

Beacons, Buccaneers and Pioneers *A Complete Itinerary of the Outer Banks*

Day One: Depart for the [Outer Banks of North Carolina](#)! A 130-mile stretch of wide-open shoreline just off the coast of North Carolina, these barrier islands of the Outer Banks are a different kind of place. Out here, it's easy to fill an entire day with once-in-lifetime quests. From elusive legends to the very real artifacts still being discovered under our feet and below the waves, the Outer Banks continues sharing its treasure today that inspires a true sense of adventure. From Duck down to Hatteras, each town and island along our coastline offers a unique experience not soon forgotten.



Late afternoon/early evening arrival; check in to your oceanfront hotel.

Welcome Dinner at your hotel or local area restaurant

Day Two: Hotel Breakfast at your leisure.

Meet in the hotel lobby to prepare for today's journey on the Northern Beaches.

Kick off the tour with a Wild Horse Safari and the attractions at Currituck Heritage Park.

**Please note: the group may need to split in two or three groups depending on the final number of attendees.

While one group does the wild horse adventure then other group will tour the attractions at Currituck Heritage Park and vice versa when the group returns**

Take a Wild Horse Adventures: See North Carolina's State Horse the Wild Spanish Mustangs of Carova. These horses have survived for centuries on the barrier island. The only way to see them is to take a wild horse safari in a 4WD vehicle along an eleven-mile-long remote area covering thousands of acres between the northern end of the Outer Banks to the Virginia border. Tours guides will meet the group at Currituck Heritage Park with their viewing vehicles. **Currituck Heritage Park/Whalehead Club:** 1100 Club Road, Rt. 12 N, Corolla, NC 27927; 252.453.9040 (Whalehead Club)



Activity: Wild Horse Tour on the beach via 4WD vehicles. Kitty Hawk Kites can book the wild horse safari for you. Contact KHK Group Sales at group_sales@kittyhawk.com



Currituck Beach Lighthouse at Currituck Heritage Park Visit the only lighthouse in North Carolina that is still housed in its original structure. Built in 1874 this lighthouse stands 158 feet tall.

Currituck Beach Lighthouse: 1101 Corolla Village Road Corolla, 27927 252.453.8152; **Activity:** Climbing to the top and tour the grounds

Whalehead Club at Currituck Heritage Park A 1925 restored historic house museum built as private residence by wealthy Philadelphia industrialist Edward Collings-Knight, Jr. Mr. Knight built this art nouveau styled home for he and his wife; both were avid water fowl hunters. **Whalehead Club:** 1100 Club Road, Rt. 12 N, Corolla, NC 27927; 252.453.9040 **Activity:** Guided Tour of the historic home.

Lunch on own in the heart of Duck. Local restaurants offer open air dining and most of the Town's unique and funky shops and restaurants are connected by the Duck Trail that runs the entire length of the town parallel to Highway 12 or by the soundside boardwalk which offers premium views of the Currituck Sound.



Wright Brothers National Memorial, See where on a cold day in December, 1903 Wilbur and Orville Wright changed the world forever as their powered airplane, the "Wright Flyer", skimmed over the sands of the Outer Banks for 12 seconds before returning to the ground. See the flight museum which tells story of the Wright's accomplishments as well as replica of the 1903 flying machine. **Wright Brothers National Memorial:** 1000 N. Croatan Hwy, MP 7.5 HWY 158, Kill Devil Hills, 27948; 252.441.7430. **Activity:** Check out the newly renovated visitors center with new exhibits on display. Listening to the flight room talk, walking the actual flight line, walking to the top of Monument; making homemade kites and flying them at the site.

Jennette's Pier at Nags Head, State-of-the-art, LEED certified, 1,000-foot concrete pier features green technologies like wind turbines. The one-of-a-kind educational ocean pier features educational programs such as alternative energy demonstrations, plankton investigations, creatures of the night, fishing instructions, and how ROVs are used in underwater exploration. **Jennette's Pier:** 7223 S. Virginia Dare Trail, MP 16.5 Beach Road, Nags Head, 27959; 252.255.1501

Activity: Take a pier tour and learn about its current research projects with UNC Coastal Studies Institute. Enjoy making jewelry found items on the beach, Pier fishing 101, Catch it, clean it, cook it are just a few programs. *School group programs include the Wonders of Wind, Biology of Fishes, Intertidal Explorations, Plankton Investigations, Ocean Currents and Upwellings, Water Quality and Conservation, Squid Dissection*





Jockey's Ridge State Park, See the East Coast's tallest sand dune and one of the Outer Bank's most phenomenal natural attractions. On-site visitor center, museum and gift shop. **Jockey's Ridge State Park**: 300 Carolista Drive, Nags Head, 27959; 252.441.7132 **Activity**: The following programs are offered by the Park free of charge, but require registration: All About The Ridge, Sunset On The Ridge, Dune Critters, Blackbeard's Treasure Hunt, Wild About Wildflowers, To the Top (dune rides for senior groups)

Group Dinner at one of locally owned area restaurants.

