

destinations = MARYLAND

Maryland boasts some 3,000 miles of waterfront, including scenic Assateague Island.

## Good Things, Small Packages

*Maryland may not be that big, but that just means your group can cover more ground, exploring its many and diverse attractions—from boardwalks to battlefields—along the way.* **BY ANN COCHRAN**

**F**or such a small state—it's 42nd in landmass—Maryland offers impressive diversity. History comes alive through the "Star-Spangled Banner" story, Civil War Trails, and Underground Railroad network. Its four seasons of recreational pursuits include sailing, fishing, golfing, and skiing, as well as hiking the Appalachian Trail. Maryland is home to horse racing's Preakness Stakes, and the Orioles play baseball in the much-acclaimed Camden Yards, which blends beautifully into the urban landscape of downtown Baltimore.

Water has much to do with Maryland's identity. The state has only 31 miles of Atlantic coastline, but more than 3,000 Maryland miles run along rivers and bays. Of its 23 counties, residents in 16 can have water views.

Annapolis and Baltimore grew around significant harbors.

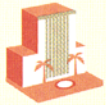
Maryland's culinary trademark is delectable blue crab, often sprinkled with Old Bay, a spicy seasoning created in the Chesapeake Bay region back in the 1940s. Crabs are a recurring theme here: A few decades ago, in whimsical response to the "Virginia is for Lovers" ad campaign, T-shirts emblazoned with "Maryland is for Crabs" appeared. But crab, clam, and oyster harvests are serious business, providing livelihoods for generations of Maryland watermen and women.

### **Baltimore**

Baltimore was founded in 1729 and quickly became an important ship-building center. By 1860, it was the third largest city in the nation; today it's 13th. Baltimore got no respect for a

### **ValueAdd**

- ▶ The Hagerstown-Washington County CVB is offering a **\$100 fuel card** for booking a minimum of 15 overnight sleeping rooms. Contact: Betsy DeVore, (888) 257-2600, ext. 14.
- ▶ For all-day unlimited service around Baltimore's Inner Harbor, seek out Ed Kane's Water Taxis for a **special promotion for groups of 20 or more**. Contact: Cammie Kane, (800) 658-8947.
- ▶ Harrison Group Hotels, with 10 hotels in Ocean City, offers **free tour planning, step-on guides, and welcome reception** for motorcoach groups. They are also offering an extra comp room per group booking. Contact: Group Sales, (800) 399-6820.
- ▶ The Annapolis & Anne Arundel County CVB has added a special section to its website for **group deals**: [www.visit-annapolis.org/groups/cool-specials/index.aspx](http://www.visit-annapolis.org/groups/cool-specials/index.aspx).



## Hotel & Dining OPTIONS

### LODGING

**Baltimore Marriott Waterfront**, Baltimore, (800) 228-9290, [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com). With great weekend deals, one of the newest additions to the harbor offers convenience, an indoor pool, and water views from many of its 700 rooms.

**Inn at Perry Cabin**, St. Michaels, (866) 278-9601, [www.perrycabin.com](http://www.perrycabin.com). One of the most luxurious and pristine inns in the state, Perry Cabin is an Orient Express property that lives up to the brand with perfect service, a divine spa, and amazing cuisine. If you can afford to splurge, do it here.

**Rocky Gap Lodge & Golf Resort**, Flintstone, (800) 724-0828, [www.rockygapresort.com](http://www.rockygapresort.com). Located in Rocky Gap State Park, Maryland's only four-season resort is a great value. It has a small spa, indoor pool, Jack Nicklaus golf course, boating, and fishing. The Maryland Park Service Aviary is nearby.



### DINING

**Brewer's Alley Restaurant & Brewery**, Frederick, (301) 631-0089, [www.brewers-alley.com](http://www.brewers-alley.com). In a brick building that has been the town hall, a market, and opera house, waiters deliver huge "BLTCs": applewood smoked bacon, lettuce, vine-ripened tomato, and pepper-jack cheese on toasted brioche.

