



A little about Maryland

Maryland has been called “Little America” due to the wide range of environmental differences we have from north to south, east to west; variety and choice is our way of life. We embrace our history and proudly show it off as part of our culture. Geography wise Maryland is one of the smallest states but just as conversely we have more miles of shoreline. I read recently that Maryland is the most affluent of any other state in America due to the higher income per capita. Those figures must be old- it does not feel like money; it feels like county and city mixed with crab and beer. We welcome you all to our world.

In 1607 & 1608 Captain John Smith traveled Virginia and Maryland and his maps are recognized as one of the first detailed descriptions of Maryland’s shores and Native American tribe locations. He traveled up the Potomac River to the Anacostia River and traveled up and down the Chesapeake exploring the eastern shore and up into the Susquehanna River.

St. Mary's City was the first (i.e. St. Clement's Island), where the first colonists of Maryland landed) and largest site of the original Maryland colony, and was the seat of the colonial government until 1695, when the capitol was moved to Annapolis. St Mary's is now a state-owned archaeological site and museum adjacent to St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Maryland was one of the original thirteen Colonies that started America. and Maryland was the seventh state to ratify the United States Constitution. For a brief moment in time, Annapolis was the Nation’s Capital city. Annapolis became the temporary capital of the United States after the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Congress was in session in the state house from November 26, 1783 to June 3, 1784, and it was in Annapolis on December 23, 1783, that General Washington resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army to run for election as the president as a civilian.

In 1791 both Maryland and Virginia gave up land to create a separate area for the District of Columbia. The land from Virginia was given back. We have been cat fighting ever since.

In 1814, during the British attempt to capture Baltimore, the bombardment of Fort McHenry inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner." The British invasion off the coast of Maryland and attempt to march soldiers into Baltimore is still the largest invasion of a foreign country into America. (The British officers were picked off by snipers shooters and the whole army retreated back to their ships and tried attacking down in New Orleans instead.)

Maryland State is subdivided into twenty-four sections; 23 counties and Baltimore City. Each County has its own local government and ideas on how to run its own shoreline. In the last few years we have seen Counties combine with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the National Park Service to share costs and responsibilities for boating access.

The State is usually subdivided into geographical regions. The counties farthest to the west bordering along the Mason-Dixon line with Pennsylvania and Virginia are in our Northern region. We have a Central region, which include the most populous counties. A Southern region, and the Eastern-Shore region.

Some of the best Maryland kayaking is done in our major reservoirs. We have five that are noteworthy. We have tried to show off some of the well-known waterway sites but tried to concentrate on areas other adventure books have not covered. Our Chesapeake Bay has always been a magnet for writers but for weekend recreational boaters the open water is sometimes just a bit too rough. Due to the Chesapeake Bay and the many estuaries and rivers along our western and eastern shores, Maryland has one of the longest waterfronts of any state. The Bay, as an estuary, produces more seafood - oysters, crabs, clams, finfish - than any comparable body of water in the United States. In 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Protection Executive Order that called on the federal government "to restore and protect the nation's largest estuary and its watershed."