



# Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

## HAMPTON ATTRACTIONS

### AIR POWER PARK

Learn about Hampton's space and aviation history by touring the outdoor air and spacecraft displays, model airplane collection and wind tunnel exhibit at Air Power Park. Home to one of the largest civilian-owned collections of aircraft and missiles in the United States, Air Power Park contains aircraft from the country's various service branches, including a Nike surface-to-air missile, a P-1127 Kestrel vertical-lift jet and an F-100D Super Sabre, the first Air Force fighter with true supersonic performance.

### THE AMERICAN THEATRE

Built in 1908 as a vaudeville house, The American Theatre is a thriving arts center and home to the Hampton Arts Commission's Great Performers Series. The theatre reopened in 2000 following extensive restoration and partial renovation. The 2006-2007 season includes more than 150 performances ranging from classical, comedy, dance, theatre, jazz, and family-fun entertainment.

### THE ART MARKET

While strolling historic Queen's Way in Downtown Hampton amid shops, restaurants, galleries and museums, Hampton visitors can now enjoy a display of art. A female bronze figure emerging from a glistening pool of water. A stone garden bench flanked by whimsical dolphins. Colorful, eye-catching mosaics. The public will see these and more in the 2006-2007 Art Market: Virginia's Outdoor Art Gallery.

For its fourth year, the Downtown Hampton Development Partnership, in conjunction with the City of Hampton and Hampton Arts Commission, unveiled 23 pieces of original artwork along Queens Way between Wine and Franklin Streets.

In media of steel, ceramic, glass, aluminum, brass and wood, The Art Market is illustrated in a newly released, four-color walking tour brochure that shows the location of each piece while mapping the downtown streets. All of the art is for sale and will be replaced at year's end by another selection. One of this year's works will be purchased by Downtown Hampton and placed in the district for the public enjoyment.

## **BASS PRO SHOPS® OUTDOOR WORLD®**

Located at Pine Chapel Road and I-64, Bass Pro Shops® Outdoor World® boasts exciting exhibits, top pros, special prizes and a full array of Bass Pro Shops products.

Much more than a hunting and fishing store, Bass Pro Shops offers equipment for hiking, backpacking, camping, outdoor cooking and more. Shoppers will also find outdoor apparel for men, women and children, along with a fine selection of casual and athletic footwear. A gift and nature shop serves up a wide variety of outdoor-related items from lamps and dishes to bird feeders and furniture.

Unique exterior and interior motifs have branded Bass Pro Shops stores as visually appealing, high quality outdoor stores. The outdoor feel is brought indoors through massive log and rock work, aquariums and water features, as well as an extensive collection of fish and wildlife exhibits all helping to maximize the experience of the outdoor enthusiast.

The new Bass Pro Shops® Outdoor World® in Hampton, Virginia offers some unique features characteristic of the great state of Virginia. A large atrium inside showcases an impressive 30' rock mountain climbing wall, fashioned to resemble a rock bluff from the Roanoke Valley. A cascading waterfall tumbles down into a 19,000-gallon aquarium stocked with striped bass, catfish and crappie. The aquarium will also be home to lunker largemouth bass. Trees plus other plants and wildlife native to Virginia can be seen on the rock ledges and crevices.

Wild animal tracks are etched on the store floors and pathways inside and out while the fossil remains of a shark lie exposed near the aquarium. The store's walls are graced with large, colorful murals depicting scenes from the Virginia outdoors by renowned artist Roseta Santiago.

## **BLUEBIRD GAP FARM**

Designed to resemble a working farm, this 60-acre site features barnyard animals, playground, picnic areas, petting zoo and recreational facilities. The farm is owned by the City of Hampton and operated by Hampton Parks & Recreation. Admission and parking are complimentary. Behind-the-scenes media tours available.

## **BUCKROE BEACH**

Bordering the Chesapeake Bay, Buckroe Beach offers life-guard-attended wide beaches; playground; rental items such as kayaks, beach bikes and canoes; picnic facilities and shelters, and “Bark Park” for local hounds. During the summer months, visitors can swing to the sounds of the Sunday night Big Band concerts or view an outdoor movie as part of the Tuesday night Pomoco Family Film Series. A parking fee applies. Lifeguards are present from May through September.

## THE CHARLES H. TAYLOR ARTS CENTER

At The Charles H. Taylor Arts Center, visitors can see both traveling national exhibitions and regional works of art. The beautifully colonnaded building, formerly home of the Hampton library, is also headquarters of the Hampton Arts Commission, which stages the acclaimed Great Performers Series each year at The American Theatre. Many of the concerts in the series are broadcast live to the nation on National Public Radio.

## COUSTEAU SOCIETY

The Society is leasing the City of Hampton's former three-story Visitor Center building at 710 Settlers Landing Road, which has been renamed for the Cousteau Society. The upper floors house offices, and the first floor showcases a gallery of Cousteau artifacts, which is open to the public at no charge.

