

ROADS THAT TELL A STORY

YOUR *Road Trip* GUIDE TO FREDERICK COUNTY



VISIT
Frederick
CITY & COUNTY

HIGHWAYS *are* BORING

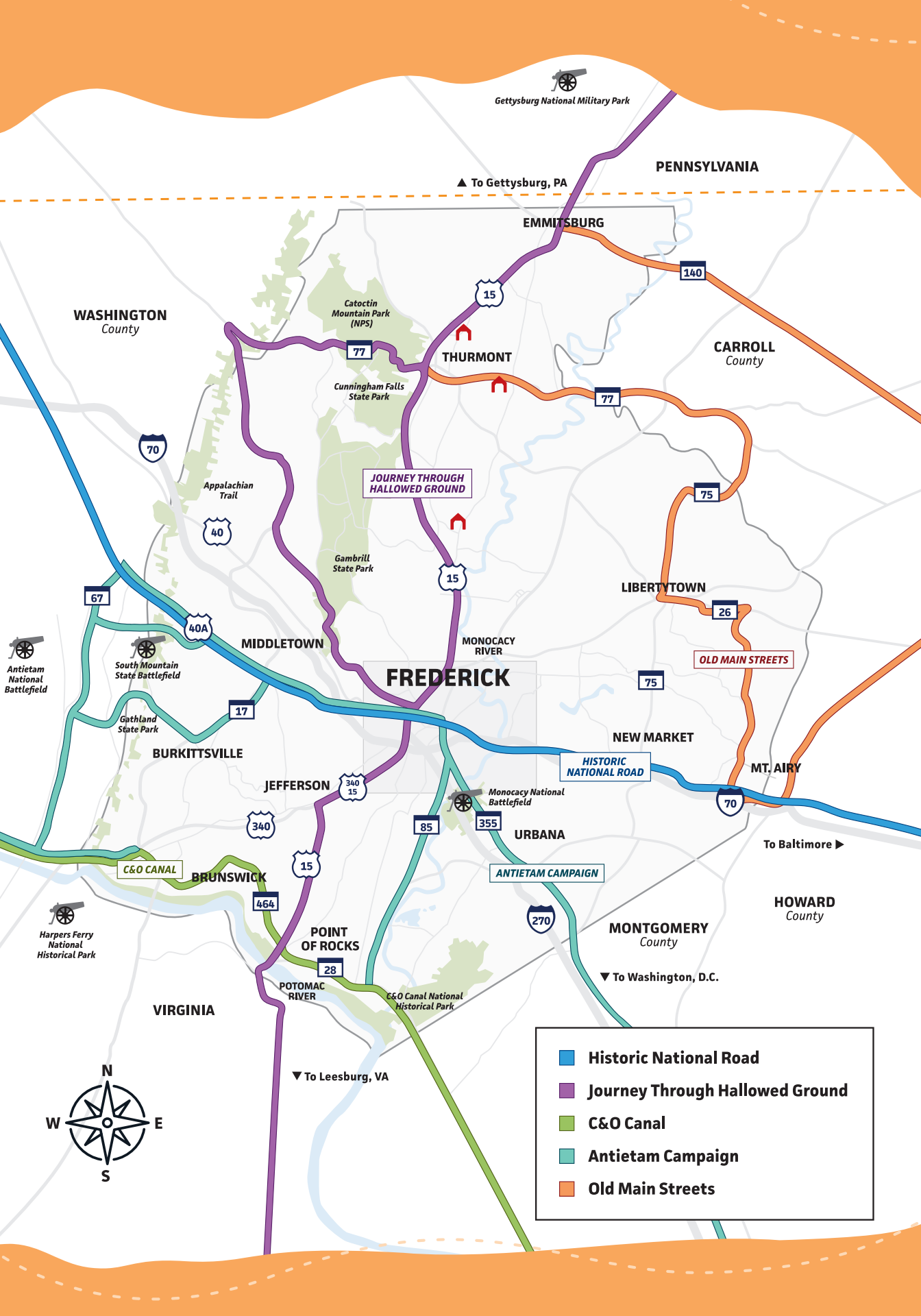
Trade traffic jams for open roads, fresh air, and new perspectives. It's time to make memories together on—and off—the road.

