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OPEN YEAR ROUND



2021-2022 ACTIVITY GUIDE

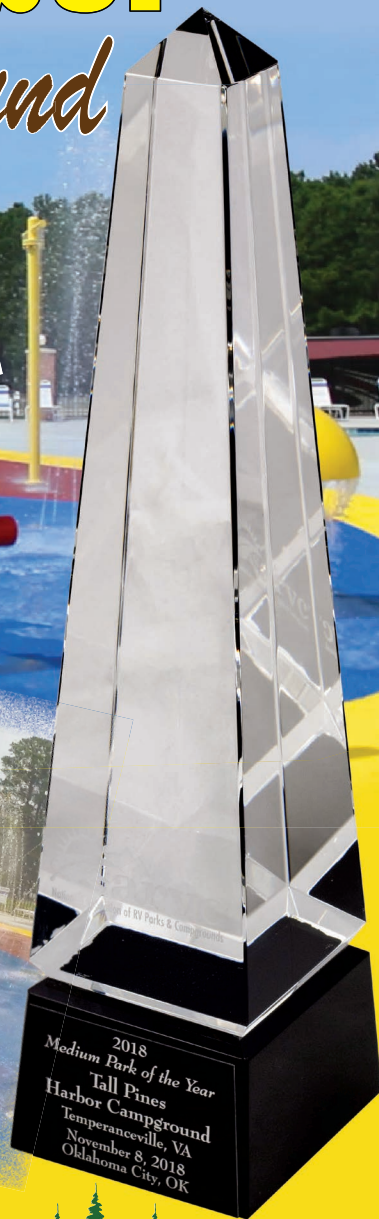
Eastern Shore OF VIRGINIA



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 WHAT'S #OFF13

4 DISCOVER YOUR WANDERLOVE

6 MUSEUMS & HISTORICAL SITES

8 HISTORY

10 ANNUAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS

13 SIPS OF THE SHORE

14 LOWER SHORE

22 MAP

24 MIDDLE SHORE

30 UPPER SHORE

35 BIRDING ON VIRGINIA'S
EASTERN SHORE

36 SEE & DO

Photo provided by Laura Scharle Media

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**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS**



#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, quiet beaches, 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 Virginia is for Lovers



ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations vary from historic bed and breakfasts, modern hotels, quaint cottages, gorgeous rentals, and more. Find the perfect accommodation during your stay, whether you need to have room for 10 people or 2, you can find the perfect match on visitesva.com/places-to-stay/.

Photo provided by Mark Atkinson



ARTISTS & ARTISANS

The ESVA is home to many creatives. Creators find the peninsula a beautiful, inspiring, and peaceful place to pursue their craft. Check out the Onancock Farmers and Artisans Market, the Pearl Market, Historic Onancock School, and more to shop.

Photo provided by On Better Living

WANDERLOVE

VIRGINIA IS FOR LO♥ERS®



Photo provided by Bayside Studios Photography

Love on the Coastline Trail

Sunsets, Sunrises, Dark Sky Spots

There's nothing like an ESVA sunset. If you've come for a beach day, weekend getaway, or week-long relaxation sesh, you know this is true! It is rare to find a place on the East Coast where you can watch the sunset over the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. We don't take the view for granted, which is why we always talk about it!

On this trail, we focus on the best places to watch the sunset, sunrises for you early birders, and areas where the night sky shines so bright, it feels like you could reach out and grab a star. If you love landscape photography or night sky photography, this is the trail for you. If you want to snap a shot of the kids that they will one day look back on, this is a great trail for that too.

No matter if you merely want to watch the sunrise over the Atlantic bundled up with friends, look for shooting stars, or watch the sky turn into cotton candy above the bay, this trail has all of the information you need.

Breath of Fresh Air Trail

Bike & Hike

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is known for its nature for more than one reason, but a big reason is the gorgeous nature trails on both sides of Route 13. Some are paved, creating a safe place for biking, and some are not, giving you that sense of being deep in the wilderness. Almost all of them lead to a water view or follow the outskirts of a body of water.

There are so many trails to choose from that it would be hard to do them all in a week, let alone a weekend! We developed this trail so that you can try a new trail each time you visit the Shore or challenge yourself and visit them all in one trip. Bike rentals are easy to find too. Head to our blog for the full list of stops and resources you need to plan your hiking and biking endeavors.



Photo provided by Bayside Studios Photography



Photo provided by Bayside Studios Photography

Fresh from the Water Seafood Trail

Seafood

Do you love seafood? We get you! We love our local watermen too, which is why we made this trail. There is no other more truly authentic way to enjoy your time on the Shore than to celebrate with some seafood, for a barbeque or at-home dinner, picked up fresh from one of the local vendors.

Some markets will prepare the seafood for you so that you can pick it up and enjoy a fresh, mouthwatering seafood meal. If you have a family recipe you want to make, you can pick up seafood fresh from the water to prepare yourself too. All the markets live and breathe high quality seafood so they are your best resource when cooking up something during your stay.

WanderLOVE Trails



For the complete trails and resources, head to visitesva.com/wanderlove or use the QR code provided here. Use your phone camera to be redirected to the [visitesva](https://visitesva.com) WanderLOVE webpage.

