

Vehicle Permits

An annual educational permit is required for all drivers within Cape Lookout National Seashore. Permit stickers must be displayed prominently on the windshield or other appropriate high-visibility area on the vehicle.

For additional information on obtaining a permit please call 252-838-8950.

Regulations

- Speed limit 25 mph unless otherwise posted
- Driving on (or through) dunes is prohibited
- Driving on sound-side beaches is prohibited
- All vehicles must follow the posted signs regarding wildlife protection closures & other designated closures. For example, do not drive past signs which state "Authorized Vehicles Only"
- No open containers of alcohol in vehicles
- If a vehicle is equipped with seatbelts, they must be worn at all times
- When driving near pedestrians, cabins, or other vehicles, reduce speed to 10mph and give pedestrians the right of way
- Never attempt to pass a parked vehicle near the surf on the ocean-side of that vehicle, as it may have active fishing lines in the ocean
- All vehicles must follow all NC state laws
- Fireworks, drones, and metal detectors are prohibited at all times
- Do NOT approach, feed, or disturb wildlife
- Pets must be retrained on a leash not to exceed six feet or otherwise confined
- Beach fires must be below the high tide line and must be less than 3 feet in diameter

Please drive and ride responsibly.

In the event of an emergency:

DIAL 911

Driving Tips

Four-wheel drive is a must for the beach. Two wheel drive and all-wheel drive vehicles generally do not have adequate traction and get stuck frequently.

Roadside assistance providers will not come out to these remote islands. What services are available are limited and costly.

Lower tire pressure in all tires before driving in the sand. Remember to reinflate your tires as soon as possible when returning to paved roads.

Carry an off-road kit containing: a tire pressure gauge, first aid kit, shovel, spare tire, air pump, tow rope, jack with base support board, extra boards for traction, water, coolant, and a fire extinguisher.

Drive slowly and be alert for people lying down on the beach or other obstacles.

Check the weather and tide table before your trip. Some portions of the beach may be impassable at high tide or during bad weather.



Cape Lookout
NATIONAL SEASHORE

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



BEACH DRIVING NORTH CORE BANKS



This brochure contains a driving map and basic information about driving on the island of North Core Banks

All Vehicles

All drivers must be at least 16 years of age and possess a valid driver's license.

Vehicles must meet all state license and safety requirements for that type of vehicle, and where required, must display a valid state inspection sticker.

Vehicles are permitted only on the islands of North and South Core Banks.

Drive only on officially marked routes and parking areas or on the open beach seaward of the dunes and above the tide line. Driving is not permitted on sound-side beaches at any time.

Vehicles may not enter areas closed for the protection of visitors or wildlife. Follow detour signs around these areas. Do NOT drive on ANY portion of the closed beach, regardless of tide level.

The maximum speed limit is 25mph or as posted. The speed limit is reduced to 15mph in the cabin areas and within 100 feet of cabins, campsites, or visitors.

All Terrain Vehicles

When operating an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV), drivers must be 16 years of age or older. All occupants must wear eye protection and a helmet meeting U.S. DOT standards at all times. Passengers may not be carried unless the ATV was specifically designed by the manufacturer for a driver and passenger.

