



KID STUFF & Family Fun

In Virginia Beach, there's no age limit on feeling like a kid. Whether you're building castles in the sand or gliding through the treetops, these fun spots will unleash the child at heart.

See Family & Kids listings on page 60 and online at VisitVirginiaBeach.com

HAPPY KIDS, HAPPYTIMES

With plenty of sun, sand, surf, entertainment and outdoor adventure, we offer an ideal getaway for kids of all ages, making it easy for the whole family to enjoy the beach life. There are several ways to have fun in and out of the sun, including **Ocean Breeze Waterpark** and **iFly Va Beach**, a state-of-the-art indoor skydiving complex, just to name a few. And, at the Resort Beach, kids will go bananas over the first beach playground in the country designed specifically for children and adults of all physical capabilities, **JT's Grommet Island Beach Park & Playground**.

SMILES ON EVERY SHORELINE

There are miles and miles of beach for families to discover, complete with an abundance of activities to keep the little ones entertained. At the **Resort Beach**, enjoy a stroll along the three-mile oceanfront boardwalk, lined with hotels, museums and shops, including plenty of ice cream stops along the way! Take a surrey ride with the kids or simply build sandcastles in the sand. Every night from Memorial Day through Labor Day, experience free live concerts and theatrical productions hosted by **Beach Street U.S.A** up and down the beach. If you have younger children, you may opt for the calmer waves and shallow waters of **Chesapeake Bay Beach**, which edges the Chesapeake Bay and is also known for its many dockside restaurants and ample opportunities to take up kayaking or paddle-boarding – or simply bask in a gorgeous sunset. If you're looking to get away from it all, **Sandbridge Beach** provides an island-like sanctuary with beautiful rental homes lining the Atlantic Ocean and tucked against the pristine Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge.





TRUE VB FUN FOR ALL



EXPLORE THE OCEAN'S DEPTH

Engage in plenty of sneaky learning at **Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center**, Virginia's largest aquarium and one of the most visited in the nation. The museum chronicles the state's various aquatic and marine environments throughout time and features more than 800,000 gallons of aquariums and live animal habitats. Kids will love seeing more than 300 species of animals up-close-and-personal, including rare Komodo dragons, exotic cobras, spotted eagle rays and more.

SHARE A WILD ENCOUNTER

Take the family aboard the **Rudee Flipper** or the **Atlantic Explorer** to see our coastal wildlife from center-stage. In the spring, watch the wake as dolphins race to keep pace and learn about these amazing creatures from trained professionals. In the winter, boat excursions provide the opportunity to see humpback and fin whales make their migration through the Atlantic, where they spend the winter months in our warmer waters.

BRING ALONG YOUR COASTAL PETS

Your four-legged family members are always welcomed, and we want them to enjoy a paw-sitively perfect vacation with you! From the ocean to the bay and at dog parks and hiking trails in between, whether swimming, hiking, fetching or joining you for a paddle-boarding lesson, we love seeing coastal pets make the most of their visit. Before you travel, be sure to familiarize yourself with the seasonal restrictions (see page 36), and as always, be mindful of keeping your fur-baby on a leash and cleaning up after them.

EXPLORE THE TREETOPS

Thrill-seekers ages five and up will love playing high up in the trees at the Adventure Park at Virginia Aquarium, as they zip through the air, up to 150 ft. high, and complete a variety of leveled ropes courses. Climb from bridge to bridge to experience a variety of challenges, outdoor fun and self-discovery suited for the entire family.

For Fun

THREE Beaches

It's true. Virginia Beach is more than just a beach. In fact, we have *three* – each with its own distinct personality, kind of like you! Each offers unique ways for experiencing the beach, whether on the ocean or on the bay. Which will you choose?

Here, the beach life is exactly what you need it to be. Sometimes we come to be right in the heart of the action. Other times, we need to get far away from it all. And then there are moments we just want to dip our toes into the experience at our own pace. Virginia Beach knows what really makes vacation dreams come true: options.

Each is blessed with beautiful, sandy shores, yet our three unique beach experiences are distinctly different thanks to the lifestyle of each area's authentic local culture. Boardwalk treks, surf shops and fun-filled days at the Resort Beach. Water sports, local hideaways and nature walks down in Sandbridge. Long lazy days, dockside dining and sunset views along the Chesapeake Bay. With unique experiences just a few miles in each direction, you're free to choose the beach vibe that works for you every day.



Resort BEACH

To ride the wave of energy Virginia Beach is famous for, head to the oceanfront **Resort Beach**, where the three-mile boardwalk has given rise to a bustling vacation scene. Born of a surf culture that values access for all, the boardwalk is home to every kind of classic beach vibe. From waterfront dining to seashell shopping, frosty treats to surly bikes, amusements to street performers, it's a family-friendly atmosphere. Where luxury hotels share the stage with local businesses that have endured for generations, the welcome is warm and real. With fresh coastal dining in abundance, and local trolley service making it easy to reach nearby attractions like the Virginia Aquarium, the Resort Beach keeps everyone entertained and happy.



