



In The Parks



Ocracoke Light Station- left: 1893, right: 2023

Ocracoke Light Station at 200 Years

Located between Ocracoke and Portsmouth Islands, Ocracoke Inlet serves a vital link into mainland North Carolina. Prior to 1847, Ocracoke Inlet was the only way to reach the port cities of New Bern, Edenton, and Elizabeth City. Over 60% of North Carolina's exports would travel through the shallow, dangerous, and ever changing Ocracoke Inlet. After a series of failed light towers and lightships, the US Government looked to establish a permanent light station on the island.

Constructed in 1823 by Massachusetts builder Noah Porter, The Ocracoke Light Station has stood watch over the vital Ocracoke Inlet for two centuries. Total cost, including the one story, one bedroom keeper's house, was only \$11,359, far below the \$20,000 budgeted. The lighthouse stands about 75 feet tall. It's diameter narrows from 25 feet at the base to 12 feet at its peak. The stark, solid white coloration serves as its identifying mark to mariners to this very day.

For 200 years, the lighthouse not only served as a necessary aid to navigation to mariners, but as a beacon to the Ocracoke community. For years, one of only two telephones on the entire island was at the Ocracoke light station, serving a vital link to the rest of the world.

During hurricanes, the light station served as a place of



Ocracoke Lighthouse Keeper Tillman F. Smith and children, 1900.

refuge for some local residents. Situated on high ground, the complex often remained above flood waters. Villagers, sometimes arriving by boat which navigated inundated waterways, waited out the storm in the keepers' home.

In 1999, the United States Coast Guard transferred the light station to the National Park Service to steward and preserve the important site for the enjoyment of future generations. In this 200th year, the National Park Service is working on a storm resiliency project to raise the Keepers' Quarters five feet above ground level to help ensure the continued protection of the site from storm surge and sea-level rise.

The Ocracoke Lighthouse is not open to climbing, however visitors can enter the base of the lighthouse during designated hours. Check at the Ocracoke Discovery Center for updates and special programming.

Welcome!

Welcome to Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial! The Outer Banks are home to endless opportunities. They provide chances to recreate with family and friends, places to step back in history, and sights of breathtaking beauty. As caretakers of the three national park units located here on the Outer Banks, it's our honor to share these special places with you.

As you visit these national parks, we encourage you to keep safety in mind. Remember that a good day at the beach isn't always a good day to get in the water. Rip currents and rough ocean waves can pose serious safety risks for visitors. Check ocean conditions before heading out to the beach.

Enjoy your visit to your National Parks and stay safe!



Etheridge Point at Fort Raleigh NHS.

Table of Contents

Good Question! FAQs p. 2	Map p. 6-7	National Wildlife Refuges p. 10
Camping Information p. 2	Wright Brothers National Memorial p. 8	Things to Do p. 11
Park Information at a Glance p. 3	Ranger Programs p. 9	Outer Banks Forever p. 11
Cape Hatteras National Seashore p. 4	NPS Mobile App p. 9	Safety p. 12
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site p. 5	Nesting Season p. 10	Volunteer With Us p. 12



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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

Mailing Address

1401 National Park Dr.
Manteo, NC 27954

E-mail

CAHA_Public_Affairs@nps.gov

Web

nps.gov/caha
nps.gov/fora
nps.gov/wrbr

Park Information

252-473-2111
Text NPSOBX to 333111 for general park text alerts.
Text CAHAORV to 333111 for beach access text alerts. Standard rates apply.

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.

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.

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 DIG FOR TREASURE AT THE PARKS?

No. 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, dunes and campgrounds.

ARE FIREWORKS ALLOWED?

No, fireworks are not allowed

CAN I GO FISHING?

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

CAN I LEAVE THINGS ON THE BEACH OVERNIGHT?

When you leave the beach, you must take all of your belongings with you. Be sure to remove umbrellas, canopies, chairs, etc. and fill any holes dug on the beach. This will help prevent injuries to nighttime beachgoers, including sea turtles. Leave your beaches and parks clean by packing out all trash.

CAN I HAVE A CAMPFIRE ON THE BEACH?

Fires are permitted in designated areas with a free permit. Learn more and download a free permit at nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/permitsandreservations.htm.

WHAT ABOUT DRONES?

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

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 recreation.gov. UTVs, ATVs, and motorcycles are not permitted.

WHAT DOES BEACH ACCESS LOOK LIKE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES?

Beach-capable wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis; check with lifeguards for availability (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.

CAN I CLIMB THE LIGHTHOUSES?

Bodie Island Lighthouse is open for climbing April 27 - early fall on Wednesday through Saturday. Tickets are only available for purchase on recreation.gov. See the box below for more details. Ticket sales begin at 7:00 am and may only be purchased on the same day of your intended climb. Tickets sell out quickly! Save time by creating your account the night before your intended climb. Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is closed for restoration. Additional climbing opportunities may become available. Visit nps.gov/caha for current climbing information.

HOW CAN I GET THE LATEST PARK INFORMATION?

Sign up for our new text alert service. Text NPSOBX to 333111 to receive general park text alerts. Text CAHAORV to 333111 to receive beach access text alerts. You can easily unsubscribe by texting STOP to 333111. Standard text message and data rates may apply.



Going Camping?

