

# Five fabulous fall trips\_The Baltimore Sun



(JED KIRSCHBAUM, Baltimore Sun / November 9, 2006)

The days are shorter, the air is crisp and the landscape has turned to amber. It can mean only one thing: its autumn in the Mid-Atlantic. And with it comes an opportune time to travel. After all, the crowds are down, prices are on the cheap and the scenery can't be beat. Just about every destination is hosting a fall celebration of some kind or another, beckoning travelers to get outdoors and enjoy the weather while it lasts.

"Fall is a delightful time to travel in Maryland. Daytime temperatures in the mid-60s to lower 70s combined with low humidity create perfect conditions for outdoor activities such as hiking and biking - with the added bonus of viewing colorful fall foliage while on the trails," says Margot Amelia, executive director of the Maryland Office of Tourism. "Additionally, fall is considered to be a 'shoulder season' in several Maryland regions so visitors can expect less crowds and lower prices at many venues while still being able to fully enjoy all the amenities." So get out and enjoy the natural beauty of the season. Try a new destination or visit an old favorite. If you can't quite decide, here are a few suggestions within driving distance from Baltimore.

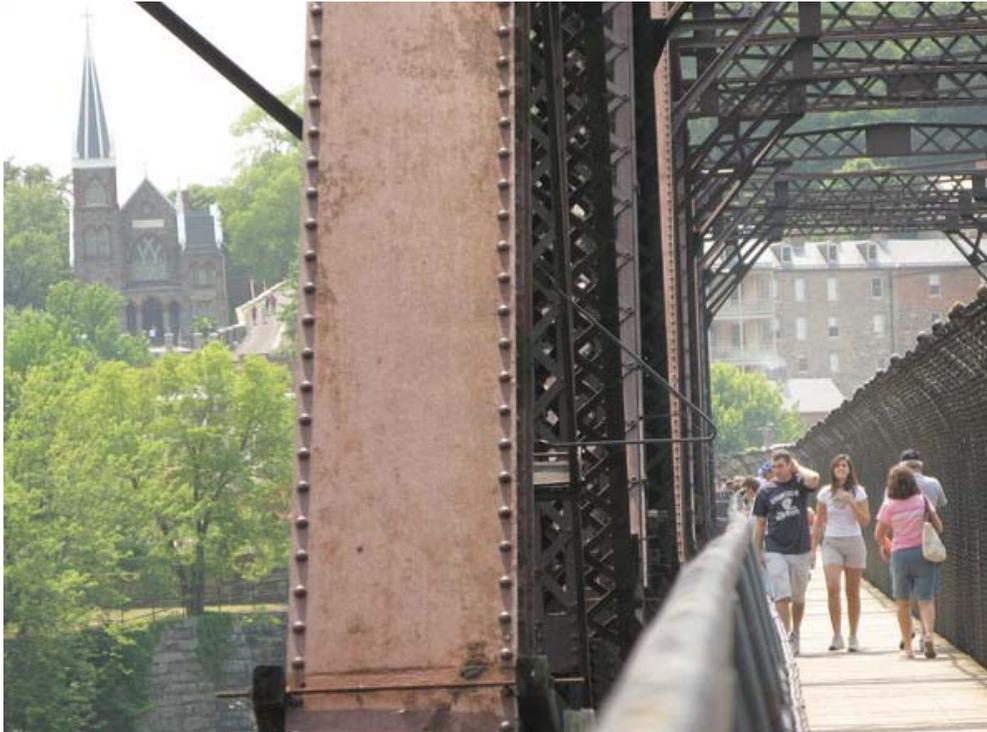
- Nancy Jones-Bonbrest, *Special to The Baltimore Sun*



## 1. Cumberland, Maryland

( AMY DAVIS, Baltimore Sun / September 29, 2005 )

Small-town charm meets mountain scenery, and what better time of the year than now to enjoy both? This destination offers the state's first Certified Heritage Area near the terminus of the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal, while the town's historic district boasts an impressive collection of mid-19th century and early-20th century architecture. **What to see:** Cumberland is the western terminus of the 184.5-mile C&O Canal Towpath, a well-kept pathway for hikers, bikers and horseback riders. It also connects to the 150-mile Great Allegheny Passage, allowing ambitious bikers to travel from Pittsburgh to Washington via both trails.



## 2. Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

(DAVID HOBBY, Baltimore Sun / July 6, 2007)

If you want an abundance of history with your autumn scenery, then Harpers Ferry is your place. Located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, this town will commemorate the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid and what many historians consider as "the first shots of the American Civil War."

**What to see:** Harpers Ferry National Historical Park spans 2,300 acres and reaches into three states, with the focal point being the town of Harpers Ferry. Stroll through town and take in the historic buildings, museums, guided tours and shops.



## 2. Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

(DAVID HOBBY, Baltimore Sun / July 6, 2007)

**What to do:** For adventurous hikers, there is the arduous Maryland Heights Trail that towers almost 1,500 feet above the rivers with amazing views of the town and rivers. If you're short on time or not ready to spend the day hiking, take a drive up to the Historic Hilltop House Hotel. Although it's closed for restoration, it still offers a striking view. Antietam National Battlefield is a short drive and worth the trip. In the evening, try taking the ghost tour through the town of Harpers Ferry offered by O Be Joyfull Historical Tours and Entertainment.

**Where to stay:** There are several bed and breakfasts to choose from, including the Jackson Rose Bed and Breakfast and Harpers Ferry Guest House. If you prefer a hotel, there's also a Comfort Inn and Quality Hotel Conference Center.

