

Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County- FAQs

1. **Q:** What is it about Maryland Crabs?

A: Maryland blue crabs grow up in the Chesapeake Bay's tidal waters, a mix of salt and fresh water. That mix makes them sweeter than ones that come from saltier regions, like the Gulf of Mexico. Blue crabs also hibernate over the winter, burrowing beneath the seagrass on the Bay floor. This means they build up fat stores over the summer and fall to get them through the winter, which leads to a buttery taste.

2. **Q:** Where can we find steamed, hard crabs?

A: The restaurants offering crabs in the downtown area include: The Choptank Annapolis, Wild Country Seafood, and Buddy's Crabs and Ribs. In greater Annapolis, you can find blue crab at Mike's Restaurant and Crab House, The Point Crab House, and Cantler's Riverside Inn.

3. **Q:** Who has the best ice cream in town?

A: Annapolis has several ice cream shops in the historical area: Red Bean, Annapolis Ice Cream Company, Storm Brother's, and Kilwin's - all offering their own brands.

4. **Q:** Do you have any gluten-free or vegan restaurants?

A: Yes, Annapolis has several restaurants that serve gluten-free options, including Miss Shirley's Café, Vida Taco Bar, Galway Bay Irish Restaurant, Tsunami, Level - a Small Plate Lounge, Chart House, Carrol's Creek Café, and Acqua al 2.

5. **Q:** How do I get from the airport (BWI) to Annapolis?

A: Uber, Lyft, taxicab, or you could take the light rail from the airport to the Patapsco station and then take Bus 70 to Annapolis.

6. **Q:** I am in Washington, D.C., and want to come to Annapolis for the day; how would I get there?

A: Take the metro (the orange line) to New Carrollton Station, then take Uber, Lyft, or a taxicab to Annapolis. There is also a commuter bus (Bus #220) that leaves Washington,

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D.C., several times a day Mon. – Fri. in the afternoon. Stay in Annapolis overnight and plan to return to Washington the following day on the commuter bus.

7. **Q:** I am arriving at 4:30 pm; what can I do if I only have a couple of hours?

A: The State House is an option as it is open until 5 pm daily, or you can explore the U.S. Naval Academy grounds until dark. The USNA Armel Leftwich Visitor Center closes at 5 pm. When Watermark’s water cruises are in season, the water taxis often operate until 11 pm. You can also take a harbor tour on the Miss Anne until 8:30 pm. Shops on Main St. are open daily until 6 and 7 pm, and our restaurants and taverns stay open late. In the summertime, you can take one of several haunted tours that start in the evening.

8. **Q:** I don’t have a car; do you have a mall? How would I get there?

A: Yes, Westfield Mall is just a short drive from downtown. To get to the Westfield Mall, take the local Green Line bus from either West St. & Calvert St. or Church Circle to Westfield Mall (Mon. - Sat.) Or on Sat. evenings and Sun. Take the local Purple Line bus from West St. & Church Circle to Westfield Mall.

9. **Q:** I am coming to Annapolis for a few days; what is there to do?

A: Our city offers plenty to do, from visiting historical sites, touring the U.S. Naval Academy, shopping, and seeing Annapolis from the water; there is much to see and do. Added to the excellent hotels, an assortment of restaurants, and quaint taverns, you will have the opportunity to enjoy a memorable time. Depending on your interests, and the season of the year, Live! Casino & Hotel, Quiet Waters Park, Sandy Point State Park, and Historic London Town & Gardens are fantastic county attractions to visit. There is so much to see and do that you will want to come back and visit again and again.

10. **Q:** Is the Naval Academy open to the public, and can you take a tour?

A: Yes, their Visitors Center is open to the public Mon. - Sun. from 9 am to 5 pm daily except New Year's, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The Naval Academy offers guided walking tours most days from 10 am to 3 pm, and they also offer electric car tours when booked in advance. You must have a valid ID (Original State issued Driver’s License or an original Passport for those visiting from other countries for anyone 18 or older.

11. **Q:** What is there to see at the Naval Academy?

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A: The U.S. Naval Academy offers a rich history of Naval officer training open to the public. From the Crypt of John Paul Jones (where the father of our Navy is buried) to Preble Hall (the Academy's historic museum), to Bancroft Hall (the largest dormitory in the country and the second largest in the world), to their Cemetery (where Senator John McCain is now buried) you will get a feel for the significant education our future Naval Officers receive. The Arnel-Leftwich Visitor's Center is an excellent place to start, view their introductory film, start an Academy tour, or purchase Navy memorabilia.

12. **Q:** How long does it take to get to the Academy from the Visitors Center at 26 West Street? What are the hours?

A: 20 minutes walking at the most, unless you take the complimentary shuttle, which runs every ten minutes and lets you off at a stop within a short walk from the Academy. The Academy is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm except for New Year's, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

13. **Q:** What can you see in the Maryland State House?

A: Today, the Maryland State House operates as the longest-serving State House in the U.S. Built in 1772, the only State House to ever serve as the nation's Capital which the old Senate Gallery where George Washington resigned his commission as Commander of the Continental Army in 1783 and where the Continental Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris in January of 1784.

14. **Q:** Does it cost anything to go into the [Maryland State House](#)?

A: No, it is free and is self-guided. A valid ID, such as a driver's license for U.S. residents or an original passport for international visitors, is required.

15. **Q:** We're interested in going to some art galleries. Where can you recommend?

A: In Annapolis, we have some very lovely Art Galleries, including McBride Art Gallery located at 215 Main St., Gallery 57 West at 57 West St., The Annapolis Collection Gallery at 55 West St., and the Maryland Federation of Art's Circle Gallery located at 18 State Circle, to name a few.

16. **Q:** Where can I go fishing?

