

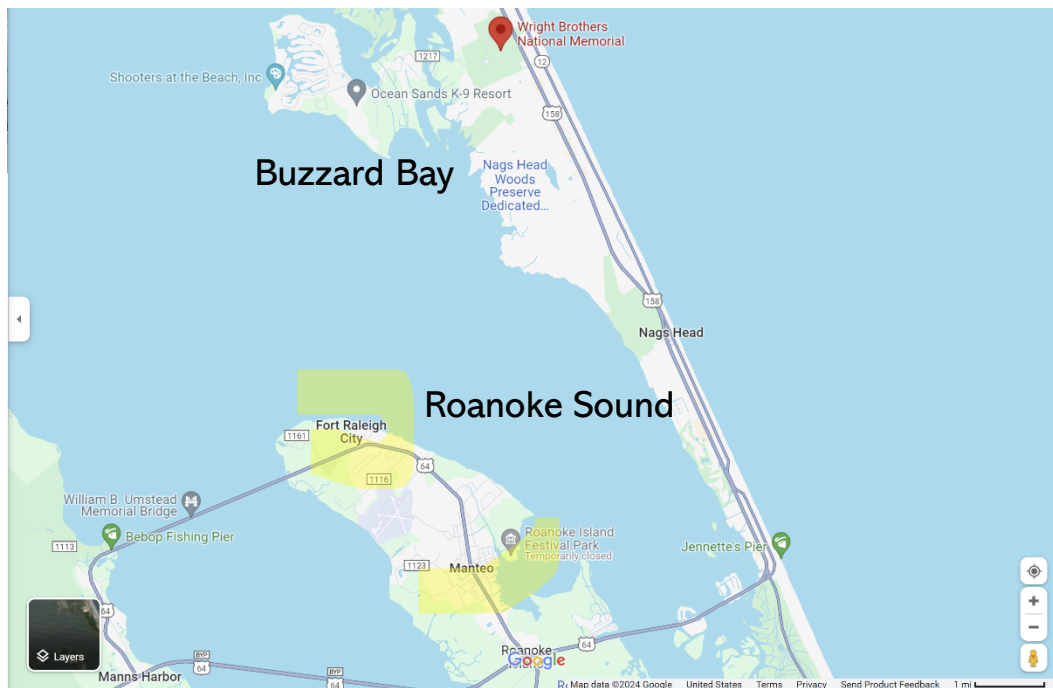
Follow along with us as we cruise onboard our
56' Ocean Yacht.

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 57 – Friday, January 26, 2024 Manteo Waterfront Marina, Manteo, NC

We are in Manteo, NC. We arrived yesterday morning after a short cruise from an anchorage in Buzzard Bay.