Cape Hatteras National Seashore has four campgrounds within the park. All of the campgrounds have tent, trailer, and RV (recreational vehicle) sites. Reservations and payments for camp sites at all four campgrounds can only be made online at recreation.gov or by calling 877-444-6777.

To learn more about camping, visit: nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm or scan this code:



Tickets and Permits

If you are looking for off-road vehicle permits, campground reservations, boat dock passes or lighthouse climbing tickets, look no further than recreation.gov. All of these services are only offered through the online booking system; in-person payment is not possible. By using the website or app, you can plan your vacation from home and have contactless payments. An account is needed to access these permits for Cape Hatteras NS. Plan ahead by downloading the recreation.gov app on your mobile device.



If you do not have access to a smartphone or computer, you can reach recreation.gov by phone at: 877-444-6777 (877-833-6777 for TDD)

Campgrounds

CAMPGROUND	LOCATION	SITES	HOO-K-UPS?	OPENS	CLOSES	COST
Oregon Inlet	Oregon Inlet Campground Highway 12 Nags Head, NC 27954	117	Water and electric available at 47 sites	Open year-round	Open year-round	\$28 for no utilities/\$35 for utility hookups
Cape Point	46700 Lighthouse Road Buxton, NC 27920	201	No	Apr. 2	Nov. 28	\$20
Frisco	53415 Billy Mitchell Road Frisco, NC 27936	125	No	Apr. 2	Nov. 28	\$28
Ocracoke	4352 Irvin Garrish Highway Ocracoke, NC 27960	129	No	Open year-round	Open year-round	\$28

Park Information at a Glance

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Locations: The Seashore includes roughly 75 miles of beaches along the Bodie Island, Hatteras Island, and Ocracoke Island Districts: the Seashore is accessible from N.C. 12, south of the Town of Nags Head. Ocracoke Island is accessible from the Hatteras-Ocracoke, Cedar Island-Ocracoke, and Swan Quarter-Ocracoke ferries

Park Grounds: open 24 hours

Off road vehicle access: Up to 43 miles of beach-front off road vehicle access routes can be visited after purchasing an ORV permit from recreation.gov. Routes are subject to seasonal and wildlife closures. Visit <https://go.nps.gov/beachaccess> to check the current status of ORV routes or text CAHAORV to 333111 to sign up for beach access text alerts

Bodie Island District

Location: The Bodie Island District stretches from Whalebone Junction in Nags Head, N.C. to Oregon Inlet.
Visitor Information: Whalebone Junction Welcome Center (8:30 am-5 pm) and Bodie Island Visitor Center (intermittent)

Things to do during your visit:

- Lighthouse: The Bodie Island Lighthouse is open for climbing April through early October (reservations required at recreation.gov)
- Boating: Launch your boat and kayak at the Oregon Inlet and visit the fishing center.
- Hiking: Hike the Bodie Island Dike

Trail - 2 miles - start at Bodie Island Lighthouse. Hike the marker trail - 1 mile - start at Whalebone Junction

- Swimming: Swim at the Coquina beach - open 24 hours - lifeguards present 9am-5p, from Memorial Day through Labor Day

Hatteras Island District

Location: The Hatteras Island District begins south of Oregon Inlet and includes the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. The island continues for 50 miles until its terminus at Hatteras Inlet and includes the villages of Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo, Avon, Buxton, Frisco, and Hatteras Village.
Visitor Information: Museum of the Sea in Buxton (daily 9 am-6 pm) and U.S. Weather Bureau Station in Hatteras (daily 9 am-4 pm).

Things to do during your visit:

- Lighthouse: While the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is closed for restoration project, outdoor areas near the lighthouse are open and worth visiting.
- Pier Fishing: Fish at the Bonner Pier (24 hrs) or Avon Pier (6 am-10 pm).
- Hiking: Hike the Buxton Woods Trail, 0.8 miles, start near Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Hike the Open Ponds Trail, 4.5 miles one-way, connecting Frisco Campground and the British Cemetery.
- Swimming and Surfing: Swim at the Old Lighthouse and Frisco life-guarded beaches - open 24 hours - lifeguards present 9am-5pm from Memorial Day through Labor Day

Ocracoke Island District

Location: Ocracoke Island is roughly 16 miles long starting at the west end of Hatteras Inlet and ending on the north end of Ocracoke Inlet. It is only accessible by private boat, airplane, or the Hatteras-Ocracoke, Cedar Island-Ocracoke, and Swan Quarter-Ocracoke ferries. Visit ncdot.gov and search for "ferry tickets" to find ferry information and reservations.
Visitor Information: Ocracoke Discovery Center (open with limited hours Mon-Fri)

- Lighthouse: Ocracoke Lighthouse closed for climbing, but base is open for viewing periodically April-fall. Check Discovery Center for times.
- Pony Pen: Visit the Ocracoke Ponies on NC12, 7 miles from village.
- Boating: Launch your boat or kayak from the boat ramps at the Ocracoke Discovery Center.
- Hiking: Hike the Hammock Hills trail, 1 mile, begin across from Ocracoke Campground.
- Swimming and Surfing: Swim at the Ocracoke life-guarded beach - open 24 hours - lifeguards present 9-5 from Memorial Day through Labor Day

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site

U.S. and the site of a Freedmen's Colony during and after the Civil War.