**Fager's Island Restaurant**, Ocean City, (410) 524-5500, [www.fagers.com](http://www.fagers.com). Listen to the "1812 Overture" daily as the sun sets on the bay. Prime rib is as popular as seafood; Steak and Cake (crab, of course) gives diners the best of both worlds.

**Redwood**, Bethesda, (301) 656-5515, [www.redwoodbethesda.com](http://www.redwoodbethesda.com). Real bark on the walls announces the organic dedication of this striking new 7,500-square-foot restaurant on Bethesda Lane, a cobblestoned street closed to traffic and lined with boutiques, home design shops, and a gelato parlor. Contemporary American cuisine is as farm-to-table as possible.



Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association

while, but a gangbusters revitalization in the late 1970s changed all that. The sparkling **Inner Harbor**, a major seaport since the 1700s, offers shops and snacks, tours of the **USS Constellation** (the only Civil War ship still floating), and a World War II submarine.

Sharks, dolphins, stingrays, sea turtles, and other aquatic species reside at the **National Aquarium**. In its 4D Immersion Theater, the audience gets high-def sound with added special effects like real mist and wind. Also in the harbor is the hands-on **Maryland Science Center**.

On the east side of the harbor is the **Frederick Douglas-Isaac Myers Maritime Park**, a cultural center with working shipyard dedicated to African-American maritime history. To the west is **Geppi's Entertainment Museum**, which traces pop culture from the late 1700s to today through toys, dolls, and comics. The adjoining **Sports Legends Museum** focuses on regional athletics: lacrosse, Babe Ruth, the Negro Leagues, Cal Ripkin, and Seabiscuit. These museums are at **Camden Yards**, where the Orioles play baseball. Ravens football is based at nearby **M&T Bank Stadium**. For horse racing, cheer on your favorite filly at **Pimlico Race Course**, the home of the Preakness Stakes.

Cultural types walk through 55 centuries of art at the well-edited **Walters Art Museum**. Picasso and Cezanne are highlights at the **Baltimore Museum of Art**, which has a vast modern art collection and one of the

largest outdoor sculpture gardens in the country. The **American Visionary Art Museum** exhibits the work of untrained artists who have plenty of talent and point of view.

A recent two-year restoration brightened the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption**, the first Roman Catholic cathedral in the U.S., which was built in 1821 by premier architect Benjamin Latrobe. Tours of the neoclassical masterpiece are offered daily, concerts occasionally.

Don't miss the **Fort McHenry National Shrine and Monument**, bombed by the British in 1814. Inspired by America's victory, a young attorney named Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner," which is on display at the **Maryland Historical Society Museum**.

At some point, hit **Little Italy** for lasagna and tiramisu. In one of the nation's oldest waterfront communities, **Fell's Point**, evening ghost tours are appropriate for groups of all ages. For more traditional entertainment, Baltimore hosts its own symphony and opera company.

### Annapolis

Maryland's state capital has more 18th-century structures than any other city in the U.S. Settled in 1649 by Virginia Puritans seeking religious freedom, Annapolis had become a world port by 1695. A diorama in the **Historic Annapolis Foundation** depicts its colonial appearance.

The **U.S. Naval Academy** has been



Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association

From left: Prehistoric creatures on the prowl at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore; the poignant Alex Haley Memorial in Annapolis; the tranquil gardens of Annapolis' William Paca House; a pair of cyclists admiring the view in Baltimore.

synonymous with Annapolis since 1845. Models and exhibits in the Academy's museum tell the story of the Navy from its earliest days to the present. The guided campus tours are excellent.

African-Americans played an important role in Annapolis history. Their story is told at the **Banneker-Douglass Museum**, housed in a former Victorian-gothic church. At the **City Dock**, there's a statue of Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*, and a plaque memorializing the arrival of a slave named Kunta Kinte, his ancestor.

