

Beaufort, North Carolina, USA

One of America's oldest port towns, Beaufort charms small-ship cruisers with a walkable historic waterfront, wild Banker horses just across the channel, and the shipwreck legacy of Blackbeard lurking in every maritime museum corner.

Docked — Beaufort Town Docks

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

USD

English

Wild horses visible from dock

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Beaufort Town Docks, Front Street — small/mid-size ships only (up to ~250 ft); walk-off access to downtown

Best For: Wild horse tours, maritime history, Cape Lookout ferry, kayaking, waterfront dining

Walk to center: Immediate — dock is on Front Street in the heart of the historic district

Don't Miss: Ferry to Shackleford Banks for wild Banker horses; NC Maritime Museum (Blackbeard artifacts)

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ Metered · 📱 **Rideshare** ✅ Uber, Lyft

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Wild Horse Ferry to Shackleford Banks** — A short ferry ride across Back Sound lands you on Shackleford Banks, where a herd of free-roaming Banker horses has lived since the 16th century.
- Cape Lookout National Seashore** — Ferry to the undeveloped barrier island of Cape Lookout for pristine shelling beaches, the distinctive diamond-pattern Cape Lookout Lighthouse, and...
- Dolphin & Wild Horse Cruise** — Narrated boat tours weave through Taylor Creek, the Rachel Carson Reserve, and Shackleford Banks in search of bottlenose dolphins and wild horses.
- North Carolina Maritime Museum** — One of the best free maritime museums on the East Coast, showcasing Blackbeard's flagship Queen Anne's Revenge artifacts, historic lifesaving...
- Beaufort Historic Site & Old Burying Ground** — Walk through nine preserved 18th- and 19th-century structures including the 1732 Old Burying Ground — one of the oldest cemeteries in North Carolina...

BEST WALKS

- Front Street Historic Waterfront Stroll** 0.5 mi · 20-30 min · Easy — The classic Beaufort walk: stroll Front Street from the Town Docks past the NC Maritime Museum, boutique shops, and waterfront restaurants while watching sailboats and...
- Historic District Loop** 1 mi · 40 min · Easy — Extend the Front Street walk inland to the Beaufort Historic Site, where nine preserved 18th-century buildings cluster together.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		75°	59°	8d
Jun		86°	73°	16d
Aug		87°	76°	20d
Sep		84°	71°	14d
Oct		77°	63°	7d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:53AM–7:52PM · Jun 6:15AM–8:31PM · Aug 6:47AM–8:06PM · Sep 7:06AM–7:28PM · Oct 7:26AM–6:49PM

