

Talbot COUNTY

**Official Travel Guide
of Talbot County, Maryland**

**CRUISIN' the
Great Talbot County Loop**

12 Unforgettable Experiences

A Seafood Lover's Dream



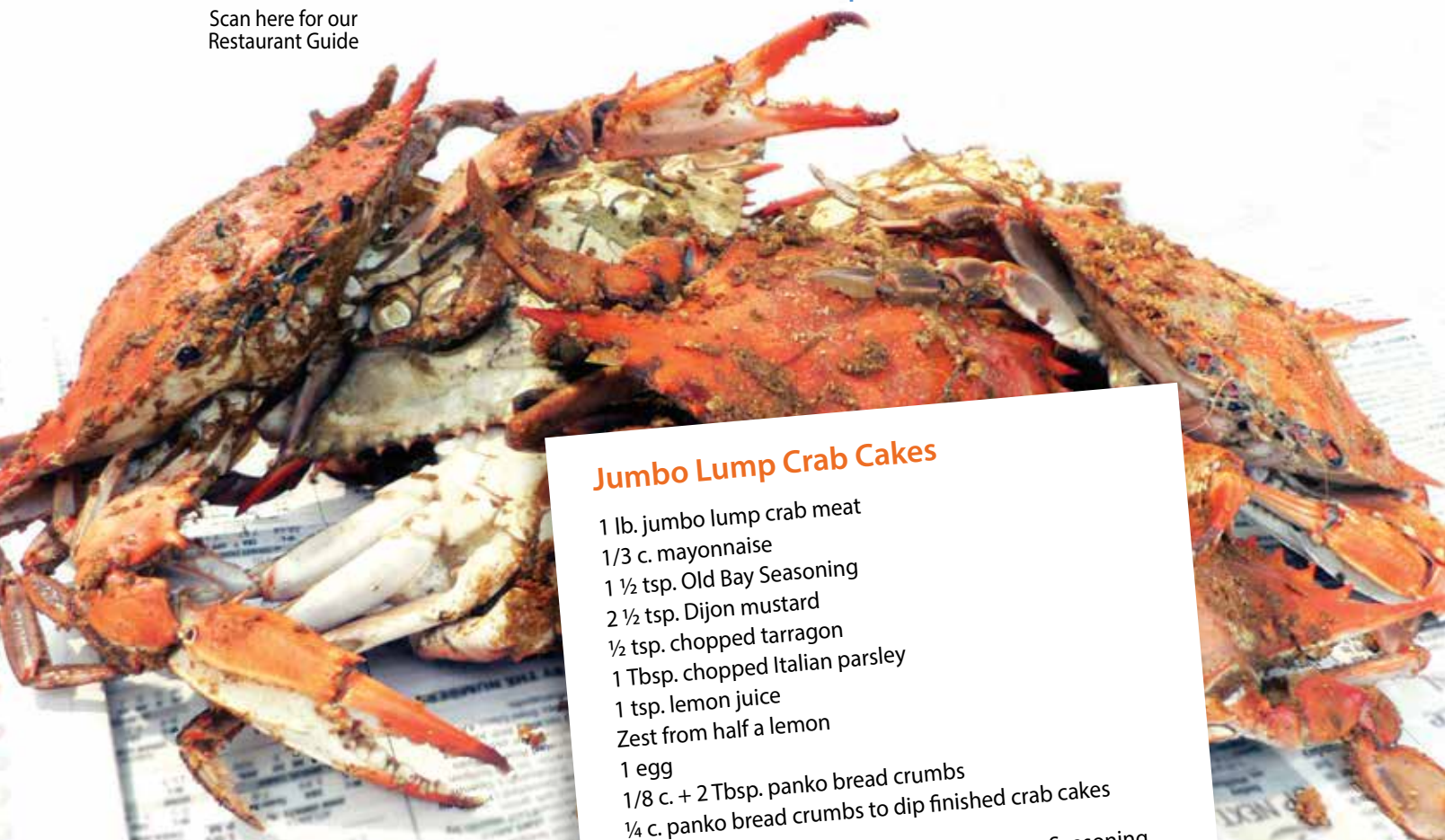
ON THE MENU IN TALBOT COUNTY

No matter the season, Talbot County is the Eastern Shore's culinary hotspot. Explore our coastal towns, fabulous restaurants, and elegant inns. Or bike, kayak, and sail the Chesapeake Bay.



Scan here for our
Restaurant Guide

Talbot COUNTY



Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes

- 1 lb. jumbo lump crab meat
- 1/3 c. mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 tsp. Old Bay Seasoning
- 2 1/2 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1/2 tsp. chopped tarragon
- 1 Tbsp. chopped Italian parsley
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- Zest from half a lemon
- 1 egg
- 1/8 c. + 2 Tbsp. panko bread crumbs
- 1/4 c. panko bread crumbs to dip finished crab cakes

Mix together mayonnaise, mustard, Old Bay Seasoning, tarragon, parsley, lemon juice, lemon zest, and egg. Fold in crab meat and bread crumbs and let rest for 1 hour before shaping into 5 1/2 ounce cakes. Dip shaped crab cake in panko bread crumbs on both sides. Sauté in olive oil and finish in a preheated oven 350 degrees for 7-10 minutes. Serves 4.

Recipe courtesy of Chef Mark Salter, Salter's Chesapeake Gourmet

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TILGHMAN WATERMEN'S MUSEUM

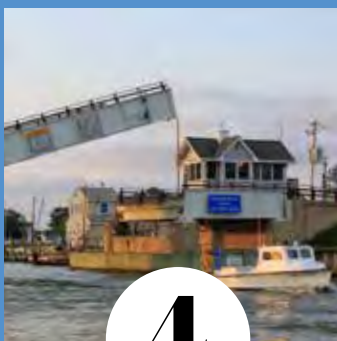
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- Oystering
- Waterman portraits
- Arrowheads
- Oral histories



6031 Tilghman Island Road, Tilghman MD 21671
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Great Talbot
County Loop



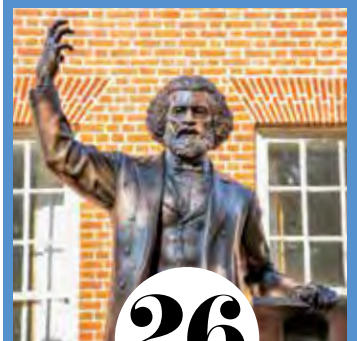
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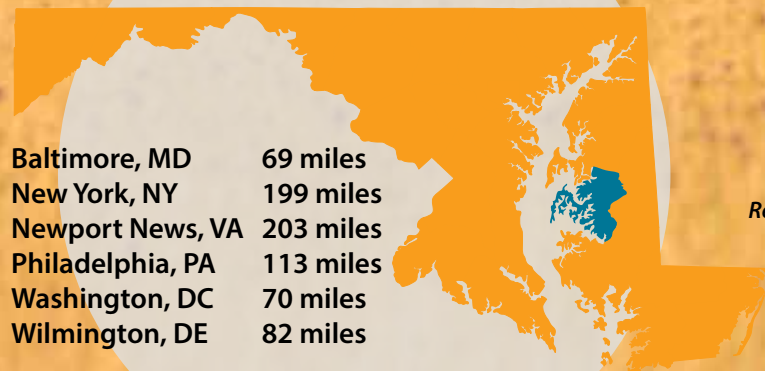
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Talbot County

CRUISIN' *the*



*Read more about our
destinations*

Great Talbot County Loop



FOR GENERATIONS, travelers have arrived in the nation's capital to explore and savor a uniquely American city. After a few days of patriotic fun, they amble into the countryside to find the yin to D.C.'s big city yang, making a loop around the Chesapeake Bay through rural Maryland and Virginia.

