Ahhh ... it's finally summer and you've finally made it to the beach. The sun is shining brightly, the waves are rolling in with perfect succession, there's a breeze that brings to mind wind-blown sails, and you find yourself pondering the myriad of activities you'll be able to do during your vacation. But gosh! You'll only be here for a short time, and how will you know if you're doing all the fun things you could be doing? Well, there's a simple solution: read this new edition of In The Park. It will keep you informed of the daily activities going on in and around the Park that you can take advantage of — for free.

Some of the activities teach you about Outer Banks history, some help you discover — or rediscover — our barrier islands' natural habitat, some introduce you to a different sort of Outer Banks local — the fish and fowl, and all are guaranteed to keep you interested and grandly entertained. Want a sneak preview of some of these activities and their locations? Read on!

If history keeps you mystified you'll really go for the Park's attractions. From Kill Devil Hills to Ocracoke, you can spend a long summer day (or several days if you want to) exploring lifesaving stations, ambling through quaint villages with centuries old cemeteries, imagining what the first glider flight was like from atop Kill Devil Hill, picturing yourself as a lighthouse keeper of old from the highest perch of the Hatteras Lighthouse, or exploring the forts and woods surrounding the area where the first English colonists are thought to have attempted settlement.

Maybe your heart belongs to the great outdoors? If so, you'll be able to stroll nature trails, identify birds and unusual animals in the Pea Island Wildlife Refuge, entice crabs to grab your dangling bait, or even Catch A Safe Wave ... we'll let you wonder about this one, but believe us, you're in for a splashin' good time!

Of course, if it's sports you want, you sure won't have far to look. You can sail through the surrounding waters and air if the wind is your ruler. And, as for fishing, your catch will range from big blues to croaker and spot to even bigger marlin and tuna — tasty treats at the end of an active day. If your sports arena is the oceanfront, you can create you own 'one performer show' ... swimming (always best where the lifeguards are), surfing, shellhunting, sandcasting, or the ever-popular sunbathing (you can think about that afternoon jog while you soak up the rays.) With mile after mile of spotless, uncrowded beaches located in the Park, finding your perfect 'stage' will be easy.

Throughout the Park and these long, lazy summer days, you can see and do as much as you please. And just to make sure you don't miss out on any activity that really pleases you, sit down, put your feet up, grab a cool drink, turn to the inside of In The Park and spend the next few minutes reading for all the details. We're glad you're here with us to share another magical Outer Banks summer.
If you're looking for some off-beach excitement this vacation, the place to go is Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. Located on Roanoke Island, Fort Raleigh is a cool, shady respite from the sun. The Fort and surrounding island are steeped in history stretching back to the earliest days of English exploration of America.

Visitors have been coming to Fort Raleigh for almost 400 years. The site which once held England’s hopes for a beginning in the New World is today a place where one can examine the fragile clues to the mystery of the “Lost Colony.”

North of Manteo on Highway 64, the 144-acre expanse of woods and marsh includes the reconstructed fort built by Ralph Lane in 1585 and the sites of the 1585 and 1587 settlements. Your first stop is the Lindsey Warren Visitor Center. This modern facility features a museum, bookstore and crafts shop, theater and an Elizabethan manor room.

After exploring the museum and book store, you’ll want to take in the hourly orientation film in the theater. This 10-minute movie sets the stage for the experiences to come. Later, if you’re interested in Elizabethan-era entertainment, step into the 400-year-old Tudor room from Herndon Hall in Kent, England. The oak paneled room is splendidly appointed with period furnishings, a hand-carved mantelpiece and blown glass windows.

Soon the air is filled with music as musicians dressed in period garb perform on lute, harpsichord and recorder. Singing and dancing may also be part of the half-hour concert.

Now that you're fortified with song, it's time to move outside and begin your tour of Sir Walter Raleigh’s “New Fort in Virginia.” A paved path winds into the woods toward the Fort. Along the way you may encounter rangers portraying colonists and soldiers who describe various aspects of life in the colony.

About 300 yards down the path you come upon the reconstructed earthen fort. The fortifications seem small and not at all adequate against an Indian attack. In truth, the fort was built to protect the settlement from a Spanish attack from the sound. Although the site is now surrounded by dense forest, the area was once believed to have been cleared allowing the fort’s cannon to be leveled on any intruder sailing up Roanoke Sound.

The settlement, with its thatched roofed houses and surrounding palisade was located somewhere outside the fort. The exact location of the settlement has never been determined. This year a team of archeologists is returning to Fort Raleigh to explore several promising sites.

