

Heritage Bicycle Tours

Frederick County
MARYLAND





Welcome to

Frederick County

M A R Y L A N D

Frederick County's land and townscapes collectively represent the role our county has played in America's development and offer valuable insight into the region's culture. Cyclists can traverse the countryside and explore museums brimming with exhibits that conjure up another time and place.

Since its inception in 1748, Frederick County prospered and served as home to citizens such as "The Star-Spangled Banner" author Francis Scott Key; Maryland's first elected governor Thomas Johnson; Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton; Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney; and many others who helped shape the course of the country.

DOWNTOWN FREDERICK

Founded in 1745 by English and German settlers, Frederick has been at the crossroads of American history. The City of Frederick boasts a 50-block historic district where you will find monuments, markers and museums tied to the past. The city's most visible icons are its trademark church steeples, nicknamed "the clustered spires" by poet John Greenleaf Whittier. More than 200 specialty shops, art galleries and restaurants can be found here. Boasting one of the region's premier arts and entertainment districts, Historic Downtown Frederick is *A Great American Main Street* and a wonderful place to shop, eat, work, play and live.

ABOUT THE MAPS

There are hundreds of miles of paved roads in Frederick County, many excellent for bicycling. The highlighted routes in this guide traverse the county and focus on the area's most well known points of interest and include a few more obscure.

Route descriptions and cue sheets, including preferred direction and miles from the starting point, are mapped out for each tour. Difficulty rating is based on a 10 point scale—with 10 being the hardest. Roads, intersections, towns and major waterways are clearly labeled while selected points of interest, mentioned in the text, are indicated.

TERRAIN

In addition to a flat-to-rolling urban-based ride through the City of Frederick, cyclists can discover the rich history of outlying Frederick County with four more rides showcasing the unique geography of Maryland's largest county. Frederick's eastern portion is in the Piedmont region, generally characterized by gently rolling terrain and slow-flowing streams like the Monocacy River. The western balance of the county is located in the Blue Ridge region, featuring mountains (the Catoctin and South Mountain ranges), heavily rolling terrain, and deep, restricted streams.

Heart of the Civil War: City of Frederick "Campaign Ride"



Heart of the Civil War: City of Frederick “Campaign Ride”



STARTS AT: Rose Hill Manor Park

DESCRIPTION: Urban

DIFFICULTY RATING: 2



Situated in the center of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, the City of Frederick is a Bicycle Friendly Community, as designated by the League of American Bicyclists, and remains committed to enabling bicyclists and pedestrians to safely cycle or walk for recreation and transportation. This is our feature tour of several resources related to the American Civil War. We are pleased to offer an array of heritage tourism experiences in historic Downtown Frederick. These range from museums to historic sites, interpretive waysides to cemeteries. You will be riding the same streets that soldiers trod over 150 years ago.

POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG THE ROUTE

- 1 Rose Hill Manor
- 2 St. John's Cemetery (Taney grave)
- 3 Visitation Academy (Civil War hospital)
- 4 Museum of Frederick County History
- 5 National Museum of Civil War Medicine
- 6 Kemp Hall (Site of 1861 Maryland Legislature meeting)
- 7 Courthouse Square (and Ramsey House)
- 8 Barbara Fritchie House
- 9 Roger Brooke Taney House and Museum
- 10 Former Baltimore & Ohio Train Station
- 11 Frederick Visitor Center
- 12 Frederick Barracks [Campus of Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD)]
- 13 Mount Olivet Cemetery (Confederate Row)
- 14 Monocacy National Battlefield

