

**I  
LOVE**  
*Virginia State Parks*





# AT A GLANCE

## A message from Governor McAuliffe

Travel across Virginia and you'll find some of the finest scenery in the nation. Our state is also home to many of the country's most significant historical and cultural sites.



From the mountains in the heart of Appalachia to the sandy shores of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, our Commonwealth is as diverse and interesting as are the people who call Virginia home.

Virginia State Parks are the best way to explore the rich, natural wonder of our beautiful state and to experience the finest Virginia has to offer. From a quiet hike along the lakeshore to the foot-stomping music of a bluegrass festival, our 36 state parks offer hundreds of programs, activities, concerts and other ways to enjoy Virginia.

Learning takes on new meaning as you and your family enjoy a ranger-led hike, explore a visitor center featuring state-of-the-art displays or experience history firsthand with a costumed interpreter. The electronic treasure hunting of geocaching helps children connect with nature as you connect with what's important.

Make plans today to begin your Virginia State Park adventure. Whether it's a few weeks or a few hours, time in a park is time well spent, and you'll soon learn why so many of us are saying, "I love Virginia State Parks."

**Terry McAuliffe**  
Governor of Virginia

Photos on pages 2, 13, 18, 19, 20 and 22 courtesy of Bill Crabtree Jr., Virginia Tourism Corp. Photo on page 9 courtesy of Jeff Saxman. Wedding photo on page 20 courtesy of Carri Lyn.



Virginia   
is for Lovers™

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# THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR IN VIRGINIA



Virginia has some of the most expensive land in the United States — it was purchased with the blood and lives of Americans during the four years of the Civil War. Virginia saw more battles than any other state and paid a steep price, both on the field of battle and on the home front.

Over the next year and a half, as the nation commemorates the sesquicentennial of the end of the Civil War and the liberation of 3.9 million enslaved Americans, Virginia State Parks are a natural choice to learn about Virginia's role in the war and the impact of the war on Virginia.

While Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park, High Bridge Trail State Park, Staunton River Battlefield State Park, Leesylvania State Park and Sky Meadows State Park each saw battles, engagements or encampments, there is a broader story of the lives of Virginia's women, men and children, both free and enslaved, during the four years of the war.

It's a story of survival, freedom and endurance; of changing lives and changing roles; of overcoming adversity; of dreams realized and hearts broken. These stories are written across the landscape of Virginia and in every community.

These stories and more are being told in every state park through programs, encampments and activities now through 2015.

For a list of state park activities, visit [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/civil-war-150.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/civil-war-150.shtml).

For information about the Civil War sesquicentennial in Virginia, visit [www.virginiacivilwar.org](http://www.virginiacivilwar.org).



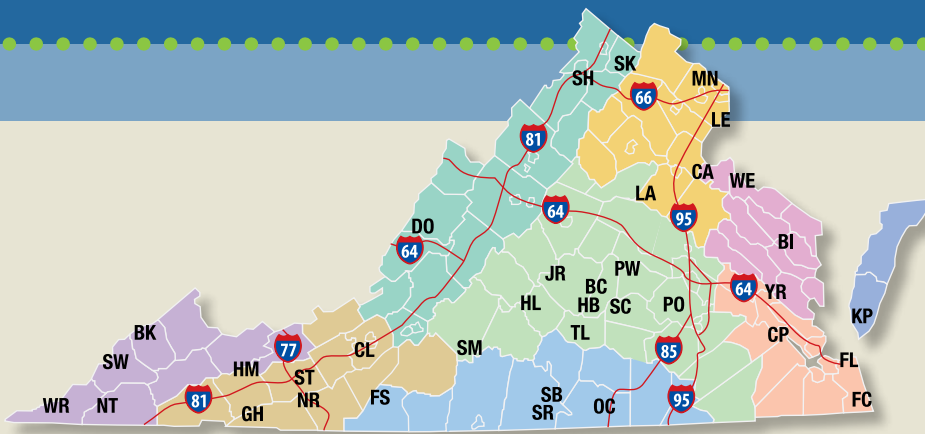


# VIRGINIA STATE PARKS



## Experiences to Remember

Our parks offer programs, events and activities that allow you to explore nature and history every day of the year. Our 36 state parks have trails, beaches, scenic picnic spots, interpretive programs, visitor centers, museums, gift shops and more to make your visit special. With so much to see and do, Virginia State Parks are perfect for a short, relaxing picnic or a two-week vacation. Comfortable cabins, clean and safe campgrounds, and convenient meeting facilities ensure that your park experience doesn't end at sundown.



### Eastern Shore

(KP) Kiptopeke • 757-331-2267

### Hampton Roads

(CP) Chippokes Plantation • 757-294-3625  
 (FC) False Cape • 757-426-7128  
 (FL) First Landing • 757-412-2300  
 (YR) York River • 757-566-3036

### Chesapeake Bay

(BI) Belle Isle • 804-462-5030  
 (CA) Caledon • 540-663-3861  
 (WE) Westmoreland • 804-493-8821

### Northern Virginia

(LA) Lake Anna • 540-854-5503  
 (LE) Leesylvania • 703-730-8205  
 (MN) Mason Neck • 703-339-2385

### Central Virginia

(BC) Bear Creek Lake • 804-492-4410  
 (HB) High Bridge Trail • 434-315-0457  
 (HL) Holliday Lake • 434-248-6308  
 (JR) James River • 434-933-4355  
 (PO) Pocahontas • 804-796-4255  
 (PW) Powhatan • 804-598-7148  
 (SC) Sailor's Creek Battlefield • 804-561-7510  
 (SM) Smith Mountain Lake • 540-297-6066  
 (TL) Twin Lakes • 434-392-3435  
 Cedar Crest Conference Center  
 • 434-767-2398

### Southern Virginia

(FS) Fairy Stone • 276-930-2424  
 (OC) Occoneechee • 434-374-2210  
 (SR) Staunton River • 434-572-4623  
 (SB) Staunton River Battlefield • 434-454-4312

### Shenandoah Valley

(DO) Douthat • 540-862-8100  
 (SH) Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr.  
 Shenandoah River • 540-622-6840  
 (SK) Sky Meadows • 540-592-3556

### Blue Ridge

(CL) Claytor Lake • 540-643-2500  
 (GH) Grayson Highlands • 276-579-7092  
 (HM) Hungry Mother • 276-781-7400  
 Hemlock Haven Conference Center  
 • 276-781-7425  
 (NR) New River Trail • 276-699-6778  
 (ST) Shot Tower • 276-699-6778

### Heart of Appalachia

(BK) Breaks Interstate • 276-865-4413  
 (NT) Natural Tunnel • 276-940-2674  
 Cove Ridge Center • 276-940-2696  
 (SW) Southwest Virginia Museum  
 • 276-523-1322  
 (WR) Wilderness Road • 276-445-3065

