

# I LOVE

*Virginia State Parks*



# GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Like you, my wife Maureen and I cherish time with our children. From first steps to first days of school, the memories we share are precious. Many of our fondest family memories revolve around vacations and those all too brief weekend getaways.

Our award-winning Virginia State Parks are the natural vacation choice for families. Our parks offer safe, affordable and convenient locations for you and your family to begin making memories as you experience the great outdoors and learn about Virginia's rich culture and compelling history.

Looking back, I also remember our children's enthusiasm as they selected postcards of our vacation destinations, and their concentration as they recorded their memories on the back of each one. We all know the special fun of sending, and receiving, vacation postcards. When you visit a Virginia state park this year, I'm sure you'll have an experience you'll just naturally want to put in the mail and share with your friends and family.



With 35 parks across the Commonwealth, there's so much to see and do in our state parks. There's never been a better time to visit. And there's never been a better time to share memories as you experience our Commonwealth's natural and cultural treasures.

**Bob McDonnell**  
Governor of Virginia



# AT A GLANCE



- Get Active ..... 6
- Programs and Festivals ..... 10
- History ..... 14
- Cabins, Lodges and Campsites .... 18
- Meeting and Event Facilities ..... 20
- Natural Area Preserves ..... 22
- General Information ..... 23
- Get Involved ..... 23

Family. Friends. Fun.  
*Virginia State Parks*

*This has been a wonderful experience and we've never felt so close as a family. We'd love for you to join us.*

*Love,  
Virginia*



to:

---

---

---

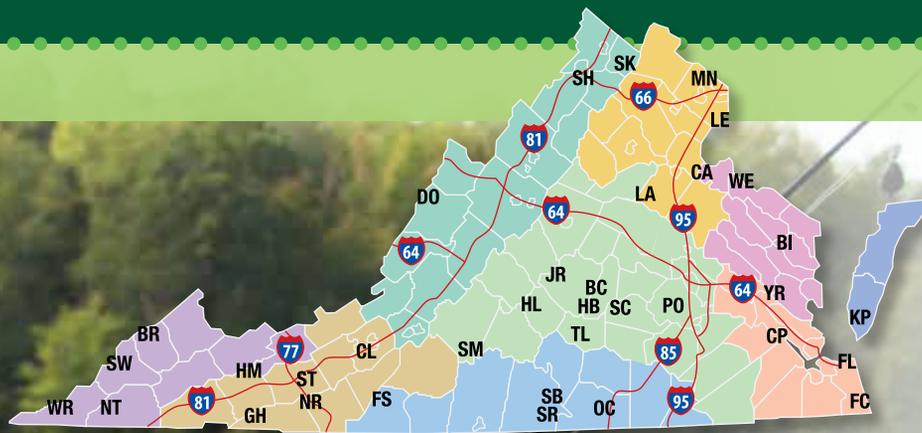
Virginia   
*is for Lovers*

Photos on pages 5, 13, 15(l), 17, 19(r), 20(ul) and 22 courtesy of Bill Crabtree Jr., Virginia Tourism Corp. Photos on pages 3, 15(r) and 18(l) courtesy of Jeff Saxman.

# 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 35 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. The comfortable cabins, clean and safe campgrounds, and convenient meeting facilities ensure that your park experience doesn't end at sundown.



Boat Launching  
Boat Rentals  
Fishing  
Cabins  
Camping  
Nature/  
Cultural Programs  
Picnicking  
Playgrounds  
Swimming  
Trails

