

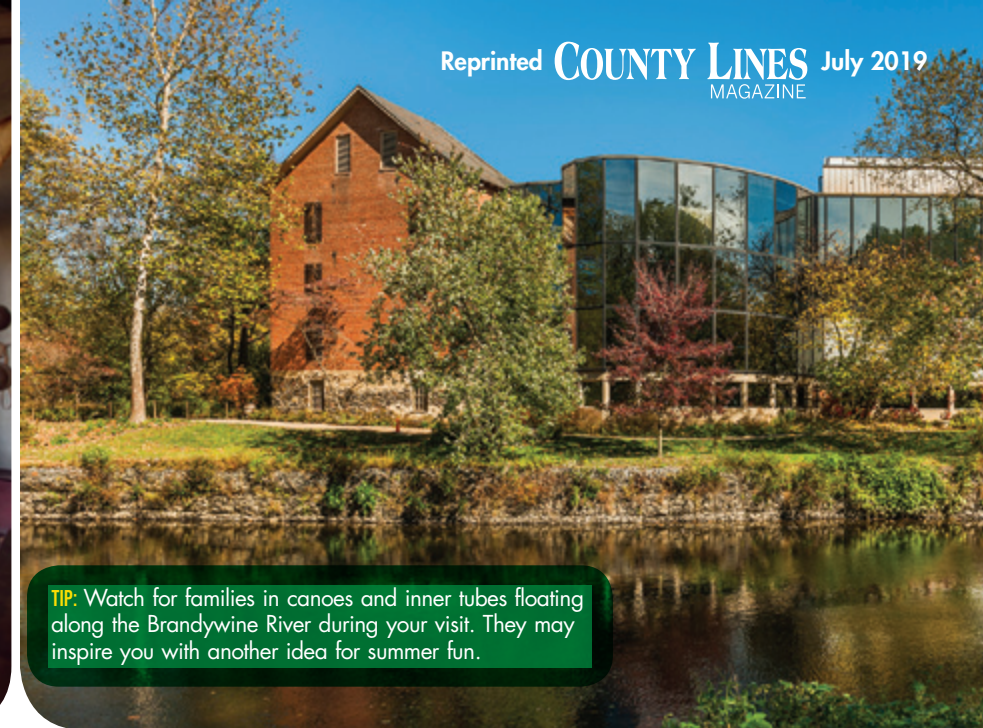
# DAY TRIPS AND OUTINGS

There's really no better place to start any guide to great day trips than with the three most popular local attractions—Longwood Gardens, Brandywine River Museum of Art, and Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library. People travel from around the world to visit them, so let's start there. Then we'll take you to other sights worth a quick stop or a leisurely tour.

PHOTO COURTESY JJ TIZIQU



**ANNUAL TIP:** Planning to visit more than a few sights this summer? Then seriously consider this tip. The Brandywine Treasure Trail Passport admits you to 12 major sights for a flat fee (\$45/adults, \$95/families). [VisitWilmingtonDe.com/Passport](http://VisitWilmingtonDe.com/Passport).



**TIP:** Watch for families in canoes and inner tubes floating along the Brandywine River during your visit. They may inspire you with another idea for summer fun.

PHOTO COURTESY TOM CRANE

## TOP THREE MUST-SEES

### Longwood Gardens

First-time visitors may want to start with a guided tour of what's been called a "National Wonder" and one of "50 Places of a Lifetime." Pick the "Longwood Story Tour" for the Spark Notes overview to this 1,083-acre legacy of founder Pierre S. du Pont that attracts about a million-plus annual visitors. Then freestyle your way through the many gardens, fountains, entertainment options and more.

Summer is the best time to enjoy the Main Fountains at **Longwood Gardens**, especially during the "Festival of Fountains," the daily fountain shows featuring 1,719 jets of water. Catch the live music and special events with dancing fountains, light shows and five nights of fireworks (July 3 & 20, Aug. 10, Sept. 1 & 28). Fountain shows continue through September 29.

Garden fans can check the website link for "What's In Bloom" or enjoy wandering among the huge fanciful topiaries, formal gardens, conservatories and wooded walks.

For entertainment options—with 400 performances a year—choose from family-friendly shows and local talent, like the Brandywiners performing *The Producers*, July 25–27 and August 1–3. Classical music fans may choose The Philadelphia Orchestra's American composers and Beethoven concert on July 2.

