

FREE
PRINTABLE
FIELD GUIDE


Tidal Keepsakes
COASTAL FIELD GUIDE SERIES


Tidal Keepsakes
Coastal Field
Guide Series

MARYLAND & DELAWARE BEACHES SHELL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Common Shells & Where to Find Them

Tidal Keepsakes

Timeless Coastal Keepsakes, Gathered by the Tide

INCLUDED BEACH GUIDES

- Assateague Island
National Seashore, MD
- Calvert Cliffs
State Park, MD
- Cape Henlopen
State Park, DE
- Lewes Beach, DE

Part of the Tidal Keepsakes
Regional Shell Guide Collection

Explore. Respect. Preserve.

Our beaches are treasures for future generations.



Pair this guide
with the
Tidal Keepsakes
Shell Discovery
Journal

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Shell Guides



ASSATEAGUE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE, MD

Shelling Guide

Tidal Keepsakes
Timeless Coastal Keepsakes, Gathered by the Tide

A guide for beachcombers of all ages

COMMON SHELLS YOU CAN FIND



WHELKS
(KNOBBED &
CHANNELLED)



MOON SNAILS
(SHARK'S EYE)



WAMPUM
(QUONIG
FRAGMENTS)



ATLANTIC
SURF CLAMS



JINGLE SHELLS
(TRANSLUCENT
GOLD-ORANGE)

WHERE TO FIND THEM



THE BEACH VIA RED TRAIL

Shelling is excellent
on ocean beaches
east of the trail
and near the



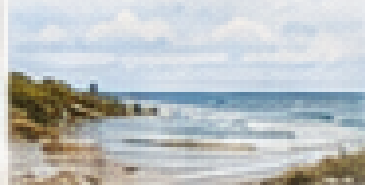
THE SUBT & TIDE LINE

With the shoreline
at low tide, the best
spots are often mixed
in with shell
fragments.



AFTER STORMS

Strong winds and high tides
uncover new shells on
the beach and in the
wrack line.



BEST TIME TO GO

Low tide is best,
especially in the
morning. Weekdays
are less crowded
and offer more time
to explore.



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Tidal Keepers
CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA & LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

CALVERT CLIFFS STATE PARK, MD

Shelling Guide

Timeless Coastal Keepers, Gathered by the Tide



A guide for beachcombers of all ages



COMMON SHELLS & FOSSILS YOU CAN FIND



CHESAPEAKE
(SCALLOPS)



EPHORA
(MD STATE FOSSIL)



GIANT
TREE OYSTERS



GLYCYMERIS
(CLAMS)



SILURIAN'S EYES
(MOON SNAILS)

WHERE TO FIND THEM



THE POINT

The western end of the park is one of the best spots for fossils and horseshoe crabs.



FISHING PIER

Look around the pier for Moon Snails, Atlantic Clams, and other interesting shells.



HERRING POINT

Known for eroded cliffs and fossil exposures after rain.



BEACHCOMBING TIPS



Timing

Low tide or right after low tide.



Seasonal Advantage

Spring and fall storms bring new shells and fossils to the shore.



Look for Green

Keep an eye out for green sand dollars and other unique finds.



Note

Leave the shells and fossils where they belong.



