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COME CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF HISTORY

2024 marks the **100th Anniversary** of the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® in beautiful and historic Winchester, VA. We share the 100th Anniversary milestone with the opening of The George Washington A Wyndham Grand Hotel, first

graduating class from John Handley High School and the founding of the Shenandoah Travel Association, all of whom are long standing partners to the festival. In the spring of 1924,

with assistance from the Shenandoah Valley Inc (currently Shenandoah Valley Travel Association), the City of Winchester eagerly volunteered to host the very first Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® on May 3rd. The festival was created to honor the apple industry and showcase the northern Shenandoah Valley. The one-day festival celebrated the passing of winter's hardships and welcomed the blooming of pink and white apple blossoms that still canvas the Valley. Even today, **apples continue to be a major part of Winchester's agricultural industry.**



Through the unwavering support of volunteers and community partners, the festival has navigated through many highs and lows including a world war, pandemic, and other world-changing events. The festival halted operations of its springtime celebration for three years during World War II, and because of the three-year hiatus, the festival will celebrate its **100th Anniversary in 2024 and its 100th Festival in 2027.** Since its humble beginnings, the festival has blossomed from a one-day event into the two-week festival that we know and love today. Although the festival has changed tremendously since 1924, we still celebrate many traditional events including the Coronation of Queen Shenandoah, dinners and dances, parades, and nostalgic luncheons.



Today, the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® **boasts more than 50 different events.** "There is something for everyone at the festival," says Sharen Gromling, the current festival President. Each year over **200,000 festival attendees** immerse themselves in everything Winchester has to offer. Internationally known celebrities and sports guests make appearances at festival events and ride through our historic streets in Old Town Winchester during the Firefighters' and Grand Feature Parades.

The festival relies on a network of **over 2,000 volunteers** and local businesses to plan the festival. Dozens of local civic groups, schools, and youth charities rely on the festival to raise funds for their organizations through the sale of concessions, souvenir

programs, parade seating. It is estimated that the festival **provides a 10-million-dollar impact** on our regional economy. We hope to see you there as we celebrate 100 years of fun and tradition!

Bring your family and join us in 2024 as we celebrate 100 years of fun and tradition. Festival dates run from Friday, **April 26th to Sunday, May 5th, 2024.** For more information visit **www.thebloom.com**.

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TAKE EVERYONE OUT TO THE BALL GAME

New stadium,
minor league
team coming to
Hagerstown
this spring

By Gary Bennett

MORE INFORMATION





“It’s going to be an incredible facility not just for baseball, but for other events like festivals and concerts and will really provide a huge boost to Hagerstown’s downtown economy.”

DAVID BLENCKSTONE,
general manager of Hagerstown’s new minor league
baseball team and the stadium’s first tenant

A new minor league baseball stadium in Hagerstown will soon be completed a few blocks from the downtown area.

Meritus Park, the nearly \$70 million, 4,000-seat stadium, financed by the state of Maryland, promises to be a game changer for Hagerstown, which has hosted minor league baseball for over 100 years. Construction began in fall 2022 and is scheduled to wrap up in time for the opening game on May 3.

“It’s going to be an incredible facility not just for baseball, but for other events like festivals and concerts and will really provide a huge boost to Hagerstown’s downtown economy,” said David Blenckstone, general manager of Hagerstown’s new minor league baseball team and the stadium’s first tenant.

“The stadium will reflect the city of Hagerstown with an emphasis on railroads and bricks, two industries the city was really known for historically. We are proud of all the art that will adorn the concourses, too,” said Blenckstone.

Minor League Baseball’s newest team, the Hagerstown Flying Boxcars, will call the stadium home and compete in the Atlantic League. They are one of 10 teams playing in the Atlantic League this year. The players’ skill levels will be tantamount to AA or AAA players.

So, what’s a Flying Boxcar?

A team naming contest held last year garnered 1,700 responses. The clear winner was a nod to Hagerstown’s proud aviation past. The sprawling local Fairchild plant was a key builder of the C-119 Flying Boxcar for both the Navy and Marine Corps in the 1940s. The nickname aptly represents the giant military transport aircraft developed to carry both cargo and personnel into battle in Europe.

As for the stadium, Meritus Park will boast all the amenities you would expect from a minor league ballpark, plus many you might not. Construction of the stadium is in the hands of the Maryland Stadium Authority, famous for its creative stewardship of Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

“The stadium is designed not just for the hard-core baseball fan, but also for the casual one who is looking for an enjoyable, social evening out,” said Blenckstone.

One notable feature will be the 360-degree concourse that allows fans to walk completely around the inside of the stadium. That’s not something you find at other typical minor league parks.

The stadium will have a full-service bar in the left field area and a beer garden in right. There will be a picnic area near the main gate and a



PHOTOS BY HAGERSTOWN FLYING BOXCARS

Flying Boxcars’ mascot Stryker with a C-119 Flying Boxcar plane. These aircraft were manufactured in Hagerstown and were used by Navy and Marine Corps in the 1940s.



