

north carolina's
brunswick islands

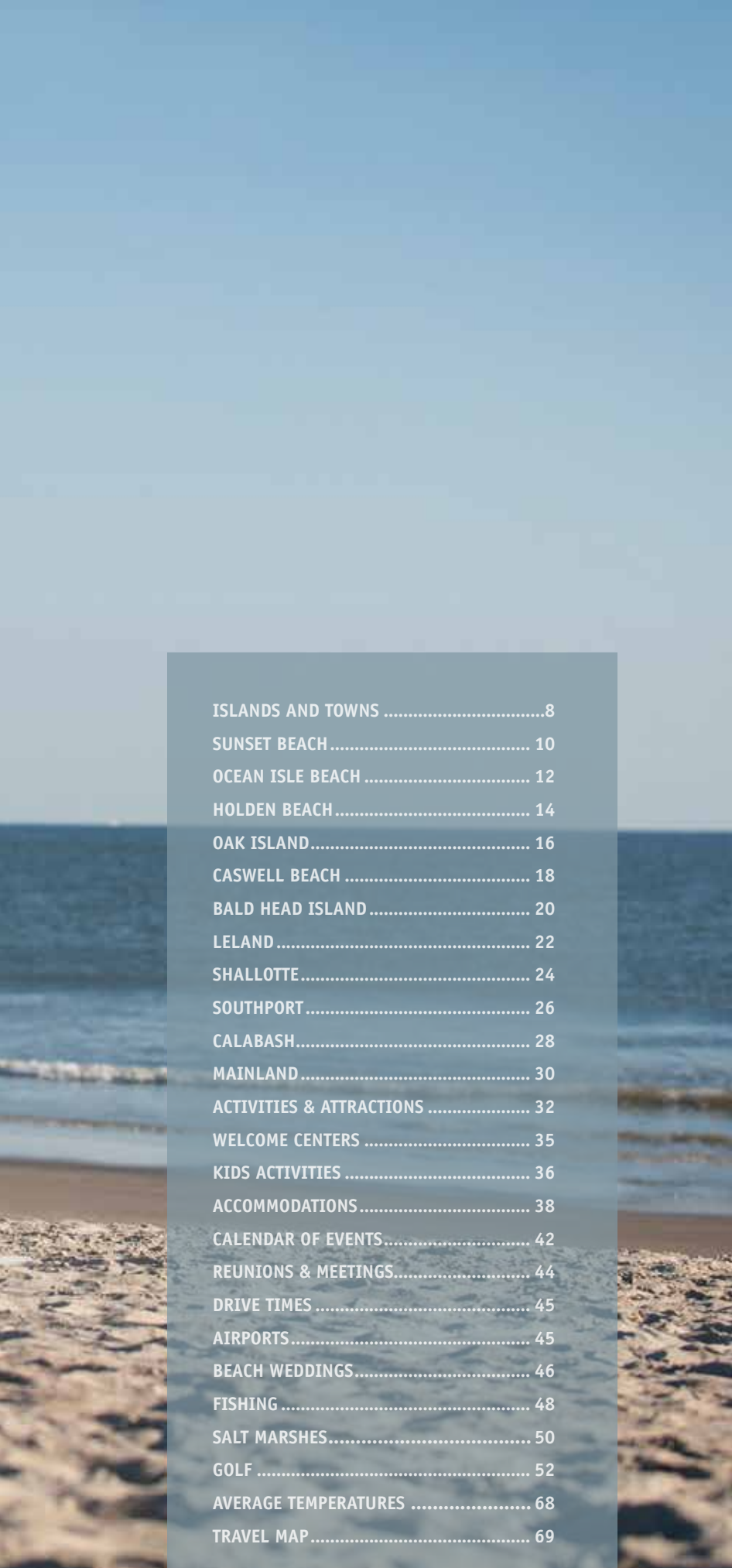


It's not just a beach.
It's a bond.

SUNSET BEACH • OCEAN ISLE BEACH • HOLDEN BEACH • OAK ISLAND • CASWELL BEACH
BALD HEAD ISLAND • LELAND • SHALLLOTTE • SOUTHPORT • CALABASH

The Beaches You Bond With





ISLANDS AND TOWNS	8
SUNSET BEACH	10
OCEAN ISLE BEACH	12
HOLDEN BEACH	14
OAK ISLAND.....	16
CASWELL BEACH	18
BALD HEAD ISLAND	20
LELAND	22
SHALLOTTE.....	24
SOUTHPORT	26
CALABASH.....	28
MAINLAND	30
ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS	32
WELCOME CENTERS	35
KIDS ACTIVITIES	36
ACCOMMODATIONS.....	38
CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....	42
REUNIONS & MEETINGS.....	44
DRIVE TIMES	45
AIRPORTS.....	45
BEACH WEDDINGS.....	46
FISHING	48
SALT MARSHES.....	50
GOLF	52
AVERAGE TEMPERATURES	68
TRAVEL MAP.....	69

It's been more than 250 years since the original chartering of Brunswick County. Still, nobody knows for sure when the bond between NC's Brunswick Islands and America's beachgoers actually began. Let's just say that, at some distant time, an affair between people and place was born. Some came here just to be one with the beach and the tides. Others met here. In the postwar years, families began to set the pattern that would repeat for generations, all bound up together with abundant sunshine, surf and seafood.

The beach became a bond.
Unshakeable. And unbreakable.

Today's Memory, Tomorrow's Tradition



Bonds are built effortlessly – with people, places and nature – in NC’s Brunswick Islands. Look for examples of bonding scattered throughout these pages. Some are tailor-made for mom and daughter or dad and son. Some are great ideas for the family. Some are recommended if it’s just the two of you. Still, others seem to work their magic with a group of friends.

BUILD
— A —
BOND

What is this bond people form in NC’s Brunswick Islands? That’s the beauty of it. It can be anything you desire it to be. People come here simply to splash in the inviting Atlantic swells. Some couples seem to share the bond of walking the rim of the ocean, pail in hand, ever searching.

Still, others carry a notebook in which they track the hundreds of bird species that visit our shores. Parents and children share the tradition of waiting by moonlight for sea turtle hatchlings to journey to the surf. Or limber up their paddling arms to enjoy a twilight kayak cruise of our waterways. Or, sculpt a sand castle at the high tide line. Or, simply fling down their blanket on our 45-mile strand and, every so often, touch hands.

The beach bond defies definition. It simply is.

The Bond Of The Natural World





As with most things at the beach, there are few hard and fast rules. Building a bond is about doing what comes naturally. Sometimes, especially if children are involved, that can involve nature. And out here in NC's Brunswick Islands, nature definitely has some interesting players.

With so many beaches, marshes and estuaries, the sheer variety of ecosystems on this sliver of coastline provides a haven for more than 330 species – some resident, some migratory – of birds. Speaking of migrating species, these barrier islands are also home to loggerhead turtles, whose females return to the beaches each year to bury their eggs in the sand. The transitional zone between high and low tides is awash in interesting life, including skittering crabs, starfish and more. There's more to discover on every visit.

Favorite Times, Past And Present





What better way to build a bond than a long walk on the beach collecting shells? As a collection of barrier islands off the Gulf Stream, our coastline offers beachcombers not only spectacular sunrises, but an abundance of moonlit nights. From the moon shell family to the rare scotch bonnet, purple-streaked channeled whelk, scallops and coquina clams, NC's Brunswick Islands is home to a delightful variety of collectors' favorites.

Shell collecting is a favorite pastime of locals and visitors alike and best experienced after high tide has receded. The abandoned homes of an array of ocean life, shells provide a keepsake that will remind you of time well spent with family, friends and loved ones. With 45 miles of shore to comb, you're bound to find a beauty.

There's More Than One Way To Have A Bond With A Beach.

NC's Brunswick Islands is one place. But it's also ten different communities. Every single one is part of the big experience. And every single one is different. No matter where you stay when you visit us, we encourage you to travel around and experience the whole. You'll discover that over time you'll find your own special place to bond with, a destination you can return to over and over again that's always as good as your first visit.

p.20 **Bald Head Island**

Lock your cares in your car and leave them behind. On Bald Head Island, the only traffic is provided by golf carts and bikes. Old Baldy, the familiar stout brick lighthouse, presides over a natural setting of expansive beaches. Spectacular dunes hide spacious beach homes and surprising shops nestled along maritime forest pathways. Quiet, secluded – but with great golf and beautiful marina-side settings – that's the Bald Head experience.

p.28 **Calabash**

The little town with a legendary style of cooking seafood lives up to its distinction as "Seafood Capital of the World." Plenty of restaurants await you from traditional family style to international cuisine. Wander the shops while seeing how long you can resist the temptation of shrimp, clams, oysters and crabs. Treat the kids to homemade ice cream. Explore the docks where fishing and pleasure boats tie up. Calabash has been synonymous with seafood and family fun for decades.

p.18 **Caswell Beach**

Got time for shelling on long, secluded beach walks? You'll need it on Caswell Beach, where traditional vacation homes await you behind the line of dunes, and the trusty beacon of Oak Island Lighthouse watches over all. With its long stretches of sea oat-fringed dunes that beckon you all the way down to the inlet, this is the least inhabited of our beaches. Of course, if it's action you're looking for, simply drive or bike to the shops next door on Oak Island!

p.14 **Holden Beach**

You could say Holden Beach hit the big time when it was named by *National Geographic Traveler* as one of the country's best. And yet, it was never spoiled by success. Its backyard is the Intracoastal Waterway, where kayakers can mingle with the environment's extraordinary wildlife. Holden Beach never fails to delight, from the pleasures of moonlit walks in the surf to the surprises waiting in the tidal pools at Lockwood Folly Inlet.

p.22 **Leland**

Leland is where you go for a completely different kind of time. Paddling down the Brunswick River in your own kayak is like drifting into an older, simpler world. One where you're just as apt to come upon osprey, egrets and eagles as you are another paddler. Nearby, the 900-plus acre Brunswick Nature Park also offers many opportunities to view North Carolina's coastal wildlife in their natural habitat. Of course, if it's shops and refreshments you're after, Leland offers that, too!

p.16 **Oak Island**

There is laid-back. And there is Oak Island laid-back. The quiet streets lined with beach homes summon you to mount a bike and stick a reed in the spokes, like when you were a kid. So much of Oak Island has that air of nostalgia. Yet, if it's water you want, this beach has more than 60 public access points. Marinas, boat ramps and fishing piers put the best of Brunswick Islands fishing right at your feet. And if long romantic beach walks are in your plans, there's no place better.



