

The Best of Maryland & Delaware

I've always lived in Maryland and never wanted to live anywhere else. Delaware is the tiny gem of a state right next door.

In either state it's easy to find fascinating places to visit: from historic sites dating back to the first settlements in the New World to high-tech attractions; good eating, from fresh seafood at local diners to fine dining; great natural beauty and lots of outdoor activity, from the ocean to the bay to the mountains.

The regions covered in this book can make a great day trip, weekend, or full vacation. A tourist at heart, I've spent my whole life visiting places around my state and its next-door neighbor. I found myself awed at the horror of Antietam, delighted by the idiosyncratic home of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, and invigorated by paddling a canoe down a creek off the Patapsco River.

I can't wait for you to see the places I've always loved: the beautiful, hidden Cunningham Falls; the views from the rolling Appalachian Mountains; the friendly streets of Baltimore; and the bars and restaurants in Annapolis.

Don't be fooled by Delaware's size. Billing itself as the "Small Wonder," its coast is famous for laid-back beach resorts. The state is also a major destination for NASCAR and slots fans. It has an extraordinary number of finely preserved turn-of-the-last-century mansions, and a compact, cultured metropolis in Wilmington.

These two states have been touched by revolution, civil war, and world wars, and the people here don't forget. You can see places where George Washington stood, where brothers died, and where slaves ran for freedom. You can see silent monuments to those who defended the country in 1812, 1917, and 1945.

These states love the water that laps their shores. The Atlantic Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay, the rivers winding through valleys and mountains have given the people places to work, to play, and to stop and take in the beauty.

Bring your sense of wonder and your sense of humor. You'll learn something, maybe. You'll see something beautiful, of course. You'll have fun, definitely.

1 Frommer's Favorite Maryland & Delaware Experiences

- **The view from the Ocean City, Maryland, Ferris Wheel:** Fork over the \$5 for a ticket and climb aboard the vintage wheel. Go just before sunset and you won't wait in line. That'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 chapter 9, "Maryland & Delaware's Atlantic Beaches."
- **The Star-Spangled Banner at Fort McHenry** (Baltimore): The park rangers ask visitors to help with the raising and the 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. 86.

- **Rafting the Yough:** The Youghiogheny River (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 8, "Western Maryland."
- **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 or even (wrapped) hot dogs to the fans. The many minor league teams are also fun and more affordable. See "The Best Baseball in Maryland," later in this chapter.
- **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 sea gulls will keep an eye on your snacks. (Don't give in and feed them. It can be pretty scary.) See chapter 9, "Maryland & Delaware's Atlantic Beaches."
- **Tea at Bertha's** (Fells Point, Baltimore; ☎ 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. 79.

