



In The Parks

CAPE HATTERAS
NATIONAL SEASHORE

FORT RALEIGH
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

WRIGHT BROTHERS
NATIONAL MEMORIAL

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Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site
Wright Brothers National Memorial



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Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site
Wright Brothers National Memorial

WELCOME TO THE OUTER BANKS!

The National Park Service welcomes you to Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial. The national parks of the Outer Banks provide endless opportunities to explore, relax, and create new memories with family and friends. We hope you enjoy your time on the Outer Banks!

Good Question!

We want you to have a safe and enjoyable experience while visiting your parks, so here are some answers to frequently asked questions about how you can enjoy your parks safely and responsibly while helping us protect these spectacular areas.

Where can I camp and how do I make reservations?

Oregon Inlet, Cape Point, Frisco, and Ocracoke Campground reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov or by calling (877) 444-6777. Oregon Inlet Campground offers some sites with electricity and water and is open year-round. Cape Point, Frisco and Ocracoke Campgrounds are open through November 29, 2020.

Why are parts of the beach closed?

Some areas of beach are important habitat for threatened and endangered species. When birds and turtles nest on beaches, some areas may be temporarily closed to public use. These protection areas may shrink or expand given the behavior of the wildlife. Although some areas may be temporarily closed, there are many areas that remain open for off-road driving and recreational use. **Do not feed or harass wildlife for their safety and yours.**

Am I allowed to drive on the beach?

An Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) permit is required to drive on the beach. Annual permits are \$120 and 10-day permits are \$50. Vehicles must be licensed, insured, and registered. Permits can be obtained online at www.recreation.gov. Please print your permit and display it in the lower drivers side of the windshield.

What about my pets?

Pets are not allowed in buildings or within any wildlife closure. However, your pets are welcome within the park as long as they remain on a 6' leash at all times.

Can I leave things on the beach overnight?

Every evening, remove your umbrellas, canopies, chairs, etc. and fill any pits dug on the beach. This will help to prevent injuries to nighttime beachgoers, including sea turtles. Leave your beaches and parks clean by packing out all trash.

Can I go fishing?

Yes, but a NC Coastal Recreational Fishing License is required. These are available at local tackle shops.

What does beach access look like for persons with disabilities?

Beach-capable wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis; check with campground staff and lifeguards (in season). Visitors with disabilities are permitted to drive on the beach in vehicle-free areas in front of villages with an ORV permit and a beach access pass. For more information and to obtain a beach access pass, please call 252-475-9054.

May we shoot fireworks?

Fireworks are not allowed in any National Park Service area.

Can I start a campfire on the beach?

Fires are permitted in designated areas with a free permit available at www.nps.gov/caha.

Are drones allowed?

The launching, landing, or operating of unmanned aircraft/drones on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service is prohibited.



How can I safely visit the parks during COVID-19?

Follow Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If you are sick, please stay home. Practice social distancing; maintain at least six feet of distance between you and others. Wear a face covering when social distancing cannot be maintained. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Avoid high-touch surfaces.

Can I climb the lighthouses?

The lighthouses at Bodie Island and Hatteras Island are closed to climbing until further notice in accordance with CDC, state, and local public health guidance related to COVID-19.

Can I dig for treasure at the parks?

As tempting as the idea of hidden treasure may be, probing, metal detecting, or digging is illegal within all national parks. This includes the beaches and campgrounds.



Help Your Park!

This year, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Volunteers-In-Parks! Since 1970, volunteers have supported national parks in all aspects from natural and cultural resources, to interpretation and maintenance. In turn, volunteers have been able to give back to communities in some of the most visually captivating, historically rich, and ecologically vital locations our nation has to offer.

Join our team! Opportunities are available for both highly skilled professionals and for beginners with little or no experience. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit www.volunteer.gov for parks' current opportunities.