Pack a picnic or enjoy the café, restaurant or beer garden on site. *Open daily. Rts. 1 & 52, Kennett Square. [LongwoodGardens.org](http://LongwoodGardens.org).*



PHOTO COURTESY ALBEE LARRY



PHOTO COURTESY DANIEL TRAUß

### Brandywine River Museum of Art

Discover the intersection of art and nature at the **Brandywine River Museum of Art** on the banks of the scenic Brandywine River. Extensive native plant gardens—studded with sculptures including a bronze pig—surround the converted 19th-century mill housing the museum. This is home to works by three generations of Wyeths—N.C., Andrew, Jamie—plus regional art, American landscapes, still-life paintings and illustrations.

You're in luck because this summer's special exhibit highlights 70 paintings and drawings by N.C. Wyeth in an in-depth

examination of the entirety of his work. See "N. C. Wyeth: New Perspectives" from June 22 through September 15. While you're there, make sure to check out the permanent exhibits.

The site is also home to the Brandywine Conservancy, which conserves and protects the land, water, natural and cultural resources of the region, along with hosting events like the July 13 Tip-A-Canoe and Barbecue, Too outing, July 24 Summer Garden Walk and September 28 Bike the Brandywine ride. *Open daily, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. [BrandywineMuseum.org](http://BrandywineMuseum.org).*

### Winterthur Museum

Just over the Delaware state line is the final stop for the Big 3. **Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library** is home to a world-class collection of American decorative arts displayed in a stunning mansion set in a 1,000-acre park, once the home of a different du Pont, Henry F. Superlatives apply on every level!

You've likely heard about this year's major attraction, "Costuming The Crown," featuring 40 costumes from the award-winning Netflix drama—through January 5, 2020. Imagine yourself wearing a royal gown and tiara ...

Stretch your legs and tour the gardens to visit 13 amazing architectural follies—a tower, a tent, a faerie cottage and more fanciful structures dot the landscape. On view until January 5.

For the kiddos, there's the Enchanted Woods, a three-acre fairytale style garden, plus hands-on crafts and games on Terrific Tuesdays in July and August. You'll also find summer events including live music, a farm stand and scenic tram tours. *Open Tues.–Sun. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. [Winterthur.org](http://Winterthur.org).*

PHOTO COURTESY ROB CARDILLO PHOTOGRAPHY



# EXPLORE CHESTER COUNTY

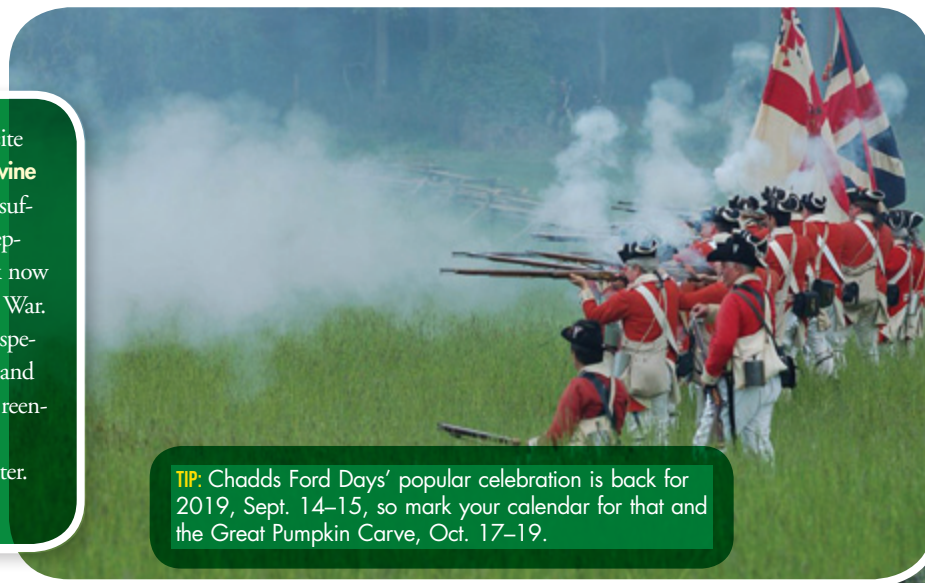
CHESTER COUNTY IS YOUR DESTINATION FOR HISTORY, SPECIAL-interest museums and charming towns. Here are a few of our favorites.

## Brandywine Battlefield State Park

This may well be the fourth most important stop on any tour—site of one of the most famous battles in American history. **Brandywine Battlefield State Park** is where General Washington and his troops suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of British General Howe on September 11, 1777. Rolling hills and lush scenery in the 52-acre park now disguise the site of one of the deadliest battles of the Revolutionary War.

