



Places to visit for a day or a weekend...

Annapolis

English Now!

Why You Should Go

Annapolis is a beautiful city located on the Chesapeake Bay. It is Maryland's capital and is also known by many as the sailing capital of the world. Though a small city – population only 38,000 – it is a great destination for a day trip or weekend away, not far from Washington, D.C. Annapolis is home to some of the best museums, historic sites, and restaurants in Maryland. It also has many lovely parks, gardens, and mansions. If you like watersports, it's a great place to visit during the summer.

Annapolis Historic Downtown

The historic downtown district of Annapolis, on the waterfront, is a nice area to walk around, shop, enjoy a meal at one of the many restaurants, and visit historic sites. Annapolis is a small, safe city, and its downtown is highly walkable. Park your car on your street and you can walk to many of the destinations listed here.

Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial

The novel *Roots* by Alex Haley describes the experiences of his ancestor, an African slave named Kunta Kinte, who was captured in the 18th-century and sold into slavery in the United States. This novel was published in the 1970s and became a televised miniseries in the 1980s. It was considered a very powerful literary and film depiction of the tragedy of slavery. Annapolis Harbor was a trading port for slaveholders. At the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial, you can see the location where Kunta Kinte arrived in the United States. The memorial includes a statue of Alex Haley reading his book to children of different ethnic backgrounds.

Maryland State House

The Maryland State House once served as the capital building of the entire USA! It is also the oldest state house still in continuous legislative use. The building, which was completed in 1794, has the oldest and largest wooden dome of its kind in the United States. You can also visit the newer section of the building and admire the impressive Italian marble walls and columns.

Amish Market

The Amish Market also known as the Pennsylvania Dutch Farmer's Market is located in the Harbour Center in historic Annapolis. The Amish merchants are from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. A visit to this market is a great opportunity to taste some traditional Amish foods. You can eat in the restaurant or shop for homemade snacks, desserts, cheeses, and ice cream. Be sure to save room for the famously delicious Amish soft pretzels!

Annapolis Maritime Museum

The Annapolis Maritime Museum is in a building that was once an oyster packing plant. Inside, you can learn about the history of boat building and the local oyster industry. You will see maps, photographs, and documents relating to the maritime history of Annapolis.

Thurgood Marshall Memorial

Thurgood Marshall became the first African American U.S. Supreme Court Justice in 1967. He was also a Maryland native. At his memorial, right outside the Maryland State House, you will see his statue and the words “Equal justice under law.”

U.S. Naval Academy Museum

The U.S. Naval Academy, established in 1845, is a service academy that educates officers for commissioning in the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps. At the museum, you can learn about how sailors and marines are trained and see exhibits of artifacts from the naval history of the United States.

William Paca House and Garden

You can visit the beautiful home of William Paca, who signed the Declaration of Independence during the American Revolution in 1776. His home is a National Historic Landmark with a two acre garden with five terraces, a fish-shaped pond, and a wilderness garden.

Recommended Local Restaurant: Chick and Ruth’s Delly

This restaurant, founded in 1965 and still owned and operated by its founding family, is a very unusual and very traditional destination. This is a restaurant that many Americans would call a “greasy spoon” – a local diner like the ones that were once numerous in American cities. Chick and Ruth’s is now famous for very good crab cakes (the most famous dish in Maryland), huge milkshakes (they have a “Colossal” size that they claim is the largest milkshake in the United States, at six pounds!), great breakfasts, and a very noisy but fun atmosphere. This restaurant also has a tradition of staff and guests saying the pledge of allegiance each day, at 8:30am on weekdays and 9:30am on weekends. The restaurant is very popular with Maryland state legislators, people from the Naval Academy, and local residents of Annapolis. It is not fancy but is a memorable place for a meal!

Getting There. Annapolis is an easy drive from the Washington, D.C. area. You can travel from English Now! to Annapolis in about an hour. It is difficult to travel there without a car, but there are some buses that can take you. Once you are in Annapolis, it is easy to get around. It is rated as one of the nation’s most walkable cities! You can also find the city’s circulator or ride around town in a pedicab (a taxi pulled by a bicycle). One other great way to experience Annapolis is to ride a water taxi across the harbor!

Where to Stay. There are many chain hotels in Annapolis. One favorite of travelers is Hampton Inn Suites; rooms with two double beds usually cost around \$150/night and include breakfast. These hotels have pools too.

For More Information. Please let Paul or Kirstie know if you are traveling to Annapolis. We would love to hear about your plans, and we would love to hear how your trip goes, after you return, so that we can share what you learn with other students.