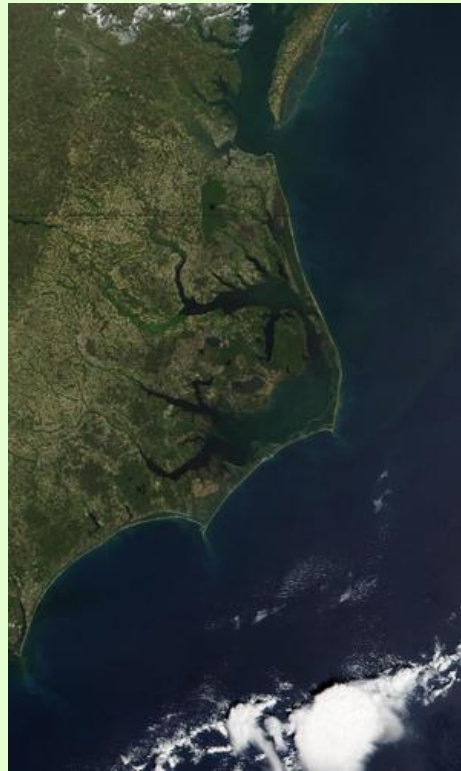


# Outer Banks Scenic Byway

Drive the Outer Banks Scenic Byway today. With the help of two ferries, visit the beaches and see the ocean from the barrier islands. Enjoy old-time village communities that haven't lost their maritime culture. Wrap yourself in local history on the Outer Banks Scenic Byway.

Length: 137.8 miles / 220.5 km

Time to Allow: 5.5 hours, including 3.5 hours on the two ferries



## Local Information

**Outer Banks Scenic Byway**  
1-877-629-4386

## Visitor Services

### Fees



Some routes offer reservations, which are recommended due to tight time schedules. Call 1-800-BY-FERRY for schedule and reservation information.

### Accessibility



Visitor facilities generally provide universal access. Cape Lookout Harkers Island center is accessible. Consult the Cape Lookout website for full details. Two nature trails in Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge offer universal access via boardwalks, (each half a mile long). Two nature trails at the end of Harkers Island are partially accessible via boardwalks. Cape Hatteras NS offers “handicapped accessible” programs as noted on its events schedule.



### **Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities**

The entire byway is mapped on two of North Carolina's recommended bicycle routes. The Mountains to the Sea Trail is mapped on Ocracoke and Hatteras beaches and on two short trails in Buxton and the Pea Island NWR. Pedestrian travel in Down East is not encouraged. Ocracoke has paved shoulders in the center of the village for walkers, who mingle with slow traffic and cyclists during busy times.



### **Food**

There are places to buy food along this byway.



### **Gasoline**

Gasoline is available.



### **Information**

There are several places along the byway that provide visitor information, comfort, and staff. As of 2009: \* Whalebone Junction is open daily, 9 am-5 pm, Mar.-Dec. \* Pea Island is open 9 am-4 pm daily in summer, Thurs.-Sun. (closed 12/25) in the off-season, and offers exhibits and a gift shop. \* Ocracoke is open 9 am-6 pm in summer, 9 am-5 pm from Sept-May (closed 12/25), and offers exhibits and a gift shop. \* Hatteras is open 9 am-5 pm Mar.-Nov. and offers exhibits. \* Cape Lookout is open 9 am-5 pm (closed 12/25 & 1/1) and offers exhibits and a gift shop.



### **Lodging**

Coastal hotels abound along the Outer Banks Scenic Byway. Every room has a view.



### **Phone**

Public phones are available along this byway.



### **Restrooms**

There are toilet facilities along this byway.



### **Retail**

There are places to shop along this byway.

## **Special Considerations**

There are no seasonal closures or other restrictions of the byway's route, although ferries run on a reduced schedule outside warm months. Weather events may impede travel.

### **Restrictions**

In warmer weather this road is well traveled. Plan for extra time to make the ferry connections and accommodate bicyclists and beach-goers. Park only in designated areas, as sand is more difficult to get out of than ice and snow.

In Ocracoke, buses are encouraged not to drive up Lighthouse Road to Ocracoke Lighthouse. Drop-off is easy and the site is a short walk away. There are no other vehicle restrictions. Like all vehicles, buses need reservations on the Cedar Island ferry.

### **Seasons**

#### Best Time to Drive

The beauty of the byway can be appreciated year-round but the best time to drive would be the warmer months. Fall, winter and spring are best for cultural experiences. Natural qualities are year-round.

