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## The Best of Maryland & Delaware

**M**aryland and Delaware are often overshadowed by their neighbors, including the nation's capital. But thanks to the always-dazzling Chesapeake Bay, ocean beaches, and gently rolling mountains, these two states offer plenty of outdoor charms. The cities of Baltimore, in Maryland, and Wilmington, in Delaware, are filled with intriguing museums, sophisticated restaurants, and delightful waterfronts that make for a romantic summer evening stroll.

Add charming small towns—including Maryland's capital, Annapolis, and Delaware's capital, Dover—and friendly people and a wealth of historic sites, and you've got two states worth a visit—whether you have a day, a weekend, or a whole week.

These two states have been shaped by history, from the Colonial days to the Revolutionary and Civil wars; by industry, from the commercial fisheries of ocean and bay to high-tech banking and information technology; and even by sports. What would NASCAR do without Dover twice a year? And what Baltimoreans don't keep up-to-date with their beloved Orioles or stop whatever they're doing for the Preakness?

Every corner of Maryland offers something for those who look. Get off I-95 at the Mason-Dixon Line and you'll find scenic Havre de Grace. Wander through the Eastern Shore for a table full of hot steamed crabs. Park the car outside Frederick and you'll find the leafy glens that surround Cunningham Falls.

And don't be fooled by Delaware's small size. Sure, it's got beaches and NASCAR, but it also has mansions tucked in the Brandywine Valley, good food and wine on quiet Wilmington nights, and the town of Lewes—which is so charming, you might forget the ocean is just a short walk across a bridge.

Marylanders and Delawareans look into the future, but they remember where they've been, too. They remember their fallen friends with monuments, battlefields, and aging forts that recall battles in 1776, 1812, 1917, and 1945. You can see places where George Washington stood, where brothers died, and where slaves ran for freedom. You can get a glimpse of how people lived when these states were just small colonies, or when the Golden Age made industrialists millionaires.

Whether you visit Maryland and Delaware because they're on the way to someplace else or because you're drawn to their style, charm, and friendliness, you won't be disappointed.

### 1 Frommer's Favorite Maryland & Delaware Experiences

- **Sipping Tea at Bertha's** (Baltimore, Md.; ☎ 410/327-5795): Bertha's tea is an afternoon delight. Cup after cup of Earl Grey with scones and clotted cream, Scotch eggs, and an assortment of savories and sweets are perfect in the

shabby-chic dining room of this Fells Point eatery. See p. 86.

