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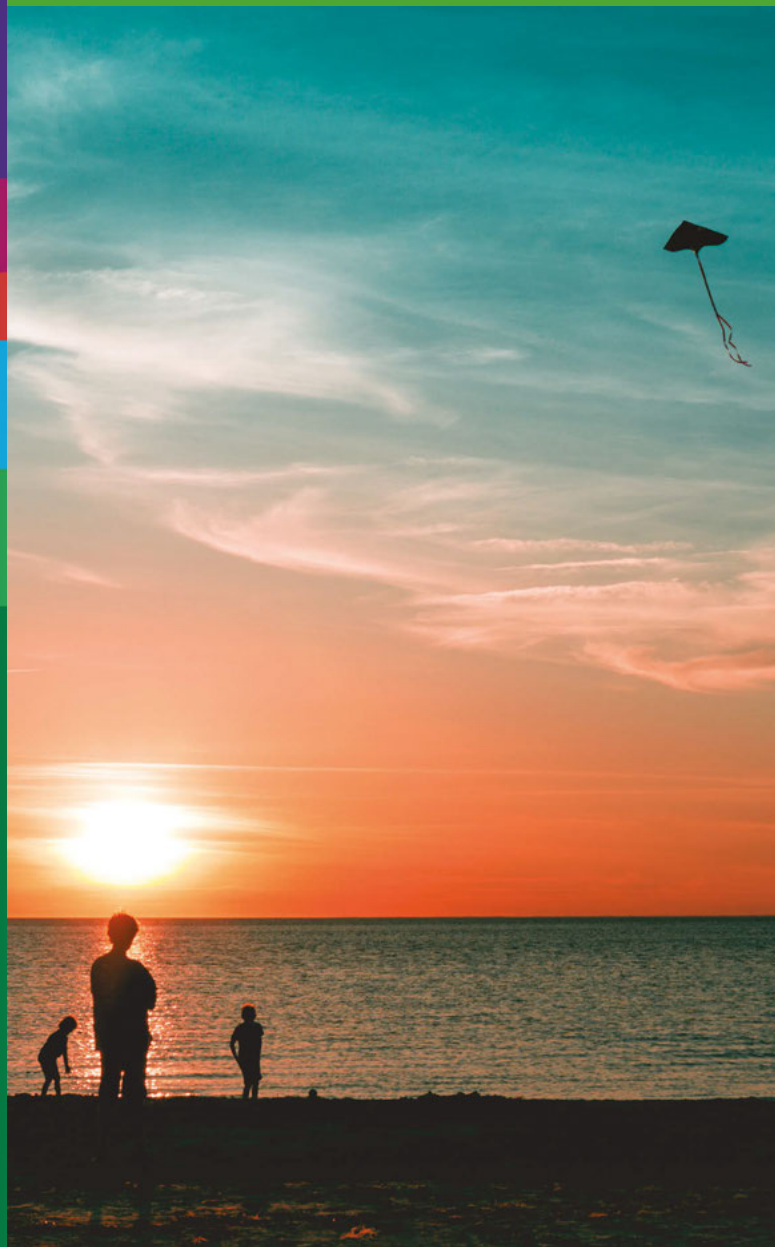
OPEN YEAR ROUND



2020 ACTIVITY GUIDE

Eastern Shore

OF VIRGINIA



VisitESVA.com

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Photo provided by Bayside Studios

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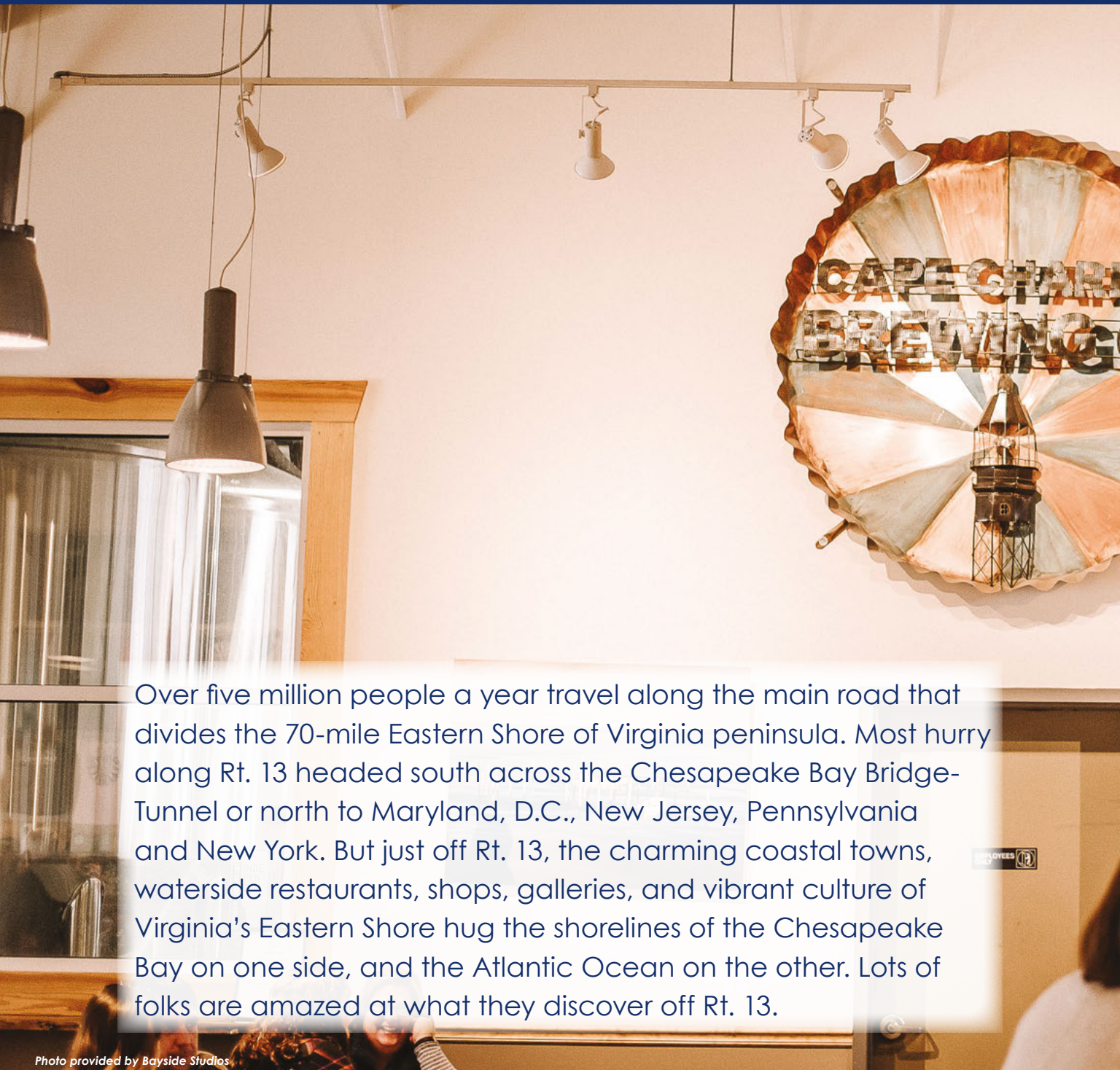
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**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS**



WHAT'S #OFF13



Over five million people a year travel along the main road that divides the 70-mile Eastern Shore of Virginia peninsula. Most hurry along Rt. 13 headed south across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel or north to Maryland, D.C., New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. But just off Rt. 13, the charming coastal towns, waterside restaurants, shops, galleries, and vibrant culture of Virginia's Eastern Shore hug the shorelines of the Chesapeake Bay on one side, and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. Lots of folks are amazed at what they discover off Rt. 13.

Photo provided by Bayside Studios

On Virginia's Eastern Shore, explore pristine beaches, coastal villages, unique shops, museums, and a fantastic sipping trail. In the summer, sit outside and play cornhole as the sun goes down with friends at Cape Charles Brewing or win a trivia night at Black Narrows Brewing. In the winter, cozy up to the bar and test all the specialty drinks at the Distillery. Whatever your preference, the perfect sip waits for you.

SIPS OF THE SHORE

Black Narrows Brewing

Sit back, relax, and bring on the craft beer! This family-owned and operated small business, located on Chincoteague Island, was the first craft brewery to open on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Have the ultimate family-friendly experience with board games, card games, a play kitchen corner and a book nook. You never know what kind of unique flavors they'll have in their beautiful taproom.

Cape Charles Brewing Co.