Sandbridge BEACH

For outdoor adventure lovers and solitude seekers alike, **Sandbridge Beach** feels just right. This favorite day trip destination for locals is just 15 miles south of the Resort Beach. Thanks to the buffer provided by **Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge**, the short drive to Sandbridge is a journey to another world. Here, you'll find an isolated barrier island feeling, with wide beaches dotted by cottages and vacation getaways that you know are full of love and laughter. Surrounded by nature and easy access to trails and waterways to explore, outdoor outfitters are part of the local scene, along with some great restaurants. You can even combine the two with a kayak dinner at Blue Pete's. A little ways inland, there's more local food culture and rural heritage to discover at working farms like New Earth Farm and events like the annual Pungo Strawberry Festival.



Chesapeake Bay BEACH

If chilling out is your goal, there's a getaway waiting just for you at **Chesapeake Bay Beach**. On the north end of Virginia Beach's Atlantic shore, the calming transition is evident right there in the waves. Bay waves don't crash; they lap, creating a quiet your soul can feel. Combine that relaxed vibe with the laid-back ease of dockside crab houses, friendly watering holes and the area's favorite dog-friendly hiking destination, First Landing State Park, and you've got the best kind of chill. Just when you think the day is over, the sun sets over the water, and your beached-out bliss is complete.

BEACH Entertainment

The perfect vacation is a balancing act, with equal parts familiar relaxation and new experiences. While the coastal setting does its part to deliver the relaxation, Virginia Beach really excels at bringing the excitement of experiencing something new. Hosting festivals year-round, attracting major talent and cultivating an upbeat atmosphere where smile-inducing moments just happen naturally, we inspire good times in a variety of ways.

See Entertainment listings on page 61 of this guide and online at VisitVirginiaBeach.com.



FREE (OR NEARLY FREE) FUN

The beach life is all-inclusive, so watching your budget is no reason to be left out of the fun. Of course, there's never a charge to access the beaches here, so our most spectacular attraction provides hours of free fun. Add oceanfront parks, a visit to King Neptune and a splash under a boardwalk shower, and you'll imagine the seagulls are saying "cha-ching" on your behalf. But there's so much more – throughout the summer, oceanfront evenings come alive with all kinds of free performances thanks to **Beach Street U.S.A.** puppeteers, musicians, magicians, jugglers and more who entertain crowds on the sidewalks of Atlantic Avenue from 17th to 25th Streets seven nights a week. All year long, the boardwalk is home to free **festivals and cultural events**, celebrating everything from seafood to Caribbean music. And no beach vacation is complete without a visit to the **Virginia Beach Amusement Park**, where admission is free and ride tickets are piggy-bank friendly.

JAMS BY THE OCEAN

Without waves, we wouldn't get to experience music at all. Here, sound waves and ocean waves are totally in sync, and you can be part of it at oceanfront music festivals, concerts and performances throughout the year. From weekend-long events featuring multiple national acts on giant stages set up on the sand, to the happy surprise of hearing a choral group, symphony or small combo do their thing at one of the park stages along Atlantic Avenue, the variety is impressive. Pop, rock, country, beach music, big band, classical, bluegrass, R&B – if you can hum it, you can hear it at the oceanfront.

UPTOWN FUN

There's nothing like city vibes to amp your vacation experience, and **Town Center** delivers the electricity. With high-rise hotels, shops, restaurants and bars to keep you entertained and a central park to give you moments under the stars, it's a happening place any time of year. Hosting summer concerts, seasonal festivals and grand holiday celebrations, Town Center is especially known for its performance venues; **The Funny Bone** and **Sandler Center for the Performing Arts** attract national talent on a regular basis. For a night out with artisan chocolates, a deep wine selection and hundreds of craft brew choices, Town Center is the spot.

SHOPPING /S ENTERTAINMENT

Seriously, it is. For the design-inclined, shopping is endlessly entertaining when you can choose unique handcrafted items, fashion statements, home goods and more. Whether you're in search of resort wear and coastal decor or outlet browsing and bargain hunting, there's a great selection at every price point for shopping enthusiasts. Check out the latest and share some family fun at **Lynnhaven Mall** and **Pembroke Mall**. Shop the trends at **Landstown Commons** and **Red Mill Commons**. Find sophisticated style at **The Shops at Hilltop** and **Town Center**. Satisfy your quest for something different at local boutiques and surf shops. You're on vacation, so let your own flag fly!

