



free (or Almost Free) things to do

No matter the time of year, Virginia Beach is always cooking up ways to help you get more bang for your buck. There are a variety of activities that are easy on the budget—from exploring the parks and wildlife to lounging on the sun-drenched beaches. Here are some of our favorite free, or almost free, things to do.



- Enjoy the beaches. From the **Sandbridge** and the **Oceanfront** beaches along the Atlantic, to **Chic's Beach** on the Chesapeake Bay, our beaches are free and open to the public.
- Hike through **First Landing State Park** or **False Cape State Park**.
- Explore the **Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge**.
- Climb to the top of the historic **Cape Henry Lighthouse**, the first project commissioned by the new Federal Government after gaining independence from England.
- Rock out to **Live! On Atlantic's** Free Summer Concert Series, all summer long at the Oceanfront.
- Stroll through a local farmer's market, like the **Old Beach Farmers Market** or the **Virginia Beach Farmers Market**.
- Visit one of our many historic homes like the **Thoroughgood House** (1680) or the **Ferry Plantation House** (1740).
- See one of the largest private collections of WWI and WWII era military aircraft in the world at the **Military Aviation Museum**.
- Check out the **Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art** to learn about contemporary art through regularly scheduled changing exhibits, studio art classes, and special events.
- Discover the historic **DeWitt Cottage**, built in 1895 on the Boardwalk. The cottage is now home to the **Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum**.
- From Thomas Jefferson and Captain John Smith, to Ella Fitzgerald and Patsy Cline, Virginia has been home to many of history's giants. Check them out at the **Virginia Legends Walk**, at the oceanfront 13th Street Park.

a beach for EveryBody

Virginia Beach is a beach for people of all abilities. Our boardwalk provides accessibility to individuals with varying degrees of mobility to explore the lively strip that runs parallel to the Atlantic Ocean. Ramps are available at each street to take visitors from the boardwalk to the sand and beach wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-serve basis at 17th and 24th Streets—free of charge.

JT'S GROMMET ISLAND PARK

Grommet Island, the first beach playground in the country designed specifically for children and adults of all physical abilities, is located right on the sand across from the Rudee Loop. Soft play sculptures, accessible play equipment and cushioned play surfaces on the sand make up this one-of-a-kind playground.

JT'S CAMP GROM

A short drive from the Oceanfront, Camp Grom was developed specifically for children and adults with differing physical abilities and wounded veterans and their families, as well as the families of fallen war heroes. The 70-acre beach-themed camp boasts an aquatic center, an outdoor lake with fishing, a gym, picnic shelters, a sports field, and a water spray park, and an abundance of activities like ropes courses, lakeside trails, swimming, wakeboarding putt-putt, archery and more. The Virginia Gentlemen Foundation spent more than a decade fundraising to open up the camp, in honor of a friend with ALS who loved being outside, and we think the wait was well worth it!

Photo taken at Grommet Island Park





pet friendly virginia beach

Your four-legged family members are always welcomed in Virginia Beach and we want them to enjoy a paw-sitively perfect vacation with you! From the ocean to the bay, and all the dog parks and hiking trails in between, whether swimming, hiking, fetching or joining you for a stand-up paddle (SUP) 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 and as always, be mindful of keeping your fur-baby on a leash and cleaning up after them.

THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR PET

- **GO FOR A WALK ON THE BEACH OR BOARDWALK**

Outside of the summer season, dogs are welcomed for a walk at any time on the Virginia Beach Boardwalk, and encouraged to get a little sandy off-leash on any of our beaches.

