

Legends, Lights and Lore – an Outer Banks of NC itinerary

Day One: Depart for the [Outer Banks of North Carolina!](#) A 200-mile stretch of barrier islands just off the coast of North Carolina, the Outer Banks is a different kind of place. Beautifully natural, formed by centuries of wind, water and sand blown from the Atlantic Ocean, and home to a rich history, it's a place that inspires a true sense of adventure. From Duck down to Hatteras, each town and island along the banks 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.

Depart the hotel for your tour of Currituck Heritage Park and your wild horse adventure.

**Please note: the group will 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 vehicles.

Activity: Wild Horse Tour on the beach via 4WD vehicles.



Currituck Heritage Park/Whalehead Club: 1100 Club Road, Rt. 12 N, Corolla, NC 27927; 252.453.9040 (Whalehead Club)

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 who 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:** 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, This 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; 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

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 imagine 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, Tea with the Queen, offers 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: Children's 19th-Century Toys and Games, Blacksmithing

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: Skinning a deer hide in the American Indian Town, 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.

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 or participate in the character dinner at the soundstage pavilion at **The Lost Colony** campus.

Before the performance begins, take a **Backstage tour of the Lost Colony Outdoor Drama**. The Waterside Theatre is where you will start your backstage tour of **The Lost Colony**, a, celebrating its 78th Anniversary in 2015! See the award winning costumes from William Ivy Long and props for the drama. Starting at 8:00pm this year, see Paul Green’s Pulitzer Prize winning symphonic outdoor drama, **The Lost Colony**, which also the is the longest running outdoor drama in the United States. The play recounts the historical events leading to the disappearance of the first English colonists who settled on Roanoke Island over 400 years ago. The play is held during the summer months of June through August. **The Lost Colony /Waterside Theatre**, 1409 National Park Dr. Manteo, 27954, 252.473.6000



Winner of 2013 Tony Award
“Honor for Excellence in Theatre”

Activity: Tuesday & Wednesday Night Character Dinner, Behind the Scenes Tour, Kitty Hawk Kites Kids Night, Ghosts of the Lost Colony (Spring and Fall)

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: Interpretive talks such as America's Forgotten Heroes, the men of the lifesaving station.



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.

Wine Tasting at Lee Robinson's General Store, Hatteras Village. The Lee Robinson General Store is a Hatteras staple with many fine wines, over 100 micro and domestic beers, fudge, wonderful goodies, homemade jams and jellies, great books and Hatteras wear! 252-986-2381

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 these 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), 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, from Hang Glide over sand dunes, 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

THE LOST COLONY Presents Ghosts of The Lost Colony: The history of our modern America began here...experience it in an entirely new way in this new interactive theatrical experience. Held during the Spring and Fall groups are guided on a walking tour of the grounds of the first English Colony in America which is both fun and educational! Astral Plane Investigations, led by nationally renowned paranormal psychologist Trevor Janzen, lead groups in a research expedition of The Waterside Theatre. Learn the mysteries of the island, the history of the colony and perhaps even meet the ghosts of those who lived here. Contact: Lance Culpepper, *The Lost Colony*, Office: 252 473 2127
email: lcupepper@thelostcolony.org

Corolla Outback Adventures: On our Outer Banks wild horse tours, ride into our "Outback" area past the road's end, traversing several refuge areas and sanctuary sites like the Wild Horse Estates Conservation easement. Along the way we often see a variety of shore birds and other wildlife and of course our Colonial Spanish Mustangs! Learn the history and local lore discovering what makes this wild part of the Outer Banks unlike any other place on earth, interpreted by Corolla's most experienced guide service. Now booked by Kitty Hawk Kites, contact 252. 441.1719 x204 or feel free to email: group_sales@kittyhawk.com



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

OBX Taste of the Beach, 3rd week in March: This annual foodie event features: wine tastings, cooking classes, special menu presentations, brewery tours, tapas crawls, cook-offs, showdowns and throwdowns, 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, 3rd 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 and 1st weekend in December, 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



OBXmas Weekends, Thanksgiving through Old Christmas.... Start a new tradition and join us for a holiday weekend, Anchored by the [Elizabethan Gardens WinterLights](#); take part in beach celebrations, holiday musical shows and unbelievable holiday shopping events.

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 and regional dignitaries.