Relax outside, drink a beer, and devour delicious seafood and burgers when you visit Cape Charles Brewing Co. A family-owned and operated business, you can truly feel the love at this must-go location. With 15 beers available, experimental seasonal brews, corn hole, live music, an affinity for history and exciting events, Cape Charles Brewing is the perfect restaurant and brewery to relax and enjoy the company of friends and family alike.

Buskey Cider on the Bay

Sip cider while annihilating friends at giant Jenga when you visit Buskey's Cider on the Bay. Originally from Scott's Addition in Richmond, Virginia, Cape Charles acquired their very own Buskey's in the late spring of 2018. A few steps to the West is Cape Charles beach, and to the right, all of the wonderful small businesses that call Mason Avenue home. Try the experimental jalapeno lime cider, or try a classic RVA cider, there are plenty of options.

Chatham Vineyards

Chatham Farm has been a working farm for four centuries but became a winery in the early 2000s. The property is perfect for any traveler who loves water views, kayaking, paddle boarding, historic farmland, vineyard vistas, and wine of course! Spend a night at the Vineyard House and take a short walk to the private dock. Explore Church Creek and soak in the salty air. Return home, head to the tasting room, and grab a bottle of Merlot to pair with dinner.

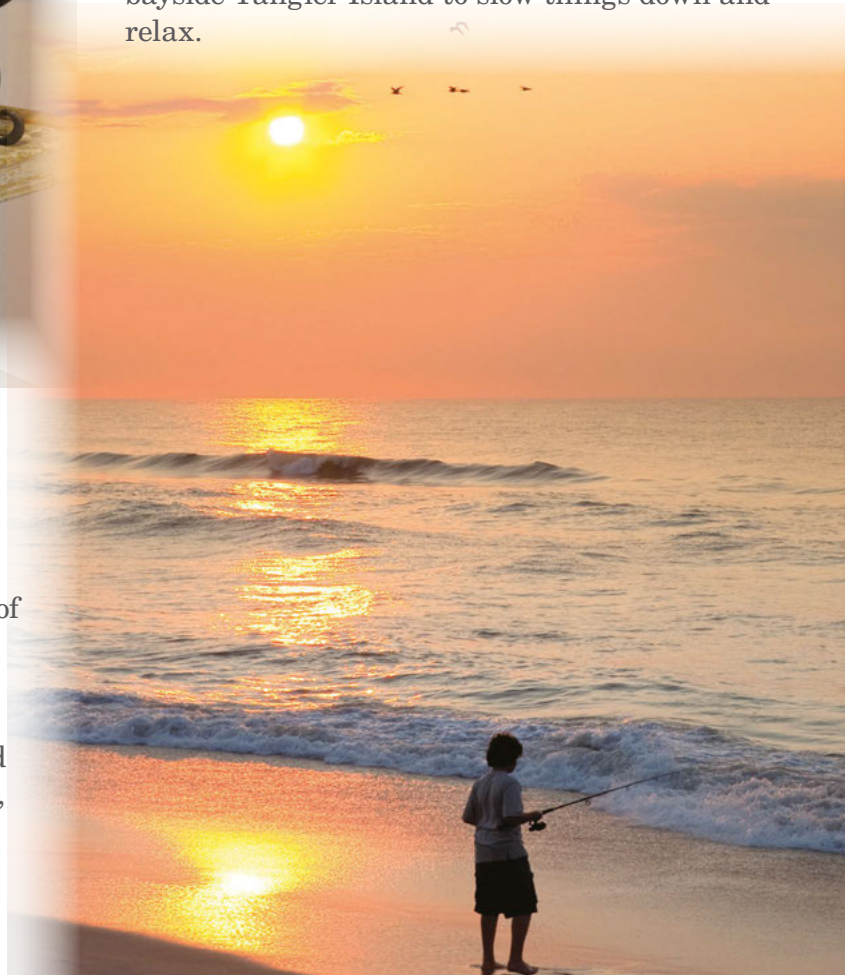
Cape Charles Distillery

Unwind in this casual speakeasy with novelty cocktails and chat with knowledgeable staff about the distilling process. Drawing inspiration from the entire state of Virginia, Cape Charles Distillery uses locally sourced grains and mountain spring water to create a variety of bourbon, whiskey, vodka, and moonshine. If you love spirits and puns, this is the place for you.



BEACHES

Virginia's Eastern Shore has beaches along the bay and sea. Some are private, but many are the beach goer's fantasy. Stroll the beach at Savage Neck Dunes, a quiet preserve. Watch the kids play in the gentle waters at Cape Charles beach, conveniently located within walking distance from Mason Avenue. See the haunting ghost ships off the coast of Kiptopeke State Park, a campsite complete with a beach, cabins, hiking trails, and a playground. Surf at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, the only seaside beach accessible by land. Boat out to the quiet barrier islands, an essential piece to the Shore's delicate ecosystem, on seaside or discover bayside Tangier Island to slow things down and relax.



ARTISTS & ARTISANS

The natural beauty and tranquility of the Eastern Shore draws creative people from all over the world. They come to paint, cook, carve, sculpt, weave and perform. Enter any coastal town and you'll discover a thriving community of creatives. Discover exceptional galleries, music and theatre, working studios, and chef-owned bistros using the Eastern Shore of Virginia Artisans Guild as your guide. Plan trips around annual events like Experimental Film Virginia, Easter Decoy & Art Festival, Artisans Guild Thanksgiving Studio Tour, Historic Garden Week, or Eastern Shore's Own Craft Beer and Music Festival.



OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS

Practice mindfulness and experience the gentle waters of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Kayaking, paddle boarding, biking, and birding are popular ways to explore both bayside and seaside. Contact Southeast Expeditions, Burnham Guides, Day Trippers, Bay Country Kayaking, Seaside Ecotours, Assateague Tours, or Snug Harbor Marina and Resort for rentals. Hire a guide to lead the way to the Barrier Islands or play captain and take your own boat. Catch the ferry out of Onancock to visit Tangier Island, the only island in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay with a community. Bike through the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge with binoculars in tow and spot over 430 various bird species that travel along the Shore.

HISTORICAL TOURISM

Part of what makes the Shore's culture so vast is its history. Visitors will explore the prehistory of the Americas and the roots of colonization. See the grounds of Arlington Plantation, a historic property that used to house the most luxurious mansion on the Chesapeake Bay where George and Martha Washington spent vacation days. Glimpse African American entrepreneurship at Samuel D. Outlaw's historic blacksmithing shop, operated from 1927 to 1991. Envision occupancy during the Civil War, lavish resorts on the Barrier Islands, the Oyster Wars, and the railroad boom at one of the Shore's museums or historic homes. Make an appointment to tour the Beebe Ranch where Misty, the famed Chincoteague pony, lived. Immerse yourself in watermen's culture, a way of life that is integral to the Shore's identity, at one of the historic wharves, fishing villages, or aquafarms. No matter your interests, there's something here for you!