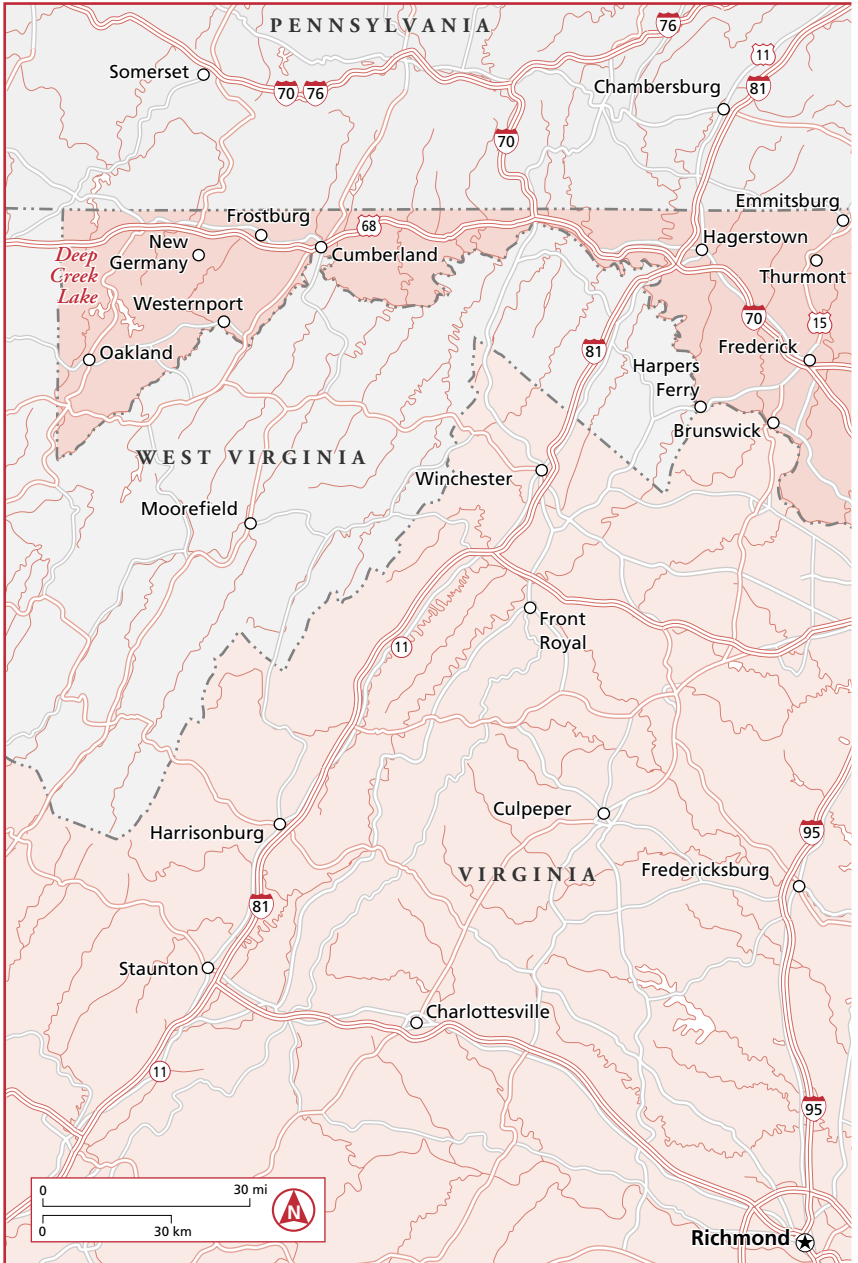
- **Raising the Star-Spangled Banner at Fort McHenry** (Baltimore, Md.): The park rangers ask visitors to help with the raising and lowering of the huge flag each day. The nooks and crannies and views keep young ones interested. Outside the fort, the sprawling waterfront park is perfect for families and picnics. See p. 92.
- **Going to Any Baseball Game:** Maryland has baseball's most beautiful stadium—Oriole Park at Camden Yards—and the best team in the world (the Orioles, of course!). Players toss balls to kids in the stands, and the Oriole Bird has been known to loft T-shirts and even (wrapped) hot dogs to the fans. The many minor league teams are also fun, and more affordable. See “The Best Baseball in Maryland” (p. 12).
- **Attending the Preakness** (Baltimore, Md.): If you're young and want some serious partying, check out the infield. If you actually want to see the second jewel in the Triple Crown, head for the grandstand. The race is held the third Saturday in May. If you want grandstand tickets to the Preakness, held at **Pimlico Race Course** (☎ 410/542-9400), it's best to call up to a year ahead. Infield tickets are available up to the week before and are sold at some area gas stations. See p. 105.
- **Rafting the Yough:** The Youghioheny (generally just called the “Yock”) is Maryland's great white-water river. Its churning waters race through class III/IV rapids, with names like Gap Falls, Bastard, Triple Drop, Meatcleaver, Lost and Found, and Backbender. The water levels are controlled by dam release, so the river can be ridden almost year-round. See chapter 9.
- **Taking in the View from the O.C. Ferris Wheel** (Ocean City, Md.): Fork over the \$5 for a ticket and climb aboard the vintage wheel. Go just before sunset and you won't wait in line. It's the perfect time to watch the charter boats heading in for the night and to see the sun set over Assawoman Bay. As darkness falls, you can watch the boardwalk light up. See p. 279.
- **Going “Downy Ocean”:** Head for the crowded beaches of Ocean City, Maryland (with all those restaurants, shops, and golf courses), or to the quiet public beaches of Rehoboth or Bethany, Delaware. Both have their charms. The sand is white and clean; the waves can be gentle or furious (watch for the red warning flags). The sand crabs are used to being dug up, and the seagulls will keep an eye on your snacks. (Don't give in and feed them—it can be pretty scary.) See chapter 10.
- **Off-Roading on Assateague Island** (Md.): Most people who visit Assateague see only the 4- or 5-mile stretch of guarded beach and the federal and state camping facilities. They've missed the best part: the 20 miles of undisturbed beaches. This part of the island is only accessible on foot, by canoe or kayak, or over off-road-vehicle trails, the fastest way to get to those secluded areas. See p. 288.

