



NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, USA

Sailaway Sightseeing Tour

The Norfolk Cruise Terminal is located along the Elizabeth River in Norfolk, Virginia. Embarking on your cruise from the terminal offers a special opportunity to enjoy some interesting sightseeing as your ship sails along the Elizabeth River, through Hampton Roads, toward the Chesapeake Bay and beyond.

1. Norfolk Cruise Terminal

The terminal sits near Mile Marker Zero, the northern entrance to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The waterway is a federally maintained inland route that runs along the Atlantic coast all the way to Florida, using a protected system of rivers, sounds, and canals designed for smaller vessels to travel the coast while avoiding the open ocean.

Your ship will likely be docked facing southeast, so your cruise will begin by heading toward Washington Point and the entrance to the waterway, before turning 180 degrees to head northwest along the Elizabeth River toward the Chesapeake Bay.



2. USS Wisconsin

STARBOARD (RIGHT SIDE)

The Iowa-class battleship served in World War II, Korea, and the Gulf War, and is one of the largest – and last – battleships built by the U.S. Navy.

Today, the ship is part of Nauticus, a maritime museum where visitors can go aboard and explore portions of the historic vessel.



3. Naval Medical Center Portsmouth

PORT (LEFT SIDE)

Operating since 1830, the hospital is one of the U.S. Navy's oldest medical facilities.

Depending on the sun's position, it may be easier to spot the historic building after your ship has passed it, looking back across the river.



4. Fort Norfolk

STARBOARD (RIGHT SIDE)

The fort dates back to the late 1700s, when President George Washington called for a series of coastal defenses to help protect American ports.

It was used during both the War of 1812 and the Civil War. The site is currently maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is open to the public free of charge.

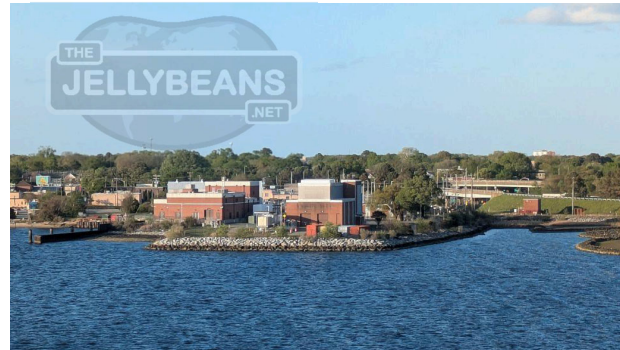


5. Midtown Tunnel

STARBOARD (RIGHT SIDE)

The tunnel itself runs underwater, so look for the buildings and roadway along the shoreline to spot its location.

The original tunnel opened in 1962, and a second tunnel – the first deep-water, all-concrete immersed-tube tunnel built in North America – was added in 2016 using eleven prefabricated concrete sections lowered into a trench along the riverbed.



6. Portsmouth Marine Terminal

PORT (LEFT SIDE)

At the time of our cruise, the terminal was being used as a staging area for Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project.

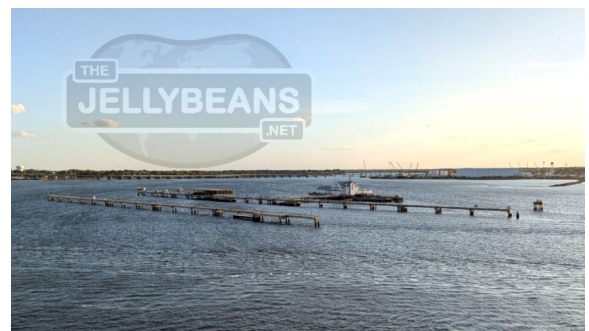


7. U.S. Navy Magnetic Treatment Facility

PORT (LEFT SIDE)

Steel ships can gradually become magnetized over time, and that magnetic field can trigger certain types of underwater mines.

This Navy facility, located at Lambert's Point, uses powerful electrical pulses to reduce that magnetic effect, and it's the only one on the East Coast that can accommodate aircraft carriers.



8. Norfolk Southern's Lambert's Point Coal Terminal

STARBOARD (RIGHT SIDE)

Coal has been shipped from this location since the 1860s, and it's now the largest coal-loading facility in the Northern Hemisphere, with around 150 miles of rail on-site.

The terminal can load two ships at once, at a combined rate of up to 8,000 tons per hour. Most of the coal is used in steel production and exported around the world.



