

Destination Tidewater Virginia

Touch Both Natural, Colonial History in Virginia Beach this Spring

Springtime in Virginia Beach is a great time to explore some of the resort area's indoor attractions and none is bigger than the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center's \$25 million Restless Planet. Opened in 2009, the new attraction at the aquarium includes four specific habitats, dozens of exhibits,

Virginia Aquarium



A transparent tunnel takes you beneath the Red Sea environment for a close-up view of the beautiful fish.

Shamrock Sportsfest

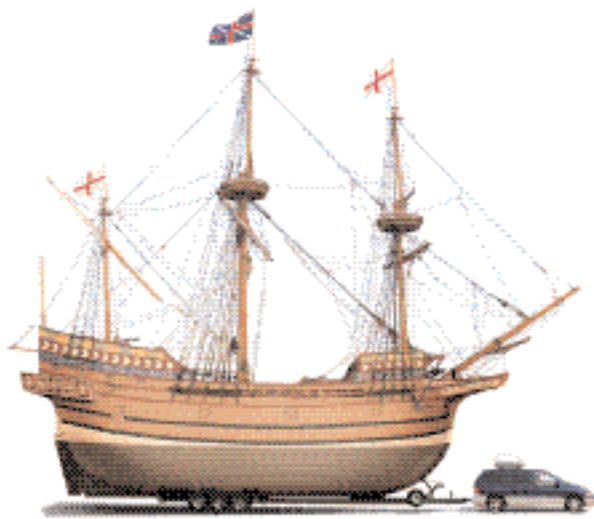
If springtime gets your heart pumping for some outdoor running, set your sights on Virginia Beach for the Yuengling Shamrock Sportsfest, March 19-21. Runners need more than the luck of the Irish to compete in this challenging physical test of strength and endurance. Over St. Patrick's Day weekend, the festival (now recognized as a "Green Event") challenges race enthusiasts with the traditional annual marathon, half-marathon, 8K, Operation Smile Final Mile, children's marathon, and the dolphin and whale challenge. Leprechauns and cheering fans will line the trail as 3,000 runners race to finish the 26.2 mile marathon, which is a 2011 Boston qualifier. There is a sports and fitness expo on Friday and Saturday. It's a great time, whether you run, walk, or just observe. For more information, visit www.shamrockmarathon.com.

and 110,000 gallons of new aquariums.

The Restless Planet allows you to see how diverse environments from Virginia's past compare to similar environments in different parts of the world today. The four different habitats include 6,000 new animals and 367 new species.

In the *Malaysian Peat Swamp* you're transported to an environment resembling Virginia during the Carboniferous period when peat began its transformation into coal. You'll see unusual animals from southeast Asia including

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Make Room for the Memories.

An adventure of historic proportion is waiting for you—at two living-history museums that explore America's beginnings. Board replicas of colonial ships. Grind corn in a Powhatan Indian village. Try on English armor inside a palisaded fort. Then, join Continental Army soldiers at their encampment for a firsthand look at the Revolution's end. Don't forget your camera. Because the history here is life size. And your memories will be even bigger!

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Save close to 20% on a combination ticket to both museums.

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