

Old Ferry "Jack Stick"

ABOUT THE BIKE ROUTES

Explore the beauty and history of Holden Beach as you tour the island by bike. There are three different bike routes, totaling approximately 20 miles, each with its own special beauty and history. They are marked on the map in pink, blue and orange.

The pink route, on the east end of the island, is a 3 ½-mile loop and includes most of the historic points of interest and bicycle access to the beach.

The blue route, in the middle of the island, is a 5-mile scenic loop with views of the waterway and marshlands. Here you can enjoy glimpses of water birds, deer and the occasional dolphin.

The orange route, on the west end of the island, is a 10-mile loop dotted with parks, butterflies, fishing areas, and another bicycle access to the beach.

Bike route direction signs and numbers corresponding to the special points of interest on the map are painted on the roads.



We gratefully acknowledge the use of historical information from:

Sand and Sea Fever by Franda Dobson Pedlow, 1994.

Holden Beach History by John F. Holden, 1988.



BICYCLE LAWS OF N.C.

In North Carolina, the bicycle has the legal status of a vehicle. This means that bicyclists have full rights & responsibilities on the road and are subject to the laws & regulations governing the operation of a motor vehicle.

North Carolina traffic laws require bicyclists to:

- Ride on the right, in the same direction as other Traffic;
- Obey all traffic signs and signals;
- Use hand signals to communicate intended Movements;
- Equip their bicycles with a front lamp visible from 300 feet and a rear reflector that is visible from a distance of 200 feet when riding at night.

In addition, the Child Bicycle Safety Act of 2001 requires that:

- All bicycle operators under 16 years of age wear a bicycle helmet on public roads, public paths and public rights-of-way;
- All child passengers under 40 pounds or 40 inches must be seated and secured in a child seat or a bicycle trailer.



Welcome to the Town of Holden Beach, recognized as one of the premier "Family Beaches" in the United States. Holden Beach is proud of what we do not have: high-rise hotels, neon, commercial overload. We are primarily a residential community, an island of beach homes and cottages, with a small commercial area.

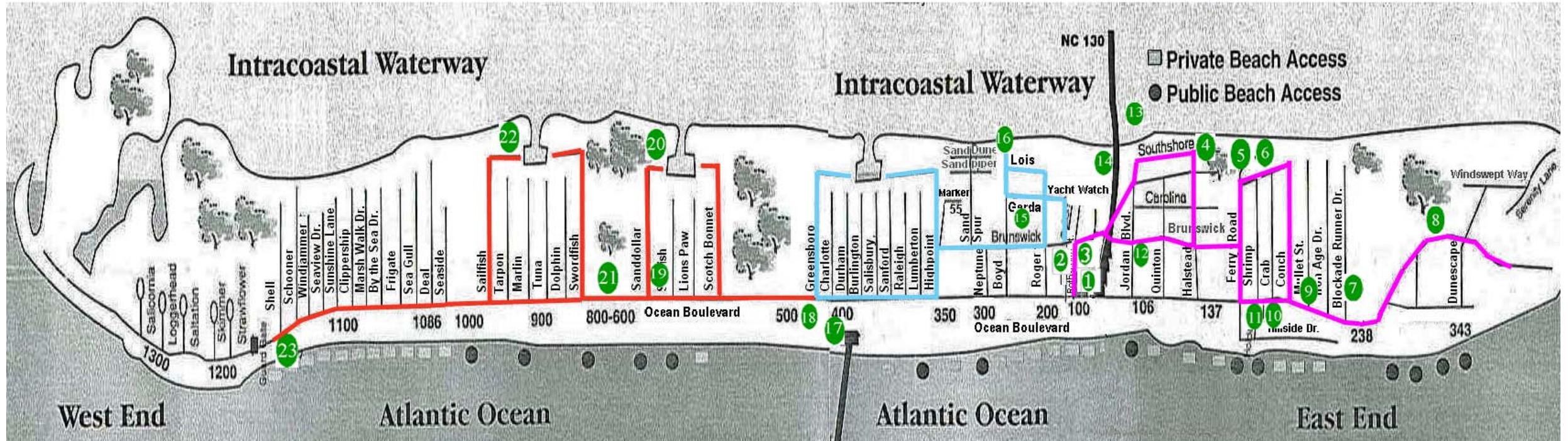
Holden Beach is a great place to relax and enjoy the beach and natural wildlife that surrounds us. Come to the Town of Holden Beach and enjoy paradise.



Holden Beach is quickly becoming a "Bike Friendly" town. We have put together a pleasant historical tour for you to enjoy by bike. We are affectionately calling this the "Olden" Holden Bike Tour. We hope you enjoy the history and wonderful views of Holden Beach, as you pedal to the East End, the West End, and all that lies between. Bike on!

“Olden” Holden Bike Tour

There are three different bike routes, each with its own special beauty and history. As you follow the map, you will find numbered signs, which signify special points of interest. These are described below.



