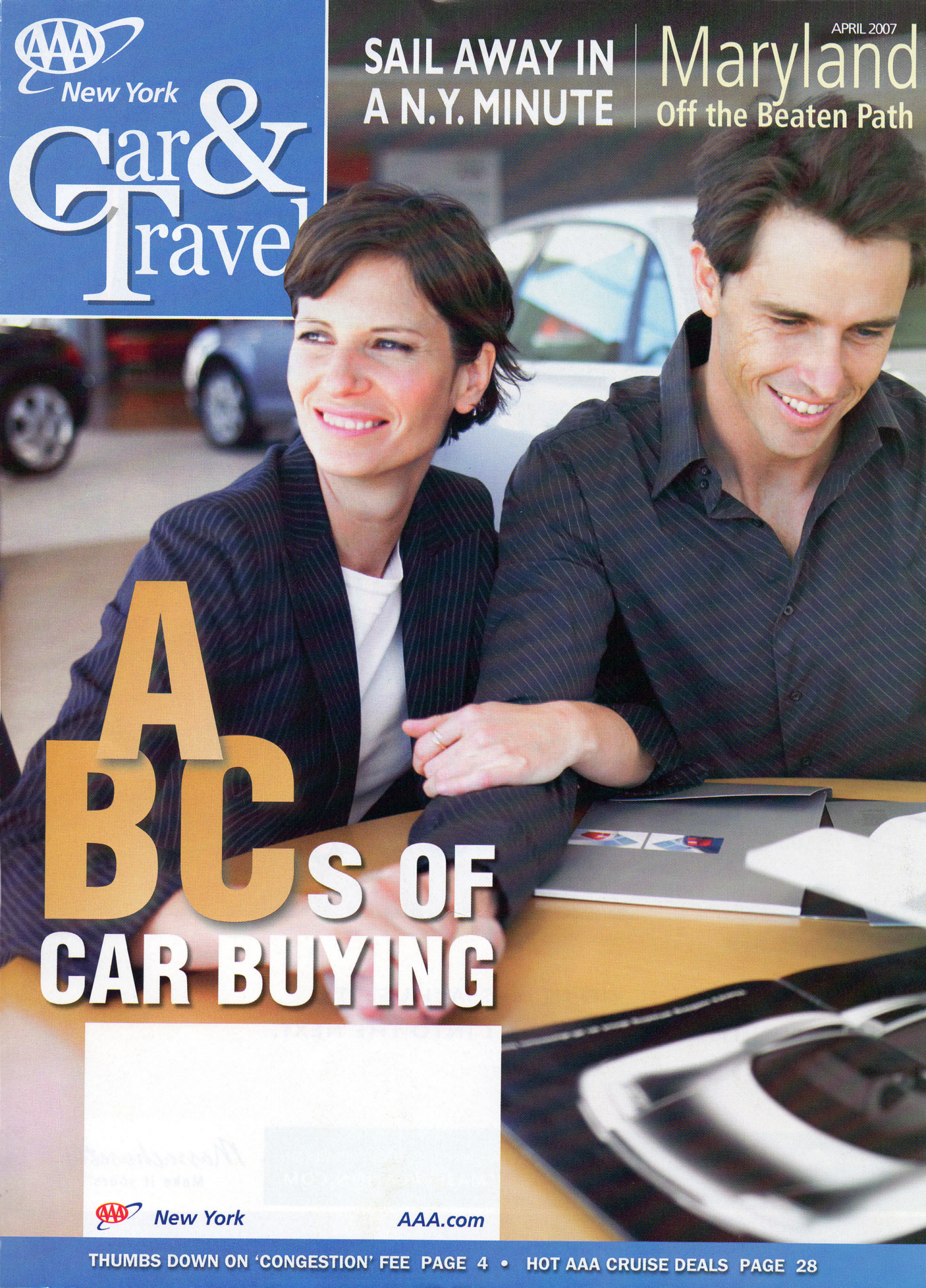




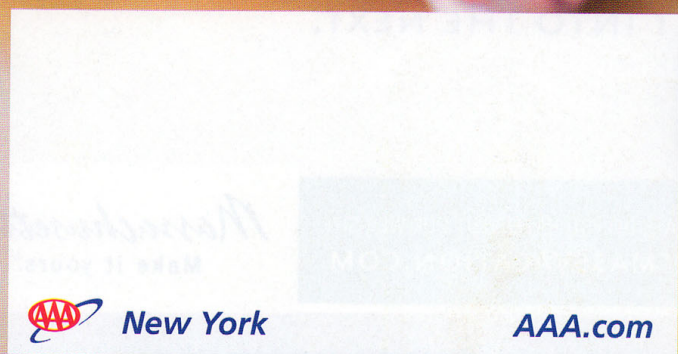
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APRIL 2007
Maryland
Off the Beaten Path

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Off the Beaten Path

by Lisa Arcella

Most visits to Maryland include a stop in Annapolis, Ocean City or Baltimore and the Inner Harbor. But there's a whole world to discover beyond the more familiar tourist destinations. These 10 destinations should definitely be considered by anyone planning a trip to the Old Line State.