	ES*	HAMPTON ROADS	CHESAPEAKE BAY	NORTHERN VA	CENTRAL VA	SOUTHERN VA	SHENANDOAH VALLEY	BLUE RIDGE	HEART OF APPALACHIA
ES*	Kiptopeke (KP)								
	Chippokes Plantation (CP)								
	False Cape (FC)								
	First Landing (FL)								
	York River (YR)								
	Belle Isle (BI)								
	Caledon Natural Area (CA)								
	Westmoreland (WE)								
	Lake Anna (LA)								
	Leesylvania (LE)								
	Mason Neck (MN)								
	Bear Creek Lake (BC)								
	High Bridge Trail (HB)								
	Holliday Lake (HL)								
	James River (JR)								
	Pocahontas (PO)								
	Sailor's Creek Battlefield (SC)								
	Smith Mountain Lake (SM)								
	Twin Lakes (TL)								
	Fairy Stone (FS)								
	Occoneechee (OC)								
	Staunton River Battlefield (SB)								
	Staunton River (SR)								
	Douthat (DO)								
	Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River (SH)								
	Sky Meadows (SK)								
	Claytor Lake (CL)								
	Grayson Highlands (GH)								
	Hungry Mother (HM)								
	New River Trail (NR)								
	Shot Tower (ST)								
	Breaks Interstate (BR)								
	Natural Tunnel (NT)								
	Southwest Virginia Museum (SW)								
	Wilderness Road (WR)								

\* 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

### 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 Natural Area • 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  
(SC) Sailor's Creek Battlefield • 804-561-7510  
(SM) Smith Mountain Lake • 540-297-6066  
(TL) Twin Lakes • 434-392-3435  
Cedar Crest 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

(BR) 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

# GET ACTIVE

## *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. When young people see adults being physically active and having fun, they 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 your healthy lifestyle.



### **Trails**

More than 500 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 as well as 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, summer-time dip at our parks. Beaches and pools at 16 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 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.

### **Picnicking**

From an impromptu picnic to a special occasion, all parks have picnic tables and grills. Picnic shelters and gazebos are available at most parks. Shelter rental reservations can be made by calling the Reservation 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 usually offered in designated areas of Fairy Stone, Grayson Highlands, Hungry Mother, Occoneechee and Pocahontas state parks. Special resource management hunts are held in Belle Isle, Caledon, Chippokes Plantation, Claytor Lake, Douthat, False Cape, Grayson Highlands, James River, Kiptopeke, Lake Anna, Leesylvania, Mason Neck, Natural Tunnel, Pocahontas, Shenandoah River, Smith Mountain Lake, Staunton River and York River state parks. Our cabins and campgrounds make excellent base camps for hunting in nearby wildlife management areas and public forests.



## 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 with its 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>Tea in the Garden, Easter Egg Hunt</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Steam and Gas Engine Show</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>Pork, Peanut and Pine Festival</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Fall in the Country</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>Christmas Open House</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 Atlantic 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 six 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>Spring Spruce-up</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Clean the Bay Day</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>International Coastal Cleanup</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 hook-up campsites, picnic areas, boat ramps and a camp store with bicycle rentals are also available. The Chesapeake Bay Center houses historic exhibits, educational displays, a wet lab and aquariums operated by the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center. 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 25 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 bike, boat and recreational equipment rentals are available.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>SEPTEMBER</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 seven miles of shoreline on the Northern Neck's Rappahannock River and provides access to 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 motor boat 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.

**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 Natural Area

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. To protect the eagles, access to marshes and the Potomac River is limited. However, tours of the eagle habitat are offered seasonally. Forest trails are open year-round, including the Boyd's Hole Trail to the Potomac River. A visitor center with bald eagle exhibits, two picnic areas, a picnic shelter and restrooms also are available between May and September.

**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 six 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 65 people for meetings and other gatherings. Amenities include audiovisual equipment, a warming kitchen for catered events and a break-out room.

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



Caledon Natural Area

## 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 new this year.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>SUMMER</b>	<b>Marina Concert Series,</b>
<b>MAY – SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Monthly kids fishing tournaments</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Anniversary of Freestone Battery</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) 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, three 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 Elizabeth Hartwell 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>Kids Fishing Clinic</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.*



Kiptopeke State Park



NORTHERN VA



EASTERN SHORE

# PROGRAMS AND FESTIVALS



Learn to take wildlife photographs. Hone your skills at a fly-fishing school. Pan for gold, take a wild cave tour or learn to backpack like the experts. Many state parks offer special programs and classes that help participants better understand, appreciate and enjoy the outdoors.

Special programs, festivals, concerts and activities represent the best Virginia State Parks have to offer. From traditional outdoor activities, such as canoeing, fishing clinics or night hikes, to arts and crafts festivals, women's wellness weekends and bluegrass concerts, visitors will find something to do in a Virginia State Park. Fees are charged for some programs, while others are free.