Location: 1500 National Park Drive, Manteo NC 27954

Park Grounds: Open 24 hours

Visitor Center: 9 am -5 pm, 7 days a week

Time to Visit: 2-4 hours

Things to do during your visit:

- Learn about the park and native American history at the Lindsay Warren visitor center
- Walk the grounds to see the earthen fort, waterside theater, Virginia dare monument, and first light of Freedom monument
- Hike the Thomas Hariot Nature Trail (0.4 mile) or Freedom Trail (2.25 miles)
- Enjoy the Etheridge Point soundside beach and views of Roanoke Sound
- Watch the Lost Colony six nights a week from 8-10 pm during June-August (tickets required and available at www.thelostcolony.org)

Wright Brothers National Memorial

Site of the first successful manned, powered, controlled, heavier-than-air, flight in human history.

Location: 1000 N. Croatan Highway, Kill Devil Hills NC 27948

Park Grounds: 9 am -5 pm, 7 days a week

Visitor Center: 9 am -5 pm, 7 days a week

Time to Visit: 2-4 Hours

Things to do during your visit:

- Learn about the story of the Wright Brothers and their flights at the Visitor Center and Museum.
- See a replica of the 1903 Flyer in the Flight Room
- Walk the flight line of the first 4 powered flights
- Stroll to the top of Big Kill Devil Hill, visit the monument and enjoy some of the best views in the Outer Banks.



With miles of shoreline, there's plenty of beach for families to enjoy.



Cape Hatteras National Seashore offers great opportunities for surfing.



Imagine yourself in the 16th Century at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site.



Kids test their speed against the first flight at Wright Brothers National Memorial.



FACEBOOK
@CapeHatterasNS
@FortRaleighNHS
@WrightBrothersNMem



INSTAGRAM
@CapeHatterasNPS
@FortRaleighNPS
@WrightBrosNPS



TWITTER
@CapeHatterasNPS
@FortRaleighNPS
@WrightBrosNPS



FLICKR
CapeHatterasNPS
FortRaleighNPS
WrightBrosNPS

CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE

Islands of Change

Over thousands of years, forces of water, wind, and storms have shaped these barrier islands known as the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The story of the land is constantly being rewritten by erosion from the wind and waves. Encompassing 75 miles of coastline, Cape Hatteras National Seashore includes three of these dynamic barrier islands: Bodie Island, Hatteras Island, and Ocracoke Island.

Land and sea work in an uneasy alliance, and the plants, wildlife, and people who live here must adapt to the ever-changing landscape. Those that stay find their resilience rewarded. Long stretches of beach, marshes, sand dunes, and maritime forests offer excitement, solitude, and discovery.

Fascinating stories of islanders adapting to the harsh and powerful environment are evident in the lighthouses, shipwrecks,

and life-saving stations. Ranger programs, museums, and exhibits throughout the park help to make these stories come alive for park visitors.

An iconic beach vacation destination, recreational opportunities abound on the seashore. Popular activities include kayaking, bird watching, surf fishing, beach driving, and lighthouse climbs. With so many activities, there is something for everyone to enjoy!

To learn more about programs and events that may be happening during your visit, check out www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/calendar.htm or scan this code:



Above, clockwise from top left: Sunset at South Beach. The Ocracoke Island Lighthouse.

A ranger leads a fishing program. A woman walks her dog on the beach.

Preserving an Icon

Since 1870 the current Cape Hatteras Lighthouse has served as a safety beacon, protecting mariners from one of the most hazardous sections of the Atlantic Coast, and inspiring hope.

Surviving powerful storms and an unforgiving environment, the lighthouse still serves as a navigational aid and icon managed as a joint effort by the United States Coast Guard and the National Park Service. Over the years, the lighthouse has undergone many repair campaigns, including the entire lighthouse complex being moved 2900 feet to its current location in 1999. However, little repair work has been completed since.

A new design project began in 2021 to restore the 150-year-old lighthouse. Construction begins in the fall of 2023 with a two-year target completion date. Addressing the findings from studies conducted in 2014 and 2016, the project will include an exterior restoration and interior rehabilitation to preserve the lighthouse and restore its character-defining features. This project will provide the park with

a structure that can be reasonably maintained for long-term future use. Efforts will address failing structural elements, including masonry, metals, and windows, and restore window pediments, interior wooden doors, and a decorative metal fence. The lighthouse interior and exterior will also be repainted.

Completion of this project will not only protect a valuable cultural resource, but also improve visitor understanding and appreciation of maritime history, lighthouses, and historic preservation. The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is the tallest brick light tower in the United States and is one of the most popular and highly visited structures in the world, with the Seashore seeing some 2.5 million visitors a year. The preservation project will create a more historically accurate experience, providing visitors with a better understanding of what life was like for the lighthouse keepers, and the important role the lighthouse played. This restoration will ensure the lighthouse remains in great condition and continues to inspire millions of visitors for many years come.



Follow the restoration of the iconic Cape Hatteras Lighthouse at: go.nps.gov/cahalighouserestoration

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.

