

THE GRAVEYARD OF THE ATLANTIC

MUSEUM



Located in the Village of Hatteras, next to the ferry docks. A unique museum dedicated to preserving and interpreting the rich maritime history of the Outer Banks and the more than 2,000 known shipwrecks off this coast. Visitors can learn what a significant role the Outer Banks has had and continues to play in the course of America's history, including the Civil War and both World Wars. See such relics as the "lost lens" from the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, a portion of the Engima machine from the German U-85, artifacts from the ghost ship *Carroll A. Deering*. Free Admission. (252) 986-0720 graveyardoftheatlantic.com

VISIBLE SHIPWRECKS

Over 2,000 ships have been lost in the "Graveyard of the Atlantic," an area off the Outer Banks notorious for perilous shoals and storms. Here are a few wrecks that may be visible at low tide or on display.

- An unknown wreck is occasionally visible on the beach off Flambeau Street in Hatteras Village.
- In front of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, you can see the remains of *Laura A. Barnes*, a 1921 schooner.
- A ship that has not been identified, but believed to be either *Pocohontas* or *U.S.S. Richmond* is occasionally visible off Sand Street off Hwy. 12 in Salvo.
- The Federal Transport *Oriental* sank May 1862. Her boiler stack is sometimes visible in the waters off Pea Island across from the rest area on Hwy. 12.
- Schooner *G.A. Kohler* sank in August 1933 and is sometimes visible on the beach at Ramp 27, just north of Avon.

CHICAMACOMICO HISTORIC SITE

U.S. LIFE-SAVING STATION



Spanning from 1874 to 1954, Chicamacomico is the most complete US Lifesaving Station site in the Nation. With 5 buildings open to the public, the site preserves both the stations and the stories of the men who served here. Located in the historic Village of Rodanthe, open seasonally. Summer programs, including a Beach Apparatus Drill. Some events are weather dependent. Relive the history of these brave men who, in 1915, became the US Coast Guard. (252) 987-1552 chicamacomico.org.

U.S. WEATHER BUREAU STATION

OUTER BANKS VISITOR INFORMATION



Opened on January 1, 1902, this station played a key role in the nation's developing meteorological network, until decommissioned in 1946. Today it is operated by the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau in partnership with the National Park Service as an historical site as well as a visitor center. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (252) 473-2138.

The Outer Banks®

VISITORS BUREAU

outerbanks.org

Local (252) 473-2138



— MARITIME HISTORY — LIGHTHOUSES ALONG THE OUTER BANKS



CAPE HATTERAS

LIGHTHOUSE



The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, also known as America's Lighthouse, is the tallest brick beacon in the country standing 198 feet. The familiar black and white spiral-striped landmark serves as a warning to mariners of submerged and shifting sandbars which extend almost twenty miles off Cape Hatteras into the Atlantic Ocean. They are known as the Diamond Shoals.

The present lighthouse, officially completed and lit in December 1870. The first Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was built in 1803. It was a sandstone structure 90 feet tall that projected an insufficient light beam using a collection of Argand lamps and reflectors. It was modified to a new height of 150 feet in 1854, and a first order Fresnel lens was installed, the most powerful of its day. The lamp was also fuelled by whale oil, as was the previous light. During the Civil War in 1861, retreating Confederate soldiers took the Fresnel lamp from the lighthouse, to keep it out of Union hands. North Carolina's Outer Banks and the inlets that allowed passage between them were considered of utmost strategic importance by Union forces to keep supplies from reaching the interior of the Confederate aligned southern state by sea. Shell damage during the war and structural deterioration prompted the construction of a replacement lighthouse in 1870, the one we enjoy today. The original lighthouse was then demolished in 1871. The ruins of which could be seen until a powerful storm in 1980 washed away the visible traces.

