

The New Etiquette
of Parenting

Serious Dining at
the Beach (Really!)

How to Love
August in DC

WASHINGTONIAN

Great

SMALL TOWNS

plus
**CREATIVE
BASEMENT
MAKEOVERS**
p. 137

AUGUST 2015

**25 DESTINATIONS
THAT ARE CHARMING,
LAID-BACK—AND
WORTH A VISIT**

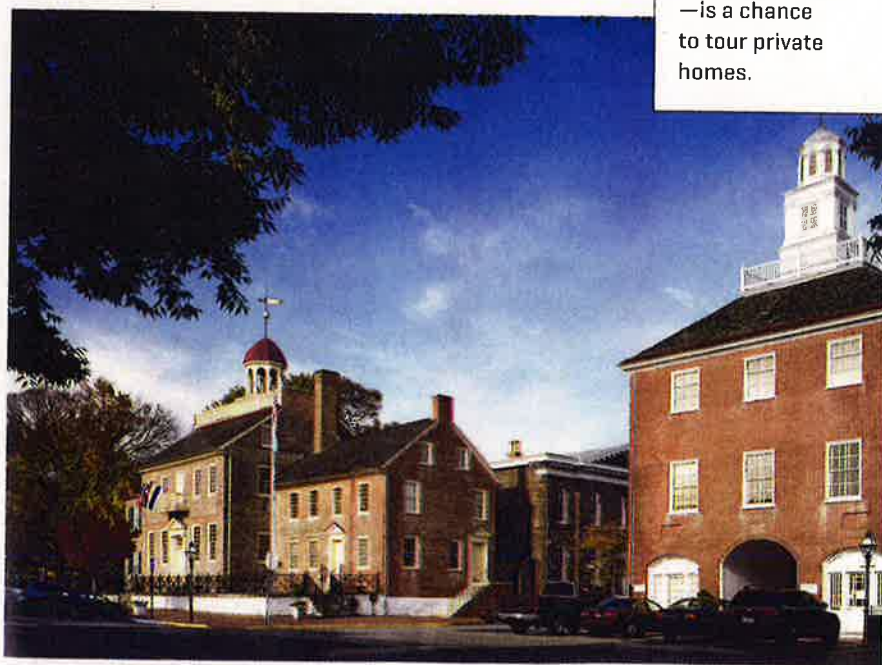


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TOUR VERY OLD HOMES

New Castle

You can usually spot a first-time visitor to New Castle—eyes wide, mouth agape. Delaware's first capital is a tiny riverside charmer whose brick sidewalks, white cupolas, Georgian rowhouses, and Colonial gardens seem hardly changed since 1777, when the capital was moved inland to Dover, for fear of a British invasion. Yet this is not a museum set—people live in those old houses. It makes a delightful day to stroll through town and pop into a few of the historic buildings. The timber-framed **Dutch House**, one of the state's oldest dwellings, built around 1700, is filled with antiques and pewter, while the 1738 **Amstel House** once hosted George Washington. Grandest of all is the **Read House & Gardens**, a 22-room Federal-style mansion with a formal garden. The 1732 **New Castle Court House** also has been restored and offers free tours. We suggest staying at the **Terry House Bed and Breakfast** (130 Delaware St.; 302-322-2505), a Federal-style B&B in the historic center with period furnishings and a small garden, and dining at **Jessop's Tavern** (114 Delaware St.; 302-322-6111), where waiters dress in Colonial garb.



Population: 5,379.

Distance from DC:

109 miles. **Mark**

your calendar:

A Day in Old New Castle—the third Saturday in May—is a chance to tour private homes.



SEE A GRAND CHRISTMAS PARADE

MIDDLEBURG

On the first Saturday in December, some 10,000 spectators clutching hot chocolate descend on Middleburg's picturesque main street for the Christmas parade. In this equestrian-obsessed village, the event features high-stepping horses, red-coated riders, and cute hounds along with floats and antique fire trucks. After the last horse—and Santa—has gone by, slip into the **Christmas Sleigh** to buy ornaments, warm up with samples of craft cider and rum at **Mt. Defiance Cidery & Distillery** (207 W. Washington St.; 540-687-8100), or hunker down with a burger beside a cozy fireplace at the **Red Fox Inn and Tavern** (2 E. Washington St.; 540-687-6301).

Population: 781.

Distance from DC: 45 miles.

While there:

Really in the holiday spirit? Sign up for a gingerbread-house lesson or book a magical carriage ride at **Salamander Resort**.



CHECK OUT THE NEXT ST. MICHAELS

ONANCOCK

This hamlet offers a taste of big-city sophistication on Virginia's rural Eastern Shore. You'll find a half dozen art galleries, a gourmet gift shop, **North Street Market**, polished productions at **North Street Playhouse**, and fine restaurants, such as the **Inn & Garden Café** (145 Market St.; 757-787-8850), which serves suppers of Kobe beef and gnocchi, rolled from the area's Hayman sweet potatoes. The peaceful setting along Onancock Creek lends itself to a laid-back kayak trip with **SouthEast Expeditions** or an exhilarating flight above farmland with **Virginia Hang Gliding**. Spend the night at the boutique **Charlotte Hotel & Restaurant** (7 North St.; 757-787-7400) or the **Inn at Onancock** (30 North St.; 757-789-7711), known for its breakfasts—which might feature mini-crabcakes and poached eggs.

Population: 1,262.

Distance from DC: 180 miles. **While**

there: Wander over to Liar's Bench, on the wharf, where watermen congregate to tell tales both tall and true.

PHOTOGRAPH OF NEW CASTLE BY DON PEARSE