

Artist's depiction of the Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony by Sonja Griffin Evans

## Exploring the Freedmen's Colony

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, known for its role in the early era of European exploration and settlement of North America, also preserves links to America's Civil War and the struggles for racial justice and equality. Following the Union victory at the Battle of Roanoke Island in 1862, the U.S. Army established a Freedman's Colony to care for formerly enslaved individuals, many who saw their first steps of freedom in what is now Fort Raleigh.

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. Opening this summer, the Freedom Trail will have permanent outdoor exhibits that enhance 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 Service Historian. "It will also underscore the significant role Roanoke Island played in the Underground Railroad, helping freedom seekers reach safety."

The trail will include ten life-size silhouettes and trail-side panels, which describe the hardships endured by enslaved people who risked everything for freedom and explore why the island became a haven. Hundreds of



Map of the Freedom Trail at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site

hours of research went into the project, with National Park Service staff and volunteers sifting through everything from court and military records to newspapers.

This archival work uncovered several first-person accounts. Each adds human texture to the story, from teenage London Ferebee, who received his first taste of 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.

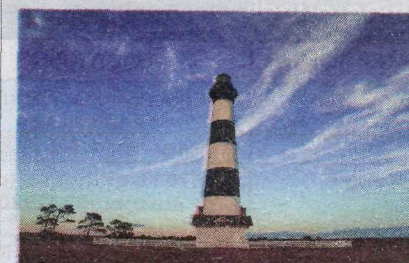
The Freedom Trail's cost is supported by the National Park Foundation, the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, and Outer Banks Forever.

### We are glad you are here!!

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!



Bodie Island Lighthouse, Cape Hatteras NS

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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

**Mailing Address**

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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!

**ARE FIREWORKS ALLOWED?** No.

**CAN I GO FISHING?**

Yes, a NC Coastal Recreational Fishing License is required and are available at tackle shops or online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org).

**CAN I LEAVE THINGS ON THE BEACH OVER-NIGHT?**

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 <https://go.nps.gov/hatteraspermits>

**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 must be obtained online at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov). UTVs, ATVs,

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, certain 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 (except service animals), within any wildlife closure or at lifeguarded beaches. However, your pets are welcome elsewhere 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.

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 daily April 19 - early fall. Tickets are only available for purchase on [recreation.gov](http://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. Climbing Ocracoke Lighthouse is not available, but the base is open select hours.

**HOW CAN I SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS?**

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](http://recreation.gov) or by calling 877-444-6777.

To learn more about camping, visit: [nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm](http://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](http://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](http://recreation.gov) app on your mobile device.



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

### Campgrounds

CAMPGROUND	LOCATION	SITES	HOOK-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	Dec. 2	\$20
Frisco	53415 Billy Mitchell Road Frisco, NC 27936	125	No	Apr. 2	Dec. 2	\$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 NC 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 beachfront off-road vehicle access routes can be visited after purchasing an ORV permit from [recreation.gov](https://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 (daily 8:30 am-5 pm) and Bodie Island Visitor Center (9am-5pm).

**Things to do during your visit:**

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



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

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

- **Swimming:** Swim at Coquina Beach - open 24 hours - lifeguards present 9am-5pm, 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, 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.



Cape Hatteras National Seashore offers great opportunities for surfing.

### 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](https://ncdot.gov) and search for "ferry tickets" to find ferry information and reservations. **Visitor Information:** Ocracoke Discovery Center (open with limited hours daily).

**Things to do during your visit:**

- **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 near 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 9am-5pm, from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

## Fort Raleigh National Historic Site

Location of the first English Colony in the 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



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

**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 (2.5 miles).
- Enjoy the Etheridge Point sound side 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](https://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 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 four 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.



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



FACEBOOK  
@CapeHatterasNS  
@FortRaleighNHS  
@WrightBrothersNMem



INSTAGRAM  
@CapeHatterasNPS  
@FortRaleighNPS  
@WrightBrosNPS



TWITTER  
@CapeHatterasNPS  
@FortRaleighNPS  
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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](http://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.

