

THE LOCAL TAKE:

VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

Perched on the southeasternmost point in Virginia, at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia Beach beckons travelers with 35 miles of coastline and a lively oceanfront boardwalk. But we wanted to know: What lies under the surface? So we reached out to locals for their tips on not-to-miss hotspots. Here's what they said. **By Joshua Pramis**



RosalireBetancourt 5/Alamy Stock Photo

The Insiders



KATY BLEVINS FAMILY BLOGGER

Katy Blevins is a founder of chaosandkiddos.com.

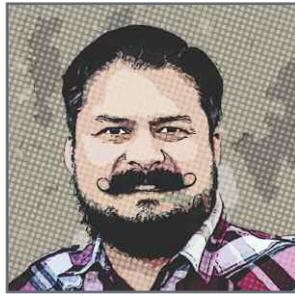
Fly the Coop “The petting zoo at Hunt Club [Farm] ❶ is always a favorite with my entire family. They love being able to go into the chicken coop and goat paddock.”

Surf and Turf “Taking the kids to the beach can be a huge project and I often find they are quickly looking for something to do apart from just ‘being there.’ Grommet Island [Beach Park] fixes all that. The kids have a top-notch playground to keep their attention, and we can hop down to the water and sand whenever we want.”

Dinner and a Show “The comfortable seating and dinner-table design [at Cinema Cafe] allow my children and me to enjoy dinner and a movie without the fidgeting that often comes in a traditional movie theater.”

Kid-Approved Eats “Mona Lisa’s [Pizza] is a fabulous, family-friendly restaurant that is locally owned and [has] some of the best Italian food on the planet.”

Day-trip: Morris Farm Market “This is the farmers market to beat all farmers markets. It has an outdoor bar with live music, homemade ice cream, peanut butters, salsa, baked goods, crafts; you name it.” (1:00)



GEORGE CULVER RESIDENT FOODIE

George Culver is the “eater-in-chief” at i-heart-food.com.

Aw, Shucks Metropolitan Oyster Exchange ❷ “is casual but still has a little fancy flair. Great lighting and a nice selection of oysters from Virginia and beyond.”

Hidden Gem Judy’s Sichuan Cuisine is “tucked away in a strip mall near the Virginia Beach Town Center. If you like spicy, this is the place for you! Try the roasted duck braised in beer or the *xiao long bao* (soup dumplings).”

Asian Fusion “Hashi is the best food truck in Virginia Beach.”

Better Burger “You can get a burger everywhere, but one of my favorites is the galaxy burger at the local brewpub Home Republic. It’s topped with bacon and a beer-cheese sauce that I wish I could get in a bowl.”

Drinks Before Noon “Just across the street from the Chesapeake Bay, [Bay Local Eatery] serves the delicious bloody bay — a bloody mary with a house seasoning.”

Day-trip: Head Inland “Shopping, Busch Gardens, nature trails, fine dining, not-so-fine dining — Williamsburg has it all.” (1:05)



JENNIFER CARR PHOTOGRAPHER

Jennifer Carr specializes in landscape and seascape photography.

Aquatic Action “The Virginia Aquarium ... offers dolphin and sea life-watching trips, which are a really fun way to gain a unique perspective on Virginia Beach.”

The Perfect Backdrop “The dunes around 84th Street are an absolutely breathtaking location. Plan your photograph about 30 minutes before sunset to get the prettiest light.”

Sunup Till Sundown “Virginia Beach is full of amazing photography opportunities! The First Street Jetty is an excellent sunrise option. ❸ Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge is my favorite spot for sunset.”

Tunnel Vision “The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel is a spectacular sight. It’s easily seen from Chicks Beach, near Buoy 44 Seafood Grill.”

Brunch Bites “Doc Taylor’s is a great [brunch] option. My favorite breakfast there is the granola pancakes.”

Day-trip: The Revolutionary City Colonial Williamsburg is “filled with rich history, but still fun enough to entertain the kids.” (1:05)



SARAH SHIELDS DRIGGS ARCHITECTURE EXPERT

Sarah Shields Driggs is a Virginia architectural historian.

The Cavalier Hotel ❹ “The 1927 Classical Revival, cupola-crowned brick hotel is undergoing a desperately needed restoration right now, due to be finished in 2017, but you can get visions of its glory days even under the scaffolding.”

Colonial Digs “Oceanfront Avenue, which runs parallel to the beach north from 42nd Street, shows the full-circle evolution of Colonial Revival-style beach cottages through midcentury styles all the way back to the favored current style.”