#### High Season

Summer is high season for beach vacationers and traffic is heavy. Ferries need extra wait time. Ocracoke village is best visited Sat.-Wed.

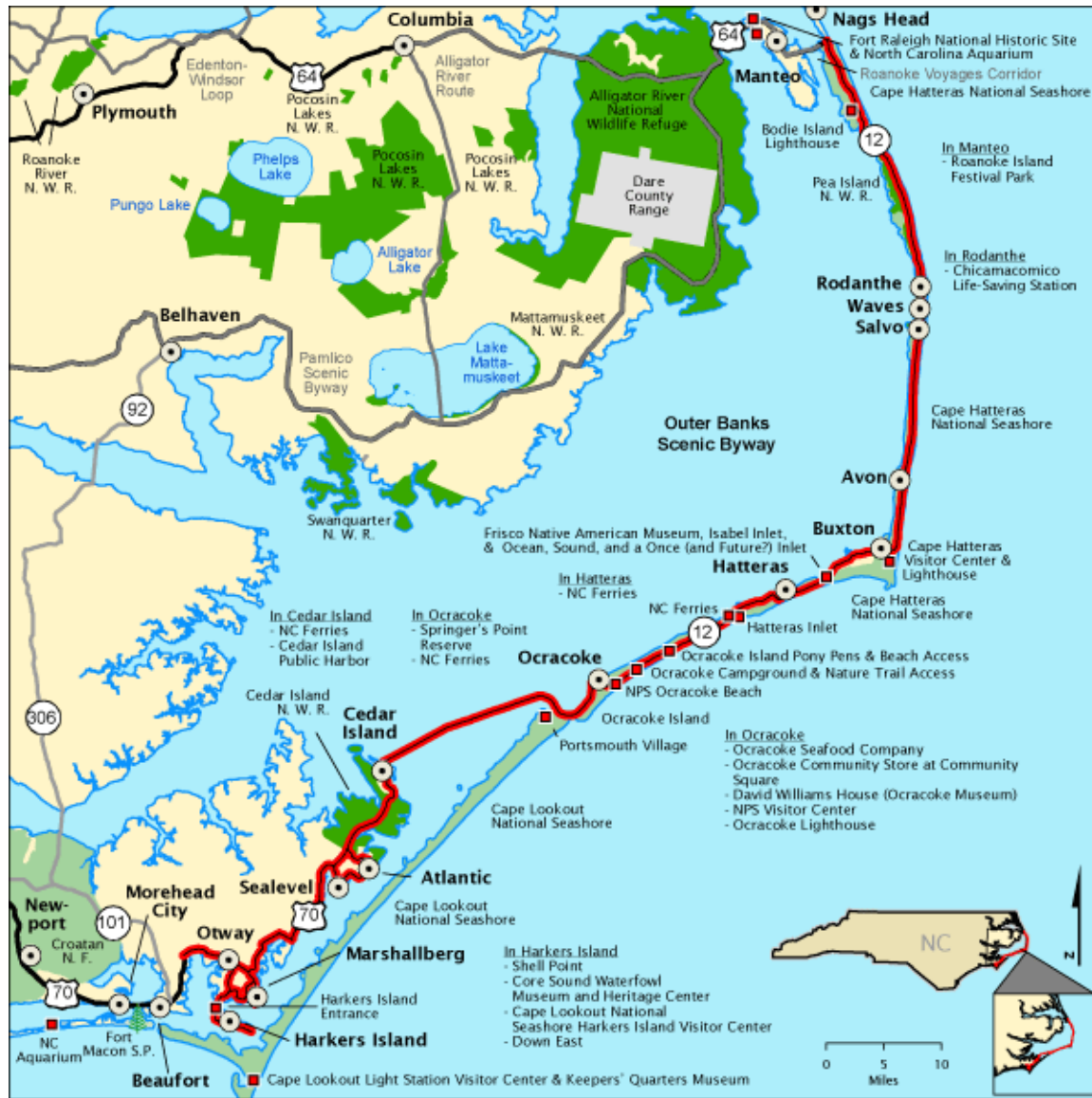
#### Off Season

There are no seasonal closures or other restrictions of the byway's route, although ferries run on a reduced schedule outside warm months. Weather events may impede travel.

#### Shoulder Season

From October-May visitors should call ahead to check availability of historic sites.