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 premiere 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, Fairy Stone 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, a conference center, hiking trails, lake swimming, rowboats, canoes, paddle boats, kayaks, picnicking and two playgrounds, including one in the water. *Equestrian camping is new this year.*

**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, equestrian camping, picnic shelters, an amphitheater, a playground, boat ramps, and a private concession offering fishing and pontoon boat rentals as well as snacks. The park also has a 15-mile round trip (seven-mile linear) multipurpose trail for hiking, biking and horseback riding. The visitor center and museum introduce visitors to Native American culture and the indigenous Occoneechee people.

**LOCATION** — Near Clarksville, 1.5 miles east on U.S. 58 east, 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 700 Confederate old men and young boys 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 three-quarter-mile nature trail with two wildlife observation towers overlooking wetlands

**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. 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, a large playground, tennis and volleyball courts, several boat launches and more than 11 miles of multi-use trails. River Traders, just outside the park entrance, rents canoes, kayaks, jon boats and pontoon boats.

**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 an 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 take advantage of the park's trails and access to a state forest's 14-mile multi-use trail, which is popular with equestrians.

**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 State Park is a multi-use trail ideally suited for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. The centerpiece is the majestic High Bridge, which is more than 2,400 feet long and 160 feet above the Appomattox River. The bridge was built in 1853 as part of the South Side Railroad.

Rehabilitation work on High Bridge is ongoing. Although 28 miles of the park's trail are open, High Bridge and the trail on each end of the bridge are closed for construction. Once completed, the bridge will link the entire 31 miles of trail. Slated to open in spring 2012, in addition to beautiful vistas, the bridge will allow a unique trail experience. Development of other park facilities also continues. Visitors should bring plenty of drinking water. No drinking water is 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. A nearby Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries delayed-harvest trout stream allows anglers to fish for brown and rainbow trout.

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 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 three 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 quarter-mile-long wheelchair accessible trail around Green Hill Pond. James

River State Park Outdoor Adventures, a full-service canoe livery, provides canoe, kayak, tube and bicycle 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 near Green Hill Pond. *A visitor center exhibit is new this year.*



Pocahontas State Park

## 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 their radios to AM 1610. For more

information about seasonal tours of the Hillsman House, call 804-561-7510. *A visitor center exhibit is new this year.*

**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.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>JULY</b>	<b>Summer Festival</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Fall Festival</b>

**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.

## 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, three-foot and five-foot-deep leisure pools, an activity pool and two tubular 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 is available for meetings, events and seasonal performances. Group facilities with meeting space and primitive overnight cabins also are available.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>IN SEASON</b>	<b>Pocahontas Amphitheater Performing Arts Series</b>
------------------	---

**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.

## Smith Mountain Lake State Park

On the second largest freshwater lake in the state, this picturesque park is the water enthusiast's paradise. There are numerous water activities, including 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

<b>MAY &amp; SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Triathlons</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Aspiring Anglers Junior Fishing Tournament</b>

**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 Center on Prince Edward Lake is available for family reunions, business meetings, wedding receptions and other gatherings.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Haunting on the Lake</b>
----------------	-----------------------------

**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.



# NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY



Virginia State Parks are more than beautiful; they're educational, too. Visitor centers at nearly two dozen parks help guests learn about the natural and cultural history of the region and Virginia.

Several parks feature painstakingly restored, centuries-old buildings open to the public. Tour an antebellum mansion at Chippokes Plantation State Park, a 19th-century farmhouse at Sky Meadows State Park or an 1890s Victorian mansion at the Southwest Virginia Museum State Park. Witness a Civil War living-history program at Leesylvania, Sailor's Creek Battlefield or Staunton River Battlefield state park. Discover Virginia's frontier heritage at an authentically recreated 1770s fort at Wilderness Road State Park. Learn about the operations of a historic shot tower and visit the mining town of Foster Falls at New River Trail State Park. Tour an 1880s gold mine at Lake Anna State Park.

There are few better places to observe wildlife in diverse habitats than Virginia State Parks, all of which are part of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail. Throughout spring, summer and fall, most parks offer nature and history programs for the whole family.

