

Traditions, Trades and Treasures

A COMMUNITY HERITAGE TRAIL ALONG THE OUTER BANKS BYWAY



"Tell me where you're from and I'll tell you who you are ..." — WALLACE STEGNER, HISTORIAN

Welcome to a place where the past and the present come together in communities connected by the geography of the land and the sea that surrounds them and the history and culture that define them.

Traditions here run generations deep, from building wooden boats to fishing the salty waters of the Atlantic. Whether a fisherman, a decoy carver, a quilter, a cook, a fishing guide or a ferry captain, people here continue a way of life that has been shaped by the tide and wind, the abundant fish and game, and the deep sense of community that has weathered storms for hundreds of years. There are artists and artisans, musicians and songwriters, balladeers and historians of all kinds along these shores too.

Visitors are welcome to become part of our communities — whether for a day, a week, or a lifetime. Come to listen and learn from the time-honored heritage that makes this place what it is today, and what we hope it will be tomorrow.

Be sure to see...

- 1) Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station Milepost 39.5, Hwy 12, Rodanthe 252-987-1552 chicamacomico.net
- 2) Hatteras Island Working Waterfronts Located throughout the Villages of Hatteras Island
- 3) Hatteras Island Weather Bureau Station 57190 Kohler Rd, Hatteras 252-986-2203 nps.gov/caha
- 4) Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum 59200 Museum Drive, Hatteras 252-986-2995 graveyardoftheatlantic.com
- 5) Ocracoke Fish House 416 Irwin Garrish Highway, Ocracoke 252-928-5601 ocracokeseafood.org
- 6) Ocracoke Community Square & Watermen's Exhibit 280 Irwin Garrish Highway, Ocracoke 252-921-0365 ocracokefoundation.org
- 7) Ocracoke Preservation Society 49 Water Plant Road, Ocracoke 252-928-7375 ocracokepreservation.org

Down East Community Harbors:

- Cedar Island: 2726 Cedar Island Road
 Atlantic: 1185 Seashore Drive
 Marshallberg: 1266 Marshallberg Road
 Harkers Island: 200 Island Road



Decoy carving and duck hunting are long-standing traditions in the Outer Banks, and in particular, Down East.

BEYOND the Byway

Wanchese, Outer Banks History Center (Manteo), NC Maritime Museum, Historic Beaufort (Downtown Beaufort)

Land, Sea and Lighthouses

A MARITIME HISTORY TRAIL ALONG THE OUTER BANKS BYWAY

"The Blue Book says we gotta go out, don't say nothin' 'bout coming back." — US LIFESAVING SERVICE MOTTO

waves, between lookout stations and shipwrecks ... living in a place where weather rules, geography dictates and strong men and women are born and grow resilient. That's what the history of the Outer Banks is made of.

Despite the notion that these communities were isolated, the area was the setting for many events of national and international significance. In addition to German U-boats hunting and torpedoing Allied vessels during World War II, Civil War battles were waged here, early radio communications took place here, military aviation took a giant step forward and great storms exacted heavy tolls on ships and communities alike.

Take some time to explore the lighthouses, museums and many historic markers that reverently tell the tales of the heroic figures who kept our shores safe in times of peace as well as in times of war. Their stories live on from generation to generation and we are proud to share them.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- The NC Civil War Trail - It features 15 locations where markers have been placed to honor the historical significance of the Outer Banks during this conflict. graveyardoftheatlantic.com/flagsoverhatteras/Civil_War_Trail.htm
- NC Historic Markers - A full listing of the historic markers in this region. ncmarkers.com
- Outer Banks Maritime Heritage Trail - Various historical sites on the Outer Banks. monitor.noaa.gov/obxtrail/

Be sure to see...

