

The Crossing Case File

Reading for the seventy minutes of open water — and the stretch in the middle where your phone goes quiet.

FAIR WARNING: YOUR SIGNAL WILL DROP MID-CROSSING

Cell service quits over the inlet — a good stretch of the seventy-minute crossing has no bars at all. It comes back on its own as the boat nears the far shore. This is normal, it happens to everyone aboard, and the game is built for it.

Three rules before you board:

1. Open the game and let your current chapter load **while you are still in the ferry line**.
2. Keep the game open during the crossing. Don't close the tab, don't refresh — just keep playing. Your answers are held on your phone and send themselves when the towers come back near the landing.
3. Save this file to your phone **before** you board. It's yours to read when the bars disappear — no connection needed.

his name in local mouths today.

Virginia's governor did not believe the retirement. He sent Royal Navy men south in November 1718, led by Lieutenant Robert Maynard, and on the morning of November 22 they found Blackbeard at anchor. The fight was short, close, and vicious — sword and pistol work across a sloop's deck in shallow water just off the island you are approaching. Blackbeard died there, a mile or so from the village where this game ends. What the Navy men did not find, then or ever, was the gold.

One sentence, printed in 1724

Six years after his death, a London book — *A General History of the Pyrates*, printed under the name Captain Charles Johnson — set down the only clue anyone has ever had. Asked whether his wife knew where his money was, Blackbeard is said to have answered:

“...nobody but himself and the devil knew where it was, and the longest liver should take all.”

That sentence is the entire paper trail. Everything since — every dig, every map, every sold secret — leans on those words. Three centuries of shovels have gone into the ground on the strength of them, from Carolina backyards to islands up and down this coast. Every hole is empty. The game you are playing walks you through the famous theories one by one, out here on the water, and lets you close them yourself — so we will not spoil them on this page. But notice the shape of the sentence: it does not say the gold was buried at all. It only names the two parties who knew.

The graveyard you are floating over

The waters off these islands have been called the Graveyard of the Atlantic for good reason: warm Gulf Stream water meets cold shoal water here, shoving sandbars miles out to sea and breeding the storms this coast is famous for. Hundreds upon hundreds of vessels lie off these beaches — wooden sloops, Civil War steamers, wartime freighters torpedoed within sight of shore. Some nights in 1942, people on these islands watched ships burn on the horizon. The sea here takes things, keeps some, and every so often gives one back — a wreck uncovered by one storm, reburied by the next. Remember that rhythm. It is the same rhythm that governs anything else this sand has ever swallowed.

The island ahead

When the towers find your phone again, you will be near the landing at Ocracoke's north end, with thirteen miles of empty national seashore between you and the village — the last leg of your hunt, and the prettiest road on the Outer Banks. Watch the dunes on your left and the sound on your right. Along the way you will meet the island's oldest residents: a penned herd of Banker ponies whose ancestors, the best story goes, swam ashore from wrecks. However they arrived, they have outlasted every treasure hunter who ever came here with a map.

Past the ponies, past the beach, the road ends at a harbor village of live oaks and picket fences wrapped around a lake of a harbor. Blackbeard knew this place. He died within sight of it. The village chapters of

your hunt work it on foot — the graves, the streets, the waterfront — and by the last stop you will know more about what became of that gold than the people still digging for it.

Blackbeard's Gold — one team pass, played on your phones, from the ferry line to the village. outerbankstreasurehunt.com ·
Questions: hello@obxmaps.com

History herein is drawn from the printed record; where the record is legend, it is presented as legend. The gold has never been found. That part is true.