



Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges Summer 2026 Interpretive Program Schedule

Programs begin June 3 and continue through August 7, except Federal Holidays.

Program	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Turtle Talk Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center	2-3 pm		2-3 pm	
Bird Walk Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center				8-9:30 am
Bear Necessities Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Creef Cut Wildlife Trail Parking Lot		5 – 5:30 pm		
Alligator River Canoe Tour (\$) Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge End of Buffalo City Road			9-11 am	
Pea Island Canoe Tour (\$) Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center	9-11 am			
Open-air Tram Tour (\$) Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Creef Cut Wildlife Trail Parking Lot		9-11 am		9-11 am
Van Tour (\$) Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Creef Cut Wildlife Trail Parking Lot			5 – 7 pm	

(\$) = Fee charged. Advanced reservation required. Call 252-216-9464 for reservations. Registration and cancellation options close at 2 pm the day before the trip. If you must cancel, please do so before 2 pm the day before trip or you will be charged for the tour.

Directions

The **Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center** is located on NC Highway 12, approximately 4 miles south of Oregon Inlet and 9 miles north of Rodanthe.

The **Coastal North Carolina Refuges Gateway Visitor Center** is located at 100 Conservation Way in Manteo, NC.

The **Creef Cut Wildlife Trail Parking Lot** is located on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge at Milltail Road and Hwy 64 W, approximately 6 miles west of Manns Harbor.

The **End of Buffalo City Road** is located on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. From Manns Harbor, follow Hwy 64 west approximately 9 miles to Buffalo City Rd (on the left), then continue for 2 miles to the end of the road. Park on the side of the road before the cul-de-sac.

Program Descriptions

Turtle Talk

FREE. What are the differences between sea and land turtles? Why are sea turtles endangered? Learn about sea turtle conservation and how you can be part of the solution to save these gentle giants.

Pea Island Bird Walk

FREE. Pea Island is for the birds – actually! Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge has close to 400 species of birds that live here or pass through. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, you'll enjoy this casual stroll beside North Pond. Field guides, binoculars, sunscreen, and insect repellent are recommended. Some field guides and binoculars will be available for loan.

Bear Necessities

FREE. Alligator River NWR is home to one of the largest populations of black bears in eastern North Carolina and the eastern United States. Learn more about what makes the refuge such a good home for our largest mammal. After a 30-minute presentation, you are free to explore the refuge in your vehicle to look for bears and other wildlife. Maps will be provided by your presenter.

Alligator River Canoe Tour

\$35 per person; \$20 for children 12 and under. Reservation required. Call 252-216-9464 to reserve and pay. Paddle shady blackwater canals into the heart of the refuge and learn about the history of the area while looking for birds, turtles, and alligators. Children must be accompanied by an adult. We provide canoes, paddles, life jackets and two leaders. Secure footwear is required. Hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and drinking water are recommended. May be cancelled in high winds or inclement weather.

Pea Island Canoe Tour

\$35 per person; \$20 for children 12 and under. Reservation required. Call 252-216-9464 to reserve and pay. Escape the hectic beach and explore the quiet marshes, islands, and creeks of Pamlico Sound. Children must be accompanied by an adult. We provide canoes, paddles, life jackets and two leaders. Secure footwear is required. Hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and drinking water are recommended. May be cancelled due to high winds or inclement weather.

Open-air Tram Tour

\$10 per adult. Children 12 and under free with one or more paying adults. Reservation required. Call 252-216-9464 to reserve and pay. Join us for a trip around the refuge and learn about the wild lands and wildlife. Bring your binoculars and camera! Drinking water and insect repellent are also recommended. The program will occur except with lightning, heavy wind or rain, or impassable road conditions. Dress for the weather!

Van Tour

\$30 per person; \$20 for children 12 and under. Reservation required. Call 252-216-9464 to reserve and pay. 6 people maximum. Ages 6 and up. The Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge van tour is customized each time to look for the wildlife that interests participants the most. Refuge volunteers will drive the van around the refuge, stopping any time we see wildlife or sights of interest. The refuge isn't a zoo, so specific animals aren't guaranteed, but with thousands of animals living on the refuge, you never know what you'll see. We'll watch out for all these and more: black bears, river otters, turkeys, bald eagles, great blue herons, alligators, turtles, and endangered red wolves.

Alligator River NWR: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/alligator-river>

Pea Island NWR: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/pea-island>