Visitors to the gallery can enjoy the Cousteau Society's world-renowned underwater photography, view models of the famous Cousteau research vessels Calypso and Alcione, look at past and present exploration diving equipment, and travel through history with artifacts from Cousteau expeditions such as a shark cage, decompression chamber, a minisub, and a jeep with dents in the side from a rhinoceros charge.

Visitors also can view continuous play videos of Cousteau award-winning films and television specials, and shop in the Cousteau retail boutique featuring many Cousteau collectables such as books, videos, apparel, music CDs, and marine-related jewelry.

The Cousteau Society, founded by famed explorer-environmentalist Jacques-Yves Cousteau, is dedicated to exploring and protecting our water resources, and to improving the quality of life for present and future generations. Over the past three decades, the Society has played a major role in introducing citizens around the world to the fragile beauty and life-sustaining miracles of our Water Planet.

## FORT MONROE

Completed in 1834 and named in honor of President James Monroe, Fort Monroe is recognized as the largest stone fort ever built in the United States. Nicknamed "Freedom's Fortress," this Union-held fortification provided a safe haven for hundreds of runaway slaves during the Civil War. It was also the site where the Army of the Potomac landed before beginning the march toward Richmond during the Peninsula Campaign.

There are several historic and intriguing landmarks located within the walls of the fort, including the quarters occupied by Lt. Robert E. Lee while serving in the U.S. Army, the Chapel of the Centurion, the flag bastion with a spectacular view of Fort Wool, Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, a pet cemetery along the fort's walls, and several historic quarters reported to host ghostly occupants. Fort Monroe's Casemate Museum is host to the cell where Jefferson Davis was imprisoned following the Civil War.

Today, the installation is the headquarters of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Fort Monroe's history and the U.S. Army's history in Hampton Roads are interpreted for visitors in the Casemate Museum. Walking tours of the fort are available during the summer months. (See Casemate Museum listing.)

## **CASEMATE MUSEUM AT FORT MONROE**

Located within the historic walls of Fort Monroe, the Casemate Museum chronicles the fortification's history through weaponry exhibits, Civil War memorabilia and military uniform displays. The cell in which Confederate President Jefferson Davis was imprisoned after the Civil War is a focal point of the museum. (See Fort Monroe listing.)

## **FORT WOOL**

Fort Monroe's companion fortification, Fort Wool sits on a manmade island in the middle of the Hampton Roads harbor and is accessible either by private boat or Hampton's harbor tour vessel, the Miss Hampton II. Partially constructed under the direction of Lt. Robert E. Lee, Fort Wool played an active role during the Civil War, protecting the entrance to the Hampton Roads harbor. In 1862, the famous "Battle of the Ironclads" — the Monitor and Merrimack — was fought in view of the installation. (See Miss Hampton II listing.)

## **GRANDVIEW NATURE PRESERVE**

This pristine 578-acre waterfront preserve and estuary is ideal for wildlife observations, hiking and bird watching and includes 2 1/2 miles of a secluded bay-front beach. A guide is available to provide canoe, kayak and hiking environmental and historical perspectives of the preserve.

## **GRUNDLAND PARK**

A former NIKE missile site, Grundland Park is now owned and operated by the City of Hampton. The park is under renovation by Hampton Parks & Recreation presently and is being developed as a 75-acre Outdoor Recreation Park. It is not yet open for daily use by the general public. Group camping, challenge course and kayak programs are available by calling 850-5134.

## HAMPTON CAROUSEL

Built in 1920, the Hampton Carousel is one of only 170 working antique carousels in the United States. Built by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company, the merry-go-round's 48 horses and two chariots were hand carved by Russian, German and Italian immigrant artisans. Completely restored and housed in its own pavilion, this beautiful carousel has become a focal point on Hampton's downtown waterfront. Visitors can take a spin and enjoy an American tradition.

## HAMPTON COLISEUM

In the 7,000 to 12,999-seat category and offering 84,827 square feet of unobstructed space, the Hampton Coliseum is one of the largest performance venues and convention facilities in Virginia. From the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus to Phish concerts, the venue offers an impressive year-round entertainment roster and is the setting for the nationally renowned Hampton Jazz Festival, held each June.

In 1993, Performance magazine named the Hampton Coliseum, "Arena of the Year." In December, 1994, Agent and Manager FACILITIES magazine recognized the coliseum with a "Prime Site Award," ranking it with such award-winning entertainment venues as Madison Square Gardens, Meadowlands Arena and Radio City Music Hall.

The coliseum opened January 31, 1970 with a performance from Jack Benny. The building's unique design is constructed of 500 tons of structural steel and 50 tons of roofing material. The cable-suspended roof is held by 48 2-inch bridge cables. The venue is surrounded by 75 acres of landscaped parkland and a 14-acre fresh water lake.

