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Tweet: Six reasons why Bald Head Island should make your 2020 Travel Bucket List #baldheadisland #carfreecarefree

### **Six Reasons Why Bald Head Island Should Make Your 2020 Travel Bucket List**

*From turtle programs to a relaxing coastal vibe, Bald Head Island Offers Unique Experiences for 2020*

Bald Head Island, NC (Dec. 2019) – A bucket list is a collection of hopes and dreams – experiences to have, personal goals to meet, skills to master – and according to most list-makers, the experience of traveling. While many travelers dream of far-flung destinations, exotic beaches and historical sites (that are of course social media-worthy) many of those same travelers look for destinations closer to home that provide both the atmosphere and experiences to rival international ones. On [Bald Head Island](#), a barrier island off the coast of North Carolina, visitors find an idyllic haven exists where the only mode of transportation is by golf cart and bicycles, wildlife makes up the greatest percentage of island residents and pristine beaches and maritime forests are insta-perfect.

Located two miles off the coast of Southport, NC, Bald Head Island provides the perfect destination for any bucket list and caters to active travelers who love an adventure, a vacationer who wants accommodations and activities that can be enjoyed with a group of family or friends or a solo-traveler who dreams of a vacation to relax and recharge while enjoying a white sand beach and crashing waves. As the end of the 2019 is quickly coming to close, and those lists are being made, here are six reasons why Bald Head Island should make the list:

- **It's Easy to Leave City Life Behind:** Put the keys aside and leave the car at the ferry dock in picture-perfect Southport, Bald Head Island's closest mainland town. A journey to the island starts with stunning views of the Cape Fear Coast during a 20-minute passenger ferry ride to the island (there is no bridge connecting it to the mainland.) Cars are not permitted, so once ashore, guests climb into electric golf carts or jump on bicycles to explore the natural beauty of the island.
- **Nature is Everywhere:** At only a little over three miles long, and less than one mile

wide in most areas, Bald Head Island is home to a staggering amount of wildlife in such a small area. Dozens of species of birds from Bald Eagles and Snowy Egrets to mammals and reptiles like foxes, dolphins, alligators and skinks (to name just a few) make the island home and can be spotted while exploring the 10,000 acres of protected marsh, tidal creek and ancient maritime forest. Visitors looking to get interactive with nature will want to explore the serpentine creek and marsh system in a kayak or, for the more daring, on a stand-up paddleboard, also known as SUP.

- **Experience the Magic of Sea Turtles Hatching:** The star of the show when it comes to nature and wildlife are the loggerhead turtles. Each year from approximately June to September, hundreds of turtles emerge from the Atlantic Ocean to lay their nests and later, thousands of baby hatchlings make their way back down the beach to the same waters. 2019 saw a record-breaking 170 loggerhead nests resulting in 9,579 hatchlings. Visitors can take part in the [Bald Head Island Conservancy](#)'s Sea Turtle Protection Program by joining educators and naturalists as they patrol the beach for nesting turtles or watch over nests as they prepare to hatch.
- **Sightsee at Night:** Bald Head Island may lack nightlife of the big city variety, but the island is anything but boring after dark. Minimal light pollution makes it an ideal locale for stargazing, and the Bald Head After Dark program explores the island with an island naturalist looking for nocturnal creatures by using radio telemetry and spotlight surveys to locate animals. Those guests who want to experience the thrill of casting their lines with only the moon as their guide can take part in the Night Surf Fishing programs.
- **Climb to the Top:** 108 stairs. That's the number of wooden stairs visitors climb to be rewarded with breathtaking views of the island, Atlantic Ocean and Cape Fear Estuary from the top of [Old Baldy](#), North Carolina's oldest lighthouse. Since 1817, Old Baldy has marked the mouth of the Cape Fear River guiding ships through the river's channels and sandbars. Standing tall at 110 feet with a distinct octagonal shape, Old Baldy was officially relieved of its lighthouse duties in 1935 but continues to be the most iconic, and photographed, spot on the island. The grounds of Old Baldy also include Smith Island Museum which is housed in a replica of the 1850's lighthouse keeper's cottage and contains artifacts that shed light on the island's rich maritime past.
- **Dip your Toes in the Atlantic Ocean:** Beach days are the best days and with 14 miles of beach wrapping three sides of the island, Bald Head gives visitors plenty of

options when choosing where to get some sun. South Beach features long stretches of white sand and calmer waters perfect for families, walkers and shell seekers alike, while East Beach, which faces the open Atlantic, is where the surfers and boogie boarders like to hang out.

Bald Head Island is a boat-accessed community located two miles off the coast of Southport, NC. Transportation on the island is restricted to golf carts, bicycles and pedestrian traffic. Of the island's 12,000 acres, 10,000 acres of beaches, salt marsh and maritime forest are protected and will remain undeveloped. To learn more about the island, visit [www.BaldHeadIsland.com](http://www.BaldHeadIsland.com).

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