

IF YOU CHOOSE TO GO NUDE:

KNOW: The Law

KNOW: Your Rights

KNOW: Your Risks

KNOW: You Can Wear a "G" String

KNOW: You Can Go Topfree

PLEASE

Respect environmentally sensitive areas set aside for plants, birds or turtles.

Help eliminate litter by bringing a trash bag. It's a good practice to carry out more than you bring in.

BEACH ETIQUETTE

Many will insist that rules for proper behavior are not necessary since any decent, intelligent person should know how to act. On the other hand, naturists and others sometimes see individuals who are uncaring of the environment and/or other people. We want to leave no doubt that naturists are nice folks who advocate freedom with responsibility and respect for the rights of others.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

NATIONAL PARKS AND BEACHES

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Superintendent
Route 1, Box 675
Manteo, NC 27954
(919) 473-2111

NUDIST/NATURIST RECREATION ASSOCIATIONS

The Naturist Society
P.O. Box 132
Oshkosh, WI 54902
(800) 558-8250

The American Sunbathing Association
1703 North Main Street
Kissimmee, FL 34744
(800) 879-6833

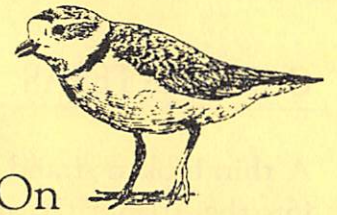
PREPARED BY

A volunteer group dedicated to responsible naturist beach use.

Friends of Cape Hatteras Beaches
P.O. Box 4821
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

We invite you to write with your questions, suggestions and beach experiences.

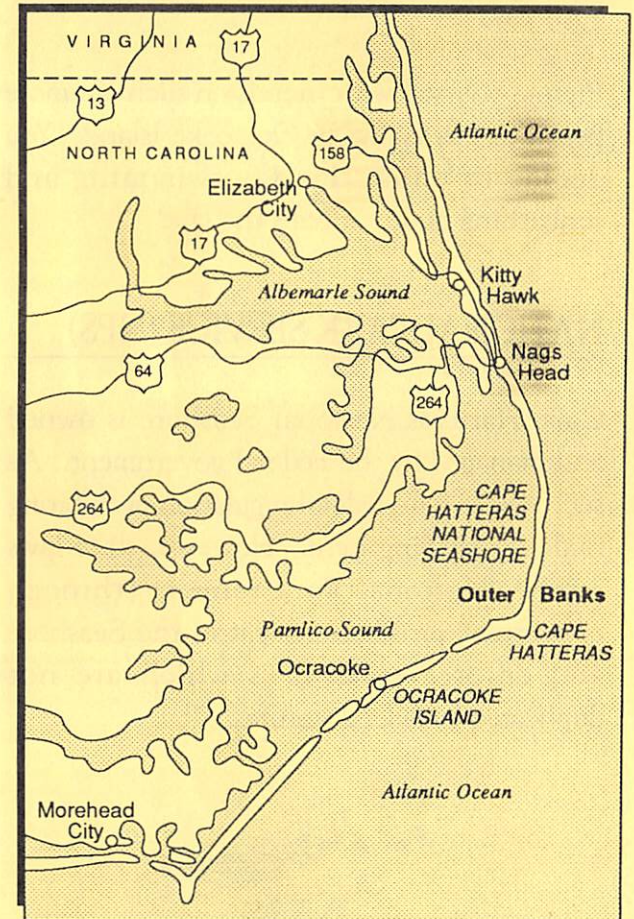
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Sunbathing On

CAPE HATTERAS

NATIONAL SEASHORE



Beach Season '93

CAPE HATTERAS

A thin broken strand of islands curves out into the Atlantic Ocean and then back again in a sheltering embrace of North Carolina's mainland coast and offshore sounds. These are the outer banks of North Carolina set aside as Cape Hatteras National Seashore. It can be a lonely place; you may walk along the beach unseen except by shore birds searching for a meal.

Picture yourself with friends on such a remote beach of Pea Island or Ocracoke Island. You decide to enjoy the day swimming and sunbathing nude. What's the law?

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore is owned and managed by the Federal government. As such, there is no federal regulation prohibiting nude sunbathing here. However, state laws apply. National Park rangers (through concurrent jurisdiction) patrol the Seashore and enforce state laws which are not duplicated by federal statutes.



NORTH CAROLINA LAW

(NC General Statute 14-190.9, entitled Indecent Exposure) states, "Any person who shall willfully expose the private parts of his or her person in any public place and in the presence of any other person or persons, of the opposite sex, or aids or abets in any such act, or who procures another to perform such act; or any person, who as owner, manager, lessee, director, or promoter or agent, or in any other capacity knowingly hires, leases or permits the land, building, or premises of which he is owner, lessee, or tenant, or over which has control, to be used for purposes of any such act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. (1971, c. 591, s. 1.)"

Willfully – voluntary, by choice

Private Parts – male/female genitals

Public Place – exposed to general view

Presence – immediate vicinity, close position

You may notice that same-sex public nudity is not in violation of the above statute. A "G" string is all that is required to be in complete compliance with the law. And female topfree is totally legal.

NPS DESIGNATED CLOTHING-OPTIONAL AREAS?

People want to know if NPS beaches can be designated for nude use and is it permissible and/or attainable.

Although swimming and sunbathing are popular activities enjoyed by visitors to National Seashores, NPS management regarding nude or "clothing-optional" swimming or sunbathing has been consistent over the years. Because of the potential for conflict, the NPS will not actively designate areas for nude recreation. To avoid conflict, it is incumbent upon visitors to segregate their clothing-optional activities from others who may have equally viable interests in beach recreation.

PATROL

The most popular area of nude use on Pea Island is patrolled by airplane and rangers on foot approaching from behind the dunes. Ocracoke is monitored by air, but mainly by rangers in 4WD vehicles. There has been an ongoing campaign since July, 1985 to eliminate nude beach use. Tickets are issued to violators of N.C. 14-190.9.