

Road Trips Series (1 of 3): Destinations within 1-50 Miles of Bel Air

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□ One of the best parts about living in Maryland is the opportunity to explore so many family-friendly places without traveling very far.

Here are some recommendations for fun trips within a 50-mile radius of Bel Air:

Hiking/Outdoors

Ma and Pa Heritage Trail – Bel Air

Bel Air boasts a great, family-friendly hiking path perfect for hiking, picnics, and bike rides. The trail is made up of three sections, with the Bel Air section only 1.9 miles. The trail is well maintained, with access to water fountains and restrooms. A map of the trails and more details are available here:

<http://www.mapatrail.org>

Susquehanna State Park (13 miles)

If you like to mountain bike or fish, this is your park. Susquehanna State Park also boasts several historic sites perfect for exploring.

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/susquehanna.aspx>

Gunpowder Falls State Park (20 miles)

One of Maryland's largest state parks, featuring more than 120 miles of trails, protected state wildlands, historic sites, fishing, and canoeing/kayaking streams, plus a swimming beach, and a marina. The park is divided into six main areas, each with trails to explore.

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/gunpowder.aspx>

Elk Neck State Forest (28 miles)

In addition to camping, fishing, and boating, Elk Neck State Forest boasts the Turkey Point Lighthouse, which offers sweeping views of the Chesapeake Bay.

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/elkneck.aspx>

Museums and Historical Sites

Hays House Museum – Bel Air

For history buffs, Harford County boasts the Hays House Museum, a full-scale replica of a home during the Federal Period (1788-1825). You can explore the museum to get a feel for 18th and early 19th-century life in Harford County, and enjoy the many events that bring a historical interpretation to life.

<http://www.harfordhistory.org/hayesHouse.php>

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum (16 miles)

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is a fun destination for anyone interested in learning a bit about a special part of Chesapeake Bay culture. Coming up: the annual Fish, Fowl, and Folk Festival on August 6!

<http://www.decoymuseum.com>

Havre de Grace Walking Tour (16 miles)

While you're in Havre de Grace, check out the 3-mile long self-guided walking tour to learn more about this historic town. The trail highlights marinas, parks, trails, and historic buildings.

<http://www.explorehavredegrace.com/walkingtour/>

Arts and Entertainment

Aberdeen Ironbirds (12 miles)

Do you like baseball? Have any budding little leaguers in the family? With ticket prices ranging from just \$11-27, Minor League Baseball is a bargain for the whole family!

<http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t488>

The Walters Art Museum – Baltimore (29 miles)

There are many places to explore in the city of Baltimore. One of our favorites is The Walters Art Museum because it truly has something for everyone. Admission is free, and the Walters boasts a world-class art collection, plus a Family Art Center playroom for kids of all ages.

www.thewalters.org

Wilmington Riverfront (50 miles)

Don't forget to check out one of the best small cities on the east coast – Wilmington, Delaware! Just about 50 miles from Bel Air, Downtown Wilmington is full of opportunities to explore art, entertainment, good food, and nature. Head to the 1.3 mile Wilmington Riverfront, and explore the Wilmington Children's Museum, Brandywine Zoo, and The Delaware Art Museum, along with many restaurants and breweries, and beautiful parks. www.visitwilmingtonde.com

In the coming weeks, we will have two more blog posts outlining great summer destinations a little further away from Bel Air. Keep an eye out for them! If you decide to take any of these adventures, let us know what you think in the comments below. We hope you are having a great summer so far, stay cool and be safe!



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