
MARYLAND AT A GLANCE

NAME

Maryland was named in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria (1609-1666), wife of Charles I of England and daughter of Henry IV of France.

STATE CAPITAL

Annapolis: The original capital was St. Mary's City. In 1694, the General Assembly designated Anne Arundel Town the capital. After Queen Mary's death in December 1694, Anne Arundel Town was renamed Annapolis for Queen Mary's sister and heiress apparent, Princess Anne. The government moved to Annapolis in February 1694/5, when the site was still known as Anne Arundel Town.

STATEHOOD

April 28, 1788, the seventh state.

GOVERNMENT

Executive. The Governor, elected by popular vote for a four-year term, is the chief executive of the State. Fifteen cabinet-level executive departments oversee most State agencies.

Legislative. The General Assembly, Maryland's bicameral legislature, consists of a 47-member Senate and a 141-member House of Delegates. As of January 1991, the Senate has 38 Democrats and 9 Republicans; the House of Delegates includes 116 Democrats and 25 Republicans. Annually, the General Assembly convenes to enact laws on the second Wednesday in January for a 90-day session.

Judicial. The Judiciary consists of four court divisions: the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, the Circuit Courts, and the District Court.

Local. Of the 50 states, Maryland is among those with the fewest number of local governments. Local government exists in Maryland's 23 counties, 154 municipal corporations (including Baltimore City), and special taxing districts.

LOCATION

Highway distance from Central Maryland (in miles): Boston, 392; Chicago, 668; New York City, 196; Philadelphia, 96; Pittsburgh, 218; Richmond, 143; Washington, DC, 37.

DISTANCES

Longest east-west, 198.6 miles—Fairfax Stone to Delaware Line; north-south, 125.5 miles—

Pennsylvania line to Virginia line at Smith Point on south shore mouth of Potomac River; shortest north-south, 1.9 miles—Pennsylvania line to south bank of Potomac River near Hancock; farthest points northwest corner to southeast corner at Atlantic Ocean, 254.7 miles.

AREA

Land	9,837 sq. miles
Inland Water	623 sq. miles
Chesapeake Bay	1,726 sq. miles
Total	12,186 sq. miles

Ranks 42nd among the states.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

Divided into three provinces with progressively higher altitudes from east to west: Coastal Plain province extends from Atlantic Ocean to Fall Line, a natural line running from Delaware boundary, around head of Chesapeake Bay, through Baltimore, and southwest to Washington, where streams drop to lower land level; Piedmont or "Foothill" province from Fall Line to base of Catoctin Mountains; Appalachian province from base of Catoctin Mountains to western boundary of State. Mean elevation, 350 feet; maximum elevation, 3,360 feet at Backbone Mountain.

CLIMATE

Generally moderate, varies from mild to hot in summer, and in winter from moderate in the east and south to very cold in the western mountains. Average annual rainfall: 41.82 inches. Average seasonal snowfall: 21.6 inches, ranging from 10 inches on the southern Eastern Shore to 110 inches in Garrett County. Average annual temperature: 55.1 degrees Fahrenheit, with high temperatures in July, the warmest month, averaging in the low 80s and the low temperatures in January, the coldest month, averaging in the low 30s. Duration of the freeze-free period averages 185 days, ranging from 130 days in Garrett County to 230 days in the southern Chesapeake Bay area.

FOREST AREA

More than 2,798,000 acres, or approximately 44% of the land surface. Chief forest products are lumber, pulpwood, and piling. Nine State forests, one State forest nursery, and four demonstration forests cover 132,944 acres.