		Boat Launching	Boat Rentals	Fishing	Cabins	Camping	Nature/ Cultural Programs	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Trails	
ES*	Kiptopeke (KP)	•	•	•FP	•	•	•	•	•	•	H/U/B	
	HAMPTON ROADS	Chippokes Plantation (CP)			•	•	•	•	•	•	P	B/E/H/U
		False Cape (FC)			•		PC	•	•			B/H
		First Landing (FL)	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/H/U
		York River (YR)	•	•	•FP		•	•	•	•	•	B/E/H/U
CHESAPEAKE BAY	Belle Isle (BI)	•	•	•FP	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/E/H/U	
	Caledon (CA)						•	•	•		B/H	
	Westmoreland (WE)	•	•	•FP	•	•	•	•	•	P	B/H/U	
NORTHERN VA	Lake Anna (LA)	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/E/H/U	
	Leesylvania (LE)	•	•	•FP		G	•	•	•		H/U	
	Mason Neck (MN)	CT	•	•		•	•	•	•		B/H/U	
CENTRAL VA	Bear Creek Lake (BC)	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/E/H	
	High Bridge Trail (HB)						•				B/E/H/U	
	Holliday Lake (HL)	T	•	•							B/E/H	
	James River (JR)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		B/E/H/U	
	Pocahontas (PO)	T	•	•		•	•	•	•	P	B/E/H/U	
	Powhatan (PW)	CT		•			•	•	•		B/E/H	
	Sailor's Creek Battlefield (SC)						•	•			H	
	Smith Mountain Lake (SM)	•	•	•FP	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/H	
	Twin Lakes (TL)	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/H	
SOUTHERN VA	Fairy Stone (FS)	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/E/H/U	
	Occoneechee (OC)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		B/E/H	
	Staunton River Battlefield (SB)			•			•	•			B/H/U	
	Staunton River (SR)	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	P	B/E/H	
SHENANDOAH VALLEY	Douthat (DO)	T	•	•FP	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/E/H	
	Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River (SH)	CT		•	•	•	•	•			B/E/H	
	Sky Meadows (SK)			•		PC	•	•			B/E/H/U	
BLUE RIDGE	Claytor Lake (CL)	•	•	•FP	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/H/U	
	Grayson Highlands (GH)			•		•	•	•	•		B/E/H	
	Hungry Mother (HM)	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	B/H/U	
	New River Trail (NR)	CT	•	•		PC	•	•	•		B/E/H/U	
	Shot Tower (ST)						•	•			H	
HEART OF APPALACHIA	Breaks Interstate (BK)	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	P	B/E/H	
	Natural Tunnel (NT)			•	•	•	•	•	•	P	B/H/U	
	Southwest Virginia Museum (SW)				•		•	•			H/U	
	Wilderness Road (WR)					G	•	•	•		B/E/H	

\* EASTERN SHORE

TABLE LEGEND: (B) Biking (CT) Car-top Boat Launch (E) Equestrian (FP) Fishing Pier (G) Group Camping by Permit (H) Hiking (P) Pool Swimming (PC) Primitive Camping (T) Electric Motors Only (U) Universally Accessible



# GET ACTIVE



## Trails

More than 600 miles of trails of varying difficulty crisscross Virginia's state parks. The trails give hikers the chance to explore hardwood forests, coastal marshes and flowering meadows. Self-guided trails introduce visitors to the natural and cultural history of each area, and markers provide interesting and educational information. Horseback riders and bicyclists will find miles of bridle and bike trails in state parks all across Virginia.

To view virtual tours of the trails, or to print trail maps, visit [www.virginiaoutdoors.com](http://www.virginiaoutdoors.com).

## Boating and Fishing

Virginia State Parks offer access to the state's four largest lakes, most major rivers, the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Smaller, man-made lakes in a number of parks are known for healthy populations of smallmouth bass, trout, crappie and bream. At Douthat Lake, anglers can fish for seasonally stocked trout for a daily fee.

A Virginia fishing license is required to fish in most state park waters. Annual boat launch passes offer significant savings to frequent boaters.

## Swimming

The young and young at heart enjoy taking a relaxing, summertime dip at our parks. Beaches and pools at 17 state parks, complemented by sunbathing areas, clean bathhouses and concession facilities, are generally open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Overnight guests have free swimming privileges, except for group cabin visitors at Pocahontas State Park. A small fee is charged to day visitors. Season passes and discounted swimming tickets offer savings for frequent visitors.

## An Important Part of a Healthy Lifestyle

Virginia State Parks are a tonic for the mind, body and spirit. Recreational opportunities in state parks are endless and easy to see. From swimming and boating to horseshoes and hiking, there's always something to do in a state park. Parents play a big role in helping kids get up and get moving. Be a role model for your children.

Kids who see physically active adults having fun are more likely to be active and stay active throughout their lives. Take the whole family hiking, biking, canoeing or swimming. Focus on fun. By providing a safe and attractive environment for physical activity, Virginia State Parks can play an essential part in a healthy lifestyle.

## Picnicking

From an impromptu picnic to a special occasion, all parks have picnic tables and grills. Picnic shelters are available at most parks. Shelter rental reservations can be made by calling the Customer Service Center at 800-933-7275. When not reserved, most shelters are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Equipment Rentals

Many parks rent canoes, rowboats, paddleboats, kayaks, hydro-bikes and mountain bikes. Guided horseback riding trips are available at New River Trail State Park.

## Hunting

Open hunting is offered in designated areas of some parks each year. Resource management hunts are held in parks annually in response to the needs of individual parks.

Our cabins and campgrounds make excellent base camps for hunting in nearby wildlife management areas and public forests. For current hunting-related updates and announcements, visit [www.virginiastateparks.gov](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov).



## Chippokes Plantation State Park

Just across the James River from historic Jamestown, Chippokes Plantation is one of the oldest continually farmed plantations in the country. A working farm since 1619, the park offers modern recreational activities and a glimpse of life in a bygone era. Visitors tour the historic area's antebellum mansion and outbuildings, stroll through formal gardens, and view antique equipment at the Chippokes Farm and Forestry Museum. A campground and four overnight cottages allow visitors to stay on the historic grounds. The park has an Olympic-sized swimming pool and a visitor center with a gift shop. It also provides opportunities to bike, hike, ride horseback and picnic. Chippokes Plantation also offers wedding packages and meeting facilities.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Historic Garden Week</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Steam and Gas Engine Show</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>Pork, Peanut and Pine Festival</b>

**LOCATION** — Access is via State Route 10 in Surry County.

## False Cape State Park

Nestled between Back Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, False Cape State Park is one of the last remaining undeveloped areas along the East Coast. As the former home of Native Americans, the historic Wash Woods community and a Coast Guard life-saving station, False Cape honors the hardy souls who made a living from the sea.

The park offers an opportunity to experience nature in a unique, primitive setting. Be prepared for weather conditions. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen and insect repellent. False Cape features guided kayak trips, primitive camping, interpretive programs, hiking and biking trails, and 6 miles of pristine Atlantic Ocean beach. The park is accessible only by foot, bicycle, beach transport, tram or boat. There is no public vehicular access.

Tram transportation is available April 1 through Oct. 31 through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, where there is an entrance fee. Between Nov. 1 and March 31, access to the park is restricted to hiking or biking along the beach, by boat or by the park's beach transporter. To make reservations for the beach transporter, call 800-933-7275.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Earth Day/Arbor Day</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Clean the Bay Day/National Trails Day</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>International Coastal Cleanup/Stewardship Virginia</b>

**LOCATION** — Southeast of Virginia Beach at the south end of Sandbridge. False Cape is Virginia's southernmost park, its southern boundary being the North Carolina line.

## First Landing State Park



The park is the site of the first landing of the Jamestown colonists in 1607. Native American canoes, Colonial settlers, 20th-century schooners and modern cargo ships have navigated the park's waterways. During the War of 1812, its cypress swamps were a source of fresh water for merchant mariners, pirates and military ships. According to local legend, Blackbeard hid in the Narrows area of the park, and interior waterways served as landing sites for Union and Confederate patrols and blockade-runners during the Civil War. Built in part by an all African-American Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933-1940, the park is a National Natural Landmark and National Historic Landmark. Now, as Virginia's most-visited state park, it's a natural oasis in Virginia Beach's urban oceanfront area.

The park has 20 miles of trails and 1.5 miles of sandy Chesapeake Bay beach frontage. Offering many recreational and educational activities, it's a great place to explore unusual habitats featuring bald cypress trees, lagoons, rare plants and wildlife, and maritime forest ecology. Cabins, water and electric hookup campsites, picnic areas, boat ramps and a camp store with bicycle rentals are also available. The Chesapeake Bay Center houses historical and educational exhibits. The Trail Center, outdoor courtyard, pavilion and amphitheater can be rented for special events and weddings.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Tree Army Day</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>Smokey Bear Day</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Clean the Bay Day</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Fall Fest</b>

**LOCATION** — U.S. 60 at Cape Henry in Virginia Beach.

## York River State Park

The park is known for its rare and delicate estuarine environment, where freshwater and saltwater meet to create a rich habitat for marine and plant life. It is on the York River and is designated as a Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The pristine environment offers clues to a rich natural and cultural history and hosts fossil beds and Colonial and Native American artifacts. Programs, activities and visitor center displays focus on the history, use, wildlife and preservation of the York River and its marshes.

