



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Outer Banks Group:

· Cape Hatteras National Seashore	1401 National Park Road Manteo, NC 27954
· Fort Raleigh National Historic Site	252-473-2111 phone
· Wright Brothers National Memorial	252-473-2595 fax

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CONTACT: Cyndy M. Holda, Public Affairs Specialist, 252-475-9034 or 252-473-2111

Tourism to the Outer Banks Group of national parks creates \$175,341.2 million in Economic Benefit

Report shows visitor spending supports 2,469 jobs in local economy

Manteo, NC - A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 3,050,689 visitors to the Outer Banks Group (Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and Wright Brothers National Memorial), spent \$175,341.2 million in communities near the parks. That spending supported 2,469 jobs in the local area.

“The Outer Banks Group is proud to welcome visitors from across the country and around the world,” said Superintendent Barclay Trimble. “We are delighted to share the story of these special places and the experiences they provide and to use the parks as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy – returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service – and it’s a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities.”

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and Lynne Koontz for the National Park Service. The report shows \$14.7 billion of direct spending by 283 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 243,000 jobs nationally, with 201,000 jobs found in these gateway communities, and had a cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy of \$26.75 billion.

According to the report most visitor spending supports jobs in restaurants, grocery and convenience stores (39 percent) hotels, motels and B&Bs (27 percent), and other amusement and recreation (20 percent).

To download the report visit: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in North Carolina and how the National Park Service works with North Carolina communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/NorthCarolina.

For general information on the Outer Banks Group national park sites, visit www.nps.gov/caha, www.nps.gov/wrbr, www.nps.gov/fora; Twitter @CapeHatterasNPS, @WrightBrosNPS, @FortRaleighNPS; www.facebook.com/CapeHatterasNS, www.facebook.com/WrightBrothersNMem, www.facebook.com/FortRaleighNHS.