COASTAL VIRGINIA

THE COASTAL VIRGINIA region begins just east of Richmond, meanders along Chesapeake Bay tributaries and ends along the beautiful coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Featuring historic icons, classic theme parks and beautiful shorelines, it’s the ideal destination for a classic family getaway, satisfying history buffs, thrill seekers and beach loungers alike!

FROLIC

Catch some waves at Virginia Beach Oceanfront! A little sun and surf make for the ultimate vacation feeling, while entertainment, shops, restaurants and more are only a few feet away on the expansive three-mile boardwalk. Stroll, bike, rollerblade or surrey your way to a selfie with the 12-ton “Neptune” statue. Looking for something more secluded? Escape to Sandbridge to enjoy a week of bliss in your house rental (perfect for families and groups) and feel right at home among the sand dunes and dancing sea oats. Close proximity to the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park offer great kayaking, hiking and fishing.

EXPERIENCE

From the first permanent English settlement in North America through the Revolutionary War and beyond, Virginia is rife with opportunity to travel through time. Begin with an archeological exploration of the New World at Historic Jamestowne. Nearby, Jamestown Settlement’s costumed interpreters bring your discoveries to life – in outdoor replicas of English ships, a colonial fort and a Powhatan Indian village. Head into the 18th century at Colonial Williamsburg to try out weaving or brickmaking at the world’s largest living history museum before reliving the 1761 British surrender at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Round out your journey with a trip to the Fort Monroe National Monument to hear four centuries of stories, featuring American Indians, Captain John Smith and the first enslaved Africans to arrive in English North America – as well freedom seekers like Harriet Tubman and others who have shaped the history of this prominent site.

TASTE

Tickle your tastebuds along the Salty Southern Route, a journey into the culture and traditions of Virginia’s renowned peanuts, pork products and salt-cured hams. Venture through Smithfield (the namesake to Smithfield Foods), Suffolk (home to world-famous Planter’s Peanuts), and other quaint southern communities as you explore culinary roots of historic – and tasty – proportions.

ESCAPE

In Hampton Roads, the USS Wisconsin is one of the largest and last battleships ever built by the U.S. Navy; take a tour, stay overnight and get a taste of history. Think you can beat the clock in a battle of wits? Test your skills for an hour and catch the spy at the USS Wisconsin Escape Ship! As the nation’s only battleship escape room, this is one excursion you can’t miss!

THRILL

Place your bets at the new Colonial Downs Racetrack and Rosie’s Gaming Emporium in New Kent! You’ll experience the thrill of live horse racing, as well as the heart-pounding excitement of the Historical Horse Racing machines, where the jackpot awaits. Check their schedule for free post-race entertainment, where live music will keep the party going. Plus, enjoy the whiskey bar for exceptional spirits and their restaurant, 1609, for unique Southern flavors that showcase the Commonwealth’s essence.
EXPERIENCE AN INSPIRED WEEKEND IN

Hampton

Sea To Stars Ticket
MANY ATTRACTIONS. ONE LOW PRICE.
Hampton’s 410-year legacy as the city “First from the Sea, First to the Stars” is captured in this combination ticket that mixes history, adventure, water recreation and fun. Explore some of Hampton’s best attractions at one low price.

Hampton University Museum
HISTORY COMES TO LIFE.
Founded in 1868, the Hampton University Museum is America’s oldest African American museum. Located on the historic Hampton University campus that dates to the same year, the museum features more than 9,000 pieces of African American, traditional African, Native American, Native Hawaiian and Asian art.

Fort Monroe
REMEMBER AND REFLECT.
It is the site where the first Africans brought to English North America landed in 1619. During the Civil War, it became known as “Freedom’s Fortress” following the controversial Contraband Decision, prompting thousands of enslaved people to seek sanctuary within its walls. Today visitors from around the world come to this National Monument and walk in the footsteps of these courageous individuals.

Virginia Air & Space Center
REACH FOR THE STARS.
The visitor center for NASA Langley Research Center is a world-class facility featuring more than 100 “hands-on” exhibits that tell America’s exciting story of air and space exploration. See the Apollo 12 Command module, a Mars meteorite and even a three-billion-year-old moon rock.

Drinks and Dining
BRING YOUR APPETITE.
Hampton is a farm-and-sea-to-table haven, with coastal flavors, craft beverages and of course, delectable Southern dining. Whether in Downtown, Phoebus, Fort Monroe, Coliseum Central or a hidden hot spot, you’ll find a dish to savor.

Carousel
FEEL LIKE A KID AGAIN.
Take a ride on Hampton’s fully restored 1920 merry-go-round on the city’s downtown waterfront. It is a work of American folk art, and also a ton of fun, with prancing steeds and stately chariots painstakingly carved from fine-grained hardwood and painted by European immigrant artisans.

