COME JOIN THE ADVENTURE ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY!

Smith and his crew sailed from a struggling English outpost into a world they knew little about. They traveled an enormous web of waterways and encountered American Indians who already lived along many of the shorelines. Based on these travels, Smith created a detailed map of the Chesapeake Bay region. His map and writings influenced the exploration and settlement of eastern North America for many generations. Today, you can follow Smith's travels on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, learn the traditions of descendant American Indian tribes who still live here, and experience the richness of the Chesapeake and its rivers. By land and by water, you'll make discoveries of your own.

JOHN SMITH IN THE PATAPSCO

Captain John Smith and his crew spent only two and a half days on the Patapsco River, but he managed to map it with amazing accuracy. On June 12, 1608, they anchored the Discovery Barge for the night off Bodkin Point. They saw no one on land. Some historians believe this part of the western shore was a buffer area between the Indian tribes of the region. The next day, Smith explored the river up to modern-day Elkridge. They spent the afternoon exploring and mapping the Gwynns Falls, the Jones Falls, and Old Road Bay, where they spent the night. The crew begged Smith to turn south to restock supplies. He responded with an inspiring speech that revived their spirits, but the weather shut in on them in Old Road Bay. After a day and a half of rain and wind endured in their open boat, Smith relented, and they headed south on June 15.

Temperature Check
Hypothermia Awareness

Hypothermia is a large risk with any water-based activity. If the water is 60°F or below, the risk for hypothermia is higher and paddling should be postponed to another day! Check out NOAA's Patapsco River buoy for up-to-the-minute readings at bit.ly/NOAABaltimore

Stay Aware!

This paddling trail does intersect with an active shipping channel. Stay alert for in-the-moment hazards, and make sure to check the weather in advance for any small craft advisories.

Paddler’s Checklist:

☐ Finished float plan left with a friend (bit.ly/BaltimoreFP)
☐ Personal flotation device
☐ Spare paddle
☐ Clothes you can get wet
☐ Whistle or other sound signaling device
☐ Sunscreen
☐ Drinking water & snacks
☐ Proper footwear
☐ UV eye protection

Photography Credit:
Masonville Cove Picture: Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center
Fort McHenry Picture: Tom Darden
West Covington Park Picture: Ayers Saint Gross Architecture
South Hanover Street Bridge Picture: Maryland State Highway Administration

This guide was produced by the collaborative efforts of the following organizations:
1. Masonville Cove hours of operation are: Monday–Friday: 9am–4pm, Saturday: 9am–1pm, Sunday: CLOSED
2. Ridgley's Cove becomes less accessible for inexperienced paddlers as the tide lowers. For daily tidal information to help plan accordingly, please visit the Department of Natural Resources Tide Finder at: bit.ly/MDTideFinder

**PUBLIC LAUNCH SITES**

1. Middle Branch Park
   - (R)

2. Insulator Drive
   - (Food**, Parking)

3. Ferry Bar Park
   - (Parking)

4. Broening Park
   - (Parking, Boat Ramp)

*Open 9am–5pm  **Open 11am–9pm

**LEGEND**

- Points of Interest
  - CSX Swing Bridge
  - West Covington Park
  - Hanover Street Bridge
  - Fort McHenry
  - Fort McHenry Wetlands
  - Cherry Hill Park

- Areas to Note
  - NOAA Buoy
  - Masonville Cove
  - Harbor Hospital
  - Emergency Exit
  - Cruise Maryland Terminal
  - Shipping Channel
  - Private Property

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In Case of Emergency, please call 911 and ask for Baltimore City Police, Marine Unit

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