

MARYLAND
BYWAYS

Mountain Maryland  2

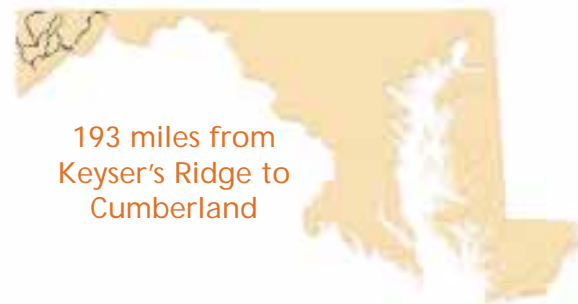
Throughout much of this mountainous, Western Maryland byway, the sweetest sound you'll hear just might be the silence. It's a stillness that allows you to listen more closely for light breezes tickling autumn leaves, birdsongs echoing along forest trails, and ripples of lake water lapping against gently rocking rowboats.

Take your time meandering through peaceful glades, valleys and marshlands, finally emerging from thick forest areas to find the shore of Maryland's largest freshwater lake. Be prepared for hiking, biking, skiing, boating and all kinds of other outdoor adventures. But along with four seasons of outdoor pursuits, this byway also offers a little history. You'll be visiting mid-19th-century coal mining villages, as well as mill towns

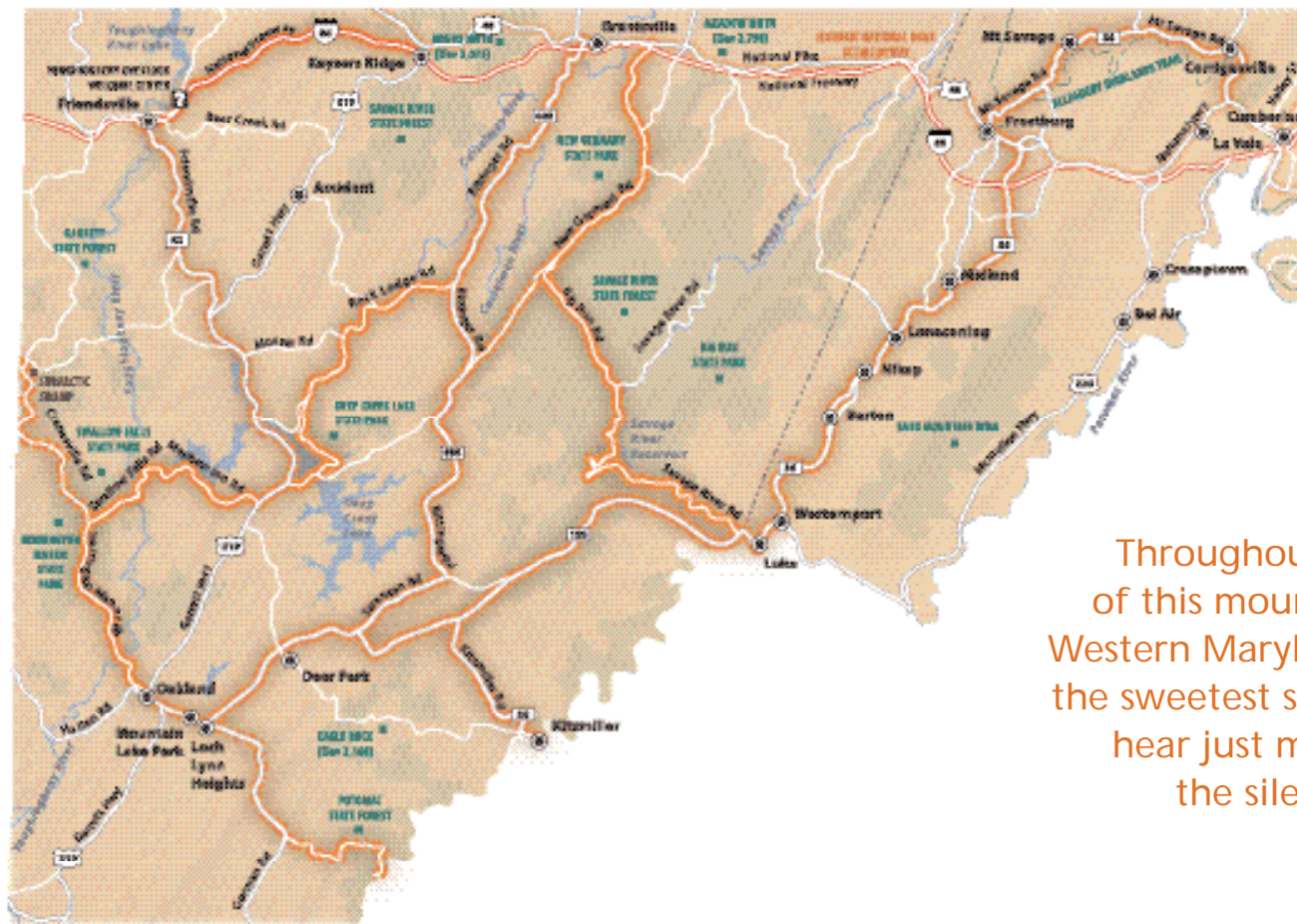
owing their growth to the C&O Canal and B&O Railroad.