Talbot County occupies a place of honor along that well-trodden path, hugging the edge of the Chesapeake Bay like a child embracing its mother. It's here you'll find the best of the Chesapeake culture and cuisine, much of it bound together by a ribbon of backroads that string together the small-town pearls of Easton, Oxford, and St. Michaels. A 13-mile sidetrack puts you in an authentic working waterman's village.

Each town, with its own distinct character and timeless appeal, serves as a vibrant stop on this loop tour, creating a journey that whispers tales of colonial grandeur, maritime heritage, and the tranquil beauty of the Chesapeake Bay.

EASTON

Begin your journey in Easton, which is as sophisticated as it is lively. Featuring a world-class theater, renowned art galleries, and impeccably curated museums, it's the heart of the Eastern Shore's arts and culture scene.



Delve into Downtown

Downtown Easton offers ample parking, so stop and take a stroll or even a self-guided walking tour. Check out the historic courthouse at 11 N. Washington Street, which dates to 1794. Here you'll find a statue of abolitionist hero **Frederick Douglass**, who was born enslaved in Talbot County. For a helpful overview of the county's rich past, stop in the **Talbot Historical Society**, which also features an award-winning garden. Take in more of downtown with a horse-drawn carriage ride.

Several buildings from long ago still stand, opening a window into Talbot County's far-reaching past, which dates to around 1661. Easton is home to the oldest surviving Quaker meeting house in the United States. Built in 1684, **Third Haven Meeting House** maintains a significant congregation to this day. You'll find another Frederick Douglass tribute on the nearby rail trail, where a mural honors the internationally renowned author, orator, and statesman.

Discover the Eastern Shore's Best Dining

Easton has earned a reputation as the best dining destination in the Mid-Atlantic. Enjoy fine dining, prepared by Chef Harley Peet, a 2024 **James Beard Award** winner, who culls the world for the finest ingredients. Taste Asian-inspired fare on a charming patio. Enjoy an eco-conscious bistro centered around a wood-fired oven or escape to northern Italy with meals artfully prepared by a chef-owner.

Dream On

Easton makes a perfect base for exploring Talbot County. Accommodations range from charming historic inns to familiar, family-friendly national hotels with pools. The **Tidewater Inn**, located in the center of downtown, has been welcoming guests since 1949.

Soak in Arts and Entertainment

See who is taking the stage at the **Avalon Theatre**. The art deco masterpiece known for its extraordinary acoustics hosts live music regularly, from big-name rock bands to down-home bluegrass, innovative jazz groups to classical quartets. For a more intimate setting, check out which emerging artist is performing in the **Stoltz Listening Room**. The **Ebenezer Theater**, housed in a thoughtfully renovated building circa



1856, hosts internationally acclaimed musical artists, along with film screenings.

View works from masters such as Rembrandt and Rothko, along with emerging artists at the **Academy Art Museum**, which offers free admission. You can add to your own collection from galleries dotting the streets of downtown Easton, which exhibit art from near and far.



From June through August there is dancin' in the streets, as the Avalon Foundation presents a free outdoor concert series on Harrison Street. A flurry of painters arrive in July, just in time for the annual Plein Air Easton, the nation's largest and most prestigious juried plein air painting competition.

Talbot Historical Society Gardens



Harrison Street



Waterfowl Festival

OXFORD

Travel just 10 miles from downtown Easton to find the picture-perfect town of Oxford. This graceful waterfront town is home to brick-lined streets anchored by history and great restaurants.

Get Moving

Oxford is located on the banks of the Tred Avon River, making this the perfect place to explore by water.

Local vendors will meet at your launch site with a rented paddleboard, kayak, or inflatable boat. Land lovers can rent bikes to explore the town on wheels. While you pedal, you can embark on **The Oxford Museum's** audio tour of the town, which chronicles life from the 18th and 19th centuries and tells the story of founding father Robert Morris. It even includes a stop at a beloved bookstore, housed within an old bank, that specializes in mysteries, and a visit to the free **Water's Edge Museum**, which celebrates the founding Black families of America through artwork.

Relax on the Waterfront

Call it the unofficial town square—**Oxford Town Park** is where dogs scamper on the lawn, kids pump their legs on swings, friends set up picnics, and couples comb the beach.

Go Beaching

Wade into tranquil waves at **The Strand Beach**, a family-friendly spot that fronts some of the most beautiful historic homes in town. This beach is dog friendly.

Dine Well

From relaxed party vibes with cocktails and live music, to a popular crab deck, Oxford's waterfront restaurants offer the perfect perches to catch a sunset. You can take in more of the town's history over dinner at one of the historic inns.

Book a Historic Stay

For a quaint and quiet stay, Oxford is the perfect setting. Stay in the waterfront home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence and dine downstairs in front of a cozy fireplace. Live like a local at a three-room inn in a Victorian-era home in the heart of town. There's even a quiet getaway just for adults.