Cambridge

A historic maritime community founded along the Choptank River in the 1600s, Cambridge also is where Harriet Tubman guided slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad. There's also impressive architecture, the Brannock Maritime Museum and Richardson Maritime Museum. Plus, there's the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, where nature lovers can bike, canoe or bird watch. This is a favorite spot of the great blue heron, so visitors should keep their eyes peeled.

Cumberland

Nicknamed Queen City, Cumberland was once the second largest city in Maryland. The C&O Canal National Historical Park and Exhibit Center, located at Canal Place, is a must-see. Visitors can learn the canal's history through exhibits on boat building, the coal industry and Cumberland as a crossroads of transportation. Plus, there are rides aboard the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad on either a steam or diesel excursion. The city also is the former site of Fort Cumberland, the French and Indian War frontier outpost, where a one-room cabin used by George Washington still stands. Also not to be missed are the Tiffany windows at Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

Deep Creek Lake Area

Deep Creek Lake, a year-round resort covering 3,900 acres in Garrett County, is a great spot for fishing,

boating, water skiing, swimming or just getting in touch with nature. When winter comes, outdoor enthusiasts head for ice fishing, snowboarding, snow tubing and skiing the 600-foot vertical drop at Wisp's March Mountain. There's also a winery and lots of antique shops nearby.

Ellicott City

Train buffs will love Ellicott City's B&O Railroad Station Museum on Main Street. It's located in the 1831 railroad terminal that helped maintain the Union's supremacy during the Civil War. Thomas Isaac's Log Cabin, located at the opposite end of Main Street, transports visitors through time with a Colonial reenactment depicting life along the Historic National Road. Main Street is part of the historic road, which is considered America's first national highway and was used as a link between Baltimore and the rest of the

Ten destinations worth discovering in Maryland



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge at Cambridge provides a haven for migratory birds, waterfowl and endangered species.



A train bridge in Cumberland recalls the town's heritage as a transportation center.



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country by George Washington. The city is also home to scenic Patapsco Valley State Park, whose 14,000 acres feature bike trails, horseback riding and camping.

Frederick

This charming city's 50-block historic district was named one of America's "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" in 2002 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Like many stops in Maryland, the town is rich in history, having been involved in many pivotal moments in the country's development. Candlelight ghost tours explore the homes of composer Francis Scott Key and Civil War heroine Barbara Fritchie. But while history is certainly an attraction, many flock here because of the downtown area, which brims with specialty shops, art galleries, restaurants and parks. Visitors also won't want to miss taking a self-guided tour of the area's historic covered bridges.

Hagerstown

The major attraction here is Hagerstown City Park, a 50-acre enclave with three man-made lakes. Inside the park is Jonathan Hager House, devoted to

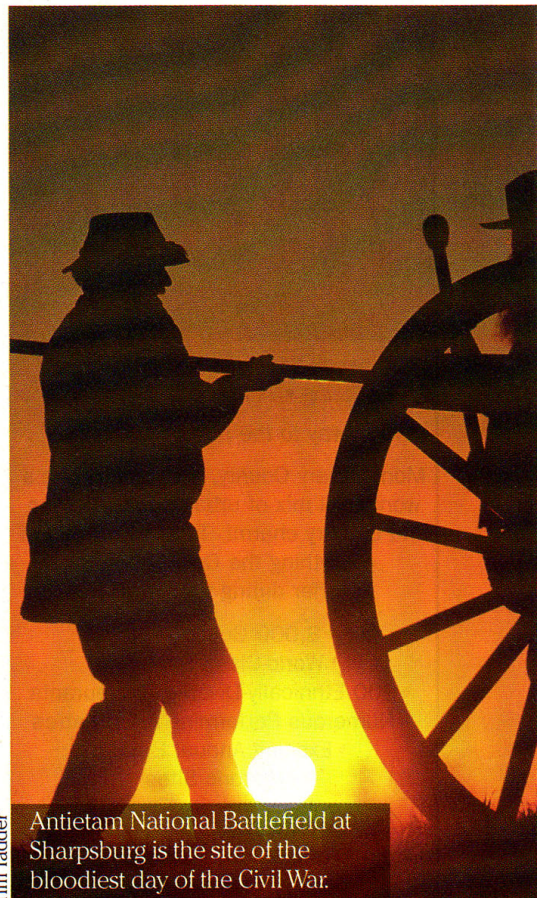
the German settler who founded the city, and the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, with its emphasis on 19th-century and early-20th-century American art. Military history buffs shouldn't miss the Antietam National Battlefield in nearby Sharpsburg, where the bloodiest one-day battle of the Civil War was fought.

