

It's For the Birds...

Birding and wildlife watching is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the country. Bring your group and discover the natural beauty and mystic of Chesapeake, VA. Home to five sites on the **Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail**, birders from around the country and overseas, flock to Chesapeake to view long-term and Neotropical migratory songbirds.

Day one– Since the 17th century, the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge has provided sanctuary to birds and bird watchers alike. The refuge's wooded swamplands and canebrakes create lovely living conditions for the 213 species of birds that nest in or near the refuge. More than 200 species have been identified on the refuge since its establishment.



During the spring Neotropical songbird migration, bird watchers will delight in catching a glimpse of the Swainson's

warbler and the Wayne's warbler, two of the most secretive and least observed of all North American birds. Visitors will likely catch a glimpse of the elegant white ibis, the graceful great egret and even the regal bald eagle. Other birds of interest that can be seen in the Refuge include the wood duck, barred owl, pileated woodpecker and prothonotary warbler.



Day two– Experience the beauty of Northwest River Park where they will custom design a program for your group. Activities include guided bird tours, introduction to wildflowers and moss, wildflower hikes or night hikes where you can spy shooting stars, listen for owls, and learn about the wildlife. You can even participate in Skywatch – and exciting inter-galactic observation session where guests get a tour of the night sky, while learning about telescopes and astronomy.



We invite you to bring your group and take it all in – outdoor sports galore, easy access to the Atlantic Ocean, a vibrant musical and cultural scene, historic sites ripe for exploring, shopping ranging from fine to funky, and picturesque strolls in a green and beautifully preserved environment.



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