Maryland's Scenic Byways span over 2,000 miles of roads, winding through the state's most historic and picturesque landscapes. Five of the 18 byways in Maryland weave through Frederick County, where every turn invites you to slow down and discover something new. Embark on a journey along roads once traversed by American pioneers, past communities steeped in history, and into a countryside that invites you to linger and explore. Bike through a National Park, hike across a famous Civil War battlefield, or watch the sun slip behind the mountains while sipping on award-winning wine. There are countless ways to create your own itinerary—so take the scenic route and see where the road leads.



**MARYLAND'S SCENIC BYWAYS ARE
MORE THAN A NETWORK OF ROADS,**
they're your invitation to adventure.





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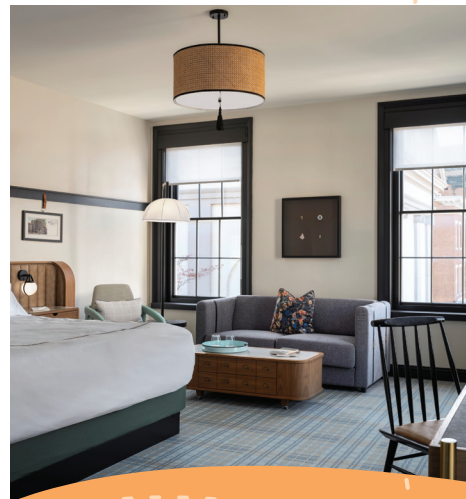
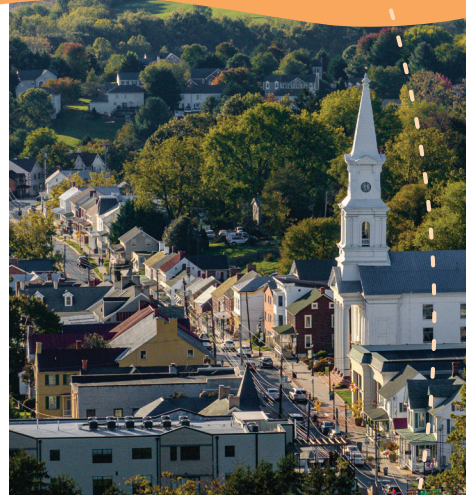
Antique mall / apple orchard / award-winning wine

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MORE TO EXPLORE



KEEP THE *fun* GOING!

Elevate your road trip with an overnight stay in Frederick County (pg 16), and explore the many prominent attractions only a short drive away (pg 18).

The Original Road to Discovery

Cruise along a road that changed America—the Historic National Road! The nation's first highway paved the way for westward expansion and continues to connect travelers to scenic landscapes, inviting towns, and new adventures.



The National Road transformed Frederick into a thriving trade hub, with small towns growing alongside it. These communities provided travelers with places to trade goods, enjoy a meal, and rest for the night.

As you drive from town to town, imagine the excitement of travelers experiencing a smooth passage west for the first time. These towns also served as vital stops for tradesmen providing essential transportation services, like blacksmithing and wheelwrighting. Lucky for you, you won't have to worry about trouble with wooden wheels on your journey!

Fuel Up for Fun

It's not hard to imagine the quaint Town of New Market being a welcoming stop for 19th-century travelers. Start your road trip with hearty breakfast sandwiches and a freshly roasted coffee at one of the town's cafes and thrill the kids with a pit stop at **Adventure Park USA**, featuring indoor and outdoor amusement including roller coasters, racing go-karts, mini golf, bowling, and arcade games.

