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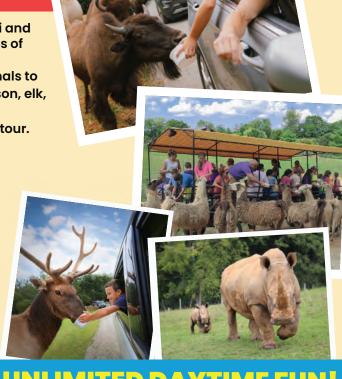


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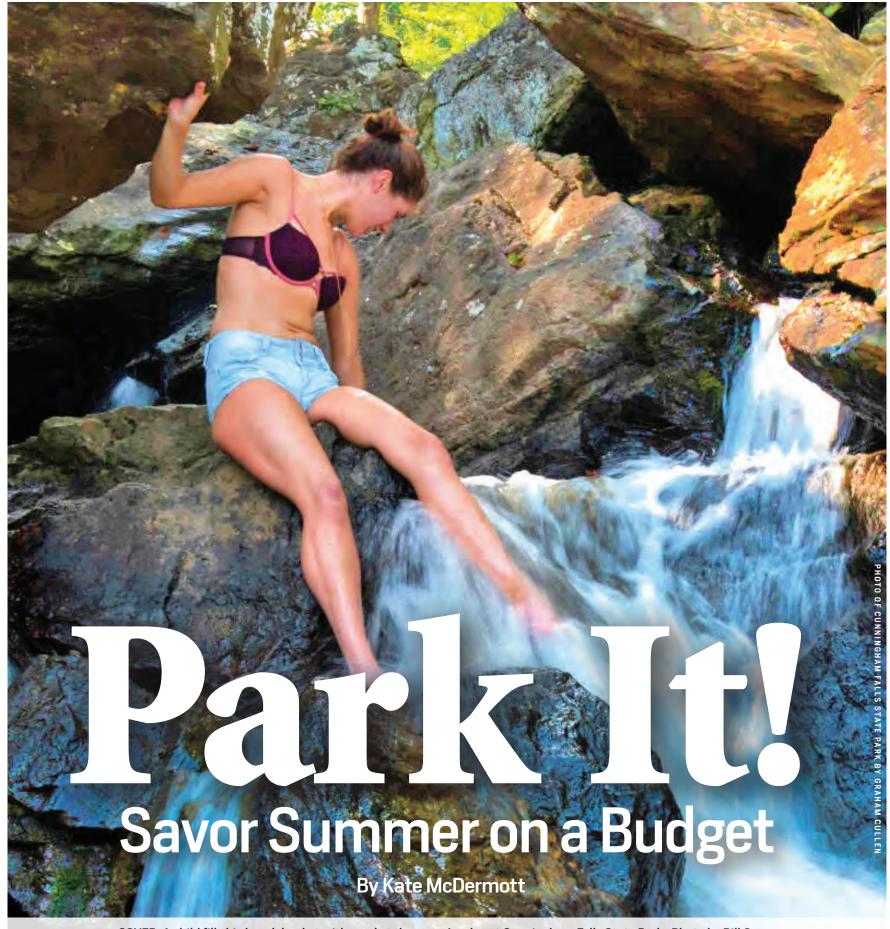


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COVER: A child fills his beach bucket with sand at the water's edge at Cunningham Falls State Park. Photo by Bill Green

Cover Story

hat's on your summer vacation wish list? Swimming, boating, fishing, hiking? Maybe some golf or spa pampering? Perhaps a dose of culture with live theater and history—and time for lots of lounging in between? If all this sounds enticing—but expensive—think again. State parks in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia offer activities that are about as expansive as the

land these public treasures cover. Let me show you how the variety of camping and cabin options they offer means your family can build memories and not mountains of debt.



FILE PHOTO

Cunningham Falls State Park Thurmont, Maryland 301-271-7574

Sample costs for midweek stay for Maryland residents

- Campsite rental (electric): \$27.50/night
- Beckley's RV rental: \$275/night (motorized, sleeps 6-8)
- Kayak (tandem) rental: \$30/hr.
- Catoctin Furnace/Museum of the Iron Worker: Free (donations appreciated)
- Hiking: Free
- Swimming: Free
- Fishing: Free (Maryland fishing license required)
 PRICES VARY & ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL AHEAD.

Located 20 miles north of Frederick city, Cunningham Falls State Park is a cool respite in the Catoctin Mountains that includes Hunting Creek Lake, an approximately 42-acre watering hole with a sandy beach. You can rent canoes or kayaks on site or simply spread out your beach towel and cool off in the lake's calm waters.

Dropping 78 feet, the park's namesake Cunning-ham Falls is a popular destination, especially for hikers eager to enjoy a "shower" in the tumbling water's cool mist. There are several trails of varying intensity that take you to the falls, but the Lower Trail is a relatively easy half-mile hike from the lake parking area to the base of the falls. Those with limited mobility can also see the falls via a boardwalk trail from the parking area off state Route 77.

The park is divided into the William Houck and Manor areas. Both offer campsites with picnic tables, fire rings, toilets and centrally located bathhouses. The Houck area also has four six-person cabins. But if you want to try something with even a few more creature comforts, you might consider renting an RV.

I've never been an RVer, but Beckley's RVs, located just 8 miles south of SEE NEXT PAGE ~



KATE MCDERMOTT

The Catoctin Furnace once produced munitions for George Washington's army. Much of the furnace's workforce was comprised of slaves, who are honored on the African American Cemetery Trail. TOP: The park is home to a variety of wildlife.

The Legacy of Catoctin Furnace

Cunningham Falls State Park Manor area is home to the remains of the 18th–century Catoctin Furnace that produced the cannonballs for Gen. George Washington's army in the Revolutionary War and later helped spur America's industrial revolution. It is part of the Catoctin Furnace Village, which provides a look at the lives and contributions of those who ran the furnace, including hundreds of slaves.

The Catoctin Furnace Village includes the Museum of the Ironworker, which explains the history of Catoctin Furnace and how an entire village grew around it. Across the street, Collier's Log House is a restored

circa-1810 structure that was home to the families of furnace workers for more than 200 years.

Don't leave the area, however, without exploring the Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery Interpretive Trail. A short, walkable path features educational panels that explain the role slaves played in the furnace's operations. It ends at a viewing platform that looks toward the cemetery where more than 100 workers, many of them slaves, were buried in simple graves marked by fieldstones. Benches along the way invite visitors to stop and contemplate the slaves' lives and contributions.

Cover Story

~CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE~

Cunningham Falls, makes it easy for first-timers like me to give it a go. They provide free delivery and setup of an RV at the park, and have a variety of rental options. You can choose between motorized and travel trailers, the largest of which can accommodate up to 10 people.

Chris Livesay, rentals manager at Beckley's, said campers should first reserve and pay for their campsite directly through the park. With a reserved spot arranged, Beckley's will deliver the RV to the campsite and pick it up when the reservation ends. "It's just another option for people to get out and enjoy the great outdoors," he said.

Learn more about Beckley's at beckleysrvs.com.

Caledonia State Park Fayetteville, Pennsylvania 717-352-2161

Sample costs for midweek stay for Pennsylvania residents

- Campsite rental (full hook-up): around \$43 (Prices vary with options.)
- Golf (18 holes, cart): \$35
- Totem Pole tickets: \$55
- Pool pass (per camper): \$4
- Hiking: Free
- Fishing: Free (Pennsylvania fishing license required) PRICES VARY & ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL AHEAD.

Just 15 miles west of Gettysburg, Caledonia State Park is a 1,125-acre oasis of lush forests, trout-filled creeks and miles of hiking trails—including 1.8 miles of the famed Appalachian Trail. The park also offers attractions that invite less strenuous amusements, including a large pool with a twisty, curvy waterslide that was much more my style.

Those who'd rather swing than slide can visit the Caledonia Golf Club, a public, 18-hole, par 68 course with fairways that lie beneath the towering pines of the park's Michaux State Forest. Learn more at caledoniagolfclub.com/golf-course.

After spending the day outside, enjoy award-winning summer stock theater at the Totem Pole Playhouse. Located within the park, this 387-seat venue will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year with a slate of shows that include "9 to 5: The Musical," "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" and "Diamond: The Neil Diamond Tribute." All seats are \$55 plus fees. Visit totempoleplayhouse.org.

Caledonia offers 160 campsites across two campgrounds, including several with RV hookups. The park's House 2 can accommodate up to 12 and offers a modern kitchen as well as a large, all-season porch. Plan ahead and book early since the cottage is popular with family groups.



JON BILOUS/ALAM

ABOVE: Anglers can fish trout out of the streams fed by the East Branch Conococheague and Rocky Mountain creeks in Caledonia State Park.

RIGHT: The Totem Pole Playhouse at Caledonia State Park has been a staple of summer stock theater for 75 years. Actors John Ritter and Jean Stapleton are among the stars who have performed there over the years.

With its proximity to Gettysburg, it should come as no surprise that Caledonia State Park also has deep ties to the Civil War.

The state's abolitionist U.S. Rep. Thaddeus Stevens owned the Caledonia Iron Works furnace in a part of the area the park now occupies. It was a known stop on the Underground Railroad, with furnace workers helping guide freedom seekers north to the next conductor on their journey. Confederate troops destroyed Caledonia Iron Works in 1863, in part because of Stevens' anti-slavery efforts.

In 2008, Caledonia Iron Furnace was added to the list of more than 800 sites on the National Park Service's Network to Freedom, which preserves the history of resistance to slavery.



KATE MCDERMOTT



SHUTTERSTOCK

Fort Frederick State Park Big Pool, Maryland 301-842-2155

Sample costs for midweek stay for Maryland residents

- Campsite: \$15/night (no electricity or water)
- Fort Frederick tours: Free
- Fishing: Free (Maryland fishing license required)
- **Boating:** Free (no rentals on site)
- Biking on C&O Canal: Free (no rentals on site)
 PRICES VARY & ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL AHEAD.

Twenty miles west of Hagerstown, Maryland, near the West Virginia border, Fort Frederick State Park allows history buffs of all ages to revisit three of our nation's most pivotal conflicts: the French and Indian, Revolutionary and Civil wars.

The 585-acre park hosts special events throughout the year, in which reenactors bring the fort's history to life through rousing musket fire and educational hearth cooking demonstrations, among other activities. Two barracks buildings inside the fort's 18-foot stone walls invite visitors to walk through spaces such as the officers' quarters, the prison camp room, the storehouse and more. Check the park's website for dates of summer reenactments.

I loved watching a group of youngsters playing soldier amid the fort's expansive parade grounds. They must have made a stop at Captain Wort's Sutler Shop to pick up their toy muskets. The shop also



KATE MCDERMOTT

sells snacks and other souvenirs, as well as camping supplies for those who might be spending the night (or nights) at one of the park's 29 rustic campsites that border the C&O Canal towpath and are just a stone's throw from the Potomac River.

Fort Frederick offers canoers and kayakers easy access to the Potomac, while anglers can cast for largemouth bass, catfish, carp and bluegill in Big Pool lake. The lake provides a boat launch, but gas motors are prohibited. Those who prefer to stay landlocked can cycle or stroll along the C&O towpath. -SEE NEXT PAGE -



KATE MCDERMOTT

TOP: The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)
Museum is among several buildings with exhibits about Fort Frederick State Park's history.

LEFT: Enter the restored barracks at Fort Frederick State Park to step back in time to see what military life was like in Colonial days.

ABOVE: Historic reenactments take history out of the books and into real life at the park.

Cover Story

~CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE~

Cacapon Resort State Park Berkeley Springs, West Virginia 304-258-1022

Sample costs for midweek stay for West Virginia residents

Legacy cabin*: \$145/night Spa treatments: Prices vary **Golf:** \$45 (18 holes, cart)

Horseback rides: \$45/hr. per person

Nature center: Free

Fishing: Free (WV fishing license required)

Hiking: Free

Mountain biking: Free

*During summer, cabins rented on weekly basis only PRICES VARY & ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL AHEAD.

Located 10 miles south of Berkeley Springs, this 6,000-acre retreat lives up to its name—it's both a resort and a state park. You name it, Cacapon has it: lodge or cabin accommodations, an on-site spa, an indoor pool and hot tub, a lake and beach, horseback riding, fishing, clay shooting, and for mountain bike enthusiasts, 25 miles of singletrack and multilevel trails for skill levels from beginner to expert.

The main lodge offers 120 rooms and features all the amenities of a four-star hotel—at a fraction of the price. Indulge in a relaxing therapeutic massage in the lodge's Healing Waters Spa and then do as I did: Let the relaxation continue by watching golfers tee off on the 18-hole golf course as you sip a strawberry mimosa on the lodge patio.

For those who want to commune with nature with many of the creature comforts of glamping, Cacapon offers four types of cabins, some of which have screened-in porches, a major plus for mosquito magnets such as myself. Shaded by the park's towering hardwood trees, the cabins offer fully equipped kitchens, bathrooms with showers and linen service.

In true resort fashion, Cacapon caters to virtually every age and interest. I thoroughly enjoyed the interactive Nature Center, where I came face-to-face with black bears, bobcats and a fox (all taxidermied) and learned more about the butterflies and birds that call the park home. The center offers daily activities that range from birding to scavenger hunts. "We often hear parents say they come here for the kids, but that they enjoy it as much as the kids do," said the helpful and enthusiastic young guide who walked me through several of the exhibits.

