

with many in "Mound City" near the city of Chillicothe, home of the annual Tecumseh! outdoor pageant. Visit www.nps.gov/hocu or www.tecumseh-drama.com for more information.

West Virginia offers a scenic drive through the Allegheny Mountains, which offer great skiing in the winter and world-famous whitewater rafting in the spring and summer. Midway through the state, in the heart of what is known as "Mountaineer Country" is the small town of Grafton, home to two distinctive claims to fame. It is the birthplace of Mother's Day, founded by Miss Anna Jarvis in honor of her mother. Visit www.mothersdayshrine.com or www.wvtourism.com for more information.

In Virginia, Route 50 takes you through what is known as the "Hunt Country." Small towns including Middleburg can make you feel as if you've gone back in time. Middleburg offers not only foxhunting and wineries, but also many antique shops and

restaurants in its old brick buildings—not bad for a town that's only a few blocks long. Further east, you'll drive through the Manassas area, where area residents once came out to watch the battles of the Civil War from atop the bluffs. Visit www.middleburgonline.com and www.nps.gov/mana for more information.

U.S. 50 goes straight through the heart of our nation's capital, offering a glimpse at famous landmarks including the Smithsonian and the Lincoln Memorial. Stop for a day or two and check out all the attractions—all national museums and even the zoo are free! Visit www.washington.org for more information.

East of the District, Route 50 cuts across Maryland to the Atlantic Ocean at Ocean City. Along the way,

Annapolis—home of the Naval Academy—makes for a fun and interesting stop. Stroll down the city's old brick sidewalks and sample some crabcakes at one of the city's many seafood restaurants, or just watch the sailboats float by in "America's Sailing Capital." For more information, visit www.ci.annapolis.md.us.



Maryland flags on Francis Street
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No matter what your route, there are fascinating sights to see and quirky points of interest. One great website to use to plan your trip is www.roadtripusa.com, which shows back-road routes throughout the country—from Route 66 to the Appalachian Trail. Other good sites to visit include www.roadtripamerica.com and www.milebymile.com. Even the weather channel offers a look at weather conditions on America's scenic drives at www.weather.com/activities/driving/scenicdrives.

Enjoy your trip! ●

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