Just past the Fort is the Thomas Harriot Nature Trail, a 3/4 mile self-guided path that gently winds its way to the sound. Along the way, plaques point out native plants the colonists found and put to use.

Returning to the main path you come upon the massive palisade that surrounds the Waterside Theatre, home of “The Lost Colony”. Each night except Sunday from mid-June to the end of August, the drama tells the story of the ill-fated Roanoke Island colony. “The Lost Colony” is the oldest production of its kind in America.

Returning to the Visitor Center you can take advantage of the picnic tables or continue on to some of the other sights on historic Roanoke Island.

Digging Into Fort Raleigh

For two months this summer Fort Raleigh will have some special visitors when a team of archeologists resumes the search for the lost “Cittie of Raleigh.” Little is known about the early years of colonization at Fort Raleigh. But the time between 1587, when John White left the colony and sailed for England, until his return in 1590 remains a total mystery.

“We suspect that the colonists packed up and left the settlement sometime between 1587 and 1590,” says Park Ranger Phil Evans. “When they left, they probably took most of their possessions with them because it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to replace anything made of metal or glass. The colonists didn’t throw much away.” It is this lack of man-made objects that makes the search for the settlement site so difficult. Most of what the colonists left behind would have been made of wood or other natural materials which rot and decay, leaving little trace.

In 1982, a research team armed with sophisticated testing equipment explored the suspected settlement site. Their tests turned up the remains of yellow pine posts and a number of soil samples containing what may have been metal objects. This scanty evidence was enough to prompt this year’s eight-week excavation.

If the archeologists are successful, perhaps they’ll have uncovered another clue to the mystery of “The Lost Colony.”

Fort Raleigh Readies For 400th Celebration

1984 marks the 400th anniversary of English explorers Philip Amadas' and Arthur Barlowe's landing on the Outer Banks and their exploration of Roanoke Island. Amadas and Barlowe were sent to America by Sir Walter Raleigh to investigate the land and to select a site for colonization the following year. After friendly contact with the native Algonquins, these two explorers chose the north end of Roanoke Island, now Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, as their settlement location.

Fort Raleigh is getting ready for the celebration. A new full-color site brochure is on the way for 1984. Our Visitor Center auditorium seats have been reupholstered, walls have been repainted, and exhibits were spruced up with fresh paint and illustrations. NPS archeologists are continuing the underground search for the site of the colonial settlement’s houses and outbuildings. In addition, the Roanoke Island Historical Association’s shop in the Visitor Center has many new books recently published for the 400th on sale.

When the Quadricentennial celebration begins next year, you can be sure that Fort Raleigh will be ready.
At the turn of the century, the Outer Banks was alive with experimentation and invention. In 1902, three inventors chose the Outer Banks to make history. The first were Orville and Wilbur Wright. They had been coming to Kitty Hawk since 1900 and by 1902 had perfected their gliders, the forerunners of the famous Wright Flyer. Reginald A. Fessenden, a colleague of Thomas Edison, was also on the beach in 1902 testing his wireless telephone. He succeeded in sending musical tones from Hatteras Island to Roanoke Island 52 miles away, an event that marked the beginning of modern day radio broadcasting.

Invention was in the air. In 1902, the Wright's launched over 1,000 glider flights from the windswept slopes of Kill Devil Hill and perfected the art of free flight. And, on December 17, 1903, they launched man into the Age of Aviation. Such an achievement deserves a fitting monument. The Wright Brothers National Memorial is that and more. Today, a 60-foot granite pylon stands atop Kill Devil Hill. This year the observation platform at the top of the shaft will be open to park visitors on a scheduled basis (check with the Visitor Center for times). After visiting the monument and taking in the breathtaking view of the surrounding area, pause a moment and reflect on the words inscribed at its base, "In commemoration of the conquest of the air by the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright. Conceived by genius. Achieved by dauntless resolution and unconquerable faith."

Below the memorial, the Wright Brothers Visitor Center houses reproductions of the 1902 Glider and the 1903 Wright Flyer, giving a glimpse into the Wright’s quest for flight. Exhibits chronicle their early ventures which included a newspaper and bicycle shop. Other displays demonstrate the principles of aeronautics discovered by the Wrights — principles that still hold true.

Reproductions of the Wright's flying machines are displayed in an auditorium off the museum. Two glass walls afford a view of the memorial pylon and outside displays. Portraits of the pioneers of aviation hang along the interior walls. Comfortable seating is provided for the regularly scheduled talks given by park rangers.