WANDERLOVE

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS®

Love and Learning Trail

With the kids at home, having some outdoor, educational destinations makes the difference between a fun, engaging day exploring or another day virtually learning from home. This trail has been designed with you and your family in mind to bring you to some sites where you can learn a thing or two about history and science and have fun while you're doing it.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is rich in American history and natural conservation efforts. Want to spend an afternoon immersing yourself in biodiversity? Walk the butterfly trail in the spring or fall to see the monarch butterflies during their biannual migration and spot the other critters you see along the way. Want to know more about the battles of the Revolutionary War? Head to Scott Hall Cemetery and discover Commodore Whaley's heroic naval movement at Onancock Creek. Want to discover the railroad system? Head to the Eastern Shore Railway Museum in Parksley to tour historical rail cars, artifacts, buildings, and more.



Sun and Sand Trail

Beaches

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is the definition of coastal. With the Chesapeake Bay to the west and Atlantic Ocean to the east, beach days can vary in quiet days on the calm waters of the bay or exciting days full of boogie boarding and surfing on the ocean. While there are some popular beaches, like Cape Charles Beach or Assateague, there are also some more off the beaten path like Tangier Island, the Barrier Islands, Savage Neck Dunes, and Kiptopeke State Park.

Make dribble castles with family on the edge of the earth while the waves roll in on Assateague Island or play volleyball with friends on Cape Charles Beach. Bring your chair into the shallows of Kiptopeke State Park's beach to cool off and enjoy the view of the eerie concrete ships. Boat out to the wild barrier islands for an adventurous ride that leads into a calm day of watching the sea birds fly overhead as the waves crash into the shoreline. Head to Tangier for a unique experience where the locals will treat you like family. Or hike the trails of Savage Neck Dunes to get to the beautiful beach there, and make sure you check out the dunes while you are there.

Lovin' on the Water Trail

Watersports/Activities

Exploring both the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean are unique experiences you can't get anywhere else in Virginia. If you want to launch the kayak out onto a serene creek, hire a tour guide for a run down on the ecosystem and historical significance of the area, captain your own ship (or Carolina Skiff) for a barrier island beach day, find the best fishing spots, or hit the water bright and early for some waterfowl hunting, this list is for you.

This list is broken down to guide you to local ecotour guides, kayaking guides, kayaking & SUP board rentals, guided fishing trips, guided hunting trips, and launch points for your own watercrafts. Enjoy sunny days full of dolphin sightings, watching ospreys wade through marshes, and water lapping peaceful shorelines.



Explore Our Seaside



Virginia Water Trails



For more resources, check out *Explore Our Seaside* and *Virginia Water Trails*.

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
- 3 Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center**
8231 Beach Rd, Chincoteague, VA
- 4 Assateague Lighthouse**
8231 Beach Rd, Chincoteague, VA
- 5 Tom's Cove Visitor Center**
8586 Beach Rd, Chincoteague, VA
- 6 Captain Timothy Hill House**
5122 Main St, Chincoteague, VA
- 7 Beebe Ranch**
3062 Ridge Rd, Chincoteague, VA
- 8 Makemie Monument Park**
7492 Monument Rd, Temperanceville, VA
- 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
- 14 Samuel D. Outlaw Blacksmith Shop**
Boundary Ave, Onancock, VA
- 15 Eastern Shore Historical Society at Ker Place**
69 Market St, Onancock, VA
- 16 Historic Hopkins Building**
2 Market St, Onancock, VA
- 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
- 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
- 23 Peninsula Tractor Organization Agriculture Museum**
10150 Mill St, Nassawadox, VA
- 24 Bayford Oyster House**
5513 Bayford Rd, Franktown, VA
- 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
- 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
- 33 Concrete Ships at Kiptopeke State Park**
3540 Kiptopeke Dr, Cape Charles, VA
- 34 Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center**
32205 Seaside Rd, Cape Charles, VA
- 35 Eastern Shore Watermen's Museum & Research Center**
6 College Ave, Onancock, VA