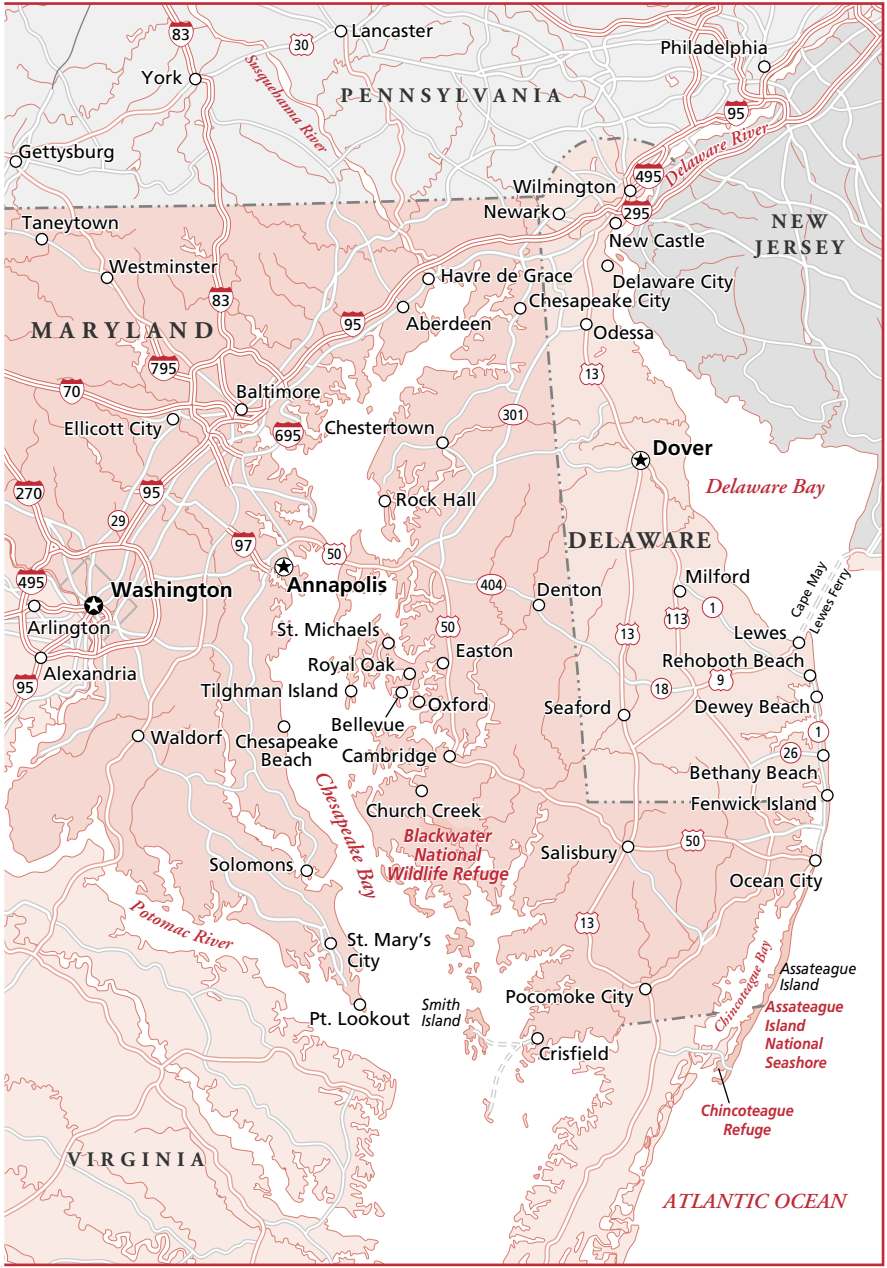
## 2 The Best Lodging Bets

- **Annapolis Inn** (Annapolis, Md.; ☎ 410/295-5200): This sumptuous Georgian-style house was originally the home of Thomas Jefferson's

physician in the 1770s. A three-course breakfast is served on fine china in the cranberry-red dining room. Selling points include Jacuzzis,