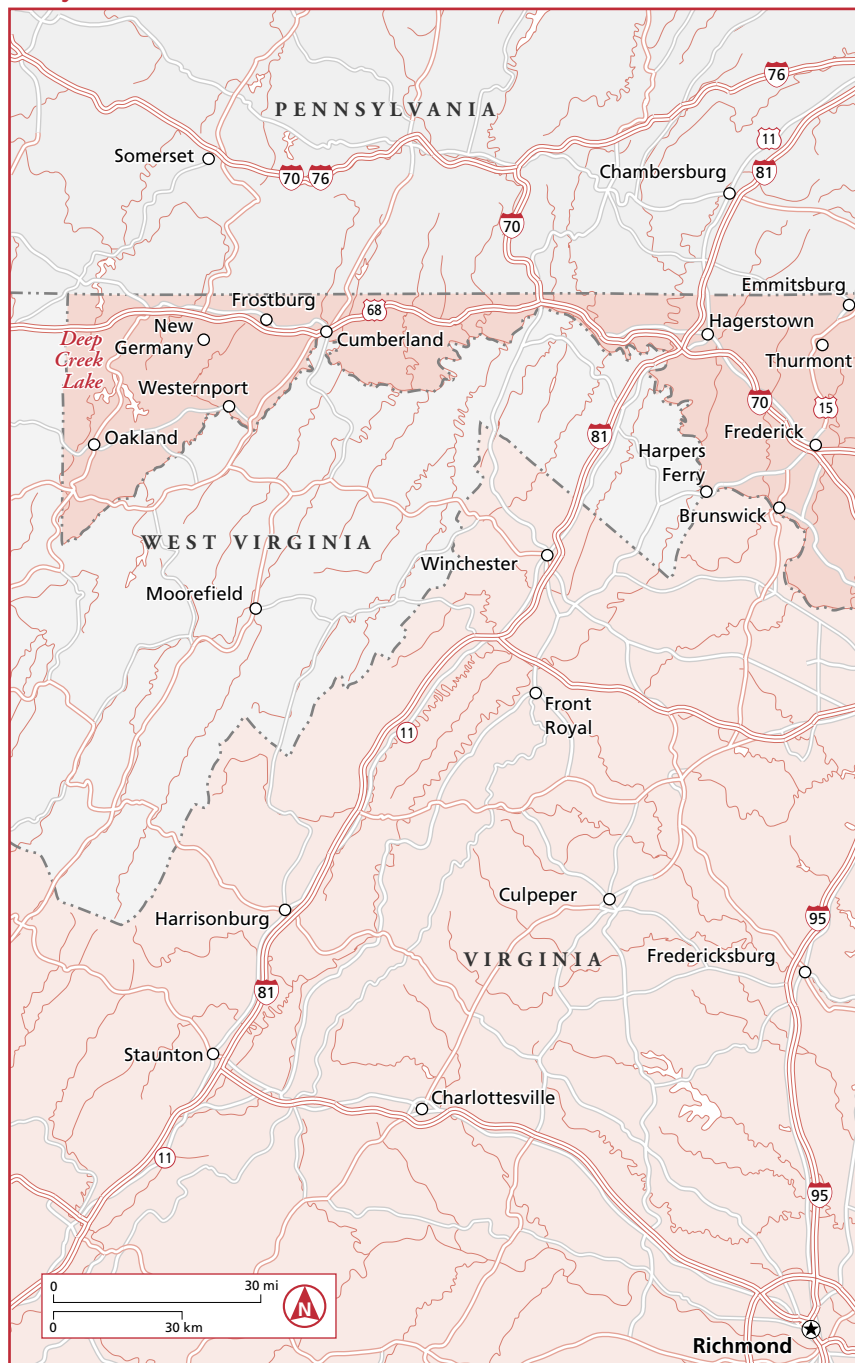
- **Crabbing on the Wye River** (St. Michaels, Maryland): Whether you are wading with crab pots or chicken-necking from a boat, the Wye River is the place to go crabbing. See chapter 6, "Eastern Shore."
- **Preakness Week** (Baltimore): If you're young and want some serious partying, check out the infield. If you actually want to see the second jewel in the Triple Crown, head for the grandstand. The race, held the third Saturday in May, concludes a week of festivities. The party usually starts with hot air "balloon glows" in the Inner Harbor. 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 chapter 4, "Baltimore."
- **Off-Road Vehicle Trips on Assateague Island:** Most people who visit Assateague see only the 4- or 5-mile stretch of guarded beach and 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 "Assateague Island National Seashore," in chapter 9.