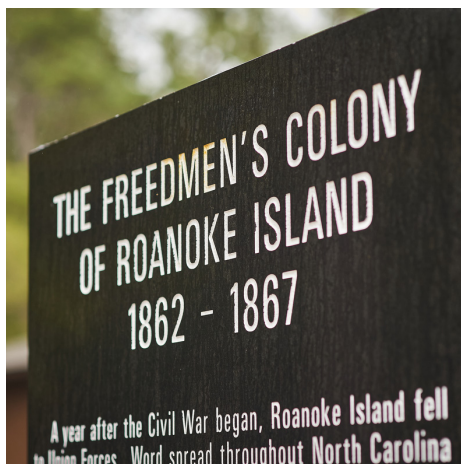
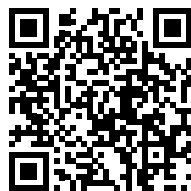
Home to the Carolina Algonquians for centuries, Roanoke Island became known to Europeans in the late 1500s. Between 1584 and 1587 England made three voyages to this island and took its first steps toward settling North America by establishing a colony of men, women, and children. What happened to this “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 enslaved communities that on “Roanoke Island, you will find safe haven,” and a Freedmen’s Colony was established by the army to prepare the formerly

enslaved people for life after the war. In the early 20th century, radio pioneer Reginald Fessenden added a technological slant to the rich history of Roanoke Island. 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.

To learn more about programs and events that may be happening during your visit, check out www.nps.gov/fora/planyourvisit/calendar.htm or scan this code:



Above, clockwise from top left: The Freedmen’s Colony Monument. The earthen fort.

The Waterside Theater, home of *The Lost Colony* play. Two hikers enjoy one of the trails.

Freedom Trail: A New Visitor Experience

“To live free, according to the teachings of good religion. Taken together, they are really the only important things in life.” Formerly enslaved Marie Watkins told a Brooklyn, N.Y. newspaper in 1949.

Sold as an infant in her mother’s arms on a slave block in North Carolina, she had certainly seen enough of life during her eventful 92 years to make a considered judgement. While the Civil War raged on the mainland, Watkins was among thousands of enslaved -- men, women and children -- who risked their lives to make their way to North Carolina’s Roanoke Island and freedom. There, under the protection of the Union army, she and other intrepid refugees established one of the first freedmen’s colonies: a community that was both sanctuary and precious new beginning.

The National Park Service will showcase those first steps of freedom in the coming year with a new interpretive project at Fort Raleigh National Historic site. Set to open in December, the Freedom

Trail will be a permanent outdoor exhibit that enhances an existing mile-plus nature trail through woodland at the north end of the island. “In highlighting this profound, but little-known story, the Freedom Trail will deepen our appreciation of the important events of America’s history that unfolded on Roanoke Island,” said Jami Lanier, National Park Historian. “It will also underscore the significant role Roanoke Island played in the Underground Railroad, helping freedom seekers reach safety.”

The trail will include 10 life-size silhouettes and trailside panels, which describe and illustrate the hardships endured by enslaved people who risked everything in their quest for freedom and explore why the island became a haven. Hundreds of hours of original research went into the project, with National Park Service staff and volunteers sifting through everything from court and military records to newspaper accounts.

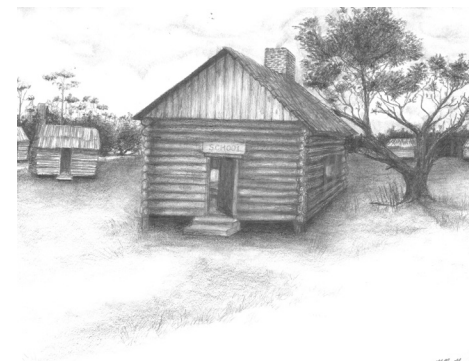
This arduous archival work uncovered a number of first-person accounts hitherto unknown. Each adds human texture to the Roanoke Island story, from teenage London Ferebee, who received his first taste of education at school on Roanoke Island, proudly boasting that his progress “was so rapid that no scholar in school or on the island could compete with me,” to Sarah Freeman, one of a group of missionaries from New England. She journeyed to Roanoke Island as a “calling” to teach the refugees to read and write -- but yearned to do more.

“This, at present, is the only safe asylum in all North Carolina, and God is lifting the yoke,” she said of the freedmen’s settlement. “Oh! That I could shelter them all.”

The Freedom Trail’s nearly \$52,000 cost is generously covered by grants provided by the National Park Foundation, the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, and Outer Banks Forever.

In her interview with the Brooklyn Eagle, Marie Watkins went on to say that she wasn’t bitter about the difficulties and challenges she had weathered. Even so, she conceded, it had been decades since she’d ventured back to the South from her Brooklyn home.

