

# Crossing of the Cape Fear

## Southport-Fort-Fisher ferry is enjoyable ride

The Southport-Fort Fisher Ferry provides easy access to the North Carolina Aquarium and Fort Fisher State Historic Site -- but it's more than just a mode of transportation.

The 30-minute ride also offers a unique look at many of the area's most historic and noteworthy sites.

Upon leaving the ferry landing at Southport, remnants of the Price's Creek Lighthouse are visible to the portside -- the left. The lighthouse is the only remaining vestige of the chain of lighthouses built between 1845 and 1851 from Wilmington to the mouth of the Cape Fear River.

During the Civil War the lighthouse was used as a signal station by the Confederate Army and allowed Confederate troops to communicate with officers across the river at Fort Fisher. It has been out of service since 1867.

Visible to the south of the ferry

one of the oldest lighthouses in the state, Old Baldy on Bald Head Island. Built in 1817, Old Baldy replaced the original lighthouse on the island constructed in 1796 because that structure was erected too close to the ocean. Old Baldy served as a functioning lighthouse until 1935 and was used as a radio beacon during World War II.

Also visible to the south is the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Caswell Beach -- formerly Fort Caswell -- and the U. S. Coast Guard Station and its lighthouse.

Upon arrival on the Fort Fisher side, a stone dam known as "The Rocks" is located just south of ferry landing. Constructed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers between 1873 and 1891, the dam was intended to prevent the river channel from silting up from sand washed through Corncake Inlet and thus blocking the flow of com-



NORTH CAROLINA FERRY SYSTEM

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## Southport-Fort Fisher Ferry schedule

The Southport-Fort Fisher ferry will operate this summer under a new schedule with more departure times.

Crossing to Fort Fisher takes 30 minutes with a capacity of 38 cars. The ferry leaves the dock at Prices Creek north of Southport. Take Moore Street northward from Southport to Ferry Road.

Fare is 50 cents for a pedestrian, \$1 for bicycles, \$3 for motorcycles and cars less than 20 feet and \$6 for vehicles or combinations up to 55 feet long.

This schedule from March 29 to November 14.

### Departs Southport

5:30 a.m.  
7:00 a.m.  
8:30 a.m.  
9:15 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.  
10:45 a.m.  
11:30 a.m.  
12:15 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.  
1:45 p.m.  
2:30 p.m.  
3:15 p.m.  
4:00 p.m.  
4:45 p.m.  
6:15 p.m.  
7:45 p.m.

### Departs Ft. Fisher

7:45 a.m.  
9:15 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.  
10:45 a.m.  
11:30 a.m.  
12:15 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.  
1:45 p.m.  
3:15 p.m.  
4:00 p.m.  
4:45 p.m.  
5:30 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.  
8:30 p.m.

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