FORT RALEIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



image courtesy of the British Museum

One Island, Many Stories

With a history stretching back more than 400 years, Roanoke Island is home to countless stories. The diverse people who called this land home included Carolina Algonquians, European settlers, Civil War soldiers, and formerly enslaved persons. Between 1584 and 1587 England made multiple voyages to this island and took its first steps toward settling North America by establishing a colony of men, women, and children. What happened to this “lost colony” remains one of the world’s most enduring mysteries.

Centuries after the lost colony, Roanoke Island was occupied by Union troops during the American Civil War. Word spread among runaway slaves that on “Roanoke Island, you will find safe haven,” and a Freedmen’s Colony was established by the army to prepare the liberated slaves for life after the war.

In the early 20th century, radio pioneer Reginald Fessenden added a scientific slant to the rich history of Roanoke. He was the first person to transmit the human voice using wireless technology and his experiments helped to pave the way for modern radio.

Learn more about the unique stories and diverse history of Roanoke Island by visiting Fort Raleigh National Historic Site in Manteo.

WRIGHT BROTHERS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Why Kitty Hawk?

Have you ever wondered why two brothers from Dayton, Ohio would travel all the way to the Outer Banks of North Carolina to try and fly? Travel wasn’t easy or expedient in the early 1900s (this is pre-airplane after all, and pre-highway as well) so there must have been a good reason why Wilbur and Orville would make the journey.

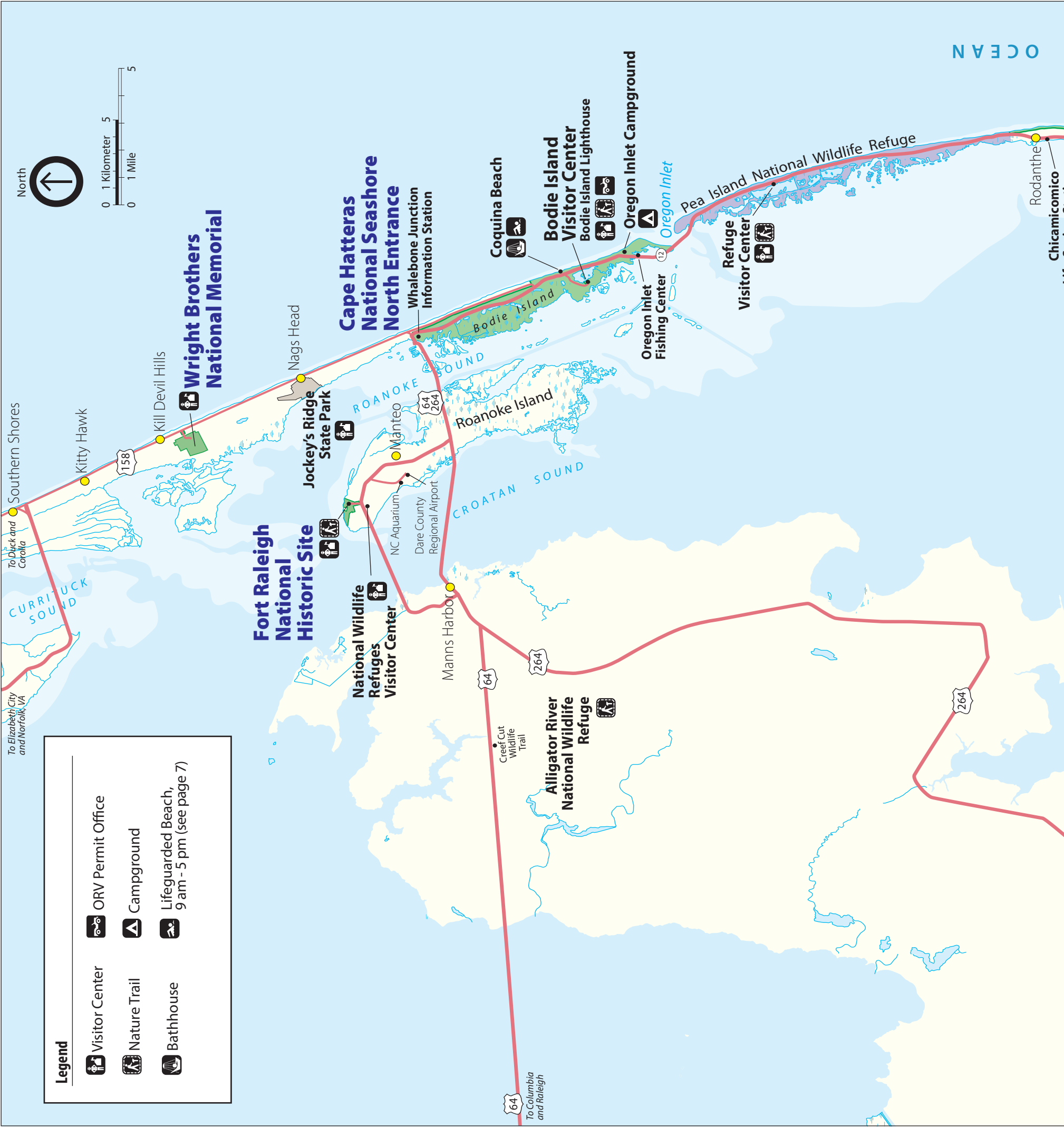
As much as Wilbur and Orville Wright loved their hometown of Dayton, when it came to their flying and gliding experiments, Dayton was lacking three key things that they needed: wind, sand, and isolation. So they began researching a suitable location, until they learned about a town named Kitty Hawk.