Outside a reproduction of the brothers’ 1903 camp stands. Park rangers show you around the hanger and living quarters. Nearby, a granite marker records the spot where the four flights of December 17, 1903, were launched. Just imagine what it must have been like to witness the flights! Wilbur Wright wrote in his diary that no flight under 300 feet could be considered successful. The first three fell just short of the goal. Then the fourth and final flight soared over 850 feet — three times further than any previous attempt. It was this final victory that convinced the Wright’s that they had indeed realized man’s age-old dream to fly.
The Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge is for birds, other animals, and people. Juggling the needs of the three groups is not an easy task, but the people in charge of Pea Island have come up with some ingenious ways to get visitors and refuge residents together. They’ve built observation platforms overlooking feeding grounds and nesting areas. A self-guided nature trail runs along the banks of North Pond, one of the refuge’s three man-made ponds. Photo blinds offer shutterbugs an opportunity to get close to their subjects and a planted feeding area makes road-side birdwatching easy. The Fish and Wildlife Service maintains a headquarters where visitors can meet for refuge tours, watch demonstrations, listen to talks, and get other information on wildlife. There are even special programs for children.

It’s interesting to note that Pea Island is an almost entirely man-manipulated wildlife environment. When the refuge was established in 1938 as a wintering area for the greater snow goose and other wildlife, portions of the 5,915 acres were flat, featureless expanses of shifting sand. President Roosevelt’s Civilian Conservation Corps and other federal agencies set to work stabilizing the island. A barrier dune was created and sea oats planted to anchor the area and protect it from the wind and waves. Later dikes were built for ponds and marshland and the feeding area was sown with grass.

The refuge was an immediate success with the waterfowl that traveled the Atlantic Flyway, yet few people visited the refuge until the bridge over Oregon Inlet was completed in 1962. Today, bird lovers flock to Pea Island to observe some of the 265 species of birds that regularly visit the refuge.

Every effort is made by the six-member staff of Pea Island to keep the refuge in optimum condition. The water levels in the three ponds are raised and lowered to enhance the growth of tender water plants. The refuge managers wage a constant battle with plant succession. Some areas must be allowed to "brush-up" to provide nesting areas, while others must be burned or plowed under so that new growth can provide seed for the birds.

Refuge personnel patrol the beach in late spring and during the summer in search of loggerhead sea turtle nests and tern nesting areas. When a turtle nest is discovered, the eggs are carefully removed to a special facility where they are protected during the 60-day incubation period. After the eggs hatch, the young are rushed back to the beach so that they can scramble into the surf. This is thought to be an important part of the turtle’s imprinting process.

Tern nestings are another matter. You can’t move terns so the refuge staff ropes off nesting areas to warn away visitors who might disturb the young birds.

For the most part refuge visitors are free to roam Pea Island and experience for themselves the wonders of this “natural” man-enhanced environment.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR PEA ISLAND**

- No vehicles are allowed on the refuge beach.
- Fishing is prohibited in the man-made ponds.
- Fires are prohibited everywhere on the refuge.
- No pets allowed in impoundment areas. Pets on beach or dunes must be kept on a leash at all times.
- Please observe restricted area signs.

**Keeping Tabs On Wildlife**

A 21-year-old goose was bagged in Waves in 1974. A blue-winged teal flew from Pea Island to Brazil during one migration. Some black ducks live 12 years.

We know these things and a whole lot more about the waterfowl at Pea Island through the waterfowl banding program. Every winter, hundreds of Canada geese, mallards, black ducks, canvasbacks and ring-necked ducks are trapped and tagged as part of a national research program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Many methods are used to trap waterfowl. Usually, Canada geese are captured with a cannon net. A large net is folded and attached to the ground by one edge. Rockets are attached to the opposite edge and wired to a central detonator. The area is baited with corn and carefully observed from a camouflaged blind. When the detonator is turned, the rockets shoot over the geese, dragging the net behind them. The geese are pinned under the net to be collected, aged, sexed, banded, and released. It is common to catch 50-75 geese in one shot.

Ducks are captured using swim-in traps in the ponds or sound and by the cannon net on the pond’s edge. During one shot several years ago, over 200 ducks were captured. You can help in this important research by returning bands whenever you find one. Returns can be anonymous. You should include the band number and any available information on when and where the bird was killed. If you include your name and address with the information, a certificate of appreciation will be awarded which contains information on the bird, such as how old it was and where it was banded. Each band has an address for mailing the return.

**Become A Coast Watcher**

An eagle soars above the dunes; an osprey dives into the surf snatching its dinner in its talons; a group of pelicans fly in formation just above the waves. These beautiful sights are becoming increasingly rare as more and more creatures face extinction. The Park is often visited by rare animals — bald eagles, peregrine falcons, sea turtles, the short nosed sturgeon and several types of whales.