- **HEAD TO A BREWERY**

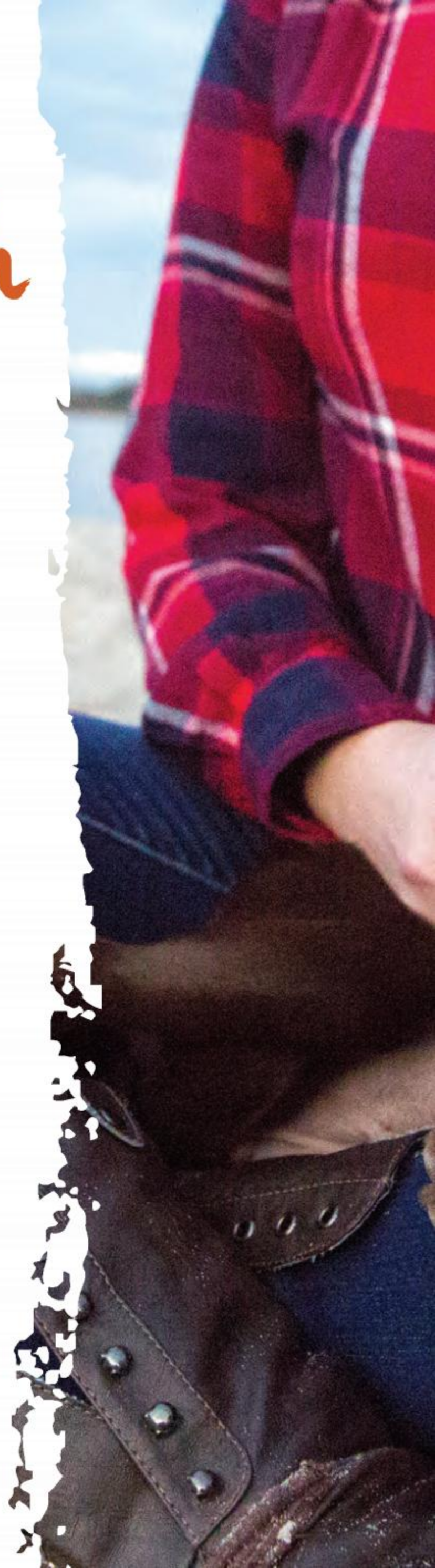
When you're in need of a pint or two, our breweries are a great place to take the dogs and kick back for a day.

- **SPEND A DAY AT THE PARK**

From state parks to dog parks, there are plenty of spots to let Fido run off some of that puppy energy.

- **FETCH A BITE TO EAT**

You can also grab a bite at various pet-friendly patios and doggie decks around the city.





QUICK TIP:

Pets are welcome to vacation in Virginia Beach all year long. Before Memorial Day and after Labor Day weekend, dogs are invited to enjoy the public beaches and boardwalk area anytime. However, during the summer months (Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend), pets are limited to the Oceanfront North End above 42nd Street and the south end of Virginia Beach in the Sandbridge area before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. During the summer season, dogs are only allowed on the boardwalk from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

a city of art





CHESAPEAKE BAY DISTRICT

- 1 *The Canoes* - Donald Lipski
- 2 *Mermaid Winery Mural* - OnieTonie

VIBE CREATIVE DISTRICT

- 3 *ViBe District Murals* - Various Artists
- 4 *People and Plants* - Maser
- 5 *Tidewater Veterans Memorial* - Edward Davis, Audrea Powell, Mary Ellen Clark

OCEANFRONT DISTRICT

- 6 *King Neptune* - Paul DiPasquale
- 7 *Seashore Cathedral* - Pepe Gaka
- 8 *The Wave* - Jeff Laramore
- 9 *Anticipation* - Richard Stravitz