Miss Hampton II
CAST OFF FOR ADVENTURE!
All aboard! Take a harbor cruise, and enjoy a unique and exciting nautical experience around the Hampton Roads harbor. See water views of Fort Monroe and Fort Wool, the world’s largest naval base, and the site of the Battle of the Ironclads during this popular April – October daily cruise.

A Hampton visit traces a centuries-long legacy of culture, cuisine, and innovation. Discover Virginia Air & Space Center, Hampton University, Chesapeake Bay beaches, Virginia’s historic harbor, and Fort Monroe, the site of the first recorded African landing in English North America in 1619.
GET INSPIRED AT VISITHAMPTON.COM
CALL 800-487-8778

CAPRON Indian History: From Barter - To Trade to Technology. 17020 Indian Landing Rd., 757-448-9990; caproninc.com. The history of native americans and their interaction with the colonists.

CULPEPER The Charles H. Taylor Arts Center 4002 Virginia Blvd., 757-271-6495; hamptonarts.org. The oldest, continuously operating African American arts institution in the country.

HAMPTON Hampton Visitor Center 1205 Hampton Blvd., 757-722-2571; hampton.gov. The perfect blend of natural beauty and recreational activities.


NEW Kent New Kent Visitor Center 2004 Vineyard Drive, 804-966-7450; newkentva.gov. Let the moments begin.

HAMPTON Virginia Air & Space Center 1820 Eastern Ave., 757-722-2571; hampton.gov. The oldest, continuously operating African American arts institution in the country.

Parke County Pennsylvania - A hidden gem. A short drive away from the Virginia Main Street community.


NEW Kent 23124 

New Kent County 


Virginia Beach

Southern Neck Richmond, VA 23224 

Richmond, VA 23224 

Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau 3000 Gurney Ave., 757-425-6424; visitvirginiabeach.com. Experience more than 400 years of Hampton history.

experiencemore.org. $

Virginia Beach Convention 

Visitor Center 2000 Virginia Blvd., 757-331-4500; vbvb.org. Visit the center offering maps, directories, discounts, coupons and more.

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City Center at Oyster Point

Civil War Driving Tour

CRU’s Ferguson Center for the Arts
Christopher Newport University, 1 Avenue of the Arts, 757-594-8752; Fergusoncenter.org. Offering a schedule of concerts, recitals and plays to benefit area youth and families.

Doe Park

Dowding Gross Cultural Arts Center
2420 Wickham Ave., 757-247-8930; dowdinggross.org. Restored historic 1875 building with community arts gallery and meeting spaces. 275-seat theatre, named after Newport News native Ella Fitzgerald, hosts year-round entertainment.

Endview Plantation
362 Brickyard Rd., endview.org. Built in 1739. Endview Plantation is now a living history museum. During the Peninsula Campaign, it served as headquarters for Confederate generals McCaus and Toombs.

The Founders’ Trail

Hannay’s Mill Park
Orona Rd., 757-886-7912; hannaysmillpark.org. Freshwater fishing, paddle boating, hiking, picnicking, 15-mile nature trail and mountain bike trail.

Historic Hilton Village
Warwick Blvd. at Main St., 757-886-7777; newport-news.org. English village-style neighborhood, built during WWII for shipyard workers.

Historic North End/Huntington Heights
Huntington Ave. at Warwick Blvd., 757-886-7777; newport-news.org. National Historic Register district, with homes built in early 1900s.

Historic Jamestowne
BILL CRABTREE, JR.
Norfolk is happening! From an action-packed waterfront to a tantalizing culinary and craft beer scene. So get away and do something different in Norfolk, Virginia. We’ll show you how we vacay. To get started, check out visitnorfolk.com
Armed Forces Memorial Beside Town Point Park, 757-644-6200, virginmilitaryhistory.org/locations/army-armmnemorial-25. Twenty-one state, federal and local ship commemorations. Admission is free. 

Arthur and Phyllis Kaplan Oral Conservatory Between Hampton Blvd and Elizabeth Ave at 44th St. near the Perry Library, 757-383-5835; oralconservatory.org/what-we-do. The building houses the offices of the Virginia physician Arthur Kaplan. The Attackos Theatre 1012 Church St., 757-622-4763; sacc-norfolk.org. Multicultural performances, engaging in music, theater, comedy and performing arts, engaging in music, theater, comedy and performing arts.

Battleship Wisconsin One Waterline Dr., 757-644-1000; navalstationnorfolk.com/battleship-wisconsin. Visit one of the last battleships built by the US Navy.

Chrysler Museum Glass Studio 740 Blake St., 757-625-4211; chrysler.org. Lively glassmaking demonstrations compliment the museum’s extensive glass collection.

