

# WELCOME TO CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND, VIRGINIA

## BEAUTIFUL LAND ACROSS THE WATER

Chincoteague Island, Virginia's only resort island, is renowned for its oyster beds and clam shoals. It is the gateway to the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, located on the Virginia side of Assateague Island, and home to the world-famous Chincoteague Ponies and an award winning beach managed by Assateague Island National Seashore.

Adventure awaits as history and legend blend with the wild loveliness of the seasonal shore. The serene fishing village, seven miles long and one and one-half mile wide and abounding with history and natural charm, welcomes you to explore its unique island heritage.

[www.chincoteaguechamber.com](http://www.chincoteaguechamber.com)

[www.chincoteagueoysterfestival.com](http://www.chincoteagueoysterfestival.com)

[www.chincoteaguedecoyshow.com](http://www.chincoteaguedecoyshow.com)



**Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce Receives  
\$10,000 Grant from Virginia Tourism Corporation  
"Crush Friday" Program Marketing Fund**

**Chincoteague, VA (January 23, 2018):** Today, Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce & Certified Visitor Center announced that it has received a \$10,000 grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) "Crush Friday Program" grant fund. "Crush Friday" is part of VTC's ongoing efforts to support U.S. Travel's "Project: Time Off" initiative, encouraging citizens to utilize unused vacation days. In total, VTC awarded \$250,000 to 25 tourism marketing projects across the Commonwealth to help increase visitation and revenue for Virginia's localities through tourism. More than 155 partners will participate in this cross-state marketing program effort.

"We are thrilled to be supporting U.S. Travel's Project: Time Off with our brand new Crush Friday campaign. The Crush Friday initiative is an engaging, creative, and collaborative way for Virginia localities to leverage critical marketing dollars to attract more visitors to the Commonwealth, increasing the economic impact of tourism," said Rita McClenny, president and CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation. "This program will also help to change the way millennials think about vacation and the importance of time off not only to their quality of life, but quality of work."

"We are delighted to promote our 'Beautiful Land Across the Water' to hard-working individuals desperately needing a change of scenery", said Evelyn Shotwell, executive director of the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce. "Our wide open marshes, abundant wildlife, pristine beaches, hiking and biking trails, fresh coastal cuisine, and unique shopping experiences are just a few of the treats that await you. Did I mention we also have wild ponies?"

The Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce received a \$10,000 grant for its Crush Friday project. The chamber partnered with Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, Chincoteague Island Arts Organization, Christmas By the Sea, Historic Main Street Merchants Association, Toms Cove Aqua Farms, Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission and local restaurants and lodging industries to supply matched marketing efforts for the project. This innovative project will allow us to promote shoulder season visitation more aggressively with added funds to reach our target drive markets who can capitalize on a long weekend. The economic impact will be felt across all industry sectors as visitors shop, dine, take nature cruises and explore all that Chincoteague and Assateague Islands have to offer. You might even get to see a rocket launch from Wallops Flight Facility!

American workers left 662 million vacation days on the table last year. Of these workers, the millennial sub-set is the most likely to want to be seen as work martyrs. In an effort to be seen as valuable to the company a work martyr is the most likely to forego taking vacation days. The VTC Crush Friday Program is designed to encourage the millennial work martyr to give vacation a try. VTC and its industry partners aim to change that mindset and show the benefit that even one day of vacation can have. Virginia and Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce offer a call to millennials to take a well-deserved Friday and crush it in Chincoteague Island.

Tourism is an instant revenue generator for Virginia. In 2016, tourism generated \$24 billion in revenue, supported nearly 230,000 jobs and provided \$1.7 billion in state and local taxes. Dollars invested in tourism are proven to provide a 7:1 return in tax revenue for Virginia, and the grant awards and matching funds provide a stimulus to localities seeking to increase tourism visitation and revenue.