p.12 Ocean Isle Beach

Ask anyone who's ever done it. There's no family experience quite like searching for sea turtles. Once you experience these creatures on a moonlit night, you'll never forget it. There are miles of Ocean Isle beachfront to share with these fascinating creatures. But don't worry, they like the other beaches, too! Because of its easygoing spirit, Ocean Isle Beach has been a repeat family favorite for generations. It has even grown its own particular celebrations, including the popular North Carolina Oyster Festival.

p.24 Shallotte

Savvy beachgoers know they have to make time for Shallotte. With central access to all six of our beaches, Shallotte is the perfect place to load up on provisions for your beach vacation. Or, to take a break from the sun and salt spray. And while a stop here is a must for any beachgoer, it's also a central focal point for our championship golf courses. You'll discover Shallotte is a timely place for a quick bite on your way sightseeing or taking in an afternoon movie.

p.26 Southport

Rich in history and maritime charm, Southport has been crowned America's "Happiest Seaside Town" by *Coastal Living*. With its oak tree-lined streets and bustling yacht basin, this harbor town has made appearances in feature films, making not only visitors, but directors and moviegoers happy. Local shops and restaurants pepper the waterfront, so you'll always find something pleasant cooking. Explore the streets, historic homes and landmarks, even the local connections to our swashbuckling pirate and shrimping heritage. One could say Southport is bonded to the past.

p.10 Sunset Beach

The bonds other species have with the Brunswick Islands complement those of people. Sunset Beach, for example, is home and way-station to hundreds of species of birds...and soulseekers. Wander over to adjoining Bird Island on an afternoon, and you'll discover the special magic of this place. This undeveloped coastal reserve is a favorite of those free souls who leave their thoughts in the communal Kindred Spirit mailbox. Sunset Beach, like its namesake, has a peaceful effect on the soul. And of course, for the early birds, it's a favorite for sunrise.

Take your soul mate on a walk to the Kindred Spirit Mailbox, tucked away in a small cove nearly a mile from the last public access point. Here, it's not letters that are collected, but stories. Visitors are invited to share their thoughts and life experiences in the pages of the notebooks within. You'll build a bond with each other. And with people unseen.

BUILD
—A—
BOND



Sunset Beach



Bonds can just happen. Walk down the beach with your favorite beachcombing partner, each in your own little world, without so much as a boardwalk to distract you. Other people seem like distant specks. And suddenly, you're closer than you've been in ages.

If that's what's been missing from your vacation, Sunset Beach doesn't disappoint. Living up to its name, this is one place you can witness both sunrise and sunset over the ocean. This peaceful island cushions the soul like a hammock. Instead of high-rises towering over the dunes, you're accompanied by quiet, natural beauty and serenity. Bicycles rule the roadways while deer search the dunes for tender grass.

Once separated by an inlet, Sunset Beach now adjoins Bird Island, a designated coastal reserve. On Sunset Beach and Bird Island, you can see more than 260 species of birds nesting or migrating here throughout the year. Just off the jetty, the inlet is home to blue crab, starfish and even the occasional octopus. All of which makes this a perfect place to bond with the natural world.



PIPING PLOVER

Charadrius melodus

This small, endangered shorebird has a short orange bill with a black tip. If you're lucky, you might find him running across our open, sandy beaches, pecking at the ground, picking up something to eat.



Ocean Isle Beach

How do you improve your bond with the kids – and with the natural world – in one fell swoop? Try your hand at aerial agility at the Shallotte River Swamp Park Ocean Isle Beach Outpost. Even the most skeptical teenage son will be impressed when you fly through the treetops on a zipline. Then, come face to face with the denizens of a cypress swamp as a tour boat guide introduces you to reptilian, amphibian and bird life amid still waters and cypress knees!





Ocean Isle Beach, with its rocking chairs and open-air porches, is one place where family bonds have been renewed for generations. Arriving here is like opening a cherished photo album. And a stroll down an enchanting street recalls trips to the shore with mom and dad. Somehow, it all feels like home.

With more than seven miles of picturesque shoreline, Ocean Isle Beach is a place for stolen moments together and extended families alike. Maybe now's the time to take those surfing lessons you've always talked about. Or plan a day to take the entire family to the Shallotte River Swamp Park Ocean Isle Beach Outpost, which combines tree canopy zipline adventures in six different levels of difficulty with an intriguing swamp boat eco-tour of one of nature's most interesting habitats.

Return visitors love the laid-back restaurants and hangouts with outdoor decks. Or the canals that serve as streets for those who bring their boats. Whether it's your first visit or your 40th, take time to create new and lasting bonds at one of the Brunswick Islands' most beloved destinations.



LETTERED OLIVE

Oliva sayana

This olive varies from grey to reddish-brown with zigzag markings and lives near shore or on sand flats near inlets.



Holden Beach



The 3,000-mile Intracoastal Waterway is fringed with inlets, saltwater rivers, bays and sounds. Since it connects fresh water with salt, endless numbers of creatures call this safe, natural habitat home. A kayak, canoe or boat tour is an unforgettable way to bond with the kids while helping them connect with the natural world.

BUILD
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BOND

Creating a bond with the kids can take a little extra stuff – bikes, boards, boats, beach games. Holden Beach is a great place to put it all to use. Or simply slow down your pace and soak in some time with one another. Either approach helps explain why *National Geographic Traveler* named this one of the best family beaches in the country.

Holden Beach holds a permanent allure for those drawn to kayaking the Intracoastal Waterway or chasing ghost crabs with flashlights. There will be plenty of opportunities to grab a bike and pedal to the eastern tip of the beach to Lockwood Folly Inlet. Or sit close to a loved one and watch the moon rise from the ocean while countless stars glitter overhead.

Another favorite family activity at low tide: searching through small pools containing fish and other curious sea creatures. Later, let the kids satisfy their own sweet tooth at the local candy shop. Of course, there's plenty more to discover at the "island in the middle." More than you can do over the course of a week or on countless return trips to family-friendly Holden Beach.



AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus palliatus

This fine fellow can be seen on the beaches and in the creeks of our marshes. Recognize him by his distinctive black head and breast and the orange bill he uses to crack open his dinner.



Oak Island





It's no surprise visitors have been bonding with Oak Island since the early 19th century. For many, lasting bonds have always been about water. With its more than 60 public beach entry points, easy access to fishing piers, two marinas, and three public boat and kayak ramps, Oak Island is a water sports enthusiast's paradise.

Behind the dunes that guard the huge expanse of beach, the quiet streets are dotted with homes from a bygone era. The local ice cream parlor is open seven days a week. You'll grow accustomed to the familiar ring of a bicycle bell when crossing the street.

Golfers are mere minutes from several championship courses. For a parent-child adventure, walk the tidal flats for breathtaking views of the ocean and marshland. From July to early October, you might witness sea turtle hatchlings making their way to the ocean. But honestly? Oak Island is a bond that deserves renewing anytime.

BUILD —A— BOND

Mom, dad, kids, doesn't matter. All enjoy the special bond of saltwater fishing at Oak Island Pier. This popular destination juts out into prime seawater fishing territory and everything you need for a memorable day is right here. You don't have to be an experienced angler. You just have to enjoy the sun, the breeze and the sea.



MOON SNAIL

Naticarius canrena

This beautiful shell can be identified by its semi-transparency. Its former occupant is known to feed on other snail and clam species.



Caswell Beach

It's 131 ship ladder steps to the top of the Oak Island Lighthouse, where you can see miles of uncrowded beaches, magnificent marshes and blue sky as far as the eye can see. Tours to the top are offered by appointment and you'll have to wear your tennis shoes. But it's a great climb for two or your whole crew.

BUILD
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BOND





A unique bond unites those who are fascinated by lighthouses. Especially those adventurous enough to climb to the observation deck of Oak Island Lighthouse, the 148-foot sentinel of Caswell Beach that's been guarding the coast since 1958.

Caswell Beach is the least populated of all our beaches, which helps explain its enduring popularity. The only commercial property here is the Oak Island Country Club. However, there are plenty of well-appointed vacation homes to accommodate gatherings large and small. And for those who want the kind of beach escape that spins off memories, there's no better place.

Caswell Beach is instant relief from the stress of the outside world, while only a short drive from the attractions of the neighboring islands. Restaurants and shops are but a mile or two away. And you can do your exploring together by car, bike, foot or boat. Or simply rent a kayak to navigate the marsh creeks and tidal pools that wind through the community.



