



By the Sea

By Kathy M. Newbern & J.S. Fletcher

Whether dreaming of living in a quaint, historic, coastal town or just ready for a friendly stay waterside, these six small Carolina gems beckon.

Mantea

VORTH CAR

SEE A waterfront landmark is the Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse, an exterior reconstruction of the structure that stood at the entrance to Croatan Sound near Wanchese. Venture along the streets to find gems like Outer Banks Distilling, makers of Kill Devil Rum and to spot the *Elizabeth II*, a replica of one of the seven English merchant vessels from the Roanoke Voyage of 1585.

EAT Avenue Grille overlooks Manteo's waterfront with fresh seafood a menu mainstay. Across the street is casual, family-friendly Full Moon Cafe and Lost Colony Brewery. For special occasions, dine at 1587 Restaurant in Tranquil House Inn, which overlooks Shallowbag Bay.

ONLY HERE The Lost Colony, America's longest running symphonic outdoor drama, recounts the historical events leading to the disappearance of the first English colonists in America. Shows run May 26 — August 19 for the beloved production's 80th anniversary.

Morehead City

SEE If you have a hankering to fish with the big dogs, the Big Rock Blue Marlin tournament marks its 59th year in June. Year-round, book a fishing charter or sunset cruise. The Annual N.C. Seafood Festival, in October, celebrates its 30th year. It's the state's largest three-day festival with over 175 vendors, live national entertainment, a sailing regatta, fireworks, rides and the popular Sunday Blessing of the Fleet.

DESTRUCTION

EAT Try Circa 81, a tapas and cocktaileria, for distinct cuisine boasting docks-to-dish and farm-to-table cuisine; the Arendell Room for hand-crafted cocktails; then dance the night away at Off the Hook, a favorite waterfront watering hole.

ONLY HERE Expect a "hon" or two from the waitresses at El's Drive-In, featuring car-side service under massive live oaks. It's been home to the original Superburger since 1959.

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