

MARYLAND
BYWAYS



Blue Crab



19

Some routes described in this guide not only follow a particular theme, but closely trace a specific natural or manmade feature, such as the Historic National Road, Baltimore's National Historic Seaport or the C&O Canal. However, no other byway besides this one, when viewed on a map, can dare to claim an actual physical resemblance to its name!

An imperfect loop links Princess Anne, Snow Hill, Salisbury and other Lower Eastern Shore towns to form the shell of the Blue Crab byway, while several branches extend out like stubby legs and curved claws toward the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. Expect plenty of appetizing experiences as you drive through this water-laced land to enjoy limitless sightseeing, small-town warmth, and

yes, dining on sumptuous, fresh seafood. We recommend spicy steamed crabs, crab cakes, crab soup, crab dip or even soft-shell crabs (which are harvested immediately after molting). And, as you journey through the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area, we advise you to come prepared with outdoor gear for all occasions, whether fishing, swimming, camping, canoeing, biking or even parasailing.

Princess Anne to Pocomoke City -- Somerset Ave, US 13, MD 413 to Crisfield, MD 667, US 13, Market St

Named for the daughter of King George II, the hamlet of Princess Anne was established in 1733. Today, about 300 of the town's Federal-style and Victorian structures, including the

249 miles from
Princess Anne to
the Atlantic Ocean

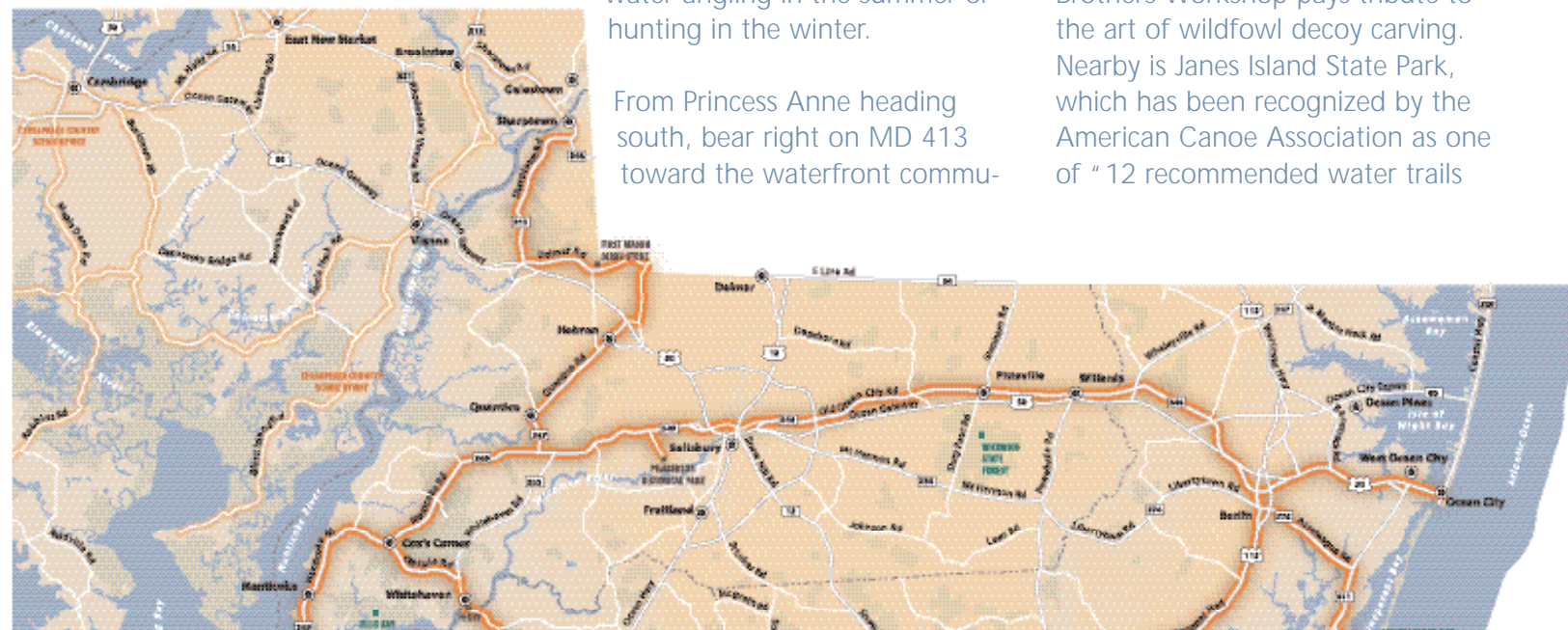


200-year-old Teackle Mansion, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Directly east of town is a branch of the byway that follows MD 363 to Deal Island. A wildlife management area here contains a 2,800-acre, man made pond sur-

rounded by some of a waterfowl's favorite vegetation, resulting in one of the state's finest places to view ducks and geese. Most of the residents of Deal Island make their living from nearby waters, and several operations are set up to take visitors salt-water angling in the summer or hunting in the winter.

From Princess Anne heading south, bear right on MD 413 toward the waterfront commu-

nity of Crisfield. Boats bring the bounty of the lower Chesapeake home to this self-styled "Crab Capital of the World." The J. Millard Tawes Historical Museum offers a look into the industry of seafood harvesting and processing, while the Ward Brothers Workshop pays tribute to the art of wildfowl decoy carving. Nearby is Janes Island State Park, which has been recognized by the American Canoe Association as one of "12 recommended water trails



nationwide.” More than 30 miles of marked water trails meander through some 2,900 acres of creeks and marshes, providing excellent vantage points for spying wildlife. Campsites, backcountry camping platforms and a boat ramp are also available.