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- a room with its own deck, a patio surrounding a koi fishpond, and experienced, welcoming hosts. See p. 126.
- **Tilghman Island Inn** (Tilghman, Md.; ☎ 800/866-2141): Waterfront rooms take full advantage of the inn's setting on Knapps Narrows on the Eastern Shore. The bedrooms are spacious, the amenities are comfy, and the welcome is warm. See p. 167.
  - **Waterloo Country Inn** (Princess Anne, outside Crisfield, Md.; ☎ 410/651-0883): This 1775 Georgian manor on Maryland's Eastern Shore sits right on the banks of Monie Creek. It offers seclusion, peace, and tranquillity, whether you're wandering the grounds, canoeing the lovely tidal creek, or biking the back roads of Somerset County. See p. 180.
  - **Inn at Osprey Point** (Rock Hall, Md.; ☎ 410/639-2194): Who can resist a room with a view? This modern Eastern Shore inn has plenty of charm in its individually designed guest rooms. Amenities include an acclaimed restaurant, a pool, a marina, and those views of the Chesapeake Bay. See p. 187.
  - **Stonebow Inn** (Grantsville, near Deep Creek Lake, Md.; ☎ 800/272-4090): Location makes the Stonebow, a restored 1877 Victorian, a good bet. It's right on the Casselman River beside the Spruce Forest Artisan Village, a few minutes from Deep Creek Lake and as far from the hustle and bustle as you want to be. See p. 234.
  - **Addy Sea Bed & Breakfast** (Bethany Beach, Del.; ☎ 800/418-6764): In a resort filled with condos and rental houses, this B&B offers cozy charm surrounded by beach and surf. It's quiet enough for romance, but close enough to beach fun. See p. 259.
  - **Lighthouse Club Hotel** (Ocean City, Md.; ☎ 800/371-5400): This hotel was designed for romantic beach getaways. Leave the kids at home and come here for secluded luxury with a view of the bay. Some rooms have fireplaces and Jacuzzis, too. See p. 272.
  - **Hotel du Pont** (Wilmington, Del.; ☎ 800/441-9019): Not only is this a showcase of marble, carved paneling, and DuPont's latest fibers, but it also offers its lucky guests palatial surroundings, terrific amenities, and some of the best dining in town. See p. 295.
  - **Inn at Montchanin Village** (Montchanin, Del.; ☎ 800/COWBIRD): This cluster of buildings was once home for workers of the DuPont powder mills. Now they're charming guest rooms and suites, set in beautiful gardens, located just a few miles from the du Pont homes and gardens. See p. 296.

### 3 The Best Dining Bets

- **Charleston** (Baltimore, Md.; ☎ 410/332-7373): Southern cuisine takes center stage at this restaurant in the trendy Harbor East neighborhood. Expect to be treated like royalty as the waitstaff serves your micro-greens salad, grilled yellowfin tuna with andouille sausage, and a perfect crème brûlée. See p. 80.
- **Carroll's Creek** (Annapolis, Md.; ☎ 410/263-8102): The best views of the waterfront and Annapolis's skyline are paired with imaginative food here. Dine indoors or on the porch from a menu that is always changing, but might pair rockfish with polenta or free-range chicken with truffle-scented mashed potatoes. The cream

of crab soup is always a winner. See p. 132.

- **Green Room** (Wilmington, Del.; ☎ 302/594-3154): Delaware's top restaurant wows diners the minute they see the impressive decor. But the real star here is the food: classic sauces, perfectly cooked entrees, and desserts prepared as art. See p. 298.

