

# Calabash

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Resource Guide



## WELCOME TO CALABASH

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Calabash welcome you! Our Town Hall is located at 882 Persimmon Rd, adjacent to the Community Park. You may contact us at 910-579-6747, visit our website townofcalabash.net, or check us out on Facebook.

Thank you for coming to experience the natural charm of our coastal community.

We hope you will return again soon. Come back to fish, dine, shop, live, work or play!



Calabash was incorporated in 1973. At that time, Calabash was a small fishing village with a handful of seafood restaurants. We have since grown into a small town with a year-round population estimate to be 1,994 residents. The Town's Mayor and Board of Commissioners welcome you to discover our beautiful town, from our history, which began as early as 1691, to current events and future plans.

If you are planning a trip to the Carolina Coast be sure to make plans to come to Calabash... try the local fare, go shopping, catch a fishing voyage or dolphin cruise, or come to just relax and enjoy the peaceful beauty of our charming coastal town. Nothing compares to Calabash!



**25 Miles**  
North of Myrtle Beach, SC

**50 Miles**  
South of Wilmington, NC



## DINING

Come enjoy the casual coastal charm of Calabash—your place to visit more than 30 restaurants, many situated on the Calabash River which laces along the town's southern border. With the mom-and-pop intimacy of the seafood dining establishments, the entrees are among the freshest in the world. Dine inside or outside and watch the daily fishing boat crews bring back shrimp, oyster, clams, grouper, flounder and blue crabs onto the local dock.

It is estimated that during the peak summer season, 20,000 day-trippers visit Calabash. The people come to eat true Calabash-style seafood. To further mark its brand, the municipality holds an annual "A Taste of Calabash" festival usually held in April each spring. The growing festival is receiving popular feedback from both locals and visitors and brings back repeat attendees from afar. The event features a local traveling "taste tour" to enjoy specially prepared samples at the participating eateries around town. The event centers around the community park with nonprofit and craft vendors along with other family-friendly activities.

The precise origin of the local style of cooking may be lost to history, but legend gives credit to the riverside fish camps operated by several families in the 1930s and '40s. These families opened seafood restaurants featuring the cooking process known as the famed "Calabash" style".

Legend has it that in the 1930s, fishermen brought in their catch and were met by locals to see what they could buy. Calabash became known for its fine quality fresh shrimp and fish. Most of the fishing crews ate nearby and the smells of fresh fish cooking brought the locals to find out the source of the delicious smells and buy leftovers.



## SHOPPING & RECREATION

Calabash is not just about seafood. There are numerous specialty shops featuring gourmet food and boutiques filled with captivating wares, as well as local art galleries offering works by local and other artists. The area is a golfer's paradise, with some 30 golf courses within 30 minutes of the community. Beaches lie within minutes of the town, offering outdoor beach activities, including watersports, surfing, swimming and beachcombing, boat rentals, jet ski rentals, kayaking and more.

During the summer weeks, a free summer concert series is held in the community park most Tuesday evenings, featuring a lineup of live beach music bands that draws a large crowd of residents and visitors.



## ANNUAL EVENTS

**NEW YEAR'S EVE BONFIRE**  
Enjoy a roaring bonfire and dance the night away with variety Rock & Oldies. Join in the celebration on the Calabash Waterfront at 9975 Nance Street. At midnight, it is time to "Drop the Crabpot" and raise a toast to the New Year!



**A TASTE OF CALABASH**  
The Town proudly assumes the title of the Seafood Capital of the World and invites you to the "A Taste of Calabash" festival that is held each year. Your festival ticket and wristband gives you the opportunity to travel on a taste tour through the business district to visit the participating restaurants and enjoy delicious samples of their fare. Taste famous seafood entrees, pizza, house specials, desserts and more. Come join the fun, enjoy great food, stop by the Community Park

to visit arts & crafts vendors that set up in the Calabash Community Park and chill with the sounds of music provided by local a DJ.

**CALABASH SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**  
During June, July and August, you can enjoy a great night of free live entertainment in the Calabash Community Park on Tuesday evenings, beginning at 6:00pm. Visit [www.calabashconcerts.com](http://www.calabashconcerts.com) to check the current concert schedule.

**Cruisin' Calabash CAR SHOW**  
Don't miss the Cruisin' Calabash Car Show held on the Saturday on Father's Day weekend. Don't forget to bring Dad to enjoy the day.

**CELEBRATE CALABASH**  
September brings the "Celebrate Calabash" Festival. Enjoy visiting

local vendors that set up in the Calabash Community park and find something special. Begin the fall Season with family fun and activities for all ages including games, pumpkin decorating, bouncy house, food trucks and more!

**HALLOWEEN "TRUNK OR TREAT"**  
The last Saturday in October is time to get ready for "Trunk or Treat" at the Calabash Community Park. Don't miss out on the fun of this family oriented Halloween event, usually held the last Saturday in October.

**CHRISTMAS**  
Experience the magic of the season at Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade held in downtown Calabash on the first Friday evening in December. The lighted parade begins at 6:00pm followed by the tree lighting, fun family activities including a visit with Santa, live music, hot cocoa and caroling.



