

MARYLAND
BYWAYS

Falls Road

8



For much of its length, Falls Road, or MD 25, follows the Jones Falls Valley from the rolling countryside of Baltimore County to bustling Baltimore City. The Jones Falls was an important source of power for grist and cotton mills in Baltimore's early days. A string of mills along the valley produced goods that were taken into town via the Falls Road Turnpike, and later the North Central Railroad. Today, Falls Road remains mostly rural, providing easy access to historical and cultural attractions as country landscapes give way to a glittering cityscape.

Prettyboy Reservoir to Greenspring Valley – MD 25

Briefly overlapping with the Mason and Dixon byway (page 63), your Falls Road tour begins in the village of

Alesia near the Prettyboy Reservoir. Hiking, fishing and paddle sports are a few of the popular pursuits in this area at the reservoir and at Gunpowder Falls State Park. Next, your route winds through rolling countryside into deep, stream-cut valleys, leading you past an intersection with the Horses & Hounds byway (page 77) and through the town of Butler. Stop and browse among the various antiques stores and specialty shops before moving on to the Oregon Ridge Nature Center and Park. Marble quarries, iron ore pits and an archaeology site are just one aspect of the 1,100-acre park, which also hosts outdoor events ranging from orchestral concerts to hot-air balloon ascensions.

Heading south past the beautiful

39 miles from
Prettyboy Reservoir
to Baltimore



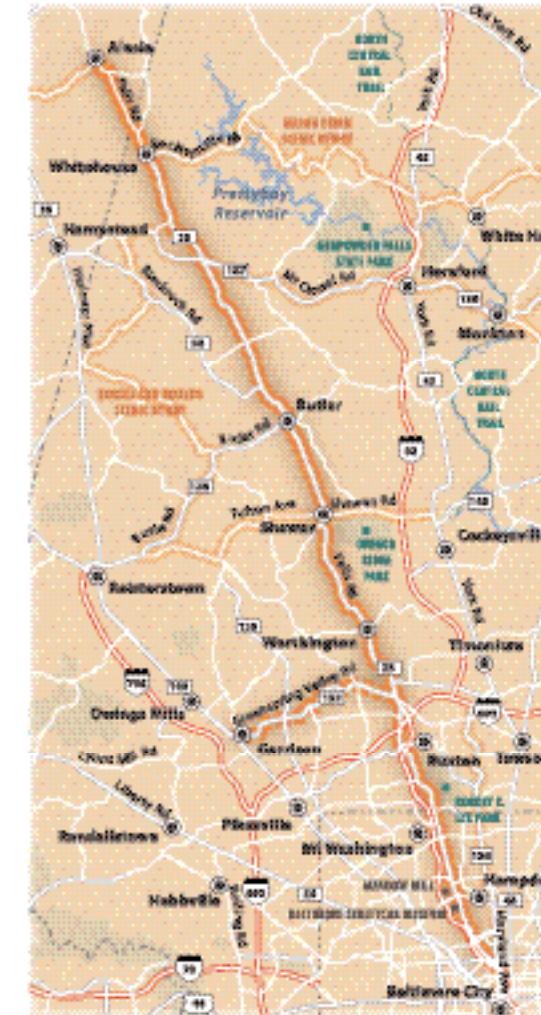
campuses of Maryvale Preparatory School and St. Paul's School, you find yourself amid an impressive array of historic country estates scattered throughout the Green Spring Valley. Get a closer look with a quick side-track on MD 130 (Green Spring Valley Road), and then return to Falls Road as it approaches Brooklandville.

Ruxton to Baltimore – MD 25

Passing through an intersection with Joppa Road and the six-lane Jones Falls Expressway (I-83), you approach what looks like a medieval castle. The Cloisters, a mansion built in 1932 with a design based on late medieval French and English architecture, is used for weddings and other special events. You are now inside the Baltimore Beltway (I-695), but still able to see many stately homes amid natural settings. A left turn on Ruxton

Road leads to the village of Ruxton, which was settled in 1699. One of the oldest African-American congregations in Maryland meets at tiny St. John's Church. Directly across Falls Road from Ruxton is Rockland, a National Register Historic District, which takes its name from an 18th-century estate once owned by Maryland's first governor, Thomas Johnson. Rockland grew up around the milling industry and has become a quiet community of impressive stone buildings.

