

virginia beach travel guide 2023

virginia beach travel guide 2023 offers a comprehensive overview for travelers seeking a perfect coastal getaway. This detailed guide covers everything from the best time to visit and top attractions to accommodation options and dining experiences. Virginia Beach is known for its expansive sandy shores, vibrant boardwalk, and a rich blend of cultural and outdoor activities that cater to all types of visitors. Whether planning a family vacation, a romantic retreat, or an adventurous trip, this travel guide provides essential tips and insights to enhance your stay. Explore the local events, transportation options, and insider advice to make the most of your visit. The following sections will navigate through the key aspects of a successful Virginia Beach trip in 2023.

- Best Time to Visit Virginia Beach
- Top Attractions and Activities
- Accommodation Options
- Dining and Nightlife
- Transportation and Getting Around
- Events and Festivals in 2023
- Travel Tips and Safety

Best Time to Visit Virginia Beach

Choosing the right time to visit Virginia Beach plays a crucial role in ensuring an enjoyable experience. The city experiences a humid subtropical climate, with warm summers and mild winters, making it a year-round destination. However, peak tourist season runs from late May through early September, when the weather is ideal for beach activities and water sports.

Peak Season

During the summer months, temperatures typically range from the mid-70s to high 80s Fahrenheit, attracting crowds to the beaches and boardwalk. This period offers the most vibrant atmosphere, with numerous events and festivals taking place. Visitors should expect higher accommodation rates and book well in advance.

Shoulder Seasons

Spring (April to May) and fall (September to October) are excellent times to visit Virginia Beach for those seeking fewer crowds and moderate weather. These months offer pleasant temperatures and

lower prices on lodging, making them ideal for budget-conscious travelers or those preferring a quieter experience.

Winter Season

While winter months (November to March) are cooler, with temperatures averaging in the 40s and 50s, Virginia Beach remains accessible for off-season travelers. Attractions and restaurants may have reduced hours, but the peaceful environment is perfect for relaxation and exploring nature trails.

Top Attractions and Activities

Virginia Beach boasts a diverse range of attractions and activities that appeal to all interests, from natural beauty to cultural experiences. This section highlights must-see destinations and popular pursuits for visitors in 2023.

Virginia Beach Boardwalk

The iconic 3-mile boardwalk stretches along the oceanfront, featuring shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues. It is perfect for strolling, biking, or rollerblading while enjoying scenic views of the Atlantic Ocean. Seasonal events and live music often animate this lively area.

Beaches and Water Activities

Virginia Beach's sandy shores are ideal for swimming, sunbathing, and beach sports. Water enthusiasts can engage in surfing, paddleboarding, jet skiing, and parasailing. For families, the calm waters near the bay side provide safer swimming zones and opportunities for kayaking.

Outdoor Adventures and Parks

Nature lovers can explore First Landing State Park, which offers hiking trails, biking paths, and camping facilities. Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge provides birdwatching and wildlife observation in a serene setting. Fishing, boating, and golfing are also popular outdoor activities in the area.

Cultural and Historical Sites

Virginia Beach has a rich history reflected in sites like the Cape Henry Lighthouse, the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, and the Military Aviation Museum. Art galleries, theaters, and music venues contribute to the city's vibrant cultural scene.

Accommodation Options

Visitors to Virginia Beach can find a wide range of lodging choices to suit different budgets and preferences. From luxury resorts to budget-friendly hotels and vacation rentals, the city offers diverse accommodations for every traveler.

Luxury Resorts and Hotels

Oceanfront resorts provide upscale amenities such as pools, spas, fine dining, and private beach access. Popular options include well-known chains and boutique hotels that cater to guests seeking comfort and convenience close to major attractions.

Mid-Range and Budget Hotels

Numerous hotels and motels throughout the city offer affordable rates without compromising quality. Many are located near the boardwalk or within easy driving distance of beaches and downtown areas, providing good value for families and solo travelers.

Vacation Rentals and Alternative Lodging

Vacation homes, condos, and Airbnb properties present flexible accommodations for groups or extended stays. These options often feature kitchens, multiple bedrooms, and more privacy, making them popular among families and longer-term visitors.