## **Check Out These New (or fairly new) Chincoteague Businesses:**

**\*BLACK NARROWS BREWING COMPANY**—The Eastern Shore’s First Brewery

<https://blacknarrowsbrewing.com>

**\*CAPTAIN’S LOFT**

<http://chincoteaguechamber.com/2293-captain%27s-loft?tabId=2>

**\**CHINCOTEAGUE CALM*** by Bob Adamov—fictional book set in Chincoteague Island

<http://packardislandpublishing.com>

**\*CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND HOUSE OF JERKY**

<http://chincoteaguechamber.com/2302-chincoteague-island-house-of-jerky?tabId=2>

**\*CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND , VA KOA**

<https://koa.com/campgrounds/chincoteague>

**\*CHINCOTIKI CARIBBEAN BAR & GRILL**

<http://chincotiki.weebly.com>

**\*DEAR JEAN’S AIR BNB GUEST HOUSE**

<http://chincoteaguechamber.com/2307-dear-jean%27s-air-bnb-guest-house?tabId=2>

**\*KEY WEST COTTAGES ON THE CHINCOTEAGUE BAY**

<http://www.chincoteaguekeywestcottages.com>

**\*MARINA BAY HOTEL & SUITES**

<http://www.staymarinabay.com>

**\*MAUI JACK’S WATERPARK**

<https://www.mauijacks.com>

**\*PICO TAQUERIA**

<http://www.picotaqueria.com>

**\*RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY**

<https://www.facebook.com/chincoteague.alley>

**\*SANDPIPER BOUTIQUE**

<http://www.sandpiperboutique.com>

**\*TEAGUER’S TUMP TOURS**

<http://chincoteaguechamber.com/2265-teaguer%27s-tump-tours?tabId=2>

**\*THE ROPEWALK**

<https://chincoteague.ropewalk.com>

## **NASA Wallops Flight Facility**

### **Orbital ATK Continues to resupply International Space Station**

- NASA, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport and Orbital ATK plan two resupply missions from Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia to the ISS in 2018.
- Orbital ATK launched a [successful flight](#) November 12, 2017 from Wallops on the Antares rocket.
- NASA and its partners' long-term planning for operating the station ensures that astronauts aboard the station are safe and have sufficient supplies.
- NASA's and the National Lab's research and technology development activities continue aboard the space station. Keep up with the International Space Station, and its research and crews, at: <http://www.nasa.gov/station>
- Learn more about Orbital ATK's missions at: <http://www.nasa.gov/orbitalatk>

**Stay abreast of all NASA launches from Wallops Flight Facility at**

**[www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/news](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/news) or call the NASA Launch Hotline at 757-824-2050**

## **Museum of Chincoteague Island**

### **Linking the Past to the Future!**

#### **New in 2018: Miles Hancock Carving Shed Moved to Museum Property**

The mission of the Museum of Chincoteague is to collect and preserve the material culture that reflects the historical progression of the life on Chincoteague Island. A team of dedicated volunteers work to display and interpret objects lovingly donated by residents to enhance the understanding of various experiences and events from the town's past by preserving objects of significance, along with proper documenting of their history and acquisition, for the use of further generations in understanding the history of Chincoteague Island.

Since the re-dedication in 2010 from the Oyster & Maritime Museum to the Museum of Chincoteague Island, thousands of visitors have enjoyed and learned from these rotating exhibits. Included in the museum is the First Order Fresnel Lens from the Assateague Island Lighthouse, the iconic Chincoteague ponies known as Misty and Stormy (on loan from the Beebe family), models of vessels that plied the Chincoteague waters long ago, and oral histories and artifacts that tell the story of Chincoteague Island life throughout its long and varied existence. Lighthouse preservationists may have their U.S. Lighthouse Society Passports stamped at the museum.

Educational programs can now be enjoyed in the Legacy Pavilion, an outdoor classroom right on the marsh overlooking the Assateague Channel. The Museum of Chincoteague Island partners with the Road Scholar Organization to offer educational programs highlighting important aspects of island life and lore. Participants gain a close-up insight and personal view of past and present island events and eras reflective of the museum's mission through local guides, historians, artists, craftsmen, and naturalists.

Decoy carving legend Miles Hancock (1887-1974) carved over 20,000 decoys in his 87 years. His workshop was recently donated to the Museum of Chincoteague and moved from its original location to the Museum property for all to enjoy as a permanent exhibit.

