COASTING ALONG

'26 SUMMER TRAVEL

A BIKE, SALTY BREEZE, AND SO MUCH TO SEA.

Bike rides and beach towns go together like salt air and sun-warmed skin. This summer, why not set out to see new coastlines from the seat of a cycle? This adventure-filled way of wandering may not be how you usually roll, but two-wheel touring lets you take in all the sights from a fresh perspective, feeling the pulse of a place. And veering off the beaten beach path? That's as easy as riding a bike.

story by **MICHELLE SASSA** . photography by **KATIE JAMESON**

Kickstand up, sunglasses down, the boardwalk stretching as far as the sea-blue horizon. With the jingle of a bike bell, you're off, the call of the coast whispering, "Soak it all in."

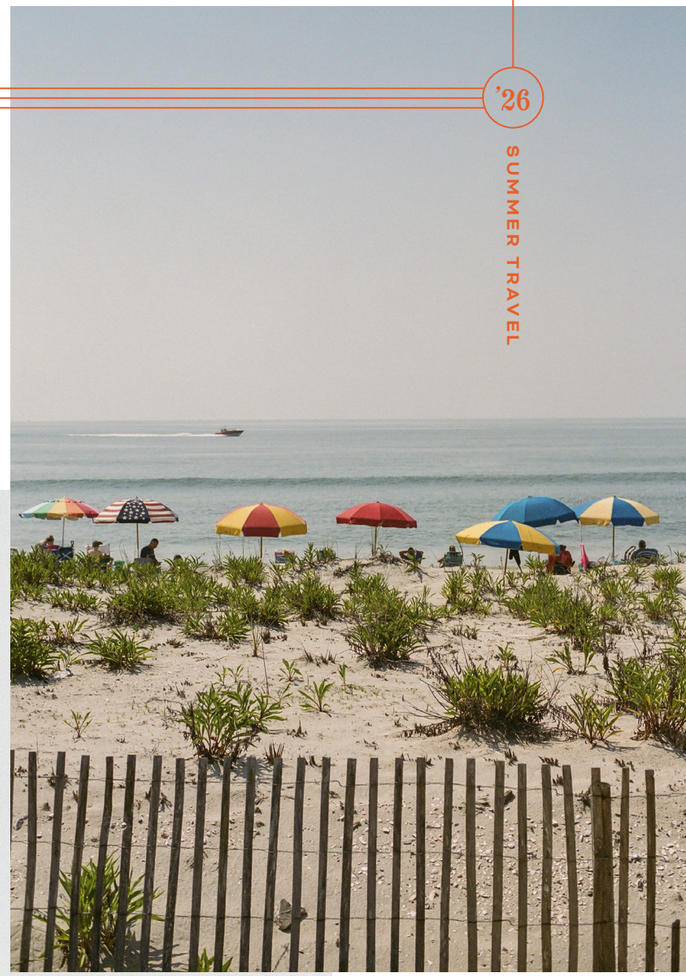
Tires plonk over wooden planks, handlebars point toward sights yet to be discovered. Sun on your shoulders, wind in your hair, sea-sprayed air all around. Inhale the salt—healing salt—and let it seep into every pore.

Laughter and tropical sunscreen fill the air as you pedal past toddlers splashing in the surf and zinc-smeared lifeguards keeping watch from their towers. Passing joggers, dog walkers, and stroller pushers, sharing knowing nods as you greet each other—and this glorious day.

Fresh brew wafts from seaside cafés, mingling with the smell of pancakes and funnel cake. Pause here for a cup? There for a bite? On a bike, impromptu stops are par for the coast. See a shop or shell worth a closer look? Where the ride leads is yours to choose.









Catch the chords of summer drifting from beach-blanket boom boxes and top-down convertibles on Ocean Avenue. Follow parasailers riding the sky. Chase gulls. Spy whales. Count dunes and jetties, not miles.

Above, kites paint the wind with color. Beyond, sea holly and hydrangeas vie for your wandering eye. Turn down side streets to tour the gables and gardens of gingerbread Victorians. Pedal up Main Street for a couple of scoops in a cone. Slip over to the bay side for a cool dip, air-drying as you roll on. Bike across causeways, over drawbridges, endless water to your left and right.

Bike to the lighthouse.
To the lobster roll.
To the sunset.
To where sailboats become silhouettes against a melting sky.
Bike to feel free, to feel everything at once.
To get a deeper feel for a town by the sea.



READY, SET, RIDE

TIPS FOR PLANNING A TWO-WHEEL ADVENTURE

- Consider renting bikes for the day.
- Switch your maps app to biking mode.
- Plan your route.
- Pack a lunch or plan a fun pit stop.
- Check the weather before you set out.
- Stay open to where the day takes you.







PEDALING AROUND A COASTAL TOWN, YOU'RE NOT JUST PASSING BY—
YOU FEEL EVERY SIGHT, SCENT, AND SUNBEAM MOVE THROUGH YOU.







TOWNS WORTH THE SCENIC ROUTE

THERE'S FREEWHEELING JOY IN TOURING A SHORE TOWN BY BIKE. HERE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

THE JERSEY SHORE
This story was photographed in Cape May, New Jersey, and nearby Ocean City. In separate rides, the cyclists followed an iconic boardwalk built for beachfront cruising and passed painted Victorians and charming shops.

MISSION BAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
The Promenade is a 12-mile flat joy ride shared with runners and in-line skaters, looping past sunny SoCal beaches, palm-lined parks, and a sparkling bay brimming with paddleboards and boats.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
Glide beneath live oaks and Spanish moss, past storied squares and stately homes, as the Low Country's slow rhythm and deep history set the pace.

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA
Pedal past redwood groves, rocky cliffs, and photo-ready surf spots set among coastal parks, quiet streets, and a vibrant bike culture.

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN
Car-free roads let riders circle this Lake Huron gem along limestone bluffs and clapboard cottages, stopping for views and, hopefully, a square of world-renowned fudge.

SEASIDE, FLORIDA
A flat coastal route winds through pastel beach bungalows and dune-fringed neighborhoods, where salty breezes drift in from the Gulf.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA
Follow shaded pathways through maritime forests, salt marshes, and harbor towns—or, when the tide pulls back, coast for miles along wide, firm sand at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

BURLINGTON, VERMONT
The Island Line Trail traces the shores of Lake Champlain from a bustling downtown to the famed pedestrian causeway—a ribbon of gravel flanked by fresh water on both sides with the Green Mountains beyond—plus a bike ferry to the Hero Islands.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MASSACHUSETTS
Cruise laid-back routes across "the Vineyard," lapping lighthouse landmarks, hidden coves, and the bridge where *Jaws* was filmed toward towns where lobster rolls, chowder, and clambakes await.