Touring historic homes isn't unusual, but here you can find three whose owners are among those who signed the Declaration of Independence: William Paca, Charles Carroll, and Samuel Chase. At another, Frederick Douglass' summer home, now the **Frederick Douglass Museum and Cultural Center**, docents provide significant information on the man and his community, and you'll enjoy a lovely water view.

Shopping is tempting in Annapolis. Buy classic pink-and-green prep near the City Dock at the **Pink Crab** or go trendy at **Sitting Pretty** on nearby **Maryland Avenue**, a street lined with antique shops and art galleries.

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Walking around town can get tiring. To fortify your group, grab some fresh fish at **Phillips Seafood**, or grab a sandwich where the state legislators do, at **Chick & Ruth's Delly**. Afterward, enjoy homemade ice cream at the **Annapolis Ice Cream Company**.

### Montgomery County

In the past 10 years, Chevy Chase and Bethesda, Montgomery County's southernmost cities, have given D.C. a run for its money with an explosion of restaurants and retail therapy opportunities. **The Collection at Chevy Chase** is Maryland's version of Manhattan's Fifth Avenue. The glass, metal, and marble storefronts of Chanel, Dior, Jimmy Choo, Tiffany, and the like have received much media attention, but there's something for every bud-

get in the neighborhood thanks to stores like Filene's Basement, Stein Mart, and Loehmann's.

Bethesda has nearly 200 restaurants and an impressive roster of events and festivals that includes the Taste of Bethesda, the respected Bethesda Literary Festival, and a free summer concert series. The newly completed **Bethesda Lane** is a pedestrian arcade reminiscent of Italian hill towns.

Nature lovers walk the grounds of **Woodend**, the Audubon Naturalist Society sanctuary, or hike the **Billy Goat Trail** overlooking Great Falls on the Potomac. The only ferry remaining on the river is at White's Ferry, farther north, where General Lee's army crossed on their way to Gettysburg. **Glen Echo** is the home of Clara Barton, who founded the American Red

Cross in 1881, and its park is famous for the restored antique carousel.

### Frederick County

Vineyards, farms, and covered bridges define Frederick County, whose land is in the Appalachian Mountains and Piedmont Plateau. **Lilypons Water Gardens** in Buckeystown is the largest water garden in the U.S., and the little town of New Market is considered the antiques capital of Maryland. Emmitsburg is home to the **National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**, the first American-born saint. The oldest building in the county is a German farmhouse called the **Schifferstadt Architectural Museum**. Civil War history includes the **Barbara Fritchie House and Museum**, the **National Museum of Civil War Medicine**, and **Monocacy**

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**National Battlefield**, the site of an encounter that played a pivotal role in defending Washington, D.C. in 1864.

The heart of the county is the city of Frederick. Its 50-block historic district is known for its 18th- and 19th-century architecture, church spires, historic sites, specialty shops, restaurants, and cultural offerings. Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," was born and buried here.

A visit to Frederick wouldn't be complete without a stop at the **Community Bridge**. One of America's leading muralists, William Cochran, and 10 assistants painted an entire concrete bridge by hand, using advanced trompe l'oeil techniques, creating an illusion of an old stone bridge. Mysterious "carvings" in the stones represent symbols and stories contributed

by thousands as part of the project.

It's great to time a visit here with the year-round **First Saturday Gallery Walks**, when restaurants, galleries, and shops stay open late, and there's live entertainment. But you don't have to visit then to be entertained. The **Weinberg Center for the Arts** hosts music, dance, and theater in a 1926 movie palace. Three other theater companies make their homes in Frederick: the **Maryland Shakespeare Festival**, **Maryland Ensemble Theatre**, and **Fredericktowne Players**. For more-tangible art you can take home, there's the **Delaplaine Visual Arts Center**, a 30,000-square-foot gallery that showcases and sells locally produced pieces.