## HAMPTON HISTORY MUSEUM

Opened in May 2003, the Hampton History Museum interprets Hampton's unique past spanning from its inhabitation by the Kecoughtan Indians to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the city's role as the birthplace of American space program. The center's ten galleries spotlight events in the city's history including the arrival of Captain John Smith and the first settlers, the demise of Blackbeard the Pirate, and the emergence of Hampton's seafood industry, establishing the city as "Crabtown." A changing gallery on the second floor hosts visiting historic and pop culture exhibits. The museum also houses the Hampton Visitor Center.

## HAMPTON UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1868 as an institute of higher learning for newly freed people, Hampton University has grown into one of the nation's top-ranked colleges and universities. This prestigious institution overlooking the Hampton River is the site of six National Historic Landmarks, including Emancipation Oak, where it is believed President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was first read to the

residents of Hampton. Other points of interest include the Hampton University Museum, Booker T. Washington Memorial Garden and Statue, Virginia-Cleveland Hall, Wig Wam Building, Academy Building where the original museum collection was housed, Memorial Chapel and the William R. And Norma B. Harvey Library, which features two powerful murals by artist John Biggers. (See Hampton University Museum listing.) The campus consists 81 buildings spanning over 255 acres and a student body of nearly 6,000. There are 293 full-time faculty and 63 part-time.

## **HAMPTON UNIVERSITY MUSEUM**

Also founded in 1868, the Hampton University Museum is one of America's most remarkable facilities. The museum's collection of more than 9,000 objects and works of art is representative of cultures and people from the around the world and is the largest African-American collection the Southeastern U.S. The collection is elegantly housed on campus in the Huntington Building. It is the oldest museum in Virginia. A changing gallery highlights the works of both new and established multicultural artists. (See Hampton University listing.)

## **MISS HAMPTON II HARBOR CRUISES**

A double-decked tour boat, the Miss Hampton II carries passengers out to the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay. On this narrated tour, visitors will cruise past Blackbeard's Point, Hampton University, Old Point Comfort and the Norfolk Naval Base, where they'll get a look at the mighty ships and submarines berthed at the world's largest naval base.

## **LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE**

The oldest, continuously active air installation in the United States, Langley Air Force Base is headquarters for the Air Combat Command and the 1st Fighter Wing. The base houses more than 12,000 civilian and military employees.

## **LANGLEY SPEEDWAY**

Langley Speedway has been a Hampton tradition since 1950. Races run April through October and include Super-Mini Trucks, Legends, U Cars, Super Street Series, and NASCAR ShortTrack Series Grand Stock Car Division Racing. Langley was voted one of the top five NASCAR Weekly Racing Series tracks in 2001.

## **LITTLE ENGLAND CHAPEL**

Built circa 1879, the Little England Chapel is an important stop on Hampton's African American Heritage Tour. This simple white structure is believed to be Virginia's only existing African American missionary chapel. Both a State and National Historic Landmark, the chapel sanctuary holds a permanent exhibit that helps visitors understand the religious lives of post-Civil War blacks in Virginia.

## **NASA LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER**

For more than 75 years, scientists and engineers at Hampton's NASA Langley Research Center have been turning the dream of space-flight into reality. Established in 1917 as the first national civil aeronautical research laboratory of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), the facility developed efficient wing designs, low-drag engines and the retractable and tricycle-type landing gear that has been standard equipment on most aircraft from the DC-4 to the Space Shuttle.

The center was chosen in 1958 as the site where the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) would plan America's conquest of space and train its first astronauts. Shortly afterward, Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, "Gus" Grissom, Walter Schirra, Alan Shepard and "Deke" Slayton, also known as the Mercury Seven, arrived to train for Project Mercury. Today, the NASA Langley Research Center continues to play an instrumental role in science and technology developments for America's space program. The official visitor center is housed in the Virginia Air & Space Center on Hampton's downtown waterfront. Public driving tours of the research center may be available. Media tours may be coordinated through Hampton Convention and Visitor Bureau. (See Virginia Air & Space Center, NASA Langley Tours listings.)

## **NASA LANGLEY TOURS**

This seasonal tour, which departed from the Virginia Air & Space Center and transports visitors to the NASA Langley Research Center for a guided driving tour of the site, is currently not offered due to increased NASA security. The 1 1/2-hour tour included a close-up look at several of NASA's wind tunnels and the gigantic scaffold-works from which space capsules were once dropped to simulate lunar landings. (See NASA Langley Research Center, Virginia Air & Space Center listings.)

## **PENINSULA PILOTS**

The Pilots play in the Coastal Plain League, a college summer league using wood bats. The league features up-and-coming college players from across the nation. The Pilots are sanctioned by Major League Baseball and the NCAA. War Memorial Stadium, home of the Peninsula Pilots, is the largest and one of the oldest stadiums in the Coastal Plain League.

