



# Jockey's Ridge State Park

300 W. Carolista Drive  
Nags Head, NC 27959

(252) 441-7132

[jockeys.ridge@ncparks.gov](mailto:jockeys.ridge@ncparks.gov)

GPS: 35.9642, -75.6330



## Activities

**Education and Events:** The park's visitor center not only helps visitors learn a little bit more about the area, but also serves as a site for interpretive programs. To arrange a special exploration of the park for your group or class, contact the park office. *Sunset on the Ridge* is a popular program held throughout the summer—witness a glowing sunset while learning about the geology of Jockey's Ridge. Or participate in other activities sponsored by the park including youth-oriented programs during the summer.



**Trails:** Enjoy climbing and playing on this huge pile of sand. Shoes are a must to protect tender feet from hot sand and sandspurs—sand temperatures may be as much as 30 degrees higher than air temperatures. Be aware of the hang gliding landing and launching zones; refer to the park map for the location of these areas. The ridge area closes 15 minutes before the closing of the park.

Enjoy our self-guided nature trails and boardwalk: Soundside Natural Trail and Tracks in the Sand. See map for more detail.



**Airborne Activities:** Year-round winds, often up to 10-15 miles per hour, make Jockey's Ridge ideal for kites, model planes, and hang gliders. Hang gliding is regulated by park staff for the safety of participants and other visitors. Only those persons with a USHPA Hang 1 or other agency-approved rating card may hang glide on Jockey's Ridge. All hang gliders must register with the park office. Hang gliding activity stops one hour before the park closes.



**Picnicking:** Eight picnic shelters are spaced among small dunes with low-growing vegetation. Each shelter has two tables and a grill. Drinking water and restrooms are located nearby. Use of the shelters is free unless reservations are requested.

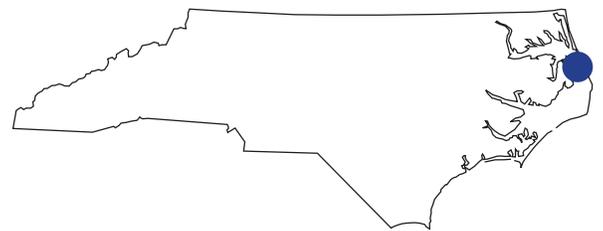


**Estuary Excitement:** The town of Nags Head and Jockey's Ridge State Park operate an estuarine access at the base of the dune along Roanoke Sound. Enjoy the sound side beach, or let the wind be your guide as you enjoy water-based recreation from within the park. Sand boarding is allowed October 1–March 31. If your sand board has foot bindings, a free permit is required and may be obtained from the park office.



A trip to the top of the dune, once thought impossible for those with physical disabilities, can now be achieved with the help of all-terrain vehicles. With 24 hour prior notice, park staff will drive those who need assistance over the sand to the exciting views of the Atlantic Ocean and the Roanoke Sound. Contact the park office for details or to make reservations for a ride to the top of the dune.

## Location



Jockey's Ridge State Park is located in Dare County on the Outer Banks. The entrance to the park, Carolista Drive, is in the town of Nags Head at milepost 12 on the highway 158 Bypass (South Croatan Highway).

## Park Hours

November - February .....	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
March - May, September & October .....	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
June - August .....	8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Closed Christmas Day	
<a href="#">Soundside Access Gate</a>	
October - March .....	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
April - September .....	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.



Please visit the North Carolina State Parks website or contact the park office for **the most current information** about seasonal hours, activities, alerts, camping, fees, programs, rules, and weather.

[www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov)

Make a reservation online at [ncparks.gov](http://ncparks.gov)  
or call 1-877-722-6762.

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS**  
*Naturally Wonderful*