Photo provided by Bayside Studios

Museums & Historical Sites

- 1 NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center**
Building J20 Route, 175 • Chincoteague Rd
Wallops Island, VA
- 2 Museum of Chincoteague Island**
7125 Maddox Blvd • Chincoteague VA 23336
- 3 Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center**
8231 Beach Rd, Chincoteague, VA 23336
- 4 Assateague Lighthouse**
8231 Beach Rd, Chincoteague, VA 23336
- 5 Tom's Cove Visitor Center**
8586 Beach Rd, Chincoteague, VA 23336
- 6 Captain Timothy Hill House**
5122 Main St, Chincoteague, VA 23336
- 7 Beebe Ranch**
3062 Ridge Rd, Chincoteague, VA 23336
- 8 Makemie Monument Park**
699 Monument Rd, Tempranceville, VA 23442
- 9 Saxis Island Museum**
20101 Saxis Rd, Saxis, VA
- 10 Eastern Shore Railway Museum**
18468 Dunne Ave, Parksley, VA
- 11 Tangier History Museum and Interpretive Cultural Center**
16215 Main Ridge Rd, Tangier, VA
- 12 Eastern Shore Public Library Eastern Shore Room**
23610 Front St, Accomac, VA
- 13 Accomac Debtor's Prison and Courthouse Green**
Accomac Historic District, Accomac, VA 23301
- 14 Samuel D. Outlaw Blacksmith Shop**
Boundary Ave, Onancock, VA 23417
- 15 Eastern Shore Historical Society at Ker Place**
69 Market St, Onancock, VA
- 16 Historic Hopkins Building**
2 Market St, Onancock, VA 23417
- 17 Historic Onancock School**
6 College Ave, Onancock, VA
- 18 Wise Cemetery**
17349 Plantation Rd, Chesconessex, VA
- 19 Onley Historic Train Station**
Pennsylvania Ave, Onley, VA 23418
- 20 Locustville Academy**
28055 Drummondtown Rd, Locustville, VA
- 21 Harborton History Museum**
14207 Junior & Dockview St, Harborton, VA
- 22 N.Y.P. & N Railroad Station**
3289 6th St, Exmore, VA 23350
- 23 Peninsula Tractor Organization Agriculture Museum**
10150 Mill St, Nassawadox, VA
- 24 Bayford Oyster House**
5513 Bayford Rd, Franktown, Virginia 23354
- 25 Barrier Islands Center**
7295 Young St, Machipongo, VA
- 26 Pear Valley House**
Wilsonia Neck Dr, State Route 628 Shadyside, VA
- 27 Northampton Historic Preservation Society's Courthouse Green**
16404 Courthouse Rd, Eastville, VA
- 28 Tidewater Institute**
Cobbs Station Rd, Route 636
- 29 Eyre Hall**
3215 Eyre Hall Dr, Cheriton, VA 23316
- 30 Cape Charles Rosenwald School**
1200 Old Cape Charles Rd, Cape Charles, VA
- 31 Cape Charles Museum & Welcome Center**
814 Randolph Ave, Cape Charles, VA
- 32 Custis Tomb at Arlington**
2157 Arlington Chase Rd, Cape Charles, VA 23310
- 33 Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke State Park**
3540 Kiptopeke Dr, Cape Charles, VA 23310
- 34 Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center**
32205 Seaside Rd, Cape Charles, VA 23310
- 35 Eastern Shore Watermen's Museum & Research Center**
6 College Ave, Onancock, VA

Museums

Historic Sites



ANNUAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Visit VisitESVA.com to check out our full calendar!

JANUARY

PONY POLAR PLUNGE

Chincoteague

January 1st • 1:20PM

AN EVENING OF DANCE

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles

January 25th

FEBRUARY

SPEAKEASY, PROHIBITION GALA

Historic Onancock School

February 1st

GROUND-DOG DAY OYSTER ROAST & BBQ

Cape Charles Brewing Company

February 1st • 2-5PM

See if K-9 meteorologist, Cape Carlos, will see his shadow to benefit the Nature Conservancy.

THE RED DEVIL MOON, THEATRICAL CONCERT

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles

February 7-8th

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE

Chincoteague

February 14th • 4-8PM

February 15th • 10AM-4PM

LOVE EDITION OPEN MIC

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles

February 14th & 16th

Author book signing

WINTER WINE & OYSTER WEEKEND

Chatham Vineyards, Machipongo

February 15th - 17th • 10AM-5PM

March 14th - 15th • 10AM-5PM

LOVE CABARET

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles

February 15th

FEBRUARY FREEZE

Cape Charles

February 22nd • Noon

Plunge into the Bay to benefit

Habitat for Humanity

ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST FUNDRAISER

Barrier Island Center, Machipongo

February 29th • 4-8PM

HERITAGE FESTIVAL

ESCC, Melfa

February 29th

MARCH

SPRING EXHIBIT OPENING AT KER PLACE

Onancock

March 6th

From Shine to Shaker: The Shore's Mash

Liquor with a Splash of Mixology



SEARCH FOR THE SHAMROCKS

Chincoteague

March 13th • 4-7PM

March 14th • 10AM-4PM

ST. PATTY'S DAY ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Tall Pines Harbor Campground

March 13th - 15th

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles

March 13th

Virginia Opera

SHREK JR.

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles

March 13th - 15th

TASTE OF THE SHORE

FoodBank, Tasley

March 22nd

PAUL THE BEATLE

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles

March 28th

Tribute Concert

APRIL

LOVE CELEBRATION & RIBBON

CUTTING FOR LOVE SIGN

Historic Onancock School

April 10th & 11th

EASTER DECOY AND ART FESTIVAL

Chincoteague

April 10th • 12-5PM

April 11th 9AM-4PM

GYPSY JAZZ

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles

April 11th

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ART EXHIBIT

Historic Onancock School

April 13th - May 23rd

BIRD WATCHING ON THE DECK

AT THE ISLAND HOUSE

The Island House, Wachapreague

Mondays - April 13th - May 18th • 5-7PM

ANNUAL PIG ROAST & MID-ATLANTIC TRUCK CAMPER RALLY

Tall Pines Harbor Campground

April 17th - 19th

YMCA CAMP SILVER BEACH

"BEACH BASH" OYSTER ROAST & SILENT AUCTION

Jamesville

April 18th • 3-7PM

Live music, Silent Auction, Oysters,

Clams and BBQ

SNOW WHITE

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles

April 18th

Virginia National Ballet

OPEN FARM DAY

The Nature Conservancy

April 18th

Free event! Features guided nature tours, wagon rides, family activities, and more at Brownsville Preserve!

**EASTERN SHORE ART LEAGUE
STUDENT ART SHOW**

Historic Onancock School
April 24th - 26th

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

Cape Charles Town Harbor
April 24th • 6PM

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles
April 24th - 26th
A Comedic Play

CAR SHOW

Chincoteague Island KOA
April 24th - 25th

FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT

Wachapreague
April 24th - May 3rd

ANNUAL LOVE RUN

Cape Charles
April 25th

**EASTERN SHORE HOUSE
AND GARDEN TOUR**

*Regional
April 25th

**SPRING CHINCOTEAGUE
PONY ROUND UP**

Chincoteague

MAY

**VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE LAND
TRUST OYSTER ROAST**

Windingdale, Belle Haven
May 2nd

**52ND ANNUAL CHINCOTEAGUE
SEAFOOD FESTIVAL**

Tom's Cove Campground
Chincoteague
May 2nd • 10AM-4PM

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ART
SHOW RECEPTION**

Historic Onancock School
May 8th

**WORLD MIGRATORY
BIRD DAY CELEBRATION**

Chincoteague
May 9th • 9AM-4PM
Free refuge entrance during event

FIRST RESPONDERS COMPETITION

Chincoteague Island KOA
May 15th - 17th

ART & MUSIC ON THE FARM

Barrier Islands Center, Machipongo
May 23rd • 10AM-4PM

STUDENT DANCE CONCERT

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles
May 24th - 26th

CRABBY BLUES FESTIVAL

Cape Charles Central Park
May 30th

**ONANCOCK FARMERS
& ARTISANS MARKET**

Onancock
Every Saturday Morning
May-November

JUNE

**SHORE GIRLS LADIES
FISHING TOURNAMENT**

Wachapreague
June 5th & 6th

CLEAN THE BAY DAY BY KAYAK

Onancock Creek
June 6th

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Chincoteague Island KOA
June 5th - 7th

MUSIC ON THE LAWN AT KER PLACE

Onancock
June 12th
Free performance by reggae
group Nature's Child

4TH ANNUAL BAYSIDE

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
Tall Pines Harbor Campground
June 12th - 14th

JUNETEENTH

Exmore
June 13th

FOOD TRUCK RALLY

Chincoteague Island KOA
June 12th - 14th

**WACHAPREAGUE VOLUNTEER
FIREMAN'S CARNIVAL**

Wachapreague
June 17th - July 4th

LE TOUR DE SHORE BIKE RIDE

Onancock Town Square
*Regional
June 20th

**LADIES INVITATIONAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Cape Charles

PLEIN AIR WORKSHOP

Wachapreague

JULY

**95TH ANNUAL CHINCOTEAGUE
VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S CARNIVAL**

Chincoteague
July 2nd - August 8th, select dates

ICE CREAM SOCIAL/CONCERT

Historic Onancock School
July 3rd

CAPE CHARLES STREET FAIR & PARADE

Cape Charles
July 4th • Parade 10AM
All day street vendors & fireworks at dark

**CHINCOTEAGUE INDEPENDENCE
DAY FIREWORKS**

Chincoteague
July 4th • 10PM



ANNUAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Visit VisitESVA.com to check out our full calendar!

ONCE UPON AN ISLAND

Historic Palace Theater, Cape Charles

July 6-17th

A summer camp musical production.

