



## Crystal Coast Tourism Authority

3409 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, NC 28557  
[www.crystalcoastnc.org](http://www.crystalcoastnc.org)

## Cathy Adair, Group Sales Contact

Phone: 252-726-8148, Ext. 105  
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## Destination Overview

North Carolina's Crystal Coast is the Cape Lookout region of the North Carolina Outer Banks. The Crystal Coast's colonial, cultural and natural history is interpreted through a variety of field excursions and at attraction sites. The Crystal Coast includes the seaside resorts and historic coastal villages of **Beaufort, Morehead City, Atlantic Beach, Emerald Isle, Harkers Island, Down East and the Cape Lookout National Seashore.**

## Attraction Sites

***Crystal Coast Attraction Sites make ideal itinerary components for groups of every age. Interpretation is done by each site. Call to schedule guided tours, programs and field trips.***

**Beaufort Historic Site** ([www.historicbeaufort.com](http://www.historicbeaufort.com), 800-575-7483), offers guided tours of its 12 restored homes and buildings. Old Burying Ground self-guided walking tours and narrated tours of the historic district of NC's third oldest town aboard an English double-decker bus. New for students of NC history, the Legal Program gives them a typical Colonial day in court. Allow one hour for each tour. Three building tour and bus tour of historic district, \$6; adult 3-tour combination, \$10/person; Bus charters (52 capacity), \$225 (adults) and \$100 (students).

**Core Sound Waterfowl Museum**, Harkers Island ([www.coresound.com](http://www.coresound.com), 252-728-1500), preserves the culture and art surrounding waterfowling on Core Sound. A tour includes the decoy collection, carving demonstrations, waterfowl habitat, community heritage and can include traditional boat-building. Free.

**Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild**, 1574 Harkers Island Road (252-838-8818) assembles carvers each Tues.-Sat. Groups are offered demos, Q&A and a look at decoys of the membership recognized for their art and value. Free.

**Cape Lookout National Seashore**, ([www.nps.gov/caloc](http://www.nps.gov/caloc), 252-728-2250) visitor center in Harkers Island offers an orientation film to the national seashore and a view of the Cape Lookout lighthouse. Allow up to two hours to visit both Waterfowl Museum and CLNC Visitor Center.

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Free. Ferries (fee) to the lighthouse area and **beach tours** (fee) are available from Harkers Island. Sightings of **Shackleford Banks wild horses** are common.

**Fort Macon State Park**, Atlantic Beach ([www.clis.com/friends](http://www.clis.com/friends), 252-726-3775), offers guided group tours of the Civil War fort and ranger programs on Civil War life. Allow one hour. Free.

**N.C. Aquarium** at Pine Knoll Shores ([www.ncaquariums.com](http://www.ncaquariums.com), 252-247-4003), has tripled in size and features a 300,000-gallon ocean tank plus exhibits and animals from across North Carolina. Mountain waterfalls, Piedmont rivers, coastal swamps, and offshore shipwrecks are some of the new habitats. Three new classrooms and a new 150-seat auditorium can accommodate an expanded range of education programs and activities.

**N.C. Maritime Museum**, Beaufort ([www.ncmaritimemuseum.com](http://www.ncmaritimemuseum.com), 252-728-7317), offers free guided tours of the state's maritime history collection, including archives of Blackbeard's flagship, *Queen Anne's Revenge*, recently found near Beaufort Inlet. A special tour of the Blackbeard Artifacts Repository may be scheduled through the educational services of the North Carolina Maritime Museum.

**N.C. State Port**, Morehead City ([www.ncports.com](http://www.ncports.com)), offers facility tours. Free. Contact Doug Campen to schedule a port tour. 252-808-4207 or [doug\\_campen@ncports.com](mailto:doug_campen@ncports.com).

**The History Place**, Morehead City ([www.rootsweb.com/ncchs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/ncchs/), 252-247-7533), offers a guided tour of the museum's collection including commonly used items and art of indigenous Native Americans and Carteret County residents through World War II. Allow one hour. Adult group, \$2/person; free for student groups and individual visitors.

## Marine and Environmental Studies

**Carolina Ocean Studies** (910-458-7302) offers hands-on marine study interpreted tours for all ages. Trips are designed for discovery of the productive and fascinating ecosystems of the bays behind the barrier islands. Departures are from the downtown Beaufort waterfront aboard the Mystery Tour Boat. Fee schedule available for all trips offered.

**Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter** (252-240-1200) offers tour services at its facility for education

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and care of injured wildlife at 100 Wildlife Way just off Hwy. 24 south of Morehead City. A picnicking area is available. A contribution is expected for group services. Please ask.

**North Carolina Coastal Federation** ([www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org), 252-393-8185) offers interpreted field trips into estuarine and salt marsh habitats and interpreted nature walks along two nature trails maintained by NCCF to groups of all ages. The NCCF library may be used at the headquarters located at 3609 Hwy. 24 during office hours, Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Fee schedule for most trips.

**Rachel Carson Component of the NC National Estuarine Research Reserve** (252-728-2170), AKA Carrot Island, is a chain of islands that parallels the Beaufort waterfront. Groups can explore tidal flats, scrub thickets and salt marshes typical of NC's estuarine habitats. Boat transportation (ferry service fee) available (252-728-4129 or 252-728-7555).

### Interpreted/Narrated Harbor & Beach Tours

**Mystery Tours/Diamond City Dinner Cruise** (252-728-7827 or 252-728-6997) offers narrated harbor tours and lunch and dinner cruises for groups up to 250. Sightings of wild horses and dolphins are common. Departures from the downtown Beaufort and Morehead City waterfronts. Allow 1-1/2 hours. Contact Joey Squires or [joey@mysteryboattours.com](mailto:joey@mysteryboattours.com).

**Cape Lookout Beach Tours and Ferry Services** are concession operators contracted by the Cape Lookout National Seashore. All ferry services connect with beach tour reservations. Beach tours offer cultural and natural history interpretation of Cape Lookout. Shelling is a part of the trip. Reserve **Beach Tours** through Ferries (252-728-2759/252-728-3907). Some ferry services are seasonal; all beach tours are seasonal.

**Lookout Catamaran** (252-504-SAIL) accommodates 42 for 6-hour Cape Lookout trips and 1-1/2 hour sunset and moonlight sails. All departures are from Beaufort. Group discounts.

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## Family Entertainment

**Crystal Coast Jamboree** (866-580-SHOW or 252-726-1501), downtown Morehead City, is high energy entertainment for all ages featuring comedy, bluegrass, gospel, favorite artists and holiday season shows. Shows Thurs.-Sat., 8:00-10:00 pm.

## Amusement Parks (Hours shown are Memorial Day through Labor Day)

- **Professor Hacker's Lost Treasure Golf & Raceway**- 976 Salter Path Rd., Salter Path, 247-3024.
- **Playland**, Emerald Isle, 354-6616; call for hours
- **Golfin' Dolphin**- Cape Carteret, 393-8131, 9 am- 11 pm
- **Water Boggan of Emerald Isle**- 8915 Reed Drive, 354-2609

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