



Experience a beach vacation that's different from anything on the mainland. On Ocracoke Island, you'll find miles of pristine, undeveloped, and uncrowded beaches. And that's just part of our appeal. A getaway to Ocracoke Island gets you back to nature. Soak up our unique culture and savor the local cuisine. Once you see all Ocracoke Island has to offer, we doubt you'll ever look back.



## OCRACOKE VILLAGE

Our walkable and charming village covers one square mile of the island and is home to the island's 1,000 year-round residents. The town, founded as a fishing village, continues to be home to a thriving fishing community. Stop into one of the many local restaurants for the daily fresh catch, from flounder to mahi-mahi to local Woccocon oysters. The island might be small, but the dining scene is diverse, from Thai to Greek to American fare.

Sip a fig beer made with locally grown figs at the village brewery, then explore the unique, homegrown small galleries, shops, and businesses that are the heartbeat of the island.

Ocracoke prides itself on its small business, and the accommodations here are a testament to that spirit. The charming rental houses, hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts cluster near the village on Ocracoke Island, or you can camp at the National Seashore campground.



## EXPLORE OUR HISTORY

Ocracoke Island is a centuries-old community. It's been a colonial trade route stopover, a hideout for pirates, a port of entry during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and a top-secret training base for the precursor to the Navy Seals. See the wild horses of the Ocracoke Pony Pen and learn their origins. Explore the expansive beaches defined by the long history of the island and its residents.

## PIRATE LORE

Blackbeard, perhaps the most infamous pirate, prowled the waters off North Carolina's coast, dying in his final battle right off Ocracoke. The Ocracoke Inlet was a favored hideout of Blackbeard, also known as Edward Teach. Don't miss a visit to Teach's Hole, the inlet where Blackbeard met his fate in 1718.

## LIGHTHOUSE

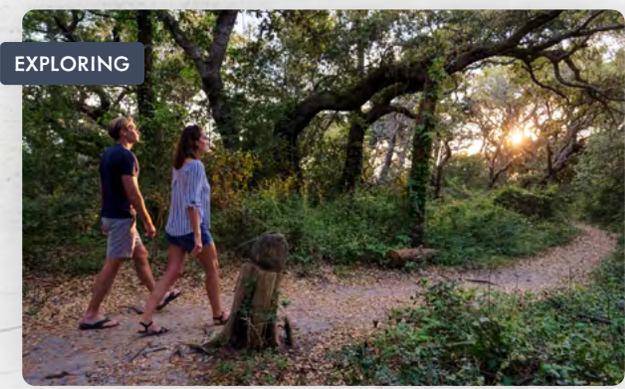
The oldest lighthouse still in operation in North Carolina and the second oldest in the nation. Hand-built in 1823 and boasting 5-foot-thick brick walls at the base, this is a piece of cherished history.





## GETTING HERE

Part of the thrill of getting to Ocracoke is riding the ferry. Look for dolphins swimming in the surf. Imagine when pirates ruled the seas around Ocracoke. The North Carolina Department of Transportation runs ferry services between the mainland and Ocracoke Island on three different routes. Once on the ferry, the sea air and beautiful ocean scenery will have you feeling relaxed for your island getaway well before you arrive.



**EXPLORING**

With everything within a few miles on the island, it's easy to explore Ocracoke by walking, biking, or renting a golf cart. Leave your car in park, and get outside to enjoy the sights. Spend the day discovering the island, and be sure to catch one of the colorful sunrises or sunsets from Springer's Point.



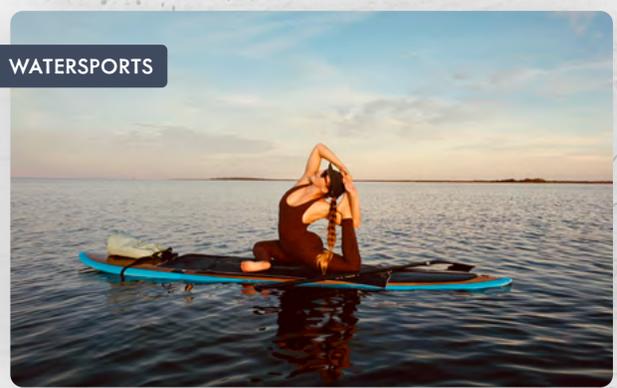
**BEACHES**

Enjoy sixteen miles of secluded, natural beaches with no houses or high rises in sight. The beaches of Ocracoke, protected as part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, are the perfect place for shelling, surf fishing, swimming, or taking a long walk in the sand.



**STARGAZING**

Far from urban lights and considered one of the darkest places on the East Coast, Ocracoke's night sky showcases constellations, planets, and shooting stars. Our dark skies offer horizon to horizon views of the Milky Way with the soothing sounds of the surf in the background.



**WATERSPORTS**

Kayaking, canoeing, surfing, parasailing, jet skis, skiffs, and paddleboards – the waters around Ocracoke are a dream for watersports fans. Whether on the sound or in the ocean surf, Ocracoke's waters offer hours of fun-filled enjoyment for everyone.

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