

Outer Banks Flights and Lights

Spend a day learning about flight, from the past to the present, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Climb to the top of the only lighthouse in North Carolina still housed in its original structure. Visit a handsome hunt club that recently underwent a \$5 million restoration, enjoy some of the best seafood around and learn the history of the early colonists and seamen in this beautiful yet rugged area.

3-Day Itinerary

Day 1

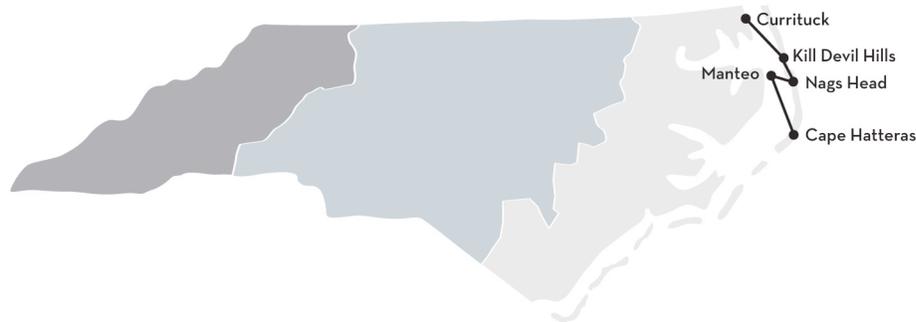
Visit Wright Brothers National Memorial, Jockey's Ridge, Duck, Currituck and Roanoke Island: a day on the the North Carolina Outer Banks

Day 2

Find delicious fare in Currituck, Roanoke Island and Manteo

Day 3

Experience the natural beauty of Cape Hatteras and Bodie Island



With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 3-day itinerary. Enjoy all the area has to offer by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Time indicators are recommendations only. Feel free to spend as much or as little time as your schedule allows. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.

DAY 1

A visit to the Outer Banks must include the **Wright Brothers National Memorial** to see the spot 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 for 12 seconds before returning to the ground. Wander through the visitor center, which features full-scale reproductions of the 1902 glider and the 1903 flying machine built by the brothers. Enjoy a presentation by the National Park Service interpreter. Explore the grounds and climb the 90-foot dune to the monument that marks the site where the Wright Brothers conducted many of their famous experiments in flight.

Time: 1-2 hours

Witness flight as it is still practiced today on the Outer Banks at **Jockey's Ridge State Park**. Here you will see the largest ever-changing sand dune on the East Coast and enjoy hang-gliding demonstrations from the largest hang-gliding school in America, Kitty Hawk Kites. Watch the hang-gliders take flight across the dune, do a little shopping, fly a kite or really get some exercise by climbing to the top of the dunes yourself.

Time: 1 hour

Time for refueling with a stop in the quaint town of **Duck** to enjoy lunch on the waterfront.

Next, visit the only lighthouse in North Carolina that is still housed in its original structure. Built in 1874, **Currituck Beach Lighthouse** stands 158 feet and contains one million bricks. The red brick structure was left unpainted to distinguish it from other lighthouses. The lighthouse is open to climbing; check the list of attractions for Currituck County for dates and times.

Time: 30 minutes

Located across from the Currituck Beach Lighthouse is **Whalehead Club**. Take a tour of this recently restored hunt club built in the 1920s by wealthy industrialist Edward C. Knight. See the recreational facility used by genteel society in this club built for Knight's wife as a place for hunting game and waterfowl.

Time: 1 hour

Head back to your hotel for a break before dinner. Choose from one of the unique, locally owned restaurants featuring fresh North Carolina Seafood.

To round out an exciting day, depart for Roanoke Island and take in the outdoor drama ***The Lost Colony***. Located on the banks of Roanoke Sound, America's oldest outdoor drama is performed in the scenic Waterside Theater. *The Lost Colony* dramatizes the story of

England's ill-fated first attempt to colonize the New World. Performances are held nightly (except Saturdays) from mid-June through the end of August.

