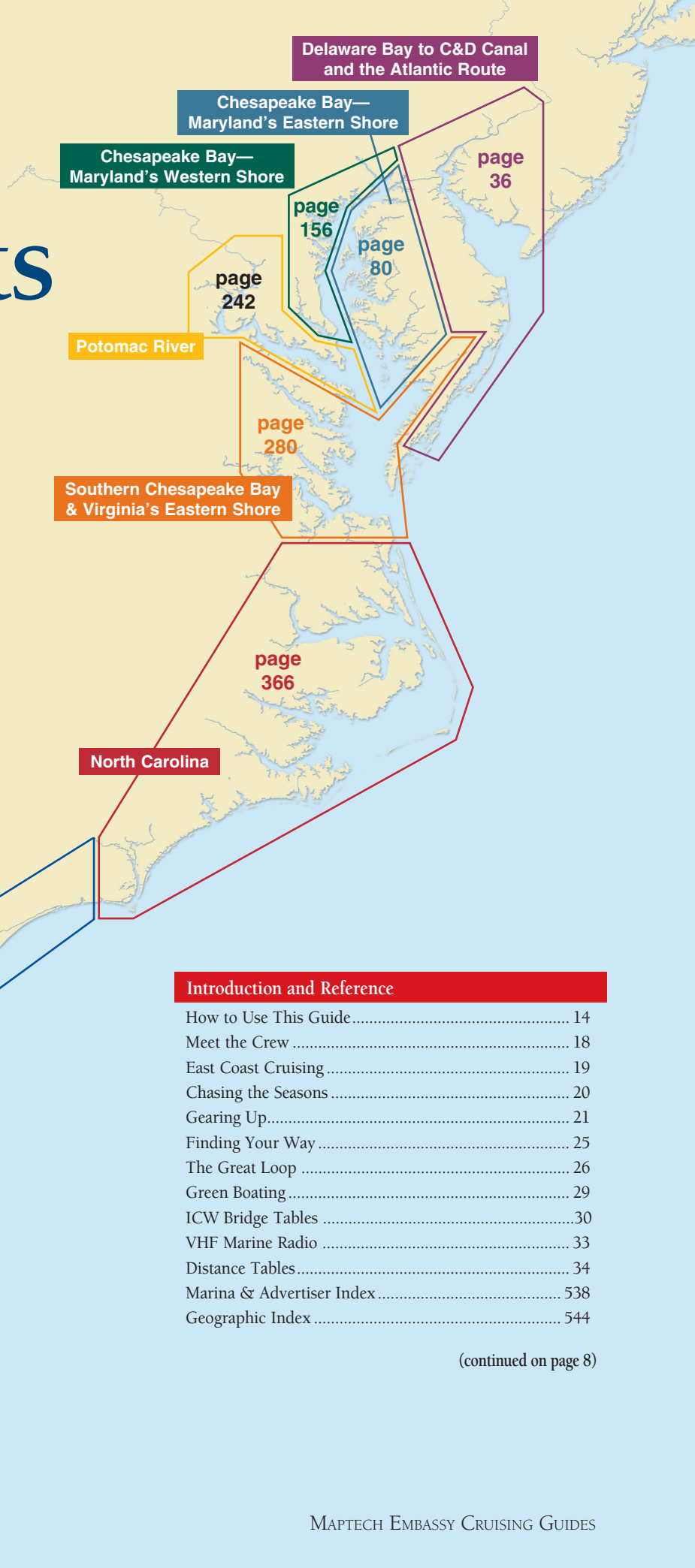


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