



SANDERLING RESORT

The premier resort hotel in North Carolina's Outer Banks gets a multi-million dollar upgrade

BY BRET LOVE



Clockwise from above: Guests of the spa enjoy ocean-inspired treatments along with views of Currituck Sound. South Wing guest rooms overlook the tranquility pool. The gazebo is the perfect place to catch sunsets over the sound. A sanderling, for which the resort is named, strolls the shore.



Nestled on a narrow strip of land dividing the Atlantic Ocean from picturesque Currituck Sound, Sanderling Resort beckons with sweet seclusion, outstanding service, and a pristine, historic setting. (The Wright Brothers took flight at Kitty Hawk, just a few miles down the road.) Named one of America's Best Family Hotels by *Travel + Leisure* and awarded AAA's prestigious Four Diamond status, the Duck, North Carolina, resort will toast its thirtieth anniversary next year. Thanks to a multi-million dollar renovation in 2013, the property is primed for the celebration.

The Sanderling's two-story main building, the Beach House, is as homey and welcoming as its name implies. The weathered cedar-shake siding and wide verandas lend the property the casual elegance of a nineteenth-century beach resort. Ample windows bring the outside in, and inviting

wood-and-rope deck chairs (handcrafted locally by Nags Head Hammocks) on the porches and balconies encourage guests to sit and savor the postcard-worthy views.

Naturalist John James Audubon's illustrations from *The Birds of America*, as well as paintings of shells, starfish, and sea urchins, line the walls of the remodeled lobby, and ospreys, pelicans, and sanderlings (the bird for which the resort is named) frequently fly past the windows. The artwork and animal life serve as subtle reminders that natural attractions, such as the Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary and the wild Spanish mustangs of Corolla, are just minutes away.

As one might expect from a resort situated in a natural paradise, many of the improvements were made to the outdoor areas. The new tranquility pool, surrounded by sand dunes and the sounds of crashing surf, is an oasis of relaxation. Enjoy the pool-sized hot tub, outdoor fireplace,

and Sandbar Restaurant. All this, plus the award-winning Kimball's Kitchen and the casual Lifesaving Station—located in a station constructed in 1874 to aid shipwrecked vessels—and you could easily enjoy a week in the Outer Banks without ever venturing off the property. Large guest rooms that evoke the laid-back vibe of a family seaside cottage add to the appeal.

One thing that remains largely—and blessedly—unchanged is the 6,000-square-foot Spa at Sanderling, which has been ranked among the best spas in the U.S. by *Condé Nast Traveler* and *Travel + Leisure*. With soothing seaside earth tones, massage rooms offering views of the sound, and ocean-inspired treatments, the spa embodies the signature Sanderling experience: a combination of natural beauty and creature comforts sure to set the spirit soaring.

1461 Duck Road, Duck, North Carolina, 866-860-3979, sanderling-resort.com

Sounds of Summer If you're planning a weekend visit, make it a long one and arrive in time to catch the popular Duck Summer Music Series featuring local artists every Thursday night from June 27 through August 8 on the Duck Town Green.

SPA: BROOKE MAYO PHOTOGRAPHERS; RESORT POOL: GREG CEO; GAZEBO: TIM SCHERMERHORN; SANDERLING: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM