

ENGINEERING MARVEL

For over 44 years, the **Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel** has captured worldwide attention as a modern engineering wonder and an important East Coast travel convenience. Crossing over and under open waters where the Chesapeake Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean, the Bridge-Tunnel provides a direct link between Southeastern Virginia and the Delmarva Peninsula, and cuts 95 miles from the journey between Virginia Beach and points north of Wilmington, Delaware.

Following its opening on April 15, 1964, the Bridge-Tunnel was selected "One of the Seven Engineering Wonders of the Modern World" in a worldwide competition that included more than 100 major projects. In addition, in 1965, it was distinguished as "The Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement" by the American Society of Civil Engineers. In 2000, the Bridge-Tunnel was recognized by "Structural Engineer" magazine as one of the "Seven Structural Engineering Wonders of America for the 20th Century".

To date, over 100 million commercial and passenger vehicles have crossed the Bridge-Tunnel. In order to meet future traffic demands and provide for a safer crossing, construction of a parallel crossing project began in summer 1995 and opened to four-lane traffic on April 19, 1999. No less challenging than construction of the original span, this project once again drew focus to a remarkable achievement in engineering and construction.

An interpretive display of the construction of the Bridge-Tunnel is located just outside the Restaurant/Gift Shop.

FISHING

Anglers may leave the boat at home and enjoy fishing year-round from the Sea Gull Pier, which extends from the southernmost of the four man-made islands at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

The 625-foot, wheelchair accessible fishing pier at the **Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel** extends into the Chesapeake Bay and allows fishermen to experience deep-sea fishing, a mere 3.5 miles from the Virginia Beach shoreline. Spot, croaker, kingfish, trout, bluefish, and shark are just some of the fish that can be caught.

Cleaning stations, as well as a certified weighing station are available. A one-way toll of \$12 per car is collected to access the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel; there is no additional fee for unlimited use of the fishing pier. A fishing license is not required.

BIRDING

The **Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel** offers travelers and birding enthusiasts the opportunity to observe birds and waterfowl from its four manmade islands. The Bridge-Tunnel's habitat of concrete, steel, asphalt and rocks located in open water makes an inviting rest stop for birds during their spring and fall migrations.

Birds and waterfowl commonly seen on or near the Bridge-Tunnel's manmade islands include the northern gannet, American white pelican, brant, king eider, harlequin duck, red-breasted merganser, peregrine falcon, American oystercatcher, little gull, and black-tailed gull.


NAVAL HISTORY

Take a walk through Naval history as a series of outdoor exhibits sponsored by the Hampton Roads Naval Museum highlight the history of the Navy on the Chesapeake Bay.

The Hampton Roads Naval Museum has partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel District to provide a series of outdoor exhibits highlighting the history of the Navy on the Chesapeake Bay. When you travel across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, stop on the southernmost man-made island to learn about the rich connections between the United States Navy and the majestic Chesapeake Bay. There are six exhibit panels in total for visitors to enjoy.

 Other links:

<http://www.cbbt.com/history.html>

 The **Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT)** is a 23-mile (37-km) long fixed link crossing the mouth of the **Chesapeake Bay** and connecting the Delmarva Peninsula 's Eastern Shore of ...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chesapeake_Bay_Bridge-Tunnel

