



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 June 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. 2019 saw a record-breaking 170 loggerhead nests resulting in 9,600 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" party (as it's called by the locals) 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

Sure, vacation time means a break from work and school, but that doesn't mean you can't sneak in a little learning. The island offers plenty of opportunities for kids and adults to experience history, ecology and astronomy in novel ways that are uniquely 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
- 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. Guests are introduced to the nocturnal creatures of the island, including frogs, bats, alligators and deer.
- 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.



SUMMER EVENT WEEKENDS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Bald Head Island is synonymous with low-key family getaways, but there's also the opportunity to take part in some signature events that dial the action up a notch.

- **June 12-14, 2020: North Carolina Treasures Weekend** – Honor Old Baldy's history by savoring a weekend of North Carolina cuisine, art, spirits, history and more with farm to table cuisine, craft cocktails, live music and more! A portion of event proceeds benefit the Old Baldy Foundation.
- **July 1-8, 2020: 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, this year on July 3. The popular parade, which draws more than 100 entries each year, honors the July 4 tradition while celebrating the island's dedication to remaining a car-free destination. Whimsically decorated golf carts are transformed into elaborate floats, complete with papier-mâché, flashing lights, and a wide array of accoutrements.
- **Aug. 7-9, 2020: National Lighthouse Day Weekend** – Pay tribute to Old Baldy's maritime history during a weekend featuring fun for all ages including food, spirits, a 5k, 10k race and more.
- **Nov. 13-15, 2020: Roast and Toast on the Coast** – This signature Bald Head Island event takes place in and around the idyllic *Southern Living* Inspired Community at Cape Fear Station. The three-day weekend, co-hosted by Bald Head Island Limited and *Southern Living* magazine, includes an oyster roast overlooking the ocean, a concert under the stars and gourmet BBQ dinner featuring Matt Register, and a Sunday brunch. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Old Baldy Foundation.

Please direct all Bald Head Island media inquiries to Lauren Frye (lauren@GilliesandZaiser.com), Christi Golder (cgolder@bhisland.com) or Teri Kelly (tkelly@bhisland.com). A variety of hi-resolution photos are available for media use.