Discover the allure of Outer Banks, NC. Immerse yourself in its picturesque beaches, charming towns, and captivating atmosphere. Go World Travel is reader-supported and may earn a commission from purchases made through links in this piece. At times, the allure of the ocean is undeniable. It’s no wonder beach vacations hold such widespread appeal, particularly among families. Recently, my extended family and I embarked on a week-long retreat to Outer Banks, North Carolina. The destination proved to be an ideal match for our diverse group spanning multiple generations. If you’re unfamiliar, the Outer Banks is a series of small barrier islands located along the North Carolina coast. Continuously sculpted by storms and winds, these islands are renowned for their pristine beaches and charming small towns. With each of its 21 coastal villages boasting its own unique personality and atmosphere, the Outer Banks offers a diverse and captivating experience for visitors. You can drive the whole length of the Outer Banks, including the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, on the 138-mile Outer Banks National Scenic Byway. Top destinations in the Outer Banks include Duck, Southern Shoes, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, Nags Head and more. We flew into Norfolk Airport, which is the closest airport. It’s about 90 minutes by car, depending on the traffic. If you’re driving to the Outer Banks, there are two ferries providing car passage from the mainland. Of course, you can also get to the islands by bridge. The Wright Memorial Bridge is the most popular entry point. Using US 158 it connects Point Harbor on the mainland with Kitty Hawk on the Outer Banks. Keep in mind that traffic in the Outer Banks can be slow at times, especially on Saturdays during the summer. That’s because most visitors to the islands stay in weekly rental homes which turn over on Saturdays. If you can begin and end your trip on another day of the week, you can avoid much of this traffic. Summer is the peak season for the Outer Banks, when the weather is best, and children are on summer holiday. You’ll find smaller crowds and better prices if you can visit in the late spring or early fall. While there are resorts and hotels in the Outer Banks, the most popular accommodations are vacation rental homes. We rented a six-bedroom home right on the beach in Southern Shores. The beach was wide and clean. The water was warm, and our family spent hours playing in the waves. In the evenings, we’d walk on the beach at sunset. When it grew dark, the kids pulled out flashlights and looked for tiny crabs scurrying across the sand. Several professional management companies rent vacation homes in the Outer Banks. You’ll also find homes for rent on short-term rental platforms like VRBO. The Outer Banks Tourism Bureau offers Tips on How to Rent a Vacation Home in the Outer Banks.