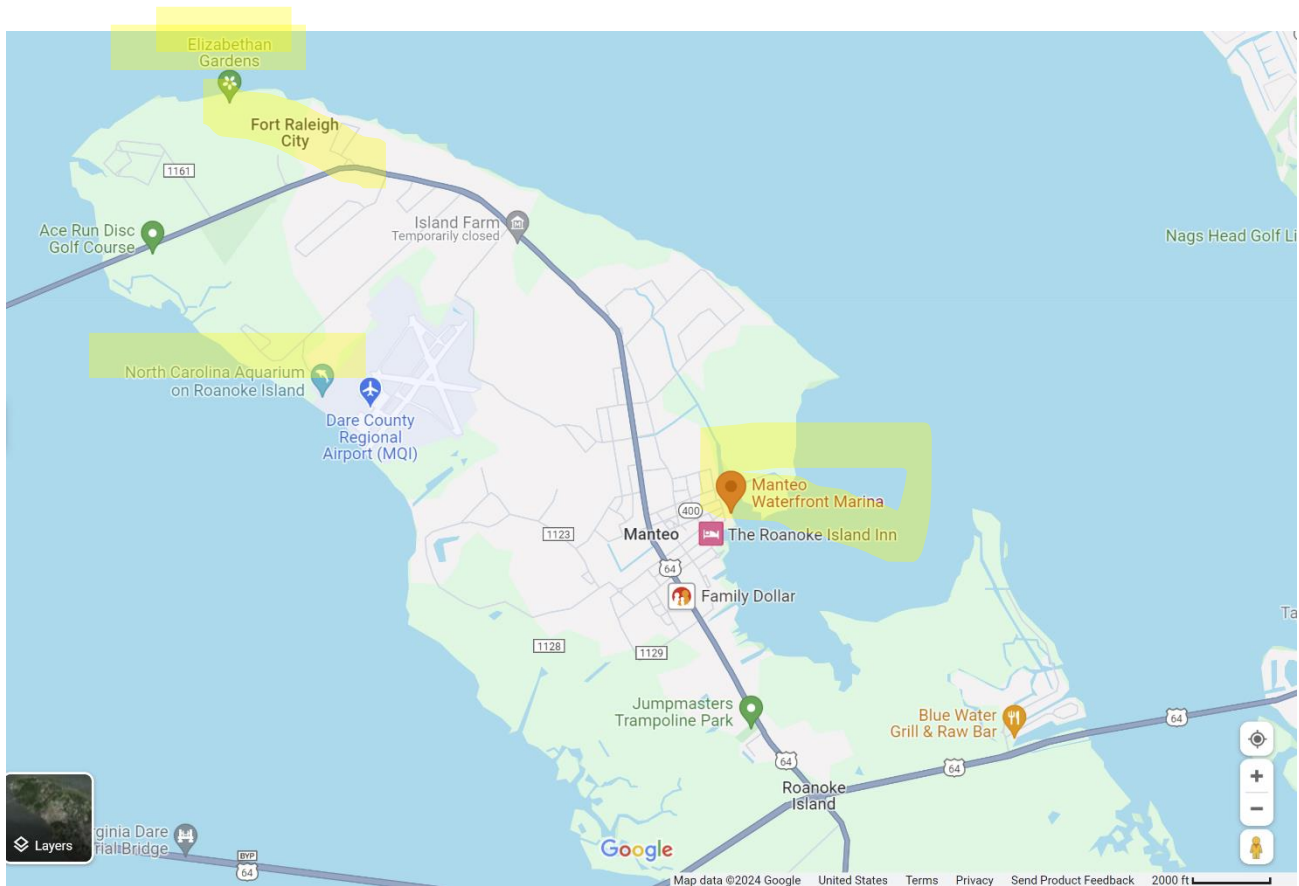


Shortly after arriving we went to the NC Aquarium and after dinner onboard we went to Poor Richard's for a couple of cocktails and as our Uber driver put it... **To see the colorful locals**. He was not wrong. As soon as we sat down we were approached by a very talkative, friendly guy that moved here 9-months ago. He plays acoustic guitar, grew up in Kentucky, the same town as Loretta Lynn, Butcher Hollow. He and his friends shared a bit about themselves and the island. Mark and I are

looking forward to taking the bikes out and exploring today. 3-miles north is Fort Raleigh National Historic Site.

While having coffee this morning Mark spied an otter. We both watched the otter swim and feed and at one point I saw a 2nd otter. They disappeared on the shoreline of the island across the bay from us, Shallowbag Bay. Ice Plant Island which is connected by a short bridge will be another area that we will explore in addition to downtown Manteo.

Before leaving on our bike ride, Mark successfully found a barber and got his hair cut.



Little bit of Triva:

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site protects and preserves known portions of England's first New World settlements from 1584 to 1590.

This site also preserves the cultural heritage of the Native Americans, European Americans and African Americans who have lived on Roanoke Island.

<https://www.nps.gov/fora/index.htm>



There are several points of interest at the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. Our first stop:

Lindsay Warren Visitor Center

The visitor center of Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, housing immersive exhibits on the Algonquian, the English, the Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony, the Civil War Battle of Roanoke Island, and Reginald Fessenden. A 17-minute dramatic video on the interaction between the

Algonquian and the English is displayed in the visitor center's theater.



After the visitor center, we walked the grounds.

Earthwork

Archeological evidence reveals an earthwork and metallurgical activity were present on this site in the 1580's. Copper nuggets, charcoal, antimony ore and furnace bricks were discovered just west of the earthwork and could be the workshop site of Joachim Gans, a metal expert on the 1585 expedition. The earthwork seen today was reconstructed in 1950.

Other sites on the grounds are the Waterside Theater, Etheridge Point Beach, and the Thomas Hariot Trail.



Waterside Theatre

View the home of *The Lost Colony*, an outdoor symphonic drama performed by a park partner, the Roanoke Island Historical Association. The performance is the nation's first and longest running outdoor symphonic drama.

What is the story behind The Lost Colony?

In 1587, 117 English men, women and children came ashore on Roanoke Island to establish a permanent English settlement in the New World. Just three years later in 1590, when English ships returned to bring supplies, they found the island deserted with no sign of the colonists.-Google

The bike ride to and from Fort Raleigh NHS was 3.7 miles one way. It was easy. The bike trail/sidewalk was flat and wide.

Bike ride to the Fort: 3.7 miles at 7.5 mph one-way

We walked about a mile while visiting.

We left at 11:30 am and were back on board at 1:45 pm

Day 58 – Saturday, January 27, 2024 – Manteo, NC

About last night

Last night we biked to Stripers for cocktails and appetizers. There was live music until 9 pm. A solo acoustic guitarist. He was very good. At two different times during his sets, he had a guest on stage in his place. One of those was our new “friend” we had just met last night.