# Map and Directions



## Legend:

- |                     |                    |                    |                       |                 |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| ■ Point of Interest | ▲ Campground       | — Featured Byway   | ☪ Water               | — State Border  |
| 🌲 Park              | ⛺ Picnic/Rest Area | — America's Byways | 🌿 Wildlife Refuge     | — Urban Area    |
| ⛶ Mountain          | 🛣️ Interstate      | — Other Byway      | 🌳 Wilderness Area     | — Tribal Nation |
| 🏙️ City             | 🛣️ U.S. Highway    | — Other Road       | 🌳 Other Federal Lands | — Military Base |
| ★ Capital           | 🛣️ State Highway   | ⋯ Trail            | 🌳 Other State Lands   |                 |

## Driving Directions

The byway begins at the intersection of NC-12 and US-64 at the northern end of the Outer Banks.

- Head south on NC 12/Cape Hatteras National Park Road to Hatteras.
- Stay on NC 12 through the National Park, over Oregon Inlet and onto Hatteras Island, and through several villages (including Rodanthe, Avon and Buxton) to the end of the road in Hatteras.
- Get onto the Hatteras Ocracoke ferry and go to Ocracoke Island.
- Go southwest on NC 12 to Ocracoke.
- Several ferry routes depart from Ocracoke. Get onto the Ocracoke-Cedar Island ferry to continue your byway trip.
- On Cedar Island, continue south on NC 12.
- At the junction of Cedar Island Rd. and Old Cedar Island Rd., the byway branches.
- For the primary byway route through Atlantic and Sealevel villages,
  - Turn southeast (left) onto NC-1387 (Old Cedar Island Road.)
  - Proceed to the village of Atlantic.
  - In Atlantic, turn right at NC-1378 onto Shell Rd/US-70.
  - Stay on US-70 by turning left onto NC-1380/School Dr.
  - Turn left at Seashore Dr/US-70, and proceed to the end of the road at Atlantic Harbor. Note: a drawbridge once crossed the harbor at this location and the road can sometimes still appear as a crossing in various older mapping.
  - Make a U-turn at Atlantic Harbor, and retrace your route to School Drive.
  - Continue straight on Seashore Dr/US-70 out of Atlantic and into the village of Sea Level.
  - Continue on US-70 through Sea Level.
  - Rejoin the main byway route at NC-12 north of Sealevel.
- Otherwise,
  - Continue straight on NC-12 (Cedar Island Road.)
  - NC-12 meets US-70 at Nelson Bay.
- Continue following US-70 around Nelson Bay and through Stacy, Davis and Williston to Smyrna.
- The byway again branches at the junction of US-70 and Marshallberg Rd/NC-1347 in Smyrna.
- For the Marshallberg/Harkers Island Route,
  - Turn south on NC-1347 to the end of the road at Marshallberg's Park.
  - Turn around and retrace your route north on Marshallberg Rd/NC-1347.
  - Turn left at NC-1346/Star Church Rd.
  - Turn left at Gloucester Rd/NC-1343/Pigott Rd and continue into the village of Gloucester.
  - Continue on NC-1343/Pigott Rd. as it turns sharply north.
  - At NC-1335/Straits Rd, turn west to head toward Harkers Island through the village of Straits.
  - Turn east to follow NC-1335/Island Road through the village of Harkers Island to the easternmost point of Harkers Island and the Cape Lookout National Seashore Visitor Center parking lot.

- Turn around and retrace your route on NC-1335 back through Harkers Island and Straits.
- This time in Gloucester, turn left (north) onto NC-1332 (Harkers Island Road) to a stop sign at US-70.
- Otherwise,
  - Turn right (west) to stay on US-70.
  - Continue on US-70 to the junction with NC-1332 (Harkers Island Road.)
- Continue through Otway and Bettie and across the North River to the byway's end at the intersection with NC-1300 (Merrimon Rd.)

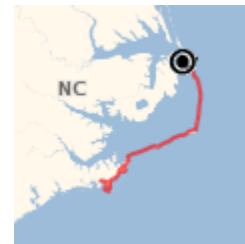
### Getting to the Byway



#### Nearby cities

**Manteo, NC** (5.6 miles / 9.01 km, 8 minutes)

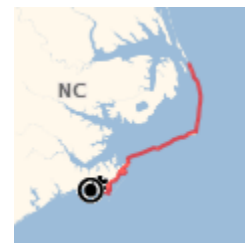
- Start:** ● Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, 1 Visitors Center Cir, Manteo, NC 27954  
N 35.908° W 75.680° [?]
- Directions:**
- From the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, head east on Ananias Dare St.
  - Turn right on US-264/US-64.
  - Turn left to stay on US-264/US-64.
  - Turn right at NC-12 to enter the byway.