Keyser's Ridge to Deep Creek Lake State Park – I-68, MD 42, US 219

Start your tour in Keyser's Ridge and follow I-68 across the Eastern Continental Divide. To the west is Friendsville, home of a family-run winery and the Youghiogheny River Lake, a popular spot for boating, fishing and paddling. The river itself runs for about 135 miles through three states, delivering frequent drops of more than 100 feet per mile. A section between Miller's Run and Friendsville is Maryland's first Scenic and Wild River, with white-water rafting guides conveniently located along the way. Learn more at the Youghiogheny Overlook Welcome



193 miles from Keyser's Ridge to Cumberland



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Center on I-68 East just outside Friendsville.

Slipping southward on MD 42 to US 219, the rustic village of McHenry is where you'll find Wisp Mountain Resort. Winter activities include skiing, snowboarding and tubing, while warm-weather fun ranges from golf to mountain biking. Nearby, Deep Creek Lake State Park hugs the state's largest freshwater lake, formed by a dam that was completed in 1925. The park offers a variety of water activities and six miles of trails for winter sports enthusiasts. State Park Road follows the 3,900-acre lake's eastern shore and gets you to the Discovery Center, where a children's interactive room is one part of a 6,000-square-foot educational experience. Glendale Road takes you over to the western shore of the lake,

bringing you back to US 219.

Deep Creek Lake to Oakland – US 219, Mayhew Inn Rd, Swallows Fall Rd, Herrington Manor Rd

Follow Mayhew Inn Road through the Hammell Glade Swamp and on to Swallow Falls Road. Here, the Youghiogheny River flows through shaded, rocky gorges along the border of Swallow Falls State Park, which is part of the greater Garrett State Forest.

Take a northwesterly sidetrack on Cranesville Road to the Cranesville Subartic Swamp, a patch of forest and high-mountain bog where many plant and animal species remain as relics of an earlier era. A boardwalk crosses the swamp so you can enjoy closer looks at an ecosystem more



common in northern climates.

Continue your outdoor explorations at Swallow Falls State Park where a popular hiking trail leads to the 51-foot Muddy Creek Falls, largest of four falls within the park. Another trail leads back from the riverbank through a virgin stand of white pine and hemlock.

Then explore a 53-acre lake and more than 21 miles of wooded trails at Herrington Manor State Park. Twenty log cabins within the park are available year-round for renting, or you can make your way to quaint accommodations in the nearby town of Oakland. A nationally recognized Main Street Community, Oakland is noted for its seamless blend of past and present. From the Garrett County Courthouse, which sits on a hill

above the city, you can look out over a museum, a community theater, unique boutiques and antiques stores. Oakland's Historic B&O Train Station, dating to 1884, is not only considered one of the most distinguished historic depots in the country, but also houses shops featuring baked goods, maple syrup and the works of local artisans.

Oakland to Cumberland – MD 135 & 36

Wrap around to MD 135, heading east through Mountain Lake Park and Deer Park to the Potomac State Forest. A sidetrack along MD 560 takes you past picturesque valleys and remote trout streams, and then you can park beside the Lostland Run Trail and hike 3.5 miles down to the 100-foot Cascade Falls.



At this point on the byway, three branches promise many more scenic discoveries for nature enthusiasts:

- Branch north on MD 495 through the ancient bogs and swamp areas of the Allegany Highlands. Hiking and biking trails not only connect with the C&O Canal towpath, but also follow the route of the Western Maryland Railroad for more than 200 miles between Cumberland and the Pennsylvania line.
- A quick detour on MD 38 brings you to the remote town of Kitzmiller. Developed as a milling center, it became key to the mining industry and the transport of coal via the railroad. Nearby is Jennings Randolph Lake, a mountainous recreation area with boating, sailing, scuba diving, ice fishing, and camping.

