

**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
eshotwell@chincoteaguechamber.com
[757-336-6161](tel:757-336-6161)



Chincoteague Island

Accomack County, Virginia

Population:	3,345 (2020 Census)
Government:	Mayor, Six Town Council Members, Town Manager www.chincoteague-va.gov
Mayor:	J. Arthur Leonard
Town incorporated:	1908
Entire island annexed:	1989
First inhabitants:	Algonquin Indians Gingo-Teague Tribe (island namesake)
British settled island:	1671 Col. Daniel Jenifer was granted 1,500 acres. He established a primitive settlement with 30 colonists, post-dating Captain John Smith's visit in 1608
Key Industries:	Tourism, Seafood, Aerospace
Connecting us:	Chincoteague Causeway completed in 1922 connecting Chincoteague Island to the mainland. Assateague Bridge completed in 1962 and opened the doors to tourism--now the island's #1 industry

Contact: Evelyn Shotwell, Executive Director, Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce
eshotwell@chincoteaguechamber.com (757) 336-6161
www.chincoteaguechamber.com

Virginia, America's First Space Coast

NASA launched the first space rocket in 1945 at Wallops Island, Virginia. Orbital Sciences Corporation made commercial space flight a reality on January 9, 2014 when the Antares rocket rose into the Virginia sky carrying the company's robotic Cygnus cargo vessel on its first contracted supply run to the International Space Station for NASA. Northrop Grumman now holds the contract to partner with NASA Wallops Flight Facility and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport to send resupply missions to the ISS. Smaller, sub-orbital rockets are launched periodically from Wallops Flight Facility conducting space and earth science research for NASA partners including the Department of Defense. In 2022, a New Zealand company named Rocket Lab built its first US launch complex at Wallops Flight Facility offering more frequent flights into orbit for customers around the world.

NASA Wallops Flight Facility

Northrop Grumman, MARS, Rocket Lab, NASA and WFF

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CELEBRATED 20 YEARS IN 2020

WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY CELEBRATED 75 YEARS IN 2020

www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html

- NASA, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport and Northrop Grumman conduct resupply missions from Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia to the ISS.
- 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: www.nasa.gov/station
- Learn more about Northrop Grumman's missions at www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/structure/launch/northrop-grumman.html
- Rocket Lab occupies Launch Complex #2 at Wallops Flight Facility – Introducing Electron, Rocket Lab's latest launch vehicle delivering small satellites to low Earth orbit at an unprecedented frequency. www.rocketlabusa.com/
- NASA'S Wallops Flight Facility supports US Navy's Field Carrier Landing Practice operations, weather forecasting with an outstanding balloon program, satellite programs, and much more.

Stay abreast of all NASA launches from Wallops Flight Facility

www.nasa.gov/wallops-launch-schedule/

Museum of Chincoteague Island

Linking the Past to the Future! 50 Years Old in 2020.....

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 or in Miles Hancock's original workshop now located on the Museum property. 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.

Contact: museumofci@gmail.com 757-336-6117 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 cnha4wildlife@gmail.com or 757-336-3696 to learn more about this iconic symbol of our barrier island coastline.

1800 Captain Timothy Hill House Preserves Island's Past

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 19th 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.

Restoration efforts have focused on replacing the wooden chimney that has been lost from the original house. A masonry chimney with a wooden façade, to remain historically correct while functionally pleasing, was constructed. A kitchen garden adds an authentic element to the humble abode.

Contact: capthillhouse@verizon.net 973-831-5961 or visit them on Facebook
www.facebook.com/CaptainTimothyHillHouse

Chincoteague Island Arts Organization (CIAO)

Famous Art Deco Island Theatre Hosts Annual Events

Island Theatre is a performing arts venue hosting arts and cultural events in the heart of Historic Main Street. In addition to showing current and classic films, the historic movie house features stage and musical performances and community cultural events. The Island Theatre opened in 1945 and premiered the famous 20th 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 21st century while maintaining the Art-Deco charm of days-gone-by.

Contact: www.islandtheatres.com or 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 weekly Farmers Markets in season, 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. Holly Day Market, Storytelling, Coffeehouse and Chincoteague Island Theater Company presentations are more of this talented group's offerings.

Contact CCA: info@chincoteagueculturalalliance.org www.chincoteagueca.org

We Have Small Town Charm

Welcome to Historic Main Street, Chincoteague Island Waterfront Shopping in 1920's era Buildings

Chincoteague is as authentic as a small town gets. It is a place where people can relax and enjoy the restorative benefits of the beach, the ocean, and its teeming wildlife. Visitors come for the beach and the wild ponies, and when they are ready to get out of the sun, they enjoy Chincoteague's atmosphere of small independently owned stores, restaurants, and art galleries. 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 thoroughfare 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

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

Assateague Island National Seashore, Assateague, VA

The US Fish & Wildlife Service has contributed to the preservation of this small-town life by managing more than 14,000 acres of oceanfront land and inland marshland. The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Seashore help to maintain unique forms of wildlife for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. Birders and wildlife lovers can hook up with fascinating tours of the area's marshland and surrounding waters. Hunting and fishing are vital parts of wildlife management in the refuge.