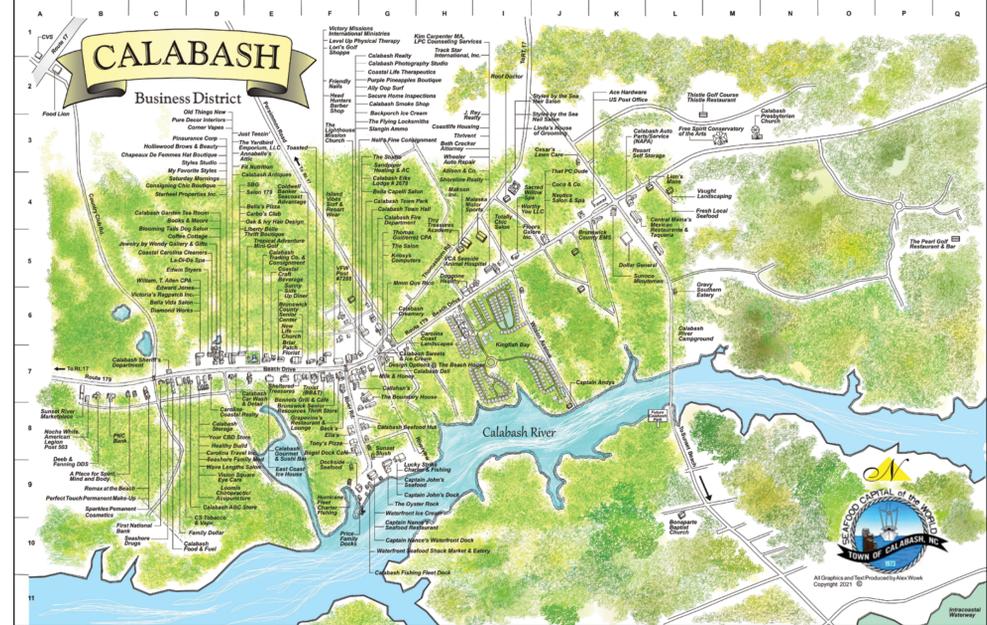
Photo credit Rick Wells

## CALABASH IS...

- A gourd first cultivated for use as a water container.
- The contour of a river which resembles the gourd.
- A method of cooking in which seafood is dipped in a light seasoned batter, cooked golden brown and served hot.
- A town on the southern tip of North Carolina known as "The Seafood Capital of the World."
- All of the above

The answer is "E. All of the above."

Though there is some disagreement whether the small fishing village of just under 2,000 year-round residents derived its name from the gourd or the river bend, no one can seriously dispute it has merited the appellation as the mecca for its uniquely prepared fresh seafood.

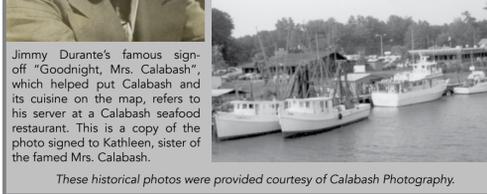


## TELLING THE STORIES THAT NEVER GROW OLD...



Jimmy Durante's famous sign-off "Goodnight, Mrs. Calabash", which helped put Calabash and its cuisine on the map, refers to his server at a Calabash seafood restaurant. This is a copy of the photo signed to Kathleen, sister of the famed Mrs. Calabash.

This black and white photo (above) shows the boat rentals, which have played a significant role in the history of Calabash.



These historical photos were provided courtesy of Calabash Photography.

**A Real NY Deli**  
NORTHERN CUISINE WITH SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY  
"SERVING THE CAROLINA'S FOR 25 YEARS"

**CALABASH DELI**  
EST. 1997  
Outdoor Seating • Homemade Salads  
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner  
Fresh Baked Goods • Catering

9929 Route 179  
Calabash, NC 28467  
910-579-9801

Monday 7:00am - 3:00pm  
Tuesday - Saturday 7:00am - 7:00pm  
Closed Sunday

Family Owned and Operated

**SEAFOOD CAPITAL OF THE WORLD**  
TOWN OF CALABASH, NC  
1973

**CALABASH**  
NORTH CAROLINA  
Map & Resource Guide

2022  
A Publication of SE Map Solutions Inc.  
1-800-776-4501

**Kingfish Bay**  
CALABASH, NC

A Private Gated Waterfront Community  
• Located on 60+ Acres on the Calabash River  
• Private Oceanfront Clubhouse on Sunset Beach  
• Only 5.5 Miles to the Island of Sunset Beach  
• 5,000 Sq.Ft. Onsite ClubHouse with Fitness Center  
• Large Community Pool with Thatched-Roof Cabanas  
• Waterfront Park with Thatched-Roof Cabanas  
• Nature Trails for Walking and Exercise  
• Kayak Launch, with Fishing Pier & Pavilion  
• Elegant Caribbean Coastal Architecture & Amenities

**910-579-4657**  
[www.KingfishBayDevelopment.com](http://www.KingfishBayDevelopment.com)  
1235 Kingfish Blvd | Calabash, NC 28467

We invite you to *Live Relaxed* at Kingfish Bay.  
This is a good place.

**The OYSTER ROCK**  
WATERFRONT SEAFOOD

910.579.6875  
[theoysterrock.com](http://theoysterrock.com)

**Callahan's**  
of Calabash

GIFTS | HOME DECOR  
ST. NICK NACKS | THE LIFESTYLE CO.

800.344.3816  
[CALLAHANGIFTS.COM](http://CALLAHANGIFTS.COM)

**The BOUNDARY HOUSE**  
RESTAURANT

910.579.8888  
[boundaryhouserestaurant.com](http://boundaryhouserestaurant.com)