

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 67 – Monday, February 5, 2024 –National Park Service Dock,
Ocracoke, NC

Monday is a work day. It is cloudy, windy and about 34 degrees this morning.

We arrived to Ocracoke on Friday. We have explored a lot of the island. It is a beautiful area with unbelievable beaches, saw dolphins and whales, pelicans, the ferries come and go bringing locals, visitors, workers, etc. The winter is so quiet here but we can imagine how the tourist must flock to the area in the summer. We feel like this is the Nantucket from yesteryear. A quaint island with just the right combination of relaxation, shopping, and attractions to make a week long vacation perfect. No chain stores or restaurants, no huge obnoxious houses towering over one another to steal the best view. It is simple living at its best.

We have discovered some interesting history about this little island which includes what we have mentioned in the videos or here on our daily blogs. Mark and I would not consider ourselves history buffs but we do like to visit sites along our journies, especially those sites that have some interesting stories to them like here on Ocracoke.

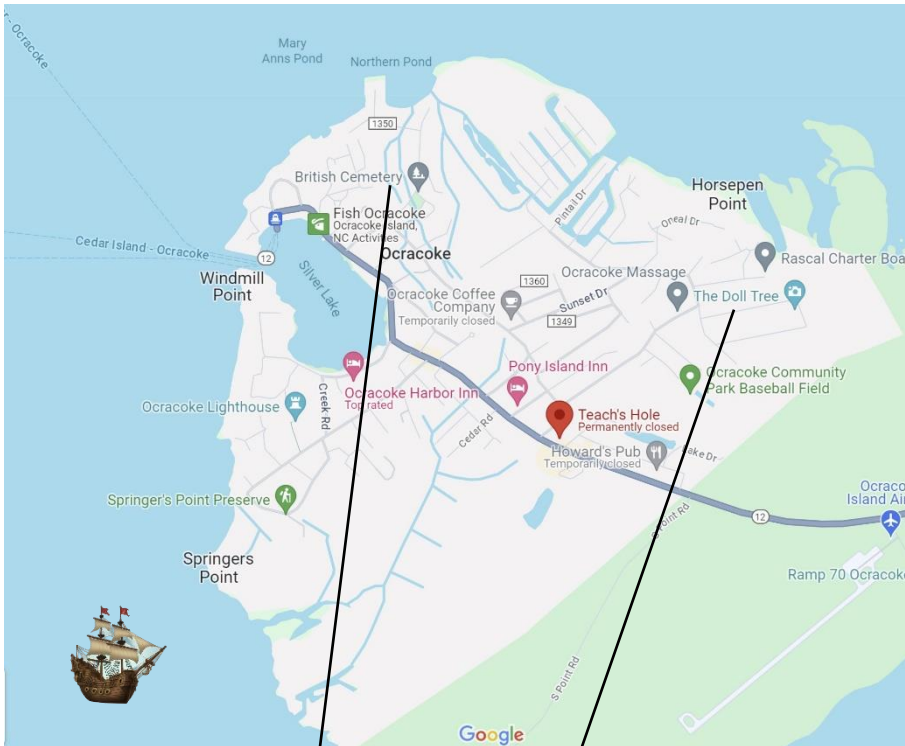
Did you know that Blackbeard, Edward Teach, the famous pirate is believed to be buried here? Well, his headless body that is.

Blackbeard at Ocracoke Island

A visitor to Ocracoke Island may walk down a nature trail to Springer's Point, a public beach on the Pamlico Sound. As they look to their southwest toward the Ocracoke Inlet, they are seeing the area where one of the most famous naval battles in American history occurred – a battle that would bring an end to the famous pirate known as Blackbeard.

<https://www.nps.gov/caha/learn/historyculture/blackbeard-edward-teach.htm#:~:text=Ocracoke%20Island%20was%20a%20great,now%20called%20Teach's%20Hole%20Channel.>

Blackbeard was killed in the battle that ensued on Nov. 22, 1718. His headless body is believed to be buried in a mass grave somewhere on the island.



There used to be a museum & specialty shop dedicated to the pirate, Teach's Hole, however, due to the pandemic it is now permanently closed.

An unusual attraction on Ocracoke is the Doll Tree. This article in the September 24, 2023 issue of Ocracoke Observer gives all the details of the who, what, and why behind the Doll Tree. You can make up your mind about it.

