

STORIES OF MARYLAND'S

CHESAPEAKE BAY

A COLLECTION OF MEMORIES, MOMENTS, AND INSPIRATION



GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN INVITES YOU TO TOUR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

Hello, friends –

One of the best and most important parts of my job as Maryland’s governor is sharing our state’s unique stories, and if there is one story at Maryland’s heart, it’s the Chesapeake Bay. *Stories of Maryland’s Chesapeake Bay* can help chart your course along this national treasure. Running through the center of Maryland, this majestic waterway connects our cities and towns, forests and fields, mountains and sea. Marylanders have a deep connection to the Chesapeake Bay, and we invite you to join us in exploring all the bay has to offer.



This guide includes stunning photography that captures the remarkable beauty of the bay. Through their inspiring words, you will also meet our true bay storytellers—women and men who have worked the Chesapeake and love these waters so deeply that they’ve dedicated their lives to sharing its stories. They have studied and trained to better understand the science of the bay and the long history that has bound Marylanders to this great body of water for centuries. Now they stand ready and waiting to welcome you aboard and guide you on your journey.

Let these stories draw you to a place where you experience the true beauty and traditions of the bay. Consider spending a day with a waterman pulling crab pots, joining a charter boat captain out for rockfish, or going on a fossil hunt to uncover prehistoric megalodon teeth. Perhaps spend a day paddling the open shoreline of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, meandering through the sheltered waters of Baltimore Harbor, or exploring the famous Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay, a National Marine Sanctuary. Perhaps after your visit you will want to write your own Chesapeake Bay story.

Larry Hogan
Governor



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WELCOMES YOU TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

Here in the Chesapeake, the bay and its rivers influence and inspire our culture, our economy, and our recreational pursuits. Whether you are a first-time visitor or a lifelong resident, there is so much to explore on the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary and a national treasure.

There is something for everyone in the Chesapeake. For nature lovers, the Chesapeake Bay watershed sustains some 900 animal and fish species and 2,700 plant species. Reeling in a great catch, watching an osprey glide across the water, and paddling a narrow creek are some of our favorite Chesapeake experiences. The Chesapeake is also one of the largest restoration and stewardship efforts in the world. It's an effort that needs all of us to take care of this special place.

For history buffs, these shores are where much of our nation's history has taken place—from supporting indigenous lifeways and settlements for tens of thousands of years to allowing important movements for freedom and civil rights in more recent ones. Some of the stories are painful. Many are thrilling and still unfolding. We urge everyone to learn more about America's past and present here in the Chesapeake.

What better way to connect with the stories of the Chesapeake than with professional storytellers? The National Park Service is proud to partner with the Maryland Office of Tourism to bring you this guide to Chesapeake Bay Storyteller experiences—guides trained to provide fun, authentic, and memorable visits. From the bay's people and places to its ecology, history and stewardship, we hope you will be inspired by Chesapeake stories too.

Wendy O'Sullivan
National Park Service
Chesapeake Gateways Network



Cover Photo: Skipjack sailing (Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum)

Back Cover Photo: Great Blue Heron looking out over the Chesapeake Bay (Flownaksala)

**PATUXENT RIVER
Calvert County**

Photo: Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program



GET TO KNOW OUR CHESAPEAKE BAY STORYTELLERS

Connect with the bay in a new way. Team up with one of our certified Chesapeake Bay Storytellers for a tour like no other. These people are experts in all things Chesapeake Bay—from its history and ecology to bay culture and watermen’s heritage. Peek into their world with the stories shared throughout this guide, then join them on an unforgettable journey during your next visit to Maryland. Soon you’ll be sharing your own story of the Chesapeake Bay.

For a full list of Chesapeake Bay Storytellers, see page 32.





LOG CANOE SAILING
St. Michaels



Photos: Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

MUSEUMS OF THE BAY

Our museums translate Chesapeake Bay history and heritage into immersive and wondrous stories for all to enjoy. Get a look at the life of a waterman, explore the inner workings of a lighthouse, and admire the remarkable artistry and craftsmanship of traditional Maryland decoy carvers—all at unforgettable Chesapeake Bay museums.

Learn more at visitmaryland.org/list/marylands-maritime-museums.



CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM
St. Michaels



CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM



CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM
St. Michaels

STORYTELLER

“People come who’ve lived their whole lives here...there’s something powerful about seeing yourself represented in the museum. Those moments—the exhibits, the artifacts, the vessels—are really just tools for people to connect and to share their humanity. It’s rewarding and so much fun!”

Jill Ferris
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels tells countless stories. But for Chesapeake Bay Storyteller and education director Jill Ferris, the museum’s working shipyard, vintage sailing outings, and hands-on history aren’t about telling well-worn tales, they’re about helping visitors forge their own Chesapeake stories.

