



Carolina Traveler

Take the ferry to Ocracoke for the day

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By **MIKE REDDING** / WCNC

E-mail Mike: MRedding@WCNC.com

At Hatteras Village you drive your car onto a ferry and glide across Pamlico Sound for 40 minutes and dock at Ocracoke. Ferries leave every 30 minutes from 5 AM to midnight. The ferry ride itself is an adventure for kids (even kids my age... I'm 46).

Ocracoke Island is pretty much unchanged. It's what settlers found 400 years ago. Ocracoke Village at the far side of the island is slow to change as well. And that's what I love about this place. Fishermen, shrimpers and crabbers all set out before dawn and haul in their catch during the day. You can buy fresh seafood right off the boats at Ocracoke Seafood (say hi to Robin Payne for us) every afternoon. If you're lucky you'll meet James Barrie Gaskill. He's a seventh generation Ocracoke fisherman. Listen to his accent. You'll love it! It's a sailor's brogue straight from English settlers. The locals never lost this wonderful style of speech.

So play on the beach all day (voted one of the Top 10 beaches in the country by several travel magazines), walk around Ocracoke Village for a few minutes and then throw some fresh seafood into a cooler and drive back onto the ferry and head to your rental house for a seafood dinner as fresh as humanly possible.