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Hungry For Something New?

It'd be easy to assume that the Outer Banks would have exceptional seafood, but most writers and food enthusiasts don't realize the pedigree of some of our locally famous restaurateurs or just how extensive a supplier of fresh catch the working watermen of the OBX are to domestic and international communities. We celebrate that heritage of non-franchise and local harvest via a number of chic culinary events and competitions. The top two are the 2nd Annual Outer Banks Seafood Festival ~ October 19, 2013 and the OBX Taste of the Beach ~ March 13-16, 2014. The 1872 Bodie Island Lighthouse is open for climbing for the first time ever to the public!

The Music Scene of the OBX

The Outer Banks have long been a crossroads of culture and tradition, dating back to the days of its seafaring trade, lighthouses and ports of entry into the Southern interior. Today, new meets old with the influence of visitors from across the globe connecting with the pristine natural coastline and welcoming communities. Two truly indigenous American music styles are celebrated today with the Duck Jazz Festival ~ October 13, 2013 and the Outer Banks Bluegrass Festival ~ October 4-6, 2013. The Town of Duck also has a free summer music series for residents and guests at the community amphitheater.

New Spa Angles

The biggest spa news is the celebrated AAA four diamond Sanderling Resort is now open from major renovations and a re-imagination, including an all-new theme/menu for the on-site restaurant, now Kimball's Kitchen. Additionally, Aqua restaurant & spa offers new feature opportunities from their award-winning wine list, holistic approach to healthy mind and body that begins with locally sourced food and innovative spa therapies including the ancient Chinese art of cupping. Koru Village wellness campus in the heart of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore is a full service spa and salon and home to North Carolina's only oceanfront entertainment theater at their Beach Klub. They also have a 4x4 for excursions to the off-road beaches of the Cape, and have opened a brand new live entertainment venue on the Atlantic Ocean in Avon, NC.

Make Marry

There's neat opportunity for 2nd marriage stories on the OBX in addition to the blockbuster business of destination weddings that we are seeing out here. More brides are opting for the affordable luxury of stunning event homes, where the whole wedding party can share the experience leading up to the big day, under one roof. And the whisk-away weddings for 2nd timers looking for intimacy with small ceremonies have found the OBX doesn't disappoint no matter how big or small your ideal party. With sand between your toes at the water's edge, in front of a lighthouse or high atop the tallest sand dunes on the Atlantic Coast, today you can have an undersea gala at the NC Aquarium or among centuries-old statues and live oaks at the Elizabethan Gardens. Spend a breathtaking honeymoon at one of many charming coastal inns



Headline Events for 2013-2014

Triple-S Kiteboarding Invitational ~ June 1-7, 2013

The Triple-S held in Waves, NC is the biggest and best professional kiteboarding event in the world. The event features an amazing lineup of talented riders who compete in Surf, Slicks and Sliders (Triple-S).

Rogallo Kite Festival ~ June 8-9, 2013

The Rogallo Kite Festival includes two days of giant kite flying fun for the family. Honoring Francis Rogallo, NASA scientist. His inventions started the sport of hang gliding and his designs have carried over into the stunt kites, power kites and hang gliders that are flown today.

Hatteras Day at the Docks ~ September 19-22, 2013

A celebration of the culture of Hatteras Island and its roots in commercial and recreational fishing. There will be opportunities to sample NC beer, wine and seafood, a "throw-down" cooking competition and more.

Outer Banks Bluegrass Festival ~ October 4-6, 2013

2nd Annual. Come hear today's Bluegrass stars picking their strings outside, under crisp October skies. We're bringing them in from all over the USA for two days of home cooking and good Southern picking.

Duck Jazz Festival ~ October 13, 2013

The Duck Jazz Festival showcases national, regional, and local jazz musicians. Free. Attendees are welcome to bring chairs, food, coolers, blankets, and pets. Held at the Duck Town Park.

Outer Banks Seafood Festival ~ October 19, 2013

The event features top draw entertainment mixed with great cooking of fresh, local seafood, a bit of education and storytelling about the region's fishing heritage, cooking demonstrations, local craftspeople and family fun. 10-acre Outer Banks Event Site on the water.

Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival ~ October 22-27, 2013

Don't let the "wings" in the title confuse you! There is an assortment of outdoor adventure activities to get you plugged into the natural side of the OBX, including some of the nation's best canoe and kayak marsh mazes. Astronomy, photography, black bears and bird watching. Build your own itinerary.

Outer Banks Marathon | Half Marathon ~ November 10, 2013

The 8th Annual three-day event draws runners from all over North America for its incredibly rich natural scenery through maritime forest, past giant sand mountains, shoreline and historic notes like Wright Brothers National Memorial. Wonderful food, fun and an inviting and engaged community await.

OBXmas Weekends ~ November 21, 2013 – January 5, 2014

Enjoy the holidays OBX-style with an event every weekend from Thanksgiving through the New Year! Grand Illumination of Elizabethan Gardens; Kites with Lights; Parades; The Poulos House as seen on TV; and more!

OBX Taste of the Beach ~ March 13-16, 2014

Explore the Outer Banks with fork and spoon. Four days of tapas crawls, cook-offs, cooking classes, beer and wine tastings, and much more culminating in a Grand Tasting with two dozen restaurants under one roof.



Where are The Outer Banks? A premier vacation destination spanning 100 miles of shoreline in Dare County, NC. Recognized for pristine beaches, adventure and family travel, plus historical benchmarks such as the first powered flight and first English colony in America at Roanoke Island, as well as the tallest lighthouse in North America at Cape Hatteras. If you like soft adventure and outdoor recreation, this is the place. **Getting There:** 12 hour drive from Toronto, 8 hours from NYC, 5 hours from DC or fly into Norfolk International Airport (ORF). **www.OuterBanks.org**