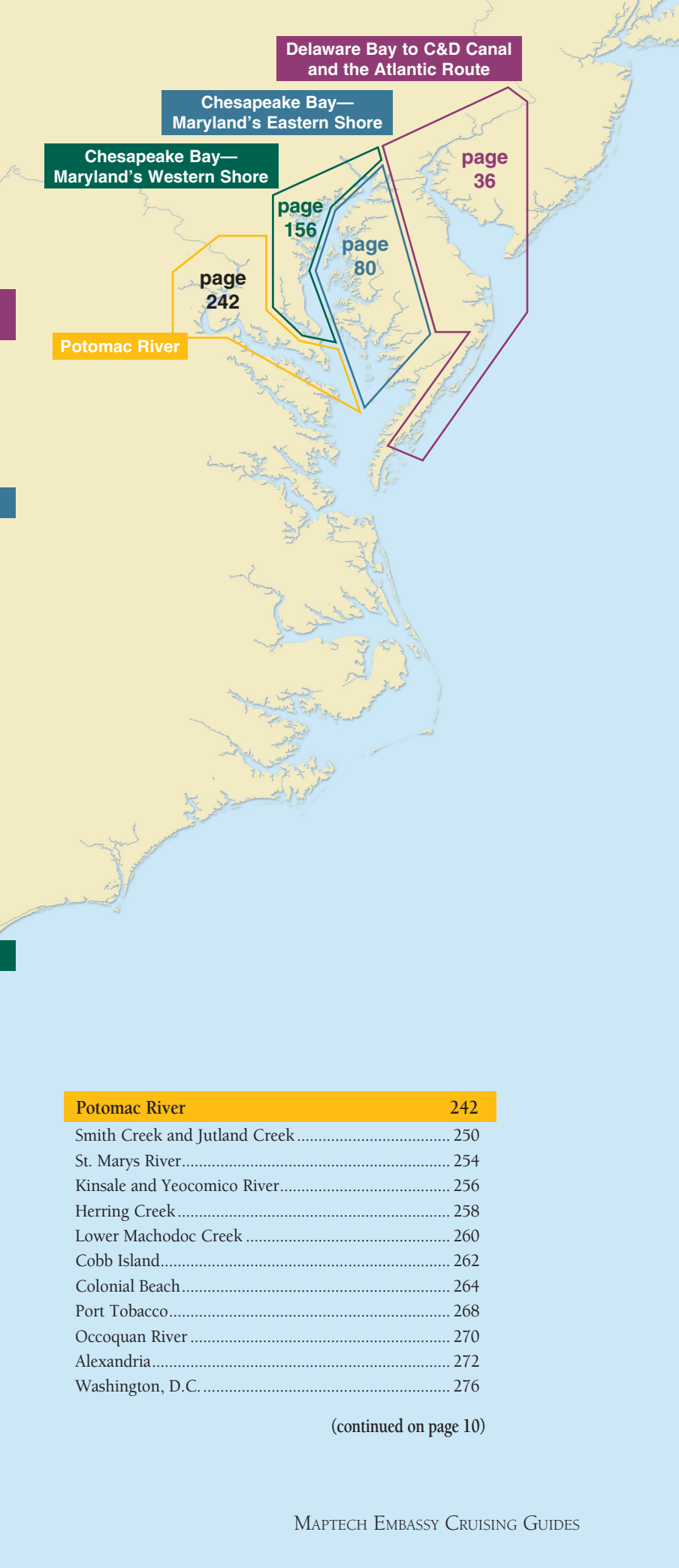
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