



Outer Banks of North Carolina: Breeze, Sand, Surf, & Wildlife 3 Nights / 4 Days

Day One - Oceanfront Hotel Arrival

Check in to our **Outer Banks Oceanfront Hotel** with a private balcony on every room to enjoy its own unique view of the ocean. **Baggage handling** is included. Depart and enjoy a **welcome dinner**. (Meals: D)

Day Two - Aquarium, Gardens, and Lighthouse

Enjoy **breakfast** at the hotel. Depart and visit the **North Carolina Aquarium**, see live animal encounters, feedings, a 285,000-gallon shark tank, interactive exhibits, and more. Visit the **Elizabethan Gardens**, a 10-acre historical site with plant displays and an antique statuary. A monumental bronze sculpture of Queen Elizabeth I, ancient Italian Renaissance statuary, Elizabethan elements and the solitary figure of Virginia Dare provide continuity to constantly changing flora. Horticultural collections are extensive, and annual color planted every season gives The Gardens a different perspective throughout the year. Enjoy **lunch on own** along the **Manteo waterfront**, where a boardwalk connects the Town boat ramp and marina, waterfront gazebo, playground, and picnic areas with the Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse, and the George Washington Creef Boathouse. See **Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse**, an exterior reconstruction of the square cottage-style screw-pile lighthouse which stood at the southern entrance to Croatan Sound, near Wanchese. It now houses historical and educational activities in the auspices of North Carolina Maritime Museum. Depart and visit **Fort Raleigh National Historic Site**, which preserves known portions of Roanoke Colony, England's first New World settlements from 1584 to 1590, including cultural heritage of the Native Americans, European Americans and African Americans who have lived on Roanoke Island. Visit **The Christmas Shop**, a staple in the Outer Banks community for over 50 years. The shop is 15,000 square feet, full of unique gifts, décor, locally made candy, jewelry and more. Depart and enjoy **dinner** at a local's favorite fresh seafood establishment. (Meals: B, D)

Day Three - Wild Ponies and Whalehead Beach

Enjoy **breakfast** at the hotel. See the **Wild Ponies** of **Outer Banks**. For 500 years, the most enduring – and endearing – residents of the Outer Banks, the wild **Colonial Spanish Mustangs**, have called this sliver of land between sound and sea home. They are feral horses descended from a herd brought here by explorers as early as the 1520s and are recognized as the state horse of North Carolina. How they got here is a bit of a mystery. It is said that some swam

ashore from shipwrecks while others were castoffs of failed settlements, left to flourish on these untouched barrier islands for hundreds of years. Seat back and relax inside the **open-air Safari Jeep**, where you will feel fresh ocean breezes and soak in the salt sea air while experiencing the wonders of nature. Today, you will find the largest herds of feral horses at the extreme ends of the Outer Banks. **Corolla**, to the north, of the barrier-island chain, have herds of around 120 stallions, mares and foals that call their beaches and dunes home. Enjoy **lunch on own** along boardwalk with boat launches on the banks of a sound linking restaurants, marsh, & forest. The boardwalk allows residents and visitors alike to enjoy the beauty and nature of the area, visit some of our fine retail establishments, eateries, or just relax and enjoy the day. Depart and visit **Currituck Beach Lighthouse**, a National Register Historic Place. Since 1873, this lighthouse has kept mariners from danger, night and day. The Keepers' Dwelling has housed more than two dozen families, as their duties of "Lighthouse Keeper" were carried out. The last brick and mortar lighthouse built in North Carolina; its unpainted red brick served as a day marker to distinguish it from other coastal lighthouses. The Currituck Beach Lighthouse is a first order lighthouse, having the largest of seven Fresnel lens sizes. With a 20-second flash cycle, the light can be seen from 18 nautical miles away. Stop at **Whalehead Beach**. Return to hotel to refresh. Depart and enjoy **dinner included** at a family-run spot serving seafood, steaks & breakfasts in a casual, aquatic-themed setting with a bar. This is a place where the owners come around to check on everyone, where customers become friends and where entire families can dine together. Return to hotel for the evening. (Meals: B, D)

Day Four - Wright Brothers National Memorial & Depart

Enjoy **breakfast** at the hotel prior to checking out. Visit the **Wright Brothers National Memorial**, which commemorates the first successful, sustained, powered flights in a heavier-than-air-machine. Wind, sand, and a dream of flight brought Wilbur and Orville Wright to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina where, after four years of scientific experimentation, they achieved the first successful airplane flights on December 17, 1903. With courage and perseverance, these self-taught engineers relied on teamwork and application of the scientific process. What they achieved changed our world forever. Depart for home. (Meals: B, D)

Call Today for Your Custom Quote

Mid-Atlantic Tours & Receptive Services

Post Office Box 1390 Stephens City, VA 22655; Phone: 540-869-1864 ext. 3; Fax: 540-869-1826

Tour Includes: 3 nights' hotel accommodation; 3 breakfasts; 1 lunch; 4 dinners; admissions to events and guide service as stated in the itinerary. Based on 35 paying passengers and one (1) comps in single occupancy. Rates subject to change. Based on availability and while supplies last. Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No ST39040; State of California Seller of Travel Reg. No 2121204-40