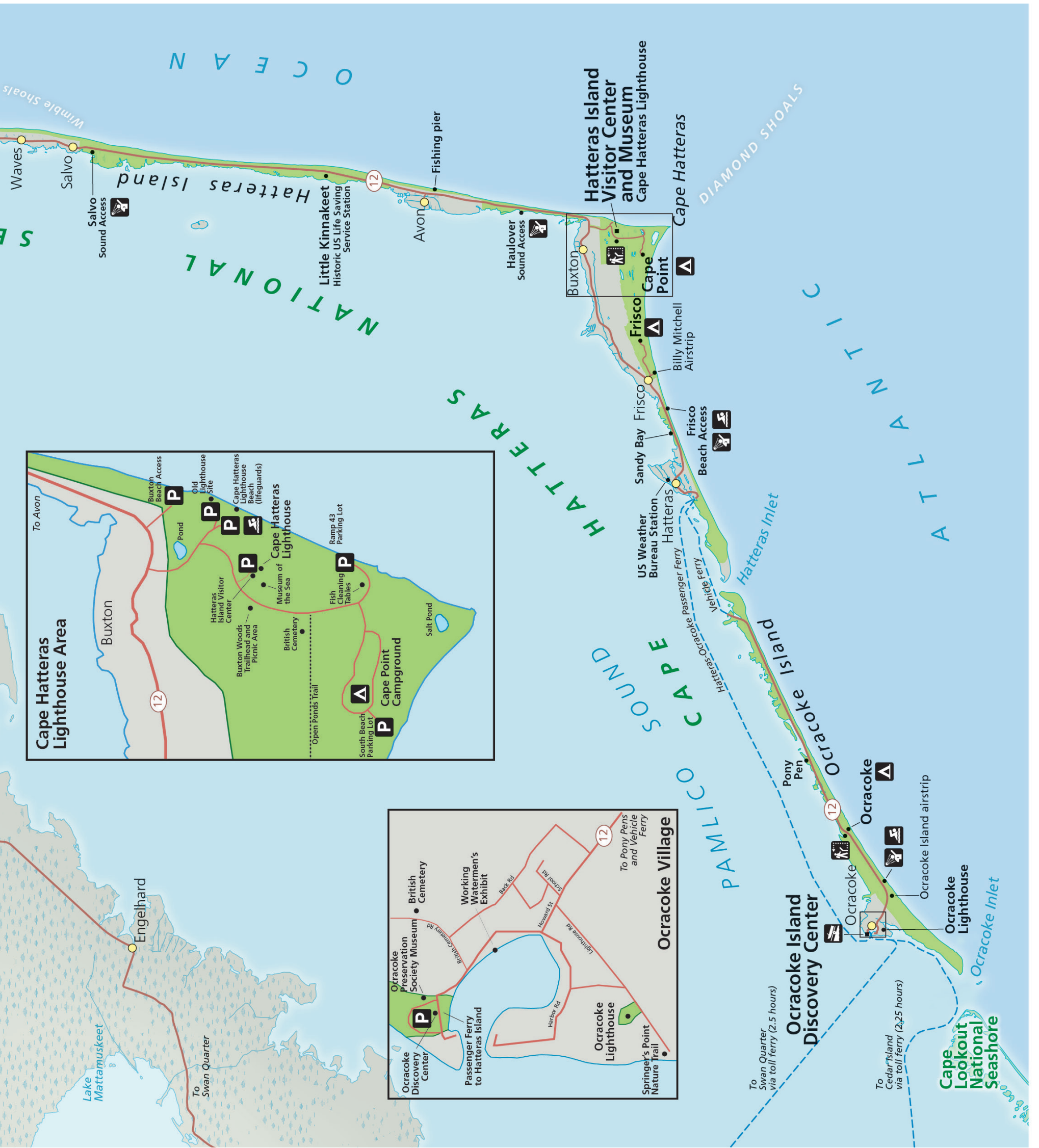
“I realize that the evils I went through were an outgrowth of the customs of the day,” she said, adding a note of timeless wisdom, “. . . for if you inculcate each new generation with prejudice, you will never, never see it come to an end.”



Artist depiction of Freedman’s Colony. NPS/Molly Mays



- Lifeguarded Beach
- Bathhouse
- Parking Area
- Boat launch
- Campground
- Nature trail



Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Area

This inset map details the area around the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Key features include:

- Capitol Square:** Home to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, the Hatteras Island Visitor Center, and the Museum of the Sea.
- Other Landmarks:** Buxton Woods Trailhead and Picnic Area, British Cemetery, Fish Cleaning Tables, and Salt Pond.
- Facilities:** Multiple parking lots (P), a campsite (A), and sound access points.
- Geography:** Shows the lighthouse's location on a point of land, with Buxton to the west and Cape Point to the east.

Ocracoke Village

This inset map details the Ocracoke Village area. Key features include:

- Historical Sites:** Ocracoke Lighthouse, Ocracoke Preservation Society Museum, and Working Watermen's Exhibit.
- Recreation:** Springley's Point Nature Trail and a Passenger Ferry to Hatteras Island.
- Infrastructure:** Roads like Black Rd, Harbor Rd, and Lighthouse Rd, along with a cemetery and a ferry terminal.
- Facilities:** Parking (P), sound access, and a vehicle ferry terminal.



Above, clockwise from top left: A volunteer swears in two new Junior Rangers. First Flight

Sculpture. Wright Brothers Monument and bust of Orville. Wright Brothers Visitor Center.

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.

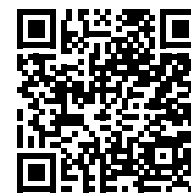
Located on wind-swept barrier islands with rolling sand dunes and a small population of hospitable locals, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina would be ideal for their experiments. Upon their arrival in Kitty Hawk in 1900, they were told about a group of sand dunes called the Kill Devil Hills. Wilbur and Orville chose

these sand dunes to conduct their gliding experiments and set up camp during their next two trips in 1901 and 1902.

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.

To learn more about programs and events that may be happening during your visit, check out www.nps.gov/wrbr/planyourvisit/calendar.htm or scan this code:



2022 Paul E. Garber Shrine Inductee



LEFT TO RIGHT: DOUG MELVILLE, GREAT NEPHEW OF GEN. DAVIS, TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, AND GENERAL MARK KELLY. PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. AIR FORCE.

