



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Assateague Island  
National Seashore

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## Assateague Island National Seashore

## News Release

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# Assateague Island National Seashore Announces Winter Hours of Operation for the Toms Cove Visitor Center

Berlin, Maryland – Superintendent Scott J. Bentley announced today that the Toms Cove Visitor Center, located within Assateague Island National Seashore and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia, will be open Friday through Monday (4 days a week) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during December, January and February. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Herbert H. Bateman Visitor Center (Bateman Center), located about 1 mile from the Tom's Cove Visitor Center within the Refuge, will remain open throughout the winter seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Assateague Island National Seashore Barrier Island Visitor Center located in Berlin, Maryland will remain open seven days a week from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Oversand vehicle permits, interagency entrance passes, overnight fishing permits, campfire permits, and access to beach wheelchairs will be available daily at the Bateman Center and Friday to Monday at the Tom's Cove Visitor Center. National Park Service backcountry camping permits for the Maryland area of the Seashore may be obtained daily from the Berlin, Maryland Ranger Station or at the Tom's Cove Visitor Center Friday to Monday.

"December, January, and February are the slowest times of the year for visits to the National Seashore. Reducing the Toms Cove Visitor Center operations in the winter enables the National Park Service to provide more services during the busier spring, summer and fall seasons," said Bentley. "We are committed to providing the highest levels of service while remaining fiscally responsible and accountable to all Americans."

"The National Park Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service work closely together to provide seamless service for the 80,000 visitors who enjoy the Refuge during the winter" he added. "I encourage everyone to visit the Bateman Center to learn more about the unique recreation and education opportunities that Assateague Island offers in the winter."

The Tom's Cove Visitor Center features a hands-on touch tank, exhibits, books, educational gift items, brochures and information on recreational activities on Assateague Island, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and the nearby community of Chincoteague, Virginia. Visitors can experience stunning views of Toms Cove, coastal salt marshes, and the Atlantic Ocean.

For more information on Assateague Island National Seashore, visit [www.nps.gov/asis/](http://www.nps.gov/asis/).

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Assateague Island National Seashore (National Park Service) was authorized by act of Congress (Public Law 89-195) on September 21, 1965, to preserve the unique Mid-Atlantic coastal resources and natural ecosystem conditions and processes upon which they depend while providing high quality resource-compatible recreational opportunities. The authorized boundary includes approximately 48,700 acres of land and water in Maryland and Virginia. Located within an easy three hour drive of Washington D.C., Annapolis, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Norfolk-Hampton metropolitan areas, Assateague Island offers visitors an unspoiled setting to experience the ambiance of a dynamic barrier island with its legendary wild horses and a multitude of exceptional recreational opportunities.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) provides habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and song birds, as well as other species of wildlife and plants. The refuge is managed to allow many species of wildlife to co-exist on this barrier island, each establishing their own place in the environment. The refuge offers environmental education and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, interpretation, and wildlife photography that helps many visitors maintain a connection with their natural heritage.

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