

# Landmarks of Our Nation's Beginnings

5 Days/ 4 Nights



## Day 1

**AM** - Arrive in Virginia Beach and check in to your Oceanfront hotel along the iconic Virginia Beach Boardwalk.

**PM** - Enjoy a welcome Dinner at a local Group Friendly- Chef owned restaurant - Learn the history and the comeback of the famous Lynnhaven Oyster, first documented by Captain John Smith.

## Day 2

**AM** - Start the day with a visit to one of the smallest National Parks in the county. Here you will visit the First Landing Cross- marking the spot where the first permanent English settlers landed on April 26, 1607, before forming Jamestown. The crew of 104 men and boys erected a wooden cross to mark their arrival. A granite cross was erected in 1935. Also located on this site is the Battle of the Capes Monument- honoring the Battle of the Chesapeake Bay between the French and British- one of the most significant battles, that helped clear the path for the creation of the United States. There is also a Statue of Admiral De Grasse, leader of the French Fleet.



Next up is the Cape Henry Lighthouse, the first federally funded lighthouse and first public works project in the United States. Construction (1792) was authorized by George Washington and overseen by Alexander Hamilton. The Lighthouse is open to the public and guests can climb 191 steps to the top for a breathtaking view of where the Chesapeake Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. Located next door (not open to the public) is the New Cape Henry Lighthouse, still in use today and is the tallest cast iron, fully enclosed lighthouse in the United States. A gift shop is located on-site.

Lunch today will be at Virginia Beach Town Center. With many restaurants and shops within walking distance, this will be a great stop for lunch on your own. Be sure to save room for dessert at the Royal Chocolate.



Our last stop today will be the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center. Explore 800,000 gallons of Aquariums. Enjoy hands-on exhibits and a marshland nature path. Travel an aquatic journey from the shore to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean and experience coastal habitats from around the world.

**PM** - Tonight, enjoy the many restaurants within walking distance of your hotel and the sights and sounds of the majestic Atlantic as you stroll the Virginia Beach Boardwalk.

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## Day 3

**AM** - Begin your tour this morning at the Virginia Beach Surf & Rescue Museum. Learn about the many shipwrecks that occurred off the Virginia coast and the history of the United States Lifesaving Service which would later become the United States Coast Guard. Also nearby is the Norwegian Lady Statue commemorating the 1891 wreck of the Norwegian Ship, "Dictator."

Our next stop will be the Naval Aviation Memorial Park. This compelling memorial honors the rich Naval aviation heritage so important to Virginia Beach's history and culture. Virginia Beach is home to NAS (Naval Air Station) Oceana, the East Coast Master Jet Base. Look up and listen to the F/A-18 Super Hornets as they fly by. We call that the Sound of Freedom.

Visit the Military Aviation Museum. This museum is home to one of the largest FLYING collections of WWI and WWII era military aircraft in the world. Explore 100 + acres of Museum Hangers, exhibits, and original WWII RAF Air Control Tower and a WWI Hanger. Expert docents are available to tell the compelling stories of the men and women who built and flew these planes that helped shape our country. Groups can also enjoy a meal (lunch or dinner), flight demonstrations and entertainment by the Doorway Singers



**PM** - This evening visit the historic Cavalier Hotel (1927) and the Tarnished Truth Distillery. You will enjoy a tasting and guided tour of the only working distillery inside a hotel in the United States. Here you will learn the Virginia Bourbon story and how their spirits are crafted.



## Day 4

**AM** - This morning you will visit the Thoroughgood House. This 1719 National Historic Landmark is one of the earliest examples of permanent Virginia architecture. Here you will learn the story of Adam Thoroughgood, one of Virginia's first Colonists and his relationship to George Washington and George Mason. Tours include a Foodways Tasting Program where you will learn from a certified Colonial Chef how culinary masterpieces were created with homegrown gardens, livestock and native herbs. Tea Tastings are also available.



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## Day 4 Continued

Next, we visit the Princess Anne County Training School/ Union Kempsville High School Museum. This museum is dedicated to the first high school built for African Americans in Princess Anne County (now Virginia Beach) This tribute to the students, faculty, and community includes original artifacts, oral histories and interactive displays.

We finish the day with a Dream Workshop and tour of the Association for Research and Enlightenment, the international headquarters of Edgar Cayce, the most documented psychic of modern times. Learn the true meanings of your dreams. Gift shop on site.



**PM** - Tonight, visit Beachside Social for a fun filled game of Shuffleboard and a Dessert Reception.



## Day 5

**AM** - Begin you morning with a Dolphin Watching Tour. Venture into the Atlantic Ocean in search of bottlenose Dolphins. Learn why Virginia Beach has the largest population of Bottlenose Dolphins on the East Coast (Whale Watching Tours are offered in the winter months)

Depart Virginia Beach with lasting memories.