- 1) Bodie Island Lighthouse 8210 Bodie Island Lighthouse Rd., Nags Head 252-473-2111 nps.gov/caha/historyculture/bodie-island-light-station.htm
- 2) Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station 23645 N.C. Hwy 12, Rodanthe 252-987-1552 chicamacomico.net
- 3) Cape Hatteras Lighthouse & British Cemetery 46368 - 46379 Old Lighthouse Rd., Buxton 252-473-2111 nps.gov/caha
- 4) Hatteras Island Weather Bureau Station 57190 Kohler Rd, Hatteras 252-986-2203 nps.gov/caha
- 5) Hotel De'Afrique Civil War Period Historical Marker 59200 Museum Drive (at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum), Hatteras 252-986-2995 graveyardoftheatlantic.com
- 6) Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum 59200 Museum Drive, Hatteras 252-986-2995 graveyardoftheatlantic.com
- 7) Loop Shack Memorial 1275 Irwin Garrish Highway, Ocracoke
- 8) Teach's Hole Blackbeard Exhibit 935 Irwin Garrish Hwy, Ocracoke 252-928-1718 teachshole.com
- 9) Ocracoke Lighthouse 400 Lighthouse Road, Ocracoke 252-473-2111 nps.gov/caha/historyculture/ocracoke-island-lighthouse.htm
- 10) Ocracoke British Cemetery 500 British Cemetery Road, Ocracoke nps.gov/caha/historyculture/british-cemetery.htm
- 11) Fort Ocracoke Monument Near National Park Service Visitor Center, Ocracoke
- 12) Ocracoke World War II Navy Base Cistern Near National Park Service Visitor Center, Ocracoke
- 13) Cape Lookout Lighthouse Access via Ferry, Private Boat or Kayak 252-728-2250 nps.gov/caloc
- 14) Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station Access via Ferry, Private Boat or Kayak 252-728-2250 nps.gov/caloc
- 15) Cape Lookout National Seashore Headquarters 1800 Island Road, Harkers Island 252-728-2250 nps.gov/caloc
- 16) Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center 1785 Island Road, Harkers Island 252-728-1500 coresound.com

NC Historical Markers Various sites throughout the region: ncmarkers.com

BEYOND the Byway

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site & Freedmen's Colony, Roanoke Island Festival Park, Roanoke Island Maritime Museum, Lifesaving Station Cookhouse at Collins Park (Manteo), Fort Macon, NC Maritime Museum (Beaufort)



BEYOND the Byway

Swan Quarter-Ocracoke Ferry, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (Manteo Headquarters), Jennette's Pier (Nags Head), Jockey's Ridge State Park (Nags Head), Rachel Carson Reserve (Beaufort)

Marsh, Sound and Maritime Forest Discoveries

AN OUTDOOR RECREATION TRAIL ALONG THE OUTER BANKS BYWAY

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

— RACHEL CARSON, SILENT SPRING

The seasons bring natural changes that make this place a wonderful area to explore and experience year round. From kite boarding, surfing, swimming and shelling to duck hunting, hiking and bird watching, these communities offer outdoor adventures beyond compare. For those who wish to watch beautiful sunsets and explore night skies, to those who want to ride the waves, catch the big fish, or kayak through the marsh grass for new discoveries, this is a place for you.

The "great outdoors" is no greater anywhere than along the Outer Banks of North Carolina; its fragile barrier island system and its sound side maritime forests provide unequalled opportunities for those who long for a place to explore the natural world.

Pea Island NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge bird list boasts more than 365 species, with concentrations of ducks, geese, swans, wading birds, shore birds, raptors, neotropical migrants seasonally abundant.

Be sure to see...

