

**For Immediate Release**

May 16, 2014

Contact: Evelyn Shotwell, Executive Director

Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce

757-336-6161

Email: [eshotwell@chincoteaguechamber.com](mailto:eshotwell@chincoteaguechamber.com)

**Assateague Island VA/MD Named  
In 10Best Reader's Choice by USA Today Travel**

Chincoteague Island, VA—May 16, 2014--Just in time for summer vacation planning, USA Today Travel announces its pick of the Top 20 US Islands. Assateague Island VA/MD made the cut! What an impressive list of islands it is. Amelia Island, FL; Block Island, RI; Catalina Island, CA; Coronado Island, CA; Dauphin Island, AL; Galveston TX; Hilton Head SC; Kauai HI; Key West FL; Kiawah Island, SC; Kodiak Island, AK; Mackinac, MI; Martha's Vineyard, MA; Maui HI; Mount Desert ME; Puerto Rico; Sanibel Island, FL; St. Simons Island, GA; and Whidbey Island, WA join Assateague Island as nominees. From this list of 20, the 10Best will be chosen by popular vote at [www.10best.com](http://www.10best.com) until June 2. The 2014 10Best Reader's Choice will be announced June 4 at noon.

The criteria used to determine the finalists included beauty, accessibility, variety of terrain, things to do, wildlife, local culture, and popularity. Assateague Island certainly meets all requirements and more. Assateague Island National Seashore (VA and MD) hosted 2,154,859 visitors in 2012, according to a National Park Service press release issued in March 2014. Its 37 miles of pristine beach is home to abundant wildlife while allowing space for recreational beach activities such as swimming, beachcombing, surfing, fishing, and kayaking. Assateague Island VA is also home to the famous Chincoteague Wild Ponies that live on the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Nearby Chincoteague Island, VA boasts a museum; arts, entertainment, history, cultural experiences, events, and activities to enhance, enrich, and enlighten; boat cruises, bike rentals, mini golf, fabulous dining, and lodging options for all budgets. For the space enthusiast, Wallops Island VA is just 5 miles across the Chincoteague Bay and is home to NASA's Wallops Flight Facility where scheduled rocket launches to supply the International Space Station are popular attractions. From salt marsh to Chincoteague Salt Oysters, rockets to wild ponies... it's all here. By the sea, by the bay, by the stars: stop, trot, and fly with us!

Vote daily for the Best US Island: Assateague Island VA/MD.

Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce 6733 Maddox Boulevard in the Traffic Circle Chincoteague, VA

#####