PHOTOS BY HAGERSTOWN FLYING BOXCARS
Above: A rendering of what Meritus Park will look like when it opens for the first time this May. **Left:** Construction on Meritus Park, the new minor league baseball stadium in Hagerstown, began in October 2022 and is scheduled to be completed before the season opener May 3.

family-friendly zone right behind first base. The video board, lighting system and sound system promise to be of major-league quality and state of the art.

Attendees at an evening game can easily make a day of it because of the downtown location. A pleasant mile-long walkway called the Hagerstown Cultural Trail runs along the ballpark for about a half mile, connecting visitors to the arts and entertainment district, Hagerstown City Park and the Museum of Fine Arts.

Highly rated local restaurants within easy walking distance of the stadium include: Broad Axe, Bulls & Bears and Schmankerl Stube – a quintessentially German-themed restaurant serving hearty Bavarian fare.

Fans will certainly have no trouble finding the stadium. It sits near the corner of West Baltimore Street and Summit Avenue in downtown Hagerstown right next to the old Herald-Mail newspaper building. The stadium's tall, imposing façade and light stanchions will dominate Hagerstown's skyline.

Parking should be no problem either. The city of Hagerstown is contributing a 400-car parking deck right next to the stadium. Plus, two more existing parking decks are within three blocks of the stadium.

The season begins in early May. Get tickets at FlyingBoxcars.com.

Themed nights will include Silver Sluggers Tuesdays – special ticket prices and giveaways for those 55 or older – and Double Dog Days Wednesdays – bring your pooch and enjoy discounts on hot dogs. *See a complete list at FlyingBoxcars.com.*



CATCH GAMES IN FREDERICK, MD, TOO

The Frederick Keys

The Keys are back for another exciting season of MLB Draft League baseball. The 2024 season kicks off June 4 at the West Virginia Black Bears. Opening Day at Harry Grove Stadium is June 11 against the Trenton Thunder.

The 2024 schedule can be found at mlbdraftleague.com. Ticket prices begin at \$9 for general admission and are available at the box office and online at mlbdraftleague.com/frederick.

Fireworks will be featured after every Friday and Saturday home game, plus the Fourth of July Fireworks Extravaganza will be held July 3, and fireworks are planned for Sunday, Sept. 1.

The Keys will be the only baseball tenant at Harry Grove Stadium this year, as the Spire City Ghost Hounds, part of the South Division of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball last year, are on a one-year hiatus, with their return slated for 2025.

This is the fourth year of the Keys' participation in the MLB Draft League. It is a six-team league with a split-season amateur-professional format. The first half features MLB draft-eligible players. The second half switches to a professional format, with paid players comprising the six rosters.

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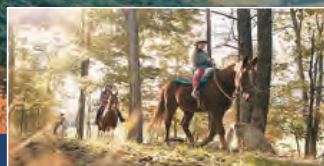
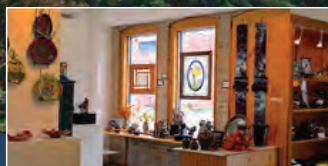
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Find camouflaged gems, visit the farm museum and catch a show in Berkeley County

MORE INFORMATION



PHOTO BY ANGELA F. DURKIN
The Norman Dillon Farm Museum Fall Festival featured multiple styles of motorized antiques on the front lawn of the property. The museum is open Sunday afternoons April through October.

By Angela F. Durkin

When someone mentions Berkeley County, it is often the city of Martinsburg that comes to mind, but there's so much more within the county beyond city living. The county is filled with parks, venues and activities to occupy the avid nature lover and art enthusiasts. Encompassing 321.5 square miles, the county extends outward from the city to include several unincorporated towns, all offering dining, activities and more.



STEP BACK IN TIME AT THE DILLON FARM MUSEUM SPRING SHOW

For years, farming was a major industry in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle and a huge part of daily life for most of its residents. With only a small number of Berkeley County farms remaining, the Dillon Farm Museum helps people understand and preserve that heritage.

The museum's two-day Spring Show, set for June 1-2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, highlights the traditional farming techniques and agrarian way of life that were once commonplace.

A preserved Hedgesville property, the museum boasts a wide collection of historic farm equipment in its barn, however, its Spring Show also features a number of small engines, tractors, steam engines, antique and classic tractors, cars and trucks. Many of these items on display are brought by locals.

Attendees will be treated to live demonstrations in blacksmithing, antique machinery and more. Over the last few years, more children's activities have been added.

One doesn't have to have a farming background to appreciate it. Anyone with an interest in engines or machinery – or local history – will find something fascinating. The museum boasts an extensive collection of farming equipment and implements. There are wagons, sleighs, buggies and household items. Items also include corn shellers and planters, cultivators, a thrasher, and various horse-drawn plows.

Admission is always free for the events, as per Dillon's wishes. Donations are accepted.

