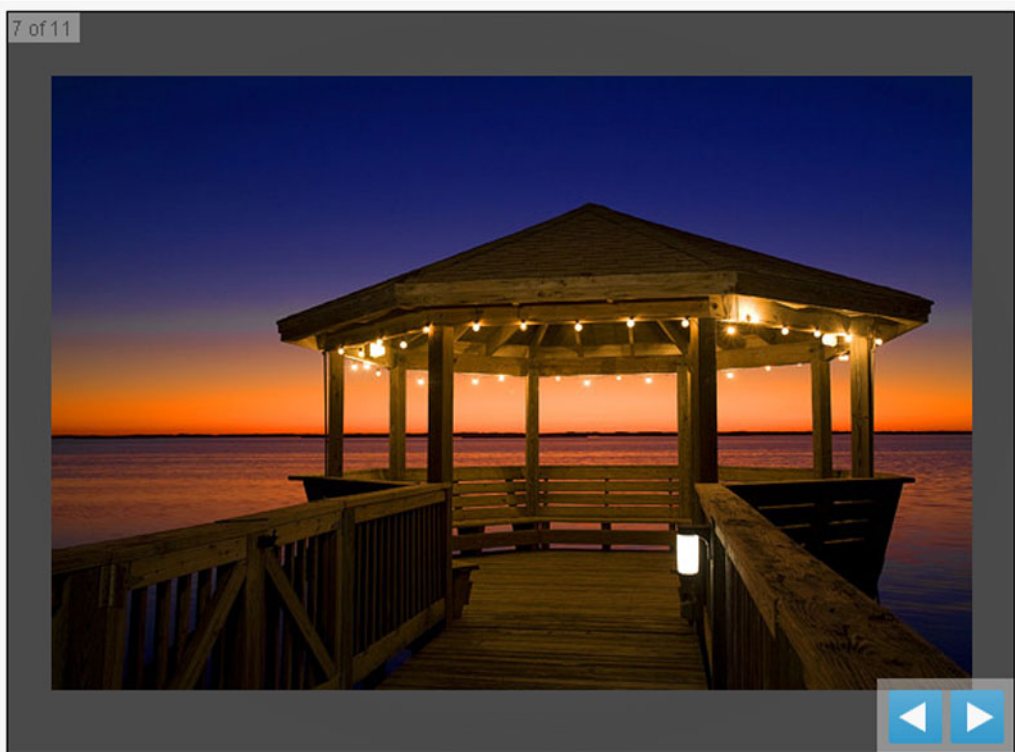


One-of-a-Kind Beach Retreats Within Reach

by Chanize Thorpe

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The Sanderling

The Sanderling, Outer Banks. North Carolina

Naturalists and birders will go cuckoo over this private Outer Banks resort named after the local waterfowl. Not only does the hotel publicly display four volumes of the National Audubon Society's Birds of America, but it also hosts an impressive flock of bird related art, including work by Grainger McKoy, Gunter Granget, and John James Audubon himself. For an up-close-and-personal wildlife experience, the 3,400-acre Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary is practically next door. Rent a kayak off the Sanderling's dock and witness hundreds of varieties of birds that call the sanctuary home. You might even catch a glimpse of river otters, bobcats, or even red wolves. Just be back in time for dinner, served in a restored 1899 United States Lifesaving Station. From \$110 per night; www.thesanderling.com