Assateague Island National Seashore

U.S. Department of the Interior

Assateague Island National Seashore News Release

7206 National Seashore Ln

Berlin, MD 21811

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)/asis



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Assateague Island National Seashore Proposes the NPS Standardized Fees for Non-commercial Groups

The National Park Service proposes a possible fee increase in 2018 for non-commercial groups visiting the park by bus. This change is in response to the service-wide effort to standardize entrance fees. The proposed increase will have relatively low impact to the majority of park visitors. Of the 2.3 million people who visit Assateague annually, only 134 individuals were charged this entrance fee type in 2017 (year-to-date), which is below the past three year average of only 368 individuals annually.

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| **Entrance Fee Type** | **Current** | **Proposed** |
| 7-day Per Person Pass | $5 | $10 |

Entrance fees for non-commercial groups visiting the park by bus are not charged to persons under 16 years of age or to holders of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Senior, Access, Military, and Every Kid in a Park (4th grade) Passes. These passes may be obtained at the Park.

“We certainly want to keep recreational use of the park affordable” said Park Superintendent Deborah Darden, “and with this change we will keep our prices in line with other National Seashores around the country.” Darden also commented that, “Eighty percent of the money collected from entrance and camping fees stays right here at Assateague to improve facilities, infrastructure, and visitor services.”

“We invite the public to share their thoughts and comments” stated Superintendent Darden. Comments can be submitted to the online NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ASISFeeIncrease before January 19, 2018.

Alternatively, written comments can be mailed to the address below:

Superintendent Deborah Darden

ATTN: Fee Change Comments

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Comments submitted by mail or email are welcome at any time; however, to be part of the evaluation for the proposal for the fee change they should be received no later than January 19, 2018. If you have any questions about the proposed changes to the entrance fees, please contact Ryan McKelvey, Fee Business Manager, at (410) 629-6096.

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