For those who'd like to see the park's animal inhabitants in their natural environment, Triple C Outfitters offers guided one-hour horseback rides through the park. No experience is required, just a



With a sandy beach and fishing piers, the lake at Cacapon Resort State Park offers relaxation for bathers and anglers.



Soak up the sun on the large patio of the lodge at Cacapon Resort State Park while enjoying views of the 18-hole golf course.

willingness to slow down and soak up the beauty as their gentle mounts lead you through the park's forests and trails. Learn more at triple-c-outfitters.com.

Regardless of where you go, there is no shortage of fun available in state parks. But be sure to make reservations and confirm all pricing and availability since many parks reach capacity quickly. Then pack the car and the kids and get out there to create your own fun under the sun—and stars.



Kate McDermott is a freelance writer living in Frederick, Maryland. She's the author of "From the Brink to Brilliant: The Revitalization of Downtown Frederick, Maryland" and a diehard travel enthusiast.



The North Fork of Indian Run tumbles down from the top of Cacapon Mountain in Cacapon Resort State Park.



Only 10 minutes from the park, Charlotte's Cafe in Berkeley Springs serves baked-in-house treats like apple cinnamon upside-down cake.



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Where to Explore the Outdoors

By Tabitha Johnston

dventures are always just around the corner for those wanting to spend some time in the great outdoors in Berkeley County this summer.

In Inwood, **JayDee's Family Fun Center** will be open throughout the summer, offering a wide variety of activities to keep children active in the outdoors. Mini golf, gemstone mining, water balloon wars, go-karts and a water park and splash zone have made the location a favorite among families in the area. New to JayDee's Family Fun Center this year are two activities: a rock-climbing tower and giddy-up rides.

304-229-4343 jaydees.com

Free outdoor adventuring is also available in the Inwood and Bunker Hill area, at **Inwood-Bunker Hill Lions Park**. The 20-acre park features two outdoor public basketball courts, a fitness trail with exercise stations, a practice soccer field, a playground, a sand volleyball court and a practice baseball field.

8785 Winchester Ave. 304-264-4842 mbcparks-rec.org/inwood-bunker-hill-park

In Martinsburg, some great outdoor adventures can be found in the city's many parks. **Lambert Park and War Memorial Park** both feature outdoor swimming pools. War Memorial Park also has a number of playground areas, an 18-hole miniature golf course, sand volleyball courts, basketball courts and a tennis court, for those looking for a more diverse assortment of activities.

304-264-4842 mbcparks-rec.org/war-memorial-park

And for those wanting to get more in touch with nature, **Poor House Farm** may be the perfect destination, with its 7 miles of hiking trails, practice soccer fields, 27-hole disc golf course, sand volleyball court, nature-based playground and fishing opportunities in its stocked, 5-acre lake.

Poor House Farm Road 304-264-4842 mbcparks-rec.org/poor-house-farm-park

In Back Creek Valley, **Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve** may be the perfect place to find some adventure in the outdoors. Special events are



TOM MARKLAND

The barn at Poor House Farm Park is one of Berkeley County's most popular event venues.

held at the preserve throughout the summer by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Those who would like to do their adventuring independently are welcome to come during daylight hours, to do some birding or hike the trails that cross the preserve's 45 acres of wetlands and field-like habitats.

4069 Back Creek Valley Road 304-676-3397 potomacaudubon.org

In Falling Waters, adventure can be found by hiking out to see the area's namesake, the **Falling Waters Waterfall**. The waterfall is not only a lesser-known landmark of notable beauty, but it is also a thing of historical significance, as it is the spot where two Civil War battles were fought. The hike has been described as short, making it more manageable for groups with those of varying mobility levels.

91 Encampment Road 800-225-5982

wvwaterfalls.com/panhandles/falling-waters.html



ANGELA DURKIN

Rickard Lake at Poor House Farm Park is a great place to walk for those looking for a flat and open pathway. On any given day, it is common to see many people using this trail. The park also features forest trails, which extend into over 200 acres of property.

Beat Boredom With Kid-Approved Fun



TOM MARKLAND

The pool at Berkeley County's War Memorial Park was ready for opening day of the summer season in May.

By Tabitha Johnston

hose looking for a new way to spend time with their kids this summer need to glance no further than Berkeley County.

Swimming is always a popular summer activity. Two popular public swimming spots in Martinsburg are at the pools in **War Memorial Park** on Tennessee Avenue, and **Lambert Park** at 273 Woodbury Ave. Both pools, which offer other amenities like a bathroom with a changing and showering area and a concession stand, will be open from noon–5 p.m. every day throughout the summer. Admission costs \$5 for those ages 3 and up or, for those planning to visit either or both of the city pools for an unlimited number of times throughout the summer, a Splash Pass can be purchased for \$200 per person or \$400 per family, with an additional \$75 charge per person over the five-person family limit. To learn more about the Splash Pass, call 304-264-4842 or visit mbcparks-rec.org.

Miniature golfing is a fun way to spend time with kids, especially those with a competitive spirit. War Memorial Park is home to an 18-hole miniature golf course, open from 11 a.m.–8 p.m. every day throughout the summer. Visit mbcparks-rec.org/war-memorial-park or call 304-264-4842.

Another popular 18-hole miniature golf course is located at 2332 Henshaw Road in Inwood, in **JayDee's**

Family Fun Center. Its miniature golf course is open every day except Saturdays from noon–8 p.m. through Sept. 1. A round of Putt-Putt at JayDee's costs \$8 per person, with a half-off discount for those who would like to play a second round and, for every purchased adult round, one child 5 or under can play free. At War Memorial Park, admission is a flat \$5 per person, per round. Call 304-229-4343 or visit jaydees.com.

Another way for kids to have fun and work off the energy, while staying cool, is to visit **Oh My Gosh Playground** at 159 Monroe St. in Martinsburg. This indoor playground opened in December and has already drawn a lot of praise from parents in the area, both for its variety of activities and excellent hours—the space is open every day of the year—from 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

For children with an artistic inclination, paint parties and pottery classes may be the ideal activity to try out this summer. **Urban Easel Art & Pottery LLC**, which is located in Martinsburg, features a number of pottery class options for those of all ages and skill levels. Call 304-706-8247 or see urban-easel.com.

Merely Creative, located at 200 N. Queen St. in Martinsburg, holds a number of paint parties, both prescheduled and private, throughout the year. Options for art therapy and sensory sessions are available for children with special needs. Visit merelycreative.com or call 304-620-4079.

Discover 3 Hidden Treasures

BY AINSLEY HALL

The Adam Stephen House once belonged to the founder of Martinsburg and was the namesake for the building. Built in 1774, this home is now an important historic house museum and is open to anyone interested in learning more about Berkeley County.

309 E. John St., Martinsburg 304-367-4434 cityofmartinsburg.org/about-us/generaladam-stephen-house

The Morgan Cabin is a historic landmark many people overlook. The cabin belonged to Morgan Morgan, one of the first settlers in West Virginia. He built the building between 1731 and 1734, and it was later rebuilt in 1976 using its original logs.

2913 Runnymeade Road, Gerrardstown 304-229-8707 washingtonheritagetrail.com/bc_25.html

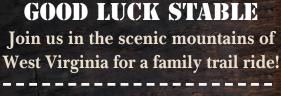
For those who enjoy spending time outside, **Poor House Farm Park** is another forgotten location for visitors. As guests drive to the back of the park, they are surprised by a beautiful pond and walking path. It's a great place to have a picnic, play some disc golf or simply enjoy the fresh air.

Poor House Road, Martinsburg 304-229-0022 washingtonheritagetrail.com/bc_25.html



TOM MARKLANI

Morgan Cabin, home of the first permanent white settler in West Virginia, Morgan Morgan, in 1731



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6

Can't-Miss Wineries & Breweries

By Karen Graham

n Loudoun County, also known as D.C.'s Wine Country, there are more than 50 wineries and more than 30 breweries to explore. Whether you have a few hours or are spending the weekend in Loudoun, here are five wineries and breweries to add to your list:

Wheatland Spring Farm + Brewery is off Route 287 in Wheatland between Purcellville and Lovettsville. Owned by residents John and Bonnie Branding, it is an estate brewery that makes most of its beer with grains regeneratively grown next to the brewhouse.

Insider's tip: Be sure to check out their monthly Epicure Evenings with local chefs, live music and an outdoor market. The next event is July 18 from 4–9 p.m. Also, Pizzeria Loco, the regular onsite food vendor, sells amazing pizza. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from noon–8 p.m., and Sunday from noon–6 p.m.

38506 John Wolford Road, Waterford 540-687-0035 Wheatlandspring.com

Bluemont Vineyard, outside the village of Bluemont, is owned by the Zurschmeide family, who also owns and operates Great Country Farms, Henway Hard Cider and Dirt Farm Brewing on Foggy Bottom Road.

The Vineyard is located up a steep road on the Blue Ridge Mountains with stunning views of Loudoun Valley.

There is a variety of award-winning wines to choose from, as well as food items on the menu such as charcuterie boards, snacks, tacos and flatbreads. Special events and brunches are held regularly. Open daily from 11 a.m.–7 p.m. and on Saturday until 8 p.m.

18755 Foggy Bottom Road, Bluemont 540-554-8439 Bluemontvineyard.com

Hillsborough Winery + **Brewery** is a popular destination known for its views overlooking the Short Hill Mountains.

The business is owned by the Baki family, who are active in the local wine and beer community. Visitors can expect delicious, award-winning wine and beer, and a food menu that offers flatbread and salads.

Special events throughout the year include



KAREN GRAHAM

A view of the hillside at Hillsborough Winery + Brewery in Hillsboro



KAREN GRA

The Epicure Evenings at Wheatland Spring Farm + Brewery are not to be missed.

murder-mystery dinner theater, trivia nights and fundraisers to assist local nonprofits, such as the ongoing "Hops for Hope" that benefits the Arc of Loudoun. Open daily from noon–8 p.m.

36716 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro 540-668-6216 Hillsboroughwine.com

Williams Gap Vineyard in Round Hill offers great wine and beer in a comfortable and

relaxing setting, with both indoor and outdoor seating options.

The Sexton family opened the winery in 2021 and has since produced award-winning wines from the grapes grown on the 200-acre farm. They also produce four types of beer and have a diverse menu of flatbreads, paninis and salads. The winery is open Thursday to Monday from noon-7 p.m.

35521 Sexton Farm Lane, Round Hill 540-440-1933 Williamsgapvineyard.com

Fabbioli Cellars near Lucketts is one of Loudoun County's early wineries and is owned by Doug Fabbioli and Colleen Berg. Often recognized as the godfather of Loudoun County wine, Fabbioli is active in the agricultural community and with assisting other winery operators.

Fabbioli Cellars offers regular themed events and live music. In addition to award-winning wines, small bites and charcuterie boards are available for purchase. Open Thursday through Monday from 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

15669 Limestone School Road, Leesburg 703-771-1197 Fabbioliwines.com

Stay Cool. Visit a Pool!

By Karen Graham

t's hot outside and the kids are out of school for the summer. So where are the best places to cool off in Loudoun County? We've compiled a list of some of the local favorite destinations.

An Interactive Splash Pad Play Area

At the 257-acre Hal and Berni Hanson Regional Park near Brambleton, there's a fun, interactive 10,000-square-foot splash pad area with unique features, such as a water-squirting spider and a bucket drop. The splash pad is open daily from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. through Aug. 17.

2283 Hanson Park Drive, Aldie 571-367-8360 Loudoun.gov

Volcano Island Waterpark

With two big slides, a main pool, splash pad and sprinklers, Volcano Island Waterpark is fun for all ages. There is also a play area with multiple water features, such as a kiddie slide, water cannons and buckets.

Adjacent to the water park is an 18-hole golf course and café for before or after the pool.

Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday through Sunday. 20015 Volcano Island Drive,

Sterling 703-430-7683 Novaparks.com

Franklin Park Pool

Franklin Park offers a kid-friendly area with water fountains and a slide, and three separate pool areas, including a lap pool and a shallow pool for young children.

The pools are open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and on the weekend from noon-6:30 p.m.

17501 Franklin Park Drive, Purcellville 540-338-7603 Loudoun.gov



LOUDOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

Franklin Park Pool in Purcellville



LOUDOUN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

The indoor pool at Dulles South Recreation Center

AV Symington Aquatic Center

At Ida Lee Park in Leesburg, the AV Symington Aquatic Center provides enough entertainment for a whole day by the pool.

One of the highlights is the long lazy river, which can be enjoyed by floating around in a tube. Other water features include a shallow splash area, lap pool and slides.

The pool is open from 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

60 Ida Lee Drive, Leesburg 703-779-5390 Leesburgva.gov

Dulles South Recreation and Community Center Pools

For a break from the sun, Dulles South has an indoor leisure pool area with a 125-foot water slide and lazy river. There is also a competition lap pool for competitive and fitness swimming. When you're done in the pool, check out the rec center's climbing wall.

The pool is open daily from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding 571-258-3456 Loudoun.gov

WHERE TO **GO BIRDING**

By Karen Graham

Throughout the regional parks in Loudoun County there are nearly 100 miles of hiking trails with diverse habitats along rivers, mountains and meadows.