INT	MILES	TURN	ROAD
0.0	0.0	Start	Rose Hill Manor Park 1611 N Market St
0.1	0.1	L	Market St/SS
0.0	0.1	QR	East St
1.2	1.3	R	E 4th St/TL
0.1	1.4	L	Into St John's Cemetery
0.0	1.4	L	E 4th St (Out of cemetery)
0.1	1.5	L	Maxwell Alley
0.1	1.6	L	E 3rd St/SS
0.1	1.7	R	East St/TL
0.1	1.8	R	E 2nd St/TL
0.1	1.9	L	Maxwell Alley
0.1	2.0	R	E Patrick St/SS
0.1	2.1	R	Market St/TL
0.2	2.3	L	W 2nd St/TL
0.1	2.4	L	Court St/TL
0.0	2.4	QR	Council St
0.0	2.5	QL	Record St
0.1	2.5	L	W Church St/SS,T
0.1	2.6	R	N Court St/TL
0.0	2.6	QR	W Patrick St/TL
0.1	2.7	L	Bentz St/TL
0.2	2.9	L	W All Saints St
0.6	3.5	R	East St/SS <i>Frederick Visitor Center on R on East St</i>
0.1	3.6	R	South St/TL
0.1	3.7	L	S Carroll St/TL
0.0	3.7	R	<i>Option: Turn into MSD driveway 2nd R after South St. Return to Carroll St. via R from driveway</i>
0.2	3.9	R	Clarke Pl/TL
0.1	4.0	X	S Market St/TL
0.1	4.1	L	Broadway/SS (Then S into Mt Olivet Cemetery)
0.1	4.2	BR	At Area K for Confederate Row
0.0	4.2		Barbara Fritchie Monument
0.0	4.2		Francis Scott Key Monument
0.8	5.0	R	S Market St/SS > MD355 <i>Use extreme caution</i>
0.6	5.6	X	MD85; remain on MD355/TL
2.5	8.1	L	Monocacy Visitor Center <i>Option: battlefield exploration/maps at visitor center</i>
QUICK RETURN ROUTE FROM MONOCACY BATTLEFIELD			
0.0	8.1	R	MD355/SS
2.4	10.5	R	MD85/TL
0.4	10.9	S	Cross over I-70 <i>Use caution—traffic lights</i>
0.2	11.1	R	Monocacy Blvd/TL
0.9	12.0	X	MD144/TL TRO Monocacy Blvd
1.4	13.4	X	Gas House Pike/TL > Schifferstadt Blvd
1.3	14.7	L	Market St/TL,T
0.3	15.0	R	Into Rose Hill Manor Park

Frederick: A Pivot Point of the Civil War



The City of Frederick and the surrounding county were at the crossroads of America's Civil War. Located between Pennsylvania to the north and Virginia to the south, residents found themselves living in "a border county within a border state." Loyalties were divided.

By April 1861, Frederick had already experienced the "sparks of war." Former resident **Roger Brooke Taney** had delivered the infamous Dred Scott Decision as Chief Justice of the Supreme

Court. In 1859, word first reached Frederick with news of John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry prompting local militia units to hastily make their way to the scene via the **B&O Station**. The summer of 1861 featured the Maryland Legislature meeting at **Kemp Hall** to debate the question of secession.



In September 1862, Frederick would become the largest Union town Gen. Robert E. Lee and his Confederate Army would occupy. However, ardent Unionists such as **Barbara Fritchie**, heroine of Whittier's famed poem, gave the Rebels a cold welcome. The Union Army of the Potomac under Gen. George B. McClellan entered Frederick amidst cheers in pursuit of Lee. The armies eventually engaged one another in the battles of South Mountain and Antietam.



When the fighting had ceased, many soldiers returned to Frederick, but this time by way of stretcher and ambulance. **The Frederick Barracks** served as Union Hospital #1 and other public buildings, churches and private residences took in the wounded of both armies. One such hospital site was the **Visitation Academy**, a Catholic school for girls. The home of the **Ramsey family** on Record Street housed recovering Union Gen. George Hartsuff, who would later be visited here by President Abraham Lincoln in October 1862.

In June 1863, Gen. Lee crossed into Maryland again and proceeded north into Pennsylvania. In this confusing time, Fredericktonians would see the Union Army rapidly amass in their town. **Rose Hill Manor** would serve as camp for the army's large artillery reserve. While in Frederick, Gen. George Meade was given control of the Army of the Potomac, and would march his men north towards a small hamlet named Gettysburg.

