

COASTAL EASTERN SHORE

Cape Charles

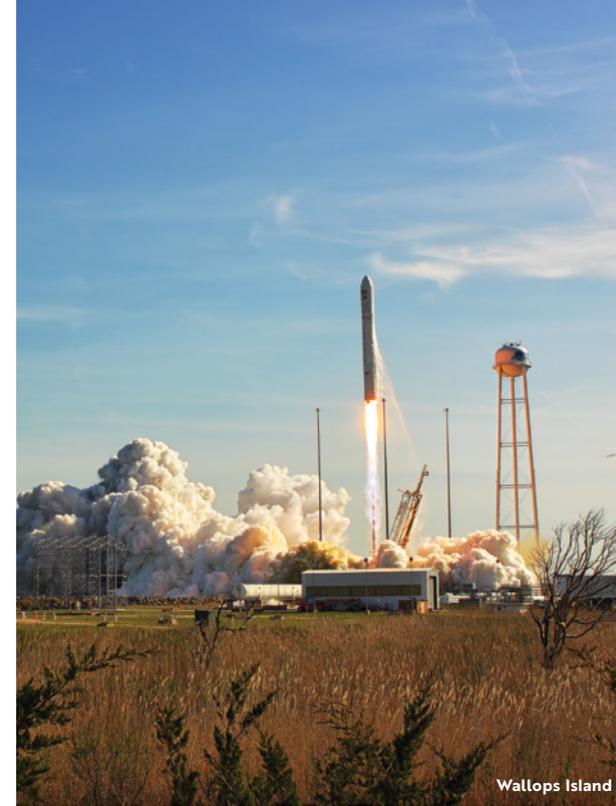


A narrow 70-mile peninsula jutting out between the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia's **EASTERN SHORE** is a true getaway. Spend your days exploring quaint waterfront towns and nearby beaches, as pristine as they are vast. Or venture off shore to explore a paddler's paradise of undeveloped 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-renowned Chincoteague Pony Swim.

ADAM LEWIS

LAUNCH

Did you know NASA has been launching rockets from the **Eastern Shore Center on Wallops Island** since 1945? Now you can see it for yourself! Home to one of only four major locations in the U.S., this flight facility offers resupply rockets for the International Space Station and hosts moon missions, education programs and more. The **NASA Wallops Visitor Center** offers exhibits on the history of space, special programs and weather satellites. Space camp is offered every summer, but book early to get a spot for lift off!



Wallops Island

CELEBRATE

Spend a long summer weekend in Chincoteague for memories that will last a lifetime at the **95th Annual Pony Swim**. Join thousands of visitors from around the world to watch the renowned Salt Water Cowboys round up herds of beautiful wild ponies on nearby **Assateague Island** and guide them down the beaches and across the Assateague Channels for a festival and pony auction on **Chincoteague Island**. The auction helps control the herd size, which helps preserve the delicate salt marsh ecosystem, and is also a fundraiser for the local Volunteer Fire Company, which uses the proceeds to provide care for the ponies.



Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

WALLOPS ISLAND: MIKE DEEP / CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE; SKYLAR ARIAS ADVENTURES

DISCOVER

Prep for adventure with a stay at the **Inn at Onancock** and a hearty breakfast with hosts Matt and Kim Spuck. Then cruise on over to **Tangier Island**, a tiny spit in the middle of Chesapeake Bay that's only accessible by boat, plane or ferry from Onancock (or Reedville). Listen for a dialect that dates back to the Elizabethan era while gorging on seafood at the famous **Chesapeake House** and exploring the island by bike or golf cart; play on the wild beach, observe unique bird wildlife and pop into the **Tangier History Museum** for the full experience. Water lovers can even book a sailing trip with **Onancock Sailing Adventures** or a paddling trip with **Burnham Guides** to explore the waterways that connect to Tangier.

BASK

In beautiful **Cape Charles**, the public beach boasts calm, shallow waters that are perfect for the kids to practice their sandcastle engineering skills. Rent kayaks or paddleboards for the more active family members; dining, shopping, B&Bs and a town pier perfect for fishing are all within walking distance. Visit the **LOVEwork** art, a piece that perfectly represents the community and its history. Rest your head at the recently remodeled, pet-friendly **Sunset Beach Hotel and Beach Club** (also offering an onsite campground with deluxe cabins, safari tents and room for your deluxe RV), with private beach, resort pool and more.

SAVOR

Explore the sleepy Victorian-era town of **Wachapreague**, populated by only 200 permanent residents and surrounded by farmland, woods, water and some of the only undeveloped wetlands and barrier islands in the Mid-Atlantic. Bird watchers can enjoy spring and fall migrations, watching thousands of birds take flight across the region. Dig for clams, fish or rent a kayak to see every detail up close. Don't skip dining at the most popular place in town, **Wachapreague Island House Restaurant**, where you'll devour fresh seafood, award-winning crab cakes and delicious burgers, all while overlooking the picturesque harbor.