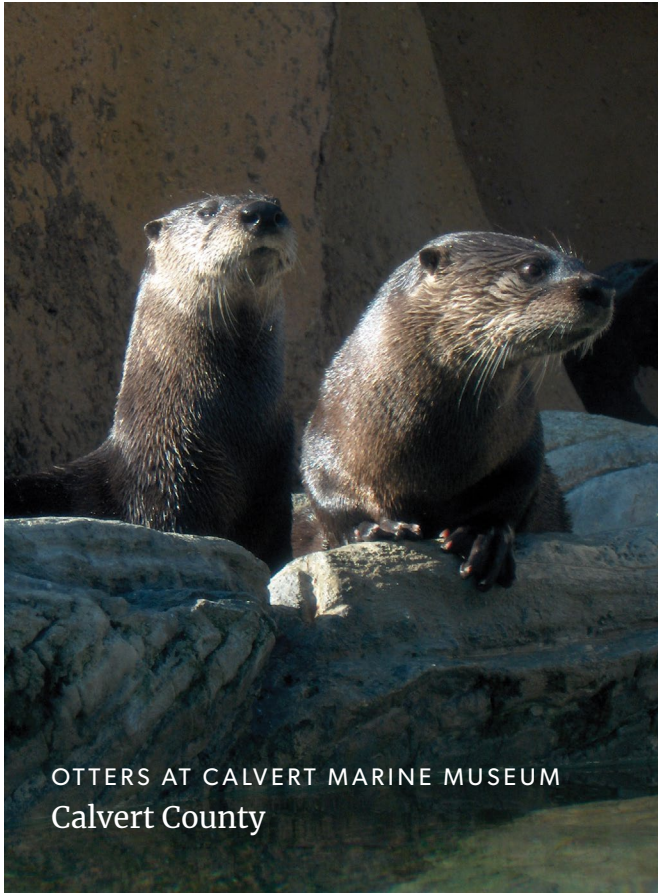


CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM
St. Michaels

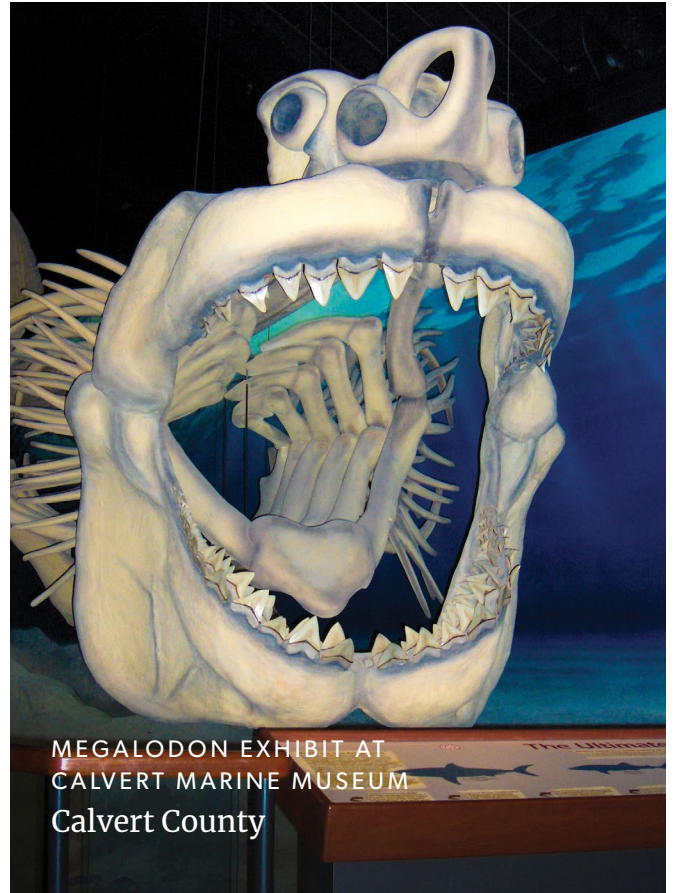


CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM
St. Michaels

Photos: Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum



OTTERS AT CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM
Calvert County



MEGALODON EXHIBIT AT
CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM
Calvert County



CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM
Calvert County

CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM



CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM
Calvert County

The Calvert Marine Museum is home to sharks and otters, an explorable lighthouse, hands-on fossil digs, historic Chesapeake boat excursions, and—of course—the famously massive megalodon shark skeleton. Chesapeake Bay Storyteller Melinda Quinn loves sharing the joy of learning that runs so deep in this amazing place.

STORYTELLER

“Where else can you play with horseshoe crabs, terrapins, and otters all in the same day?... It’s my chance to introduce everybody to the animals I fell in love with on the bay. And at least once a day I can get someone to say, ‘Oh my gosh, I never knew that!’ ”

*Melinda Quinn
Calvert Marine Museum*



WATERMARK JOURNEY



WATERMARK JOURNEY
Annapolis

STORYTELLER

“When you’re on a tour boat... you can see it in people’s eyes. It really clicks how awesome the Chesapeake Bay is. Kids get to throw oyster spats over into the reef, and you can see the lightbulb come on. That’s exciting to me.”

*Captain Scott Bierman
Watermark Journey*

Whether it’s a water taxi ride across the Severn River, a guided cruise, or a private yacht charter, outfitters like Watermark make experiencing the bay easy. And with certified Chesapeake Bay Storyteller Captain Scott Bierman at the helm, you’re guaranteed to return to shore with memorable stories of your own to tell.