**Junction with byway:** \* Junction of NC-12 and US-264/US-64  
N 35.906° W 75.599° [?]

**Morehead City, NC** (26 miles / 41.84 km, 53 minutes)

- Start:** ● Carteret County Tourism Development Authority Visitor Center, 3409 Arendell Street  
N 34.724° W 76.751° [?]
- Directions:**
- From the Carteret County Tourism Development Authority Visitor Center on US-70 E proceed 36.8 mi south and east through Morehead City and Beaufort.



- In Beaufort turn right at Live Oak St. to stay on US-70 and enter the byway.
- US-70 turns right at the traffic-light junction with Turnpike Rd/NC 1300, a straightaway that continues north.

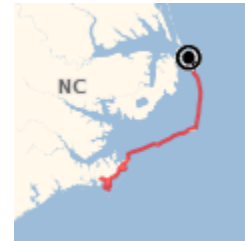
**Junction with byway:** \* Intersection of NC 12 and US 64  
N 34.782° W 76.627° [?]

**Nags Head, NC** (2.5 miles / 4.02 km, 5 minutes)

**Start:** ● Town Hall, 5401 S Croatan Hwy  
N 35.938° W 75.615° [?]

**Directions:**

- From the Nags Head Town Hall head south on US-158.
- Make a slight left at Cape Hatteras National Park Rd/NC-12. The Whalebone Junction Information Center will be on the right.



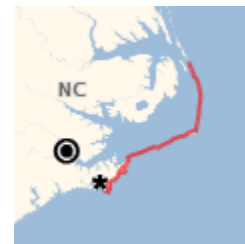
**Junction with byway:** \* Intersection of NC 12 and US 64  
N 35.906° W 75.599° [?]

**New Bern, NC** (38.7 miles / 62.28 km, 52 minutes)

**Start:** ● Craven County Regional Airport  
N 35.079° W 77.035° [?]

**Directions:**

- Depart Craven County Regional Airport and go east on Airport Rd toward Landmark Circle.
- Turn right onto US-70 E.
- In Havelock turn slight left onto NC-101/Fontana Blvd.
- Continue on NC-101 east through the Croatan National Forest.
- Cross the Intercoastal Waterway.
- Continue on NC-101 south (New Bern Rd) about a mile.
- Turn left (east) onto Laurel Rd.



- Turn right (south) onto Merrimon/Turnpike Rd.
- Turn left to rejoin US-70 and enter the byway.

**Junction with byway:** \* Corner of US-70 and NC-1300  
N 34.782° W 76.626° [?]

**New Bern, NC** (44.6 miles / 71.78 km, 1 hour 9 minutes)

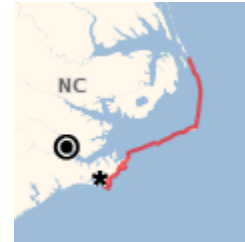
**Start:** ● Craven County Regional Airport  
N 35.079° W 77.035° [?]

- Go east on Airport Rd.
- Turn right onto US-70 E.
- Proceed south and east through Morehead City and Beaufort.

**Directions:**

- In Beaufort turn left (north) at Live Oak St. to continue on US-70.
- At the junction with Merriman Road, turn right to stay on US-70 and enter the byway.

**Junction with byway:** \* Corner of US-70 and NC-1300  
N 34.782° W 76.627° [?]



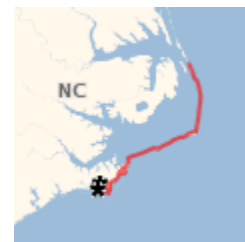
### Nearby pois

**Beaufort, NC** (5.5 miles / 8.85 km, 7 minutes)

**Start:** 🚗 Carteret County Courthouses, Corner of Craven and Cedar Streets  
N 34.720° W 76.662° [?]

- From the Carteret County courthouse on the corner of Craven and Cedar Streets, head southeast on Cedar St/US-70.
- Turn left to continue US-70 at Live Oak St.
- Turn right to stay on US-70 and enter the byway.

**Directions:**



**Junction  
with  
byway:** \* Corner of US-70 and NC-1300  
N 34.782° W 76.627° [?]

## Road Trip: Exploring Barrier Islands and Maritime Culture

**Departure:** The Journey Begins: Sweeping Natural Terrain, North Carolina

**Destination:** Harkers Island, North Carolina

**Time to allow:** 2 days

Explore wild barrier islands where sand, wind and water shape life. Lighthouses, life-saving stations, and 21 coastal villages are responses to this world. This byway tour emphasizes the Outer Banks maritime culture built on knowledge of weather, water and wildlife.

