EXPLORE
Follow in Harriet Tubman’s footsteps as she escaped in 1849 and travel from Maryland’s Eastern Shore through Delaware to reach her final destination in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Explore authentic escape missions and discover how hundreds of men and women risked everything to pursue their freedom.
Chesapeake landscapes—extensive waterways, marshes, and woodlands—both helped and hindered freedom seekers.

HARRIET TUBMAN was a famous Underground Railroad conductor. Born Araminta Ross in Dorchester County, Maryland, she spent her early years in Bucktown on the farm of her owner, Edward Brodess.
After escaping, she made 13 trips back to the area and rescued at least 70 family members and friends from slavery.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD was a secret network of courageous people throughout the United States who broke the law to offer transportation, refuge, food, and comfort to escaping slaves during the 1700’s and early 1800’s. While it wasn’t literally a railroad, it was named symbolically after the new steam trains and used terms such as “passengers,” “depots,” and “conductors.”

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE
Download a companion audio guide for your tour from www.harriettubmanbyway.com, or access a free smartphone app by searching “Harriet Tubman Byway” in the Apple App Store or Google Play. Or you can access the tour at http://tubman.oncell.com. Alternatively, CDs can be purchased at the Dorchester Visitor Center. You will hear escape stories through the eyes of Harriet Tubman, her family and friends, Underground Railroad operatives, and slave owners.

Look for the tall Tubman Byway Markers to find byway sites along your journey.
Established in 2014, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park is a unit of the National Park Service. It was established to protect and interpret landscapes that were significant in Harriet Tubman’s life, many of which are practically unchanged since she lived here. Those landscapes include places associated with her early life in slavery and her escape in 1849, as well as rescues of her family and friends. One of those sites is the former home of Jacob Jackson, a free black farmer, who relayed a coded message from Tubman to her brothers, telling them she was coming to lead them to freedom. This site near Madison is currently accessible only via guided tours and programs. Plans are being made for future visitor services and access. Please call (410) 221-2290 for more information.

We recommend that you experience Tubman landscapes and the national historical park by taking the driving tour of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. The roadway connects sites that tell stories of the inhumanity of slavery, the desperation of escape, and the danger of assisting runaways.

Driving Tour Map

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