For bird watchers. Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) regularly hosts programs and bird walks at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve outside Leesburg, Algonkian Regional Park in Sterling and Sweet Run State Park near Hillsboro.

Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve,

part of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, offers 725 acres with a variety of trails along wetlands and forests. LWC maintains a bluebird nestbox trail. which is home to bluebirds, tree swallows and bats. Open Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday through Thursday year-round.

21085 The Woods Road, Leesburg

Algonkian Regional Park is located along the Potomac River and has multiple trails for viewing numerous species of birds. The park is open daily from dawn to dusk.

47001 Fairway Drive, Sterling

Sweet Run State Park is a nearly 900-acre park near Hillsboro with 11 miles of trails for varying hiking levels. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk.

11661 Harpers Ferry Road, Hillsboro

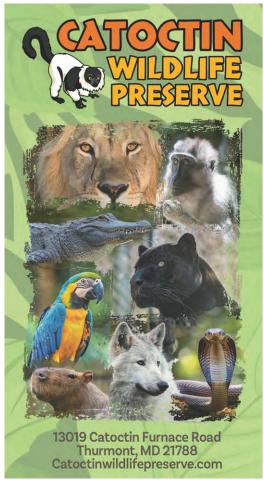


SARA HUBER. SWEET RUN STATE PARK

Northern Cardinal at Sweet Run State Park









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These tiny tanks will surprise you with personality and persistence as they patiently pursue the treats you can offer them.

From Stone Homes to Saints:

Where to Explore Frederick's Pre-Civil War History

By Comfort Dorn

You probably know about Frederick County's pivotal involvement in the Civil War, but how much do you know about the county's history before the Battle of the Monocacy? You can explore that earlier history at these four sites.

Schifferstadt Architectural Museum

This fine stone house, built in 1758, and its heritage gardens reflect Frederick County's rich German roots. Take a tour to learn about these early settlers and be sure to peruse the Colonial four-square kitchen garden. Also, mark your calendar for Oktoberfest at Schifferstadt, Oct. 18-19, for a weekend of German music, historic demonstrations, museum tours and vendors.

1110 Rosemont Ave., Frederick 301-663-3885 fredericklandmarks.org/ schifferstadt

Rose Hill Manor Park & Museums

Built in the 1790s, this stately manor house, along with its barns and other outbuildings, provides hands-on lessons for children about early American life as well as agriculture and transportation in Frederick County. Be sure to check out Living History Weekend, Aug. 16-17, with reenactors, exhibits and displays "that bring history to life."

1611 N. Market St., Frederick 301-600-1650 recreater.com (Search the museum.)

Monocacy Aqueduct Built between 1829 and 1833, the largest of 11 aqueducts along the C&O Canal has a 516-foot span and arches that are 54 feet tall, and it's considered by some historians to



KATINA ZENTZ

Mary Kotrady stirs sausage and onion during Oktoberfest at the Schifferstadt Architectural Museum last fall.

be one of the finest of its kind in the U.S., according to the National Park Service. You can bicycle or walk across it via the C&O towpath.

Mouth of the Monocacy Road, Dickerson 301-739-4200 home.nps.gov (Search the aqueduct.)

Seton Shrine

The naming of the first American pope seems a good occasion to remember the first American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, born in 1774 and canonized 50 years ago. Learn about the founder of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's, the first community for religious women in the U.S. Check out the museum dedicated to her, as well as her historic homes.

339 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg 301-447-6606 setonshrine.org



FILE PHOTO

The Monocacy Aqueduct is built of stone, much of which was quarried at nearby Sugarloaf Mountain.

It's Summer—Get Outside! WHERE TO

By Comfort Dorn fter more than 40 Maryland summers without central AC, I've learned a thing or two. My No.1 takeaway: Don't fight it. Embrace summer on its own terms. That means loose-fitting clothes, lots of water and the right outdoor activities. Here are three suggestions.

Glide through the trees.

What's more inviting than walking under a shady tree canopy? How about navigating a rope course high above the ground within that canopy—or gliding through the treetops on a breezy zip line.

The Tree Trekkers course in Frederick County has 14 high ropes trails and two zip lines with a variety of difficulty levels, all on 30 acres of protected forest. Climbers move from platform to platform up in the trees and return to the ground at the end of each trail to start the next one.

The course is open to ages 7 and up, making it a great choice for families and friend groups, and you can book a guide or explore the trails on your own. For information, call 301-888-8735 or visit treetrekkersmd.com.

Swim in a lake.

A dip in the pool is refreshing, but have you tried floating on the rippling waters of a lake surrounded by lush tree-covered mountain slopes?

Maryland has no natural lakes; however, the state more than compensates with the manmade variety, including the lovely Hunting Creek Lake in Cunningham Falls State Park, which has three designated swimming areas with sandy beaches and lifeguards on duty daily, 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Memorial Day to Labor Day. Plan to arrive early on weekends and holidays, as the park fills up quickly. For information, call 301-271-7574.



Zoom through the trees on one of Tree Trekkers' two zip lines.



CELEBRATE FREDERICK

A singer entertains the audience at the Baker Park Bandshell.

Catch music at the bandshell.

An outdoor concert on a summer evening—what could be finer? The 2025 Summer Concert Series at the Baker Park Bandshell in downtown Frederick presents something for every musical taste: jazz, bluegrass, dance rock, go-go,

soul, country, salsa and more. Concerts are Sundays in June, July and August, 7-8:30 p.m.

To make the evening even better, a rotating schedule of food trucks offers sweet and savory treats to enjoy during the concerts. For information, call 301-600-CITY.

REEL 'EM IN

By Comfort Dorn

"I go fishing not to find myself but to lose myself," novelist Joseph Monninger wrote, and Frederick County offers plenty of great places to lose yourself with a rod and reel this summer.

The Potomac Valley Fly Fishers Club (pvff. club) partners with Frederick County Parks and Recreation to offer advice and fly-fishing opportunities at **Catoctin** Creek Park near Middletown. Catoctin Creek, with mostly native brook trout, rainbow trout and smallmouth bass, rates a 4.8 out of 5 on Fishbrain.com, a website where anglers can report their favorite spots and catches.

Also highly rated (4.7) on the website is the Monocacy River, where small mouth bass and redbreast sunfish predominate. The river runs through an 1,800-acre natural resource preservation area. You can fish off the bank or launch your boat at Pinecliff Park in Frederick.

Prefer to start small? Try the pond in the Rock Run area at Gambrill State Park. It's populated with largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. You don't need a license, and you can borrow a children's fishing rod to teach a youngster how to fish.

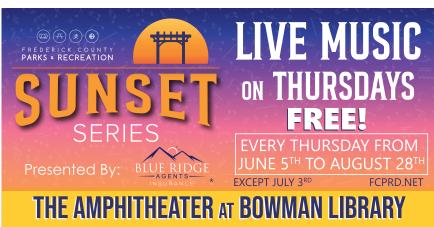
Just getting started? The Thurmont Public Library has a fishing equipment loaner program, and you should know that kids under age 16 don't need a license for recreational fishing. Call 301-600-7200.

For information on fishing regulations, visit eregulations.com and select Maryland from the homepage dropdown menu.



COURTESY STEVE CLARK

Steve Clark, membership director of the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers, holds a rainbow trout at Pebble Beach on Catoctin Creek.













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6 Places to Make a Splash

Where to Kayak and Canoe in Jefferson County

By Ainsley Hall

River Riders

River Riders is a popular destination for many water sports enthusiasts. Located in Harpers Ferry, River Riders offers many different summer adventures, including white water kayaking, canoeing and more. Join a group and float down the Shenandoah or Potomac River and enjoy the nature surrounding historic Harpers Ferry. River Riders is perfect for both beginners who want to give kayaking a try and longtime veterans looking for something new.

408 Alstadts Hill Road, Harpers Ferry 304-535-2663 riverriders.com

River & Trail Outfitters

River & Trail Outfitters also offers kayaking and canoeing in Harpers Ferry. Rent whatever you need and join one of the four kayaking tours, which include the Sunset Potomac Kayaking Tour, Smoketown Brewery Kayak Tour, Walsh Family Winery Kayak Tour and the Big Cork Winery Kayak Tour.

99 Cary Lu Circle #108, Harpers Ferry 301-834-9950 rivertrail.com

Moulton Park

Those who want to take their own kayaks and canoes out for a ride can head to Moulton Park. Moulton Park gives the public access to the Shenandoah River and offers a boat ramp where guests can launch into the water. The park is maintained by the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation, which expanded the park in 2024, adding 83 acres. Moulton Park is the perfect place for families to take a day trip to explore the river or even go camping nearby.

1123 Bloomery Road, Charles Town 304-728-3207 jeffersoncountywv.org (Search the park.)

Riverfront Park

Riverfront Park in Shepherdstown gives the community free access to the Potomac River.

The park falls along Princess Street and gives the public access to a boat ramp and picnic tables for



FILE PHOTO

A kayaker ventures out on the Potomac River.

guests to enjoy. Not only does it offer beautiful scenery, but it's also rich in history. It's a great place to bring your personal kayak or canoe and paddle along to see some of the amazing locations Shepherdstown has to offer.

306 N. Mill St., Shepherdstown shepherdstown.gov

5 Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area

Right next to the nearby mountains, kayakers can find the Shannondale Springs Wildlife Management Area. Bordering the Shenandoah River, this location is a great place to strike out into the river surrounded by nature. It's managed by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources and also offers several walking trails for guests to enjoy. A boat ramp is also located on site, making it easy to take off through the water.

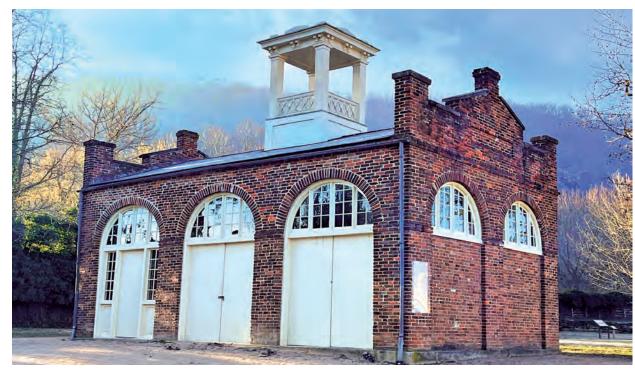
Co Route 9/5, Harpers Ferry 304-822-3551 wvdnr.gov



TONI MILBOURN

Visits to River Riders or River & Trail Outfitters can lead people to a lazy day on the Shenandoah River or into rapids if they prefer.

Top Spots for Solo Travelers



TONI MILBOURNE

John Brown's Fort, where actions that led to the Civil War began, stands in lower town Harpers Ferry.

By Ainsley Hall

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park – This is a popular place to visit for both locals and tourists. Learn about the rich history at the John Brown Fort or local museums, visit some of the small shops or simply enjoy the beautiful scenery. Guests can even walk to The Point to see the incredible view over the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers. There's a lot to do and see in Harpers Ferry.

304-535-6029 nps.gov/hafe/index.htm harpersferryhistory.org

Pickleball/volleyball – For those solo travelers looking for something more active, travel to Sam Michaels Park to play some drop-in pickleball, volleyball or soccer. Games are held regularly throughout the week. Pickleball is played on Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. and Friday at 3:30 p.m. Volleyball is on Thursday at 8 p.m. and soccer is on Tuesday at 8 p.m. It's a great chance to meet new people and get some exercise.

235 Sam Michaels Lane, Shenandoah Junction 304-728-3207

Shepherdstown – Another great place for solo travelers is downtown Shepherdstown. With several



TARITHA IOHNSTOI

The Shepherdstown Opera House is one of many unique venues to visit in the quaint village.

unique shops and restaurants, there's a lot to do in this small town. Learn about the local history and the impact the Civil War had on the people or visit the different art galleries to see the incredible talent throughout the area. Throughout July, Shepherdstown is also the host of the Contemporary American Theater Festival, where people from all over come to share never-before-seen performances.

304-876-2786 shepherdstown.info

3 LIVE MUSIC HOTSPOTS

By AINSLEY HALL

The Amp – Every Thursday during the summer, the community gathers at the AMP at Sam Michaels Park to listen to live music. Jefferson County Parks and Recreation recently completed a new building project that includes restrooms, concessions and a ticketing building for guests. The concerts are completely free for anyone who wants to attend.

235 Sam Michaels Lane, Shenandoah Junction 304-728-3207

The Barn of Harpers Ferry – The Barn of Harpers Ferry is a bar and event venue that hosts musicians from all over the country, making it a great place for visitors to hear some live music. Every weekend there is something new, from bluegrass to rock, jazz and more.

1062 W. Washington St., Harpers Ferry barnofharpersferry.com 855-935-2276

Hollywood Casino – The Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races isn't just a place where people can watch horses race or play on slot machines. They also regularly host all kinds of concerts, including Switchfoot on July 5.

750 Hollywood Drive, Charles Town hollywoodcasinocharlestown.com 800-795-7001



TOM MARKLAND

A jam session in The Barn welcomed musicians to join in on traditional Irish/Celtic music.