The trip is best enjoyed March through May and September through November. Byway travelers should allow two days, preferably three, for the entire route. Weather rules along the byway and may cause travel disruptions. Planning ahead ensures sites and accommodations are open. A reservation is required for the Ocracoke-Cedar Island toll ferry.

### Day 1

- **Start: The Journey Begins: Sweeping Natural Terrain**

A verdant marsh passage in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore slips by historic Bodie Island Lighthouse. The majestic Herbert C. Bonner Bridge rises above a turbulent Oregon Inlet and affords a long view down Hatteras Island. A drive through windswept Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge introduces visitors to the natural world that created a heritage alive today. An optional stop at the Pea Island Visitor Center allows travelers to stretch their legs, enjoy the small exhibit and gift shop there, and observe waterfowl from a boardwalk.



- **Stop 1: Heritage Alive at Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station  
Historic Site and District: Traditional Settlement Pattern**



**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** This itinerary begins with a scenic drive which ends at this site.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

Chicamacomico was built because of dangerous Wimble Shoals, an eroded cape that today draws surfing enthusiasts. The sheltering soundside of the island provided a natural harbor that was improved over time. The site saw service from 1874 through 1954.

Heroic deeds are celebrated by Outer Banks families descended from the surfmen who manned life-saving stations. Chicamacomico is home to one of the greatest rescues in early Coast Guard history, the 1918 rescue of 42 crew members of the British tanker Mirlo. Six men involved in that rescue received many awards, including the Gold Lifesaving Medal. Each August family members participate in a campfire to remember the event and share their pride with visitors. Summertime beach apparatus drills demonstrated by a team from the U.S. Coast Guard are a highlight for many visitors.

Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station anchors a small historic district, National Register-eligible. The district illustrates village settlement around life-saving stations. Historic homes, a harbor with one of the few remaining small commercial fish houses and the village school house, now a community gathering place, are easily viewed on a short walk. The first of nine Civil War markers nearby is a reminder of wartime strife drawn time and again to the strategically located Outer Banks.

• **Stop 2: Cape Hatteras Lighthouse: A National Treasure**



**From previous stop:** 45 minutes / 24.6 mi (39.4 km)

**Directions:** Turn left out of the Chicamacomico parking lot back onto NC-12. Proceed south 23.4 miles. In Buxton, watch for the NPS entrance sign to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and turn left into the Lighthouse historic district. Proceed 1.2 miles to the parking lot for the light station and the visitor center. Note: Google Maps does not recognize the reconfiguration of roads in this area since the Lighthouse was moved in 1999.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 2 hours

The 1870 Cape Hatteras Light, international icon of seafaring troubles, warns mariners of hazardous Diamond Shoals and the Graveyard of the Atlantic.

Climb 269 cast iron steps to see the cape and its roiling shoals, to view a narrow barrier island, to look at the fertile fishing grounds of Pamlico Sound and to be amazed at Buxton Woods, a rare maritime forest. All these vistas are part of living along the Outer Banks Scenic Byway. Tickets for specific times must be purchased for the lighthouse climb.

Around the famed lighthouse are historic living quarters for lighthouse keepers. At the visitor center, National Park Service rangers give frequent lectures on natural and cultural topics.

The Lighthouse district has additional points of interest. Hatteras Islanders properly buried two British World War II sailors, who died defending this vulnerable and undefended coastline. A Memorial Service is held each May at the British Cemetery.

Hatteras Islanders and visitors also flock to the Lighthouse beach for world-class surfing. A seasonal life-guarded beach attracts beach-goers. Thrilling surf fishing draws many to Cape Point. A nature trail leads visitors through the rare Buxton Woods maritime forest and sedges (wetlands).

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is generally open for climbing from the third Friday in April through Columbus Day (early October). The Cape Point Campground is generally open Memorial Day through Labor Day.

- **Stop 3: Ocean, Sound, and a Once (and Future?) Inlet**

**From previous stop:** 25 minutes / 8.9 mi (14.2 km)

**Directions:** From the Cape Hatteras Visitor Center parking lot, turn right and head east on Lighthouse Rd. Around 0.3 miles the road will curve to the left and become Forest Rd. Continue 0.9 miles to the stop sign at NC-12. Turn left at NC-12 and proceed 7.7 miles to Frisco Beach on the left (changing/comfort station here) or 8.5 miles to Sandy Bay Soundside access point on the right.  
Optional: use the beach to walk from one to the other.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour 30 minutes

Outer Bankers live at the beach and on the sounds. Visitors can enjoy the Atlantic Ocean at Frisco Day Use Area with a convenient comfort station and the soundside beach at Sandy Bay. Older villagers remember childhood pleasures playing on the sound. This stop between Frisco and Hatteras villages gives visitors a chance to explore both beach and sound in one location and see the narrow width of the barrier island.

