

WHAT IS THE NORTHERN NECK?

The Northern Neck of Virginia: A peninsula, bounded by the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, that is rural and history-laden; that was settled by the English in the mid-17th century, after the first tourist, Captain John Smith, explored the area as early as 1608.

Originally inhabited by eight Virginia Indian tribes who established villages along its shores, Virginia's Northern Neck is one of the most historic regions in the State. Already in 1608, Captain John Smith referred to it "as a place heaven and earth never agreed better to frame man's habitation."

"The Neck" carries American Pre-Revolutionary, Revolutionary, War of 1812, and Civil War historical sites that are easily accessible. In the 18th century, sailing ships provided the direct connection to Europe. In the 19th century, the Northern Neck was served by a network of about 600 steamboats to move people and products throughout the Chesapeake Bay region.

The waters of the Potomac River, Rappahannock River, the Chesapeake Bay and their tributaries still support a robust fishing industry as well as provide a haven for boaters, water enthusiasts and sportsmen. The fertile soil of "the Neck" is some of the most productive farmland in the nation and continues to provide rich logging resources.

At present, Colonial architecture, small-town charm, bed & breakfast inns, eight wineries, seventeen museums, historic sites, marinas and retail shops are among the assets that attract visitors year-round. Visit northerneck.org and the NN Tourism Commission to see how much there is to do and learn about the Northern Neck. Located: 55 miles east of Richmond, VA; 75 miles south of Washington, DC; 80 miles north of Norfolk, VA.

An excellent place for those who want to "experience the road less traveled."



The Good Shepherd Family is Ready to Welcome You and Yours! Count Yourself In!