Stripers Bar and Grille is an award-winning service-oriented 3-floor restaurant with every seat overlooking the water. <https://stripersbarandgrille.com/>

The bike ride to the restaurant seemed long. We followed the waterfront boardwalk until we reached the main highway where we rode on the sidewalk to the restaurant. I was thankful we had a sidewalk to ride on. It was dark and we were wearing dark clothing. Having bicyclists on the roads and sidewalks is the norm here in Manteo and the drivers are courteous about giving way to bikers which provides a comfort level for me anyway.

This morning we biked across the bridge to the island just across the bay from us. Ice Plant Island.

The 40-acre island, once the home of a plant that made ice, is across Shallowbag Bay from the Manteo waterfront. It is the home of the Outer Banks History Center, a gift shop and the 16th-century style sailing ship Elizabeth II. <https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/VA-news/VA-Pilot/issues/1996/vp960420/04200347.htm>

And, home to the 25 acre [Roanoke Island Festival Park](https://www.roanokeisland.com/).

Berthed at one of the Festival Park's piers, we see the Elizabeth II, a replica of the 1587 wooden, square-rigged sailing vessel that brought the colonists over. You'll be amazed that this 69ft ship carried about 115 people on a trip that was "Journey of the Dead."

<https://www.roanokeisland.com/>

This is our view of the S/V Elizabeth II from onboard Valkyrie

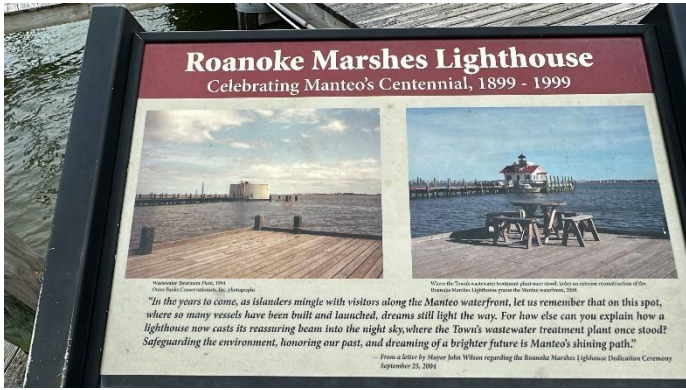
We walked the boardwalk around the perimeter of the island. The museum was closed as well as access to the boat Elizabeth II.



Looking down off one of the piers into the water we saw otter prints which was very cool.

We decided to ditch the bikes and walk around downtown Manteo. Manteo is a town on Roanoke Island and is considered part of the Outer Banks. Manteo has an adorable downtown with a variety of shops, restaurants, and attractions, and is well worth the visit. The downtown boardwalk wraps around the entire waterfront area and provides excellent views out into Shallowbag Bay. Andy Griffith lived here and filmed two episodes of *Matlock* here in Manteo. The highest water level recorded for Manteo is from Hurricane Irene, on August 27, 2011. 7 feet 11 inches above mean sea level.

The theater, The Pioneer Theater was founded in 1918 and is the oldest family-owned small theater in the country.



Our adventure was 1 hour 35 minutes

We walked 2.3 miles

It is cool and windy but a great day to be out and about. Downtown Manteo is quaint and being that it is 'off-season' there was not a lot open. We went into the open shops, peeked into a few windows, and then enjoyed the rest of the afternoon on the boat.

Day 59 – Sunday, January 28, 2024

The one morning I expected to wake up to clouds and fog I woke to sunshine and 60 degrees. Every other morning we have woken to fog. This morning there were chores to be done; laundry, grocery shopping, etc.

About last night:

After dinner onboard (Southwestern Chicken Alfredo) we walked to Poor Richards. The band, Bill & His Friends was playing. They played a lot of Rolling Stones, The Grateful Dead, and a few of their originals. Poor Richards is a small pub, easily crowded with customers but for a Saturday night we are not sure there was anywhere else to go out downtown past the 9 o'clock hour. We tried the Lost Colony Pub but it was closed.

Mark put on *The Hill* on Netflix this morning. I went to the Piggly Wiggly grocery store about ½ mile away. It is a very small store. No deli, no seafood counter, and an incredibly small produce section. I was thrilled that it was close enough to walk to but the high prices and the small size were frustrating. My goal was to stock up on produce but the limited selection and lack of freshness made that difficult. Since I went alone and did not bring our wagon I only bought what I could carry.

After having a 1 ½ hour-long telephone call with my mom, Mark and I drank a couple of White Russians while we watched football, and completed our laundry. Dinner turned out to be a light snack because the drinks were so filling.

The fog rolled in around 3:30 pm and left little visibility in the harbor but for the most part, it was sunny and in the 60's today. Whether we can appreciate after the cold spell in Chesapeake, VA.

Manteo did not disappoint. We have been able to walk, bike ride, or Uber anywhere we want to go. There was a t-shirt store across the street from us that had great deals. (don't tell the girls, but I bought them a souvenir today 😊)

Stay
tuned

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/FEPtqj2H2Y>

Time is unrenowable and tomorrow is never promised so
do it before you can't!

