

**Camp Sturgeon** (Sturgeon City, Jacksonville)

**Sea Turtle Camp** (Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital, Surf City)

## ADVENTURES

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**Shackleford Banks wild horse ferry trip**  
(Beaufort/Harkers Island)

**Neuseway Nature Park & Planetarium** (New Bern)

**Halyburton Park** (Wilmington)

**Wilson Bay paddle trail** (Sturgeon City, Jacksonville)

**Black River ancient cypress kayak tour** (near Burgaw)

## KID-FRIENDLY EATS

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**El's Drive-In** (Morehead City)

**Beartown Bistro and Pizza Company** (New Bern)

**Trolley Stop Hot Dogs** (Wilmington)

**El Cerro Mexican Restaurant** (Jacksonville)

**Sears Landing** (Surf City)



## Wishing you a great Summer in Coastal NC!

I hope this guide inspires you to get out and enjoy everything North Carolina has to offer this season.

And if you need help buying, selling, or relocating, I'm here to be a resource.

*Jessica Taylor*

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## REACH OUT!

Have questions about real estate in Coastal NC?  
You don't have to be ready to buy or sell to get in touch! Send me an email or schedule a call below.

**SCHEDULE A CALL**