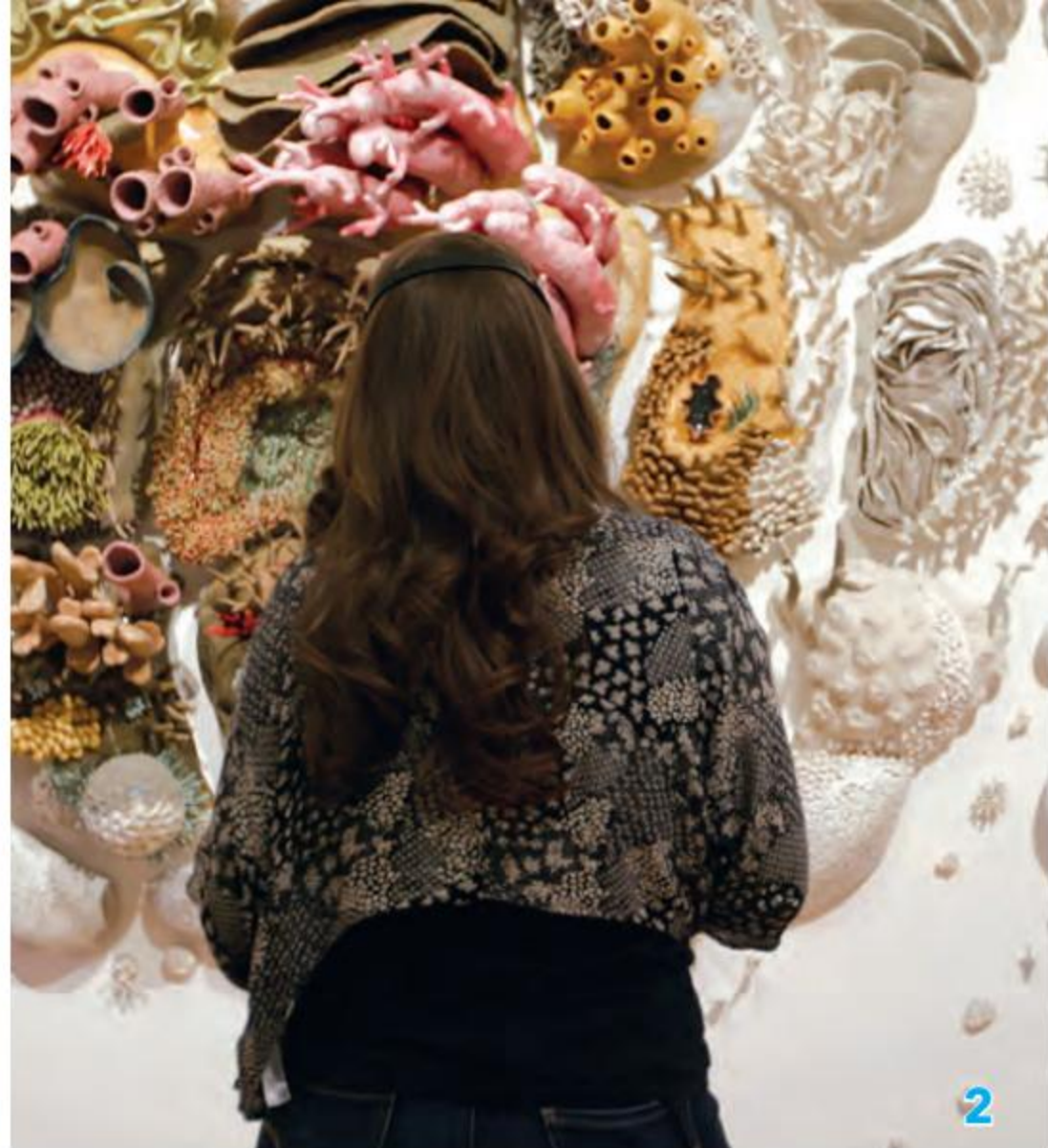
INLAND

- 10 *Helping Hands* - Aimee Bruce
- 11 *Light Garden* - Dale Eldred

TOWN CENTER

- 12 *Wings* - Lin Emery
- 13 *The Kiss* - Gary Alsum





rainy
day
fun





VIBE CREATIVE DISTRICT

- 1 Jars of Dust
- 2 Museum of Contemporary Art

PUNGO

- 3 Military Aviation Museum

CHESAPEAKE BAY DISTRICT

- 4 Commonwealth Brewing Co.