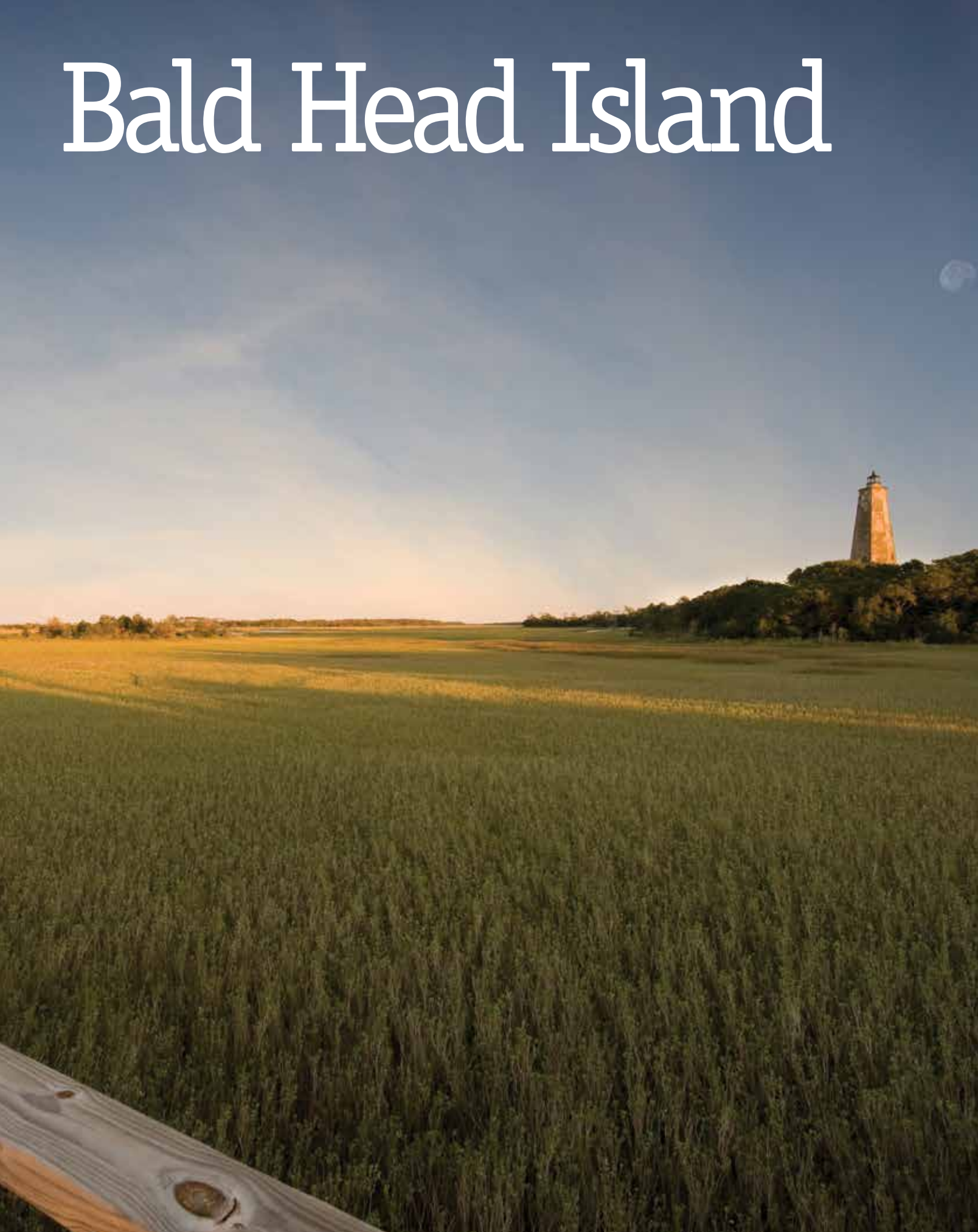
BROWN PELICAN

Pelecanus occidentalis

This social flyer nests in flocks and skims the waves searching for fish. It prefers to feed by diving from the air rather than fishing from the surface.



Bald Head Island



The ferry ride to Bald Head Island can bring on an acute nostalgia to the families that vacation here year after year. During season, you can pretty much set your clock by it! And if simplicity is your thing, the only way to get around is by golf cart or bicycle. And yet, everything you need for a memorable vacation is well within reach.

Restaurants and shops where you can stock up on fresh seafood and fun souvenirs adjoin the marina. The fully stocked grocery store in the heart of the island is up to the demands of any recipe. One of Brunswick Islands' premier golf courses challenges players with narrow fairways and tricky bunkers. For a totally different kind of challenge, don some whites and schedule a croquet match on the green. Or your tennis shoes, for the 108-step climb to the top of "Old Baldy," the oldest standing lighthouse in North Carolina.

Eco-lovers know this island is home to one of the largest turtle nesting sites. The broad beach always has plenty of space to spread your blanket and exhale. No wonder Bald Head Island has been attracting visitors since the days of Blackbeard the Pirate and Stede Bonnet!



KEYHOLE URCHIN
Mellita quinquesperforata

Commonly known as the Sand Dollar, this urchin is disc-shaped and is identified by its five keyhole slots. Please do not take any living Sand Dollars from their habitat.



BUILD — A — BOND

You don't need to get married beneath the mottled visage of Bald Head Island's "Old Baldy" to appreciate its romantic soul. That said, many couples do! You could settle for merely challenging your partner to climb the 108 steps to the top and share the rewarding view that awaits the two of you there. Originally built in 1817, this beloved landmark has engendered such bonds for centuries!



Leland



BUILD — A — BOND

Don't miss out on one of our best-kept secrets, especially if you have children. The nature trails that wind through our region are an ecological paradise, where you can view indigenous and migratory birds, rare carnivorous plants and vegetation unlike anything you'd expect to find in North Carolina.

It's easy to form a bond with a beach when there's so much to enjoy behind it. In Leland, you can have daily freshwater adventures with a kayak or canoe, along with encounters with the region's plentiful wildlife.

Known for being "in the middle of bliss," Leland is centrally located near area beaches and home to a wide variety of shopping and restaurants. Nearby, just across the river, Wilmington's attractions include the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA. Avid golfers will also find Leland is home to challenging fairways, magnificent views and sparse crowds, allowing for a leisurely round.

Leland is a good place to get to know some of our other permanent residents. The stealthy will be able to spot osprey, herons and even eagles on the scenic Brunswick River, surrounded by marsh grass, while the Brunswick Nature Park offers the opportunity to explore the wildlife of our winding tidal creeks. Hiking, cycling and horseback riding offer an afternoon of respite from sand and sea.



OSPREY

Pandion haliaetus

This large raptor is easily identified by its distinctive white underbody. It is a permanent resident of our estuaries and known, even on our golf courses, for its large nests.



Shallotte



Golfers love Shallotte's central location to more than 30 of the world's finest courses. Since every course is within a 20-mile radius, it's easy to enjoy more play time. With more than 120 miles of fairways, it's possible to play a course a day for a month and never repeat a hole. Which helps explain why many of the bonds created on our links are renewed year in and year out.





It's easier to create a bond if you get an occasional break from the sun. Shallotte, the ideal place to relax or reload the pantry, is where great beach vacations begin – and recharge. Here in the center of the Brunswick Islands, everything is close by, with dozens of brand-name and locally-owned stores and restaurants.

Counting down the minutes to a day at the beach? There's an access point just down the road. Interested in an excursion to one of the other Brunswick Islands? They're all nearby. Close proximity to all of your favorite activities is what Shallotte is all about. There's bowling and laser tag, shops and movie theaters and plenty of places for a quick bite or a cook's night out. In fact, Shallotte's oysters are known for their extra salty flavor, a result of how saltwater tides push into the Shalotte River.

Of course, you don't have to leave Shallotte to have a good time. For guests who can't decide where to stay in the Brunswick Islands, Shallotte gives you ready access to good times everywhere.



CHANNELED WHELK

Busycotypus canaliculatus

This pear-shaped shell is buff to tan with purple streaks and tends to be nocturnal in its habits. They can be 5 to 8 inches in length.



Southport

The breezy, carefree spirit of maritime Southport seems tailor-made for bonds of friendship or romance. Small wonder that this town of intimate B&Bs and shops full of surprises has been named by Coastal Living as America's "Happiest Seaside Town." Take your soul mate on a wander through streets lined with 19th century homes inhabited by sea captains and authors alike. Or, discover the locations used by directors in dozens of motion picture and television productions from "Safe Haven" to Stephen King's "Under the Dome."

BUILD
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BOND





A visit to the historic maritime town of Southport is a bond with a distant past of pirates and privateers, of antebellum Southern belles and blockade runners. Seafarers have been frequenting this community since as far back as the early 1500s, and the first European vessel constructed in the New World was built here, on the banks of the lower Cape Fear River.

Southport is still inseparable from the sea. By day, hulking container ships navigate the narrow channels en route to Wilmington. Along the shore, numerous local restaurants make it difficult to choose where you'll enjoy your next meal. Strolling the town's streets will reveal historic homes exuding 19th-century elegance as well as boutique shops and art galleries.

Still other secrets include the forgotten Price's Creek Lighthouse which can be seen from the Cape Fear River. You might even end up at the beautiful Olde Smithville Burying Ground, where sea captains and soldiers from the American Revolution have been laid to rest. From antiquing to boating, Southport is your opportunity to build a bond not just with a beautiful place, but with another time.



WILLET

Tringa semipalmata

Look for a grey bird, light underneath, with a long, stout dark-colored bill patrolling sand or mud flats. Willets nest in the marsh grasses and on the beach.



Few things bond parents and kids like a daylong adventure in the deep blue. Around here, it's easy to find a captain to lead a charter vessel, whether out to sea or to the best fishing spots along the Intracoastal Waterway. There's no guarantee you'll take home the big one, but there's nothing wrong with with a cooler full of flounder and trout, either.

BUILD
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BOND

Calabash



Calabash has been synonymous with the bonds of food and family, at the very least since a certain lovable crooner helped to immortalize the town over half a century ago. And if you've ever enjoyed the delightful crunch of Calabash-style seafood, you already know what makes this fishing village famous.

Here in the "Seafood Capital of the World," visitors from virtually everywhere share a taste for the distinctive style of seafood they've grown to love that's named after this small coastal community. The tradition began decades ago when local fishermen would arrive on the docks and cook their daily catches on the spot. Soon, these same fishermen were opening family restaurants. Today, many of these eateries are still open for business.

The local shrimp fleet offers visitors the chance to buy fresh seafood right off the boat to take home. But there's more to life than eating. Calabash is home to an abundance of unique shops and championship golf is always nearby. A few miles south, Myrtle Beach offers its many diversions. All told, it's no wonder that, for families large and small, a trip to Calabash is always part of a trip to the beach.



SCOTCH BONNET

Semicassis granulata

This cream-shell has yellowish-brown squares in rows and is usually 1.5 to 4 inches long. It's the state shell of North Carolina.



Mainland

BUILD —A— BOND

There is no better place to bond with the kids than on the water. The Boiling Spring Lakes area is perfect for freshwater fishing and boating, or simply taking a break from the sand and surf. For a glimpse of local wildlife, explore nature trails that meander through the 6,000-acre Boiling Spring Lakes Preserve.



It's not a stretch to say there's a bond between Brunswick Islands and the mainland. Located just across the Cape Fear River from downtown Wilmington and stretching south and west to the South Carolina state line, the land behind the beach has plenty of interesting things to see in its nine incorporated towns.

To experience the range of Brunswick Islands' culture, explore small towns such as Varnamtown, where you can wander along the docks and watch fishermen bring in the catch of the day. Winnabow features the historic interests of Brunswick County's original settlement, Brunswick Town, and the earthworks from the Civil War post, Fort Anderson. Or bond with the past at the ruins of St. Philips Church, which was burned by the British in 1776.

The scenic roads of Brunswick County are full of surprises, such as havens for pickers and folk art curiosities. Exploring the towns behind the beaches is a way to create a bond with the local people, as well as your family and friends, on your Brunswick Islands vacation.



