

FIRST IN FREEDOM

A Culture of Diversity on the Outer Banks



The Outer Banks has an incredible backstory that's ripe for discovery. Buried between the headlines of the first English colony in America at Roanoke Island and the Wright Brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk, you'll find the heroic saga of strong men and women who pioneered some of the first tastes of freedom and equality for African Americans in the country on these very shores.

African American Experience of Northeast North Carolina

The African American Experience of Northeast North Carolina (AAENENC) officially launched Juneteenth. The new self-guided discovery starts online at NCBlackHeritageTour.com and connects dozens of visitable points of interest and African American influence across a six-county region that includes the islands of The Outer Banks, legendary Dismal Swamp and some of the state's earliest riverfront communities of Elizabeth City, Hertford and Edenton. Discover the African American touchstones the OBX has to share.

The OBX, from the first English European onset in America began with the Lost Colony of Roanoke circa 1587, through the days of piracy in the early 1700's with Blackbeard's haunts of the coast, to small family centric communities that still exist today who began and survived as fishing villages and ports of call for mariners in the sea trade leading up to the Civil War in 1861.

Take a powerful and inspiring self-guided tour to explore 7 OBX sites important to the African American community and history of northeastern NC. This includes outdoor interpretive signs and monuments, parks, churches and museums.



The Stops

1. Miss Chrissy's Oak | Island Farm

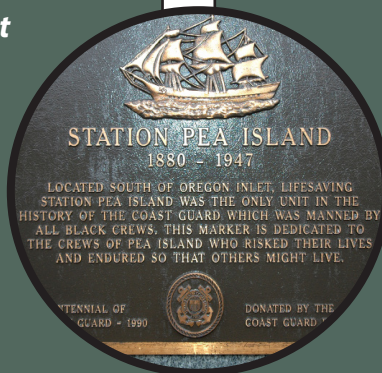
Discover daily life on the Outer Banks in the years before the Civil War. Richard Etheridge, one of Roanoke Island's most famous black heroes was born a slave here. Miss Chrissy is another former slave who lived here in independence after the Emancipation. Hear their stories and many more at this working heritage plantation.

2. The Freedman's Colony 1862-1867 | Fort Raleigh National Historic Site

Join park rangers to explore the history surrounding the Civil War battle of Roanoke Island and the establishment of the Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony.

3. Haven Creek Baptist Church | Manteo

Haven Creek Church in Manteo began during the Civil War when Freedman's Colonists gathered beneath a tree to worship.

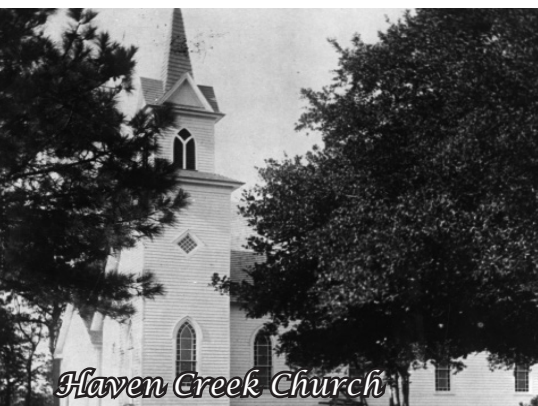


4. The Freedman's Colony 1862-1867 & Richard Etheridge Family Cemetery | NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island

The cemetery of Richard Etheridge and his family resides on the grounds of the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island. Just outside the entry gates, this historic location is open to all visitors and does not require aquarium admission to visit. Inside the Aquarium, you can enjoy a gallery of original portraits painted by local artist James Melvin in tribute to their legacy as part of your experience.

5. The Pea Island Cookhouse Museum | Manteo

OBX has the distinction of being home to one of the most highly-awarded rescue crews in the history of the U.S. Coast Guard, the all-black surfmen of Pea Island Life-Saving Station who protected mariners along our coast.



Haven Creek Church



Richard Etheridge Statue



Herbert Collins Boathouse



Hotel d'Afrique

More to see...

6. Herbert Collins Boathouse | Downtown Manteo

In honor of former Lieutenant Herbert Collins, the boathouse was opened and dedicated in his name. Born in 1921 on Roanoke Island, Lieutenant Collins is often referred to as the last Keeper of the Pea Island Lifesaving Station.

7. Hotel De Afrique | Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum

The Hotel d'Afrique operated from 1861-1865 and is part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.