The museum itself is open Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. April through October. *W.Va. Route 9 and Ridge Road, Hedgesville, 304-671-9079.*

DOWNTOWN MARTINSBURG THEATRE OFFERS A VARIETY OF SHOWS, EVENTS

This spring, the historic Apollo Civic Theatre in downtown Martinsburg has several shows and events to entertain residents and visitors alike.



A family is shown as they complete the final step of their Berkeley County geocaching adventure.

Many theater fans in the area are looking forward to the Apollo's presentation of "Godspell," which is set to begin its run March 29 through 31 and conclude April 5 through 7. The show features a small group of people who help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using "a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques and a hefty dose of comic timing." The musical concludes with the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, but showcases Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love.

Planning a May visit? Catch "Be More Chill," which will run May 3 through 12. This musical production is based on the 2004 novel by Ned Vizzini.

"Be More Chill" introduces audiences to Jeremy Heere, an average teenager and social outcast. His life is transformed after he finds out about "The Squip," a tiny supercomputer that promises to bring him everything he desires most in the world.

In addition to these performances, the Apollo is also adding a reoccurring film event with its Celebrating Classic Cinema at the Apollo Civic Theatre.

*128 E. Martin St., Martinsburg, WV
304-263-6766*

GO ON 'A MODERN DAY TREASURE HUNT'

Situated in the heart of the Eastern Panhandle, Berkeley County's diverse

landscapes have helped to support a growing community of treasure hunters who travel within its borders.

Geocachers – from families seeking a weekend activity to avid outdoor enthusiasts – navigate to hidden objects intentionally tucked away in parks, forests and urban spaces. With coordinates provided on dedicated geocaching websites, participants use their navigational skills to pinpoint the exact location of these secret stashes.

One of the keys to the geocaching game is the element of surprise. Geocaches come in various sizes, ranging from tiny containers, to larger containers that might contain small trinkets or toys for trade.

Berkeley County is home to more than 57 active caches, according to the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Convention and Visitors Bureau, which notes that caches can look like anything, from a Tupperware container to a birdhouse or a fake rock. They can be hidden or they can be in plain sight. Once a cache is found and opened, geocachers are asked to sign the logbook inside the cache and return it to its hiding place before moving on to the next challenge.

Whether it's a family outing, a solo expedition or a group challenge, geocaching offers an engaging experience for all involved.

To get started, call the visitors bureau at 304-264-8801.



Fuel up at these local favorites

KITZIE'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

Popular for its cocktails, this local favorite, voted Best of the Best in Martinsburg's readers' choice awards last year, is also renowned for its family-friendly atmosphere and for specializing in a tantalizing array of steaks and seafood. With both a newly updated dining room and a bar, Kitzie's is an ideal for a sumptuous dinner or a relaxing drink.

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Thai food is known for its balance of five fundamental flavors in each dish, or in the overall meal: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and spicy. Locals will tell you that Thai Martinsburg masters this balance with dishes that range from "mild to hot, vegetarian or not." This cuisine is known for being low-calorie and healthy. The restaurant has a special menu for kids, so bring the whole family.

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BRIX 27

Known for its unique and complex flavors, Brix 27 serves a variety of dishes designed to satisfy every palate. Although they have a self-proclaimed "snobbishly selected" wine list, they're not just about fine dining; they emphasize a "fun dining" experience, too. The menu includes a range of options and includes a selection of wines at their Downtown Winedown wine shop.

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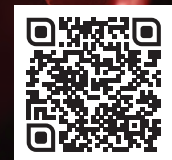


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LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA



BLOSSOMS, BANDS & BATTLES

Catch a concert, tour a farm and check out historic battle sites in Loudoun County this season

By Karen Graham

Loudoun County, Virginia, just an hour's drive from Washington, D.C., is known for its bucolic views, historical sites and traditional farms in the west and an eclectic mix of history and modernity in the east. It all makes the county a popular destination for the day or for a long weekend.



PHOTO BY VISIT LOUDOUN, KAREN GRAHAM, AND TOWN OF HILLSBORO

Left photo: Donkey Meadows Farm in Purcellville works to preserve the endangered American Mammoth Jackstock donkey. Take the whole family here for a hands-on experience with the animals. **Center photo:** Hope's Garden in Hillsboro features hundreds of native plants. **Right photo:** Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, center, visited Morven Park last spring.

Add in a variety of locally owned restaurants, more than 50 wineries and 30 breweries, lovely bed-and-breakfast accommodations and great shopping and Loudoun has it all for a spring weekend jaunt. Here are five places/things to do when you visit.

CATCH A CONCERT AT TALLY HO THEATER IN LEESBURG

With recent business growth in the historic area of King, Loudoun and Market streets, Old Town Leesburg is bustling with dozens of shops and restaurants and a fun nighttime vibe, especially when the weather is warm. Many visitors enjoy spending a day in western Loudoun at the wineries and breweries and then ending up in Leesburg at night.

Leesburg's music scene is highlighted by the Tally Ho Theater. The historic venue reopened after significant renovations in December 2012 and continues to host sold-out shows each week, according to general manager Jack Devine.