More than 30 miles of hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails allow visitors to explore the marsh, river shoreline and forests. A boat ramp, fresh and salt water fishing spots, a fishing pier, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and seasonal boat and recreational equipment rentals are available.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Estuaries Day</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Ghost Trails</b>

**LOCATION** — From Interstate 64, exit 231-B. Go north on State Route 607 for 1 mile, then right on State Route 606.

## Belle Isle State Park

Belle Isle has 7 miles of shoreline on the Northern Neck's Rappahannock River and Mulberry and Deep creeks. The park lets visitors explore a wide variety of tidal wetlands interspersed with farmland and upland forests. It has a campground, three picnic shelters, hiking, biking and bridle trails, and motorboat and car-top launches. Belle Isle also offers overnight lodging at Bel Air and the Bel Air Guest House. Bicycle, canoe, kayak and motorboat rentals are available. Guests also enjoy the park's universal access playground, boardwalk and fishing pier, and educational programs. The Bel Air historic area is ideal for weddings.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER** Bay Seafood Festival

**LOCATION** — From Warsaw, take State Route 3 to State Route 354 and then State Route 683 near Litwalton to the park entrance in Lancaster County. From Kilmarnock, take State Route 3, turn left on State Route 201, right on State Route 354 and left at State Route 683.

## Caledon State Park

A National Natural Landmark known for its old-growth forest and summer home to one of the largest concentrations of American bald eagles on the East Coast, Caledon attracts bird watchers of all ages. Trails, including Boyd's Hole Trail, which leads to the Potomac River, are open year-round. To protect the eagles, however, access to marshes and the Potomac River is limited to designated areas. A visitor center with bald eagle exhibits, two picnic areas, a picnic shelter and restrooms also are available.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**NOVEMBER** Art and Wine Festival

**LOCATION** — From east or west, take State Route 3 to State Route 206 east for about 7 miles to State Route 218 west for 1 mile to park entrance.



## Westmoreland State Park



On the Potomac River's Northern Neck, this park offers many opportunities for family fun. It has an Olympic-sized swimming pool and an adjacent bathhouse, meeting area, snack bar, camp store and power-boat ramp. You'll also find a visitor center, campgrounds, camping cabins, cabins, a fishing pier, boat rentals and 6 miles of trails. Fossil collectors enjoy hunting for ancient shark teeth along the Potomac. Offshore breakwaters are great for fishing. Birding enthusiasts find the park an excellent site for spotting American bald eagles, ospreys, kingfishers, great blue herons, common terns, green herons and gulls, as well as wintering waterfowl. The Potomac River Retreat is an overnight center suitable for family reunions and other gatherings of up to 16. Its waterfront location provides docking space at a boathouse. Murphy Hall, atop Horse Head Cliffs, offers a superb view of the Potomac River. The hall accommodates up to 72 people for meetings and other gatherings. Amenities include audiovisual equipment, a warming kitchen for catered events and an executive board room.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**MAY** Women's Wellness Weekend

**LOCATION** — 5 miles northwest of Montross, just off State Route 3.

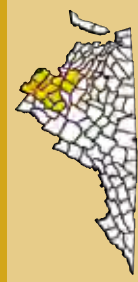


Caledon State Park





Kiptopeke State Park



NORTHERN VA

## Lake Anna State Park

The park has a beach on one of Virginia's most popular lakes, a fishing pond accessible to children and the disabled, a bathhouse-concessions complex and a boat launch. Camping, picnicking, six camping cabins and 10 two-bedroom cabins, seven with views of the lake, also are available. With more than 15 miles of trails, the park offers many hiking, biking and horseback riding options. Visitor center exhibits trace the history of the area's gold mining and highlight the park's natural features. Nature and gold panning programs are popular, and the park offers guided tours of the Goodwin Gold Mine.

**LOCATION** — *Adjacent to State Route 601 off State Route 208; 25 miles southwest of Fredericksburg and 50 miles northwest of Richmond.*

## Leesylvania State Park

Leesylvania is nestled along the tidal shores of the historic Potomac River. Native Americans lived on this land for thousands of years. Capt. John Smith visited the area in 1608 on his voyage of discovery. It's also the ancestral home of Virginia's legendary Lee and Fairfax families. Listed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks, Leesylvania offers many land and water activities, including hiking, picnicking, fishing and boating. A universally accessible fishing pier, playground, boat launch, boat storage area, snack bar and store, visitor center and gift shop are available. A 20-station fitness trail and canoe and kayak rentals are also available.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>SUMMER</b>	<b>Marina Concert Series</b>
<b>MAY – SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Monthly kids fishing tournaments</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Anniversary of the Potomac River Blockade 1861</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Hike for the Cause</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Haunted History Hike</b>

**LOCATION** — *25 miles south of Washington, D.C. From U.S. 1, take State Route 610 (Neabsco Road) continuing east 2 miles.*

## Mason Neck State Park

Just a short drive from Washington, D.C., this Northern Virginia park offers many outdoor activities and programs. It has hiking trails, 3 miles of paved multi-use trails, a large picnic area, a playground, a car-top canoe launch and a visitor center. Canoe, kayak and bicycle rentals are also available. Bird watching, especially for American bald eagles, and guided canoe trips of Kane's Creek and Belmont Bay are favorites with park visitors. The park's wetlands, forest, open water, ponds and open fields make it ideal for environmental study and wildlife observation. Nearby attractions include the BLM Meadowood Recreation Area, Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Gunston Hall and Pohick Bay Regional Park.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>SPRING</b>	<b>Eagle Festival</b>
<b>SUMMER</b>	<b>Guided canoe and kayak tours</b>

**LOCATION** — *7 miles northeast of Woodbridge. Take U.S. 1, then east on State Route 242 (Gunston Road) for about 4 miles.*

## Kiptopeke State Park

On Virginia's beautiful Eastern Shore, explored by Capt. John Smith in 1608, Kiptopeke offers recreational access to the Chesapeake Bay. It's also a great place to explore unique migratory bird habitat along the Atlantic flyway. The park has six-bedroom lodges, RV and tent camping, a yurt (part cabin-part tent) and camping trailers. Guests also enjoy the park's boat ramp, lighted fishing pier, picnic areas, 5.1 miles of hiking and biking trails, playground, beach bathhouse and swimming beach. Seasonal interpretive and educational programs focus on natural history, birding and bay ecology.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Earth Day</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Clean the Bay Day</b>
	<b>Father's Day Fishing Program</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Virginia Clean Waterways</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival</b>

**LOCATION** — *3 miles north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel on U.S. Route 13, then west on State Route 704.*



EASTERN SHORE

# PROGRAMS AND FESTIVALS



Learn to take wildlife photographs. Savor new outdoor cooking recipes. Pan for gold, tour a cave; enjoy a ranger-led nature hike, eagle tour or owl prowl. Park programs, workshops and events are as diverse as the parks themselves. They're great places to learn and improve outdoor skills.

There is plenty of history in Virginia's state parks, too. Immerse yourself in Colonial times, the Civil War or the Underground Railroad. When it comes to festivals, you'll find music, arts and crafts, local food and beverage, classic cars and more at traditional favorites, including the Chippokes Plantation Park, Peanut and Pine Festival, the Delaplaine Strawberry Festival at Sky Meadows and the Douthat Lake Run Car Show.

Up-to-the-minute, comprehensive information is available at [www.virginiastateparks.gov](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov).

## *Environmental Education and Youth Programs*

Virginia State Parks are premier environmental education sites. Schools, scouts, other civic groups and individuals are encouraged to come learn more about the great outdoors. Backyard Classroom programs, incorporating Virginia's Standards of Learning, promote lifelong learning about Virginia's natural wonders and historic treasures. They also help young people enjoy, appreciate and understand the great outdoors. The Virginia State Parks Youth Conservation Corps offers a three-week public service program in the summer.

False Cape State Park's Wash Woods Environmental Education Center offers overnight facilities for schools and groups of up to 26. The center is ideal for those interested in coastal barrier spit ecosystems or the cultural history of Virginia's Outer Banks. Natural Tunnel's Cove Ridge Center has overnight accommodations for up to 48 guests or students. It's perfect for studying Southwest Virginia's ecology, karst topography and rich cultural history.



