

A photograph of a white wooden boat, possibly a skiff, stored inside a wooden structure. A large, weathered white oar leans against the boat. An orange life preserver with yellow stripes is visible on the boat's deck. The background consists of wooden planks and beams.

# *History Guide* to the OBX

*The Outer Banks*<sup>®</sup>  
OF NORTH CAROLINA  
[outerbanks.org](http://outerbanks.org)

# THE HISTORY OF

# *The Wright Brothers*

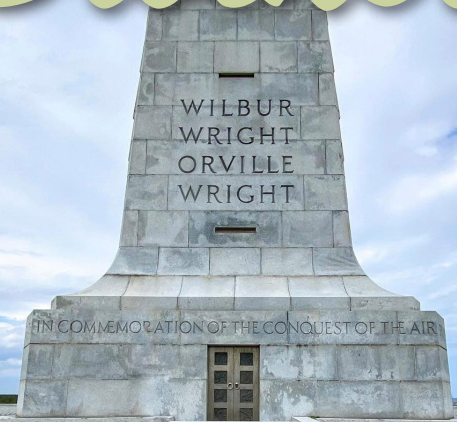
Credit: The National Park Service



## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Wind, sand, and a dream of flight brought Wilbur and Orville Wright to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina where, after four years of scientific experimentation, they achieved the first successful airplane flights on December 17, 1903. With courage and perseverance, these self-taught engineers relied on teamwork and application of the scientific process. What they achieved changed our world forever.

@lifeofkaimana



## WRIGHT BROTHERS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Visit the nation's commemorative monument to the Wright brothers' world-changing achievement. Located on top of the historic Kill Devil Hill where Wilbur and Orville did their gliding experiments. Don't miss the newly-renovated visitor center, built in 1960, to receive information about the park and learn about the Wright brothers' story.

## DECEMBER 17, 1903 SCULPTURE

Step into history by visiting this artistic representation of the moment of first flight. Located on the south side of Kill Devil Hill, this is a please-touch sculpture.



# THE MYSTERY OF

# *The Last Colony*

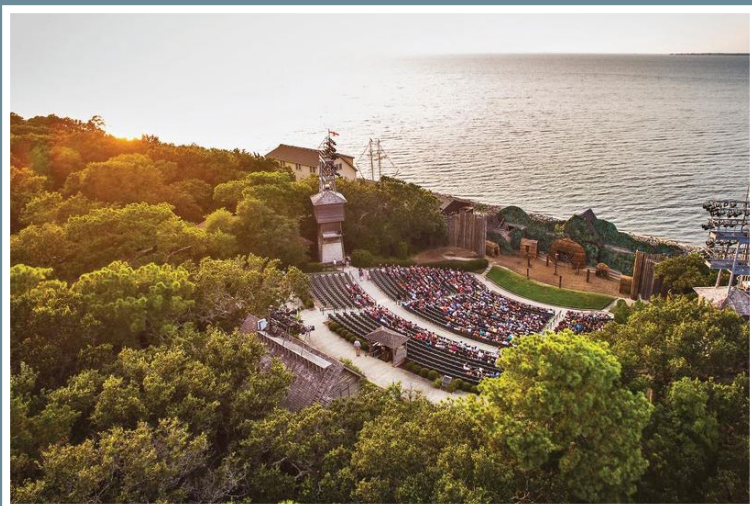


## AMERICA'S OLDEST MYSTERY

In 1587, 117 English men, women and children came ashore on Roanoke Island to establish a permanent English settlement in the New World. Just three years later in 1590, when English ships returned to bring supplies, they found the island deserted with no sign of the colonists. After nearly 450 years, the mystery of what happened to the colonists remains unsolved.

Set on the soundfront of Roanoke Island on the campus of Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, enjoy this 86 year-old Symphonic Drama under the stars. Become immersed in the story of the discovery of a new world with newly enhanced musical and theatrical direction and dynamically stunning choreography. Witness the pageantry of Queen Elizabeth I and her court and celebrate the birth of Virginia Dare, the first English child born in America all while preserving the historical importance of America's oldest mystery.

Each summer, over 100 actors, technicians, designers and volunteer transform Waterside theatre. The production is enormous. The stage itself is over three times larger than most Broadway stages in New York. You are seated in our open-air theatre, located on the Roanoke Sound while live action happening on three sides of you. Witness the pageantry of the Queen and her court and celebrate the birth of Virginia Dare.



# ISLAND LORE

The roots of this Outer Banks place name can be either ominous or dubious depending on which history you choose to embrace. Pronounced "body" when rendered properly off the tongue, (but understandably used phonetically by first-time visitors) Bodie Island was once known as Body's Island on old maps. Even the architectural keystone of the lighthouse there refers to itself as Body's Island Lighthouse in 1871. Popular local lore describes shipwrecks as common as today's car accidents, with human casualties washing ashore at frequent intervals in the days before modern navigation at sea. Other folks claim there was a local landowner whose surname was Body, and it was his island. Not a true island today, it was once separate from the peninsula it now shares with Nags Head and the other northern beach towns. At some point in history, the maps began to reflect the spelling this place of interest enjoys now, whether by propagation of misspelling or just propaganda. Today you can climb to the top of the lighthouse, located in America's first National Seashore, or tour numerous trails around the grounds.



# SHIPWRECKS

The Outer Banks of North Carolina has a reputation of being the Graveyard of the Atlantic, and there are estimates approaching 3,000 shipwrecks along the islands, going back to the first English settlements in America.

The early superhighway of the sea was just off Cape Hatteras, and where you have ships at sea trading and exploring, you have accidents. Night journeys, poor weather, erred navigation and unmapped underwater shoals all contributed to the legacy of the OBX shipwreck history, not to mention war. Today, you can find shipwrecks periodically uncovered on the beach, but for snorkeling and scuba diving, there's no place better on the East Coast. From the "Triangle Wrecks" just off Kill Devil Hills, or the Huron off Nags Head, to the deeper water German U-boat dives, begin planning how deep to go, starting here. Don't miss the newly renovated Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras Village.



# A HISTORY LOVER'S PARADISE



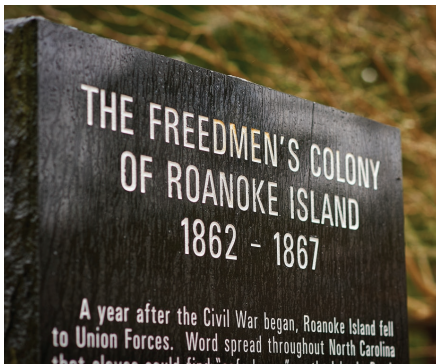
**GRAVEYARD OF THE ATLANTIC MUSEUM**



**FRISCO NATIVE AMERICAN MUSEUM**



**FORT RALEIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**



**FREEDMEN'S COLONY**



**PEA ISLAND COOKHOUSE**



**MARITIME MUSEUM**



**ISLAND FARM**



**CHICAMACOMICO LIFESAVING STATION**



**ROANOKE ISLAND FESTIVAL PARK**



**OBX HISTORY CENTER**



**CIVIL WAR TRAIL**



**LIGHTHOUSES**



## *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**