"It's crazy here on Friday and Saturday nights. King Street is packed. We are just happy to provide music for everybody," he said. "Leesburg in general seems like more of a destination than ever."

19 W Market St., Leesburg, VA
703-777-1665

GO TO THE LEESBURG FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

This award-winning, town-sponsored event draws an estimated 40,000 people throughout the weekend and admission is free.

During the Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival, the streets are transformed by dozens of vendors who showcase their beautiful flowers and landscaping displays. There is also food, a rooftop beer and wine garden, entertainment and children's activities at the event.

It will be held April 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and April 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit leesburgva.gov for more information.
703-777-1368

TOUR ARCHITECTURE AND GARDENS AT HILLSBORO'S GARDENS IN THE GAP

Along with the exclusive Garden Club of Virginia Historic Garden Week Tours, stroll through the historic town of Hillsboro, an extraordinary living museum of the evolution of early American architecture. The first settlers arrived in Hillsboro in 1752, and today the town is one of America's best-preserved 18th-century rural villages. Its award-winning streetscape and new, all-native Hope's Garden feature hundreds of native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers. This year's Gardens in the Gap kicks off at The Old Stone School, 37098 Charles Town Pike. Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance said the schedule for event will include:

4/19 Friday – Eat, Drink & Be Literary! Lecture: Rick Darke, International Plant Explorer, Horticulturist & Visionary on "Living Landscapes – Wildly Beautiful & Resilient"

4/20 Saturday – Spring Plant Market, Hope's Garden Opening, Hillsboro walking tours, evening concert

4/21 Sunday – Historic Garden Tours, Garden Teas, Hillsboro walking tours, spring market

Eat Out!

Popular destinations for eating and drinking in Leesburg include Tally Ho, which offers dining in addition to shows, King Street Oyster Bar, the Wine Kitchen, Side Bar, Black Hoof Brewing Company, Rebellion Bourbon Bar & Kitchen, Delirium Cafe, Echelon Wine Bar, MacDowell Brew Kitchen, Tuscarora Mill and Lightfoot Restaurant.

Locals also enjoy a snack at Mom's Apple Pie, and Fire Works Pizza, Los Tios Grill, Senor Ramon Taqueria, Cowbell Kitchen, Shoe's Cup & Cork, Goose Cup and King Street Coffee for more casual fare. Mocatinas, a dessert house and gift shop at 3 E. Market St., is not to be missed.

There are several locally owned breweries in downtown Leesburg, including Crooked Run Fermentation, Loudoun Brewing Company and Black Hoof Brewing Company, which all sell locally made craft beer.

A popular Loudoun County winery, October One Vineyard, now has a tasting room on Loudoun Street.





PHOTO BY TOWN OF HILLSBORO

This April, tour architecture and gardens at Hillsboro's Gardens in The Gap event.

Shop + Relax

Looking for a spa day? Check out Leesburg's La Sheida Spa, Rouge Spa or Woodhouse Spa, which is just outside the downtown area. They all provide an extensive list of services.

It's easy to get lost in the **cute shops in Leesburg**, which range from women's clothing to fun gift boutiques. Visit Madisonbelle, Zest clothing & co., The Lucky Knot and Misguided Angels for clothes and The Global Local and Very Virginia Shop for unique home décor and gift ideas.

Many visitors are also drawn to the bargains at the Leesburg Premium Outlets located on Route 15, just outside of town.

Book lovers will appreciate the small, locally owned bookstores in town, which include Birch Tree Bookstore and Books and Other Found Things.

4/22 Monday – Historic Garden Tours, Hillsboro walking tours, spring market, Earth Day Celebration

Visit www.OldStoneSchool.org for event, accommodations, and ticket information.

SEE THE ANIMALS ON THE SPRING LOUDOUN FARM TOUR

The biannual farm tours are a wonderful way to explore western Loudoun and to learn about unique offerings at various venues. The self-guided Spring Loudoun Farm Tour includes Loudoun-made and – grown products. Insider's tip: Be sure to check out the donkeys at Donkey Meadows farm in Purcellville, where there are American Mammoth Jackstock, an endangered breed of donkey of which there are only about 2,000 left globally. It is interesting to observe these large, gentle and intelligent animals. The event will be held May 18 and 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For tour information, visit Loudounfarms.org.

ENJOY A HISTORY LESSON

Established in 1758, Leesburg has many interesting historic sites to visit, and springtime is a great time to get out and explore them.

PHOTO BY KAREN GRAHAM

The Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival will take place April 20 and 21 this year in Old Town Leesburg.

Sites for the whole family to check out just minutes from downtown Leesburg include The Dodona Manor, former home of Gen. George C. Marshall; Morven Park, an historic estate and horse park featuring hiking and athletic fields; Oatlands Historic House and Gardens, a former slave plantation that is now the site of gardens and 28 buildings from the 19th and 20th centuries; and Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park, where week-end guided tours begin in April.

