

North Carolina's Outer Banks

Depart Hendersonville: Today you will board Globe Treks' luxury motor coach and head toward the eastern shore of North Carolina. We'll stop for lunch along the way and arrive in beautiful Edenton in the late afternoon. Located on the Albemarle Sound, Edenton is one of the oldest communities in the state. We will spend our first night here.

Edenton: The First Colonial Capital, untouched by commercialism, is reminiscent of life in a previous century. We'll visit two of Edenton's landmarks: the Cupola and Iredell houses. Then travel east on the southern edge of the Albemarle Sound, crossing the beautiful Intercoastal Waterway and Croatan Sound before heading up the Banks. After lunch, we'll visit the Wright Brothers National Memorial and the site of their historic first flight. Later his afternoon we will arrive at our hotel in Corolla where we'll settle in for a comfortable two night waterfront stay and enjoy dining at one of the fine seafood restaurants the area has to offer.

Corolla & the northern Outer Banks:

Today's agenda includes a drive beyond Corolla to the northernmost tip of the Outer Banks, where we'll visit (and climb, if you choose!) the red brick Currituck Lighthouse and catch a glimpse of the famed Whalehead Club historic site. Feel the ocean breeze and taste the salty sea air as we cruise the Outer Banks beaches in 4-wheel drive vehicles in search of the Colonial Spanish Mustangs! We end our day enjoying leisure time at the beach or at our hotel.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore: With our local step-on guide, we'll make our way south past the Bodie Island Lighthouse and Pea Island Wildlife Reserve. Relax

and take in the scenery of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Be on the lookout for wildlife and seabirds that

abound in the area. At 45 square miles, this area constitutes the most extensive stretch of undeveloped seashore on the Atlantic coast.



In Rodanthe, the Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station's keeper will bring to life the hardships of crews who risked their lives to save others in raging coastal waters. These valiant men formed the basis for the US Coast Guard Service. View the worn wooden boat which is America's most decorated naval vessel. Our driving tour continues to the famous Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, recently relocated and renovated to escape destruction from rapidly encroaching surf. Climb the lighthouse if you wish. Next we'll take a ferry ride over to Ocracoke Island for a short tour & visit to the historic lighthouse. Built in 1823, it is the oldest operating lighthouse in North Carolina. Then, another ferry ride takes us to our new Beaufort hotel for a lovely two night stay.



Beaufort: Enjoy Beaufort's sights from our exclusive double decker bus tour. Beaufort is home to the North Carolina Maritime Museum and offers great exhibits on local ship building and a treasure trove of information on the pirate prince Blackbeard and his ship, the Queen Anne's Revenge, the wreck of which was found in a watery grave just off this coastline. After lunch, we'll take a short ferry ride to Harkers Island. We'll then make our way to our last night's stay in New Bern.

Historic New Bern, NC: As the second-oldest colonial town in NC, New Bern served as the capital of the NC colonial government, then briefly as the state capital and at one time was called "the Athens of the South." We'll enjoy a guided tour at The Tryon Palace, the official residence and headquarters of the British governors of NC from 1770 to 1775, when it was known as the Governor's Palace. The residence was seized by American troops in 1775 and has been ours since! After lunch, our step-on guide will show us the sights of this colonial town.

Return home to Western North Carolina:

We'll depart the hotel this morning to begin our journey back to WNC, stopping for lunch en route. You'll be escorted back to your home upon return.

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