Feast Your Senses

The Historic National Road leads you right through the center of Downtown Frederick. Make music in the sound garden outside of **The Delaplaine Arts Center** before discovering more inspiration inside. When hunger strikes, Downtown has you covered! Grab a Neapolitan wood-fired pizza and decadent dessert at **Pistarro's**, or dig into smoked meats and homemade sides at **Black Hog BBQ**. Nothing pairs better with dinner than a show. Cap off the evening with a show at **The Weinberg Center for the Arts**, a beautifully restored 1926 movie palace.

MAP YOUR
Journey



Hike or Bike

Take in sweeping views from the three overlooks at **Gambrill State Park**, which offers 16 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails. The White Oak Trail, an easy one-mile loop, is perfect for little ones.

Linger in the Valley

Depending on the length of your hike, it might not be hard to envision yourself as a weary traveler passing through picturesque **Middletown**. Pull over and refuel with a meal on the private patio at **The Main Cup** or grab a seat inside—this cozy spot once housed an ice cream factory.

Keep your journey along America's first highway going with a stop at **South Mountain Creamery**, a family-owned farm where you can tour the grounds, meet the cows, and savor farm-fresh ice cream from the on-site market. For a truly memorable experience, book a calf feeding in advance—you won't want to miss it!



Keep an eye out for the *original* mile markers along the north side of the historic turnpike!

Sip, Savor, and Explore

What better way to immerse yourself in a region than through its flavors? Sip craft beverages made from its bounty, soak in the views, and savor the spirit of this special place.

Spanning from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to Monticello in Virginia, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area is more than a scenic route—it's a road trip through history. But history isn't just found in landmarks and battlefields; it's in the deep roots of the land, the traditions passed down through generations, and the local flavors crafted with care. Discover innovative breweries and family-run wineries that reflect the heart and heritage of the beautiful area they call home.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground has earned the distinction of *National Scenic Byway* through the Federal Highways Administration's coveted America's Byways collection.



Quench Your Thirst

Go for a stroll through Downtown Frederick and take in the diverse architecture and public art. Check out the grouping of breweries at the east end of picturesque Carroll Creek Linear Park. Two of them—**RAK Brewing** and **Attaboy Beer**—are housed in the same building on the south side of Carroll Creek, where you'll find great beer, fun events, and delicious food provided by local food trucks or DOP Pizza inside RAK.

Follow the brick-lined pathway (perfect for people-watching) for an engaging tour and tasting at **McClintock Distilling**. Discover how a local 19th-century inventor's innovations inspire the team, which crafts pre-Prohibition-style spirits using sustainable practices. Head next door to McClintock's **Back Bar** for cocktails crafted from their liquors.

Duck into downtown's many shops and art galleries on your way to **Olde Mother Brewing**, where you can order beer, wine, or cocktails while enjoying live music or chatting with locals.



MAP YOUR
Journey



Taste the Terrain

Looking for a relaxing outing with your kids or pups?

Prospect Point Brewing is a dog-friendly farm brewery with something for everyone—flavorful beers, hard seltzers, food trucks, and a playground.

The sprawling family-owned estate that calls **Springfield Manor Winery Distillery Brewery** home is a sight to behold from U.S. 15—and well worth the turn off the highway. You'll feel you're in a movie as you ascend the long driveway to the manor house, built in 1774. The restored bank barn offers a charming setting to sample drinks year-round, but for an unforgettable experience, visit when the lavender field is in full bloom.

Just up the road are two experiences you won't want to miss. At **Cunningham Falls State Park**, an accessible boardwalk leads from the parking lot to a stunning view of the largest cascading waterfall in Maryland. Head to the nearby visitor center at **Catoctin Mountain Park** to hop on the **Blue Blazes Whiskey Still Trail**. Signs along this 0.6-mile out-and-back trail tell the story of the largest illegal whiskey operation in Frederick County during Prohibition.

Continue driving north to find another Frederick County gem—**Catoctin Breeze Vineyard**. This adult-only winery in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains makes for the perfect end to a day of exploring. While you're there, take a moment to read the Civil War Trails sign located next to the tasting room.

All 57 miles of the
Maryland portion of the
*Journey Through
Hallowed Ground*
National Scenic Byway
are found in
Frederick County!



