



Visiting the Canal Today

11"x17" format1 applies font specifications of 17.5 point on 22 leading. For leading consistency always apply the paragraph styles to the open line spaces after each paragraph. Information about the canal, ranger-led activities, and points of interest is available at visitor centers along the canal. Visitor center hours vary seasonally, so phone ahead or check the website for hours, schedules, and current towpath conditions.

Georgetown Visitor Center

1057 Thomas Jefferson Street NW,
Washington, DC 20007
Phone 202-653-5190

Canal Boat Rides

Relive life on the canal aboard the park's reproduction canal boats. Enjoy ranger-led programs as you glide along the canal under mulepower. Boat rides depart from Georgetown and Great Falls April through October. For group reservations, ticket information, and hours of operation, call the Georgetown Visitor Center.

Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center

11710 MacArthur Boulevard
Potomac, MD 20854
Phone 301-767-3714

Great Falls Tavern was first built as a house for the lock tender but later became a hotel. It is a good example of how the canal provided business opportunities.

At the **Olmsted Island overlook**, you can view the spectacular Great Falls of the Potomac, geologically unique. The area between the towpath and the overlook is home to many rare plants.

To the west, at Milepost 42.2, stands the **Monocacy Aqueduct**. It is the best example of the engineering that was required to carry the canal over smaller rivers.

Brunswick Visitor Center

40 West Potomac Street
Brunswick, MD 21716
Phone 301-739-4200

Exhibits highlight the history of the canal and railroad in the town of Brunswick.

Williamsport Visitor Center

205 West Potomac Street
Williamsport, MD 21795
Phone 301-582-0813

Williamsport is an excellent example of a canal town. A short walk around the Visitor Center at the Cushwa warehouse and basin reveals a wide variety of support structures important to the canal's operation.

West of Williamsport, at Milepost 109, is **Four Locks**. This is a well-preserved example of the many smaller communities that once thrived alongside the canal.

Hancock Visitor Center

326 East Main Street
Hancock, MD 21750
Phone 301-678-5463

Between Hancock and Cumberland, at Milepost 156.1, intrepid visitors can explore the last, most challenging canal segment to be completed—the 3,118-foot **Paw Paw Tunnel**. With a flashlight and sturdy shoes, you can walk through the tunnel.

Cumberland Visitor Center

13 Canal Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
Phone 301-722-8226

The visitor center is in the Western Maryland Railroad Station. Together they tell of Cumberland's busy transportation history from colonial times to the present. Cumberland is called the "Queen City of the Alleghenies." westward migrations.

Explore the Towpath

Hiking and Bicycling

Brown concrete mileposts are located every mile along the towpath.

Bicyclists must observe these regulations:

- Do not exceed 15 mph.
- Sound your bell or horn when approaching other towpath users.
- Ride single-file and stay to the right.
- Yield to pedestrians, horses, and mules.
- Wear a helmet, as required by law.
- Walk bikes across aqueducts.

Camping

- Drive-in camping areas (primitive facilities, no groups) operate first-come, first-served. Fees are charged. Length-of-stay limitations apply.
- Group campgrounds require a fee, and Marsden Tract requires a permit, obtainable at Great Falls Fee Station.
- Hiker-Biker Overnight campsites for tent camping occur approximately every five miles between Mileposts 16.6 and 180.1.

Camping is permitted only in designated areas. Camping supplies and food can be bought at stores near the park. Find restrooms and water pumps at all campsites. Potable water is not available in winter. Fires are allowed only in designated areas.

Bicyclists like the mostly level towpath.



Report crimes in National Capital Region parks toll-free 866-677-6677.

Canoeing and Boating

Canoeing and non-motorized boating are possible in watered sections of the canal from Georgetown to Milepost 22, and for short stretches above that.

Important note: Canal users must portage (carry their boat) around each lock. Motorized craft are generally prohibited. Contact visitor center staff about boat rental possibilities.

For Safety's Sake

The Potomac River must be considered extremely dangerous at all times. The river's current is strong and deceptive and can be unpredictable.

- **Swimming and wading in the canal are prohibited.**
- **Hunting and trapping in the park are prohibited.**
- **Fishing is subject to Maryland or D.C. laws.**
- **Metal detectors and relic hunting are prohibited on park property.**
- **Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.**
- **Pets must be leashed at all times.**
- **The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park is a trash-free park. Please take your trash with you when you leave.**

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities, visit www.nps.gov.

More Information

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
National Historical Park
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-739-4200, V/TTY
www.nps.gov/choh