

Around Antietam

Established in 1776 and named for Gen. George Washington, 458-square-mile **Washington County, Maryland**, is—no surprise—pure Americana. Its road, canal, and railroad furthered westward expansion. Numerous parks provide green space along with hiking, biking, fishing, and canoeing during three seasons. And in the winter, on December's first Saturday, Antietam National Battlefield glows with 23,110 luminaria that honor Union and Confederate casualties of the bloodiest one-day battle in American history.

In Hagerstown, county seat and Civil War supply center, the Hager House and Museum's period furnishings and tools illustrate frontier life. Antique-hunt in Funkstown: Hudson House Galleries trades in museum-quality pieces; Valley Antiques, a collection of dealers, offers an eclectic mix of merchandise.

At the end of the day, chain hotels like Hilton's Homewood Suites provide full service at low prices. Small town Boonsboro boasts the area's only boutique hotel. Novelist Nora Roberts's Inn BoonsBoro inhabits a 1790s stone building. Duffy's on Potomac serves modern American fare in a sleek space. Picnic provisions and regional crafts are sold at Hagerstown's Farmers Market. In Boonsboro, Crawford Confectionery sells candy, but lunch counter gossip is free. —ANN COCHRAN

LOGISTICS: Washington County, www.marylandmemories.org, is a 90-minute drive from Washington, D.C. Inn BoonsBoro, from \$220, www.innboonsboro.com; Hilton Homewood Suites, from \$109, www.homewoodsuites.com. Antietam National Battlefield, www.nps.gov/anti/planyourvisit.htm. Duffy's on Potomac, www.duffysonpotomac.com.

Antietam National Battlefield, quiet under snow.