At the Loudoun Museum at 16 Loudoun St. in Leesburg, visitors can pick up a Civil War Walking Tour guide, which lays out a self-guided tour of the town and points out important historic sites along the way.

Dodona Manor: 312 E. Market St., Leesburg, VA; 703-777-1301

Morven Park: 17339 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg, VA; 571-474-2754

Oatlands: 20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg, VA; 703-727-0670

Ball's Bluff: Balls Bluff Road NE, Leesburg, VA; 703-737-7800

For more information, visit loudounmuseum.org.

MORE INFORMATION



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MORE INFORMATION

PHOTO BY TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY
A scene from Excalibur (based on the King Arthur Legend) at Clue IQ in downtown Frederick.

5 THINGS TO DO THIS SPRING

Uncover the
Charm of Frederick:
Cuisine, Culture, and
Creativity Await

By Gabrielle Lewis

From learning about local history to enjoying local art to solving escape rooms and riding roller coasters, anyone can find something to do in Frederick County, Maryland.

1

Investigate the National Museum of Civil War Medicine

At a time when medical staff had little training and the importance of sanitation and hygiene were not fully realized, the Civil War caused great suffering, but also resulted in revolutionary innovations. Learn about them, and how they've impacted the field of medicine today at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in downtown Frederick. The museum first opened to the public in 1996 and is housed in the historic Carty building, owned right after the war by Clarence C. Cary, who sold furniture and ran an undertaker business. The



PHOTO COURTESY OF WAY OFF BROADWAY
Actors for the Way Off Broadway Theatre's production of "Cats" pose for a photo.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CIVIL WAR MEDICINE
Featuring a field hospital exhibit.



PHOTO BY KATINA ZENTZ
Chloe Nusraty, 3, rides on a carousel at Adventure Park USA in Monrovia.

museum features artifacts like surgical kits and drug cases, as well as exhibits recreating the scenes of medical procedures so visitors can get a glimpse into the lives and experiences of soldiers and medical professionals during the war.

48 E. Patrick St., Frederick, MD
301-695-1864

2

Behold the Delaplaine Arts Center

"Everyone deserves art." That's the motto of the Delaplaine Arts Center, located in an historic building in downtown Frederick that began as a whiskey rectifying plant in the 1850s. About 130 years later, two prominent families that owned it donated the land to the city of Frederick for use as a visual arts center. Today, the Delaplaine sees 75,000 visitors annually and hosts gallery talks, family-friendly events, workshops and classes. The building, located near Carroll Creek Park, includes five art galleries and about 50 exhibits per year, as well as the Etchison Davis Library, one of the largest public free art references libraries in Maryland. In addition to its main facility, the center has satellite galleries at the Brunswick Branch Library, Thurmont Regional Library and Urbana Regional Library.

40 S. Carroll St., Frederick, MD
301-698-0656

3

See a show at Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre combines entertainment and cuisine for adults and children. Originally opened in 1990 as Keynote Dinner Theatre, it staged its first production as The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre in 1995. Way Off Broadway offers five productions a season – from classics like "A Chorus Line" to more modern faves like "The Full Monty" – which theatergoers get to watch while enjoying a full dinner buffet. In 1996, the theatre also opened its Way Off Broadway Children's Theatre, which puts on adaptations of popular children's books and movies. The theater also hosts special events, such as summer theater camps.

5 Willowdale Drive, #A1,
Frederick, MD
301-662-6600

4

Have a blast at Adventure Park USA

Just outside the city of Frederick, parents and children can visit Adventure Park USA in Monrovia, an amusement park with activities for all ages. The park, which will turn 20 years old in 2025, features roll-

er coasters, go-karts, miniature golf, an arcade, laser tag, a carousel and a ropes course, among many other activities. It also hosts events geared toward different ages, some specifically for children and others restricted to adults over 21.

11113 W. Baldwin Road,
Monrovia, MD
301-865-6800

5

Solve a mystery at Clue IQ: An Escape Room Experience

Clue IQ, an escape room center in downtown Frederick, initially opened in 2017 with just two escape rooms. About seven years later, the center has expanded its operations and now offers five games for family and friends to solve. Clue IQ has four in-person games at its location: Operation Jingle Bells (in which Slappy the elf has stirred up trouble), Crane Manor (did Ichabod survive his encounter with the headless horseman?), Excalibur (based on the King Arthur Legend) and Blitzkrieg (set during WWII). The center also offers a mobile escape game, Ruluco Island, which staff will bring to a specified venue. Aspiring escape room solvers can schedule an appointment for any day of the week between 10:30 a.m. and 10 p.m.

103 S. Carroll St., Frederick, MD
240-815-6458



Eat Out

BREWER'S ALLEY

This brewpub in downtown Frederick offers American regional foods, pizza, and adult beverages including craft beer.

124 N. Market St., Frederick
301-631-0089

BEANS IN THE BELFRY

Set in a restored church that's over 100 years old, this cafe has espresso drinks, all-day breakfast and light meals and alcoholic beverages.