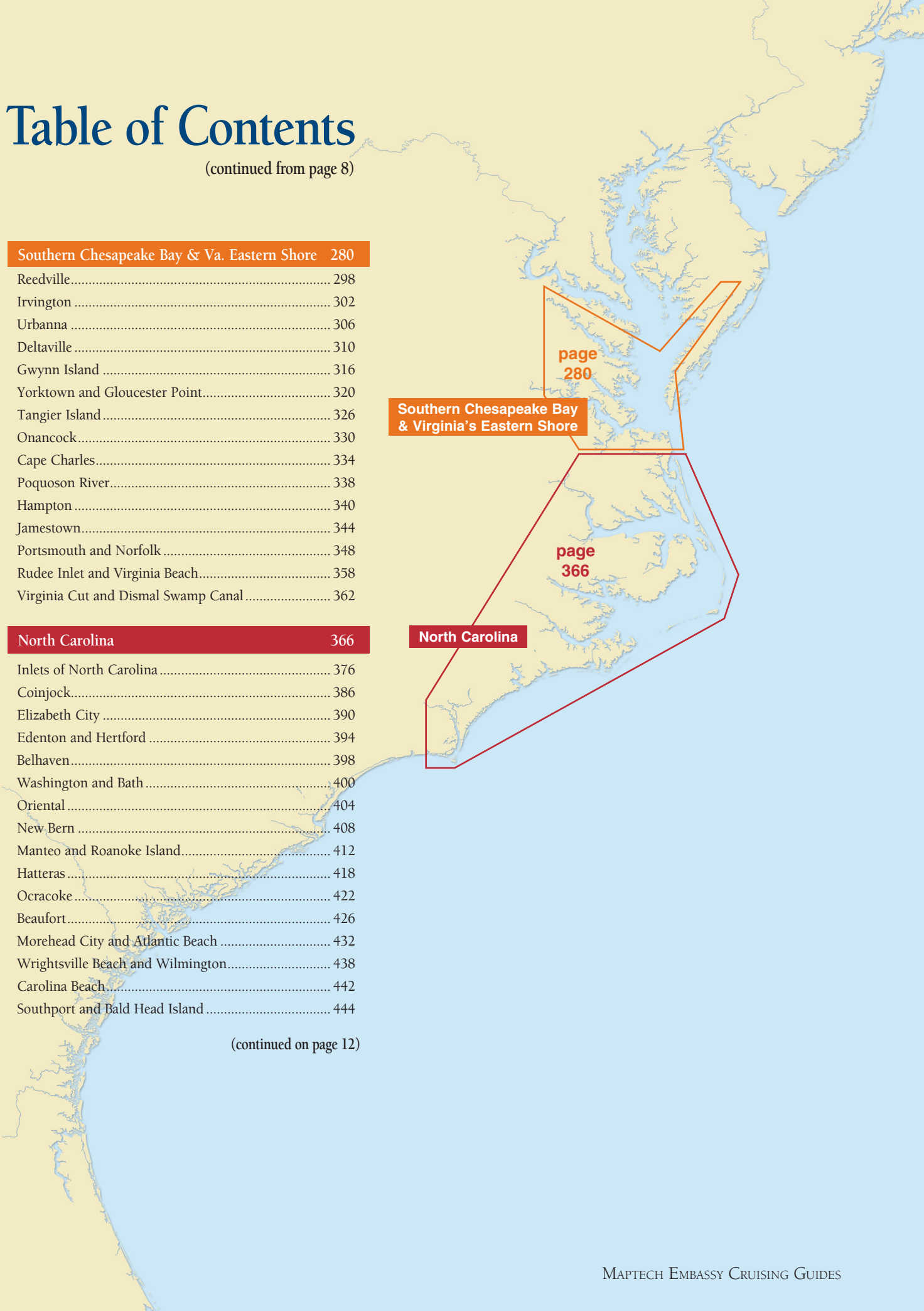
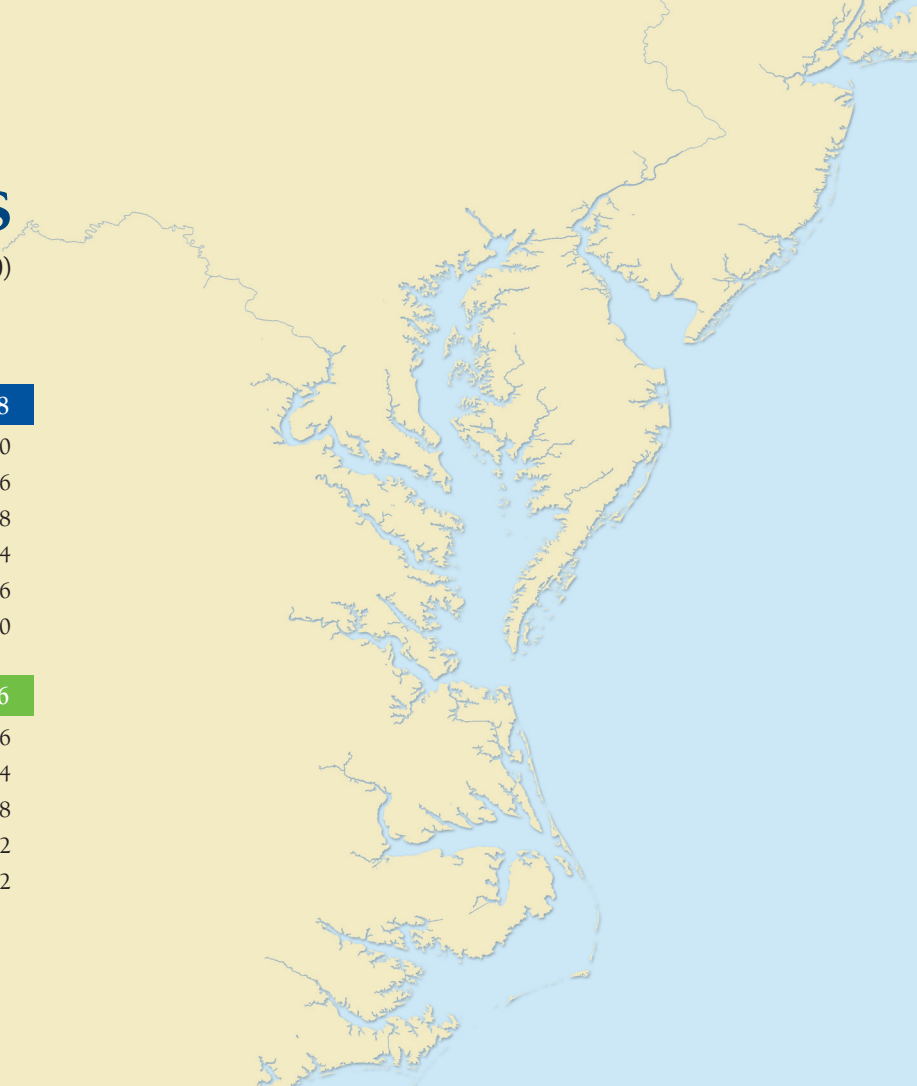