Dining and Nightlife

Virginia Beach's culinary scene features a mix of fresh seafood, international flavors, and Southern-inspired dishes. The city boasts a variety of dining establishments, from casual beachside cafes to upscale restaurants, complemented by an active nightlife.

Seafood and Local Cuisine

Fresh catches from the Atlantic are prominent on many menus, including oysters, crab cakes, and clam chowder. Local specialties such as Virginia ham and Chesapeake Bay blue crabs provide authentic flavors. Farmers markets and food festivals also showcase regional products.

Restaurants and Cafes

Dining options range from family-friendly eateries to fine dining experiences. Many restaurants offer outdoor seating with ocean views, enhancing the dining atmosphere. Casual spots serve classic American fare, while others specialize in international cuisines such as Italian, Asian, and Mexican.

Bars and Entertainment

Virginia Beach's nightlife includes beach bars, lounges, and live music venues. Visitors can enjoy craft cocktails, local brews, and nightlife entertainment along the boardwalk or in the downtown area. Seasonal events often feature evening concerts and festivals.

Transportation and Getting Around

Navigating Virginia Beach is convenient with various transportation options available to visitors. Understanding these options helps optimize travel time and accessibility to key destinations.

By Car

Most visitors arrive by car, as Virginia Beach is accessible via major highways such as I-264 and US Route 58. Ample parking is available near beaches and popular attractions, though fees may apply during peak season.

Public Transit

The Virginia Beach Transit operates bus routes connecting major points of interest, including the oceanfront, shopping districts, and residential areas. This service offers an economical way to explore the city without the need for a vehicle.

Biking and Walking

Biking is a popular mode of transportation, supported by dedicated bike lanes and rental services. The boardwalk and nearby trails are pedestrian-friendly, encouraging walking tours and active exploration of the coastal environment.

Events and Festivals in 2023

Virginia Beach hosts a variety of events and festivals throughout the year, enriching the travel experience with cultural, musical, and culinary celebrations. These gatherings attract both locals and tourists, highlighting the city's vibrant community spirit.

Neptune Festival

Held annually in September, the Neptune Festival celebrates the oceanfront lifestyle with sand sculpting competitions, live music, and a grand parade. It is one of the city's largest and most anticipated events, drawing large crowds each year.

Virginia Beach Greek Festival

This cultural festival showcases Greek cuisine, music, dance, and art, offering visitors a chance to experience Mediterranean traditions. It usually takes place in the spring and provides family-friendly activities and authentic food.

Other Seasonal Events

Throughout the year, Virginia Beach hosts farmers markets, craft fairs, outdoor concerts, and holiday celebrations. These events provide opportunities to engage with the local culture and enjoy the city's dynamic atmosphere.

Travel Tips and Safety

Ensuring a safe and smooth trip to Virginia Beach requires some preparation and awareness of local conditions. This section offers practical advice for travelers visiting in 2023.

Health and Safety Guidelines

Visitors should stay informed about any public health advisories or local regulations, particularly related to beach safety and COVID-19 protocols. Lifeguards are on duty at many beaches during peak season, and swimming in designated areas is recommended.

Packing Essentials

Pack appropriate clothing for varying weather conditions, including swimwear, sun protection, and comfortable footwear for walking or biking. Bringing reusable water bottles and beach gear enhances convenience and sustainability during the stay.

Local Customs and Etiquette

Respect for the environment and community is important. Visitors should follow beach rules, dispose of trash properly, and be considerate of wildlife and other beachgoers. Tipping in restaurants and services aligns with standard U.S. practices.

Emergency Contacts

- Local Police: 911 for emergencies
- Non-Emergency Police: (757) 385-5000
- Virginia Beach Visitor Center: (757) 385-0100

- Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the top attractions to visit in Virginia Beach in 2023?

In 2023, top attractions in Virginia Beach include the Virginia Beach Boardwalk, First Landing State Park, the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, Cape Henry Lighthouse, and the Ocean Breeze Waterpark.

