

MEET HAMPTON ROADS

To Do List Surfing Virginia Beach; the Virginia Aquarium (bottom left); The Chrysler Museum of Art (bottom right)



PHOTOGRAPHY BY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) ALAMY, COURTESY OF THE CHRYSLER MUSEUM OF ART, COURTESY OF VIRGINIA AQUARIUM AND MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

Play

From boardwalks to Broadway, there's no shortage of entertainment in Hampton Roads.

SURE, HAMPTON ROADS is surrounded by water, but there's plenty to discover away from the beach:

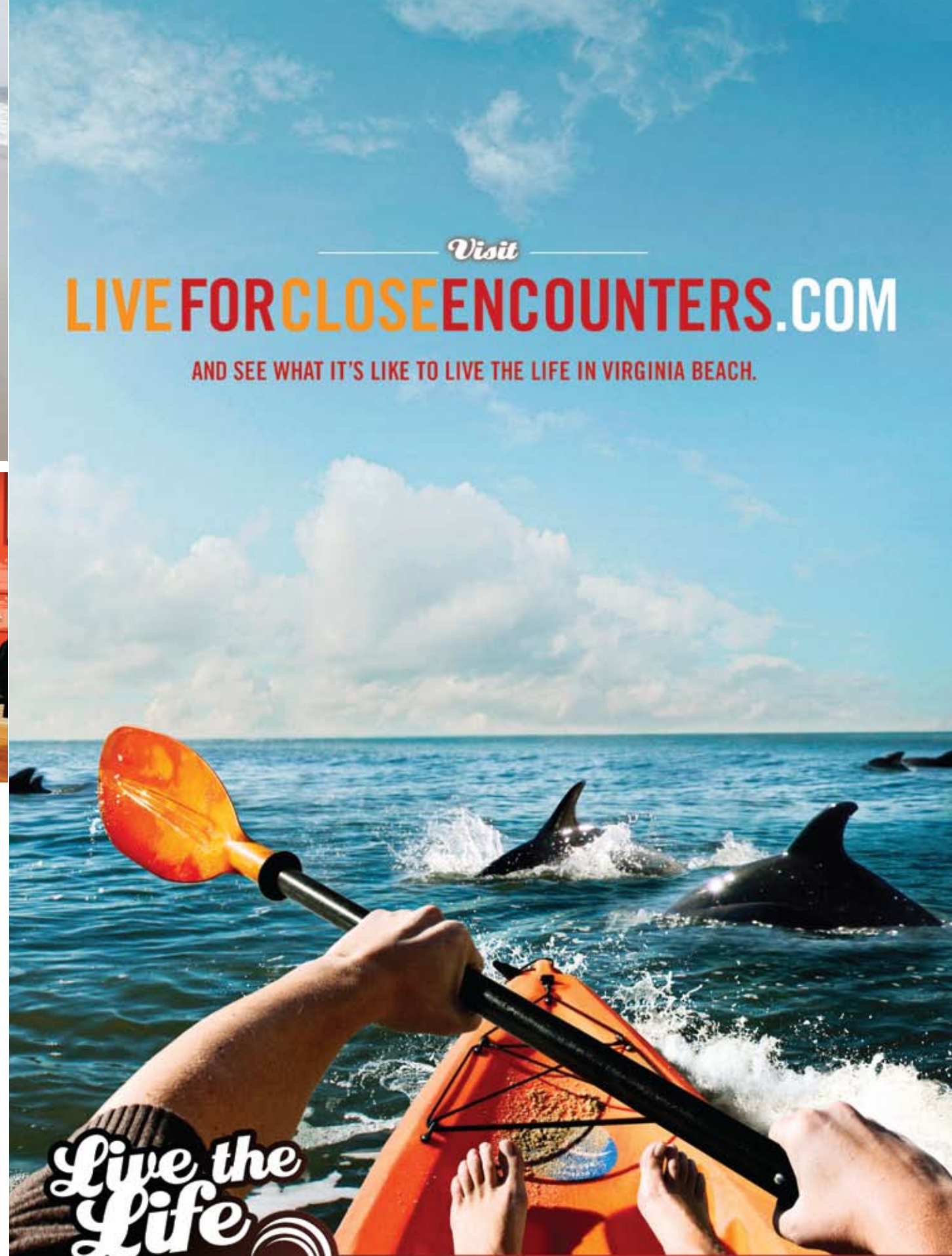
■ Let the kids test their brains at the Children's Museum of Virginia in Portsmouth, scheduled to reopen next spring after a renovation and expansion (childrensmuseumva.com). Meanwhile, check out the satellite location, Andalo's Clubhouse, just down the street. At the Virginia Zoo (virginiazoo.org) in Norfolk, take a self-directed safari and talk to the elephants. Or dive in and help train harbor seals at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach (virginiaaquarium.com).