Accessible only by boat from Crisfield is Smith Island, the most isolated and unique of Maryland’s Chesapeake islands. This bay-dependent community has remained relatively unchanged since the first English settlers arrived here in the 17th century. Visit the Smith Island Center to explore the area’s history, the life of a waterman, and the influence of the bay on islanders, and then head to the Martin’s National Wildlife Refuge to learn more about wildfowl and their migratory patterns.

Catching the next boat back to the mainland, follow 413 north to MD 667 to pass through Rehobeth, site of the oldest church in the country to remain exclusively Presbyterian, and head for Pocomoke City. This deep-water river port rests along a state-owned forest famous for its stands of loblolly pines. In town, you will find a one-room school museum and the Costen House, built shortly after the Civil War and showing off exquisite Victorian Italianate architecture. It was once the home of Pocomoke’s first mayor.

Pocomoke City to Ocean City – US 113, US 113 Bus, US 50

East of Pocomoke City approaching the Atlantic Ocean, Snow Hill stands as one of the Eastern Shore’s oldest towns and was recently recognized a “Preserve America” community for



so aggressively protecting its American heritage. Established in 1686, it features a former one-room schoolhouse built in 1869, as well as a museum where you can discover four centuries’ worth of rich regional history. Also displayed are the needle-art pictures of the museum’s namesake, Julia A. Purnell.

A sidetrack west on MD 12/Old Furnace Rd. and across Nassawango Creek leads to the Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum. Artisans in 19th-century attire toil at village shops. Nature trails wind through the 25-acre property, and museum exhibits tell tales of workers who once operated Maryland’s only bog-ore furnace.

Take the Public Landing Branch along MD 365 to Chincoteague Bay, where the E.A. Vaughn Kayak Trail incorporates 15 miles of water routes between two boat landings. Rent a canoe in Snow Hill or farther east on Assateague Island, which

is found down another branch of this byway. Wild ponies roam freely on the island's two miles of ocean beaches, around secluded bayside coves, and along marsh trails. Look into camping, hiking, fishing and biking opportunities available at both a state park and a national seashore area.

Back on the main loop, Antebellum houses line tree-shaded streets in the town of Berlin, which grew up in the 19th century around a tavern, public stable and blacksmith shop. For local history and lore, visit the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum before teeing up at one of the area's popular golf courses.