A: Places include Jonas Green Park, Thomas Point Park, and [Sandy Point State Park](#).

17. **Q:** Where is the closest beach, and where can I put my feet in the sand?

A: Jonas Green Park and Sandy Point State Park

18. **Q:** What kind of nightly entertainment do you have in town?

A: Rams Head on Stage features live musical acts; in addition, several pubs and taverns, including Middleton Tavern, Stan and Joe's Saloon, The Choptank Annapolis, 49 West, and Smashing Grapes (to name a few) offer live, local, nightly entertainment.

19. **Q:** Where can you rent a boat for the afternoon?

A: South River Boat Rentals, Annapolis Electric Boat Rentals, Waypoints Yacht Charters, and Sailtime Annapolis, to name a few. Click here for a complete list of [water-based rentals](#).

20. **Q:** Do you have any parks or hiking trails?

A: Quiet Waters Park, Baltimore-Annapolis Trail Park, Greenberry Point Conservation Area, Truxton Park, Bacon Ridge Trail, Waterworks Trail, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and Sandy Point State Park offer outdoor enjoyment. Click here for our list of [parks and trails](#).

21. **Q:** Where can I rent a bike or a scooter, and do you have any [biking trails](#)?

A: Mike's Bikes, Bird electric bikes and scooters (located throughout downtown Annapolis), Annapolis Veyo, Crofton Bike Rentals, Pedal Pushers Bicycle Shop, and Bulldog Bikes and Floats, to name a few. Bike trails include Bacon Ridge Trail, Washington B&A Trails, Baltimore & Annapolis Trail, Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis Waterworks Park, Broad Creek Park, and Poet's Nature Trail, which are all recommended for biking.

22. **Q:** Do you have any transportation like a hop on, hop off type of bus service?

A: Yes, the Magenta Free Shuttle provides bus service between 8 stops located along West Street, Church Circle, Duke of Gloucester, and Main Street, every 10 minutes (Mon.–Fri., 6 am-11 pm, Sat., 7 am-11 pm and Sun., 8 am-8 pm.). To locate the shuttle, scan the QR code on signs at the shuttle tops. The city of Annapolis also provides a more traditional transit bus service that provides a basic \$2.00 one-way service with reduced charges for seniors. Download the Transloc app or visit the website www.accessannapolis.transloc.com.

23. **Q:** Is there any free [parking](#) available?

A: Yes, from Fri. 6 pm until Mon. and after 6 pm Mon. – Fri. free parking is available in the State Garage located at 19 St. John Street (just off Calvert St.).

24. **Q:** When I get to Annapolis, where do I park?

A: Gott's Court Garage, located at 25 Calvert Street, is the closest to the Visitors Center and the most convenient place to park in the Historic District of Annapolis. Knighton Parking Garage, located at 1A Colonial Avenue, is also available for those wishing to park for three hours or longer.

25. **Q:** I have an RV, and it is over 6ft high; where can I park?

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A: The Capital RV Park / [KOA Campgrounds](#). Located in Millersville, MD, this campground is the closest to Annapolis. If you are military retired or DOD associated, you can utilize the Navy Getaways Campgrounds or Camp Meade RV Park.

26. **Q:** Where can I rent a wheelchair?

A: Wheelchairs can be rented from Annapolis Healthcare Supplies, located at 2138 Generals Highway. Email them at maryanne@annapolishealthcare.com.

27. **Q:** Are there any pet shops in downtown Annapolis?

A: Sea Dog Pet Boutique and Salty Paws offer pet apparel, gifts, and many of your furry friend's needs. Click here for a list of [Pet-Friendly Hotels](#).

28. **Q:** What time do the shops on Main Street close?

A: Most shops are open until 6 and 7 pm, save for special events such as [Midnight Madness](#), when many stay open until midnight during the holidays.

29. **Q:** Do you have any Antique Stores we can go to?

A: Maryland Avenue, West Annapolis, and Eastport offer some of the finest Antique stores around. Evergreen Antiques, Blue Crab Antiques, Antiques at Annapolis, Bon Vivant Antiques, and Annapolis Maritime Antiques. If you have a car, head south and take in several antique shops along the [Vintage Loop](#).

30. **Q:** Do you have any bookstores?

A: Yes, we have bookstores; Back Creek, Old Fox Bookstore, and Barnes and Noble.

31. **Q:** I am staying on a boat; how and where can I get groceries?

A: CVS on Main St. offers basic staples. However, Graul's Market Annapolis, located on Taylor Ave., is the closest full-service grocery store to the City Dock. If you are on a boat and you have no other transportation, you might consider Uber or Annapolis Go. The Annapolis Go service is a local, low-cost, city-funded service much like a regular cab (use the AnnapolisGo app or call 443-345-1001) available Mon. -Fri, 2 pm – 8 pm; Sat., 12-8 pm and Sun., 11 am -7 pm. Another solution, maybe our [local bus service](#).

32. **Q:** Where can you get ice?

A: If you are in downtown Annapolis, you can get ice at Mills Liquor store, CVS, or the 7-11 on West Street.

33. **Q:** Where can I buy some postcards or souvenirs?

A: Annapolis T-Shirt Company, CVS Drug Store, and A.L Goodies on Main Street. In addition, there are various souvenir shops around Annapolis where you can pick up souvenirs to remember your visit.

34. **Q:** Besides Annapolis, what else is there to see or do in Anne Arundel County?

A: Depending on your preferences and time of the year, Live! Casino and Hotel for world-class entertainment and gambling, Arundel Mills for shopping, Historic London Town & Gardens for historic tours and gorgeous flora, the second-largest Renaissance Festival in the country, and Anne Arundel County Fair, to name a few. Click here for our [23 Sites to See in Anne Arundel County](#).