

Family Itinerary

The Tides Inn is a great place to get away from everyday life and enjoy spending time together. Create unforgettable memories for the people you love, with a choice of wonderful activities to suit everyone from youngsters to grandparents. Sailing adventures, theme parks, historic sightseeing and local shopping are only the beginning!

Day 1 - Welcome to Irvington

Check in at the Tides Inn and start building memories that will last a lifetime! Get to know Irvington and hop on a complimentary bike at the bell desk. Enjoy a leisurely cruise around town with the family and stop by the nearby Steamboat Era Museum, grab an ice cream cone at the Local, and browse the boutiques. If you are visiting the Tides Inn on the first Saturday of the month, May through December, visit the Irvington Commons for an open-air market featuring local produce, herbs, flowers, meat, seafood, cheese, baked goods, art and handcrafted items, as well as live music and activities for children.

Spend the afternoon exploring Carters Creek. Hit the waters in one of the resort's canoes, kayaks or paddleboats. Don't forget to stop by the Marina to grab your crabbing tools! For the adventurous types, schedule a sailing lesson through the Tides Inn's onsite sailing school. It's the perfect way to learn and have fun as a family! If you would rather hit the links, book a private family golf clinic with the pros at the Golden Eagle.

For dinner, watch the sunset over Carters Creek from the Chesapeake Club restaurant; enjoy Chesapeake-inspired cuisine, including the famous Tides Inn crab cakes.

Day 2 - Theme Park Adventure

Virginia beckons families with two of the world's most spectacular theme parks -- **Busch Gardens in Williamsburg** and **Kings Dominion** just north of Richmond. Located only an hour away, the European setting of Busch Gardens has been voted "The World's Most Beautiful Theme Park" and proves to be a delight for adults. But it's the rides that thrill the kids and give it another distinction, "The World's Favorite Theme Park." Visit England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany and Italy without the hassle of passports, customs and language barriers. Every country at Busch Gardens showcases popular foods, landmarks, gardens, shops and entertainment that put you in the middle of a particular European village. Hit the roller coasters of each country, too. Two of Busch Gardens' five coasters are rated in the Top 25 in the World!

Kings Dominion, a 400-acre theme and water park, is approximately 90 minutes away from the Tides Inn and is home to more than 60 rides and attractions, including 15 world-class roller coasters known to international coaster enthusiasts. Located 20 miles north of Richmond and 75 miles south of Washington D.C., this central Virginia theme park opens its gates to more than 13 million visitors a year. Hop aboard any one of the 15 roller coasters for a thrilling time, and then explore Planet Snoopy, where even the littlest ones in the family become big thrill-seekers.

Day 3 - Tangier Island

Get out on the water! See the sights of the Northern Neck and visit Tangier Island. Sail back in time from Onancock to this tiny Chesapeake Bay Island to experience life lived in the tranquil rhythm of the tides. Watermen still carry on the centuries-old tradition of harvesting the waters, and visitors can enjoy the fresh bounty at several of the island's nationally recognized home-style restaurants. Rent bikes or Tangier taxis -- golf carts to cruise the nearly carless isle -- or take a tour with a native telling island tales in their unique sing-song Elizabethan twang. Shops provide perusing while the pristine shores are excellent for relaxing and scouting Native American arrowheads. Take a nature cruise with a Tangier captain to fish crab pots and discover the island's legendary soft-shell crab farms.

Day 4 - American Heritage

Explore history throughout Virginia's Northern Neck. Trace the Washington, Lee, Carter, and Ball families from the original immigrants to their famous descendants. You can visit several Lee ancestral homes and locales including Ditchley, Burnt House Field, Menokin, and Stratford Hall, the birthplace of Robert E. Lee. You will learn about Robert "King" Carter and the grand colonial church he commissioned, Historic Christ Church. You'll get to know Mary Ball, mother of America's first president, by visiting the Mary Ball Museum, her childhood parish, Yeocomico Church, and the George Washington Birthplace.

the Tides
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