Located on wind-swept barrier islands with rolling sand dunes and a small population of hospitable locals, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina would be ideal for their experiments. Upon their arrival in Kitty Hawk in 1900, they were told about a group of sand dunes called the Kill Devil Hills. Wilbur and Orville chose these sand dunes to conduct their gliding experiments and set up camp during their next two trips in 1901 and 1902.

Finally, on December 17, 1903, when Wilbur and Orville were finally ready to try their powered flyer, the first successful flights of human history took place on the soft, flat sand right outside of their camp buildings.

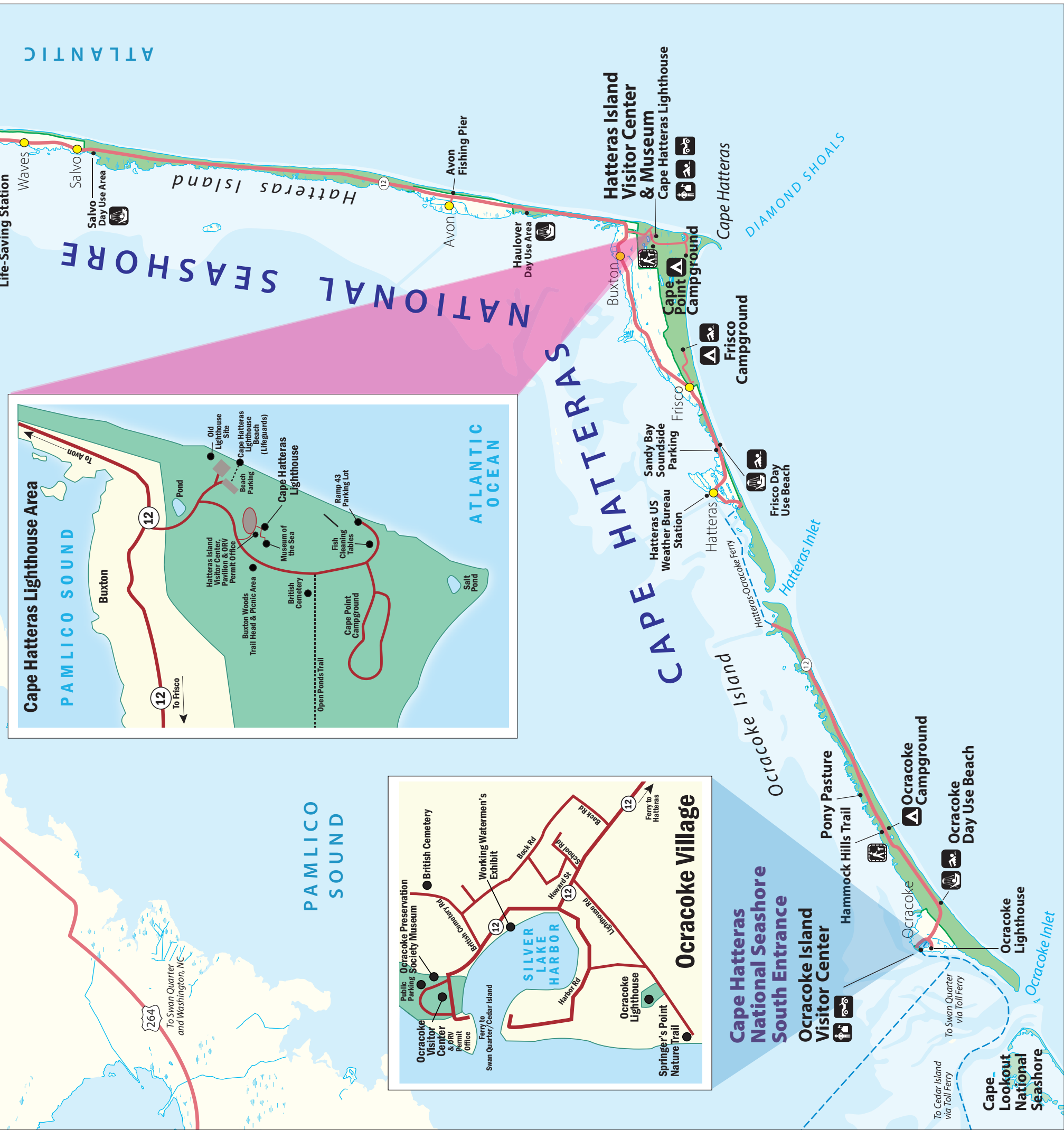
Located in present-day Kill Devil Hills, you can visit the site where these world-changing events took place by visiting Wright Brothers National Memorial on your own journey to the Outer Banks.