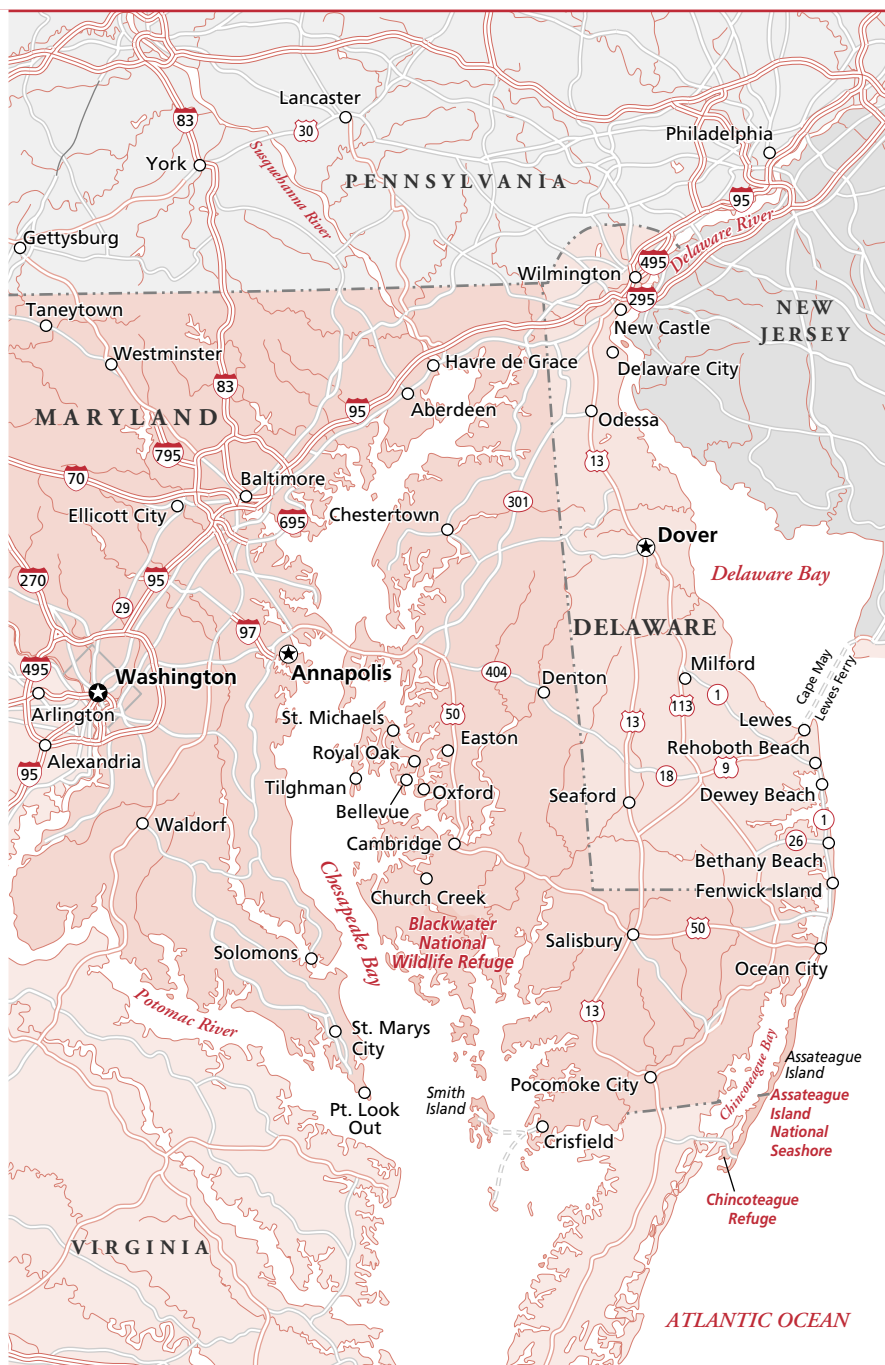
2 The Best Accommodations Bets

- **Harbor Court Hotel** (Baltimore; ☎ 800/824-0076): It's a treat to walk in the door and you're

pampered when you spend a night here. Rooms are exquisitely furnished with tons of amenities, and

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the restaurant offers some of the city's best dining. See p. 66.

