

Each year, thousands of visitors enjoy the beaches of the Currituck Outer Banks. To ensure this natural environment is maintained - and that visitors are protected as well - Currituck County has established ordinances and laws.

FOLLOW THE LAW

» **PARKING** - No vehicle of any type may park or unload at the North Beach Access at any time. Vehicles must park on the beach past milepost 14, which is approximately 1.5 miles north of the entry point to the 4WD beaches. VIOLATORS SHALL BE TOWED.

» **RECKLESS DRIVING** - Driving a vehicle in a repeated circular motion - doing "donuts" - or driving in the surf are examples of careless and reckless driving. Reckless driving and other traffic offenses are violations of North Carolina Motor Vehicle laws.

» **DUNES** - Damaging the natural features of the North Beach dunes is prohibited. Overnight parking against or on the dunes is illegal.

» **WILD HORSES** - While on the northern beaches, you may come in contact with the famous Colonial Spanish Mustangs. IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO GET CLOSER THAN 50 FEET TO THE HORSES OR TO FEED THEM. Feeding the horses can be fatal to them.

» **PETS** - Currituck County has a county-wide leash law. Your pet must be on a leash at all times. And remember, please clean up after your pet!

» **RESTROOMS** - A public restroom is located at the Carova Beach Park at milepost 21. Public urination is prohibited in Currituck County.

» **LITTERING** - Please help keep our beaches clean by removing all trash from the beach when you leave.

» **BONFIRES** - Open-burning, including bonfires on the beach, is prohibited. This includes the dunes and the subdivisions/areas behind the dunes.

» **BEACH CAMPING** - Overnight camping on the beach is prohibited.

» **ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVs)** - ATVs are no longer allowed on the beaches of Currituck County for non-residents.

» **PERSONAL WATERCRAFT** - Launching of personal watercraft (jet skis) is prohibited on the Atlantic Ocean side of Currituck County, but you may enjoy your personal watercraft in the Currituck Sound. A public ramp is located at the Whalehead Club.

» **FIREWORKS** - Fireworks that are self-propelled, spin, or explode are illegal in North Carolina. This State regulation is enforced on the beach and behind the dunes. Fireworks, including those that are legal, are extremely hazardous because of dry beach grasses, closely-built wood structures, high winds, and other factors.

» **SWIMMING** - A red flag on the beach indicates that ocean conditions are not safe for swimming. All forms of water activity are prohibited. Surfboards at least five feet in length and equipped with a leash are exempt.

If you observe others violating the law, please call the Currituck County Sheriff's Office at 252-232-2216.

IF YOU NEED HELP

» **Emergency: 9-1-1**

» **Non-emergency 252.232.2216**

The Carova Beach Volunteer Fire Department is located at 2169 Ocean Pearl Road. To get to the station from the beach, turn at the ramp located between milepost 21 and 22. The ramp has a Fire House sign marking the turn. The Fire Station is not staffed at all times but does provide local response to 9-1-1 calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Many people and animals live on the North Beach. The dunes and property behind them are privately owned. Please restrict driving to the traveled roads. The laws of the beach are enforceable in this area as well.

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*Produced by the Currituck County
Department of Travel & Tourism*



www.VisitCurrituck.com

Currituck Outer Banks Guide To

BEACH DRIVING

& Keeping the North Beach Safe

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*A Publication of the
Carova Beach Volunteer
Fire & Rescue
and the
County of Currituck, NC*



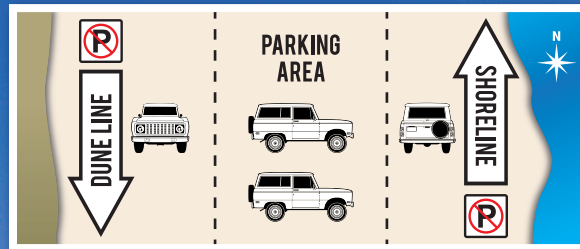
DRIVING ON THE BEACH

Visitors to the Currituck Outer Banks are welcome to enjoy driving on the most northern beaches as long as they travel via four-wheel-drive (4WD) vehicle and follow the established laws. ***Driving on the beach is a unique experience and requires drivers to take many safety measures.*** Here are a few things to keep in mind while driving on the northern beaches.

- » All vehicles to be driven on the beach and roads behind the dunes must be registered, properly licensed, and insured.
- » Gas tanks should be full before driving onto the beach. There are no gas stations located in the 4WD area.
- » Well before approaching the beach ramp (4WD area), ***stop in a legal parking area and adjust the air pressure to 15-20 psi in all four tires.*** This will provide more surface contact with the sand.
- » ***Do not stop or park in the beach ramp area.*** Use 4WD onto the ramp and maintain a slow, steady speed, watching for pedestrians at all times.
- » ***Once on the beach, there is no parking until you reach milepost 14, which is approximately 1.5 miles north of the entry point to the 4WD beaches.*** Do not stop until you are clear of all posted no parking/stopping zones or on narrow sections of the beach. Continue driving to an area where the beach is wide enough to allow other travelers to pass, both at the water's edge and at the dune line.
- » ***The speed limit on the beach is 35 mph. When traveling within 300 feet of any person, the speed limit is 15 mph.***

» The beach is a state recognized "road" or Public Vehicular Area (PVA). ***The shoreline (next to the water's edge) and dune traffic lane (those deeply rutted tracks next to the dunes) are designated Fire, Emergency, and Vehicular traffic lanes.*** Do not impede traffic by stopping, setting up beach chairs, digging holes, or building sand structures in the designated traffic lanes.

» ***Vehicles must be parked in the area east of the dune line and west of the hard packed sand strip, adjacent to the water's edge.*** Always keep your vehicle and personal property such as chairs, beach umbrellas, etc. centered and between the waterline and the dune line. This may involve moving vehicles and belongings with the tide change.



» The entire beach, including parking areas, become driving areas after dark. ***At the end of each day, visitors must remove all equipment (beach chairs, nets, poles, ropes, etc.) and level all sand structures (sand castles, holes, etc.)*** to ensure the safety of those driving on the beach at night.

» Remember to ***WATCH FOR PEDESTRIANS!*** The loud sound of the surf makes it difficult for people to hear approaching vehicles. In addition, children are often distracted and dart in front of cars. As a driver, it is your responsibility to stay alert. As a pedestrian, it is your responsibility to not impede traffic.

PROTECT THE WILD HORSES

While on the northern beaches, you may come in contact with the famous Colonial Spanish Mustangs. Keep in mind, they are wild - do not approach them.

Remember, ***IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO GET CLOSER THAN 50 FEET TO THE HORSES OR TO FEED THEM.*** Please view the horses from a respectable distance and encourage others to do the same. If you observe an injured horse, please call the Corolla Wild Horse Fund at 252-453-8002.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- » House numbers (addresses) behind the dunes correspond with the beach mile markers.
- » The Carova Beach Volunteer Fire & Rescue Auxiliary sells T-shirts, ice, and cold drinks at the station, Wednesdays through Sundays from 12 to 2 p.m. throughout the summer season.
- » An outside pay telephone is available at the Carova Beach Fire Station.