One year later in July 1864, Confederate Gen. Jubal Early made one last attempt of bringing war to the north. The Rebels entered Frederick from the west and demanded a ransom of \$200,000. Frederick's banks and business leaders responded promptly and staved off any threat to the town. Early next headed south on the Georgetown Pike (MD355) towards the nation's capital. In his path stood Gen. Lew Wallace and a hastily assembled group of Union soldiers at **Monocacy Junction**, just a few miles south of town. This battle would go down in history as "the Battle that Saved Washington."

Many of the war's dead can be found at **Mount Olivet Cemetery**. Notable sites here include Confederate Row, the grave of Barbara Fritchie and those of earlier wars: Thomas Johnson and Francis Scott Key.



Heart of the Civil War: City of Frederick “Campaign Ride”

MONOCACY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

SUN–SAT 8:30AM–5PM // WWW.NPS.GOV/MONO



In the summer of 1864, Gen. Jubal Early led Confederate forces towards Washington, D.C. and threatened to capture the capital city. On July 9, Union troops under Gen. Lew Wallace met Early’s forces on the banks of the Monocacy. At Monocacy National Battlefield, visitors can experience a landscape that has changed little since the 19th century.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CIVIL WAR MEDICINE

MON–SAT 10AM–5PM, SUN 11AM–5PM // WWW.CIVILWARMED.ORG



This engaging museum tells the medical story of the Civil War. The care and healing, courage and devotion of the caregivers and patients on both sides of the war are explored, along with the many innovations in medicine that impact us today. The museum is housed in a building where dead soldiers were embalmed during the war.

MUSEUM OF FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

TUES–SAT 10AM–4PM, SUN 1–4PM // WWW.FREDERICKHISTORY.ORG



Built in the 1820s, this building was used as a private residence and later an orphanage before the Historical Society of Frederick County purchased the property in the 1950s. Inside, museum exhibits tell the story of Frederick County and the Research Center houses a variety of archival and genealogical materials.

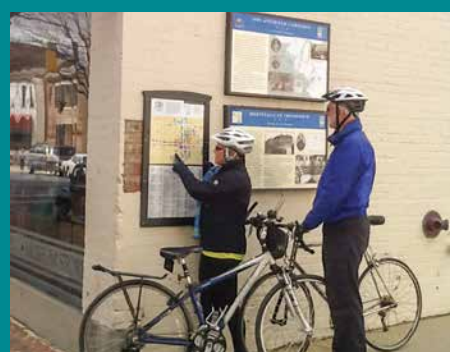
ROSE HILL MANOR PARK AND CHILDREN’S MUSEUM

MON–SAT 10AM–4PM, SUN 1–4PM (APRIL–OCT)

WWW.ROSEHILLMUSEUM.COM



Rose Hill Manor Park provides a look at early American life, transportation history and the agricultural heritage of Frederick County. Thomas Johnson, Maryland’s first elected Governor, spent his retirement at Rose Hill Manor. The Children’s Museum specializes in providing exhibits and programs for kids of all ages.



downtown
frederick
PARTNERSHIP



Interpretive markers located throughout the city help tell Frederick’s Civil War story including Maryland Civil War Trails system, indicated with their signature bugle logo. You will also find helpful Downtown Frederick Partnership maps that point out public amenities, along with dining and shopping opportunities.

Heritage Tours

Cyclists can discover more of the rich history of Frederick County with four more rides.

KEY		
R/BR = RIGHT/BEAR RIGHT	T = "T" INTERSECTION	● = START
L/BL = LEFT/BEAR LEFT	TL = TRAFFIC LIGHT	● = END
QL/QR = QUICK LEFT/RIGHT	UM = UNMARKED ROAD	● = START/END
S = STRAIGHT	TRO = TO REMAIN ON	📍 = INFO/HELP
X = CROSS	!XX! = METAL BRIDGE	🍷 = SNACK STOP
SS = STOP SIGN	> = BECOMES	🚻 = RESTROOMS
		📍 = POINT OF INTEREST



CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

STARTS AT: Gambrill State Park

DESCRIPTION: Several big climbs, opportunities for off-road mountain biking experiences

DIFFICULTY RATING: 7

This tour traverses Catoctin Mountain, that marks both the easternmost ridge of the Blue Ridge Province, which stretches over 500 miles from Pennsylvania to Georgia, and the eastern edge of the Appalachians. Catoctin Mountain is the 50-mile long ridge that runs from Emmitsburg to Leesburg, Va. Local tradition maintains that “Catoctin” is a Native American term meaning “place of many deer” or “mountain of much game.”