<https://ocracokeobserver.com/2023/09/24/an-unusual-attraction-on-ocracoke/>

The British Cemetery is a small plot donated by Ocracokers, maintained by the US Coast Guard, and holds four bodies that were recovered from a trawler that was sent to assist the US by the British and was torpedoed by the Germans in 1942. The other 33 bodies onboard were never recovered. Every May there is a ceremony commemorating the sinking and honoring these officers.

<https://www.visitocracokenc.com/british-cemetery/>



This is located in the park here on the grounds next to the docks. It depicts the Navy Base that was here in the 1940's.

During World War II, the US Navy built a base on Ocracoke Island. The primary facility was located where the southern [ferry terminal](#), [National Park Service Visitor Center](#), [public parking area](#), and [Ocracoke Preservation Society Museum](#) are today, but the Navy also had an installment at [Loop Shack Hill](#) along Highway 12, which defended against U-boats. The purpose of this naval base (along with two other section bases in North Carolina) was antisubmarine defense and coastal patrol. A "section base" was a part of the Navy's Inshore Patrol, and controlled not only coastal patrol, but also minesweeping and harbor defense. These naval bases effectively ended the U-boat attacks that, in early 1942, sank more than 75 vessels off the North Carolina coast.

<https://www.ocracokenavigator.com/naval-base/>

One of the first buildings you see upon entering Ocracoke on your left is the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching. At first glance, I thought it was a Coast Guard station. An impressive white building with a red roof, but I was wrong. NCCAT is the site of many programs to enhance NC education professionals and what a beautiful location it is! <https://www.nccat.org/about-us>



Day 68 – Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – NPS Dock, Ocracoke, NC

Last night we watched *Fargo* on Hulu while eating pizza that we cooked onboard.

Today is another windy day. Winds at 34 mph with gusts of 40 mph from the north/northeast.

We are sitting tight at the dock here in Ocracoke. The winds are kicking up some hefty waves in Pamlico Sound. The wind and waves were enough to stop the ferry service today.

I am filling my days with the usual, work, typing, and video editing. We are low on fresh water so Mark hooked us up with a live water hose since the dock water is on. I will catch up on laundry and a little bit of cleaning to break up the day. Mark is watching movies on Netflix. We have no wifi here so he streams through his phone that he plugs into the TV.

On occasion, we get some entertainment by watching the pelicans just outside our windows. They dive for their meals in the same areas where we see people come with their fishing poles trying to get as lucky as the pelicans.



The wind "storm" is predicted to cause flooding. The warning is 2' - 3' above normal storm surge. At 4:30 pm Mark has already noticed a difference in the water level. Valkyrie has already risen and since we are tied to a fixed dock he will have to keep an eye on the lines.

Valkyrie is getting pushed up against the dock.

Day 69 – Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – NPS Dock, Ocracoke, NC

Another windy day which is exactly why we are still here. Both ferries are docked again today.

The winds have subsided, a little as the day passes. Down to 26 mph. The ferries did their mid-afternoon runs so we are encouraged to think tomorrow we may have a window of opportunity to leave.

We biked to the ABC store this afternoon to stock up on rum and then went next door to Jason's. The only restaurant open on the island. Mark had the fried oysters which came with the choice of 2 sides. Mark chose brussel sprouts and coleslaw. He enjoyed his meal, it was all very good. I had the pulled pork sandwich which came with coleslaw and chips. But first, a small order of hush puppies to share. That was my favorite part of my meal, the hushpuppies. The pulled pork was ok but a little dry. It was nice to be off the boat and supporting a local business.

ABC = Alcoholic Beverage Control

Each state in the United States has its own rules and regulations regarding the sale and consumption of alcohol. There are two common types of liquor regulatory systems in the United States: open states and control states. So when I mentioned that we went to an ABC store, we went to buy liquor.

Biking back in the dark was adventurous. There were not a lot of streetlamps and we were in black coats. The residents here are obviously very used to having bikers on the roads but in the future, we should wear something reflective. The small bike reflectors are probably not sufficient.

We hope that the winds will die down so we can leave in the morning. Mark has several plans in mind for anchorages so if we decide to leave we have options to ditch out of the sound if the waves are too much.



On display outside the National Park Service building. (NPS)

This is the bulletin board that I described about how to pay the fee to dock at the NPS dock.





I have a horrible 'selfy-game' but for better or worse here are Mark and I at Jason's.

Stay
tuned

 YouTube <https://youtu.be/eEkXrAW55nA>

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