Ferry Across the Water

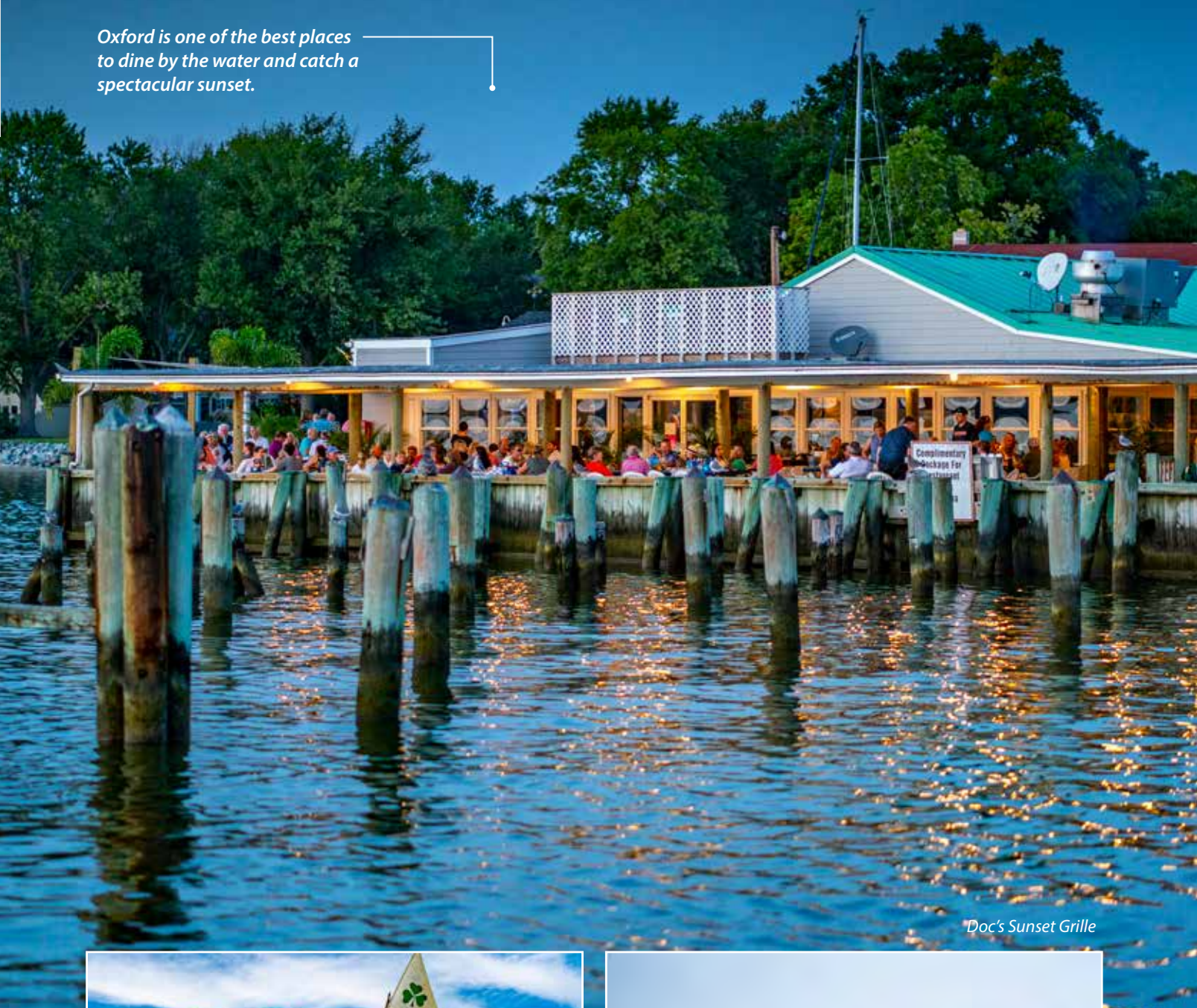
Departing Oxford can be an experience all its own, as you cross the Tred Avon River aboard the **Oxford-Bellevue Ferry**, which first began operating in 1683. Cars, pedestrians, and cyclists can travel aboard. As you head to your next destination on the **Great Talbot County Loop**, you are guaranteed beautiful water views accompanied by osprey swooping overhead.



The Strand

Author James Michener wrote much of his famous novel "Chesapeake" in Oxford.

Oxford is one of the best places to dine by the water and catch a spectacular sunset.



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ST. MICHAELS

The Oxford-Bellevue Ferry delivers you to Bellevue Landing. From there, it's a quick 15-minute drive to St. Michaels through quaint villages and fertile farmland. Nestled along the Miles River, St. Michaels is a historic waterfront town that's home to museums and boutiques, gourmet restaurants and crab shacks, and plenty of adventure by land or by sea.



Dive into History

The **Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum** sits on an 18-acre park-like, waterfront campus and includes a stunning new interpretive welcome center. Numerous indoor and outdoor exhibits, including a screwpile lighthouse, working shipyard, and floating fleet of historic vessels unveil the story of the region and its people. If visiting on a weekend, sign up for a one-hour highlight tour for a more personal experience and deeper historical dive, or get out on the water with a 45-minute Harbor Highlights cruise when in season.

The **St. Michaels Museum at St. Mary's Square**, open seasonally, includes permanent exhibits on St. Michaels: Life Over Time, Frederick Douglass, and the Chaney House, built by the free, Black Chaney brothers in 1851. It also offers a self-guided walking tour of St. Michaels.

Shop Local

Avid shoppers will rejoice on **Talbot Street**, as a collection of independently owned shops and boutiques showcase jewelry, home furnishings, and housewares. There's even a two-story feel-good spot for holiday décor and ornaments that's open all year long.

Lift a Glass

Sample wine, beer, and spirits at a trio of tasting rooms within steps of one another. **St. Michaels Winery**, **Eastern Shore Brewing**, the Eastern Shore's oldest brewery, and LYON RUM maker **Widon Distilling** all create their magic right on site.

Get on the Water

You can take a boat ride aboard many vessels, including the **Patriot**, a two-story steamship replica renowned for its historic and wildlife tours. Sail aboard the **Stanley Norman**, a rare vintage skipjack, or enjoy a romantic sunset cruise on **Selina II**, a yacht operated by the owner-guide. If you're seeking a more social experience, check out one of the communal boat tours offered by the **St. Michaels Harbor Shuttle** or utilize their water taxi service to hop from location to location. If you'd rather self-propel, you can rent a kayak, paddleboard, or canoe to traverse the waterways on your own.

Baseball Hall of Famer Harold Baines got his start at St. Michaels High School before embarking on his 22-year career in major league baseball.





For a picture-worthy view of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum's Hooper Strait Lighthouse, stroll across Honeymoon Bridge, pictured here.

Honeymoon Bridge

Eat Well

Fresh seafood is plentiful, and many restaurants offer views of the majestic Miles River. Crack open a Maryland blue crab and experience the traditional Eastern Shore dining experience. Cozy up in a romantic setting and show your loved one a meal to remember. In town, you can sample cuisine from around the world, enjoy a buzzy local favorite known for its wood-fired pizzas, or try out a nautical-chic outpost serving specialties like spicy Galician anchovy toast. Come morning, grab fair trade coffee and colorful acai bowls, or for a heartier breakfast, enjoy the big pancakes at a local's favorite saloon.

Relax in a Room with a View

St. Michaels is synonymous with relaxing luxury. An evening here allows you to rest your head in a short-term rental, historic inn, marina-front room, or world-renowned resort. St. Michaels is home to one of the world's most luxurious properties, **Inn at Perry Cabin**, where you can book a spa treatment, soak in the pool, play tennis and golf, take a boat ride, or borrow a bike to explore the town.



The Crab Claw

TILGHMAN ISLAND

After exploring St. Michaels, continue on Route 33 South to the quintessential historic American waterfront village of Tilghman Island. This 20-minute drive is an experience unto itself. Just off the beaten path, Tilghman Island is nestled between the Chesapeake Bay and the Choptank River. Boaters know it well as Knapps Narrows is a popular shortcut to Oxford.



