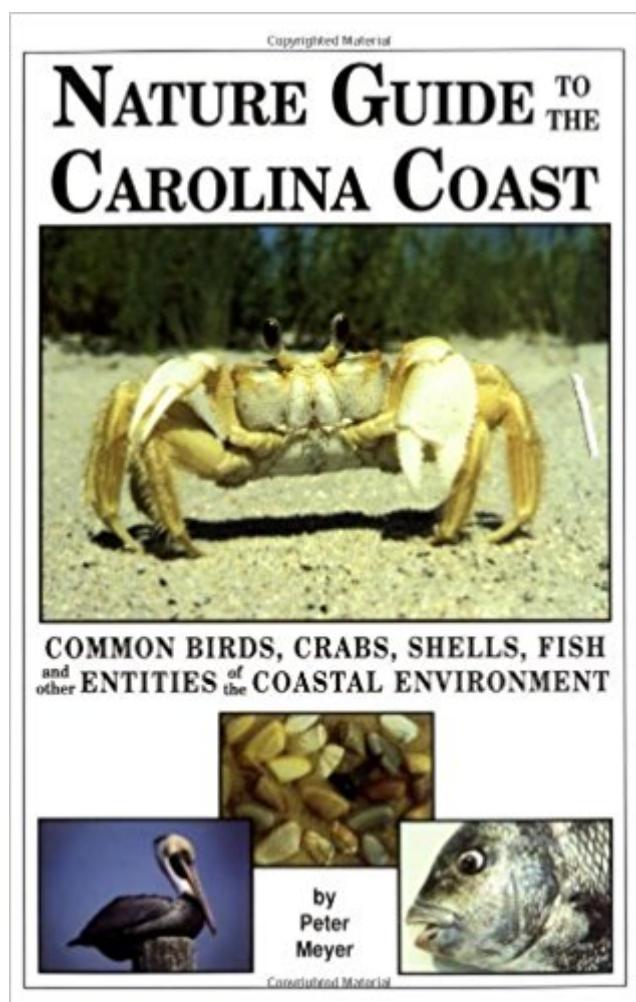


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# Nature Guide To The Carolina Coast: Common Birds, Crabs, Shells, Fish, And Other Entities Of The Coastal Environment



## **Synopsis**

An entertaining, practical, reader-friendly guide to common plants, animals, and the physical environment of the NC/SC coast. Fully illustrated -- over 100 color photographs, plus additional diagrams and drawings with in-depth information on each subject. A beachcomber's handbook, a valuable companion for seaside explorers of all ages. Scientifically accurate, yet written in language the lay public can understand.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A neat little manual that explains in clear, concise terms what our coast is like....the text is simple, but not simpleminded. -- Carolina AdventureCoastal residents, visitors, fishermen, or anyone who enjoys walking along the beach watching the birds and waves will find this a practical, reader-friendly guide. -- SC WildlifeDon't visit the beach without it. -- The Coastal CarolinianOne of the most useful and practical guides to the North and South Carolina coast. -- The Island Packet, Hilton HeadThe type of guide most of us have been waiting for. -- Brunswick BeaconThis book deserves to find its way into many beach-bound suitcases. -- The State

55,000 plus copies sold to date.

While on a family vacation on the Carolina coast last May, my 3-year-old grandson spent much of his time stretched out on his belly next to tidal pools. He would pick up each gastropod, examine it

carefully, let it walk on his arm, and ask me "What is his name?" I had no clue. One week a year at the beach had not taught me the names of the creatures. When I returned home, I consulted a friend who is a biology professor. He recommended this guide as one he uses with a class he takes on a field trip to the coast each year. The guide is a good one. Not brilliant or extensive, but with some decent photos and lots of interesting facts (herons eat snakes?). There are extras about how to choose seafood to eat, a call for the world's citizens to take better care of the environment, definitions, and a list of relevant quotations, ranging from Shakespeare to Water Rat in "Wind in the Willows" (There is nothing--absolutely nothing--half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats). Next year, I will take this very portable guide along, and I'll be better prepared for questions.