WATERMARK JOURNEY
Baltimore



WATERMARK JOURNEY
Annapolis





BLUE CRABS
Somerset County



OYSTERING
Talbot County

THE BAY'S BOUNTY

Around the Chesapeake Bay, food is an experience in and of itself. Take to the bay on a fishing charter and cook your own catch, sail on a skipjack and see how generations of watermen have captured the bay's bounty, or attend a seafood festival to see a shucking contest firsthand. Here, culinary is not just something you eat, it's the adventure behind the flavors.

Learn more at visitmaryland.org/article/maryland-crab-oyster-trail.



OYSTERS
Queen Anne's County



CRAB CAKE
Dorchester County



CRAB FEAST
Baltimore

Photos: Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program, Jay Fleming, Dorchester County Tourism

PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II



PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II
Baltimore

STORYTELLER

“The *Pride of Baltimore*: This is who we are. It’s this beautiful thing that’s appreciated around the world that we built, that we created.”

***Captain Jan Miles
Pride of Baltimore II***

The starkly beautiful tall ship *Pride of Baltimore II* has crisscrossed the globe as an iconic floating ambassador for Baltimore, Maryland, and the Chesapeake Bay. Captain Jan Miles has been at the helm since his maiden voyage in 1988, becoming not only a Chesapeake Bay Storyteller but a Chesapeake legend in his own right. Climbing aboard *Pride* is a thrilling portal to the Chesapeake’s past and present.



PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II
Baltimore



PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II
Baltimore

Photos: Justin R. Pacheco, Patrick Smith, Pride of Baltimore Inc., Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum



MEGALODON ADVENTURE CHARTERS



STORYTELLER

“I brought a family out, and the boy found a megalodon tooth...His parents told me he slept with it that night. That’s what it’s all about. To be able to share a stewardship message for the bay? I’d run those trips for free.”

*Captain Dan Hamilton
Megalodon Adventure Charters*

Cast off with Chesapeake Bay Storyteller Captain Dan Hamilton of Megalodon Adventure Charters for kayak trips, dolphin excursions, fishing charters, and unique adventure trips hunting for giant fossilized shark teeth and other ancient artifacts. You may just come home with a great story and a million-year-old souvenir.



MEGALODON ADVENTURE CHARTERS
Calvert County

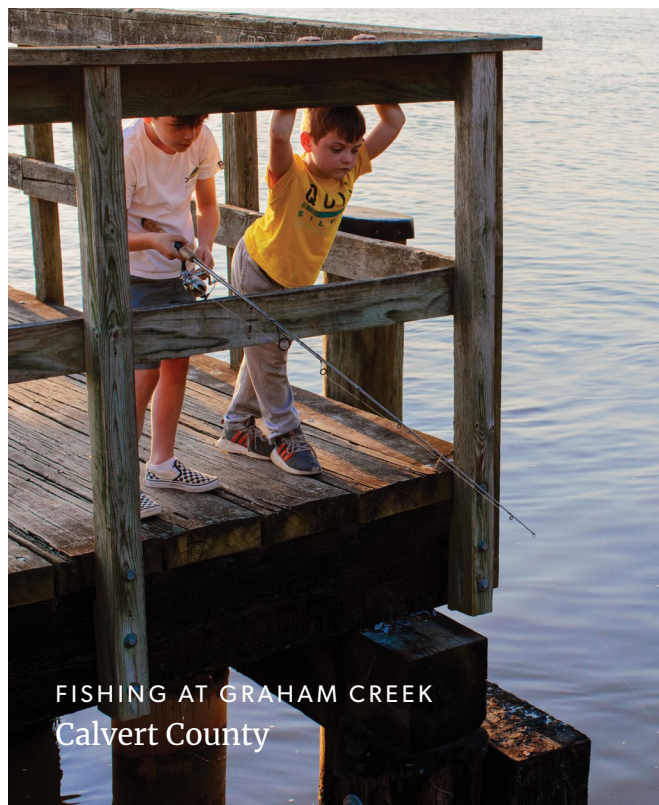


MEGALODON ADVENTURE CHARTERS
Calvert County

ACTIVITIES ON THE BAY

There is no shortage of activities to enjoy on the bay. Fish for striped bass, admire a sunset on a leisurely cruise, paddle through marshland amid stately loblolly pines, attend one of our treasured festivals, or raise a glass to time well spent at dozens of wineries. And that's just the beginning.

Learn more at visitmaryland.org.



FISHING AT GRAHAM CREEK
Calvert County



FISHING NEAR THOMAS POINT LIGHTHOUSE
Anne Arundel County



KAYAKING AT BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Dorchester County



SAILING ON THE MILES RIVER
St. Michaels

Photos: Carlin Stiehl/Chesapeake Bay Program, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, Fish & Hunt Maryland





MALLOWS BAY-POTOMAC RIVER
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Charles County



MALLOWS BAY-POTOMAC RIVER
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Charles County

Photos: Kristi Upman, Sarah Reardon, @nicolereepost, Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

REI LOCAL EXPERIENCES



MALLOWS BAY-POTOMAC RIVER
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Charles County

There's nothing quite like skimming the waters of the Chesapeake Bay with your kayak paddle. REI Local Experiences and other canoe and kayak outfitters bring you along as they explore the bay, and guides like Chesapeake Bay Storyteller Sarah Reardon help part the waters to let you see the bay on a deeper level.