Legend

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|--|--|
| | Visitor Center | | ORV Permit Office |
| | Nature Trail | | Campground |
| | Bathhouse | | Lifeguarded Beach,
9 am - 5 pm (see page 7) |



CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE

Lighting the Way for 150 Years

The necessity of a lighthouse at Cape Hatteras has long been recognized. The shallow diamond shoals formed by the convergence of the Labrador Current and the Gulf Stream were, and continue to be, a navigational hazard. A lighthouse warns seagoing vessels to keep their distance from these dangerous sandbars... or else end up in the Graveyard of the Atlantic!

The first lighthouse at Cape Hatteras, completed in 1802, was a 90-foot tall sandstone tower. The lighthouse was just tall enough so that the light was often engulfed in fog! Even under normal conditions, the light was not strong enough and the natural sandstone color was not distinguishable from the surrounding vegetation to adequately warn ships. In 1851, Lieutenant David D. Porter of the U.S. Navy wrote, "Hatteras Light, the most important on our coast, and, without doubt, the worst light in the world."

In 1854 the lighthouse received a 60-foot addition and a revolving first order Fresnel lens, making the focal plane of the light 150 feet above sea level. Additionally, the lower portion of the lighthouse was whitewashed to distinguish it from the surrounding vegetation, and the upper portion was painted red to make it more visible from the sea. At the end of the Civil War the "second" Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was in need of costly repairs, but District Engineer W.J. Newman com-



Drawing by Stephen Harrington. When it was built in 1870, the Cape Hatteras was painted red and white. The 1854 lighthouse is shown in the background, before it was demolished.

mented "...that the condition of the tower is such that it is not worth the contemplated outlay, but rather that an appropriation be applied for, to build a new tower... The structure is quite out of date and liable sooner or later to [be] a disaster."

