

## Maryland: Eastern Shore & Chesapeake Bay

### Bike Vacation Only

The lure of the sea runs deep in Chesapeake Bay; a rising tide of maritime traditions, close-knit communities, distinctive cuisine, and protected seashores, marshes, and coastal islands, all of which make for a spectacular trip biking the Eastern shore.

### Cultural Highlights

Sail the eastern shores with Captain Ed aboard the skipjack HM Krentz

Feast on the region's famous seafood

Amble the wooden boardwalk at the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, a haven for more than 240 bird species

Browse the restored crab shacks - now artisans' shops - in Rock Hall

Engage with history at a working boatyard at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Travel on the country's oldest privately owned ferry (since 1760), across the Tred-Avon River between Oxford and Bellevue

Follow in the footsteps of James A. Michener who stayed in Oxford while writing his 1978 novel "Chesapeake"

Revel in the lack of crowds and summer heat and humidity during our spring and fall tours

Enjoy relaxed cycling on quiet country roads

Take in the atmosphere of the charming small towns of Oxford, St. Michaels, Rock Hall and Easton

Visit Chesapeake Bay, the world's largest estuary

Savor a wine tasting at a local Talbot County Winery

### What to Expect

This tour offers easy ride options with only a few gradual hills. It is possible to ride the entire week without the need for the support vehicle, but our VBT support vehicle is always available in cases of inclement weather or for those who wish to shorten their rides.

**Tour Duration:** 6 Days

**Average Daily Mileage:** 6 - 33

**Average Cycling Time:** 00:45 - 04:30

## Climate Information

### Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

Apr 67°/48°, May 75°/57°, Jun 83°/65°, Sep 80°/65°, Oct 71°/53°

### Average Rainfall (in.)

Apr 2.9, May 3.5, Jun 4.4, Sep 4.0, Oct 3.4

## DAY 1: Arrive in Easton

Travel to Easton and the Tidewater Inn. If you're flying to Baltimore, VBT will offer a shuttle from Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI). Shuttle reservations are not required or available. The shuttle will make its only departure from the airport to the inn at 1:00 p.m., departing from the Lower-Level (baggage claim), exit door 4 or 6, these doors are near Southwest baggage carousel 6. After exiting cross the inner roadway. Your shuttle will be at the curb. . Your Chesapeake Chauffeur Transportation driver will be holding a VBT sign.

If you are scheduled to arrive at the airport after 1:00 p.m. or are delayed, you must take a taxi or bus at your own expense. If you are driving to the tour, we recommend that you leave your vehicle in Easton during the trip. You can park at the Tidewater Inn from Sunday through Thursday night. You may return to this location at the end of the tour with the VBT van.

If you are delayed or your travel plans change, please contact the first inn. They will pass your message to your VBT trip leaders.

Your group will meet at the Tidewater Inn to begin your Maryland vacation, biking the Eastern shore. After settling in, explore the village from the hotel's central location. At 3:00 p.m., join your VBT trip leaders for a safety and bike-fitting session, followed by a short warm-up ride. At 5:00 p.m., meet up with the group for an orientation and welcome reception before a 7:00 p.m. dinner at the inn.

Accommodation: Tidewater Inn, Easton

Included Meals: Dinner

Today's Ride Choice:

Cumulative Distance Range: 6 miles

*Afternoon*

Warm-up Easton: 6 miles

What to Expect: Your warm-up ride gives you the opportunity to get acquainted with the bicycle that will

be your stalwart companion for the week. We'll leave the Tidewater Inn and enjoy a ride on the quiet Easton Rails to Trails path.

## **DAY 2: Ride the Oxford & St. Michaels Trail / Lunch in St. Michaels / Self-Guided visit to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum**

Today you are in for a treat. The Oxford/St. Michaels loop is considered one of the premiere biking routes on the East Coast. You will ride a counter-clockwise route from your inn, stopping for an included lunch in St. Michaels, a small bayside town on a long, narrow neck of land. Afterward, visit the impressive Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum for a self-guided tour of. The museum has over 10 exhibit buildings, the 1879 Hooper Strait Lighthouse, a working boatyard, and the world's largest collection of Bay boats. St. Michaels also offers wonderful shopping, snacking, and plenty of people-watching opportunities.