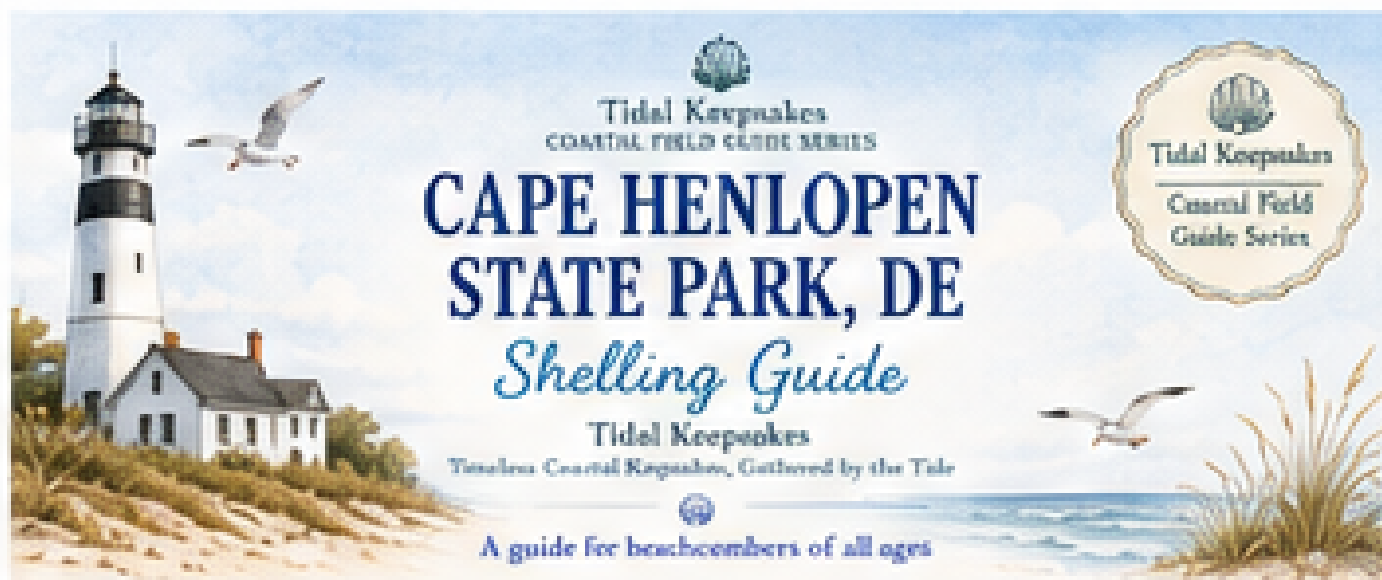
Pair this guide with the Tidal Keepers Shell Counting

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COMMON SHELLS YOU CAN FIND



KNOBBED & CHANNELLED WHELKS



WHELK EGG CASES



MOON SNAILS (SHARK'S EYES)



JINGLE SHELLS



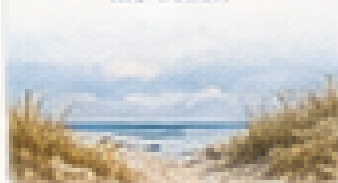
QUAHOGS & SURF CLAMS

WHERE TO FIND THEM



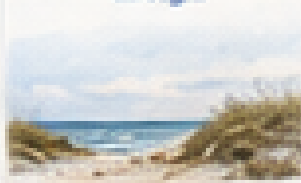
THE GULF (SOUTH) SIDE SHORELINE

Walk the beach near marsh for the clean sand against the dunes.



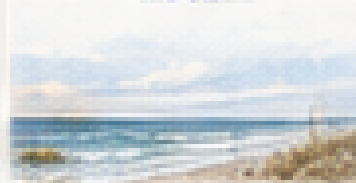
THE POINT

The "mother lode" location - walk the point and pick through.



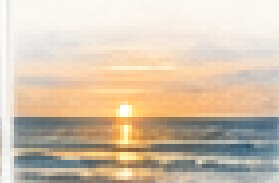
FERRY CUT (INDIAN RIVER INLET)

Look for strong tidal currents bringing in whelks, Moon Snails, and Clams.



BEST TIME TO GO

Low tide is best, especially in the morning.



BEACHCOMBING TIPS



Collection Limits

Up to one gallon of unoccupied shells per person per day.



Check the Wrack Line

That's where the best finds live!



After Storms

New shells and egg cases are more common.



Tools Help

Bring a small sifter or sieve to help find tiny treasures.



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DELAWARE SEASHORE STATE PARK

Shell Identification Guide

A guide for beachcombers of all ages

COMMON SHELLS YOU CAN FIND



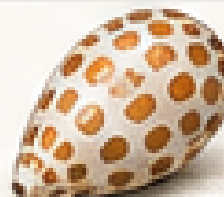
CHANNELLED
WHELK



KNOBBED
WHELK



MOON SNAILS
(MARB'S ETE)



ATLANTIC
SCALLOPS



OYSTERS

WHERE TO FIND THEM

BROADKILL SOUTH OF THE TOWERS

Great for whelks,
clams, and surf
clams along the
open beach.