## Preservation Underway at Hatteras and Ocracoke Light Stations

Two iconic landmarks along North Carolina's Outer Banks, the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and the Ocracoke Double Keepers' Quarters, are undergoing extensive restoration and renovation projects, in efforts to preserve their historical significance and accessibility for future generations.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, standing majestically as a beacon of safety for mariners since its construction in 1870, has been a symbol of resilience against the forces of nature. However, years of exposure to harsh coastal elements have taken their toll on this historic structure, necessitating comprehensive restoration efforts. The project aims not only to restore the lighthouse to its former grandeur but also to rehabilitate it, ensuring structural integrity for decades to come and enhancing the visitor experience.

The restoration process will include repairing deteriorated masonry, metal components, and repainting the exterior and interior of the lighthouse. Historical defining features of the lighthouse that

had previously been removed will also be replicated and restored. These features include a replica first-order Fresnel lens, window pediments, and an ornamental iron fence that will surround the base of the structure. Additionally, the project will improve pedestrian access to the site with expanded walkways, enhanced landscape, improved viewsheds, and expanded historical interpretation along pathways.

Simultaneously, the historic Double Keepers' Quarters at the Ocracoke Light Station is undergoing a transformation of its own. Built in 1823, the quarters served as housing for the keepers and their families who were responsible for maintaining the Ocracoke Light Station.



Ocracoke Keepers' Quarters, March 2024

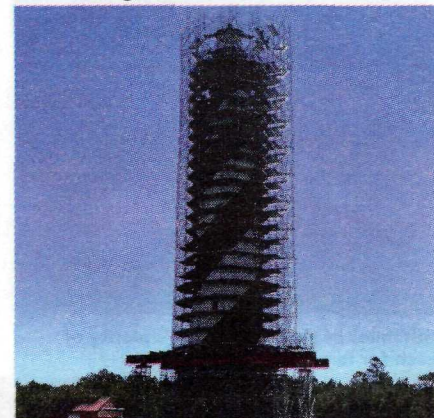
Over the years, the structure has suffered from deterioration including significant wind and flood damage that was incurred from Hurricane Dorian in 2019.

The renovation project encompasses elevating the Keepers' Quarters more than four feet as well as the surrounding structures such as the Store House, Carpenter's Shop, Generator House, and Privy by two feet to protect against future storm surge. Additional interior and exterior renovations of the quarters include fresh coats of paint, installing a new pathway and lift to connect with the existing boardwalk enhancing accessibility, and remediating issues such as mold, lead-based paint, and asbestos-containing materials within the structure.

Furthermore, the renovation includes the creation of interpretive exhibits within the Keepers' Quarters that will educate visitors about the keepers' duties, the rich history of the Ocracoke Light Station, and the island's maritime heritage. These exhibits will provide a deeper understanding of the

significant role that the Ocracoke Light Station played in safeguarding maritime travel along North Carolina's coast.

These restoration projects serve as a testament to the National Park Service's commitment to protecting and preserving these national treasures and ensuring access to them for future generations. As the projects progress over the next year, remain informed about all ongoing developments by visiting our website and connecting with us on social media.



Hatteras Lighthouse, March 2024

## FORT RALEIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

# 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.

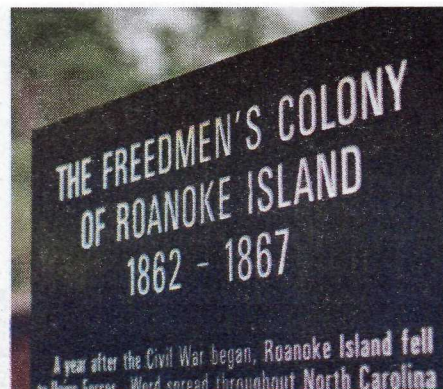
Centuries after the lost colony, Roanoke Island was occupied by U.S. troops during the American Civil War. Word spread among enslaved communities that on “Roanoke Island, you will find safe haven,” and a Freedmen’s Colony was established by the army to

prepare the formerly enslaved people for life free from bondage.