## 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.



## 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, two 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. *Equestrian campground and the Whispering Pines Campground are new this year.*

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>MAY</b>	<b>Douthat Lake Run Car Show</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>Arts and crafts fair</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Big Country 101 Back to School Bash</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Apple Day – A Celebration of Appalachian Heritage</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. The park opened in June 1999. 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 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 and a group campground are available. With more than 24 miles of trails, the park has plenty of options for hiking, biking and horseback riding. *Cabins, a visitor center and a campground are new this year.*

**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

## Sky Meadows State Park

Rich in history, this 1,862-acre park has scenic views, rolling pastures and woodlands. Look into a bygone era by touring the Mount Bleak House to see how a middle-class farm family of the 1860s lived. Nature and history programs are offered during the spring, summer and fall. 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 six miles of bridle trails, 14 miles of hiking trails and a trailhead for the Appalachian Trail.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>MAY</b>	<b>Delaplane Strawberry Festival</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER</b>	<b>Astronomy nights</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Family Farm Festival weekends</b>
	<b>Ghosts of Mount Bleak tours</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>Country Christmas</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.



Shenandoah River 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, supplies, 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>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>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 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 40 miles and passes through four counties. 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. *Discovery Center at Foster Falls and horse parking lot at Ivanhoe are new this year.*

### SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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

## Shot Tower Historic State Park

Overlooking the New River, adjacent to New River Trail State Park, the shot tower was built more than 200 years ago to make ammunition for firearms of the early settlers. Lead from the nearby Austinville Mines was melted in a kettle atop a 75-foot tower and poured through a sieve. It then fell through a shaft into a vat of water beneath the tower. The shot tower is a National Historic Landmark. Picnic facilities, restrooms and a hiking trail are available. Shot Tower grounds are closed from mid-October through April.

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





Natural Tunnel State Park

## 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 white-water 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>FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND</b>	<b>Annual Gospel Event</b>
<b>JUNE-JULY</b>	<b>Outdoor Bluegrass Events</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Halloween campground events, Homemaking in the Mountains</b>

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

## 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. *A camp store and kayak programs are new this year.*

### SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>JANUARY-APRIL</b>	<b>Candlelight Series</b>
<b>SUMMER</b>	<b>Pickin' in the Park, Lighting of the Tunnel</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</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.*

## 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. 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.*

## Wilderness Road State Park

Wilderness Road offers picnicking, hiking 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, an ADA-certified playground, a sand volleyball court and horseshoe pits. Visitors can hike, bike or horseback ride on the eight-mile Wilderness Road Trail linking the park with 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.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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



# 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. Camping at Shenandoah River is also available year-round.

Camping, cabin and picnic shelter reservations can be made by calling the Virginia State Parks Reservation 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, campsite and picnic shelter reservations can also be made online at [www.virginiastateparks.gov](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov). Online reservations must be made a day in advance.



## Cabins and Lodges

Bear Creek Lake, Chippokes Plantation, Claytor Lake, Douthat, Fairy Stone, First Landing, Hungry Mother, James River, Lake Anna, Natural Tunnel, Occoneechee, Shenandoah River, Staunton River, Smith Mountain Lake, Twin Lakes and Westmoreland state parks have cabins, lodges or both. 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 mattress covers, 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 Reservation Center. Cabins cannot be reserved for more than 14 days in a row.

In addition to cabins, special facilities include:

**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.



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

**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.

## 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.

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 Reservation 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 (sites to open in late 2011), Grayson Highlands, James River, New River Trail and Occoneechee state parks.

The maximum camping period is 14 days in a row in any single park. Campers cannot be assured of access to their reserved sites before the reservation start time of 4 p.m. on the scheduled day of arrival. 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

