



Guide to an OCRACOKE DAY TRIP



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Take a ferry to Ocracoke Island!

On your Hatteras vacation, don't miss a trip to beautiful Ocracoke Island where there is thirteen miles of undeveloped oceanfront.

The village of Ocracoke is home to about 1,000 year-round residents and is famous for its fishing, watersports, and quiet village lifestyle. A day trip to Ocracoke might include visiting historical sites, dining on locally caught seafood, and taking in a live performance. While you can't see everything that Ocracoke has to offer in one day, this guide will help you decide how to spend your time there.



Traveling to Ocracoke Island

To get to Ocracoke Island, you will be taken by ferry from Hatteras. The Hatteras-Ocracoke Ferry is free and the crossing time is about 40 minutes.

Information and Reservations

- ⇒ [Ferry Information and Schedules: NC Department of Transportation](#)
- ⇒ Phone Reservations: (800) 293-3779 / [Online Reservations](#)

Tips

- ⇒ Don't miss the boat! The ferry loads 5 to 10 minutes before departure, and if you're not in your vehicle, the NCDOT staff will guide traffic around your parked car.
- ⇒ Don't enter the priority passage lane—this is for operations use only.
- ⇒ Smoking is prohibited on the ferry, including in your vehicle.
- ⇒ Don't feed the seagulls.
- ⇒ If your dog is outside of your vehicle, he or she must be on a leash.
- ⇒ Have your driver's license handy before boarding. The NCDOT staff performs spot checks in accordance with the Homeland Security program.
- ⇒ Don't miss your return trip! The last ferry leaves at midnight.
- ⇒ Keep in mind that inclement weather may change the ferry schedule.



1

Ocracoke Lighthouse

- ↪ Lighthouse Road
Ocracoke, NC 27960
- ↪ (252) 473-2111
- ↪ [Website](#)

Noah Porter, a Massachusetts builder, constructed the lighthouse and it was erected on Ocracoke Island in 1823.

Ocracoke Light is the oldest operating light station in North Carolina and was automated in 1955.

The lighthouse stands about 75 feet tall and its diameter goes from 25 feet at the base to twelve feet at its peak. The brick walls are five feet thick at the bottom and tapers to two feet at the top of the tower. The light beacon is housed by an octagonal lantern.

During the summer months when there is a US National Park Ranger on duty, visitors may access the base of the lighthouse. However, due to the spiral staircase that is safe only for maintenance use, visitors are not allowed to access the peak.



2

Blackbeard Exhibit at Teach's Hole

- ⇨ 935 Irvin Garrish Highway
Ocracoke, NC 27960
- ⇨ (252) 928-1718
- ⇨ [Website](#)

Edward Teach (1680 – 1718), better known as Blackbeard, was a notorious English pirate who operated around the West Indies and the eastern coast of the American settlements.

The Blackbeard exhibit in Ocracoke Village features a life-size model of Blackbeard, a collection of weapons, original artwork, Blackbeard woodcuts, a display of pirate “Flags of Terror,” scaled replicas of Blackbeard’s ships, a documentary film on Blackbeard’s life and death, and more.



3

Hammock Hills Nature Trail

↪ 4281 Irvin Garrish Highway
Ocracoke, NC 27960

Take in the beautiful scenery while you explore the maritime forest and salt marshes of Ocracoke Island.

You may access this trail across from the National Park Service's Ocracoke Campground. Parking is available, or you can walk or bike there on the paved biking trail that starts at South Point Road.

The Hammock Hills Nature Trail is a 3/4-mile trail that is perfect for nature lovers and birders. Get the most out of your hike by reading the educational signposts along the way. Be sure to bring your camera and insect repellent.