True to its roots, the décor includes stained glass and antique church pews. Catch live music on weekend evenings and live jazz during Sunday brunch.

122 W. Potomac St., Brunswick
301-834-7178

TAPIA'S ON MAIN

This restaurant and bar with a modern industrial vibe in Middletown offers Italian cuisine, paninis, pastas, sandwiches and pizzas.

203 E Main St., Middletown
240-490-8461



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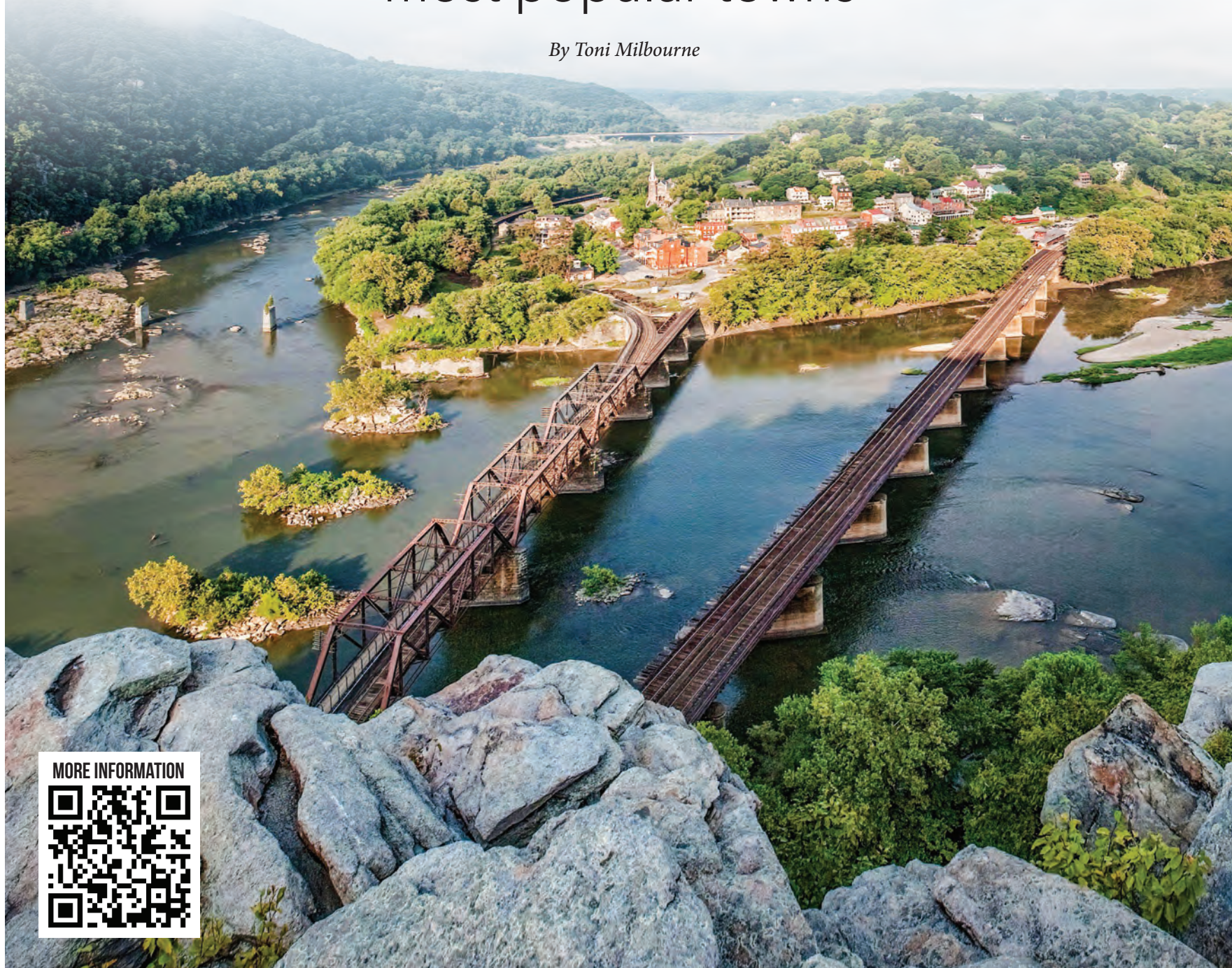


VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

‘WORTH THE VOYAGE’

Enjoy outdoors activities, historical landmarks
and events in the Jefferson County’s
most popular towns

By Toni Milbourne



MORE INFORMATION



Jefferson County, West Virginia, has been hailed as a hidden gem, and no time showcases that gem like springtime.



PHOTO BY TONI MILBOURNE
John Brown's Fort is one of the historical sites many visit in Harpers Ferry. Brown was an abolitionist who raided the town in 1859 hoping to incite a revolt that would free slaves.