You can help in the fight to save these graceful creatures by reporting any animal such as whales or endangered species that you sight or find injured. Reports can be made to any Park Ranger or Wildlife Officer.

**Nesting Terns**

Terns closely resemble gulls, though they are smaller, more delicate and more graceful. In the late spring, terns congregate in large numbers to nest on the beaches and at this time the colonies are in great danger. Their nests are little more than depressions in the sand, and their eggs blend in well with the terrain. When disturbed, the adult birds will leave their nests and try to drive off the intruder. The eggs or chicks are then exposed to the sun and predators. Each year hundreds of eggs and chicks perish from attack by predators, or under the wheels of off-road vehicles, or from being crushed by well-meaning visitors.

To protect the terns during nesting, sections of the beach are closed to the public. Please observe these signs and stay out of nesting areas.
Eastern National is an organization you might not have heard of, but you’ve seen their work. This nonprofit organization funds many of the projects and exhibits you enjoy here and at other national parks across the East Coast. Most of Eastern National’s funds are raised through the sale of books and other materials found in the Parks’ Visitor Centers.

Eastern National was founded in 1947 by a group of Park Service interpreters who were anxious to make available the best educational materials to park visitors. In 1949 they opened agencies at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site near Hodgenville, Kentucky, and Colonial National Historical Park, which administers areas at Jamestown and Yorktown in Virginia.

The operation was an immediate success and grew in the decades that followed. Today, Eastern National is a consortium of ninety-seven agencies ranging from Maine to Minnesota and from Louisiana to the Virgin Islands. Recent donations by Eastern National to Cape Hatteras have included printed brochures, library and reference books, photographic reprints, some of the Elizabethan Room furnishings at Fort Raleigh, living history clothing for interpretive programs, Seashore Ranger patches, canoes, musical instruments from their next to the sea is crucial. Lights near beaches will cause hatchlings to become disoriented and wander away from the sea.

Many kinds of accidents befall sea turtles when they enter coastal waters. Some are caught on fishing lines. Others are hit by boat propellers. Still others are caught and die in commercial fishing nets.

Information gained from the study of such dead turtles may be important in developing ways of preventing future mortality.

**Loggerhead Sea Turtles**

The loggerhead sea turtle comes ashore to nest from Florida to North Carolina. The shells of adult loggerhead turtles can reach over three feet long and the turtles may weigh over 300 pounds. The female turtle comes ashore at night to lay her eggs in the sand. She will lay about 120 white, leathery, spherical eggs and then cover the nest with sand. The same turtle may return at approximately 14-day intervals to lay several nests between early May and late August. Many eggs and hatchlings are eaten by predators, taken by poachers or lost to erosion. Although female sea turtles lay thousands of eggs each summer, very few hatchlings will survive to adulthood.

Hatchlings dig their way out of a nest in a united effort and usually emerge at night. They then make their way down the beach towards the water and enter the surf. The race for Fort Raleigh, the Lyle gun and carriage for the Beach Apparatus Drill at Chincamingo, funding for archeological research at Fort Raleigh, and various equipment such as tape recorders, cameras, video tapes and photo exhibits.

Eastern National operates bookstores at the following Visitor Centers: Wright Brothers, Bodie Island, Coquina Beach, Hatteras Island, & Ocracoke. In addition there will be a small sales station at Chicamomico Life Saving Station on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The following list is representative of the materials available in the bookstores and can be used as an order form for mail orders.

**BOOKS**

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<td>The Audubon Field Guides</td>
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<td>Butterflies ( ) North American Trees</td>
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<td>Eastern Birds ( ) Reptiles and Amphibians</td>
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<td>Insects ( ) Sea Shells</td>
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<td>Mammals ( ) Sea Creatures</td>
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<td>Wildflowers ( ) East</td>
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**Children’s Books**

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<tr>
<td>Barnacle, A Guide for Beginning Beachcombers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cloud et al., A History of Oceanography</td>
<td>2.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cobblestone Magazine, Lighthouses</td>
<td>1.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discovering a Seashore Coloring Book</td>
<td>1.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Ranger Coloring Book</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pemberton, John-Leigh. Ducks and Swans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stamp Book, Animals of the Sea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wechter, Dell Wise. Betsy Dowdy’s Ride</td>
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<td>Wechter, Dell Wise. Tuffy of Torpedo Junction</td>
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**Miscellaneous**