DAY 2

Driving south through Currituck County along NC 158, there are a number of **Roadside Vegetable** and **Fruit Markets** from which to choose some delicious snacks for your second day's adventure. On NC 158 at Jarvisburg, the **Cotton Gin** offers a variety of shopping specialties.

Breakfast at one of the many area hotels or restaurants known for their hearty Southern breakfasts. Then begin a full day's exploration of historic Roanoke Island.

The first stop is the **Fort Raleigh National Historic Site**, where Sir Walter Raleigh's explorers established a settlement in 1585. At the Fort Raleigh Visitor Center, view a film presentation and a wide variety of exhibits; then browse through the Lost Colony Craft and Gift Shop.

Stroll through the lovely **Elizabethan Gardens** located on the Fort Raleigh grounds, featuring the Sunken Garden and Queen's Rose Garden, as well as a variety of herbs, wildflowers, plants and graceful statuary commemorating Queen Elizabeth and the lost colonists.

Take some time to explore charming **Downtown Manteo** and the newly developed Waterfront area; then dine at one of the fine restaurants overlooking the Roanoke Sound. Or, if you are in a shopping mood visit the **Christmas Shop and Island Art Gallery**. Browse through the art gallery that features arts and crafts from both local and nationally known artists. Located right next door is the **Weeping Radish Restaurant & Brewery**, where you can lunch on Bavarian cuisine and take a brewery tour.

After lunch, a relaxing, informative visit to the **North Carolina Aquarium** is a perfect choice. Learn about the abundant life in the Outer Banks waters and marshes. Through a variety of exhibits, gain a better understanding of how the fury and the bounties of the sea influence life on the Outer Banks.

With renewed respect for the ocean's power, climb aboard a replica of the 16th-century sailing vessel used in the first voyages to Roanoke Island. At Festival Park, homeport of the Elizabeth II, you'll be met by

professionally trained interpreters and, in the summer season, find mariners and colonists wearing 16th-century garb and speaking in the Elizabethan dialect.

Savor a fantastic dinner at one of the rustic local seafood restaurants.

DAY 3

Begin your day's adventure by exploring the natural beauty of the **Cape Hatteras National Seashore**.

The first stop we recommend is at the **Bodie Island Lighthouse**. Although the lighthouse is not open for climbing, the sheer beauty of this historical structure warrants the visit – continue your trip south to **Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge**. Nature lovers will marvel at the many varieties of waterfowl that inhabit the Outer Banks, especially in the fall and winter months.

Your next stop is the village of Rodanthe at the **Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station**, where you'll learn about daring ocean rescues by brave seamen. One of seven lifesaving stations built along the Outer Banks, this historic building and boathouse housed the lifesaving service that was predecessor to the United States Coast Guard. Stroll through the Visitor Center for exhibits and fascinating historical information.

As you continue south along the National Seashore, view the spectacular yet fragile natural beauty of the barrier islands. Buxton Village contains one of the nation's best-known landmarks, the magnificent **Cape Hatteras Lighthouse**. This black and white, spiral-striped lighthouse holds the distinction of being the tallest brick lighthouse in the United States. The 368 steps of this national landmark are open to climbing in the summer months. While at the lighthouse, be sure to stop in at the Museum of the Sea, housed in former lighthouse keepers' quarters.

Venture to the Village of Hatteras and board the free ferry for the 1/2-hour ride to Ocracoke Island, a favorite haunt of the fearsome Blackbeard the Pirate, until his death here in 1718. Stop for lunch at a local eatery and wander through this quaint historic town.

Catch the ferry back to Hatteras. If time and energy permit, stop at either **Organ Inlet Fishing Center** or **Pirate's Cove Yacht Club** in time to watch the charter fishing boats come in with their catch.

For more information on these or other locations and events on the Outer Banks please visit www.outerbanks.org