The Piedmont Plateau

A 40-mile radius in central Maryland holds at least 10 fine wineries—all within driving distance of northern Baltimore. Many people are unaware that Maryland has thriving vineyards, producing some 40,000 cases a year. Wine lovers will enjoy a field day on a visit to this area, where Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Chardonnay are all produced.

St. Michaels

Postcard-pretty St. Michaels was settled in the 1670s. Legend has it that when locals discovered plans for an imminent attack by the British during the War of 1812, they raised lanterns over the tree-tops to confuse the attacking ships. Thinking they were seeing ship masts in the early morning hours, the British fired



Tim Fadden

Antietam National Battlefield at Sharpsburg is the site of the bloodiest day of the Civil War.

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their cannonballs over the town, saving it from destruction.


Visitors can relive the past with a visit to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, home of the circa-1879 Hooper Straight Lighthouse. Museumgoers can watch boatbuilders in action here, too. If shopping or art galleries are on the list, there are lots of lovely places along Talbot Street to browse.

Solomons

At the southern tip of Calvert County, Solomons—about an hour's drive from Washington—is a lovely island village with a sailboat-dotted waterfront. There are two lighthouses open year-round to explore. One of them, the Drum Point Lighthouse, is located on the grounds of the Calvert Marine Museum in an area where ancient fossils have been discovered in the cliffs. Other attractions include an oyster house to tour and the Solomons Island Winery. Solomons also offers great water sports like jet skiing, kayaking and fishing.

Tilghman Island

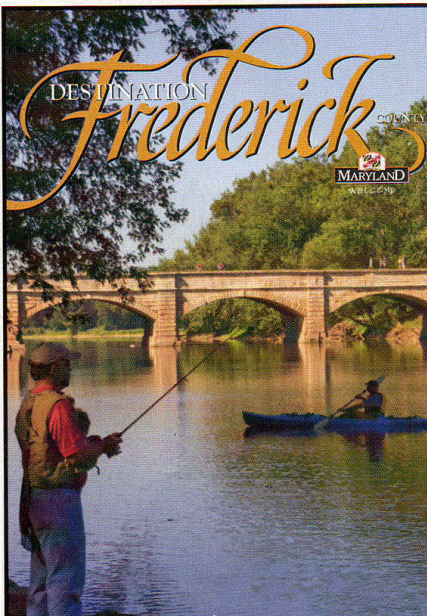
Called the pearl of Chesapeake Bay, Tilghman Island is accessible by a drawbridge just minutes from St. Michaels. Visitors will find an unspoiled, picturesque fishing village that also offers shopping and fine restaurants. The Inn at Knapp's Narrows Marina, overlooking a lovely inlet, is the perfect spot for watching sunsets and sailboats.

These 10 destinations are just a taste of what's available in Maryland. Adventurous travelers will find even more to suit their fancy. 

Tourist information:

Maryland: 800/639-3526;
www.visitmaryland.org
Cambridge: www.tourdorchester.org
Cumberland: www.mdmountainside.com
Deep Creek Lake: www.garrettchamber.com
Ellicott City: www.visithowardcounty.com
Frederick: www.visitfrederick.org
Hagerstown: www.marylandmemories.org
St. Michaels: www.tourtalbot.org
Solomons: www.ecalvert.com
Tilghman Island: www.tilghmanisland.com
Maryland Wine: www.marylandwine.com

For directions with AAA's TripTik travel planner, visit AAA.com/directions. See page 31 for AAA-rated hotels.



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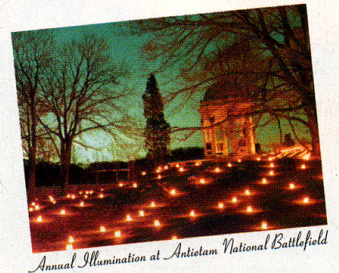
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