

22 can't-miss U.S. beaches



[Cumberland Island](#) is Georgia's southernmost and largest barrier island, accessible via ferry at St. Mary's. Cumberland has been home to Native Americans, enslaved and freed African-Americans and wealthy industrialists. It's also where John F. Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette were married in September 1996.

Cumberland Island, Georgia

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Late summer is the time to enjoy some coastal gems
- Wonderful beaches dot the western, eastern and southern U.S. coasts
- There are less obvious choices in even the most beach-centric states

(CNN) -- As the long lazy days of summer draw to a close, beaches along the coasts of the United States are still calling to shoreline explorers.

Each coastal state has its popular beaches, where locals and tourists alike will try to squeeze in a little bit more lounging before it's time to go back to school or work.

And then there are a few spectacular or unusual beaches that stand out because of their unique geography, historical significance or simply their overwhelming beauty. It's nearly impossible to choose, especially in those states where you have a seemingly endless number of spectacular beaches.

By **Katia Hetter**, CNN
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