GREAT EGRET

Ardea alba

This popular resident is known for its all-white plumage. Ubiquitous in our marshes, the egret can stand up to 3 feet tall and have a wingspan over 5 feet.



Activities & Attractions

In North Carolina's Brunswick Islands, there's no end to the ways you can keep yourself busy. With activities that range from fun to educational, you'll want to consider extending your stay. Visit our website ncbrunswick.com/fun_and_adventure for a full list of activities and attractions.



Battleship NORTH CAROLINA

Introduce a little education to your beach vacation. For a fascinating dose of local history, spend the day aboard the NORTH CAROLINA. The self-guided tour of this battleship begins with an orientation film, then takes you through nine decks before concluding at the Ship Store. Afterward, enjoy a picnic lunch in the riverside Battleship Park. Free parking. Open every day. 1 Battleship Road, Wilmington. Admission charged. 910.251.5797, www.battleshipnc.com. **see our ad on page 68**

Boiling Spring Lakes Preserve

The preserve is home to the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, a variety of carnivorous plants like the Venus Flytrap and more than 400 vascular plant species. The nature trail allows visitors to walk through a portion of the more than 6,000 fragile acres that make up the preserve. 1 Leeds Road, Boiling Spring Lakes. Free admission. 910.395.5000, www.ncbrunswick.com/activity/boiling-spring-lakes-preserve-mainland.

Brunswick Community College Odell Williamson Auditorium

Catch a show performed by local players and regional, national and international traveling acts. Located on the campus of Brunswick Community College on Hwy. 17 in Bolivia, the Odell Williamson Auditorium is home to numerous productions throughout the year. 150 College Road NE, Bolivia. Admission charged. 910.755.7416, www.bccowa.com.

Brunswick Islands Birding Trail

Eight birding sites along the North Carolina Birding Trail can be found in NC's Brunswick Islands. More than 260 species of birds can be seen nesting or migrating here including American Oystercatchers, Anhingas, Wood Storks and a variety of warblers, sparrows, ibis, plovers and more. Visit www.ncbrunswick.com/activity/brunswick-bird-watching-mainland.

Brunswick Nature Park

The park encompasses 911 acres of wonderful undeveloped wilderness that provide a dynamic mix of vegetation, wildlife, ecosystems, vistas, wetlands and waterways. Enjoy a kayak/canoe launch site. 40-by-40 picnic pavilion available for rent. Open from dawn until dusk. 2601 River Road (NC 133), Winnabow. Free admission. 910.253.2670, www.ncbrunswick.com/activity/brunswick-nature-park-mainland.

Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson

Explore the excavated ruins of one of North Carolina's oldest settlements. Founded in 1726, this colonial settlement is as mysterious as it is captivating. Stop by the Visitor's Center, and see exhibits about life in a colonial town and artifacts gathered from the ruins. ADA ¾ mile trail around site. 8884 St. Philip's Road SE, Winnabow. Free admission. 910.371.6613, www.nchistoricsites.org/brunwic/brunwic.htm.

Canoeing and Kayaking

In addition to more than 40 miles of ocean shoreline, the Brunswick Islands offer miles of black water, brackish creeks and rivers, all providing for a variety of paddling experiences. Surf kayaking and sea kayaking, along with canoeing and kayaking in these local creeks and rivers, offer unmatched opportunities to view the natural wonders and wildlife habitats of the area. Visit www.ncbrunswick.com/fun_and_adventure for kayak tour providers.

Dining

Grab a bite—good food is what we do best. Come enjoy world-famous Calabash cooking featuring fresh catches delivered from local docks. Fresh seafood and so much more, right here in the Brunswick Islands. Visit www.ncbrunswick.com/fun_and_adventure/dining to learn more.

Ev-Henwood Nature Preserve

Connect with the natural world at this 174-acre coastal forest research and nature preserve. You'll discover miles of walking trails and limitless native flora and fauna. 6150 Rock Creek Road NE, near Town Creek. Free admission. 910.962.4191, www.uncw.edu/physicalplant/arboretum/ev-henwood.

Fishing and Boating

Reel in the big catch and this evening's dinner all in an afternoon. Here, you'll find surf fishing and pier fishing, along with charters from local sea captains. For more information on charters, cruises, marinas, boat rentals and fishing tournaments, visit www.ncbrunswick.com/fun_and_adventure.

Fort Johnston and Southport Museum

Southport Museum and Visitor's Center is located inside the Fort Johnston Garrison House and features exhibits, original documents and historical artifacts about Southport and Fort Johnston. Fort Johnston was originally built by the British in 1748 to protect the region from Spanish and French attacks; it was conveyed to the City of Southport in 2006. 203 E. Bay Street, Southport. Free admission. 910.457.7927, www.ncbrunswick.com/activity/fort-johnston-southport-museum-visitor-center-southport.

Green Swamp Preserve

The Green Swamp Preserve is a 15,000-acre nature conservancy that includes many varieties of plant life and wildlife. See 14 species of insectivorous plants, including the Venus Flytrap, as well as the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. For local guides and information, call the Nature Conservancy. 910.395.5000, www.ncbrunswick.com/activity/green-swamp-preserve-mainland.

Ingram Planetarium

The stars always shine at Ingram Planetarium! Visit the free Paul Dennis Science Hall with its interactive displays. Enjoy a movie and live star show in the state-of-the-art Sky Theater. Attend special programs or lectures. 7625 High Market Street, Sunset Beach. Per-show admission charged for Sky Theater Shows. www.museumplanetarium.org. **see our ad on page 61**

Museum of Coastal Carolina

Walk through and see life-size replicas of marine animals and enjoy a touch tank with live sea animals. View wildlife dioramas of coastal Carolina plants and animals. See collections of seashells and shark jaws. Dig for shark teeth in the outdoor fossil pit, or attend special programs and lectures. 21 East Second Street, Ocean Isle Beach. Admission charged for non-members. 910.579.1016, www.museumplanetarium.org. **see our ad on page 61**

North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport

Walk through a collection of artifacts that speak to the vast nautical history of the Lower Cape Fear area of southeastern North Carolina. Take a self-guided tour or a scheduled costume interpretive tour. Special events and guest lecturers. 204 East Moore Street, Southport. Free admission. 910.457.0003, www.ncmaritimemuseums.com/southport.

Oak Island Lighthouse

Tour the lighthouse located on Caswell Beach. Wednesday and Saturday tours to the second level are available from Memorial Day – Labor Day, as well as year-round, appointment-only tours to the top tower and outside balcony. 300A Caswell Beach Road, Caswell Beach. Free admission. www.oakislandlighthouse.org.

Oak Island Nature Center

Enjoy a visit with Mother Nature. The center offers a wide range of educational activities for kids and adults, including an interactive Talking Trees Walking Trail, fossil exhibits and animal displays native to the Oak Island community. Open April-September. 5202 E. Yacht Drive, Oak Island. Free admission. 910.201.1392, <http://bit.ly/1iwWQ3W>.

Old Baldy Lighthouse and Smith Island Museum

Visit the state's oldest lighthouse, Old Baldy, and the Smith Island Museum, located in a replica of the 1850s keeper's cottage. Half-day excursion package tours available. 101 Lighthouse Wynd, Bald Head Island. Admission charged. Call 910.457.5003 for ferry information. Call 910.457.7481 for Old Baldy Lighthouse and tours, www.oldbaldy.org.

Old Bridge Museum

See the bridge and Bridge Tender's house from the historic swing bridge that once connected Sunset Beach to the mainland. Includes re-creation of the Bridge Tender's office. Seasonal hours. 109 Shoreline Drive West, Sunset Beach. Free Admission. www.oldbridgepreservationsociety.org.

Shalotte River Swamp Park

Explore this unique and beautiful natural environment by air or water. Aerial adventure park includes a challenge course with three levels of difficulty. Soar through the treetops high above the swamp on a 10-station zipline tour. Or, take a guided cruise through the cypress swamp where gators, beavers, wading birds and other wildlife await. 5550 Watts Road, Ocean Isle Beach. Admission varies by activity. 910.687.6100, www.shalotteriver-swamppark.com. **see our ad on page 65**

Shopping

Find that special something for that special someone. Browse antique and gift shops along oak-lined streets. While you're at it, pop into one of our area galleries for original works by local artists and craftsmen. Area shops also feature the latest in resort and golf apparel for men and women. Whether you're shopping for yourself or others, you won't be disappointed. Contact the Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce at 800.426.6644, Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce at 800.457.6964 or North Brunswick Chamber of Commerce at 888.383.0553.

Silver Coast Winery

Sip on a variety of wines at Brunswick County's first and only winery, located just inland of Ocean Isle Beach. Tour the winery and learn about winemaking step by step, from the grapevine to the wine cellar. Wine tasting available. 6680 Barbeque Road, Ocean Isle Beach. Free admission. 910.287.2800, www.silvercoastwinery.com.

Southport Trail

Take a self-guided walking tour through historic Southport. See churches and homes dating from the early 1700s, as well as landmarks like City Hall, the Old Brunswick Jail, Old Smithville Burial Ground and River Pilot's Tower. Contact the Southport Visitor's Center at 910.457.7927.

WELCOME CENTERS

Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce

800.426.6644
114 Wall Street, Shallotte, NC 28459
info@brunswickcountychamber.org
www.brunswickcountychamber.org

North Brunswick Chamber of Commerce

888.383.0553
120 Division Drive, Leland, NC 28451
nbchamber@nbchamber.net
www.nbchamberofcommerce.com

Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce

800.457.6964
4433 Long Beach Road SE, Southport, NC 28461
info@southport-oakisland.com
www.southport-oakisland.com

Southeastern Welcome Center

910.754.2505
394 Whiteville Road NW, Shallotte, NC 28470
(Intersection of Hwys. 17 and 130)

Southport Visitor's Center & Museum

910.457.7927
203 East Bay Street
Southport, NC 28461
[http://cityofsouthport.com/
index.aspx?page=126](http://cityofsouthport.com/index.aspx?page=126)



Playful Bonds Built By Kids

A child's bond with the beach begins early. In fact, it starts even before they get there. You can tell by the faces pressed against the car window as they catch their first glimpse of that magically sparkling blue water. It's coming face to face with the mysteries of ocean life in a tidal pool. It's learning to stay up on a boogie board. Learning to fly a kite. Digging in the sand or creating a castle just beyond the reach of the tide. Riding a bike at the surf's edge or throwing a football in the waves. These things live on from year to year, weaving the bonds between beach and family into a fabric that even the passage of time cannot fade.





