

Rappahannock River



**Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**



Rappahannock River

The Rappahannock begins in northeastern Virginia. The river shares a name with the Rappahannock Tribe. Fones Cliffs, a seven-mile cliff along the river, is where many Rappahannock people lived before European colonization. In 1608, the Rappahannock saw an English boat – it belonged to John Smith - from the cliffs above. They ambushed the ship but allowed the sailors to continue unharmed. The cliffs also have one of the largest populations of bald eagles on the east coast and contain fossil shells and shark teeth.