

# **IFFR SPRING FLY-OUT** **SOUTHEASTERN REGION**

## ***25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PLEASURE ISLAND SEAFOOD, BLUES AND JAZZ FESTIVAL KURE BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA APRIL 13<sup>th</sup> 2019***

**The Festival:** This two-day festival takes place along the scenic Cape Fear River at the Fort Fisher Military Recreational Area in Kure beach. Enjoy browsing at the Arts & Wine Garden, shopping for crafts, listening to music, and fine wine tasting. We will attend only Saturday. Children will stay entertained for hours as they enjoy performers, face painting, educational exhibits, inflatables and much more in the Kidz Zone.

This event is sure to sell out quickly, so purchase your tickets ahead of time. No coolers or pets, but bring your chairs, towels and blankets for a day of music and seafood at the coast.

Tickets are on sale now at Eventbrite. For more information call (910) 458-8434 or [www.PleasureIslandNC.org](http://www.PleasureIslandNC.org). Follow the Pleasure Island Seafood Blues and Jazz Festival on Facebook for updates about the band lineup, seafood vendors, and more.

**The Location:** Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, and Fort Fisher make up the narrow island known as Pleasure Island. Read about it at <http://www.pleasureislandnc.org/events.php>. The festival venue overlooks the Cape Fear River, just south of the historic port city of Wilmington and just north of the mouth of the Cape Fear.

**Airport:** Pilot's Ridge Aero Plantation, 03NC, is the airpark second home of hosts Rankin and Sandy Whittington. The airport is about 7 miles from the recommended beachfront hotel. Bring your tie-downs and expect marshalling to a parking spot. The runway is 3,150 feet, paved and lighted, with no services. More info at <http://www.aopa.org/airports/03NC>.

Another choice is Wilmington International, KILM, about 15 miles north of 03NC.

**Limitations!:** Register with Rankin, no fee. Maximum of 10 airplanes and 24 people. Buy your Saturday festival tickets online and make your hotel reservations early. The festival sells out and hotel space is already filling up!

**Ground Transportation:** The Whittingtons will provide transportation to the hotel, to and from the festival venue on Saturday, and back to the airport Sunday. You can arrange for a rental car or use Uber if you want to stay longer and visit local attractions. There is a lot to see and do around here!

**Housing:** The Whittingtons recommend the Courtyard Carolina Beach Oceanfront: <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ilmcb-courtyard-carolina-beach-oceanfront/>  
Also, the Beach House Inn and Suites is also oceanfront and costs less: <https://beachhouseinnandsuites.com/>

**Cost:** Housing \$300-\$600 for two for 2 nights. Festival tickets \$50 in advance.

## Schedule

**Friday:** Arrive between noon and 2:00. Bring folding chairs, or we have a few spare.

One o'clock, lunch of fresh boiled shrimp, steamed oysters, steamed clams and Southeastern North Carolina barbeque at the Whittingtons, 712 Pilot's Ridge Road, Pilot's Ridge Aero Plantation off Carolina Beach Road. Gate code #4040.

Four o'clock, arrive at hotel, unpack, walk on the beach.

Seven o'clock, dinner at The Deck House, Gibby's Dock and Dine, or the Ocean Grill and Tiki Bar.

**Saturday:** Dawn, beachcomb or sleep late. Buffet breakfast in the hotel or other places nearby.

The festival music starts at 12:30 and there will be a dozen places for lunch at the festival. They offer food from popular nearby restaurants. Beer is available and so are some nice North Carolina wines by the glass or bottle.

As you enjoy the music and watch the sunset over the Cape Fear River, go back to the food vendors for dinner. Michael's clam chowder is my favorite. The headliner comes on the main stage at 8:00. We will return to the hotel about 9:30.

**Sunday:** Dawn, beachcomb or fish. Checkout is 11:00; shuttles to Pilots Ridge between 10:30 and 11:00.

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