33RD ANNUAL BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

Chincoteague

July 23rd-25th • 9AM-4:30 PM

MARLIN TOURNAMENT

Wachapreague

July 23rd-26th

95TH PONY SWIM & AUCTION

Chincoteague

July 29th - 30th

SHUCK-N-SUCK OYSTER FESTIVAL & BOAT DOCKING COMPETITION

Cape Charles

July 31st-August 2nd

AUGUST

EXPERIMENTAL FILM VIRGINIA

Cape Charles

August 2nd - Launch Party

August 8th - Art in a Barn

August 15th - Reel & Raw

ANNUAL JIMMY BUFFET CHEESEBURGER IN PARADISE BEACH PARTY

Tall Pines Harbor Campground

August 7th - 9th

ARC FISH FRY & CHICKEN BBQ

Edward's Seafood, Onley

August 8th

CRAB CRACKIN' AT KER PLACE

Onancock

August 15th

All-you-can-eat steamed crabs, barbecue & more

ART ROCKS THE INN

Cape Charles

August 16th

CRAB FEST & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Chincoteague Island KOA

August 21st - 23rd

RCEC OUTDOOR MOVIE UNDER THE STARS

Historic Onancock School

August 29th

BAY CREEK AMATEUR GOLF TOURNAMENT

Cape Charles



Photo provided by Lemon Tree Gallery & Studio

SHORE CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Chesapeake Bay KOA,

Sunset Beach Resort, Cape Charles

SEPTEMBER

CHINCOTEAGUE DECOY CARVERS & ARTISTS ASSOCIATION DECOY SHOW

Chincoteague

September 5th - 6th

SHORE SURF & TURF PREMIER

TAILGATE EVENT

Wachapreague

September 11th

ONANCOCK HARBOR CHALLENGE

Onancock

September 11th & 12th

Water races, food and more at

Onancock Wharf

PLEIN AIR ART SHOW AND SALE

Chincoteague

September 11th

CORK & CRAFT FESTIVAL

Chincoteague Island KOA

September 25th - 27th

Wine and Beer

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

Exmore

September 25th

"Much Ado About Nothing"

ARTISAN FESTIVAL

Exmore

September 26th

OUTDOOR EXPLORATION DAY

Kiptopeke State Park

September 26th

CHILI & CHOWDER COOK OFF

Chincoteague

September 26th

CRAB CAKE COOK OFF

Wachapreague

ESO FEST

ESO Arts Center, Belle Haven

VIMS MARINE LIFE SCIENCE DAY

Wachapreague

OCTOBER

EASTERN SHORE ART LEAGUE SHOW

Historic Onancock School

October 9th

48TH ANNUAL CHINCOTEAGUE OYSTER FESTIVAL

Chincoteague

October 10th • 10AM-4PM

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK CELEBRATION

Chincoteague

October 10th • 10AM-3PM

BETWEEN THE WATERS BIKE TOUR

*Regional

October 24th

ANNUAL AUTO SHOW

Exmore

FALL CHINCOTEAGUE PONY ROUND UP

Chincoteague

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Machipongo

PLEIN AIR EVENTS

*Regional

SOULE ARNOLD OYSTER ROAST

& CLAM STEAM

Exmore

SPECKLED TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT

*Regional

SWINE & WINE

Accomac

BREW-N-QUE AND OYSTERS TOO

Chesapeake Bay KOA,

Sunset Beach Resort, Cape Charles

NOVEMBER

ISLAND HOUSE OYSTER ROAST

Wachapreague

November 7th

MERROIR & TERROIR

Chatham Vineyard

November 14th

CHAMPAGNE & OYSTER TASTING

Historic Onancock School

November 15th

CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE

REFUGE WATERFOWL WEEKEND

Chincoteague

November 26-29th

ARTISAN GUILD EASTERN SHORE OF

VIRGINIA HOLIDAY TOUR

*Regional

November 27th-29th • 10AM-5PM

Self-drive shopping & wine tasting tour

CAPE CHARLES MUSEUM

OYSTER ROAST

Cape Charles

November 28th

DUCKS UNLIMITED OYSTER ROAST

Barrier Islands Center, Machipongo

SAXIS ISLAND OYSTER ROAST

Saxis

BIRDS, BREWS AND BARBECUE

Cape Charles Brewing Company

DECEMBER

FAB FRIDAYS

Onancock

November 27th

December 4th, 11th, 18th

FESTIVE FRIDAYS

Cape Charles

November 27th

December 4th, 11th, 18th

GRAND ILLUMINATION & LIGHTED GOLF CART PARADE

Cape Charles Central Park

December 5th • 6PM

BAY CREEK HOLIDAY TOUR

Cape Charles

December 5th

HISTORIC HOME TOUR

Chincoteague

December 5th

PROGRESSIVE DINNER TOUR

Cape Charles

December 7th

ONANCOCK CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Onancock

December 12th

HOLIDAY ARTISAN MARKET

Historic Onancock School

December 12th

HISTORIC B & B COOKIE TRAIL

Cape Charles

December 13th

CHOWDER COOK-OFF

Oyster Farm & Seafood Restaurant

Cape Charles

HORSESHOE DROP

Chincoteague

December 31st

DROPPING OF THE CRAB POT

Mason Ave., Cape Charles

December 31st • 10PM

OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARADES

*Regional

HOLIDAY WALKING TOURS

*Regional

HOLIDAY MARKETS

*Regional

SANTA ARRIVES

*Regional

TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATIONS

Regional

NEW YEAR'S EVE

*Regional



Photo provided by Bayside Studios

History

OF VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

Settled in the early 1600's, Virginia's Eastern Shore has evolved in relative isolation from modern America. Until 1964, when the 23-mile Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel was built, it was a long ferry ride to mainland Virginia, and an inconvenient car, rail or boat trip to points north. Today, much of the region, untouched by big commercial development, looks like it did when Captain John Smith arrived in 1607.

BY CURTIS BADGER

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is defined by two elements: the land and the sea. The land is flat, fertile and produces great bounty. It is surrounded by water, the Chesapeake Bay and its many tributaries on the western boundary, and on the east, the barrier islands, shallow bays, and inlets that lead to the Atlantic Ocean and the world.





Photo provided by ESVA Historical Society

LAST CENTURY

This is a land of farmers and of seafaring creatures who enjoy the grit of sand between the toes and the sweet aroma of a seaside tidal flat at low water. The process of growing crops and delivering them to market created waterfront communities like Onancock, Chincoteague, Cape Charles, Willis Wharf and Wachapreague.

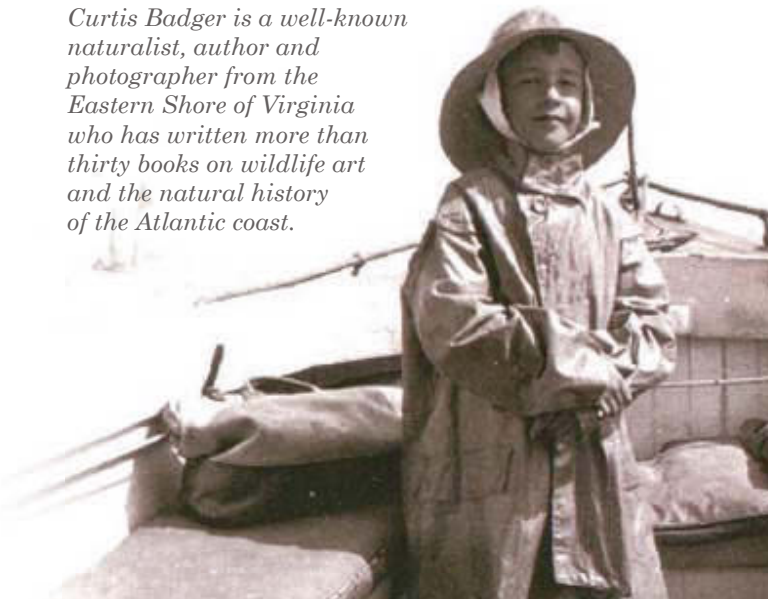
In 1884, when the railroad came through, it brought about a great change in how farmers got their food to market, and so it shaped history just as the sailing ships did, and the steamships that came after them. Thanks to the railroad, the Eastern Shore of Virginia was among the most prosperous rural regions in the United States in the earliest part of the 1900s.

In more recent years, the boxcar has given way to the 18-wheeler. Our clams are spawned in laboratories and shipped to market in jets. Sail gave way to steam, which gave way to rail, which gave way to highway. The things that endure are the land and the sea.

THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE

Captain John Smith explored the waters of the long Virginia Eastern Shore peninsula in 1607, and since that time the fertile land and the water has defined the history and culture of the Eastern Shore. For centuries, the land has provided a wealth of vegetables and grains, making the Eastern Shore a great provider of food for Virginia and beyond. The shallow waters and tidal flats that surround us have also supplied a bounty of oysters, clams, crabs and fish. And the bay and the ocean are a convenient source of conveyance, a way of getting vegetables, grains, and seafood to eager markets.

