

HISTORY AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Visit North Carolina



Begin your North Carolina adventure from a multitude of international destinations with non-stop flights into Raleigh-Durham International Airport. From there, spend two nights in Raleigh before heading to the birthplace of flight, the Outer Banks, and finally to Hollywood East, Wilmington.

DAY 1 RALEIGH

Fly to Raleigh-Durham International Airport mid-afternoon. Grab dinner at one of the many local restaurants serving global or Southern-inspired cuisine.

DAY 2 RALEIGH

LET'S FUEL UP!

BREAKFAST

Big Ed's City Market Restaurant

If you're craving something down-home and Southern for breakfast, Big Ed's City Market Restaurant is the place to be. Known for hotcakes bigger than your hands, Big Ed's in City Market is the perfect spot for breakfast. Antiques and farm equipment hang from the ceiling, adding to the unique Southern charm of this Raleigh institution.

Benchwarmers Bagels at Transfer Co. Food Hall

This is not your average bagel shop, as

the chef-driven menu includes unique creations like lox with a deviled egg spread on a delicious wood-fired bagel. Don't forget to try a grits bagel or add a little spice to your sandwich with the Carolina Reaper cream cheese.

LET'S EXPLORE!

Spend the morning exploring the "Smithsonian of the South" with these free, state-of-the-art museums.

CAM Raleigh

The Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh's Warehouse District showcases frequently changing exhibits that explore what's current and coming in the art and design world. CAM's goal is for visitors and the community to be inspired by and engage with the art.

North Carolina Museum of History

A journey through the past of NC's history so that locals and visitors alike can learn about the area's earliest civilizations. Also

includes the NC Sports Hall of Fame on the third floor, which features one of NC's greatest athletes, basketball superstar Michael Jordan.

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

Largest natural science museum in the Southeast with four floors of exhibits, live animals, 3D movies, gift stores and two cafes. This museum boasts a full sperm whale skeleton, fossilized dinosaur heart and coming soon will be the “**Dueling Dinosaurs**” exhibit.

LUNCH

Sam Jones BBQ

Third-generation pitmaster and James Beard semifinalist Sam Jones' newest namesake eatery in downtown Raleigh. Rooted in the tradition of NC whole-hog barbecue and tried-and-true Southern staples. A visit to NC and the South isn't complete unless you try all the BBQ recipes!

AFTERNOON

North Carolina Museum of Art

More than 5,000 works of art spanning from antiquity to present day make up the bulk of masterpieces at NCMA, plus the largest museum art park in the country. Museum Park's 160+ acres include a vast trail system and 30 works of art surrounding the outside of the museum and along the trails and greenway paths. Not to miss is one of the largest Rodin exhibits outside Paris.

Happy Hour! No trip to Raleigh is complete without visiting **Raleigh Beer Garden**. Guinness World Record holder for most beer on tap and largest selection of beer on draught in the world with 386+ taps!

DAY 3 RALEIGH TO OUTER BANKS

After a good night's rest, depart for the

Outer Banks of North Carolina! On the way, stop and stretch your legs at the Creef Cut Wildlife Trail at the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge for a ½ mile walk and an accessible fishing pier. Or stop for a coffee at Larema Coffee House in Rocky Mount.

ARRIVE AT OUTER BANKS

The Outer Banks, a 130-mile stretch of barrier islands off the coast of North Carolina, is a destination like no other. Home to 3 National Parks, these islands have been sculpted over centuries by the Atlantic Ocean's wind, water, and sand; its natural beauty is paired with a rich history, evoking a genuine sense of adventure. From Duck to Hatteras, each town and island along our shores provides a distinct and memorable experience.

Wright Brothers National Memorial

Become your own pilot at the Wright Brothers National Memorial located in the heart of Kill Devil Hills. See where on a cold day, December 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright changed the world forever as their powered airplane, the “Wright Flyer,” skimmed over the sands of the Outer Banks for 12 seconds before returning to the ground.

Jockey's Ridge State Park

Then venture over to Jockey's Ridge State Park and witness flight as it is still practiced today on the Outer Banks. See the largest living sand dune on the East Coast and enjoy a beginners hang gliding lesson from the largest hang gliding school in America, Kitty Hawk Kites.

Check into your oceanfront accommodations. Enjoy fresh local seafood for dinner at one of locally owned restaurants. No experience is complete without sampling the fare. Our island seafood is harvested from local waters daily by the same families who have harvested fresh fish, shrimp and scallops

for generations.