The next branch runs right into Ocean City, Maryland's largest seashore resort. A 10-mile strand of

inviting white sand runs alongside a variety of oceanside or bayside accommodations, water slides, amusement park rides and the world-famous boardwalk. You can also choose from charter sailing, jet skiing, parasailing, surfing, windsurfing, swimming and other water activities.

Ocean City to Princess Anne – MD 346, 349 & 352, White Haven Rd, MD 3621

Moving inland again, you will soon be greeted by the friendly town of Salisbury. Having established itself as the urban center of the region, Salisbury boasts an historic, pedestrian-friendly Downtown Plaza with specialty shops housed in Victorian structures. Browse among antiques and country crafts, admire artwork at local galleries, and tour the Georgian-style Poplar Hill Mansion. At the Ward



Museum of Wildfowl Art, you will enjoy seeing the largest collection of decorative bird carvings in the world. And down the road past a minor-league baseball stadium is one of the finest free-admission "small zoos" in the nation.

A sidetrack off of MD 349 leads to Pemberton Park, the centerpiece of which is a typical 18th-century plantation house. Surrounding it are 4.5 miles of nature trails among tidal and freshwater wetlands, meadows and forests.

There is a Sharptown Branch of the Blue Crab byway that runs from Quantico, north on MD 348, to link into the Chesapeake Country byway (page 139). Meanwhile, the road back to Princess Anne takes you past a branch to the Nanticoke River,

where a wildlife management area promises exceptional bird watching and photography. Back at Cox's Corner, drive south on MD 352 to cross the Wicomico River on the Whitehaven Ferry, which has been in continuous use since 1688.

OLD LINE LORE: *Ocean City grew out of its roots as a humble fishing village to become "The Ladies Resort to the Ocean" in the 1870s. It continued to develop a decade later with the coming of the railroad, and is now recognized as the East Coast's "number one family resort."*

Assateague Island National Seashore

7206 National Seashore Ln
Berlin, 21811
410-641-1441, 410-641-3030
www.nps.gov/asis



Assateague Island State Park

7307 Stephen Decatur Hwy
Berlin, 21811
410-641-2120, 1-888-432-2267
www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/eastern/assateague.html

Calvin B. Taylor House Museum

208 N Main St
Berlin, 21811
410-641-1019
www.taylorhousemuseum.org

Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum

3816 Old Furnace Rd
Snow Hill, 21863
410-632-2032
www.furnacetown.com

J. Millard Tawes Historical Museum

3 Ninth St, Somers Cove Marina
Crisfield, 21817
410-968-2501
http://skipjack.net/le_shore/visitsomer-set/tawes_museum.html

Janes Island State Park

26280 Alfred Lawson Dr
Crisfield, 21817
410-968-1565
www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/eastern/janesisland.html

Julia A. Purnell Museum

208 W Market St
Snow Hill, 21863
410-632-0515
www.purnellmuseum.com



Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum

813 S Boardwalk
Ocean City, 21843
410-289-4991
www.ocmuseum.org

Pocomoke River State Forest

3461 Worcester Hwy
Snow Hill, 21863
410-632-2566
www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/eastern/pocomokeforest.html

Salisbury Zoo and Park

755 S Park Dr
Salisbury, 21802
410-548-3188
www.salisburyzoo.org

Smith Island Center

20846 Caleb Jones Rd
Smith Island, 21824
410-425-3351, 1-800-521-9189
www.smithisland.org

Teackle Mansion

11736 Mansion St
Princess Anne, 21853
410-651-2238, 1-800-521-9189
www.teacklemansion.org

Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art

909 S Shumaker Dr
Salisbury University, Salisbury, 21804
410-742-4988
www.wardmuseum.org



Wicomico County Convention &
Visitors Bureau

8480 Ocean Hwy

Delmar 21875

800-332-TOUR (8687)

www.wicomicotourism.org