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<td>Kite Kit - resembles 1903 Wright plane (wood, 4 ft. wingspan)</td>
<td>12.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Saving Medal Reproduction</td>
<td>2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Model (assembled) “Kitty Hawk” airplane (plastic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Note Cards (10 per box) Set 1, Cape Hatteras Seashore</td>
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<td>Note Cards (10 per box) Set 2, Wright Brothers National Memorial</td>
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<td>Pencil Sketches -11”x14” Set 1 (1903 Flyer, 1909 Military Plane)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photograph of the Wright’s First Flight, Dec. 17, 1903</td>
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<td>Shipwreck Map (1969 National Geographic) ’33”x22”</td>
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**Slides**

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<td>Cape Hatteras National Seashore Scenery Set 2</td>
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<td>Cape Hatteras Seashore Hatches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kitty Hawk Seashore Slides</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Park Seashore Scenes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wright Brothers Slide Package (18 slides, photos, text)</td>
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**Ordering Information**

Items may be ordered by indicating the quantity in the space beside each item. Prices are subject to change. Add $2.00 for postage and handling. N.C. residents add 4% sales tax. Checks or money orders should be made to Eastern National Park and Monument Association, P.O. Box 427, Kill Devil Hills, N.C. 27948.

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Program Descriptions
These programs will introduce you to the forces that continually shape and reshape these fragile islands. You will acquaint yourself with tales of pirates and shipwrecks, give you the chance to catch a wave and, perhaps, discover for yourself the essence of the National Seashore.

Bodie Island Beaches
A close-up look at the critters of the beach and dunes. Mainly for kids.

The Changing Beach
A chance to explore an ever-changing world of surf and sand.

Children’s Wildlife Discovery
Mainly for kids under 12, but parents are welcome, too. Wear wading shoes and bring insect repellent.

Beach Haul Demonstration
Help a local commercial fisherman pull his net; see what he catches.

Catch a Safe Wave Ride
The waves and learn about water safety. Boogie Boards provided. Swimmers only.

Erosion and the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse
Here is a chance to experience land that has threatened this landmark for 50 years. We’ll discuss the problem and our plans.

Especially for Kids A chance to learn about anything from sand to seagulls.

Evening Campfire Topics
May include shipwreck stories, pirate tales or how we run a historic area.

Exploring the Salt Marsh
A close-up look at the bay side of the island. Wear wading shoes and bring insect repellent.

First Flight Tour Join a Park Ranger for the story of avation at the scene of man’s first flight. Tours meet at the reconstructed 1903 camp buildings at Wright Brothers Visitor Center. Check schedule for times.

Fish with a Ranger
Learn how to surf fish. We have a few poles for your use, but you should bring bait.

Flight Room Talk A Park Ranger recounts the events preceding and including man’s first successful powered flights in 1903. Talks are given at the Wright Brothers Visitor Center.

Forest Nature Walk Explore an island forest and learn of its struggle for survival. Bring insect repellent.

Hatteras History Hear stories about lighthouses, surf lifesaving, weather, and other topics unique to Hatteras Island.

Historic Beach Apparatus Drill Return with us to those thrilling days of yesteryear (1918), as we recreate a dramatic Life Saving Service rescue drill.

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Life at Kitty Hawk
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Off Road Vehicles
Here are a few points to keep in mind when operating off-road vehicles in the park:

— only licensed vehicles (equipped for highway use) and drivers permitted to drive on the beach.
— only certain sections of the seashore beaches are open to off-road travel. Driving is permitted along that portion of the beach between the base of the dunes and the ocean and above designated dunes. Those sections closed to on-road vehicle travel have signs marking them.
— vehicles must enter the beaches only at designated crossing ramps. If you become stuck, let your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive off. If you value your vehicle do not drive o
Blackbeard

In 1701, the Queen Anne's War took all available sailors in Europe to serve their countries as privateers. When a treaty was signed in 1713 most seafarers found themselves jobless. Many of these sailors turned from legal privateering to illegal piracy.

In the Carolina's, the most infamous of the pirates was Edward Teach, better known as "Blackbeard." Pieces of cannon fuse twisted into his hair and lit formed a demonic halo of smoke around his head. His fearsome battle dress and huge frame were an awesome sight feared by sailors nearly as much as they feared the Devil himself.

Blackbeard's pirate armada terrorized the waters from the Caribbean to the Virginia Capes for about 18 months in 1717 and 1718. Their favorite anchorage was Ocracoke where ships sailing close around Cape Hatteras made easy prizes. The shallow sound waters provided safe hiding for the pirates in their small, nimble ships. In addition, it was rumored that he was paying tribute to the corrupt governor of North Carolina. Soon plantation owners became weary of the constant pirate attacks and sought help outside the colony. At the plantation owners request, Governor Alexander Spotswood of Virginia dispatched two sloops under command of Lt. Robert Maynard to capture the pirate leader.