With some ridges up to 1,880 feet in elevation, geologists contend that this landform is about 250 million years old and is ancient and worn down by erosion. By contrast, the Himalayas, with an average elevation about 15 times that of Catoctin, are only about 20 million years old. The Rockies, about seven times higher than Catoctin, are about 60 million years old. The featured route will take participants through a myriad of parklands: municipal (City of Frederick Watershed), state (Gambrill State Park & Cunningham Falls State Park) and national (Catoctin Mountain Park-NPS). Optional rural gravel roadways and off-road trails branch off this main route.



INT	MILES	TURN	ROAD
0.0	0.0		Start – Gambrill Park South Fred Overlook
0.0	0.0	L	North on Gambrill Park Rd
7.1	7.1	BL	Tower Rd
1.0	8.1	BR	Mink Farm Rd CAUTION: First .6 mile of Mink Farm Road is a gravel road! <i>Ole Mink Farm Resort (8.6) offers snacks/repair assistance</i>
1.9	10.0	L	Catoctin Hollow Rd/T
1.6	11.6		POI – Hunting Creek Lake/ Cunningham Falls on L <i>Hiking, swimming, snack bar (in season)</i>
1.2	12.8	R	MD77/SS,T
0.2	13.0	QL	Park Central Rd <i>Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center on right To eliminate steep climb on Park Central, see OptSn [A] now.</i>
3.7	16.7	L	Manahan Rd/SS
0.8	17.5	BL	Foxville-Deerfield Rd
0.1	17.6	QBL	TRO Foxville-Deerfield Rd
0.2	17.8	QL	MD77/SS
0.3	18.1	R	Tower Rd
1.0	19.1	L	Fox Tower Rd
1.3	20.4	L	Wigville Rd
0.1	20.5	QR	Catoctin Hollow Rd/T [B]
0.3	20.8	R	Mink Farm Rd
3.0	23.8	R	Gambrill Park Rd
7.2	31.0	R	Into South Overlook (End of Ride)
OPTION [A]—AVOIDS PARK CENTRAL CLIMB (31.8-MILE ROUTE)			
0.0	13.0	R	From Visitor Center, turn R on MD77 uphill (north)
2.4	15.4	L	Tower Rd
1.0	16.4	L	Fox Tower Rd
1.3	17.7	BL	Wigville Rd
0.1	17.8	QR	Catoctin Hollow Rd/SS,T [B] <i>Rejoins route at mile point 24.0 (Saves 2.7 mi)</i>

NORTH COUNTY BRIDGE SAMPLER

STARTS AT: Utica District Park

DESCRIPTION: Rolling and lengthy

DIFFICULTY RATING: 6

In addition to being a literal “crossroads of history and transportation routes,” Frederick County is home to a variety of historic water crossings, many of which can be found on the National Register of Historic Places. Cyclists will find bridges of varying size and architectural design, constructed of wood, stone, iron and steel. Northern Frederick County is blessed with three of only eight known remaining covered bridges in Maryland. The fabricated bridge industry flourished in the late 1800s and gave impetus for county leaders to replace existing wooden bridges in favor of iron and steel truss bridges. Firms from Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania are responsible for building some of the structures found on this tour. Featured on this tour is LeGore Bridge, locally constructed in 1898. Area businessman James W. LeGore utilized limestone and workmen from his nearby quarry operation to build this five-arched, 340 foot-long structure that spans the Monocacy River.