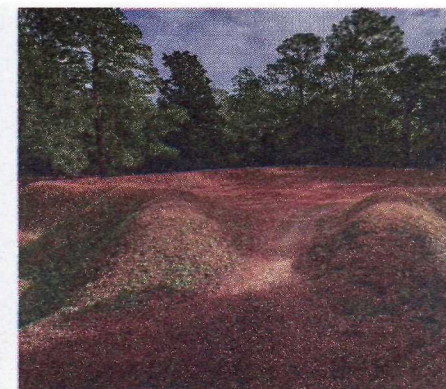
In the early 20th century, radio pioneer Reginald Fessenden added a technological slant to the rich history of Roanoke Island. He was the first person to transmit the human voice using wireless technology and his experiments helped to pave the way for modern radio.

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](http://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



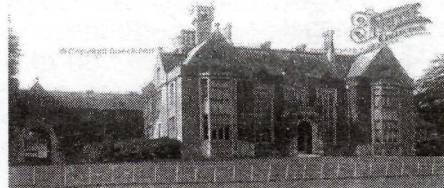
The Lost Colony play. Two hikers enjoy one of the trails.

## The Elizabethan Room: A New Fort Raleigh Mystery

Located in the Fort Raleigh Visitor Center, the aptly named, oak paneled “Elizabethan Room” is a stunning and rare example of English Elizabethan-era architecture at the time of the Raleigh Expedition. Installed circa 1585 in Heronden Hall in Kent County, England and later acquired at auction by William Randolph Hearst in 1926, the room was purchased by the National Park Service from the Hearst estate in the 1960s. But did these ornately carved wooden walls ever grace the current incarnation of the eponymous Heronden Hall?

When visiting the Elizabethan Room at Fort Raleigh, a panel describing the room’s provenance displays a black-and-white image of Heronden Hall – a Gothic Revival structure with pointed arches and bay windows – features synonymous with that era of architecture. However, Gothic Revival is certainly not the architectural trend that one would have found in manor homes of the late 16th century. In 1585, Heronden Hall would have likely been a Tudor-style, timber-framed hall house. So why do we now see a Gothic Revival? History of the site gives us some answers,

Initially constructed in 1585, Heronden Hall and its estate was inherited by the Austen family around 1630 and subsequently divided into three portions. In 1782 the portion of the estate on which Heronden Hall stood was sold to Jeremiah Curteis who demolished the original 1585 structure. Later, in 1818, a large white brick Georgian manor home was built upon another section of the estate and presumably still stands today.



Gothic-Revival Heronden Hall as it appears today.

The estate remained in the possession of Curteis until it was sold to William Curteis Whelan in the 1840s. Whelan hired architect W.J. Donthorn to design his Heronden Hall – creating the Gothic manor home we see today. Given that the 1854 structure was present on the estate in the 1920s when the Elizabethan room was salvaged, it could easily be assumed that this is the structure from which the rooms

were taken. However, publications written in the 1920s by Charles L. Roberson, owner and namesake of the antique firm Roberson’s, Ltd. tell a different story.

Titled “Historical Rooms from the Manor Houses of England,” Volume III of the work features an Oak Room from Heronden Hall, Kent. Although the room featured is not at Fort Raleigh, it was removed from the same building, at the same time as Fort Raleigh’s and was included in Hearst’s 1926 purchase. Of note, within the chapter dedicated to the Oak Rooms at Heronden Hall, Roberson states the following when discussing their removal: “. . . the present house, which is of Georgian type, contained, until recently, several rooms pannelled [sic] in oak which had been preserved from the original Elizabethan house and were carefully re-erected in the newer structure.” Given that those within the antique firm surely would have been well-read in the history of art and architecture in England, it is difficult to assume that the 1854 Gothic Revival Heronden Hall could have been mistaken for an 18th century Georgian style manor. Thus, the likelihood that Fort Raleigh’s Elizabethan Room ever stood in

