



Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Story Ideas

Need a story angle? Annapolis and Anne Arundel County offers countless possibilities for history enthusiasts, sailing aficionados, and lovers of life who want to ***Come Sail Away***. Here's just a sampling...

Wind In Your Hair

A bustling port town in the 18th century, Annapolis is world-renowned as ***America's Sailing Capital***. The first thing you'll see is sail and power boats strutting their stuff along the stretch of City Dock known as Ego Alley. That could be you! Annapolis and Anne Arundel County offers countless possibilities for getting out on the water. From forty-minute cruises around Annapolis Harbor, to tours of the ***Thomas Point Lighthouse***, to ***Day on the Bay*** journeys to the Eastern Shore, Annapolis is your gateway to North America's largest estuary, the Chesapeake Bay.

Don't know where to begin? The professionals at our world-class sailing and powerboat schools can get you started. Sound like too much work? Then relax on a two-hour cruise aboard a 74-foot schooner, charter a boat for the day, or unwind on a boat and breakfast getaway. If fishing floats your boat, charter with a seasoned captain or strike out on your own. Or, take a different tack and explore the bay by canoe or kayak. If you prefer to keep your feet firmly planted on the ground, grab a seat at one of our many waterside restaurants and drink in the excitement of more than 150 sailboats competing in the Wednesday night races.

The ***National Sailing Hall of Fame and Museum*** is expected to open at City Dock in time for the May 4-7, 2006 ***Volvo Ocean Race*** festivities in Annapolis. As an international landmark for sailing enthusiasts, the museum will honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the sport of sailing.

Alive With History

It's no wonder that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has dubbed Annapolis one of a ***Dozen Distinctive Destinations*** in America. Founded as *Anne Arundel Town* in 1649, Annapolis became the capital of Maryland in 1695 and was the nation's first peacetime capital in 1783. Today, Annapolis boasts more 18th-century buildings and the oldest State House in continuous legislative use in the nation. The homes of the four Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence have been preserved, and three of them are open to the public. ***William Paca's*** home features the only two-acre 18th-century pleasure garden of its kind in Maryland. His story will be among those retold when the ***St. Clair Wright History Center*** opens its doors in April, 2006.

Visit the nation's oldest state house in continuous legislative use where General George Washington resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in 1783. Feast your eyes on the *Most Beautiful Doorway in America* at the ***Hammond-Harwood House***, or thrill to the sight of 4,000 midshipmen in formation at the ***U.S. Naval Academy***.

Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater continues to unearth the past at the largest ongoing archaeological dig in Maryland. A new multi-million dollar Visitor Center will open at the site in the late spring of 2006. It will serve as an orientation center for visitors; an educational facility with a classroom for interpreting on-site archaeological finds; and a museum that retells the story of the lost Town of London.

African-American Heritage

In 1767, Kunta Kinte arrived in Annapolis aboard the slave ship, the *Lord Ligonier*. A nearby plaque marks his arrival, and bronze storyboards tell the tale made famous by Alex Haley, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Roots*. Learn about the African-American experience in Anne Arundel County through Watermark's ***African-American Heritage*** tour. Or, arrange for a guided tour to sites where enslaved Africans first landed on our shores and were sold at auction. Visit communities where African Americans worked and raised their families, where some escaped slavery, and where others changed the course of America's history. Stop by the newly expanded ***Banneker-Douglass Museum***, the official Maryland repository of African-American culture, named after a Maryland native

known as the “first African-American man of science,” and a man born a Maryland slave who later became a leader of the abolitionist movement.

Family Fun

When’s the last time you and the kids took a horse and buggy ride? Let **Annapolis Carriage** take you through the Historic District as in days of old. Then, stop for ice cream at the **Annapolis Ice Cream Company**, where you can enjoy handmade ice cream produced on site and purchase a souvenir penguin for the road. No visit to Annapolis is complete without a walking or riding tour of the city. Tour guides in colonial attire will fill you in on the gossip of the centuries as you wind your way along the brick-lined streets of the Historic District or enjoy an eclectic tour of Eastport that includes information about boat building, oyster processing, glass manufacturing, and more. Treat young sailors in tow to a tour of the **U.S. Naval Academy** or to a swashbuckling adventure with **Pirate Adventures on the Chesapeake**. **Watermark’s** Captain Billy Baye keeps his young audience mesmerized with tall tales of the high seas. Why wait for Halloween? Our **Ghosts of Annapolis Tours** introduces you to haunted houses, restless spirits, and scary tales year-round.

