

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE-TUNNEL

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BRIDGE-TUNNEL



NOW ACCEPTING

E-ZPass

FOLLOW THE GULLS. 

EAST COAST SCENIC SHORTCUT
LINKING VIRGINIA BEACH/NORFOLK
AND VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

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EAST COAST
MAP INSIDE!



The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel spans the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, connecting Virginia's Eastern Shore with the Virginia mainland at Virginia Beach near Norfolk.

AT THE NORTH END – VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE.

Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay, the Eastern Shore offers a unique and irresistible charm. With picturesque villages, quaint harbors, old-fashioned main streets lined with historical homes and charming shops, the area's simplicity, tranquility, natural beauty and wildlife offer a wonderful change of pace. Attractions include a beautiful state park, two national wildlife refuges, campgrounds, bed & breakfast inns, incredible fishing and birding opportunities, antique stores, kayaking, wineries, world-class golfing, pristine beaches and much more!

AT THE SOUTH END – HAMPTON ROADS.

Hampton Roads is a diverse collection of waterfront communities that includes Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Hampton, and Newport News. The area offers beautiful beaches and harbors on the bay and ocean, historic lighthouses, homes and forts, great restaurants and nightlife, world-class museums and galleries and serves as a hub for many annual events and festivals.



Courtesy of Virginia Beach Tourism



Courtesy of Virginia Beach Tourism



The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel is the largest bridge-tunnel complex in the world.

Following its opening on April 15, 1964, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel was selected as one of the "Seven Engineering Wonders of the Modern World," and in 1965 it received the "Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement" award from the American Society of Civil Engineers. In 2000, the Bridge-Tunnel was recognized by *Structural Engineer* magazine as one of the "Seven Structural Engineering Wonders of America for the 20th Century."



Mostly trestle. Most of the Bridge-Tunnel is comprised of low-level trestle in water depths ranging between 30 and 45 feet.

Dips ahead. Two underwater tunnels, each about a mile long, protect two of the world's most important shipping channels. From the Atlantic Ocean, the Thimble Shoal Channel leads into Hampton Roads, and the Chesapeake Channel leads to the upper Chesapeake Bay.



Measuring 17.6 miles from shore to shore, the Bridge-Tunnel consists of more than 12 miles of trestled roadway, two mile-long tunnels, two bridges, four man-made islands, almost two miles of causeway, and 5-1/2 miles of approach roads, totaling 23 miles.



Over the North Channel. The highest points of crossings are the North Channel Bridges. They provide high water clearance of 75 feet to accommodate local fishing fleets.



100 miles of piles. The Bridge-Tunnel's concrete supporting columns are called piles. If placed end to end, the piles alone could reach from New York to Philadelphia.

Big D, the Two-headed Monster, and the Slab Setter. Monstrous equipment was specially designed and created for the job of driving piles, leveling and capping the piles, and setting the roadway slabs.

Just to give a little perspective. This project was so big, 100-foot survey towers had to be constructed every two miles across the bay to make the exacting measurements required over both horizons.

Islands made of riprap. Thousands of 15 ton boulders, known as riprap, were dropped to create the outer rims of the four man-made islands. They were then filled with nearly two million tons of sand and rock. Each island is about the size of Yankee Stadium.



Over the inlet. The 458-foot-long Fisherman Inlet Bridges span a dredged channel which is part of the U.S. Inland Waterway. They accommodate both fishing vessels and pleasure craft.

Not your tax money at work.

The total cost of this mammoth project, including a second span completed in 1999, was \$450 million – but not a dime of local, state, or federal tax money was used.





Whether you are driving north or south, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel allows you to see the mighty surge of the Atlantic Ocean, the beauty of the Chesapeake Bay, and the soaring grace of an engineering marvel. Both a tourist attraction and travel convenience, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel saves motorists 90 miles or more as they travel from Wilmington, Delaware or points north to Virginia Beach, Virginia and the Outer Banks in North Carolina. From the weather to the fish and wildlife to the ships on the water, every crossing is different - so keep your eyes peeled and enjoy the ride.

A HAVEN FOR BIRDS AND WATERFOWL.

The Bridge-Tunnel creates a large habitat on open water that makes an inviting rest stop for birds during their migrations along the Atlantic Flyway. This in turn has attracted birders from across the U.S. and the world, who gladly brace the elements for great views of these waterfowl from our southernmost island and the Scenic Overlook at the north end of the bridge.