Thus, on March 2, 1867 Congress appropriated funds "for rebuilding the first-class light-house at Cape Hatteras" and the third incarnation of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was completed in 1870. The new 198-foot tower was outfitted with the First Order Lens originally installed in the 1854 lighthouse and the light was first exhibited on December 16, 1870. The new lighthouse was painted in the same red and white color scheme as the previous tower. It wasn't until 1873 that the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was painted with the

distinctive daymark of black and white spiral stripes that is so familiar to us today.

2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The sentinel has withstood countless hurricanes, survived a 2900-foot move inland, and has hosted hundreds of thousands of visitors who have climbed its steps to be rewarded with a view of the mighty Atlantic Ocean and the dangerous shoals at Cape Hatteras. The National Park Service is proud to be entrusted with the stewardship of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and will continue to manage this iconic historic structure for future generations to enjoy.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pea Island and Alligator River National Wildlife Refuges

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge is often called a birder's paradise, and while that's certainly true, this small barrier island refuge is much more than that! Nested in the center of Cape Hatteras National Seashore on the north end of Hatteras Island, Pea Island provides valuable habitat for more than 300 species of migratory birds, several threatened and endangered species, and a variety of reptiles, amphibians, mam-

mals, and marine life.

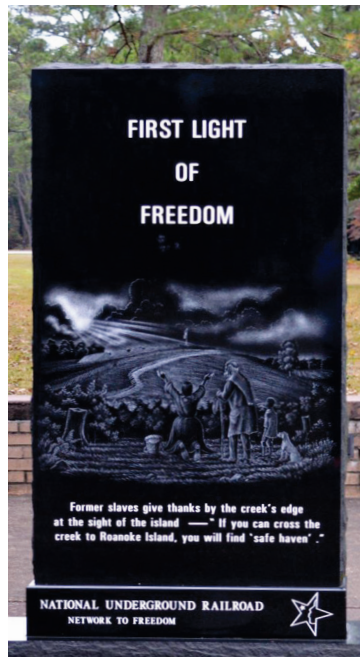
In 1985, a much larger refuge came to be on the mainland portion of Dare County. Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect a unique habitat type – pocosins, forested wetlands unique to the mid-Atlantic coastal area – and to provide habitat for the native wildlife species associated with this habitat. Alligator River Refuge wildlife

species range from black bear and red wolves to red-cockaded woodpeckers and alligators.

Together, the two refuges provide a wide variety of wildlife-related experiences for you to enjoy while vacationing on the Outer Banks. So while you're here, take some time to take a walk on the wild side!

For information about current refuge programs, visit www.fws.gov/refuges or call 252-216-9464.

THINGS TO DO AT NATIONAL PARKS ON THE OUTER BANKS



Hit the Beach

With over 70 miles of coastline, Cape Hatteras National Seashore is the perfect place to spend a beach day with your family. Lifeguarded beaches are found at Coquina Beach, Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Beach, Frisco Day Use Beach, and Ocracoke Day Use Beach. Lifeguards will be on duty May 23rd through September 7th, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. Check out our tips on page 8 to have a safe beach experience.

Go Birding

Whether you are a beginner or an expert, the seashore is a great place to experience a variety of bird species. At the Bodie Island Lighthouse there is a boardwalk and an observation deck overlooking the surrounding marshes and ponds. Good birding areas along Hatteras Island are abundant and the ponds along the road leading to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse are a great place to start. On Ocracoke Island, try South Point Road or the ponds on the north end of the island near the Hatteras ferry docks.

Take a Hike

Take a break from your normal beach day and explore a different side to these barrier islands. Walk the nature trails at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site or take a hike on one of the three designated hiking trails found within Cape Hatteras National Seashore: the ¾ mile Hammock Hills Nature Trail on Ocracoke Island, the ¾ mile Buxton Woods Trail across from Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, or the 4.5 mile (one way) Open Ponds Trail that runs between the British Sailor Cemetery on Lighthouse Road in Buxton and the Frisco Campground. Bring bug spray and water as you explore these hiking trails.