- **Krazy Kat's** (Wilmington, Del.; ☎ 302/888-4200): The Brandywine Valley's finest inn also has the finest classic dining. Enjoy a leisurely meal of exceptionally prepared food in the cozy candlelit dining rooms. See p. 299.

#### 4 The Best Affordable Dining

- **Sabatino's** (Baltimore, Md.; ☎ 410/727-9414): Good food at reasonable prices is the norm at most of Little Italy's restaurants. But Sabatino's also offers cozy dining rooms, an attentive waitstaff, and dinner served late into the night. See p. 85.
- Eat at the museum: **Gertrude's**, at the Baltimore Museum of Art (☎ 410/889-3399), is a delightful spot that goes perfectly with a trip to view the exhibits or as a destination in itself. Gertrude's (as in Gertrude Stein) boasts artfully prepared food and outdoor dining (in season) with beautiful views. See p. 89.
- **Grill Art Cafe** (Baltimore, Md.; ☎ 410/366-2005): The stylish bistro

setting and inventive sandwiches, salads, and brunch menu make Grill Art a great addition to the quirky Hampden scene. And the prices make this a good value, too. See p. 90.

- **Harpoon Hanna's** (Fenwick Island, Del.; ☎ 800/227-0525): The food is good; the fresh breads and muffins are outstanding. For a beach restaurant, this one is worth the trip. Set on a canal, its big windows let the sunset in. The fish is fresh, the staff hard-working, and children are always welcome. Come early or be prepared for a substantial wait. See p. 262.

#### 5 The Best Shopping Bets

- **Antique Row** (Baltimore, Md.): In a single block of Howard Street a few blocks north of downtown, serious antiques fans can find old silver, chandeliers, assorted porcelain, and chairs of all sizes and shapes. See p. 108.
- **Downtown Annapolis** (Md.): Main Street and Maryland Avenue offer all kinds of choices in little shops. Tuscan kitchenware, Christmas ornaments, antique mirrors, and Navy sweatshirts are only a few of the items

on these charming streets. There are a few chain stores, but the best shops are locally owned. See p. 142.

- **Tanger Outlet Centers** (Rehoboth Beach, Del.): Wear comfortable shoes for this colossal (tax-free) shopping extravaganza. The three centers have everything from Waterford crystal to OshKosh B'Gosh overalls. There's lots of clothing and home decor, as well as books, food, and other stuff. See p. 255.

## 6 The Best Views & Vistas

- **From the Severn River Scenic Overlook** (near Annapolis, Md.): On Route 450 outside of Annapolis, a beautiful stone porch offers stunning views of the Severn River and the U.S. Naval Academy. It's also now the site of a World War II Memorial, with summaries of the major battles and obelisks bearing the names of Marylanders who gave their lives in World War II. See p. 140.
- **At Great Falls of the Potomac** (near Potomac, Md.): On a sunny Sunday, the walkways will be crowded, but who cares? Just outside of Potomac, a Maryland suburb north of Washington, D.C., on the C&O Canal, a series of walkways will take you over the Great Falls of the Potomac. Stand above the piles of jagged rocks as the Potomac River rushes over them and down to the sea, the steepest and most spectacular fall line rapids of any Eastern river. See p. 146.
- **On the Bay Bridge** (Md.): When you get to the middle of this bridge, you'll have a wonderful view of the Chesapeake. Maryland's Eastern Shore

stretches down one terminus, while the view of the Western Shore includes Annapolis south of the bridge and two lighthouses north of the bridge. The closest is the Sandy Point Light, and the farther one is the Baltimore Light. Believe it or not, state officials considered obstructing this view because motorists keep slowing down!

- **Atop the Mountain at Wisp Resort** (Western Md.): Ride the ski lift to the top, and before you go schussing down, take a good look. You'll see snow-covered slopes, the vast white expanse of Deep Creek Lake lined with the tracks of an occasional snowmobile, and a sky as blue as it can be. See p. 231.
- **From the Brandywine River Museum** (Chadds Ford, Pa., in the Brandywine Valley): While the art at this museum is dazzling, don't forget to look out the windows: The view of the river meandering under the canopy of trees is peaceful, though in fall a riot of color. See p. 314.

