

■ driving range





TRUMPETER SWAN ANTIQUES | Easton

# Treasure Hunt

Where to shop for antiques and oddities on Maryland's Eastern Shore—even in the off-season.

BY JENNIFER BARGER  
PHOTOS BY STEPHEN WALKER

English settlers were living, sailing and slurping oysters on the Eastern Shore of Maryland as early as the 1630s. Signs of those past lives dot the bucolic towns on the Chesapeake Bay's Delmarva Peninsula, from the 1684 Third Haven Meeting House in Easton and the 1741 Pemberton Hall in Salisbury (now a museum) to rows

of candy-colored Victorian cottages in St. Michaels.

Since it's been inhabited for so long, it's not surprising that the area bustles with antiques stores, vintage shops and a well-known auction house. They're all repositories for treasures and trinkets left behind or passed along, and many are open year-round.

"It's fun and relaxing to antique on the Eastern Shore, and I never know what I'll find," says D.C. resident Amber Petry, who furnished her weekend house in Oxford, Maryland, with used furniture and accessories from area shops. "I've bought country chairs with slats and whitewashed tables. And if you want duck decoys, this is your place."

Goods are often cheaper and more unusual than what you'll encounter on the mainland, and there's a nautical flair to many items. Here's our guide on where and how to hunt for furniture, jewelry and other finds, plus tips on where to stay and eat along the way.

DIXON'S CRUMPTON AUCTION | Crumpton



## Crumpton

In the tiny town of Crumpton, **Dixon's Crumpton Auction** (2017 Dudley Corners Road; 410-928-3006; [crumptonauctions.com](http://crumptonauctions.com)) sells about 600 items an hour most Wednesdays throughout the year. If you've bought a farm table or midcentury modern lamp at a D.C.-area vintage shop, chances are it came from here. That's because dealers up and down the East Coast snap up their stock at this auction. »



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THE GATZ HOME & GARDEN | St. Michaels

and the good design appeals to them," Hindman says.

On the outskirts of town, dozens of dealers hawk wares at **Foxwell's** antiques mall (7793 Ocean Gateway; 410-820-9705). The clean, cavernous space is stuffed with fab aqua Atomic-era cocktail glasses (\$32 for eight), wing chairs in multiple styles (a child-size model is \$350) and an outsize vintage books section.

### Royal Oak

At eclectic, shabby chic **Oak Creek Sales** (25939 Royal Oak Road; 410-745-3193; oakcreeksales.com), dozens of wooden chairs are suspended from the roof and walls of a barn that's seemingly overseen by a cowboy hat-wearing mannequin. The multi-building, crammed-to-the-rafters vintage store offers up rusty garden urns, 1950s lamps, and old tomes like the unmissable *Giant Book of Snakes*. "Anything fun, funky or unusual will sell," says Julie Andrews, the store's buyer. "Plus, people love anything nautical—ship wheels, mermaids, paintings of boats." Just expect to dig around a bit.

### St. Michaels

Bistros, ice cream shops and preppy

dressed locals throng Talbot Street, the main drag of St. Michaels, the Eastern Shore's tony, historic town on the Miles River. Antique and vintage stores shine, too, particularly estate jewelry temple **Guilford & Co.** (101 N. Talbot St.; 410-745-5544; guilfordandcompany.com), where gleaming glass cabinets hold baubles ranging from Edwardian sapphire engagement rings to chunky gold chains from the disco days (from about \$1,400).

A few blocks away, weathered wooden floors and a blue antique French canoe summon a minimalist, seafaring vibe at the newish **1 O.A.K.** (202B. S. Talbot St.; 410-745-8032). Finds range from a vintage pine "Rum Runner" sign (\$250) and broken-in leather club chairs to a 1920s cedar dog carrier with a built-in water bowl (\$1,900). "You could put glass on top for a cool coffee table," owner Joe Morton says.

Other stops: the snug **Antiques on Talbot** (211 N. Talbot St.; 410-745-5208), with vintage oyster cans (\$25 and up), granny-chic china cups and duck decoys; and **The Gatz Home & Garden** (1210 S. Talbot St.; 410-745-3700; thegatz.com). The Gatz, a direct importer, stuffs a 30,000-square-foot warehouse with French, English and Asian antiques, including castle-size

armoires, gilt-trimmed French bed frames and nearly life-size religious statues. A vibrantly painted, 5-foot-tall plaster figure of St. George slaying a dragon dates from the early 20th century. It would look regal in a great room or dining space.

### Tilghman Island

Over a drawbridge 11 miles southwest of St. Michaels, sleepy Tilghman Island feels like a place to curl up with a good read, maybe on a hammock or in a deck chair. Good thing that new and used volumes pack **Crawfords Nautical Books** (5782 Tilghman Island Road; 410-886-2230; crawfordsnautical.com), a circa-1918 red brick bank building with a tin ceiling.

"People ride their bikes here and stop for a novel or history book," says Susan Crawford, who owns the shop with her husband, Gary. They're offering about 9,000 volumes on sailing, fish and naval history, plus modern fiction. On a recent browse, interesting titles included Basil Lubbock's 1921 *The Colonial Clippers* and a 1969 guide to canoe camping with a cryptic inscription that reads: "To Tim, in memory of a wild canoe trip and a great weekend, Sherry, 4/23/77." »