The Chesapeake Bay Region is not far from the hustle-and-bustle of major cities in Virginia — yet with its coastal charm, travelers will feel miles away. Comprised of quaint towns hidden in coves and along creeks, the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula boast 1,800 miles of riverside shoreline. This region is steeped in iconic history, natural beauty and small-town charm. From the local restaurants and farmers markets serving up fresh seafood to the quaint bed and breakfasts and unique shops, a journey to this region will leave you with a true taste of “rivah” and Bay life.

- **BOOK A STAY** at Bella Grove Plantation Bed & Breakfast, birthplace of James Madison, in King George. Stay in a suite named for one of the families who lived there since the 1600s. Enjoy afternoon tea, special events and the sweep of the Potomac flowing by.
- **ENJOY THE SECOND LARGEST BEACHFRONT** in Virginia at Colonial Beach. Stroll the Boardwalk and Riverwalk along the Potomac. Enjoy the marinas and many downtown dining options. Be sure to try Northern Neck Ginger Ale, bottled since 1926 in nearby Montross. Pick up a bottle or two of Monroe Bay Winery small batch wines and ciders at the Monroe Market in Colonial Beach.
- **GET OUT YOUR PIE RECIPES** and head to Westmoreland Berry Farm to pick your own strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries. You can buy jam, shortbread and ice cream in the gift shop, and don’t forget to play with the goats!
- **INDULGE IN THE FRUITS of eight premiere wineries on the Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail. Get a Limited Edition Tasting Pass, go to special events like art and oyster crawls, or try one of the sample itineraries provided.**
- **SEEING THE BAY BY BOAT?** Dock at the Urbanna Town Marina at Upton’s Point, where everything you need is within walking distance. Or hop on the town trolley for a tour of the town’s historic buildings, including one of the few Colonial courthouses still standing. If you’re in the mood for some southern BBQ, try Something Different in downtown Urbanna.
- **FOR FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN, stay at Bethpage Resort, near Urbanna. You’ll have trouble deciding which fun thing to do first when you see the water park, indoor pool, hot tubs, playgrounds, Rappahannock River cruise and more.**
- **EXPERIENCE THE FINE POINTS** of native oyster flavor at Merroir, in Topping. A play on the wine-culture word “terroir,” Merroir refers to the variations in aquatic environment which give the oysters their distinctive flavors. Enjoy them paired with world-famous wines and crisp ciders at this family-owned oyster business. For an immersive experience, try Urbanna Seafood & Raw Bar. This restaurant features a seafood market and you can ask for a tour of the shucking house a crab tank and get some pictures of the deadrise boats at the dock.
- **LEARN TO SAIL** at one of several local sailing schools: Norton Yachts, Stingray Academy, Attwater’s Academy. Try one-hour harvest trip and learn the art of shucking. And of course, eat plenty of oysters.
- **ATTEND THE VIRGINIA OYSTER ACADEMY** at the Historic Tides Inn in Irvington. Learn about oyster ecology, accompany a Virginia waterman on a one-hour harvest trip and learn the art of shucking. And of course, eat plenty of oysters. Or rent a room at the Inn at Abbs Creek in Mathews where you can borrow a kayak and paddle to Main Street. Be sure to check out the Dog & Oyster restaurant, great antique and gift shops and the Gwynn’s Island Museum on Mathews, too.
- **EARN YOUR WINGS** with the experience of a lifetime: a flight in a vintage open-cockpit Warbird with Bay Aviation in Topping. Flights run from 15 to 60 minutes. Or take a scenic Bay tour in a single-engine Cessna.
- **VISIT STRATFORD HALL,** the ancestral home of the famous Lee family, and birthplace of General Robert E. Lee. Hear their fascinating Colonial and Revolutionary War history, attend an 18th-century play or enjoy fall foliage from a kayak on the Potomac River.
- **ATTEND THE VIRGINIA OYSTER ACADEMY** at the Historic Tides Inn in Irvington. Learn about oyster ecology, accompany a Virginia waterman on a one-hour harvest trip and learn the art of shucking. And of course, eat plenty of oysters. Or rent a room at the Inn at Abbs Creek in Mathews where you can borrow a kayak and paddle to Main Street. Be sure to check out the Dog & Oyster restaurant, great antique and gift shops and the Gwynn’s Island Museum on Mathews, too.
- **LEARN TO SAIL** at one of several local sailing schools: Norton Yachts, Stingray, Point, Fishing Bay, Christchurch or Premier. If you already have a boat, reserve a transient slip at Delaware Yachting Center and borrow the courtesy car to explore around town.
- **IMMERSE YOURSELF IN HISTORY** at Gloucester Courthouse where the last British troops surrendered and marched down Main Street in 1781. A Virginia Main Street Community, Gloucester features boutique shops, two breweries and excellent restaurants.
**Chesapeake Bay**

**NORTHERN NECK TOURISM COMMISSION**
411 Main St., Wicomico, 22480
804-338-1276; tourism@virginia.org

**Hampshire sites, territorial recreation, canopy, wine, and education!**

**NORTHERN NECK WATERTRAILS**
804-338-1276; tourism@virginia.org
Waterfalls along the creeks and tributaries of the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers and Chesapeake Bay.