They'll have the time of their lives, while you'll form some bonds of your own.

There's a certain sparkle that glistens in a child's eye as he watches a local fisherman unload a day's catch. Of course, nets brimming with curiosities from the ocean deep are enough to conjure a sense of wonder in kids of all ages. Here in NC's Brunswick Islands, we're also fascinated by underwater treasures.

At the Museum of Coastal Carolina, we're eager to share everything we know about the mysteries of the sea. Maybe it's aquariums that capture your imagination; you can find that, too. A short ferry ride across the Cape Fear River takes you to the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. Plan your visit around feeding time and watch the divers plunge into the tanks to hand out dinner. Regardless of which one you visit, a myriad of children's activities is always on the itinerary. From nature walks to turtle watch programs, dolphin cruises to children's day camps, there's just no end to the exciting ways your day can unfold.

For even more kid-friendly options, visit www.ncbrunswick.com/fun_and_adventure.

FUN FOR KIDS

Shallotte River Swamp Park
Skateboard park
Battleship NORTH CAROLINA
Brunswick Nature Park
Oak Island Nature Center
Oak Island Lighthouse
Old Baldy Lighthouse
Surf lessons
Golf lessons
Ingram Planetarium
Kayak excursions
Adventure cruises
Ferry rides
Disc golf
Biking
Crabbing at low tide
Go-karting
Miniature golf
Museum of Coastal Carolina
NC Maritime Museum
at Southport
Old Bridge Museum
Day camps
Fishing charters
Pier fishing





Places That Make You Want To Stay

When you form a bond with a place at the beach, it's often because it feels like a "home away from home." That's why many of the couples and families who return here time and time again often reserve the exact same beach vacation rental. There's nothing quite like the feeling of waking up that first morning at a place that feels different from home, yet familiar. Whether it's the antique décor and charm of a bed-and-breakfast, looking out your window to endless ocean views from your own private cottage or hosting a reunion for the extended family, your accommodations can be the highlight of a great vacation.

www.ncbrunswick.com/videos

View vacation rental experiences from the perspective of families vacationing on Oak Island, Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach.

Hotels And Inns

At the turn of a key, you'll have access to everything the Brunswick Islands offers. You'll find hotels to fit any style and budget. Relax in luxury at a beautiful resort. If you're planning an event, such as a wedding or reunion, many hotels offer catering services, banquet rooms and all the amenities to leave you in want of nothing. On the beach, on the Intracoastal or on the mainland, we'll have a hotel or inn to match your style. Many of the most memorable places to stay are the ones that have been here the longest, small inns that have been owned and operated by the same families for decades. These "mom-and-pops" are part of what makes the Brunswick Islands vacation so charming.

Bed-And-Breakfasts

Like most B&Bs, those found in the Brunswick Islands will definitely charm you with their atmosphere. But unlike those found in other vacation destinations, these add to the surrounding island beauty. Enjoy a full breakfast together before embarking on a big day or simply relax in a garden or on a porch as the kids bike and play. Intimate, personal and nostalgic, a B&B vacation in the Brunswick Islands is truly like no other.

Rental Homes

By far the most common accommodations to be found in the Brunswick Islands are the many house and condo rentals available. And there really is no end to the size, style, amenities and locations of these rentals. Bring the entire family for a reunion — even the family dog — or keep it to a simple gathering with close family or friends. Homes come with swimming pools, beach views, commercial-quality kitchens and much more. Whatever your choice, a rental home gives you total privacy and togetherness like no other accommodation.



BEACH ESSENTIALS

Don't forget these items for your next trip to NC's Brunswick Islands. With 45 miles of coastline, you're assured more beach for your blanket.

- Beach bag
- Beach blanket
- Beach towels
- Beach chairs
- Beach cart with wheels
- Cooler with wheels
- Beach umbrellas
- Beach toys
- Swimming goggles
- Floats
- Boogie, skim & surf boards
- Fishing poles
- Waterproof sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Waterproof camera
- Flashlights



Accommodations

Hotels, Motels, Resorts, Bed-and-Breakfasts

Best Western PLUS

Westgate Inn & Suites

1120 Towne Lake Drive
Leland, NC 28451
910.371.2858
www.bestwesternleland.com
100 rooms • mainland • breakfast



Blue Water Point

Motel & Marina

5710 West 57th Place
Oak Island, NC 28465
910.278.1230
www.bluewaterpointmotel.com
28 rooms • sound front

Brunswick Beaches

Camping Resort

7200 KOA Drive
Sunset Beach, NC 28468
1.855.579.2267 • 910.579.7562
www.brunswickbeachescamping.com
5 rooms • mainland 🐾

The Brunswick Inn

Bed & Breakfast

301 East Bay Street
Southport, NC 28461
910.457.5278
www.brunswickinn.com
3 rooms • mainland • breakfast

Brunswick Plantation

and Golf Resort

330 South Middleton Drive
Calabash, NC 28467
1.800.332.8576 • 910.845.7000
www.brunswickvillas.com
400 rooms • mainland 🌿 🐾 ❤️
see our ad on page 60

Captain's Cove Motel

6401 East Oak Island Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465
910.278.6026
www.realpages.com/sites/captainscove
42 rooms • mainland

Captain Newton's Inn

120 West Moore Street
Southport, NC 28461
910.477.2743
www.captainnewtonsinn.com
3 rooms • mainland • breakfast

Causeway Inn

12 Causeway Drive
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
1.866.931.5201 • 910.579.6216
www.sloanevacations.com
35 rooms • island

Comfort Inn

360 Whiteville Road NW
Shallotte, NC 28459
1.800.565.1223 • 910.754.3044
www.choicehotels.com/hotel/nc078
58 rooms • mainland • breakfast

Comfort Suites

4963 Southport-Supply Road
Southport, NC 28461
1.877.424.6423 • 910.454.7444
www.choicehotels.com/hotel/nc351
70 rooms • mainland • breakfast
🌿 🐾 see our ad on page 64

Continental Condominiums

431 South Sunset Boulevard
Sunset Beach, NC 28468
910.579.6772
www.motelatsunsetbeach.com
27 rooms • island
see our ad on page 65

Days Inn

3670 Express Drive
Shallotte, NC 28470
1.888.440.2021 • 910.754.3300
www.daysinn.com
61 rooms • mainland • breakfast
🐾

Econo Lodge Inn & Suites

4646 East Coast Lane
Shallotte, NC 28470
910.755.6444
www.econolodge.com/hotel/nc686
62 rooms • mainland • breakfast

Gray Gull Motel

3263 Holden Beach Road SW
Holden Beach, NC 28462
910.842.6775
www.graygullmotel.com
17 rooms • mainland

Hampton Inn Southport

5181 Southport-Supply Road SE
Southport, NC 28461
1.800.HAMPTON • 910.454.0016
www.hamptoninn.com/hi/southport
80 rooms • mainland • breakfast

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

3400 Southport-Supply Road SE
Bolivia, NC 28422
910.253.9100
www.hiexpress.com/southportnc
93 rooms • mainland • breakfast

Holiday Inn Express- Leland/Wilmington Area

1020 Grandiflora Drive
Leland, NC 28451
910.383.3300
www.hiexpress.com/lelandnc
105 rooms • mainland • breakfast
🌿 🐾 ❤️

The Inn at River Oaks

512 North Howe Street
Southport, NC 28461
910.457.1100
www.theinnatriveroaks.com
16 rooms • mainland 🐾

Island Inn Motel

5611 East Oak Island Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465
910.278.1147
17 rooms • island 🌿

Island Resort

500 Ocean Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465
910.278.5644
www.islandresortandinn.com
22 rooms • island 🐾

Islander Inn

57 West First Street
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
1.888.325.4753 • 910.575.7000
www.islanderinn.com
70 rooms • oceanfront • breakfast
🌿 ❤️

Lois Jane's Riverview Inn

106 West Bay Street
Southport, NC 28461
910.457.6701
www.loisjanes.com
6 rooms • mainland • breakfast

Marsh Harbour Inn

21 Keelson Row
Bald Head Island, NC 28461
1.800.680.8322 • 910.454.0451
www.marshharbourinn.com
15 rooms • island • breakfast ❤️

Marsh Harbour Villas

10155 Beach Drive SW
Calabash, NC 28467
910.579.3700
www.marshharbour.org
16 rooms • mainland

Oak Island Inn

8101 East Oak Island Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465
910.278.1689
16 rooms • island 🐾

Ocean Crest Motel

1417 East Beach Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465
910.278.3333
www.oceancrestmotel.com
62 rooms • oceanfront
see our ad on page 59

Ocean Isle Inn

37 West First Street
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
1.800.352.5988 • 910.579.0750
www.oceanisleinn.com
70 rooms • oceanfront • breakfast
🌿 ❤️ see our ad on page 66

Riverside Motel

103 West Bay Street
Southport, NC 28461
910.457.6986
www.loisjanes.com
8 rooms • mainland

Robert Ruark Inn

119 North Lord Street
Southport, NC 28461
910.363.4169
www.robertruarkinn.com
4 rooms • mainland • breakfast

Sea Trail Resort

75A Clubhouse Road
Sunset Beach, NC 28468
1.866.368.6642 • 910.287.1100
www.seatrail.com
225 rooms 🌿 ❤️
see our ad on page 62

Southport Inn

119 North Davis Street
Southport, NC 28461
910.713.5799
www.thesouthportinn.com
3 rooms • mainland • breakfast

The Sunset Inn

9 North Shore Drive East
Sunset Beach, NC 28468
1.888.575.1001 • 910.575.1000
www.thesunsetinn.net
14 rooms • island • breakfast ❤️

The Winds Resort Beach Club

310 East First Street
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
1.800.334.3581 • 910.579.6275
www.thewinds.com
86 rooms • oceanfront • breakfast
🌿 🐾 ❤️ see our ad on pages 56-57

Wingate by Wyndham

1511 North Howe Street
Southport, NC 28461
910.454.0086
www.wingateinns.com/id=30565
84 rooms • mainland

Cottages and Condos

Alan Holden Vacations

128 Ocean Boulevard West
Holden Beach, NC 28462
1.800.720.2200 • 910.842.6061
www.holden-beach.com 🐾
see our ad on page 58

Bald Head Island Limited Vacation Rentals

P.O. Box 3069
Bald Head Island, NC 28461
1.877.344.6674 • 910.457.5002
www.baldheadisland.com
🌐 🐾 ❤️ see our ad on page 59

Bald Head Island Rentals

P.O. Box 3012
Bald Head Island, NC 28461
1.800.680.8322 • 910.457.1702
www.baldheadislandrentals.com
🐾 ❤️

Bald Head Vacations & Sales, Inc.