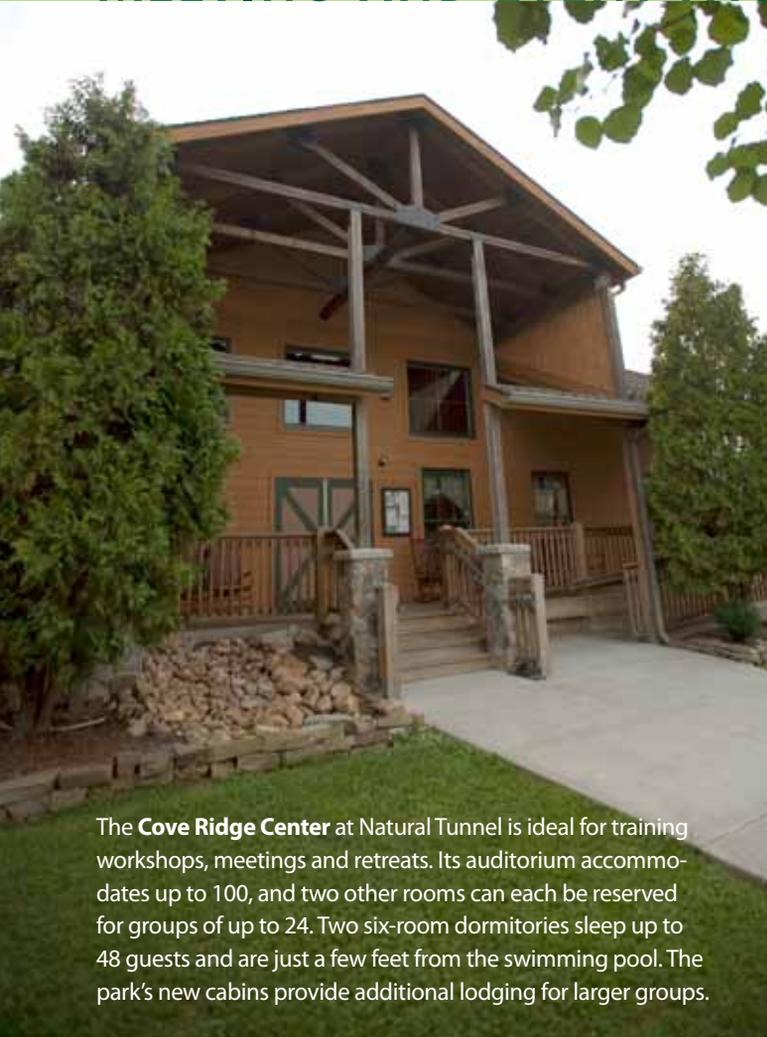
Cancellations may be made by calling the Reservation Center during operating hours or the park when the Reservation Center is closed. A \$10 per site cancellation fee will be deducted from paid fees. Cancellation fees also apply to horse stalls. Group camping areas and buddy sites have a \$30 cancellation fee. Reservation changes must be made through the Reservation 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 Reservation Center or the park when the Reservation 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 reducing 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 Reservation Center and before 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the scheduled arrival. Contact the Reservation 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



The **Cove Ridge Center** at Natural Tunnel is ideal for training workshops, meetings and retreats. Its auditorium accommodates up to 100, and two other rooms can each be reserved for groups of up to 24. Two six-room dormitories sleep up to 48 guests and are just a few feet from the swimming pool. The park's new cabins provide additional lodging for larger groups.

**Weddings, reunions, meetings, conferences, retreats – 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 meeting space for 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 events.

First Landing State Park's **Trail Center, Chesapeake Bay Center**, and 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 break-out room are available.

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

Fairy Stone, Pocahontas and the Southwest Virginia Museum also have meeting facilities.

A state parks reservation counselor can help you plan a special event in a state park. Call the Reservation Center weekdays at 800-933-PARK (7275) or contact the park directly.



