



MARYLAND
BYWAYS



Horses and Hounds 9

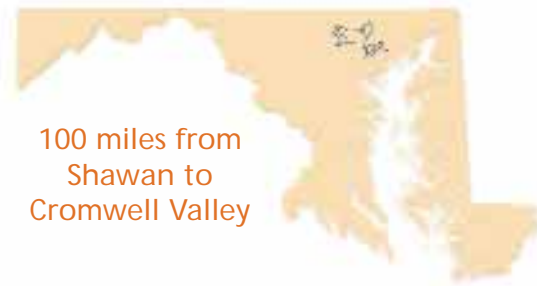
The sounds of hunting horns and baying hounds seem to echo among the valleys and vistas of this route, as if you've driven into the wide-open English countryside. Though located in an area traditionally known as hunt country – fox hunting and steeplechase races are still popular here – the farms you see along the way are also famous for producing Thoroughbreds that have raced on major tracks across America.

Shawan to Hereford – Tufton Ave, Worthington Ave, MD 128, Dover Rd, Trenton Rd, MD 88, Grace Rd, MD 137 & MD 45

Start your tour by leaving I-83 at Exit 20 West, which takes you toward Shawan. First, plan to stop at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center and Park, with its forest hiking trails,

wildlife management pond, archaeology site and excellent birding areas. Shawan Downs, a premier equestrian facility located on 300 acres of former farmland, attracts thousands of spectators each autumn for a series of steeplechase races known as the Legacy Chase.

Along Tufton Avenue, country stores and farm markets offer an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables during the growing season. Continue west through Worthington Valley, an 18th-century farming area that is much as it was when the ancestors of many current residents first settled here. Just up the road, a world-famous steeplechase race, the time-honored Maryland Hunt Cup, has been held each spring since 1894. Fans enjoy an afternoon of tailgating and picnicking



100 miles from Shawan to Cromwell Valley



on a hill overlooking the four-mile, 22-fence racecourse.

The humble, 19th-century town of Glyndon, found near Reisterstown, grew up as a popular summer community accessible via the Western Maryland Railroad. Up MD 128 is St. John's Episcopal Church, built in 1869 and serving as the site of a "Blessing of the Hounds" ceremony held each Thanksgiving Day. A drive along Belmont Road takes you through a broad valley and past Sagamore Farm, once among the country's leading Thoroughbred farms.

On a three-mile timber course in Butler, the century-old Grand National Steeplechase is another springtime tradition. From there, the route passes through the small town of White



House, beyond rolling countryside, to Hereford, a 19th-century village that grew up around the York Pike. Gunpowder Falls State Park's

Hereford Wildlands features steep-sided valleys, rocky trails and an upland forest habitat for many species of birds. See local outfitters

about canoes, bikes, inner tubes, or complete guide services.

Hereford to Jacksonville – MD 138, Troyer Rd, Harford Creamery Road, Madonna Rd & MD 146

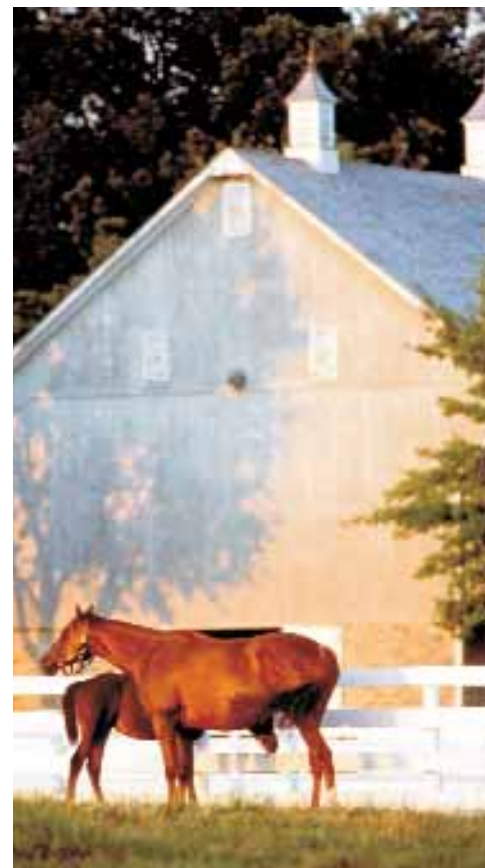
Enter Monkton by way of MD 138. Surrounded by horse farms and well-preserved estates, this historic mill community along the Gunpowder Falls was once served by the North Central Railroad. Today, a hiking and biking trail follows the abandoned railroad bed up to the Pennsylvania line, linking into the Mason and Dixon byway (page 63). Heading south on MD 146, visit the Ladew Topiary Gardens, featuring 22 acres of fancifully shaped shrubbery and 15 thematic flower gardens surrounding a historic manor house. Further south, one of the oldest and most