Museums

Historic Sites



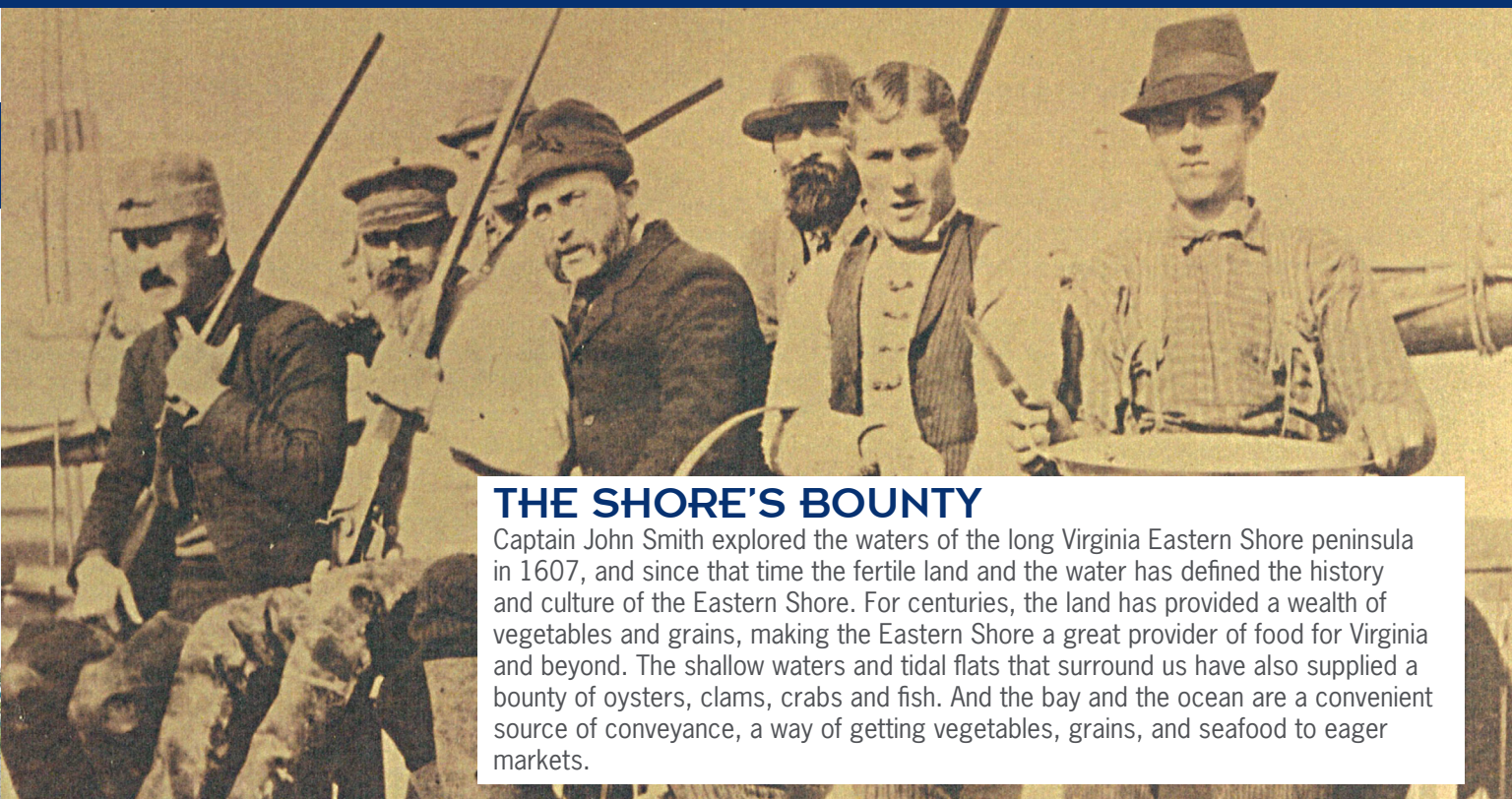
HISTORY

OF VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

By: Curtis Badger



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.



THE SHORE'S BOUNTY

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.

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.



ANNUAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Visit VisitESVA.com to check out our full calendar!

LOWER SHORE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

GROUND "DOG" DAY
OYSTER ROAST & BBQ
Cape Charles Brewing Company

APRIL

LOVE RUN
Cape Charles

BLESSING OF THE FLEET
Cape Charles

BLESSING OF THE WORMS
Cape Charles

EASTERN SHORE HOME
& GARDEN TOUR
Regional

MAY

ART AND MUSIC ON THE FARM AT
BARRIER ISLAND CENTER
Machipongo

JUNE

LE TOUR DE SHORE BIKE RIDE
Regional

CAPE CHARLES BREWING COMPANY
"BEERTHDAY"
Cape Charles

BENEFIT BY THE BAY
ArtsEnter - Cape Charles

JULY

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION
Cape Charles

CONCERTS IN THE PARK
Saturdays after July 4th
through Labor Day
Cape Charles

SHUCK-N-SUCK OYSTER FESTIVAL
AND BOAT DOCKING COMPETITION
AT OYSTER FARM
Cape Charles

MUSICAL THEATRE SUMMER CAMP
ArtsEnter, Cape Charles

AUGUST

EXPERIMENTAL FILM VIRGINIA, GEAR
Cape Charles

SEPTEMBER

OUTDOOR EXPLORATION DAY
Kiptopeke State Park

OCTOBER

BETWEEN THE WATERS BIKE TOUR
Northampton County

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL FAIR
Machipongo

SCARYSTONE
Cherrystone Campground

NOVEMBER

ESVA ARTISANS GUILD
Regional

EASTERN SHORE WINE & BRINE AT
CHATHAM VINEYARDS
Machipongo

CAPE CHARLES MUSEUM OYSTER ROAST
Cape Charles

DECEMBER

HOLIDAY ARTISANS MARKET
Regional

BAY CREEK HOLIDAY TOUR
Cape Charles

FESTIVE FRIDAYS
Cape Charles

GRAND ILLUMINATION &
LIGHTED GOLF CART PARADE
Cape Charles

DROPPING THE CRAB POT
Cape Charles

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT BROWNSVILLE
The Nature Conservancy