Curtis Badger is a well-known naturalist, author and photographer from the Eastern Shore of Virginia who has written more than thirty books on wildlife art and the natural history of the Atlantic coast.



Lower Shore



Photo provided by Virginia Tourism Commission

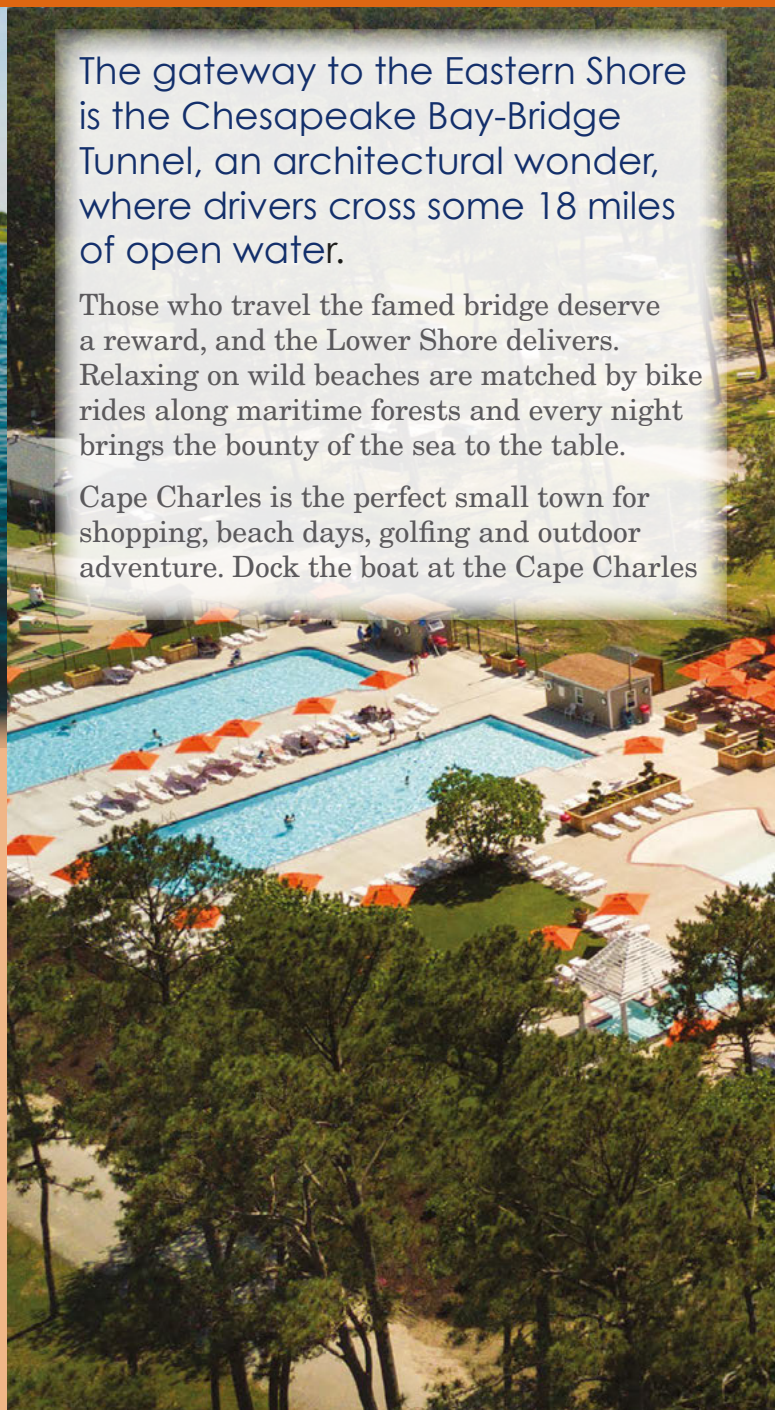
“Cape Charles is surprisingly suave and sophisticated, with a European style coffee shop, great restaurants, friendly indie shops, a Brewery, Distillery, and Cidery, B&B’s and a cool main street boutique hotel. Cape Charles is also a beach and fishing town – small enough to manage with a golf cart.”

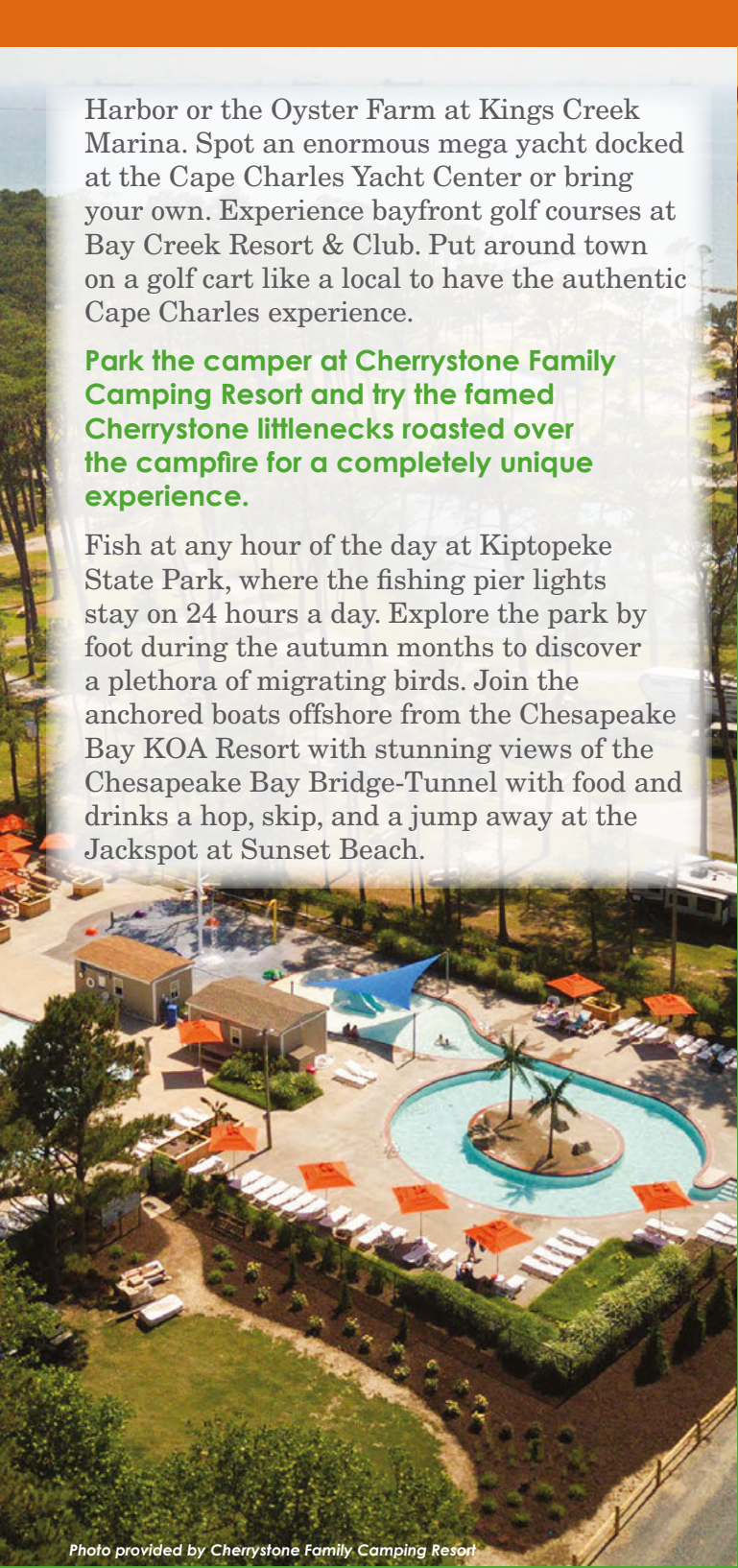
- Malerie Yolen-Cohen

The gateway to the Eastern Shore is the Chesapeake Bay-Bridge Tunnel, an architectural wonder, where drivers cross some 18 miles of open water.

Those who travel the famed bridge deserve a reward, and the Lower Shore delivers. Relaxing on wild beaches are matched by bike rides along maritime forests and every night brings the bounty of the sea to the table.

Cape Charles is the perfect small town for shopping, beach days, golfing and outdoor adventure. Dock the boat at the Cape Charles





Harbor or the Oyster Farm at Kings Creek Marina. Spot an enormous mega yacht docked at the Cape Charles Yacht Center or bring your own. Experience bayfront golf courses at Bay Creek Resort & Club. Put around town on a golf cart like a local to have the authentic Cape Charles experience.