USD

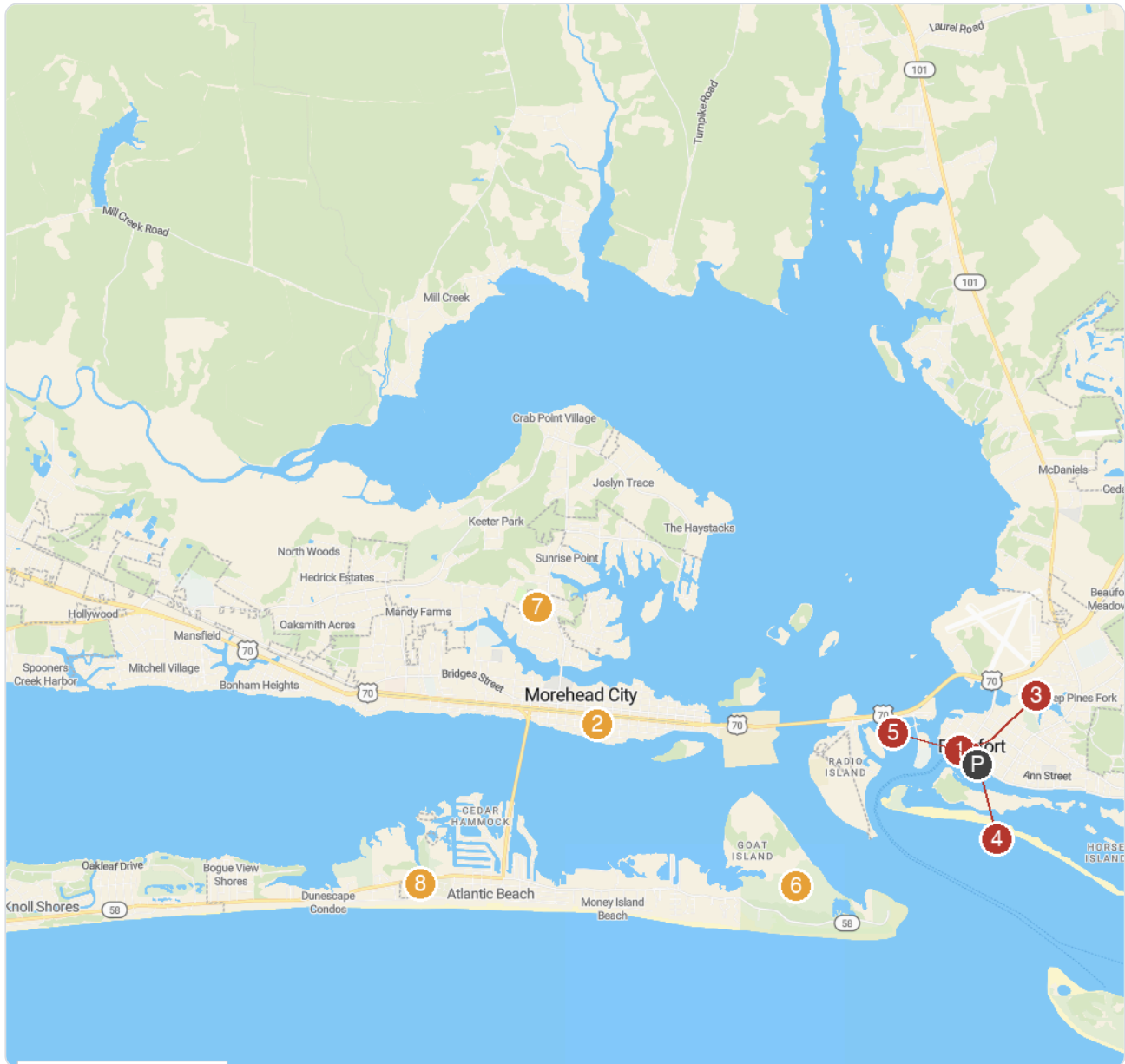
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book the Shackleford Banks ferry early. Island Express and other ferry operators fill up fast on days with cruise calls — reserve before you arrive or the moment you board.
- NC Maritime Museum is free. One of the best free stops on the East Coast — budget at least an hour for the Queen Anne's Revenge exhibit alone.
- Summers are hot and humid. Pack sunscreen, a hat, and water — the barrier island ferries offer little shade, and temperatures regularly hit the 90s °F (32+ °C) in summer.
- Everything in town is walkable. The dock drops you right on Front Street; you won't need a cab unless you're heading to Fort Macon (~10 miles by road) or the outer beaches.
- Bug spray for the banks. Shackleford Banks and Cape Lookout can have biting insects, especially in warm months — bring insect repellent for the ferry excursions.
- Eat fresh seafood on Front Street. Beaufort is a working fishing town — the local shrimp, blue crab, and flounder are the real thing. Several casual waterfront spots are steps from the dock.

Beaufort, North Carolina, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort | Explore coastal history, boats, and marine life exhibits. | 2 Shevans Park | A community park with playgrounds, picnic areas, and open space. |
| 3 Old Burying Ground | Visit a historic cemetery with graves dating back to the 1700s. | 4 Island Express Ferry Service | Ferry service to Shackleford Banks and Cape Lookout Lighthouse. |
| 5 Escape Lookout Games | Solve puzzles and escape themed rooms with your group. | 6 Fort Macon State Park | Explore a restored Civil War fort and enjoy ocean beaches. |
| 7 Rotary Park | A waterfront park with a playground, picnic tables, and views. | 8 The Splash Pad | A fun water play area for children to cool off. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |