

A young girl in a purple shirt and blue shorts is running on a sandy beach, holding the string of a large, colorful fish-shaped kite. The kite is yellow, red, and blue with large black eyes. Other kites, including a rainbow-striped one and a purple one with orange spots, are also flying in the sky. The background shows a calm body of water, a line of green trees, and a clear blue sky.

Family Fun Guide to the OBX

The Outer Banks[®]
OF NORTH CAROLINA

outerbanks.org

3 Reasons Why the OBX is Perfect for Families

1 IT'S THE BEST PLACE TO MAKE NEW FAMILY MEMORIES

The "OBX" as called by its fans, consists of three island areas with 100+ miles of ocean shoreline that curve far out into the Atlantic Ocean for a dynamic environment you won't find elsewhere. The expansive, natural beaches and wide-open parks of the Outer Banks feel exotic, but you don't have to take an airplane or cruise to get here, just hop in the car!

2 THE ISLANDS ARE ENJOYABLE YEAR-ROUND

As you can imagine life on a barrier island is at the mercy of the weather, which is just fine by us. Seasons change, each with their own definite characteristics that make the Outer Banks special. The one constant? There's something to see and do nearly every day of the year, regardless of the weather. Largely, this is due to the Gulf Stream and its cooling effects during the summer, its warming effects in the winter. Kind of like a giant radiator.

3 A NEVER-ENDING LIST OF THINGS TO DO

Whether you are a history buff, outdoor adventurer or admirer of architecture, take the time to rediscover our nation's heritage here. Today, you can visit attractions that celebrate our Elizabethan history, like The Lost Colony, Roanoke Island Festival Park and the Elizabethan Gardens. Visitors can experience the magic of first flight at the Wright Brothers National Memorial, and the spirit of flight remains alive at Jockey's Ridge State Park, North Carolina's most visited state park, and tallest sand dunes on the East Coast—a favorite spot for hang gliding and kite flying. See the Bodie Island Lighthouse and the majestic Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, which stands at 208 feet, the tallest in the United States. These sites are among the many treasures found here.



THINGS TO DO *with the family*



LIGHTHOUSES

Visit our 5 area lighthouses that have helped mariners maneuver the coast for centuries.



STARGAZING

Unspoiled, intensely clear nights create a pristine environment for stargazing and planet spotting.



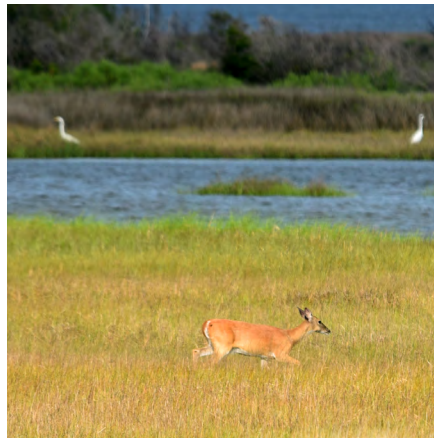
HORSEBACK RIDING

Horseback rides along the south end of Hatteras Island are a unique way to explore the habitat of the coast.



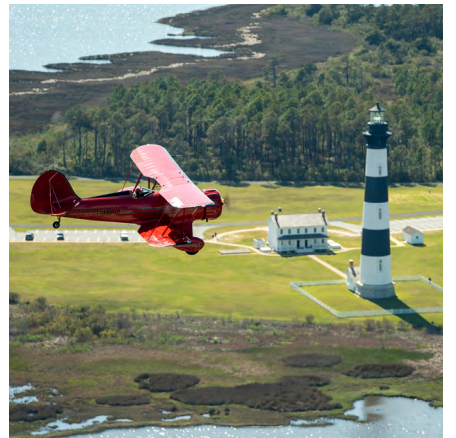
FIRST FLIGHT MEMORIAL

Celebrate the journey & discovery of aviation at the Wright Brothers National Memorial.



PARKS

The OBX has a great collection of national, state and town parks, refuges, maritime forests, and more.



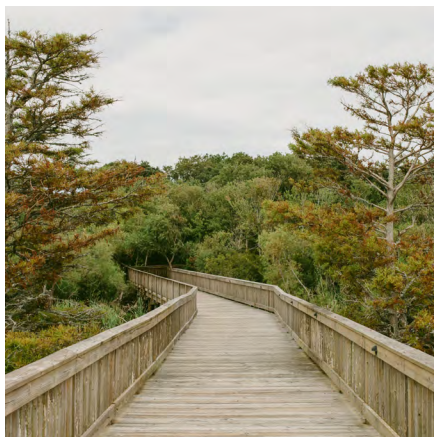
AERIAL TOURS

Get a bird's eye view of the famous Oregon Inlet or look for shipwrecks in the Atlantic waters below.