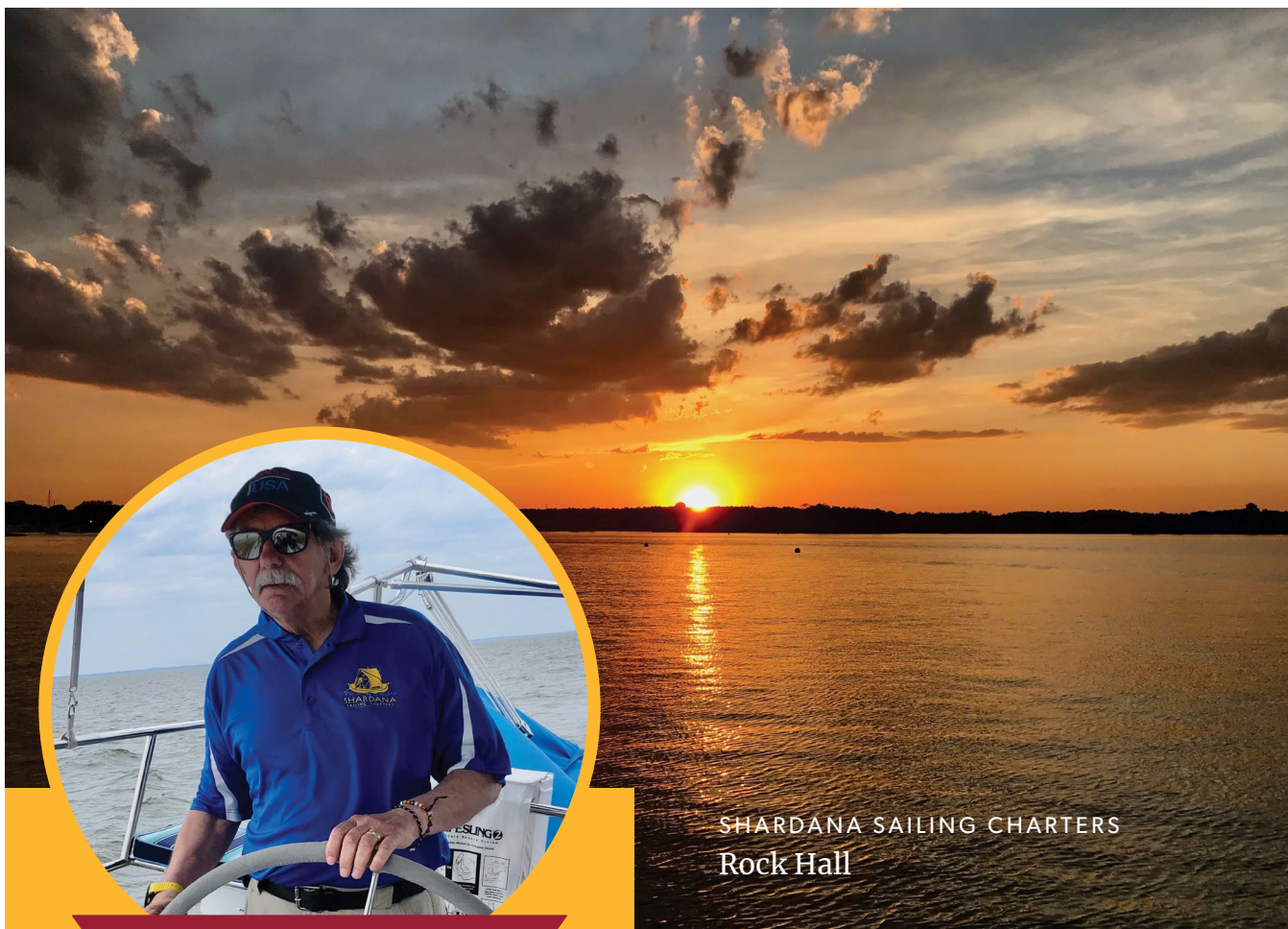
STORYTELLER

“I love our Mallows Bay tour. There’s something surreal and outstanding to be where you can physically feel the history... It’s a really special experience.”

*Sarah Reardon
REI Local Experiences*



SHARDANA SAILING CHARTERS



SHARDANA SAILING CHARTERS
Rock Hall

STORYTELLER

“It’s almost like a sacred site for a sailor. When you’re sailing a boat, there’s this feeling of wind on the face, the sound of sails tacking. That’s heightened for me on the Chesapeake.”

