

# RoadTrip

## Trap and Skeet Shooting in Prince George's

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MILES



Bike, stroll or in-line skate on the 1.3-mile loop around **Lake Artemesia**, a 38-acre man-made lake.



Beware the (stuffed) bear at the **National Wildlife Visitor Center**.

Root around **My Friend's Closet** for fashions with a long shelf life.

Peer through the **Wild Bird Center's** monocular to spot some birds.

Golf meets Frisbee at the 18-hole **Paint Branch Parkway Community Park Disc Golf Course**.

Hit them with your best shot at **Prince George's County Trap and Skeet Center**.

Transform your yard into a mini Versailles with plants and gardening accessories from **Patuxent Nursery**.



Behave, or you (like the author) may land in the stocks at **Darnall's Chance**, an 18th-century mansion.



Dig into the farming roots of southern Prince George's County at the **Patuxent Rural Life Museums**.



Learn about the bay environment on the **Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Tour**.

Driver's route

Start here

Honk if you love Canada geese. The **Merkle Wildlife sanctuary** is the winter home for thousands of these birds.

wilderness viewing. On other days, the road is open only to hikers and bicyclists.

In Bowie, the Wild Bird Center teaches visitors how to create a natural habitat in their back yards. Nature moves indoors at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Visitor Center in Laurel. With its buzzing, beeping and flashing interactive displays, the center feels more like the inside of the Starship Enterprise than the Department of the Interior's largest science and environmental education center.

Wildlife is completely safe at Prince George's shooting center; only the clay targets are in danger. Introductory group lessons (\$35) start with gun safety. Then it's on to the anatomy of the weapon and the rules of the game. In short order, adjust the gun against your shoulder and cheekbone, shift your focus to the target and shoot at its leading edge. After a practice round with an unloaded gun — including a helpful "bang" sound effect — you can aim and fire for real.

A remote control operates the clay launch, and if you hit the target dead-on, the disc will shatter. In no time, you should be knocking the clays out of the sky. "It's one of the few sports where strength and physique don't make a difference," instructor Rhys Arthur says.

— Matthew Graham

Prince George's County Trap and Skeet Center, 10400 Good Luck Rd., Glenn Dale. 301-577-7178.

**Road Trip maps are available online** at [www.washingtonpost.com/roadtrip](http://www.washingtonpost.com/roadtrip), as are addresses and hours of operation (be sure to check before you go). Have an idea for a trip? E-mail [roadtrip@washpost.com](mailto:roadtrip@washpost.com).