Chrysler Museum of Art One Memorial Pl., 757-444-1000; chrysler.org. World-class art collections, stunning glass galleries and interpretive programs.

CAMP Center 740 Blake St., 757-625-4211; chrysler.org. Watch, create, learn, collect and enjoy work from contemporary artists.

Elmwood Cemetery 238 East Princess Anne Rd., 757-444-2770; Elmwood Cemetery. Founded in 1870, Elmwood Cemetery is a national historic landmark.

Mansion Myers House 322 E Freemason St., 757-333-1087; chrysler.org. This is the oldest brick building in America.

Nautica 757-444-1000; nautica-norfolk.com. Nautica explores the natural, cultural and economic power of the sea through hands-on exhibits, demonstrations, 10 films and the mighty Battleship Wisconsin!

Newport News Shipyard 9200 Newport Blvd., 757-444-9500; shipyardcrn.com/register/ora/installations/ newport-news. Call or visit our website for tour availability and information.

Norfolk Botanical Garden 601 E Azalea Garden Rd., 757-441-5800; norfolkbotanicalgarden.org. 270 gorgeous acres, 10 themed gardens and trails.

Norfolk Southern Museum 3 Commercial Pl., 757-425-3255; nsmuseum.org. Exhibits, demonstrations, 3D animations, hands-on activities, including the world’s largest flywheel created by the N.S. Railway.

Norfolk State Planetarium 700 Park Ave., 757-324-8600; norfolkstate.edu. Visit the world’s first planetarium, created in the mid-20th century by the famous scenic designer Jo Mandel.

Papada Garden and Teahouse 265 West Tazewell St., 757-625-0550; papagarden.org. Home to huge koi pond and over 125 species of Asian plants and flowers.


Saltwater Farms Freshwater 101 High St., 757-393-5111; visitportsva.com. Visit the hillhousemuseum.org. Among the largest and brightest of its kind, with more than 250 prisms of optical glass.

Atlantic Union Bank Pavilion 16 Crawford Cir., 757-393-8181; pavilionconcerts.com. 6,500 capacity waterfront venue hosting live entertainment.

Carrie B Horner Tower 321 High St., 757-393-6962; commodoretheatre.com. 1940s and 1950s dance floor!

Children’s Museum of Virginia 221 High St., 757-393-5248; childrensmuseumva.com. Interactive exhibits full of fun and learning that spark the imagination.

The Hill House 221 North St., 757-393-0245; norfolkbotanicalgarden.org. The first home of William Byrd II, a Virginia governor and admirer of Shakespeare.

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum 221 High St., 757-393-5248; norfolkbotanicalgarden.org. Established 1972; completed exhibit across the water, boat and history. Tours available.

Lake Drummond—Suffolk

Lake Drummond—Suffolk

Lake Drummond—Suffolk

Lake Drummond—Suffolk
Parade Creek Nature Park

Pokey Smoke II
140 City Park Ave., 757-393-8446; portsmouthva.com. A rare tea that runs on gasoline rather than coal.

Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center
401 High St., 757-393-1541; portsmouthartcenter.com. Offering quality educational art exhibits, lectures, classes and performances.

Portsmouth City Park
Links at City Park

Portsmouth Colored Communities Library Museum
904 Elm Ave., 757-393-8666; portsmouthva.com. Celebrating the African-American heritage through written records, photos, artifacts, and memorabilia.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum

Portsmouth Splash Park
900 Elm Ave., 757-393-8481; portsmouthva.com. Open Tuesday-Sunday. 11am–7pm. Free admission.

Railroad Museum of Virginia
Center of Court & Wythe Sts., 757-393-2494; railroadmuseumofvirginia.com. A 1950s steam locomotive with walk-through galleries.

Path of History Walking Tour
4 Crawford Pkwy., 757-393-5111; visitportsva.com. Brick walkways with two 75,000-pound propellers, historical signs and artifacts.

SMITHFIELD
Smithfield Taphouse
213 Main St., 757-393-5182; portsmouthva.com. Combined visitor center & taphouse. Open 7 days a week. Gift shop.

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WALcK IN THE FOOTSTEPS
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first permanent English Settlement
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101 Visitor Center Dr.,
757-220-7645; museumsvb.org.

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121 Visitor Center Dr.,
757-229-6511; colonialwilliamsburg.com/
plan/visitor-center. The
official regional visitor
center with information on
area tourism.

Visit Williamsburg
241 North Boundary St.,
757-229-6511; williamsburg.org.

The Art Museums Of Colonial Williamsburg
877-686-6121; colonialwilliamsburg.com/art-museums. Quirky
exhibits, whimsical wildlife,
carousel characters,
backboards bonanzas,
British ceramics, antique
instruments, textiles,
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