## 7 The Best Hiking

- **Calvert Cliffs State Park** (near Solomons, in Calvert County, Md.): This park offers a wide variety of wilderness scenery and trails for moderate-length day hikes. They wind through forests and then descend into a primordial tidal marsh with grasses, waterfowl, and cypress trees. Most hikes include at least one view of the Chesapeake Bay from atop the cliffs or from a small beach at the base of the marsh. See p. 151.
- **Swallow Falls State Park** (Garrett County, Md.): A great place for families to hike in Western Maryland, this park's short trails wind through

dark, peaty forest and offer relatively easy access to some stunning scenery. There are overlooks to three waterfalls—Swallow Falls, Tolliver Falls, and the 63-foot-high cascading Muddy Creek Falls. See p. 216.

- **Big Savage Trail in Savage River State Forest** (Garrett County, Md.): This rugged trail extends 17 miles along the ridge of Big Savage Mountain, passing impressive vistas along the way. A tough hike through almost total wilderness, it's the best choice for serious backpacking in Western Maryland. See p. 216.

## 8 The Best Fishing & Crabbing

- **Calvert County Charter Fleets** (Solomons and Chesapeake Beach, Md.): For charter fishing on the Chesapeake, Calvert County south of Annapolis is the place to go. The small harbor of Chesapeake Beach is home to the largest charter fleet on the bay. Solomons, south of Chesapeake Beach, has a good fleet, too—with over 30 charter boats and a few headboats of its own. From either one, the captains are glad to take you trolling or chumming along the Western and Eastern Shores of the Chesapeake. See p. 149.
- **Point Lookout State Park** (St. Mary's County, Md.): Location is everything at this peninsular park, with the Chesapeake Bay on one side and the Potomac River on the other. Fish from the pier on the bay, or rent a boat at the camp marina. If they aren't biting in the bay, simply stroll over to the Potomac and try again. See p. 153.
- **Casselman River** (near Grantsville, Md.): Cleanup efforts in this area of Western Maryland have paid off. The beautiful and wild Casselman River, once empty of fish because of acid draining from local mines, is now teeming with trout. Fish tales include catches of up to 40 fish a day—and fly-fishing with the bears. One thing is for certain, though: The Casselman is a great place to fish. See chapter 9.

## 9 The Best Birding & Wildlife Watching

- **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge** (Eastern Shore, Md.): The Delmarva Peninsula is dotted with wildlife refuges and protected lands, havens for migrating waterfowl and other wildlife. Blackwater is the largest of these. During peak migration season, you'll see ducks, tundra and mute swan, and snow geese, as well as the ever-present herons, Canada geese, and osprey, plus the occasional bald eagle. If you explore the wooded areas, you may even catch sight of the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel. See p. 176.
- **Butterfly-Watching at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge** (Eastern Shore, Md.): The trees here fill up with the colorful little travelers as they make their way to South America every fall. Fans of the tundra swan also await the waterfowl's arrival to this resting place. The refuge's website keeps nature lovers up-to-date on the migrating creatures' arrival. See p. 186.
- **Whale- & Dolphin-Watching on the Mid-Atlantic:** The Atlantic coast of Maryland and Delaware, particularly near Cape Henlopen State Park (Del.), is a good place to spot whales and dolphins. The Great Dune at Cape Henlopen is a great vantage point (bring binoculars). There are also whale- and dolphin-watching cruises available—even sea kayaking with the dolphins. See p. 244 and chapter 10.
- **Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge** (Central Del.): The largest of Delaware's wildlife refuges, Bombay Hook, northeast of Dover, has nearly 16,000 acres of tidal marsh, freshwater pools, and timbered swamps. You'll see a lot of migratory waterfowl in fall and spring; then the migrant shorebirds and songbirds appear in April, May, and June. See p. 328.



## The Best Baseball in Maryland

Marylanders love baseball. The Orioles are the big-league team, of course, but the state is also home to six minor-league teams, three baseball museums, and a monument to a storied slugger.