- **Hotel du Pont** (Wilmington; ☎ 800/441-9019): Not only is this a showcase of marble, carved paneling, and DuPont's latest fibers, it offers its lucky guests palatial surroundings, terrific amenities, and some of the best restaurants in town. See p. 295.
- **Tidewater Inn** (Easton, Maryland; ☎ 800/237-8775): This is Eastern Shore hospitality at its best. The inn is noted for its gorgeous surroundings, careful attention to service, and location in the heart of Easton, which is perfect for a weekend getaway or hunting trip. See p. 149.
- **Inn at Montchanin Village** (Montchanin, Delaware; ☎ 800/COWBIRD): This cluster of buildings was once home for workers of the DuPont powder mills. Now they are charming guest rooms and suites, set in beautiful gardens, a few miles from the du Pont homes and gardens. See p. 296.
- **The Annapolis Inn** (Annapolis, Maryland; ☎ 410/295-5200): This sumptuous Georgian-style house was originally the home of Thomas Jefferson's physician in the 1770s. The three-course breakfast is served in the warm, cranberry-red dining room on fine china, silver, and crystal. There are Jacuzzis, a room with its own deck, a patio surrounding a koi fishpond, and experienced, welcoming hosts. See p. 113.
- **Elliott House Victorian Inn** (Grantsville, Maryland; ☎ 800/272-4090): Western Maryland has always been a good place to get away from it all, and the Elliott House, a restored 1877 Victorian home, offers a tranquil setting in the middle of a bustling historic site, next to the Spruce Forest Artisan Village. Just off the highway, it's nestled among the trees by the Caselman River Bridge. See p. 227.
- **Bluebird on the Mountain Bed and Breakfast** (Frederick, Maryland; ☎ 800/362-9526): Reserve the room with the sun porch and make a beeline for the chaise longue. Or take your breakfast to the porch and listen to the wind rustle through the enormous trees. Hard to believe it's less than 2 hours from Baltimore or Washington. A massage therapist is only a phone call away. Just a few minutes' drive away are Frederick, the Civil War battlefields, and views of the Appalachians. See p. 205.
- **Waterloo Country Inn** (Princess Anne, Maryland; ☎ 410/651-0883): When Theresa and Irwin Kraemer moved from Austria to this 1775 Georgian manor on Maryland's Eastern Shore, their intention was to turn it into the quintessential country inn. Their hostelry on the banks of Monie Creek offers seclusion, peace, and tranquillity, whether you're wandering the inn grounds, canoeing the lovely tidal creek, or biking the back roads of Somerset County. See p. 180.

3 The Best Dining Bets

- **Carrol's Creek** (Annapolis, Maryland; ☎ 410/263-8102): The best views of the waterfront and Annapolis skyline are paired with imaginative food. Dine indoors or on the porch from a menu that is always changing but will match rockfish with polenta and free-range chicken with truffle-scented mashed potatoes. The cream of crab soup is a winner. See p. 120.
- **Charleston** (Baltimore; ☎ 410/332-7373): Southern cuisine takes center stage at this restaurant in

the trendy Harbor East neighborhood. Expect to be treated like royalty while the waitstaff brings you your micro-green salad, grilled yellowfin tuna with andouille sausage, and a perfect crème brûlée. See p. 73.

- **Green Room** (Wilmington, Delaware; ☎ 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 meats and vegetables, and desserts prepared as art. See p. 298.

4 The Best Affordable Dining

- **Harpoon Hanna's** (Fenwick Island, Delaware; ☎ 800/227-0525): The food is good; the fresh bread 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 hardworking. And children are always welcome. Come early or be prepared for a substantial wait. See p. 261.

- Baltimore's museum restaurants: **Gertrude's** (Baltimore Museum of Art; ☎ 410/889-3399) and **Joy America Cafe** (American Visionary Arts Museum ☎ 410/244-6500)

are two delightful restaurants that go perfectly with a trip to the museum or as trips by themselves. The food at both is artfully prepared and both have outdoor dining (in season) with beautiful views. See p. 83.

- **Grill Art** (Baltimore; ☎ 410/366-2005): I'm sticking my neck out because this is a brand new restaurant. But its stylish bistro setting and inventive sandwiches, salads, and brunch menu make it a great addition to the quirky Hampden scene. And the prices make this a good value. See p. 84.

5 The Best Shopping Bets

- **Antique Row** (Baltimore): In 1 block of Howard Street a few blocks north of downtown, serious antiques fans can find old silver, chandeliers, assorted porcelains, and chairs of all sizes and shapes. See chapter 4, "Baltimore."
- **Rehoboth Outlets** (Rehoboth Beach, Delaware): Wear comfortable shoes; this is tax-free outlet shopping heaven. Four centers have everything from Waterford crystal to Oshkosh overalls. There's lots of clothing and home decor outlets, as well as books, food, and other stuff.

See chapter 9, "Maryland & Delaware's Atlantic Beaches."

- **Downtown Annapolis:** Main Street and Maryland Avenue offer shoppers 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 chapter 5, "Maryland's Two Capitals: Annapolis & St. Mary's City."

