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DATES

May 12th-17th, 2024

PRICE

Double Occupancy: \$5,690

Single Occupancy: \$6,515

Chesapeake Bay

In 1607 the Virginia Company of London organized an expedition to what was known as the “Bay of Chespioc” in search of gold, silver and a water route through North America. What resulted was the colonizing of Jamestown, where settlers began exploring the lands for riches and food. This began a wave of immigration and settlement that has transformed the Bay; today the Chesapeake Bay Watershed is home to more than 17 million people and 3,600 species of plants and animals. The watershed covers six states, fed by 50 major tributaries and holds more than 15 trillion gallons of water within its nearly 12,000 miles of shoreline.

Your journey through the Chesapeake Bay will begin in Washington, D.C, where you’ll meet with local TNC staff to learn green infrastructure initiatives that reduce polluted runoff into urban area. We’ll then make our way to the authentic and picturesque town of Cambridge, Maryland, spending time at Blackwater Refuge on foot and bike.

Next, you’ll travel to the quaint town of Easton, Maryland, where you’ll hear about oyster restoration, hike amongst the landscape, and sail with a local waterman to hear first-hand the significant changes this landscape has seen over the last 50 years. Our journey closes with a visit to Chestertown, Maryland to visit with local farmers and discuss the connection between regenerative agriculture and the health of the Bay.

We hope you will leave the Chesapeake Bay and D.C. area with a better understanding of The Nature Conservancy’s commitment to conservation and sustainability. The Conservancy is dedicated to advancing the protection and restoration of The Bay Watershed by focusing on clean water and climate resilience.



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HORN POINT LABORATORY

Spend time at the widely respected Horn Point Laboratory, where we'll tour the largest oyster hatchery on the East Coast and learn about oyster farming and restoration from on-site experts.

SAILING EXCURSION

Captain Ed Farley, a commercial waterman and shipwright who has been working in the Chesapeake Bay since the early 1970s, will take you out on the open water, where you'll discuss biodiversity, culture, economics and resource management.

ANACOSTIA RIVER ON BOAT

Travel down the river by boat, passing alongside iconic D.C. sites while hearing about the human and natural history of the landscape. Hear about the work TNC is doing to reduce polluted runoff into its waterways.

Your trip supports the local communities you're traveling in and The Nature Conservancy's efforts locally and globally. This trip has been planned specifically by The Nature Conservancy's team of scientific experts and travel liaisons to immerse you in the work the Conservancy is doing on the ground that has global consequences.

TNC TRAVEL VALUES

ACCESS:

Travel with renowned Conservancy experts and local partners for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes experience. You won't just see amazing places, you'll witness how you are helping save them.

IMPACT:

See how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference. You will see the wild places and the communities you are impacting.

KNOWLEDGE:

Learn how we are applying the latest cutting-edge science to affect global change and drive conservation.

INSPIRATION:

Immerse yourself in local cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes to foster your own connection to our world.

GLOBALLY MINDED:

Elevate your understanding of our work by seeing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

TRAVELER EXPECTATIONS & CODE OF CONDUCT:

Please read [TNC's Traveler Expectations](#), our guide for ensuring that we treat each other with respect, fairness and integrity beyond reproach during travel in accordance with [TNC's Code of Conduct](#). Following the Code is an expectation and responsibility for everyone in the larger TNC community, including our staff, partners, vendors and supporters. To that end, when registering for a TNC trip, you are agreeing to uphold the Code.



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THE CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE

EPICENTER OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is keenly affecting the Chesapeake Bay as observed by rising seas, warming water temperatures and extreme weather. Shifts in coastal flooding and shoreline erosion are evident in the region, causing changes to wildlife abundance and migration patterns. The Nature Conservancy notes that the sea levels in the Chesapeake Bay have risen about a foot in the last century – twice the global average. Mitigation and adaptation are the central strategies; the goal is to reduce carbon emissions with renewable energy and use science to help communities understand and adjust to the changes that are coming.

OYSTER RESTORATION

Oyster restoration has long been a priority for The Nature Conservancy. Along with being a fantastic food source, oysters filter harmful sediments and chemical contaminants and their reefs provide nurseries and feeding grounds for rockfish, crabs and other recreationally important species. In 2015, TNC collaborated to complete the world's largest oyster restoration project to date. The 350-acre Harris Creek Reef, a tributary of Chesapeake Bay, was seeded with more than 2 billion oysters bred at the University of Maryland's Horn Point Hatchery. Current data shows these reefs as having numerous benefits, making strides towards Bay recovery efforts.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 — Sunday, May 12th | Arrive in Washington, D.C. by 11:00am; upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed by your Iconic Trip Leader. Once everyone has arrived, we will depart to the Anacostia River, which runs through the southwestern part of DC and is a major feeder to the infamous Potomac. TNC is building green infrastructure in the U.S. Capital and today you will see this work in action. After a brief lunch and an introduction to the area, the group will travel by boat down the river, passing alongside iconic D.C. sites while hearing about the human and natural history of the landscape.