INT	MILES	TURN	ROAD
0.0	0.0	Start	Utica District Park
0.4	0.4	L	Old Frederick Rd/SS,T
0.6	1.0	L	Utica Rd (Utica Rd covered bridge just ahead)
1.0	2.0	R	Hessong Bridge Rd/SS,T
0.9	2.9	S	Hessong Bridge Rd (@ Angleberger) <i>Straight ahead – not L and not R</i>
1.5	4.4		Caution on metal grate bridge!!
0.0	4.4	QR	Blacks Mill Rd
1.3	5.7	S	X wooden bridge; continue on Blacks Mill Rd
1.6	7.3	L	Creagerstown Rd MD550/SS
0.3	7.6	BR	Old Frederick Rd
1.9	9.5		Loy's Station covered bridge
0.1	9.6	L	Rocky Ridge Rd MD77/SS
2.8	12.4	BR	E Main St TRO MD77
1.0	13.4	R	N Church St MD550/TL – Thurmont (Stores)
0.3	13.7	R	Emmitsburg Rd > Albert Staub Rd
0.5	14.2	R	Eyler Rd
0.6	14.8	L	Roddy Rd/SS (Apples Church goes R)
0.8	15.6		Roddy Rd covered bridge
0.8	16.4	R	Old Kiln Rd
2.5	18.9	R	Motters Station Rd MD76/SS,T
1.0	19.9	BL	Four Points Rd
0.9	20.8	R	Sixes Bridge Rd
0.6	21.4	BR	TRO Sixes Bridge Rd @ Grimes Rd
2.2	23.6	X	Cross bridge
0.7	24.3	R	Mumma Ford Rd/SS,T (Sixes Bridge Rd goes L)
1.9	26.2	L	Motters Station Rd MD76/SS
1.5	27.7	S	X MD77 Rocky Ridge Rd > Longs Mill Rd
0.8	28.5	L	Legore Bridge Rd
1.2	29.7		Legore Stone historic bridge
0.2	29.9	R	TRO Legore Bridge Rd/SS/Top of climb
2.5	32.4	S/BR	Woodsboro Pike MD194 – Woodsboro
0.4	32.8	R/QBL	1st R then QBL onto Main St (Stores)
0.3	33.1	R	Gravel Hill Rd @ food store
0.0	33.1	BR/BL	@ Southern States TRO Gravel Hill Rd
2.0	35.1	L	Dublin Rd/SS <i>Caution on downhill – full stop!</i>
2.3	37.4	R	Devilbiss Bridge Rd/SS
1.7	39.1	R	Old Frederick Rd/SS
0.3	39.4	L	Utica District Park
0.4	39.8		End of Ride

SPIRITS OF BURKITTSVILLE

STARTS AT: Park and Ride Lot off MD180 (Petersville)

DESCRIPTION: Rolling, one big climb

DIFFICULTY RATING: 8

This ride focuses on a town of fewer than 200 residents, originally founded in 1824. Although Burkittsville gained national notoriety with the 1999 release of the film *The Blair Witch Project*, earlier fame came with the September 14, 1862 Battle of Crampton's Gap, a bloody prelude to the Civil War's Battle of Antietam. The town was used to care for more than 300 wounded of both armies. The "Blair Witch" may be in the company of fallen soldiers, reputed to inhabit Spook Hill and the hallowed grounds of Crampton's Gap. The former mountain home of noted journalist George Alfred Townsend (today's Gathland State Park) captures the imagination as well. Townsend's vast estate fell to ruin, yet his unusual monument to war correspondents still stands, as does his self-constructed burial crypt, left empty because he was laid to rest in Philadelphia.

South of town, cyclists will pass the Needwood estate, home to noted planter and statesman Thomas Sim Lee, a former governor of Maryland. Lee's grandson, Outerbridge Horsey IV, inherited this property and would create a distillery here in 1839 at the age of 19. He produced *Horsey Pure Rye Whiskey* and a special brand called *Golden Gate*, the latter being aged by loading barrels of it aboard ships and sending it around Cape Horn to San Francisco and then back to Maryland by train. (Outerbridge Horsey IV's grave can be found at St. Mary's Church Cemetery toward the end of the ride). Lesser known Ahalt's Distillery opened nearby in 1879; neither Ahalt nor Horsey survives today. However, Distillery Lane Cider Works (east of town) continues a local tradition of "liquid spirit" production and affords visitors the opportunity to taste hard ciders, along with fresh sweet apple cider. Cheers!

