



BALD HEAD ISLAND, NC

Located two miles off the coast of Southport, NC, Bald Head Island is a boat-accessed community where transportation is restricted to golf carts, bicycles or your own two feet. Of the island's 12,000 acres, 10,000 acres of beaches, salt marsh and maritime forest are protected and remain undeveloped. The island is home to Old Baldy, one of the oldest lighthouses in the country.

STORY IDEAS

From its fascinating history to community spirit to coastal ecology, Bald Head Island has a sense of place unlike any other North Carolina town. Learn more at www.baldheadisland.com, and use these story ideas to get started.

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF SEA TURTLES HATCHING

The star of the show when it comes to nature and wildlife are the loggerhead turtles. Each year from approximately May to September, hundreds of turtles emerge from the Atlantic Ocean to lay their nests and later, thousands of baby hatchlings make their way back down the beach to the same waters. 2022 saw 148 loggerhead nests on Bald Head, resulting in a record 13,157 hatchlings. Visitors can take part in the Bald Head Island Conservancy's Sea Turtle Protection Program by joining educators and naturalists as they patrol the beach for nesting turtles or watch over nests as they prepare to hatch.

THE COOLEST PARTY YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF... BUT YOU'RE INVITED

A Bald Head Island tradition for a decade, the Maritime Market hosts the most-inclusive beach party anywhere each month when the full moon rises out of the Atlantic Ocean. The "Howl at the Moon" party happens on East Beach (Access 39) and attendees BYOB and bring appetizers to share. When the Moon rises, the entire throng of attendees breaks into a collective "howl"! The event is free and open to all.



LEARNING IS FUN(DAMENTAL) ON BALD HEAD ISLAND

- History comes alive when it's unveiled in the moonlight. **Ghost Walks** on Bald Head Island take brave visitors through 400 years of ghostly island history via spooky tales of lost souls, lighthouse keepers, pirates, beautiful women and desperate Civil War soldiers. Reserve a spot at riversideadventure.com.
- The **Old Baldy Foundation** offers excellent historic tours of the island, too. Visit oldbaldy.org for more info.
- Minimal light pollution on the island makes it an ideal locale for **stargazing**. Those guests who want to experience the island at night can participate in the **Bald Head After Dark Tour** programs offered by the **Bald Head Island Conservancy**. Guests are introduced to the nocturnal creatures of the island, including frogs, bats, alligators and deer. Visit bhic.org to sign up.
- A family trip through the island's picturesque creeks atop a **standup paddleboard** or paddling in **tandem kayaks** gets the blood pumping and offers an introduction to the marsh ecosystem. Watch for shore birds and marine life—dolphins often find their way into the creek—and identify the various plants that thrive in the tidal marsh environment. Find board and kayak rentals at coastalurge.com and riversideadventure.com.
- The newly formed **Bald Head Island Academy**, a nonprofit school located on the island, is offering innovative, active summer camps for grades K-8. Learn more at bhiacademy.org/summer-enrichment-program.



EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

- **March 18, 2023: Badwater Cape Fear Ultramarathon** – Hardcore athletes won't want to miss this fourth annual 51-mile or 50K-run along the island's forested wynds and beaches. Learn more at badwater.com.
- **June 10-11, 2023: North Carolina Treasures Weekend** – Celebrate all things North Carolina, in this fun weekend of delicious food, craft beer, fine wines, spirits and an artisans market. Proceeds benefit Old Baldy Lighthouse. Learn more at oldbaldy.org.
- **June 16, 2023: World Sea Turtle Day** – Join the Conservancy for an all-day celebration and enjoy many hands-on activities celebrating sea turtles and the natural world. Learn more at bhic.org.
- **July 1-7, 2023: Fourth of July Celebration and Golf Cart Parade** – The island's annual Independence Day celebration includes picnics and a range of family activities, but the main event is the Annual Golf Cart Parade on July 4, hosted by the Old Baldy Foundation. The popular event, which draws more than 100 entries each year, features whimsically decorated golf carts transformed into elaborate floats competing in various categories, including Most Patriotic, Tacky Tourist and Anything BHI.
- **Aug. 4-6 2023: National Lighthouse Day Weekend** – Pay tribute to Old Baldy's maritime history during a weekend featuring fun for all ages including a farmers market, craft beer, a 5k & 10k race and more.

*Please direct all Bald Head Island media inquiries to Christi Golder (cgolder@bhisland.com).
A variety of hi-resolution photos are available for media use.*