Photo provided by Bayside Studios Photography



MIDDLE SHORE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Melfa

MARCH

O'NANCOCK ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
Onancock

APRIL

EASTERN SHORE HOUSE
& GARDEN TOUR
Regional

FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT
Wachapreague

SECOND FRIDAY ART STROLL
Onancock

MAY

ONANCOCK FARMERS AND
ARTISANS MARKET
Onancock

SECOND FRIDAY ART STROLL
Onancock

SUPER SATURDAY TOWN YARD SALE
Onancock

JUNE

LE TOUR DE SHORE BIKE RIDE
Regional

ESVA 3-DAY JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL
Exmore

SECOND FRIDAY ART STROLL
Onancock

WACHAPREAGUE VOLUNTEER
FIREMAN'S CARNIVAL
Wachapreague

JULY

ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT HISTORIC
ONANCOCK SCHOOL
Onancock

SECOND FRIDAY ART STROLL
Onancock

AUGUST

CRAB CRACKIN' AT KER PLACE
Onancock

ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
Exmore

ONANCOCK VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT ANNUAL
CROAKER CLASSIC
Onancock

SECOND FRIDAY ART STROLL
Onancock

SEPTEMBER

SHORE SURF AND TURF
Wachapreague

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK,
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
Exmore

ONANCOCK HARBOR CHALLENGE
Onancock

SECOND FRIDAY ART STROLL
Onancock

OCTOBER

THE GALA AT KER PLACE
Onancock

SECOND FRIDAY ART STROLL
Onancock

PAINT ONANCOCK! A PLEIN AIR EVENT
Onancock

BAY CHALLENGE FISHING TOURNAMENT
Onancock

ANNUAL CAR SHOW
Exmore

EXMORE ROTARY CLUB ANNUAL SOULE
ARNOLD OYSTER ROAST
Exmore



Photo provided by Bayside Studios Photography

NOVEMBER

ESVA ARTISANS GUILD
Regional

RUN FOR THE ANIMALS
Onancock

SECOND FRIDAY ART STROLL
Onancock

TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE
& BRIDGE LIGHTING
Onancock

ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE & OYSTER TASTING
AT HISTORIC ONANCOCK SCHOOL
Onancock

ISLAND HOUSE ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST
Wachapreague

DECEMBER

HOLIDAY DINNER AT KER PLACE
Onancock

HOLIDAY ARTISANS MARKETS
Regional

ONANCOCK CHRISTMAS HOMES
TOUR & MUSIC FESTIVAL
Onancock

FAB FRIDAY'S
Onancock

SECOND FRIDAY ART STROLL
Onancock

LIGHTS ON THE LAWN: A COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY AT KER PLACE
Onancock

ANNUAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Visit VisitESVA.com to check out our full calendar!



UPPER SHORE EVENTS

MARCH

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CHILI COOK OFF
Tall Pines Harbor Campground

APRIL

**EASTERN SHORE HOUSE
& GARDEN TOUR**
Regional

EASTER DECOY AND ART FESTIVAL
Chincoteague

PIG ROAST
Tall Pines Harbor Campground

MAY

**CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND
SEAFOOD FESTIVAL**
Chincoteague

MEMORIAL DAY BEACH LUAU
Tall Pines Harbor Campground

JUNE

LE TOUR DE SHORE BIKE RIDE
Regional

**5TH ANNUAL BAYSIDE
BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL**
Tall Pines Harbor Campground

JULY

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL
Chincoteague

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION
Chincoteague

ANNUAL PONY SWIM AND AUCTION
Chincoteague

**CHINCOTEAGUE VOLUNTEER
FIREMAN'S CARNIVAL**
Chincoteague

AUGUST

CRAB FEAST
Tall Pines Harbor Campground

SEPTEMBER

**HARVEST FEST/TRACTOR
& ENGINE SHOW**
Tall Pines Harbor Campground

OCTOBER

**ANNUAL CHINCOTEAGUE
OYSTER FESTIVAL**
Chincoteague

PARKSLEY FESTIVAL
Parksley

HALLOWEEN EVENTS
Tall Pines Harbor Campground

NOVEMBER

SAXIS ISLAND OYSTER ROAST
Saxis

DECEMBER

OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARADE
Chincoteague

HOLIDAY ARTISANS MARKETS
Chincoteague

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR
Chincoteague

HORSESHOE DROP
Chincoteague

OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS
Parksley



A photograph of a bar interior. The top shelf is filled with numerous bottles of Cape Charles Distillery products, including various whiskeys and vodkas. Below the bottles, there are several clear glass tumblers and shot glasses arranged on a lower shelf. The background is dark wood paneling.

SIPS OF THE SHORE

Black Narrows Brewing

Sit back, relax, and bring on the craft beer! This family-owned and operated small business 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.

Chatham Vineyards

Chatham Farm has been a working farm for four centuries but became a winery in the early 2000s. The Federal brick home, built in 1818, is now a beautiful inn, 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 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 of history and exciting events, Cape Charles Brewing is the perfect restaurant and brewery to relax and enjoy the company of friends and family alike.

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.

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 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.

Photo provided by Bayside Studios Photography

LOWER SHORE



Photo provided by Bayside Studios Photography

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 one of our family camping resorts 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, food and drinks are a hop, skip, and a jump away at the Jackspot at Sunset Beach.



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.

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.