In the late afternoon, the group will travel by van one and a half hours to Cambridge, Maryland, where we will check in to the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina, our home for the next two nights. Joined by TNC staff, gather for a welcome cocktail reception and dinner in town this evening for an introduction to Chesapeake Bay.

OVERNIGHT AT HYATT REGENCY CHESAPEAKE BAY

DAY 2 — Monday, May 13th | After breakfast at the hotel, we will depart for Horn Point Laboratory for an oyster intensive. As one of the largest oyster hatcheries on the East Coast, the lab produces a variety of oyster larvae for use in oyster research, oyster restoration and educational projects. See the oyster setting pier where larval oysters are put in tanks and loaded for planting, learn about the various ways oysters are grown, and see firsthand the use of oyster castles. There will be additional time to explore on your own at the end of the tour.

Following lunch along the shoreline of the Choptank River, we will walk a short distance to the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center. Spend time with a local guide as we make our way through the exhibits. There will be downtime to enjoy the hotel's amenities before having a seafood dinner on the water.

OVERNIGHT AT HYATT REGENCY CHESAPEAKE BAY

DAY 3 — Tuesday, May 14th | Wake for breakfast at your hotel. From Cambridge, we will drive approximately 45 minutes to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, a prime spot for viewing bald eagles, hiking and interpreting flora and fauna. After meeting with Refuge staff, you will have an opportunity to bike through this diverse landscape of marshes, hardwood and loblolly pine forests and open farmland. This 2-hour ride is on flat, paved surface and will include rest stops along the way. TNC staff will use this time to speak more about climate change and rising sea levels in the Chesapeake Bay.

LODGING



Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay

Located on the beautiful Choptank River, this Cambridge, Maryland hotel is the perfect location to begin your explorations around the Chesapeake Bay. Set on 342 acres, spend time on the sprawling waterfront before heading into the quaint downtown. Photos provided by Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay



Tidewater Inn

Steeped in history and charm, the Tidewater Inn dates back to 1712. It is located in the heart of downtown Easton, Maryland, noted as "the 8th Best Small Town in America." Photos provided by Tidewater Inn



ITINERARY, CONT.

After a picnic lunch, there will be additional time to hike and explore the Refuge. In the afternoon, we will make our way to Easton, Maryland. Take the afternoon to explore the town—stop by the Academy Art Museum, The Historical Society Museum and Foxwell's Antiques Mall, among other Easton highlights.

Dinner tonight will be at a local favorite, Scossa.

OVERNIGHT AT TIDEWATER INN

DAY 4 — Wednesday, May 15th | After a leisurely breakfast, make your way to the Chesapeake Maritime Museum; here, learn more about the environment and culture of the entire Chesapeake Bay region. We will have a picnic lunch on-site.

Following lunch, meet with Captain Ed Farley. Passionate about the outdoors, environment and experiential education, Capt. Ed has been living in the Chesapeake Bay since sailing south from New England in 1971. Enjoy a 3-hour sail as he touches on the biodiversity, culture and resource management of the Bay. Afterwards, enjoy dinner in the marina in town.

OVERNIGHT AT TIDEWATER INN

DAY 5 — Thursday, May 16th | This morning, enjoy breakfast at our hotel before driving 1-hour to Chestertown, Maryland. Joined by Kristin Fisher, Applied Agricultural Scientist for TNC, visit a working farm and learn about regenerative agriculture, and the Chesapeake Bay as a globally important foodscape. We will have lunch on-site with TNC staff before making our way back to Easton.

The afternoon is yours to walk the charming streets surrounding our hotel. We will gather for a final dinner as a group this evening to reflect on our time in the Chesapeake Bay.

OVERNIGHT AT TIDEWATER INN

DAY 6 — Friday, May 17th | Wake up and enjoy breakfast at your hotel before departing on your flight home. Please note it is about two hours from Easton to D.C. area airports; plan to book flights that depart after 3pm.



The Nature Conservancy has been working on Maryland's Eastern Shore since the mid-1970's to support the agricultural economy of farms. The health of the Chesapeake Bay is intricately linked to the health of more than 83,000 farms that operate in its watershed. Agriculture contributes the largest amount of nutrients to the Bay, which in excess quantities degrades aquatic habitat for fish, oysters, crabs, and submerged plants.



A freshly caught crab from the Chesapeake Bay. The Nature Conservancy is working with fishermen, communities, and marine planners to collect information to ensure healthy fish stocks for the Mid-Atlantic's 800-million-pound annual seafood harvest.

PRICE DETAIL

Double Occupancy: \$5,690
Single Occupancy: \$6,515

Price is based on a minimum of 12. Trip size not to exceed 14 travelers.

Price **includes** all lodging, domestic transportation, activities, tips, meals, TNC expert staff and local guides. Price does **not include** your roundtrip flight to Washington D.C.

PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary is representative of your trip, and like all natural history excursions, activities are subject to modification based on weather and unforeseen events. We will do our best to keep you informed on any necessary changes.