## Fairy Stone State Park



Home of the legendary fairy stones, this park is well known for its 168-acre lake adjoining Philpott Reservoir. The park is just minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Attractions include cabins, a campground, group camping, an equestrian campground, a conference center, hiking trails, lake swimming, rowboats, canoes, paddle boats, kayaks, picnicking and two playgrounds, including one in the water.

**LOCATION** — Near Martinsville. Access by Route 57 from Bassett or from the Blue Ridge Parkway via Routes 58, 8 and 57.

## Occoneechee State Park

Named for Native Americans who lived in the area for hundreds of years, Occoneechee is on the John H. Kerr Reservoir, better known as Buggs Island Lake, and is popular with anglers and boaters. Facilities include cabins, campsites, an equestrian campground, picnic shelters, an amphitheater, a playground, boat ramps, and a private concession offering boat rentals and snacks. Occoneechee Marina offers a fuel dock and boat slips with water and electric service for annual rentals. Six slips are available for rent to overnight camping and cabin guests. The park also has 20 miles of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. The visitor center and museum introduce visitors to Native American history and the indigenous Occoneechee people.

**LOCATION** — Near Clarksville, 1.5 miles east on U.S. 58, just east of the U.S. 15 and 58 intersection.

## Staunton River Battlefield State Park

This park is a 300-acre Civil War historic site where a ragtag group of Confederate old men and young boys, along with 296 Confederate reserves, beat the odds and held off an assault by 5,000 Union cavalry on a bridge of strategic importance to Gen. Lee's army, then under siege in Petersburg. Visit the Confederate earthworks and walk the historic bridge trail. Two visitor centers feature 2,300 square feet of exhibits on the area's rich Civil War heritage, Native American archaeological investigations and electric energy production. The park includes a 1.2-mile self-guided trail through the battlefield and a .75-mile nature trail with two wildlife observation towers overlooking wetlands.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**JUNE** 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge

**DECEMBER** Mulberry Hill Open House

**LOCATION** — 18 miles east of South Boston. Take State Route 92 to Clover. Go about 5 miles to State Route 600 and turn left. Go approximately 3 miles and turn right on State Route 855.

## Staunton River State Park



Tucked neatly into the heart of Virginia, about 25 miles from the North Carolina border, Staunton River offers much to families and outdoor enthusiasts. The 2,400-acre park offers woodlands, meadows and shoreline along the Dan and Staunton rivers. Cabins built in the 1930s by the CCC and a campground offer overnight lodging. The equestrian campground has large campsites and horse stalls. Access to Virginia's largest lake, Buggs Island Lake, offers freshwater fishing and boating, along with water skiing and many other aquatic activities. The park also has Olympic-sized and wading pools, picnic shelters, three playgrounds, tennis and volleyball courts, several boat launches and more than 17 miles of multi-use trails. River Traders, just outside the park entrance, rents canoes, kayaks, jon boats and pontoon boats.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**MARCH** Staunton River Star Party - Spring

**OCTOBER** Staunton River Star Party - Fall

**LOCATION** — 18 miles east of South Boston. Take U.S. 360, then State Route 344 for 10 miles.



Occoneechee State Park



## Bear Creek Lake State Park



Nestled in the heart of the Cumberland State Forest in central Virginia, Bear Creek Lake is less than an hour west of Richmond. It's the perfect getaway for the outdoor enthusiast. Activities center on the 40-acre lake with a boat launch, fishing pier, boat rentals and a swimming beach. Other attractions include a meeting facility, cabins, camping, picnicking, an archery range and playgrounds. Guests also enjoy the park's trails and access to the adjoining 16,000-acre Cumberland State Forest, including the 14-mile Cumberland Multi-use Trail, which is available for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

**LOCATION** — From U.S. 60 at Cumberland Courthouse, north on State Route 622 and then west on State Route 629.

## High Bridge Trail State Park

High Bridge Trail is 31 miles long and ideally suited for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. Once a rail bed, the trail is wide, level and generally flat. The trail's finely crushed limestone surface and dimensions make it easy for everyone to enjoy. The park's centerpiece is the majestic High Bridge, which is more than 2,400 feet long and 125 feet above the Appomattox River. It is the longest recreational bridge in Virginia and among the longest in the United States. High Bridge is a Virginia Historic Landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places. High Bridge Trail is designated a National Recreation Trail recognizing exemplary trails of local and regional significance, connecting people to nature, to each other, and to our shared histories and cultures. Bring plenty of drinking water because it's not available on the trail.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**JUNE** National Trails Day

**LOCATION** — There are multiple access points along the trail. Use municipal parking lots in Farmville. Others are at River Road in Cumberland County; Osborne Road in Farmville; Heights School Road in Prince Edward County; and at Rice, Tuggle and Prospect. Horse trailer parking is available at Prospect, Osborne Road and Heights School Road.

## Holliday Lake State Park



Deep in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, Holliday Lake is a paradise for the outdoor enthusiast. Fishing for largemouth bass, crappie and bluegill is popular. Swimming at the park's guarded beach and the "Critter Hole" play area are visitor favorites. The park has several hiking trails, including a connector trail to the 10.2-mile Carter Taylor Multi-use Trail for hikers, bicyclists and horseback riders. Visitors enjoy its campground, picnic shelters, playgrounds, seasonal concession stand, gift shop and boat ramp. The park rents canoes, kayaks, jon boats and paddleboats. Holliday Lake is just minutes from the famous Appomattox Court House National Historical Park where Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in 1865.

**LOCATION** — Accessible via State Route 24 between Appomattox and U.S. 60 and from state routes 626, 640 and 692.

## James River State Park

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the park features rolling grasslands, quiet forests and beautiful views, as well as 3 miles of shoreline along the James River. Visitors can hike, bike, canoe, kayak, fish or camp on the banks of the historic river or at Branch Pond. Facilities include cabins, a nature center, a gift shop, picnic shelters, multi-use trails, boat launches, campgrounds and equestrian camping. The park also has a universally accessible fishing pier and a .25-mile-long wheelchair accessible trail around Green Hill Pond. James River State Park Outdoor Adventures, a full-service canoe livery, provides canoe, kayak and tube rentals as well as shuttle services. For more information about the livery (open seasonally), call 434-933-8682. The park is also a great place to view the annual James River Batteau Festival. A replica of one of the unusual vessels is on display at the visitor center.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**JULY** Summer Festival

**OCTOBER** Fall Festival

**LOCATION** — From State Route 60 West in Buckingham County, turn right on State Route 605 at the James River Bridge. Go 7 miles and turn left onto State Route 606.



High Bridge Trail State Park



## Pocahontas State Park



Just 20 miles from downtown Richmond, Pocahontas offers boating, picnicking, camping, camping cabins, hiking, and interpretive and environmental education programs. The Aquatic Center offers seasonal water-based activities for the entire family. It has a kiddie pool, fountain wet deck, 3-foot and 5-foot-deep leisure pools, an activity pool and two water slides. Rowboat, paddleboat, kayak and canoe rentals also are available at the 200-acre Swift Creek Lake during the summer. The park's two fishing lakes have crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill and catfish. The park has more than 80 miles of trails throughout 7,925 acres open to hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, dedicated to the Depression-era workers who helped build the state park system, is one of a handful in the nation. The park's Heritage Center and dining halls are available for meetings, weddings and special events. Special events may also be held at the Bright Hope Equestrian Center.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**IN SEASON** Pocahontas Amphitheater Performing Arts Series

**LOCATION** — Interstate 95 to State Route 288 north in Chesterfield County, then State Route 10 east to State Route 655 (Beach Road) west. Travel 3 miles, and the park is on the right.

## Powhatan State Park

Powhatan State Park is in the northwest corner of Powhatan County on the banks of the historic James River. The park has diverse wildlife habitat – from open fields to upland hardwood forests. Guests can use the park's car-top boat slide to access the river. Other amenities include a canoe-in campground, wildlife observation areas, three picnic shelters and a playground. In addition, more than 7 miles of trails are available.

**LOCATION** — From Route 288, take State Route 711 west (Huguenot Trail), to right on State Route 522 (Maidens Road). After about 4 miles, turn left on State Route 617 (Old River Trail). The park entrance is on the right in 1.5 miles.

## Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park

On April 6, 1865, nearly a quarter of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's army, more than 7,700 men, were killed, wounded or captured here. Lee surrendered 72 hours later at Appomattox Court House. Costumed volunteers present various interpretive programs throughout the year. Living-history events take place every April. Motorists traveling along Lee's Retreat can learn more about the battle by tuning to AM 1610. For more information about seasonal tours of the Hillsman House, call 804-561-7510.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**APRIL** Civil War Commemoration

**NOVEMBER** Veteran's Day Luminary

**LOCATION** — 10 miles east of Farmville. Take State Route 307 (the connecting highway between U.S. 360 and U.S. 460 at Farmville) to State Route 617 north and follow the signs.



Pocahontas State Park

## Smith Mountain Lake State Park

On the second largest freshwater lake in the state, this picturesque park is the water enthusiast's paradise. Water activities include swimming, boat rentals, a boat ramp and a universally accessible fishing pier. Families can also enjoy picnicking, a visitor center, an amphitheater, special programs, camping, miles of trails and cabins with boat docks.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**JANUARY-APRIL** Winter Lecture Series

**MAY** Triathlon

**MAY-AUGUST** Music in the Park Series

**JUNE** Aspiring Anglers Junior Fishing Tournament

Bedford County Youth Fishing Clinic

**SEPTEMBER** Lake Christian Ministries Walk-A-Thon

**LOCATION** — From U.S. 460 in Bedford County, take State Route 122 south to Route 608 east to Route 626 south.

## Twin Lakes State Park



In the heart of central Virginia, this 495-acre, historic park offers many cultural, environmental and recreational activities. Overnight accommodations include a campground and climate-controlled cabins. Visitors enjoy swimming, fishing, boating and lakefront picnicking at Goodwin Lake. Cedar Crest Conference Center on Prince Edward Lake is available for weddings, family gatherings, retreats and business meetings.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**OCTOBER** Haunting on the Lake

**LOCATION** — From U.S. 360 west of Burkeville to Route 613 and east on Route 629.

From U.S. 460 south on Route 696, east on Route 612, south on Route 613 and east on Route 629.



CENTRAL VA

# NATURE AND HISTORY



## Civilian Conservation Corps

Between 1933 and 1941, the Civilian Conservation Corps left an indelible imprint on the nation's landscape. The CCC planted trees, improved beaches and roads, and created 800 state parks, including 10 in Virginia.

The parks built by the CCC are noted with a special logo in this publication. The same logo is displayed on historic buildings in the parks. The CCC Museum at Pocahontas State Park celebrates the achievements of those who served in the CCC.



Virginia State Parks' roots run deep. For more than 76 years, we've cared for Virginia's natural, cultural and historical treasures so that you can, too.

Discover the past through historic buildings, such as the Victorian mansion that houses the Southwest Virginia Museum, the Shot Tower at Foster Falls on New River Trail, the antebellum mansion and brick kitchen at Chippokes Plantation, or the authentically recreated 1770s fort at Wilderness Road. Civil War battlefields at Sailor's Creek and Staunton River honor the memories of wars fought and lives lost. All parks have trails, many with signs explaining natural aspects of trail stops. Wander trails at First Landing through maritime forests and cypress swamps, or hike Caledon's trails along ridges and ravines through rare old-growth forest. Overlooks at Hungry Mother, Grayson Highlands and Natural Tunnel offer a glimpse of the powerful geological forces that wrought the land. Mighty rivers shaped some parks, such as James River, Powhatan and Westmoreland. Many parks have visitor centers, trail centers or environmental education labs.

Parks change with the season so every day offers new sights, sounds and discoveries. Up-to-the-minute, comprehensive information is available at [www.virginiastateparks.gov](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov).



## Douthat State Park



A traditional family park for 75 years, Douthat is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the role its design played in the development of parks nationwide. Amid some of Virginia's most breathtaking mountain scenery, visitors enjoy interpretive programs, 4 miles of stream fishing, a 50-acre lake stocked with trout, a sandy swimming beach with snack bar, boat rentals, a gift shop and camp store, cabins, and more than 43 miles of hiking, mountain biking and bridle trails. Plus, there are playgrounds, an amphitheater, picnic areas, tent and trailer camping, and a restaurant overlooking the lake. The park also has 32 cabins and three lodges that accommodate 15, 16 and 18 guests each.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>MAY</b>	<b>Douthat Lake Run Car Show</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Apple Day – A Celebration of Appalachian Heritage and Arts and Crafts Fair</b>

**LOCATION** — Northeast of Clifton Forge. Interstate 64 to exit 27, to State Route 629, then 5 miles north.

## Raymond R. “Andy” Guest Jr. Shenandoah River State Park

This park is on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River and has more than 1,600 acres along 5.2 miles of shoreline. In addition to meandering river frontage, the park offers scenic views of Massanutten Mountain to the west and Shenandoah National Park to the east. A new canopy tour, a large riverside picnic area, picnic shelters, trails, river access and a car-top boat launch make this a popular destination for families, anglers and canoeists. Ten riverfront tent campsites, a campground with water and electric sites, cabins, camping cabins, a group campground and a visitor center are available. With more than 24 miles of trails, the park has plenty of options for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Riverfest</b>
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**LOCATION** — Warren County, just off U.S. 340 between Front Royal and Luray. Some of the park borders U.S. 340 on the east and the South Fork of the Shenandoah River on the west.



## Sky Meadows State Park

Rich in history, this 1,864-acre park has scenic views, woodlands and the rolling pastures of a historic farm that captures the Colonial through post-Civil War life of Mount Bleak House. Nature and history programs are offered year-round. Hiking, picnicking, fishing and primitive hike-in camping for families and groups are favorite activities in this peaceful getaway on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The park has 9.5 miles of bridle trails, 19 miles of hiking trails, 8 miles of bike trails and Appalachian Trail access.

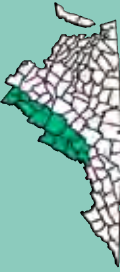
### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>MARCH</b>	<b>Civil War Commemoration</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Eggstravaganza</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>Astronomy Day</b>
	<b>Delaplane Strawberry Festival</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Fall Farm Festival weekends</b>
<b>NOVEMBER-DECEMBER</b>	<b>Holiday House</b>

**LOCATION** — 2 miles south of Paris. Take U.S. 50 to State Route 17 south or, from I-66, take State Route 17 north at exit 23. The park entrance is on State Route 710 west.



Sky Meadows State Park



## Claytor Lake State Park

Ideal for swimming, camping, hiking and picnicking, Claytor Lake is known for sport fishing and boating. The park has a full-service marina with docking slips, fuel, boat rentals and refreshments. The Water's Edge Meeting Facility is perfect for weddings, receptions and reunions, and wedding packages are available. There's also a gift shop. Three lodges and 13 cabins overlook the 4,500-acre lake, offering visitors a scenic retreat. The historic Howe House has interactive exhibits describing the ecology of the lake and the surrounding areas.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Celebration of Summer Festival</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Back to School Beach Bash</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Claytor Lake Sprint Triathlon</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Halloween Celebration</b>

**LOCATION** — Interstate 81 to exit 101 near Dublin in Pulaski County.

## Grayson Highlands State Park

Near Mount Rogers and Whitetop Mountain, Virginia's two highest mountains, Grayson Highlands offers scenic views of alpine-like peaks more than 5,000 feet high. Facilities include a visitor center, campgrounds, and hiking trails leading to waterfalls and overlooks. Scenic horse trails and a horse camping area with electric and water hookups, stables and parking for trailers are available. The park provides year-round access to the Appalachian Trail and the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Wayne C. Henderson Music Festival and Guitar Competition</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Albert Hash Festival (Saturday of Labor Day Weekend)</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Grayson Highlands Fall Festival</b>

**LOCATION** — Interstate 81 to exit 45 in Marion, then State Route 16 to Volney and west on U.S. 58.

## Hungry Mother State Park



Long a family favorite known for beautiful woodlands and a placid 108-acre lake in the heart of the mountains, Hungry Mother has a sandy beach with a bathhouse, boats (fishing, canoe, kayak and paddle) and a boat launch, and a universally accessible fishing pier. Guests also enjoy its campgrounds, cabins, gift shop, visitor center, six-bedroom family lodge that sleeps 15, hiking and biking trails, and restaurant. Hungry Mother is also home to the Hemlock Haven Conference Center, available for retreats, conferences and special events. Catering is available.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Mountain Do Triathlon</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>Hungry Mother Arts and Crafts Festival</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Fall Fear Mountain Bike Race</b>

