

DIRECTIONS TO VISIBLE SHIPWRECK REMAINS



Starting from The Museum of the Sea, near Buxton.

See location chart in corner of the museum. Mark map in center of your Cape Hatteras National Seashore folder to correspond.

Most ships wrecked along this 70 miles of coast have been broken to fragments and scattered or sunk by storms that followed the wreck. Only a few large pieces of ships remain. Most are buried from sight for months at a time by surf or drifting sand, and may later be uncovered. This list locates some remains that are easy to find and usually visible; but day-to-day changes may cover or remove any wreck listed.

Unidentified Wreck on Cape Hatteras Point

Go to first stop sign and straight across intersection; follow road for one and sixtenths miles to campground entrance sign; avoid campground entrance by keeping left; continue one-tenth mile more to wood ramp over dune; drive over ramp into Cape Point Parking Area; walk on beach south (away from lighthouse) 400 yards. Near ponds, bow of small unidentified wooden vessel shows; wooden side nearby was part of the Altoona.

Altoona - 1878

The fine wooden wreck visible in 1963 in the surf between the lighthouse and Cape Hatteras point, broke up and vanished in the fall of that year. No remains are visible except the small piece of her side, washed up near the unidentified bow on Cape Point.

George A. Kohler - 1933

Drive north from Buxton about 15 miles. The telephone lines run along the left of the highway. When the phone lines cross the highway, and poles appear on your right, stop at the next paved parking turnout. Walk directly to beach. Wooden wreck in surf line.

Richmond

Drive from Buxton north 21 miles to Salvo. Walk to beach. Metal frame rises above water about 100 feet off shore.

LST at Rodanthe

Drive from Buxton north 25 miles to Rodanthe; turn in to fishing pier. Look north from pier vicinity. Part of LST visible in water; pilot-house nearby on land. Wrecked 1948.

Oriental - 1862

Drive 28 miles north to Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. Drive 2 1/2 miles north of headquarters to a small parking turnout. Walk up boardwalk to wooden platform on dune overlooking the beach. Look into ocean for boiler. Unidentified wooden remains are sometimes exposed in the beach here.

Sarah J. - 1961

This trawler wrecked in Oregon Inlet and visible from the ferry in 1961, sank in 1962. No visible remains.

Laura A. Barnes - 1921

Drive three and eight-tenths miles north of Oregon Inlet Bridge. Turn right at fork in paved road. Continue one-tenth mile to missile-tracking station. (Large tan tanks with odd apparatus on top.) Park just north of station, walk over ramp to beach.