*Captain Thad Kubis
Shardana Sailing Charters*

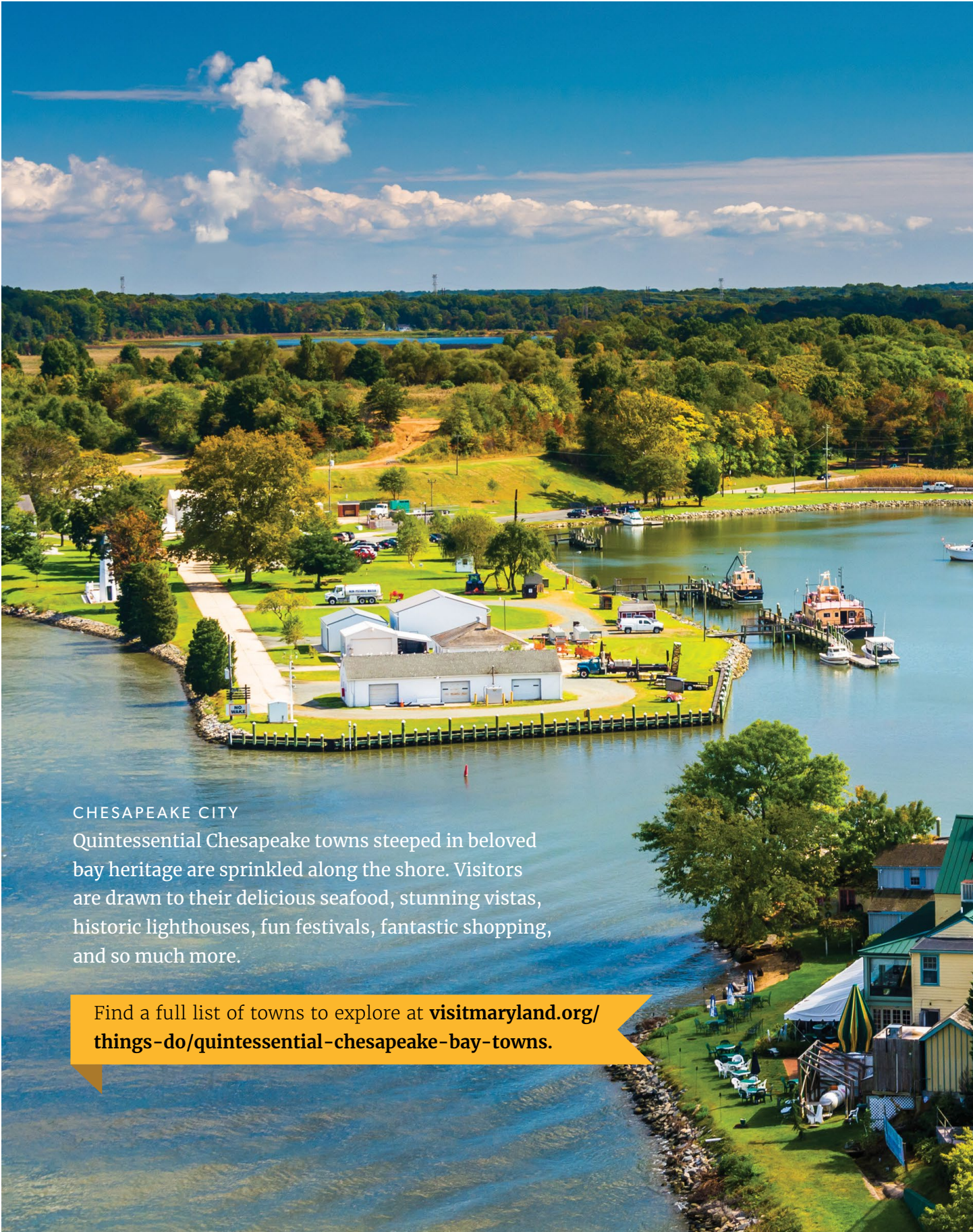
Climb aboard *Shardana*, a 42-foot luxury sailboat, and slip into the bliss of the Chesapeake Bay. Set sail for a day or for a long and languid weekend getaway on a customized charter. With Chesapeake Bay Storyteller Captain Thad Kubis at the helm, you can enjoy a journey tailored to your love of Chesapeake history, heritage, and ecology.



SHARDANA SAILING CHARTERS
Rock Hall

Photos: Andrew Seligman





CHESAPEAKE CITY

Quintessential Chesapeake towns steeped in beloved bay heritage are sprinkled along the shore. Visitors are drawn to their delicious seafood, stunning vistas, historic lighthouses, fun festivals, fantastic shopping, and so much more.

Find a full list of towns to explore at [visitmaryland.org/things-do/quintessential-chesapeake-bay-towns](https://www.visitmaryland.org/things-do/quintessential-chesapeake-bay-towns).



Photo: Jon Bilous



MATCHCOAT SOJOURNER



MATCHCOAT SOJOURNER
Dorchester County

STORYTELLER

“The people here on the shore appreciate what the water does—what the bay brings to you. To go out on the water, to fish like we do here, to have fun? That’s the joy I get. We share a lot of love.”

*Patty Lake
Matchcoat Sojourner*

Matchcoat Sojourner brings the people and foodways of tiny Smith Island together through incomparable culinary cultural experiences. Fish, trap, and prepare a meal from Chesapeake to table with champion crab picker, oyster shucker, and Chesapeake Bay Storyteller Patty Lake. “Hook and cook” experiences like Matchcoat immerse you in the traditions of the Chesapeake.