6 The Best Views & Vistas

- **A Mountaintop at Wisp Ski Resort:** 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 chapter 8, “Western Maryland.”

• **Severn River Scenic Overlook:**

On Route 450 outside of Annapolis, a beautiful stone porch offers stunning views of the Severn River and U.S. Naval Academy. It is 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 chapter 5, “Maryland’s Two Capitals: Annapolis & St. Mary’s City.”

• **Great Falls of the Potomac:**

On a sunny Sunday, the walkways are 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 “Around the Capital Beltway,” in chapter 5.

• **Bay Bridge:**

When you get to the middle, you get a wonderful view of the Chesapeake. Maryland’s Eastern Shore stretches down one terminus, and 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 are considering obstructing this view because motorists keep slowing down!

• **Brandywine Valley:**

While the art at the Brandywine River 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 chapter 11, “The Brandywine Valley & Historic New Castle.”

7 The Best Hiking

• **Calvert Cliffs State Park:**

This park offers trails for moderate-length day hiking and a wide variety of wilderness scenery. The trails 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 chapter 5, “Maryland’s Two Capitals: Annapolis & St. Mary’s City.”

• **Swallow Falls State Park:**

A great place for families to hike in Garrett County, 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 chapter 8, “Western Maryland.”

• **Big Savage Trail:**

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 our choice for serious backpacking in Maryland—though closed in 2003, work is underway to reopen this trail after severe storms in 2002 and 2003. See chapter 8, “Western Maryland.”

8 The Best Fishing & Crabbing

- **Point Lookout State Park** (Maryland): 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, stroll over to the Potomac and try again. See chapter 5, "Maryland's Two Capitals: Annapolis & St. Mary's City."
- **Calvert County Charter Fleets:** 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. With over 30 charter boats and a few headboats of its own, Solomons, south of

Chesapeake Beach, has a good fleet, too. From either one, the captains are glad to take you trolling or chumming along the Western and Eastern Shores of the Chesapeake. See chapter 5, "Maryland's Two Capitals: Annapolis & St. Mary's City."

- **Casselman River** (fly-fishing/near Grantsville, Maryland): Cleanup efforts in this area have paid off. The beautiful and wild Casselman River, once empty of fish because of local acid mining, is now teeming with trout. Fish tales include catches of up to 40 fish a day—and fishing with the bears. One thing is for certain, though: The Casselman is once again a great place to fish. See chapter 8, "Western Maryland."

9 The Best Birding & Wildlife Watching

- **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge** (Maryland): 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, and the occasional bald eagle. If you explore the wooded areas, you may even catch sight of the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel. See chapter 6, "Eastern Shore."
- **Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge** (Delaware): 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, but after waterfowl season, in April, May, and June, migrant shorebirds and songbirds

appear. See chapter 12, "Dover & Central Delaware."

- **Whale- & Dolphin-Watching on the Mid-Atlantic:** The Atlantic coast of Maryland and Delaware near Cape Henlopen State Park (Delaware) 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, even sea kayaking with the dolphins. See chapter 9, "Maryland & Delaware's Atlantic Beaches."
- **Butterfly Watching at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge:** The trees here fill up with the colorful little travelers as they make their way to South America every fall. Tundra swan fans 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 chapter 6, "Eastern Shore."

10 The Best Festivals & Events

- **Flower Mart** (Baltimore): This 1-day festival is held the first Wednesday in May, beside the Washington Monument on Charles Street. Ladies wear flower-bedecked hats and there are plenty of flowers, as well as traditional Baltimore foods, including crab cakes and the yummy lemon stick. (Halve a lemon, stab it with a peppermint stick, and suck the juice through the candy.)
- **The Annapolis Sailboat Show** (Annapolis; ☎ 410/268-8828; 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. Held the first weekend in October. The **Powerboat Show** is held the following weekend.

- **Waterfowl Festival** (Easton; ☎ 410/822-4567; www.waterfowlfestival.org): You'll see paintings of canvasbacks, herons, and Canada geese; decoys practical and fanciful; and sculptures so lifelike you'll want to smooth the feathers. There are sometimes even tiny sculptures worked in gold. Then for fun, stop by the duck-calling contest, held in Easton the first weekend in November.