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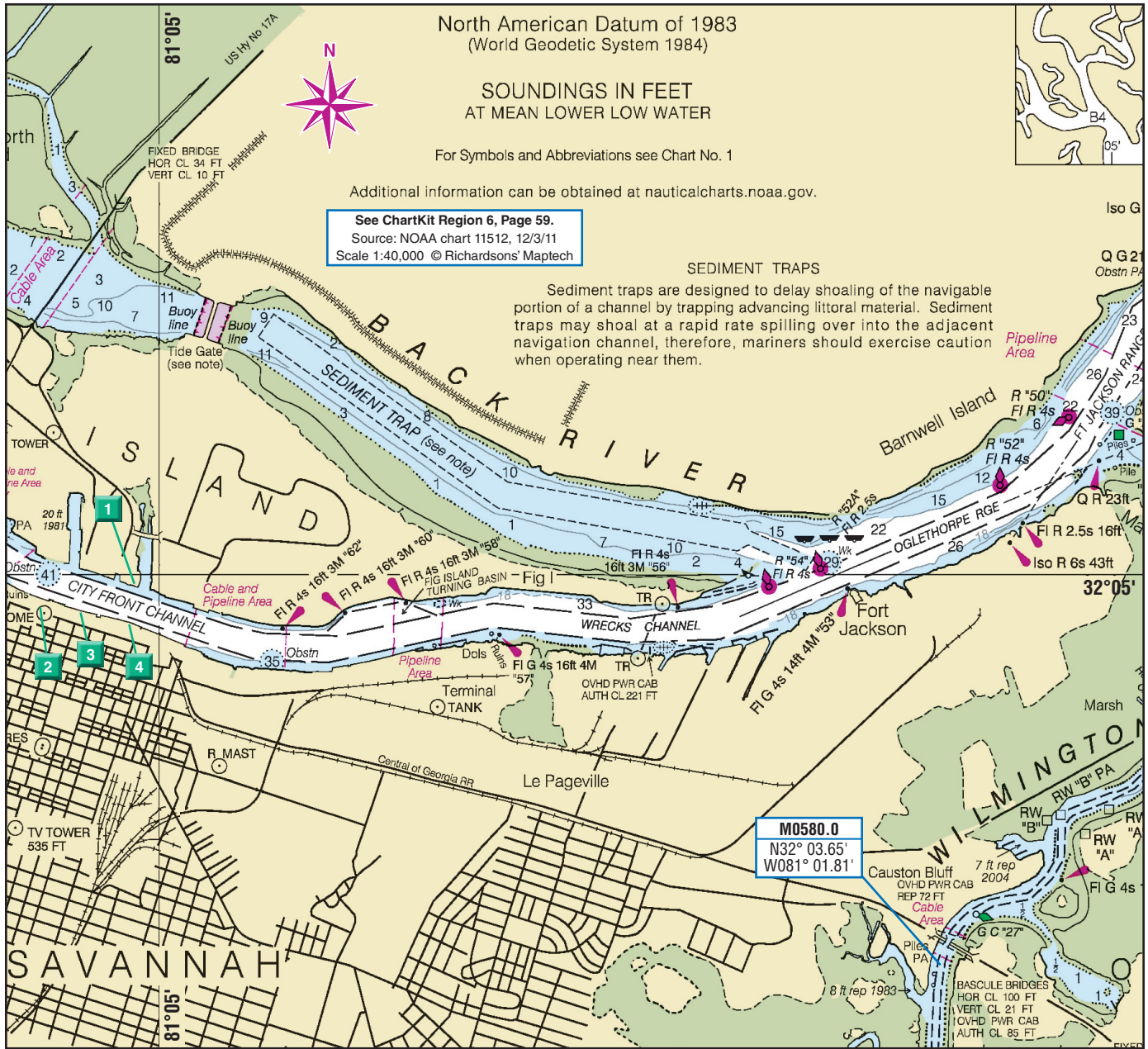
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Cruising north or south?
 Coverage continues in our East Coast Series
 spanning Canada's Passamaquoddy Bay
 to Mobile Bay, Alabama.