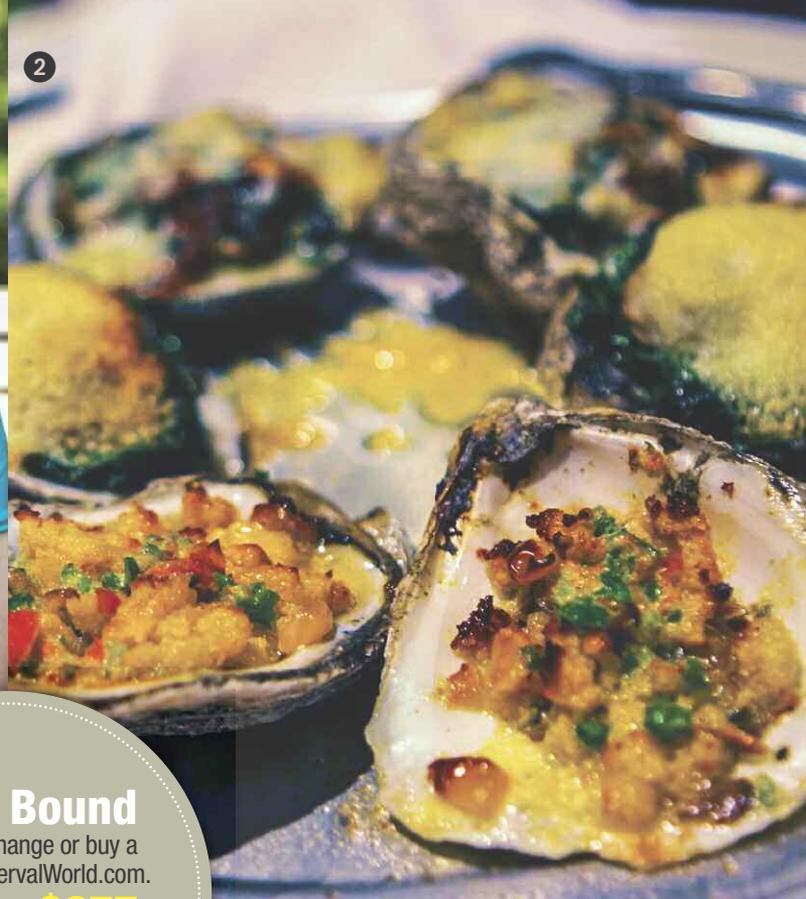
Historic Homes “Both the Adam Thoroughgood House and the Lynnhaven House are heavily built, brick vernacular, late medieval hall-parlor plan houses that remarkably survived and are open to the public. The Lynnhaven House even retains some of its original farmland.”

Worth a Visit “The Old Cape Henry Lighthouse was the first federally funded lighthouse, built near the landing of the English in Chesapeake Bay.”

Day-trip: Up the Coast Head up “the Eastern Shore to little 18th- and 19th-century towns like Onancock and Accomack and, if you go far enough, Chincoteague, home of the famous wild pony Misty.” (1:35 – 2:00)



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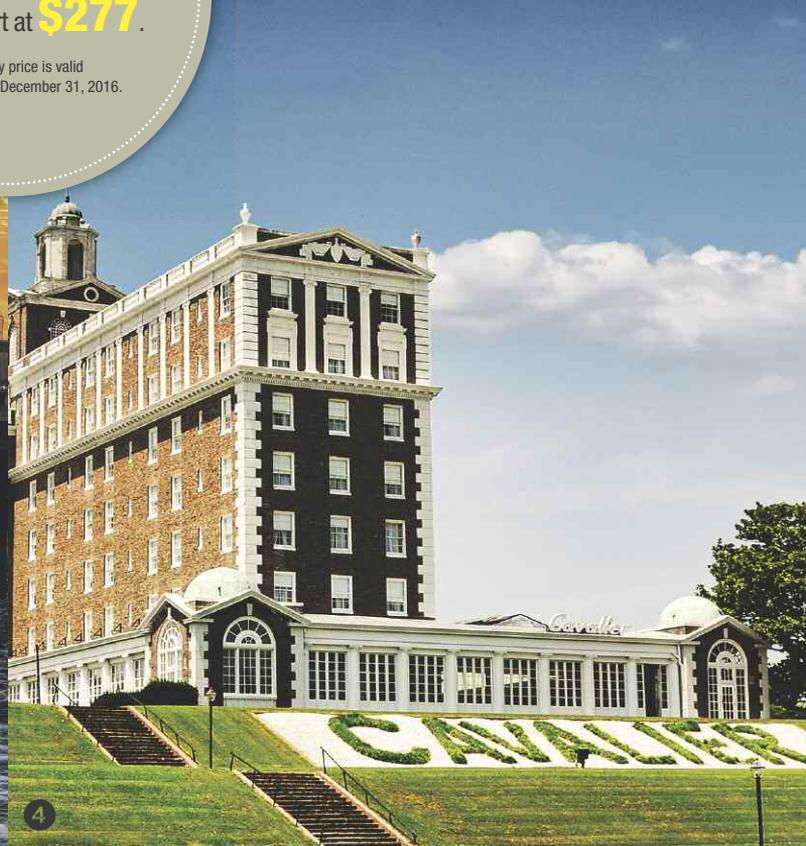


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AREA RESORT



Ocean Beach Club and Oceanaire at Ocean Beach Club (OCB & OCI)
 Ocean Beach Club features two towers for different vacation experiences. Families will enjoy the indoor and outdoor pools, fitness center, and game room at Beach Tower, while Oceanaire Tower is more adult-oriented, with a 21-and-up indoor pool and a martini bar.

To view all of the Virginia Beach area resorts in Interval's network, go to IntervalWorld.com.