11 The Best Family Activities

- **Harbor Queen Boat Ride** (Annapolis): 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 chapter 5, "Maryland's Two Capitals: Annapolis & St. Mary's City."
- **Delaware History Center** (Wilmington): The toddlers can run up and down the ramps, the school-age children can try out the interactive exhibits, 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.

12 The Best Camping

- **Janes Island State Park** (Maryland): For sunset views 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. See chapter 6, "Eastern Shore."
- **New Germany State Park** (Maryland): It's small, with only 38 well-spaced sites, but they are clean, well-kept, and offer easy access to hiking trails, fishing spots in the park lake, and the facilities of several other state parks and forests. The 11 cabins are great options for winter cross-country skiing trips. See chapter 8, "Western Maryland."
- **Potomac-Garrett State Forest** (Maryland): For primitive camping in the mountains, head to this state forest in Garrett County. 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 chapter 8, "Western Maryland."
- **Cape Henlopen State Park** (Delaware): 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 camping. 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 chapter 9, "Maryland & Delaware's Atlantic Beaches."

13 The Best Curiosities

These are worth a look if you happen to be in the area:

- **The Fish That Didn't Get Away** (Ocean City, Maryland): At the south end of the boardwalk are a couple of stuffed prize fish caught off Ocean City. These record-breakers are pretty big, but the stories make a stop here even more worthwhile.
- **C&D Canal** (Chesapeake City): This canal connecting the Chesapeake Bay with Delaware Bay draws ships from all over the world. In fact, more freight tonnage goes through here than through the Panama and Suez Canals combined.
- **Katyn Monument** (Baltimore): Next to the Marriott at the Inner Harbor East is a golden monument flashing in the sun. This 47-foot sculpture by Andrew Pitynski

is dedicated to all prisoners of war as it memorializes Polish officers murdered by the Soviets in 1940 in the Katyn Forest.

- **Eye of Water** (Brandywine Valley, near Wilmington, Delaware): A tiny feature in the Longwood Gardens, this little spot is where all the water circulates for the 50-foot waterfall a few paces west of it. It sits atop 90,000 gallons of water but you'd never know it, standing there in this little pavilion watching the Eye of Water.
- **Delaware Coast Watchtowers:** These tall, lonely towers stood sentry during World War II. Crews manned them 24 hours a day, on the lookout for German ships and submarines. The towers still look out to sea. You can't go inside them, but you'll spot them as you drive along the coast.

14 The Best Picnic Places

- **Hagerstown Park** (Western Maryland): In the center of town, this is a gem. Its Victorian styling, playgrounds, and swans floating on the pond make it a great place to sit back and relax. There are concerts in the summer, a small Museum of Fine Arts, and the wonderful Hager House, built in 1739 when this was America's frontier. To get here, take the Sharpsburg Pike North exit off I-70, turn left on Wilson Boulevard, and turn right on Virginia Avenue.
- **Oregon Ridge Park** (Baltimore): The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra performs in this unassuming

park off I-83 at Shawan Road in the summertime. Fourth of July concerts often end with fireworks. Bring your picnic and blankets or buy food here. Concerts begin about 8pm. See chapter 4, "Baltimore."

- **Quiet Waters Park** (☎ 410/222-1777): You can spend all day at this well-designed park south of Annapolis. Besides plenty of places to lay out your picnic, there are bike and walking paths, playgrounds, waterfront paths, boat and kayak rentals, gardens, and occasional art exhibits. In winter, there's an ice rink.

- **Trees of the States Arboretum:**

This haven at Delaware Technical and Community College's Georgetown campus is a pleasant place to

stop on the way to or from the beach. Apart from the 51 trees representing the states and the District of Columbia, there's just a

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, two baseball museums, and a monument to a storied slugger.

The **Baltimore Orioles** 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. The light rail stops here for every game. Parking in lots around the stadium is close and usually costs about \$10. (Parking at the stadium goes fast.) The stadium 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 is pretty good and ranges 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 and 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. Call ☎ **888/848-BIRD** or visit baltimore.orioles.mlb.com.

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 stadiums have playgrounds, fireworks, and special family events.