Immerse Yourself in Maritime History

As you cross the Tilghman Island Drawbridge, drive by the **Tilghman's Pride Mural**, located at 6123 Tilghman Island Road. The **Tilghman Watermen's Museum** is housed in a historic W house — shaped like the letter — formerly belonging to a waterman. It focuses on the culture of those who have carved out a living on the Chesapeake Bay, reflecting their stories through videos, artifacts, and a significant collection of model boats.

Memorable Views

Explore the island, as it's only 3 miles long and 1 mile across at its widest point. At **Dogwood Harbor**, a cove near the center of town, you can watch local watermen haul in their catch and get an up-close view of historic skipjacks, iconic 19th century sailboats designed for oyster dredging. On the main street, you'll find the **Tilghman Island Country Store**, a down-home place known for its desserts. Pick one and drive to the end of the island, where you'll find **Black Walnut Point Natural Resources Management Area** and a spectacular view of the open waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

Get on the Water

Rent jet skis, pontoons, sailboats, and kayaks, or pick up crabbing equipment should you be so inspired. Fishing charters, led by experienced captains who know how to chase the Bay's bounty, will take you directly on the Chesapeake Bay.

Fresh Seafood

For dinner, nothing gets you closer to fresh Chesapeake Bay seafood than Tilghman Island. From a waterfront tiki bar to classic Eastern Shore fare, including Maryland blue crabs, oysters and rockfish, Tilghman Island has a variety of restaurants. For breakfast, a lively, unpretentious spot where you can rub elbows with locals offers a variety of hearty skillet.

Stay on the Water

A retro cool hotel that is all about fun with nightly bonfires, cornhole, a wood-fired sauna, cocktail classes, and a lively crab deck is waiting to welcome you. Capture both sunrise and sunset while swaying in a hammock from within a serene oasis on a point overlooking the Chesapeake Bay and Choptank River. Enjoy an elegant boutique hotel set on the waterfront where the chef/owner taps local ingredients for his menu.





Knapps Narrows separates Tilghman Island from the mainland, creating a busy channel that gives boaters and kayakers access to the Chesapeake Bay.

Knapps Narrows



Crab Baskets



Knapps Narrows

TALBOT COUNTY

A Seafood Lover's

DREAM

Seafood is best when you're close to the source, and with 600 miles of Chesapeake Bay waterfront, Talbot County is a seafood lover's dream. There's no better place to sample the succulent and salty flavors of the Chesapeake Bay, especially locally caught blue crabs, oysters, and rockfish. These local delicacies can be found on every menu, from down-home crab shacks to the fanciest bistros, and they're also available at local seafood markets.



Sample area seafood





Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs

An Eastern Shore Tradition

While there are many ways to enjoy a Chesapeake Bay blue crab, the quintessential experience is through an Eastern Shore-style crab feast, which is just as much a social event as it is a meal. To create the scene, in addition to steamed crabs and good friends, you'll need a table covered with brown paper (no plates required!), plenty of paper towels, small knives and/or mallets, and sides, which typically include corn on the cob, fried chicken, and your favorite cold beverage. If you'd rather dip your toe in than commit to the full experience, you can order Chesapeake Bay blue crabs singly or by the dozen at many local seafood restaurants. Menus also offer crab dip, crab soup, crab cakes, and even crab imperial.

OYSTERS

Slurp 'em, Shuck 'em, or Shoot 'em— You Can't Go Wrong!

There's no wrong way to eat an oyster. Slurped straight from the shell, fresh oysters are delicious. They can be cooked Rockefeller-style and baked with minced garlic, greens, and butter, or casino style, which uses butter and bacon. They can be shucked and enjoyed in a rich stew or fried and eaten on sandwiches. You can even try one as a shooter in a miniature bloody mary!

Rockfish (aka Striped Bass)

Flaky and Delicious

While you may know it as striped bass or striper, locally caught rockfish is a year-round treat in Talbot County. Aptly named due to their tendency to hide among oyster reefs and rocks, rockfish are among the most iconic fishes in the Chesapeake Bay region. With a mild flavor and firm bite, rockfish is often served simply grilled with a wedge of lemon. It can also be found topped with lump crab meat, stuffed with creamy crab imperial, or even fried up in bites.

Blue Catfish

The New Catch in Town

Although not native to the rivers of the Chesapeake Bay, blue catfish have increased in numbers since their introduction as a sportfish decades ago. Growing up to five feet and 100 pounds, this Goliath of a fish offers a fun challenge to recreational anglers. As a bonus, hooking them helps protect native favorites, including the Maryland blue crab and rockfish. When cooked, the flesh is white and flaky, unlike the typical river catfish.

Recipes

*More BOUNTY
FROM THE BAY*

Black Drum
Croaker
Flounder
Sea Trout
Skate

WORLD-FAMOUS OYSTER STEW

1 c. chopped onion
½ c. chopped celery
1 stick butter
1 tsp. Old Bay Seasoning, plus more for finishing
1 pt. freshly shucked oysters
1 qt. whole milk
1 qt. half-and-half
Salt and pepper, to taste

Sauté onion and celery in butter until soft. Add Old Bay Seasoning and oysters and cook until the oysters curl on the edges. In the meantime, warm milk and half-and-half in a pot. Once warm, add the oyster mixture and heat through. Do not boil. Add more Old Bay Seasoning; salt and pepper to taste.


*Courtesy of Tilghman Island Country Store,
Tilghman Island, Maryland*

CRAB SALAD

½ c. mayonnaise
1 tsp. lemon zest or 3 drops lemon oil
2 tsp. lemon juice
4 tsp. chives
1/3 each red and yellow peppers, finely diced
Salt and pepper to taste
Pinch of Old Bay Seasoning
1 lb. lump crabmeat

Mix first seven items together. Carefully fold in crabmeat so as not to break up the lumps. Taste for seasoning and adjust if necessary. Put in airtight container and chill. Will hold for 2–3 days.

*Courtesy of Chef Jim Trond, Gourmet by the Bay
at The Village Shoppe, St. Michaels, Maryland*



Wondering why they're
called Chesapeake bay blue crabs
when they're red on the table?
Crabs are naturally a
greenish blue but turn
red when cooked.

STRONG COMMUNITIES. EMPOWERED

The numbers tell the story in Talbot County. Maryland's Eastern Shore is a little slice of heaven, and Talbot County sits right at the heart of it all. We're rich in recreational opportunities, from biking and sailing to fishing and hunting, plus we have a culinary tradition second to none. Best of all,



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With a
CHEERRY
on top!

Talbot County's creameries are churning ice cream into art. No matter the temperature outside, it's always time to indulge! Whether you're a traditionalist or an adventure-seeker, Talbot County's ice cream options offer experiences you won't soon forget.