Make like the locals and rent a golf cart to parade around town during the Fourth of July, Christmas, and more. Take a stroll or hop on a bike rental to peruse around town for some window shopping and a close-up view of some of the gorgeous homes. Bust out the fishing gear for an afternoon of fishing at the Cape Charles Pier or try your hand at crabbing with a chicken leg. After a long day in the sun, unwind on your accommodation's large front porch and listen to the crickets chirp.



Photo provided by Mark Atkinson



LOWER SHORE



Photo provided by Virginia is for Lovers

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.

EXMORE

Like many towns on Virginia's Eastern Shore, the town of Exmore came to be because of the railroad that extends down the entire peninsula. The story goes that Exmore got its name because it was the 10th station south of the Delaware state line so there were "X" more stations to go. However, some believe the town's name is a tribute to Exmoor, now a National Park, in Southwestern England.

Today the town has a quaint downtown area with eclectic restaurants, antique stores, consignment shops, a classic diner, and a park. Eat lunch at the Exmore Diner for some delicious Shore-cuisine. Take the kids to the park and let them run free as you relax on the benches or head down Main Street for some window shopping. Pop over to nearby Willis Wharf to launch the boat out and explore Virginia's Barrier Islands for the day.



SMALL TOWN BIG A·R·T

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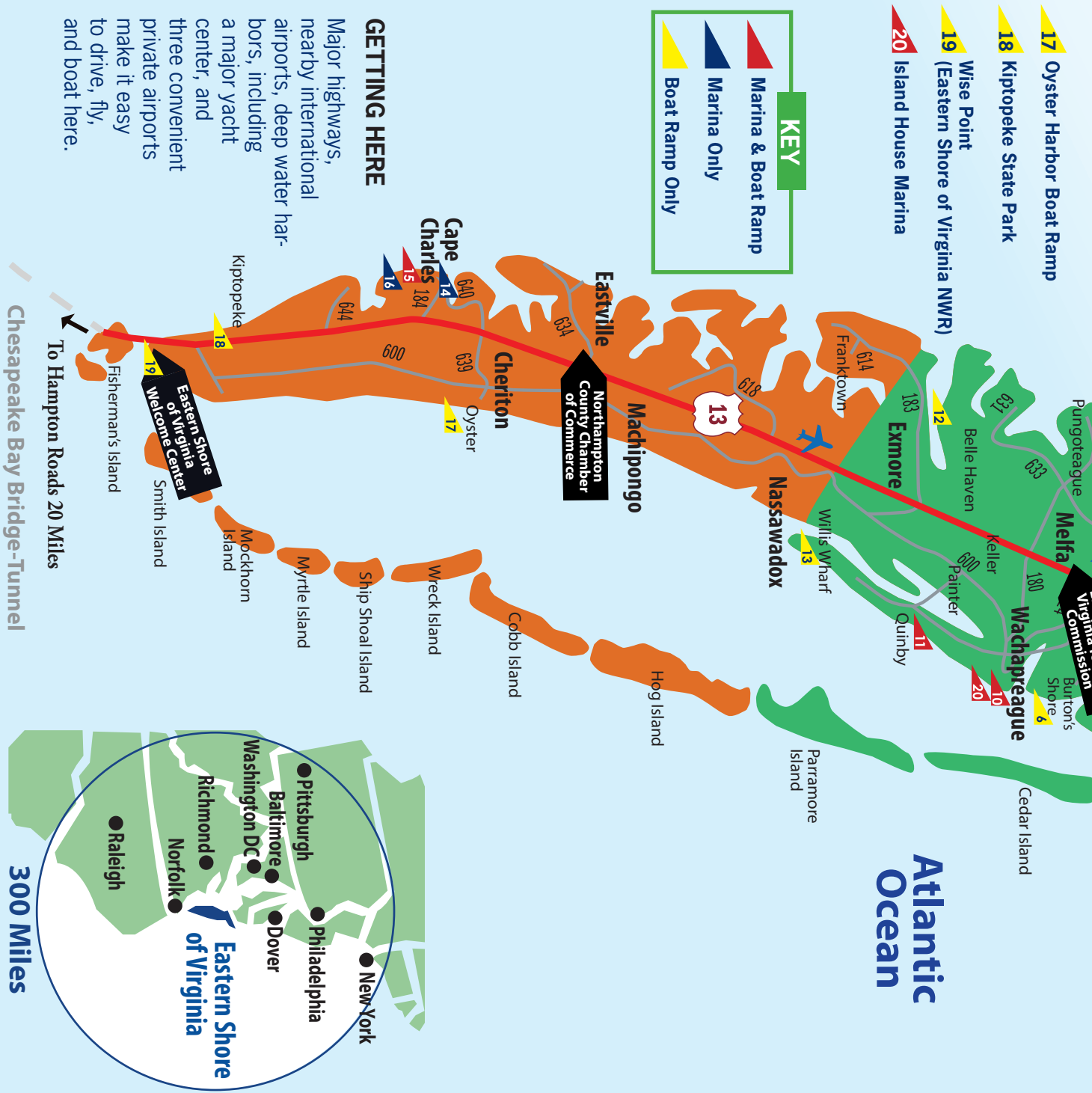
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Eastern Shore of Virginia

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

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- 3 Curtis Merritt Harbor
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- 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



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.