VISIT STATE AND NATIONAL PARKS.

Located just north of the Bridge-Tunnel toll plaza on Virginia's Eastern Shore, the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center offers exhibits and short videos, a wildlife viewing area, a 1/2-mile interpretive trail and a butterfly trail. Just a few miles north, located on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay sits Kiptopeke State Park, offering recreational access to the Chesapeake Bay and the chance to explore a unique coastal habitat featuring a major flyway for migratory birds.



GRAB A BITE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BAY.

While dining, enjoy the spectacular view of the Chesapeake Bay from our bayside restaurant. The Sea Gull Pier Restaurant offers a complete menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Choose from a variety of foods that will please all tastes - from Belgian Waffles to sandwiches to delicious seafood platters.

YOU'LL NEVER FORGET IT, BUT JUST TO BE SURE...

T-shirts...Coffee mugs...Keepsakes...All sorts of nautical knick-knacks and other unique memorabilia...There's something for everyone at the Sea Gull Pier Gift Shop, located on the southernmost of the Bridge-Tunnel's four man-made islands.



FISH FROM OUR PEERLESS PIER.

Cast your line or your gaze from a scenic, 625-foot pier, located adjacent to the Sea Gull Pier Restaurant and Gift Shop - 3 1/2 miles from shore on a major shipping channel! Bluefish, trout, croaker, flounder and many other species abound. Each year, fishermen can leave the boat at home and enter to win cash and prizes as they fish in the annual "Rock Around the Clock" Rockfish Tournament.



STOP AND MARVEL.

Tall sailing ships... Battleships... Nuclear subs... Aircraft carriers... Cruise ships... Giant cargo vessels... You never know what you'll see passing through the Thimble Shoal Channel, which leads to Hampton Roads, or the Chesapeake Channel, which leads to Baltimore and other Chesapeake Bay ports to the north. Both the scenic overlook, at the north end of the bridge, and Sea Gull Island, near the south end of the bridge, offer excellent views. Consider these opportunities to stop, stretch your legs, and take in the natural beauty, sights and sounds of the Chesapeake Bay.



IT'S THE JOURNEY, NOT THE DESTINATION.

Some motorists choose to take the interstate...their mistake! Enjoy traveling the East Coast's Scenic Shortcut! This engineering wonder will save motorists 90 miles or more as they travel from points north of Wilmington, Delaware to Virginia Beach, Virginia and the Outer Banks in North Carolina. Additional time savings may be seen if motorists consider taking US Route 113 in Dover, Delaware as there are fewer stoplights along this route. AND, this route is even *E-Zer* as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel now accepts E-ZPass. So, imagine 17.6 miles without a single "Are we there yet?" Your family will love the view...you'll love the quiet.



Official Name – Lucius J. Kellam, Jr. Bridge-Tunnel. This engineering marvel exists as a result of Mr. Kellam's vision, leadership, and untiring efforts and in 1987, it was officially named in his honor.

Kellam served continuously from 1954 as Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel Commission and the former Chesapeake Bay Ferry Commission until 1993 when he was named Chairman Emeritus. Kellam continued to serve as an active member of the Commission until September 24, 1995.

Sea Gull Pier Restaurant & Gift Shop –

Open year-round with seasonal hours: mid-September through mid-May, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. and mid-May through mid-September, 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.



Fishing – Sea Gull Pier is open year-round, 24 hours a day, with restrooms, fish cleaning stations and a certified weighing station available.

Compressed Gas Regulations For Non-Commercial Vehicles – *Maximum capacity:*

- (a) Not more than two non-permanently mounted containers having maximum individual capacity of 105 pounds water capacity or 45 pounds LP-Gas each, or one container having maximum capacity of 60 pounds LP-Gas, or
- (b) not more than two permanently mounted containers having maximum total capacity of 200 gallons water capacity LP-Gas when used as a motor fuel. Tanks must meet the approved standards of the Department of Transportation and are subject to inspection at toll plaza. They must be properly secured and valves closed while crossing the facility.

Height Restrictions – Tunnels have overhead clearance of 13 feet 6 inches.

Emergency Road Service – Call boxes every 1/2 mile. CBBT Police may be reached by calling 757.331.8950.

Toll Schedule, Weather Advisories & Other Information – Visit www.cbbt.com or call 757.331.2960.

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