HIKE THROUGH HARPERS FERRY

The convergence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers at historic Harpers Ferry – what Thomas Jefferson called a scene that is “worth the voyage across the Atlantic” – is just the beginning of your sight-seeing venture within the town and the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

The midpoint of the Appalachian Trail is in Harpers Ferry, and there hikers can visit the trail's Conservancy headquarters before continuing to the part of the trail that cuts through town. Views from neighboring Maryland Heights Trail – a fair trek in itself – showcase the area in all its splendor.

Other attractions in the town include John Brown's Fort and The John Brown Wax Museum, which outline the story of the abolitionist's fight against slavery. Brown raided the town in 1859, hoping to start a revolt that would free slaves, but failed. Harpers Ferry itself changed hands between the Union and the Confederacy multiple times during the course of that war.

Today, Storer College, which opened following the Civil War, is also part of the park. For 25 years, it was the only school in West Virginia where a person of color could get an education beyond the primary level.

“By leveraging funds and selling surplus property to graduates and their families, Storer College enabled 75% of Harpers Ferry's black citizens to own real estate,” according to the National Park Service.

The college remained open until 1955, following the Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* that ended school segregation, and the state board of education's elimination of the school's stipend. By that time, Storer had educated 7,000 people.

Throughout Harpers Ferry, one walks where thousands have gone before – thousands whose legacies form a critical part of the nation's history.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park:
171 Shoreline Drive, Harpers Ferry, WV

John Brown's Fort: 814 Shenandoah St., Harpers Ferry, WV; 304-535-6029

The John Brown Wax Museum:
168 High St., Harpers Ferry, WV;
304-535-6342



PHOTO BY TONI MILBOURNE
Folks dance around the May Pole at a previous May Day celebration in Shepherdstown.

GALLIVANT IN SHEPHERDSTOWN

Downriver and across the county one finds Shepherdstown, arguably the oldest town in West Virginia. In springtime, the gardens of the local community bloom with every color of the rainbow, and folks are welcome to walk through them during the Shepherdstown Community Club's annual Back Alley Garden Tour & Tea.

A traditional event, the tour allows local homeowners to showcase their gardens, many of which can be accessed by the back alleys throughout the town. After the garden walks, visitors can enjoy delicious treats at the annual tea in the upstairs ballroom of the War Memorial Building. Folks can also peruse and even purchase artwork on display in the building's lower level, where the town's Friday Painters group will exhibit. Dates for the annual

event are May 18 and 19 this year. Tickets will be available at the Shepherdstown Farmers Market and online.

Just a few short days prior, on May 5 beginning at noon, Shepherdstown will hold its annual May Day celebration at McMurran Hall on German Street. Only one of a few fully traditional May Day celebrations in the mid-Atlantic region, the event will feature a full replica and dance of a Padstow Obby Oss and the singing of the traditional May Day Carol. While in town, check out its quaint shops and enjoy tasty treats in the local bakery and other eateries along the way.

Back Alley Garden Tour & Tea:
304-876-3323

EXPLORE CHARLES TOWN

Charles Town offers a variety of hip and historic activities throughout the year. Spring welcomes the annual Blooms and Blossoms Festival, scheduled for April 13. The local Farmers Market opens with the festival and is open Saturdays for the season thereafter. On Charles Street, a variety of vendors will be set up with activities, and the day will culminate with the annual pub crawl at 5 p.m.

Tours of the historic Charles Town Courthouse are scheduled throughout the season, as are tours of Happy Retreat, which was the home of Charles Washington, brother of President George Washington and founder of the town.

A visit to the Jefferson County Museum, conveniently located in the lower level of the Charles Town Library, offers a wealth of information not only about the town that serves as the county seat for Jefferson County, but also about surrounding areas. It closes for the winter and reopens in early April. While you're there, catch a show at the Old Opera House Theatre Company. Offerings for its spring season include “Sister Act” from April 19 through 28.

Jefferson County Museum:
200 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV; 304-725-8628

Old Opera House Theatre Company:
204 N. George St., Charles Town, WV;
304-725-4420

FINDING THE Spirits

Jefferson County offers a unique mix of venues where visitors can find delicious adult beverages.

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681-252-1548

DEVIL'S DUE DISTILLERY pours locally distilled whiskey that is bottled on site. A family and veteran-owned-and-operated business, Devil's Due has become a favorite for tastings as well as private events. It's open seven days a week.

315 James Burr Blvd.,
Kearneysville, WV
681-252-1246

BAVARIAN BROTHERS BREWING is the newest addition to the Bavarian Inn resort in Shepherdstown. Sample seasonal beers made on site, paired with small bites. The bar doubles as a quick-serve coffee counter in the mornings. Later, enjoy after-dinner drinks around the new beer garden firepit, where you can also roast marshmallows.

