

Bodkin Creek

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=bodkin%20creek&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&hl=en&tab=wl>

Are you in need of a quick overnight but want a change from the vessel filled anchorages of Fairlee or Swan Creeks? Or are you exploring the great history of the Chesapeake but need a quiet anchorage to reflect on your adventures? On the western shore halfway between the more popular ports of calls of Annapolis and Baltimore there is a lesser-known creek with few amenities but the perfect prescription for rest and relaxation.

Bodkin Creek is well worth the effort to find. On your approach from the Bay Bridge you will pass Sandy Point State Park and the Magothy River to your port. As the boat cruises along side the Craighill Channel be mindful of carriers heading in and out of the Port of Baltimore. Once passed the shores of Gibson Island begin looking for the Green "5" marking the entrance to Bodkin Creek. Our typical approach from the North sets our sights on Sevenfoot Knoll with the Green "5" about a mile southwest of this light. The channel entrance is narrow and can be tricky so mind all markers leading in to the creek. The chart shows that the channel is marked at 7' of water depth as long as you are in the center. I have never seen less than that when entering even under low tide. Once in the creek you have lots of possibilities for quiet anchorages, several marina facilities and a great restaurant serving up Chesapeake Bay crabs.

Anchorage

Once through the channel the creek opens up with Back Creek directly to starboard, Bodkin at your bow and Main Creek a dogleg right just before the marina. Take in the beauty of the manicured lawns with tall trees that offer great protection. The first anchorage possibility is Old Bee Point just beyond the Red "10" in an area called the Hammock. No matter the wind direction, The Hammock offers water depths from four to eight feet, low light off the shore and the most magnificent views of the sunsets over Main Creek. Powerboats with skiers and watermen workboats can create excess wake running in and out of the main channel but if, like us, you can tuck closer to the shoreline you will avoid this disturbance. Use Old Bee Point as a resting spot for that quick overnight escape.

For a long-term anchorage with more protection and greater peace and tranquility, round the Red "10" and head in to Main Creek. As the creek widens you will be tempted to tuck yourself into the first coves you see. Stay the course and head further back to Jubb and Goose Creek on the southern shore where the shoreline begins to narrow. The manicured lawns are breathtaking and the traffic has slowed under the six-knot limit. I favor the cove just beyond Jubb and Goose on the northern shore. Head for the covered boathouse into a tree-lined cove with very deep water all the way close to the shoreline. Wetlands are directly north where blue herring love to wade. See if you can spot the golden retrievers frolicking on the lawn of the majestic stone home or hear the owl calling in the morning. This cove is your own private oasis for the R&R you are seeking.

Activities

Bodkin is your resting spot on your way to adventure and exploration. The creek has very few landing sites for exploring on your own or walking your favorite four-legged companion. The

marinas are the only facilities to stretch your legs. Swimming is good throughout the summer with infrequent sea nettle sightings. Take some time to paddle Back Creek and explore the alcoves. Sit back and enjoy the blue herrings flying about or seek the terrapins sunning themselves on a downed log. Listen to the quiet that surrounds you. Let it rejuvenate your mind, body and spirit.

Marinas

There are several marinas on Bodkin Creek all offering ice and fuel. About a mile back Main Creek is Pleasure Cove Marina known for their haulout ability up to 24' beam and a quality repair service. Self-service laundry facilities are also available at Pleasure Cove. Save your stocking for the larger ports. You will find little help here.

Restaurants

Pleasure Cove Marina has the only restaurant on Bodkin Creek. The Cheshire Crab and Tiki Bar-BQ is a great place to sit outside on bright color picnic tables overlooking the creek to eat some of the famous Maryland Blue Crab. If you are in the mood for a more formal meal, dine inside to feast on some crab imperial or a nice rare steak. The Tiki bar has many TV's to watch your favorite sports game or to catch up on news. Live music fills the air on Fridays and Saturdays. Music ranges anywhere from classic rock to acoustic contemporary. From high-end meals to burgers and fries this restaurant is a sure bet.

Plot your course for the rest and relaxation this gem on the Bay has to offer. Cruisers and locals alike will return time after time.