## **POWER PLANT OF HAMPTON ROADS**

Currently under construction in Hampton's Coliseum Central district, the Power Plant of Hampton Roads features themed restaurants, boutiques, eclectic shopping and entertainment. Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World anchors the lifestyle entertainment center. Other highlights include McFadden's Restaurant and Saloon, Saddle Ridge Rock N' Country Saloon, The Cheyenne Supper Club, Johnny Carrino's Country Italian, and Lone Star Steakhouse. Additional tenants include CiCi's Pizza and Sonic Drive-In.

## **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

Established in 1610, St. John's is the oldest continuous English-speaking parish in the United States. The existing structure was built in 1728, and its tree-lined churchyard holds graves dating to 1701 (including a memorial to Virginia Laydon, the first surviving child born in the New World). Among the church's most prized possessions is the communion silver made in London in 1618. Another is the beautiful stained-glass window depicting the baptism of the Indian princess Pocahontas.

## **SANDY BOTTOM NATURE PARK**

This 456-acre recreational facility features two lakes, wetlands areas, trails for hiking and biking, fishing, non-motorized boating, picnic areas and playground, a campground, tent cabins for rent and a beautiful nature center. Tours of the park's wetlands mitigation program are available, as are nature-interpreted hikes, classes in the park's laboratory and other special programs.

## **VIRGINIA AIR & SPACE CENTER**

The official visitor center for NASA Langley Research facilities, the Virginia Air & Space Center and Hampton Roads History Center houses a spectacular collection of flight- and space-related artifacts, interactive exhibits, historical displays and a giant-screen, 3-D IMAX® Theater. Visitors can see a three-billion-year-old moon rock, collected during the Apollo 17 mission; the Apollo 12 Command Module that journeyed to the moon and back; and a replica of the Lunar Orbiter, which mapped the moon's surface for future landings.

In November 2003, the Center unveiled the Adventures in Flight gallery, a new 15,000 square foot, \$6.4 million expansion. Additional improvements were also be made to the center, such as the upgrade of the IMAX® Theater to 3D capability, renovation of the Cosmic Café and a face lift to the Center's gift shop, for a total investment of \$8.9 million. The gallery was unveiled in time to celebrate the Centennial of Flight.

The new gallery highlights commercial, civil and military aviation while exploring the origins of flight. A section tells the Wright Brothers' story through a series of interactive exhibits such as a

full-scale reproduction of the Wright Flyer, the Wright Brothers' Bicycle Shop, a wind tunnel exhibit and a Wing Warper component.

The gallery's Commercial and Civil Aviation area features a full-size DC-9 with flight simulator. Check out the Test Flight Pre-show Theater, Flying Lab simulator, Propulsion Mini-Theater and A Day in the Life of a Suitcase. The Air Traffic Control area displays a real-time electronic map of North America showing all aircraft in flight. The Air Power Over Hampton Roads allows adventurous minds to build airplanes and a B-24 motion simulator provides the first-person experience of a World War II bomber.

Little Wings, an exciting new play area, will allow children to build a plane, ride in a simulator, and climb into a cockpit to investigate flight. Kids especially enjoy the hands-on exhibits.

At another favorite display, Astronaut-for-a-Minute, children get a glimpse of what they'd look like as an astronaut. At the Launch-a-Rocket exhibit, kids learn about the stages of preparation for a launch and then, send a model rocket shooting up into the "clouds." Nineteen aircraft and spacecraft hang from the Center's 94-foot ceiling, including an F-4E "Phantom II" fighter used during the Vietnam War and a Corsair F-106B "Delta Dart" struck nearly 700 times by lightning while flying through storms as part of NASA lightning research.

For special exhibition and IMAX film schedule, visit [www.vasc.org](http://www.vasc.org).

*(See also NASA Langley Research Center, NASA Langley Tours and Hampton Roads History Center listings.)*

## NEIGHBORING ATTRACTIONS

### WILLIAMSBURG

Visitors can explore America's colonial beginnings at **Colonial Williamsburg**, Virginia's reconstructed 18th-century capital. From 1699 to 1780, this diverse city served as a powerful center of commerce, culture and politics. Today, after years of restoration, Colonial Williamsburg is again a thriving, 18th-century community, where historical interpreters and crafts-people bring to life this fascinating chapter of American history.

In nearby Lightfoot, bargain shoppers will revel in the selection at **Williamsburg Pottery Factory**, a 130-acre bonanza of baskets, pottery, housewares, jewelry, clothing and more. Factory retail outlets, a custom frame shop and the state's largest wine selection are also on site. Over the last ten years, other outlet shopping centers have been built near "The Pottery." The entire area, with Prime Outlets and many other name-brand shops, is now a favorite shopping spot for visitors.

