

COASTAL CUISINE

When you're at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest and most biologically diverse estuary, the culinary experience brings seafood to another level. Sure, you can have it on a platter, but don't miss the totally unique fusion of flavors that happens as local chefs join farm-fresh fruits and vegetables with fresh-caught seafood. Where net-to-table meets farm-to-table, you'll be wishing there were more than three meals a day. Mix it up with these Virginia Beach dining experiences.



1 Create your own progressive dinner

Sample the resort area. Rent a beach cruiser, hop off at different spots for appetizers, a main course and dessert. Here's hoping you burn as many calories as you take in. Contact local food tour companies for options.

2 Celebrate local favorites

Let events and festivals throughout the year be your guide to the area's most celebrated specialties. The Virginia Beach Restaurant Association's Restaurant Week, Beach Event's Mediterranean Weekend, and the East Coast She Crab Soup Classic are just a sampling of the delicious events. Many other wine and beer festivals also offer great deals and fantastic flavor.

3 Breakfast hideaways

Rise early and find your way to one of several unique local breakfast haunts. Settle in for a crab

omelet, or a stack of pancakes with local strawberries on the side. Fish tales from the resident "old salts" are free of charge.

4 Fresh catch, provided by you

Local restaurants like Waterman's and Dockside will prepare your catch in a variety of ways. *Call ahead.*

5 Paddle to Blue Pete's

Take a guided Paddle Feast tour to kayak the waters of Back Bay to a favorite local restaurant.

6 Coffee at sunrise

For the cottage set, the day begins with your favorite brew and a spectacular sunrise, and culminates with a true beach feast – steamed crabs and shrimp from a local market, enjoyed atop newspapers on a picnic table.

7 Farm-grown sweetness

Fresh produce stands will keep you eating healthy, even on vacation. Try Pungo strawberries and locally-grown tomatoes, or visit one of our local Farmers Markets.

8 True romance

Think you'd be a true romantic if only the Atlantic Ocean could provide a beautiful sunset to go with your dinner? No worries, head to the Chesapeake Bay Area and watch the big red ball sink into the water.

9 Go upscale

For a taste of the cosmopolitan life after a day in the sun, head to Town Center for dining, shopping and entertainment.

Virginia restaurants are smoke-free.