The **Aberdeen Ironbirds**, Maryland's newest team, a Class A affiliate of the Orioles, are owned by Aberdeen native Cal Ripken and his family. The stadium was an instant hit when it opened in 2002. Youth-size stadiums, including a replica of Oriole Park at Camden Yards, are in the works for the Ripken Academy. The Cal Ripken World Series came home to Aberdeen for 2003. The Oriole Park field will be home to the Cal Ripken League World Series. For information call ☎ **410/297-9292** or visit www.ironbirdsbaseball.com.

The **Bowie Baysox**, a Class AA Orioles affiliate, usually has a fireworks display after Saturday home games. The team plays in Prince George's Stadium. For tickets, call ☎ **301/464-4900** or visit www.baysox.com.

The **Delmarva Shorebirds**, of the Class A South Atlantic League, are an Orioles affiliate, and play near Ocean City at Arthur W. Perdue Stadium in Salisbury, Maryland. For tickets, call ☎ **888/BIRDS96** or 410/219-3112 or visit www.theshorebirds.com.

The **Frederick Keys**, a Class A Orioles affiliate, play at Harry Grove Stadium in Frederick, off Route 70. Current Orioles on the disabled list come here to get back into shape. The Keys draw fans from Baltimore and Washington. For tickets, call ☎ **877/8GO-KEYS** or visit www.frederickkeys.com.

gazebo, a pond, and a picnic area. It's a lovely place to take a break. Each tree is marked with its species and state. Many have been growing

here since 1976. For more information and large tour groups, call ☎ **302/856-5400**.

The **Hagerstown Suns**, a Class A team of the San Francisco Giants, play at Municipal Stadium on Route 40. For tickets, call ☎ **800/538-9967** or 301/791-6266, fax 301/791-6066, or visit www.hagerstownsuns.com.

The Babe was a Yankee, but he was born in the narrow rowhouse that is now the **Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum/Baltimore Orioles Museum**. Two rooms are set up as they would have looked when he was living here. Exhibits include a wall enumerating his home runs; and memorabilia from his career and his days at St. Mary's Industrial School in Baltimore, where he learned to play the game. New exhibits recalled the days he played in Baltimore as well as "The Babe Ruth of the NFL," the late Johnny Unitas. The Orioles and gone-but-not-forgotten Colts have their own exhibits. The Orioles' exhibit takes visitors up to today with mementoes of various World Series, All Star games, and Hall of Famer Cal Ripken. It's at 216 Emory St.; ☎ **410/727-1539**; fax 410/727-1652; www.baberuthmuseum.com. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 seniors, \$3 ages 5 to 16. It's open April to October daily 10am to 5pm (until 7pm on Orioles' home game days); November to March daily 10am to 4pm. Closed January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25. From Camden Yards, follow the sidewalk baseballs from the Babe Ruth statue at the north end of the warehouse to the house 2 blocks away.

The **Ripken Museum** pays homage to more than Cal, Jr. It's a testament to the "Ripken Way" that took six Ripkens to professional baseball. What makes this museum interesting is not just the exhibits but the staff. They speak of the Ripkens as friends and know one or all of them personally. Some of the most interesting items are from Cal, Sr. and his brothers who played minor league ball decades ago. Every August, the Cal Ripken World Series trophy (for 12-year-old players) is on exhibit. It's at 3 W. Bel Air Ave., Aberdeen, MD 21001; ☎ **410/273-2525**; www.ripkenmuseum.com. Admission is \$3 adults, \$2 seniors, \$1 children 6 to 18. It's open Memorial Day through Labor Day, Monday through Saturday, 11am to 3pm, Sunday noon to 3:30pm; from Labor Day to Memorial Day, Friday and Monday, 11am to 3pm, Sunday noon to 3:30pm and Saturday 11am to 4pm; other hours by appointment. Take I-95 north to Exit 85 for Aberdeen. Turn right on Route 132 East (W. Bel Air Ave.). Go 1½ miles. The museum is on the left.

If you visit **Chestertown**, look for the life-size statue of Bill Nicholson next to the town hall on Cross Street. The Chestertown native was a home run king in the 1940s 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.