Nine old world hamlets come to life at **Busch Gardens**, a colorful, fantasized version of

17<sup>th</sup>- century Europe. This theme park features romanticized interpretations of Irish, French, German and Italian villages and hair-raising roller coaster and specialty rides.

## NEWPORT NEWS

Since 1930, **The Mariners' Museum** in Newport News has celebrated the spirit of seafaring adventure with an international collection of handcrafted ship models, scrimshaw, figureheads, paintings, working steam engines and vintage small craft. The USS Monitor Center, slated to open in 2007, will be home to the priceless artifacts recovered from the historic ship and a worldwide resource for exhibitions, conservation, research, and education related to the Monitor and the larger story of the naval history of the Civil War. The Monitor Center is a collaboration between the Museum and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

In 1987, The Mariners' Museum was designated by NOAA as the custodian of the artifacts and archives of the Civil War ironclad. Designated in 1987 by NOAA as the custodian of the artifacts and archives of the Civil War ironclad, The Mariners' Museum is uniquely qualified to conserve the historic vessel and tell the story of her epic battle in nearby Hampton Roads.

The Mariners' Museum additionally features the museum film *Mariner*. Visitors are encouraged to stroll through the 550-acre Mariners' Museum Park and explore the five-mile Noland Trail, complete with 14 bridges and several scenic overlooks.

A fascinating age of military history unfolds in the galleries of the **War Memorial Museum** of Virginia, where more than 50,000 artifacts document America's wars from 1775 to the present. The museum also houses one of the nation's largest collections of military posters.

The **Newsome House and Cultural Center**, a restored 1899 Victorian landmark, was once the home of Joseph Thomas Newsome, a respected Newport News business leader. For years, his elegant Queen Anne residence served as the hub of the local black community from which Newsome led the fight for social justice within the commonwealth. Today, visitors can learn more of this fascinating history by touring the museum and cultural center.

The **Virginia Living Museum** is a spectacular combination of native wildlife park, science museum, aquarium, botanical preserve and planetarium--all in one beautiful setting. Carefully protected natural environments for living animals and plants create an exciting opportunity for visitors to explore plant and animal life native to America's eastern Coastal Plains Region.

## JAMESTOWN/YORKTOWN

Learn of America's first permanent English colony (1607) at the **Jamestown Settlement**, a unique blend of indoor gallery exhibits and outdoor living history programs, including replicas of the ships, the *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed* and *Discovery*. At the **Yorktown Victory Center**, play a part in America's Revolutionary War history through gallery exhibits and demonstrations of an 18th-century Continental Army encampment and farm site.

## NORFOLK

Just minutes from Hampton, Norfolk is the site of the world's largest naval base. **Norfolk Naval Base**, home to the Navy's Atlantic Fleet, can be toured by bus. The city also boasts the **Norfolk Botanical Garden**, the renowned **Chrysler Museum of Art** and **Nauticus-The National Maritime Center**, where the Hampton Roads Naval Museum is located and **USS Wisconsin** is permanently berthed. Cultural and performing arts venues include Chrysler Hall, Norfolk Scope, Ted Constant Convocation Center, Harrison Opera House and Wells Theater.

## PORTSMOUTH

Steeped in more than 300 years of history, Portsmouth offers a variety of historic districts featuring the largest collection of historic homes between Alexandria, VA, and Charleston SC, one of the oldest working harbors in the country and harbor tours. You'll also discover the **Children's Museum of Virginia**, a state-of-the-art educational facility just for kids.

## VIRGINIA BEACH

Just 45 minutes from downtown Hampton, Virginia Beach features 28 miles of seacoast beaches and a renovated resort strip. See the historic lighthouse at **Cape Henry** or stroll through the **First Landing/Seashore State Park**. Also consider a tour of the **Virginia Marine Science Museum**, which features a 50,000-gallon Chesapeake Bay aquarium, an indoor coastal river room and an outdoor salt marsh walk.

## FESTIVALS AND RECREATION

### HAMPTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Hampton Jazz Festival, an annual summer event, continues to attract America's most successful jazz and contemporary musicians. Over the festival's history, Roberta Flack, "Dizzy" Gillespie, Patti LaBelle, The Four Tops, Dionne Warwick, Aretha Franklin, Little Richard and David Sanborn have all performed. The event is traditionally held the last full weekend in June. Artists, performance schedule and ticket prices are usually announced in late March.

### HAMPTON BLACKBEARD FESTIVAL

Held in late May/early June annually, the Hampton Blackbeard Festival celebrates the demise of Edward Teach, a.k.a. Blackbeard the Pirate. Pirate skirmishes, battle reenactments, Mardi Gras-style funeral procession, pirate ball, costumes and food are staged in Mill Point Park, Queen's Way, Carousel Park and along the Hampton River.

