

Getaways

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threatened by ocean waves that, through the process of erosion, have crept to within 60 feet of the structure's base. Campaigns now underway in Raleigh and in Washington aim to save the spiraled lighthouse from the sea,

but this fall may be the last chance a visitor may get to see the Outer Banks' most famous landmark.

The end of the road at Hatteras Inlet meets with a ferry landing, where a free ferry takes

several daily runs across the inlet to Ocracoke Island. Ocracoke, accessible only by boat or plane, is inhabited only by about 500 people at the southern end of the 21-mile long sand spit in the village of Ocracoke. The fishing village, one of the oldest on the Banks, is rich in history and legend and is the site of the Ocracoke Light and Silver Lake, a protected harbor where the notorious pirate Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, died in a violent battle in 1713.

Unless a trip back north up the Outer Banks is on the agenda, the only other way off Ocracoke Island is by the Cedar Island Ferry, or the ferry to Swanquarter on the mainland in Hyde County. Both are long

rides, lasting anywhere from 2½ hours, and both require a fee of about \$5 for a four-wheeled automobile.

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If you are going . . . take Hwy. 54 east to the Research Triangle Park and exit on to Interstate 40. Exit to 64 east (Raleigh Beltline) and follow it to 64 east to Rocky Mount. Stay on 64 east to Roanoke Island and the Outer Banks, and turn right on to NC 12 at Whalebone Junction. Approximate mileage: 220 miles. Approximate time 4½ hours. **S**

Charles Herndon is the state and national editor for *The Daily Tar Heel*.



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