

# Cape Lookout

National Seashore  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## OFF-ROAD DRIVING



Welcome to Cape Lookout National Seashore! The Core Banks provide recreational opportunities to thousands of visitors each year, but they are also a fragile barrier island system that is susceptible to damage, particularly from vehicles driven over dunes and vegetation. A network of

approved roads has been developed that protects the islands without limiting visitor mobility. Travelling outside these roads destroys vegetation, causes dune erosion, and endangers sea turtles and nesting birds. Please help us preserve the park for all visitors by obeying park regulations for off-road vehicle use.

## REGULATIONS



\* All vehicles, ATV's, and trailers left unattended for over 24 hours must be parked in an official parking area and have a valid Cape Lookout vehicle permit. Permits are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM, at the park headquarters on Harkers Island. Call 252-728-2250 for more information.

\* Vehicles must meet all state license and safety requirements, and must display a valid state inspection sticker.

\* All drivers must possess a valid driver's license and be 16 years of age (Including ATV's).

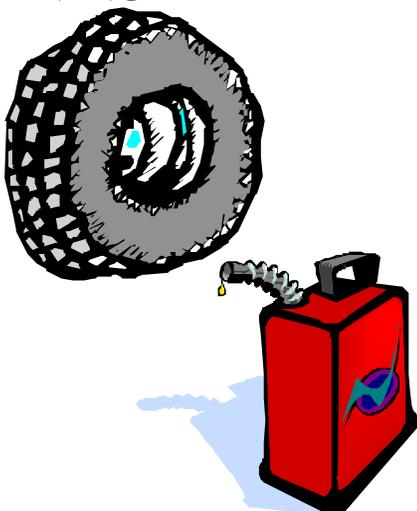
\* Drive only on the ocean side of the dunes, on officially marked roads, and in parking areas. Driving over dunes, vegetation, sand flats, and the sound side of the island is prohibited.

\* The speed limit is 15 mph within 100 feet of cabin areas or visitors, and 15 mph on the back road; otherwise the limit is 25 mph.

\* Open alcoholic beverage containers are illegal in moving vehicles. Never drink and drive.

\* Driving in turtle and bird closures is prohibited. Please obey the detour signs around these areas-do not drive on **any** portion of the closed beach, regardless of tide level.

## HINTS FOR OFF-ROAD DRIVING



\* Four-wheel drive is highly recommended for beach driving because two-wheel drive vehicles often get stuck on sandy beaches. Remember: **you** are responsible for towing, which often costs several hundred dollars.

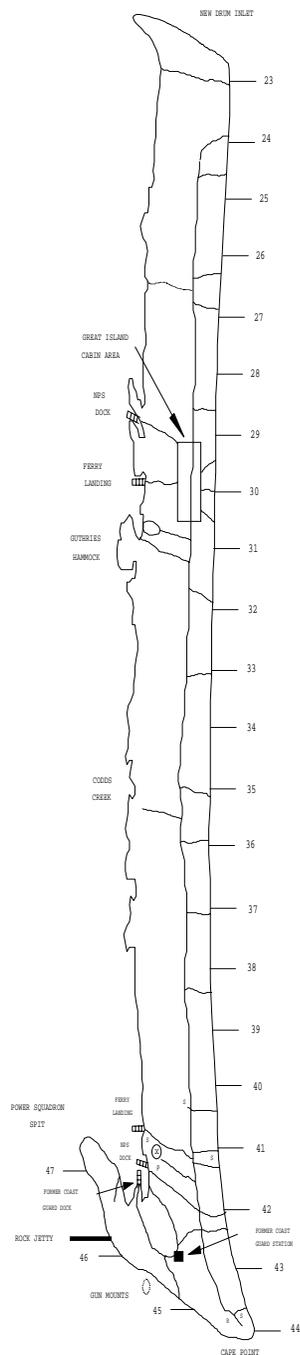
\* Carry an off-road kit. We suggest including a tire pressure gauge, first aid kit, shovel, spare tire, air pump, tow rope, jack with base support board, extra boards for traction, water (since vehicles quickly overheat on the sand), and a fire extinguisher.

\* Lower the pressure in all tires before you drive onto the sand (15-20 psi usually works best). Remember to reinflate your tires as soon as possible after returning to paved roads.

\* Drive slowly and be alert for people walking or lying on the beach.

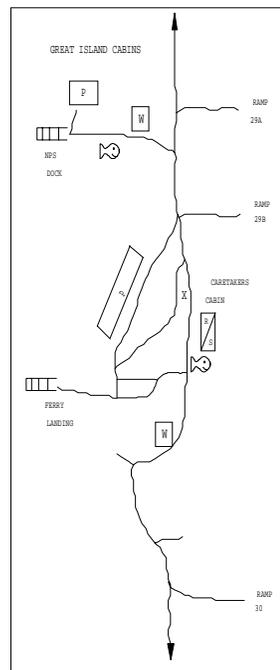
\* Don't forget to check the weather and tide table before your trip, as some portions of the beach are impassable at high tide and during bad weather.

For more information, contact a park ranger at 252-728-2250



## SOUTH CORE BANKS

APPROVED ROADS FOR VEHICULAR TRAVEL ARE MARKED WITH JEEP TRAIL SIGNS. DO NOT DRIVE OFF MARKED ROADS OR ON OPEN FLATS.  
NPS DOCKS ARE FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING ONLY.



### LEGEND

- Jeep Trail Sign
  - Interior Roads
  - Authorized Vehicles Only
  - 23-47 Mile Markers
  - Sand Flats
  - Ⓜ Fish Cleaning Station
  - Ⓧ Lighthouse, Visitor Center, Restrooms
  - P Parking by NPS Special Use Permit
  - R Restrooms
  - S Shade Shelter
  - W Water Tower
  - R/S Restrooms/Showers
- (3/90)

Roads and Ramps are subject to change

### LEGEND

- Interior Trail
- .... Authorized Road Only
- 1-47 Mile Marker
- Sand Flats
- P Parking by NPS Permit only
- R Restroom
- S Shade Shelter
- Ⓧ Visitor Center

### VEHICLE TRAIL SIGNS

“Jeep” signs mark legal trails.

Illegal trails are unmarked or posted with a “Jeep” sign with a red slash.

“Ramp” signs mark the legal trails connecting the beach with other trails.

Mile signs mark the beach in one-mile increments, starting at Ocracoke Inlet.

Parking and Camping signs designate the only places to park behind dunes for camping.