



Things to do in Norfolk

- Located along the downtown Norfolk waterfront is **Nauticus**, a hands-on science and technology center exploring the power of the sea. Nauticus features more than 150 exhibits, films on giant screens and touch pools – you can even pet a shark if you dare!! Housed inside of the complex is the **Hampton Roads Naval Museum**. This museum is dedicated to the study of 225 years of naval history in the Hampton Roads region. A large section of the gallery is dedicated to events in Hampton Roads during the American Civil War. The Naval Museum is free and open to the public. Docked adjacent to the Naval Museum is the **Battleship Wisconsin**, the last and largest Battleship ever constructed by the U.S. Navy!
www.nauticus.org

- The **MacArthur Memorial** is located in the heart of downtown and serves as the final resting place for five-star General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur and his wife. This museum is located inside downtown Norfolk's restored 1850's City Hall. This free museum contains extensive collections of military and personal artifacts.
***Complimentary admission*
<http://www.macarthurmemorial.org/>

- **Historic Ghent**, named for the Treaty of Ghent that ended the War of 1812, was created as the first suburb of Norfolk. This charming area will take you back in time. Located just a short taxi ride from downtown Norfolk, Ghent offers turn-of-the-century architecture, outdoor eateries, antique dealers, boutiques and chef owned and operated dining options.

- The **Chrysler Museum of Art** recently reopened after a multi-million dollar renovation. Walter Chrysler, Jr., scion of the automotive company founder, donated nearly 10,000 objects as part of an arrangement where the Norfolk Academy of Arts and Sciences became the Chrysler Museum of Art. For more information, please visit
www.chrysler.org
***Complimentary admission*

- The **Chrysler Museum Glass Studio** presents free daily demonstrations at noon every Wednesday through Sunday. They also offer glass blowing classes as well as studio rentals for private events.
<http://www.chrysler.org/about-the-museum/glass-studio/>
***Complimentary admission*

- Tour the stately **Moses Myers House** and its peerless collection that creates an exceptionally accurate picture of the late Federal period and the life of a prosperous Jewish family. Passing through several generations, the house began to be restored to its original beauty in 1892. Group tours can be arranged in advance by contacting them directly.

<http://www.chrysler.org/about-the-museum/historic-houses/>

***Complimentary admission*

- Located adjacent to the Norfolk International Airport is the **Norfolk Botanical Garden**. The Garden includes more than 20 themed gardens encompassing 155 beautiful acres. Theme gardens include the Butterfly Garden, Sarah Lee Baker Perennial Garden and the Four Seasons Garden. Open 365 days a year, the Garden is one of the only botanical gardens that can be toured by shuttle, tram and boat! Group tours can be arranged in advance by contacting the Gardens.

<http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/>

- **Naval Station Norfolk** is the largest naval installation in the world and offers 45 minute bus tours conducted by Naval personnel. Norfolk is the homeport to more than 75 ships and 100 aircraft of the Atlantic fleet. Naval Station Norfolk, also known as the Norfolk Navy Base, occupies about four miles (6 km) of waterfront space and seven miles (11 km) of pier and wharf space of the Hampton Roads peninsula known as Sewell's Point. It is the world's largest Naval Station, supporting 75 ships and 134 aircraft alongside 14 piers and 11 aircraft hangars, and houses the largest concentration of U.S. Navy forces. Port Services controls more than 3,100 ships' movements annually as they arrive and depart their berths. Bus tours are available at the office; private buses can tour as well. Contact the office to arrange these.

http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns_norfolk/about/installation_guide/visitor_information.html

- There are several harbor cruises that depart from downtown Norfolk daily. The **Victory Rover** offers a naval base cruise and takes you the closest that you can possibly get to the ships on Norfolk Naval Base. You will see a variety of aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines and guided missile cruisers.