**LOCATION** — 4 miles north of Marion on State Route 16.

## New River Trail State Park

New River Trail is a 57-mile linear park that follows an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The park parallels the scenic and historic New River for 39 miles and passes through four counties and the city of Galax. The trail's gentle slope makes it great for visitors of all ages to hike, bike and ride horseback. Several places in the park provide horse, canoe and bike rentals, boat launches and gift shops. Fishing is popular, and primitive camping sites dot the trail. The park hosts a horse arena, and guided horseback trips are available.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Spring Van Tours</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>New River Trail Challenge</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Fall Van Tours</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>Foster Falls Festival of Lights</b>

**LOCATION** — There are access points to the trail at Allisontia, Cliffview, Draper, Dora Junction (near Pulaski), Foster Falls, Fries, Galax, Hiwassee and Ivanhoe. Horse trailer parking is available at Allisontia, Austinville, Cliffview, Dora Junction, Draper, Fries and Foster Falls.

## Shot Tower Historic State Park

Overlooking the New River, Shot Tower was built more than 200 years ago to make ammunition for the firearms of the early settlers. Lead from the nearby Austinville Mines was melted in a kettle atop the 75-foot tower and poured through a sieve, falling through the tower and an additional 75-foot shaft beneath the tower into a kettle of water. Guests may ascend the tower, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Interpretive signs provide details on the tower. Grounds are open from dawn until dusk. The parking lot is open year-round. The tower is open occasionally on weekends in the summer. Group tours are also available. Call the office at 276-699-6778 for details.

**LOCATION** — Interstate 77 to exit 24 and go north on State Route 52 for 2 miles.



New River Trail Challenge





Wilderness Road State Park

## Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park

A National Historic Landmark, the Southwest Virginia Museum is in an 1890s Victorian stone mansion with original oak interior. The museum's collection includes more than 25,000 pieces and state of the art exhibits telling the story of the exploration and development of Southwest Virginia from the pioneer era of the 1700s to the mining "boom and bust" era of the late 1800s. The museum also offers many interpretive and special events. The gift shop features unique items representative of the area's history and crafts made by regional artisans. The park offers facilities for meetings, weddings and other special occasions, and the charming Poplar Hill Cottage is available for overnight guests.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Stitch in Time Quilt Show</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>Gathering in the Gap Music Festival</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Hoots 'n' Haints</b>
<b>MID-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 31</b>	<b>Festival of Trees</b>

**LOCATION** — Wood Avenue, Big Stone Gap.

## Breaks Interstate Park

Straddling the Virginia-Kentucky border, the park features the largest canyon east of the Mississippi. Sometimes called the "Grand Canyon of the South," the park's spectacular beauty can be seen along its hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding trails, and while boating and fishing on Laurel Lake. In October, water is released from Flannagan Reservoir, creating world-class whitewater that draws people to the Russell Fork River. The park has a restaurant and conference center near the rim of the canyon as well as camping. There are 82 lodge rooms, four cottages and five lakefront luxury cabins.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>JUNE-AUGUST</b>	<b>Outdoor Bluegrass Events</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Early Pioneers Settlers Weekend</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Halloween campground events</b>
	<b>Homemaking in the Mountains</b>
	<b>Appalachian Heritage Festival</b>

**LOCATION** — On State Rt. 80 near the VA-KY state line.

## Wilderness Road State Park

Wilderness Road offers picnicking, hiking, and nature and living history programs. Visitors can enjoy the visitor center, home to a theater showing an award-winning docudrama, "Wilderness Road, Spirit of a Nation." The center also has a frontier museum and a gift shop with unique regional gifts. The park features the reconstructed Martin's Station, an outdoor living history museum depicting life on Virginia's 1775 frontier. Guests also enjoy the park's picnic shelters, 100-seat amphitheater, nature play-scape, ADA-certified playground, sand volleyball court and horseshoe pits. Visitors can hike, bike or horseback ride on the 8.5-mile Wilderness Road Trail linking the park with more than 50 miles of trails in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. The 1870s era mansion is available for weddings and meetings. It has a solarium that's perfect for showers, birthdays and other special functions. The park's visitor center theater and amphitheater also are available for group functions.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Easter at Karlan</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>Raid at Martin's Station</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Community Appreciation Day</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Wilderness Road Heritage Festival</b>
	<b>Martin's Station Fall Encampment</b>
	<b>Pumpkins in the Park</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>Frontier Christmas</b>
	<b>Christmas at Karlan</b>

**LOCATION** — 5 miles west of Ewing, on U.S. 58.

## Natural Tunnel State Park

More than 850 feet long and as tall as a 10-story building, Natural Tunnel was naturally carved through a limestone ridge over thousands of years. William Jennings Bryan called it the "Eighth Wonder of the World." Other scenic features include a wide chasm between steep stone walls surrounded by several pinnacles, or "chimneys." Facilities include two campgrounds, cabins, picnic areas, an amphitheater, a visitor center, a camp store and a gift shop. You'll also find the Wilderness Road historic area, a swimming pool with a 100-foot slide and a chairlift to the tunnel floor. Guests enjoy cave tours and canoe trips on the Clinch River, as well as the Cove Ridge Center, which offers environmental education, conference facilities and overnight dorm accommodations.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>Frontier Muster and Trade Faire</b>
<b>SUMMER</b>	<b>Pickin' in the Park, Lighting of the Tunnel</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Papa Joe Smiddy Mountain Music Festival</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>Lighting of the Tunnel</b>

**LOCATION** — North from Gate City via U.S. 23, then 1 mile east on State Route 871. The park turn-off is at mile marker 17.4.

# CABINS, LODGES AND CAMPSITES

Virginia State Parks provide comfortable and economical overnight accommodations. There are more than 300 climate-controlled cabins and more than 1,800 campsites, ranging from primitive sites to sites with electric and water hookups. Many cabins are available all year. While most campgrounds are open March 1 to the first Monday in December, primitive campsites are available year-round. Full-service camping at Shenandoah River and Hungry Mother is also available year-round. Douthat will offer year-round camping beginning December 2014.

Camping, cabin and campsite picnic shelter reservations can be made by calling the Virginia State Parks Customer Service Center weekdays at 800-933-PARK (7275). Reservations can be made up to 11 months in advance.

The center takes same-day camping reservations until 2 p.m. Cabin and campsite reservations can also be made online at [www.virginiastateparks.gov](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov).



## Cabins and Lodges

If you prefer a cozy climate-controlled cabin to camping in the great outdoors, you're in luck. Nineteen state parks across the state rent cabins. See the grid on page 5 for details. Cabin sizes and sleeping arrangements vary by park.

All cabins have kitchens and bathrooms with a shower. They have rustic furniture, a microwave, a refrigerator, an oven, dishes, cooking utensils, silverware, kitchen towels and glassware. Bath towels and bedroom linens, including pillows, blankets, sheets and pillow cases, also are included. Except for cabins at Chippokes Plantation and the Martin Cottage and Hill Lodge at Twin Lakes, all cabins have fireplaces. Cabins at Smith Mountain Lake have wood stoves. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the standard cabin rental period is one week. Rentals for less than a week during this period can be made only within a month prior to the desired occupancy based on availability. There is a two-night minimum stay.

For larger groups and retreats, five and six-bedroom lodges are available at Bear Creek Lake, Claytor Lake, Douthat, Fairy Stone, Hungry Mother, James River, Kiptopeke, Natural Tunnel, Occoneechee, Shenandoah River and Westmoreland. They are rented as a whole, not by individual rooms.

Check-in is 3 p.m.; check-out is 10 a.m. Check-in days during the week-long requirement vary, so contact the Customer Service Center. Cabins cannot be reserved for more than 14 days within a single month.