**Contact:** [museumofci@gmail.com](mailto:museumofci@gmail.com) 757-336-6117 [www.chincoteaguemuseum.com](http://www.chincoteaguemuseum.com)

## **Historic Assateague Lighthouse**

The 1867 Assateague Lighthouse is located on the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and managed by the Chincoteague Natural History Association. The first lighthouse on this site, built by the U.S. Treasury Department in 1833, was a 45 foot-high brick tower that proved inadequate. The present 142 foot-high structure is one of nearly 20 other tall, historic, brick lighthouses still functioning along the Atlantic Coast today. It was rebuilt in 1867 after a brief interruption in construction during the Civil War. The lighthouses along the Eastern seaboard each have a unique color pattern and light flash pattern. By day, the broad red stripes over broad white stripes distinguish the Assateague Light and by night the characteristic is the flash pattern of two consecutive flashes every five seconds.

**Contact:** Chincoteague Natural History Association at [www.piping-plover.org](http://www.piping-plover.org) or 757-336-3696 to learn more about this iconic symbol of our barrier island coastline and for scheduled tour hours for 2018.

## **1800 Captain Timothy Hill House Preserves Island's Past Wooden Chimney Restoration Completed in 2016**

The Captain Timothy Hill House, the oldest known house on Chincoteague Island, was built circa 1800. The log plank construction was typical of the time but few examples have survived. By 1838, the Timothy Hill House was one of 26 homes on Chincoteague Island. Today it is one of only two Virginia buildings built to include a wooden chimney. Reflecting its seaside setting, the Hill House has 19<sup>th</sup> century sailing ships carved into its exterior planks.

Owned by Louisa Flaningam and Paul Brzozowski, the house has been lovingly restored and is listed on both the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. In September 2012, Preservation Virginia recognized the Timothy Hill House with its 2012 Outstanding Preservation Project Award from Preservation Virginia. Jamestown was its first preservation project more than 100 years ago. The Captain Timothy Hill House is open to visitors at select times and is located at 5122 Main Street, Chincoteague, VA.

Recent Restoration efforts focused on replacing the wooden chimney that has been lost from the original house. Work has been completed on a masonry chimney with a wooden façade to remain historically correct while functionally pleasing.

**Contact:** [caphillhouse@verizon.net](mailto:caphillhouse@verizon.net) 973-831-5961 or visit them on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/groups/captain-timothy-hill-house/118178754940431](https://www.facebook.com/groups/captain-timothy-hill-house/118178754940431)

## **Chincoteague Island Arts Organization (CIAO) Famous Art Deco Island Theatre Hosts Annual Events**

The famous Island Theatre hosts arts and cultural events in the heart of Historic Main Street. In addition to showing current films, the historic movie house features stage and musical performances and community cultural events. Formerly known as the Island Roxy Theatre, the Island Theatre opened in 1945 and premiered the famous 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox film, "Misty," in 1961. Misty placed her hoof prints in cement in front of the Island Theatre that night. Author of the 1947 Newberry Award-winning book "Misty of Chincoteague", Marguerite Henry wrote the name 'Misty' above the hoof prints. The movie premiered in Hollywood the same night and would put this "strange little island" on the map.

Island Theatre has full digital capabilities and has been brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century while maintaining the Art-Deco charm of days-gone-by.

**Contact:** [www.islandtheatres.com](http://www.islandtheatres.com) or [www.chincoteagueislandarts.org](http://www.chincoteagueislandarts.org) (757) 336-6109

## **Chincoteague Cultural Alliance**

### ***Building Community through the Arts***

This volunteer organization is comprised of artists, musicians, shop/gallery owners, arts enthusiasts and others who work together to enhance community life by fostering and promoting the growth and vitality of arts and culture on Chincoteague Island and Delmarva's Eastern Shore.

Their mission is to “create opportunities for residents and visitors to Virginia’s Eastern Shore to experience and learn about the arts, to create a supportive arts environment for artists, improving their capacity to contribute to community life, and to cultivate collaborations that advance community development through the promotion of arts and culture”.

Chincoteague Cultural Alliance hosts Coffeehouse on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Theatre, and classes ranging from art to creative writing. The Summer Cinema Series of classic “free” movies on the big, outdoor screen in the Robert Reed Waterfront Park and Music at the Dock “free” concerts have been a hit with visitors and residents alike. Chincoteague Cultural Alliance is also host of the annual Plein Air Art Event each fall that culminates in an exhibition and sale of paintings on the second Saturday of September. “Plein Air” is a French term that means painting in the open air, working directly from the landscape as it appears at that moment.