Geological studies of the Outer Banks have pinpointed areas that have opened and closed repeatedly over 12,000 years. This is one of the points in the island chain most vulnerable to inlet formation. The steep dune beside the road beyond the Sandy Bay parking area marks the location where Hurricane Isabel separated Hatteras Village from the rest of Hatteras Island in 2003.

- **Stop 4: Hatteras: A Welcoming Barrier Island Village**



**From previous stop:** 7 minutes / 3.2 mi (5.1 km)

**Directions:** From the Frisco Beach parking area, turn left (west) on NC-12 and proceed approximately 3.2 miles to a choice of various parking areas associated with the harbor.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 2 hours

Hatteras Village is welcoming. On a late afternoon stroll along Hatteras Harbor, visitors witness a parade of deep-sea fishing boats back from a day's Gulf Stream adventure. Mates flop the day's catch along the dock for all to see. In 1937, Captain Ernal Foster started the sports fishing industry using the *Albatross I*, a boat built in Down East's Marshallberg. That historic boat, captained by Ernie Foster, Capt. Ernal's son, is still in use and docked midway along the Harbor.

The Fall Day at the Docks is a hallmark cultural event celebrating watermen.

In the center of Hatteras Village, visit the NPS-restored 1902 Weather Bureau (the Hatteras Welcome Center) and the recently renovated Hatteras Library and Community Center. Evidencing community determination, a half-century of fish fries built the village's close-by medical center, library and volunteer fire department.

- **Stop 5: Hatteras: A Barrier Island Village Filled with Cultural Tales to Share**



**From previous stop:** 4 minutes / 1.8 mi (2.9 km)

**Directions:** From the Hatteras Village center or harbor, head west on NC-12 approximately 1.8 miles to the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum. Take the left-hand fork when nearing the ferry terminal area and stacking lanes.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

To envelop visitors in village culture, Hatteras villagers have prepared a walking/driving tour of historic homes and places.

The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum tells the nation's maritime history through shipwrecks. The dramatic one-story building resembles a shipwreck. Hatteras villagers and the museum board raised over \$7 million to build and almost complete the now state-owned museum. Two Civil War markers are located in the museum's parking area.

- **Stop 6: NC Ferries, Hatteras Inlet and Pamlico Sound: A Maritime Culture Continues**



**From previous stop:** 2 minutes / 0.1 mi (0.2 km)

**Directions:** If the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum is part of the traveler's exploration of Hatteras Village, the traveler needs only to navigate from there to the terminal, in view of the museum.

Otherwise, to travel from the center of Hatteras Village from the Welcome Center, the Burrus Red & White Supermarket, or the harbor to the ferry terminal, head west on NC-12 approximately 1.8 miles. Take the right-hand fork when nearing the ferry terminal area and stacking lanes.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 45 minutes

Ferries crossing to Ocracoke take vehicles and passengers past tidal flats. Watch other ferries bustling back to Hatteras, and fishing boats heading out to sea or returning. Feel the surge of water power at the inlet itself. Gulls chasing the ferry will cry for handouts from folks standing on deck during the 40-minute, free ferry trip. The trip to Ocracoke is likely to be a late crossing - possibly the sun will be lighting the horizon of Pamlico Sound at this point in this itinerary.

- **Stop 7: Historic, Natural Ocracoke Island**



**From previous stop:** 30 minutes / 12.5 mi (20.0 km)

**Directions:** From the Ocracoke Island terminal for the Hatteras Inlet ferry, proceed on NC-12 to reach the village entrance.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 45 minutes

Isolated Ocracoke Island presents 12.5 byway miles through the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and delivers visitors to a historic, Preserve America community. Wild ponies roamed until 1957 when road traffic made a corral necessary. Visitors to Springer's Point Reserve can view the cove where the notorious pirate Blackbeard was killed in a bloody battle in 1718.

- **End: Historic, Storied Ocracoke Village**



**From previous stop:** 4 minutes / 1.3 mi (2.1 km)

**Directions:** From the village entrance, proceed to the other end of the village where there is public parking.

Note: Time to travel here from the previous stop will be significantly longer on busy summer days.