This book is SO helpful! It's written in terms that "the rest of us" can understand. I bought it for myself, but my elementary school aged children will search for information in it as well. I feel like it's perfectly accessible to us all. I'm no expert, but after reading through this book (and then searching for things after a day at the beach), I love being able to whip out little bits of coastal trivia. I'd definitely recommend this book for someone looking for an easy to understand guide to the coast.

My goal in purchasing this book, which pulls together information about birds, shells, dune plants, and fish was to be able to pack one slim volume instead of the bag of field guides I usually took to the Outer Banks. After two trips to North Carolina in the last year, I have found that I still need to carry a couple of other references because this is not comprehensive in any one of its categories--and how could it be at 148 pages? However, Meyer's guide does manage to cover many of the specimens commonly found along the Carolina coast. Furthermore, it is written in a graceful voice that keeps you reading long after you've put a name to the beastie you found on the beach. It is not childish or simple at all, but it can be used by the entire family. It stirs wonder.

The second edition of *Nature Guide to the Carolina Coast* is the ideal resource for visitors to our shores. As a serious amateur seashore naturalist, I know they have innumerable questions about hermit and horseshoe crabs, sand dollars, sea urchins, seashells, birds and fish. They ask about marshes and mudflats, sea oats and grasses, sea turtles, sand dunes, barrier islands and hurricanes. Their curiosity about sharks, stingrays and skates is insatiable. In *Nature Guide to the Carolina Coast* Peter Meyer writes on each of those topics and hundreds of others with the scientific accuracy we expect of him while remaining at a level the average beachcomber understands.

Explaining everything from microscopic plankton to whales and alligators, Meyer includes 150 color photographs and over 200 drawings of everything from a delicate brittle star to water cycling from the ocean to clouds and back again. Without neglecting other topics, Meyer provides superb information about crabs and other crustaceans, an area in which he is exceptionally knowledgeable. *Nature Guide to the Carolina Coast* is laced with both humor and reverence for our threatened natural resources. It takes visitors beyond an annual summer vacation at the beach to new-found respect for the environment. They leave not only knowing about animals they saw and the relationship between the moon and tides but also understanding that they must work to ensure that their grandchildren will hold sea stars and hermit crabs in their hands.

I got this book to accompany me on a vacation to the carolina coast. It was very useful as it has good detail on pretty much all the aspects of the coast that you are likely to see. It provides fairly comprehensive explanations, illustrations and photos, in a clear format. I am sure that a hard core naturalist or serious scientist would probably want more than this book provides, but for a casual visitor, I felt like it had a good breadth of coverage, and enough depth of coverage, presented in an easy-to-read style to satisfy my curiosity. It was sort of like having a good middle school science/natural history teacher accompanying you on the trip in your suitcase. But without the care and feeding requirements, or the risk of being arrested for kidnapping a teacher. :)

I bought this and a similar book on Florida beaches to split the difference when I couldn't find a guide to Georgia beaches. I escort guests on walks to view sea turtle nest excavations for the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and, at the crack of dawn, there is always a lot of interesting stuff that has washed up on the sand since the previous day. Between the two books I don't think I have been stumped even once when a little kid or his parent has come rushing up to ask about what they just found. The pictures are clear, as are the descriptions and the book is well organized. Several persons on my walks have noted the titles of each book so they could buy their own copies.

I got this as a gift for my son who owns his own stand up paddle board company. He takes people on tours at Charleston's (SC) resort islands. They watch dolphins strand feed, see bald eagles, and get up close to see the wonderful birds, plants, and other marine animals. He really enjoyed this guide because it gave him more knowledge to share with others! Really good coastal guide book!

WE took this to the beach with us this year and my kids used it every day. WE had so much fun with

it. The pictures in the book are great for identifying shells, fish, etc. at the SC and NC Coast. We found a lot of the things pictured in the book. Easy to understand descriptions! I recommend this book to anyone ... especially homeschooling families!!!

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