The **Baltimore Orioles** (☎ 888/848-BIRD; [baltimore.orioles.mlb.com](http://baltimore.orioles.mlb.com)) play at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. The stadium is easy to get to, right off I-95 to I-395 at the bottom of the ramp into town. Parking in lots around the stadium usually costs about \$10. The Light Rail stops here for every game. The ballpark was designed to bring spectators closer to the action, and it does. Watch out for foul balls! A promenade follows the warehouse building along the outfield wall. Stop at the deck overlooking the bullpen to watch the pitchers warm up. The food here is pretty good, ranging from hot dogs to Italian sausage to crab cakes. Former Oriole Boog Powell's barbecue stand sends a cloud of smoke up over the scoreboard wall—the pit-beef sandwiches are worth the wait in line. The park also offers tours that give visitors a chance to sit in the dugout and in the press box from April to September.

An Orioles game might be a great place to bring a client (the stands are full of them), but a minor-league game is the place for families. In addition to lower ticket prices (less than \$10) and more intimate stadiums, many minor-league games offer playgrounds, fireworks, and special family events.

The **Aberdeen IronBirds** (☎ 410/297-9292; [www.ironbirdsbaseball.com](http://www.ironbirdsbaseball.com)), a Class A affiliate of the Orioles, are owned by Aberdeen natives Cal and Billy Ripken. The stadium was an instant hit when it opened in 2002. It also houses the **Ripken Museum**, which moved here in late 2005 from downtown Aberdeen. A temporary exhibit is part of group tours (call ☎ 410/297-9292 for reservations). A permanent home—a testament to the “Ripken Way,” which took six Ripkens to professional baseball—will open in 2007. Nearby youth-size fields copy the dimensions of famous parks; Cal Sr.'s Yard, for instance, is a miniature replica of Oriole Park at Camden Yards (a “warehouse” like the one at the real Camden Yards will house a 200-room hotel by late 2006). The Ripken Academy operates a series of baseball clinics, tournaments, and the Cal Ripken World Series here.

## 10 The Best Camping

- **Janes Island State Park** (Eastern Shore, Md.): For sunset vistas over the Chesapeake Bay, the campsites at this park north of Crisfield can't be beat. Many sites sit on the water's edge, offering unobstructed views and access to the canoe trail. If you prefer less primitive accommodations, there are a few waterside cabins as well. See p. 181.
- **New Germany State Park** (Garrett County, Md.): It's small, with only 37 well-spaced sites, but they are clean, well kept, and offer easy access to hiking trails, fishing spots in the park's lake, and the facilities of several other Western Maryland state parks and forests. The 11 cabins are great options for winter cross-country skiing trips. See p. 216.

The **Bowie Baysox** (☎ 301/464-4865; www.baysox.com), a Class AA Orioles affiliate, usually have a fireworks display after Saturday home games. The team plays in Prince George's Stadium, in Prince George's County, northeast of Washington, D.C.

The **Delmarva Shorebirds** (☎ 888/BIRDS96 or 410/219-3112; www.the-shorebirds.com), an Orioles affiliate in the Class A South Atlantic League, play near Ocean City, at Arthur W. Perdue Stadium in Salisbury, Maryland. An Eastern Shore Hall of Fame here celebrates Delmarva baseball from amateur to pro.

The **Frederick Keys** (☎ 877/8GO-KEYS; www.frederickkeys.com), the 2005 Carolina League champions and a Class A Orioles affiliate, play at Harry Grove Stadium in Frederick, off I-70 and Route 355 (Market St.). The Keys draw fans from Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

The **Hagerstown Suns** (☎ 800/538-9967 or 301/791-6266; www.hagerstownsuns.com), a Class A team of the New York Mets, play at Municipal Stadium, on Route 40, in Hagerstown, Western Maryland.

Baltimore City has two sports museums celebrating baseball. Yes, the Babe was a Yankee, but he was born in Baltimore in the narrow rowhouse that is now the **Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum**, 216 Emory St. (☎ 410/727-1539; www.baberuthmuseum.com). Next door to Oriole Park at Camden Yards is **Sports Legends at Camden Yards**, 301 W. Camden St. (☎ 410/727-1539; www.sportslegendsatcamdenyards.com), filled with mementos of Orioles history as well as other local sporting memories. For details of these two museums, see p. 97 and p. 98.