Visitors experience firsthand a village that evolved organically, in response to natural conditions.

A pedestrian's delight, Ocracoke centers on a large scenic harbor, Silver Lake, once called Cockle Creek. Many narrow and winding lanes remain unpaved sandy paths. Picket fences and old trees covered in lichens line village lanes. Deeply shaded Howard Street, just off the byway and paved only with oyster shells, is a favored walking route from the harbor to Ocracoke Lighthouse. Wanderers from the parking area by the National Park Service's visitor center and the ferry docks should include the Community Square and the Ocracoke Seafood Company, the island's fish house cooperative, among stops.

The United Methodist Church includes a reminder of World War II. An altar cross is carved from wood salvaged from a ship torpedoed offshore in 1942. An Ocracoker was the vessel's engineer. A British Cemetery similarly honors four British seamen whose British armed trawler was lost at sea while defending American shores off the Outer Banks.

Plan to spend the night here and resume your travels after a night's rest at one of several fine local hostelrys.

### **Totals for Day 1**

**Total Distance Traveled:** 52.4 miles / 83.8 km

**Total Travel Time:** 1 hour 57 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 9 hours

## Day 2

- **Stop 1: Ocracoke Museum & David Williams House**



**From previous stop:** 1 minute

**Directions:** The David Williams House is highly visible and is within walking distance from the public parking at the end of the village near the National Seashore's visitor center.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

A handsome "four-square" residence, circa 1900, this building was owned by Ocracoke's first Chief of the U. S. Coast Guard and moved by the Ocracoke Preservation Society to this prominent location beside the harbor, ferry docks, and the National Seashore visitor center with the help of the National Park Service. Part house museum and part exhibit space, the building illustrates island life in a variety of ways.

Just visible behind the traditional picket fence is the rounded top of an above-ground cement cistern, a rare survivor illustrating what once was the only source of water for village residents.

Behind the building is the 1934 fishing vessel *Blanche*, awaiting restoration beneath its outdoor shelter.

The deep front porch still cools folks who like to visit there, today drawn to the Society's highly popular summer "front porch talks" given by village residents.

- **Stop 2: NC Ferries, Hatteras Inlet and Pamlico Sound: A Maritime Culture Continues**



**From previous stop:** 2 minutes / 0.2 mi (0.3 km)

**Directions:** From the public parking near the National Seashore's visitor center, turn right (away from the ferry docks) into the stacking lanes. Fees are collected in a small booth before the horseshoe turn brings the route around to face the ferry docks.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 2 hours 15 minutes

A majestic 1935 Coast Guard Station, now a North Carolina teachers' institute, presides over Ocracoke's harbor. Perhaps the sight of bottlenose dolphins or brown pelicans will grace this crossing of the Pamlico Sound on the Cedar Island ferry. On the 2 hour and 15 minute toll ferry, experience the vast sound, splendid sunsets, and, on a clear day, see Portsmouth Island. Duck blinds and pound net stakes thickly populate the shallow sound. The more leisurely trip across Pamlico Sound past Ocracoke Inlet and Portsmouth Island to Cedar Island may offer time for a chat with one of the ferry workers, many of whom are native "bankers."

• **Stop 3: Cedar Island: A Waterman's Paradise**



**From previous stop:** 15 minutes / 5.4 mi (8.6 km)

**Directions:** Disembark from the ferry and drive to the west side of the Monroe Gaskill Bridge on NC-12.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

Hunt and fish on Cedar Island. The village includes a restaurant (try the fried oysters), motel, beach, campground, and horseback riding.

The byway here traverses a six-mile causeway through one of the East Coast's largest marshes and connects Cedar Island to the mainland. Down East's fringe of splendid marshes dictated village locations. The marshes shelter shellfish, crabs, finfish, raptors and waterfowl, and make the waters here among North Carolina's cleanest.

It is possible to turn off the causeway safely just beyond the Monroe Gaskill Bridge beside the boat ramp and pause to enjoy and photograph the marsh and passing birds or workboats.