Get the scoop
on ice cream in
Talbot County





Bonheur Pie & Ice Cream



Scottish Highland Creamery



Bonheur Pie & Ice Cream

An endless carousel of small-batch flavors rotates through the counter at the **Scottish Highland Creamery** in Oxford, ranked as one of the country's top five ice cream shops by TripAdvisor. Twenty favorites are displayed daily. Choose from delights including chocolate whiskey salted caramel, maple bacon, and chippy chocolate, or lean into the unique flavors of the Eastern Shore and try Old Bay with potato chips. The main parlor is located in The Mews, a renovated circa 1878 building at the center of town with soft serve only available at the original window on Town Creek.



Inside Scoop:

Savor your treats from The Mews on a bench overlooking the waterfront at the park across the street.



Inside Scoop:

Reserve a seat at Bonheur's London-worthy afternoon tea, served weekly.

Talbot County's most sophisticated ice cream purveyor, **Bonheur Pie & Ice Cream**, is tucked into Easton's chic shopping district. Swathed in hand-painted wallpaper, this

jewel box of a dining room is stunning, but the true star is the house-made ice cream. It includes a creative daily collection of gluten-free options like Earl Grey apple, along with dairy-free flavors such as chai oat.



**See you
downtown.**

Fun annual events, award-winning restaurants, eclectic galleries, charming shops, and so much more are waiting to be discovered in Easton. Soak in the rich remnants of yesteryear while coming together in the present. There is something for everyone here, and once you visit, you'll want to stay awhile.

**DISCOVER
EASTON**

— maryland —

DiscoverEaston.com



Inside Scoop:

Consider an indulgent showstopper sundae built atop Belgian waffles.

Located in the heart of downtown Easton, **Storm & Daughters Ice Cream** is an old-school parlor helmed by a young family.

The shop delivers hipster vibes while simultaneously serving kids just what they want (birthday cake is always on the menu). It's also where adults can try unusual flavors like carrot cake with a dusting of praline pecans and brown butter bourbon truffle.

For dozens of flavors, a friendly staff, and a central St. Michaels location, head to **Justine's Ice Cream Parlour**. Don't miss the "wall of shakes" for unusual temptations like key lime whirled with crushed graham crackers, caramel-covered pretzel, and chocolate marzipan blended with crushed pistachios.



Inside Scoop:

Angle for a seat out front so you can people watch on Talbot Street, St. Michaels' main shopping thoroughfare.



Inside Scoop:

Bring your dog for a pup cup topped with a treat.

JoJo's Ice Cream in downtown St. Michaels offers a long lineup of flavors, including fruity options like lemon chiffon, cherry, strawberry, and black raspberry. Its ice

cream is sourced from Vanderwende's, a family-owned and operated dairy farm and creamery in the neighboring state of Delaware.

When visiting Talbot County in September or October, a stop at **The Creamery at Councill Farms** allows you to select from 16 flavors that rotate daily, also provided by Vanderwende's Ice Cream. The creamery is located conveniently on Route 50. While there, kids can bounce off their energy at the Councill Farms Field of Fun, which has more than 20 farm-related activities including a corn maze, combine slide, and jumping pillow.





A LEGACY OF RESILIENCE

Connect with the region's African American history and heritage through these deeply enriching experiences during your stay in Talbot County. From the powerful legacy of Frederick Douglass to The Hill Community in Easton, this history is a testament to the resilience, creativity, and enduring spirit of African Americans in Talbot County and on the Eastern Shore.

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GREATNESS

The world-renowned abolitionist, writer, publisher, and orator Frederick Douglass was born enslaved in the northeast corner of Talbot County in February 1818, and grew to adulthood on the plantations here. From this agricultural landscape, Douglass rose to change the world.

Trace Douglass' path from early childhood through young adulthood to his fight for freedom and triumphant return while exploring the roads of Talbot County through four driving tours. The **Frederick Douglass Driving Tours** begin at the Talbot County Courthouse in Easton, where a statue of Douglass stands today.

View Douglass and his wife Anna Murray Douglass at the mural on the Easton Rail Trail at 505 South Street. The painting by renowned artist Michael Rosato depicts 400 years of African American history and tells the story of a family of freedom fighters.

The **Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe**, located a few miles from his birthplace near the town of Queen Anne in the northeast corner of Talbot County, encompasses 107 acres of pristine land. It's here you begin to understand the forces that shaped the young Douglass, giving him the courage and beliefs to fight for an end to slavery.



Read more on
Frederick Douglass



Operation Frederick Douglass on The Hill Mural

CE AND ACHIEVEMENT



Scott's United Methodist Church

HONOR EMANCIPATION DAY

During the Civil War, Nathaniel "Uncle Nace" Hopkins, a former slave, fought in the United States Colored Troops of the Union Army. In 1867, he founded Talbot County's Emancipation Day, a celebration of freedom that continues annually as the Nace Hopkins Day parade and festival in Trappe.

Hopkins is buried alongside his wife at the intersection of U.S. 50 and Barber Road in Trappe. A small park on the side of U.S. Route 50 is named in his honor, and a Civil War Trails interpretive panel about him stands in front of **Scott's United Methodist Church** on Main Street.



◀ **SCAN HERE**
to take a deep dive into the African
American history of Talbot County



EXPLORE A BASTION OF FREEDOM

The Hill Community in Easton, one of the oldest free African American communities still in existence today, dates to 1788. The exact reason this neighborhood is called The Hill has been lost to the mists of time, though it's thought to be a reference to its elevated position, be it terrestrial, spiritual, or perhaps both.

An archaeological excavation of The Hill Community that began in 2012 has unearthed artifacts such as cooking utensils, toys, and coins that have helped flesh out the lives of those who lived here through the centuries. Interpretative panels detail highlights throughout The Hill, and you can explore the neighborhood by accessing a self-guided walking tour.



Come be our guest!



Start your day right with Hampton's free breakfast Buffet.

After a wonderful day exploring the beautiful town of Easton, refresh in the indoor pool, rejuvenate in the fitness center, or retire to a cozy guest room. Kick back and relax!

Just blocks from beautiful, historic downtown Easton
8058 Ocean Gtwy, Easton, MD 21601
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The Hill Community

VISIT A RESTING PLACE

The small village of **Unionville**, which is part of the Civil War Trails system, was founded by free Black people and ex-slaves on land that was once a plantation. Eighteen Black soldiers who served in the Union Army are buried here in the cemetery at **St. Stephens AME Church**. This tight-knit community of about 50 homes is nestled along a country lane less than five miles from Easton. Many of today's homeowners are descendants of the original landowners.



St. Stephens AME Church



St. Stephens AME Church

REMEMBER THE FORGOTTEN

The **Water's Edge Museum** in Oxford presents the stories of the founding Black families of America who worked as farmers, sailmakers, military figures, musicians, watermen, and crab pickers. The collection includes literature, paintings, lithographs, frescoes, and drawings of African American life. The museum shines a light on the lives of the people who are largely invisible in history, but who were integral to the progress of Maryland's Eastern Shore. A companion museum is being developed just across the water in Bellevue.

PEDAL



No matter your preferred mode of transportation, Talbot County has you covered. From pedaling to paddling, the county is calling to be explored.