## **AFRIKAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL**

Held in conjunction with the Hampton Jazz Festival, this family-oriented event offers reggae, gospel and jazz music, ethnic food, and African and African-American arts and crafts. The summer celebration to benefit Peninsula Association for Sickle Cell Anemia is held at Mill Point Park, located just two blocks from the Virginia Air & Space Center and Hampton Carousel. There is usually a small donation charged at the entrance to benefit PASCA.

## **BIG BANDS AT BUCKROE BEACH**

During the summer months, music and dance enthusiasts swing to the sounds of the big bands at Buckroe Beach. These Sunday evening concerts feature such headline bands as Buddy Clark and the Champagne Orchestra, Society of Seven and Katz 'n' Jammers. Picnic dinners and lawn chairs are welcome. Concerts run June through August at Buckroe Beach Park.

## **HAMPTON CUP REGATTA**

The oldest and largest powerboat race in the United States, the Hampton Cup Regatta turns 80 in 2006. This August sports-event draws some of the fastest inboards and hydroplanes to the East Coast for the three-day race series. Boaters race at Mill Creek near Fort Monroe.

## **HAMPTON BAY DAYS**

Hampton pays tribute to the Chesapeake Bay during this weekend waterfront celebration, traditionally held the second weekend in September. Spanning from one end of Downtown Hampton to the other, Hampton's largest annual special event features educational exhibits, art displays and entertainment, such as headline performers, sports tournaments, a fireworks display, a carnival area and food, food, food.

## **HAMPTON HOLLY DAYS**

Hampton's historic downtown and waterfront provide the staging area for the city's annual holiday celebration. Holly Days includes the lighting of the official city Christmas tree, a lighted boat parade, a downtown street parade, romantic horse-and-carriage rides, and a children's "Breakfast with Santa Claus." The popular Illuminated Parade of Sail culminates with the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus by boat. Other holiday events include the Kwanzaa Art Marketplace at Hampton University Museum the Peninsula Glass Guild glass art display at Charles H. Taylor Arts Center and numerous special events at The American Theatre, Hampton University, Hampton Coliseum and more.

## BEACHES AND FISHING

**Buckroe Beach**, located along Hampton's Chesapeake Bay shoreline, is a popular family beach. The beach officially opens Memorial Day weekend and closes Labor Day weekend. Lifeguards are on duty during the official season. Visitors are invited to enjoy the playground, in-water craft available for rent, guided beach explorer programs. Don't miss the evening entertainment on Tuesdays and Sundays during the summer season.

**Grandview Nature Preserve and Beach**, located off Beach Road, is ideal for wildlife observations, ecological studies and hiking. Grandview's 578 acres of marshland include a beach that stretches for more than two miles. Educational tours and guided canoe/kayak excursions through the preserve are offered.

Charter fishing boats depart from Downtown Hampton Public Piers, the foot of King Street, Salt Ponds Marina and Wallace's Marina at Dandy Point for excursions on the Chesapeake Bay. Several head boats offer fishing excursions and charters year-round.

## HAMPTON FACTS AND FIRSTS

### LOCATION:

Hampton is located in the center of Hampton Roads, a geographic area that includes nine cities and six counties. In North Hampton Roads these include: Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, Gloucester County, James City County, Mathews County, Isle of Wight County and York County. South Hampton Roads is represented by: Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. Currituck County in North Carolina is also included due to the large number of residents employed in the Hampton Roads area.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton is situated midway along the East Coast and is the geographic center of the Hampton Roads region. Hampton's downtown is about a 30-minute drive from Colonial Williamsburg and Virginia Beach.

### POPULATION:

Hampton has approximately 138,000 residents. The Metropolitan Statistical Area of Hampton Roads, with a total population of approximately 1.5 million, ranks 27th in the nation.

### SIZE:

55 square miles

**AREA INDUSTRY:** Shipbuilding, shipping and rail transportation, seafood production, military, tourism and manufacturing

**CLIMATE:** Hampton's mild winters encourage a long tourism season. The average daily temperature for January/February is 48 degrees.

**HAMPTON FIRSTS:** America's first continuous English-speaking settlement  
America's first English Christmas  
America's first free public education  
America's first organized teaching of African-Americans  
America's first site for NASA  
America's first training ground for the U.S. astronauts

**AWARDS:** 2002 The National Civic League designates Hampton an All-America City for exceptional cohesion among government, business, and voluntary organizations, working together for solutions to local issues.

It is the second time in the City's history that Hampton has received this designation.

2002 Aberdeen Gardens is awarded Neighborhood of the Year by Neighborhoods USA.

1995 Personnel Journal magazine awarded Hampton the 1995 "Optimas Award," in recognition of the city's successful government reengineering efforts. The only public sector organization to receive the prestigious award, Hampton joins other Optimas recipients AT&T, Hewlett-Packard, Levi Strauss and First Chicago Corporation.

1993 Destinations magazine, the publication of the American Bus Association, selected Hampton as one of the best "yet-to-be-discovered" tourism sites in North America.

