

The *Nights In Rodanthe* Film Trail

It's not often that filmmakers strive for 'reality' in their shooting locations, but the producers of the Warner Brothers film *Nights In Rodanthe*, based on a Nicholas Sparks novel, couldn't resist the unique flavor of the Outer Banks. In May of 2007, much of the movie was shot in and around the Village of Rodanthe, giving Outer Banks visitors a chance to experience some of the adventure and romance in the movie for themselves. Come along on this two-day itinerary and see the scenery the movie captured so well. You might even meet one of the locals who was in the film!

2-Day Itinerary

Day 1

Explore Manteo, Hatteras Island, and of course, Rodanthe, and take a few pictures of the beach house that plays such a prominent role in the film. Talk to a local who plays a small but crucial role in the film, and maybe hear one of the local musicians featured in a celebration scene.

Day 2

Travel like Richard Gere's character and take the NC Ferry off the Outer Banks, then drive to Wilmington to see where some of *Rodanthe*, as well as many other movies and television shows, are made.



With so much to see and do in the area, we recommend the following 2-day itinerary. Enjoy your visit by mixing and matching events to your particular interest. Be sure to check days and hours of operation for each venue.

Day One

Start your movie trail in the town of **Manteo**, where some scenes were shot at the boat slips downtown. Both Richard Gere and Diane Lane were spotted here often during filming, as both stayed at the **Tranquil House Inn** on Manteo's waterfront. Treat yourself like a movie star by dining at the Inn's restaurant, **1587**, or explore the town's rich history and boutique shopping.

From Manteo, cross the US Highway 64 Bridge and head south on NC Highway 12. You will immediately enter the **Cape Hatteras National Seashore** and be drawn in by the amazing wind-swept coastal scenery. You may want to consider stopping at the 156-foot **Bodie Island Lighthouse** on your way.

About fifteen miles further, just before you get to **Rodanthe**, you will start to encounter a set of twists in the road. In the movie, on the ocean side of Highway 12, a scene was filmed with Diane Lane and a herd of 'wild' Outer Banks horses. While there are indeed wild ponies on the Outer Banks, the ones in the movie were imported. However, this particular stretch of beach is very real and very popular, thanks to its dynamic shore and natural beauty.

Continue south for a few miles, and shortly after entering **Rodanthe**, turn left on Beacon Road to see the home that stood in for the "Inn at Rodanthe," where Lane's and Gere's characters meet. Called **Serendipity**, this vacation property no longer has the dramatic proximity to the ocean that made it a star. Despite relocation to safer ground, Serendipity still affords a romantic view of the sea. Decked out in its star-turn trim, the six-bedroom house is available for rent (reservations might be competitive), but even if you stay someplace else, you'll want to snap a picture.

An interesting story about the filming here: although a big storm (a nor'easter in the book, a hurricane in the movie) plays a major role in *Nights In Rodanthe*, the filmmakers were not happy when a real-life nor'easter (which eventually became Subtropical Storm Andrea) blew in while filming was about to get underway, and did minor damage to the Serendipity. The crew almost gave up and went somewhere else, but decided to wait it out. Ironically, however, the fierce rain you see pounding the Inn in the movie came not from Mother Nature but from a fire hose.

After getting some photos at the Serendipity, head a little further down the road to the **Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station**. No filming was actually done here, but the woman who will likely greet you at the Station, Linda Molloy, played the small but pivotal role of Jill Torrelson in the film. Linda will be happy to tell you about her experiences during the making of the film, and she might even show you the picture of her with Richard Gere in hospital scrubs!

Continue south on Highway 12 to two more film stops in Rodanthe: **JoBob's General Store**, where exteriors of residents buying storm supplies were filmed, and the **Hatteras Island Fishing Pier**, which was the scene of the 'We Survived The Hurricane' party the villagers throw themselves after the storm passes. The scene was shot with about 400 extras and most of the principal cast. The wind speed on the night of the filming was between 25-30 miles per hour, and filming lasted until four in the morning. It was a night that won't soon be forgotten by the locals here.

Further down Highway 12, enjoy a dinner at **The Captain's Table** or **Diamond Shoals** restaurants located in the heart of Buxton Village, and as you decide where to stay for the night, check around with locals to see if Katy Mitchell, Jules Garrish, or the band Coyote are playing music anywhere nearby. All appear in the *Nights In Rodanthe* movie, and all regularly perform on Hatteras or Ocracoke Islands.

Day Two

Begin your second day of the movie trail by driving on board the free **Hatteras-Ocracoke Ferry** which departs every half-hour from May through October. Scenes with Richard Gere were filmed on this route, as Gere's character Paul Flanner arrives on the island after driving in from Raleigh.

After the 45 minute ferry ride, enjoy your 16-mile drive on Ocracoke Island. A few scenes for the movie were also shot in **Ocracoke Village**, so take some time here and enjoy sights such as the **Ocracoke Lighthouse**, the **Banker Pony Pens**, and **Teach's Hole Blackbeard Exhibit and Pirate Specialty Shop**.

Then, it's time to get on board another ferry, this time, a 2-hour and 40 minute ride across **Pamlico Sound** to **Cedar Island**. Enjoy your time on the ferry by gazing out at the views of Hatteras Village, the pristine beaches at the end of the island, and the various wildlife on the Sound. After you exit the ferry at Cedar Island, enjoy your drive

through **Beaufort, Morehead City, and Jacksonville** on your way to **Wilmington**.

Once in Wilmington, visit the **EUE Screen Gems Studio**, located at 1223 North 23rd Street. Several of *Rodanthe's* interior scenes were shot here, including a 'dingy bar' scene and some hospital scenes. The creek and the woods behind the studio even became the jungles of South America in the movie.

If you're here on the weekend, you can take a tour of the facility that has essentially become the headquarters of filmmaking in North Carolina. You'll see the set of the television series *One Tree Hill*, which is filmed here, and discover how and why Wilmington became "Hollywood East" for movie producers and directors, including the ones that came all the way to the Outer Banks to make "Nights In Rodanthe"!

Where To Eat:

1587 (Manteo) – dinner

The Captain's Table (Buxton) – lunch, dinner

Diamond Shoals (Buxton) – breakfast, lunch, dinner

For More Information:

The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau

www.outerbanks.org

Wilmington/Cape Fear Coast CVB

www.cape-fear.nc.us