Seasonal Parking

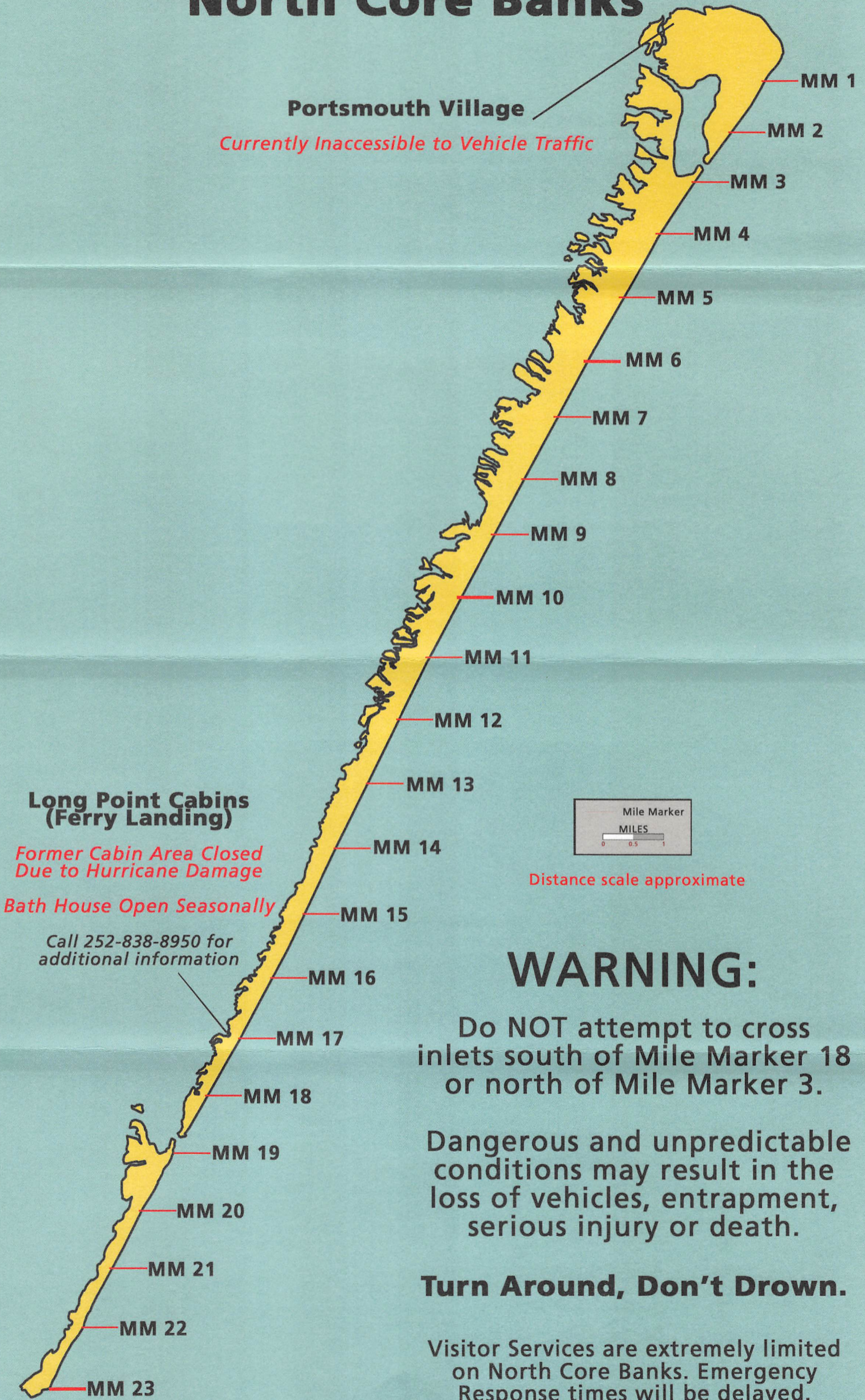
All vehicles or trailers left unattended for over 24 hours must be parked in an official parking area and have a valid parking permit. Permits are issued through Park Headquarters. Call 252-838-8950 or email CALO_SUP@nps.gov for more information on how to obtain a permit.



North Core Banks

Portsmouth Village

Currently Inaccessible to Vehicle Traffic



WARNING:

Do NOT attempt to cross inlets south of Mile Marker 18 or north of Mile Marker 3.

Dangerous and unpredictable conditions may result in the loss of vehicles, entrapment, serious injury or death.

Turn Around, Don't Drown.

Visitor Services are extremely limited on North Core Banks. Emergency Response times will be delayed.