- 1) Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge 10 miles south of Nags Head, on NC 12 252-987-2394 fws.gov/peaisland/
- 2) Cape Hatteras National Seashore Whalebone Junction through Ocracoke Island 252-473-2111 nps.gov/caha
- 3) Salvo Day Use Area 27766 Highway 12, Salvo
- 4) Canadian Hole/Haulover Day Use Area 46556 NC 12, Avon
- 5) Buxton Woods Coastal Reserve & Nature Trail Old Doctor's Road & Highway 12, Buxton ncoastalreserve.net/About-The-Reserve/Reserve-Sites/Buxton-Woods/84.aspx
- 6) Hatteras Island Ocean Center's Education Center & Ecology Park Milepost 71, in the Beacon Shops, Hatteras hioceancenter.org
- 7) Hatteras Village Sea Breeze Trail Eagle Pass Road, Hatteras Village hatterasonmymind.com
- 8) Hatteras-Ocracoke Ferry End of N.C. Highway 12, Hatteras Village ncdot.gov/ferry/
- 9) Ocracoke Pony Pen NC 12, North of Ocracoke Village <http://nps.gov/caha/historyculture/ocracokeponies.htm>
- 10) Hammock Hills Nature Trail NC 12, North of Ocracoke Village
- 11) Springer's Point Preserve Loop Road, Ocracoke coastallandtrust.org/springers-point
- 12) Portsmouth Village (Core Banks) Portsmouth Island 252-728-2250 nps.gov/caloc/planyourvisit/visitportsmouth.htm
- 13) Ocracoke-Cedar Island Ferry Highway 12, South of Ocracoke Village ncdot.gov/ferry/
- 14) Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge NC 12, Cedar Island 252-225-2511 fws.gov/cedarland/
- 15) Maritime Forest/Willow Pond Trail 1785 Island Road, at Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center and Cape Lookout Visitors Center Harkers Island 252-728-1500 coresound.com
- 16) Cape Lookout and Shackleford Banks Access via Ferry, Private Boat or Kayak 252-728-2250 nps.gov/caloc/index.htm
- 17) Core Banks Access via Ferry, Private Boat or Kayak 252-728-2250 nps.gov/caloc/index.htm

Public boat ramps are located at Bodie Island, Ocracoke, Cedar Island, Sea Level, Davis and Harkers Island

NC CATCH REAL LOCAL SEAFOOD

BE SURE TO ASK FOR LOCAL SEAFOOD DURING YOUR STAY

For more information on local fishermen, events, programs, markets and restaurants throughout the region, visit nccatch.org

OCRACOKE FRESH
Caught today the traditional way

Carteret Catch
Select NC seafood from the fishermen of Carteret County

OUTER BANKS CATCH
Local fishermen approved

OUTER BANKS REAL LOCAL SEAFOOD
outerbanksreallocalseafood.com

SEAFOOD EVENTS

Day at the Docks
Hatteras Village
Mid-September, 8 August
Core Sound Waterfront Museum & Heritage Center
252-728-1500
Last Saturday of December
ocraokevillage.com

Ocracoke Oyster Roast
dayatthedocks.org

Taste of Core Sound
Last Friday of February

BUY LOCAL SEAFOOD
Always ask for NC seafood to get a high quality, great tasting product that is carefully managed under regulations that protect the health of consumers, and support the economy, Banks National Scenic Byway where you will find genuine local seafood. You will love it!

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From Dock To Table

A LOCAL SEAFOOD TRAIL ALONG THE OUTER BANKS BYWAY

— SIR WALTER SCOTT

"It's not fish ye're buyin', it's men's lives."

Commercial fishing built the courthouses and the businesses of these communities; it's built the schools and churches, our homes and provided for us for generations. Fishing dollars have built our communities," said a community leader at the annual Blessing of the Fleet several years back. And what he said then is still true.

The communities of the Outer Banks Byway were all founded on fishing: first for subsistence, then for a vibrant commercial market for shrimp, clams, crabs, oysters and fish of all kinds. Incomes, determined by weather, the ebbs and flows of migrating fish, and market changes, sustained the economic base of Hatteras Island, Ocracoke and Down East villages for generations. Fishing did, in fact, build these communities and continues to sustain them.

The men and women who work the water continue to define the character of the people — independent and self-reliant. Today, fishing — in all its manifestations — commercial, charter and recreational — is still the anchor for our communities.

Once you have tasted North Carolina's local seafood, whether from a retailer, restaurant or self-caught, you will be hooked!

Local restaurants take pride in serving fresh and local fish, many honoring the names and faces of the fishermen who brought that day's catch to the dock. Look for the local Catch logos at restaurants and markets throughout the region, assuring you that local seafood will be on your dinner table that evening.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING NC CATCH.ORG
LOCAL SEAFOOD. PLEASE VISIT: [NC CATCH.ORG](http://nccatch.org)

SCENIC BYWAY

The 138-mile Outer Banks National Scenic Byway

They invite you to share with them their deep-rooted traditions and heritage of fishing, boat building, decoy carving and numerous other maritime activities as you meander along this beautiful scenic highway through Hatteras Island, Ocracoke and Down East. 21 traditional communities inhabited by people who have lived and worked here for centuries.