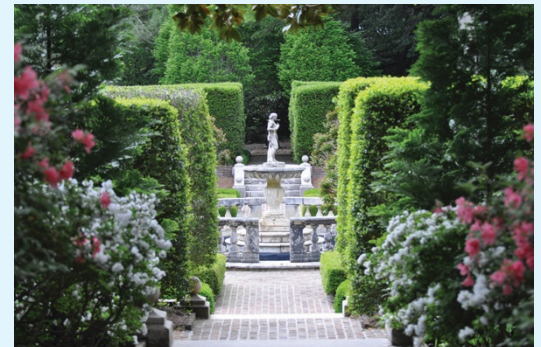
Return to the hotel after dinner.

Day Three:

Hotel Breakfast at your leisure.

Meet in the hotel lobby to prepare for today's journey on Roanoke Island.

Tour of the Elizabethan Gardens, Stroll through the majestic Gardens, which were designed as a living memorial to Queen Elizabeth and the Lost Colony. The Gardens include a collection of Renaissance statues and Elizabethan style buildings that let you image you are back in the time of Queen Elizabeth I. Spring-time tulips lead to an ever-changing palette of year-round color from hydrangeas, native plants, perennials and camellias. **Elizabethan Gardens**, 1141 National Park Drive, Manteo, 27954; 252.473.3234 **Activity**: Guide Tour with Garden expert, Lunch and Learn, WinterLights in December



Walk over to **Fort Raleigh National Historic Site**, see the site of the first English Colony, where Sir Walter Raleigh's explorers and later colonists established settlements in 1585 & 1587; would later become known as the "The Lost Colony", after 116 settlers disappeared. This site also preserves the cultural heritage of the Native Americans, European Americans and African Americans who have lived on Roanoke Island and pays homage to the Freedman's Colony played a significant role during the Civil War as one of the first safe haven for freed or runaway slaves in the South. Newly renovated on-site visitor center, interpretive programs, nature trail. **Fort Raleigh National Historic Site**, 1401 National Park Drive Manteo, 27954; 252.473.5772 **Activity**: NPS Programs includes The Lost Colony?, One Island, Many Stories



Next stop, the **North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island**, Explore the “Waters of the Outer Banks” through aquariums and interactive exhibits. Watch fishes in the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" exhibit. This 285,000 aquarium also features a one-third scale replica of the civil war ironclad USS Monitor. Explore aquatic habitats from grass flats to Gulf Stream waters. Gently stroke a stingray or touch a hermit crab in our “Close Encounters” Gallery. See daily dive shows, alligators, otters, turtles, Operation: Sea Turtle Rescue and our new Sea Turtle Assistance and Rehabilitation (STAR) Center. **North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island**, 374 Airport Road Manteo, 27954; 252.473.3494 **Activity:** Behind the Scenes Tour of the exhibits and tanks, Marine Invertebrate Lab, Shark Dissection, Squid Dissection, Dialogue with a Diver, Animal Feedings, and many others.

Explore **Island Farm**, living history site interpreting daily life on Roanoke Island in the mid-1800s. Living on the bounty of the surrounding waters while working the land to feed their families, islanders were independent and enterprising. **Island Farm**, Highway 64 Manteo, 27954, 252.473.6500; **Activity:** **Did you know the Island Farm is home to two rescued Corolla Wild Horses, Grace and Rainbow.** The Farm’s Banker Pony program expounds on the history of this esteemed equine lineage and its ties to the early settlers of the Outer Banks. Make a railroad spike oyster knife or a custom garden trowel using traditional blacksmithing techniques.



Lunch, exploring and shopping on own, Downtown Historic Manteo, walk around downtown historic Manteo and explore **Roanoke Marshes Light and the George Washington Creef (working) Boat shop:** The replica of the 1850s screw-pile light that once stood guard over nearby Croatan Sound, will offer visitors a unique glimpse into the maritime history of the island, as well as the lightkeepers who once lived at the station. The working boat shop gives the visitor a glance of the **Ella View**, an authentic shad fishing boat made from native Outer Banks trees, this fishing boat is an example of the historical boat developed over a century ago at Roanoke Island. Admission is free to both. The Downtown area is also full of locally owned shops, boutiques, cafés and restaurants.