At this pastoral park, visitors come to pay homage and to enjoy special events like raspberry picking on Wineberry Days through July and August, and Remembrance Day on September 11, with costumed reenactments and ringing of the 9/11 bells.

Find a picnic spot or catch a 20-minute film at the Visitors Center. *Open Tues.–Sun. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. BrandywineBattlefield.org.*



**TIP:** Chadds Ford Days' popular celebration is back for 2019, Sept. 14–15, so mark your calendar for that and the Great Pumpkin Carve, Oct. 17–19.

## Chadds Ford & Kennett Square

Chadds Ford celebrates our local and national roots in several Colonial-period restorations. Visit the fieldstone barn (now museum and **Chadds Ford Historical Society** headquarters) plus two 18th-century restorations at the **John Chads House** and the **Barns-Brinton House**, at 1736 N. Creek Rd., *ChaddsFordHistory.org.*

A newer site, **The William Brinton 1704 House and Historic Site**, was restored by local architect John Milner and immerses you in early Colonial times. See authentic period furnishings and learn about our area's Quaker history, by-gone lifestyle and genealogy through tours, guides and games. Tours on weekends, 1 to 5, through Oct. 21 Oakland Rd., *Chadds Ford. BrintonFamily.org.*

Learn about Chester County's role in Civil War history at the **Kennett Square Underground Railroad Center**, highlighting our area's historical abolitionists and freedom-seekers. Family-friendly guided bus tours visit documented Underground Railroad sites, historic homes and Quaker meetinghouses on July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15 & Oct. 20. Private tours and self-guided driving tours are also available. *KennettUndergroundRR.org.*

One more stop takes you to the **Christian Sanderson Museum**, a unique eight-room house full of idiosyncratic artifacts from 200 years of one man's life in Chadds Ford and a special view of our nation's history. Amaze your friends with tidbits you learned at this stop. *1755 Creek Rd. SandersonMuseum.org.*

**TIP:** Nearby Kennett Square's main street is lined with wonderful restaurants—La Verona, Verbena and the famous Talulah's Table—along with a growing number of craft beer breweries—Braeloch, Kennett and Victory breweries—and a fun beer garden at The Creamery. Try axe throwing at Chop Shop! *401 Birch St. KennettCreamery.com.*



## Chester County Historical Society

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 18th Amendment at “Nothing to See Here: Prohibition in Chester County,” on view at the **Chester County Historical Society**, a repository of 300 years of local history and a great place to trace family roots at a genealogy workshop (The Genealogist's Toolkit on Sept. 14). *Open Tues.–Sat. 225 N. High St., West Chester. ChesterCoHistorical.org.*



**TIP:** West Chester is charming enough to be a destination unto itself. This Great American Main Street Award-winning town mixes dining at 60+ restaurants (including James Beard Award semi-finalist Andriario) with a lively arts scene and boutique shopping. Check out “Art, Artists & Galleries in West Chester” at *CountyLinesMagazine.com.* And its events calendar is full all year!

## Colonial Plantation at Ridley Park

Technically in Delaware County, this authentic living history site is worth the trip. See what farm life was like in late 18th century on the 112-acre park, complete with animal pastures, farmhouse, blacksmith forge, weaving demonstrations, animal barn, orchard and more.

On July 4–7, bring a picnic and join the **Independence Day Celebrations**. Hear readings of the Declaration of Independence, write your own declaration with a quill pen, and watch the burning of King George. July 19 is **Soaring at Sunset**, a fundraiser celebrating America's first hot air balloonist, Peter Carnes. Enjoy live bands, tethered hot air balloon rides, food trucks, beer and wine vendors.

*Public tours Sat. & Sun. through Nov. 24. 3900 N. Sandy Flash Dr., Newtown Square. ColonialPlantation.org.*



## Blobfest in Phoenixville

For 20 years, **Phoenixville's Colonial Theatre** has celebrated the iconic 1958 film “The Blob,” starring Steve McQueen, at a weekend of '50s film nostalgia, sci-fi and kitsch. Come for Friday night's reenactment of the “running out of the theater” scene, followed by the Blob Ball. On Saturday, there's a Streetfair with plenty of fun stuff to do and see. Join the mob for “The Blob,” July 12–14, and search for other locations where scenes were shot in Chester Springs, Downingtown and Royersford. (Hint: One place is a diner.)

**TIP:** While in Phoenixville, visit one of the many, many breweries, distilleries and great restaurants. Fun fact: the downtown has more breweries per square foot than anywhere else in the country, and the town ranks tenth for total number of breweries!