INLAND

- 5 Topgolf
- 6 Tribal Axe Throwing

TOWN CENTER

- 7 Muse Paint Bar

OCEANFRONT DISTRICT

- 8 Beachside Social
- 9 PlantBar
- 10 The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center
- 11 iFly Indoor Skydiving



Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center

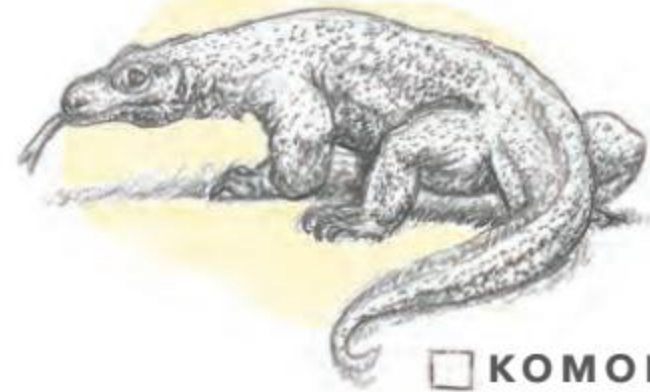
Whether you're an avid marine lover or just enjoy exploring, there's something for everyone at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center. Come by and explore over 800,000 gallons of one of the best aquariums in the country. From hundreds of hands-on exhibits, a National Geographic 3D Theater and their Marsh Pavilion, it's hard to fit all that the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center has to offer into just one trip.



VIRGINIA AQUARIUM SCAVENGER HUNT



MIMIC POISON FROG
Only toxic in the wild, this frog - and other poison dart frogs - get their toxicity from the insects they eat in their natural habitat. In human care, they do not produce toxins



KOMODO DRAGON
Have boney scales called osteoderms that function as natural chain-mail



SPINY SOFTSHELL TURTLE
Can stay submerged for 5 hours



HELLBENDER
Also called snot otters, they are the largest salamanders in North America, reaching up to 2.5 feet in length



BURRFISH
A member of the puffer fish family, they can use air or water to inflate themselves as a stress or defense mechanism



BALD EAGLE
Have nested behind the aquarium for the past several years



BUBBLE TIP ANEMONE WITH TOMATO CLOWNFISH
Have a symbiotic relationship, the anemone provides a home for the fish, while the fish provides food for the anemone



BOARFISH
Can be found at depths of 700 meters (2,300 feet)



ZEBRA SHARK
Can reproduce without breeding, technically "cloning" themselves



TOMISTOMA
Has one of the slimmest snouts of any living crocodilian



LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE (BIG MAMA)
The sea turtles can see visitors through the viewing window, and are trained to touch a target



STOMACH CONTENTS OF A DOLPHIN
Ear bones from fish that the dolphin has eaten show where the dolphin has been



UNICORN TANG
They have modified scales near their tail that are very sharp and serve as blades

where to shop

TOWN CENTER:

Town Center is a shopaholic's dream with stores like **lululemon athletica**, **Monkee's**, **Paper Source**, **Free People**, and **Ann Taylor Loft**, as well as local options like **Eclectic Design Florist & Gift** and **Mrs. Bones Boutique Pet Shop**.

ATLANTIC AVENUE:

Located at the Oceanfront, Atlantic Avenue offers a mix of eclectic coastal finds, from classic beach staples like **Sunsations** to charming local boutique clothing and gift shops.

THE SHOPS AT HILLTOP:

A quick drive from the boardwalk, The Shops at Hilltop offers a selection of over 120 shops, boutiques, and restaurants, from unique, local treasures to brand names we all know and love.

VIBE CREATIVE DISTRICT:

For some one-of-a-kind local flair to take home with you, from custom, hand-painted artwork to locally crafted leather bags, this artist's haven is a true Virginia Beach shopping experience.





Photo taken at Jars of Dust