

# The ABC's of Sailing in Maryland

*"Wherever there's a lot, and I mean lot of boats, there's usually a good reason for it. And that's certainly the case with these areas. Good marinas, good sailing, consistent wind, and all of the services you'd come to expect from a world-class sailing center. There's good sailing for everybody here." Larry Jacobson, Circumnavigator & author of the award-winning book, The Boy Behind the Gate.*

If one of the most impressive collections of military vessels in the world brings you some excitement, take a tour with HistoricShip.org, (located on Pier I - 301 East Pratt Street) and climb aboard floating museums, such as: the US Sloop-of-War Constellation (the last Civil War Vessel afloat,) the US Submarine Torsk, the US Coast Guard Cutter Taney, and the Lightship Chesapeake. Also included in the tour is the Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse, which marked the entrance to the Patapsco River and Baltimore Harbor for over 130 years.

As home to "The Star-Spangled Banner", the national anthem of the United States, written by Francis Scott Key in 1814, it would be appropriate while visiting during the month of June, to check out the Star-Spangled Sailabration. During this annual week-long event, an international parade of more than two dozen ships sail into Baltimore to launch the celebration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the penning of the National Anthem.

## Chesapeake Bay

Encompassing both the eastern and western shores of Maryland, The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the U.S. and is surrounded by Virginia and Maryland. It has more than 150 rivers and streams flowing into it, which makes this location a boater's paradise!

Enjoy hour long cruises, full day excursions or week long adventures, traveling to several different ports along the bay. With breathtaking views, sailing the bay is an adventure never to be forgotten and most certainly an experience you will want to relive.

The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum is located on St. Michaels and has in depth knowledge of the local oystering industry and boat building. The working boat yard and floating fleet provide an interactive experience. Also featuring the Hooper Strait Lighthouse, a rare screwpile lighthouse, with its intriguing history on the treacherous waters of the Hooper Strait.

Chesapeake Lights also offers various tours of the Lighthouses in Chesapeake Bay aboard the M/V SHARPS ISLAND. Great photo opportunities and all day tours are available illuminating the bay, its history and its wonders.

## Annapolis

Self-proclaimed as "America's Sailing Capital," Annapolis is a premier maritime center. Worldwide visitors enjoy the historic seaport for water activities such as: 74-foot schooner cruises, breakfast boat charters, fishing, or explore the bay by canoe or kayak.

Not getting wet today? No worries, as you can visit the Annapolis Maritime Museum, tour the U.S. Naval Academy or stop by The National Sailing Center & Hall of Fame. Established in 2006, The National Sailing Center & Hall of Fame, is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to preserving the history of sailing and its impact on the culture.

Plan on getting in the water? Make a stop at one of the most prestigious Yacht Clubs, The Moorings. Their newest location in Annapolis, opened in 2012, which offers bareboat sailing, as well as powered and skippered charters on the Chesapeake Bay. They have been providing fantastic powerboat and sailing vacations worldwide for over 40 years.

Action packed water events include an Annual Classic Wooden Boat Rendezvous & Race in September, the annual United States Sailboat Show in October, or sailing races at sunset that take place every Wednesday from April through September.

## Baltimore

Boats, boats and more boats in Baltimore! From historic military ships and yachts to cruise ships and charter boats, set sail in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

As one of America's oldest seaports, welcoming ships since the 1600's, finding a place to tie up for the night won't be a problem in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. The harbor boasts some world-class marinas and one top-rated service and repair yard for boats and yachts.