

The Outer Banks of North Carolina

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Map Poster to accompany
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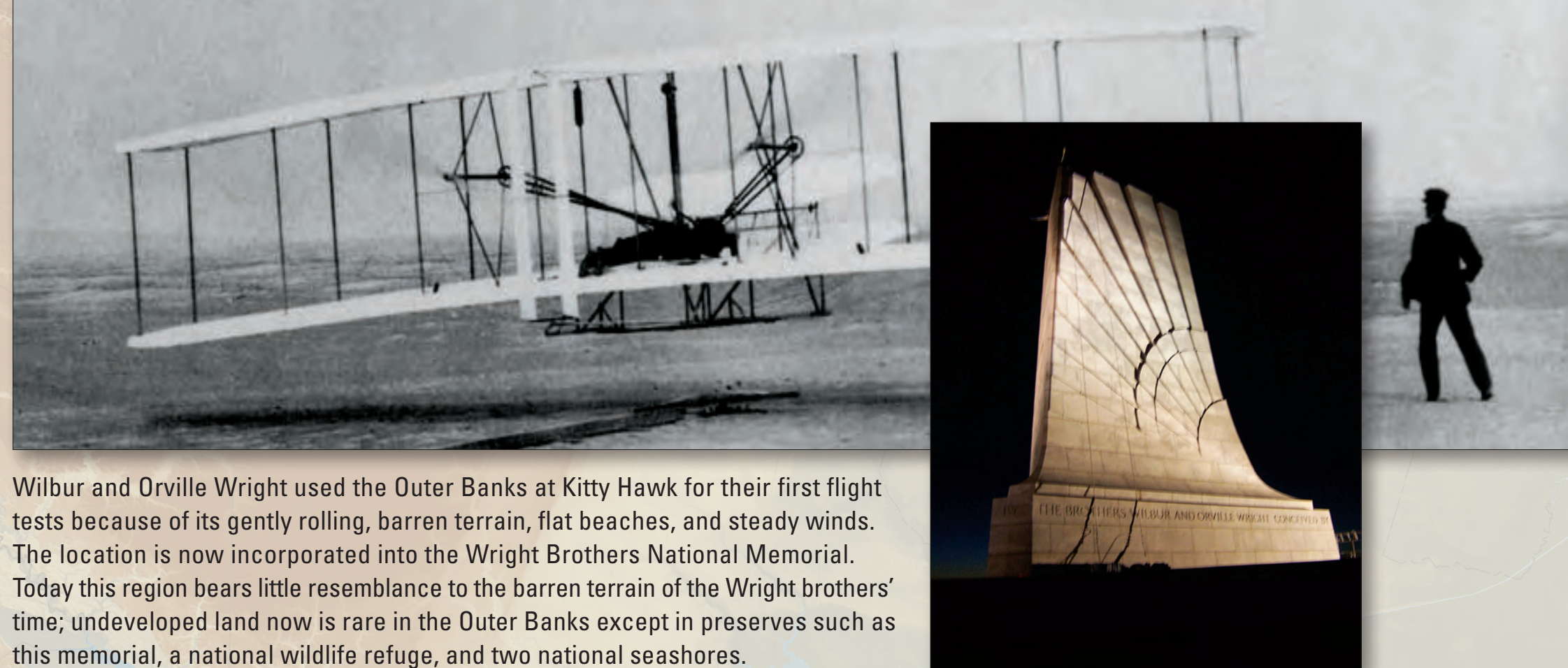


Lighthouses



Currituck Beach Lighthouse
Ocracoke Lighthouse
Bodie Island Lighthouse
Cape Hatteras Lighthouse
Cape Lookout Lighthouse

Wright Brothers National Memorial



Wilbur and Orville Wright used the Outer Banks at Kitty Hawk for their first flight tests because of its gently rolling, barren terrain, flat beaches, and steady winds. The location is now incorporated into the Wright Brothers National Memorial. Today this region bears little resemblance to the barren terrain of the Wright brothers' time; undeveloped land now is rare in the Outer Banks except in preserves such as this memorial, a national wildlife refuge, and two national seashores.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore



Astonishingly beautiful Cape Hatteras National Seashore—the United States' first national seashore—is one of the world's best examples of coastal barrier islands, a chain of narrow, landward-shifting sand islands parallel to the coast. These islands are a dynamic system, formed and continually reshaped by wind, waves, and longshore currents. Despite their beauty, barrier islands can be harsh places for plants and animals, and indeed for the islands themselves. Only robust species thrive in the islands' loose sandy soils, salt spray, and periodic saltwater flooding.

Cape Lookout National Seashore



In 1966, Congress authorized Cape Lookout National Seashore to ensure that Core and Shackleford Banks would be preserved in their natural state. In contrast to the northern Outer Banks, which are stabilized by protective engineered structures, the area from Portsmouth Island to Core Banks and west along Shackleford Banks generally is without permanent structures or settlements; access is by boat or ferry. Only National Park Service concessionaires provide services to birders, botanists (who come to see oak and pine maritime forests), photographers, day-hikers, and campers who visit this serene seashore.

