

Tradition is Alive in Charles County

# The Holiday Trail



**FRIDAY-SUNDAY, DEC. 6-8, 2013**

The smell of fresh greens, the crackle of a fire, and the sound of carols await visitors along The Charles County Holiday Trail.

Comprising many of the area's cultural attractions, the Holiday Trail offers citizens and visitors alike an opportunity to get into the spirit of the season.

See side two for detailed trail information.

**Up-to-Date Schedules and Site Information:**  
**[www.CharlesCountyHolidayTrail.com](http://www.CharlesCountyHolidayTrail.com)**



Charles County Government • Office of Tourism • P.O. Box 2150 • 200 Baltimore St. • La Plata, MD 20646 • 301-645-0550 • 301-870-3000  
MD Relay: 711 • Relay TDD: 1-800-735-2258 • Equal Opportunity County • [www.CharlesCountyMD.gov](http://www.CharlesCountyMD.gov)

# CHARLES COUNTY 2013 Holiday Trail

[www.charlescountyholidaytrail.com](http://www.charlescountyholidaytrail.com)



## FRIDAY–SUNDAY, DEC. 6–8

### Kris Kringle Christmas Market at the Charles County Fair

8440 Fairgrounds Rd, La Plata, MD  
301-932-1234

Friday: 4–9 p.m., Saturday–Sunday: 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Admission: \$1, or a non-perishable food item to benefit the Southern Maryland Food Bank.

The fair board and Christmas market committee encourage locals and visitors alike to come out to enjoy the music, shopping, Holiday Arts Faire, and tasty Christmas treats.

## SATURDAY–SUNDAY, DEC. 7–8

### African American Heritage Society

7485 Crain Highway, La Plata, MD  
301-609-9099

Saturday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sunday: 1–4 p.m.

Donations encouraged.

During this year's celebration, the group will collect non-perishable food items for the Southern Maryland Food Bank. The African American Heritage Society of Charles County is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering awareness of the culture and historical contributions of African Americans to Southern Maryland and the nation. This Christmas, the group will host a Heritage Christmas.

### Mount Carmel of Port Tobacco

5678 Mount Carmel Rd, La Plata, MD  
301-934-1654, [www.carmelofporttobacco.com](http://www.carmelofporttobacco.com)

Saturday–Sunday: 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

Donations welcomed.

Thanks to the preservation efforts of a dedicated lay group called the "Restorers of Mount Carmel," visitors are still able to walk through the original building. The Monastery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### Thomas Stone National Historic Site

6655 Rose Hill Rd, Port Tobacco, MD  
301-392-1776, [www.nps.gov/thst](http://www.nps.gov/thst)

Saturday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Special Holiday Program Saturday Only, 4–7 p.m. Free Donations welcomed.

Thomas Stone National Historic Site, also known as Haberdeventure, was the original home of Thomas Stone, a Maryland signer of the Declaration of Independence. Enjoy a special presentation on Saturday with a candlelight tour through the restored Haberdeventure conducted by costumed staff with stories about the life of the Stone family in the midst of revolution.

### Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House Museum

3725 Dr. Samuel Mudd Rd, Waldorf, MD  
301-274-9358, [drmudd.org](http://drmudd.org)

Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Admission: \$8 for adults and \$2 for children.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971, the 197-acre Dr. Samuel A. Mudd farm consists of a Victorian farmhouse museum, exhibit building, tombstone building, gift shops, and other outbuildings. During the season, costumed interpreters donned in Civil War attire set up camp, while inside, visitors can step into the Victorian era where they can visit Santa Claus, take in the decorations, enjoy a superb collection of antique dolls, and sample a variety of Christmas cookies, cakes, and other treats.

### Mattawoman Creek Art Center

2750 Sweden Point Rd, Marbury, MD  
301-743-5159, [www.mattawomancreekartcenter.com](http://www.mattawomancreekartcenter.com)

Saturday–Sunday: 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Special Holiday Program Sunday Only.

Donations welcomed.

Located on the grounds of Smallwood State Park, the Mattawoman Creek Art Center hosts nine shows each year. The holiday show and salon in particular is something visitors look forward to attending. Painting, prints, sculpture, jewelry, and handmade pieces are for sale throughout the season. Stop by for cocoa, holiday treats, music, and one-of-a-kind gifts.

### Mount Aventine, Chapman State Park

3452 Ferry Pl, Indian Head, MD  
[www.friendsofchapmansp.org](http://www.friendsofchapmansp.org)

Saturday–Sunday: 1–4 p.m.

Suggested Donation: \$5 per vehicle.

Located on 2200 unspoiled acres in Chapman State Park with commanding views of the Potomac, Mount Aventine is one Charles County's most important antebellum houses. The story and tales related to the land are long and complex. This season, the Friends of Chapman State Park invite you to enjoy the house, refreshments, nature walks, and the sounds of the season with performances from various music groups over the course of its two-day holiday celebration.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 7

### Friendship House

8730 Mitchell Rd, La Plata, MD

Saturday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. • Donations welcomed.

Friendship House is located on the grounds of the College of Southern Maryland. Built circa 1740 by a member of the Dent family, it is one of the oldest surviving examples of Maryland Tidewater architecture. Visit the house for a tour, cider, cookies, and a closer look at one of Southern Maryland's historic treasures.

### Port Tobacco Courthouse

Chapel Point Rd, Port Tobacco Village, MD  
301-934-4313

Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m. • Donations welcomed.

Settled in 1634, Port Tobacco was once Maryland's second largest seaport. Join us this holiday season for light refreshments, and learn more about the facts and legends of Port Tobacco, including one of Maryland's oldest ghost stories *The Blue Dog Legend*.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 8

### Smallwood Retreat House

2750 Sweden Point Rd, Marbury, MD  
301-743-7613, [www.dnr.state.md.us](http://www.dnr.state.md.us)

Sunday: 1–7 p.m. • Donations welcomed.

Located in Smallwood State Park, the Retreat House is a restored 18th century tidewater plantation. Tour the house, and learn about General Smallwood's life and times. Enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of the colonial kitchen where costumed volunteers prepare recipes authentic to the period. Once outside, indulge in hot cider and cookies around the fire while Revolutionary War interpreters outfitted in period clothing provide a "taste" of life during the War for Independence.