P.O. Box 3410
Bald Head Island, NC 28461
910.470.2253 • 910.457.9553
www.baldheadvacations.com

Better Beach Rentals

8601 East Oak Island Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465
1.877.441.0009 • 910.278.1147
www.betterbeachrentals.com

Brunswickland Realty

123 Ocean Boulevard West
Holden Beach, NC 28462
1.800.842.6949 • 910.842.6949
www.brunswicklandrealty.com
🐾 see our ad on page 60

Coastal Vacation Resorts

131 Ocean Boulevard West
Holden Beach, NC 28462
1.800.252.7000 • 910.842.8000
www.coastalvacationresorts.com 🐾

Coastal Vacation Resorts Oak Island

8118 East Oak Island Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465
1.888.703.5469 • 910.278.5405
www.coastalvacationresortsoakisland.com
🐾

Cooke Realty

1 Causeway Drive
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
1.800.NC.BEACH • 910.579.3535
www.cookerealty.com 🐾

Craig Realty

3262 Holden Beach Road SW
Holden Beach, NC 28462
1.888.746.2777 • 910.842.2777
www.craigrealty.biz

Hobbs Realty

114 Ocean Boulevard West
Holden Beach, NC 28462
1.800.655.3367 • 910.842.2002
www.hobbsrealty.com 🐾 ❤️

Holden Beach Fishing Pier Room Rentals

441 Ocean Boulevard West
Holden Beach, NC 28462
910.842.6483

Holden Beach Properties

108 Jordan Boulevard
Holden Beach, NC 28462
1.877.842.6485 • 910.842.4820
www.holdenbeachproperties.com
🐾

Isle Sea You

44 East Second Street
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
1.866.ISLE.SEA • 1.888.623.2647
www.isle-sea-you.com
see our ad on page 59

Margaret Rudd & Assoc., Inc., Realtors®

210 Country Club Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465
1.800.486.5441 • 910.278.6523
www.rudd.com 🐾
see our ad on page 67

McClure Realty Vacations

24 Causeway Drive
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
1.800.332.5476 • 910.579.3586
www.mcclurerealtyvacations.com
🐾 ❤️ see our ad on page 68

Oak Island Accommodations, Inc.

8901 East Oak Island Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465
1.888.288.3694 • 910.278.6011
www.oakislandgetaway.com 🌐 🐾
see our ad on page 63

Ocean Crest Motel Townhouse

1417 East Beach Drive
Oak Island, NC 28465
910.278.3333
www.oceancrestmotel.com

PROACTIVE Real Estate

1096 Sabbath Home Road SW #7
Supply, NC 28462
910.842.1550
www.liveholdenbeach.com/
holdenbeachvacationrentals

Sloane Realty Vacations

16 Causeway Drive SW
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
1.800.843.6044 • 910.579.6216
www.sloanevacations.com 🐾
see our ad on page 64

Sloane Realty Vacations

420 Sunset Boulevard South
Sunset Beach, NC 28468
1.866.348.7138 • 910.579.6500
www.sunsetbeachncrental.com
🌐 🐾 see our ad on page 65

Southport Realty, Inc.

727 North Howe Street
Southport, NC 28461
910.457.6401
www.southport-realty.com

St. James Properties

P.O. Box 10879
Southport, NC 28461
1.800.245.3871 • 910.253.4734

Sunset Properties

419 South Sunset Boulevard
Sunset Beach, NC 28468
1.866.976.8204 • 910.575.8662
www.sunsetbeachnc.com 🐾
see our ad on page 62

Sunset Properties

100 Causeway Drive, Suite 2
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
1.866.976.8204 • 910.575.8662
www.vacationrentalsatocanisle.com
🐾 see our ad on page 62

Sunset Vacations

401 South Sunset Boulevard
Sunset Beach, NC 28468
1.800.331.6428 • 910.579.9000
www.sunsetvacations.com 🐾

Tiffany's Beach Rentals Bald Head Island

2 B Merchant's Row
Bald Head Island, NC 28461
910.457.0544
www.tiffanysrentals.com 🐾

Williamson Realty Vacations

119 Causeway Drive SW
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
1.800.727.9222 • 910.579.2373
www.williamsonrealtyvacations.com
see our ad on page 61

The Winds Resort Cottage Rentals

310 East First Street
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
1.800.334.3581 • 910.579.6275
www.thewinds.com 🌐 🐾 ❤️
see our ad on page 57

 Golf Packages

 Pet Friendly

 Wedding Packages

Calendar of Events

NC's Brunswick Islands has a variety of festivals and events for families, foodies and fun-lovers. Each will introduce you to local flavors and customs of the area. Several of the towns and islands host outdoor concerts and movies, as well as farmers' markets and gallery walks, throughout the spring and summer. Event dates are subject to change. For a complete list, please visit www.ncbrunswick.com/events.



January

Martin Luther King Jr.
March & Celebration
Navassa

Martin Luther King Jr.
March & Celebration
Southport

Hidden Battleship
Battleship NORTH CAROLINA

The Silver Coast Bridal Show
Ocean Isle Beach

Southern Cape Fear Bridal Showcase
Southport

February

Stamp Act 250th Anniversary
Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson

March

Easter Egg Hunts
Multiple Locations

Southport Spring Festival
Southport

April

Oak Island Lighthouse
5K, 10K & Half Marathon
Caswell Beach

Days at the Docks Festival
Holden Beach

Phlock to the Beach
Oak Island

May

Far Out Shoot Out
Ocean Isle Beach

Memorial Day Observance
Battleship NORTH CAROLINA

Free Summer Concert Series
Multiple Locations

June

Jolly Mon King Classic
Ocean Isle Beach

NC 4th of July Freedom Run
Southport

Free Summer Concert Series
Multiple Locations

July

NC 4th of July Festival
Southport & Oak Island

Homecoming Parade Celebration
Navassa

Ocean Isle Beach 4th of July Celebration
Ocean Isle Beach

Calabash Fireworks
Calabash

Free Summer Concert Series
Multiple Locations

August

Pirate Weekend
Bald Head Island

Leland Under the Lights
Leland

Free Summer Concert Series
Multiple Locations

September

Labor Day Surf Off
Oak Island

Labor Day Sand Sculpture Contest
Ocean Isle Beach

Annual Arts & Crafts Festival
Oak Island

Purple Feet Festival
Ocean Isle Beach

Intercultural Festival
Bolivia

Founder's Day
Leland

Southport Wooden Boat Show
Southport

NC Rice Festival
Belville

Free Summer Concert Series
Multiple Locations

October

U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament
Southport

36th Annual NC Oyster Festival
Ocean Isle Beach

NC Oyster Festival Road Race
Ocean Isle Beach

Fall Brawl King Classic
Ocean Isle Beach

Sunset at Sunset
Sunset Beach

NC Festival by the Sea
Holden Beach

Bikes, Boots and BBQ
Belville

NCKFA Oak Island Classic
Oak Island

Port Brunswick Day
Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson

Hidden Battleship
Battleship NORTH CAROLINA

November

Ocean Isle Beach Flotilla
Ocean Isle Beach

Annual Ocean Isle Beach Christmas Parade
and Tree Lighting
Ocean Isle Beach

December

Christmas by the Sea Parade
Oak Island

Holden Beach Christmas Tree Lighting
Holden Beach

Shallotte Christmas Parade
Shallotte

NC Christmas Festival & Parade
Leland

Calabash Christmas Tree Lighting
Calabash

Southport Christmas Tour of Homes
Southport

Southport Christmas Flotilla
Southport

18th Century Christmas
Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson

Reunions & Meetings As Relaxing As A Getaway

Sometimes a trip to the beach is about more than taking a vacation. And for those instances, NC's Brunswick Islands is the perfect destination. Plan a reunion that everyone will look forward to at a beach house large enough for the whole group. Or, if business brings you to the beach, our vast selection of meeting spaces can accommodate any number of attendees. Best of all, you'll have a world of possibilities waiting when the work comes to an end.



For a small corporate retreat or an intimate family get-together, you might decide to stay as a group in a rental home. Accommodating up to 30 guests, they provide everything from swimming pools to gourmet kitchens to ocean views. Hotels in the Brunswick Islands offer added luxury and convenience, as well as space for groups of larger size. What's more, one of the largest convention centers on the Carolinas' Coast — the Sea Trail Resort — is in Brunswick County, welcoming all types of large-scale events. As for team-building and family-bonding activities, your options are endless. Championship golf (or mini golf) will bring out the competitive spirit in anyone, while beaches are perfect for simply relaxing. The Brunswick Islands hold so much possibility, your group is sure to have a wonderful and productive visit.

APPROXIMATE DRIVE TIMES TO SHALLOTTE, NC

FROM	DISTANCE (miles)	TIME
Asheville, NC	320	5 hours 25 mins
Atlanta, GA	390	6 hours 16 mins
Charleston, SC	135	2 hours 40 mins
Charlotte, NC	187	3 hours 30 mins
Columbia, SC	184	3 hours
Fayetteville, NC	92	1 hours 47 mins
N. Myrtle Beach, SC	23	31 mins
Raleigh, NC	165	2 hours 44 mins
Richmond, VA	292	4 hours 41 mins
Washington, DC	403	6 hours 22 mins
Wilmington, NC	34	39 mins
Winston-Salem, NC	219	3 hours 40 mins



AIRPORTS

Wilmington, NC International Airport

37 miles from Shallotte
www.flyilm.com
910.341.4125

Cape Fear Regional Jetport

5 miles from Southport
www.capefearjetport.com
910.457.6483

Odell Williamson Municipal Airport

1 mile north of Ocean Isle Beach
www.airnav.com/airport/60J
910.579.6152

Myrtle Beach, SC International Airport

45 miles from Shallotte
www.flymyrtlebeach.com
843.448.1589



A Beach Wedding Is A Bond Forever

Weddings are all about the bonds between people as well as the ones between families. And what better way to celebrate the tie of permanence than to affirm your commitment at a place that's timeless? Amid the relaxing beauty of our barrier islands, you can plan a wedding that's uniquely yours with the ocean as a backdrop and the sand beneath your feet. From large ceremonies to more intimate affairs, NC's Brunswick Islands is the perfect place to say your vows.