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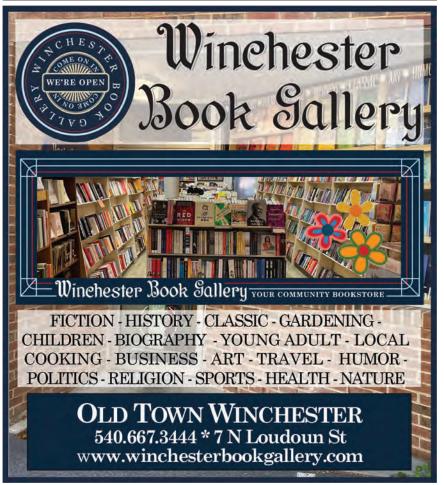
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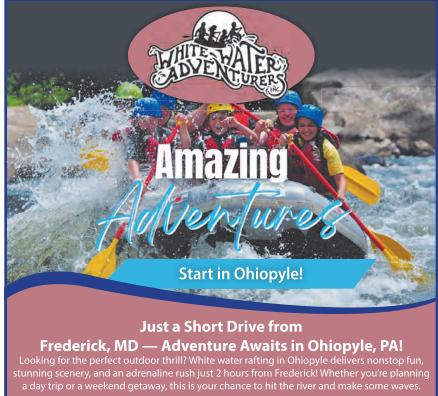
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129 E German Street, Shepherdstown, WV

304-876-0910

hsc1786@gmail.com

www.historicshepherdstown.com www.kentuckyriflefoundation.org

5 Kid-Friendly Activities

Catch a flick (or two) at the Family Drive-In Theatre.

In southern Frederick County, you'll find a classic two-screen outdoor cinema that has been entertaining since 1956. It's known as one of Virginia's few remaining drive-in theaters. For \$11 per person (ages 3 and up), you can see two movies in one night—a doubleheader. There are concessions available, too.

5890 Valley Pike, Stephens City 540-665-6982 thefamilydi.com

Pick your own berries, peaches and Ilowers at West Oaks Farm & Market.

West Oaks Farm & Market offers seasonal pick-your-own adventures. This summer, peaches are available late July through August, flowers are available June through October and berries-strawberries, blackberries and raspberries—are available from mid-May through July. The farm also has a cafe, gift shop and space for the kids to play.

4305 Middle Road, Winchester 540-539-8175 westoaksfarm-market.com

Grab a cone at a classic ice cream joint. The Dairy Corner has been serving up ice cream in the Winchester area since 1957. Conveniently located off Berryville Avenue (Va. 7), and known for its tall soft-serve cones, the retro spot is widely popular. Try the banana flavor made

177 Dairy Corner Place, Winchester facebook.com/TheDairyCorner177

with fresh bananas!

See a rodeo, tractor pull or demolition 4 derby at the Frederick County Fair.

This year's Frederick County Fair is set for July 28-Aug. 2, when guests can witness a rodeo, a monster truck rally, a tractor pull, a demolition derby and more. There's fair food, carnival rides, farm animals and vendors, too.

167 Fairground Road, Clear Brook 540-667-8739 frederickcountyfair.com

Play with interactive exhibits at the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum.

Rain or shine, you and yours can explore the exhibits of the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Muse-



JEFF TAYLOR

Hogs in the show ring at the 2024 Frederick County Fair 4-H and FFA Market Hog Show



um—just know it isn't your typical museum. Each section features ways to play, whether picking and packing "apples" or building in the "construction zone." Tickets are \$10 per person for ages 2 and up. Children under 2 years old get in free.

19 W. Cork St., Winchester 540-722-2020 discoverymuseum.net



ABOVE: The family-friendly Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum in downtown Winchester

LEFT: The Dairy Corner off Berryville Avenue is a widely popular ice cream joint.

Stops for History Buffs

1 George Washington's Office Museum

In historic downtown Winchester, George Washington's former military office is housed within a little log structure that now serves as a museum. America's first president used the office in the mid-1750s while Fort Loudoun was being constructed in nearby Winchester. The region played an important role in Washington's young adult life, with Winchester often being credited as the place where his military and political career began. The office museum is open this summer from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for students.

32 W. Cork St., Winchester 540-662-4412 winchesterhistory.org/ george-washingtons-office

2Cedar Creek Battlefield
The 1864 Battle of Cedar Creek, credited by some historians for



JEFF TAYLOR

The Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum in downtown Winchester.

changing the course of the Civil War and, therefore, America's history, was fought in the Northern Shenandoah Valley near Middletown. The site, as well as a free museum full of artifacts, interactive activities and more, is available for tours and visits. Hours are Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

8437 Valley Pike, Middletown 540-869-2064 ccbf.us

3 Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum

Situated in the former Frederick County Courthouse on the Loudoun Street Pedestrian Mall, the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum tells the story of the region's Civil War past. In addition to housing artifacts, stories and imagery, the building itself was used as a hospital, prison and barracks during the war, with historic graffiti still visible on the walls.

20 N. Loudoun St., Winchester 540-327-4277 shenandoahatwar.org/ civil-war-museum

Mount Hebron Cemetery
Many buried at the historic
Mount Hebron Cemetery were alive
during the Civil War and Revolutionary War. Winchester notables
from the 18th century through the
21st century have found a final resting place at Mount Hebron, which
boasts dramatic stone architecture.
Information regarding self-guided
tours of the hallowed grounds is
available on the website.

305 E. Boscawen St., Winchester 540-662-4868 mthebroncemetery.org

Where to Strike Out on Your Own

Interested in the experience of a solo getaway but daunted by an expedition to another country? Winchester offers activities that allow solo traveling beginners to get a small-scale feel for a private adventure. Here's what we recommend:

Start with a breath of fresh air at the **Museum of the Shenandoah Valley's** gardens, art walks and trails that stretch across a 214-acre land-scape. (901 Amherst St., 540-662-1473, themsv.org.)

Just up the street, snag a snack, meal or beverage at **Fleur de Lis Cheese Shop** (17 S. Loudoun St.),
Bonnie Blue Southern Market & Bakery
(334 W. Boscawen St.) or Espresso Bar
& Cafe (165 N. Loudoun St.).



JEFF TAYLOR

An employee of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester in the Asian Garden

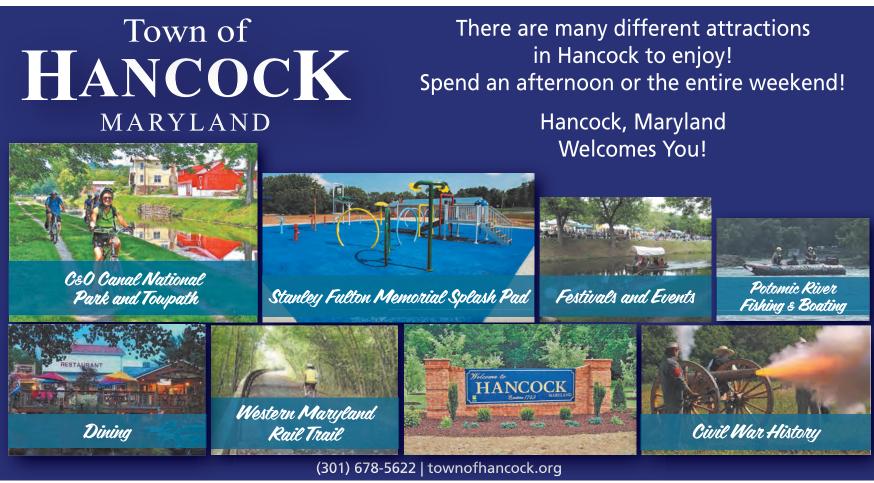
Then, get lost in the shelves at **Winchester Book Gallery** (7 N. Loudoun St.)—a quaint store near other shopping destinations. Or, if you're more history-oriented, soak in the striking architecture of **Handley Regional Library** (100 W. Piccadilly St.) while finding your next read.



FILE PHOTO

Visitors tour Winchester's Handley Regional Library, which features striking architecture.





Ways to Enjoy the Outdoors

By Elizabeth Stinnette

Climb Annapolis Rock.

A favorite with hikers of the Appalachian Trail, Annapolis Rock in South Mountain State Park rewards travelers with a stunning 180-degree overlook of Greenbrier Lake and the Cumberland Valley. Considered a moderately difficult trail, the 5.3-mile round trip begins near I-70 before settling into a calming wooded path. Rock climbers can also scale the area along multiple routes.

Annapolis Rock & Black Rock Cliff Trailhead 11175 Baltimore National Pike, Myersville 301-791-4767

Ride the Western Maryland Rail Trail.

With picturesque views of rivers and mountains and a paved, flat trail, the Western Maryland Rail Trail is ideal for biking, skating or hiking expeditions. Stretching for 26 miles from Big Pool to Little Orleans along a former railroad line, it runs parallel to the C&O Canal.

11100 Fort Frederick Road, Big Pool 301-842-2155 westernmarylandrailtrail.com

🔿 Canoe or kayak through historic Antietam.

Combine historic sightseeing and Class I-II rapids by taking a trip down Antietam Creek. Most of the Potomac tributary's 41.7 miles wind through Washington County, passing forests, bridges and Antietam National Battlefield. Bring your own craft, or if you have a group of 10 or more, book a tour with River & Trail Outfitters.

visithagerstown.com (Search the trail.)



JOHN CANAN

Hunt for a geocache.

Washington County is home to at least three geocaching trails. Geocaching combines technology with outdoor adventure as you search for small "treasure boxes" using GPS and a free app. The Washington County Geo-Trail offers 35 caches across the county, while the Hagerstown City Park Geo-Trail features five sites in Hagerstown City Park. For a historical adventure, try the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Geo-Trail, which bridges several Maryland counties.

visithagerstown.com (Search geo-caching.)



ABOVE: Homemade ice cream and bucolic viewswhat can beat a delicious afternoon at Misty Mountain Farm Creamery?

LEFT: After a moderate hike, Annapolis Rock offers breathtaking views of Maryland scenery.

Have a "moo-velous" time at Misty Meadow Farm Creamery.

A proud member of Maryland's Best Ice Cream Trail, Misty Meadow Farm Creamery has been family-owned since 2012, and the farm itself originated in 1918. Don't just visit for their delicious homemade ice cream-meet a passel of farm animals, clamber on the playground and try some pedal tractors.

14325 Misty Meadow Road, Smithsburg 301-824-2112 mistymeadowfarmcreamery.com



The kid-friendly photo ops are sweet at The Maryland Theatre's CandyFest, scheduled this year for July 25-27.

3 CAN'T-MISS SUMMER EVENTS

By ELIZABETH STINNETTE

Celebrate local farms at the Washington County Ag Expo and Fair.

Running this year from July 12-19, the Washington County Ag Expo and Fair near Sharpsburg provides down-home fun for the entire family. Meet farm animals at a show, listen to live music and enjoy carnival rides at this classic summer event. Learn more at agexpoandfair.org.

Indulge your sweet tooth at CandyFest.

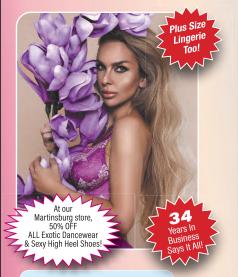
If you enjoy sugary treats, you'll find plenty to relish at The Maryland Theatre's CandyFest in Hagerstown. Play oversized candy lawn games, make themed crafts and snap pictures amid delectable photo ops. There will also be a candy scavenger hunt. The event will be held July 25-27. To learn more and buy tickets, visit mdtheatre.org/candyfest.

Kick off Oktoberfest early.

Can't wait until Oktoberfest to celebrate all things German? Get started early with the Augustoberfest celebration, scheduled for Aug. 16-17. Relish authentic German beer and cuisine, enjoy performances of orchestras and folk dancers and listen to German fairy tales with the kids. The event raises money for local charities. Find out more at augustoberfest.org.

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57 Meadow Lane Plaza Mon-Sat 11-8, Sun Noon-5 LAVALE, MD 240-362-0001

1227 National Hwy Mon-Sat 11-7, Closed Sunday



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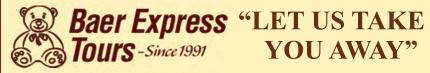
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- OHIO AMISH COUNTRY Berlin, Ohio July 31-Aug. 2 Call for details.
- BIRD-IN-HAND STAGE SHOW: "THE RISE & FALL OF MISS FANNYS BISCUTS" Tues. July 22 Bird in Hand, PA \$130
- DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATER, SHOW: "WIZARD OF OZ" Lancaster, PA Thurs. July 24 \$129
- SUICIDE BRIDGE AYCE CRAB CRUISE Hurlock, MD Aug. 7 \$144
- NEW YORK ADORONDACKS THOUSAND ISLANDS, LAKE PLACID & LAKE GEORGE Tues. Aug. 19-25 • Call for details.
- ENCHANTED COASTAL MAINE Sept. 28 Oct. 3 Call for details.
- DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATRE, SHOW: "BUDDY HOLLY STORY" Lancaster, PA Wed. Sept. 17 \$129
- KENNEDY CENTER Washington, DC SHOW: "SOUND OF MUSIC" Sat. Sept. 20 • \$156
- CREATION MUSEUM & ARK ENCOUNTER Northern Kentucky Sept. 22-25 • Call for details.
- MYRTLE BEACH, SC Oct. 13-18 Call for details.
- SUNFEST OCEAN CITY, MD Oct. 22-24 Call for details.
- HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN VIRGINIA BEACH Dec. 11-14 Call for details.