When is the best time to visit Virginia Beach in 2023?

The best time to visit Virginia Beach in 2023 is from late spring to early fall (May to September) when the weather is warm and ideal for beach activities and outdoor events.

What are some popular events happening in Virginia Beach in 2023?

Popular events in Virginia Beach in 2023 include the Neptune Festival in September, the American Music Festival in August, the Virginia Beach Patriotic Festival in July, and various live music and food festivals throughout the summer.

What are the best family-friendly activities in Virginia Beach for 2023 travelers?

Family-friendly activities in Virginia Beach for 2023 include visiting the Virginia Aquarium, exploring the Adventure Park at Virginia Aquarium, enjoying the Ocean Breeze Waterpark, and spending time at First Landing State Park with its hiking trails and picnic areas.

What are some recommended dining options in Virginia Beach in 2023?

Recommended dining options in Virginia Beach in 2023 feature fresh seafood restaurants like Waterman's Surfside Grille, Catch 31, and The Atlantic on Pacific, as well as diverse eateries offering American, Italian, and international cuisines along the boardwalk and downtown area.

Additional Resources

1. *Virginia Beach Travel Guide 2023: Explore the Coastal Gem*

This comprehensive guide offers an up-to-date look at Virginia Beach's top attractions, dining spots, and hidden gems. Whether you're planning a family vacation or a solo getaway, this book provides detailed maps, itineraries, and insider tips. Discover the best beaches, boardwalk activities, and local

festivals to make the most of your 2023 trip.

2. Family Fun in Virginia Beach 2023

Perfect for families planning their summer vacation, this travel guide highlights kid-friendly activities, parks, and museums in Virginia Beach. It includes recommendations for family-friendly restaurants and accommodations. The book also features safety tips and seasonal event calendars to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for all ages.

3. Virginia Beach Foodie Guide 2023

Dive into the culinary scene of Virginia Beach with this food-focused travel guide. It showcases the best seafood restaurants, local eateries, and trendy cafes that define the city's vibrant food culture. Readers will find detailed reviews, must-try dishes, and suggested food tours to savor the flavors of the coast.

4. Outdoor Adventures in Virginia Beach 2023

For nature lovers and adventure seekers, this guide offers extensive information on hiking trails, water sports, and wildlife spotting in and around Virginia Beach. Learn about kayaking routes, bike paths, and state parks that provide thrilling outdoor experiences. The book also includes safety advice and gear checklists for various activities.

5. Virginia Beach Nightlife & Entertainment Guide 2023

Explore the lively nightlife and entertainment options in Virginia Beach with this vibrant guide. From beachside bars and live music venues to theaters and nightclubs, discover where locals and tourists alike go to unwind after dark. The book features event schedules, happy hour hotspots, and tips for a safe night out.

6. Historic Virginia Beach: A 2023 Travel Companion

This guide delves into the rich history and cultural heritage of Virginia Beach, highlighting historic sites, museums, and landmarks. Readers can follow curated walking tours and learn about the city's colonial past, maritime history, and Native American roots. It's a perfect companion for travelers interested in exploring beyond the beach.

7. Virginia Beach Budget Travel Guide 2023

Travel smart with this budget-friendly guide to Virginia Beach, offering tips on affordable accommodations, dining, and activities. It helps travelers maximize their experience without breaking the bank by suggesting free attractions, discount passes, and cost-effective transportation options. Ideal for students, solo travelers, and families on a budget.

8. Romantic Getaways in Virginia Beach 2023

Planning a romantic escape? This guide highlights the most picturesque spots, cozy restaurants, and intimate activities for couples visiting Virginia Beach. From sunset beach walks to secluded dining experiences, it provides ideas to create memorable moments. Includes suggestions for honeymooners and anniversary celebrations.

9. Virginia Beach Festivals & Events 2023

Stay in the loop with this detailed calendar and guide to Virginia Beach's best festivals and events throughout 2023. From music festivals and art shows to cultural celebrations and food fairs, discover the vibrant community spirit of the city. The book offers tips on attending, ticketing, and making the most out of each event.

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