BIKES & WALK-ON
PASSENGERS
BOARD LAST

PADDLE



Check out our events calendar, as there are several annual cycling events where you can meet other enthusiasts and take advantage of Talbot County's flat terrain.

TALBOT COUNTY BY PEDAL

Get Back on that Bike

Cycling is one of the best ways to take in the beauty of Talbot County. From in-town trails to scenic back roads, this is where to go when you want to pedal. With advice from cycling enthusiasts, special routes were created, ranging from 26.7 to 38.2 miles. Each route has a different theme, including Chesapeake Views, Cemetery Quests, and even a trail that highlights jousting (Maryland's state sport). For these adventures, you can bring your own bike or rent one.



Download a trail map

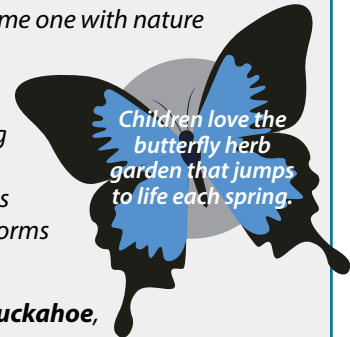
Both Easton and St. Michaels offer dedicated trails, where you can cycle as well as walk, inline skate, or wheel along former railroad tracks that have been converted into asphalt routes. So enjoy and soak in nature—think white-tailed deer, red-tailed hawks, and great horned owls. **The St. Michaels Nature Trail** is 1.3 miles and parallels downtown, so views include charming historic homes, along with woodlands and even a covered bridge. Along **Easton Rails-to-Trails**, a 5-mile paved track, you'll pass a stand of forest, fields, and a sports complex—including exercise stations, plus urban murals, including one dedicated to **Frederick Douglass**.

Walk on the Wild Side

Leave your bicycle behind and become one with nature at these serene spots.

Pickering Creek Audubon Center has four miles of hiking trails cutting through a working farm with hardwood forests and over wetlands to the creek itself. Bird viewing platforms are stationed throughout the park.

Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe, situated along the Tuckahoe River just upstream from where the abolitionist hero was born into slavery, is set on more than 100 acres. This is an uncrowded spot to grab a moment of Zen and perhaps see deer, wild turkey, and foxes. **The Oxford Conservation Park**, known for its vibrant bird life, encompasses a ½-mile paved loop through farmland and over a strip of water.



Children love the butterfly herb garden that jumps to life each spring.

From Behind the Wheel

If you'd rather hit the pedal from the comfort of your own vehicle, you can explore the history and take in the beauty of Talbot County through a driving tour. One of America's most beautiful stretches of road weaves through the heart of Talbot County. **The Chesapeake Country All-American Road**, a 400-mile scenic byway that ambles through the Eastern Shore, showcases Talbot County's miles of tidal shoreline, verdant fields and forests, and vibrant small towns. The spine of the byway follows U.S. Route 50 through much of the county, but sidetracks will take you right to the water's edge for spectacular Chesapeake views. For a more focused excursion, **four driving tours** are available, tracing **Frederick Douglass' path** from early childhood through young adulthood to his fight for freedom and triumphant return to Talbot County.



TALBOT COUNTY BY PADDLE

Propel Yourself

With more than 600 miles of tidal shoreline, you know you're in the right place to enjoy the water. You can bring your own kayak or canoe, or you can rent them from local outfitters. There are plenty of launches throughout the county to choose from, and all of the waterways encourage you to soak in nature. See herons stalking the marshlands, osprey scanning the water for fish, and bald eagles swooping overhead.

There are five distinct water trails geared to different levels of paddler experience, all designed to highlight the bounty of the region. Some hug the shoreline and are perfect for novices, while others are tailored to more experienced

Several spots in St. Michaels offer a perfect view of the sailing races that take place most warm weather Wednesdays on the Miles River.





paddlers, providing adventures in open water with waves and wind. Free **waterproof maps** for the Tilghman Island area and St. Michaels are available.

Cast a Reel

There are plenty of fish in the waters in Talbot County — from rockfish to catfish, croakers to skate. You can bring your own boat to Talbot County or rent one when you arrive. For a bigger catch, book a charter boat that will take you onto the Chesapeake Bay for Maryland blue catfish and rockfish. With a local angler at the helm, you'll have an inside edge on where and when to go.



Charter a boat

No Boat, No Problem

There are plenty of ways to enjoy Talbot County's waterways without getting on the water.

Carry your rod and fish from somewhere dry. With two dozen public landings and access sites, you can find the perfect place to cast a line. A few favorites include **Black Walnut Point Natural Resources Management Area** at the tip of Tilghman Island, which features a 53-acre bird sanctuary and a public landing where you can cast your fishing pole from the water's edge. **Claiborne Jetty** offers a public dock in the heart of the calm, low-key village of Claiborne. In the historic town of St. Michaels, you can cast out while enjoying the view from the public dock at **Seymour Avenue Waterfront Park**.

Buy bait throughout the county at grocery stores, gas stations, and specialty shops. The knowledgeable staff at the area's tackle shops can steer you to the best spots to drop a line.

Twelve Unforgettable in Talbot County





Experiences

Whether spending a day, week, or long weekend, here are a dozen memorable experiences to enjoy during your visit to Talbot County.



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Skipjack H.M. Krentz

1

Explore Talbot County by Water

Talbot County's waterways are intrinsic pieces of its identity, and nothing is more breathtaking than exploring the open water at sunset aboard the 100-year-old **Sail Selina II**. This beautifully maintained sailing yacht offers a variety of intimate charters, all limited to six passengers. The younger, yet historic **H.M. Krentz**, is a 1955 skipjack offering afternoon seats for a relaxing, educational, and unforgettable sailing tour. Book passage on the **Patriot**, a 1930s steamship replica for a 70-minute narrated cruise. Hear about the history and folklore of St. Michaels aboard

one of the **St. Michaels Harbor Shuttle** boats, or restaurant hop using their water taxi. Combine a ride on the water with practicality using the

Most boats are dog friendly, but be sure to ask when making your reservation.

Oxford-Bellevue Ferry, which celebrates more than 340 years of continuous service and carries cars and bikes as well as passengers across the Tred Avon River. Some waterfront inns offer cruises as well, including the **Wylder Hotel** and **Inn at Perry Cabin**. If you'd rather chart your own course, rent a kayak, paddleboard, or boat to explore on your own.



Charter a sailing adventure

3

Boats, Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

The **Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum** sits on an 18-acre waterfront campus and is the centerpiece of Talbot County's museum network. Even if you've visited previously, plan a return trip to experience the new 12,000 square foot, fully accessible welcome center overlooking Fogg's Cove. The building offers three spaces to explore the stories of the Chesapeake Bay's people and places.

Down the street, step back into bygone eras at the **Classic Motor Museum**, which showcases exceptional vintage cars, including pre- and post-World War II automobiles and motorcycles as well as muscle cars from the 1960s and 1970s.