After our visit to St. Michaels, we'll hop back on our bikes, riding through Royal Oak to reach Bellevue. Upon arrival, we'll board the modest Oxford-Bellevue ferry, the oldest privately owned ferry still in operation in America. You'll arrive in Oxford, a 17th-century town with a long tradition of boat building. Don't forget to stop for homemade ice cream at the Scottish Highland Creamery.

After your mid-afternoon ice cream delight, continue back to the inn. Easton has been featured on many "best small towns in America" lists. The village is small in scale, but packed with great dining, antique shops, galleries, and stores. The Tidewater Inn has played a central role in the village since 1712. Recently renovated, it features great eating and drinking at Hunter's Tavern.

This evening meet for a walking tour of Easton and then you will be on your own for dinner and additional exploring. Your VBT trip leaders or your walking tour guide will be happy to give you suggestions for great local restaurants. Tomorrow night we will dine as a group at Out of the Fire, so you may want to choose a different location for dinner tonight.

Accommodation: Tidewater Inn, Easton

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today's Ride Choices:

Cumulative Distance Range: 13 – 33 miles

*Morning*

Easton to St. Michaels: 13 miles

*Afternoon*

St. Michaels to Oxford to Easton: 20 miles

What to Expect: The St. Michaels Loop is recognized as one of the premier bike trails in the Mid-Atlantic region. The popular tourist destination of St. Michaels has many shops. Here, we'll enjoy lunch and a self-guided tour of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

This afternoon's route takes you through the charming, tree-lined town of Oxford, one of the oldest towns in America.

## **DAY 3: Ride the farmlands of Talbot County / Cordova / Triple Creek Winery**

More than half of the land in Talbot County is devoted to farming and you'll spend the morning riding through its peaceful agricultural terrain.

Pedal past rows of wheat, corn, and soybeans on shaded lanes leading down to rewarding views of the Choptank River. Stop at Kingston Landing for a relaxing respite. The river's edge is an active birding area, and you may spot bald eagles, yellow-throated warblers, and indigo buntings.

Later, ride to the sleepy town of Cordova. You might enjoy exploring the town's two general stores before turning west back toward Easton. En route to the inn, stop for a picnic lunch and wine tasting at Triple Creek Winery. After the picnic, you may bike back to the inn or join the trip leaders in the van to shuttle back.

Tonight's dinner is at Out of the Fire, one of Easton's popular restaurants.

Accommodation: Tidewater Inn, Easton

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today's Ride Choices:

Cumulative Distance Range: 8-28 miles

*Morning*

Easton to Talbot County: 20 miles

*Afternoon*

Talbot County to Easton: 8 miles

What to Expect: Today's ride will take you deep into the farmland of Talbot County. Approximately 60% of the county land is devoted to a variety of crops. You'll ride on shaded lanes with rewarding views of the

Choptank River and stop for a quick break at Kingston Landing. In Cordova, you can visit the town's two general stores before continuing on to our picnic lunch spot – Triple Creek Winery. After lunch, continue riding through the countryside before returning to the hotel.

## **DAY 4: Morning sail on the HM Krentz / Eastern Neck Island National Wildlife Refuge**

This morning, board the HM Krentz and sail the Eastern Bay. Our skipper, Captain Ed, has spent more than 35 years dredging oysters and sailing skipjacks and his boat is a broad-beamed former working skipjack. Her stable decks are perfect for enjoying the bracing sea air.

