



# The Outer Banks of North Carolina

June 3 – 10, 2023

8 Days / 7 Nights



## Day #1 – Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>:

- 5:30 AM** Depart Peoria Charter Waiting Room, 2600 NE Adams Street, Peoria
- 6:00 AM** Depart Morton from Wal Mart (behind Culvers), 155 E Courtland Street
- 6:45 AM** Depart Normal from Schnuck's off Raab Road, 1750 Bradford Lane
- 7:45 AM** Depart Urbana from Peoria Charter, 1910 N Federal Drive traveling east towards our home for the night in Huntington, West Virginia! We'll make rest and meal stops along the way as needed. *Note: Don't forget to set your watches ahead an hour upon entering the Eastern Time Zone.*
- 6:00 PM** We arrive at the **Fairfield Inn\*** in Huntington where we'll get checked in. Dinner is on your own tonight, so we'll take you somewhere close by to eat.

## Day #2 – Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>:

- Continental Breakfast\*** is served and then we check out and continue our journey on to Newport News, Virginia. We'll make rest and meal stops along the way as needed.
- 8:00 AM** We depart for Newport News!
- 5:30 PM** Arriving in Newport News, we check into our hotel and freshen up before dinner.
- 6:30 PM** **Dinner Buffet\*** is served at Fairways BBQ & Grill located at the Golf Club at Deer Run. Following dinner, we head back to the hotel for the evening.

## Day #3 – Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>:

- Breakfast\*** is included this morning before we check out.
- 8:15 AM** We check out and head out to our first attraction this morning.

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**9:00 AM** This morning we'll enjoy plenty of comfortable seating aboard the **Victory Rover Navy Base Cruise\*** with the Captain's expert commentary while cruising the smooth waters of the Elizabeth River. You'll tour one of the world's busiest seaports including the world's largest Naval Base, home of the Atlantic Fleet: destroyers, submarines, carriers including the Enterprise, Kennedy, Washington, Vinson, and Roosevelt. **Lunch\*** is included today and then we depart for The Outer Banks where we'll check into our hotel for the next 4 nights and have time to freshen up and enjoy a relaxing **Dinner\*** this evening.

#### **Day #4 – Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>:**



**Breakfast\*** is included this morning here at the hotel. Today is a full agenda of exciting and interesting things to do. First, we'll visit the **Wright Brothers Memorial\***. Wind, sand, and a dream of flight brought Wilbur and Orville Wright to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina where, after 4 years of scientific experimentation, they achieved the first successful airplane flights on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1903. Next, we'll visit **Jockey's Ridge State Park Dunes\*** which is the tallest living sand dune on the Atlantic Coast and is a premier location for kites, sightseeing, and sunsets, with a view arcing from the ocean to Roanoke Sound. At the Visitor's Center, a Park Ranger will explain the dune's ecology. Then you'll have some free time to walk the path to the top of the dunes. The **Currituck Beach Lighthouse\*** is next on our stops. It is known as a first order lighthouse, which means it has the largest of seven Fresnel lens sizes. The red-brick lighthouse towers above the northern Outer Banks landscape in the historic Corolla Village. Climb the winding staircase, 220 steps in all, to the top of the lighthouse for a panoramic view of Currituck Sound, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Currituck Outer Banks. Our final stop will be at the **Whalehead Club\***. Set on 39 pristine acres along the Currituck Sound in Historic Corolla Park, the Whalehead is a beautifully restored 1920's era Art Nouveau-style mansion turned museum. And finally, we'll enjoy **Dinner & Wine Tasting\*** at a stunning waterfront location overlooking the Currituck Sound in Duck, North Carolina.