Park the camper at Cherrystone Family Camping Resort and try the famed Cherrystone littlenecks roasted over the campfire for a completely unique experience.

Fish at any hour of the day at Kiptopeke State Park, where the fishing pier lights stay on 24 hours a day. Explore the park by foot during the autumn months to discover a plethora of migrating birds. Join the anchored boats offshore from the Chesapeake Bay KOA Resort with stunning views of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel with food and drinks a hop, skip, and a jump away at the Jackspot at Sunset Beach.

Photo provided by Cherrystone Family Camping Resort



Photo by Gordon Campbell/AtAltitudeGallery.com

THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE-TUNNEL: AN ENGINEERING MARVEL

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT) is an engineering marvel built in the early 1960s to link mainland Virginia with the Eastern Shore which, at the time, was accessible only by a long ferry ride.

Measuring 17.6 miles from shore to shore, this facility includes more than 12 miles of low-level trestle, two mile-long tunnels, two bridges, four man-made islands, two miles of causeway and five and a half miles of approach roads, totaling 23 miles.

Construction of the original two-lane facility was completed in 1964. In 1999, parallel bridges and trestles opened. Construction of the parallel Thimble Shoal Tunnel began in the fall of 2017.

Lower Shore

CAPE CHARLES

Chic boutique hotels, cozy inns, and charming bed and breakfasts rest quietly in century-old buildings. Eclectic shops, quaint bookstores, warm coffeehouses, and stylish galleries line the endearing streets. Get the local news around the pot-bellied stove at Watson's Hardware, sit on a stool at Rayfield's Pharmacy soda fountain, and walk to the half-mile public beach for a swim, kayak, or perfect sunset.

MACHIPONGO

Stop for a healthy and delicious lunch at Machipongo Trading Company and pick up local

Eastern Shore Coastal Roasting coffee. Visit the Barrier Islands Center to learn the rich history and culture of those who lived along the remote sand islands that buffer Virginia's Atlantic coastline.

Drive scenic backroads to Chatham Winery or launch the kayak on a guided tour to the secluded, historic property. The winery's French vinifera grapes are turned into Merlots, Chardonnays, Cabernets and blends that have earned medals and accolades nationwide. Later in the evening, sip their Church Creek Steel Chardonnay at sunset overlooking the Chesapeake Bay.

"A walkable main street houses the venerable Cape Charles Coffee House and Brown Dog Ice Cream, which serves up innovative flavors like beet and goat cheese with pistachio (it works). A short walk away, the lively Shanty restaurant lures with marina-front dining in a rustic setting."

-Coastal Living



Photo provided by Bayside Studios

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A circular logo for "brown dog ice cream" featuring a silhouette of a person and a dog. Below the logo, a variety of ice cream scoops in different flavors are displayed. The text "Cape Charles' premiere handcrafted small batch ice cream for those dog days by the bay" is written above the scoops.

203 Mason Ave, Cape Charles, VA
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Image courtesy of Mark Atkinson

A black and white photograph of a young woman in a white dress standing in a field, with two dogs in the background.

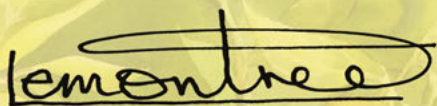
Each year Experimental Film Virginia takes residency in Cape Charles for a one of a kind film festival where dancers, actors, filmmakers, and more come to produce intriguing independent films.

Photo provided by Lemon Tree Gallery & Studio

small town.

CAPE CHARLES, VIRGINIA

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The logo for Lemontree Gallery and Studio, featuring the word "Lemontree" in a stylized, handwritten script font.

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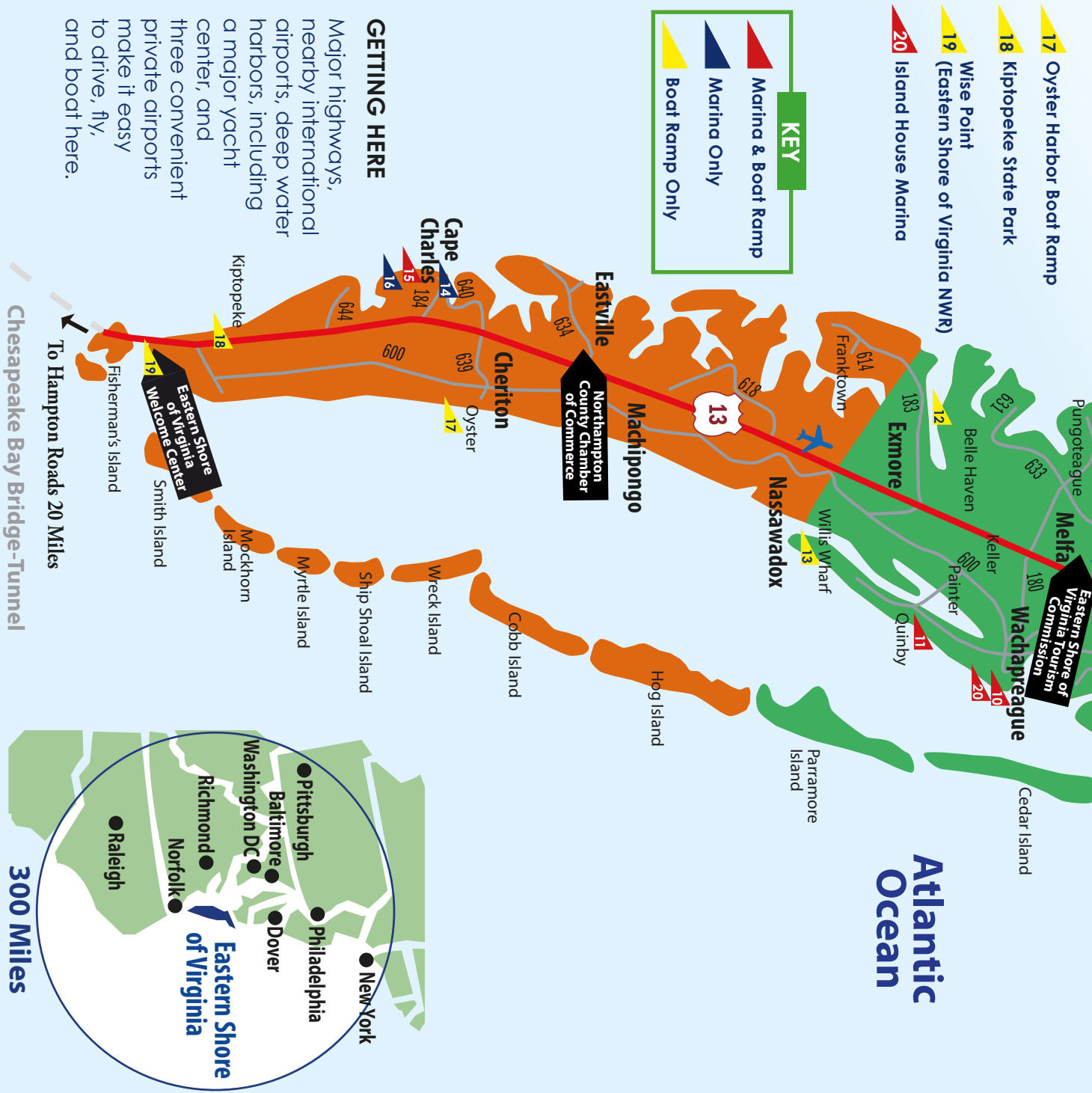
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GETTING HERE

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Atlantic Ocean

Eastern Shore of Virginia

LOCATION

A 70-mile peninsula on the mid-Atlantic seaboard, with the Chesapeake Bay on one coast and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, Virginia's Eastern Shore is linked to the mainland by the 23-mile Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel on the southern tip, with Maryland on its northern border.

PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS SITES

- 1 Greenbackville Harbor
- 2 Chincoteague Veteran Memorial Park
- 3 Curtis Merritt Harbor
- 4 Snug Harbor Marina & Resort
- 5 Saxis Town Harbor
- 6 Folly Creek
- 7 Town of Onancock Harbor
- 8 Parks Marina Tangier
- 9 Harborton Boat Ramp
- 10 Wachapreague Town Marina
- 11 Quinby Harbor
- 12 Morley's Wharf
- 13 Willis Wharf Boat Ramp
- 14 Oyster Farm at Kings Creek Marina
- 15 Cape Charles Harbor
- 16 Cape Charles Yacht Center



Middle Shore



Photo provided by Patrick J. Hendrickson

As a Chesapeake Bay deadrise slowly motors away from Onancock wharf bound for Tangier Island, a charter fishing boat clears the inlet out of Wachapreague, headed to blue Atlantic waters. Out in the marsh, watermen deftly steer skiffs loaded with oysters and clams along winding creeks back toward the dock.