Savannah



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1	Westin Savannah Harbor Marina p.511	912-201-2021	16/68	Y/ 350 All ◆▲■200	I RS HP IS All
2	Hyatt Regency Dock	912-721-4654	Y/ 300	29/29 WC ◆▲100	I RS HP All All
3	River Street Dock	912-232-4252	Y/ 200	W ◆▲100	IR MV
4	River Street Market Place Dock	912-232-4252	Y/ 250	W ◆▲■100	R All All

Information in these listings is provided by the facilities themselves. An asterisk (*) indicates we have confirmed the facility's existence, but it did not respond to our request for updated information.

In 1733 the sailing vessel *Anne* landed on a bluff on the Savannah River. With General James Oglethorpe and 114 English settlers aboard and a land grant issued by King George II in hand, the British were met by a contingent of the Yamacraw, a Native American tribe that had been living on the land for centuries. A subsequent sit-down between tribal leader Tomochichi and the immigrants was apparently amicable enough, and the city of Savannah resulted. Oglethorpe named the larger land area Georgia in honor of the king, with Savannah its capital.

Oglethorpe laid out the city in a grid, with homes, shops, and churches built around 24 squares, 21 of which survive today as charming pocket parks, with decorative fountains and benches shaded by moss-draped oaks. The British controlled the city during much of the Revolutionary War.

Just days before Christmas 1864, Major General William Tecumseh Sherman presented the captured city to President Abraham Lincoln. Sherman's campaign precipitated the beginning of the end of the Confederacy. Historians disagree on whether the city was spared because its residents were so gracious upon Sherman's arrival or because the Union had already won control of Southern ports and Confederate forces had withdrawn. At any rate, Savannah prospered economically into the late 1800s, and its population increased.

In the mid-1900s many of the city's historic buildings were demolished to accommodate increased vehicular traffic. But officials began to recognize the value of tourism, and preservation efforts took root. Gradually Savannah's image changed from what locals referred to as "the pretty lady with the dirty face" to an architectural gem. Savannah's historic district stretches from the river south to Forsyth Park with 1,200 historic buildings in a 2.5-square-mile area.

The city's modern face starred in John Berendt's bestseller *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, and the subsequent 1997 film. It depicts a cosmopolitan community populated by ghosts, voodoo, quirky alternative societal mores and off-beat characters.