- OCEAN VIEW TAVERN:** was built in 1949 by Dr. Rothschild Holden on his property. There were 8 rooms for rent upstairs and a restaurant on the first floor. It survived Hurricane Hazel 1954 on the original lot.
- HOLDEN BEACH CHAPEL:** First worship service was held June 11 1961. Prior to building the Chapel, Mr. Luther Holden arranged for services to be held in the old Pavilion. Ministers from various denominations receive a week's stay at the Parsonage in exchange for leading Sunday worship services. Current Sanctuary was dedicated in November 2003. 11:00am service is every Sunday, with an additional 8:30am service from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- NEW TOWN HALL:** Built 2008-9, and replaced the old town hall originally built by John Holden, Mayor, and volunteers in 1973.
- HALSTEAD STREET PARK:** Project of Holden Beach Beautification.
- OLD FERRY:** In the 1930s it was only large enough to carry one car and was pulled across the waterway by hand on a cable. The operator caught the cable with a notched wooden pole called a "jack stick" and pulled the ferry across. In 1946, the second ferry held two cars and was powered by an old car engine. The steel cable that held it on course had to be lowered for each boat that came. Long lines of cars backed up in the early 1950s' weekends. The cable had to be raised by hand and was extremely heavy.
- 1ST PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM:** Deep fresh water well located in cinder block building, which served about 30 homes and businesses on the island. → **COAST GUARD STATION AND HORSE BARN** were near by.
- AIRFIELD:** Luther Holden smoothed and planted this with Bermuda grass for his son Kemp in the mid 1940s. Piper Cubs, Aronicas, and Comanche's were the planes of that time. A breakfast club of fliers would come to eat at the old hotel. The airfield was open to the public.
- EAGLE LAKE:** was a small fresh water pond on the ocean side of some high dunes near the waterway.
- ELIZABETH, BENDIGO, AND RANGER SHIPWRECKS:** Three Civil War Blockade runners sank off the coast. Detailed information is printed on three separate stone tablets along Ocean Boulevard East.
- THE OLD HOTEL:** was the first building on the beach besides the fishery. Built in 1926 by Mr. John Holden, Jr. for visitors, it had a dining room where his wife did the cooking.
- J & K:** was the first store pavilion and was built by John and Kemp Holden after their return from World War II. Locals thought it meant "Jump & Kick." It provided a nice place for families to gather. John located a juke box and called square dances in the round for all ages. Songs were a nickel. Some groceries were sold there and later a restaurant was added. The larger → **SURFSIDE PAVILION** was built on the ocean side of the J & K in 1952. After Hazel devastation, a smaller second Pavilion was built in 1958. The J & K was moved away and converted into a duplex on Hillside St. In 1980s it was moved again and one part was converted into a house at 215 Gerda Street.
→ **POST OFFICE:** Johnsie Holden (Mrs. John) ran a postal service in her home and later in the J & K.
→ **FIRST REAL ESTATE OFFICE:** Luther S. Holden
- BILL GRADY'S GROCERY STORE:** built where the first swing bridge came down. The first public telephone was outside. Many nights there would be a line for using it. Mosquitoes enjoyed those waiting.
- MENHADEN PROCESSING PLANT:** was just across the waterway from the island. (Holden Beach Marina) It took menhaden fish and converted them to fertilizer. It smelled awful, especially with a land breeze. Thankfully it lasted only a short time!
- NEW HOLDEN BEACH PAVILION:** was built in 2007 and provides a stage for weekly summer concerts and other events.
- 215 GERDA STREET:** was a portion of the original J & K and was moved to its present location in the mid -1980s.
- SCENIC ICW:** Beautiful view & rest stop on the Intracoastal Waterway.
- HOLDEN BEACH PIER:** Originally run by Hugh and Mabel Dutton for the stock holders. Great fishing!
- MARY'S INLET** (near Greensboro St.) came and went several times in the 1900s. The last time the ocean broke through was October 15, 1954, when Hurricane Hazel reopened it to the Inland Waterway. Years before when it was open, sailboats that brought supplies to Shallotte and Supply would use it for shelter from storms.
- BUTTERFLY POCKET PARK:** At Starfish and OBW (behind Fire Station) and is a project of Holden Beach Beautification.
- SANDDOLLAR PARK:** Enjoyable park, fishing, and beach along the Intracoastal Waterway.
- POCKET PARK:** Located at 630 OBW, a project of Holden Beach Beautification. This is a good rest stop near the marsh.
- SAILFISH ST. PARK:** Enjoyable park, fishing, and beach along the Intracoastal Waterway.
- COAST GUARD LOOK-OUT POINT:** During WW II, 20-25 men patrolled beach by horseback on the look-out for German Submarines. Several US Merchant Marine ships were observed being torpedoed and set afire. A German submarine was caught near Wilmington. There was even a story that a German U-Boat came into Shallotte Point and bought gas!