**N**EXT UP IS DELAWARE, the smallest and “First State” (first to ratify the Constitution). Our first stop is its largest city—Wilmington. With cultural attractions, an Art Loop, fun Riverfront, plus restaurants, brewpubs, theater row and tax-free shopping, it’s a top tourist destination.



Summer Events Galore

**W**ilmington’s summer calendar is packed with events and fun for the whole family. Head for the annual People’s Festival tribute to Bob Marley, July 20, and the Delaware Burger Battle, August 24. *Find more things to do in our annual summer preview, “In The Good Ole Summer-time” at CountyLinesMagazine.com.*



**TIP:** Check out DE.CO—eight unique restaurant stalls and atrium bar set in the historic, art deco DuPont Building downtown. “A launch pad for chefs, a haven for eaters.” *DecoWilmington.com.*

The Theater Scene

**T**heater lovers have plenty of entertainment options, too—**The Grand Opera House, The Queen Wilmington, The Playhouse on Rodney Square, Delaware Theatre Company, Delaware Shakespeare.** Check websites for performances. Concerts and live acts keep going through the summer.

Museums for Every Taste

**Y**es, there’s Winterthur, but the **Delaware Art Museum** is another must-see. Browse the world-class permanent collections—Pre-Raphaelites to contemporary pieces—and enjoy the sculpture garden and labyrinth on the grounds. Summer exhibits include “The Loper Tradition: Paintings by Edward Loper, Sr. and Edward Loper Jr.,” through Aug. 4, and “Relational Undercurrents: Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago” through Sept. 8. *Open Wed.–Sun. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy. DelArt.org.*

Along the Riverfront (more on that later) museum lovers can visit **The Delaware Contemporary**, 200 S. Madison St. *DEContemporary.org*, and **The Delaware Children’s Museum**, 550 Justison St. *DelawareChildrens-Museum.org*, while nature lovers may opt for **DuPont Environmental Education Center** on the 212-acre Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge, home to bald eagles, dragonflies, turtles and more wildlife. *1400 Delmarva Ln. DuPontEEC.org.*



Riverfront Wilmington

**T**he Riverfront is a prime destination, especially in summer. Strolling, dining, drinking—all with a view of the Christina River. Along the 1.3-mile Riverwalk you’ll find upscale and casual restaurants—seafood and not—plus plenty of patios for sipping drinks with umbrellas or not. Play mini-golf, catch the **River Taxi**, tour the tall ship **Kalmar Nyckel**, check out the options on the **Riverboat Queen**, or kick back at **Constitution Yards** beer garden for a brew and round of corn hole, giant jenga or axe throwing at the new **Wilmo Axes**.



**TIP:** Mix sports and museums at the Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame in Frawley Stadium to see major sports figures from and beloved in Delaware. *DeSports.org.*



Sports

**S**ports fans will enjoy a trip to the **Daniel S. Frawley Stadium**, home to the **Wilmington Blue Rocks**, a top minor league baseball club with a full schedule of games this summer. Check website for schedule and special theme nights—Dog Days, Wet Your Whistle Wednesdays and more. *801 Shipyard Dr. BlueRocks.com/Stadium; DESports.org.*

The newest addition to the sports scene is the **76ers’ Fieldhouse**, a 2500-seat arena and sports complex that’s home to the **Delaware Blue Coats**, an NBA G-League pro basketball team and affiliate of the Philadelphia 76ers. The Blue Coats finished the season with a win (though 21-29 overall) in late March. Be on the lookout for them next year, along with their mascot, Coaty. *401 Garasches La. Bluecoats.GLeague.NBA.com.*

Family Fun

**D**iscover another view of the natural world at the **Delaware Museum of Natural History** and observe science in action. See the state’s only permanent dinosaur collection and the second largest birds eggs collection in North America. Summer’s special exhibit, “Wicked Plants: The Exhibit,” gives visitors a safe, hands-on experience with some of the world’s most dangerous botanicals. Through Sept. 2. *Open Mon.–Sun. Rt. 52, S. of Centreville, DE. DelMNH.org.*

More accessible than the 42-acre Philadelphia Zoo, the 13 acres of the **Brandywine Zoo** are set in lovely Brandywine Park. Enjoy Thursday storytimes, periodic animal shows, breakfasts with the zoo keepers and a Parrot Party on July 11. *Daily 10 to 4. 1001 N. Park Dr. BrandywineZoo.org.*

