

Outer Banks (OBX), North Carolina Information

There are a lot of things to see and do in the Outer Banks the area is rich in history that spans literally over 300 years. And yes if history isn't your thing there are a lot of little shops and an outlet mall. In the front area of grocery stores you can find free information booklets on restaurants, etc. The local cable network has a station (not sure but it may be channel 12) that provides information on local restaurants, shops and things to do.

Aside from whatever we may list in this document please check out our [Favorite Links](#) page on our website. It contains several links to other sources of OBX information that will lead to still more information.

Shops/Mall

There are lots of shops. This is a tourist area so you know they have a lot of shops all over I've listed just a few.

Scarborough Faire – is in Duck they have gift shops and Fish Bones restaurant (info below on Fish Bones).

Tim Buck II – is in Corolla (a ½ mile north of us) <http://www.timbuckii.com/> a lot of shops and restaurants.

Tangier Outlet Mall – is south in Nags Head Mile Post 16 on the Bypass** Has a number of the same stores as in the Leesburg or Potomac Mills Virginia outlets. Note tax in NC is 8% were VA is only 5% if you are considering expensive items you may be able to get shipping out of state tax free, ask.

Restaurants

As with the shops, there are a lot of restaurants in the area, many of which we have never tried. These are some we really like and some we have heard that are really good (and some we would only recommend to people we don't like). You can find a listing or more restaurants by location (also shops & attractions) at <http://www.outer-banks.nc.us/eat.htm> and <http://www.corollaguide.com/restaurants.htm> and <http://www.corollaclassicvacations.com/concierge.htm>

Most of the links for the restaurants listed below include their menus. The link above for Tim Buck II has a list of restaurants within their Plaza. Also, see <http://www.outerbanksexplorer.com/01corolla/corollacoupons.htm> for some coupons.

Metropolis (this is our favorite) – A little south of us in the Currituck Club (the same location as the Spa at Corolla). They occasionally change their menu, but these are

some of the items we like that they usually have: Black & Bleu Tenderloin Medallions, Panko Seared Tuna and the Champagne Mussels. Their presentation is in smaller style portions, "Tapas", but they will do larger portions if you like. Instead of doing a larger portion we usually order a couple of different items for variety. If it's not crowded or busy they may whip up something at your request by combining menu items, just ask, but not if they are busy. They allow smoking after 9:00 PM.

<http://www.littlebarbistro.com/metropolis.html>

Sunset Grill – (tied for our second favorite with the OBX Brewing Station below). They have a variety of chicken, beef, fish and seafood but fish and seafood is their specialty. Sunset Grill has a real nice view of Pamlico Sound even if you just go for a drink and watch the sunset. Sunset Grill is right on the sound on the main road just a little north of the Duck. They also own Fish Bones restaurant in Scarborough Faire in Duck. We have never tried Fish Bones but have heard it's also good.

<http://www.fishbonessunsetgrille.com/index.html>

Outer Banks Brewing Station – in Kill Devil Hills mile post 8 ½ on the Bypass**. Has both Pub food (burgers) and fine dining (salads, steaks, chicken, etc.). They brew their own beer, they have a bar with wines and cocktails also. Burgers are very good. Note you cannot get meat done rare in NC (I've tried to beg and they won't do it).

<http://www.obbrewing.com/>

Steamers Shellfish to Go – in Corolla at Tim Buck II eat-in/takeout. They will do take-out "Steamer Pots" a takeout clambake type of order of our choice of seafood, etc. that you can prepare back at the house or they have an eat-in.

<http://www.steamersshellfishtogo.com/default2.asp>

Owen's restaurant is in Nags Head on the Beach road** – A variety - steaks, seafood, chicken, etc. More of an upscale fine dining restaurant, but very good.

<http://www.ego.net/us/nc/ob/owens/>

The Black Pelican is in Kitty Hawk on the Beach Road** - A variety, steaks, seafood, chicken, etc. We never eaten there but have heard it's very good from some local residents. <http://www.blackpelican.com/>

Dirty Dick's Crab House – In Kill Devil Hills mile post 9 on the Beach Road**. Along with seafood they also sell their famous tee shirts that say "I got my crabs at Dirty Dick's". We haven't eaten there but family says it's good (the food that is). Eat-in/take-out.

