

Southern Living

« Return to The Perfect Beach Town: Cape Charles, VA

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This Eastern Shore is full of signature golf courses, clam chowder, and classic harbors.



On Virginia's Eastern Shore, the Bay Creek Marina is a classic harbor on the Chesapeake.

Photo: Scott Suchman



Find Your Perfect Little Beach Town

These hamlets embody the spoils of summer by the sea, from surfer haunts to "Old Florida" isles.

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The Vibe

This bustling Eastern Shore hub nearly dried up in the 1950s when a ferry terminal headed south to Kiptopeke. But fresh development has revived this charming town with a mix of marinas and golf courses, Victorian homes and oyster shacks.

What to Do

At **Bay Creek Resort**, you can explore two Signature golf courses and a marina, sunset cocktails in hand. But downtown's seven square blocks, bordered by dunes and Bay Beach, remain the core. The 1940s **Historic Palace Theater** (757/331-2787) keeps things current by bringing various musical acts to town.

Where to Eat

Bill's Clam Chowder, an Eastern Shore original cooked in a clear, clam-juice-based broth, is a favorite at **AQUA** (757/331-8660). The crab-and-Brie burger pairs well with the citrusy Bell's Oberon Ale draft at **Kelly's Gingernut Pub** (757/331-3222). The newest restaurant, **The Shanty**, is slated to open this summer, with fresh-harvested, steamed clams and crab on a deck overlooking the bay.

Where to Stay

Rent a house or villa at **Bay Creek Resort** (757/331-8600) (from \$250). Or, opt for **Cape Charles House Bed and Breakfast** (757/331-4920) or **Fig Street Inn** (757/331-3133) (both from \$140). These updated, turn-of-the-century homes have easy access to downtown.

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