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# Sea, Sand and Wedding Bliss

## *The Outer Banks Sets the Stage for Romance*



Promising oceanfront luxury, The Sanderling resort is a Four-Diamond property just north of Duck, with full wedding amenities. Photo by Sarah D'Ambra Photography.

This vast, 200-mile ribbon of largely undeveloped barrier islands is one of the most naturally beautiful places on earth.

North Carolina's glorious Outer Banks are well known for vast stretches of pristine beach, nearly a dozen state and national parks, the giant dunes in Nags Head and, of course, the soft sands of Kitty Hawk where the Wright Brothers tested flight. But it's also a fabulous wedding and honeymoon destination and the perfect locale for a beach wedding or wedding weekend at the beach.

In addition to the beach side beauty, it's an easy drive from many locations on the east coast. In fact, OBX, as this area is known, is a nuptial haven. Wedding planners there say that most of the weddings they orchestrate are not for local couples, but for prospective brides and grooms from throughout North Carolina and beyond.

It's easy to understand why. This vast, 200-mile ribbon of largely undeveloped barrier islands is one of the most naturally beautiful places on earth. This makes it an unforgettable setting for a picture-perfect wedding, as well as a fun vacation spot for your guests. It can also be a delightful honeymoon destination with its vast, windswept beaches, lush marshes, iconic islands and scenic, winding connective bridges. There are also marinas, gardens, golf courses, and

a wide array of accommodations and venues, from hotels, resorts and charming inns and B&Bs to luxurious beachfront mansions you can rent.

Engaged couples will be happy to know that beyond the region's natural beauty, the island communities here offer every wedding service you could want. The Outer Banks has a vibrant wedding industry that includes everything you will need including experienced wedding planners, professional wedding photographers, florists and transportation for that perfect seaside wedding.

Located at the farthest Northeastern corner of North Carolina, the Outer Banks is bordered on one side by the Atlantic Ocean, and other by the Currituck, Pamlico, Croatan and Albemarle Sounds. Historically, it's the home of the Roanoke Colony, which inspired the play, *The Lost Colony*. Written by North Carolina's Paul Green and known as the nation's second longest running outdoor drama, *The Lost Colony* is performed in Roanoke every year from May through August and billed as OBX's number one tourist attraction. Roanoke Island is also home to the Elizabethan Gardens and Fort Raleigh.

**Sea, Sand and Wedding Bliss** *Continued*

In Nags Head, you can find massive sand dunes and world-class hang gliding. Nags Head is where you'll find Jennette's Pier, the longest public pier in North Carolina. Although well known as a world-class haven for anglers, Jennette's Pier is also home to a 3,500-square foot modern ballroom with soaring cathedral ceilings, a catering kitchen, covered deck and ocean views.

Nearby Duck offers an upscale setting with its annual jazz festival, art galleries, fabulous restaurants, soundside boardwalk, and what they bill as world-class shopping. It was also selected by USA Today as one of the "Best Coastal Small Towns" in the US. And take note! If the thought of trying to pull together all the pieces of a destination wedding on your own is just too overwhelming, consider hosting your wedding and wedding party at the Sanderling Resort. Promising oceanfront luxury, natural beauty, romance, pools, restaurants, a spa, tennis, golf and any outdoor activity that you can imagine, the Sanderling Resort is a newly renovated Four-Diamond property located on the Atlantic Ocean, just north of Duck, North Carolina, with full wedding amenities. Their wedding planners can manage every detail for you

including the rehearsal dinner, ceremony and reception set up, hair and makeup scheduling at their spa, vendor referrals and accommodations for your guests all in one location.

In Cape Hatteras you have the iconic Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, as well as the island's vast natural seashore and abundant fishing. Remote, quiet and known for kayaking, kiteboarding and watersports, Corolla is home to a 12,000-acre animal sanctuary and a colony of wild roaming horses.

One word of caution to keep in mind when planning a beach wedding here. Many of the towns, including Duck, have strict rules related to beach weddings. Restrictions will, of course, vary by town and location, but should be investigated at least two to three months before your wedding.

But as with anything in life, a little planning is what it takes to pull off a perfect event. And few locations offer as much promise, if what you are hoping for is a dream beachside wedding.

Glenna Musante | Contributing Travel Writer

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