On November 22, 1718, near Ocracoke Inlet, Maynard's ships engaged Blackbeard's pirate fleet. In the fight Blackbeard was killed and the pirates under his command were either captured or killed. Although piracy continued for a few years more, the death of Blackbeard marked the end of its "golden age."

Ocracoke

Whether you're going to camp, stay in a hotel, or just go for the day, Ocracoke Island's solitude and unspoiled beauty are well worth the trip. Ocracoke is the southernmost island in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

You begin your journey with a free, 40-minute ferry ride across Hatteras Inlet (check the ferry schedules for the exact departure/arrival times). Bring along your binoculars and you'll be able to follow the meanderings of terns, gulls, and brown pelicans.

Once on the Ocracoke side, the island lies before you — 16 miles of mostly uninhabited beach, perfect for swimming, beachcombing, fishing and sunbathing. It shouldn't be too hard to find a secluded stretch of beach on Ocracoke.

If you continue south on Highway 12 for about seven miles, you'll come to the Ocracoke Pony Pens. Legend holds that the first ponies came to the island aboard Richard Grenville's ship, Tiger, in 1585. When his ship foundered off Ocracoke, Grenville ordered it unloaded. A few of his horses escaped and began a semi-wild existence on the island. At one time hundreds of horses roamed the island. Today, the remnants of the herd can be seen from the observation platform near the pens.

Three miles beyond the pony pens is the Ocracoke Campground. The Hammock Hills Nature Trail begins near the campground entrance. This 3/4 mile trail winds back toward the sound through pines and scrub thickets and allows you to observe some of the wildlife on the island. A guarded swimming beach is located at Ramp 70, a mile or so beyond the campground, just before you reach Ocracoke village.

The first stop should be the Visitor Center. The Park Service conducts literally dozens of "Discovery Adventures" several times each week in summer (check the Activities Schedule for times). Rangers lead programs on the island's pirate history, wildlife, and seafaring legacy (Ocracoke village was once an important shipping center). Other activities include body surfing safaris, beach and sound walks, knotting demonstrations and more.

Other sights around the village include the British Cemetery where four British seamen, killed during a World War II submarine attack, are buried. The Ocracoke Lighthouse, the world's active lighthouse in the U.S., is a short drive from the Visitor Center.

If you're heading for the mainland from Ocracoke, you can catch a toll ferry near the Visitor Center (see schedule). In any case, stroll around the town and enjoy the quaint charm of the village.

Ocracoke Island is a glimpse into the past. It's a chance to see and feel the Outer Banks as it was when it was America's first frontier.
Visible Shipwrecks

It is the night of April 3, 1818. A schooner is aground in the center of the infamous Diamond Shoals, being battered by a raging northeast wind. In the ship's tangled rigging, four men cling to their lofty perch as to life itself. After being buffeted for fourteen hours by the sea, the castaways are finally rescued by men from the nearby lifesaving station. But the ship and her cargo, $32,000 worth of sugar, are completely destroyed, consigned to the deep, or scattered for miles along the sandy beaches of Hatteras Island.

Scenes similar to this have taken place thousands of times along the Outer Banks giving true meaning to its name, "The Graveyard of the Atlantic". Why so many shipwrecks here? Usually several forces combine to make survival of a mariner and his ship an ordeal of skill, courage, and luck.

The North-flowing Gulf Stream and a similar South-flowing current have been used for centuries by ships' captains trying to gain a little speed as they sail along the coast.

Compounding the problem is sand deposited by currents creating shallow areas called shoals. Shoals can change depth and characteristics in a matter of hours so there is never a sure, safe passage through them. The infamous Diamond Shoals extend ten miles into the ocean from Cape Hatteras and have been the site of hundreds of wrecks.

The National Seashore
A Movable Treasure

Cape Hatteras is also the focal point for extreme, often violent, weather conditions. Winter storms, "nor'easters", often batter the banks for days on end while late summer can bring tropical storms and hurricanes. Before modern forecasting methods, mariners often found themselves at the mercy of the elements with no advanced warning.

Over 1500 wrecks have been documented but many simply disappeared without trace. Today, storms and the incessant pounding surf have left very few visible reminders of days gone by.