If there's time and interest among your group, three area wineries offer

tours: **Berrywine/Linganore**, **Elk Run**, and **Loew Vineyards**.

## Washington County and Hagerstown

In Washington County, history begins 350 million years ago in a wall of rock called **Sideling Hill**. Don't just drive by; tour the four-story exhibit center. Maryland's gateway to the West—the **Historic National Road**—was paved in the early 19th century from Baltimore to the Mason-Dixon line (at Keyser's Ridge in western Maryland). The C&O Canal and the railroad also played major roles in transportation history, traced in two C&O Canal museums and the **Hagerstown Roundhouse Museum**.

In Sharpsburg, rangers guide groups through **Antietam National**

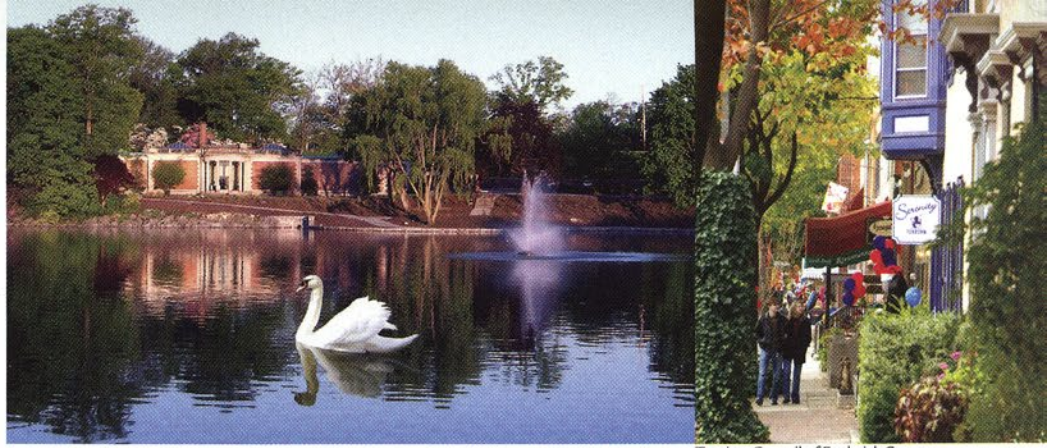


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From left: A bucolic spot in Hagerstown's City Park; window-shopping on Frederick's historic East Patrick Street; a performance by the renowned Maryland Symphony Orchestra at the Maryland Theatre in Hagerstown; alfresco dining on Bethesda Row; lining up a shot at one of Ocean City's mini golf courses; out for a stroll along the Atlantic in Ocean City.



Tourism Council of Frederick County

**Battlefield**, site of the bloodiest day of the Civil War. About 40 minutes away, costumed interpreters are on hand at **Fort Frederick**, built during the French and Indian War and restored to its 1756 appearance.

Hagerstown, the county seat, was a primary staging and supply center during the Civil War. History is preserved here, but the town also has a vibrant arts and culture vibe. The collection at the **Washington County Museum of Fine Arts** includes Rodin and Picasso, but national and regional artists as well. Live entertainment is

scheduled at the beautifully restored 1915 **Maryland Theatre** year-round.

Step back in time at the **Hager House and Museum**, where the founder of the town once lived. A surprising number of original furnishings and personal belongings grace the home, built over two springs to ensure an everlasting water supply. Also tour nearby **Miller House and Gardens**, preserved to 1825 perfection and surrounded by period plantings.

Bringing home local culture can start with quilt shopping at **Wilson's Your Favorite Quilt Shop**. The week-

end **Farmer's Market** is a great place to buy regional crafts. There are quite a few clusters of antiques shops in the county, but one of the best known is four miles from Hagerstown in Funkstown, which has preserved the facades of numerous Civil War-era houses.

Groups love Hagerstown's **Schman-kerl Stube** for its Bavaria-in-America food, beer, and servers' dress. **Duffy's on the Potomac** is a sharp contrast, with modern American cuisine served in a sleek, sophisticated environment.