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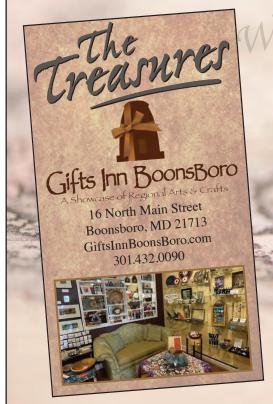


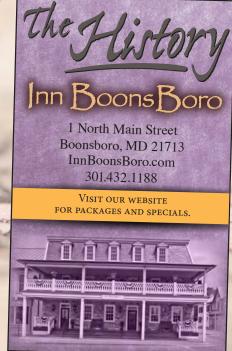




THE MAGIC IS WAITING FOR YOU











Under-the-Radar Treasures

BY ELLYN WEXLER

hen most visitors think of Franklin County, they picture rolling farmland, charming small towns, and maybe a stroll through Chambersburg's historic district. But tucked away from the well-worn paths are lesser-known destinations that tell richer, deeper stories. These five hidden gems offer immersive history, tranquil nature and powerful moments of reflection.

■ The Conococheague Institute

Let Step into the 1700s at this living history site just outside Mercersburg. Costumed interpreters demonstrate frontier life with hearth cooking, blacksmithing and herbal medicine. Nestled on historic land once traveled by Native Americans and settlers, the site offers nature trails, restored log buildings, and a peaceful pond—perfect for reflection. Seasonal festivals, educational workshops and interactive exhibits make it a dynamic stop for all ages.

12995 Bain Road, Mercersburg 717-328-2800 cimlg.org

The Old Jail & John Brown House
History and legend come together at this 1818
jail, now a museum featuring preserved cells,
Civil War exhibits and eerie ghost stories. You can almost hear the echoes of the past as you walk corridors once used to detain Confederate prisoners. Just down the street, the John Brown House marks the site of the abolitionist's dramatic raid preparations and tells of Chambersburg's bold role

175 E. King St., Chambersburg 717-264-1667 franklinhistorical.org

in the Underground Railroad.

? Renfrew Museum & Park

Often overlooked, Renfrew is a beautifully preserved early-1800s farmstead. Explore antique farm tools, decorative arts and archaeology exhibits in the museum. The 107-acre park surrounding it—with woods, open meadows and a bubbling creek—is ideal for an afternoon picnic or peaceful walk. Wildlife sightings and quiet benches enhance the experience.

1010 E. Main St., Waynesboro 717-762-4723 renfrewmuseum.org



CONOCOCHEAGUE INSTITUTE

 $Costumed\ interpreters\ who\ model\ frontier\ life\ in\ the\ late\ 1700s\ play\ tavern\ games\ at\ Conococheague\ Institute.$

4 Franklin County Veterans and 9/11 Memorial Park

Set along Route 30, this touching memorial features sculpture, stonework, and a piece of steel from the World Trade Center ruins after it was destroyed in 2001. Tributes honor local service members from the Revolutionary War to today, those who died on 9/11 and first responders. It's a powerful place for contemplation, remembrance and gratitude.

1 Washabaugh Way, Chambersburg 717-261-3275 (county recreation department) veterantrailpa.org

E Beartown Woods Natural Area

Nature lovers will find solitude in this 27acre preserve within Michaux State Forest. The preserve is home to rare old-growth hardwoods. Trails wind around sugar maples and eastern hemlocks, with signs offering insight into the unique forest ecology. It's a quiet retreat where birdsong and rustling leaves replace the clamor of



COURTESY RENFREW MUSEUM & PARK

Renfrew Museum features early American furniture, farm tools, textiles, pottery and more.

daily life. Traversed by the Appalachian Trail, it's a must-visit for hikers and nature enthusiasts.

Along PA-16 near Waynesboro 717-352-2211 oldgrowthforest.net/pa-beartown-woods

Where to Go Solo



Cool, quiet and awe-inspiring, Black-Coffey Caverns offers a peaceful descent into the natural beauty beneath Franklin County's surface.

By Ellyn Wexler

ooking to unplug and recharge? Franklin and Adams counties offer the perfect backdrop for solo exploration—where quiet trails, creative hideaways and historic sites let you set your own pace. Whether you're an introverted adventurer, a curious artist or a history lover in search of stillness, this region invites you to follow your own rhythm. Take a breath, follow your curiosity and give yourself the gift of going solo.

Adams County: History, Wine and Charm

Step inside the **Shriver House Museum** in Gettysburg for a powerful glimpse into civilian life during the Civil War. This meticulously restored 1860 homeonce occupied by Confederate sharpshooters—brings history to life through guided tours led by docents in period attire. As visitors move from room to room, they follow the harrowing story of the Shriver family before, during and after the Battle of Gettysburg, viewing original artifacts and preserved bullet holes. Learn more at shriverhouse.org.

Adams County Winery in Orrtanna is a solo traveler's dream: Sip local wine on the patio, wander the garden paths or relax among the vines. It's part of the Adams County Pour Tour, which links wineries, breweries, cideries, distilleries and meaderies across the region. See adamscountywinery.com.

End your day at Hollabaugh Bros. Fruit Farm Market in Biglerville, where homemade jams, apple picking and the scent of fresh-baked pie create a perfectly unhurried solo stop. Learn more at hollabaughbros.com.

Franklin County: Natural Beauty and **Creative Energy**

Begin your solo adventure underground at Black-Coffey Caverns, recently reopened near Marion. These limestone caverns, accessed through a private home, offer a cool, echo-

> filled world of natural formations that inspire both awe and introspection.

> > With appointment-only small group tours and a peaceful atmosphere, it's a uniquely meditative experience. To learn more, visit blackcoffeycaverns.com.

In downtown Chambersburg, the **Foundry Art Market** is a cozy place to browse ceramics, paintings and handmade goods from more than 50 local artists Friday through Sunday.

Rotating exhibits keep things fresh, and a quiet reading nook invites you to linger with a book or journal. See foundryartmarket.com.

Wrap up your day at Rough Edges Brewing in Waynesboro. Grab a seat at the bar, enjoy a flight of craft beers, and soak in the laid-back, welcoming vibe. Visit roughedgesbrewing.com.



COURTESY HORSE TOURS OF GETTYSBURG

Horse Tours of Gettysburg offers a variety of rides for visitors to the battlefield.

Explore Gettysburg's Battlefield by Horse

BY ELLYN WEXLER

Saddle up and experience Gettysburg like never before with a guided trail ride through the historic battlefield. These excursions offer a memorable blend of storytelling, scenery and serenity for history buffs and nature lovers alike.

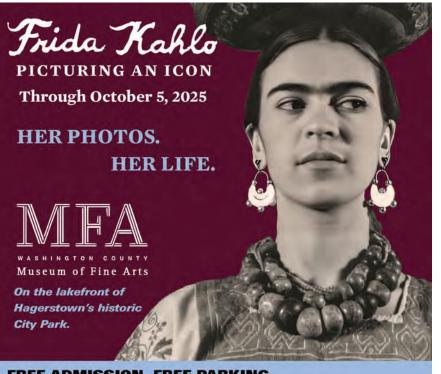
Horse Tours of Gettysburg provides two-hour rides exploring both Union and Confederate sides of the Battle of Gettysburg. Riders wear earpieces so everyone can hear the licensed guide's narration. They also offer carriage, Segway and walking tours. Book a ride at confederatetrails.com.

Hickory Hollow Farm welcomes all experience levels, with calm horses and informative guides. Rides begin on the Confederate side of the battlefield, and you can choose between a scenic trail or historic tour. Visit hickoryhollowfarm.com.

For a quieter, more intimate adventure, Keystone Trail Rides offers private tours on seldom-seen trails of Gettysburg National Military Park. Check out their two-hour sunset adventure, or book a three- or four-hour ride during the day. See keystonetrailrides.com

National Riding Stables Horse Rescue pairs education with heart, offering rides on horses saved from abuse and neglect. No riding experience is necessary—just curiosity, closed-toe shoes and a sense of adventure. Book ahead and bring a camera. History and beauty await on the trail. Visit nationalridingstables.org.





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This exhibition is organized by Vicente Wolf Associates from Vicente Wolf's collection. Major funding has been provided by Nora & Bruce Wilder, with additional support from Hagerstown & Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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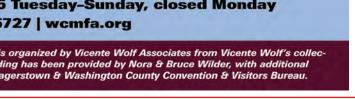
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Find Your Next Nature Adventure

By Lori D'Angelo

age County features outdoor activities for people of all ages. Whether you're interested in swimming, hiking, biking or water sports, there are many options to explore along the area's beautiful scenic landscape. One of the county's most well-known natural wonders is Luray Caverns, which has been a popular tourist destination since its discovery in 1878.

Explore the wonders of Luray Caverns.

The caverns are famous for their impressive stalactite and stalagmite formations, gigantic rooms and 10-story-high ceilings. In addition to the caverns themselves, visitors to the site can also explore a half-mile garden maze made of evergreen hedges as well as the cavern's rope adventure park. The adventure park features both a low ropes course and a high ropes course, and the caverns also offer a gem sluice area where kids can get hands-on geology and history lessons.

101 Cave Hill Road, Luray 540-743-6551 luraycaverns.com



DANIEL LIN

Visitors to Luray Caverns stop at the Wishing Well during self-guided tours.

2Take a trip down the Shenandoah River.

Visitors to Page County can also enjoy the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, which flows through the Page Valley for 55 miles. The river winds through the Massanutten Mountain in the west and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the East.

If you want to go tubing, rafting, kayaking, canoeing or tubing on the river, you can do so with Shenandoah

River Outfitters in Luray, which has been helping visitors plan their river adventures for 55 years. During the season, which begins in April, the company offers daily trips for people of all experience levels.

Shenandoah River Outfitters 6502 S. Page Valley Road, Luray 540-743-4159

shenandoah-river.com

Take a hike at Shenandoah National Park.

Page County also offers access to Shenandoah National Park, which includes many trails as well as a section of the renowned Appalachian Trail. Inside the park, one of Page County's most popular hiking attractions is the Stony Man Mountain trail.

Stony Man Mountain gets its name from the fact that when viewed from the north, it resembles the bearded face of a man.

The mountain's peak is the second-highest in Shenandoah National Park. It is said to have some of the park's best views and is considered to be a good site for birdwatching.

540-999-3500

nps.gov/places/000/stony-man.htm

CHECK OUT THESE HIDDEN GEMS

By Rheagan Nelson

Bear Mountain Ziplines

Bear Mountain Ziplines is 50 acres of forest where adrenaline junkies can soar through the trees on wires.

Bear Mountain, which opened in 2014, allows people to achieve new heights and overcome obstacles. The main attraction is the Mama Bear Zipline Canopy Tour. It features seven ziplines, with platforms connecting each one. Depending on the tour size, it takes about an hour to 90 minutes to go through the ziplines.

Adventurous spirits can also climb

the Bear Scramble Climbing Wall, which has three stories and allows two people at a time to climb up the rock wall.

The third attraction is the Baby Bear High Ropes Course, where an obstacle course is mounted in the trees, including a catwalk, a wobbly log and a zigzag bridge.

Appointments must be made by calling 540-743-1733 or online at bearmountainadventure.com.

Luray Zoo

Children can learn about the different animals of the world at the

Luray Zoo. Families know they've arrived when they see the giant statue of a T-Rex waiting outside of the building.

While it may look small on the outside, the inside is home to many animals that can't be found in your backyard. There are reptiles like lizards and snakes, including an anaconda. Slow-moving creatures like turtles and tortoises can be found alongside the alligators and crocodiles.

There is even a petting zoo for people who want to get up close with the



RHEAGAN NELSO

KT Frazier works as a guide to the Mama Bear Zipline Canopy Tour, and educates people through the course at Bear Mountain Ziplines.

animals. Goats, sheep, alpacas and even emus can be greeted and petted with care—but make sure you don't pet the zoo's resident porcupine.

For information, visit lurayzoo.com.

Events to Check Out With Your Friends

3rd Annual Watermelon Park Car Show

Enjoy automobiles, live entertainment, merchandise, food, vendors, tubing, swimming and fishing at Watermelon Park's car show on July 6. Expect to finish off the night with fireworks. Admission is free. Overnight stays in the recreational vehicle park are welcome.

3322 Lockes Mill Road, Berryville 540-955-4803 watermelonpark.com

Pageant of Steam Show ✓Vintage farming equipment will be on display for the annual Pageant of Steam Show, which is set for July 25–27. Attendees can expect antique tractors, demonstrations, agriculture education, live music, a parade and craft and food vendors. Admission is \$10 Friday and Saturday, and \$5 on Sunday. Parking is free. No pets.

890 W. Main St., Berryville svsgea.org

Clarke County Fair 3 Clarke County Fair
Held at the Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds, the annual Clarke County Fair is filled with shows, food, animals, rides and community spirit for young and old alike. This year is the event's 70th anniversary, so it's one you don't want to miss. It

890 W. Main St., Berryville clarkecountyfair.org

will be held Aug. 10-16.

Watermelon Pickers' Fest The 21st year of the Watermelon Pickers' Fest, a family-friendly weekend of bluegrass music and community, is set for Sept. 4-6. Enjoy workshops, contests and other activities. Camping is welcome. Tickets start at \$45. You can view the artist lineup and purchase tickets on the website.

