

= Maryland Route 363 =

Maryland Route 363 (MD 363) is a state highway in the U.S. state of Maryland . Known for almost all of its length as Deal Island Road , the state highway runs 18 @. @ 30 miles (29 @. @ 45 km) from a dead end on Deal Island east to Mansion Avenue in Princess Anne . MD 363 connects Princess Anne and U.S. Route 13 (US 13) with the communities of Deal Island , Chance , and Dames Quarter on Tangier Sound in northwestern Somerset County . The state highway was constructed starting from Princess Anne around 1920 , and reached Chance in the early 1930s . It was extended to Deal Island when a modern bridge to the island was constructed in 1940 . MD 363 was extended to its present terminus on the island in the late 1950s .

= = Route description = =

MD 363 begins at a dead end in the community of Wenona at the southern end of Deal Island . The state highway heads north , sharply curving before crossing Middle Creek . The road runs through another series of sharp curves through marshland before straightening out and passing St. John 's Methodist Episcopal Church and the old post office building , two examples of buildings on the island preserved as part of the Deal Island Historic District . The route passes a boat ramp accessed from Ralph Abbott Road before a high @-@ level bridge carries it over Upper Thorofare , a strait between Laws Cove and Tangier Sound . On the north side of the bridge , MD 363 intersects MD 363A , the northern approach to the previous bridge to Deal Island , before passing through the community of Chance , the site of Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church . After passing Haines Point Road , which leads to a large public boat ramp , the state highway continues northeast across the two branches of Rock Creek and through more marshland before entering Dames Quarter . MD 363 traverses Dames Quarter Creek and passes through Deal Island Wildlife Management Area .

After passing through the wildlife management area , MD 363 heads east on a 5 @-@ mile (8 @. @ 0 km) straight through the hamlets of St. Stephens and Monie . The state highway bypasses the village of Oriole , which is accessed by Oriole Back Road from the west and MD 627 (Oriole Road) from the east . After passing to the south of Venton , which features the historic home Panther 's Den and All Saints Church , MD 363 traverses the Chesapeake Forest Lands . On the east edge of the forest , the road curves northeast and then east toward Princess Anne , passing farmland , several residential subdivisions , and the Flying W Airport . Immediately after crossing the Manokin River , MD 363 reaches its intersection with US 13 (Ocean Highway) . The state highway continues east into the town of Princess Anne as Manokin Avenue , where it reaches its eastern terminus at Mansion Avenue , named for the Teackle Mansion one block to the south . The roadway continues east through the Princess Anne Historic District toward MD 675 (Somerset Avenue) in the center of the town .

= = History = =

MD 363 had been built from Princess Anne to the eastern end of the 5 @-@ mile (8 @. @ 0 km) straight by 1921 . The state highway reached Monie by 1923 and Dames Quarter in 1926 . MD 363 was under construction west to Chance in 1930 and completed by 1933 . The state highway 's western terminus remained at Chance until 1940 . MD 363 was extended to the other side of Upper Thorofare when a modern bridge replaced a causeway that had been in place since at least 1903 . The state highway was widened in stages from Princess Anne between 1950 and 1958 , culminating in the extension of MD 363 to Wenona in 1958 . MD 363 originally continued east from its present terminus in Princess Anne along Mansion Avenue and Prince William Street to end at MD 675 . The state highway assumed its present eastern terminus around 1985 . The present bridge across Upper Thorofare was completed in 1987 .

= = Junction list = =

The entire route is in Somerset County .

= = Auxiliary route = =

MD 363A is a 0 @. @ 06 @-@ mile (0 @. @ 097 km) spur that parallels the westbound side of MD 363 just north of the highway 's bridge over Upper Thorofare between the mainland and Deal Island .