<http://www.dirtydickscrabs.com/>

Lighthouse Bagels – in the plaza in front of Food Lion next to Tomato Patch across the street from Tim Buck II. Excellent bagels, but pass on their pastries they are kind of bland (I guess you should just stick to what you do well).

<http://www.lighthousebagels.com/>

Pizza & Subs

Corolla Pizza – In Corolla north of the Corolla Lighthouse in the same convenience shop area as the Corolla Post Office. They have excellent pizza and subs for take-out only. This is our favorite pizza and subs but Tomato Patch listed below is a close second. For a \$1.00 off Internet coupon go to:

<http://www.outerbanksexplorer.com/coupons/NCcorollapizza.htm>

Tomato Patch – In Corolla across the street from Tim Buck II, they have good pizza, subs, salads, pasta eat-in/takeout. <http://www.obxpizza.com/index2.htm>

Pizza Guys – in Corolla in the Currituck Club area (I think they deliver or used to). They are OK. Corolla Pizza or Tomato Patch is a better choice.

Pizzazz Pizza (I think that's the name) in Duck by the water tower. Don't go there it's really, really bad pizza.

Miscellaneous

ABC Store - is in Corolla in the Currituck Club same area as Metropolis and Spa at Corolla. Wine and Beer are sold in grocery stores or Brew-Thru (believe it or not it's a Drive through Beer store, there is one at Tim Buck II)

<http://www.brewthru.com/index.cfm>

Spa at Corolla – Very nice. It is a full service spa. <http://www.spaatcorolla.com/>

Grocery stores – Harris Teeter in Corolla at the Currituck Club south of us (it's new, just opened spring 2006) and Food Lion in Corolla across the street from Tim Buck II. Tommy's Gourmet Market in Duck (read pricey) a small grocery store a gourmet, beef, seafood, cheese, bakery, and wine emporium <http://tommysmarket.com/index.asp>

For a coupon see <http://www.outerbanksexplorer.com/coupons/NCtommysmarket.htm>

Things to Do (there is a lot more than mentioned here)

Corolla Lighthouse – in Corolla about 5 miles north of us you can walk around the lighthouse grounds for free or climb the lighthouse for a small fee. It has a wonderful view of both the sound and ocean from the top. There's a nice gift shop on the grounds. <http://www.currituckbeachlight.com/> There is pier that goes way out into the sound that you can walk to from the lighthouse parking lot.

The Whale Head Club – Was a hunt club in the early 1920s built by a rich guy for his wife because at the time hunt clubs would not admit women so they built their own. Within walking distance to the Corolla Lighthouse. It's free to walk around the grounds

and a small fee for a tour of the inside. The tour is interesting as they show things like area where they hid liquor during prohibition, the first elevator in the Outer Banks and one of the early elevators anywhere, the first basement in the Outer Banks and so on. You can watch the sunset from the front porch and wish you never had to leave.

<http://www.whaleheadclub.org/>

4-Wheel Drive Beach – is north of Corolla and you really do need a 4-wheel drive vehicle to drive on it. You can see the wild horses. Sometimes you will have to go in off the beach to see them. Usually the low area over the dunes where there are tire tracks is a road to get off the beach. There are no road signs but a GPS will point out the roads very well (note the term road is used very loosely as they are just packed sand paths. <http://www.corollawildhorses.com/> If you're not up to driving on the 4-wheel drive beach but still want to see the horses Corolla Outback ATV Adventures has guided ATV tours. <http://www.corollaoutback.com/tours.html>

Also see the following link for a discount coupon

<http://www.outerbanksexplorer.com/coupons/NCcorollaoutback.htm>

Jockey's Ridge – is a state park with the tallest sand dunes on the East Coast and is free. If it's a hot summer day wear socks, not shoes, to keep your feet cool, seriously it works besides shoes anytime will just get filled with sand. The best time to visit is in the early morning as soon as it opens, the sand is cooler and the view is spectacular and the crowds have not arrived. Also in the early morning you can watch the hang gliding school at work. <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jori/home.html>