Things to See and Do

A good first stop on any visit to Savannah should be the **Savannah Visitors Center** (912-944-0455) on Martin Luther King Boulevard, which shares space with the **Savannah History Museum** (912-238-1779) in a restored 1860 railroad shed at the edge of the historic district. Exhibits highlight Savannah's past in the museum and browse through the scores of brochures detailing tours and attractions around the city and its environs. Then, if you'd like a 90-minute



Savannah has scores of attractions in walking distance of the waterfront.

introduction to Savannah, you can hop aboard any one of the tours departing from the center.

Some 50 tour companies vie for attention in Savannah, offering everything from bus and trolley excursions to riverboat rides, horse-drawn carriage trips, and specialized walking tours to graveyards, ghost haunts, and Civil War sites. Most popular is the **Savannah Trolley Tour** (912-233-0083), based at 234 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Tour buses operate from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and you can hop on or off at any one of 14 stops, with the resulting freedom to explore the city in any order you wish.

If you'd prefer to explore on your own, Savannah is a great city to see on foot (be sure to pick up a free map at the visitors center) or you can catch a free **CAT (Chatham Area Transit)** shuttle (912-233-5767) for transport throughout the historic district. Look for the red CAT signs that mark each of the stops. **Bicycle Link** (912-233-9401) at 408 MLK Blvd. has rentals for the day or week.

Savannah has scores of historic attractions, but before you head to a museum or a restored home, walk the city streets and soak up the atmosphere in either or both of Savannah's liveliest neighborhoods—the waterfront and the City Market section.

River Street, which is paved with centuries-old cobblestones once used as ballast in the ships that sailed here, maintains its seafaring ambiance. The sailing ships are gone, but Savannah is the fifth-busiest container port in the nation. Tugboats, freighters, container ships, ferries, tour boats, and pleasure craft constantly ply the river. The street is lined with shops, restaurants, bars, and nightspots of all kinds housed in timeworn former cotton warehouses. You

Savannah

© MAPTECH/JAMES T. ABTS



Looking east over downtown Savannah.

can buy everything from postcards to original art and dine on anything from fried fish to the finest steaks and seafood. And don't miss the pralines. Several sweets shops offer free samples of fresh pralines and honey-dipped pecans that are irresistible.

Two blocks up from the waterfront, **City Market** (912-232-4903) at 219 West Bryan St., billed as the "Art and Soul" of Savannah, is abuzz with life, just as it has been since 1755 when farmers and fishermen began selling their products at an open market here. The merchandise has changed through the years, but 19th-century buildings, horse-drawn carriages, a pedestrian promenade, and sidewalk merchants keep its heritage alive, while boutiques,

art galleries, restaurants, and clubs make it one of the city's more trendy places. There's live music in the courtyard on most nights and a party-like ambiance.

Continue along River Street and you'll come to the statue of the Waving Girl, depicting Florence Martus, who lived with her brother at the Cockspar Lighthouse. As the story goes, in 1887 Martus fell in love with a sailor who asked her to marry him when he returned from his next trip to sea. As he set sail, she waved good-bye with her handkerchief. He was lost at sea, and for the next 45 years Martus waved her handkerchief at every ship that passed the lighthouse.

The **Savannah College of Art and Design** (912-525-5000) has added its own color and culture to the city, helping Savannah become an exciting center for the arts, with 40 galleries and a venerable historic museum. The **Telfair Museum** (912-790-8800), which opened in 1886 and is the oldest art museum in the South, houses a superb collection of American and European paintings and sculptures in an early 19th-century mansion (the Owens-Thomas House). Its **Jepson Center for the Arts** is a stunning contemporary building with galleries filled art, photographs and sculpture, plus hands-on, kid-friendly exhibits.

You should not miss visiting a few of Savannah's historic homes, starting with the **Mercer-Williams House** (912-236-6352) off Monterey Square at 430 Whitaker St., which played a major role in *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Built in the 1860s for singer-songwriter Johnny Mercer's great-grandfather, it was painstakingly restored by the book's

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Isle of Hope Marina has just completed a multi-million dollar renovation of its historic facilities. This renovation includes all new concrete docks, new electrical, water and fuel systems, digital TV connections at every slip, a pumpout station, and a new 2,200-square-foot, over-water Pavilion. Isle of Hope Marina's location directly on the Intracoastal Waterway makes it an ideal stop for transient boaters.