Photo provided by Reba Turner Smith



MIDDLE SHORE



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. P.S. the shores off Wachapreague are home to large nesting sites where migratory birds are often spotted. Local eco-tour guides can get you there and tell you everything you need to know. Shop fine art at Current Reflections, the town's gorgeous art gallery. Ride the Ferris Wheel at the Fireman's Carnival. You must get a clam fritter and funnel cake while you're there too, trust us! Challenge your friends to a game of pickle ball or play a round of tennis at the Herbert Powell Memorial Park. Play bocce ball at the Seaside Park or wander the native plant garden.

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 spoke by the island's first settlers.

Enjoy the quiet and serene Tangier beach for a relaxing and unique way to experience the bay. Head into town for lunch at Lorraine's Snack Bar or Fisherman's Corner. Grab a delicious frozen treat at Four Brothers Crab House & Ice Cream Deck. Take a tour of the elusive crab shanties where the watermen work year-round.



Photo provided by Cameron Evans



Photo provided by Levi Smith

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 a 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. Shop well-curated boutiques, wander the Native Plant Trail at Historic Onancock School, or hang out at the newly renovated playground. Play disc golf with the whole family at the soccer fields or launch the kayak and SUP board from the town's kayak launch. Buy that special someone a Chesapeake Bay bracelet at C.D. Marsh Jewelers or show them you care with an early morning donut run to the Corner Bakery.



Photo provided by On Better Living

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 Bizzotto's Gallery-Café, or experience unique cuisine at Maurice.

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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.

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 the 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.



Photo provided by Bayside Studios Photography

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.



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. Shop local produce and artisanal crafts at the Taste of Eden Produce stand open from 10am-5pm Fridays and Saturdays. Drive to the Mutton Hunk Fen Natural Area Preserve for birding, hiking, and exploring. Bike around town to view the gorgeous Victorian era homes throughout this historic town. Soon, the Eastern Shore Public Library's new library will be open, complete with a research room all about Virginia's Eastern Shore. Stop by for some good reads and relax in the outdoor seating area. Enjoy free Wi-Fi for any last-minute emails on the go!



The Upper Shore is home to many gorgeous and fun campgrounds perfect for RVs, lodging rentals, and tent sites. The amenities are endless. Check out Tall Pines Harbor Campground's splash park, pool, beach, and horseback riding area. Head to the Chincoteague Island KOA for a dog park, playground, pool, and Maui Jack's Waterpark. Stay at Tom's Cove Campground to overlook the Chincoteague Island National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island Seashore.

Photo provided by Tall Pines Harbor Campground



UPPER SHORE

CHINCOTEAGUE

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Photo provided by Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce and Certified Visitor Center


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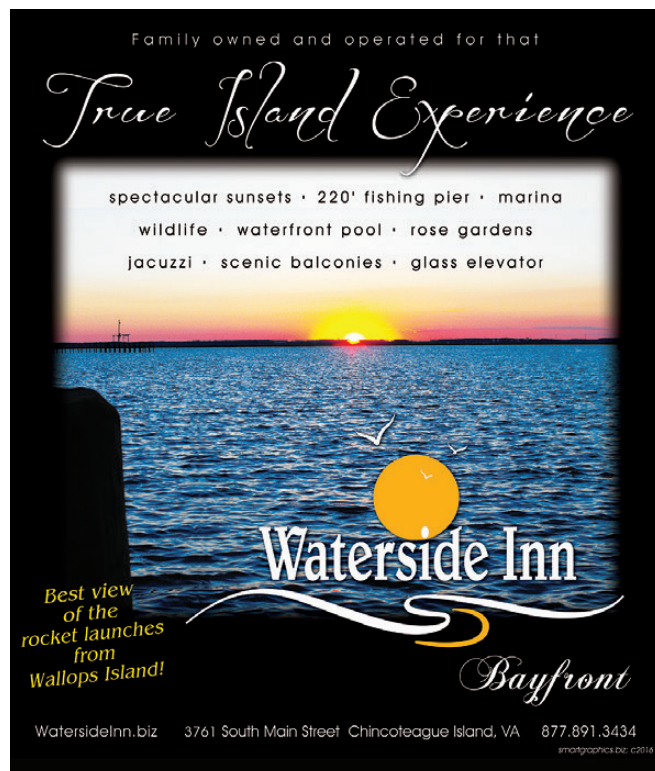
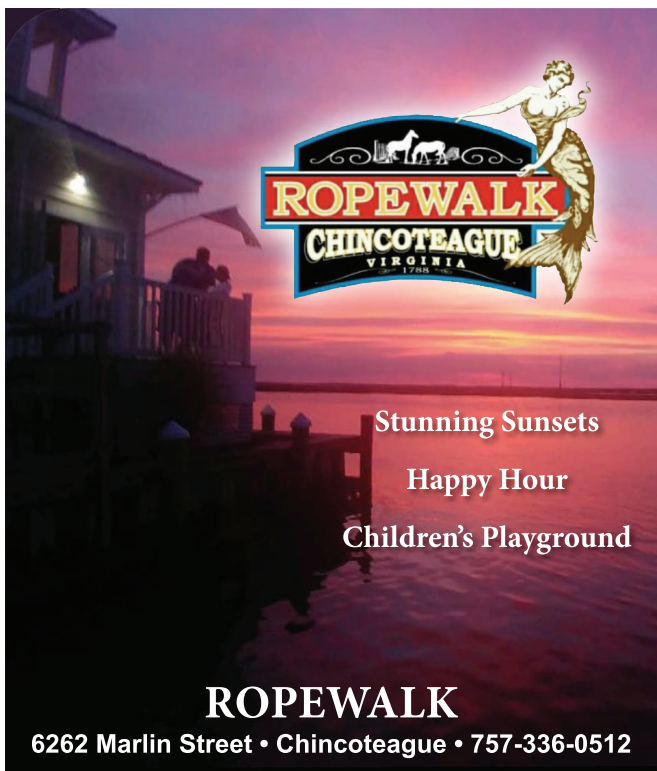
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BIRDING

On VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

By: Roberta Kellam

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is a hotspot for birds and birding; an area where birds naturally congregate and numerous nature preserves, parks and refuges provide ample opportunities for people to get outside and go birding. Here are some tips to get you started!



Photo provided by Roberta Kellam

1. Learn about the birds. Learning to identify the common species and becoming familiar with all the different bird species you might encounter can make birding a lot more fun. "A Field Guide to the Birds" can be purchased from any bookstore. Mobile apps include Merlin by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Sibley, National Audubon Society, and Peterson. These Apps provide location maps and recordings to identify the songs and calls of various species. The website www.allaboutbirds.org provides the same information. With the diversity of habitats on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, one can expect to find bird species from every category: shorebirds, hawks, owls, warblers, woodpeckers, herons, ducks, flycatchers, sparrows and more.

2. Find the best location for the time of year. There are so many different habitats here on the Shore – from marshes, to open water, to maritime forest – and these differing habitats provide home to a diverse variety of bird species. The spectrum of bird life varies greatly from winter, when northern birds arrive to escape the frigid north, to summer, when many of the neotropical migrants are carrying out breeding activities. The Spring and Fall migration seasons on the Eastern Shore are a time when just about any of the 439 species recorded here might show up. To find the best places to see birds on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and for detailed information on what species can be found at various locations and different times of year, check out the Birding Eastern Shore website at birdingeasternshore.org.

3. Go Explore! The Birding Eastern Shore website features local public lands that are open to all, for birding, hiking, kayaking and biking. Once you've ventured out for a birding walk, be sure to bring binoculars, your field guide or app, and appropriate attire. Prepare for the possibility of mud and bugs. The best time to see bird activity is early in the morning, and it is best to walk slowly and speak quietly. For those with mobility limitations, check out easy access locations like the hawk watch platform at Kiptopeke State Park or the marsh overlook at the Willis Wharf boat ramp. For wheelchair accessible trails, the paved bike trail that begins at the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge traverses excellent bird habitat areas including shrubs and fields.

If you have only one long weekend to plan a birding trip to the Eastern Shore of Virginia, the best time to visit is surely fall migration, which is a time with the greatest variety and number of birds. The geography of the Eastern Shore as a peninsula creates a funnel effect which concentrates southbound migrating birds into lower Northampton County. Unlike Spring migration, Fall migration spans a long period, from mid-July through December, depending on the species.

As the migration of most songbirds wanes in mid-morning, the raptors rise in migration, and many days produce counts of 1,000 or more, sometimes up to 5,000. The season starts in August, with American Kestrels and Sharp-shinned Hawks and



Photo provided by Roberta Kellam



Photo provided by Roberta Kellam

Ospreys dotting the clouds, followed soon by Cooper's Hawks, Northern Harriers, Bald Eagles, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons. In September and October, Broad-winged, then Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks put in appearances, with an occasional Golden Eagle or Northern Goshawk. Ever vigilant hawkwatchers regularly observe non-raptors passing overhead, including occasional flocks of Sandhill Cranes and American White Pelicans.

The hawkwatch platform at Kiptopeke State Park, operated by the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, is an excellent place to watch cuckoos, tangers, warblers, vireos, catbird, thrasher, flycatchers, wrens, orioles, and woodpeckers. Pack a folding chair, lunch, and plenty of drinks, and plan to spend the morning walking through the many trails at the State Park and the rest of the day scanning the skies from the hawkwatching platform. Observers standing on the platform have kept a list of all species recorded there, which stands at 279 species.

To make the most of your weekend, plan to spend extensive time on the seaside of the peninsula. While there are many vantage points for viewing the mudflats and marshes by land, it is best to charter a boat with one of the birding tour guides who can take you out to the remote areas where birds are known to congregate. The best locations depart from Wachapreague in Accomack County or Oyster in Northampton County. Go to visitesva.com for a complete list of guides.