Walk over to **Roanoke Island Festival Park**, located across from Downtown Historic Manteo, here you will see the **Elizabeth II**, a 69-foot sailing vessel representative of those sailed to the New World in 1585. Also we will visit the Roanoke Island Adventure Museum and Settlement Site where you can see what life was like for those early explorers as they arrived on Roanoke Island. **Roanoke Island Festival Park**, 1 Festival Park, Manteo, 27954; 252.475.1500 **Activity:** Basket weaving, hoeing in the garden with a hoe that is made from a conch shell, trying on armor in the Settlement Site and making a table leg at the settlement site.

Before you leave Manteo, make a stop by **Outer Banks Distillery**, the first legal distillery on the Outer Banks of NC. The Distillery makes small batch rum from the Graveyard of the Atlantic and local ingredients. Set up a tasting of their award-winning Kill Devil Rum and tour their facility. Outer Banks Distillery, 510 Budleigh Street, Manteo, 27954; 252.423.3011 **Activity:** Tour of Distillery and tasting room

Early afternoon return to the hotel for relaxation before your evening begins. Walk the beach to find new treasures for keepsakes.

Early group dinner at one of our locally owned area restaurants before your evening performance of *The Lost Colony* begins. The Show begins at 8:30pm.

First staged in 1937, The Lost Colony Outdoor Drama, is the nation's premier and longest-running symphonic drama. It's considered the "Grandfather" of all outdoor dramas and is produced by the Roanoke Island Historical Association (RIHA). Written by Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Green, the play recounts the historical events leading to the disappearance of the first English colonist who settled on Roanoke Island over 400 years ago. Check out the epic battles, true Native American dances and the experience the sorrow and heartbreak of tragedy and loss. See the award-winning costumes and stage props of Broadway's William Ivy Long. **The play is only held during the summer months of June through August. The Lost Colony /Waterside Theatre, 1409 National Park Dr. Manteo, 27954, 252.473.6000**



Return to the hotel after the performance.

Day Four: Hotel Breakfast at your leisure.

Depart your hotel for Hatteras Island and the Outer Banks Scenic Highway!



Our first stop is the **Bodie Island Lighthouse**. Open for public climbing for the first time, check out the newest view a top the most picturesque lighthouse in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Completed in 1872 on the north side of Oregon Inlet near the northern border of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the familiar black and white horizontal striped structure was partly built of materials leftover from the construction of the newest Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Standing 150 feet high and equipped with a first-order Fresnel lens, it flashes its 160,000-candlepower beacon 19 miles over the ocean.

Bodie Island Lighthouse, 8210 Bodie Island Lighthouse Road Nags Head, 27959, 252.441.5711 **Activity:** Climbing to the top of the lighthouse

Stop by the **Chicamacomico Life Saving Station**, A predecessor to the US Coast Guard, Chicamacomico is one of the most complete US Lifesaving Station sites in the nation, see historic buildings and a boathouse that housed the service that was the predecessor to the United States Coast Guard. Hear the history of daring ocean rescues by brave men who dedicated their lives to the sea. **Chicamacomico Life Saving Station**, 23645 NC HWY 12, Rodanthe, 27968 252-987-1552 **Activity:** Self-guided tour.



Lunch at one of our locally owned restaurants.



Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, see the tallest brick beacon on the American coast with its black and white stripes; it stands at 208 feet high. Learn the marvelous history, which includes its half-mile move in 2000 away from the ocean. Admissions to the grounds are complementary, minimal fee to climb to the top.

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, 46368 Lighthouse Rd Buxton, 27920, 252.995.4474

Activity: Climbing to the top of the lighthouse



Next stop is the **Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum** in Hatteras Village. A unique museum dedicated to preserving and interpreting the rich maritime history of the Outer Banks and the more than 2,000 known shipwrecks that rest of our coast. See cannons from Blackbeard's Queen Anne Revenge, an Enigma machine from the U-85, ship models and many other artifacts.

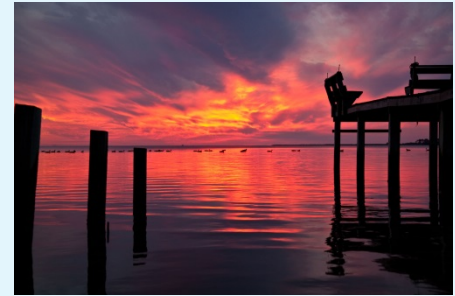
Graveyard of the Atlantic, 59200 Museum Drive, Hatteras, 27943; 252-986-2995; **Activity:** Behind the scenes tour of artifacts not seen by the public.

