

# HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

GROUP TOURS

experience  
living history & archaeology on the  
site of Maryland's first capital



## The Back Story

Over three and a half centuries ago, 140 English settlers sailed across the Atlantic in search of religious freedom and the chance for a better life. On the edge of the New World, they planted a colony and the seeds of ideals that form the foundation of our modern democracy.

St. Mary's City was the capital of the Province of Maryland for sixty years. When the seat of government moved to Annapolis in 1695, the town quickly disappeared. By the time of the American Revolution, little of Lord Baltimore's capital was left but memories of its former importance.

Early in the 20th century, interest in the old capital revived. Historical research and archaeological excavations began to uncover the 17th-century settlement. Because the old city had remained relatively undisturbed over the years, the area is one of the finest 17th-century colonial archaeology sites in the nation.

Decades of research are the foundation of exhibits assembled at Historic St. Mary's City today.

## Today

Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) commemorates the fourth permanent English settlement in North America and Maryland's first capital, St. Mary's City.

On a tidewater landscape little changed from the colonists' time, recreated structures and costumed interpreters help visitors discover colonial lifeways.

## Location

HSMC is an easy drive from the metro areas in beautiful Southern Maryland.

- 70 miles from Wash., D.C.
- 100 miles from Baltimore
- 60 miles from Annapolis



## Living History

There are four living history areas at HSMC:

- On the edge of the St. Mary's River, step onboard the *Maryland Dove*, which evokes the tall ship that carried settlers to the New World.
- In Town Center, tour Cordea's Hope, stocked with (reproduction) items every colonist coveted, and Smith's Ordinary, the 17th-century forebearer of the Hampton Inn. At the Print House, help run the press and learn why the first printer south of Boston worked in St. Mary's City.
- Explore the Woodland Indian Hamlet and discover how the Yaocomaco people were able to live comfortably using only items found in their surroundings.
- At the Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation, where it's always 1661, members of the Spray household can guide you through the kitchen garden and introduce you to the livestock.

## Archaeology

HSMC's newest exhibit hall, the St. John's Site Museum, preserves the foundation of one of the nation's most important historic places and examines how researchers know what they know about the past.

See archaeologists at work during the summer months.

## Count St. Mary's City In!

- Fourth permanent British colony in North America
- First successful proprietary colony in English North America
- First practice of religious toleration in English America
- First practice of separating church from state in English America
- First Catholic chapel in English America

800-SMC-1634 ~ WWW.STMARYSCITY.ORG ~ 240-895-4990

## Season & Hours

Living history exhibits at HSMC are open seasonally.

- Spring Season 2010 (March 16 through June 12). HSMC will be open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Summer & Fall Season 2010 (June 16 through November 28). Open Wednesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The St. John's Site Museum is open year `round.



## Guided Tours

Get the most out of your visit by touring with a trained guide.

Guided Tour Fees  
(15 or more visitors)

- Adults \$11.50
- Seniors \$10.00
- College students \$10.00
- Children (6-18 yrs.) \$6.00

Fee included admission to all the living history sites and the St. John's Site Museum. A \$25.00 non-refundable, non-deductible, reservation fee is waived for group tour operators.



## Comps

The group tour leader and bus driver receive complimentary admission to HSMC. Tour operators and leaders are invited to visit free prior to tours. We are happy to provide consumer brochures and digital images to vendors.

## Timing is Everything

We will be happy to tailor your tour to suit your needs. A typical guided visit to all the living history sites takes about four hours. Allow another hour to explore the St. John's Site Museum.

## Shopping

Groups are invited to visit the museum's Shop at Farthing's Ordinary. The Shop features a selection of curiosities and necessities inspired by history and nature, and snacks and souvenirs.

## Reservations

All guided and self-guided tours must be reserved in advance. To ensure receiving the date you wish, please book as early as possible by calling 240-895-4980. Our staff is available to take your call Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Let  
St. Mary's County Tourism  
supersize your visit!

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1-800-327-9023  
[www.visitstmarysm.com](http://www.visitstmarysm.com)

## Dress for Success

A healthy amount of walking outdoors is necessary to see the living history exhibit areas, so be sure to wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Tours proceed rain or shine, just as life did in the 17th century.

## Food

An extensive buffet is available at the adjacent Student Center at St. Mary's College of Maryland during much of the season. Gourmet dining is available at the neighboring Brome-Howard Inn. Groups may also order box lunches from local vendors and picnic on site.

## Self-guided Tours

Group rates are available to self-guided parties of 10 or more.

- Adults \$9.00
- Seniors \$7.00
- College students \$5.00
- Children (6-18 yrs.) \$3.00



Group reservations & information: 240-895-4980 or [hsmc@smcm.edu](mailto:hsmc@smcm.edu)