Gazebo at Twin Lakes State Park



Trail Center at First Landing State Park

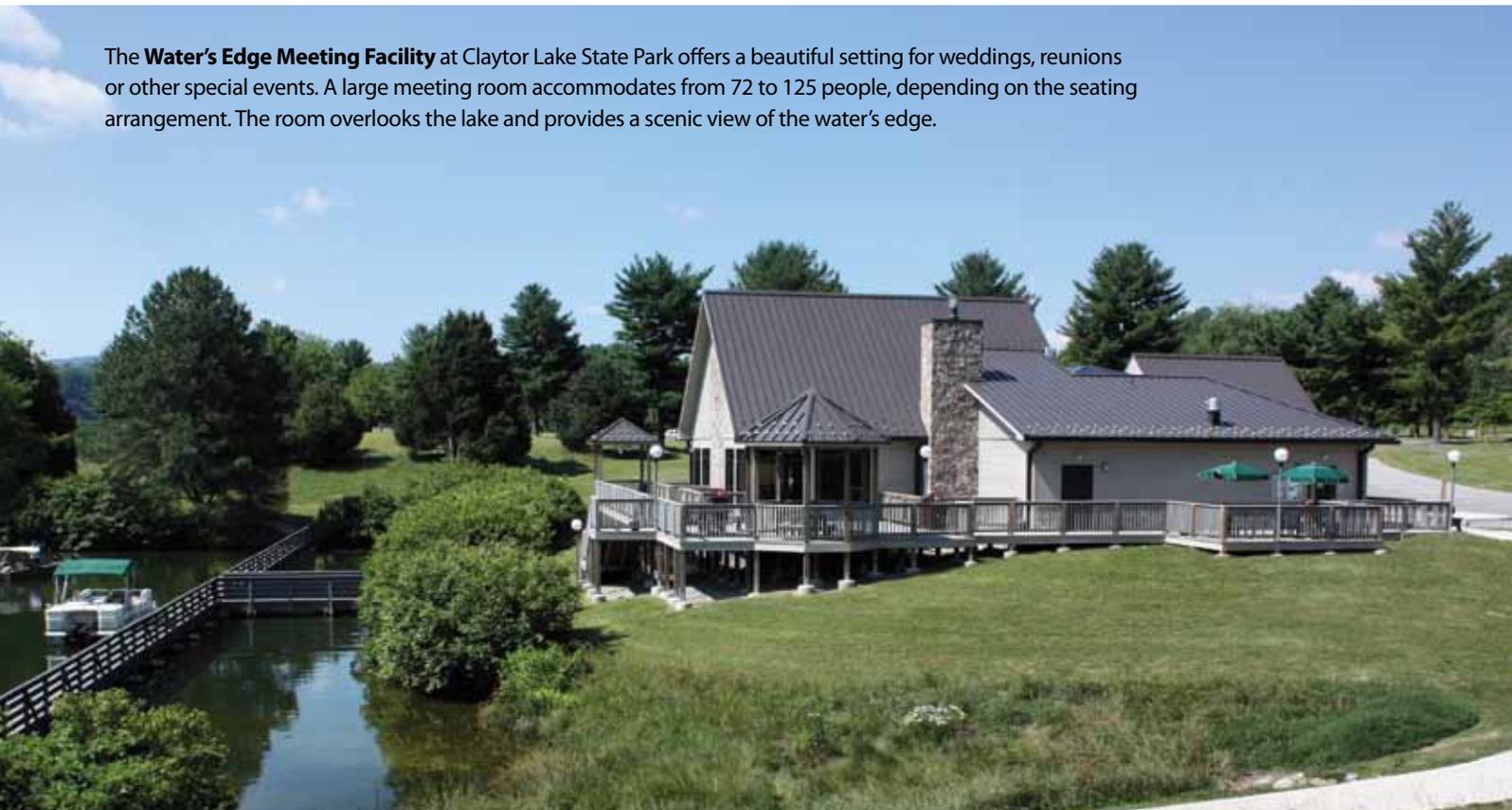


The **Jones-Stewart Mansion** at Chippokes Plantation State Park, **Bel Air** at Belle Isle State Park and **Karlan Mansion** at Wilderness Road State Park (*pictured*) are historic, picturesque locations for weddings and family reunions.



Water's Edge meeting facility at Claytor Lake 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



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

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 of which are 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 17 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.

## SHENANDOAH VALLEY

1	Goshen Pass, Rockbridge County	•			•	•		
2	Poor Mountain, Roanoke	•			•	•	•	

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA

3	Bull Run Mountains, Fauquier and Prince William counties***	•			•	•		
---	---	---	--	--	---	---	--	--

## CHESAPEAKE BAY

4	Bethel Beach, Mathews County	•					•	
5	Bush Mill Stream, Northumberland County	•			•	•	•	•
6	Dameron Marsh, Northumberland County	•	•	•		•	•	
7	Hickory Hollow, Lancaster County*	•			•		•	•
8	Hughlett Point, Northumberland County	•	•		•	•	•	•
9	New Point Comfort, Mathews County**	•	•			•	•	