890 W. Main St., Berryville watermelonpickersfest.com



JEFF TAYLOR

A child rides the merry-go-round with her grandmother at the 68th Clarke County Fair in Berryville.

Summer's End Cruise In

As the summer draws to a close, check out the Summer's End Cruise In, where Berryville's Main Street closes so that participants can show off roadsters, sports cars, antique cars, muscle cars and classic cars. This is great for car enthusiasts, but everyone can have a good time strolling through the shops and eateries of downtown Berryville. Pets welcome. It will be held Aug. 23 from 4–7 p.m.

Berryville Main Street, 1 E. Main St., Berrvville 540-313-6246 berryvillemainstreet.com/event/ summers-end-cruise-in-2



A steam traction engine at the 2022 Pageant of Steam Show in Clarke County

Where to Commune With Nature



Michelle Ridings, Clarke County's director of Economic Development and Tourism, stands at the Bears Den overlook, one of six Appalachian Trail hikes in the county.

larke County is known for rolling farmland, paired with ★ the Blue Ridge Mountains that rise gently above and the Shenandoah River that cuts through the land. It's a region with an array of outdoorsy opportunities for those seeking a simple summertime adventure this season. Enjoy hiking, biking and walking spots and local farm experiences.

The Appalachian Trail (AT), the world's longest hiking-only footpath, winds through 22 miles of Clarke County—a segment that is known as the "Roller Coaster" section. The AT is a 2,190-mile footpath from Maine to Georgia that celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. In Clarke County, local experts have broken down the trail into six separate hikes, each varying in distance and elevation, for walkers, bikers or long-term trekkers. View the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority's "Take a Hike" trail flyer on clarkelandconservation.org.



A hiker on one of the six Appalachian Trail hikes in Clarke County

Another much-loved place for a nature stroll in Clarke County is Blandy Experimental Farm, where the State Arboretum of Virginia is located: 400 Blandy Farm Lane, Boyce.

At Blandy, picnics, birdwatching, bicycling and tours abound. The 700acre destination is open to the public for free from dawn to dusk every day. Plan your visit at blandy.virginia.edu.

Before or after your walk, hike or bike ride, consider a Clarke County farm experience. Agriculture is the county's pride and joy, after all. Mackintosh Fruit Farm offers pick-your-own fruit seasonally, in addition to their market and cafe. Serenity Farm, an animal sanctuary, has guided tours and hands-on time. Twisted Oak Farm Brewery, where the hops are grown onsite, offers outdoor seating, firepits, games and live entertainment. At Nimbus Farm, you can book a tour to meet alpacas up close and learn about their wool. And just off Va. 7, Nall's Produce provides seasonal fruit, vegetables, flowers, baked goods and preserves. For more information on these farms and more, visit experienceclarkecounty.com.



Hogan's Alley in downtown Berryville is home to antique shops like Hip and Humble and Rat Pack Antiques and Toys.

3 PLACES TO GO **ANTIQUING**

Red Schoolhouse Antiques Located in historic Millwood. Red Schoolhouse Antiques boasts a curated collection spanning more than 8.000 square feet of authentic furniture, decorative items and artwork from the British Isles, Europe and the United States.

1014 Bishop Meade Road, Millwood 540-837-3033 redschoolhouseantiques.net

Hip and Humble Hip and Humble, an antique furniture store in Berryville, possesses an eclectic collection of items for your home, many of which have been creatively upcycled from salvaged finds.

401 E. Main St., Berryville 540-327-5669 facebook.com/ **HipAndHumbleInteriors**

Rat Pack Antiques and Toys

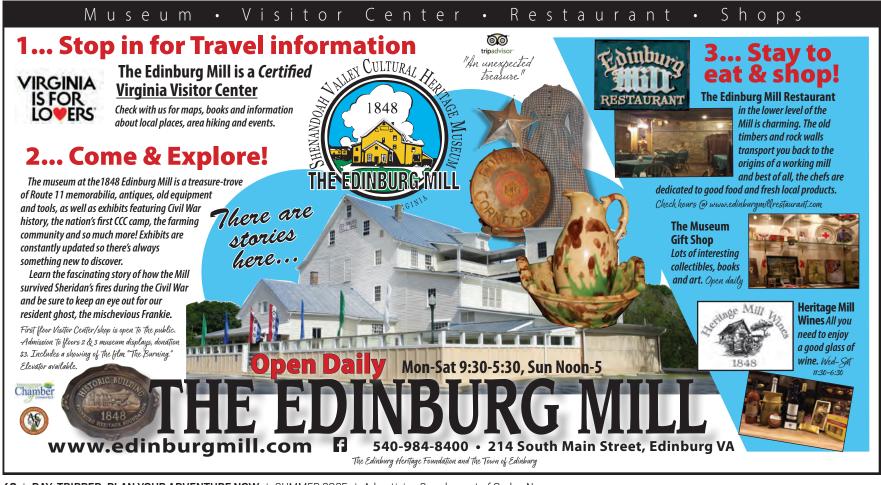
Check out Rat Pack Antiques and Toys in downtown Berryville, where you can find vintage home decor, artwork, furniture, jewelry, collectibles and nostalgic toys.

14 W. Main St., Berryville 540-327-8134





(540) 459-9650 | 336 S Main St. Woodstock, VA 22664 | VA Lic # 0226019385



Outdoor Adventures

By Chris Slattery

¬rom paddling the Potomac riding horseback through the woods, these five Hardy County experiences are perfect for your next outdoor escape.

Breezewood Adventures Whether your goal is to shoot the rapids or paddle peacefully, Breezewood Adventures can get you on the water in short order. Rent a canoe or kayak for a perfect paddle on the Potomac. You can also take a guided fishing trip along the river's South Branch, a popular spot for anglers looking for smallmouth bass and trout. Make it a weekend on the water and book a campsite.

3709 US Highway 220, Moorefield 304-703-9975

breezewoodadventures.com

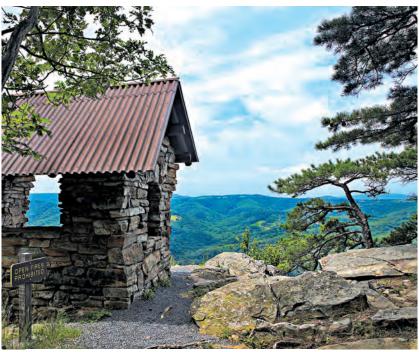
↑ Lost River State Park

✓ With 23 miles of dog-friendly hiking trails, 26 cabins, and numerous campsites—including mountaintop primitive camping spots— Lost River State Park is a dream destination for outdoor enthusiasts. If you're not up for a hike, you can bike, try your hand at archery or horseshoes and more. Check out the Cranny Crow overlook atop Big Ridge Mountain to catch a view of five states at once. There's a swimming pool, tennis courts and a rec station with free nature programs, too, so whatever level of adventure you like, you'll find it right here.

321 Park Drive, Mathias 304-897-5372 wvstateparks.com (Search the park.)

Hidden Trails Stables You can tour the trails of Lost River State Park with experienced guides and gentle horses if you start your adventure at Hidden

Trails Stables. Choose your ride,



COURTESY HARDY COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The Cranny Crow overlook in Lost River State Park provides a bird's-eye view of five states.



COURTESY HARDY COUNTY CONVENTION &

Begin your Lost River State Park adventure on horseback at Hidden Trails Stables.

from a half hour to two hours long, and enjoy the shady stretches that meander through the mountains.

6849 Dove Hollow Road, Mathias 304-897-5621 hiddentrailsstableswv.com

Lost River Barn/Raw Talent

Cycling's elite train at this spot high atop Branch Mountain, but anyone can stay at Raw Talent Ranch/Lost River Barn. Book a cycling retreat, a family vacation, or a solo rustic getaway during your trip through Hardy.

9580 Howards Lick Road, Mathias 202-905-8663 lostriverbarn.com

Trout Pond Recreation Area

Trout Pond is West Virginia's only natural lake, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and it's a great spot to fish for brook trout. Plus, enjoy on-the-water recreation at the 17-acre, manmade swimming hole Rock Cliff Lake, and off-water exploration along lakeside trails. There's also a designated swimming area.

814 Trout Pond Campground Road, **Lost City** 304-897-6450

Run for the Hills—and **Into the Past**

By Chris Slattery

Hardy County invites visitors to explore its rich past through Civil War sites, historic homes and enduring Appalachian stories.

Start at the Hardy County Historical Society & Museum, in the historic Mullin Hotel in Moorefield. Civil War history, indigenous artifacts and surprising bits of Americana come together in this quaint spot, which is open on spring and summer Saturdays, It's located at 104 S. Main St. 2B. Moorefield.

The **Battle of Moorefield** was a pivotal victory for the Union in the Civil War, as Union Brig. Gen. William W. Averell's troops surprised Brig. Gen. Bradley T. Johnson's Confederate cavalry here on Aug. 7, 1864, pushing the regiment back and forcing them to "run for the hills." Civil War history buffs can visit the site of the rout, which cost the Confederates hundreds of men and horses, as well as the area where Johnson's retreating troops joined Brig. Gen. John McCausland's camp before giving up the fight. Trail signs mark key spots at 5196 U.S. Route 220, Old Fields, and 149 Hyde St., Moorefield ("Running for the Hills").

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the John Mathias Homestead was built around 1797 by John and Barbara Mathias. It remained a family home for more than 165 years. Now restored and featuring a heritage garden, the homestead offers a peek into Hardy County's past. Find it at W.Va. Route 259 and Howards Lick Road.



HARDY COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The John Mathias Homestead was built in two sections—the first around 1797 and the second around 1825.



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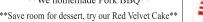
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Step Into Wild Beauty and Warm Waters

By Tom Markland

ith its mountain views, mineral springs and miles of wooded trails, Morgan County offers plenty of reasons to head outdoors. Whether you're looking for an active adventure or a peaceful place to unwind, there's something for you.

Hike or bike the trails at Cacapon Resort State Park.

Spanning more than 6,000 acres, Cacapon Resort State Park is a haven for hikers, mountain bikers and nature lovers. Outdoor adventures like hiking, mountain biking and fishing are plentiful here, especially with an upcoming \$3.5 million bike park expansion on the way.

The park is located at 818 Cacapon Lodge Drive, Berkeley Springs. It's open 24 hours. More information is available online at wvstateparks. com/cacapon-resort-state-park/ or by calling 304-258-1022.

Soak in the springs at Berkeley Springs State Park.

Right in the heart of downtown Berkeley Springs, this historic park is home to the warm mineral springs that gave the town its name. Visitors can wade in the outdoor spring pools or visit an on-site museum to learn more about the spring's history. George Washington once bathed here—and so can you.

The park is located at 2 S. Washington St., Berkeley Springs. It is open every day from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. More information is available online at wvstateparks.com/park/berkeley-springs-state-park, or by calling 304-258-2711.

Kayak or canoe the Cacapon River.

The Cacapon River winds through much of the county, offering waters ideal for paddling.

The river provides excellent spots for fishing and picnicking along the



FILE PHOTO

Paddle boaters float past the beach along Cacapon Lake in Berkeley Springs at Cacapon Resort State Park.



FILE PHOT

The Paw Paw Tunnel is a must-see landmark for hikers and history buffs.

way. It's a quiet, scenic way to take in Morgan County's natural beauty.

Multiple access points are available along the 112 miles of river, from the river's head in Hardy

County to its convergence with the Potomac River near Great Cacapon. A full map of those access points is available at cacaponriver.org/promote/river-recreation.

Explore the historic Paw Paw Tunnel on the C&O Canal Towpath.

One of Morgan County's most iconic landmarks, the Paw Paw Tunnel is a must-see for history buffs and hikers alike. Located along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park near the town of Paw Paw, the tunnel stretches 3,118 feet through the mountain and took over a decade to build in the 1800s.

Today, visitors can walk through the cool, brick-lined tunnel with a flashlight in hand, experiencing what canal travelers once navigated by boat. The adjacent towpath offers scenic hiking along the Potomac River, with opportunities to spot wildlife and admire the rugged beauty of the region.

The Paw Paw tunnel has no street address, but the nearby Paw Paw Tunnel Campground has parking and trails to it. It is located at Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath in Oldtown, Maryland.

LGBTQ+-Friendly Things to Do

By Tom Markland

erkeley Springs, nestled in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, is increasingly recognized for its welcoming atmosphere and LGBTQ+ inclusive events. From community-led Pride celebrations to inclusive local businesses, the area offers a variety of activities for LGBTQ+ residents and visitors alike.

This year, the town's Pride organization is set to host their 5th annual Pride Picnic in the small town's state park in the center of town.

Support local artists at the MAC Ice House.

The Morgan Arts Council's Ice House is a staple of the Berkeley Springs community, aiming to provide open access to the arts and foster an inclusive environment where LGBTO+ individuals and allies can engage with the creative community.

Located in the middle of downtown Berkeley Springs, the Ice House was once a derelict, cold storage building, and was gifted to the Morgan Arts Council (MAC) in 1996. Since then, much of the four-story building has been transformed into a hub for the town's bustling arts community, featuring a gallery, event space and much more.

