

## “Oh the Places You’ll Go...” Cruising the Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States. Maryland alone has 281 named islands. That is why so many boaters from other parts of the country choose to cruise the Chesapeake Bay.



Numerous publications make the mapping of the “Chesapeake Bay Cruise” easier by doing articles on the characteristics of the different towns. The stories offer advice on some of the best destinations for gunkholing or day cruising. Among the best-known destinations are Tilghman Island, Solomons Island, Oxford, St. Michaels, Crisfield, Cambridge, Baltimore and Sassafras. And yes, there are many more.

Although they all stand out for their individual characteristics, few stand out like St. Michaels, which is known for its history, shops, beautiful water views and events. However, it is also a community that is always changing to meet its ever-increasing number of visitors. In fact, visitors in 2017 will find numerous new restaurants and shops that will be open by mid-April or soon thereafter. Stores already open are now filled with pre-season sales.

St. Michaels was once known as “the Town That Fooled the British.” By orchestrating a blackout during the War of 1812, the residents of St. Michaels fooled the British so that they shot above the seemingly invisible town. Only one house was hit during the raid and that house is known as “The Cannonball House.”



St. Michaels is popular with boaters coming from the western shore. It is a trip that is easy to navigate from Annapolis (about two hours across the Bay) with a welcoming harbor that is open, safe and filled with boat slips. Visitors will walk down brick sidewalks to find a town with a fascinating history, diverse shops and great restaurants—some located waterside and others along the downtown main street.



Most of the buildings are historic--the town's origins date back to the mid-1600s and a grave yard alongside a downtown church illustrates some of that centuries-old history. As seen in the picture of the bright yellow building, many structures have been updated to reveal a quirky side to St. Michaels. A fascinating stop is former the Old Mill that has been renovated to house several shops. The Mill shops are filled with everything from greeting cards to an antique knife sharpener. Many restaurants feature happy hour specials—while Awful Arthur's features its “Awful Hour.”



The St. Michaels is filled with events year-round, making it a different place almost every weekend from spring to fall. Some upcoming events include:

- Eastern Shore Sea Glass and Coastal Arts Festival. Saturday-Sunday, April 8-9.
- Classic Motor Museum Grand Opening. Saturday, April 22.
- WineFest at St. Michaels. Saturday-Sunday, April 29-30.

More information on St. Michaels can be found at <http://www.stmichaelsmd.org> .

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