

### 1 State Summary

A brief introduction to each state's maritime and ICW history, its geographic regions along the ICW, and its navigational characteristics.

### 2 Waterway Boundaries

The ICW is a series of rivers, bays, and sounds. Your trip through Virginia transits Hampton Roads to North Landing River.

### 3 ICW Statute Miles

Note the boundaries of the state by its ICW miles.

### 4 Bridges/Locks Radio Watch

As you enter a new state, remember to hail bridges and locks on the appropriate channel. VHF 13 is common, with South Carolina and Florida the exceptions. They monitor VHF 09. Additionally, VHF 13 lets you eavesdrop on commercial traffic movement and alerts.

## Virginia

### 2 Hampton Roads to North Landing River

The Old Dominion State  
ICW Statute Mile -16.4 to 34.0  
Bridges and Locks Monitor VHF 13

1

VIRGINIA'S INTRACOASTAL Waterway is a history tour spanning two hundred years. No other 34-mile section intersects so many important events in the emergence of our nation.

In Virginia, the *entire* Intracoastal Waterway is a historical site. The Dismal Swamp Canal, envisioned by George Washington and painstakingly hand-dug by slaves, is the oldest continually operating man-made canal in the U.S. Today it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Civil Engineering Landmark.

The Albemarle & Chesapeake Canal, originally surveyed in 1772, was completed in 1859. Until the steam shovel was invented, cutting 14 miles through swamps and tidal marshes remained an impractical dream.

These rivers and canals were central to America's early conflicts. The Revolutionary War was fought along the banks of the Waterway, as Loyalists and Patriots battled for control of strategic routes. One of the most pivotal battles of the Revolutionary War, the Battle of Great Bridge, took place at a pinch-point bridge crossing over the Waterway. The victory allowed the establishment of an essential supply line from the Carolinas and Virginia to Washington's army in the north.

As the Civil War unfolded, Hampton Roads, not too far from the Mason-Dixon line, was at the center of this conflict. The

famous "Battle of the Ironclads," the face-off between the *Monitor* and the *Merrimack*, took place in Hampton Roads. You pass near the site as you transit between Fort Wool and Fort Monroe, the fort where Confederate President Jefferson Davis was imprisoned. This maritime history surrounds Virginia's Intracoastal Waterway. There are scores of commemorative sites and exhibits, ranging from Civil War forts to high-tech naval museums. Virginia is the "history channel" of the Intracoastal Waterway tour.



An Elephant Has the Right of Way

The short transit through Virginia spans scenery as well as history. This short ICW stretch, only five percent of the distance to Miami, has some of the most varied experiences of the entire Waterway. The route begins in a shipping port busy with commerce and ends in a remote wetland area of canoe trails.

The transformation begins just south of

the Dismal Swamp Canal junction at STM 7.2. North of this junction, the Waterway passes through a noisy, bustling, developed industrial port. To the south, it transforms into a quiet woodland riverine passage. By the time you reach Currituck Sound in North Carolina, you have experienced the transition from battleships to water moccasins, from merry-go-rounds to nesting osprey.

#### HAMPTON ROADS

To a mariner, a "road" means an anchorage. Nautically speaking, a road is an anchorage that is less sheltered than a harbor. Hampton Roads, formed by the confluence of the James, Nansemond, and Elizabeth Rivers, is one of the largest sheltered bays in the area, an important road since colonial times.

Although the harbor has been called Hampton Roads since the 1600s, this name has only been used for the southeastern region of Virginia since 1983. At that time the jurisdictions bordering the harbor decided to share a regional identity as Hampton Roads. This designation now includes the Southside (independent cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Suffolk, and Chesapeake); the Peninsula (independent cities of Hampton and Newport News); and the counties of Isle of Wight, James City, Surry, and York.

Today Hampton Roads is one of the eastern seaboard's most strategic ports, home to the world's largest naval base.

5

**Regions**  
Hampton Roads  
On to the North Carolina Border

**Inlets**  
Chesapeake Bay Entrance

**U.S. Coast Guard**  
District Five: 757/398-6272  
Group Hampton Roads: 757/483-8568  
Station Portsmouth: 757/483-8527

**NOAA Weather Towers**  
WX-2 Heathsville  
WX-1 Norfolk

**Security Zones**  
Norfolk Naval Shipyard  
Norfolk Naval Base

**Canal Information**  
757/201-7606

**Lighthouses**  
Thimble Shoal Light  
Old Point Comfort Light  
Fort Wool Light  
Portsmouth Lightship

**Fishing Information**  
www.dgif.state.va.us/fishing

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

### 5 State Highlights

A column of quick reference information and contacts for that state.

### 6 State Regions

Regional names, often used by locals, with different geographies and navigational concerns. The STATE SUMMARY describes each region in detail.

### 7 Inlets

Recommended inlets for ICW cruising vessels.

### 8 U.S. Coast Guard

Telephone numbers for the state's Coast Guard district office, groups, and stations.

### 9 NOAA Weather Towers

A reminder of NOAA WX weather tower locations.

### 10 Security Zones

Overview of upcoming security zones, described in detail in the NAV COLUMN.

### 11 Additional Local Contacts

Local contacts unique to that state, such as Virginia's canal information, North Carolina's Camp Lejeune firing range hotline, or Florida's recorded shuttle launch schedule.

### 12 Lighthouses

A list of each state's lighthouses visible from the ICW.

### 13 Fishing Information

Link to this site for up-to-date information on licenses, catch limits, and in many cases, online permits.

Managing the Waterway © 2005

Hampton Roads to North Landing River

WA-25

## STATE INTRODUCTIONS

Before you start ticking off the miles, the STATE INTRODUCTION provides reference information and practical advice for each region.

We begin with a column of STATE HIGHLIGHTS. Glance to this column for quick reminders of regions, inlets, Coast Guard stations, weather towers, security zones, ICW telephone numbers, lighthouses, and fishing regulations.

The STATE SUMMARY describes the regional characteristics and navigational concerns in more detail. Divided into geographic regions, read these summaries to get a sense of the Waterway's different experiences. Each STATE SUMMARY ends with the state's BOOK AND FILM PICKS, a collection of regional recommendations for your cruise.