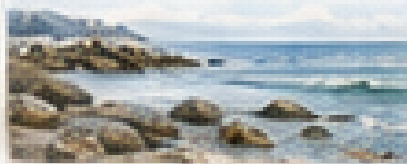
INDIAN INLET

Strong currents bring in
Moon Snails, Quailings,
and other larger
shells.



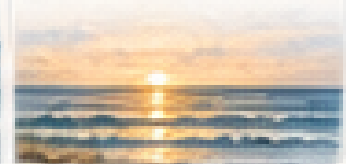
ROOSEVELT INLET & JETTY AREA

Land near the rocks
and jetties for whelks,
oysters, and
surf clams.



BEST TIME TO GO

1-2 hours after low
tide is ideal for
finding shells on
the wet sand.



BEACHCOMBING TIPS



Walk North or South

Explore both
directions along
the beach.



CHECK THE WILDCR LINE

Shells collect in
the seaweed
and debris.



After Storms

High tides and storms
bring in new shells
and egg cases.



RESPECT WILDLIFE

Leave shells
and animals
where they
belong.



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LEWES BEACH, DE

Shell Identification Guide

Timeless Caskets & Nerfakes, Come Thru

A guide for beachcombers of all ages

COMMON SHELLS YOU CAN FIND



MOON SNAILS
(SHARK'S EYE)



ATLANTIC BAY
SCALLOPS



SLIPPER
SNAILS



SEA
GLASS



QUAHOGS &
CLAMS

WHERE TO FIND THEM

THE BEACH

Walk the shoreline
at low tide for
whelks, shells,
scallops, and



THE JETTIES

Look around and
beyond the rocks
for whelks, clams,
and sea glass.



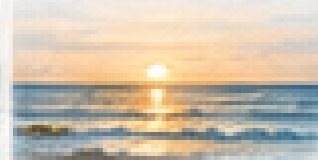
TIDE POOLS AT LOW TIDE

Check shallow pools
near the rocks
for tiny shells
and surprises.



BEST TIME TO GO

Low tide is
especially in
the morning.



BEACHCOMBING TIPS



Bring a Sifter

Helps you find
small shells and
sea glass.



Walk Slowly at Low Tide

The wet sand
hides the best
and the
freshest finds.



LOOK AFTER

New shells and
sea glass are
often found.



Leave Live Animals

Keep our beaches
natural and
beautiful.



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OCEAN CITY BEACH, MD

Shell Identification Guide

Timeless Coastal Keepsakes, Gathered Free

A guide for beachcombers of all ages

COMMON SHELLS YOU CAN FIND



WHELK
SHELLS



MOON SNAILS
(SILARK'S EYE)



ATLANTIC BAY
SCALLOPS



COCKLE
SHELLS



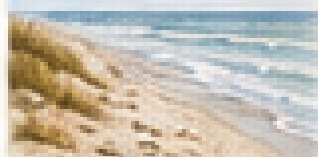
SEA
GLASS

WHERE TO FIND THEM



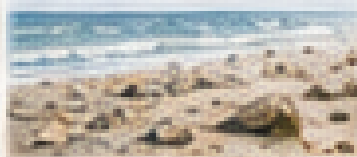
NORTH OC BEACH

Less crowded
and great for
finding larger
shells.



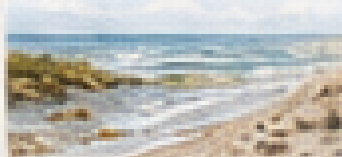
MIDTOWN BEACH

Avoid deep cuts
alongside at
low tide.



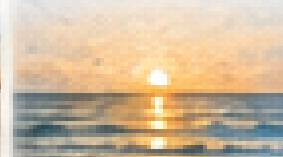
SOUTH OC BEACH

Walk past the
water's edge
for the best
finds.



BEST TIME TO GO

Low tide is the
morning
best.