Before crossing the Baltimore City line, Falls Road runs through Bare Hills, a community that took its name from the chromate, copper and serpentine rock mines that were active in the area during the 1800s. The Bare Hills of today is a residential neighborhood featuring Gothic revival



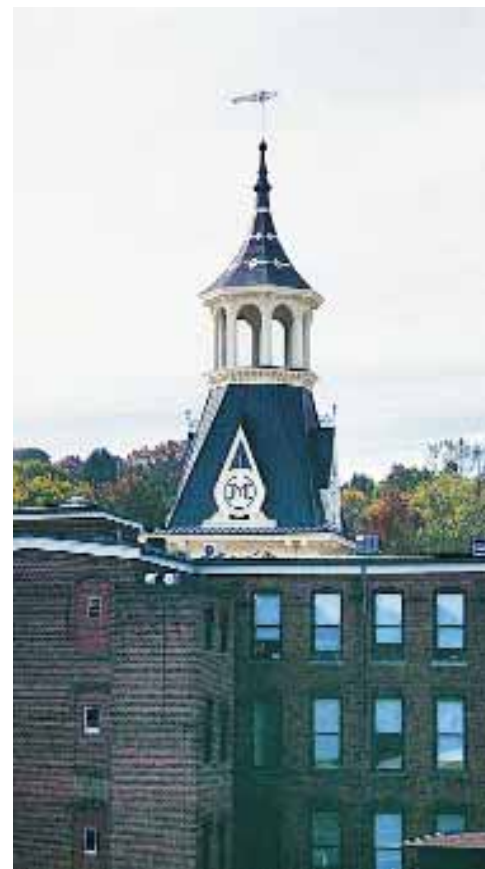
homes. Nearby you'll find Robert E. Lee Park and Lake Roland, a popular summer destination for generations of Baltimoreans. The park is not only dog-friendly, but features several miles of off-road running trails.

Baltimore – MD 25 to Maryland Avenue

On the northwest outskirts of the city is what some sources consider to be one of Baltimore's first suburb, Mount Washington. This eclectic village has tree-lined streets leading to boutiques, galleries, taverns and outdoor cafés. Upscale shopping and outdoor dining are also in vogue at the Village of Cross Keys, which you pass en route to Roland Park. Local authors, political figures and other notables have been known to make their home here in this shaded retreat.

Along 36th Street, the traditional commercial artery within the village of Hampden, restaurants, shops and galleries often cater to students and faculty coming from nearby Johns Hopkins University. Other neighborhoods in the area include Woodberry and Brick Hill, both of which started out as housing for textile workers in nearby Meadow Mill. Today, the mill itself houses an athletic club, a small eclectic theatre, and non-profit groups with an artistic bent, such as the Potters Guild of Baltimore and the local Gem Cutters Guild.

Near the end of this byway is the Baltimore Streetcar Museum, which chronicles 100 years of Baltimore Street railway history. You can also jump to other byways within the city, including the National Historic Seaport (page 97) and Charles Street (page 89).



OLD LINE LORE: *The Roland Park Shopping Center, built in 1896, is one of America's earliest shopping centers and was the first to provide off-street parking. Stop by the bakery, the market, or one of the other shops.*

Baltimore Clayworks
5707 Smith Avenue
Baltimore
410-578-1919
www.baltimoreclayworks.org

Baltimore Streetcar Museum
1901 Falls Rd, Baltimore 21211
410-547-0264
www.baltimorestreetcar.org

Café Hon
1002 W. 36th Street
Baltimore 21211
410-243-1230
www.cafehon.ezsitemaster.com

Clipper Mill
2010 Clipper Park Rd.
Baltimore, 21211
www.clippermill.net

The Cloisters
10440 Falls Road
Lutherville, 21094
410-821-7448
www.cloisterscastle.com/contact.aspx

Gunpowder Falls State Park
2813 Jerusalem Road, P.O. Box 483
Kingsville, 21087
(410) 592-2897
www.dhr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/gunpowder.html



**Oregon Ridge Nature Center
and Park**

13555 Beaver Dam Rd
Cockeysville, 21030
410-887-1815
www.oregonridge.org

Mount Washington Village

<http://www.mtwashingtonvillage.com>

Potters Guild of Baltimore

3600 Clipper Mill Rd
Baltimore 21211
410-235-4884, 410-235-4885
info@pottersguild.org

Prettyboy Reservoir

410-887-5683

Robert E. Lee Park & Lake Roland

Falls Rd at Lakeside Dr
Baltimore, 21209
410-396-7931

The Village of Cross Keys

5100 Falls Road
Baltimore 21210
410-323-1000