**COLONIAL BEACH**

**COLONIAL BEACH MUNICIPAL FISHING PIER**
Beck Terrace, Colonial Beach 22443
804-224-7181; colonialbeachva.net
Fishing pier standing over the Potomac River.

**MUSEUM AT COLONIAL BEACH**
120 Main St., Colonial Beach 22443
804-224-3379; museumatcolonialbeach.com
History of 18th-century fishing and fishing pier on Potomac River.

**IRVINGTON**

**DAHLGREN**

**DAHLGREN HERITAGE MUSEUM & TOURISM INFORMATION CENTER**
1081 James Madison Hwy., Colonial Beach 22443
540-663-3861; dahlgrenmuseum.org
Interpreting stories that make Dahlgren a jewel of national defense.

**KILMARNOCK**

**KILMARNOCK MUSEUM**
75 N. Main St., Kilmarock 22482
804-436-9100; northernneck.org
Recalls early days of the bustling town, first settlers at Steptoe’s Ordinary until 1776.

**HEATHSVILLE**

**RICE’S HOTEL/HUGHNETT’S TAVERN**
7509 Virginia Avenue, Heathsville VA 22473
804-580-3377; rhhtfoundationinc.org
18th-century tavern, heritage arts center & buildings and genealogy research center.

**LUVINA BAY**

**KING GEORGE COUNTY**

**KING GEORGE COUNTY MUSEUM**
156 King Carter Dr., Irvington 22480
804-438-6888; steamboateramuseum.org
Rice window, shipyard, water trails along the creeks and tributaries of the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers and Chesapeake Bay.

**BELLE ISLE STATE PARK**
8076 Kings Hwy., King George 22485
540-775-4386; king-george.va.us
Gateway to the historic Northern Neck of Virginia.

**LEXINGTON**

**LEXINGTON HERITAGE MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
604 W. Main St., Lexington 24450
804-462-7280; mbwm.org
Lancaster County exhibits, historic district buildings and genealogy research center.

**KING GEORGE**

**STEAMBOAT ERA MUSEUM**
11617 Caledon Rd., King George 22485
540-775-0975; steamboateramuseum.org
Steamboat era museum and museum building.

**HICKORY HOLLOW NATURE PRESERVE**
1632 Belle Isle Rd., Lancaster 22503
540-720-4295; dcr.virginia.gov
254 acres, mixed pine-hardwood forest, ravines and cabin swamp.

**LANCASTER COUNTY**

**BASSETT MUSEUM**
450 Main St., Warrington 22582
804-438-6855; christchurch1735.org
National Historic Landmark and one of America’s finest Colonial churches.

**KING GEORGE MUSEUM**
Located at the Old Jail at the King George Courthouse, King George 22485
540-775-2555; kinggeorgeva.org
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**HISTORIC CHRIST CHURCH & MUSEUM**
3240 Christ Church Rd., Weems 22576
804-438-6888; steamboateramuseum.org
Recalls early days of the bustling town, first settlers at Steptoe’s Ordinary until 1776.

**KING GEORGE MUSEUM**
Located at the Old Jail at the King George Courthouse, King George 22485
540-775-2555; kinggeorgeva.org
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804-462-7280; mbwm.org
Lancaster County exhibits, historic district buildings and genealogy research center.

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540-775-2555; kinggeorgeva.org
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GLOUCESTER NATURE AND BIRDING TRAIL
6400 Main St., Gloucester 23061
804-983-2284; natureandbirding.org
Self-guided maps, eight trails, part of Virginia land trust.
GLOUCESTER POINT BEACH PARK
1700 Gloucester Point Rd., Gloucester, VA 23061
804-693-2355; visitgloucesterva.info
Picnic, beach, tow path, bike trail, kayak, fishing, pier.
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE CIRCLE
4637 Courthouse Rd., Gloucester 23061,
804-693-2284; visitgloucesterva.info
Virginia’s oldest courthouse, 1732, oldest building in Gloucester.
ROSEWELL RUINS
1255 Greate Rd., Gloucester, VA 23061,
804-693-2355; visitgloucesterva.info
Interpreted walk along York River explains area’s history, ecology, significance.
NEW POINT COMFORT LIGHTHOUSE
5719 Old New Point Rd., Gloucester 23061
804-693-2284; visitgloucesterva.info
New Point, built 1857, third oldest lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay.
MIDDLESEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
807 Middlesex Dr., Saluda 23149
804-758-2613; urbannava.gov
67,777 acres, waterfront, pier, kayak launch, pavilion, Overton Park, beach, trail, world-class 1/2-mile semi-banked dirt oval raceway and pit road.
MIDDLESEX COUNTY MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
777 General Puller Hwy., Saluda 23149
804-758-2613; urbannava.gov
Built in 1815, the oldest wooden structure in the Chesapeake Bay.
HISTORIC CLERK’S OFFICE
1807 General Pulley Dr., Saluda 23149
804-758-2613; urbannava.gov
Circa 1747, craftsmen’s block overlooks Saluda River; 1785 brick building.
HIS TOURS AND MONTICELLO
807 Middlesex Dr., Saluda 23149
804-758-2613; urbannava.gov
Tours and educational programs covering the Revolutionary War and American history.
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