The Byway is best experienced by allowing multiple days for your trip.

Learn more at outerbanksbyway.org

FERRY TRAVEL TIMES

Cedar Island to Ocracoke: 2 hours, 15 minutes
Swan Quarter to Ocracoke: 2 hours, 30 minutes
Hatteras to Ocracoke: 45 minutes

For ferry information and schedules visit ncdot.gov/ferry

OUTER BANKS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

Outer Banks Heritage Trails

For additional visitor information, including lodging, attractions, retail and shopping listings, please visit:

The Outer Banks National Scenic Byway
877-629-4386 | outerbanksbyway.org

The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau
877-629-4386 | outerbanks.org

The Ocracoke Civic and Business Association
252-928-6711 | ocraokevillage.com

Crystal Coast Tourism Authority
800-786-6962 | crystalcoastnc.org

For ferry information and reservations, please visit: ncdot.gov/ferry

Events Along the Byway

SPRING/SUMMER

Portsmouth Island Homecoming, Portsmouth Village
- Biannual Event - Last Saturday of April, Even-Numbered Years
friendsofportsmouthisland.org

Hatteras Storytelling Festival
- First Weekend of May
hatteras yarns.org

Ocracoke Independence Day Celebration
- July 4th
ocraokevillage.com

British Cemetery Remembrances, Ocracoke and Buxton
- Second Weekend of May
ocraokevillage.com

Hatteras Community Fish Fry, Avon and Hatteras
- Every Saturday from Memorial Day to Labor Day
hatterasonmymind.com

Ocracoke Festival
- First Weekend of June
ocraokefestival.org

Ocracoke Opry
- Every Wednesday during the Summer
molassescreek.com

Core Sound Rig of Six, Harkers Island
- Third Saturday of June (Father's Day weekend)
coresound.com and decoyguild.com

Down East Fish Fry, Harkers Island
- Saturday of Fourth of July Weekend
coresound.com

Heroes Day, Rodanthe
- First Thursday of August
chicamacomico.net

Hatteras Island Arts & Craft Guild Summer Show, Buxton
- First Week of August
<https://facebook.com/pages/Hatteras-Island-Arts-Craft-Guild-Inc/392833937430698>

Summer Taste of Core Sound, Harkers Island
- Last Friday of August
coresound.com

FALL/WINTER

Day at the Docks, Hatteras Village
- Third Saturday of September
dayatthedocks.org

Wings Over Water, Hatteras Island
- Last Weekend of October
wingsoverwater.org

Core Sound Christmas, Davis
- Saturday of Thanksgiving Weekend
coresound.com

Blackbeard's Pirate Jamboree, Ocracoke
- Last Weekend of October
piratejamboree.com

Hatteras Island Arts & Craft Guild Holiday Show
- Thanksgiving Weekend
<https://facebook.com/pages/Hatteras-Island-Arts-Craft-Guild-Inc/392833937430698>

Core Sound Decoy Festival & Waterfowl Weekend, Harkers Island
- First Weekend of December
coresound.com, decoyguild.com

Ocracoke Working Watermen's Annual Oyster Roast
- Last Saturday of December
ocraokewatermen.org

Winter Taste of Core Sound, Harkers Island
- Last Friday of February
coresound.com

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PHOTO CREDITS
Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, Crystal Coast TDA, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Cape Lookout National Seashore, Ocracoke Foundation, Ocracoke Preservation Society, Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center, The Albatross Fleet, Down East Kayaks, Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, Outer Banks National Scenic Byway, Ocracoke Civic and Business Association and many talented and generous community members.

Outer Banks Heritage Trails

ALONG THE OUTER BANKS BYWAY
138 Miles • One Byway • Four Trails

COMMUNITY HERITAGE • MARITIME HISTORY
OUTDOOR RECREATION • LOCAL SEAFOOD

OUTER BANKS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

AMERICA'S BYWAYS

www.outerbankstrails.org