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# **NC 12: Gateway To The Outer Banks**





## Synopsis

Connecting communities from Corolla in the north to Ocracoke Island in the south, scenic North Carolina Highway 12 binds together the fragile barrier islands that make up the Outer Banks. Throughout its lifetime, however, NC 12 has faced many challenges  $\tilde{A}c\hat{a} \neg \hat{a}$  from recurring storms and shifting sands to legal and political disputes  $\tilde{A}c\hat{a} \neg \hat{a}$  that have threatened this remarkable highway's very existence. Through the unique lens of the road's rich history, Dawson Carr tells the story of the Outer Banks as it has unfolded since a time when locals used oxcarts to pull provisions from harbors to their homes and the Wright Brothers struggled over mountainous dunes. Throughout, Carr captures the personal stories of those who have loved and lived on the Outer Banks. As Carr relates the importance of NC 12 and its transformation from a string of beach roads to a scenic byway joining miles of islands, he also chronicles the history of a region over the last eighty-five years, showing how the highway and the residents of the Outer Banks came to rely on each other.

### **Book Information**

Paperback: 192 pages Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press (April 11, 2016) Language: English ISBN-10: 1469628147 ISBN-13: 978-1469628141 Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.4 inches Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews Best Sellers Rank: #369,610 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #283 inà Â Books > Travel > Food, Lodging & Transportation > Road Travel #399 inà Â Books > Travel > United States > South > South Atlantic #721 inà Â Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Tourist Destinations & Museums

#### **Customer Reviews**

With extensive research the author examines how NC 12 came into being. . . . Will appeal to readers of North Carolina history and those who want to know more about the effects of development on fragile ecosystems in general.--Library Journal

In his finely crafted and practically poetic book, Dawson Carr tells the story of the Outer Banks, situating the region's history around the modern-day difficulties of access and of the construction of

Highway 12. Recommended reading for all visitors to the coast.--Michael Hill, North Carolina Office of Archives and HistoryA fascinating cultural history that is far more than a tale of a strip of asphalt. Dawson Carr captures the interplay between human life and the delicate and dynamic natural ecosystem of the Outer Banks, where people live, work, and play.--Karen Lisbeth "KaeLi" Schurr, Outer Banks History Center

I am renting a cottage in Rodanthe for a week in the middle of August. I like to get a feel for where I'm going and this book provided great insight in the development of the OBX. It is a beautiful yet fragile environment that is held together. so much by Rt 12. Now, just the other day, I heard the news about the severed power cable in George's Inlet (another chapter for the book, maybe). At any rate, the book was a great read whether or not you are fortunate to visit there. I'll think about sit all the time I' there.

Interesting, well written history. Taught me a lot of things I didn't know, about a part of the Carolinas I really like. very thorough

Interesting read. My wife and I were just out there in October 2015 and saw a lot of the places discussed in the book.

I really enjoyed learning the history of the OBX. Easy to read and follow.

#### Wonderful book!

I love all books about the NC coast

A fascinating book about the Outer Banks, especially the history of Highway 12, the road that runs along it. I thought I knew a lot about NC 12, having been down it a few times, and having seen news stories about it in the local media over the years, but I learned a lot from this book. And the historical pictures are great: my favorite was the shot of Governor Broughton trying to push his car out of the sand! Ironically, though, in view of the book's subject, the author is a denialist of human-caused climate change. Wishful thinking for the Banks, alas. Better visit while they're still there.

Disappointing- material mostly derivative; could have stood some original interviews. Repetitive info

frequently out of place where it appears in book; could have used better editing. I did enjoy the chapter featuring a "drive" down the length of the highway. Photos also contextually out of place throughout.

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