■ Broadway meets the beach at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts (sandlercenter.org), designed by Virginia Beach's own CMSS Architects with an assist by the New York firm of Philip Johnson/Alan Ritchie Architects. With its striking architecture, first-class acoustics, and technical capabilities, it doubles as a showplace and community resource for Virginia Beach and has been wowing audiences since the curtain first went up in 2007.

■ The Chrysler Museum of Art in downtown Norfolk (chrysler.org) has a world-class glass collection thanks to its benefactor, Walter P. Chrysler Jr. The

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Live the Life
VIRGINIA BEACH

Hampton Roads Happenings

Run, dance, surf, and play in the sand!

MARCH The Shamrock Marathon starts at Atlantic Avenue in Virginia Beach and finishes 26.2 miles later at the Boardwalk. *Runner's World* has called it "the Race to Run on St. Patrick's Day weekend." shamrockmarathon.com

APRIL Expect a dazzling lineup of theater, music, and dance at various venues during the six-week Virginia Arts Festival—from marching bands to Scottish dancers. virginiaartsfest.com

AUGUST Hundreds of surfers head for Virginia Beach to carve their way through the 49th annual East Coast Surfing Championships. The party vibe is palpable with a volleyball tournament, live music, and plenty of good waves. surfesc.com

SEPTEMBER On the 5th, the Rock 'n' Roll Virginia Beach Half Marathon offers runners another beachside course plus a post-race concert on Fifth Street. virginia-beach.competitor.com

The Neptune Festival in Virginia Beach closes out the season in style, with events every weekend of September. Meet King Neptune and his Court (city ambassadors for the year), and check out the North American Sand-sculpting Championship. Not your average castles, these are carefully created by artists from around the world. So long, summer! neptunefestival.com

permanent collection showcases American art, including sculpture, photography, and paintings.

- Take in the view from the Virginia Beach Boardwalk (vbfun.com), rated by *Travel and Leisure* magazine as one of the nation's best. Watch surfers between First and Fifth streets, just after dawn. By midday, the spacious, three-mile-long Boardwalk teems with walkers, joggers, and bikers along the parallel bike path. Discover the Old Coast Guard Station at 24th Street, or take a photo with the King Neptune statue on 31st Street. During the summer, stick around for nightly entertainment on four oceanfront stages.
- Pedal or paddle through the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk (greatdismalwetland.gov), where vast forested wetlands surround the largest natural lake in Virginia. Hike through beach, dunes, woodlands, and marsh at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia Beach (fws.gov/backbay). Or rent a kayak at Hoffer Creek Wildlife Foundation and Preserve in Portsmouth (hoffer creek.org).

See Art in Motion At the Virginia Arts Festival



The Sporting Life

Hampton Roads takes sports seriously. Passionate fans make up for the absence of a big-league franchise with their support for a wide range of collegiate and amateur athletics as well as minor league competition.

The area is home to the World Adult Kickball Association, the North American Sand Soccer Championship, and the national training center for USA Field Hockey. Hampton Roads hosted the Annual AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) Junior Olympic Games in 1998, 2001, 2006, and again this past summer.

The Norfolk Tides, Triple-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles, play at beautiful Harbor Park, downtown by the Elizabeth River, while Norfolk's venerable Scope arena is home ice for the Admirals of the American Hockey League.

An impressive roster of major league baseball players honed their skills in the AAU program in Chesapeake. Among the notables who passed through: Michael Cuddyer (Minnesota Twins); David Wright (New York Mets); Ryan Zimmerman (Washington Nationals); the Upton brothers, B.J. (Tampa Bay Rays) and Justin (Arizona Diamondbacks); and Mark Reynolds (Diamondbacks).

Many other former and current pro athletes hail from the Hampton Roads area, including Pro Football Hall of Famers Bruce Smith (Buffalo Bills) and Washington Redskins) and Lawrence Taylor (New York Giants), and former NBA great Alonzo Mourning. The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum (vshfm.com) in Portsmouth has inducted these and many other hometown stars.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) GETTY, COURTESY OF VIRGINIA BEACH CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU, COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL



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