For a little history and a lot of fun for kids of all ages, take a ride on the **Wilmington & Western Railroad** on ten miles of tracks through beautiful scenery. Choose the Mt. Cuba Express (1½ hour roundtrip) or the Hockessin Flyer (2½ hour roundtrip) to see the sights and spend quality family time together. Better yet, book passage on the Fireworks Express on July 4. Themed excursions throughout the year—autumn leaves, Father’s Day and the Princess Express. *2201 Newport Gap Pk. WWRR.com.*



# TOUR LANCASTER COUNTY

**H**EAD WEST TO LANCASTER COUNTY, WHICH MANY think of first as the home to America's oldest Amish settlement. With miles of rolling hills and lush farms, this is a great place to slow down and take in the countryside.

But there's so much more there—a bustling city, historic sites, great shopping, charming towns and new sights cropping up every year. With so much to do, Lancaster should be on your list of summer plans. Learn more about attractions at [DiscoverLancaster.com](http://DiscoverLancaster.com).



## Shopping

**S**hopaholics will love Lancaster's wide variety. Find locally grown food and Amish crafts like quilts, potholders and pillows at **Central Market**, the oldest, continuously running public farmers' market in the country.

Antiques lovers should visit **Adamstown**, known as the Antiques Capital of the U.S., to find over 5,000 antique dealers. Stop by the 15,500-square-foot **272 Antiques Mall** for over 160 booths selling toys, signs, furniture and plenty more.

You'll find top name brands and luxury items at **Tanger Outlets** and **Rockvale Outlets**. While at Rockvale, eat at one of their seven restaurants, enjoy a wine tasting at Nissley Vineyards' Tasting Room and take a break at the new Park and Virtual Reality Arcade to play EscapeVR: The Basement, a virtual reality escape room.



## Lancaster City

**A** great place to start is Lancaster's only city, with its active arts scene, varied museums, eclectic dining and much more. Learn about the city that was the capital of the U.S. for one day on a **Historic Lancaster Walking Tour**, or visit **Wheatland Estate**, home of Pennsylvania's only U.S. President, James Buchanan.

For your budding scientist, stop at the **Lancaster Science Factory** for an interactive experience. Check out their new expansion, which includes a maker space classroom where you can take a woodworking workshop or build a robot!

A trip to the city isn't complete without enjoying local performing and visual arts. Catch *Mamma Mia!* at the historic **Fulton Theatre** or go on a musical journey with Ovation—An AMT Pops Orchestra Experience at the **American Music Theatre**. On **First Fridays**, browse **Gallery Row** for live music, pop-up shops, happy hours and more.

## Trains & More Trains

**A**ll aboard to check out all the railroad-related attractions in Strasburg! Visit the 2,000-square-foot **Strasburg Train Shop**, or stop next door at **Choo Choo Barn**, a hand-crafted toy train exhibit with over 150 animated figures and 22 operating trains.

Strasburg is also home to the **Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania**, housing one of the world's most significant collections of historic railroad artifacts. See the new exhibits, including TrainWorks, hands-on areas, and a new film in Steinman Station.

Follow up with a stop at the **Strasburg Railroad** to ride a coal-burning steam train. Meet Thomas the Tank Engine when he rolls into town! During these "Days Out with Thomas," ride with Thomas and enjoy Thomas-related fun. He's back in town Sept. 14–22.

Finish your visit in neighboring Ronks at the **Toy Train Museum and Library**, one of the most extensive toy train collections in the world with trains dating back to the mid-1800s to present day.



## Farms & Tours

**I**f it's a farm experience you crave, Lancaster has a bounty crop. Check out **Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum** to tour historic buildings, view exhibits and watch live demonstrations. Customize your tour by choosing a specific time period or theme, and by adding activities, like a historic dancing workshop or basic PA Dutch language lessons.

For sightseeing, take a horse-drawn carriage tour at Chateau Farms by Shady Maple Smorgasbord. Take in breathtaking views while you learn how Shady Maple transformed from a roadside stand to one of the largest buffets in the U.S., with a 200-foot buffet line! Or get the full Amish experience with a visit to Bird-in-Hand. Get dinner and a show at the **Bird-in-Hand Stage** and take a tour of Amish farmlands when you stay at one of their hotels or inns.

**TIP:** Try the new **Amish Artisans Shopping Tour** that includes four Amish shops amid spectacular farmlands. Find wooden toys, delicious baked goods, gorgeous quilted crafts and hand-stamped greeting cards.