Your Path to the Great Outdoors

The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal was created in the early 19th century to transport coal, lumber, and agricultural products to communities along the Potomac River between Georgetown, D.C., and Cumberland, Maryland. Now a National Historical Park (and one of the most visited parks in America's National Park system), the 184 miles of the C&O Canal serve as the ultimate outdoor playground for visitors of all ages and interests.

Explore a Canal Town

Nestled along the river, Brunswick is a designated Canal Town just a short walk from the towpath. Canal Towns enrich your C&O Canal experience with a mix of history, hospitality, and small-town charm. Brunswick is also a designated Appalachian Trail Community, meaning it's a welcoming stop for hikers, campers, and sightseers alike. Stop by the **Brunswick Heritage Museum** to learn about the powerful impact of the B&O Railroad and C&O Canal on the town's growth, or poke around town to uncover an eclectic mix of local shopping and dining spots.

Row, Ride, or Reel

Is your ideal day on the water spent kayaking, canoeing, tubing, or fishing? Whatever your choice, the many boat ramps along the C&O make it easy to enjoy the river your way! **River & Trail Outfitters** will hook you up with next-level fun, whether you're after a relaxing float or ready to take on white-water rapids.

Take a Bucket-List Hike

As if the C&O Canal wasn't cool enough, there's a spot where you can hit the towpath and hike the **Appalachian Trail**! About three miles of the AT run along the C&O towpath between Weverton, Maryland, and Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. For a short, steep, and totally worth-it hike, head to Weverton Cliffs—you'll sweat a little, but the view of the Potomac River as it winds towards West Virginia is unbeatable.





Pedal for Miles

Whether you're craving solo time in nature or looking for a fun way to get the family moving, a bike ride along the C&O towpath is always a good idea. The mostly flat, dirt-and-stone path is a dream for bike lovers and offers stunning views year-round. Cycle past wildflowers in spring and summer, admire the brilliant colors of fall leaves, or enjoy clear views of the Potomac River through the bare trees in winter.

Take advantage of the historical markers along the way as an excuse for a water break—you never know what you might learn! From the fierce rivalry between the B&O Railroad and C&O Canal to the **Monocacy Aqueduct's** near destruction during the Civil War, there's plenty to ponder while you catch your breath.



Pull Over for a Treat

No road trip is complete without a stop for ice cream. The Chesapeake and Ohio Scenic Byway practically leads you to the front door of **Rocky Point Creamery**, a family-owned farm since 1883. Choose from a long list of enticing ice cream flavors and let the kids play on the farm equipment-turned-play area outside. Don't forget to bring a cooler—it's the perfect place to stock up on fresh meat, milk, and cheese while you're there.



Load up the car with outdoor gear and experience an engineering marvel nicknamed—get ready for it—*"The Grand Old Ditch."* It's as fun to say as it is to explore!



History Was Made Here

During the Civil War, Frederick County's towns and farms bore witness to marching armies, raging battles, and decisions that shaped our nation. Walk the same landscapes where echoes of struggle and courage endure, where sacrifice etched itself into the land, and the legacy of the Battle of Antietam still lingers.



ANTIETAM CAMPAIGN

Trace the Past

Maryland's **Civil War Trails program** uses interpretive markers to connect visitors to powerful stories and prominent landmarks. Follow the trails and get new insights about the war. Hike the walking trails at **Monocacy National Battlefield** or embark on a self-guided auto tour. Learn the story behind Robert E. Lee's infamous 'Lost Orders,' a document he wrote in 1862 while his troops were encamped at Best Farm, later found by the U.S. Army. Two years later, the Battle of Monocacy was fought on this very land.

Discover Wartime Stories

Explore the captivating exhibits at the **National Museum of Civil War Medicine** in Downtown Frederick, where you'll learn the stories of soldiers and surgeons and discover medical breakthroughs that still save lives today. Take a **Civil War Hospital Walking Tour** through downtown, and see how the area became 'One Vast Hospital' for 8,000 wounded soldiers after the Battle of Antietam. Grab a beer and a bite to eat on the rooftop bar of **Brewer's Alley**, home to City Hall during the Civil War and the site of the 1864 ransoming of Frederick.