The gallery is located at 138 Independence St. in Berkeley Springs. It's



TOM MARKLAND

Pride flags fly in Berkeley Springs State Park.

open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. More information is available on their website at macicehouse.org, or by calling 304-258-2300.

Catch a movie at the Star Theatre.

The historic Star Theatre is a cherished local landmark with an unusually rich history.

Originally built in 1916 as an automobile garage, it's been transformed into a working theatre complete with an iconic marquee displaying what's currently playing.

Today, the Star Theatre continues to independently operate as a single-screen cinema, showcasing a variety of films and hosting commu-

nity events. Its vintage charm and commitment to inclusivity make it a welcoming space for both tourists and for locals.

The theatre is located at 49 N. Washington St. For information about upcoming films, visit the website at startheatrewv.com or call 304-258-1404.

Make Time to See This Hidden Gem in Berkeley Springs

BY TOM MARKLAND

Almost Heaven Antique Clock Museum and Sales is a unique addition to Berkeley Springs, featuring dozens of rare and unique timepieces from all around the world, some more than 200 vears old.

Opened just last year, the museum is owned and operated by James Carter, who has been both collecting and repairing clocks for over 45 years. Carter started learning about clocks young, from his father who was a watchmaker

and clockmaker.

Much of the museum started as Carter's personal collection. When it got too big for his home, he decided to rent out a space and make the museum.

The new museum is located at 1771 Valley Road in Berkeley Springs.

It is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. More information is available on their Facebook Page, Almost Heaven Antique Clock Museum & Sales.



TOM MARKIAND

A new museum shows off antique clocks.

BEAVER CREEK ANTIQUE MARKET

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301-739-8075

beavercreekantiquemarket.com



Belle Grove Plantation



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336 Belle Grove Road Middletown VA 22645 540-869-2028

Special event calendar at www.bellegrove.org



National Ice Cream Day Cruise-In" at "Pack's" Rt. 11 location on Sunday, July 20th, 5-8pm

BUY ONE GET ONE



(malt is an additional charge) Expires August 31, 2025

Good at 3 Winchester, VA Locations: 2021 N Frederick Pike 2580 Northwestern Pike 105 Full House Drive (indoor seating)





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> Saturday. *5-7:30*

\$49.99



locally produced fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, cheeses, honey, meat (beef, chicken, pork), spices, preserves, wine, pies. We also offer bulk candy, nuts, dried fruit, spices, teas, coffee, gluten free snacks, soup mixes and products made from local artisans.

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> > Open Daily - Hours vary by season.

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www.MoweryOrchard.com



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Please note: There are no shows July 23 or August 27.

SATURDAY 7/5

CRIS JACOBS

followed by Harrisonburg's Independence Day Fireworks

8/20

COREY HARRIS BAND

BOYS GO TO JUPITER



7/9

NIKKI HILL

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7/30

7/16

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KOMMUNA LUX 9/10





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Outdoor Activities for the Whole Family



RICH COOLEY

By Ashley Miller

Virginia Museum of the Civil War

Located in New Market, the Virginia Museum of the Civil War offers opportunities to reflect on the Battle of New Market, which raged on May 15, 1864. Students from Virginia Military Institute as young as 15 years old fought in the battle. In addition to the museum, explore the Bushong family home and miles of battlefield trails, offering outstanding views of the Shenandoah Valley and the North Fork of the Shenandoah River.

8895 George Collins Parkway, New Market 540-740-3101 vmi.edu (Search the museum.)

→ Go fish.

With more than 80 lakes, rivers and other fishing spots throughout Shenandoah County, there are numerous opportunities to cast a line for a morning of fishing. Big Stoney Creek along Route 675 west of Edinburg is one of the finest stocked



RICH COOLEY

Dino Jusufoic of Winchester retrieves a smallmouth bass as he fishes along the Shenandoah River at Deer Rapids south of Strasburg.

trout streams in Virginia. Streams keep it cool throughout the summer, providing a comfortable environment for the trout. Murray's Fly Shop in downtown Edinburg offers fly-fishing equipment and lessons.

121 S. Main St., Edinburg 540-984-4212 murraysflyshop.com

2 Lake Laura

At Bryce Resort in Basye, Lake Laura—all 44 acres of it—offers a

variety of activities for the entire family. Rent paddleboards, tubes, canoes and life jackets from the Beach Shack. Lounge on the grassy beach while kids swim and play or enjoy exploring the water by boat. There's also a hiking trail that wraps around the entire lake that takes anywhere from 90 minutes to 2 hours to complete.

1982 Fairway Drive, Basye 540-856-2121 ext. 253 bryceresort.com/summer/lake-laura

The Shenandoah County Fair at the fairgrounds in Woodstock will offer a variety of live entertainment and family fun from Aug. 24–30. A stellar lineup of grandstand concerts, including Mackenzie Carpenter, Crowder and Craig Morgan, will anchor the festivities. Combine that musical entertainment with carnival rides, fried food, a demo derby and a tractor pull and you're in for a week of old-fashioned fun.

300 Fairground Road, Woodstock 540-459-3867 shencofair.com

Fort Valley Ranch

Guided horseback mountain trail rides, axe throwing and archery are just a few of the family fun activities Fort Valley Ranch offers. Bordering the George Washington National Forest, it has fishing, hiking, biking and camping for the perfect long weekend getaway. Reservations required.

299 S. Fort Valley Road, Fort Valley 540-933-6633 fortvalleyranch.com

Must-See Vineyards & Breweries

By Ashley Miller

Muse Vineyards

Muse Vineyards
Surrounded by the bends of the Shenandoah River, Muse Vineyards is the perfect place to reconnect with nature while sipping a glass of wine on the large outdoor patio. The location features panoramic views, a self-guided nature trail, the tranquil grounds of a European-style vineyard and a first-class wine tasting room. Family-owned and operated for centuries, the vineyard represents the ideal of artisanal, premium winemaking. In 2015, Muse's 2009 Clio, a Bordeaux-style blend, was named Virginia's top wine and awarded the coveted 2015 Virginia Governor's Cup, besting more than 400 entries from across the state.

16 Serendipity Lane, Woodstock 540-459-7033 musevineyards.com

↑ Woodstock Brewhouse

▲Offering one-of-a-kind beers, Woodstock Brewhouse is located just off Main Street in historic Woodstock. Woodstock Brewhouse makes every effort to source local ingredients and take advantage of the bounty of the valley. Popular beers include North Fork, brewed with rye malt, mosaic hops and Belgian candy sugar; Brite Blonde Ale, a low ester ale; and Seven Bender, an American pale ale. The food is tasty, too. Try the Loaded Reuben Tots, the Fish Tacos, a Nashville Hot



Sally Cowal, co-owner of Muse Vineyards, walks along a row of grapevines with her dog Emma on the lower part of the vineyard she and her husband Robert Muse operate.

Chicken Sandwich or one of the mouth-watering burgers. Don't like beer? They've got wine, too.

123 E. Court St., Woodstock 540-459-2739 woodstockbrewhouse.com

3 Star in the Valley Star in the Valley is a family farm where its owners are hands-on in the vineyard, present in the cellar and proud to grow each grape that goes into their

wines. With over 11,000 grapevines, Star in the Valley is rooted in the Blue Ridge Mountains, part of the Appalachian chain, some of the oldest mountains in the world. Bring your favorite foods, find the perfect picnic spot and take in the open skies. Popular wines include 2022 Dry Rose, 2023 Cabernet Franc, and their 2021 Field Star White. Dogs are welcome.

33 Amos Lane, Strasburg 540-514-1687 starinthevalley.com

3 Things to Do on a Budget

By Ashley Miller

Whether hiking through lush mountaintops or relaxing under the stars, you don't have to spend a lot of money to have a good time in Shenandoah County.

Explore the **George Washington** and Jefferson National Forests with more than 1,900 miles of easy or strenuous trails, including Big Schloss from Wolf Gap Trail, Buzzard Rock Trail or Kennedy Peak Loop, offering adventure throughout the four seasons. fs.usda.gov/r08/gwj/ recreation/opportunities/hiking Enjoy a free movie under the stars

with family and friends at New Market's Community Park. Pack chairs and blankets for added comfort and don't forget those yummy snacks. Movies begin at sundown on June 28 with "Cruella," Aug. 16 with "Inside Out 2," and Sept. 20 with "Zootopia." newmarketvirginia.com/explore

Woodstock ROCS (Riley Outdoor Concert Series) offers an evening of free live music at W.O. Riley Park. Food is available for purchase. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and those dancing shoes. Genres include folk, alternative, bluegrass and country. Full schedule: woodstockva.gov/172/Events



Woodstock ROCS (Riley Outdoor Concert Series) offers an evening of free live music at W.O. Riley Park.



Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury's Life Plan Community is more than just a place to live; it's a vibrant lifestyle of connections. Nature enthusiasts will love our beautiful landscapes and outdoor activities, while book lovers and art aficionados will appreciate our diverse cultural events, lifelong learning opportunities, and engaging programs. Whether you're looking for a serene retreat or active living, our community offers a variety of options, including apartments, single-family homes, cottages, and villa apartments. At SVWC, you'll find a community that nurtures relationships and a sense of belonging.

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Things to Do With the Kids

By Anya Sczerzenie

Explore More Discovery Museum Downtown Harrisonburg's children's museum is one of the city's landmarks and is a good way to help your kids learn while they have fun. The museum includes themed play areas, from a kitchen to a theater, and craft areas. Tickets cost \$9 per person per day, and children under a year old get in free. Through the Museums for All program, families who receive SNAP can get in for \$3 per person with a valid ID.

150 S. Main St., Harrisonburg 540-442-8900 iexploremore.com

Grand Caverns Park

Although technically in Augusta County and located just outside Grottoes, Grand Caverns Park has plenty for kids to do, from tours in the cavern to hiking and outdoor play areas. The Grand Caverns Pool, which has been closed since 2022, will reopen this year, so visitors will have a place to beat the heat. There is also a gift shop.

5 Grand Cavern Road, Grottoes 888-430-CAVE grandcaverns.com



DANIEL LIN

Braycen Harris, of Chester, rides a bodyboard on the FlowRider at the Massanutten Water Park in Harrisonburg.

3 Massanutten Water Park Massanutten's indoor water park opens its outdoor section for summer so that kids can have double the fun. It includes indoor and outdoor slides, a wave pool, a lazy river, a "frog pond" and even a hot tub where parents can relax. Park costs vary depending

on the day and season, so check the website for current rates. There are also cheaper "observer/spectator" rates for parents who don't want to go swimming.

1200 Adventure Drive, Massanutten 540-437-3340

massresort.com/play/waterpark

4 Valley Jump ParkBilled as "the Shenandoah Valley's first trampoline park," the 18,000-square-foot building has 7,000 square feet of trampolines, a foam block pit, a snack bar and party rooms. Kids can have indoor fun wearing Jump Park-approved socks for as little as a half hour or up to two hours. Pricing starts at \$10 for a half-hour jump and goes up to \$24 for two hours.

4549 Spotswood Trail, Penn Laird 540-269-3066 valleyjumppark.com

롣 Edith J. Carrier Arboretum

Located in the middle of Harrisonburg and completely free to enter, the arboretum is part of JMU's campus but is open to anyone. It has a children's area with sculptures, a pond where kids may be able to see fish and frogs, flower gardens with different blooms depending on the time of year, a stone "labyrinth" and some hiking trails that are easy enough for even young children and strollers.

780 University Blvd., Harrisonburg 540-568-3194 imu.edu/arboretum

TOP SPOTS TO GO ANTIQUING AROUND ROCKINGHAM

By LEE ZION

People love antiques—a lot—and Rockingham County has a lot of places where people can grab antiques.

Antique Barn

Antique Barn, located in Shenandoah Heritage Market on U.S. Highway 11, is open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. It boasts a large selection of furniture, silver and gold coins, advertising, glassware and model cars.

Elkton Emporium

Elkton Emporium has been in business for 15 years. The place is north

of downtown Elkton, just off U.S. Highway 340 in the Shen-Elk Plaza. behind the Little League Park.

According to owner Ellie Slye, its 33 booths have "a little bit of everything," including furniture, jewelry, paintings, religious figurines and more. It's open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundav. 1-5 p.m.

Funk Trunk

Rebecca Barney of Funk Trunk opened in Elkton in 2023. She carries everything from antiques to vintage, along with gift items.

People come for the variety and the nostalgia. Barnev said.

The Funk Trunk is in the heart of Elkton's downtown, on West Spotswood Avenue, just west of the Downtown Marketplace Pavilion. It's usually open Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., but because of temporary family issues, it's just Friday and Saturday for now.

Heartworn Vintage

Heartworn Vintage is located inside the Agora Marketplace in downtown Harrisonburg. According to Allie Motyka, the store carries clothing,

'80s housewares, small furniture and paper goods. It's open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Rolling Hills Antiques

On U.S. Highway 33 just east of downtown Harrisonburg, Rolling Hills Antiques is an antique mall with 60 vendors. It has high-end glass, antique lighting and 1970s glass.

The store is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. every day and from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday. The store is open every day of the year except for Christmas.





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Where to Hike and Bike



COURTESY VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

This family rented one of the new all-terrain track chairs available at Shenandoah River State Park.

BY LAURA RUBY

Thether you prefer to have your feet on the ground or on the pedals, Warren County offers trails galore that take advantage of the area's tremendous beauty.

