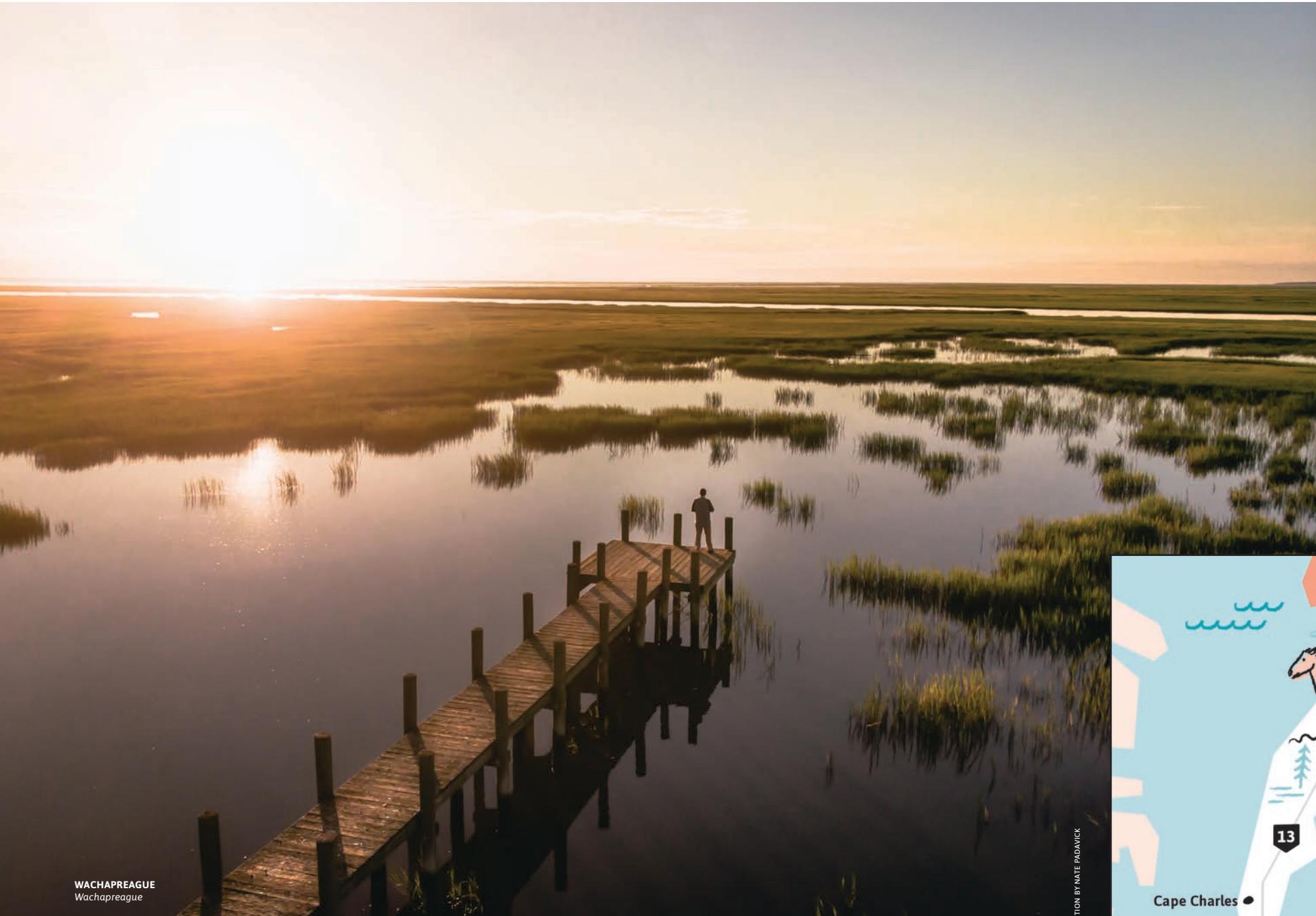


COASTAL VIRGINIA: EASTERN SHORE

This 70-mile-long peninsula that separates the Chesapeake Bay from the Atlantic Ocean attracts many for its endless shoreline. Traveling to the Eastern Shore is an excursion in its own right; it's accessible from Virginia only by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, beckoning 360-degree panoramic water views. With its unique position, this region maintains spellbinding terrain, culture and wildlife.



WACHAPREAGUE
Wachapreague

ADAM LEWIS

ADAM LEWIS / ILLUSTRATION BY NATE PADAVICK



CAPE CHARLES
Cape Charles

EXPERIENCES THAT DEFINE THE REGION

The Islands

The Eastern Shore is home to 14 barrier islands with preserved rugged beauty. Visiting any island is a treat, from their fantastic beaches to fresh seafood. And, we can't forget the breathtaking views.

The Wildlife

More than 78,000 acres of preserved parks, refuges, preserves and a national seashore reflect the priority given to protecting beautiful natural habitats, and the biodiversity is something to marvel at. The Eastern Shore offers opportunities to see wild horses, go bird watching and more.

Wallops Visitor's Center

Channel your childhood astronaut dreams at one of NASA's only four rocket launch facilities in the U.S. This flight center welcomes visitors to explore space and their past missions at their visitors center, open Tuesday through Sunday.

LOCAL FAVORITES

Four Brothers Crab Shack

You can't visit the Chesapeake Bay without a great seafood meal. Locals venture to Four Brothers Crab Shack on Tangier Island for a casual, delicious meal, great for the whole family!