- Following Savage River Road due north, you come to the 54,000-acre Savage River State Forest. Shaded trails stay cool on even the warmest summer days, and anglers enjoy wading into the nationally acclaimed river to coax brook, rainbow and brown trout out of deep holes shadowed by large boulders. A 350-acre reservoir provides crystal-clear mountain water for boating and fishing. Below the dam, white-water rapids attract the most experienced paddlers.

Back on MD 135, follow a steep passage and descent from the top of Backbone Mountain, which at 3,360 feet above sea level, is the highest point in the state. Next, you hook into MD 36 and climb toward the town of Lonaconing, which is an Indian name roughly translated as “the meeting place of many waters.”



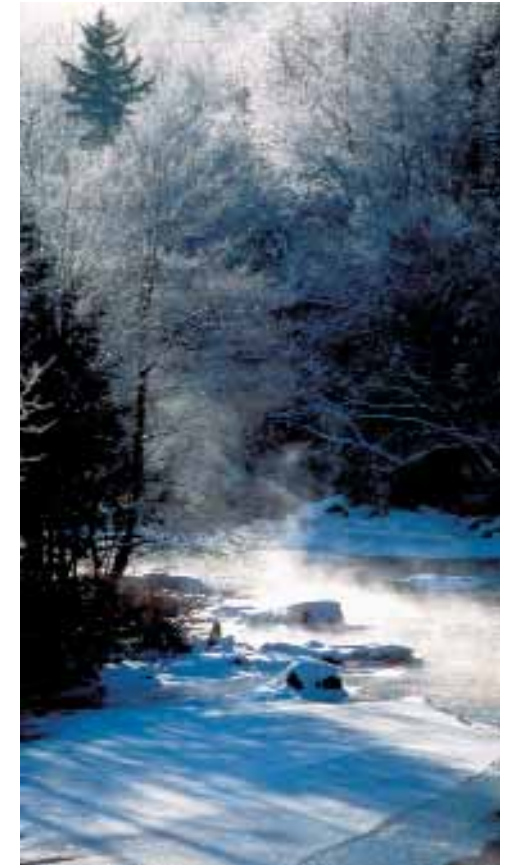
Developed in 1835 by the Georges Creek Coal and Iron Company, Lonaconing contains dozens of 19th- and early 20th-century buildings, and within a park in the center of town is a historic iron furnace.

Continue north on MD 36 through the mining village of Midland and along the valley floor between Dans Mountain and the Big Savage mountain range. Dans Mountain has a 2,895-foot-high scenic overlook, accessible via MD 55 and affording views of the Georges Creek Valley to the west and the Potomac Valley to the east. In Frostburg, which was once known as the capital of the coal region, travelers can jump to the Historic National Road (page 7) or continue on toward Mount Savage, where in 1844 a rolling mill produced the first solid railroad tracks made in

the United States. One last stop on this tour is Cumberland Narrows, a 1,000-foot gorge between Wills and Haystack mountains, which links back into the Historic National Road in Cumberland.

OLD LINE LORE: *Nearly 2,000 acres of Garrett State Forest were donated by the Garrett brothers, John and Robert, in 1906, marking the beginning of Maryland's public lands system. A century later, about 200,000 acres of state forestland exist.*

Cranesville Subarctic Swamp
Cranesville Rd & Lake Ford Rd
Oakland, 21550
301-387-4386
www.garrettchamber.com



Deep Creek Lake State Park

898 State Park Rd
Swanton, 21561

301-387-4111

www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/deepcreeklake.html

Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center

898 State Park Rd
Swanton, 21561

301-387-7067

www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/dicoverly.html

Herrington Manor State Park

222 Herrington Ln
Oakland, 21550

301-334-9180

www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/herringtonmanor.html

Historic B&O Train Station

117 E. Liberty St
Oakland, 21550

301-334-2691

www.oaklandmd.com

Lonaconing Iron Furnace and Park

Rt 36, Main St
Lonaconing, 21539

301-463-6233

www.mdmountainside.com

Mount Savage Museum Bank, Jail and Mining Building

Main Street
Mount Savage, 21545

301-264-9916

www.mountsavagehistoricalsociety.org

Potomac State Forest

222 Herrington Ln
Oakland, 21550

301-334-2038

www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/potomacforest.html

Savage River State Forest

127 Headquarters Ln
Grantsville, 21536

301-895-5759

www.dnr.state.md.us

Swallow Falls State Park

222 Herrington Ln
Oakland, 21550

301-334-9180

www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/swallowfalls.html

Wisp Mountain Resort

296 Marsh Hill Rd
Deep Creek Lake, 21541

301-387-4911

www.wispresort.com