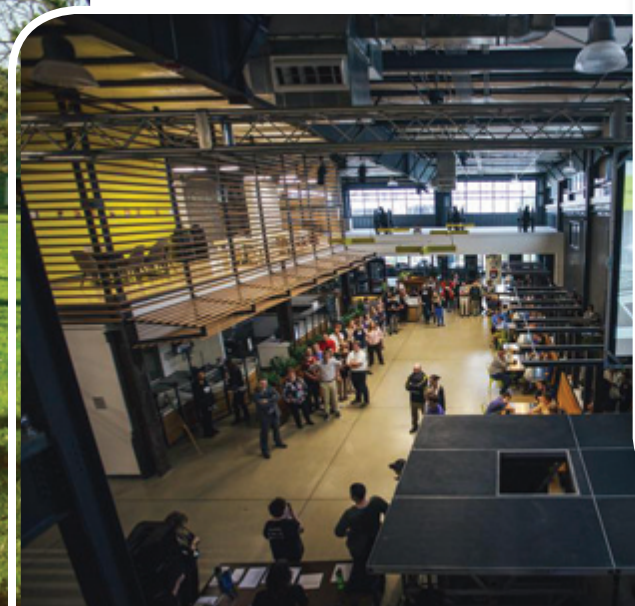
## More Towns to Tour

**H**ead north to a National Historic Landmark, the **Ephrata Cloister**. Take a guided tour of the restored 18th-century cloister grounds and structures of the religious communal society, the German Seventh Day Baptists.

Dubbed America's Coolest Small Town, **Lititz** is a top town worth touring. Enjoy fireworks at their signature event, the 202nd Continuous 4th of July Celebration, at Lititz Springs Park. Or roll and knead your own pretzels at **Sturgis Pretzel Bakery**, and sample the famed Wilbur Buds at the **Wilbur Chocolate Factory**. Check out **The Wilbur Lititz, Tapestry by Hilton**, a new boutique hotel located in the Wilbur Chocolate Factory, opening in September with a bistro restaurant and nearby shopping.

Our final recommendation is the new and still-expanding **Rock Lititz**, a one-of-a-kind production community sprawling over a 96-acre campus. Stay at the **Hotel Rock Lititz**, sporting a rock-climbing wall plus a brewery, bike shop, yoga studio, candy store and more at the Rock Lititz campus.

A great end to a relaxing Lancaster getaway.



WITH MARYLAND A TOP SUMMER DESTINATION, OUR SOUTHERN NEIGHBOR, CECIL COUNTY is an easy day trip or getaway. Visit the historic towns, parks with miles of trails, specialty and antique shops, and cozy inns and B&Bs. Mark your calendar for great events like the Cecil **County Fair**, July 19–27, attracting over 70,000 visitors to see 4H exhibits, tractor and truck pulls, a demolition derby, rodeo, midway rides and plenty of food. *See SeeCecil.org*

## Top of the Chesapeake Bay

Cecil County is where you can explore five rivers, the Chesapeake Bay and the **C&D Canal** by boat or by land. Enjoy the best of summer and outdoor fun as you hike, bike, camp, bird watch, horseback ride or drop a fishing line.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find too many choices for a short weekend visit. Grab a copy of the **Nature Guide** from the tourism office, then choose your pick of the many state parks and forests, each with nature trails, wildlife and attractions from arboretums to winery tasting rooms.

Visit with the animals at the country zoo, stroll the grounds of an herb farm, pick fresh fruit at an orchard, or hike out to **Turkey Point Lighthouse** and marvel at the breathtaking view. You'll find lots of options for outdoor fun.



## Equestrian Country

Fair Hill is a perfect destination for enjoying prime equestrian country. Come to watch world-class events—the **85th Fair Hill Races** were held in late May, while the **3-Day International Eventing Competition** is scheduled for October 17–20 this year. Or participate, in a leisurely way, by reserving your outing with **Fairwinds Farm & Stables** for a trail ride, pony ride, carriage ride or hayride through the rolling hill country.

You'll also find over 5,000-acres of natural beauty at **Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area**, a former du Pont property known for beautiful meadows, lush woodlands and historic sites.



## Charming Towns

Explore the Victorian historic district of **South Chesapeake City**, where waterfront dining and shopping are top attractions, along with sightings of ships passing through the C&D Canal bridge. Or capture the essence of Main Street USA on a shopping trip to **North East** for that antique or collectible treasure you've been hunting for. The tiny village of **Port Deposit** on the banks of the Susquehanna—listed in its entirety on the National Historic Register—is another gem in Cecil County worth a stop or a leisurely visit.

