



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Follow these guidelines for a fun and safe visit.

The following activities are permitted. Note specific restrictions.



Wildlife observation, interpretation, photography and hiking.

Enjoy year-round on marked trails.



Boats

Permitted to land on designated areas on Toms Cove Hook from September 1 through March 14 or as otherwise posted. Refuge impoundments are closed to all boats and flotation devices.



Bicycles

Permitted on trails and roads unless otherwise posted.



Fishing/crabbing/shell fishing

Permitted in designated areas of Toms Cove. Fishing and crabbing are permitted in designated areas of Swan Cove adjacent to Toms Cove. State fishing license is not required; however, state regulations and creel limits are enforced. Traps, pots, and handlines must be attended at all times.



Surf Fishing

A saltwater license is not required for surf fishing on the refuge. Fishing is prohibited on life guarded beaches. An overnight fishing permit is required to stay after hours. Inquire at the Toms Cove Visitor Center.



Swimming

Permitted along the oceanfront and in designated areas of Toms Cove.



Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is only permitted in the Off-Road Vehicle Zone.



Mopeds and Motorized Scooters

Permitted on Beach Road only.



Off-Road vehicle use

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Zones are posted and maps are available at the Chincoteague Refuge Visitor Center and Toms Cove Visitor Center. A fee is charged for all permits. Vehicle specifications and equipment requirements are strictly enforced. Limits are placed on the number of vehicles allowed on the beach at any one time. Temporary closures occur due to public safety and wildlife concerns.

The following activities are prohibited.



Fires/Fireworks

Open fires are prohibited except as authorized by special beach party permits which are available from the National Park Service, Assateague Island National Seashore, at Toms Cove Visitor Center. Possession or discharge of fireworks or explosive devices is prohibited.



Skateboards/roller skates/in-line skates

Use prohibited on refuge.



Camping

Prohibited on Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Permits for back country sites in Maryland are available from the National Park Service, Assateague Island National Seashore, at Toms Cove Visitor Center.



Firearms and weapons

Prohibited on the refuge except during designated hunts.



Pets

Prohibited, even in your vehicle.



Alcohol

Use of alcohol beverages is prohibited. Entering or remaining on the refuge while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances is prohibited.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Chincoteague
National Wildlife Refuge

Trail Map

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
8231 Beach Road
P.O. Box 62
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336-0062
757/336 6122
757/336 5273 Fax
1 800/828 1120 TDD
1 800/828 1140 voice
email: FW5RW_CNWR@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/northeast/chinco

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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Great Egret
© Mark Wilson



Disturbing or collecting plants and animals (dead or alive), or artifacts

Strictly prohibited. Leave the area as you found it for others to enjoy. Please limit the number of unoccupied shells collected to one gallon or less/person/day. Shells collected may not be sold or otherwise used for commercial purposes.



Feeding or harassing wildlife

Strictly prohibited. Feeding animals causes them to lose their fear of humans and makes them more vulnerable to vehicular traffic. Human food also causes digestive problems. Please help keep the animals healthy and safe.

Special Events

Earth Day
April

International Migrator Bird Celebration
May

National Fishing Week
June

Beach Cleanup
September

National Wildlife Refuge Week
October

Waterfowl Week
November

Safety

Protect yourself from ticks and mosquitoes, they may carry disease. To avoid tick bites and mosquitoes: stay on trails; use repellent; wear long sleeve shirts and long pants while exploring the area; and, inspect yourself carefully.

Raccoons, horses and other mammals on the refuge may carry rabies. Enjoy all wildlife from a distance, especially if they seem friendly.

Welcome to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge...where people and wildlife meet. The refuge includes more than 14,000 acres of beach, dunes, marsh and maritime forest. Within a world-class access to millions of people, Chincoteague refuge is one of the most visited refuges in the United States, providing visitors with outstanding opportunities to learn about and enjoy our wildlands and wildlife.

Poison ivy is abundant on the refuge. Please stay on refuge trails to avoid contact.

Horses, although they appear tame, are wild animals and may kick or bite without warning.



Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center

Hours vary by season.



Tom's Cove Visitor Center

Hours vary by season.

Refuge Auditorium

Program schedule available



Wildlife Loop 3.2 miles

Walking and bicycling. Open 3:00 pm to dusk to vehicles



Woodland Trail 1.6 miles

Walking and bicycling

Lighthouse Trail 0.2 miles

Walking

Marsh Trail 0.1 miles

Walking



Black Duck Trail 1 mile

Walking and bicycling



Swan Cove Trail 0.1 miles

Walking and bicycling

Bivalve Trail 0.2 miles

Walking

Refuge Hours

Hours vary by season, open year-round.

For additional information about the refuge, contact:

Refuge Manager
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 62
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336
757/336 6122
FAX: 757/336 5273
email: FW5RW_CNWR@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/northeast/chinco



Legend

- Hiking Trails
- Hiking/Biking Trails
- █ Closed Areas - Stay on Trails
- █ Off-Road Vehicle Zone (Subject to seasonal closure)
- ||||| Seasonally closes on March 15 Reopens Late Fall
- ▲ Observation Platform
- P Wildlife Loop Parking Lot
- ☎ Emergency Call Box

The ORV zone includes nesting habitat for the Piping plover, a threatened bird species. To aid in the recovery of this species, the ORV zone will be subject to partial closure to all ORV, boat and pedestrian use during the nesting season.