lies a stretch of rolling farmland that is steeped in history and inextricably linked to the Chesapeake Bay. The long fingers of land between broad, navigable waterways shaped the lives of the first inhabitants, the Europeans and Africans who came later and those who live there now. Drive down winding, hand-dug roads that have been worn below the level of the tree roots and you'll see landscapes that look much as they did in Colonial days. Eighteenth century plantation houses that would be museums anywhere else are private homes here. Horses bred to race at Churchill Downs, Pimlico and Belmont gallop across fields surrounded by wooden fences. And weathered tobacco barns seem to appear around every third curve, testimony to the crop that was the basis of this region's economy for four centuries. Using the routes and special interest codes on this map, you can trace a significant part of Southern Anne Arundel County's history and experience its connection with the lives of people today.

Visit Historic London Town where archaeologists are uncovering the lost colonial tobacco port and take a tour of an upscale Georgian tavern, reconstructed colonial buildings and woodland gardens. Watermen continue to work the bay from the villages of Galesville, Shady Side and Deale, where steamboats once brought vacationers from the cities and returned with the products of farms and packing houses. On a hill above the crescent of Herring Bay are the remains of Herrington, a town that was created by the Colonial legislature as a checkpoint for tobacco exports but faded away. The tobacco is nearly gone now and the workboats and packing houses have taken a back seat to pleasure boats and waterfront restaurants, but local residents are committed to preserving their legacy.

Experience the life of a 19th century waterman at the Captain Avery Museum in Shady Side; enjoy the quiet of Galesville’s Quaker Burying Ground; learn about the educational innovations in its 1920s era Rosenwald school for African Americans; then wander past the Victorian houses on Main Street to the Heritage Museum.

In Southern Anne Arundel County, South County to those who live there, reminders of a rich history are never far away, and the present is tied to the past by the land and water that shaped lives then and still shapes them today.
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The "Roots & Tides" Byway continues into Calvert County! The Byway continues south on MD 261 into neighboring Calvert County, visiting North Beach, Chesapeake Beach, and Plum Point. For more information about the Byway, visit www.sho.maryland.gov and click on "Scenic Byways"