Go Fishing

Fishing is a popular activity throughout the seashore and most of the beach and sound-side is open to fishing. You will need a NC Coastal Recreational Fishing License, which can be purchased at any of the numerous local tackle shops while also picking up bait, tackle and helpful fishing tips. Visit the Avon Fishing Pier to enjoy a day of

pier fishing – no fishing license required. For more information, visit <https://koruvillage.com/pages/avon-pier>. Visit the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center to learn about the variety of ½ day or full day fishing charters available. You can also come by the docks daily from 3 pm – 5 pm to watch boats return with their daily catch. Visit the fishing center in person, online at www.oregon-inlet.com, or call (800) 272-5199 to book your trip.

Stand Where History was Made at the First Flight Boulder

Visiting the site where Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first successful flights of human history is a must while in the Outer Banks! From the boulder, you can look down the Flight Line to see where the Wright Brothers landed on their historic flights of December 17, 1903.

Explore the Villages

Travel on NC-12 to explore beach villages. Stop in at Chicamacomico Life Saving

Station in the Village of Rodanthe or visit Hatteras Village, home to the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, a State of North Carolina maritime museum of shipwreck history. Take a ferry to Ocracoke, whose historic village honors a seafaring history that stretches from the days of Blackbeard to World War II and present day.

Visit the Ponies

The Banker Ponies, believed to have come off of shipwrecks, are an important part of Ocracoke Island history. The pony pens are located seven miles north of Ocracoke Village on NC-12. Picnic tables are available across from the pony pens.

Become a Junior Ranger

Kids of all ages and kids at heart can earn a Junior Ranger badge by completing free activity booklets at any of the three parks. Pick up a booklet from a park visitor center or ask a ranger on the lighthouse grounds.

Climb Kill Devil Hill and Visit the Wright Brothers Monument

This 90-foot tall hill was once a sand dune and the site where Wilbur and Orville conducted their gliding experiments. The monument, completed in 1932, is dedicated to all that the Wright Brothers achieved in their quest to break human-kinds' bonds to earth.

Discover the Freedmen's Colony

A memorial marker located in the plaza outside the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site visitor center describes Roanoke Island's role in the Underground Railroad and discusses one of the first transformations from slavery to freedom in a slaveholding state. Learn what happened after the Battle of Roanoke Island during the American Civil War.

SAFETY TIPS

Don't let an injury or illness ruin your vacation. Check out the top ways to stay safe while exploring your National Parks on the Outer Banks.

Five Tips for Staying Safe in the Outer Banks

1) Love the beach, respect the ocean

While every day may be a beautiful day to be at the beach; it may not always be a good day to enter the water. Here are some ocean and beach safety tips:

- Learn about the dangers of rip currents and how to escape if you're caught in a current.
 - Watch for red flags at beaches: Red flags are flown to indicate dangerous water conditions. Never enter the water in red flag conditions.
 - Never swim alone, and don't let children swim unsupervised. At minimum, have a safety spotter on the shore.
 - Be careful at the shore break. The force of crashing waves can pick you up and throw you onto the sandy bottom, which may result in severe injuries.
 - Watch for jellyfish in the water. If stung, pour on vinegar to stop the stinging, but don't rub. Seek first aid, if needed.
 - Be safe by being seen! Swim near a lifeguard. See the map (pages 4 and 5) for lifeguarded beaches on Cape Hatteras National Seashore.
- For more information, check out LoveTheBeachRespectTheOcean.com

2) Sign up for text alerts from the National Weather Service

- Text JOINOBXBEACHCONDITIONS to 30890 to receive daily rip current alerts to help you make safe swimming decisions. (Don't worry, you can unsubscribe when you head home.)
- Not into text alerts? Then check out the rip current forecast by visiting www.weather.gov/beach/mhx or get twitter updates @NWSMoreheadCity

3) Plan for high heat and watch for bad weather

- The high temperatures and high humidity over the summer months in the Outer Banks can lead to a dangerously high heat index. This type of environment can lead to heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke. So enjoy the beach, but limit your physical activity and time outside during high heat and humidity days. And don't forget to drink water often!
- Storms can pop-up suddenly here. When thunder roars, head indoors! If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. Don't be outside or in the ocean during a thunder or lightning storm.

