Everyone loves beaches. The surf, the sand, Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey showing how friendship can survive the test of time.

And those old broads aside, far away from the office and stresses of daily life, the seaside lets everyone escape to paradise, even if it's just for a few hours.

Thing is, you don't have to travel far to find a great beach. In fact, the US has more than its share of beautiful coastline — whether on the Atlantic, Pacific, or any number of island waters touching this great nation.

We've whittled down the list to the 25 best; some you're familiar with, some you aren't. But all are worthy of their place in the annals of American excellence.

Here are the 25 best beaches you can find right here in your own backyard.