1993 The International Making Cities Livable Council presented Hampton with the "City of Vision Award," in recognition of Hampton's outstanding downtown revitalization efforts.

## HAMPTON HISTORICAL CALENDAR

- September 12, 1570** Spanish explorers arrive at Kecoughtan (later Hampton).
- December 29, 1608** Due to extremely cold weather, Captain John Smith and company begin lodging with the Indians at Kecoughtan Village.
- December 29, 1608** The first English Christmas on American soil is celebrated at Kecoughtan Village by Captain John Smith and company.
- October 1, 1609** Fort Algernourne, one of America's first forts, is constructed at Point Comfort (future site of Fort Monroe).
- July 9, 1610** English colonists settle on the site of the Kecoughtan Indian Village. This date marks the time from which the first English-speaking settlement was established on land that would eventually become Hampton.
- August 20, 1619** Twenty slaves disembark from a Dutch ship at Old Point Comfort before sailing on to Jamestown. They are the first Africans to arrive in British North America.
- February 10, 1634** Benjamin Syms bequeaths his property for the establishment of the first free school in the country.
- November 21, 1718** Lieutenant Robert Maynard, a British naval officer commissioned by Governor Alexander Spotswood, discovers Blackbeard the pirate at Ocracoke Inlet. Following a ferocious battle, Blackbeard is killed and decapitated. Lieutenant Maynard returns Blackbeard's head to Hampton, where it is mounted on a pole at the mouth of the Hampton River as a warning to other pirates.
- 1726** The first American Professor of Law, George Wythe, who taught law to Thomas Jefferson and later became a signer of the Declaration of Independence, is born in Hampton.
- September 2, 1775** Hampton-area residents burn the British ship Otter after a storm drives her into Back River.
- October 24, 1775** British forces, commanded by the former captain of the Otter, attack Hampton. Minutemen repulse the British troops.
- January 1, 1829** Edgar Allan Poe is promoted to sergeant major at Fort Monroe.

<b>May 7, 1831</b>	Robert E. Lee reports for duty at Fort Monroe.
<b>May 2, 1861</b>	Hampton ratifies a vote to secede from the Union and join the Confederacy.
<b>May 24, 1861</b>	Three runaway slaves are given sanctuary at Fort Monroe, thus establishing the fort as a refuge during the Civil War.
<b>August 7, 1861</b>	After reading newspaper reports that the Federals plan to quarter troops and former slaves in Hampton, Confederate General John B. Magruder orders Hampton resident Captain Jefferson C. Phillips to set fire to the town. Old Dominion Dragoons burn thirty businesses and one hundred houses.
<b>September 17, 1861</b>	Mary Peake, a free-born black, begins the first organized effort (although illegal) to teach African-Americans to read and write.
<b>March 9, 1862</b>	The Confederate ironclad CSS Virginia battles with the Union ironclad USS Monitor in Hampton Roads harbor. While neither ship substantially damages the other and the battle results in a draw, this duel marks the end of the era of wooden warships.
<b>May 6, 1862</b>	President Abraham Lincoln arrives at Fort Monroe expecting to see the capture of Norfolk by Federal forces.
<b>January 1, 1863</b>	President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation is issued. It is later read to Hampton slaves who gather at Emancipation Oak.
<b>February 3, 1865</b>	Three representatives of the Confederacy meet with President Abraham Lincoln aboard a steamer in Hampton Roads harbor in an unsuccessful effort to end the Civil War.
<b>May 19, 1865</b>	Confederate President Jefferson Davis is imprisoned at Fort Monroe.
<b>May 13, 1867</b>	Confederate President Jefferson Davis is released from confinement at Fort Monroe.
<b>April 6, 1868</b>	Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (later Hampton University) opens.
<b>August 7, 1917</b>	Langley Field opens as the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics' (NACA) experimental field.
<b>June 4, 1918</b>	Author Thomas Wolfe signs on as a laborer at Langley Field, later using his experiences in the novel <i>Look Homeward, Angel</i> .