Along the narrow landscape between bay and ocean, choices to stay, eat and play grow rich and varied, from quaint cottages to modern hotels in Exmore.

WACHAPREAGUE

Venture off Route 13 for just four miles to charming Wachapreague, “The Little City by the Sea.” Dine on delicious, local seafood at The Island House or catch your own on a charter fishing or clam-digging trip, gather supplies for a boat day at the Wachapreague Market, ride the Wachapreague Inn’s boat taxi to a relaxing day on a sandbar, or travel just outside of town to soar the skies with Virginia Hang Gliding.

“Captain John Smith once dubbed this sleepy port town the ‘gem of the Eastern Shore,’ and it’s hard to disagree. With a population of just under 1,500, Onancock has small-town appeal with world-class amenities. A thriving arts scene showcases Bay-inspired works by national renowned artists and the old-timey Roseland Theatre hosts monthly screenings of international films. The food is equally as diverse: Bizzotto’s Gallery-Café dishes up fare with an Argentinian-Italian spin, the Blarney Stone Pub is a hub for all things Irish, and Mallard’s at the Wharf is a favorite for seafood and serenades from musician-chef Johnny Mo.”

-Coastal Living

TANGIER

Catch the Tangier Ferry from spring through fall for a 12-mile journey to discover a tiny watermen’s community separated from the mainland, surrounded by the vast Chesapeake Bay. Famous for its isolation, location and lifestyle, Tangier is the muse of Earl Swift’s, “Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island.” Spend the day walking the island’s narrow lanes, take a golf cart tour and sample the softshell crabs this island is best known for. You’ll no doubt get an earful of the local Tangier dialect, related to the Elizabethan English spoken by the island’s first settlers.

ONANCOCK

A town steeped in history, Onancock charts its founding back to 1680. Its centuries-old homes evoke an era of prosperity on the shore, especially Ker Place, a historic house turned museum. Today, artist studios, restaurants, inns and a beautiful wharf capture the vitality of current day. Meet artists in their studios and local farmers at The Onancock Farmers and Artisans Market on Saturday mornings. Walk to dinner, a movie or live show at the North Street Playhouse. Dining ranges from an Irish pub to sophisticated cafes to a dockside eatery where the chef plays guitar.



Photo provided by Levi Smith

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Photo provided by Onancock Main Street Initiative

ONANCOCK WHARF

Boat up to the Onancock Wharf where there are slips for rent, or drive to town with your Skiff in tow to launch into Onancock Creek. Rent kayaks, bikes and paddle boards from Burnham Guides to explore the creek or take a guided tour. Meet the lovely folks who sail Gratitude for your own Onancock Sailing Adventure. Learn about the history, flora, and fauna of the area. Spot ospreys nesting along the markers of the channel. Ride out the mouth of the creek into the Chesapeake Bay to explore tiny islands and experience vast wildlife.

When the day dwindles down and the sun begins to set, cruise back to the wharf, tie up the boat, and grab a bite to eat at any of the mouthwatering restaurants in town. Enjoy a serenade from Johnny Mo, the musical chef, at Mallards, grab a beer and watch the game at the Blarney Stone Pub, enjoy a cocktail at the Charlotte Hotel, munch on delicious pizza at DaVinci's Italian Kitchen, enjoy fine dining at Bizzoto's Gallery-Café, or experience unique cuisine at Maurice.

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Photo provided by ESVA Historical Society



Ker Place, built in 1799, demonstrates a Federalist style home complete with extravagant rooms and exquisite gardens.

Upper Shore

Daily life hums briskly as a summer day dawns on Chincoteague Island. Scooters zip along Maddox Boulevard and bike riders pedal toward Assateague Island. By afternoon, lines form at the ice cream parlors. In late July, thousands flock to the world-famous Pony Swim and Penning, celebrating its 95th year in 2020.



Photo provided by Chincoteague Chamber

Over at Tom's Cove they're stacking bushels of blue crabs, bagging clams, and culling oysters. All of this is just one step removed from the tables of town restaurants where you can slurp down "Chincoteague Salt" oysters or bite into a crispy soft-shell crab.

This is the gateway to the world-famous Assateague Island National Seashore, renowned Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, a birder's paradise, and NASA Wallops Flight Facility where rockets are launched to both the moon and international space station.

Yet it is just the beginning of exploring the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

A few miles north near the Maryland border find the little fishing village of Greenbackville, with the Crusty Crab Seafood Shack and the Bay Watch Inn. Nearby Captain's Cove has a 9-hole golf course that plays 18, marina and restaurant on Chincoteague Bay.



Across Route 13, in the village of Saxis you can nod hello to the watermen at work at the wharf. In the town of Parksley, a collection of rail cars and engines at the Eastern Shore Railway Museum harkens back half a century to when rail eclipsed ships and sent Shore-grown vegetables and fruit nationwide.

SAXIS

Drive off Route 13 to Saxis, perched right on the Chesapeake Bay, and explore a tiny corner of America that hasn't changed much over the centuries. Stop in at the Saxis Museum and learn about a time gone by. Catch a bite to eat at either of two tiny restaurants, Captain E's Hurricane Grill and Tiki Bar or Martha's Kitchen, then wander the beach- it's a perfect spot to find treasures washed up by the tide.



Photo provided by Bayside Studios



Upper Shore



Photo provided by Chincoteague Chamber

WALLOPS ISLAND

See a space suit and a large-scale model rocket up close, examine the night sky at an astronomy night and help launch a model rocket at the NASA Visitor Center. Weekend programs give young and old space enthusiasts unique opportunities to explore all things celestial.

"If I told you there's a small island with golden sunsets you can visit, where wild ponies roam, bald eagles fly and dolphins swim in its calm waters, you're probably thinking I'm talking about something I read in a romance novel. I promise you, it's real. Located not too far off route 13 on the northern end of Virginia's Eastern Shore and about 1 hour south of Ocean City, Maryland, Chincoteague is a small and quiet island with a Native American name meaning 'beautiful land across the water.' You won't find boardwalks or Ferris wheels here like you do other places on the coast. But Chincoteague is famous for two things: their fresh oysters and their band of 150 wild ponies who roam on the nearby Virginia half of Assateague Island."

- On Better Living



CHINCOTEAGUE

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PARKSLEY

Relive the golden age of train travel in this Victorian era railroad town. Climb aboard the preserved dining, sleeping and caboose cars at the Eastern Shore Railway Museum. Step back in time with lunch at the Club Car Café and browse Jaxon's old-fashioned "five and dime," where you can still get penny candy.



Photo provided by Chincoteague Chamber

Photo provided by Chincoteague Chamber



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historic-palace-theatre.business.site
See ad page 21

Photo provided by
Lemon Tree Gallery & Studio



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See ad page 26

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Cherrystone Family Camping Resort

1511 Townfield Drive
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-3063
cherrystone.com
See ad page 17

Chesapeake Bay KOA Resort

32246 Lankford Highway
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-3063
chesapeakebaykoa.com

UPPER

Chincoteague Island KOA Resort

6742 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-3111
koa.com/campgrounds/chincoteague

Tall Pines Harbor Campground

8107 Tall Pines Lane
Temperenceville, VA 23442
(757) 824-0777
tallpinesharbor.com
See ad inside front cover

Tom's Cove Campground

8128 Beebe Road
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-6498
tomscovepark.com
See ad inside back cover

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Northampton County Chamber of Commerce

16404 Courthouse Road, Suite 210
Eastville, VA 23347
(757) 678-0010
northamptoncountychamber.com

Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce

19056 Parkway
Melfa, VA 23410
(757) 787-2460
esvachamber.org

Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce & Certified Visitor Center

6733 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-6161
chincoteaguechamber.com

DINING

LOWER

Brown Dog Ice Cream

203 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 695-3868
browndogicecream.com
See ad page 20

Cape Charles Coffee House

241 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-1880
thecapecharlescoffeehouse.com

Sting-Ray's Restaurant

26507 Lankford Highway
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-1541
sting-raysrestaurant.com
See ad page 19

