

## **ANNAPOLIS, the “ATHENS OF AMERICA”**

Visit the lively historic state capital of Maryland. Best known as the home of the United States Naval Academy, the undergraduate college of the United States Navy, this top-notch school is the home of a proud heritage. One of the most sought after sites on the Academy's grounds is the chapel with its Tiffany windows and ship carvings; it also houses the crypt of John Paul Jones. So, wear your navy and white and “Go Navy!”

Annapolis' other school, St. John's College, received its charter in 1784, succeeding King William's School founded in 1696. Present day students still study the “Great Books” beginning with Aristotle. Their lovely campus with its historic buildings mourns the last of the Liberty Trees, a rallying point for the Sons of Liberty. Hurricanes, lightning and disease caused the tree to be taken down in 1999 as a bell tolled 13 times for each of the original colonies.

Historic homes and lovely shops are everywhere due to preservation minded citizens that kept developers out and restored homes one by one. As a result, Annapolis has the highest concentration of Georgian style buildings in the United States. The Hammond-Harwood House retains 90 percent of its original building materials, a masterwork of architect William Buckland.

Two signers of the Declaration of Independence made their homes in Annapolis. While the home of Charles Carroll, and all the other Carroll's, is presently undergoing restoration, it is an interesting example of this painstaking but exciting process. The William Paca House is a beautiful completed restoration and its gardens a joy to experience.

Last, the Maryland State House is the oldest state capitol in continuous legislative use and the only state capitol to have served as the national capitol from November 26, 1783 to August 13, 1784, the meeting place for the Continental Congress.

So many options but possible in a day or half-day. Bring some good walking shoes, a camera and your appetite for Annapolis has more places to eat than the food court at the Mall of the Americas. While there is variety in what you eat if you like seafood, you will have plenty of choices. If you don't find a restaurant to your liking, guess you can jump off City Dock and grab your own!!