Contact CCA: [info@chincoteagueculturalalliance.org](mailto:info@chincoteagueculturalalliance.org)  
[www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org](http://www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org)

## **Welcome to Historic Main Street, Chincoteague Island**

### **Waterfront Shopping in 1920's era Buildings**

As early as 1866, a US Coast Survey map shows Main Street as the principal thoroughfare. The intersection of Main Street and Church Street was where the largest cluster of houses stood and became the beginnings of today's downtown. Business boomed in the 1920's bolstered by the new Causeway connecting Chincoteague to the “mainland”. Main Street received its first pavement in 1931 and little “mom and pops” sprang up all along the way. There were also banks, a barber shop, hotels, ice cream parlors, theaters, seafood companies, five-and-dimes, department stores, and clothing boutiques.

Historic Main Street is a quaint little seaside town boasting brick sidewalks, lamp posts, beautiful gardens, and “Old Bridge Fishing Pier”. Robert Reed Waterfront Park, in the heart of downtown Chincoteague, is home to “LOVE” chairs, part of the Virginia is for Lovers Marketing campaign. Visit them for photo ops and share on all social media channels to spread the Chincoteague LOVE!!!

Source: **Once Upon an Island: The History of Chincoteague** by Kirk Mariner

Contact: [www.chincoteaguemerchants.com](http://www.chincoteaguemerchants.com)

## **93rd Annual Pony Roundup, Swim & Auction**

### **Chincoteague Volunteer Fireman's Carnival**

**2017 Winner of Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, & Travel Association 'Ordinary Award' for Attraction of the Year**

A series of devastating fires in the 1920's destroyed many of the buildings on Main Street and some were never rebuilt. These fires set in motion what was to become the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company's Annual Pony Roundup and Swim. The need to purchase better fire-fighting equipment led local firemen to become creative with ways to raise money. The idea of a pony penning and sale quickly took shape and 93 years later, the Chincoteague Volunteer Fireman's Carnival, Pony Roundup, Swim and auction raise thousands of dollars to purchase much needed equipment for the men and women protecting our community.

The 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pony Swim takes place on July 25, 2018 with the auction of foals on July 26. Carnival Dates: June 29-30, July 4-7, 13-14, 20-21, 23-28, 2018. Tens of thousands of folks from around the world come each year to watch the world-famous Chincoteague Ponies swim the Assateague Channel in this one-of-a-kind event.

The Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce nominated Pony Penning for the VRLTA "Ordinary Award" in 2017 recognizing ordinary people doing extraordinary things in the travel industry. They won the award for Attraction of the Year.

Contact: [www.cvfc3.com](http://www.cvfc3.com) or [www.chincoteaguechamber.com](http://www.chincoteaguechamber.com)

## **Baby Clams & Oysters in the Nurseries**

### **Thriving Aquaculture Operations in Tom's Cove**

Aquaculture on Chincoteague Island is experiencing double-digit growth with local businesses farming oysters and clams to generate new crops of shellfish for bivalve lovers. Island volunteers at the **Chincoteague Seafood Festival** held the first Saturday in May, and the **Chincoteague Oyster Festival** held the Saturday of Columbus Weekend in October will serve native wild and local aquaculture-raised shellfish to patrons. Delectable choices include fresh clams and oysters, steamed, frittered and fried, clam chowder, freshly caught Atlantic Ocean fish, sweet potato fries, boardwalk fries, hush puppies, fresh salads and more. Tickets are available through the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science reports "Virginia shellfish farmers sold \$56.6 million in clams and oysters in 2016, with hard clam sales of \$38.1 million and \$18.5 million in oyster sales. Hard-clam production once again leads the nation and oyster production is tops among East Coast states." Call to tour a local hatchery.....