Miles of nature trails offers ways to explore the refuge by foot or bike and miles of pristine Atlantic beach provide opportunities for shelling, surfing, fishing, sunbathing, and other types of outdoor recreation. Nature's playground in our own backyard!

"Want to live on the edge? Visit a place recreated each day by ocean wind and waves. Life on Assateague Island has adapted to an existence on the move. Explore sandy beaches, salt marshes, maritime forests, and coastal bays. Rest, relax, recreate, and enjoy some time on the edge of the continent."

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge: Learn more at www.fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague/

Assateague Island National Seashore: Learn more at www.nps.gov/asis/index.htm

We Are Home to THE Saltwater Cowboys.....

Annual Pony Roundup, Swim & Auction

Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company Carnival

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

The book *Misty of Chincoteague* and movie that followed brought fame to Chincoteague in the 1940s through present day, but it was the year 1925 when the famed annual pony penning, auction and carnival first began. In the early 1900s, after several disastrous fires on the island, Chincoteague's citizen firefighters bought the best equipment they could afford by hosting their first pony penning and auction. They raised enough money to buy the fire engine that now resides in the Museum of Chincoteague. The tradition of the real saltwater cowboys continues the last week of July every year to benefit the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. Pony penning has been popular in Chincoteague since the 1700s when livestock owners harnessed and branded their loose herds. The firefighters' stated goal is to keep the town safe against what they call the "evil force" of fire.

Visit www.chincoteaguechamber.com/pony-penning to learn more about this unique event which brings tens of thousands of folks from around the world each year to watch the world-famous Chincoteague Ponies swim the Assateague Channel.

Contact: www.cvfc3.com or 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. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science reports "Clam and oyster farming, also known as aquaculture, is a booming, multi-million dollar industry in Virginia. Virginia shellfish farmers sold \$56.6 million in clams and oysters in 2016 (latest numbers available), 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."

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.

Tom's Cove Aqua Farms

Contact: www.tomscove.net 757-336-1945

Contact: Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce for festival ticket information at eshotwell@chincoteaguechamber.com 757-336-6161 www.chincoteaguechamber.com

We Are a Great Catch

Seafood businesses are our heritage. In culinary circles, Atlantic Oysters are still called *Crassostrea Virginicus*, or Virginia oysters. To supplement wild oyster crops, aquaculture farms maintain reefs with rocks and shells so shellfish can attach themselves and grow. Millions of market-size oysters come from seeds within a year to two years of aquaculture cultivation – happy news for restaurateurs and oyster lovers. "Virginia is for Lovers is about love – pure and simple. For people who love great seafood in a beautiful setting, Virginia is gaining ground as a hot destination for oyster lovers. The commonwealth – already known around the world as a top wine travel destination, is now becoming the oyster capital of the East Coast – [with eight different regions](#) and status as the largest producer of fresh, farm-raised oysters in the country," according to the state tourism website, www.virginia.org.

Two annual festivals celebrate the bounties from the waters around Chincoteague Island. Both are hosted by the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce. www.chincoteaguechamber.com

The **Annual Chincoteague Seafood Festival** is held the first Saturday in May and honors "Little Neck" Clams as the featured menu item.

The **Annual Chincoteague Oyster Festival** is held the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend in October. This event is all about oysters---prepared every way imaginable.

Summer Camp Opportunities

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

Virginia Space Flight Academy Celebrates 25 Years in 2023

Celebrating 25 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.

Contact: 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 and 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 is 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. Intergenerational camps offer grandparents and grandchildren time together exploring nature.

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.

Custom programs are also available for families, home schoolers, public schools, and universities.

Contact: www.cbfieldstation.org 757-824-5636

David Landsberger Family YMCA Summer Camp

Because You Are Only a Kid Once!

Camps at the Y all share one thing: they are 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/locations/david-landsberger-family-ymca

757-336-6266

Equestrian Camps

[Chincoteague Pony Drill Team](#)

**THIS IS BUT A SAMPLING OF STORY IDEAS TO EXPLORE IN THIS CULTURALLY RICH
COASTLINE OF VIRGINIA’S EASTERN SHORE.**

Discover your love of Chincoteague Island and our small-town charm with these fun-filled itineraries. History, coastal cuisine, shopping, Chincoteague Ponies, nature trails and time on our brackish waters will have you eager to plan your next visit before you even finish packing your suitcases and head back across the causeway.

[SELF-GUIDED TOURS & ITINERARIES](#)