Off the Beaten Trail

Today, as in the past, the rhythm of life in Southern Anne Arundel County moves to the tides and the seasons. Maritime villages such as Deale, Galesville, and Mayo invite you to escape to a simpler time. Experience the life of a 19th-century waterman at the **Captain Salem Avery House Museum** in Shady Side. Enjoy the quiet of Galesville’s **Quaker Burying Ground** before wandering past Victorian houses on Main Street to the **Heritage Museum**. The once bustling seaport of **Historic London Town** in Edgewater is now the site of Maryland’s largest ongoing archaeological dig. Golfers can dig in their heels at **South River Golf Links** or **Renditions**, a course featuring championship holes from around the world. Outdoor enthusiasts can explore bike and horse riding trails and recreational water activities before indulging in fresh seafood at a dockside eatery.

We Do Shopping

Shop ‘til you drop at **Arundel Mills Mall**, located just a half hour’s drive from Historic Annapolis in the **BWI Gateway Community**. Ranked among the top three shopping attractions in the nation by *U.S. Family Travel Guide*, the 1.3 million square foot shopper-tainment complex boasts more than 200 stores.

From one-of-a-kind specialty shops, and antiques stores to the 1.3 million square foot **Arundel Mills Mall**, Annapolis and Anne Arundel County is a shopper's delight. If one-of-a-kind boutiques and galleries are more your style, stroll through Historic Annapolis where Maryland Avenue, Main and West Streets have earned worldwide reputations as shopping hot spots. A host of trendy new shops, salons, and restaurants have opened their doors between Church Circle and Westgate Circle on West Street making it a head turner. Art remains alive and well in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. In the Historic District alone, some 18 galleries and studios beckon art enthusiasts to feast their eyes on the work of local regional and national artists. Witness lumps of clay transformed before your eyes at **Annapolis Pottery**, craft a unique glass ornament at **Glazed and Fuzed**, sharpen your jewelry-making skills at the **Bead Bungalow**, visit the homes/studios of local artisans, or choose from works by local artists at **ARTFX**.

Ireland in Annapolis

You don't have to travel to Emerald Isle to feel as though you're there. Of Irish decent, Declaration of Independence signer Charles Carroll was born in Annapolis in 1737. The **Charles Carroll House** will reopen for public tours in the summer of 2006 following major restoration work. Annapolis' Historic District is home to a number of Irish pubs and restaurants including **Castlebay Irish Pub** on Main Street, **Galway Bay Restaurant** on Maryland Avenue, and **Sean Donlon's Irish Pub and Restaurant** on West Street. Need to do a little shopping? Stop by **Avoca Handweavers** on Main Street. Established in Ireland in 1723, **Avoca Handweavers** features classic Irish clothing and gifts. When the day is through, it's off to **The O'Callaghan Hotel** on West Street.

Seafood, a Chesapeake Bay Tradition

Amidst three centuries of architecture, Annapolis is a thriving, upbeat, contemporary city. Dozens of restaurants feature worldwide cuisine in elegant to down-to-earth settings. *Sail Magazine* lists the **Boatyard Bar and Grill** among the Top 12 Sailing Bars in the world. Our **Irish Pubs** are as authentic as the Emerald Isle itself.

Most people remember the place where they ate their first steamed crab. It's the start of a Chesapeake Bay tradition that is faithfully repeated at family get-togethers that span a lifetime. And, if you haven't yet treated yourself to the experience, what better place to first indulge in Maryland's

famous blue crabs than Annapolis and Anne Arundel County? Restaurants serving up nature's bounty dot the more than 400 miles of shoreline that weave their way throughout the county. Whether you choose roll-out-the-paper, roll-up-your sleeves outdoor dining where you can watch the watermen bring in the catch, or an elegant indoor setting with a window's view to Spa Creek, the Severn River, South River, or North America's largest estuary, the Chesapeake Bay, chances are you'll decide to come back again and again.

For more information, contact:

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