The world-famous **Skyline Drive** in Shenandoah National Park is not just for driving. You can find hikes for every level and interest in the park.

Located at mile 49.4, Rose River Falls has a height of 67 feet. The moderate 2.6-mile round-trip hike delivers a cascading waterfall that has been known to feature up to four cascades in rainy weather.

If you want a shorter drive from the Front Royal entrance of the park—and to be rewarded with interesting geology and great views—look no further than the **Compton Gap** hike on Skyline Drive, located at mile 10.4. The 2.4-mile round-trip, moderate hike takes you through the forest



RICH COOLEY

A family walks along the path at Eastham Park in Front Royal. The path offers a flat, easy route for a bike ride or stroll.

along the Appalachian Trail to a western view and a cool look at columnar jointing.

17157 Skyline Drive, Front Royal 540-999-3500

nps.gov

Perhaps the Shenandoah River is calling your name. For a flat, easy hike or bike ride in Front Royal, you can't go wrong with **Eastham Park**. Along with river views, it offers a playground, soccer fields and a dog park. Plus, it's just minutes from downtown.

860 Luray Ave., Front Royal 540-635-1021 warrencountyva.gov

Upstream, opportunities abound for both biking and hiking at the **Shenandoah River State Park** in Bentonville. Along with a variety of trails

of varying difficulty, the park is one of only a few statewide to provide use of an all-terrain wheelchair (reservations are required).

This summer, the park is also hosting a Nights in Nature series on select dates. It's free and appropriate for all ages. Registration is required.

350 Daughter of Stars Drive, Bentonville 540-622-6840

dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/shenandoah-river

Downriver Canoe Company, a neighbor to the Shenandoah River State Park, has started offering top-tier Trek analog and e-bike rentals. There is no need to haul your bike with this service, which also opens up access to nearby George Washington National Forest.

884 Indian Hollow Road, Bentonville 540-635-5526 downriver.com

Can't-Miss Activities for Family Fun

By Laura Ruby

Make memories with friends and family by enjoying the simple things in life this summer in Warren County.

Appaloosa Roots Music Festival
The Appaloosa Roots Music
Festival is a family-friendly event
showcasing up-and-coming talent, as
well as established artists set for the
Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day
weekend, Aug. 30–31.

In its 10th year, the two-day festival created by Dan and Alexander Fedoryka, founding members of the band Scythian and longtime Front Royal residents, is held in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains with camping opportunities. This year's bands will include Scythian, Steel Wheels, JigJam and Screaming Orphans.

"It's an incarnation of what we are musically—there's something for everybody. It's not just a bluegrass festival. You're going to hear everything throughout the day. We have over 2,000 shows under our belts and so much knowledge of what makes a good festival," Dan Fedoryka said.

751 Mountain Road, Front Royal 540-635-4169 appaloosafestival.com



RICH COOLEY

The highlight of the Warren County Fair each year is the rodeo, held on Wednesday night.

2 The Warren County Fair
Established in 1957, the Warren
County Fair is the epitome of tradition.
Scheduled for July 28–Aug. 2, the fair
pays tribute to the county's rural roots
with livestock shows, line dancing and
a truck and tractor pull.

There is something for the whole

family—from carnival rides and concerts to pie-eating contests and canine performers. The highlight of the week for many is Wednesday night's Bull Ride Mania Rodeo.

26 Fairground Road, Front Royal 540-635-5827 warrencountyfair.com



JASON FIB

Approximately 9,000 people are expected at this year's Appaloosa Roots Music Festival at Skyline Ranch Resort.

Christmas in July

Take a (mental) break from the heat of summer to celebrate Christmas in July from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. July 12.

Full of old-fashioned fun and Americana, the sixth annual event will offer vendors, crafters and makers alongside music and pictures with Santa. Take time to stroll downtown to check out Front Royal's many shops and eateries.

414 E Main St., Front Royal 540-635-5788 discoverfrontroyal.com

When Skies Are Gray, Art Galleries Offer Bright Escape

By Laura Ruby

Perhaps best known for its natural beauty, Warren County has loads of options to explore when Mother Nature is uncooperative.

The **Melissa Ichiuji Studio Gallery** on Main Street offers interesting, engaging and mind-expanding exhibits throughout the year. Open Friday through Sunday, it's a beautiful space that features world-class art.

223 E. Main St., Front Royal 540-252-4570 melissaichiuji.com If making art is on your mind, stop into the **Stone Branch Center for the Arts**. With a wide variety of classes and workshops for kids, teens and adults, the center is open Thursday through Sunday.

For the month of July, Stone Branch will feature "We Are Here," an art show by queer artists in the community. The event coincides with Front Royal's Pride Day, set for July 26.

14 E. Main St., Front Royal 540-418-1407 stonebranchartscenter.com



Melissa Ichiuji sits on artwork created by Joel D'Orazio titled "Acid Queen" inside Melissa Ichiuji Studio Gallery at the intersection of Main and Cloud streets in Front Royal.

RICH COOLEY





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MONTEREY PASS

BATTLEFIELD PARK & MUSEUM Calendar of Events 2025



		The state of the s
MAY 29	Garden Talk	6:30PM-7:30PM
	Garlic 101: a free program featuring gardening expert Melissa Irwin.	
JUNE 7, 8, 14,	Book Sale	10:00AM-4:00PM
& 15	New & used books, DVDs, CDs, & other items on sale at our museum.	
	*Anyone who wishes to donate to this sale may drop items off at R. Lee Royer & Associates prior to the event.	
JULY 4, 5, & 6	Anniversary Week	10:00AM-4:00PM
	Join us as we remember the 162 nd anniversary of the b hours, plus reenactors & living history.	attle with special Friday
JULY 19	Battlefield Diorama	10:00AM-4:00PM
	Explore Monterey Pass as never seen before, as we debut a large diorama of the battlefield. Learn the geography and soldier movements of the battle.	
	Battlefield Tours	11:00AM & 2:00PM SAT
	Featuring our resident tour guide John Gaile.	11:00AM SUN
AUG 16	Relics Day	10:00AM-4:00PM
	Connect to the past with displays of locally found Civil are proud to welcome the Sons of Union Veterans, as well	
	Mountain Air	1:00PM-3:00PM
	Lisa Donohoe on mandolin, Bobbi Smith on guitar, & l	ots of beautiful melodies.
SEPT 13 & 14	Living History	Time TBD
	Dr. Doug Decker presents Civil War field medicine.	
	Battlefield Tours Featuring our resident tour guide John Gaite.	11:00AM & 2:00PM SAT 11:00AM SUN
NOV 9	Last Call	10:00AM-4:00PM
	The last chance to visit the museum before we close for 2025.	

All events are subject to change. Please visit our website before heading out to the park.. MONTEREYPASSBATTLEFIELD.ORG





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ATLANTIC CITY 3 DAY SUMMER SPECIAL

Wednesday-Friday August 27-August 29 3 days/2nights \$299 per person (double occupancy) includes 2 nights lodging at Margaretville at Resorts Hotel Casino along the world famous boardwalk.. Per person bonus: \$20 Bonus, 2-\$20 Meal Credits



SMOKY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg Sunday –Thursday September 14-18 \$1129 per person (double occupancy). Includes: 8 Meals, 4 Shows: Hatfield & McCoy Dinner Feud, Comedy Barn, Country Tonight, and Dolly Parton's Pirates Voyage dinner show. Tour of Smoky Mountains, Titanic, Dollywood.



NEW ENGLAND FALL FOLIAGE TOUR

Monday-Friday, September 29-October4 5 days/4 nights \$1289 per person (double occupancy).4 nights lodging in Concord, NH, four breakfasts, 3 dinners including a Lobster Bake with entertainment, one boxed lunch Ride on the Cog Railroad to the Summit of Mt Washington and back Cruise on the MS Mt Washington from Weirs to Wolfeboro, Visit to Kennebunkport, Stonewall Kitchen and Nubble Lighthouse,



ATLANTIC CITY MARGARITAVILLE AT RESORTS HOTEL CASINO OVERNIGHT

Sunday- Monday October 26-27 \$179 per person (double occupancy) includes overnight lodging at Margaritaville at Resorts Hotel Casino along the world-famous Atlantic City Boardwalk Per Person Bonus Package: \$15 Bonus, \$20 Meal Credit,



SAVANNAH ADVENTURE

Sunday-Friday October 26-October 31 \$1599 per person (double occupancy)6 day/ 5 nights Savannah Adventure includes five nights lodging, 10 meals Billy Graham Library, tour of Jekyll Island (including tram), tour of St. Simons Island, informative tour of Savannah, Low Country Tour, free time on River Street, show at the Savannah Theatre, storyteller in Mount Airy, tour of Mount Airy, and Andy Griffith Museum!



5 Days/ 4 Nights, Monday -Friday, November 10-14, 2025 \$879 per person (double occupancy) Includes: Round-Trip Motorcoach to BWI, Round-trip non-stop air to Las Vegas, Round-trip Airport to Hotel Transfers, 4nights accommodations at the fabulous Excalibur Hotel & Casino.



NASHVILLE COUNTRY CHRISTMAS AT GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT

Sunday-Wednesday December 14-17, 2025, \$2099 per person (double occupancy). includes roundtrip airfare, roundtrip bus to BWI, 3 nights lodging at Gaylord Opryland Resort., 6 Meals, four shows including Christmas Dinner show in ballroom at Gaylord Opryland (The Frontmen) Amy Grant & Vince Gill at the Ryman, General Jackson Showboat Luncheon Cruise with entertainment., Grand Ole Opry Christmas, Country Music Hall of Fame, Studio B guided city tour of Nashville, Delta Flatboat ride, Treasures for the



CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK

Friday- Sunday, December 19-21: \$779 per person includes two nights lodging at the Sheraton New York Times Square and a Four-Hour Guided Tour of New York City and the Statue of Liberty. This fantastic mid-town location at 7th Avenue and 53rd Street is close to Times Square, Central Park, and Rockefeller Center. It is also located in the heart of the theater district, a short walk to many New York City attractions.



2025 ORIOLES BUS TRIP SCHEDULE

All games include All You Can Eat Club Level seating Wednesday, July 10 vs. NY Mets 1:05 p.m. \$129 • Saturday, August 9 vs. Athletics 7:05 p.m. \$129 Saturday, August 23 vs. Houston 7:05 p.m.\$129 • Thursday, August 28 vs. Boston 1:05 p.m.\$119 Saturday, September 6 vs. LA Dodgers 7:05 p.m.\$159 • Sunday, September 7 vs. LA Dodgers 1:35 p.m.\$159 • Thursday, September 11 vs. Pittsburgh 1:05 p.m.\$119 • Saturday, September 20 vs. NY Yankees 7:05 p.m.\$159 • Sunday, September 21 vs. NY Yankees 1:35 p.m.\$159

2025 City of Brunswick Schedule of Events

07/03 Independence Day Fireworks

Near Brunswick Middle School Complex. 9PM / Rain Date: July 5th, 2025

08/05 National Night Out

Brunswick Fire Hall | 1500 Volunteer Drive | 6PM-8PM

09/26-09/28 Community Yard Sale

Throughout Brunswick | List of addresses will be posted online

For detailed Information:

www.brunswickmd.gov/specialevents www.brunswickrailroaddays.org

www.facebook.com/brunswickmd www.facebook.com/BrunswickMDParksAndRec www.facebook.com/brunswickrailroaddays

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River Hill Stables



River Hill Stables is a family owned horse borading facility located in Luray Virginia just ten minutes from historic downtown Luray and the Luray Caverns. The Stable has beautiful views of the mountains and trails to the Shenandoah River.

River Hill Stables offer Full Board and Field Board with access to indoor and outdoor arenas

Call Amy Foley for more information at 540-843-0401



along the Shenandoah

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When you're not hiking our trails, fishing our runs, or floating our rivers

Follow WV's country roads to a Hardy County adventure.







Hiking or cycling? Lost River State Park and George Washington National Forest are crisscrossed with secluded mountain trails leading to broad vistas and, with nearby scenic country roads, there is ample opportunity for hiking and cycling.

Tributaries wind down the mountains feeding the five north-flowing rivers including the South Branch of the Potomac River, a favorite for fishing or floating. The Trough where bald eagles soar, is a historic six-mile canyon, featuring towering rock walls accessed only by water or train. Check out Breezewood Adventures where you can rent kayaks and canoes for paddling or fishing or go camping along the South Branch.

The South Fork and South Branch offer seasonal class I & II whitewater opportunities and the Lost River disappears underground to emerge as the Cacapon River. Like so many of the mountain runs and man-made lakes, the North River is stocked throughout the season.

Trout Pond Recreation Area is a tranquil setting for hiking and enjoying canoeing, fishing, and swimming at Rock Cliff Lake. Nearby Trout Pond, at times not more than a large puddle, is the only natural lake in West Virginia.

So, come for the day but plan to stay the night.

Don't miss WV's Branch Mountain Bluegrass Festival, July 16-19, with 4-days of music featuring National, Regional and Local Talents. A family setting with lots to do or just relax.

Breezewood Adventures: https://www.breezewoodadventures.com Trout Pond Recreation Area: https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/232162

West Virginia's Branch Mountain Bluegrass Festival: https://www.westvirginiasbranchmountainbluegrassfestival.com









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