

Kent County, Maryland's Many Seasons of Fun

DON'T POSTPONE YOUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
JUST BECAUSE SUMMER IS OVER.

THE FUN CONTINUES IN KENT COUNTY, ON MARYLAND'S Upper Eastern Shore. Whether you're escaping for a getaway weekend or planning a vacation, this scenic peninsula is less than two hours from Chester County, PA and is perfect for fall and winter fun. Looking for a quaint, historic destination with terrific restaurants, arts galore and amazing events through the seasons? You've found it here. And, there's still plenty of time to get out on the water, paddle scenic rivers and take nature walks to the water's edge.

Visit **Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge**, with six walking trails and three observation decks waiting for you. With almost 2,300 acres of natural beauty cozied between the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay, water views are guaranteed. One of the 500+ refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System, **Eastern Neck Island** is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and was established to protect migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, and other native species. Although abundant year-round, waterfowl numbers increase as many species make their migratory journeys.

With more than 240 species of birds—bald eagles, hawks, osprey, tundra swans, Canada geese and other migratory types—it's a birding haven. Around Thanksgiving a special guest from Alaska arrives as hundreds of tundra swans stop before migrating 4,000 miles in March. These majestic birds, with wingspans of 72–88 inches, can be viewed at the **Tundra Swan Boardwalk**. Bald Eagles also begin to establish territories and start building their nests in December.

Each winter, **The Friends of Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge** make it possible to explore areas of the Island not usually

accessible to the public. On first Saturdays, December through March, a birding guide will point out habitats, plants and, of course, wildlife on a two-mile, two-hour tour.

Turkey and deer hunting are permitted intermittently to manage populations. The refuge hosts deer hunting, as well as special disabled and youth opportunities for white-tailed deer from late September through February. Crabbing season is April to September, and licensed fishing is allowed year-round at select locations. On the walkway on the **Eastern Neck Bridge**, you can cast a line into the Chesapeake Bay on one side and the Chester River on the other!

Fall foliage and eagle sightings make a perfect time to paddle the **Eastern Neck Island Water Trail**. Fully “immerse” yourself in local history and ecology, and pick up a map and guide from the Friends of Eastern Neck Bookstore at the **Visitor Center**. Launch your kayak (April–September) from several points on the Island.

Any time of year, **Eastern Neck Island** delights, but winter is the perfect time for a truly sensory experience as most of the world is hibernating on the couch near the big-screen TV. In the seasonal solitude of the Island, you can sit and let nature come to you—cool breezes, warm sun, sounds of waves and calls of birds. The longer you sit, the more gifts of nature you're given.

Whatever your recreational pleasure—birding, photography, hiking, paddling, fishing, crabbing, hunting or simply sitting and observing—Eastern Neck Island in Kent County offers a perfect getaway. For more on this special region, please visit KentCounty.com. ♦

special advertising section

Ongoing. **First Fridays in Chestertown**

Chestertown Historic District. 5 to 8 pm.

Downtown—Park Row, High Street, Cross Street & Cannon Street
Facebook.com/DowntownChestertown.

Ongoing. **Mainstay Mondays**

Casual evenings featuring Joe Holt on the piano and a guest. Cash bar, doors open at 6:30 pm with the show starting at 7.

5753 Main St., Rock Hall. MainstayRockHall.org.

Ongoing. **Chestertown Farmers and Artisans Market**

Produce, herbs, breads, soaps and plants as well as the handcrafted works of local artisans.

High & Cross Sts., Fountain Park. ChestertownFarmersMarket.net.

September 12–16. **Chestertown Jazz Festival**

A collection of jazz performers gather in Kent County for the annual Chestertown Jazz Festival. Concerts held in various venues throughout Kent County.

Wilmer Park, 413 S. Cross St.

ChestertownJazzFestival.org.

September 14. **First Annual Chestertown Car Show**

Custom hot rods, classics and antiques. Food and beverages, children's activities and car-related contests. 2 to 6 pm. Free.

High & Cross Sts., Fountain Park. KentCounty.com/Events.