Head west to the **Middletown Welcome Center** and watch the orientation video about Middletown in the Civil War before treating your traveling companions to dessert at one of the stops on **Middletown's Ice Cream Trail**.



Explore the Battlefields

Bring a picnic to enjoy after exploring **Gathland State Park**, the historic site of the Battle of Crampton's Gap. After the Civil War, journalist and novelist George Alfred Townsend, known by his pen name "Gath," purchased the land as a mountain retreat. The park's standout feature is the **War Correspondents Memorial Arch**—the first monument dedicated to journalists who died in combat—offering a striking photo opportunity and a moment of remembrance.

Two buildings on Townsend's estate remain, and both are open to the public: one serves as a museum of his life and career; the other showcases artifacts and interpretations of the Battle of South Mountain.



The Antietam Campaign is both *scenic and historically rich*. Travelers can experience the peaceful landscapes that were once the scene of intense military conflict, providing a poignant contrast between the present tranquility and the area's dramatic past.



Rolling Hills and Mountain Views

When it comes to relaxing, nothing beats a leisurely drive along Maryland's winding back roads. Take in quaint main streets, postcard-worthy countrysides, and a glass of local wine before heading home refreshed (and eager to return).

OLD MAIN STREETS



Browse Historic Main Streets

Just south of the Mason-Dixon Line, Emmitsburg invites you to step back in time with its well-preserved 19th-century streetscape. Wander through the town's picturesque historic district, uncover treasures at antique shops, and enjoy an unforgettable meal at the historic **Carriage House Inn**.

Nearby, the **National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton** features an awe-inspiring Basilica and a museum that illuminates the life and legacy of America's first native-born saint. Plan ahead to attend a living history or hands-on history program.



MAP YOUR Journey



Don't miss the **National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes**, the oldest replica of the Grotto of Lourdes in the western hemisphere. This serene destination tucked into Catoclin Mountain invites reflection and meditation from visitors from all over the world and offers an awe-inspiring view of the valley below.

Thurmont is widely known for its proximity to **Cunningham Falls State Park** and **Catoclin Mountain Park** (also home to the presidential retreat at Camp David). The heart of this town is worth exploring to browse unique gifts crafted by local artisans, follow the enticing aroma of local barbecue, and check out the Trolley Mural.



Roam Free

Catoclin Mountain Orchard is the kind of pit stop that turns a one-time visit into a family tradition. With a variety of fruit you can pick yourself, a tempting selection of baked goods and local products, and a playground for the kids, it's a place you'll return to year after year. Depending on the season, you can also pick pumpkins or cut your own flowers.

Sip and Savor

Top off your day with a visit to a winery or brewery nestled in the heart of the countryside. Head to **Milkhouse Brewery at Stillpoint Farm**, where you'll find a rustic taproom, plenty of seating, and sweeping views of rolling farmland. At **Black Ankle Vineyards**, award-winning wines pair perfectly with sunset views from the spacious patio—or the cozy charm of their one-of-a-kind taproom, crafted from materials gathered right on the property.

Stay Longer, Experience More

Don't rush home just yet! Extend your road trip with an unforgettable overnight stay. Whether you prefer a touch of luxury, a sip of something local, or the soothing sounds of nature, you'll find the perfect place to unwind along a scenic byway.



Stay in the Heart of Downtown Frederick

10 CLARKE

You don't need to be an architecture enthusiast to appreciate the charm of this Queen Anne Victorian home. Enjoy a three-course breakfast on the private patio and book a massage with the in-house masseur.

VISITATION HOTEL

Hints of the upscale boutique hotel's storied past as a Catholic school, dating back to 1846, are thoughtfully woven into the decor of this Marriott Tribute Portfolio property. Reserve a table at the Wye Oak Tavern, the on-site restaurant owned by the Voltaggio brothers—Top Chef alumni and Frederick County natives.

