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Nags Head – A Perfect Oceanside Getaway That Is Rich In History

By Elizabeth Ann Wares

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Nags Head has grown into a summer resort area and has some of the best beach recreation on the North Carolina Coast. The name of the town has many tales associated with it. The most popular is the story that pirates would tie lanterns to the necks of their horses or nags, and walk them on the beach at night. The ship captains, thinking this was a safe opportunity to rob the ships. This is a far cry from Nags Head's attraction today. Once a remote area, Nags Head now has accommodations ranging from classic, old timey cottages to oceanfront vacation homes. Other options include cozy cottages, quaint bed and breakfasts, Hotels and motels.

Whether you are single, a couple, or a family, the area is well suited for virtually any type of vacation plans. Nags Head has a reputation as a top notch recreational destination. Watersports and fishing related activities abound. Let's not forget the world renowned Oregon Fishing Inlet. This area is home to some of the top world-class deep sea fishing. There's always the popular amusement parks with miniature golf, waterslides, and go-karts.

The world's tallest sand dune on the east coast calls Nags Head it's home. Jockey's Ridge is approximately 100 feet tall. Feeling adventurous? Jockey's Ridge is the ideal place to hang glide. Or if you want to chill out, you can walk the beach, watch the sunrise, or enjoy a breathtaking sunset, or just explore the numerous nature trails.

There's tons of opportunities to pick up souvenirs along

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the way. There are outlet stores, an indoor mall and many local specialty shops. No vacation would be complete without checking out the local restaurants. There are many locally owned restaurants as well as all of the national chain restaurants. The selection of food is excellent. From chicken fingers to filet mignon. Make sure to try the seafood, since much of it is locally caught, and therefore, extremely fresh!

Right down the road (from Nags Head) is the town of Kill Devil Hills. You can easily spend a good half day here, without seeing all the sights. This town became famous when

the Wright Brothers made history when they flew the first airplane here in 1903. The Wright Brothers National Memorial is made of granite, rises 61 feet into the air and is the focal point of this town. A 314-acre national park honors this momentous event with a flight museum and an airstrip. Take one of the air tours of the Outer Banks. Its a spectacular, and exciting way to get a bird's eye view of these islands.

The Visitor's Center, is a gorgeous glass covered structure that showcases a replica of that simple canvas-covered 605-pound doubled-winged plane, which Orville Wright flew on that history-making day. Looking at it today, it's hard to imagine that it could even get off the ground.

A popular attraction for kids and adults alike, is kite flying. One of the reasons the Wright Brtothers picked this area was because it is so windy. This makes for consistently soaring kite flying. The Park Service supplies simple box kites and 20 feet of string. It's normal to see dozens of kids and adults (acting like kids) laughing and with huge smiles on their faces, with their own flying contraptions in a pleasant five mile an hour breeze. When you visit, be sure to make time for touring the various museum exhibits. You can even attend a ranger conducted program, take a tour of the reconstructed camp buildings and the first flight trail area, and climb up Kill Devil Hill to view the memorial pylon.

Located on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, Nags Head and Kill Devil Hills offers residents and visitors alike, a unique and relaxing environment with plenty of fascinating,

and fun things to see and do year–round.

Elizabeth Ann Wares is an avid traveler and shares travel and vacation tips. She is the webmaster of Airfare X, a leading resource for discount airfare:

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Florida Vacations - From Orlando To The Keys

By Jim Grayson

The kids have finally broken you down and you've agreed on that family vacation getaway to Florida. They're excited. They want to go to Orlando, and you're fairly certain that if you hear one more thing about Goofy or Micky your head is going to explode. What's a poor mom or dad to do? While it's true that Disney World is one of the premier family vacation getaways in Florida, it is by no means the only fun place to be.

The Orlando/Kissimmee area boasts a plentiful array of family vacation getaways. In fact, Kissimmee can be considered the laid–back, historic alternative to Orlando. Residents of Kissimmee have gone to great lengths to keep the hometown charm that the area is noted for. While there are some water parks and resorts, attractions such as Old Town, rodeos, horseback riding and a petting farm make it a wonderful family vacation getaway.

Other towns in the area which are ideal family vacation getaways include: Mount Dora, perfect for biking trips; Polk City, for the family of aircraft enthusiasts; and Sanford, home of the Central Florida Zoological Park.

Further south lies Palm Beach County. Yes, that's right; I did say Palm Beach. I know what you're thinking. `Palm Beach' and `family vacation getaways' don't go hand in hand. That's where you're wrong. You just have to know where to look. West Palm Beach is perfect for that family vacation getaway, thanks to destinations such as the Norton Museum of Art and the Lion Country Safari, where visitors can see lions, giraffes, and a host of other animals, running free.

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As you travel further north, you can give your kids the perfect opportunity to use their family vacation getaway to learn about the environment, by visiting the Loggerhead Park and The Marine Life Center in Juno. Here they can be taught about turtles and go on turtle walks.

We're not done yet. Welcome to the Florida Keys, the perfect destination for putting a little more excitement in your family vacation getaway. Certainly I wouldn't suggest you take your children diving, unless they're accustomed to that sort of thing, but you can definitely visit Islamorada. They'll love their family vacation getaway when they get to interact one-on-one with dolphins and sea lions. You'll also have the chance to feed the giant tarpon that gather around the docks. Now how many people can say they had a chance to do that on their family vacation getaway? So you see? Disney World isn't the only option for your family vacation getaway.

Jim Grayson makes a living in the field of research. If you have found this article useful, visit his specialist resource sites,

and

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