Catch a beautiful sunset while having dinner at one of our waterfront restaurants on Hatteras Island.

Return to the hotel after dinner.

Day Five:

Depart the Outer Banks for your homeport. You'll leave with lasting memories and a yearning to come back.



Other attractions, activities or events that can be considered or added to this itinerary:

If your group is more into of a natural eco setting, check out this sites and activities:

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, 150,000 acres of wetland habitats and a wide variety of wildlife, ranging from wood ducks and alligators to black bears and red wolves. Plant species, including Atlantic white cedar, bald cypress, wildflowers and shrubs, are abundant. Visitors will find hiking and wildlife trails, observation platforms, fishing areas and kayaking and canoeing routes. **Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge**, Milltail Road Manns Harbor, 27953, 252.473.1131; **Activity:** Red Wolf Howlings (only offered on certain days), Bear Tours, Guided Tram Tours through the refuge, guide canoe trips

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, located on the north end of Hatteras Island, the nearly 6,000 acre refuge has a welcome center located seven miles south of Oregon Inlet. Hundreds of species of migrating birds have been spotted within the 13-mile span. From the spring to autumn, a large variety of wading, shore and upland birds can be seen.

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Phone: 252. 987.2394; 252.987.1118

Activity: Bird Walks, Pea Island Canoe Tour, Birds and Their Adaptations at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Turtle Talk, what's the difference between land and sea turtles

Nor'Banks Sailing Center, located just north of Duck, offers group options for stand up paddleboards, kayaking, waverunners, parasailing, sailing competitions. Can also set up friendly competitions as well. Nor'Banks Sailing Center, 1314 Duck Road, Duck, NC 27949, 252.261.2900

Capt. Johnny's Dolphin Watch, See the most respected aquatic mammal in its natural habitat. Breathtaking views are all around you on this tour. Our large viewing areas offer everyone a good spot. Each vessel is covered for sun protection with a restroom on board and Coast Guard inspected. **Capt. Johnny's Dolphin Watch**, Queen Elizabeth Street Manteo, 27954, 252.480.9151, 252.473.1475, 866.473.1475

Kitty Hawk Kites, offers a wide array of group activities and group receptive services. From Hang Glide over sand dunes, wild horse safari's, dolphin tours, photo booth rental, rock wall climbing, free stunt kite lessons, kite making workshops, kite boarding, kayak eco-tours and rentals, jet ski rentals and tours, parasailing, dolphin jet boat tours, surfing lessons and more. Kitty Hawk Kites, Bypass, across from Jockey's Ridge Nags Head, 27959 252.441.4124, 877.359.8447; group_sales@kittyhawk.com



Special Events can be appealing to group tours too. The Outer Banks offers the following group friendly events that can be easily added and built around an itinerary.

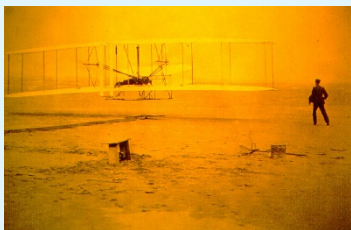
OBX Taste of the Beach, Late March; This annual foodie event features: wine tastings, cooking classes, special menu presentations, brewery tours, tapas crawls, cook-offs, showdowns and throw-downs, dine-arounds and many more culinary delights! Its four days of foodie heaven and lots of fun activities on the Outer Banks. It involves over 50 restaurants! Coastal Living named this festival one of its Top Ten Seafood and Wine Festivals in USA.

www.obxtasteofthebeach.com



Annual Outer Banks Seafood Festival, third Saturday in October; Celebrating our local fisherman and seafood heritage and our fresh, local Outer Banks seafood! Try seafood dishes from over 20 locally owned restaurants. Activities includes arts and crafts village, live music all day, cooking demonstrations, boat exhibits, and storytelling. www.outerbanksseafood.org

Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival, 3rd week in October; Known far and wide for our beaches, lighthouses and fishing, visitors often are unaware of the wonderful opportunities to enjoy birding, paddling and natural history offerings. In addition to being a premier birding locale, black bear, alligators and Red Wolves also inhabit the region. www.wingsoverwater.org



Annual Celebration of The Wright Brothers First Flight, always December 17th this is fee free event at the park. The First Flight Society and the National Park Service (NPS) will continue the tradition of honoring the accomplishments of Wilbur and Orville Wright first heavier-than-air powered flight. Bands, guest aviation speakers, dignitaries.