

Field trips for AERS 2024

17N (up the Middle Peninsula)

- Start your trip home with a stop at one of Virginia's newest State Parks: [Machicomoco](#), opened to the public in 2021. Located just 15 minutes up Route 17 from VIMS. The picturesque park hosts an open-air interpretive pavilion providing information on the culture, landscape, and movement of Virginia Native Tribes through displays and a walking path.
- Enjoy a taste of our Virginia waters at the [Merrior Tasting Room](#) in Topping, a restaurant run by the folks at the Rappahannock Oyster Company (*784 Locklies Creek Road, Topping VA 23169, 804-758-2871*). They offer seasonal views of the Rappahannock and satisfying small-plates.

64W (Before Richmond)

- What's good in Williamsburg?
 - Head over to [Pierce's Pit BBQ](#) for lunch, (*447 East Rochambeau Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23188; 757-565-2955*). Did you know some scholars claim the roots of American BBQ grew out from right here in Virginia? Voted Best BBQ in VA by Southern Living magazine, March 2024.
 - From there you are only 15 minutes away from the beautiful York River State Park, <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/york-river>. Although the parks famed fossil beach is currently closed, there are plenty of trails for you to explore and water craft & bike rentals to help you do it.

64E (through Norfolk & VB)

- 264 W to Brunch & Bike the Elizabeth River Trail (ERT) in Norfolk
 - [Rent bikes](#) to ride the [ERT](#) along Norfolk's working & scenic waterfront
 - Grab lunch first & check out the local merchants at the [Selden Market](#) in downtown Norfolk, OR take a break from biking about half-way down the trail, to grab food at one of the local restaurants in the [Chelsea neighborhood](#) or refresh with a beer from one of the local breweries.
- 264 E to Virginia Beach where the Chesapeake Bay & the Atlantic meet
 - Spend the afternoon at the [Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center](#), although it has been a staple of marine science in the region for decades, the aquarium just finished an extensive renovation.
 - Before or after your visit, check out the painted sea life on the streets on the [VIBE creative district](#), just off the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. In addition to bright bold street art, the neighborhood is also filled with great restaurants, bakeries, and coffee shops.

Route 13 exploring the Eastern Shore

- The first significant town you reach as you travel up Virginia's Eastern Shore, is [Cape Charles](#). This quaint bayside community has stroll-worthy streets and beaches, although fair warning not every shop will be open this early in Spring.
- A little off the beaten path you will find [Savage Neck Dunes](#), a natural maritime forest preserve nestled against the Chesapeake Bay. If you have never seen sand dunes surrounded by loblolly pines(or maybe it is the other way around), this short walking trail is worth the trip, however, be aware that parking is limited and there are no restroom facilities.