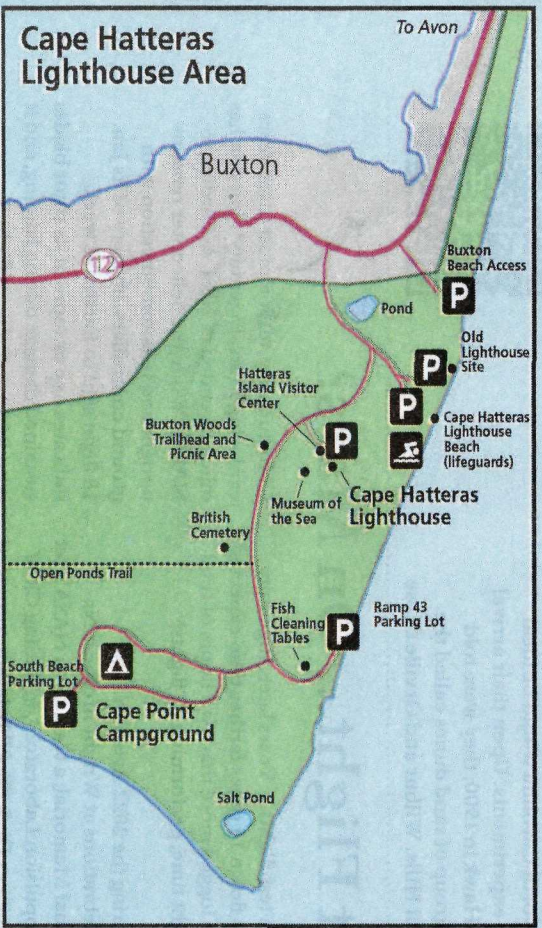
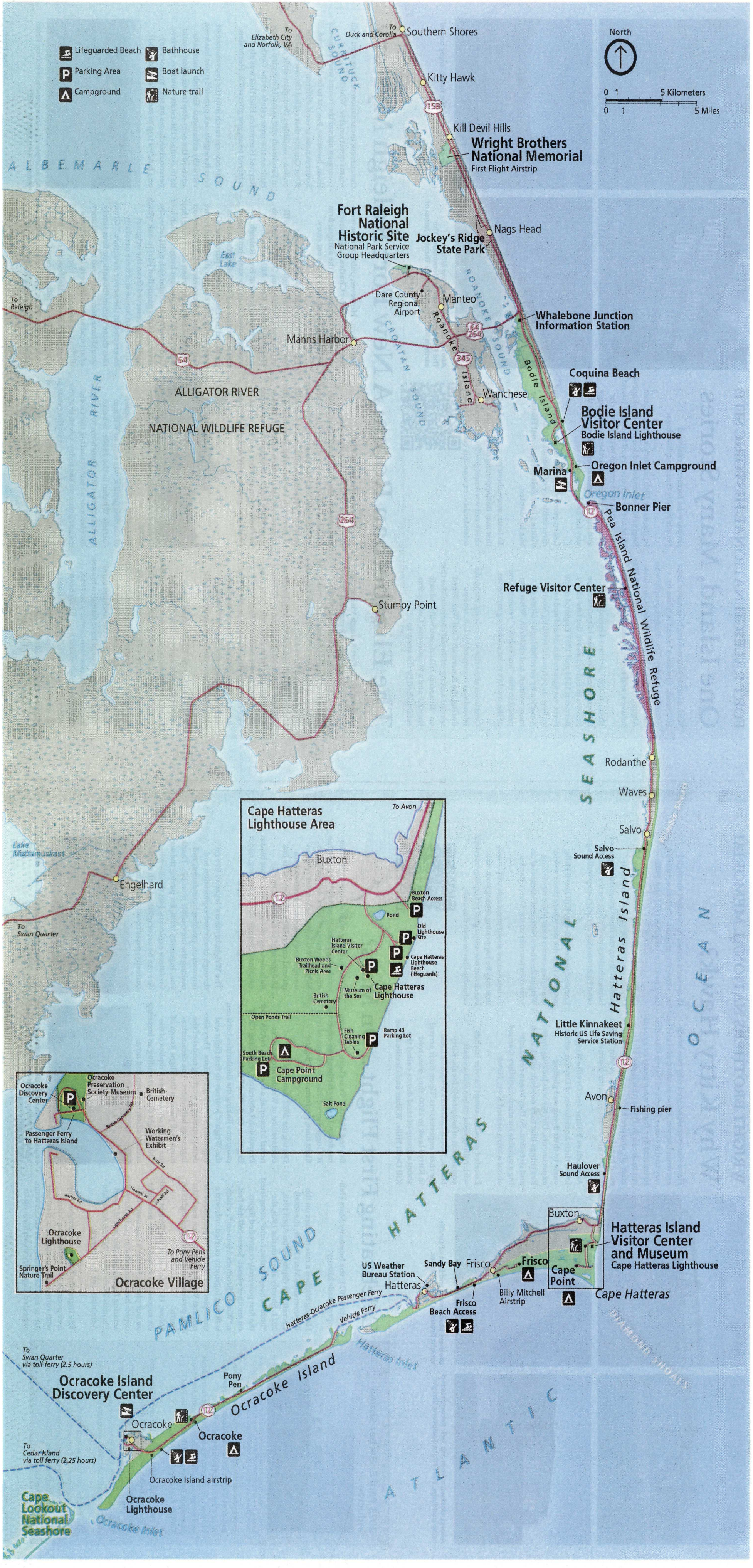
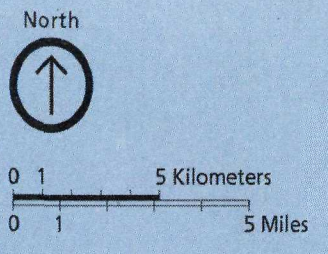
the current incarnation of Heronden Hall seems questionable. Which Georgian manor the rooms were removed from, however, has yet to be discovered. Sources note several different manors in Kent County that called themselves Heronden – notably a Georgian-style manor in Sandwich and a small Georgian manor built on the same estate as the Gothic Revival Heronden Hall that was also referred to as, you guessed it, Heronden.

