

North Carolina Coast & Outer Banks

Depart Hendersonville: Today you will board Globe Treks' luxury motorcoach 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.

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. Later that afternoon, we will arrive at our hotel in Corolla where we'll settle in for a comfortable two-night oceanfront stay and enjoy the fine seafood restaurants the area has to offer.

Corolla & the northern Outer Banks: Our agenda includes a drive to the northernmost tip of the Outer Banks, Corolla, where you will visit (and climb, if you choose!) the 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. Then we'll have a chance to visit the Wright Brother's National Memorial Museum's many exhibits, runway, workshop, hangars, gift shops and, of course, the great monument atop the hill from where flight began!

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 for a view of the undisturbed wildlife and serene waters of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Containing 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. 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. We'll take a short ferry ride to the old fishing village of Ocracoke which affords us a view of the historic lighthouse. Built in 1823, it is the oldest operating lighthouse in North Carolina. Enjoy the evening at our overnight accommodations overlooking the picturesque village of Ocracoke.

Harkers Island and Beaufort: After a morning ferry, we'll spend the morning learning about the living traditions of decoy carving, boat-building and commercial fishing in the community of Harkers Island. We will also stop in Beaufort, home to the NC Maritime Museum where we will learn about Blackbeard and his ship, Queen Anne's Revenge which was discovered just off this coast.

Historic Wilmington, NC: Our final two days will be spent in Wilmington, one of our nation's key deep-water ports and home to one of the nation's largest historic districts, along with a myriad of sights and attractions. You'll see many prominent homes adorned with widows' walks which once belonged to seafaring captains. Our knowledgeable and entertaining city guide will trace the history of the area and the local landmarks. This afternoon, you'll have free time to enjoy downtown Wilmington (enjoy lunch on your own, shop at the famous Cotton Exchange, take the boat shuttle to the NC Battleship or take a leisurely stroll along the charming Cape Fear riverfront) or just relax at our beachfront hotel.

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. Late this afternoon, you will be escorted back to your home, completing this memorable tour.



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