After the morning sail, transfer by shuttle to Rock Hall and enjoy a picnic lunch before cycling to the Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge. A glorious haven for almost 250 bird species, you might want to take a walk along the wooden Tubby Cove Boardwalk which extends over the marsh to a wooded island. Once on the island, the boardwalk continues to two viewing platforms and a rough walking trail off the main path which ends at an elevated viewing platform providing vistas of Chesapeake Bay and into Tubby Cove and Calf Pasture Cove. After exploring, you'll continue your ride to the inn, where a swim in the saltwater pool and a cool drink on the dock may be in order. Your hosts Jim and Joanne welcome us. Dinner is on your own tonight in one of Rock Hall's restaurants.

Accommodation: Inn at Huntingfield Creek, Rock Hall

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today's Ride Choice:

Cumulative Distance Range: 15 miles

*Afternoon*

Rock Hall to Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge: 15 miles

What to Expect: Your afternoon ride takes you to the Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge for some bird-watching. After this visit to the Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge ride to the inn to relax and enjoy the beautiful and relaxing property where you will spend the next two nights.

## **DAY 5: Ride to Chestertown**

After breakfast, ride north today to Chestertown, a historic colonial town located on the Chester River. Chestertown was founded in 1705 and was one of Maryland's six Royal Ports of Entry. In the mid-18th century, it was the second leading port in Maryland. With this important designation and the resulting shipping business, the town became quite wealthy, which becomes evident as you pedal past the brick mansions and townhouses along the waterfront. Your VBT trip leaders will offer you a self-guided cycling

tour of the historic section of Chestertown.

Continue exploring along the town's brick sidewalks, visiting shops and galleries along the way. Take the time to enjoy lunch on your own at a local cafe, bakery, or one of the town's numerous restaurants. Your VBT trip leaders will provide you with some great recommendations.

If you prefer a non-riding option, you may spend the day at the inn or enjoy browsing the charming shops and relaxing in the cafes in Rock Hall.

Tonight, we gather for a festive farewell dinner to celebrate your trip biking the Eastern shore.

Accommodation: Inn at Huntingfield Creek, Rock Hall

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Today's Ride Choices:

Cumulative Distance Range: 19-33 miles

*Morning*

Inn to Chestertown: 19 miles

*Afternoon*

Chestertown to Inn: 14 miles

What to Expect: Today's ride is in the country. Cycle along quiet roads surrounded by farmland into Chestertown, a historic colonial town on the Chester River. Once there, enjoy lunch on your own and explore the town. You have the option of taking a self-guided architectural tour by foot or by bike. Your leaders can provide you with a locally-produced map and brochure. After your exploration, cycle back to the inn or shuttle back with your leaders in the van.

## DAY 6: Depart for home

Your biking the Eastern shore vacation concludes after breakfast at the inn. Your included shuttle is available to take you back to Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI), arriving around noon. We suggest a flight out of BWI no earlier than 2:00 p.m. For guests who parked at the Tidewater Inn, a shuttle will be provided leaving the Inn at Huntingfield Creek at 10:00 a.m. arriving in Easton around 12:00 p.m.

Included Meals: Breakfast

## Accommodations

May vary depending on departure date.

### Inn at Huntingfield Creek (Days: 4,5)

The Inn at Huntingfield Creek is a 70-acre refuge in the finest Chesapeake tradition. Hosts Jim and Joanne Rich bring business and life experiences together to create wonderful memories at this quiet, country retreat. Your group will have exclusive use of the inn during our stays. Enjoy the saltwater swimming pool, the piano in the living room, and the sunset views over the tidal waterfront from the dock. This air-conditioned inn is the perfect setting from which to venture out on your planned activities.

### Tidewater Inn (Days: 1,2,3)

Accommodations at the Tidewater Inn offer the best of both worlds: the tranquility and charm of a historic Colonial inn along with modern luxuries like air conditioning that today's traveler has come to expect. Traditional decor and furnishings offer the perfect reflection of the downtown Easton setting, while resort-style amenities make for an indulgent stay. Relax in plush bedding featuring pillow-top mattresses under a cascade of fine European linens. Wrap yourself in a downy Egyptian cotton robe. Enjoy tech-savvy touches like flat-screen televisions and high-speed Internet access.