#### **Day #5 – Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is included again this morning and then we're off for a **Cape Hatteras National Seashore Tour\***. Our local guide takes us to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore which was shaped by the forces of water, wind, and storms. Next, we'll visit the **Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum for a tour\***. Learn of the unpredictable ocean currents and violent storms that have made these shores the final resting place for thousands of ships and seamen. Then we're off to the **Cape Hatteras Lighthouse for a tour\***. The Lighthouse protects one of the most hazardous sections of the Atlantic Coast. Offshore of Cape Hatteras, the

Gulf Stream collides with the Virginia Drift, a branch of the Labrador Current from Canada. This current forces southbound ships into a dangerous 12-mile long sandbar called Diamond Shoals. Hundreds and possibly thousands of shipwrecks in this area have given it the reputation as the Graveyard of the Atlantic. Our next stop will be a **North Carolina**

**Oyster Tasting and Farm**

**Tour\***. Take a tour of a real oyster farm on Hatteras Island. The father and son duo who run the farm started their business knowing that the healthy fertile ecosystem surrounding them could support oysters and other sea life. After the tour, enjoy



an oyster tasting on the farm. **Chicamacomico Life Saving Station\*** is next on the list to stop at. It was the first of seven Life-Saving Stations built in North Carolina in 1874 and is one of the most unique historical maritime sites on the East Coast. We begin with a speaker presentation and then you'll have time to explore at your own pace. Tucked away between tall pine trees and freshwater marshland, **The Bodie Island Lighthouse\*** presents anything but a typical lighthouse setting. Though not as well-known as its neighbors, it remains an important part of local history. Every evening, amidst the water towers and blinking radio antennae of modern development, its powerful light beams out across the darkening waves, keeping silent watch over the treacherous waters known as the "*Graveyard of the Atlantic*". **Dinner\*** is included at a local restaurant this evening and then we head back to the hotel for a good night's sleep.

**Day #6 – Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is served and then we depart for a visit to the **Fort Raleigh National Historic Site\***. The site is the first attempted English Colony where Sir Walter Raleigh's explorers and later colonists established settlements in 1585 & 1587. It would later become known as "The Lost Colony" after 116 settlers disappeared. You'll also have time to stroll through the **Elizabethan Gardens\*** which were designed as a living memorial to Queen Elizabeth. Then we'll visit the **Island Farm** – a living history site that tells the story of the everyday Outer Bankers that lived on Roanoke Island in the 1850's. Here, an Island family experienced the impacts of the Civil War, performed harrowing rescues as members of the US Life-Saving Service, and assisted the Wright Brothers in their dream of achieving powered flight, all while feeding chickens, fishing the sounds, and growing corn for grinding at the mill. Next, we're off to **Roanoke Island Festival Park\*** - an interactive attraction that celebrates the first English settlement in America. You can board and explore the park's centerpiece, a representational ship, Elizabeth II. Discover 400 years of Outer Banks history in the Roanoke Adventure Museum and see The Legend of Two-Path, a mini movie about Native Americans.



The **Outer Banks Distillery Tasting\*** is next on our agenda. This is the first legal distillery on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, making their mark by distilling small batch rum from the Graveyard of the Atlantic. Located in historic downtown Manteo, enjoy a Kill Devil Rum tasting and tour, where you can purchase your own bottle of the award-winning rum. **Dinner\*** is included this evening at a local Outer Banks restaurant.

**Day #7 – Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is included before we begin our journey towards home. Today we'll travel to Charleston, West Virginia, for our overnight stay. We'll make rest & meal stops along the way as needed. Dinner is on your own tonight.

**Day #8 – Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast\*** is served before we check out and make our way home.

- 8:00 AM** We check out, board our coach and depart for home. *Note: Don't forget to set your watches back an hour as we enter the Central Time Zone.*
- 4:30 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Urbana.
- 5:30 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Normal.
- 6:15 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Morton.
- 6:45 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Peoria.

**Cost Per Person:**

**Single: \$2950.00 Double: \$2165.00 Triple: \$1995.00 Quad: \$1880.00**

**Tour Includes: Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Professional Driver & Tour Hosts, Hotel Accommodations, Luggage Handling, All Attractions & Meals in bold print and marked with an asterisk\*.**