For some 21st-century fun, shop till you drop at **Prime Outlets at Perryville**, where you'll also find **Hollywood Casino**.

Wherever you go, remember to catch a sunset view before heading home.



PHOTO COURTESY KEVIN QUINLAN

THE FULL CHESAPEAKE EXPERIENCE REQUIRES A VISIT TO THE EASTERN SHORE—THAT'S THE EASTERN shore of the Chesapeake Bay—about two hours from Chester County. We recommend Kent County, where the coastline varies from historic waterfront towns dotted with marinas to stretches of rolling farmlands, home to local wineries. Kent County is a haven for fishing and boating fans, cyclists, birders and nature lovers. Festival lovers and foodies will also find plenty to pique their interests, including opportunities to sample the obligatory Maryland crab dishes.

Here are some must-see destinations, with more choices at *Kent County Tourism Office, KentCounty.com*.

## Chestertown

The County's largest town, **Chestertown**, is a well-kept historic treasure on the scenic Chester River. Take a self-guided audio tour of the historic waterfront or a walking tour along red-brick sidewalks past the second largest collection of 18th-century structures in Maryland, which earned the town the National Trust's award, "Dozen Distinctive Destinations." Visit your pick of historic buildings but be sure to include **Washington College's** historic campus—one of the ten oldest liberal arts colleges in the country and one with links to George.

See what's playing at the **Princes Theatre**, shop at the **Saturday Farmers' and Artisans' Market**, and catch special events on **First Fridays** in a town that's a designated Arts and Entertainment District. *More at Chestertown.com*.



## Rock Hall & More

For July 4th, look for the fireworks at **Rock Hall**, a fishing village—aka the "Pearl of the Chesapeake"—between the Chesapeake Bay and Chester River. This sailing, boating and tourist destination was named a best small town to visit by "Southern Living Magazine," with enough distinctive B&Bs, inns, seafood restaurants and unique shops to prove it.

Another charming town, **Georgetown** is where a local heroine stood up to the British during the War of 1812. A restaurant and historic inn—named after **Kitty Knight**—serves up Maryland crab soup and delectable crab cakes along with views from the Sunset Deck.

**Galena** lures visitors inland with all-you-can-eat breakfasts, ham and oyster suppers, and antiques.

**Betterton** beach is ideal for swimming and family picnics, while quiet coves along the peninsula are perfect for fishing, canoeing and kayaking.



## Nature Lovers

**Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge** is a top spot for wildlife, waterfowl, birding and fantastic observation decks and walking trails, plus the **Butterfly Observation Deck** with panoramic views of Chesapeake Bay. The refuge is sanctuary for more than a hundred thousand bald eagles, ducks, geese and swans, along with migratory songbirds and shorebirds. *1730 Eastern Neck Rd., 6 miles S. of Rock Hall, Fws.gov/Northeast/EasternNeck*.



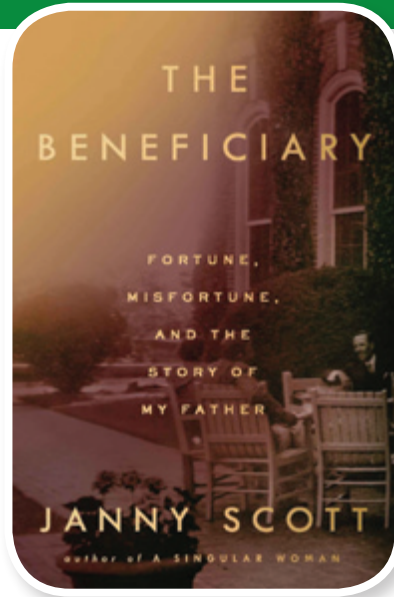
**P**HILADELPHIA'S MAIN LINE, AS IT WAS ONCE known, refers to the string of about 20 suburban towns running along Lancaster Avenue (aka Route 30) to the west of the city. Encompassing parts of Montgomery, Delaware and Chester Counties, these 20 square miles are best known for their lush and affluent neighborhoods of old money, great shopping, fine dining and outstanding schools and universities,

along with some of the county's wealthiest and best educated zip codes (Gladwyne and Devon). You may have heard the name Main Line has historical ties to the 19th-century Pennsylvania Railroad line connecting Philadelphia to the country estates in the western suburbs, defining the area geographically. Today SEPTA's Paoli/Thorn-dale line continues to run along these distinctive towns.