**Tom's Cove Aqua Farms offers educational tours.**

Contact: [www.tomscove.net](http://www.tomscove.net) 757-336-1945

Contact: Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce for festival ticket information at [eshotwell@chincoteaguechamber.com](mailto:eshotwell@chincoteaguechamber.com) 757-336-6161 [www.chincoteaguechamber.com](http://www.chincoteaguechamber.com)



## **Summer Camp Opportunities**

**Space, marine life, nature, YMCA, ponies, history.....we have it all!**

### **Virginia Space Flight Academy Celebrates 20 Years**

Celebrating 20 years of “brain stretching fun”, the Virginia Space Flight Academy is held near Wallops Flight Facility, an operational NASA and US Navy installation located on Virginia’s Eastern Shore and adjacent to Chincoteague Island, a picturesque family vacation destination. Space Flight Adventure Camp, presented by the Virginia Space Flight Academy, offers week-long residential summer camps for students interested in learning about rocketry, robotics, aerodynamics, weather, radar, astronaut training and microgravity at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility.

2018 Co-ed residential camps are held: June 24-29 / July 1-6 / July 8-13 / July 15-20 / July 22-27 / Advanced Camp: July 29-August 3

**Contact:** [www.vaspaceflightacademy.org](http://www.vaspaceflightacademy.org) 757-824-3800

### **Chincoteague Bay Field Station of the Marine Science Consortium**

**“Hands-on, Feet-Wet Experience”**

Day Camps: Fun day-long outdoor adventures are a great way to make spring break and summer even more fun for students ages 5-15.

Residential Summer Camps: Each week-long camp is jam-packed with hands-on explorations of marine and coastal environments as well as up close and personal experiences with a wide range of coastal critters for anyone age 8-18.

Through a partnership with Road Scholar, Chincoteague Bay Field Station offers extraordinary educational opportunities to expand physical and mental horizons and meet new friends. There are no grades or tests on Road Scholar programs. All that’s needed is an inquiring mind, an adventurous spirit, and the belief that learning and discovery are lifelong pursuits. CBFS's Road Scholar programs are designed to offer adults academic experiences in coastal ecology and the natural history of Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Chincoteague Bay Field Station is located on Wallops Island near Wallops Flight Facility, and its classroom is the Chincoteague Bay, rich in marine habitats. Partnering with NASA on many adventures allows campers to follow the connection between storm events and beach profiles. Sea level rise and its impact on shore bird feeding and nesting habitat are other areas for exploration. CBFS is located at 34001 Mill Dam Road, Wallops Island, VA.

**Contact:** [www.cbfieldstation.org](http://www.cbfieldstation.org) 757-824-5636

## **Chincoteague Island Family YMCA Summer Camp**

**Because You Are Only a Kid Once!**

Camps at the Y all share one thing: they're about discovery. Kids have the opportunity to explore nature, find new talents, try new activities, gain independence, and make lasting friendships through the many activities that the Y provides. Camps offer opportunities for "youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility" according to the official camp registration form. Chincoteague Island Family YMCA is located at 6395 Maddox Boulevard, Chincoteague, VA.

**Contact:** [www.ymcachesapeake.org/programs/youth/summer-camp/](http://www.ymcachesapeake.org/programs/youth/summer-camp/)

**Chincoteague Island Family YMCA at 757-336-6266**

## **YMCA Camp Silver Beach**

**Adventures on the Chesapeake Bay**

Located south of Chincoteague on 151 acres of beachfront, woods and wetlands, Camp Silver Beach offers resident camps for kids ages 8 to 16 and a special, three-week teen adventure camp with leadership training and sporting options galore. Campers and counselors from around the world enjoy water sports and activities such as sailing, kayaking, waterskiing, swimming, archery, karate and a 55-foot Alpine Tower Challenge Course and skate park. Certified by the U.S. Coast Guard and American Sailing Association, Camp Silver Beach is also sanctioned by the American Camping Association and the YMCA. Conveniences such as air-conditioned cottages equipped with full bathrooms and a dining hall with a view of the Chesapeake Bay add extra appeal. Camp Silver Beach operates year-round and can accommodate up to 400 guests with customized overnight and day meetings, trainings, seminars and retreats. YMCA Camp Silver Beach is located at 6272 YMCA Lane, Jamesville, VA 23398

**Contact:** [www.campsilverbeach.org](http://www.campsilverbeach.org) 757-442-4634