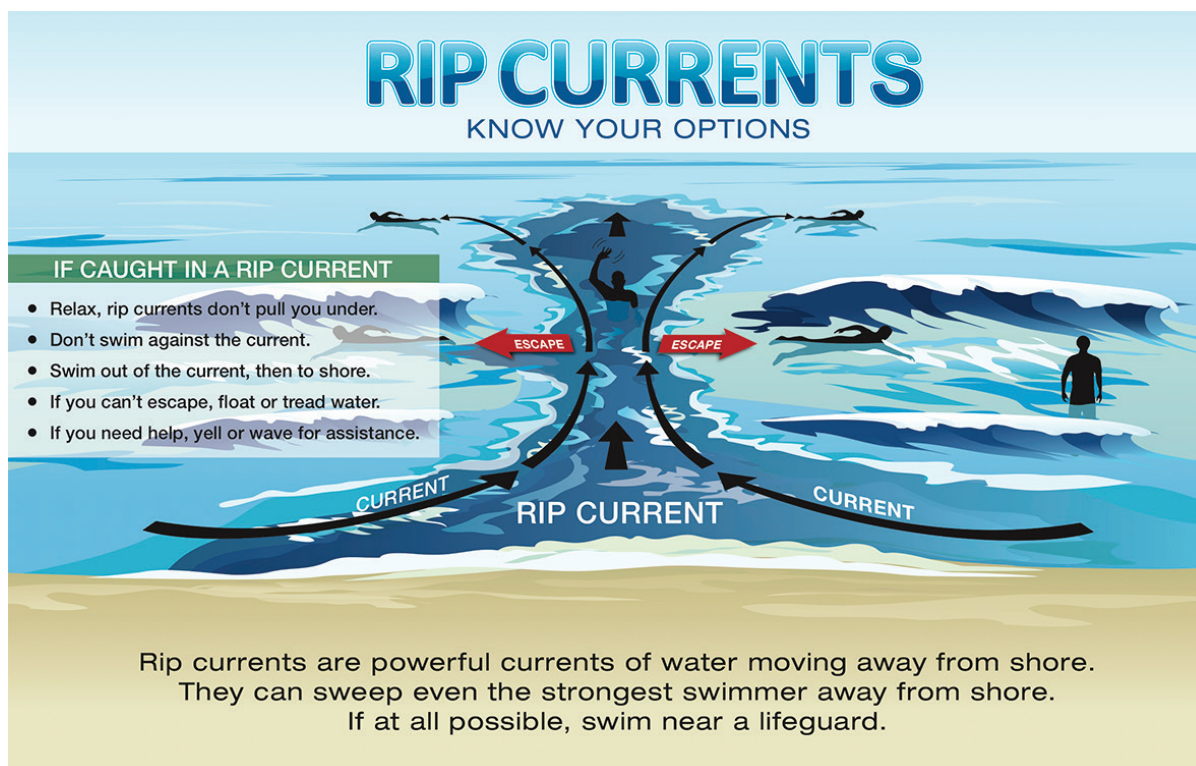


4) Avoid the ouch, stay on the path

Whether ticks in the woods, venomous snakes near the marshes, or prickly-pear cacti and sandspurs in the grass, staying on designated paths and trails can help you avoid what could be a painful experience. Avoid wandering into tall grasses, marshy water, or heavy underbrush.

5) Cross at the crosswalks

No shortcut is worth risking your life. Always cross at marked cross walks, and if you must walk at night, make sure to bring lights or reflective clothing.



Family Forever. Friends Forever. Outer Banks Forever.

Your Outer Banks national parks are a vital part of this unique community. They protect the nature, history, and spirit of freedom you think of when you make your way here each year. **Outer Banks Forever** is the official nonprofit partner of your Outer Banks national parks. You can make an impact by supporting park projects and programs that educate youth, preserve history, advance science, and create new experiences for you and your family. Together we can protect these important places now, and forever. Donate or volunteer at www.OBXforever.org

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