BEACHCOMBING TIPS



Walk the Waxline

The wet sand
holds the best
fresh shells.



Check the Wreck LINE

Shells collect in
the seaweed
and debris.



After Storms

New shells and
sea glass are
more common.



Use a Sifter

Helps find tiny
shells and
hidden gems.



Pick this guide
with the
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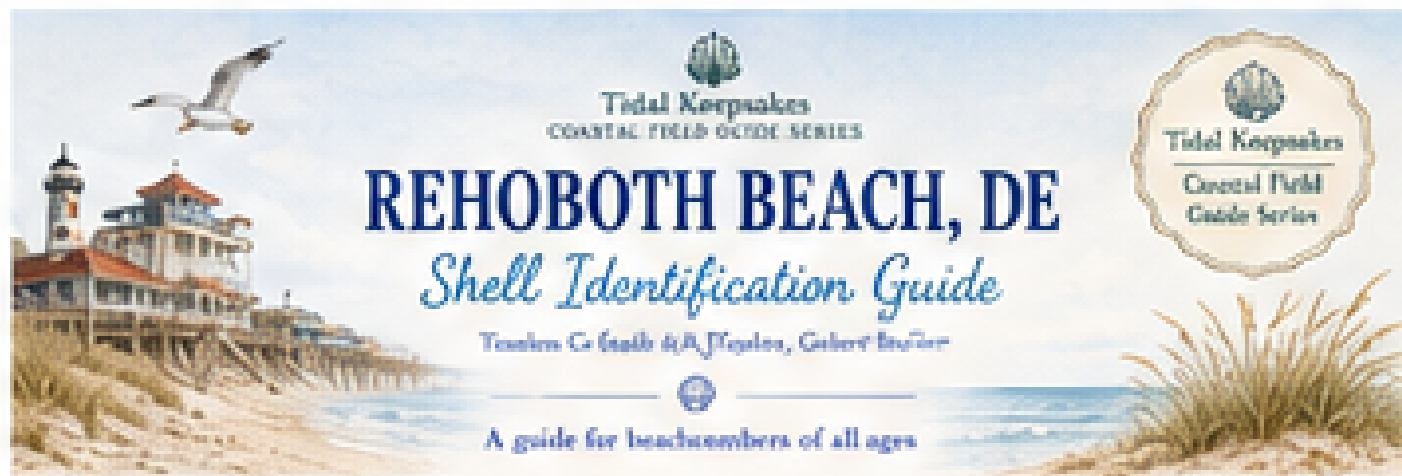
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COMMON SHELLS YOU CAN FIND



MOON SNAILS
(SHARK'S EYE)



JINGLE
SHELLS



ATLANTIC BAY
SCALLOPS



QUAHOGS &
CLAMS



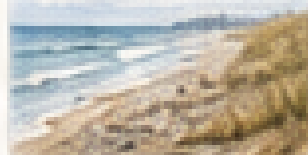
SEA
GLASS

WHERE TO FIND THEM



NORTH OF THE BOARDWALK

Walk along the shore for the best finds in street shells.



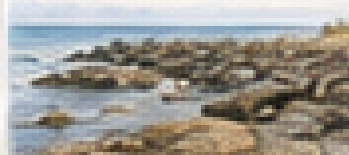
BEHIND THE BREAKWATERS

Look near the rocks for whelks and clams.



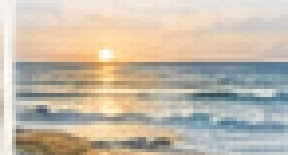
TIDE POOLS AT LOW TIDE

Small shells and sea creatures hide here.



BEST TIME TO GO

Low tide in the morning is best.



BEACHCOMBING TIPS



Walk the Shoreline

The wet sand holds the best fresh shells.



Check the Wreck Line

Shells collect in the seaweed and debris.



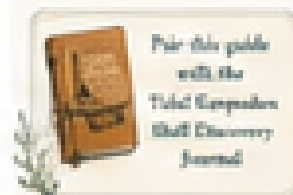
After Storms

New shells and sea glass are more common.



Leave Live Shells

Keep live shells in the water.



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