The Guiding Lights

Lighthouses or light towers provide a visible signal that can be seen far out at sea. Lighthouses on the Outer Banks are placed close together so that even today sailors can spot one ahead before the one behind has been lost from view. Each lighthouse is equipped with a distinctive light sequence so one can be distinguished from another at night, while the shape, height and markings of each provide specific identification by day.

Three lighthouses stand within the boundaries of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. They are the Bodie Island, Cape Hatteras, and Ocracoke light towers. The Ocracoke Light (see map) is the oldest active light on the East Coast, built in 1823. Its conical shape and stark white exterior give bearings to many of the oceangoing vessels near the island of Ocracoke. The Cape Hatteras light is the tallest lighthouse in the United States, and at 208 ft., it warns ships rounding the treacherous Diamond Shoals. The 156 foot Bodie Island light is the third light to be placed in the vicinity of Oregon Inlet. The black and white candy-striped tower gives mariners travelling from northern ports advance notice to move farther out from land to avoid the shoals near Cape Hatteras.

Each of these lighthouses stands today like a silent sentry ready to help seamen along the treacherous coast off the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.
Attention Campers!
Here are a few tips on camping in the Park:

Reservations
You can reserve a campsite in any of three ways: at Park Ticketron terminals at Whalebone Junction; Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island visitor centers; in writing (reservation folders are available at ranger’s stations); and through the nation-wide Ticketron system.

Make sure you bring the same equipment (i.e. tent, trailer, etc.) as you state on your reservation. Campsites are limited to a maximum of six people. Only two vehicles per campsite (your trailer counts as one vehicle). Check the ticket you receive from us to make sure the right information is on it. If you have questions, call the number on the ticket. All campgrounds are on the reservation system except Salvo which is first come first served. For more information about reservations write: Cape Hatteras National Seashore Rt. 1 Box 675 Manteo, NC 27954

Fees and Length of Stay
Campsites are $6.00 per day. An additional $2.50 service charge is made for reservations. Two weeks (14 days) is the maximum length of stay within the Park.

Check-In
Check-in time for reserved campsites is 12:00 noon. You may check-in earlier if a site is available. We will hold your campsite until 8:00 am the next day. Call us if you will be arriving after the 8:00 am deadline.

The Campgrounds
Most campites are in flat, sandy areas without shade. If you plan on using a tent, bring along extra-long tent stakes. The campgrounds have modern toilets, cold water, outdoor showers, drinking water, grills and tables. There are no utility hookups. All campgrounds are on the ocean except Salvo which is on the sound, a short walk from the ocean. Camping is prohibited anywhere in the Park except in designated campgrounds.

Important Phone Numbers

POLICE/EMERGENCY
- Fort Raleigh & Wright Brothers 911
- Bodie Island 441-7425
- Cape Hatteras Ranger’s Office 995-5044 day (5033 night)
- Hatteras Sheriff’s Office 986-2144
- Ocracoke 928-5111 day
(4231 night)

DARE EMERGENCY MEDICAL CENTER
(open 24 hours for emergencies) 441-7111

WEATHER INFORMATION
- National Weather Service 995-5601
- Local radio stations
1530 AM 95.3 FM

FERRY INFORMATION
- Ocracoke 928-3941
- Cedar Island 225-3551
- Swan Quarter 926-1111

FERRY SCHEDULES

HATTERAS - OCRACOKE FERRY
This free ferry service links Hatteras with Ocracoke Island and has an enjoyable 40-minute trip. The ferries accommodate cars and even large camping vehicles and are scheduled often during the summer so that your wait will not be long. Reservations are not required, as they are for the Cedar Island and Swan Quarter ferries from Ocracoke Village.

The summer schedule is as follows:

Summer Schedule
April 15th thru Oct. 31st

Leave HATTERAS
5:00 AM
6:40 AM
7:30 AM
8:30 AM
9:30 AM
10:30 AM
11:30 AM
12:30 PM
1:30 PM
2:30 PM
3:30 PM
4:30 PM
5:30 PM
6:30 PM
7:30 PM
8:30 PM
9:30 PM
10:00 PM
11:00 PM

Leave OCRACOKE
6:00 AM
7:10 AM
7:50 AM
8:30 AM
9:10 AM
9:50 AM
10:30 AM
11:10 AM
11:50 AM
12:30 PM
1:10 PM
1:50 PM
2:30 PM
3:10 PM
3:50 PM
4:30 PM
5:10 PM
5:50 PM
6:30 PM
7:10 PM
8:00 PM
9:00 PM
10:00 PM

Winter Schedule
Nov. 1st thru April 14th

Leave Hatteras every hour on the hour from 5:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and at 7:00 PM, 9:00 PM, and 11:00 PM.