9. Virginia International Gateway

PORT (LEFT SIDE)

One of the Port of Virginia's two main container terminals, it specializes in shipping containers filled with consumer goods, industrial products, and agricultural exports.

On-dock rail service lets containers move directly between ships and rail without ever leaving the terminal.



10. U.S. Coast Guard Sector Virginia

PORT (LEFT SIDE)

The unit handles maritime safety, security, and environmental protection in the region.

Its responsibilities include search and rescue operations, port security, and vessel inspections throughout Hampton Roads.



11. Craney Island Fuel Depot

PORT (LEFT SIDE)

The facility stores jet and marine fuel in large storage tanks and supplies it through an extensive pipeline system.

It helps keep Navy ships fueled and ready at the nearby naval station.



12. Dredged Material Management Area

PORT (LEFT SIDE)

This site, in the north part of Craney Island, receives material removed from the harbor during dredging operations.

The work helps keep the channels deep enough for large cargo ships and naval vessels to move through Hampton Roads. Parts of the area have been repurposed for environmental restoration and future port expansion.

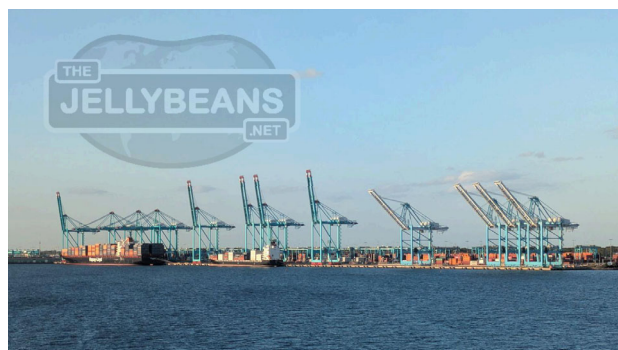


13. Norfolk International Terminals

STARBOARD (RIGHT SIDE)

This is the largest container terminal operated by the Port of Virginia.

It's capable of handling some of the largest container ships currently operating in the Atlantic Ocean.



14. Naval Station Norfolk

STARBOARD (RIGHT SIDE)

The largest naval complex in the world, it's home to the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, along with dozens of warships and aircraft.

The U.S. Navy's website lists the ships currently based at Norfolk. Information about each ship is available on the website, including name, type, and when and where it was built.

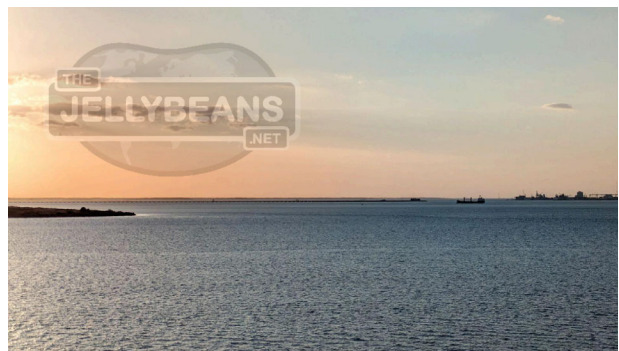


15. Monitor–Merrimack Memorial Bridge-Tunnel

PORT (LEFT SIDE)

Visible in the distance as your ship moves into the wider harbor, the crossing is located near the site of the 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads.

During that Civil War battle, the ironclad USS Monitor fought the ironclad CSS Virginia, built from the remains of the salvaged USS Merrimack. The fight ended in a draw, but showed that wooden warships were quickly becoming obsolete.



16. Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel

The bridge-tunnel connects the Hampton and Newport News side of the waterway with Norfolk and Virginia Beach, carrying over 100,000 vehicles a day.

A \$3.9 billion expansion project will widen the crossing to four lanes of traffic in each direction in spring 2027.



17. The Chamberlin

PORT (LEFT SIDE)

The original hotel opened in 1896. After a fire destroyed it, the current building was completed in its place in 1928.

Because of its size and location, The Chamberlin has long served as a familiar landmark for boaters returning toward the harbor. It's now a retirement community and remains one of Hampton's most recognizable historic buildings.



18. Fort Monroe National Monument

PORT (LEFT SIDE)

Once a major coastal defense site, the fort played an important role as a safe haven for enslaved people during the Civil War.

It became known as "Freedom's Fortress" and is part of the nation's broader story of emancipation.