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

DINING

LOWER

Cape Charles Coffee House

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

Coastal Baking Company

555 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-2482
coastalbakingco.com

See ad page 18

The Great Machipongo Clam Shack

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

See ad page 18

Sting-Ray's Restaurant

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

See ad page 21

MIDDLE

3 Knots Taphouse

8 North Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 787-1111
3knotstaphouse.com
See ad page 28

The Blarney Stone Pub

10 North Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 302-0300
blarneystonepubonancock.com
See ad page 27

The Charlotte Hotel & Restaurant

7 North Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 787-7400
thecharlotte.com
See ad page 28

Island House Restaurant

17 Atlantic Avenue
Wachapreague, VA 23480
(757) 787-4242
theislandhouserestaurant.com
See ad page 29

Mallards at the Wharf

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

Market Street Grill

151 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 7879-5060
marketstreetgrillonancock.com
See ad page 28

Maurice

145 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 387-4889
facebook.com/mauricefusion
See ad page 28

UPPER

The Ropewalk

6262 Martin Street
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-0512
ropewalk.com
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

MIDDLE

Bay Country Kayaking

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

Burnham Guides Paddling Adventure

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

See ad page 27

Seaside Ecotours

34 Atlantic Avenue
Wachapreague, VA 23480
(757) 710-2454

Tangier-Onancock Ferry

Onancock Wharf
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 891-2505
tangierferry.com

See ad page 27

UPPER

Chincoteague Island Adventures & Waterfowl Hunting

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

EVENTS & FESTIVITIES

UPPER

Chincoteague Island Blueberry Festival

6155 Community Drive
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 894-2334
chincoteagueblueberryfestival.com
See ad page 34



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GOURMET & SPECIALTY FOOD

LOWER

Gull Hummock Gourmet Market

115 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-1500
gullhummock.com
See ad page 17

MIDDLE

Corner Bakery

36 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 787-5420

See ads page 28

North Street Market

5 North Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 787-8805
northstreetmkt.com
See ad page 27

The Onancock Farmers & Artisans Market

20 or 22 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 710-2028
onancockmarket.com
See ad page 27

UPPER

The Island Creamery

6243 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-6236
islandcreamery.net
See ad page 33

HOTELS & RESORTS

MIDDLE

Charlotte Hotel & Restaurant

7 North Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 787-7400
thecharlotte.com
See ad page 28

Wachapreague Inn

1 Main Street
Wachapreague, VA 23480
(757) 787-2105
wachapreagueinn.com
See ad page 29

UPPER

America's Best Value Inn & Suites

6151 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 787-2105
americas-best-value-inn/va/chincoteague-island/americas-best-value-inn-suites-chincoteague-island
See ad page 34

Best Western Chincoteague Island

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

Comfort Inn & Suites

4195 Main Street
Chincoteague, VA 2336
(757) 336-3700
chincoteaguecomfortsuites.com
See ad page 34

**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 33

Refuge Inn

7058 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-5511
refugeinn.com
See ad page 33

Sea Shell Motel & Cottages

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

Waterside Inn

3761 Main Street
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-3434
watersideinn.biz
See ad page 33

**LOCAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

LOWER

Cape Charles Main Street

299 Randolph Avenue
P.O. Box 567
Cape Charles, VA 23310
capecharlesvirginiascapes.com
See ad page 19

MIDDLE

Onancock Main Street

6 College Avenue
Suite 108
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 693-7093
onancock.com/community
See ad page 26

**MEDICAL &
WELLNESS**

Bayside Chiropractic Rehab & Laser

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

SERVICES

Eastern Shore Custom Carts

713 Randolph Ave
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 999-2278
escustomcarts.com
See ad page 17

SHOPPING

LOWER

Buoy 56

209 B Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 695-3824
buoy56.com
See ad page 17

Moonrise Jewelry

325 Mason Ave
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 678-0055
moonrisejewelry.com
See ad page 17

Periwinkles

215 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 678-2481
periwinklesva.com
See ad page 17

Table & Tonic

233 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 651-6772
tableandtoniccapecharles.com
See ad page 21

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

**Dawn's- A Unique Shop for
Women and the Home**

63 Market Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 789-7700
shopdawnonline.com
See ad page 28

**The Dogwood Branch
Consignment Shop**

4 North Street
Onancock, VA 23417
(757) 787-8012
shorehistory.org
See ad page 27

UPPER

Beach & Bead

6759 Maddox Boulevard
Unit B
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-6464
facebook.com/beachandbeachchincoteague



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SEE AND DO

SUMMER CAMPS

LOWER

ArtsEnter

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

See ad page 17

TOWNS

MIDDLE

Town of Wachapreague

6 Main Street
Wachapreague, VA 23480
(757) 787-7117

wachapreague.org

See ad page 29

VACATION RENTALS

LOWER

Blue Heron Vacation Rentals

7134 Wilsonia Neck Drive
Machipongo, VA 23405
(757) 678-5200

blueheronva.com

See ad page 19

Chesapeake Properties

7 Fig Street
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-8100

chesapeakeproperties.com

See ad page 20

Long & Foster Cape Charles

300 Mason Avenue
Suite A
Cape Charles, VA 23310
(757) 331-2500

longandfoster.com

UPPER

Chincoteague Resort Vacations

6426 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-3100

chincoteagueresort.com



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Eastern Shore Retreats

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

Harbour Rentals

6455 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-5490
harbourrentals.net

See ad page 33

Long & Foster Chincoteague Island

6426 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague, VA 23336
(757) 336-5100
longandfoster.com

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
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LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

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Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge
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Oyster Museum • Miniature Golf
Tennis Courts and more!



8128 Beebe Rd. Chincoteague Island, VA 23336 757.336.6498
www.tomscovepark.com tomscovepark@verizon.net



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