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# GROUPS

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## MARYLAND Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway, which was designated as one of the best driving tours in the nation in 2009 by the Federal Highway Administration, currently consists of a one hundred twenty-five-mile driving tour through Dorchester and Caroline Counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It takes visitors on a fascinating journey to sites related to Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad and commemorates the years before the American Civil War when Tubman and others risked their lives to end slavery. Next year will be a monumental one for the Harriet Tubman Under-

ground Railroad Byway. March 10, 2013, marks the one hundredth anniversary of Tubman's death, and numerous events are being planned to mark the occasion. The Byway's sites, sidetracks, and water trails offer more than two dozen points of interest, from the marshes of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and places where Tubman lived and worked as an enslaved child to the historic towns of Cambridge and Denton. The rural nature of Maryland's Eastern Shore has preserved the viewsheds so that those traveling the byway will see what Harriet saw on her journey to freedom. Visitors

to the historic towns along the byway, including Cambridge and Denton, will find charming downtowns dotted with restaurants. In addition to already having local tour operators that provide Harriet Tubman and Underground Railroad related group tours along the byway, the Dorchester and Caroline Offices of Tourism recently partnered to offer a Tour Guide Training program. There are now certified step-on guides that will work with the group tour market to create custom offerings, and conference planners will have the option of utilizing a step-on guide. Although the byway can

be driven in a day, visitors may wish to extend their experience. The region has a variety of lodging accommodations, including the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, the Best Western in Denton, Martinak and Tuckahoe State Park in Caroline County, and Holiday Park Campground in Greensboro. The Hyatt Regency's facilities offer the quintessential location for meeting planners looking for conference space. Those looking for assistance planning a group tour can contact the Dorchester County Office of Tourism at 410-228-1000 or [info@harriet-tubmanbyway.org](mailto:info@harriet-tubmanbyway.org). 

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## NEW YORK Visit Long Island's Gold Coast

Just a short ride from New York City on Long Island's north shore is the actual location for the uninhibited wealth and opulence immortalized in F. Scott Fitzgerald's famed book, *The Great Gatsby*. This classic American tale of Roaring 1920s era decadence is set for an exciting film re-release in mid-2013. More than a dozen estates on Long Island have been converted to public use. For a true delight come stroll the 409-acre grounds of Planting Fields Arboretum, wander through the green houses featuring many rare and beautiful species, and take a mansion tour to see the amazing architecture. Old Westbury Gardens. A stately mansion contains eighteenth century furnishings and fine art inside, while the grounds boast lovely gardens. The Frick Estate/Nassau County Museum is a neo-Georgian mansion that houses the Nassau County Museum of Art, including ten galleries of world-class exhibitions. In addition

to mansion tours, the Vanderbilt Museum includes a world-class display of large game taxidermy, marine specimens, and a planetarium. Welwyn Nature Preserve/Holocaust Memorial and Education Center of Nassau County. This estate was just one of the many Pratt estates which formed the Pratt compound in Glen Cove. Charles Pratt, one of the founders of Standard Oil, settled in the area in 1890. Sagamore Hill is also known as the "Summer Whitehouse" of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt in Oyster Bay, New York City. Architects Lamb and Rich created this Queen Anne-style home in 1884-1887. It served as Theodore Roosevelt's Summer White House from 1902-1908. Or, for a truly memorable experience plan an overnight stay at Oheka Castle or Glen Cove Mansion. For more information visit the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau at [www.discoverlongisland.com](http://www.discoverlongisland.com). 