September 21. **Run the Vineyard—Crow Vineyard 5k**

Flat cross-country style course, post run wine, live music, on-site food vendors, lawn games, tech shirt and souvenir wine glass for all participants. 9 am to noon. \$45.

12441 Vansants Corner Rd., Kennedyville. CrowVineyardAndWinery.com.

October 4–5. **Chestertown HP Festival**

This Harry Potter-inspired festival celebrates the Potter spirit and theme while promoting the local community and its arts. A fun-filled weekend features a wide array of free and ticketed events sure to delight wizards and muggles alike.

Locations throughout Chestertown. KentCounty.com/Events.

October 5. **Historic House Tour in Chestertown**

The doors to a selection of National Landmark Historic District homes will be open to visitors on this self-guided walking tour. 1 to 5. \$25–\$35.

Bordley History Center, 301 High St. KentCountyHistory.org.

October 5, 12, 19, 26. **Historic Ghost Walks in Chestertown**

Hear some of the odder tales of local lore, including those of murder and mayhem. From the tales of a haunting in the attic where George Washington did sleep, to the Court House Ghost that made international news, guides walk ticket holders through centuries of stories, told against a background of local history. Tours begin at 6:30 pm and run every half-hour until 8:30.

Reservations rec. KentCountyHistory.org.

October 12. **Rock Hall FallFest and OysterFest**

Rock Hall FallFest pays homage to the almighty oyster by inviting guests to savor oysters prepared in many delicious ways. Artisan and craft booths, live music performances, children's activities and the opportunity to explore beautiful Rock Hall by tram and shuttle are highlights.

Main St. KentCounty.com/Events.

October 19–20, 26–27. **RiverArts Studio Tour**

Ever wonder what an artist's studio really looks like? Chestertown River Arts Annual Studio Tour allows the visitor a chance to take a sneak peak inside creative spaces. This free, self-guided tour on the picturesque Eastern Shore of Maryland takes place over two Fall weekends, rain or shine. 10 to 5.

315 High St., Suite 106. Chestertown KentCountyHistory.org.

October 26. **Soup & Sip! Crab Soup Competition & Wine Tasting**

You be the judge of Kent County's best crab soup. Bring \$ bills to vote at each booth. \$25 includes a wine glass and raffle ticket. Noon to 3.

Kitchen at the Imperial, 208 High St. Chestertown. KentCounty.com/Events.

November 1–3. **Sultana Downrigging 2019**

Tall Ship and Wooden Boat Festival in Chestertown

Sultana Downrigging Weekend fills Chestertown's gorgeous waterfront with equally gorgeous schooners, ships and beautiful wooden boats at one of the largest Tall Ship and Wooden Boat Festivals on the East Coast. Explore these ships and also venture out on the water during scheduled sails. In addition to the ships, the festival also includes world-class musical performances, dynamite food from local restaurants, and the chance to try local spirits.

Downtown Historic Chestertown. KentCounty.com/Events.

November 30. **Small Business Saturday in Chestertown**

Kickstart the holiday shopping season by shopping small and shopping local. Music, food, wine & spirits. As you shop, grab a ticket to win fantastic prizes.

Downtown Chestertown; TownOfChestertown.com.

December 6–8. **Dickens of a Christmas in Historic Chestertown**

Friday kick off: Carriage rides, hot beverages, fire pits, s'mores stations, special entertainment. 5 to 9 pm.

Saturday House Tour: Eight of Chestertown's finest historic homes, dressed for the holidays, welcome you with friendly docents and live music. Easily walkable. 10 am to 2 pm.

Saturday: Carriage rides, costumed street performers, high tea, live music, fire dancers, a holiday house tour, authentic British-themed food and drink, children's games, expert talks and vendors selling hand-crafted gifts. Noon to 9 pm.

Sunday “Run Like the Dickens” 5k Run/Walk: Costumes are welcome, walk or sprint on an in-town course that includes Chestertown's main commercial street, a loop through the beautiful Chester Cemetery, a section of the rail trail and Wilmer Park. Run ends with a cup of cheer and an awards ceremony. 8 am.

For details and updates, visit KentCounty.com/Events. ♦

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FALL EVENTS IN KENT COUNTY, MD