Each December 17th, on the anniversary of first flight, the local community gathers at Wright Brothers National Memorial to honor the achievement of Orville and Wilbur Wright and to acknowledge individuals and groups who have continued to achieve significant "firsts" in aviation by inducting them into the Paul E. Garber First Flight Shrine in the visitor center.

In 2022, First Flight Society honored General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. as this year's inductee. General Davis was the first Black brigadier general in the United States Air Force and the commander of the famed Tuskegee Airmen Squadron in World War 2.

General Davis' portrait, as well as a digital slideshow of previous inductees is available in the visitor center. Join us in person, or virtually this December 17th to be part of the next celebration.

New Investigations- Who Owned the land?

Since the Wright brothers achieved powered, sustained, piloted flight in 1903, their story has been shared throughout the world. For nearly a century, park rangers and volunteers at Wright Brothers National Memorial have testified to the accomplishments of Wilbur and Orville Wright on the wind-swept sands of Kitty Hawk. With no living witnesses having firsthand knowledge of the Wrights' activities while they were here, how can we be sure the story is accurate?

Luckily, the work achieved by the Wright brothers includes some of the most documented accounts of innovation by modern mankind.

These documents are stored by institutions such as the Library of Congress and Wright State University, and these primary sources provide the documentation which proves the Wrights' claims to first flight.

And yet... there are still mysteries. Visitors ask questions that spark new research. A recent investigation was inspired by a simple question from a visitor, "Who owned the land where the Wright brothers

experimented from 1901 to 1903?"

That generated another question, "Did the Wright brothers ask permission for use of the land?" And another, "Did they have to pay rent for use of the land?" Rumor and lore abounded - someone had heard the land was Westcott's. Another claimed Hayman ownership. The same names popped up: names of community members who supported the Wrights; names that thread through many stories along the Outer Banks.

Further research began with a review of correspondence located at Wright State University and the Library of Congress. A letter was discovered at the Library of Congress containing a report to Wilbur Wright on negotiations with the owners of the land. However, the owners of the land were not named.

The next step was to research the ownership of the land through the transfer of title to the land to the National Park Service. Visiting the Dare County Register of Deeds provided a fascinating review of handwrit-

ten deeds dating back to 1870 when Dare County was formed. Would the answer be revealed? Maybe. When reviewing documents over 100 years old, the boundary of the land is hard to identify compared to today's landscape. The "stump in the marsh," referenced in a deed from 1900 is no longer anywhere to be found.

Each step in the process leads the researcher down many paths. Finding those connections - those pieces of information along the way - will eventually lead us to a conclusion. The process can be slow but rewarding.

The National Park Service is committed to accurately portraying the events that occurred here from 1900 to 1903. Our promise is to provide our visitors with the most accurate information we can support through our research. With so many facts and statistics supporting the Wrights' claims, it's refreshing to find an occasional mystery. If we do not know the answer, we will find it. (It may take us a while.) The actual events are usually better than the lore.

Ranger Programs

Want to dive deeper into the history and biodiversity of these amazing parks? Visitors to Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial can enrich their visit by attending one of our ranger-led programs! Ranger Programs are a great way to learn about what makes a park special, whether it's learning how historic people lived, discovering geologic processes at work, or seeing things you wouldn't have found on your own. They include talks, guided walks, and hands-on activities. Programs will be offered throughout the summer and early fall at a variety of locations throughout the parks.

Take a guided walk with a ranger at Fort Raleigh to explore the mystery of the Lost Colony of Roanoke. Fly a kite and test the Kitty Hawk winds like Wilbur and Orville at Wright Brothers. Discover the creatures on-shore and off that call Cape Hatteras home.

Hear stories about the lighthouse keepers of Ocracoke Island. Ranger-led programs are open to visitors of all ages. No matter your interests, ranger-led programs offer something for everyone.

Ranger Programs are subject to change due to weather and staffing. To see what programs and events are happening during your visit, check out our online calendars at www.nps.gov/caha, www.nps.gov/fora, and www.nps.gov/wrbr, or use your smart phone to scan these QR codes.

Top right: Bring your own bike to the Bicycle Program at Wright Brothers National Memorial. **Right:** Hear the Lost Colony story at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. **Bottom right:** Learn more about barrier island ecology in the Hatteras Island District. **Bottom center:** Meet the ponies in the Ocracoke Island District. **Bottom left:** Go crabbing with a ranger in the Bodie Island District.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore



Fort Raleigh National Historic Site



Wright Brothers National Memorial



The Official NPS App!

Plan your trip to the Outer Banks with confidence using the official app of the National Park Service. The NPS mobile app, which was released in 2021, is available for free download in the iOS App Store and Google Play Store. The app gives the public up-to-date information about all 424 national parks in one easy-to-use app. Download the app in advance and use it offline at any park.

An exciting feature of the NPS mobile app is the new audio tours available for Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial. These walking audio tours lead visitors to the major highlights of each area and are a great way to learn about the rich history and natural resources of the three parks.

The NPS mobile app is also the best place to find up-to-date information on ranger-guided interpretive programs for the upcoming summer season. By using the calendar within the app, visitors can see all options to explore their national park sites with a park ranger. This summer's offerings will include ranger talks, guided walks, bicycle tours and more.