www.navalbasecruises.com

- April through October the **American Rover Tall Sailing Ship** sails the smooth waters of the Elizabeth River and Hampton Roads harbor on daily 1 ½ and 2 Hour Narrated Harbor and Sunset Cruises. On board guests can lend a hand with the sails, take a turn at the helm or just sit back, relax and enjoy the experience. Cruises depart from Waterside in the heart of Downtown Norfolk, Virginia.
(Hours – cruise schedules change seasonally. Please check website for more information)
www.americanrover.com
- The **Spirit of Norfolk** cruise offers a full lunch or dinner, professional entertainment and spectacular panoramic views of the Norfolk skyline. Sail the calming waters of the Elizabeth River and dance beneath the stars. The Spirit is docked next to Waterside Festival Marketplace and departs daily for lunch and dinner.
<http://www.spiritcruises.com/norfolk>
- **Town Point Park** features seven pristine acres of landscaped grounds located along the Elizabeth River. Town Point Park features more than 65 major outdoor concerts, award-winning festivals and special events each year. A few events include Harborfest, the Cajun Food Festival, Jazz Festival, Afr'Am Festival and the Virginia Wine Festival.
www.festevents.org
- Norfolk's restaurant scene has exploded in recent years. Granby Street, nicknamed "**Restaurant Row**" is located downtown and features more than 40 chef-owned and operated restaurants and eateries. Discover a diverse selection of dining options from Seafood to down-home Southern style cooking to international cuisine including Cuban, Thai, Indian, Italian and Spanish – just to name a few!
www.visitnorfolktoday.com or www.downtownnorfolk.org
- Enjoy a famous ice cream cone from **Doumar's** Restaurant where Abe Doumar invented the ice cream cone by taking a waffle and rolling it into a cone, to which he added ice cream. Doumar's still bakes cones on the original cone machines.
- Enjoy lunch, dinner, or a wine flight at the **Mermaid Winery**, Norfolk's first winery and Virginia's first urban winery. All of the Mermaid Winery's wine is made using Virginia grapes. You can taste the wine they make, or enjoy wine from other boutique wineries. They also offer a full menu, private events, and group tours.
www.mermaidwinery.com

- Relax along a tree-lined riverbank at the **Hermitage Foundation Museum**. This early 20th century historic home appears frozen in time, offering visitors an extraordinary trip through antiquity. The museum and gardens consist of a World-wide art collection and contemporary exhibition galleries, all surrounded by twelve acres of formal gardens and natural woodlands.
<http://www.thehermitagemuseum.org/>
***Approximately 4 miles from Downtown Norfolk*
***Complimentary admission*
- Welcome to the **Virginia Zoo**, open year round and offering family fun, education and exciting exhibits for everyone to enjoy! There's always something new and fun at the Virginia Zoo including the newest exhibits, the East African Crowned Cranes and the Australia and Red Panda exhibits. (**Hours – the Zoo is open daily from 10a-5p**)
<http://www.virginiazoo.org/>
- The **Scope Arena**, located at the end of Monticello Avenue, is home to the Norfolk AHL hockey team the **Norfolk Admirals**, a minor professional ice hockey team in the American Hockey League, and an affiliate of the Tampa Bay Lightning.
- Nestled on the Elizabeth River is **Harbor Park**, proud home of the **Norfolk Tides**, the Triple-A Affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles baseball team. Harbor Park is a 12,067 seat stadium that boasts 20 luxury suites, press facilities, including two TV broadcasting booths, and a 300-seat restaurant. Harbor Park also features a complete picnic area for private parties, as well as an exceptional variety of concession food and beverages for stadium guests.
<http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t568>
- Dine at Norfolk's new **Waterside District!** Here you will find all types of culinary experiences from seafood to bar-b-que to homemade fudge! Great for all ages, and a perfect setting for dining on the water.
www.watersidedistrict.com
- **MacArthur Center Mall** and the **Norfolk Premium Outlets** offer some of the best name brand shopping in the region. Nordstrom and Dillard's anchor MacArthur Center and the Norfolk Premium Outlets currently offer over 60 stores with 25-65% off every day.
Visit www.shopmacarthur.com and <http://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/norfolk>

Getting Around

- The **Paddlewheel Ferry** is the fastest and most convenient way to travel between Norfolk and Portsmouth. The Ferry leaves from behind Waterside Festival Marketplace.
www.gohrt.org
- Not feeling up to the walk? Call **F.R.E.D.** for a ride. FRED (Free Ride Every Day) is the newest option for getting around downtown; a courtesy shuttle operated by the Downtown Norfolk Council. Basically a road-ready golf cart, FRED can carry as many as five passengers around downtown. FRED is a green vehicle - both in its teal color and its environmentally friendly battery power and solar roof!
757-478-7233 www.downtownnorfolk.org
- Ride **The Tide** – Norfolk’s light rail system that takes you from Eastern Virginia Medical College to Newtown Road that border’s Virginia Beach. HRT 1 day go-passes are good for all Hampton Roads Transit transportation methods (includes the light rail, buses, and the ferry!). Passes can be purchased at the VisitNorfolk Visitor’s Center at 232 E Main Street or at the light rail kiosks.
www.gohrt.com

Self-Guided Tour Options

Norfolk offers several ways to see the city on your own at your own leisure. Options include walking along the [Cannonball Trail](#) to read about historic points in the city, discover the [Waterways to Freedom](#) or the “underground railroad” in Norfolk, visit [Civil War Sites in Norfolk](#), or discover points of interest on the [Tales by Rail](#) while riding the Tide, Norfolk’s Light Rail, and find out what there is at each stop along the way.

For more details and a listing of each self-guided tour, please visit our website at <http://www.visitnorfolktoday.com/norfolk-self-guided-tours>

Mobile App!

To access all of the information above and much more, you can download our FREE mobile app! Simply search VisitNorfolkVA in the Apple or Android app store to download our user-friendly app.