When your ideal wedding includes toes in the sand and sunny skies, NC's Brunswick Islands is the place. With miles of uncrowded, beautiful beaches, there's no end to what you can plan. Or, you may choose to marry at a variety of NC's Brunswick Islands landmarks.

The Old Baldy lighthouse provides a spectacular backdrop for a wedding on remote Bald Head Island, while the Silver Coast Winery, just inland of Ocean Isle Beach, is simply charming. The Southport Community Center, with its deck overlooking the Cape Fear River, is also a popular spot. Feeling adventurous? You can even get married at sea.

When you've discovered the perfect setting for your special day, you'll also find plenty of wonderful options where you and your guests will stay – from intimate homes and villas to an oceanside hotel. What's more, the possibilities for catering, flowers and activities are just about endless. We have wedding planners who can coordinate every detail. And when you leave your reception to bubbles or birdseed and the honeymoon begins, you're in an amazing place.



NC's Brunswick Islands has everything you need to create a memorable wedding. Once you've got the ring, request your free Wedding Planner at www.NCBrunswickWeddings.com. It's a bridal trove full of useful information for planning the beach wedding of your dreams.

WEDDING VENUES

- 101 Stone Chimney Place
- 801 Ocean
- Bald Head Island Club
- The Barn at Rock Creek
- Brick Landing Plantation
- Brunswick Plantation
- Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson
- Carolina National
- Endless Summer Sailing Charter
- Ingram Planetarium
- Islander Inn
- The Isles Restaurant & Tiki Bar
- Magnolia Greens Golf Course
- Museum of Coastal Carolina
- Ocean Isle Inn
- Old Baldy Lighthouse
- The Pearl Golf Links
- Sea Trail Resort
- Sea/Side Ceremonies
- Shoals Club
- Silver Coast Winery
- Southport Community Building
- The Sunset Inn
- The Village Chapel of Bald Head Island
- The Winds Resort Beach Club



The Pure Joys Of Fishing

Relax. You don't have to be an accomplished angler to enjoy the thrill of fishing in NC's Brunswick Islands. After all, we have plenty of visitors and locals who are! It's one reason why fishing here is a favorite activity for children and families, experienced and newbies alike. There's always something new to learn. And someone willing to show you how it's done.





FISHING PIERS

For locations, details and regulations of NC's Brunswick Islands' iconic ocean fishing piers, visit www.ncbrunswick.com.

Holden Beach Pier

Oak Island Pier

Ocean Crest Pier

Ocean Isle Pier

Sunset Beach Pier

Few places on the North Carolina coastline have as many ways to enjoy fishing as NC's Brunswick Islands. Let's start with big time blue water adventure. Our local charter captains know all the right spots and the right times for chasing favorite sport fishing species, from inshore to the swells of the Gulf Stream, 45 miles out into the Atlantic. They're experts in local weather conditions and will help you get the most from your trip, whether trolling or bottom fishing.

Of course, you don't have to have a boat to hook yourself a good time. On our barrier islands, you're never far from an ocean fishing pier. Fishing passes may include daily, three-day and seasonal permits and vary by pier. The piers are a great place to ask the locals what's running at any time of year and how to rig your line for them. If a little friendly competition is what you're after, the fishing tournaments appeal to seasoned pros and family fishermen alike.

The easiest way to enjoy fishing is right off the beach. A rod and reel, a rod holder and a beach chair are the perfect way to spend a morning or afternoon, and there are plenty of beach access points on the barrier islands. Many of the rental homes offer canal or marsh-side access, which often includes a dock or pier that provides your own private fishing spot overlooking the marsh or a creek or inlet.





Our Salt Marshes Are Naturally Wonderful

The landward fringe of our barrier islands isn't just a world unto itself. It's actually two. In NC's Brunswick Islands, the extensive salt marshes that separate our beaches from the mainland are where the fresh water from the land meets the salt water from the ocean to form a fertile estuary full of extraordinary life and natural wonder.

OUTFITTERS

While a marsh may appear to be a grassy plain, most are a maze of winding, interconnecting creeks and inlets that form habitats for crabs, skates, fish, shrimp, oysters, clams and a variety of birds. Redfish, flounder, drum and other species of fish are plentiful. Osprey and other raptors, as well as wading birds and an amazing variety of songbirds – both resident and migratory, can be viewed in the marshes at virtually any time of year.

Seeing the marsh up close and personal can be an especially rewarding experience for families with young children. If you have a boat, the Intracoastal Waterway provides easy access to the marsh side of NC's Brunswick Islands. But even if you don't, any of our adventure outfitters can provide everything you need for a full-fledged marsh adventure via canoe, kayak or paddleboard.

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Beach Fun Rentals

Beachway Rentals
and Services, LLC

Blue Planet
Watersports

Boomers Rentals, LLC

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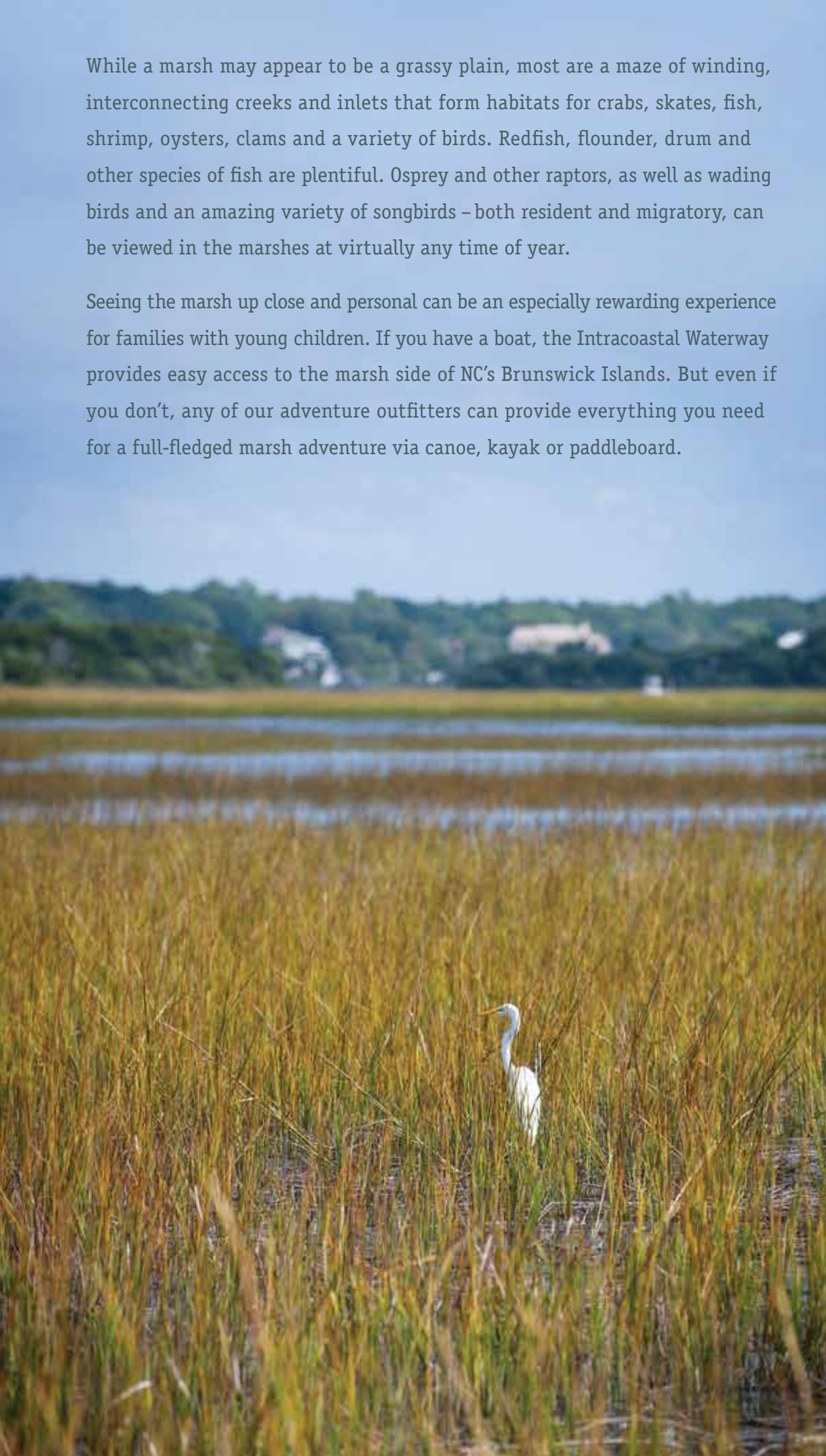
PaddleOKI

The Sail Shop

Salty's Surf Shop

Summertide
Adventure Tours

Waccamaw
Canoe and Kayak





NC's Golf Coast Renews Your Bond With The Game

A game that has bred as many nicknames as golf has is more than a mere game. It's a bond shared between friends on the green, at the turn, or over a beverage at the 19th hole. Fittingly, our nickname is NC's Golf Coast. One of the country's most popular golfing destinations, NC's Brunswick Islands and its coastal landscape of waterways and marshes is home to world-class golf courses designed by greats like Arnold Palmer, Rees Jones, Dan Maples, Willard Byrd, Tim Cate and Fred Couples, among others. These talented course architects truly showcase their creativity by carving out some of the most extraordinary courses in the country.

The Brunswick Islands' alter ego, NC's Golf Coast, is well deserved. Whether you plan on a morning of golf during your beach vacation, have a golf weekend or make it a golf-buddy getaway, NC's Brunswick Islands has courses that will challenge you and reaffirm your love of the game. More than 30 championship courses are available for play in Brunswick County, with another 70 within an hour's drive.

From bent grass and Bermuda greens to tight fairways and clever bunkers, Brunswick Islands' courses present a variety of designs and playability. Here, St. Andrews-style links can be found next to courses that feel like iconic Southern classics. Water, marsh, maritime forests and even the Intracoastal Waterway create stunning backdrops and the occasional hazard. Don't be surprised when you discover what many other players have learned – that some of the best golf on the Grand Strand is actually in Brunswick County.

Some of the NC's Brunswick Islands clubs offer trained PGA instructors. If you have never played before, or simply want to improve your game or give your children something that will last them a lifetime, lessons are a great way to enhance the golf experience.