The Great Machipongo Clam Shack

6468 Lankford Highway
Nassawadox, VA 23413
(757) 442-3800
thegreatmachipongoclamsnack.com
See ad page 18

MIDDLE

Bizzoto's Gallery-Café

41 Market St.
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 787-3103
bizzotosgallerycafe.com
See ad page 26

Island House Restaurant

17 Atlantic Avenue
Wachapreague, VA 23480
(757) 787-4242
theislandhouserestaurant.com
See ad page 28

Mallards at the Wharf

2 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 787-8558
mallardsilc.com
See ad page 27

Puppy Drum Market

6026 Occohannock Neck Road
Exmore, Virginia 23350
(757) 442-3675
puppydrum.net

The Blarney Stone Pub

10 North Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 302-0300
blarneystonepubonancock.com
See ad page 26

UPPER

AJ's on the Creek

6585 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-5888
ajsonthecreek.com

Island Creamery

6243 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-6236
islandcreamery.net
See ad page 34

ECOTOURS/CRUISES BIKE RENTALS

LOWER

The Nature Conservancy's Virginia Coast Reserve

11332 Brownsville Road
Nassawadox, VA 23413
(757) 442-3049
nature.org/vcr



SEE AND DO

Virginia State Parks at Kiptopeke

3540 Kiptopeke Drive
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-2267
dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/kiptopeke
See ad page 20

MIDDLE

Bay Country Kayaking

1 Bluebill Lane
Onancock, VA 23417
(804) 695-4660
baycountrykayaking.com

Burnham Guides

2 King Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(305) 240-0650
burnhamguides.com
See ad page 26

Onancock Sailing Adventures

Onancock Wharf
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 710-3658
onancocksailingadventures.com
See ad page 26

Seaside Ecotours

34 Atlantic Avenue
Wachapreague, VA 23480
(757) 710-2454
visitesva.com/things-to-do/listings/seaside-ecotours/

Tangier-Onancock Ferry

Onancock Wharf
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 891-2505
tangierferry.com
See ad page 27

UPPER

Chincoteague Bay Field Station

34001 Mill Dam Road
Wallops Island, VA 23337
(757) 824-5636
cbfieldstation.org
See ad page 34

Chincoteague Island Adventures & Waterfowl Hunting

4436 Williams Ln
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 894-5964
chincoteagueislandadventures.com



Photo provided by Virginia Tourism Commission

EVENTS & FESTIVITIES

Chincoteague Island Blueberry Festival

6155 Community Drive
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 894-2334
chincoteagueblueberryfestival.com
See ad page 35

Experimental Film Virginia

P.O. Box 506
301 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
experimentalfilmvirginia.com
See ad page 21

GOURMET & SPECIALTY FOOD

Gull Hummock Gourmet Market

115 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-1500
facebook.com/Gull-Hummock-Gourmet-Market-180588737992/

HOTELS & RESORTS

LOWER

Chesapeake Bay KOA Resort

32246 Lankford Highway
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-1776
cheapeakebaykoa.com

Sunset Beach Hotel

32246 Lankford Highway
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-1776
sunsetbeachva.com

MIDDLE

Charlotte Hotel & Restaurant

7 North Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 787-7400
thecharlotte.com

Hampton Inn & Suites

4129 Lankford Hwy
Exmore, VA 23350
(757) 442-7722
hilton.com/en/hotels/orfexhx-hampton-suites-exmore-eastern-shore/?SEO_id=GMB-HP-ORFEXHX

Wachapreague Inn

1 Main Street
Wachapreague, VA 23480
(757) 787-2105
wachapreagueinn.com
See ad page 28

UPPER

America's Best Value Inn & Suites

6151 Maddox Blvd
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(800) 699-6562
americas-best-value-inn/va/chincoteague-island/americas-best-value-inn-suites-chincoteague-island
See ad page 35

Best Western Chincoteague Island

7105 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-6557
chincoteague-hotel.com

Comfort Suites

4195 Main Street
Chincoteague, VA 2336
(757) 336-3700
chincoteaguecomfortsuites.com

[See ad page 35](#)

Fairfield by Marriott Chincoteague Island Waterfront

3913 Main Street
Chincoteague, VA 2336
(757) 336-0043
fairfieldchincoteague.com

Island Resort

4391 Main Street
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-3141
islandresortinn.com

[See ad back cover](#)

Marina Bay Hotel & Suites and Anchor Inn

3801 Main Street
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-3500
staymarinabay.com

[See ad page 35](#)

Refuge Inn

7058 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-5511
refugeinn.com

[See ad page 34](#)

Sea Shell Motel & Cottages

3720 Willow Street
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-6589
seashellmotel.org

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Cape Charles Main Street

299 Randolph Avenue
P.O. Box 567
Cape Charles, VA 23310
capecharlesvirginiascapes.com

[See ad page 19](#)

GEAR Fine and Performing Arts

P.O. Box 506
301 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-4327
gearfineandperformingarts.com

MEDICAL & WELLNESS

Bayside Chiropractic Rehab & Laser

117 Mason Ave Suite F
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-1190
baysidechiropracticandlaser.com

Eastern Shore Rural Health

20280 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 414-0400
esrh.org

SERVICES

John Fiege CFP®

34 Market St
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 302-6131
johnfiege.com

[See ad page 26](#)

SHOPPING

LOWER

Focus Optical Boutique

232 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-6208
focusopticalboutique.com

Margaret's Gifts

16353 Lankford Hwy
Eastville, VA 23347
(757) 678-5253
hamboneexpress.com

[See ad page 17](#)

Vance's Furniture and Mattress Store

722 Randolph Ave
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-3963
vancesfurniture.com

MIDDLE

Blue Crow Antique Mall

32124 Lankford Highway
Painter, VA 23420
(757) 442-4150
bluecrowantiquemall.com

[See ad page 29](#)

UPPER

Soap N Jewelry Farm Homegrown Herbal Soaps Original Handmade Jewelry

18463 County Road
Parksley, VA 23421
(757) 665-1128
soapnjewelryfarm.com

Michael's Jewelry, Inc.

6328 Maddox Blvd
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-6220
facebook.com/michaelsjewelryinc

[See ad page 35](#)



Photo provided by Lemon Tree Gallery & Studio

SEE AND DO

SUMMER CAMPS

LOWER

Art Splash

P.O. Box 506
301 Mason Ave
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-4327

Stars on Stage

P.O. Box 506
301 Mason Ave
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-4327

MIDDLE

YMCA Camp Silver Beach

6272 YMCA Lane
P.O. Box 69
Jamesville, VA 23398
(757) 442-4634
campsilverbeach.org
See ad page 29

UPPER

Virginia Space Flight Academy

33531 Chincoteague Road
Wallops Island, VA 23337
(757) 824-3800
vaspaceflightacademy.org
See ad page 34

TOWNS

MIDDLE

Town of Onancock

5 North Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 787-3363
onancock.com
See ads page 26

Town of Wachapreague

6 Main Street
Wachapreague, VA 23480
(757) 787-7117
wachapreague.org
See ad page 28

Photo provided by
Chincoteague Chamber



VACATION RENTALS

LOWER

Blue Heron Vacation Rentals

7134 Wilsonia Neck Dr
Machipongo, VA 23405
(757) 678-5200
blueheronva.com

Chesapeake Properties

7 Fig St
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-8100
chesapeakeproperties.com
See ad page 19

MIDDLE

Cross Creek Cottage on the Atlantic

26337 Seabreeze Dr
Accomac, VA 23301
757-710-2489
See ad page 28

UPPER

Eastern Shore Retreats

6759 Maddox Blvd
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-1088
www.chincoteague.com/esretreats

VENUES

The Chincoteague Center

6155 Community Drive
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-0614
thechincoteaguecenter.com

YMCA Camp Silver Beach

6272 YMCA Lane
P.O. Box 69
Jamesville, VA 23398
(757) 442-4634
campsilverbeach.org
See ad page 29

WELCOME CENTERS

Eastern Shore of Virginia Welcome Center

32383 Lankford Highway
Cape Charles, VA 23310
757-331-1660
visitesva.com

Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission

19056 Parkway
Melfa, VA 23410
(757) 787-8268
visitesva.com

Virginia Welcome Center at New Church

3420 Lankford Highway
New Church, VA 23415
(757) 824-5000
virginia.org

WINERIES

Chatham Vineyards

9232 Chatham Road
Machipongo, VA 23405
(757) 678-5588
chathamvineyards.com
See ad page 18



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Clubhouse with Video Games and Pool Tables
Large Country Store
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30x60 Swimming Pool

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

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Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge
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Ocean Beaches • Bird Watching
Oyster Museum • Miniature Golf
Tennis Courts and more!



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www.tomscovepark.com tomscovepark@verizon.net



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