Stateside research into the provenance of Fort Raleigh’s oak paneled room has been virtually exhausted. English historians advised the next step in our quest would be to contact the estate’s owners to view personal archives on site. So, does anyone fancy a trip to merry ‘ole England?



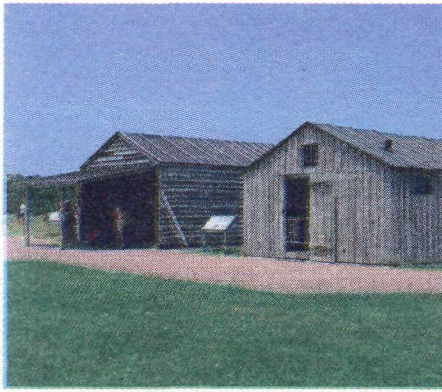
An example of a Georgian-Style manor, Finchcocks in Kent built in 1725.

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



**Ocracoke Island Discovery Center**





Above, clockwise from top left: Reconstructed camp buildings. 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](http://www.nps.gov/wrbr/planyourvisit/calendar.htm) or scan this code:



### 2023 Paul E. Garber Shrine Inductee



A BEECHCRAFT STAGGERWING IN FRONT OF THE WRIGHT BROTHERS MONUMENT IN CELEBRATION OF WALTER AND OLIVE ANN BEECH'S INDUCTION INTO THE PAUL E. GARBER FIRST FLIGHT SHRINE.

Every year on the anniversary of first flight, we gather at Wright Brothers National Memorial to honor the achievements of the Wright brothers. Each year, we acknowledge individuals and groups who have achieved significant "firsts" in aviation by inducting them into the Paul E. Garber First Flight Shrine.

In 2023, First Flight Society honored Walter and Olive Ann Beech, who founded the Beech Aircraft Company and created a legacy of beautiful, safe, and dependable aircraft. Under Olive Ann's leadership, Beech Aircraft became one of the most successful aircraft companies in the world.

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

## Celebrating First Flight... On Mars?

In April 2021, the Ingenuity Mars Helicopter made history!

Having hitched a ride to Mars on the Perseverance Mars Rover, the small aircraft was deployed on April 13th, 2021. Shortly after, on the 19th, the "little helicopter that could" completed the first powered, controlled flights on another planet. Some call this feat a "Wright Brothers Moment", which is fitting; Ingenuity carried onboard a small piece of history - a portion of the original Wright Flyer, which made the first powered and controlled flights on Earth.

"Now, 117 years after the Wright brothers succeeded in making the first flight on our planet, NASA's Ingenuity helicopter has succeeded in performing this amazing feat on another world," said Thomas Zurbuchen, NASA Associate Administrator for Science.

The Ingenuity helicopter weighs only four pounds (1.5 pounds on Mars), with rotors measuring about four feet (tip to tip). Originally, the NASA team expected Ingenuity to perform up to

five test flights... Years later, Ingenuity has flown 14 times farther than expected. It's logged more than two hours of total flight time, performing 72 flights!