NC'S GOLF COAST GOLF PACKAGERS

If you are planning a golf vacation, an area golf packager can handle all the details, plus give you an "insider's" advantage of the best discounts, tee times and accommodations.

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910.383.3300

Islander Inn

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Oak Island Accommodations

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about current specials.

Golf Courses

	Course Par	Yardage	Course Rating	Course Slope	Type of Greens	Practice Range	Carts Mandatory	Packages Available	Course Architect
Bald Head Island Golf Course. 18 holes Bald Head Island, NC 910.457.7310 • 1.866.657.7311	72	6855	74.3	143	MiniVerde	Yes	Yes	Yes	George Cobb/ Tim Cate
Brick Landing Plantation Golf Club. 18 holes 1882 Goose Creek Rd., Ocean Isle Beach, NC 910.754.2745	71	6005	68.1	125	Jones Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mike Brazeal
Brierwood Golf Club. 18 holes 27 Brierwood Rd., Shallotte, NC 910.754.4660	72	6643	72.4	132	Bermuda	No	Yes	Yes	Ben Ward
Brunswick Plantation Golf Resort. 27 holes 380 Brunswick Dr., Calabash, NC 910.845.6936 • 1.800.848.0290 • see our ad on page 60	72	6967	73.2	135	Champion Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Willard Byrd/ Clyde Johnston
Cape Fear National at Brunswick Forest. 18 holes 1281 Cape Fear National Dr., Leland, NC 910.383.3283 • 1.888.342.3622	72	7217	74.5	143	Bent	Yes	No	Yes	Tim Cate
Carolina National Golf Club. 27 holes 1643 Goley Hewett Rd. SE, Bolivia, NC 910.755.5200 • 1.888.200.6455	72	7017	74.4	141	Champion Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Fred Couples/ Gene Bates
Carolina Shores Golf & Country Club. 18 holes 99 Carolina Shores Dr., Calabash, NC 910.579.2181 • 1.800.579.8292	72	6783	71.8	135	Bermuda	Yes	No	Yes	Tom Jackson
Compass Pointe. 18 holes 8178 Compass Pointe East Wynd NE, Leland, NC 910-717-6468 (Course will open in 2016. Rating and slope information is not yet available.)	72	7100	-	-	Champion Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Rick Robbins
Crow Creek. 18 holes 240 Hickman Rd. NW, Calabash, NC 910.287.3081 • 1.877.287.3081	72	7101	74.3	131	L-93 Bent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Rick Robbins
Farmstead Golf Links. 18 holes 541 McLamb Rd. NW, Calabash, NC 910.575.7999 • 1.866.749.7277	72	7242	74.5	135	Tif Eagle	Yes	Yes	Yes	Willard Byrd/ Dave Johnson
The Lakes Country Club. 18 holes 591 South Shore Dr., Boiling Spring Lakes, NC 910.845.2625 • 1.866.780.4653	72	6692	72.9	129	Bermuda	No	No	Yes	Ed Ricoboni
Leopard's Chase Golf Club. 18 holes 6330 Castlebrook Way, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 910.579.5577 • 1.800.233.1801	72	7155	74.3	140	L-93 Bent	Yes	No	Yes	Tim Cate
Lion's Paw Golf Club. 18 holes 351 Ocean Ridge Pkwy., Sunset Beach, NC 910.287.1717 • 1.800.233.1801	72	7003	74.0	132	MiniVerde	Yes	Yes	Yes	Willard Byrd
Lockwood Folly Country Club. 18 holes 19 Clubhouse Dr., Holden Beach, NC 910.842.5666 • 1.877.562.9663	72	6836	73.9	140	Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Willard Byrd

	Course Par	Yardage	Course Rating	Course Slope	Type of Greens	Practice Range	Carts Mandatory	Packages Available	Course Architect	
Magnolia Greens Golf Course. 27 holes 1800 Tommy Jacobs Dr., Leland, NC 910.383.0999 • 1.800.677.7534 • see our ad on page 64	72	6767	71.4	130	Champion Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tom Jackson	
Meadowlands Golf Club. 18 holes 1000 Meadowlands Tr., Calabash, NC 910.287.7529 • 1.888.287.7529	72	7054	73.7	136	Tif Eagle	Yes	Yes	Yes	Willard Byrd	
Oak Island Golf Club. 18 holes 928 Caswell Beach Rd., Caswell Beach, NC 910.278.5275 • 1.800.278.5275	72	6717	71.8	126	Tif Eagle	Yes	Yes	Yes	George Cobb	
Oak Island Par 3 at South Harbour. 18 holes 4188 Vanessa Dr., Oak Island, NC 910.454.0905 • see our ad on page 58	54	1951	52.3	No	Bermuda	No	No	No	–	
Olde Fort Golf Club. 18 holes 3189 River Rd. SE, Winnabow, NC 910.371.9940	72	6400	68.4	108	Bermuda	No	No	No	–	
Oyster Bay Golf Links. 18 holes 614 Hwy. 179, Lakeshore Dr., Sunset Beach, NC 910.579.3528 • 1.800.697.8372	70	6685	72.1	136	Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dan Maples	
Panther's Run Golf Links. 18 holes 351 Ocean Ridge Pkwy., Sunset Beach, NC 910.287.1717 • 1.800.233.1801	72	7089	73.7	140	MiniVerde	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tim Cate	
The Pearl – East Course. 18 holes 1300 Pearl Blvd., Calabash, NC 910.579.8132 • 1.888.947.3275	72	6749	73.1	135	MiniVerde	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dan Maples	
The Pearl – West Course. 18 holes 1300 Pearl Blvd., Calabash, NC 910.579.8132 • 1.888.947.3275	72	7008	73.2	132	Bent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dan Maples	
Rivers Edge Golf Club. 18 holes 2000 Arnold Palmer Dr., Shallotte, NC 910.755.3434 • 1.877.RIVER.18	72	6909	74.7	149	Sunday Ultradwarf Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Arnold Palmer	
Sandpiper Bay Golf & Country Club. 27 holes 800 N. Sandpiper Club Dr., Sunset Beach, NC 910.579.9120 • 1.800.356.5827	71	6503	71.6	119	MiniVerde	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dan Maples	
Sea Trail Resort. 54 holes 75A Clubhouse Rd., Sunset Beach, NC 910.287.1122 • 1.800.508.1204 • see our ad on page 62	Jones	72	6761	72.4	132	Bent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Rees Jones
	Byrd	72	6750	72.1	128	Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Willard Byrd
	Maples	72	6751	72.4	129	Bent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Dan Maples
Thistle Golf Club. 27 holes 1815 Old Thistle Club Rd., Sunset Beach, NC 910.444.2500 • 1.800.571.6710	S/C	71	6373	70.8	132	Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tim Cate
	C/M	72	6616	72.2	131	Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tim Cate
	M/S	72	6494	71.6	133	Bermuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tim Cate
Tiger's Eye Golf Club. 18 holes 360 Ocean Ridge Pkwy., Sunset Beach, NC 910.287.7227 • 1.800.233.1801	72	7014	73.3	141	G2 Bent	Yes	No	Yes	Tim Cate	



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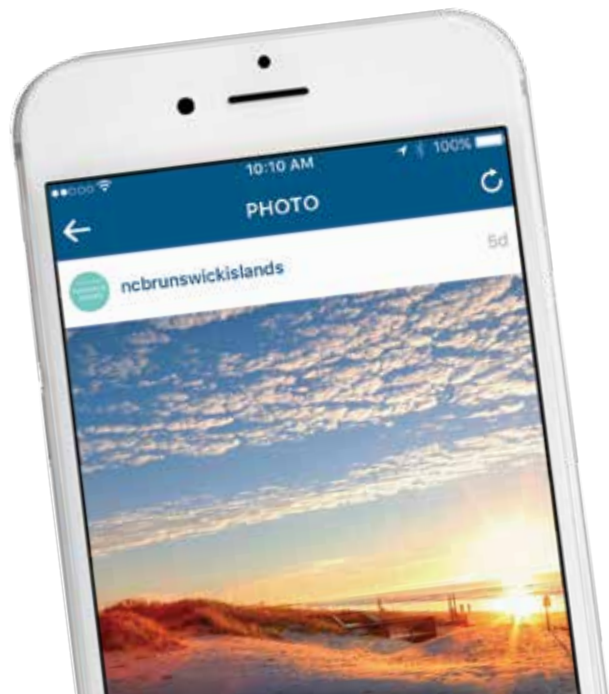
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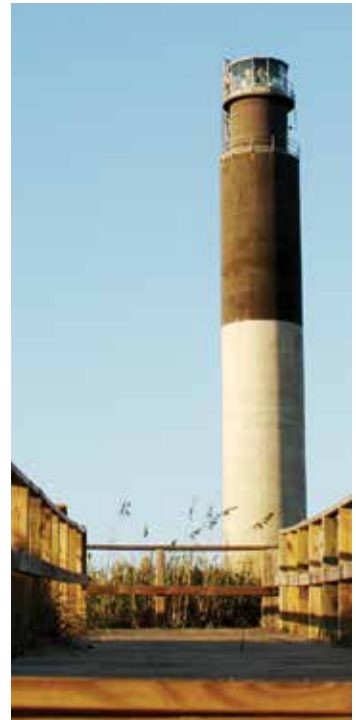


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Average Temperatures

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month	air (high/low)	water
January	55/34.....	49
February.....	58/36.....	51
March	66/43.....	56
April.....	74/51.....	66
May	81/59.....	71
June.....	85/68.....	79
July.....	89/72.....	80
August.....	88/71.....	80
September.....	85/65.....	77
October.....	77/54.....	77
November.....	69/45.....	70
December	59/38.....	50



Virginia

South Carolina

NC's Brunswick Islands

North Carolina

South Carolina

CAPE FEAR RIVER



Winston-Salem Greensboro Raleigh Fayetteville Charlotte Asheville

Myrtle Beach North Myrtle Beach Little River

Seaside Ocean Isle Beach Sunset Beach

Holden Beach Varnamtown Shallote

Oak Island Caswell Beach Southport Bald Head Island

Leland Wilmington

Winnabow Bolivia Boiling Spring Lakes

St. James

Supply

Varnamtown

Holden Beach

Oak Island

Caswell Beach

Southport

Bald Head Island

Winnabow

Bolivia

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