

Beachy Keen

Kick back on serene sands



Seaside

CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Assateague Island is the only seaside beach accessible by land on the Eastern Shore. 14,000 acres of unmitigated beauty, it's the one stop shopping for outdoor fun including 10 miles of natural beach, bird watching, kayaking, biking and surf fishing. Interpretive centers and the 1867 Assateague Lighthouse add to this amazing experience. Meet its most famous residents – the wild Chincoteague Ponies. A gull's cry away is Chincoteague Island, a nostalgia-sweet resort.

757-336-6161

www.chincoteaguechamber.com

SEASIDE BARRIER ISLANDS

In a hectic world the Eastern Shore's 60 mile long chain of barrier islands are almost mystical in their isolation. No houses, fewer humans, it's easy to lose yourself in this water-meets-sky world. You can get there from here, but only with a professional eco-tour guide who provides unique adventures in the rarest of settings while protecting this fragile environment. Take a boat tour and lose yourself on deserted beaches. [See listings]

757-787-8268

www.esvatourism.org

Bayside

TANGIER ISLAND

Smack dab in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay, this authentic working watermen's island's best kept secret is its secluded beaches. Walk, bike, ride or take a Tangier taxi – golf cart – to share the surf with the shore birds, hunt for Native American arrowheads or experience an unforgettable island sunrise or sunset. Tangier Island is a true getaway, the only way to get here by ferry boat or small plane.

302-234-1660

www.tangierhistorymuseum.org

CAPE CHARLES BEACH

Near the southern end of the Eastern Shore, relax on this friendly, small town beach, along the calm waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Complete with gingerbread gazebo, fishing pier and summer beach parties all within steps of the historic downtown. Come sundown, grab a seat on the sands and listen to classical music serenade another day of small town bliss.

757-678-0010

www.northamptoncountychamber.com

KIPTOPEKE STATE PARK

Nature rules at this beautiful beach. Peaceful waters are perfect for small children. A boat launch, fishing pier – or surf fish right off the beach. Picnic and excellent camping facilities combine with walking/biking trails that allow exploration of scenic maritime forests and dunes. Pets allowed on leash.

800-933-PARK 757-331-2267

www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks/kiptopek.htm

