

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, site of the famous Edenton "Ladies Tea Party" in 1774, a precursor to the Boston Tea Party. 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. Later, we'll travel east on the southern edge of the Albemarle Sound, crossing the beautiful Intercoastal Waterway and Croatan Sound before heading up the Banks. This afternoon, we will arrive at our hotel in Corolla where we'll settle in for a comfortable two night oceanfront stay and enjoy dining at one of the fine seafood restaurants the area has to offer.

Corolla & the northern Outer Banks:

Our agenda includes a drive to beyond Corolla to the northernmost tip of the Outer Banks, where we will visit (and climb, if you choose!) the red brick Currituck Lighthouse and catch a glimpse of the famed Whalehead Club historic site. After lunch, we'll visit the site of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flight and hear an informative talk on events that led up to this historic aviation achievement. We'll visit the Wright Brother's National Memorial and the Park Service exhibits, the runway, workshop and hangars. Feel free to walk to the top of the monument for a glimpse of where aviation first set sail! Feel the ocean breeze and taste the salty beach air as we cruise the Outer Banks beaches in 4 wheel drive vehicles in search of the Colonial Spanish Mustangs!

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, the 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 short ferry ride over to Ocracoke Island. We will spend the night here and enjoy the peace and quiet of this timeless island. We'll visit the historic lighthouse. Built in 1823, it is the oldest operating lighthouse in North Carolina.

Beaufort: After a late afternoon ferry the next day, we'll stop over in Beaufort, for a two night stay. 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. Our hotel accommodations are at the lovely Inlet Inn which is situated directly across from the bay and the charming city boardwalk.

Historic New Bern: Our final day and night will be spent in New Bern, the second-oldest colonial town in NC. It served as the capital of the NC colonial government, then briefly as the state capital. After the American Revolution, New Bern became wealthy, developing a rich cultural life, and at one time was called "the Athens of the South." We'll tour 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!

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.