## HAMPTON ROADS

10	North Landing River, Virginia Beach	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
11	Cumberland Marsh, New Kent County**	•	•		•	•	•	•

## EASTERN SHORE

12	Cape Charles, Northampton County	•	•			•	•	
13	Savage Neck Dunes, Northampton County	•	•		•	•	•	•

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA

14	Chub Sandhill, Sussex County	•			•		•	
----	------------------------------	---	--	--	---	--	---	--

## BLUE RIDGE

15	Buffalo Mountain, Floyd County	•			•		•	
16	Grassy Hill, Franklin County	•			•		•	•

## HEART OF APPALACHIA

17	Pinnacle, Russell County	•			•		•	•
----	--------------------------	---	--	--	---	--	---	---

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

# GET INVOLVED

## Contribute

Virginians can make a tax-deductible donation to their parks, both state and local, and to their 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.



## Be a Volunteer

We value the commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers and work to find a position to fit their interests, schedule and experience. Thousands of volunteers contributed more than 235,000 hours last year. The opportunities for volunteering in a park are many and the rewards are great. For more information, e-mail the volunteer coordinator at: [vspvolunteer@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:vspvolunteer@dcr.virginia.gov), contact any state park or call 800-933-PARK (7275).

## Virginia Association for Parks

The VAFFP promotes volunteerism in Virginia's state and national parks. For more information or to show your support by signing up for a free Associate Membership, visit [www.virginiaparks.org](http://www.virginiaparks.org).

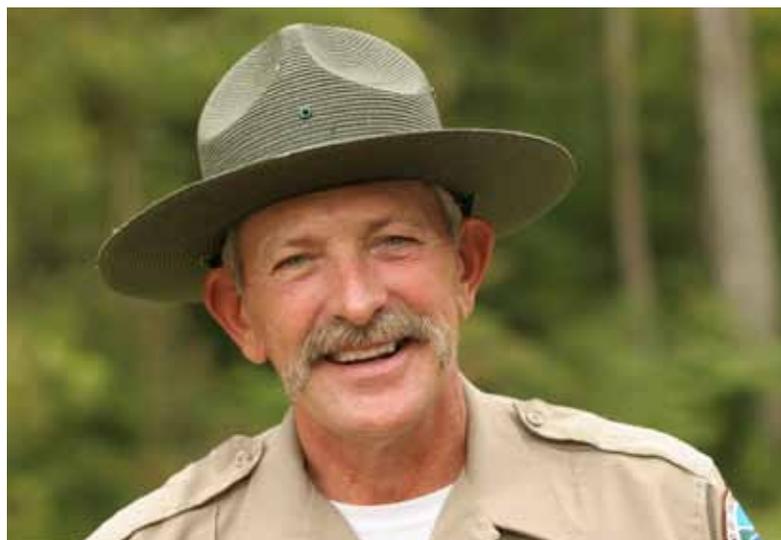
## VIRGINIA LOVES CAMPERS

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 our state parks and across Virginia. For a comprehensive list of all of

Virginia's campgrounds and camping opportunities, visit [www.virginia.org/campingrving/](http://www.virginia.org/campingrving/). Also visit [www.virginiacampgrounds.org](http://www.virginiacampgrounds.org) for Virginia Campground Association information.

## Careers

Park rangers are needed across the state. As more parks and facilities are built, the need for qualified rangers has grown. 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 management. For information about a career in Virginia State Parks, visit the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation website at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/careers.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/careers.shtml).



# 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 Reservation 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 six feet or in an enclosed area at all times. Cabin guests are charged \$10 plus tax per night per pet. Camping guests are charged \$5 plus tax per night per pet, up to a \$15 maximum. Pets aren't allowed in the yurt at Kiptopeke State Park. They're also not allowed in Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Pets may access 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 it 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:

Three horizontal lines for an address.

Find us on these popular social media sites:



Twitter



Facebook



YouTube



Google+



Foursquare



Pocket Ranger®

DOWNLOAD  
OUR FREE  
MOBILE APP



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

Look for it on iTunes or Android Market as "Pocket Ranger" or visit us at StateParkApps.com.