DAY 4 OUTER BANKS

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Established in 1937, America's first national seashore was formed to preserve significant segments of unspoiled barrier islands along North Carolina's stretch of the Atlantic Coast. Make sure to visit these points of interest while visiting the seashore.

Bodie Island Lighthouse

Climb to the top and check out the newest view atop the most picturesque lighthouse in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. 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 left-over from the construction of the newest Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge

The beach along this undeveloped stretch of land is popular with anglers, surfers, sun-bathers and shell seekers. On the right side of the road, heading south, salt marshes surround Pamlico Sound, and birds flutter from groves of cattails. With 5,915 acres that attract nearly 400 observed species of birds, Pea Island is an outdoor aviary and stop over along the Atlantic Flyway.

Chicamacomico Life Saving Station

A predecessor to the US Coast Guard, Chicamacomico is one of the most complete US Lifesaving Station sites in the nation; see historic buildings and a boathouse that housed the service that was the predecessor to the United States Coast Guard. Hear the history of daring ocean rescues by brave men who dedicated their lives to the sea.

North Carolina Oyster Tasting

Stop at the Froggy Dog in Avon and learn about and try our locally farmed Cape Hatteras oysters on the half shell or Ocracoke oysters hand breaded or fried.

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

The gem of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore is the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. See the tallest brick beacon on the American coast with its black and white stripes; it stands at 208 feet high. Learn the marvelous history, which includes its half-mile move in 2000 away from the ocean. In the spring and summer, you can climb the lighthouse for spectacular views of the barrier island. Lighthouse Beach is the #5 Beach in the US for 2023.

Sticky Bottom Boys Oyster Farm

If time permits, check out the Sticky Bottom Boys Oyster Farm in Hatteras Village. Did you know that a single oyster cleans 50 gallons of water a day? Discover the incredible world of oysters on a captivating adventure! Prepare for a boat ride like no other as we cruise through the back creek, heading out to the sensational Sticky Bottom farm. Located just about 2 miles from the dock, this is where the magic happens.

DAY 5 HATTERAS ISLAND TO OCRACOKE ISLAND ATLANTIC BEACH

This morning, take a 45-minute car ferry to **Ocracoke Island** and spend half a day exploring this island and the 2022 #1 Beach in America.

Buy your tickets for the 3-hour ferry ride to Cedar Island. From there, drive to Beaufort/Morehead City/Atlantic Beach. Atlantic Beach is situated on a beautiful barrier island bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and Bogue Sound and known for its abundance of public beaches and friendly people. Relax for dinner at many of their



North Carolina



visitnc.com

Heidi Walters
Director, Partner and Industry Relations heidi.walters@visitnc.com

restaurants with outdoor seating for another fantastic sunset dinner. Because the beaches here are south facing, you can catch the sunset and the sunrise!

DAY 6 ATLANTIC BEACH AND HARKERS ISLAND

Cape Lookout National Seashore

Explore the next day with a trip to Harkers Island to catch a boat to Cape Lookout National Seashore. Harkers Island has the honor of hosting both the Cape Lookout National Seashore Visitor Center and the Core Sound Waterfowl and History Museum along its shores, making it a very special stop during any Crystal Coast trip. This area - made up largely of residential homes and private communities - offers some of the most unique views of the Cape. Visit **Cape Lookout Lighthouse** (the Diamond Lady), as well as boat launches and marinas to explore a quieter, calmer side of the Coast. Another great lighthouse climb or amazing shelling at the point. On the way to/from, stop at Shackleford Banks to see the wild horses.

DAY 7 ATLANTIC BEACH - WILMINGTON

Wilmington and Beaches

As you travel to Wilmington and Beaches, pass by other wonderful coastal communities. On the way make a stop at the **Karen**

Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital or shop at an eclectic shop in Swansboro, also known as the “Friendly City by the Sea.”

There is plenty to see and do in Wilmington, nicknamed Hollywood East, and its three beaches: Wrightsville, Carolina & Kure. Home to **Screen Gems East Coast studio**, you might even see something being filmed on the streets in town. Wilmington is one Southern destination with something for everyone. Visit **Airlie Gardens** or stroll along the pedestrian-friendly Riverwalk lined with shops and cafes and the Port City Marina. Then hop aboard a water taxi to the famous **World War II Battleship North Carolina**, one of USA TODAY’s Best North Carolina Attractions, or take a scenic cruise or sightseeing tour.

DAY 8 WILMINGTON - RALEIGH

DEPARTURE