The Inn at Onancock

A cozy beach weekend isn't complete without the most adorable BnB. The Inn at Onancock is just that, in a gorgeous Victorian-style home. With just five rooms, and charming names to match them, it's well worth planning a trip.

Island Creamery

Ice cream pairs with a beautiful day by the water in Chincoteague. This shop is a local favorite, serving homemade, unique ice cream flavors. After one bite, this place will bring out the kid in anyone.

Charming Coastal Towns

Tucked throughout the region are charming towns holding histories you won't find anywhere else. With BnBs, local restaurants and endless waterfront views, you'll definitely feel inclined to stop in and stay awhile.

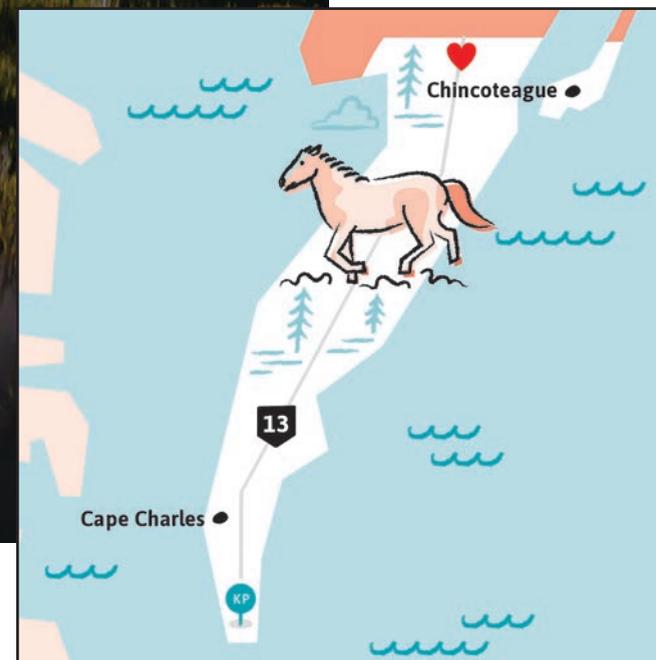
WHAT WE RECOMMEND FOR FIRST-TIMERS

Chincoteague Island

This treasured destination is one of the few places in the country where you can see majestic wild ponies. After viewing the island's impressive wildlife, you can rent bikes, take a stroll or even go for a swim at the nearby Assateague Beach.

Explore Cape Charles

On the southern end of the Eastern Shore lies a town with something for everyone. Cape Charles sports the charm, with awesome local businesses, Victorian homes and sandy beaches with calm Bay waters. The best part is it's right off the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.





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Chincoteague

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Eastern Shore of VA Chamber of Commerce
 19056 Parkway, Melfa; 757-787-2460; esvachamber.org. Contact for Eastern Shore information.

Eastern Shore of VA Welcome Center
 32383 Lankford Hwy., Cape Charles; 757-331-1660;
visitesva.com. Open seven days a week, 9am-5pm.

Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission
 19056 Parkway, Melfa; 757-787-8268; visitesva.com.

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

Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge
 5003 Hallett Cir., Cape Charles; 757-331-2760; fws.gov/refuge/eastern_shore_of_virginia.

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.

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CAPE CHARLES

THINGS TO DO

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.

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

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

Kiptopeke State Park
3540 Kiptopeke Dr., Cape Charles; 757-331-2267; virginiastateparks.gov/kiptopeke.

CHINCOTEAGUE

Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce & Certified Visitor Center
6733 Maddox Blvd., Chincoteague Island; 757-336-6161; chincoteaguechamber.com. Assisting travelers to the islands for a memorable experience.

THINGS TO DO

Assateague Island National Seashore - Tom's Cove Center
8586 Beach Rd., Chincoteague; 757-336-6577; nps.gov/asis. Beachcombing exhibits, educational brochures, marine aquariums, bookstore, passes and permits, lost and found, and emergency services are available.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
8231 Beach Rd., Chincoteague; 757-336-6122; fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague.

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

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

EASTVILLE

THINGS TO DO

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

MACHIPONGO

THINGS TO DO

Barrier Islands Center
7295 Young St., Machipongo; 757-678-5550; barrierislandscenter.com. Preserves history of those who once called deserted islands home.

Pear Valley
Pear Cottage Dr., Wilsonia Neck, Machipongo; 757-331-4689; preservationvirginia.org/visit/historic-properties/pear-valley. Structure dates to 1740. By appointment only.

NASSAWADOX

The Nature Conservancy
11332 Brownsville Rd., Nassawadox; 757-442-3049; nature.org. Works to protect and restore the unique wildlife of the Virginia coast.

ONANCOCK

THINGS TO DO

Eastern Shore Waterman's Museum and Research Center
Historic Onancock School, 6 College Ave., Onancock; 757-665-5771; eswatermen.org. Celebrates heritage of watermen.

Ker Place
69 Market St., Onancock; 757-787-8012; shorehistory.org. National Register 1799 mansion houses Eastern Shore history museum.

PAINTER/KELLER

THINGS TO DO

Blue Crow Antique Mall
32124 Lankford Hwy., Rt. 13, halfway between Painter and Keller, Painter; 757-442-4150; bluecrowantiquemall.com. 35,000 square-foot, 200 antique shops under one roof. bluecrowmall@gmail.com. 10am-5pm everyday.

PARKSLEY

THINGS TO DO

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

TANGIER ISLAND

THINGS TO DO

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

WALLOPS ISLAND

THINGS TO DO

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

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

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