375 years ago. Discover Maryland’s legacy of Historic St. Mary’s City.

In 1634, a group of 90 men led by Leonard Calvert, the son of the colony’s founder, Lord Baltimore, settled what is now St. Mary’s Town at the mouth of the Potomac River. The town was named in honor of St. Mary of the Snows, the patron saint of Calvert. The town soon became the capital of the colony and a bustling center of commerce and culture.

Wildlife. The cool water, which flows freely from upstream, offers a good habitat for restocking. Enjoy lunch at one of the many fine restaurants. While exploring the town, enjoy a visit to Leonardtown and McIntosh Run.

Leonardtown and McIntosh Run. In 1708, the town of Leonardtown was incorporated as the county seat of St. Mary’s County. It was named after Sir William Leonard, the first Lord Baltimore’s son-in-law. McIntosh Run, which flows through the town, was named after a family that owned a large tract of land in the area. The run was later renamed for the McIntosh family, who were prominent in the town’s history.

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Explore the Trails of the Tidal Potomac. St. Mary’s County has a growing network of land-based trail systems and the Potomac River. Use the online guide to kayak and canoe trails in St. Mary’s County.

Land Trails

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Water Trails in St. Mary’s County

The Potomac River, the Chesapeake Bay, and the rivers and streams of Saint Mary’s County provide a wealth of opportunities for paddling. With more than 70 miles of water trails, there are many opportunities for paddlers to explore the area’s beauty and wildlife.

Land Trails

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources operates a network of land-based trail systems throughout the state. These trails provide access to the state’s natural resources and are a great way to explore the outdoors. You can find more information about these trails on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website.

Paddling

St. Mary’s County is a popular destination for paddlers visiting the Potomac River.

This scenic island, operated by the Maryland Park Service, was founded in 1634 by Lord Baltimore and his son-in-law, Sir William Leonard. The island is the site of Maryland’s first permanent settlement and is home to a variety of wildlife, including birds, fish, and mammals.

Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum & Historic Park. This historic lighthouse was built in 1812 to guide ships through the Potomac River. The museum features exhibits about the history of the lighthouse and the Potomac River, as well as a variety of artifacts related to the area’s history.

St. Mary’s County Visitor Information

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For more information on Leave No Trace ethics visit www.lnt.org, call 1-800-332-4100, or contact your local resource managers for additional guidance.

Maryland Paddling and Fishing Regulations

Maryland is home to a variety of paddling and fishing regulations. Drivers are urged to pay attention to signs and follow the rules. Keep your tongue out and let the public know about them, especially when downstream. Be aware of your surroundings and keep track of the water level. If you’re out on the water, watch for other boats and follow the proper procedures. Be alert to possible thunderstorms.

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