

Where's the best beach in America?

U.S. COASTLINES RECEIVE SOME 62 MILLION VISITORS ANNUALLY. THE TOP BEACH IS IN CALIFORNIA

1 HUNTINGTON BEACH STATE PARK ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

This stretch of coastline has something for everyone—a wide, sandy shore, a bike trail, bonfire pits and nearby restaurants. It's also a premier spot for fishing, surfing and bird watching

16 million
Annual attendance at Santa Monica Beach in California, the most visited beach in the U.S.

3 ft.
Average annual beach erosion (1 m) on Cape Cod, Massachusetts

1870
Year the first boardwalk was built, to keep sand from tracking into fancy Atlantic City, N.J., hotels

267
Number of recorded shark attacks off the coast of Volusia County, Florida, accounting for 25% of all U.S. attacks since 1882

39%
Percentage of U.S. residents living in coastal counties, about 123 million people total



RUNNERS-UP IN OTHER STATES

2. CLEARWATER BEACH PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Clearwater, located outside of Tampa, is known for white sand and warm, gentle waves

3. CUMBERLAND ISLAND CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA

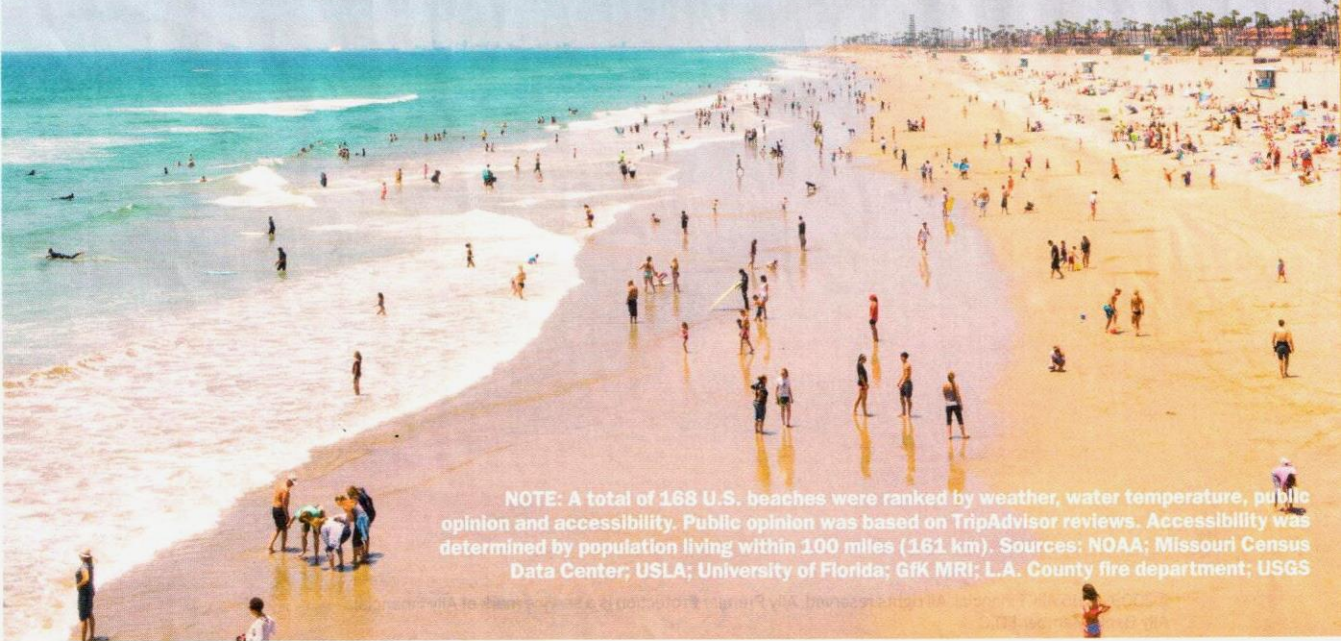
Wild horses roam this secluded beach, which is reachable only by a ferry ride and hike

SEVEN MILE BEACH CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Away from the neon-lit boardwalks, Seven Mile is a low-key stretch of the bustling Jersey Shore

HAPUNA BEACH HAWAII COUNTY, HAWAII

This turquoise Big Island shore is pristine year-round but far from the lower 48



NOTE: A total of 168 U.S. beaches were ranked by weather, water temperature, public opinion and accessibility. Public opinion was based on TripAdvisor reviews. Accessibility was determined by population living within 100 miles (161 km). Sources: NOAA; Missouri Census Data Center; USLA; University of Florida; GfK MRI; L.A. County fire department; USGS