## Ocean City

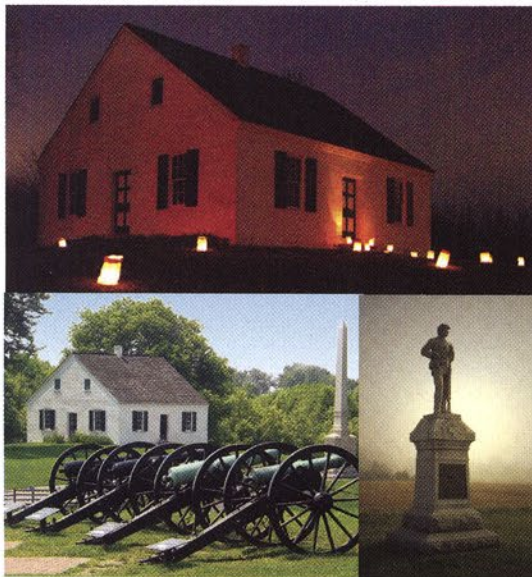
Ten miles of white-sand beaches and a classic three-mile boardwalk lined with hotels, restaurants, ice cream parlors, rides, and shops make Ocean City one of the most popular beaches on the East Coast.

Activities for groups, families, and kids are endless here: There's miniature golf, parasailing, kayaking, water-parks, skateboard parks, laser tag, and indoor ice skating. There are volleyball nets on the beach, batting cages, and a Wild West theme park. There are also more than a dozen golf courses within a reasonable drive. Sundaes in the Park (ice cream with music), Wednesday beach concerts, and Thursday bonfires add to a perfect beach getaway.

For a high-quality guilty snack, we all scream for the homemade ice cream at **Dumser's Dairyland**, which also serves burgers and subs. **Sneaky Pete's** is known for its "open bar" (one wall is open to Assawoman Bay) and their all-you-can-eat crabs and corn special.

A great side trip from Ocean City is **Assateague**, where a wild pony population has roamed for hundreds of years. The 37-mile shoreline of this

## Can't Miss This ... ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD MEMORIAL ILLUMINATION



Here, on the first Saturday evening in December, more than 23,000 luminarias are lit to honor the soldiers, both Union and Confederate, who died, were wounded, or went missing during the single bloodiest day of the Civil War: the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. The battlefield is toured in darkness except for the candles. At the top of the hill, the panorama

widens and the candles seem to stretch into eternity. The five-mile drive takes approximately 30 minutes. Contributions are accepted at this free event, where motorcoaches go to the head of the line. [www.nps.gov/anti/planyourvisit/luminary.htm](http://www.nps.gov/anti/planyourvisit/luminary.htm)



CVB of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

barrier island is protected from development by National Seashore status. **Discovery Cruises** employs naturalists as guides to the coastal ecosystem and the wild ponies.

### St. Michaels

Quaint towns on the eastern shore embrace the traditional, but some are reluctantly becoming trendy. Talbot County is the region's biggest tourist destination, and St. Michaels is Talbot's golden child. Many of D.C.'s

elite have getaways here. Scooped out of nearby waters, seafood dominates most menus. Along **Talbot Street**, the main promenade, fashionable clothing, jewelry, art, and antique shops appeal to the well-heeled. Hollywood filmmakers are drawn to the marinas and soft landscapes, where herons and osprey coexist with 1,200 or so year-round residents.

To get a slow view of St. Michaels, follow the **St. Mary's Square Museum** walking tour of the historic streets.

Boat tours provide another perspective, since multimillion-dollar homes put their best side to Miles River and Leeds Creek. Captain Ed Farley takes groups out on his authentic skipjack—the state boat that has been used for oystering for generations.

The 18-acre waterfront **Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum** possesses the nation's most complete collection of bay artifacts and visual arts, as well as the largest group of indigenous watercraft in existence. **GTP**

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