COASTAL VIRGINIA: EASTERN SHORE

A narrow 70-mile peninsula jutting out between the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia’s EASTERN SHORE is a true getaway. Spend your days exploring quaint waterfront towns and nearby barrier islands – the largest stretch of wild coastline remaining on the East Coast. Just be sure to leave time for your bucket list experiences, a NASA space launch, a bird-watching adventure and the world’s renowned Chincoteague Pony Swim.

PET-FRIENDLY
Take the kids, take the dog – or just the dog! Sunset Beach Resort Hotel and onsite campground welcomes the entire crew. To ensure that the four-legged member of your entourage has a good time, Sunset Beach has set aside dog-special recreation areas. Fido can splash to his heart’s content at Sandy Paws Dog Beach and romp with other dogs at Beach Bark Dog Park. And “pawrents” can enjoy the resort’s many perks for humans!

BUCKET LIST
Tangier Island, 12 miles out in the Chesapeake Bay, feels like taking a shuttle back in time. Residents retain their distinctive traditional accent – Southern meets Irish. Visitors can rent bicycles and golf carts to navigate the historic town; enjoy water and land tours; go kayaking and fishing; observe the natural ecosystem; and feast on fresh seafood. The water that has provided a living for generations of families is gradually taking the island away, so capture its spirit while you still can.

ICONIC
Discover Chincoteague’s wild ponies. The legendary summertime pony penning has been a part of Eastern Shore life since the 1700s. It grew in popularity after 1947, aided by the book “Misty of Chincoteague.” You can spot these beautiful animals roaming nearby Assateague Island year-round. On a boat or kayak tour, your guide – likely a “Teaguer” native – steers you to the best places for spotting the shaggy, sturdy ponies while weaving in the island’s colorful tales and bringing the legends to life.

WHAT’S NEW
Maurice, a “Fine Fun Fusion” restaurant in the tiny tidy town of Onancock, uses local ingredients in a creative menu marrying global flavors. There’s the Obscenely Stuffed Lobster Pad Thai, for example, blending oodles of seafood with a sweet soy vinaigrette and adding sides highlighting Virginia Ham and limoncello-kissed snap peas. Maurice offers more alliterative fun with palate-pleasing specials: BBB (Burger, Beer and Bourbon) and PPP (Pulled Pork and Pinot). And the garden patio pairs scrumptious food with fresh air.

HIDDEN GEM
The barrier islands of Virginia stretch along the coastline, sheltering the Eastern Shore from the ocean. These narrow strips of land hosted resorts, hunting lodges, life-saving stations, watermen and the families and communities that supported them. The Barrier Islands Center captures the stories of these islands through exhibits that resonate with life. The museum, “Heart of the Community, Soul of a Culture,” transports you to the days before hurricanes and the Great Depression ended the barrier island way of life.

BUCKET LIST

Tidal marshes, waterways and the Chesapeake Bay hug the little town of Saxis. The drive to town passes through Saxis Wildlife Management Area – nearly 6,000 acres of pristine marshland with abundant flora and wildlife galore. After the views of water and nature have soothed and inspired you, drop by Saxis restaurants for fresh seafood prepared with a locavore touch. Saunter along the public pier. Or visit the Saxis Island Museum to learn more about local watermen and the Chesapeake Bay.

INSTAGRAM-WORTHY
As if the iconic red-and-white-striped Assateague Lighthouse isn’t photogenic enough from the ground, you can climb to the top for 360-degree views and bragging-right pics. Climb 175 steps – the same steps that lighthouse keepers climbed hourly to keep the light burning – for awesome panoramic views of the woodlands, marshlands and waterways of Assateague Island and Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge. Be sure to post your gratitude for the lives that this 150-year-old lighthouse has saved!

ASK A LOCAL
“My ancestors came to the Eastern Shore in 1640; I’m in the ninth generation. The Eastern Shore represents many things to me. Whether I’m boating, hunting or fishing, it represents access to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay. On any given day, I can be in the water or just watch the sun setting over the Bay. The Eastern Shore also provides opportunities to participate in the community and make a difference; it truly is the Land of Pleasant Living.” — Charlie Russell, WESR Radio, The Shore
Welcome Center at New Church
Virginia Tourism Corporation
Access U.S. Rdt 13 North & Southbound
U.S. 13, 340 Lankford Hwy.
New Church, VA 23415
757-824-5000

Eastern Shore of VA Chamber of Commerce
1906 Parkway, Melfa;

Eastern Shore of VA Welcome Center
32383 Lankford Hwy., Cape Charles; 757-331-1460; esvatourism.org. Open seven days a week, 8:00am-4:30pm.

Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel
32386 Lankford Hwy., Cape Charles; 757-331-2900; cbbt.com. An engineering marvel spanning the Chesapeake Bay (toll road).

Seaside Water Trail

Virginia Barrier Islands
757-331-1460; esvatourism.org. The East Coast’s longest string of wild barrier islands.

Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail
804-367-1000; dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/coastal-trail. Stop at designated areas along 70-mile-long peninsula.

ACCOMAC
Accomac Walking Tours
From Ft. Accomac; 757-787-2460. 1700s homes, clerk’s office with 1663 records, American Revolution cannon.

CAPE CHARLES
Bay Creek Resort & Golf Club
3 Clubhouse Way, Cape Charles; 544-620-2900; baycreekresort.com. 27 magnificent holes of Palmer and Nicklaus golf.

Cape Charles Lighthouse
West side of southern section of Smith Island; cheslights.org/cape-charles-lighthouse. Best view is from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel or by boat.

Cape Charles Museum & Welcome Center
804 Randolph Ave., Cape Charles; 757-331-1089; smallmuseum.org/capechas. History of the town, railroad, ships and operational diesel generator.

Custis Tomb

Kiptopeke State Park
3340 Kiptopeke Dr., Cape Charles; 757-331-2267; virginiastateparks.gov.

Eastern Shore of VA Chamber of Commerce
1906 Parkway, Melfa;

Eastern Shore of VA Welcome Center
32383 Lankford Hwy., Cape Charles; 757-331-1460; esvatourism.org. Open seven days a week, 8:00am-4:30pm.

Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel
32386 Lankford Hwy., Cape Charles; 757-331-2900; cbbt.com. An engineering marvel spanning the Chesapeake Bay (toll road).

Seaside Water Trail

Virginia Barrier Islands
757-331-1460; esvatourism.org. The East Coast’s longest string of wild barrier islands.

Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail
804-367-1000; dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/coastal-trail. Stop at designated areas along 70-mile-long peninsula.

ACCOMAC
Accomac Walking Tours
From Ft. Accomac; 757-787-2460. 1700s homes, clerk’s office with 1663 records, American Revolution cannon.

CAPE CHARLES
Bay Creek Resort & Golf Club
3 Clubhouse Way, Cape Charles; 544-620-2900; baycreekresort.com. 27 magnificent holes of Palmer and Nicklaus golf.

Cape Charles Lighthouse
West side of southern section of Smith Island; cheslights.org/cape-charles-lighthouse. Best view is from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel or by boat.

Cape Charles Museum & Welcome Center
804 Randolph Ave., Cape Charles; 757-331-1089; smallmuseum.org/capechas. History of the town, railroad, ships and operational diesel generator.

Custis Tomb

Kiptopeke State Park
3340 Kiptopeke Dr., Cape Charles; 757-331-2267; virginiastateparks.gov.

Visit Virginia’s Eastern Shore where the sun rises over the Atlantic Ocean and sets over the Chesapeake Bay. Enjoy charming small towns, scenic natural areas, secluded beaches, delicious seafood, and more.

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS visitsesva.com
CHINCOTEAGUE
Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce & Certified Visitor Center

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center

Museum of Chincoteague Island

EASTVILLE
Eastville Courthouse

Museum of Chincoteague Island

Museum of Chincoteague Island

HACKS NECK
Mouse Beach Fruit Farm

KIPTOPEKE
Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge

MACHIPONGO
Barrier Islands Center

ONANCOCK
Onancock Marine Street
PO Box 4, Onancock 757-693-2000; experienceonancock.com. Nonprofit partnering with the community to keep Onancock vibrant.

Eastern Shore Watermen’s Museum and Research Center

Northampton County Chamber of Commerce

TANGIER ISLAND
Tangier Island Museum & Interpretive Cultural Center
4242 Main Ridge Rd., Tangier Island 757-493-2374; tangierislandva.com. Learn the island’s history, explore water-trails with kayaks.

WALLOPS ISLAND
Chincoteague Bay Field Station
34001 Mill Dam Rd., Wallops Island 757-442-4150; chincoteaguebayfieldstation.org. Learning adventures and programs that explore coastal ecosystems.

Vacation tips are available in print and online. Chincoteague Island Chamber of Commerce & Certified Visitor Center

Virginia is for Lovers®
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

Eastville Courthouse

Museum of Chincoteague Island

Hacks Neck
Mouse Beach Fruit Farm

Kiptopeke
Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge

Machipongo
Barrier Islands Center

Onancock
Onancock Marine Street
PO Box 4, Onancock 757-693-2000; experienceonancock.com. Nonprofit partnering with the community to keep Onancock vibrant.

Eastern Shore Watermen’s Museum and Research Center

Northampton County Chamber of Commerce

Tangier Island Museum & Interpretive Cultural Center
4242 Main Ridge Rd., Tangier Island 757-493-2374; tangierislandva.com. Learn the island’s history, explore water-trails with kayaks.

Wallops Island
Chincoteague Bay Field Station
34001 Mill Dam Rd., Wallops Island 757-442-4150; chincoteaguebayfieldstation.org. Learning adventures and programs that explore coastal ecosystems.

Vacation tips are available in print and online. Chincoteague Island Chamber of Commerce & Certified Visitor Center

Virginia is for Lovers®