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Savannah

central character, Jim Williams, who lived and died there. Williams' sister occupies the second floor, but the ground floor and garden are open for tours, and the nearby Carriage House Shop sells all sorts of book memorabilia.

Dozens of other restored homes, some of which are open for tours, line the streets of Savannah. The **Davenport House** (912-236-8097), a brick Federal-style mansion on Columbia Square, was close to destruction in 1954 when a group of dedicated women saved it. This led to creation of the Historic Savannah Foundation, which launched a large-scale preservation effort. Another house-tour favorite is Girl Scouts founder **Juliette Gordon Low's birthplace** (912-233-4501) on Oglethorpe Avenue. Now owned by the Girl Scouts, the house has been furnished to depict the 1870s, when Low was a girl. The **Andrew Low House** (912-233-6854) at 329 Abercorn St., where Low lived with her husband, is also open to visitors.

The **Ships of the Sea Museum** (912-232-1511), in the restored William Scarbrough House on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, has exhibits that include an exquisite replica of the sinking of the *Titanic* as well as an extensive collection of scrimshaw.

Be warned: Folks in Savannah take their ghosts seriously, and many people we talked to described personal encounters with the supernatural. Consider for example the city tourism official, heretofore a skeptic, who took some Japanese visitors out to dinner. One woman, who spoke no

English, started shaking and pointing at a window, then she bolted from the restaurant, telling her host through a translator that she'd been frightened by a wailing woman in a ball gown begging for help. Later, the Savannah host discovered that several women in ball gowns had died in that same space during a 19th-century fire. "It was very spooky," the official told us. "Before that I thought ghosts were just a fantasy, but now..."

If you'd like to see for yourself, several companies offer ghost tours, including **Savannah Haunted History** (912-604-3007), the **Ghost Talk and Ghost Walk** (912-233-3896), **Savannah Walks Ghost Tour** (912-238-9255), and **Old Savannah Tours** (912-234-8128), which will take you into the supposedly haunted tunnel that links the 18th-century Pirates' House (now a restaurant) to the riverfront.

Restaurants and Provisions

Savannah is as famous for its cuisine as for its history. It's a great place to find indigenous seafood, regional soul food, Lowcountry classics, highbrow fine-dining, or no-frills pub grub. If you're staying at the **Westin Savannah Harbor Marina**, check out the on-site gem **Aqua Star** (912-201-2085), which has an Epicurean Seafood Buffet on Saturdays.

Southern barbecue is on the menu at **Barnes BBQ Express** (912-236-1557) at 109 Whitaker St., **Gerald's Diner** (912-786-4227) at 324 W. Bolton St. and **Johnny Harris Restaurant** (912-354-7810) at 1651 East Victory Drive.



© MAPTECH/CAROL PETERSON

The Savannah waterfront is a mix of the old and new.

For local color you can't beat the **Pirates' House** (912-233-5757) on East Broad Street just a block from the waterfront. Opened in 1753 as a seafarers' inn, the restaurant makes the most of its heritage with many small dining rooms, each with a story (and possibly a ghost). One oft-told tale is that Robert Louis Stevenson, who visited Savannah many times, based the character of Captain Flint—the pirate who buried the treasure in Treasure Island—on a seafarer who died in an upstairs room at the inn. There are some who say that Flint still haunts the Pirates' House. The food, a combination of Lowcountry and American fare, is said to be good as well.

In the historic district, American cuisine can be had at **Alligator Soul** (912-232-7899) at 114 Barnard St., **Boar's Head Grill & Tavern** (912-651-9660) at 1 North Lincoln St., or **Mrs. Wilkes Dining Room** (912-232-5997) at 107 W. Jones Street. For Asian food, try **Sakura Downtown** (912-234-9300) at 116 E. Broughton St., **Sushi-Zen** (912-233-1187) at 30 MLK Jr. Blvd., or **Seasons of Japan Bistro** (912-238-8228) at 125 East Broughton Street.

The **Fiddler's Crab House** (912-644-7172) at 131 West River St. is known for local seafood. Another alternative is to dine on the water aboard one of **Savannah's Riverboat Cruises** (912-232-6404). The menu features a carving table with prime rib as well as chicken and crab cakes. And there's also live entertainment and dancing. On Monday nights, the menu is Southern fare and the entertainment is gospel.