Eastern Shore of VA Chamber of Commerce
19056 Pkwy., 757-331-1660; esvachamber.org. Contact for Eastern Shore information.

Eastern Shore of VA Welcome Center
32383 Lankford Hwy., 757-331-1660; esvatourism.org. Open seven days a week, 8:30am-4:30pm.

Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel
32386 Lankford Hwy., U.S. 13, 757-331-2960; cbbt.com. An engineering marvel spanning the Chesapeake Bay (toll road).

Seaside Water Trail
804-698-4323; deq.state.va.us/coastal/seasidewatertrail. Kayak pristine and hidden waterways. Discover wildlife and the Shore's unique maritime heritage.

Virginia Barrier Islands
757-331-1660; 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
Front St. (Bus. Rt. 13), 757-787-2460. 1700s homes, clerk's office with 1663 records, American Revolution cannon.

Accomack Debtor's Prison
State Rte. 764, 757-331-1600; esvatourism.org. Unusual penal architecture dating to the 1780s.

CAPE CHARLES
Cape Charles Museum & Welcome Center
814 Randolph Ave., 757-331-1008; smallmuseum.org/capechas. History of the town, railroad, ships and operational diesel generator.

Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge
5003 Hallett Cir., 757-331-2760; fws.gov/refuge/eastern_shore_of_virginia. Beautiful visitor center and trails for viewing wildlife and scenery.

Kiptopeke State Park
3540 Kiptopeke Dr., 800-933-7275; virginiastateparks.gov.

Cape Charles Lighthouse
West side of southern section of Smith Island; lighthousefriends.com. Best view is from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel or by boat.

Custis Tomb
SW of Cape Charles, Arlington Rd., just off Rt. 13, 757-787-8268; esvatourism.org. Grave site for Custis family, including Mary Randolph Custis, wife of Robert E. Lee.

Welcome Center at New Church
Virginia Tourism Corporation
Access U.S. Rt.13 North & Southbound
U.S. 13, 3420 Lankford Hwy.
New Church, VA 23415
757-824-5000

EASTVILLE
Northampton County Chamber of Commerce
16404 Courthouse Rd., 757-678-0010; northamptoncounty.com. Contact for information about Cape Charles and Northampton County attractions.

Eastville Courthouse
16404 Courthouse Rd., 757-678-0466; co.northampton.va.us/gov/oldcourthouse. Contains the oldest continuous county court records in the U.S., dating from 1632.

HACKS NECK
Mason Beach Fruit Farm
29113 Mason Beach Rd., 757-442-7287; masonbeachfruitfarm.com. Pick your own fruit in a beautiful park-like setting.

CHINCOTEAGUE
Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce & Certified Visitor Center
6733 Maddox Blvd., 757-336-6161; chincoteaguechamber.com. Chincoteague and Assateague Islands offer beaches, wildlife and wild ponies.

Assateague Island National Seashore
8586 Beach Rd., 757-336-6577; nps.gov/asis. Tom's Cove visitor center, nature activities, unspoiled beaches, ocean swimming.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
8231 Beach Rd., 757-336-6122; fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague. Beaches, walking & bicycling trails. Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administration Center.

Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, 8231 Beach Rd., 757-336-6122; fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague/visit/plan_your_visit.html. Enjoy our beautiful exhibits, trails, photography, Assateague Lighthouse and more!

Museum of Chincoteague Island
7125 Maddox Blvd., 757-336-6117; chincoteaguemuseum.com. Local history, lighthouse lenses, shipwrecks and home of Misty.

OYSTER
Village of Oyster
From Rt. 13, East from Cheriton 2 miles on 639. Seaside fishing village specializing in oysters.

PAINTER
Blue Crow Antique Mall
32124 Lankford Hwy., Rt. 13, halfway between Painter and Keller, 757-442-4150; bluecrowantiquemall.com. 35,000 square-feet. 200 antique shops under one roof. Open 11am-6pm everyday.

PARKSLEY
Eastern Shore Railroad Museum
18468 Dunne Ave., 757-665-7245; parksley.org/eastern_shore_railway_museum.htm. Step into the restored station and step back in time.

TANGIER ISLAND
Tangier Island Museum & Interpretive Cultural Center
16215 Main Ridge Rd., 757-891-2374; tangierisland-va.com. Learn the Island's history, explore water trails with kayaks

WALLOPS ISLAND
Chincoteague Bay Field Station
34001 Mill Dam Rd., 757-824-5636; cbfieldstation.org. Learning adventures and programs that explore coastal ecosystems!

NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center
Bldg. J-20, Rt. 175, 757-824-1344; nasa.gov/centers/wallops/visitorcenter. Exhibits, programs and events featuring NASA's Wallops Flight Facility.

WILLIS WHARF
Village of Willis Wharf
From Rt. 13, East from Exmore 2 miles on 603. Seaside fishing village formerly known as "Clam Town."



Assateague Lighthouse

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