

FACT SHEET

For Immediate Release



Contact: David Cartier 252-503-7449 (mobile)
Digital Marketing Manager david.cartier@concordhotels.com
Beaufort Hotel
2440 Lennoxville Road
Beaufort, North Carolina 28516

Beaufort, North Carolina

Beaufort's Rich History: Founded in 1709, Beaufort (pronounced "Bo-firt") is the third oldest town in North Carolina, after Bath and New Bern. Named in honor of Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort, the town was laid out in 1713. It was incorporated in 1723 and has been the seat of Carteret County ever since.

Beaufort-by-the-sea, as the town is romantically called, has a captivating maritime history that spans 300 years — from tales about the pirate Blackbeard to its use as a port in the 18th century for Spanish and French sailing ships.

Beaufort, North Carolina: Today, Beaufort possesses an old-world, southern charm, steeped in maritime history and the adventure brought by its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean.

Visitors will discover whimsical shops, casual to world-class dining and enjoy overnight accommodations in Beaufort's historic inns, B&B's, and a full-service resort hotel. A variety of home-grown restaurants line the harbor, inspiring Nicholas Sparks to set two of his novels, "The Choice" and "A Walk to Remember," in Beaufort.

In the 2.74 square miles of Beaufort is packed a variety of rental and owner-occupied homes, an active business community, and organized recreational opportunities. The population in Beaufort is 4,053.

National Recognition

Beaufort, North Carolina has been recognized nationally and received many accolades. Beaufort has ranked #1 in the following publications:

- "South's Best Small Town 2019" – *Southern Living*
- "America's Favorite Town" – *Travel + Leisure*
- "Coolest Small Town in America" – *Budget Travel*
- "Best Yachting Town" – *Yachting*

Other accolades include:

- "20 Best Places to Live on the Coast in 2018" – *Coastal Living*
- "America's Most Romantic Towns" – *Travel + Leisure*
- "The Best Small Towns for Christmas in the South" – *Southern Living*
- "America's Most Romantic Towns" – *Travel + Leisure*
- "America's 10 Best Beach Towns for Christmas" – *Coastal Living*
- "Charming Small Towns of the South" – *USA Today*
- "America's Quirkiest Towns" – *Travel + Leisure*
- "America's 10 Most Beautiful Hidden Gems" – *Budget Travel*
- "One of the "10 Great Coastal Boardwalks" – *Coastal Living*

Notable People:

American Astronaut Michael J. Smith was the pilot of the Space Shuttle *Challenger* when it was destroyed during its mission. The Michael J. Smith Field airfield in his home town of Beaufort is named after Smith. In fact, he learned how to fly at that airfield. The Michael J. Smith Mini-Museum is in Beaufort Elementary School and was created by staff and community members.

Rachel Louise Carson, American marine biologist and conservationist whose book *Silent Spring* spurred a reversal in national pesticide policy, which led to a nationwide ban on DDT and other pesticides, and it inspired a grassroots environmental movement that led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Beaufort is home to the Rachel Carson Reserve.

Nicholas Sparks, the New York Times best-selling author was inspired to set two of his novels, "The Choice" and "A Walk to Remember," in Beaufort.

Education & Research: Beaufort is home to the **Duke University Marine Laboratory** (Nicholas School of the Environment), and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research.

Crystal Coast, North Carolina: The Crystal Coast is an 85-mile stretch of coastline in North Carolina that extends from the Cape Lookout National Seashore, which includes 56 miles of protected beaches, westward to the New River. It is also known as the Southern Outer Banks (SOBX) and is a popular area with tourists and second-home owners in the summer.

Beaufort, A Dining Destination: With world-famous fishing, North Carolina's Crystal Coast is most known for its local seafood. Beaufort is no exception. Boats dot the waterfront, from private yachts and massive sailboats to trawlers bringing locally owned restaurants "fresh from the docks" sea fare. But, the sea is only where our cuisine starts in the historic seaport of Beaufort.

Beaufort offers over 20 chef-or-family owned restaurants serving up dishes both traditional and creative, from North Carolina barbecue to classic bistro fare. Several restaurants feature North Carolina craft beers and wines. Family-friendly eateries, pubs and romantic gourmet destinations - many with history and stories as delicious as the food.

Beaufort Wine & Food Each year Historic Beaufort explodes with flavor as Beaufort Wine & Food Weekend welcomes celebrity chefs, winemakers and sommeliers for charitable events to benefit numerous Carteret County organizations. The five-day event pairs exceptional wine with great food and draws tourism into the area with wine luncheons and dinners, seminars, art, music and tastings. The main event takes place in Beaufort; however, various events are conducted at restaurants and other locations in nearby towns. The Vin de Mer Epicurean Village takes place on Saturday in Beaufort and features a huge tasting tent filled with wines and foods. The 15th Annual event takes place April 22 – 26, 2020. beaufortwineandfood.org,

Local Attractions: Beaufort has many local and nearby attractions. These include the following:

- North Carolina Maritime Museum
- Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center
- Beaufort Historic Site
- Old Burying Ground
- Rachel Carson Reserve
- Cape Lookout Lighthouse & National Seashore
- Shackelford Banks
- Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center
- Bonehenge Whale Center

Local Information: The Beaufort Development Association is the official tourism website for the Town of Beaufort and provides information on where to stay, dine, and shop as well as the local attractions. beaufortnc.com

Regional Information: Crystal Coast Tourism Authority operates a regional visitor's center at 3409 Arendell Street, Morehead City, North Carolina 28557. They can be reached at 252-726-8148. crystalcoastnc.org.

Mileage: Driving distance from key locations in North Carolina to Beaufort:

Crystal Coast		North Carolina Cities	
Atlantic Beach	6 miles	Raleigh	150 miles
Cedar Isle	38 miles	Winston-Salem	255 miles
Emerald Isle	18 miles	Greensboro	225 miles
Morehead City	4 miles	Greenville	82 miles
Pine Knoll Shores	28 miles	Jacksonville	47 miles
Swansboro	30 miles	Wilmington	105 miles

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