Tybee Lighthouse is one of our favorite sights.

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Savannah



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A view from the Westin Resort.

The **City Market** offers a smorgasbord of restaurants. One of our favorites is **Belford's** (912-233-2626), a fine restaurant with an eclectic menu and an excellent wine list, housed in an old brick building that still bears the faded paint of the Belford Wholesale Food Company. Pictures hanging on interior brick walls show the area as it used to be.

Nearby at 315 West Congress St. is **Garibaldi Cafe** (912-232-7118) an elegantly casual Italian seafood restaurant. It is hard to believe the beautiful building was once a fire house with a second-floor ballroom!

Other fine spots for lunch or dinner include **Café Gelatohhh** (912-234-2344) at 202 W. Saint Julian St.; also on West Saint Julian is **Tapas by Anna** (912-236-2066), an indoor/outdoor café that serves Spanish tapas with an Italian twist; and the **Wild Wing Café** (912-790-9464) at 27 Barnard St. for hot wings, cold beer, and live nightly entertainment. You'll also find several places for ice cream, candies, and other sweets.

The historic district has many quality restaurants separated only by a short walk. **Churchill's Pub** (912-232-8501) on West Bay Street caters to pub-seekers with traditional British fare and a full bar.

The city's oldest tavern is now an excellent spot for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or Sunday brunch—the **B. Matthews Eatery** (912-233-1319) at West Bay and Habersham is well worth a stop.

Elizabeth on 37th (912-236-5547) at 105 East 37th St. tops most of Savannah's "best restaurant" lists. Set in a 20th-century mansion in the city's Victorian district (a cab ride from downtown), it is known for its gourmet take on Lowcountry cuisine, with a particular emphasis on seafood. A highlight, for example, is shrimp and grits with red-eye gravy. Prices are

among the top, too, but worth a splurge, and reservations are a must.

★ Charts

Use Maptech ChartKit Region 6, page 33, 58, and 59; Maptech Waterproof Chart 94; NOAA charts 11512 (1:40,000) and 11514 (1:20,000).

⚓ Navigation and Anchorages

Savannah is located along the Savannah River's southern bank 15 miles from the Atlantic Ocean and 7 miles from where the river crosses the ICW.

Savannah River to Savannah

If you're **southbound from the ICW**, at Fl R 4s 12ft 5M "50" (Statute Mile 575.6), leave Fields Cut and enter the Savannah River. Visitors to Savannah can follow the deep, well-marked river channel about 7 miles upriver to the city's waterfront at Wrecks and City Front Channel. Expect some strong currents and commercial traf-

fic along the way. There is space available at the city waterfront at the hotels and the new municipal bulkhead, but docking is made difficult by tidal ranges and swift currents.

At the **Westin Savannah Harbor Marina** (912-201-2000) you'll have access to all the resort amenities as well as a gorgeous skyline view of the city. The Westin, across the river from downtown and next to the convention center, is removed from the late night revelry. A courtesy ferry provides easy access to the city and its sights.

Along the waterfront in the thick of it are the **Hyatt Regency Docks** (912-721-4654), **River Street Market Place Dock** (912-232-4252) and **River Street Dock** (912-232-4252).

Many cruisers choose to dock at one of the several excellent marinas to the southeast at Thunderbolt, the Isle of Hope, or Skidaway Island, and travel to Savannah via bus, taxi, or rental car. The **Isle of Hope Marina** (912-354-8187) has a fleet of loaner cars. See the next chapter for more details and navigation into this excellent facility.

And Tybee Island, "Savannah's Beach," can be reached via rivers and creeks to the south. See *Thunderbolt and Wilmington River* for more navigation information on approaching the region. The ICW crosses the river to the west-southwest taking Elba Island Cut to pick up St. Augustine Creek and then the Wilmington River.

📞 Shoreside and Emergency Services

Airport: Savannah Hilton Head International 912-966-3743

Bus: CAT (Chatham Area Transit) shuttle 912-233-5767

Coast Guard: Savannah 912-652-4646

Taxi: Savannah Yellow Cab 912-236-1133

Tow Service: SeaTow 800-4SEATOW or VHF 16
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