Whale oil was replaced by kerosene by the 1880's, and by 1934, the beam was electrified. However, beach erosion threatened the base of the lighthouse by 1935, prompting the construction of a temporary tower some distance away in the Buxton Woods. It was a steel

skeleton tower that utilized an airport beacon. Fifteen years later, the 1870 lighthouse was again put back in operation, as erosion patterns changed. However, the Fresnel lens was vandalized in the 1940's when the older lighthouse stood empty during those years. Now it uses two active 1000-watt lamps, visible for more than 20 miles. In 1999 the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was moved a half mile inland, to save it from the encroaching Atlantic. The Lighthouse was cut from its original base, hydraulically lifted onto steel beams and traveled along railroad tracks to its present position over the course of 23 days. The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is now as far from the ocean as when originally constructed in 1870.

The lighthouse is open seasonally for climbing, there is a fee to climb the lighthouse. Visitor's center museum and grounds are open year round. (252) 475-9000. nps.gov/caha

BODIE ISLAND

LIGHTHOUSE



Located just south of Nags Head, the Bodie Island Lighthouse as it stands today is the third such beacon built to help mariners maneuver the coast from Cape Hatteras to Currituck Beach. The original Bodie Island Lighthouse (pronounced "body") was built in 1847, on the south side of Oregon Inlet in an area known today as Pea Island. Abandoned twelve years later due to a poor foundation, the lighthouse was rebuilt in 1859, again south of the inlet, but was blown up in 1861 by retreating Confederate troops who feared the Union would use it to their advantage for navigation.

Today's Bodie Island Lighthouse was completed in 1872 on the north side of Oregon Inlet near the northern border of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The

familiar black and white horizontal striped structure was partly built of materials leftover from the construction of the newest Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Standing 150 feet high and equipped with a first-order Fresnel lens, it flashes its 160,000 candlepower beacon 19 miles over the ocean. The Currituck Beach Lighthouse is considered its architectural twin.

The lighthouse is open seasonally for climbing, there is a fee to climb. The restored keeper's quarters are now a visitor's center which is open year round. There is also a nearby boardwalk trail. (252) 475-9000. nps.gov/caha

ROANOKE MARSHES

LIGHTHOUSE



The Roanoke Marshes lighthouse is modeled after an 1877-1955 screwpile lighthouse that once guided mariners along a narrow channel connecting the Pamlico Sound to the Croatan Sound, at the south side of Roanoke Island in an area known as Roanoke Marshes. Today's lighthouse is the fourth incarnation of the Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse, and uses a fourth order Fresnel lens. Once fairly numerous, no less than a dozen screwpile lighthouses served as aids to navigation along North Carolina's trafficked rivers and sounds, dating back to the 1800's.

The reconstructed lighthouse was opened in 2004 by the Town of Manteo, in partnership with the Roanoke Island Maritime Center and Roanoke Island Festival Park. Easily accessible along the Manteo Waterfront, the lighthouse contains exhibits highlighting Roanoke Island's lighthouse and maritime history. Hours vary by season. Free admission. (252) 475-1750

OCRACOKE

LIGHTHOUSE



The Ocracoke Lighthouse is North Carolina's oldest operating lighthouse. In 1798, a 54 foot wooden tower was built on the point of Ocracoke Inlet to mark the channel. Soon afterward, the inlet shifted, rendering the lighthouse ineffective. It was replaced by a light vessel in the inlet in 1820, but by 1822 this structure was rendered useless yet again by shifting sands, and Congress authorized the funding to build the present tower, which stands 75 feet tall and shines 14 miles out to sea. As a harbor light, it emits a constant fixed beam. Not open for climbing. Free admission. (252) 475-9000. nps.gov/caha

CURRITUCK BEACH

LIGHTHOUSE



The Currituck Beach Lighthouse stands 158 feet tall, and is located in Corolla, NC. Its first order Fresnel lens began flashing on December 1, 1875. The beautiful bare brick beacon was built to fill the last remaining "dark spot" of the NC coast between Bodie Island and Cape Henry, VA. Prior, many ships foundered in the 80-mile navigational void at night, but the Currituck Beach Lighthouse with its beam visible for 18 miles, help solved the problem. Open Seasonally. There is a fee to climb. (252) 453-4939. obcinc.org