## Special Facilities

**Bel Air** and **Guest House**. These upscale, overnight facilities in Belle Isle State Park are perfect for family reunions or picturesque weddings. Furnished with reproduction furniture, the mansion comfortably sleeps six. The simply furnished guest house sleeps eight.

**Poplar Hill Cottage** at the Southwest Virginia Museum. This quaint, garden-themed cottage is the perfect getaway in the mountains. Furnished with reproduction furniture, the cottage is in the historic Poplar Hill neighborhood, adjacent to other fine homes. It comfortably sleeps six and has two full baths. This facility is reserved by calling 276-523-1322.

## Camping

Camping lodges (bunkhouses) are available at Bear Creek Lake, Belle Isle, Claytor Lake, Fairy Stone, Grayson Highlands, Holliday Lake, James River, Kiptopeke, Lake Anna, Occoneechee, Smith Mountain Lake and Staunton River state parks.

Camping cabins are available at Lake Anna, Pocahontas, Shenandoah River and Westmoreland state parks. Kiptopeke State Park offers a unique yurt as well as camping trailers.

Developed and group campsites have picnic tables, grills and access to bathhouses. Primitive campsites generally have fire grills, picnic tables, vault toilets and non-potable water. See the grid on page 5 for a list of parks with developed campsites.

Primitive hike-in camping is available at False Cape, New River Trail and Sky Meadows. False Cape prohibits open fires and provides pit toilets and picnic tables. Water is available only at False Cape's Barbour Hill area.

**Note:** *False Cape State Park requires reservations. Campers must receive information about camping at the park by mail, email or fax before their stay. Conditions are primitive. False Cape is recommended for experienced campers only. Please call the Customer Service Center for details.*

Primitive drive-in camping is available at James River, and hike-in and canoe-in sites are available at Belle Isle, James River, New River Trail and Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River state parks. Equestrian campsites are available at Douthat, Fairy Stone, Grayson Highlands, James River, New River Trail, Occoneechee and Staunton River state parks.

The maximum camping period allowed is 14 nights in a calendar month. Campers cannot be assured of access to reserved sites before 4 p.m. on their arrival date, but early check-in is often available. Check-out is 3 p.m.

Reservations for summer weekend camping should be made as early as possible. To best meet the needs of the camping public, specific campsites are assigned upon arrival at the park, not when the reservation is made, except at False Cape and New River Trail. Unreserved campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, but reservations are strongly recommended.

## Cancellation Policy

### Campsites

Cancellations may be made by calling the Customer Service Center during operating hours or the park when the Customer Service Center is closed. A \$10 per site cancellation fee will be deducted from paid fees. Cancellation fees also apply to horse stalls. Group camping areas and buddy sites have a \$30 cancellation fee. Reservation changes must be made through the Customer Service Center before the start of the reserved stay. Once a stay has begun, those departing early will be charged a penalty of one night. A \$5 transaction fee charged when reservations are made also will not be refunded.

### Cabins, Yurts and Camping Trailers

Before the scheduled check-in time, cancellations may be made by calling the Customer Service Center or the park when the Customer Service Center is closed. For cabins with up to three bedrooms, \$20 will be charged for cancellations made at least a month before the scheduled arrival date. For cabins with more than three bedrooms, that fee is \$50. The cancellation fee within a month is \$20 per night for cabins with up to three bedrooms and \$50 per night for larger facilities. The fee also applies to early departures and reductions in the number of nights of the reservation. The two-night minimum is not refunded. There is no charge to transfer a stay to another time or park, but this must be done through the Customer Service Center and before 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the scheduled arrival. Contact the Customer Service Center for a complete description of the refund policy. A \$5 transaction fee charged when reservations are made also will not be refunded.



# MEETING AND EVENT FACILITIES



**Cove Ridge Center** at Natural Tunnel State Park. The center is ideal for reunions, conferences and business meetings. The center's two dormitories accommodate up to 30 people each. Overnight guests have free use of the adjacent swimming pool during normal operating hours. Reservations are handled by the park at 276-940-2696.

## Weddings, reunions, meetings, conferences ... Virginia State Parks are perfect for your next event

The nationally acclaimed **Hemlock Haven Conference Center** at Hungry Mother State Park in southwestern Virginia offers overnight accommodations, special amenities and three meeting spaces that together can accommodate up to 375 people.

**Cedar Crest Center** at Twin Lakes State Park in central Virginia offers meeting space for up to 90 in a picturesque setting. To make reservations at Cedar Crest, call 434-767-2398. A certified meeting professional can help plan your special event.

First Landing State Park's **Trail Center, Chesapeake Bay Center**, courtyard and amphitheater are perfect for weddings, receptions, corporate meetings and events. The Trail Center has a meeting room, outdoor deck and warming kitchen. The Chesapeake Bay Center has a meeting room for up to 40 people. The outdoor courtyard and amphitheater can accommodate up to 250.

At Westmoreland State Park, **Murphy Hall** accommodates up to 65 people. It's perfect for meetings or receptions. Audiovisual equipment, a warming kitchen for catered events and a breakout room are available.

The **Bear Creek Lake Meeting Hall** accommodates up to 65 people for meetings, wedding receptions and other gatherings.

Claytor Lake, Fairy Stone, Pocahontas and the Southwest Virginia Museum also have meeting facilities. A state parks customer service representative can help you plan a special event in a state park. Call the Customer Service Center weekdays at 800-933-PARK (7275) or contact the park directly.

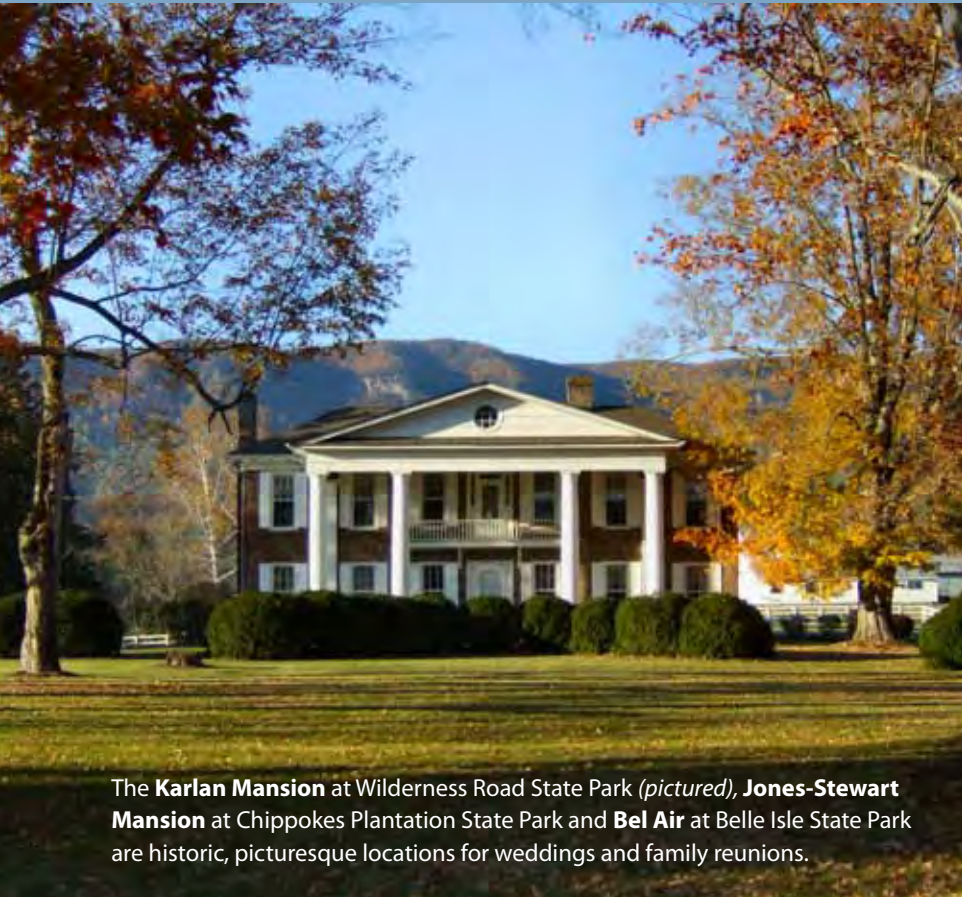


Gazebo at Claytor Lake State Park



The **Jones-Stewart Mansion** at Chippokes Plantation State Park.