FISHING

Find charter boats, fishing piers, license info and other angling opportunities for the whole family.



HIKING & TRAILS

Take the avenue less traveled and explore beaches and one of our three maritime forests.



CAMPING

Many of our campsites are only a few sandy steps away from the ocean, nestled near rolling dunes.

OUTDOOR *family activities*

@obxforever



ADVENTURE PARKS

Bring your family along for rope and obstacle courses, ziplines and more to test your limits.



THE LOST COLONY

Become immersed in the theatrical discovery of a new world & try to solve America's oldest mystery.



THE ELIZABETHAN GARDENS

Located within Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, the Gardens feature botanical & sculptural delights.



JOCKEY'S RIDGE STATE PARK

This 400-acre park features the tallest natural sand dunes on the East Coast.



MINI GOLF & GO KARTS

Take a break from the beach for a range of fun to keep the whole crew smiling.



ISLAND FARM

A living history site interpreting daily life on Roanoke Island in the mid-1800s.

INDOOR *family activities*



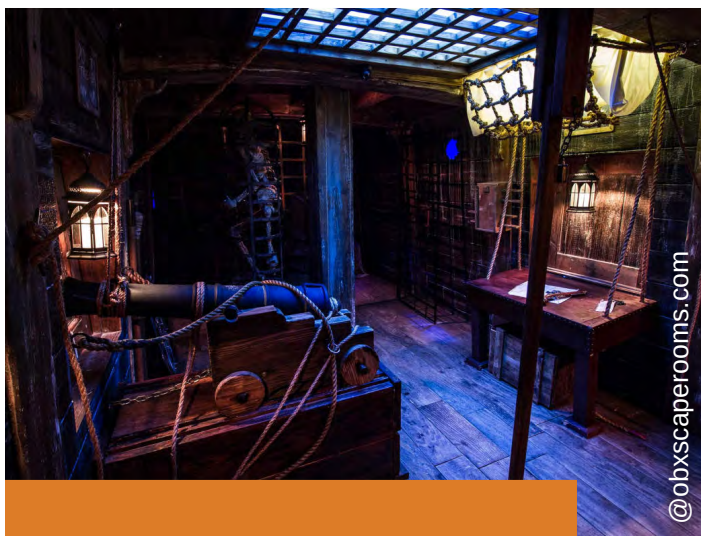
NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island

Exhibits educate visitors as they journey through coastal freshwater habitats to find river otters, turtles, and American alligators. Conservation efforts can be witnessed first-hand in the Sea Turtle Assistance and Rehabilitation (STAR) Center. Wander into a sunken treasure ship as various marine animals swim all around. Touch a stingray, wonder at sea jellies, and marvel at history. Watch sharks cruise by in the 285,000-gallon Graveyard of the Atlantic habitat. Free daily programs, fee-based tours, and outdoor adventures are offered.



Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum

The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum offers programming year-round for people of all ages. Daily offerings include a family and youth-friendly scavenger hunt that has visitors searching for objects throughout the museum and receiving a special surprise for their efforts. The museum also introduces a new exhibit annually. Admission to the museum is free. Their programs are also free unless otherwise noted. The museum is temporarily closed for construction on their new exhibits with an expected open date in Summer of 2024.



Indoor Amusements

Families can immerse themselves in the world of escape rooms, virtual reality gaming or movie nights in theaters. For those seeking creative outlets, pottery painting studios offer a chance to express artistic flair while creating lasting mementos. Additionally, indoor trampoline parks, arcade centers and a bowling alley provide hours of energetic fun, ensuring rainy days are filled with laughter and excitement.



Family Friendly Restaurants

The Outer Banks has many kid-friendly restaurants for easy (and tasty!) dining for the entire family. Good vibes, special menus that please even the pickiest of eaters, exceptional service are just a few characteristics that set our kid-friendly dining spots apart. Cancel the babysitter and bring everyone along to feast on some of the best food along the North Carolina coast.



Ready to visit?

Start planning at
OUTERBANKS.ORG

Help us **LEAVE NO TRACE**

Our coast's public lands are a great resource for hiking, wildlife viewing, fishing, relaxing and so much more. Because of this, we want to ensure that our land and natural resources are protected and we encourage our visitors and locals to practice these 7 leave no trace principles. Follow the QR code for more tips to keep this place special.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel/Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impact
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors



CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE

The National Seashore extends more than 70 miles from South Nags Head to Ocracoke Inlet, covering 30,000 acres and is the first national seashore in the country.

Interested in volunteering with local
non-profits during your next visit?

Click here!