Learn about the evolution of transportation in St. Michaels at the nearby **St. Michaels Museum at St. Mary's Square**. Check out antique engines, model trains, and antique cars at the annual **Tuckahoe Steam & Gas Association Show** in July, which has been going strong for more than 50 years. Discover the men and women of Tilghman Island who earned a living on the water at the **Tilghman Watermen's Museum**. Turn your attention to the sky at **Easton Airport**, the history of which dates to World War II. Several small museums, reflecting the history, life, art, and architecture of the region are studded throughout the county.



Take a deep dive into history

2

Stay on the Water

Talbot County has several options to make your stay on the water memorable. If arriving by boat, dock and stay on site at the **Lowe's Wharf**

Marina & Inn, Knapps Narrows Marina & Inn, or St. Michaels Harbour Inn, Marina & Spa. On Tilghman Island, you couldn't escape the water if you tried, but why would you try? Serene views of the Chesapeake Bay can be found at the **Tilghman Island Inn**. In addition to being waterfront, the **Black Walnut Point Inn** is also bordered by a wildlife sanctuary. The **Wylder Hotel** has channeled the seaside cottage vibe throughout its 9 acres of lush grounds. In St. Michaels, the casually luxurious **Inn at Perry Cabin** has been recognized as a top resort in the Mid-Atlantic by *Condé Nast* and *Travel + Leisure*. In Oxford, the **Sandaway Suites & Beach** offers a private beach and caters exclusively to adults. The historic **Robert Morris Inn** offers water views. If you are seeking a more intimate setting, a variety of bed and breakfasts and vacation homes are peppered throughout the county, providing guests with a secluded oasis by the water.



Book a stay on the water

On most Saturday mornings, aficionados converge for coffee and car chat.

DINE

DOCK

DREAM

DISCOVER



Step back in time and experience the tranquil small town village drenched in history, and home to the oldest privately owned ferry in the United States. Walk or pedal our tree-lined streets, visit the shops and museums, enjoy restaurants and discover the *best* homemade ice cream.



more than a ferry tale.

OXFORD

PORTOFOXORD.COM



4

Harley Peet Brings a James Beard Award to Talbot County

Some of the best chefs in the country have launched restaurants here, rivaling their big city kin. The food scene in Talbot County has received accolades in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Washingtonian*, and *Food & Wine*. In 2024 the James Beard Foundation recognized **Bas Rouge Executive Chef Harley Peet** as Best Chef: Mid-Atlantic (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA), making Talbot County the first on Maryland's Eastern Shore to boast this achievement.

5

Waterfront + Dining

Talbot County is known for its picturesque water views and its delicious dining options. Elevate your experience by combining the two and dine al fresco on the water. Many restaurants put an emphasis on the bounty of the bay, but there are several other cuisines represented from tavern fare to seasonal favorites. While offerings may be sophisticated, the vibe is casual, often with live music setting the scene for a perfect Chesapeake Bay sunset.



Reserve a seat on
the water

6

Order Local

While perusing restaurant menus for locally produced items, check out the beer, wine, and liquor offerings and order local. For a more in-depth experience, head to the **Old Mill** in the heart of St. Michaels, to taste from a trio of offerings. **Eastern Shore Brewing**, the longest-running brewery on Maryland's Eastern Shore, offers its ales, lagers, and seasonal specialties in a lodge-like tasting room. **Windon Distilling / LYON RUM** is celebrating a decade in business as Maryland's oldest rum producer with a newly expanded tasting room. **St. Michaels Winery** creates unique blends, the names of which reflect its proximity to the Chesapeake Bay. Just a short walk away, **Bordeleau Winery at St. Michaels** often pairs tastings of their award-winning wines with the sounds of live music. Held each April, the annual **WineFest at St. Michaels** is one of the highlights of spring, and the **St. Michaels Brewfest** in June has been celebrating craft beer for more than a decade.



Plan your beer,
wine, and spirits
tasting

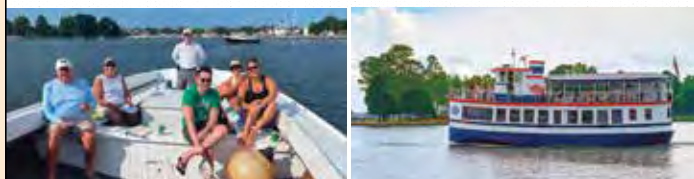


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Explore the Chesapeake Bay on our waterfront campus in historic St. Michaels through hands-on learning, world-class exhibitions, and on-the-water experiences.



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cbmm.org [f](#) [@](#) [X](#) [v](#)



Shopping Spree

Don't let our small-town vibe fool you — Talbot County's shops have plenty of variety. From one-of-a-kind boutiques to thrifty finds or lavish jewelry stores, you can discover a new favorite, no matter your style. Find inspiration for your home in one of Talbot County's many design and décor shops, which run the gamut from chic modern to authentic antiques and everything in between. Cover your walls with art from one of several art galleries or a vintage poster shop and browse from among a variety of antique offerings. There's no better time to relax and shop for your own interests, whether it be boating, outdoor hobbies, or your next good read.

Two Talbot County storefronts have taken up residence in former bank buildings, both of which are worth a quick detour. In the Town of Trappe, you can grab a quick cup or bite from the Coffee Trappe, which is housed in the brick State Bank building from 1917. In Oxford, Mystery Loves Company has occupied a circa 1900 bank building for more than 30 years.



Hit the Links

Members and guests can tee off on a Pete Dye-designed championship course at the **Links at Perry Cabin**, located near St. Michaels on a stunning peninsula with wide-open views of the Chesapeake Bay. **Hog Neck Golf Course** offers a 9-hole, par 32 executive course and an 18-hole, par 72 Championship course spread over 255 gently rolling acres, as well as a driving range equipped with Power Tees. The public facility is continuously upgrading, so it's worth a visit.



Art Dive

Artists flock to Talbot County, where inspiration abounds, and the settings are serene. It's a hidden gem of world-class paintings, sculpture, and more. Appreciate art at the **Academy Art Museum** in Easton, where the permanent collection includes American and European masters. Dive into the history of Black families in America through artwork at the **Water's Edge Museum**. Talbot County hosts two of the country's leading art events: **Plein Air Easton** features juried artists from across the country each July while the granddaddy of fowl fests, the **Waterfowl Festival** draws more than 20,000 each November for art, as well as food, music, and outdoor demonstrations. From April through December, you can experience the arts in Easton with **First Friday Arts**, an evening that includes a gallery walk, exhibit openings, and artist meet and greets.



