

Norfolk's Harborfest®

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

NAUTICUS

SPIRIT OF NORFOLK

NAVAL STATION
NORFOLK

NORFOLK BOTANICAL
GARDEN

HERMITAGE MUSEUM

CHRYSLER MUSEUM

Norfolk plays host to an annual festival favorite, Norfolk's Harborfest®! Every June, the city celebrates nautical history by displaying tall ships, along with celebrations of seafaring history and culture, delicious food, local, regional and national entertainment and a spectacular fireworks display all along the downtown waterfront.

DAY 1

Explore Norfolk's science center, Nauticus, with interactive maritime history and science exhibits. You'll find the Hampton Roads Naval Museum in Nauticus which introduces over 200 years of naval history in coastal Virginia. Located next to Nauticus is the Battleship Wisconsin, the largest and last battleship ever built by the U.S. Navy. Walk her teak decks, explore interior rooms and discover the vast history of this great ship.

Come aboard the Spirit of Norfolk or the Victory Rover Naval Base Cruise for the the spectacular Parade of Sail event. Watch tall ships sail down the Elizabeth River in a spectacular two-hour parade. You'll have the best view of the harbor, with tall ships and over 200 boats and vessels to see.

After the Parade of Sail, come explore a popular outdoor festival on the waterfront at Norfolk's Harborfest®. Enjoy live music and great food accompanied by art and educational programs. Tall ships will be open for tours for visitors to explore the decks and talk to sailors.

Finish the night by experiencing Virginia's first urban winery, the Mermaid Winery. The winery focuses on producing well-balanced wines using Virginia grapes. The wine making process can be viewed from the tasting bar where you can enjoy their creations.

DAY 2

Take a 45 minute bus tour of the world's largest naval installation, Naval Station Norfolk. A knowledgeable, active duty Navy guide will narrate an engaging tour of the base highlighting the U.S. Naval Fleet, Admirals Row, and the base as a working city.

Discover the compelling story of General Douglas MacArthur, a five star General of the Army and the millions of Americans who served our nation through five wars at the Douglas MacArthur Memorial. Located in downtown Norfolk's restored 1850s City Hall, the complex contains a museum, theater and special exhibit galleries.

Stroll over to Granby Street, just one block walking distance from Norfolk's Harborfest®. Experience over 30 locally owned and operated restaurants from American Bistro, to Tapas or Mexican. Whatever you crave, Granby Street is sure to satisfy! Along the way, step in one of the many downtown retailers on Granby Street to take home the perfect souvenir.

Head back over to Town Point Park for Norfolk's Harborfest® and enjoy over 50 food vendors, live concerts on three stages and fireworks along the downtown waterfront. Do not forget you can also jump aboard the Victory Rover Naval Base Cruise or Spirit of Norfolk for the best seats in the house for the fireworks!

DAY 3

Take a fun-filled boat ride at the Norfolk Botanical Garden and explore its peaceful waterways or meander through its many beautiful gardens and discover a variety of plants from the cultivated to the wild. While visiting, be sure to experience one of the Garden's popular programs such as Active Gardeners, Creative Gardeners or Garden Design. The Norfolk Botanical Garden's professional horticultural staff will be on hand to share their knowledge and experience while inspiring new ideas for your garden.

Enjoy lunch and shopping at MacArthur Center, a one million square foot, three-story shopping mall with more than 100 new-to-the-market retailers and restaurants, anchored by Nordstrom and Dillard's. Stroll through the Armed Forces Memorial, which features 20 inscriptions from letters written home by U.S. service men and women who lost their lives in war. The letters have been cast in thin sheets of bronze and are scattered across the ground.

Next, head to Hermitage Museum and Gardens, formerly home to the Sloane family, the Hermitage is "home to the arts" with a nationally recognized art collection spanning 5,000 years. Its artwork includes contemporary exhibition galleries, working artist studios and 12 acres of gardens and grounds.

DAY 4

Before you depart for home, head over to the Chrysler Museum of Art, which was recently expanded and renovated with new galleries and engaging programs to bring the collection to life. Enjoy 5,000 years of art in one of the country's most impressive museums, featuring a newly updated restaurant, library, gift shop and theater.

**For more details
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