

# Yes, Virginia has it all

**Q: On our next road trip to Virginia Beach, Va., we're interested in stopping in some other parts of Virginia. Our trip will be nearly two weeks long. We have our Virginia Beach activities planned but would like to get more information on the rest of the state. Can you recommend some interesting places? I love cultural stuff, he loves the outdoors.**

— R. Hutchinson, Richmond Hill

**A:** The resorts and sandy beaches of Virginia Beach are wonderful for R'n'R. But once you soak up enough sun and sand, the state has so much to do I'm sure you'll find many reasons to make return visits.

This is a particularly great

year to go as the state is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its "Virginia is for lovers" slogan and there are loads of promotions and deals tied into that.

In Richmond and Charlottesville, culture lovers can visit a couple of art museums for free:

■ The University of Virginia Art Museum ([virginia.edu/artmuseum](http://virginia.edu/artmuseum)) in Charlottesville has an international collection spanning ancient to modern times. The galleries exhibit U.S. and European paintings and sculptures of the 15th-19th centuries, including art from the "Age of Thomas Jefferson" (1775-1825), art from the Mediterranean, Asian art and 20th-century art.

■ The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts ([vmfa.museum](http://vmfa.museum)) in Richmond has more than 20,000

works of art from nearly every major world culture. Check out Art Nouveau, Art Deco and American Modern and Contemporary, which are leading components of the collection. And don't miss the Faberge eggs!

For outdoorsy types, Virginia is an adventure playground. The scenic beauty is breathtaking throughout the state. The Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

([dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/](http://dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/)) is the first of its kind in the U.S. Comprised of 65 trail loops, housing some 400 bird species, 250 fish species and 150 species of other critters, the driving trail links some of Virginia's best wildlife areas with bike and hiking trails.

For something different, head to Chincoteague, Virginia's resort island famous for its oysters and clam shoals. The picture-perfect island on the eastern shores also houses the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge ([fws.gov/northeast/chinco](http://fws.gov/northeast/chinco)), 6,000 hectares of beach, dunes, marsh and maritime forest. Nature enthusiasts will be especially enthralled with the wild herds of Chincoteague Ponies.

For more information on Virginia, visit [Virginia.org](http://Virginia.org) or call toll-free in Canada 1-800-671-4195 for a free 2009 Virginia Is for Lovers — Live Passionately travel guide.

**Q: I have heard that Superclubs Breezes has sold its Puerto Plata resort. I was**

**Kids have fun in the sun at Virginia Beach, one of the many things to do in the state.**



SUN MEDIA FILES

**there in January and would like to return in 2010. Would you know what the new name of this resort is or who has purchased the resort?**

— C. Mallon, Orillia

**A:** I contacted a representative of the Dominican Republic Tourism Office who reports the Superclubs Breezes Puerto Plata closed May 1 and will reopen in about three months as the Sol de Plata Beach Resort and Spa.

**Q: How far is the drive from Chicago to Indianapolis? We're going to Chicago for a wedding and I was thinking we could take a day trip from there. We look forward to your help.**

— K. Styles, Markham

**A:** It's about 263 km. If you average 110 km/hour by car it should take about three hours to get to this Midwestern city southeast of Chicago. Remember that Indianapolis, Ind., is one hour ahead of Chicago, Ill.

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## Inside Travel



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### NOT MUCH THERE

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### ON THE COVER

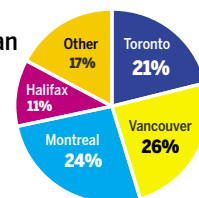
**Charming lanes of Carrer del Bisbe in Barcelona BARCELONA TURSIME**

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## Travel poll

Among Canadian cities, which one comes out on top?



### NEXT WEEK'S QUESTION

Has the H1N1 virus affected your travel plans?

- Yes, plans have been cancelled
- Nope, I'm still vacationing this summer
- Unsure

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