Wright Brothers National Memorial – is the location where the first successful airplane flight occurred December 17, 1903. Park, museum, tours, replica of their plane (the original is in the Smithsonian Air & Space) <http://www.nps.gov/wrbr/indepth/>

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse – This is the famous lighthouse on the Outer Banks. If you go, plan on it being a full day trip as it takes a while to get down there and back. We strongly suggest leaving the house at about 8am to head down. You can walk up the lighthouse, it's taller than the Corolla lighthouse indeed it is the tallest in the US and has a great view for a small fee. Or you can just walk around the park and see the museum which is all free. It has a new information/history area built after they moved the lighthouse. Be warned the walk to the top of the lighthouse is vigorous do not do it unless you are in reasonably good health, but you will be richly rewarded by the view <http://www.nps.gov/caha/capehatteras.htm>

If you decide to go down to the lighthouse there is a good barbeque place for a quick sandwich or ribs just a few minutes south of the lighthouse in Frisco called **Bubba's** (it will be on the right as you head south. It looks like a dive but is good.)

<http://www.outerbanksexplorer.com/menus/SMbubbas.htm>

On the way down or back you can also stop by the **Bodie Island Lighthouse** near Oregon Inlet you can't go up in this one, but they have the lighthouse keeper's house

open as a museum for free that has pictures and history/information on the lighthouse and a nice gift shop. <http://www.nps.gov/caha/bodielh.htm>

Also on the way back you can stop for a tour at the **Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station** in Rodanthe there is small fee for it also. <http://www.hatteras-nc.com/chicamacomico/> This is the most fully preserved lifesaving station on the Outer Banks (the lifesaving service was the precursor to today's Coast Guard). During the summer they do lifesaving drill demonstrations. The staff is very knowledgeable and will gladly answer your questions. The museum is excellent. We highly recommend including this among your stops if you go to Hatteras. If you have stopped at Bodie Island, Hatteras, Bubba's and here and you left at 8am like we suggest you can figure to be returning to the house at about 5pm.

Note about the fees anywhere you go, they are used for the preservation and operations of these areas and a number of the people giving the tours or working are volunteers. When we say small fee it's true the highest is about \$7.

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge – established for the protection of wildlife, especially migratory waterfowl. On the north end of Hatteras island <http://www.hatteras-nc.com/peaisland/>

Manteo (Roanoke Island) – There are a lot of shops and restaurants in town and you can take a tour of Fort Raleigh which was the site of the first attempt at a permanent English Colony in the US and where Virginia Dare was born. She was the first colonist born in the US. <http://www.nps.gov/fora/raleigh.htm> The Lost Colony area has an outside theater, and the North Carolina Aquarium. (We've only been to Fort Raleigh) <http://www.thelostcolony.org/visit.html>

Andy Griffith (Andy of Mayberry) lives on Roanoke Island. I heard he started his acting career acting at the Lost Colony Theater. We have never eaten here, but the **1587 Restaurant** was profiled on one of the Food Network's shows for good places to eat. <http://www.1587.com/> Queen Anne's Revenge Restaurant in Wanchese (south end of the island opposite from Manteo) is very good and has views of the harbor. May not look like much from the outside but give it a try.

**** Beach Road vs Bypass** – in Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills and Nags Head you will hear them refer to places by the mile post number on the Bypass or on the Beach road. The Beach road is right along the beach, 25 MPH, 2 lanes and the Bypass parallels it inland just a bit, but is 4 lanes and 50 MPH and yes they enforce 50 and 55 is not 50. Most of the businesses, restaurants and shops are on the Bypass. There are square green mile post signs along the road. The beach road is an interesting drive when you're out sightseeing. In Kitty Hawk there is a beach house that is just about in the water, actually depending on the season there may be several.

Note about driving though Duck – the town of Duck is incorporated and their main source of income is probably from speeding tickets the **speed limit is 25** and they do mean 25.