If you visit **Chestertown**, on the Eastern Shore, look for the life-size statue of **Bill Nicholson** next to the town hall on Cross Street. In the 1940s, the Chestertown native was a home-run king with the Chicago Cubs. He led the majors in home runs and RBIs in 1943 and 1944. During the 1944 season, the New York Giants intentionally walked him with the bases loaded, rather than risk a grand slam. He died in his hometown, Chestertown, in 1996.

- **Potomac–Garrett State Forest** (Garrett County, Md.): For primitive camping in the mountains, head to this state forest in Western Maryland. Nearly all the campsites are within walking distance of one of the forest's mountain streams, and they're so spread out, you may never know if you have camping neighbors. See p. 217.
- **Cape Henlopen State Park** (near Lewes, Del.): Summer beach camping

is always a tenuous venture, with the heat, the bugs, and the sand. But the facilities at Cape Henlopen make for the best beach experience: There are 159 wooded sites, several with full hookups, and all with access to bathhouses and running water. Within the park, you'll find several miles of hiking and biking trails, guarded beaches, and great fishing. See p. 236.

## 11 The Best Festivals & Events

- **Flower Mart** (Baltimore, Md.; 410/323-0022; [www.flowermart.org](http://www.flowermart.org)): This 2-day festival is held the first weekend in May, beside the Washington Monument on Charles Street. You'll see ladies wearing flower-bedecked hats, plenty of flowers, and traditional Baltimore foods such as crab cakes and the yummy lemon stick. (Halve a lemon, stab it with a peppermint stick, and suck the juice through the candy.)
- **United States Sailboat Show** (Annapolis, Md.; 410/268-8828; [www.usboat.com](http://www.usboat.com)): Boat dealers fill the city dock with an array of sailboats, some spartan racing boats and others luxurious floating living rooms. Wear sneakers or boat shoes, and you can climb aboard them all and dream. It takes place the first weekend in October. The **Powerboat Show** is held the following weekend.
- **Waterfowl Festival** (Easton, Md.; 410/822-4567; [www.waterfowlfestival.org](http://www.waterfowlfestival.org)): You'll see paintings of canvasbacks, herons, and Canada geese; decoys both practical and fanciful; and sculptures so lifelike you'll want to smooth their feathers. There are sometimes even tiny sculptures worked in gold. For fun, stop by the duck-calling contest, too. The festival is held the second week in November.
- **Christmas at Longwood Gardens** (Kennett Square, Pa., in the Brandywine Valley; 610/388-1000): Thousands of lights—or maybe it's millions—turn the gardens into pure magic. Everyone forgets that it's cold as they slow down to gaze at all those twinkling lights. Then they go into the conservatories to see all the poinsettias and Christmas decorations. “Winter wonderland” is so cliché, but it's really true in this case.

## 12 The Best Family Activities

- **B&O Railroad Museum** (Baltimore, Md.): Kids of every age are entranced by the gigantic iron horses that fill the roundhouse where American railroading got its start. See p. 97.
- **Art and Industry** (Baltimore, Md.): Baltimore's museums have a few attractions the kids are sure to like. The **Walters Art Museum** (p. 101) has a great armor collection, while the sculpture garden at the **Baltimore Museum of Art** (p. 101) delights even the youngest children. And the guides at the **Baltimore Museum of Industry** (p. 92) offer insights on the kids' levels and even let them try out some of the machines.
- **Harbor Queen Boat Ride** (Annapolis, Md.): The kids love leaning over the rail as waves hit the boat, and it's a great way to see the bay. There's a little history lesson, but mostly this is a wind-in-your-face, sun-in-your-eyes ride. See p. 141.
- **Delaware History Museum** (Wilmington, Del.): Toddlers can run up and down the ramps, school-age children can try out the interactive displays, and everybody will get a kick out of the “Distinctly Delaware” exhibit. Grandma's Attic adds hands-on activities to the fun. See p. 301.