- 
- **Stop 4: A Drive through Down East and Its Unique Cultural Landscape**

**From previous stop:** 1 hour 30 minutes / 48 mi (76.8 km)

**Directions:**

- From the Monroe Gaskill Bridge, proceed 4.5 mi. to a left turn at NC-1387/Old Cedar Island Rd, then proceed 3.2 mi. into the village of Atlantic.
- Turn right at NC-1378/Shell Rd/US-70 and proceed 0.6 mi.
- Turn left on NC-1380/School Dr/US-70 and proceed 0.2 mi. to a stop sign.
- Turn left at Seashore Dr/US-70, and proceed 0.5 mi to the end of the road at Atlantic harbor. (Note: a drawbridge once crossed the harbor at this location and the road can sometimes still appear as a crossing in various older maps.)
- Make a U-turn and follow Seashore Dr/US-70 5.1 mi through the village of Sea Level to its junction with the conclusion of NC-12.
- Continue 14.3 miles on US-70 through Stacy, Davis and Williston to Smyrna.
- In Smyrna, leave US-70 and continue straight (no stop) on Marshallberg Rd/NC-1347.
- Follow 3.1 miles to the end of the road at Marshallberg's park (view of Cape Lookout Lighthouse).
- U-turn and head north on Marshallberg Rd/NC-1347. Proceed 0.7 mi.
- Turn left at NC-1346/Star Church Rd and proceed 1.1 mi.
- Turn left at Gloucester Rd/ NC-1343/Pigott Rd and proceed 1.5 mi. into the village of Gloucester.
- Follow NC-1343/Piggott Rd. around a sharp right turn (north) and proceed 0.6 mi.
- Turn left at NC-1335/Straits Rd and proceed 0.7 mi. to slight left to stay on NC-1335/Straits Rd. Proceed a further 0.3 mi. to a stop sign. (Note: NC-1335 continues left by a different name.)
- Turn left on Harkers Island Rd/NC-1335 and proceed through the village of Straits 6.1 mi to the easternmost point of Harkers Island and the Cape Lookout National Seashore Visitor Center parking lot.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 2 hours

Enjoy many views of the waters that shaped, divided and linked the 13 communities. Villages center on their churches and country stores; small shops and a nursery sell homemade or handmade items. Village harbors offer views of traditional boats, many hand-built in back yards from native juniper and live oak. Harkers Island boats of all sizes can easily be identified by their unique flared hulls. Their design is a powerful example of humans' response to nature.

• **Stop 5: Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center: Keeping Traditions and Memories Alive**



**From previous stop:** 1 minute

**Directions:** The driving tour ends at this location.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 2 hours

A visit to the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center reveals details of the rich, less-visible culture that continues to shape and link Down East's thirteen villages. Outdoors, the *Jean Dale*, a 1941 Harkers Island boat, awaits restoration. Indoors, village-designed exhibits offer visitors the chance to enjoy privately owned artifacts, memorabilia, models and photos, lovingly cared-for and carefully explained. A gift and book shop sells decoys and other local artworks.

Nature trails centered on an ecologically rich freshwater pond are available. Willow Pond Nature Trail (.8 mi) and Soundside Loop Trail (0.3 mi) are found on the side-by-side properties of the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center and the Cape Lookout National Seashore Harkers Island visitor center. The pond attracts many migratory birds; the loop trail adds beautiful views of Core Sound.

- **Stop 6: Cape Lookout National Seashore-Harkers Island Visitor Center**

**From previous stop:** 1 minute / 0.08 mi (0.1 km)

**Directions:** Continue southeast on Harkers Island Road. The visitor center is near the end of the road.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 30 minutes

The Harkers Island Visitor Center pays tribute to local maritime history, culture, and animal life. An award-winning, 26-minute film introduces audiences to the Cape Lookout ecosystem through aerial and underwater photography. Exhibits tell the story of the seashore's wild horses, historic villages, and natural resources. Friendly park staffers and volunteers are there to elaborate on exhibits and make your visit memorable.

- **End: Harkers Island**



**From previous stop:** 13 minutes / 4.9 mi (7.8 km)

**Directions:** Turn right (west) on Harkers Island Rd/SR-1335 to return back up the island. The Straits boat ramp is 4.9 miles on the left, after crossing the Straits bridge.

Long-isolated, Harkers Island still maintains a unique cultural landscape, dominated by fishing, fishing vessels and homes of fishing families. “Shrimp burgers” are a local favorite.

As the sun sets on your last day of the two-day tour, venture outside to witness an exciting array of evening colors and maritime activity. Look for birds wading in the waters for their evening meal, a fisherman casting a bait net or workboats returning to Harkers Island Harbor. Settle down at a picnic table and watch as the sunlight first intensifies, then softens and gently disappears into a moonlit Outer Banks evening sky.

## Totals for Day 2

**Total Distance Traveled:** 58.58 miles / 93.7 km

**Total Travel Time:** 2 hours 3 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 8 hours 45 minutes