**When to go:** Oct. 16 marks the official anniversary of John Brown's raid at Harpers Ferry, and West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland are all contributing to celebrate the event. Beginning Friday, continuous programs are planned including living history presentations, special exhibits, tours and a lantern-lit walk of Harpers Ferry.

**Information:** [hello-wv.com](http://hello-wv.com)



### 3. Natural Bridge, Virginia

(Courtesy of The Natural Bridge of Virginia)

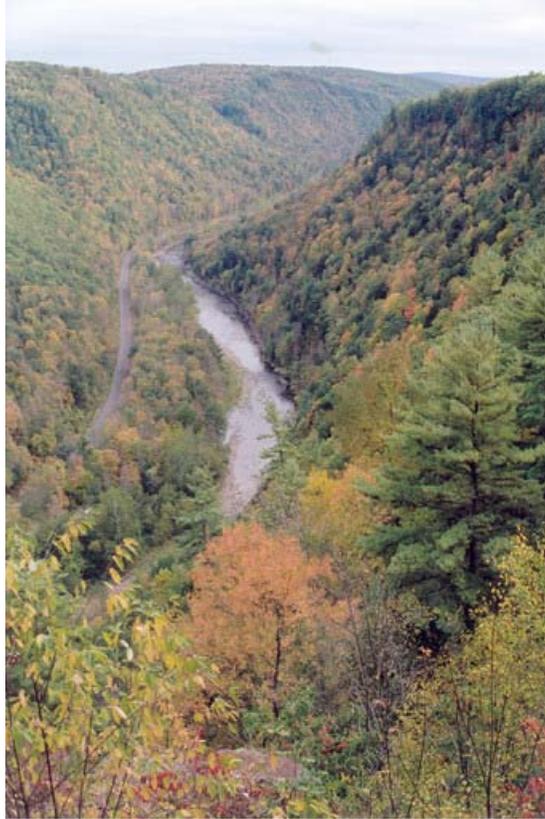
Come see breathtaking natural wonders set amid Virginia's beautiful Shenandoah Valley for a fall getaway sure to impress. Visit the Natural Bridge and Natural Bridge Caverns while taking in spectacular vistas along the nearby Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive.

**What to see:** In nearby Lexington, the Toy Museum at Natural Bridge includes a collection of 45,000 different toys spanning almost 300 years. Or take in local history at the Natural Bridge Wax Museum with figurines and scenes on display and an opportunity to see the on-site factory and studio.

**What to do:** Visit the Monacan Indian Village, where you can learn about the Woodland tribe's traditional culture and activities, including canoe-building, hide-tanning, mat-weaving and more.

**Where to stay:** The Natural Bridge Hotel offers dining and package deals.

**When to go:** Any time is a good time to visit this destination, but when you add beautiful fall foliage to the package, it makes it a must-see. **Information:** [virginia.org](http://virginia.org)



#### **4. Pine Creek Gorge in Pennsylvania**

(Photo courtesy Tioga County Visitors Bureau / October 6, 2009)

If it's the rugged outdoors you crave, then try Pine Creek Gorge. Known as the Grand Canyon of the East and located in northern Pennsylvania, this destination includes a 45-mile gorge with plenty to offer for the outdoor enthusiast. Remote hiking, biking, horseback riding and camping are found here this time of year and fall foliage is at its peak.

**What to see:** Loads of scenic views from public trails that include Overlook Trail, Colton Rim Trail, Barbour Rock Trail, the Turkey Path, Pine Creek Gorge Rail Trail or the West Rim Trail.

**What to do:** There is a driving tour the length of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon from Wellsboro to the West Rim, ending in Cedar Run. As the weather turns cold and snow starts to cover the ground, there's 177 miles of snowmobile trails within Tioga State Forest, which surrounds

the gorge.

**Where to stay:** The Sherwood Motel or the Penn Well Hotel and Lodge in the town of Wellsboro or at Pettecote Junction Campground, Kenshire Kampsite or Canyon County Campground.

**When to go:** If you're planning on camping, make sure you travel before the end of October. After that many campgrounds close for the winter.

**Information:** [visitpa.com](http://visitpa.com)



## 5. Chestertown, Maryland

(ALGERINA PERNA, Baltimore Sun / January 22, 2006)

Autumn visits to Maryland's Eastern Shore, where soybean crops turn into fields of gold, should be a yearly trek. And with charming shops, mouth-watering restaurants and a "walk-able" downtown all nestled along the banks of the Chester River; Chestertown should be high on the go-to list.

**What to see:** Explore downtown and enjoy the historic architecture, specialty shopping, galleries and a waterfront promenade. Don't forget to see what Washington College has going on while you visit. The college recently launched its "History on the Waterfront" one-hour walking tour on Fridays and Saturdays. The audio-guided tour allows participants to stroll along the historic waterfront and listen to music, re-enactments and firsthand accounts of life in the Colonial port.



## 5. Chestertown, Maryland

(LINDA COAN, Baltimore Sun / September 11, 1997)

**What to do:** Chesapeake Farms, a 3,300-acre wildlife and agricultural research and demonstration site, includes a self-guided driving tour through the landscape where visitors can discover farm ponds, sunflower fields, rabbit fields, marsh and wetlands.

**Where to stay:** The town boasts many bed and breakfasts to choose from, including the White Swan Tavern, the Great Oak Manor and the Brampton Bed and Breakfast Inn.

**When to go:** Chestertown will be the hot spot from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1 for the Schooner Sultana's ninth annual Downrigging Weekend. The event marks the beginning of "downrigging" for many of the region's tall ships and traditional sailing vessels. Films, demonstrations, cocktail parties and public cruises are all offered during the extended weekend.