MATCHCOAT SOJOURNER
Dorchester County



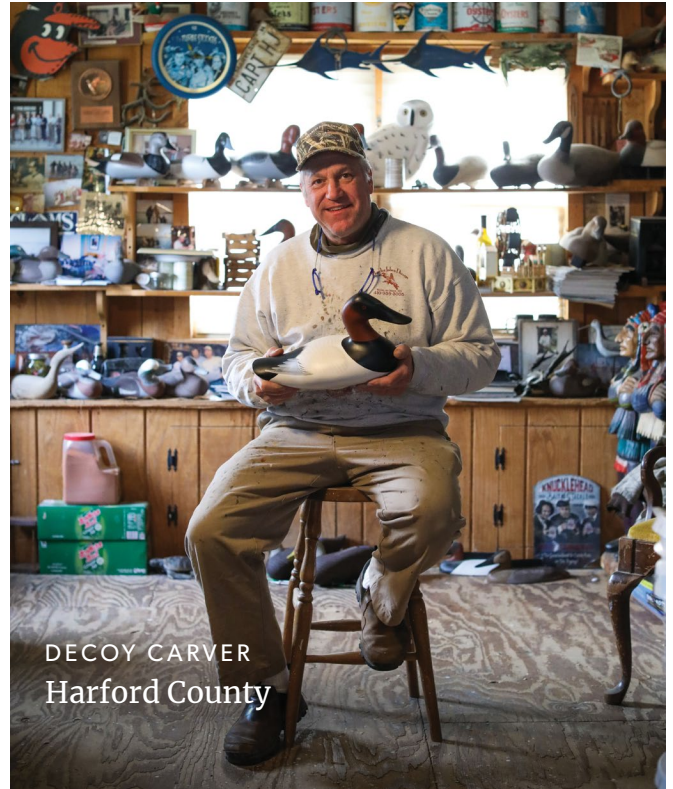
MATCHCOAT SOJOURNER
Dorchester County



CHESAPEAKE BAY HISTORY

The Chesapeake Bay shares reminders of its storied past at every turn. Learn the basics of boat building, see how the locals have oystered around the bay for generations, celebrate Native American culture, and reflect on the life, legacy, and heroism of Harriet Tubman at bay towns that made up vital portions of the Underground Railroad.

Learn more at [visitmaryland.org](https://www.visitmaryland.org).