During the 2022 Aviation Day celebrations at Wright Brothers National Memorial, a team from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, including Chief Engineer Dr. J. "Bob" Balaram, provided programs linking the similarities between the Wrights' journey to first flight and Ingenuity's journey to Mars. They also demonstrated a working model of the Ingenuity helicopter. The demonstrations took place in the Flight Room of the visitor center near a replica of the 1903 Wright Flyer, providing an inspiring juxtaposition of "then and now."



Engineers from NASA demonstrate the Mars Ingenuity Helicopter in front of the replica 1903 Wright Flyer.

Unfortunately, after almost three years exploring Mars, Ingenuity's mission has officially ended in 2024. According to NASA, "While the helicopter remains upright and in communication with ground controllers, imagery of its Jan. 18 flight sent to Earth this week indicates one or more of its rotor blades sustained damage during landing, and it is no longer capable of flight."

The Wright brothers' legacies live on through continued exploration and innovation, pushing boundaries, and making the impossible possible. Thank you, Ingenuity team, for paving the way for future explorers. Just think - what else can be accomplished with a little curiosity, perseverance, and ingenuity?



Mars Ingenuity Helicopter during one of its Mars flights.

# 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 and off shore 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](http://www.nps.gov/caha), [www.nps.gov/fora](http://www.nps.gov/fora), and [www.nps.gov/wrbr](http://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



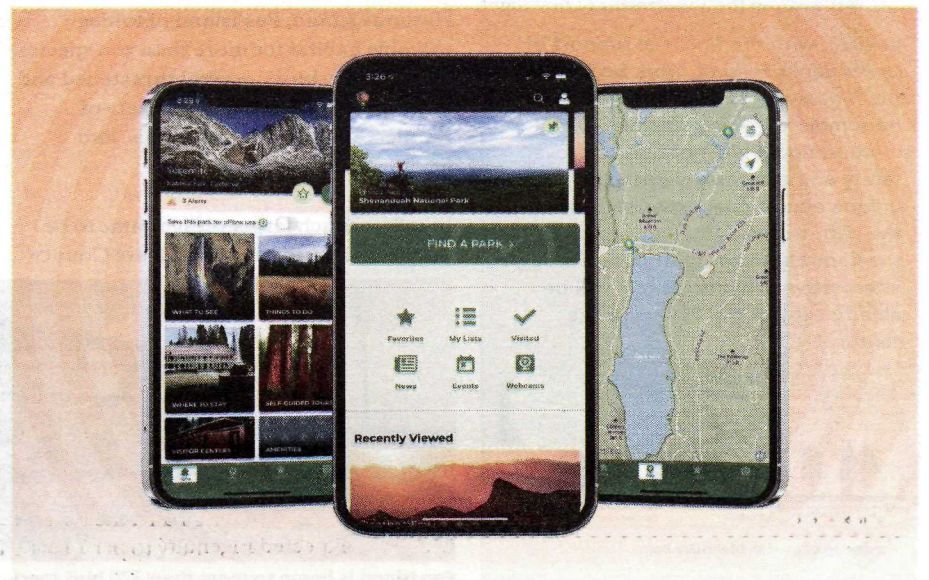
## The Official NPS App!

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 429 national park sites 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 turtles 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."

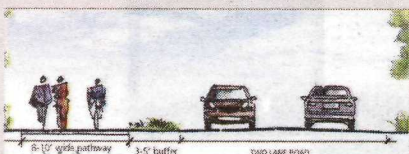


**Top:** Park scientists install pre-nesting closure areas. **Middle:** Green sea turtle hatchlings make their way to the ocean. **Bottom:** Least tern chicks, one hatching and one resting.

## Buxton Multi-Use Path Nears Completion

Over 25 years ago, Cape Hatteras National Seashore identified the need for a multi-use path along Lighthouse Road in Buxton, NC. The path would create a safe, easy, and enjoyable way for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel from the village of Buxton to Old Lighthouse Beach and the Cape Hatteras Light Station.

In 2023, with the financial support of Outer Banks Forever, work began on the long-awaited project. Expected to be complete in early summer 2024, the multi-use path will not only improve safety and accessibility but allow for a unique educational experience where the path traverses the move path of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Through interpretive exhibits, visitors will be able to explore the "move of the century."