INT	MILES	TURN	ROAD
0.0	0.0	Start	Park and Ride Lot off MD180 – Petersville
0.0	0.0	R	MD180/Jefferson Pike/SS
0.3	0.3	R	MD17/Burkittsville Rd (Traffic circle)
4.3	4.6	L	W Main St > Gapland Rd – Burkittsville
1.1	5.7		Stop – Gathland State Park @ top of climb
0.0	5.7		<i>Vending machines off to the left</i>
0.0	5.7	R	Arnoldstown Rd <i>The War Correspondents Arch will be on your right.</i>
0.7	6.4	R	Mountain Church Rd/SS, T
1.1	7.5	L	Gapland Rd > W Main St/SS, T
0.3	7.8	L	W Cemetery Dr
0.1	7.9	X	MD17/SS > E Cemetery Dr/SS
0.1	8.0	L	E Main St > Gapland Rd/SS
1.1	9.1	R	Catholic Church Rd/SS, T
2.7	11.8	R	MD180/Jefferson Pike/SS
1.1	12.9	R	Into Park and Ride lot – Petersville (End)



TRANSPORTATION HERITAGE TOUR

STARTS AT: Frederick Visitor Center

DESCRIPTION: Mostly flat, rolling portions; C&O Towpath includes various conditions

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5

Since its founding, Frederick quickly became a bustling crossroads of the major routes leading in every direction. A turnpike to Baltimore helped bring crops of locally grown wheat to the Ellicott Mills, which were in turn exported from the Baltimore Harbor. This route later became part of the National Road, aiding pioneers, farmers and commerce by linking the Ohio River valley to the east coast. In the early 1830s, two new transportation lines bisected Frederick County in an effort to exploit western resources and trade. These were the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal.

All three transportation giants, the turnpike, the railroad and the canal, are interpreted at the Frederick Visitor Center. From here, this ride will take you from the National Road across Carrollton Manor, roughly paralleling the former B&O mainline route to Point of Rocks. Here, a village sprang up because of the convergence of both the railroad and canal. A historic railroad station can be viewed at this gateway to the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The park's towpath is readily used by cyclists and hikers, and affords a chance to see surviving historic canal features such as locks, lock houses and aqueducts. Nearby Brunswick hosts the Brunswick Heritage Museum and exhibits that describe life in a railroad and canal town.

INT	MILES	TURN	ROAD
0.0	0.0	Start	Visitor Center – Frederick
0.0	0.0	R	East St/SS
0.1	0.1	R	South St/TL
0.1	0.2	L	S Carroll St/TL
0.1	0.3	R	Clarke Place/TL
0.2	0.5	L	S Market St/TL
0.1	0.6	R	Stadium Dr
0.6	1.2	R	New Design Rd/SS,T
3.3	4.5	R	Elmer Derr Rd
0.5	5.0	L	Ballenger Creek Pike/MD351 – ¾ way around circle
4.0	9.0	X	Cross Mountville Rd TRO Ballenger Crk Pike/SS
0.8	9.8	BR	TRO Ballenger Creek Pike @ Doubs Rd
3.9	13.7	L	MD28/Clay St/SS – Point Of Rocks
0.1	13.8	R	Monroe St
0.1	13.9	R	Commerce St
0.1	14.0	L	Canal Rd
			End at C&O Canal National Historical Park





SAFETY TIPS

The bicycle is legally considered a vehicle in Maryland. Bicyclists have the full rights and responsibilities of roadway users and are subject to all regulations governing a vehicle.

Always ride on the right. Obey all traffic signs and signals. Avoid night riding, especially in rural areas. When with a group, ride single file. Watch for sand, loose gravel and wet leaves. Always wear a helmet.

SERVICES

Everything you need is readily available in the City of Frederick, and the towns and rural crossroads along the suggested bicycle routes. Restaurants and markets offer a variety of foods to keep you pedaling. If you want to spend several days in the area, you may choose to stay at a hotel, bed and breakfast or campground. Bicycle shops in Frederick, Brunswick and Thurmont can assist should you have any problems. Friendly staff at our visitor centers are here to help as well.



Frederick Visitor Center
Tourism Council of Frederick County
151 S. East St. Frederick, Md. 21701
Open daily 9:00am–5:30pm
800-999-3613 | www.visitfrederick.org

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