To download the NPS mobile app, search "National Park Service" in the app stores or use this QR code:



Nesting Season on the Outer Banks

Humans aren't the only creatures that flock to the beaches of the Outer Banks in the summertime. The sandy dunes and ever-changing shorelines play host to more than 300 bird species and dozens of reptiles. In the spring and summer, seven species of shorebirds make their nests in Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Some like the piping plover and American oystercatcher are solitary nesters, while others like the black skimmer, gull-billed tern, and least tern nest in large colonies on the open beach. All require large sections of undisturbed beach above the high tide line and below the dunes to safely hatch and fledge their chicks.

In addition to the shorebirds, five species of sea turtle have been confirmed nesting on the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore: loggerhead, green, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, and leatherback. Loggerhead turtles make up roughly 95% of the sea turtle nests each year, with green turtles being the next most common at 3-5%. All five species are federally protected and face numerous threats from human disturbance to light pollution to depredation by coyotes, ghost crabs, and others.

For shorebirds and sea turtles alike, one of the biggest threats comes from loss of nesting habitat. "For sea turtles in particular, with potential sea level rise, you [are likely to] see higher erosion rates, which in a lot of cases is that sea turtles' direct nesting habitat being lost," says Supervisory Biological Science Technician William Thompson. Sea level rise coupled with urbanization, storm damage, and human disturbance reduce the amount of suitable habitat available for nesting.

Every year, the National Park Service works to protect crucial habitat for all of the species that nest in Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Pre-nesting closures are put in place by March 15th for the solitary nesting shorebirds, followed by the colonial nesting species. Shorebirds will begin nest-building at the end of March, though nesting can continue into July if earlier nests fail. Biological Science Technicians, or Bio Techs for short, will closely monitor the nesting areas on a daily basis, adjusting the boundaries as needed and gathering data on the success of the nests. Many birds will also be banded, which allows scientists to track them over time.

Sea turtle patrols also begin in the spring, with Bio Techs rising before dawn to check for the telltale tracks that indicate a female sea turtle has laid her eggs in the sand. A small closure area is posted around each nest, which, like the shorebird nesting areas, is closely monitored. Turtle eggs will incubate for 50-65 days depending on the average sand temperature and will hatch anywhere from mid-July to early October, at which point park staff will excavate and inventory the nests.

Visitors to Cape Hatteras National Seashore can help protect all nesting species by respecting closure areas and keeping the beach clean from trash and debris. Don't release balloons and try to limit the use of disposable plastics to keep those materials from ending up in the ocean. Help cut back on light pollution, which keeps the female turtles away from the beach in nesting season and disorients newly hatched turtles in hatching season. "It all starts with being responsible while utilizing our public lands," says Thompson. "Pack it in, pack it out. Go in with the mentality of being conscious that there's more than just humans around you."



Top: Park scientists install pre-nesting closure areas. **Middle:** Green sea turtle hatchlings make their way to the ocean. **Bottom:** Least tern chicks, one hatching and one resting.

Ocracoke Light Station Keepers' Quarters Restoration Project

In 2019, Hurricane Dorian brought record-setting storm surge to Ocracoke Island and flooded the entire light station grounds. The Keepers' Quarters was flooded with 18 inches of water, causing damage to much of the interior.

In 2020, United States Congress provided funding through the 2022 Disaster Supplement to restore damage caused by Hurricane Dorian. To ensure the continued preservation of the Ocracoke Light Station, the building will be raised about five feet and the interior will be restored to a living quarters and visitor contact station. Work is scheduled to begin in winter of 2023 and completed by 2025.



Rendering of raised Keepers' Quarters

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, mammals, and marine life.

In 1985, a much larger refuge came to be on the mainland portion of Dare County.



Pea Island is home to more than 370 bird species.

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. Whether you're a birder,

a kayaker, an angler, or a hiker, there's something for everyone. 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, call 252-473-1131 or scan this code:



Alligator River offers several paddling trails.

Things to do on the Outer Banks

HIT THE BEACH

With roughly 75 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 Beach, and Ocracoke Beach. Lifeguards will be on duty Memorial Day thru Labor Day, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. Check out our tips on page 12 to have a safe beach experience.



EXPERIENCE THEATRE UNDER THE STARS

The Waterside Theater at Fort Raleigh National Historic site, is home to *The Lost Colony*, the nation's premier and longest-running outdoor symphonic drama. First staged in 1937, *The Lost Colony* opens June 2, 2023 and is produced by the Roanoke Island Historical Association. To learn more or to purchase tickets, visit www.thelostcolony.org.

STAND WHERE HISTORY WAS MADE

Visiting the site where Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first successful flights of human history is an absolute must while in the Outer Banks! From the First Flight Boulder, you can look down the Flight Line to see where the

Wright Brothers landed on their historic flights of December 17, 1903.

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

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

EXPLORE THE VILLAGES

Travel on NC-12, a National Scenic Byway, 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.

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.

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.



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.

DISCOVER THE FREEDMEN'S COLONY

Learn what happened after the Battle of Roanoke Island during the American Civil War. A memorial marker located in the plaza outside the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site visitor center

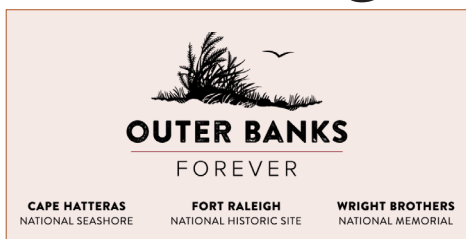
describes Roanoke Island's role in the Underground Railroad and discusses one of the first transformations from slavery to freedom in a slaveholding state.