Get inspired



Hog Neck Golf Course



Shopping in Easton



San Domingo Creek



Farmers Market

10

From Farms to Your Table

With agriculture still a leading industry on Maryland's Eastern Shore, fresh produce offerings are plentiful. Visit the oldest continuously operated water-powered grist mill in the United States and pick up stone-ground products at the **Old Wye Mill**. Spend the morning perusing Talbot County's vibrant **farmers markets**, with most opening in April and running weekends through the fall. Serving as community

Farmers markets sometimes have live music and are dog friendly.

gathering places, markets offer produce, seafood, meats, sauces, and breads. Some feature producers-only vendors who happily chat with customers, sharing stories about how they started. When it's pumpkin-picking time, a stop at **Councill Farms** will become an annual tradition after your first visit. The "Field of Fun" at this family-run farm offers a corn maze, combine slide, and pumpkin patch.

11

Mingle with Music Lovers

There's no shortage of arts and culture in Talbot County, which is home to an engaging live music scene. The historic **Avalon Theatre** in Easton, including its 60-seat **Stoltz Listening Room**, plays host to an ever-changing lineup of top talent as well as a summer outdoor concert series. The **Prager Family Center for the Arts** and its **Ebenezer Theater** offer exquisite

acoustics combined with an intimate 180-seat venue featuring rare opportunities to appreciate the contemporary musicians shaping classical music. Each June, it hosts the multi-day **Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival** which attracts world-renowned musicians. In warmer months, the towns of **Oxford** and **St. Michaels** hold concerts in the park and many local restaurants bring in entertainment as well.



Find a music venue

12

Winter Wonders

From Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve, visiting Talbot County is like stepping into a magical wonderland. Hometown parades, Christmas markets, and candlelight caroling take place throughout the county. In Easton, the **Festival of Trees** kicks off the holiday season with dozens of beautifully decorated trees at the **Tidewater Inn**, and kids can step into a phone booth to relay their Christmas wish list to a giant Rudolph perched on the rooftop at **Talbot Town Shopping Center**. Celebrate **Christmas on the Creek** in Oxford, where historic homes are beautifully lit. Enjoy a small-town Christmas on Tilghman Island, where you can take home an annual ornament from the **Tilghman Watermen's Museum**. Mid-December marks the kickoff of **Christmas in St. Michaels** with a street and lighted boat parade. Historic homes throw open their doors for holiday tours, and kids can grab breakfast with Santa. The season culminates with **First Night Talbot**, a **New Year's Eve** celebration worthy of ringing in a New Year.



St. Michaels

Get *Festive*—In Every



Scan here for
upcoming events

February/March

Fire & Ice Festival
Frederick Douglass Birthday
St. Michaels Chocolate Festival
St. Patrick's Day Celebrations and Shopping Cart Races

April

Eastern Shore Sea Glass & Coastal Arts Festival
Oxford Day
WineFest at St. Michaels

DISCOVER TINY TREASURES

The Eastern Shore Sea Glass
& Coastal Arts Festival is your
chance to buy one-of-a-kind pieces,
including jewelry and home décor.
If you can't make the spring event,
plan for November, when a one-day
festival takes place.

May

Multicultural Festival
Oxford Fine Arts Show
St. Michaels Running Festival

START SPRING CREATIVELY

For four decades the Oxford Fine
Arts Show has lured regional and
national artists, offering a chance
to soak in great works of art, sip
on sparkling wine, and nibble on
strawberry shortcake beneath a
billowy tent.

June

Antique & Classic Boat Show and Coastal Arts Fair
Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival
Chesapeake Children's Book Festival
Delmarva Pride Festival
Juneteenth Celebration
St. Michaels Brewfest
Tour de Talbot

July

Big Band Night at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum
Fireworks in Easton, Oxford and St. Michaels
Plein Air Easton
Talbot County Fair
Tuckahoe Steam & Gas Show

BOOM!

Go big or go home is
Talbot County's motto when
it comes to the 4th of July, as
America's Independence Day
is celebrated with not one,
not two, but three firework
spectaculars.

August / September

Chesapeake Film Festival
Charity Boat Auction at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum
Watermen's Appreciation Day

October

Academy Art Museum Craft Show
Airport Day
Fall into St. Michaels
Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival
Oysterfest

Season

Holidays are a great time to visit Talbot County. From shopping cart races on St. Patty's Day to egg hunts on Easter, to Juneteenth parades, and blowout firework spectaculars for July 4, Talbot County is ready to celebrate with you! Peppered throughout the year are a variety of special events for you to enjoy during your stay.

INDULGE IN THE BOUNTY OF THE BAY

Savor the bay's bounty at OysterFest on the waterfront campus of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. Plan to pair your bivalves with local brews, catch a retriever demonstration, and take a boat ride.

November

Eastern Shore Sea Glass & Holiday Arts Festival
Festival of Trees
Model Boat Show and Fall Festival
Waterfowl Festival

December

Christmas in St. Michaels
Christmas on the Creek
Easton Holiday Parade
First Night Talbot
Midnight Madness in St. Michaels
Moonlight Madness in Easton

You can pretend it's winter no matter the season at the Talbot County Ice Skating Rink, which offers indoor skating year-round.

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Let Us Help You

Talbot County Economic Development and Tourism is ready to help you plan your trip. Please visit our website at **TourTalbot.org** for the most up-to-date information on lodging, dining, things to do, and so much more. Or call us at **410-770-8000**.

By Land

Located on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, Talbot County is a short drive from the western metro cities of Baltimore and D.C., via the 4.3-mile-long Chesapeake Bay Bridge, formally known as the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge. From the bridge, U.S. Route 50, one of the Eastern Shore's main thoroughfares, runs directly through the heart of Talbot County.

By Water

With more than 600 miles of shoreline, boaters are welcome to drop anchor. From the Chesapeake Bay, boaters can reach the western edge of Talbot County. Five major rivers either border or run through the county, including the Choptank, Miles, Tred Avon, Tuckahoe, and Wye. Several boatyards and marinas are located throughout the county to service your needs, from fuel and supplies to docking and repairs.

By Air

The Easton/Newnam Field Airport (ESN), one of the busiest general aviation facilities in Maryland, is based in Talbot County, providing access for aviators, corporate pilots, and local businesses. The closest commercial airports are the Salisbury Regional Airport (SBY) at 54 miles away and the Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) at 63 miles. Other nearby options include the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) at 74 miles away, Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) at 100 miles, and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) at 98 miles.



Distance to Downtown Easton

Baltimore, MD	69 miles
New York, NY	199 miles
Newport News, VA	203 miles
Philadelphia, PA	113 miles
Washington, DC	70 miles
Wilmington, DE	82 miles



**Request
FREE
Maps**



Like to bike?

Then download the Talbot County Bicycle Map, your guide to seeing Talbot County's farms, forests, historic sites,

water views, and wildlife — all from your saddle.



The Tilghman Island and Bay Hundred Water Trails Map

is your guide to navigating the watery

paradise at the western

edge of Talbot County, along the incomparably beautiful Chesapeake Bay.



For more kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding, request a copy of the St. Michaels Water Trails Map,

which offers a guide to local sights and safe boating practices, plus a diary for recording your paddling exploits.



All maps are available online at TourTalbot.org or by calling 410-770-8000.



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