

Hidden Gems of the OBX

The Outer Banks[®]
OF NORTH CAROLINA
outerbanks.org

HIDDEN GEM SPOTLIGHT

Shrimping, Crabbing & Fishing Charters



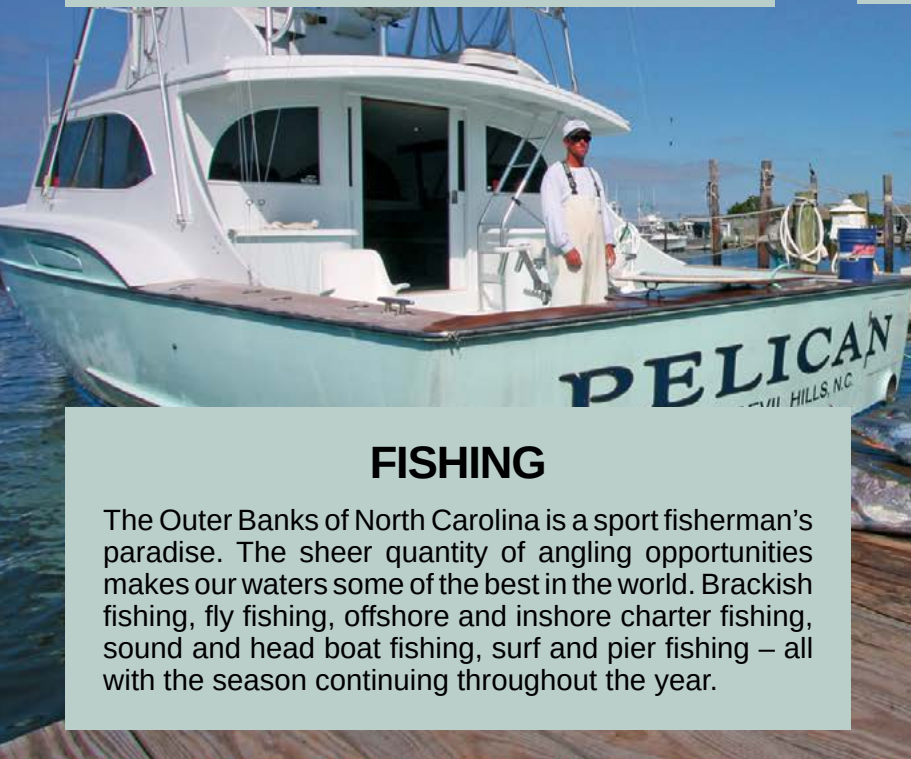
CRABBING

On the west side of the OBX is a body of water known as the sound. It's the calmer water between the mainland and the islands and it's where blue crabs live. These guys are the ones who shed their hard shells every May and end up on menus as deep-fried soft-shell crab alongside a pile of fries. But much to the chagrin of blue crabs, they're still delicious after their shell hardens too. You just have to steam them with some Old Bay seasoning, crack the shell and dig in.



SHRIMPING

The entire family can experience an exceptional interaction with marine life in the waters of the Croatan and Roanoke Sounds. Reserve a private charter for as many as 6 passengers on most boats and pull a trawl net for shrimp. Catch fresh North Carolina seafood to take home! Be prepared to experience other local marine wildlife that watermen encounter daily, such as dolphin, pelicans and osprey.



FISHING

The Outer Banks of North Carolina is a sport fisherman's paradise. The sheer quantity of angling opportunities makes our waters some of the best in the world. Brackish fishing, fly fishing, offshore and inshore charter fishing, sound and head boat fishing, surf and pier fishing – all with the season continuing throughout the year.



HIDDEN GEM SPOTLIGHT

Island Farm



A LIVING HISTORY SITE

Explore Island Farm, a 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. Some families fished and farmed only for their own use. Others operated on a larger scale. They farmed enough acreage to sell their crops, and fished commercially, taking their catch to Norfolk and Baltimore. They brought back furniture, books, silver and other niceties. One such family prospered here, tracing its beginnings on Roanoke Island to 1757, when Adam Etheridge leased 1,500 acres on the North End to farm and to range his livestock.



In 1783, Adam's son Jesse bought 150 acres of this same land. It forms the core of today's Island Farm, which the family owned for over 200 years, until the non-profit Outer Banks Conservationists acquired it in 1997. Adam Etheridge, who built the house that is the heart of Island Farm today, was the fourth generation of Etheridge's to live on this island.



Today, Roanoke Island is home to an eleventh generation. We invite you to peel back the layers of the past and imagine one moment in a time, at one place in history: Island Farm more than a century and a half ago.

6 Hidden Hiking Spots

BEST KEPT SECRETS OF THE OBX

1

BUXTON WOODS

Just past the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse on Cape Hatteras National Seashore, you'll find Buxton Woods. This is a 1,007 acre expanse of maritime forest perfect for nature lovers and hikers of all ages. Many white-tailed deer call this area home, don't be surprised if you see them in broad daylight.



DARE COUNTY ARBORETUM



CENTURY OF FLIGHT MONUMENT



SANDY RUN PARK

2

JOCKEY'S RIDGE STATE PARK

Jockey's Ridge State Park is known for having the tallest sand dunes on the east coast. What most folks don't know is that this state park also has hiking trails. These paths lead through the dunes, opening up to the sound, with markers and info panels along the way.



THE LITTLE RED MAILBOX



PEA ISLAND COOKHOUSE



ROANOKE ISLAND MARITIME MUSEUM

3

NAGS HEAD WOODS ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE

Some of the best hiking can be found at Nags Head Woods Ecological Preserve. Hiking trails are open from dawn to dusk year-round and offer great views of sand dunes, ponds, marshes and history. The Roanoke Trail is a local favorite, consisting of a short 1.5 mile round trip.



NAGS HEAD WOODS PRESERVE



SOUTHERN SHORES



ROANOKE ISLAND FESTIVAL PARK

4

FREEDOM TRAIL

The Freedom Trail connects Croatan Sound with Fort Raleigh National Historic Site along a level, 1.25 mile trail, allowing hikers to walk between Fort Raleigh and the site of the Freedman's Colony during the Civil War. This trailhead is across the parking lot from the Elizabethan Gardens.



COQUINA BEACH



KITTY HAWK WOODS



SALVO

5

DUCK BOARDWALK

To the north, set foot on the popular Duck Boardwalk, spanning nearly a mile with 11 acres of soundfront views, you can find numerous gazebos, benches and informational signs. Stop along the many shops and restaurants along the way.

6

COASTAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

Head towards the Roanoke Island mainland, where the Coastal Studies Institute holds the starting line to a ~3 mile trail beginning in their parking lot in Skyco, NC, continuing through trails and local residential roads and ending at the Dare County Center in Manteo, NC.



Outer Banks Promise

The Outer Banks is an amazing natural wonder that has been the source of historic achievements and supported a special way of life for generations. Let's keep it that way and do our part. Look out for one another, be aware and prepared for any situation and work together to protect this place that we love. So let's promise to:

- Discover this land of history and inspiration with a spirit of kindness and appreciation.
- Turn "what ifs" into "let's prepare."
- Pack it in, pack it out. Leave no trace.
- Wander with wonder, sticking to roads and paths.
- Love the beach, respect the ocean.
- Be a wildlife star, observing animals safely from afar.
- Support local. Small acts have big impacts.

READY TO VISIT?



Scan the code above to start planning or visit **OUTERBANKS.ORG**