

Destinations Near HSR

Make Henson Scout Reservation your home base for a weekend get away while exploring the many treasures that the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula has to offer!

Each location is within a reasonable driving distance from camp that is noted below. We would be happy to assist you in planning out a weekend trip and assist with reservations. Please reach out to ryanteat@dmvc.org with any questions!

Visit a Historical Park-

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park- 34 miles (45min.) Free admission!

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park is a 480-acre (190 ha) National Park Service unit in the U.S. state of Maryland. It commemorates the life of former slave Harriet Tubman, who became an activist in the Underground Railroad prior to the American Civil War. The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument was created by President Barack Obama under the Antiquities Act on March 25, 2013. The portion of the monument administered by the National Park Service was later designated a National Historical Park in 2014.



Pemberton Historical Park- 20 miles (32 min.)



Once a thriving plantation, Pemberton Hall was built on the Wicomico River near Salisbury in 1741 by Isaac Handy, one of the city's founders. It is an outstanding example of 18th century Eastern Shore regional architecture. The gambrel-roofed brick structure is the only original 18th century house open to the public on the lower Eastern Shore.

Pemberton Historical Park is comprised of 262 acres and 4.5 miles of nature trails, offering visitors the opportunity to explore unique ecosystems that bring together tidal and fresh water wetlands, fresh water ponds, upland pines, hardwood forests and meadows.

National Wildlife Refuges-

Blackwater- 35 miles (50 minutes) The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1933 as a waterfowl sanctuary for birds migrating along the critical migration highway called the Atlantic Flyway. The refuge is located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, just 12 mi (19 km) south of Cambridge, Maryland in Dorchester County, and consists of over 28,000 acres (110 km²) of freshwater impoundments, brackish tidal wetlands, open fields, and mixed evergreen and deciduous forests. Blackwater NWR is one of over 540 units in the National Wildlife Refuge System, which is managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Blackwater Refuge is fed by the Blackwater River and the Little Blackwater River. The name "blackwater" comes from the tea-colored waters of the local rivers, which are darkened by the tannin that is picked up as the water drains through peat soil in the marshes.



The refuge features a Visitor Center on Key Wallace Drive where visitors will find wildlife exhibits, an authentic eagle's nest, Eagle Cam and Osprey Cam TV monitors, the Eagle's Nest Book and Gift Shop, a butterfly garden, restrooms, and maps and brochures that will help visitors make the most of their visit. On the second floor of the Visitor Center is the "Wild Birds Unlimited Pathways to Nature Observatory," which features bird exhibits and spotting scopes for viewing the Blackwater River, the marsh, and the Osprey Cam platform. (The second floor is accessible via a staircase or a handicap-accessible elevator). The staff at the Visitor Center also offer educational programs for children, as well as frequent organized bird walks, and an annual Eagle Festival and Open House. The center is open Monday through Thursday 8am – 4pm, and Friday from 9am – 5pm. However, access to the refuge is open nearly every day from dawn till dusk.

Chincoteague- 74 miles (90 min.) The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge is a 14,000-acre (57 km²) wildlife preserve operated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. It is primarily located on the Virginia half of Assateague Island with portions (only about 3%) located on the Maryland side of the island, as well as Morris Island and Wildcat Marsh. The refuge contains a large variety of wildlife animals and birds, including the Chincoteague Pony. The purpose of the refuge is to maintain, regulate and preserve animal and plant species as well as their habitats for present and future generations.



The Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center opened in October 2003. Visitors can go to the center to purchase passes, pick up maps, and ask questions of the staff. The visitor center was built with several sources of sustainable and renewable energy. Geothermal energy provides heating and cooling to the building, while solar panels on the roof also provide energy. The floors and ceiling are made from recycled materials such as tires, bamboo, and aspen wood. A variety of exhibits within the center give information to visitors on the history of the refuge, and plants and animals to be found there. The Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center is open seven days a week between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the spring, fall, and winter, and between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. during the summer.

State Parks-

Pocomoke River State Park: Shad Landing - 45 miles (60min.)

Pocomoke River State Park is a public recreation area lying on both banks of the Pocomoke River between Snow Hill and Pocomoke City in Worcester County, Maryland. The state park comprises two areas within Pocomoke State Forest: Shad Landing on the south bank of the river and Milburn Landing on the north bank.

The park offers fishing, camping, cabins, boat launch, canoeing, hiking and biking trails, picnic areas and pavilions, and playgrounds. The Shad Landing area also has a marina, camp store, swimming pool, and nature center with representatives of native animal species.

Trap Pond State Park- Laurel, DE 20 miles (32 min)

Trap Pond State Park is a 3653 acre (8.5 km²) Delaware state park located near Laurel, Delaware, USA. It is one of the largest surviving fragments of what was once an extensive wetland in what is now southwestern Sussex County. The state park features an extensive patch of second-growth bald cypress trees.

Boating, Fishing, Hiking, and Camping out overnight are all possibilities!

Cape Henlopen State Park- 45 miles (70min.)- When the current lands of the state of Delaware were granted to William Penn sometime after 1682, Penn proclaimed that Cape Henlopen and its natural resources were to be for the common usage of the citizens of Lewes and Sussex County, thus establishing some of the nation's first "public lands." It has remained in the public domain ever since, playing a major role in local shipping and in the nation's military history. The historic Henlopen Lighthouse no longer helps to guide vessels through the treacherous bay waters, but the two stone "breakwaters" barriers off the point of the Cape, completed in 1869 and 1901, still form a safe harbor for boats during rough seas. As a Delaware state park, Cape Henlopen remains in the public domain.

There are a wide variety of things to do including visiting the Beach Plum Island Nature Preserve, the Seaside Nature Center, and the Fort Miles Museum.

Escape to an Island!

Tangier Island- 1 hour ferry ride required (must make reservations in advance)

<https://www.tangierisland-va.com/> "Crab City, USA"

Hoopers Island- 50 miles (75min.) - Hoopers Island is a chain of three islands in Dorchester County, Maryland.

Tilghman Island- 55 miles (83 min.)- Tilghman Island Watermen's Museum

Assateague Island- 74 miles (90 min.)- 37 mile long barrier island

Janes Island- 55 miles (60min.)- 30 miles of shallow water trails

Other Points of Interest

St. Michaels Maritime Museum- 42 miles (70min.)

<http://cbmm.org/>

Salisbury Zoo- 20 miles (32min.)- <https://salisburyzoo.org/>

The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art- 20 miles (32min.)- <https://www.wardmuseum.org/plan-a-visit/>

Del-Mar-Va Discover Center and Museum- 50 miles (60min.)

<http://www.delmarvadiscoverycenter.org/exhibits.html>