DECOY CARVER
Harford County

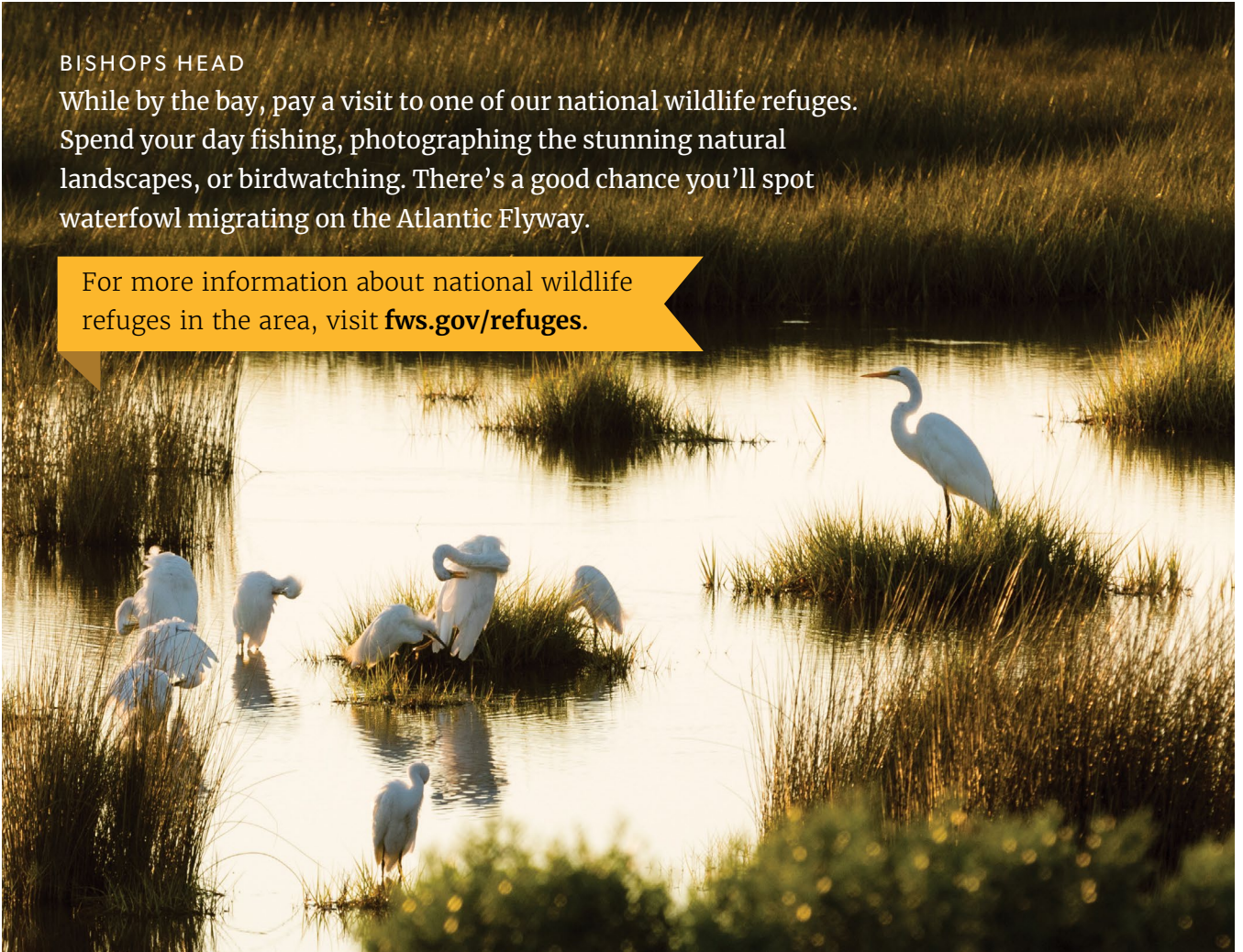


COVE POINT LIGHTHOUSE
Calvert County

BISHOPS HEAD

While by the bay, pay a visit to one of our national wildlife refuges. Spend your day fishing, photographing the stunning natural landscapes, or birdwatching. There's a good chance you'll spot waterfowl migrating on the Atlantic Flyway.

For more information about national wildlife refuges in the area, visit [fws.gov/refuges](https://www.fws.gov/refuges).



THE BAY ECOSYSTEM

Our glorious Chesapeake Bay is almost 200 miles long, is home to more than 3,000 species of plants and animals, and is a major nesting area for the treasured bald eagle. The bay is the largest estuary in the U.S., and it's crucial that we all do our part to protect its invaluable plant and animal communities.

Learn more at [visitmaryland.org](https://www.visitmaryland.org).



SMITHSONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL
RESEARCH CENTER
Anne Arundel County



SOLOMONS ISLAND HERITAGE TOURS



STORYTELLER

“I love that we can be the ambassador for our industry. It’s not like a cruise ship—we’re pulling our fish pots or trotline...It broadens people’s horizons. You see the humanity of other people, especially those with work boots on.”

*Captain Rachel Dean
Solomons Island Heritage Tours*

SOLOMONS ISLAND HERITAGE TOURS
Calvert County

Ever wanted to experience what it’s really like to work fishing and crabbing the Chesapeake Bay? As a full-time schoolteacher and commercial fisher, Captain Rachel Dean of Solomons Island Heritage Tours is the perfect Chesapeake Bay Storyteller to share the business and the beauty of working the bay.



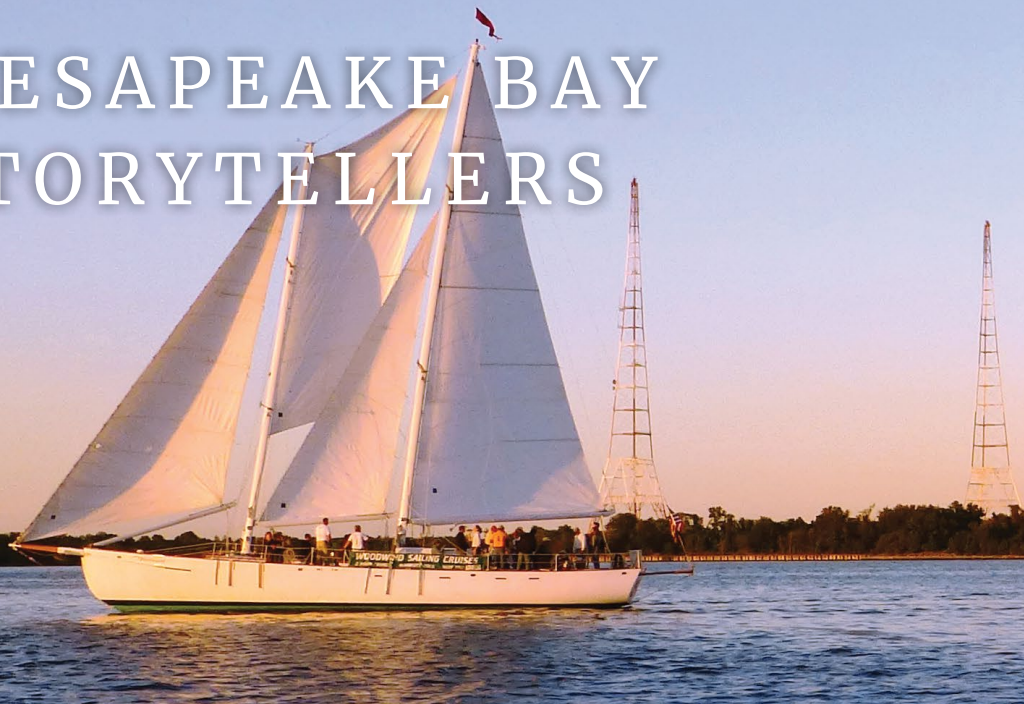
SOLOMONS ISLAND HERITAGE TOURS
Calvert County



SOLOMONS ISLAND HERITAGE TOURS
Calvert County



CHESAPEAKE BAY STORYTELLERS



The best way to experience the Chesapeake Bay is through a guided tour with one of our Chesapeake Bay Storytellers. Enjoy paddling adventures, lighthouse tours, fishing trips, sailing excursions, and so much more with this group of certified Chesapeake Bay experts.