grueling steeplechase courses in the country is found at My Lady's Manor, which was property given by the third Lord Baltimore to his fourth wife in 1713.

Begin to loop back to your starting point by turning right on Manor Road, or follow MD 146 south to Jacksonville, which is a commercial center for the surrounding rural area.

Jacksonville to Cromwell Valley – MD 146, Dulaney Valley Rd, Manor Rd, Hydes Rd, Long Green Pike, Glen Arm Rd & Cromwell Bridge Rd

You're still in "Horse Country" as you head south on MD 146 from Jacksonville, but a variety of recreational opportunities present themselves at each turn. Take a picnic basket along with you to Maryland's first



winery, Hydes-based Boordy Vineyards. Established in 1945, Boordy operates amid a cluster of 19th-century farm buildings, offering tours, wine tastings and special events throughout the year. Just up Long Green Pike is St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. The structure you see today was built in 1855 after the original church, established in 1822, burned down. Next, explore the scenic roadways of the Loch Raven Reservoir and Cromwell Valley, stopping to enjoy hiking, biking or fishing.

Sidetrack east along a portion of Gunpowder Falls State Park toward Kingsville and the historic Jerusalem Mill. A gristmill village remained busy in the area for nearly two centuries, beginning in 1772. Today you might be able to catch a living-history

demonstration while touring the mill, blacksmith shop and gun factory.

Your journey concludes in Towson, where the Hampton National Historic Site takes visitors back to 18th-century high life. When the mansion was completed in 1790, it represented the height of post-Revolutionary War opulence, with gardens, an icehouse and stables. Original slave quarters are also on site.

OLD LINE LORE: *Native Dancer, one of the top-ranked U.S. Thoroughbred champions of all time, is buried in a nondescript equine cemetery at Sagamore Farm in the Glyndon area. Nicknamed "The Gray Ghost," Native Dancer was the first horse made famous through television and was also featured on the cover of the May 31, 1954 Time magazine.*



Boordy Vineyards

12820 Long Green Pike
Hydes, 21082
410-592-5015
www.boordy.com

Cromwell Valley Park

Sherwood Farm and Park office
2002 Cromwell Bridge Rd
Baltimore, 21234
410-887-2503
www.bcpl.net/~cvpark/

Gunpowder Falls State Park

2813 Jerusalem Rd
Kingsville, 21087
410-592-2897
www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/gunpowder/html

Hampton National Historic Site

535 Hampton Lane
Towson, 21286
410-823-1309
www.nps.gov/hamp

Ladew Topiary Gardens

3535 Jarrettsville Pike
Monkton, 21111
410-557-9466
www.ladewgardens.com

Loch Raven Reservoir

1201 Dulaney Valley Rd
Towson, 21402
410-887-5683

Northern Central Rail Trail

Gunpowder Falls State Park
410-592-2897

Oregon Ridge Nature Center and Park

13555 Beaver Dam Rd
Cockeysville, 21030
410-887-1815
www.oregonridge.org

Shawan Downs

P.O. Box 433
Lutherville-Timonium, 21094
410-666-3676
www.shawandowns.org/main/contact/contact.htm