Rendering of Buxton Multi-Use Path

## 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.

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 walk on the wild side!

For information about current refuge programs, visit [www.fws.gov/refuges](http://www.fws.gov/refuges), call 252-473-1131 or scan this code:



Pea Island is home to more than 370 bird species.



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 Old 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 1, 2024 and is produced by the Roanoke Island Historical Association. To learn more or to purchase tickets, visit [www.thelostcolony.org](http://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 pony pasture is located on Ocracoke Island, seven miles north of Ocracoke Village on NC-12. Picnic tables and beach access are available across from the pony pasture.



## 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](http://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](http://www.oregon-inlet.com), or call (800) 272-5199 to book your trip. Fishing is also a popular activity at the Bonner Bridge Pier.



## Protecting Our Parks: Meet Outer Banks Forever



We hope you're 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 attempted English colony in the "New World," the first all African American lifesaving crew in the United States, the first successful heavier-than-air powered flight, the first national seashore and more.

Our Outer Banks national parks protect and celebrate these important stories. But did you know there's an 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 project support, education and public engagement. With the support of people like you, Outer Banks Forever will ensure that future generations can continue to learn, grow, and create memories in our parks through history, conservation and the celebration of innovation.

Since its founding in 2019, Outer Banks Forever has raised more than \$500,000 to help our parks with projects such as:

- A new mobility-friendly kayak launch at the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center.
- Fundraising for new artwork and educational exhibits to be added to the existing Freedom Trail at Fort Raleigh.
- Sponsoring an educational video series following the progress of First Flight High School students as they work to build an FAA-certified airplane as part of The Wright Flight Academy.
- And more!

Not only can you join Outer Banks Forever's mission by donating to them

directly, but your purchases in our Outer Banks Forever park stores also support their mission!

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](http://www.OBXForever.org) or scan the QR code with your smartphone.





## Help Your Park!

Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs) are Very Important People! Share your time and talent while helping us protect the Outer Banks. From assisting with lighthouse climbs, supporting maintenance, helping with the sea turtle nesting program and everything in between; the work our volunteers do makes an impact on what the NPS can do for you! Opportunities are available for both highly skilled professionals or beginners with little or no experience. Volunteering is perfect for job shadowing opportunities and making community connections.

Check each park's website volunteer page for drop-in volunteer events or to view open volunteer positions. Visit [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov) to apply.



# 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 crosswalks, 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](http://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!

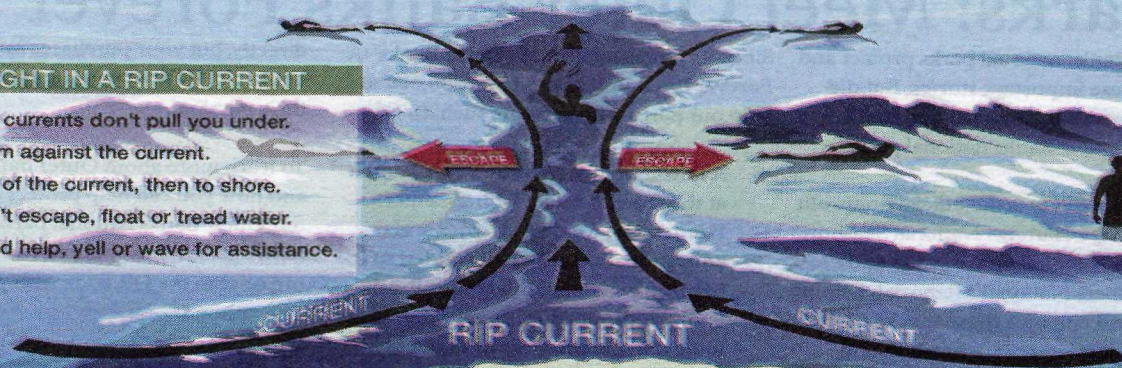
Whether ticks in the woods, venomous snakes near the marshes, or prickly-pear cacti and sandspurs in the grass, staying on designated paths and trails can help you avoid what could be a painful experience. Avoid wandering into tall grasses, marshy water, or heavy underbrush.

# 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.