The **Karlan Mansion** at Wilderness Road State Park (*pictured*), **Jones-Stewart Mansion** at Chippokes Plantation State Park and **Bel Air** at Belle Isle State Park are historic, picturesque locations for weddings and family reunions.



Trail Center at First Landing State Park



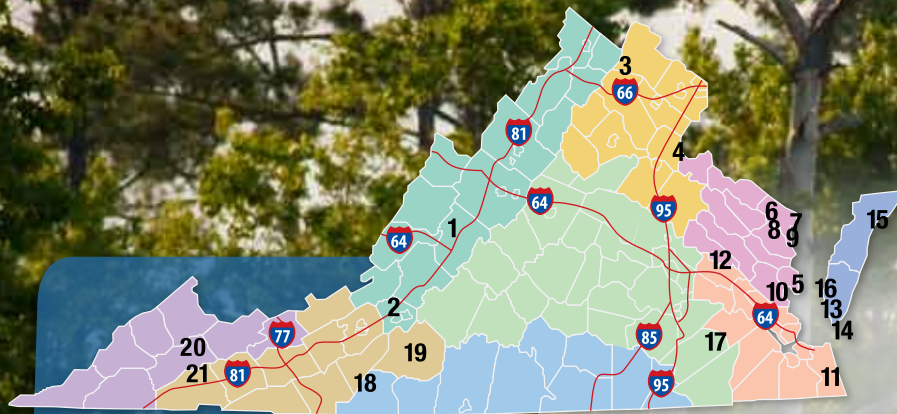
Taylor Murphy Hall at Westmoreland State Park

The **Water's Edge Meeting Facility** at Claytor Lake State Park offers a beautiful setting for weddings, reunions or other special events. A large meeting room accommodates from 72 to 125 people, depending on the seating arrangement. The room overlooks the lake and provides a scenic view of the water's edge.





# NATURAL AREA PRESERVES



In 1990 DCR began managing a system of special lands known as Natural Area Preserves. These lands provide suitable habitat for rare or declining plant and animal species and natural communities, some found nowhere else on Earth. The preserves serve as a link between our busy, modern world and the natural wilderness of the past.

DCR works hard to restore and maintain these special places and protect them from inappropriate human disturbance. Still, there is much to be learned and enjoyed in these exceptional natural settings. That's why 21 of the system's preserves have public access facilities of some type (see chart for details). Learn more about Natural Area Preserves by visiting [www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage) or call DCR's Natural Heritage Program at 804-786-7951.

Birding and Wildlife Watching  
Boardwalk  
Canoe / Kayak Landing  
Hiking  
Observation Deck  
Parking  
Self-guided Trails  
Toilets

		Birding and Wildlife Watching	Boardwalk	Canoe / Kayak Landing	Hiking	Observation Deck	Parking	Self-guided Trails	Toilets
<b>SHENANDOAH VALLEY</b>									
1	Goshen Pass, Rockbridge County	●			●		●		
2	Poor Mountain, Roanoke County	●			●		●	●	
<b>NORTHERN VIRGINIA</b>									
3	Bull Run Mountains, Fauquier and Prince William counties***	●			●		●		
4	Crow's Nest, Stafford County	●			●		●		
<b>CHESAPEAKE BAY</b>									
5	Bethel Beach, Mathews County	●					●		
6	Bush Mill Stream, Northumberland County	●			●	●	●	●	
7	Dameron Marsh, Northumberland County	●	●	●		●	●		
8	Hickory Hollow, Lancaster County*	●			●		●	●	
9	Hughlett Point, Northumberland County	●	●		●	●	●	●	
10	New Point Comfort, Mathews County**	●	●			●	●		
<b>HAMPTON ROADS</b>									
11	North Landing River, Virginia Beach	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
12	Cumberland Marsh, New Kent County**	●	●		●	●	●	●	
<b>EASTERN SHORE</b>									
13	Cape Charles, Northampton County	●	●			●	●		
14	Magothy Bay, Northampton County	●			●		●	●	
15	Mutton Hunk Fen, Accomack County	●			●		●	●	
16	Savage Neck Dunes, Northampton County	●	●		●	●	●	●	
<b>CENTRAL VIRGINIA</b>									
17	Chub Sandhill, Sussex County	●			●		●		
<b>BLUE RIDGE</b>									
18	Buffalo Mountain, Floyd County	●			●		●		
19	Grassy Hill, Franklin County	●			●		●	●	
<b>HEART OF APPALACHIA</b>									
20	Pinnacle, Russell County	●			●		●	●	●
21	Channels, Russell and Washington counties	●			●		●		

\* Owned by Northern Neck Audubon Society  
 \*\* Owned by The Nature Conservancy  
 \*\*\* Owned by Virginia Outdoors Foundation



## Be a Volunteer

Virginia State Parks wouldn't be the same without the invaluable and enthusiastic efforts of our volunteers, who contribute more than 300,000 hours of support annually.

No matter your interests, schedule or experience, there is a way for you to get involved.

The Youth Conservation Corps, for young people ages 14-17, the AmeriCorps program for those over 17, and Friends groups for all ages are ways to get involved and to help Virginia State Parks in their mission to preserve and protect Virginia's natural resources. At the same time, parks provide more than 8 million people each year safe, affordable and enjoyable recreation opportunities.

For more information, e-mail [vspvolunteer@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:vspvolunteer@dcr.virginia.gov), call 800-933-PARK (7275) or visit [www.virginiastateparks.gov](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov).



## Virginia Association for Parks

The VAFP promotes volunteerism in Virginia's state and national parks. For more information or to sign up for a free associate membership, visit [www.virginiaparks.org](http://www.virginiaparks.org).

## VIRGINIA LOVES CAMPERS

Virginia Loves Campers is a partnership among Virginia State Parks, the Virginia Tourism Corp. and the Virginia Campground Association. Mountains, lakes, the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean beaches make Virginia one of America's best camping

destinations. This partnership helps us better serve and inform campers of the unparalleled natural, cultural and recreational resources in state parks and across Virginia. For a comprehensive list of all of Virginia's campgrounds and camping opportunities, visit [www.virginia.org/campingrvng/](http://www.virginia.org/campingrvng/). Also visit [www.virginiacampgrounds.org](http://www.virginiacampgrounds.org) for Virginia Campground Association information.

## Careers

The need for qualified rangers continues to grow. Rangers routinely work outside, serve millions of visitors, and preserve and protect Virginia's natural resources. Other positions in state parks focus on environmental education, maintenance, law enforcement, natural resource management, sales and administration. For information about a career in Virginia State Parks, visit the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation website at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks/careers.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks/careers.shtml). Internships are also available.



## Contribute

Virginians can make a tax-deductible donation to state and local parks and natural areas by contributing all or part of their state tax refund to the Open Space Recreation and Conservation Fund. See your state tax return form for more information.

# GENERAL INFORMATION



## Special Discounts

With everything we offer, Virginia State Parks are still among the most economical vacation destinations around. Discount passes and annual passes for parking, boat launching and swimming are for sale at parks statewide. Senior discount passes are also available. Virginia residents get 10 percent off cabin rates.

## Park Accessibility

Virginia State Parks strive to make each park as barrier-free as possible. Contact the Customer Service Center or individual parks for more information before your trip.



## Pets

Pets are welcome in Virginia State Parks but must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet or in an enclosed area at all times. Cabin guests are charged \$10 plus tax per night per pet. No pet fee is charged for camping. Pets aren't allowed in the yurt at Kiptopeke State Park or in Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Pets may be brought to False Cape State Park only by boat or through the southern entrance on the North Carolina border.

Family. Friends. Fun.  
*Virginia State Parks*

Our vacation in a Virginia State Park was a wonderful idea. The lodge is beautiful and has so much room! The park staff are super helpful. The kids are having such a great time. We're learning all about Virginia's history. And Mark and I even have time for just the two of us.

Love,  
Virginia



to:

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OUR FREE  
MOBILE APP



Download the Virginia State Parks app, featuring park locations, maps, activity searches, events and much more.  
Powered by Pocket Ranger®

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