<b>July 11, 1920</b>	Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory is dedicated as the official home of NACA.
<b>November 15, 1921</b>	The 410-foot airship Roma makes its maiden American flight from Langley Field.
<b>February 21, 1922</b>	The dirigible Roma crashes after takeoff from Langley Field.
<b>May 15, 1923</b>	Headquarters for the Third Coast Artillery are transferred to Fort Monroe.
<b>March 1, 1935</b>	Langley Field becomes the center of tactical aviation for the U.S. Army.
<b>April 15, 1942</b>	Twenty-nine German sailors from a U-2 sunk off the North Carolina coast are secretly buried in Hampton National Cemetery.
<b>October 4, 1956</b>	The first supersonic "Super Sabre" plane is christened Miss Hampton at Langley Air Force Base.
<b>November 1, 1957</b>	The Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, connecting Hampton to Norfolk, opens.
<b>October 1, 1958</b>	The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics becomes the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
<b>April 1, 1959</b>	America's first astronauts are chosen. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott Carpenter, USAF Maj. L. Gordon Cooper Jr., Marine Lt. Col. John H. Glenn Jr., USAF Maj. Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Navy Cmdr. Walter M. Schirra Jr., Navy Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard Jr. and Donald K. "Deke" Slayton receive their original space training at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton.
<b>September 19, 1961</b>	The Manned Spacecraft Center (Mission Control) in Houston begins operation. Later, many of NASA Langley's functions are transferred to the Houston center.
<b>February 20, 1962</b>	John Glenn, one of Hampton's Mercury Seven astronauts, becomes the first American in orbit, circling the Earth three times in Friendship 7.
<b>1968 - April 1, 1978</b>	Hampton's NASA Langley Research Center oversees the Viking project. Under Langley's management, Viking 1 and Viking 2 are launched to orbit, photograph, and eventually land on the planet Mars.

<b>January 31, 1970</b>	Jack Benny performs at the official opening of the Hampton Coliseum.
<b>1972</b>	The National Municipal League chooses Hampton as an "All American City."
<b>May 18, 1985</b>	Hampton reopens Fort Wool to visitors.
<b>July 9, 1985</b>	Hampton celebrates its 375th anniversary as the oldest continuous English-speaking community in the United States.
<b>December 1987</b>	Hampton Coliseum is named "Arena of the Year" in the 7,000 to 12,999-seat category by the readers of Performance magazine.
<b>June 30, 1991</b>	Hampton's 1920 carousel reopens after an extensive two-year renovation.
<b>April 5, 1992</b>	The Virginia Air and Space Center, housing some of NASA's most dramatic space artifacts, opens in downtown Hampton.
<b>January 1993</b>	Hampton Coliseum is again named "Arena of the Year" in the 7,000 to 12,999-seat category by the readers of Performance magazine.
<b>March 10, 1993</b>	For its outstanding downtown revitalization efforts, Hampton receives the City of Vision Award from the International Making Cities Livable Council.
<b>January 1995</b>	Hampton receives Optimas Award for its "remarkable success in reengineering a city government to operate more effectively by using the tools of private enterprise."
<b>April 1997</b>	Sesame Street Parents Magazine commends the Hampton Family Resource Project by saying Hampton is the "most family friendly city in America."
<b>September 11, 1997</b>	Hampton Conventions & Tourism accepted the Susan Allen Tourism Merit Award for "Family Tree: A Campaign to Promote African-American Travel to Hampton" at the State Tourism Summit in Richmond.
<b>March 1999</b>	The National Award for Cultural Diversity Program is given to Hampton for its efforts to foster understanding and respect for racial and cultural diversity.
<b>June 25, 1999</b>	New Ferry, "Zephyr," links Hampton with neighboring city Norfolk through environmentally friendly transportation.

<b>February 2000</b>	Hampton wins the Solid Waste Association's Recycling Gold Award for an innovative Radio Frequency Identification Tag Program that tracks recycling participation.
<b>June 2000</b>	Hampton is recognized for outstanding economic development performance in this year's Southern Business & Development 100.
<b>June 16-18, 2000</b>	First Blackbeard Festival takes place to celebrate one of Hampton's most notorious visitors, Blackbeard the Pirate.
<b>June 16-20, 2000</b>	OpSail, the largest tall ship and maritime event in modern history, is held in Hampton.
<b>November 2000</b>	The Hampton Roads Convention Center is approved by Hampton city council.
<b>November 2000</b>	Groundbreaking on Hampton Roads Power Plant takes place.
<b>June 18, 2001</b>	Groundbreaking of Hampton History Museum takes place.
<b>2001</b>	Hampton was bestowed the national "Our Town" award from Josten's Foundation and Search Institute for implementing developmental assets initiatives.
<b>July 2001</b>	NASA chooses a Hampton site to house their Small Aircraft Transportation System Alliance (SATS).
<b>June 2002</b>	Historic Hampton neighborhood Aberdeen Gardens is named Neighborhood of the Year by Neighborhoods USA.
<b>June 2002</b>	Hampton is awarded the title of All-America City by the National Civic League for the second time in the city's history.
<b>May 3, 2003</b>	Hampton History Museum Opens
<b>May 16, 2003</b>	Hampton breaks ground on the Hampton Roads Convention Center and Embassy Suites Hotel.
<b>November 8, 2003</b>	Virginia Air & Space Center's Adventures In Flight gallery opens in celebration of the Centennial of Flight. The gallery is a \$6.4 million, 15,000 square foot expansion. The center's IMAX® Theater is upgraded to 3-D capability.
<b>November 13, 2003</b>	Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World opens at the Power Plant of Hampton Roads.