

The Outer Banks®

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Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) Updates for the Outer Banks National Parks (Dare County)

We are pleased to announce the National Park Service/Outer Banks Group will only charge one \$300 CUA applicant fee for all three NPS sites located in Dare County which includes the Wright Brothers National Memorial, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

What is a CUA? A commercial use authorization (CUA) allows an individual, group, company, or other for-profit entity to conduct commercial activities and provide specific visitor services within a national park unit. To find out more about the NPS CUA or visit: www.nps.gov/aboutus/commercial-use-authorizations.htm. A current CUA will be required by a commercial tour operator for each and every park it visits. CUA application fees are a once a year fee for each National Park you're visiting.

As tour planning begins for 2020, we've made a quick glance chart that will hopefully help you when planning your tours for our area:

Name of the Outer Banks National Park Sites, located in Dare County	CUA Costs starting 01/01/20: (1) \$300 CUA Fee for all three NPS sites located in Dare County	Admission Fees and CUA Management Fees starting 01/01/20
Wright Brothers National Memorial	See above	\$10.00 per person on the motorcoach (\$5 entrance fee, \$5 CUA management fee)
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site (includes the following site: The Lost Colony Outdoor Drama)	See above	\$5.00 per person on the Motorcoach (CUA management fee)
Cape Hatteras National Seashore (includes the following sites: Bodie Island Light, Cape Hatteras Light and Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum)	See above	\$5.00 per person on the Motorcoach (CUA management fee)

Wright Brothers National Memorial



Fort Raleigh National Historic Site



Cape Hatteras National Seashore



Frequently Asked Questions

1) Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and Cape Hatteras National Seashore will both require a \$5.00 per person admission fee starting on January 1, 2020; this will be self-reported by the CUA holder and is due at the end of each calendar year. Mandatory self-reporting is required.

2) The National Park Service Outer Banks Group requires at least 4 weeks to process a completed CUA application and road-based commercial tour operators must obtain a CUA before operating in the Parks. See the links within the chart above to access information about the Outer Banks Group CUA.

3) All NPS passes such as golden age pass are not valid when traveling with a road-based commercial tour operating under a CUA (as defined below)..

4) Who needs to acquire the road-based commercial tour CUA – the tour operator or the chartered motorcoach company? The responsibility for obtaining a road-based commercial tour CUA will fall on the company that packaged, priced, and sold the tour. A chartered motorcoach company does not need a road-based commercial tour CUA if the tour company paying for charter service determines the origin, destination, and scheduling of the trip. A charter company advertising tours to national parks, however, meets the definition of road-based commercial tour and must have a road-based commercial tour CUA.

Parks may continue issuing chartered transportation providers a road-based transportation CUA if managing the use is necessary for preservation of park resources and values (e.g., limited or controlled parking availability). When a tour company uses the services of a chartered transportation company with a road-based transportation CUA, the tour company does not need to secure a separate CUA unless the tour group disembarks from the vehicle while within the park.

Note - The Outer Banks Group parks do not require CUAs for chartered transportation providers as defined above.

5) Is the CUA permit fee for student groups waived?

If the school group is hiring a transportation-only service such as a chartered motor coach as described above, that service does not meet the definition of road-based commercial tours if those services are not prepackaged. A transportation-only service does not require a CUA and therefore CUA fees do not apply. However, if the activity includes a tour as described above, then a road-based commercial tour CUA is required. If a road-based CUA is required, then fees apply. [Click here for Academic Fee Waiver information](#)

6) Does the CUA permit and per person self reporting admission fees apply to those attending The Lost Colony and the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum? If the group visiting the parks and /or areas within the park/s managed by National Park Service partners or commercial operators (such as The Lost Colony or the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum) is hiring a transportation-only service such as a chartered motor coach as described above, that service does not meet the definition of road-based commercial tours if those services are not prepackaged. A transportation-only service does not require a CUA and therefore CUA fees do not apply.

However, if the activity includes a tour of park areas, then a road-based commercial tour CUA is required. If a road-based CUA is required, then fees apply.

Have additional questions, please feel free to call or if you'd like to reach out to our local NPS with any questions, please feel free to contact them directly:

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