

THE OUTER BANKS

of North Carolina

Affectionately known as the OBX, this series of sandbars is a land of firsts...the first attempt at settlement in the New World, the Wright Brothers' first flight and the first National Seashore, home to America's tallest lighthouse at Cape Hatteras

The barrier islands of the Outer Banks, are old, ancient even, but they haven't been around forever. All it took was a few thousand years of currents converging offshore to tease them up from the depths, and then a perennial tug-of-war between seasonal winds to groom their shape. The grains of sand are forever wandering, but that's a big part of what makes the experience out here feel so alive. We know them as barrier islands because they shield North Carolina's vast estuaries -- among the most prolific natural fish nurseries in the world -- from the waves of the Atlantic Ocean. Each rhythmic wave coming to rest after traveling the globe, adding and creating in the surf, like an artist's brush stroke. A canvas that's never fully completed, always at work. A front seat to Mother Nature in a place that many consider paradise on earth.



**Leave boundaries behind
and step outside the box.**

Start planning a full year's worth of bucket list "firsts". Visit outerbanks.org/bucketlist for a full list.

**Call (877) 629-4386 for FREE travel
planning advice from local experts**

OBX TOP 10

1. JOCKEY'S RIDGE

Watch a one-of-a-kind sunset at Jockey's Ridge. This 426-acre park has the largest natural living sand dune on the East Coast.

2. WRIGHT BROTHER'S NATIONAL MEMORIAL

One of the OBX's three National Parks, celebrates the journey of invention and discovery taken on the outskirts of Kitty Hawk in 1903.

3. LIGHTHOUSE CLIMBING

Climb the tallest brick lighthouse in America at Cape Hatteras. The iconic black and white spiral landmark has served as a warning to generations of mariners.

4. GOOD EATS

Cool down with some sweet treats or savor some locally harvested "Outer Banks Catch" at one of the OBX's 100+ locally-owned restaurants.

5. SET SAIL WITH A HISTORY LESSON

Experience what life at sea was like aboard Elizabeth II at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. Down the street, see the mystery of the Roanoke Island colonists' disappearance unfold at The Lost Colony Outdoor Drama. America's longest running outdoor drama.

6. BEACH BUMMING

Spend the day soaking in the rays and strolling the shoreline. Our beach piers are also home to great views.

7. REEL IN THE BIG ONE

Reel in your own catch at Jennette's Pier or hop a charter boat for the Gulf Stream and go after world-class game fish.

8. TRY SOMETHING NEW

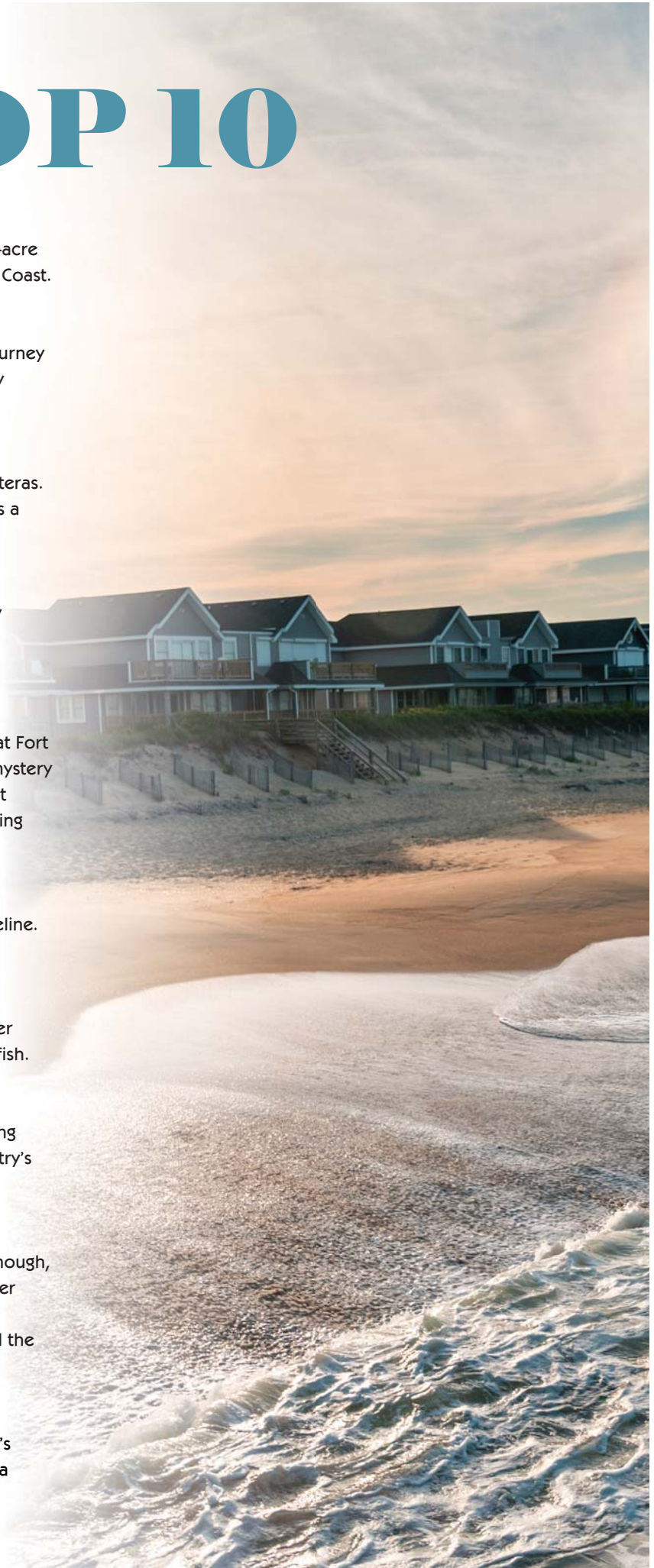
It's vacation! Stretch your comfort zone and try something new. Stand up paddle, ride horses, or explore the country's first national seashore at Cape Hatteras.