EASTERN SHORE STORYTELLERS

CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM

St. Michaels
410 745-2916
cbmm.org
Natural History Tours, History
Tours, Sailing Tours

CHOPTANK RIVERBOAT COMPANY

Hurlock
410 943-4689
[suicide-bridge-restaurant.com/
choptank-riverboats](http://suicide-bridge-restaurant.com/choptank-riverboats)
History Tours, Sightseeing Cruises

DEAL ISLAND SKIPJACK SAILING TOURS ABOARD SKIPJACK KATHRYN

Deal Island
410 251-6980
[gluseum.com/us/deal-
island/127555123923506/deal-island-
skipjack-sailing-tours](http://gluseum.com/us/deal-island/127555123923506/deal-island-skipjack-sailing-tours)
Sailing Tours, Watermen's Life Tours

ECHO HILL OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Worton
410-348-5880
ehos.org
History Tours, Natural History Tours,
Sailing Tours

MATCHCOAT SOJOURNER

White Haven, Cambridge and Smith Island
410 443-0025
matchcoatsojourner.com
Hook and Cook, Culinary Tasting Tours

SHARDANA SAILING CHARTERS

Rock Hall
215 238-1635
shardanasailing.com
Sailing Tours, Natural History Tours

SULTANA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Chestertown
410 778-5954
sultanaeducation.org
Natural History Tours, History Tours, Paddling
Tours, Sailing Tours

TUNA THE TIDE CHARTER SERVICE

Grasonville
410 310-1200
exploredelmarva.com
Charter Fishing Trips, Sightseeing Cruises

SOUTHERN MARYLAND STORYTELLERS

CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM

Solomons
410 326-2042
calvertmarinemuseum.com
Sailing Tours, History Tours, Sightseeing
Cruises, Lighthouse Tours

CHAP TOURS

Solomons, St. Leonard
443 764-0767
chaptours.org
Natural History Tours, Fishing Charters

FISH THE BAY CHARTERS, LLC

Dameron
301 904-0935
fishthebay.net
Fishing Charters, Watermen's Heritage Tours,
Sightseeing Cruises

KATHERINE CHARTER FISHING

Chesapeake Beach
240 676-1098
katherinecharterfishing.zenfolio.com
Fishing Charters



SCHOONER WOODWIND
Anne Arundel County

Photo: Jennifer Kaye

LOOSEN UP CHARTERS

Deale
202 369-8203
loosenuptcharters.com
Fishing Charters

MEGALODON ADVENTURE CHARTERS

Port Republic
410 474-0396
megalodonadventures.com
Fishing Charters, Paddling Tours,
Lighthouse Tours, Natural History Tours

**SOLOMONS ISLAND
HERITAGE TOURS**

Solomons
301-672-3509
solomonsislandheritagetours.com
Watermen's Heritage Tours, Lighthouse
Tours, Hook and Cook

VANALSTINE SEAFOOD AND FARM

Dunkirk
443 243-3433
facebook.com/vanalstineseafoodandfarm
Watermen's Heritage Tours

**CENTRAL MARYLAND
AND CAPITAL REGION
STORYTELLERS**

ANITA C. LEIGHT ESTUARY CENTER

Abingdon
410 612-1688
otterpointcreek.org
Paddling Tours, Natural History Tours

**BAY HUNTERS CHARTER
FISHING (BP MARINE)**

Edgewater
410 259-9496
bayhunters.com
Fishing Charters

BAY VENTURE OUTFITTERS

North East
877 523-9555
bayventureoutfitters.com
Paddling Tours, Natural History Tours

ISLAND CHILL YACHT CHARTERS

Edgewater
410 212-4476
islandchillyyachtcharters.com
Sailing Tours, Sightseeing Cruises

**LIVING CLASSROOMS FOUNDATION
AT MASONVILLE COVE**

Baltimore
410 246-0669
[livingclassrooms.org/programs/
masonville-cove-environmental-
education-center](http://livingclassrooms.org/programs/masonville-cove-environmental-education-center)
Natural History Tours

NON SEA QUITTER

Annapolis
443 852-2163
nonseaquitter.com
Sailing Tours, Sightseeing Cruises,
Lighthouse Tours

PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II

Baltimore
410 539-1151
pride2.org
Sailing Tours, History Tours

REI LOCAL EXPERIENCES

Washington, D.C., and surrounding area
202 543-2040
rei.com/events
Paddling Tours, Natural History Tours,
History Tours

SCHOONER WOODWIND

Annapolis
410 263-7837
schoonerwoodwind.com
Sailing Tours, Sightseeing Cruises

**SMITHSONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL
RESEARCH CENTER (SERC)**

Edgewater
443 482-2200
serc.si.edu
Paddling Tours, Natural History Tours

WATERMARK JOURNEY

Annapolis
410 268-7601
[watermarkjourney.com/public-cruises-
water-taxi](http://watermarkjourney.com/public-cruises-water-taxi)
Sightseeing Cruises, History Tours,
Lighthouse Tours, Natural History Tours

Learn more at [visitmaryland.org/article/
chesapeake-bay-storytellers](http://visitmaryland.org/article/chesapeake-bay-storytellers).





**Chesapeake
Gateways**

Chesapeake Bay Storytellers program is a partnership between the Maryland Office of Tourism and the National Park Service Chesapeake Gateways.