Leave Ocracoke every hour on the hour from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM; 8:00 PM and 10:00 PM.

FERRY CONNECTIONS FROM OCRACOKE:
SWM QUARTER & CEDAR ISLAND

Reservations
To avoid possible delay in boarding the Cedar Island-Ocracoke Ferry and the Swan Quarter-Ocracoke Ferry, reservations are recommended. These may be made in person at the departure terminal or by telephone. For departures from Ocracoke, call (919) 928-3841; for departures from Cedar Island, call (919) 225-3551; and for reservations for departures from Swan Quarter, call (919) 926-1111. (Office hours 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

Reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance of departure date and are not transferable. These reservations must be claimed at least 30 minutes prior to departure time. The name of the driver and the vehicle license number are required when making reservations.

Gross Load Limits

Curtissuck Sound
Any axle 13,000 lbs.
Two or more axles 24,000 lbs.
All Other Crossings:
Any axle 13,000 lbs.
Two axles (single vehicle) 24,000 lbs.
Three or more axles (single or combination vehicle) 36,000 lbs.

More information may be obtained from Director, Ferry Division, Morehead City, NC 28557, or by calling (919) 726-6446 or 726-6413.

OCRACOKE-SWAN QUARTER TOLL FERRY

Crossing Time Approx. 2 1/2 hrs.
Capacity Approx. 35 Cars

Leaves Year Round
Leaves

OCRACOKE
6:30 AM 12:30 PM

SWAN QUARTER
9:30 AM 4:00 PM

Fare & Rates Applicable (one way) Same as Cedar Island - Ocracoke Ferry Rates.
Rip Currents
The ocean is a wonderful place to swim if you’re careful. Rip currents can turn a quick dip into a nightmare. Underwater sand bars often build up offshore forming a trough of water between the bar and the beach. When the sand bar breaks, the trapped water funnels out to sea through the break, sometimes sweeping swimmers along with it.

The important thing to remember if you’re caught in a rip current is: don’t try to swim against the current. Instead, swim across the current, parallel to the shore slowly working your way back to shore at an angle. Above all, remain calm.

The Park Service operates five guarded beaches. Consult the map on the back cover for their locations.

Some other swimming tips:
- Do not swim alone, at night or near fishing piers.
- Watch the weather; storms and squalls can come up quickly.
- Don’t swim in the rain since lightening does strike the beach.
- Watch out for surfers while swimming.
- The Park Service offers some ocean programs at guarded beaches.
- Salt spray can fog windows. Keep something handy to wipe your windshield clean.
- Park only in designated areas. It’s easy to get stuck in the sand.

Protect Your Valuables
Burglars follow tourists. Unfortunately they follow them to the Outer Banks, and they’d like nothing better than to look into a car, tent or camper and see cameras, purses and fishing equipment.

LOCKING YOUR CAR IS NOT ENOUGH! When you leave your car or campsite, take your valuables with you, lock them in your trunk or put them out of sight. If they have serial numbers, record them and carry them with you. Items such as tents, rods and reels and other gear should be marked with your social security number or in some other way so that they may be identified if stolen.

Bicycling
The long, flat roads of the Park would seem a perfect place for biking. For the most part this is not the case. Most roads in the Park are narrow and have soft, sandy shoulders making biking hazardous. Strong winds and blowing sand can make a bicycle hard to control. If your going to travel by bike, please ride defensively: be aware of the traffic around (and especially behind) you.

Insects
Mosquitoes and other insect pests can make your trip an ordeal if you don’t come prepared with an effective repellent and suitable mosquito netting for camping.

Cedar Island - Ocracoke
Toll Ferry
Crossing Time Approx. 2 1/2 hrs.
Leave
CEDAR ISLAND
Summer Schedule
7:00 AM
10:00 AM
1:00 PM
4:00 PM
7:00 AM
9:20 AM
11:40 AM
2:00 PM
4:20 PM
7:00 AM
1:00 PM
Fares & Rates Applicable
A. Pedestrian 1.00
B. Bicycle and Rider 2.00
C. Single Vehicle or Combination 20’ or less in length and motorcycles (minimum fare for licensed vehicle) 10.00
D. Vehicles or Combinations from 20’ to 40’ in length 20.00
E. All Vehicles or Combinations 40-55 feet in length having maximum width of 8 feet and height of 13’6” 30.00

*Vehicles in excess of 50’ (55’ maximum) M/V Sea Level Only.

Marinas
Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, Inc., operates a full service marina featuring several deep sea fishing charters and head boats. For information and reservations call 473-6301.

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