**M**ost years we recommend roaming leafy lanes to glimpse the glorious Main Line mansions (no McMansions here). Drive mostly north of Lancaster Ave. through neighborhoods with charming signs for Rose, Laurel and Mulberry Lanes and a road that crosses a stream—that's Old Gulph Road at Williamson Road.

For an armchair tour of the old Main Line, read "The Beneficiary" by Janny Scott, descendent of Hope Montgomery Scott, the inspiration for the film "The Philadelphia Story." Get an insider's view from a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. It's the book of the summer.

Back on Lancaster Ave., you'll find wonderful local shopping and dining options. For recommendations, see our "Best of the Best" dining coverage along with our guide "Slipping Out: From Horses to Flowers, Beer, Music and Comedy" at [CountyLinesMagazine.com](http://CountyLinesMagazine.com).



## Gardens Galore

**A**mid the well-manicured grounds of private residences, the Main Line boasts several world-class public gardens. Though smaller than Longwood, each has a special character worth a visit.

Wayne's **Chanticleer Garden**, a former private residence now known as "a pleasure garden," is a popular destination, as is Devon's **Jenkins Arboretum** with its extraordinary collection of native plants, as well as Merion's **Barnes Foundation Arboretum** with specimen and rare plants. [ChanticleerGarden.org](http://ChanticleerGarden.org); [JenkinsArboretum.org](http://JenkinsArboretum.org); [Barnes-Foundation.org/Visit/Merion](http://Barnes-Foundation.org/Visit/Merion).

The newest public garden is a former Villanova mansion, now **Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden**. Under the stewardship of Natural Lands, Stoneleigh's 42 acres showcase native plants in a serene setting open to the public. [StoneleighGarden.org](http://StoneleighGarden.org).



## History, Too

**F**or some history, visit **Paoli Battlefield Park**, located in what's now Malvern (the battle was named after a nearby tavern). This 44-acre site is the most pristine Revolutionary War battlefield in the country, preserved for over 230 years. Known as the Paoli Massacre, this is where Washington's army, under the command of General Anthony Wayne, was routed in a surprise attack on September 20, 1777. The brutality of the British led the Colonial troops to swear vengeance, with the cry "Remember Paoli!" Info on lectures, re-enactments, monuments and more at [PBBFinc.org](http://PBBFinc.org).



## The Nest Big Thing

**N**earby in Montgomery County, the new \$13-million, 18,000-square-foot **John James Audubon Center Museum** offers art, conservation and education for all ages. Immerse yourself in the world of birds through interactive exhibits, modern technology and historic artifacts. Learn why not all eggs are shaped the same, how birds' wings work and trace migration patterns on flyway maps. *At Mill Grove in Audubon, [JohnJamesAudubon.org](http://JohnJamesAudubon.org).*



PHOTO COURTESY LUKE FRANKIE



## Trails on Tap

**P**hilly's popular "Parks on Tap" series is bringing a mobile beer garden to riverside locations in our area this summer. For six weeks, the pop-up beer garden "**Trails on Tap**" will travel to Pottstown Riverfront Park, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Royersford Riverfront Park and Norristown Riverfront Park. Enjoy food, drink and natural green space at these locations near the **Schuylkill River Trail** and alongside the **Schuylkill River**. The beer garden will be a festive outdoor space featuring lighting, comfortable chairs, hammocks and restrooms. *For dates, menus and details, [TrailsOnTapPA.com](http://TrailsOnTapPA.com).*

## Visit Valley Forge

**N**ature is mixed with history and 75 miles of interconnected trails in **Valley Forge National Park**, including 20 miles, perfect for jogging, running, biking and horseback riding. With plenty of open space and picnic areas, the Park is meant for summer days filled with soaking up sunshine and history.

Valley Forge has a singular place in American Revolutionary history, and so this park preserves the heroic story of George Washington and his beleaguered Continental Army during the 1777-78 winter. Learn more on a ranger-led tour, walking tour following the footsteps of the soldiers who survived that terrible winter, a 90-minute trolley tour of park highlights, or a self-guided tour.

The Visitors Center offers maps, self-guided driving tours, podcasts and more. Park grounds are open year-round, dawn to dusk. Days and times vary by attraction. [ValleyForge.org](http://ValleyForge.org).



**TIP:** Each year the park throws a massive community picnic on July 4th with a cookout, games, artillery demos and a reading of the Declaration of Independence.

See "More Great Places for Outings" in this Guide starting on page 62, and check [CountyLinesMagazine.com](http://CountyLinesMagazine.com) for the Best Local Events this month and every month.