

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500	Virginia Beach, VA 23451	www.vbfun.com
	ph (757) 385-4700	fx (757) 437-4747

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Al Hutchinson Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau | 757.385.6652

Pamela Lingle Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau | 757.385.6628

Jessica Kraft BCF | 757.497.4811 | jkraft@bc-f.com

Between Mother Nature, a World-Class Aquarium and Pirate Ships, Virginia Beach Offers a Variety of Unique Meeting Venues

(Virginia Beach, Va. 2006) – Discover a variety of unique venues in Virginia Beach, with space to host an event, themed meeting, special dinner or group retreat. Virginia Beach is a large metropolitan area residing in a rich coastal environment, offering meeting planners and attendees the best of both worlds when creating a unique event for the group. The new \$202.5 million Virginia Beach Convention Center, cost-efficient venues, uncrowded beaches and exciting attractions make Virginia Beach a popular, value destination in the meeting industry. For more information or images, visit www.vbmeetings.com or www.vbpressroom.com.

Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center

At the Virginia Aquarium, discover a distinctive venue for parties, special events, business functions and more! From an intimate, sit-down dinner for 20 of your closest friends to a cocktail reception for 2,000 of your best customers, the Virginia Aquarium can accommodate any event. And with nearly 700,000 gallons of aquariums and live animal habitats, more than 300 hands-on exhibits and a 3D IMAX Theater, your event is guaranteed to make a splash! For additional information, contact the Facility Coordinator at the Virginia Aquarium or visit www.virginiaaquarium.com.



Set Sail on Virginia's Jewel

Climb aboard *Virginia's Jewel*, a luxury charter, for a sea-faring adventure. These inland trips run from 31st Street to the Chesapeake Bay, offering the serenity of Virginia Beach's natural areas, while observing the city's historical landmarks. With two enclosed, climate-controlled decks, adequate open-air areas on each deck, plated and buffet meals and modifications for visitors with mobility impairments, visitors of all ages will enjoy *Virginia's Jewel*. To find additional information, visit www.virginiasjewel.com.



--more--

Schedule a meeting with Mother Nature

Get back to nature in Virginia Beach's state parks and wildlife refuges. Back Bay Wildlife Refuge (7,732 acres) is home to an assortment of wildlife, including threatened and endangered species such as loggerhead sea turtles, peregrine falcons, and bald eagles. A tranquil retreat, Back Bay features scenic trails and group educational opportunities. A small auditorium is available for pre-scheduled groups. To enjoy some down time, meeting participants can tour the park on a tram that runs during the summer months, and at select times during the winter months. For more information on Back Bay Wildlife Refuge, please visit www.vbfun.com.



First Landing State Park is Virginia's most popular state park, and boasts beautiful beaches, campgrounds and nature trails. The park is situated along the Chesapeake Bay and offers a variety of meeting facilities for any group. The Trail Center has a meeting room for up to 45 people and features exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the park. Private groups can hold their meetings in the outdoor amphitheatre which can accommodate up to 185 people. For more information on First Landing State Park, please visit www.vbfun.com

Relax, Rejuvenate and Refine

For an experience in holistic health, take a look at the Association for Research and Enlightenment (A.R.E.) Health and Rejuvenation Center. The A.R.E. is a not-for-profit organization, founded in 1931 by Edgar Cayce (1877-1945), who is considered the father of holistic health. Unique for meeting planners is the "Spa on the Spot" service, which includes custom-designed spa packages for groups. The 2-3 hour spa service packages include refreshing chair massage, foot reflexology, facials, hypnotherapy and yoga. What's more, A.R.E will bring the spa to you. The hotel ballroom or meeting room can be turned into a healthful, relaxation spa. For more information, please visit www.edgarcayce.org/spa.



The Founders Inn, a charming, Colonial-style inn offering 240 luxurious guest rooms and suites, has just opened the Flowering Almond Spa. The 10,000 square-foot facility features six treatment rooms, a private conservatory for relaxation and meditation, a fitness center and a heated indoor pool. Massage therapies include aromatherapy massage, deep tissue massage, sacred stone massage and reflexology. European facials, antioxidant vitamin C facials and caviar facials are also offered. Each spa service can be customized to accommodate groups of any size. The outdoor pool and seating area creates the perfect spot for a luncheon. For more information, please visit www.floweringalmondspa.com.



Channel Your Inner Pirate

Set sail on *Pieces of Eight*, an authentic pirate voyage, and explore the high seas on a 65-foot Spanish galleon style ship. The pirates - who are friendly, by the way - entertain during private charters scheduled from early spring through the end of fall. The pirate expedition also can accommodate catering, and features a full-service bar. For more information, please visit www.piecesofeight.com.

Historic Homes of Virginia

Take a step back in time and explore the historic Francis Land House or Adam Thoroughgood House. The Ferry Plantation House also offers a unique glimpse into the area's history. Near this site was the famous trial of Virginia's only convicted witch, Grace Sherwood. Experience a piece of American history and see how colonial Virginians lived. Houses are available for special events and receptions. Visit www.vbfun.com under "Historic Homes" for additional information.



Southern Elegance Meets Casual Charm

Situated along the Chesapeake Bay and the Lynnhaven River, Lesner Inn is a sophisticated catering club offering breathtaking waterside views. The inn's meeting and banquet rooms are perfect for smaller, intimate gatherings or larger, festive affairs. A full range of menu options including cocktails are available. For more information, visit www.lesnerinn.com.

Culinary Team Building

The Founders Inn is a premier meeting and conference center perfect for business retreats. When seeking to create an atmosphere of teamwork, the Founders Inn offers groups culinary team-building activities. The executive chef assigns each team a meal component to prepare, and they celebrate their success by enjoying their delicious concoction after the meal is completed. It's an unique setting for colleagues to work together to accomplish objectives. Culinary team building is offered Monday through Thursday and can accommodate nine to 45 participants. For more information, please visit www.foundersinn.com.



Contemporary Art Center of Virginia

Strolling through the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia, visitors enjoy paintings, sculptures, photography, glass, video and other visual media from internationally-acclaimed artists, as well as artists of national and regional renown. Located just six blocks from the oceanfront, the center hosts a variety of events, including corporate seminars, board meetings, fund-raisers, lectures, receptions and art auctions. Many organizations use the center's Price Auditorium to stage a variety of events, including dance, drama, poetry and music. For more information, visit www.cacv.org.

The Virginia Beach CVB invites meeting planners to "Bring it to the Beach!" Virginia Beach is four hours southeast of Washington, D.C. by car and within a day's drive or less from two-thirds of the U.S. population. For the latest information and project updates on the new Virginia Beach Convention Center, visit www.vbmeetings.com. Media information and digital images are available at www.vbpressroom.com.