



Virginia Beach, VA



Virginia Beach, Virginia, is located where the Chesapeake Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. The First Landing Cross marks the spot where Captain John Smith and settlers from the Virginia Company of London first landed on April 26, 1607, after their long journey across the Atlantic Ocean and before they continued up the James River to establish the Jamestown colony. Between 14,000 and 21,000 Powhatan people are estimated to have lived in eastern Virginia when the English arrived. In 1963, the modern city of Virginia Beach was created by consolidating the 2 square miles of the City of Virginia Beach and the 253 square miles of Princess Anne County.

The Douglas County Museum is noted for its natural and cultural history collections that tell the ancient and contemporary stories of the Umpqua River Valley, including the research herbarium's comprehensive plant collections and a historic photograph collection.

The Umpqua Valley Arts Association houses six art gallery spaces, a workshop studio, a full-sized pottery studio, and a new outdoor stage.

Performing arts venues include the Betty Long Unruh Theatre, which hosts the Umpqua Actors Community Theatre that presents 5 major productions annually; the Umpqua Community College Centerstage Theater and Jacoby Auditorium, which present student and community concerts and theater productions; and the First Presbyterian Church, which hosts the Umpqua Chamber Orchestra and Umpqua Singers, UCC Chamber Choir, and Roseburg Concert Chorale. A free summer concert series called Music On The Half Shell is held at Stewart Park's Nichols band shell.

NEIGHBORHOODS

In addition to commercial and cultural activities, the Town Center of Virginia Beach offers residential options that include upscale apartments and condominiums.

Brighton on the Bay, Sylvan Lake, The Reserve, Chelsea, Alanton, and Laurel Cove are among the many neighborhoods of Great Neck. This area offers large, single-family homes with large yards, mature trees, and upscale landscaping; waterfront properties; and easy access to the Chesapeake Bay. Some homes have wooded lots and others are near open meadows. Alanton community features ranch-style homes and traditional two-story styles that were built in the 1960s. Sylvan Lake features early 1980s contemporary-style architecture, wooded lots, and a lake for swimming, fishing, and boating.

Christopher Farms was developed in the 1990s and features two-story, traditionally styled houses with exterior siding and front porches. The neighborhood has mature trees, wide streets, and cul-de-sacs.

A canal system runs through Lagomar connecting waterfront homes to deep water access and Virginia's Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Homes in Lagomar's southern portion were built in the 1980s and 1990s in various styles on heavily wooded lots. Homes in the northern portion, known as The Back Bay at Lagomar, have been built since 2005. Large, two-story brick houses characterize The Back Bay at Lagomar as well as Heritage Park, neighborhoods that were built by the same builders at the same time. Backyards in Heritage Park face open space or a lake.

Ashville Park is a master-planned community with many homes under construction. The one- and two-story homes include such traditional southern features as scrollwork, wrought iron, porches, and pergolas. Lot and home size varies by neighborhood.

The many military bases in Virginia Beach offer various housing options for military personnel and their families.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Virginia Beach has 265 parks/park facilities and three beaches (Resort Area, Sandbridge, and Chesapeake Bay). The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center features touch tanks, exhibits, and live animal habitats. The Virginia Beach Sportsplex offers football, soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse facilities. Three eras of naval aviation—early 20th century, World War II, and modern—are marked at the Naval Aviation Monument Park.

The 165-acre Mount Trashmore Park is comprised of 2 man-made mountains created by compacting layers of solid waste and clean soil, 2 lakes, 2 playgrounds, a skate park and vert ramp, 2 volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, and multi-use paths. This former land fill features a xeriscaping garden. No boating,

swimming, or wading are allowed in the lakes; fishing is permitted in one lake.

First Landing State Park offers opportunities to explore a unique habitat featuring lagoons, large cypress trees, and rare plants. Completed in 1792, the Cape Henry Lighthouse is one of the oldest surviving lighthouses in the country and stands near the First Landing site. The Chesapeake Bay Center showcases a historical exhibition of the first landing of settlers, 3 aquariums, environmental exhibits, a wet lab, and a touch tank.

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge is an 8,500-acre beach, woodland, and marsh refuge for a wide variety of migratory birds, endangered species, and other wildlife. South of the refuge, False Cape is an ocean-to-freshwater bay habitat accessible only by boat, tram, 5-mile hike, or bike ride.

The 68-acre Bayville Farms Park has 6 lighted tennis courts, 3 lighted basketball courts, 2 lighted softball fields, a playground, a dog park, shuffleboard courts, an 18-hole disc golf course, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, a TRX® suspension frame, and a shared-use path.

JT's Grommet Island Beach Park and Playground is a 100% accessible ocean-front park with wheelchair accessible entrances. The playground includes poured-in-place surfacing, raised sand tables for sandcastle building, a sensory board, and a sway boat. Sculptural features enable children to pretend to ride the waves and swim with the dolphins.

Stumpy Lake Natural Area consists of a 278-acre lake with a raised ADA-compliant overlook, a golf course, and 1.65 miles of soft, shared-use trails. More than 970 acres of undeveloped, forested land surround the lake. Designed for nonmotorized vessels, the canoe/kayak launch is also fully ADA compliant. Fishing from land and water is permitted.

EDUCATION

Virginia Beach City Public Schools educate more than 67,000 students in 55 elementary schools, 15 middle schools, 12 high schools, and other secondary/post-secondary specialty centers. The division provides services to support children from military families. For 40 years, the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Planetarium has been a source for astronomical education.

Higher education is available at Regent University, which is a private Christian research university that offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Tidewater Community College Virginia Beach Campus offers associate degrees for college transfer and career/technical programs.

Degree programs in specialized fields and career-focused education are available at The Art Institute of Virginia Beach, South University-Virginia Beach, East Coast Polytechnic Institute, Bryant & Stratton College Virginia Beach, Advanced Technology Institute, and Stratford University.

HEALTH CARE

Virginia Beach is served by the following health care facilities:

- Sentara Princess Anne Hospital: 160 licensed beds
- Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital: 276 licensed beds
- Virginia Beach Psychiatric Center: 100 licensed beds

CITY STATS

2015

City Population	452,745
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	1,724,876
Per Capita Personal Income, Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, MSA	\$46,400