



Shellshock at Oyster Bay: the 15th and 17th are both island greens



Coastal North Carolina

Let fly on the same stretch of coast where the Wright Brothers first took to the air over a century ago

The North Carolina coast stretches for more than 300 miles between South Carolina and Virginia. Here you will find dozens of courses among its barrier islands and on the mainland.

There are more than 30 alone in the Brunswick Islands area, just over the state line from Myrtle Beach and part of its Grand Strand. Courses include Bald Head Island, where golfers must catch a ferry from Southport to reach it and golf carts are the only motorised transport on the island. Anyone renting property on the island can play the otherwise-private 6,800-yard course.

Farmstead Golf Links has a nasty sting in the tail, its 767-yard 18th the only par-6 on the Grand Strand.

Oyster shells are used to define the edge of the par-3 17th hole's island green on the Dan Maples-designed Oyster Bay Golf Links, at Sunset Beach. The green is smaller than that of the more famous penultimate hole at TPC at

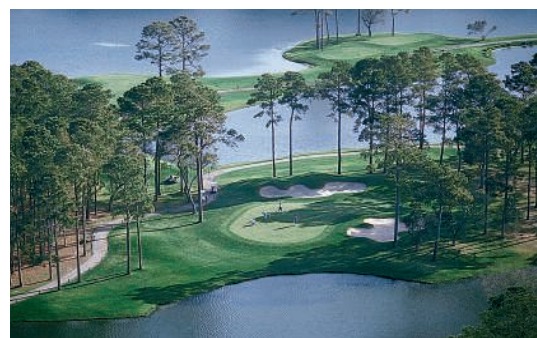
Sawgrass, and divers scoop up 3,000 balls a month from the lake. The water torture begins on the 15th, another island par-3, and continues on the par-4 16th where it edges the hole all down the right.

The Outer Banks is a thin sliver of islands just off the coast but stretching for 100 miles in length, where massive sand dunes and reliable sea breezes make it a popular hang gliding and windsurfing venue. Kill Devil Hills is also famous as the spot where the Wright Brothers took to the air for the first time over 100 years ago. You can tee up at nearby courses including Kilmarlic Golf Club, on a finger of mainland, as well as on courses along the Outer Banks themselves. They include Nags Head, with several holes skirting the edge of Roanoke Sound, and The Currituck Club on the coast.

Fred Couples' 27-hole Carolina National course is just south of Wilmington and the nearby Cape Golf & Racquet Club has a double green shared by the 15th and 17th holes.

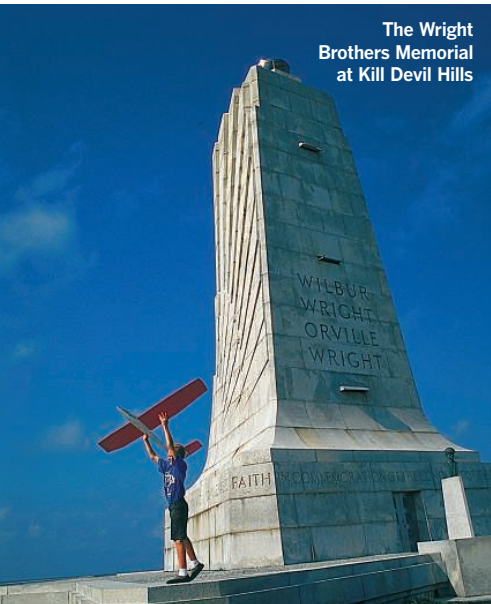


The Outer Banks contain several fine courses



Brunswick County, not far from Myrtle Beach

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NCDIVISION OF TOURISM, FILM, AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT



The Wright Brothers Memorial at Kill Devil Hills



Wright Brother wannabes at Jockey's Ridge State Park



Nags Head is one of the Outer Banks's finest layouts



The region is a fishing and boating paradise

Coastal NC facts

WHERE IS IT

North Carolina's coastal region includes the **Brunswick Isles** near the South Carolina border and the Outer Banks barrier islands, which stretch offshore for more than 100 miles. Direct transatlantic flights serve Raleigh/Durham airport, which is just over 200 miles away.

KEY ATTRACTIONS

- Wilmington's mighty **Battleship North Carolina** is one of the state's biggest draws.
- You can climb five Outer Banks lighthouses, including **Cape Hatteras**, the tallest in the US at 208ft.
- The Wright Brothers Memorial marks the spot at **Kill Devil Hills** where the world's first powered flight took place in 1903. The visitor centre and pavilion includes full-scale reproductions and exhibits charting powered flight attempts.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- Nature viewing on the **Outer Banks** includes an alligator refuge, aquarium and wild horses. Kids can try crabbing for Carolina blue crabs, a local delicacy.
- The region's pristine sand dunes, beaches and Atlantic rollers will keep youngsters occupied for hours at a time.
- Adventurers can emulate the Wright Brothers by hang-gliding off giant sand dunes at **Jockey's Ridge State Park** on the Outer Banks. You can take a tandem flight or go solo with instruction.



The Brunswick Islands boast more than 30 courses

COASTAL NORTH CAROLINA FACTS

- **Cape Hatteras Lighthouse** was moved nearly 3,000ft inland to save it from the eroding shoreline in 1999.
- The First English settlement in the New World was established on **Roanoke Island** in 1587. Supply ships returning three years later found the colony completely deserted.
- **The Wright Brothers'** first man-powered flight, on December 17, 1903, took place above the sands at Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk and lasted for 12 seconds, covering 120ft.
- Ironclad Confederate warship **CSS Neuse** was burned by its crew when Union troops occupied Kinston in 1865. Its hull is now on display after being raised from the muddy waters of the Neuse River a century later.



Cape Hatteras, the tallest lighthouse in the USA

WHERE TO PLAY

Oyster Bay Golf Links

6,685 yards, par 70
\$46-\$102

Contact: 00-1-910-579-3528

legendsgolf.com

Tiny island green built on oyster shells could leave you shell-shocked

Carolina National Golf Club

3 nines, 6,944-7,017 yards, par 72
\$65-\$85

Contact: 00-1-910-755-5200

carolinanationalgolf.com

27 challenging holes from Freddie Couples set among marshland and woods

The Currituck Club

6,885 yards, par 72
\$48-\$160

Contact: 00-1-252-453-9400

thecurrituckgolfclub.com

Coastal Rees Jones stunner at the northern end of the Outer Banks

Bald Head Island Club

6,855 yards, par 72
\$45-\$102, plus ferry \$15 each way

Contact: 00-1-910-457-7310

baldheadisland.com

You'll need your sea legs before venturing onto its lagoon-edged fairways

WHERE TO STAY

Legends Golf Resort

Contact: 00-1-888-246-9809

legendsgolf.com

Outer Banks Resort

Contact: 00-1-252-441-2151

outerbanksresort.com