Wake Up in Nature

SPRINGFIELD MANOR

Guests of the country estate can stroll through the lavender fields and vineyard before visiting the on-site winery, brewery, and distillery.

OLE MINK FARM RECREATION RESORT

Escape to a luxury log cabin atop Catoclin Mountain, perfect for hiking, biking, and exploring. Your family will love the game room, pool, and dog-friendly amenities!

BRUNSWICK FAMILY CAMPGROUND

Stay overnight at one of the many RV sites or campsites, making memories around your campfire before hitting the water or trails the next day.

MAP YOUR
Journey



Step Back in Time

FORGEMAN'S HOUSE

Experience a touch of the past as you sleep on rope beds in a restored 1820s Forgemán's House while still enjoying modern comforts like a kitchen, bathroom, and gas fireplace. Located in a historic furnace village, this unique stay is just steps from the Museum of the Ironworker—be sure to visit while you're there!



Stay at Lockhouse #28
on the C&O Canal and
live like a lockkeeper
back in the canal's heyday.

More to Explore

Frederick County is the perfect home base for adventure! From iconic historic landmarks to rich cultural experiences, many of the nation's most remarkable sites are just a short drive away.



HARPERS FERRY, WV **19 miles**

Historic town where John Brown's raid took place
nps.gov/hafe



ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD **23 miles**

Site of the bloodiest single-day battle during the Civil War
nps.gov/anti



GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK **33 miles**

Site of the turning point of the Civil War
nps.gov/gett



WASHINGTON, D.C. **45 miles**

Our nation's capital
washington.org



BALTIMORE, MD **46 miles**

A seaport full of history
baltimore.org



ANNAPOLIS, MD **69 miles**

Maryland's state capital
visitannapolis.org



Events for all Seasons in Frederick County

FIRE IN ICE

Downtown Frederick | February

On the First Saturday of February, you'll find hundreds of ice sculptures throughout Downtown Frederick and witness fiery spectacles by local performing artists.

MARYLAND IRON FESTIVAL

Thurmont | May

Discover the stories behind iron-making and casting in Maryland with demonstrations, guided tours of historic Catoclin Furnace, and fun activities for the whole family.

FREDERICK PRIDE

Downtown Frederick | June

Join a joyful celebration of love, diversity, and community, featuring live entertainment.

THE GREAT FREDERICK FAIR

Frederick Fairgrounds | September

This iconic event takes place over nine days featuring live music, great food, and agricultural exhibits - everything that makes a classic American county fair special.

BRUNSWICK RAILROAD DAYS

Brunswick | October

This two-day festival celebrates Brunswick's railroading history with local performers, artists, and train rides on the tracks of the old Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

MUSEUMS BY CANDLELIGHT

Throughout Frederick County | December

Explore Frederick County's museums and historic sites during this annual special event with FREE admission. Experience a living reminder of the region's remarkable past.



Take a Tour Across Frederick County



Make a stop at the Frederick Visitor Center in historic Downtown Frederick and pick up additional guides to explore Frederick County in different ways.

DRIVING TOURS

Explore Black history in Downtown Frederick and around the County on the African American Heritage Sites Tour, available online. Make a stop at more than three dozen Civil War Trails signs across Frederick County and discover how that conflict impacted the residents of this strategically important region. Drive the Covered Bridges Tour and visit three historic covered bridges in the beautiful landscapes of northern Frederick County.

WALKING TOURS

Explore the heart of the city on a Downtown Frederick Walking Tour, a 2.5 mile walk past historical sites, works of public art, and museums. Dive deeper into the art scene on the 2 mile Public Art Trail, which highlights Downtown Frederick's outdoor gallery of diverse work. Discover the story of skilled workers, enslaved and free, who toiled at the Catoctin Furnace on the African American Cemetery Trail.



View guides online by scanning the QR code here or pick up a copy of any tour brochure at the Frederick Visitor Center

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