GO FISHING

Fishing is a popular activity throughout the seashore and at Fort Raleigh, 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 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. Fishing is also a popular activity at the new Bonner Bridge Pier.



Protecting Our Parks: Meet Outer Banks Forever



We hope you are enjoying your visit to the Outer Banks, a place known as “the land of firsts”! These unique barrier islands are home to the site of the first English colony in the “New World,” the first all African American lifesaving station crew in the United States, the first successful heavier-than-air powered flight, the first National Seashore and more.

Our three Outer Banks national parks

protect and celebrate these important stories. But did you know there is a nonprofit organization that helps protect our Outer Banks national parks?

Outer Banks Forever is the official nonprofit partner of Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and Wright Brothers National Memorial, helping to protect and enhance these special places through public engagement, education and project support. Since its founding in 2019, Outer Banks Forever has helped our national parks with exciting projects and programs:

- Launching a new Artist in Community program that celebrates our vibrant artist community and the natural beauty of our national parks.

- Building a mobility-friendly kayak launch at the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center.
- Installing a live-feed webcam on top of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.
- And coming soon: A new multiuse pathway that will connect Route 12 in Buxton to Old Lighthouse Beach and the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

Outer Banks Forever also offers a seasonal Adopt a Sea Turtle Nest program that supports projects that enhance the Seashore habitat of endangered sea turtles, as well as an Adopt a Pony program that provides for the care and feeding of the Ocracoke Island ponies.

With your help, Outer Banks Forever can continue to provide much-needed

resources that help our national parks become more accessible and engaging, while protecting the history, culture and environment of our island community.

To learn more about Outer Banks Forever and how you can help protect and enhance our Outer Banks national parks now and for future generations, visit www.OBXForever.org or scan this code:



Connect with Outer Banks Forever:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/obxforever
Instagram: @obxparksforever
Twitter: @OBXparksforever
YouTube: Outer Banks Forever



Help Your Park!

Join our team! Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs) are Very Important People! Explore, learn, and share your time and talent while helping us protect this special place! From assisting with lighthouse climbs, to serving as campground hosts, to helping with the sea turtle nesting program... and everything in between, the work our volunteers do makes a difference!

Opportunities are available for both highly skilled professionals and for beginners with little or no experience. Check each park's website calendar for drop-in volunteer events or days of service such as National Public Lands Day in September. Visit www.volunteer.gov for current volunteer opportunities.



Six 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 (see infographic below).

- Watch for red flags at lifeguarded 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 a 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 on pages 6 and 7 for lifeguarded beaches on Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

- Do not dig holes in the sand that are deeper than they are wide and always fill in your holes.

2) 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.

3) SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Text OBXBEACHCONDITIONS to 77295 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

4) PLAN FOR HIGH HEAT AND SUNSHINE

The high temperatures and high humid-

ity 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.

Apply sunscreen early and often. And don't forget to drink plenty of water!

5) WATCH FOR BAD WEATHER

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.

6) AVOID THE OUCH, STAY ON THE PATH!

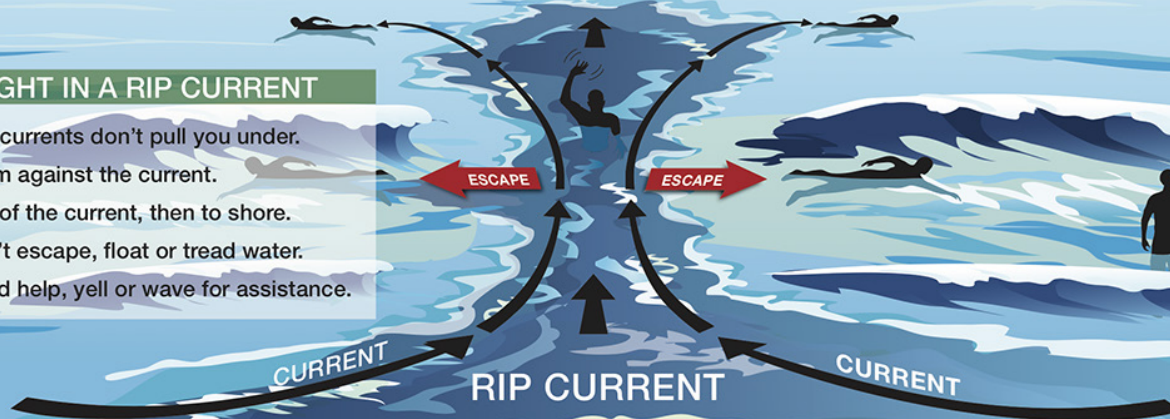
Whether ticks in the woods, venomous snakes near the marshes, or prickly-pear cacti and sandspurs in the grass, staying on designated paths and trails can help you avoid what could be a painful experience. Avoid wandering into tall grasses, marshy water, or heavy underbrush.

RIP CURRENTS

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- Relax, rip currents don't pull you under.
- Don't swim against the current.
- Swim out of the current, then to shore.
- If you can't escape, float or tread water.
- If you need help, yell or wave for assistance.



Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer away from shore. If at all possible, swim near a lifeguard.