4

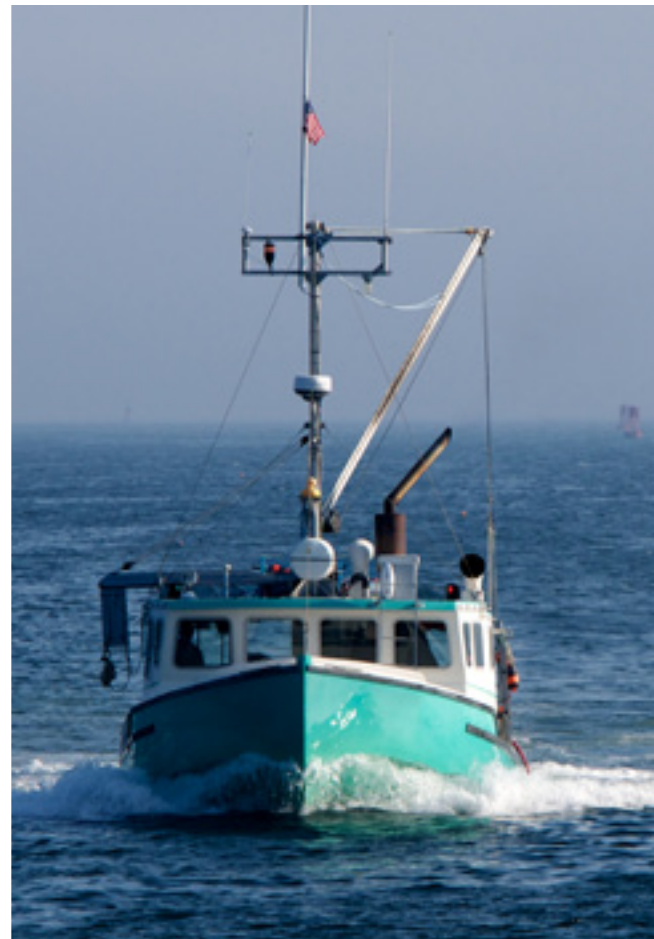
Ocracoke Working Watermen's Exhibit

- ↪ 294 Irvin Garrish Highway, Docks at the Community Square
Ocracoke, NC 27960
- ↪ Fish House: (252) 928-5601
- ↪ Open daily 11 am to 6 pm
- ↪ [Website](#)

With the help of panel displays in the exhibit, you can learn about many of the Working Watermen's research projects such as oyster restoration. You may also watch video clips, sign up for hands-on activities, or chat with volunteers.

At the exhibit, you will also see a collection of vintage photos, decoys and antique fishing tools.

After the tour, you can relax on the rear dock where you can take photos of the lighthouse, watch a fishing boat unload, or let your kids play in a handmade skiff. The rear dock is also used for educational and research docking and for group tours and visiting vessels.



5

Ocracoke Banker Horses

- ⇒ 7669 Irvin Garrish Highway
Ocracoke, NC 27960
- ⇒ [Website](#)

Theories circulate about how the Banker horses found their way to Ocracoke Island. Some say they arrived on English ships during 16th-century exploration, some say they were victims of Spanish shipwrecks, and others claim they were simply livestock for the locals.

We may never know how the horses got to Ocracoke but they freely roamed the island for at least two centuries and were a part of the island lifestyle of the past.

In 1959, The National Park Service built the “Ocracoke Pony Pens,” a 180-acre pasture that protects the herd from cars. It’s free to visit, but your donations will help pay for hay, grain, and veterinary care.

Please keep in mind that the horses are not tame and that they might kick at you or bite you if you try to feed or touch them.



6

Ghost & Historic Walking Tour

- ↪ 170 Howard Street
Ocracoke, NC 27960
- ↪ (252) 928-5541
- ↪ [Website](#)

You and your family will have blast learning local history and listening to narratives about hurricanes, shipwrecks, and spooky local legends.

This walking tour features some of Ocracoke's most intriguing stories. Many of these tales have never been published but instead they have been verbally passed down through the generations by Ocracoke natives. You will also visit the grave sites of some of these founding families.

The Ghost and Historic Walking tour is an 1 1/2-mile excursion and lasts about 90 minutes. Please keep in mind that tour schedules are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. Lace up your walking shoes and book early—these tours fill up quick!



Looking for the perfect Hatteras vacation rental? [Visit our website](#) and contact Shore Vacations at 877-866-5640.