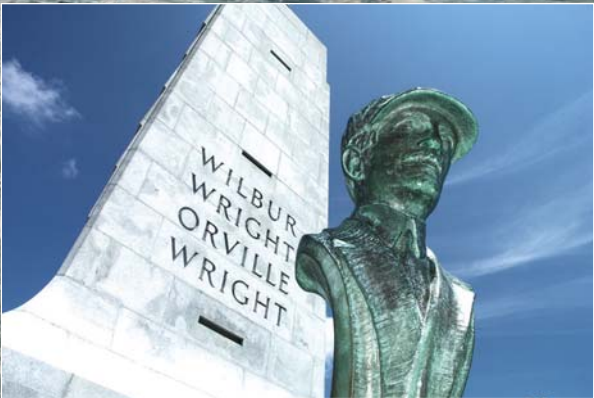
9. TEE TIME

If the ocean breezes and beautiful landscape weren't enough, you can enjoy year-round golf at the fairways in the Outer Banks region. Play a round at one of seven coastal golf courses gracing the OBX and admire maritime forest and the Atlantic as you putt your way around the area.

10. THE ELIZABETHAN GARDENS

Ponder one of the most poignant chapters in our nation's history as you stroll The Elizabethan Gardens and enjoy a tapestry of beauty.





NAVIGATING THE ISLANDS

Roanoke Island & Dare Mainland

Where it all started. Roanoke Island, with the town of Manteo and village of Wanchese, are known for beautiful waterfront access to the Croatan Sound and Roanoke Sound, offering plush natural marshes and a variety of luxury, recreational and commercial marinas. The centerpiece is a charming downtown with walkable shopping and several nearby attractions celebrating the OBX's place in history as the first attempted English settlement in America, circa 1584-1587. Fort Raleigh Historic Site is located on Roanoke Island.

Northern Beaches

This is what we collectively call the five oceanfront towns of Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills and Nags Head. Of course, they each have their own story and appeal, but generally consider this area to be a bit more buzzing with plenty of restaurants, shopping and lodging options from which to choose. If you've got folks in your group that just have to keep moving, or have more essential needs, this might be the island for you. Wright Brothers National Memorial is located on the Northern Beaches.

Hatteras Island

The villages of Hatteras Island appeal to travelers who want to get a little farther away from it all. They have that slightly rustic throwback vacation vibe where it's all about access to the beach and the many ways to enjoy it. Just about everything is a family-owned and operated business, from amazing seafood markets to the motels and inns, and campgrounds near the shore for those who prefer to sleep under a blanket of stars. Go fishing, drive on the beach or climb the tallest lighthouse in the country within America's first National Seashore, Cape Hatteras.

Three national park sites, national wildlife refuges and state park sites connect the spaces between the towns and villages along a 100-mile stretch of shoreline. The weather and character of the islands ebb and flow as you travel the miles between Duck and Hatteras, making it more likely you'll find a spot that's just right for your personal taste. The islands are connected by bridges and within reach of one another.

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