164 Shepherd Grade Road,
Shepherdstown, WV
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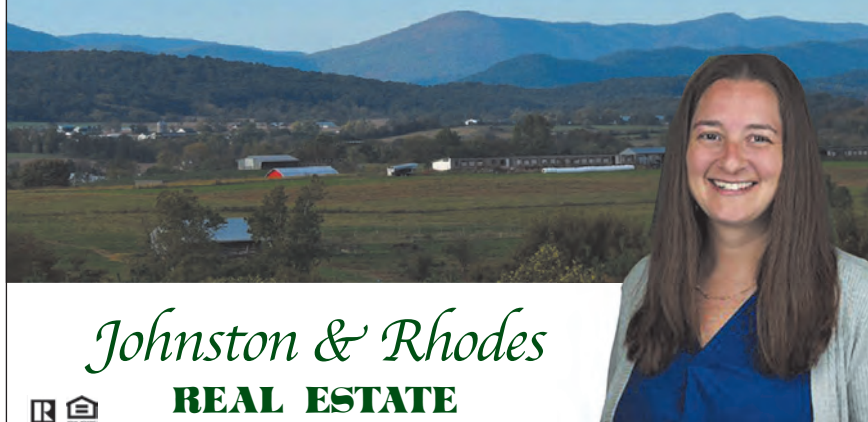
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Shepherdstown Community Club

Visit Us At These Spring Events!

APRIL 27TH
EARTH DAY AT MORGAN'S GROVE
Live bands, fun, food, seed swap, youth art contest and more, interactive demonstrations, craft vendors, beer garden and more.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

MAY 18TH & 19TH
BACK ALLEY TOUR AND TEA
There will be an art show and tea party at the War Memorial Building. Guests do a self guided walking tour of 15-20 gardens, enjoying all the history and whimsical nooks and crannies of an old town.

ORDER TICKETS HERE

For more information contact
304-995-6689
ShepherdstownCC.org



PHOTO BY JEFF TAYLOR
Visiting the Glen Burnie Gardens at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester is a perfect way to spend a springtime afternoon.

5 FAMILY-FRIENDLY WEEKENDS

Explore Frederick County, Virginia festivals, gardens, events and more

By Tabitha Reeves

Ah, spring. Time to explore. When you're planning your next day – or weekend – trip, check out these can't-miss things to do in Frederick County, Virginia.

1

Visit the Glen Burnie Gardens in bloom at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

Boasting seven acres of gardens, the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester is not only one of the most popular local destinations, but also one of the most stunning. With numerous gardens to choose from – featuring roses, waterfalls, statues, vegetables and more – your whole group can traverse the acreage without losing interest. In the spirit of the season, finish your visit with Kathie's Spring Garden, which showcases 12 natural springs flowing between the shrubs and flowers. Check out the interesting exhibits at the museum while you're there. There's a gift shop, too. The Trails at the MSV on the grounds is ideal for a springtime walk.

901 Amherst St., Winchester, VA
540-662-1473



FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Dine al fresco

When warmer weather rolls around, outdoor seating options abound at Frederick County restaurants, making it difficult to narrow down the best of the best. *Here are some of the locals' favorites.*

For a lakeside view and a locally sourced meal, it's hard to beat **Region's 117**. It's a great spot for those craving a wood-fired pizza, extravagant salad or seafood entree. From their "Southern Style Butter Cake A La Mode" to the "Flourless Chocolate Decadence," the dining experience is enhanced by delectable desserts to top off each meal.

180 Bald Eagle Drive, Lake Frederick, VA
540-699-3234

The bustling Loudoun Street pedestrian mall in **Old Town Winchester** offers a variety of outdoor eating options, like Union Jack Pub & Restaurant, Village Square, Water Street Cafe, Violino and Sabai Thai Winchester. But when you're simply seeking a new addition to your morning routine or a road-trip coffee stop, Espresso Bar & Cafe might be just the thing. Aside from offering free Wi-Fi, the cafe features freshly brewed beverages and an assortment of pastries and sandwiches until 5 p.m. daily.

Learn more about Old Town's shops and restaurants at oldtownwinchesterva.com.

With live music on the weekends and a large outdoor seating area, **Piccadilly's Public House & Restaurant** is the place for a Friday night group meetup or a filling family lunch. Piccadilly's provides pub-style American food and drinks to match. Enjoy an extensive beer and wine menu, as well as a "Slush of the Week."

125 E. Piccadilly St.,
Winchester, VA
540-535-1899



PHOTO BY JEFF TAYLOR
Numerous restaurants on the Loudoun Street Mall in historic downtown Winchester have outdoor seating, which makes spring-time dining even more enjoyable.



PHOTO BY JEFF TAYLOR

Parades are a big attraction at the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival. Here, a woman waves to the crowd as she rides a float covered in pink apple blossoms.

2

Pick your own berries at West Oaks Farm & Market

From mid-May through the end of July, West Oaks Farm & Market has pick-your-own strawberries, blackberries and raspberries to fulfill all your berry needs. After working up an appetite in the field, kids and adults alike can enjoy a casual dining experience, selecting a sandwich, salad or appetizer from the homegrown grill menu. Before you head out, take a moment to peruse the shelves of their market to grab some vegetables, jellies, fudge, country gifts and much more.

4305 Middle Road, Winchester, VA
540-539-8175

4

Play a round of golf at Rock Harbor Golf Course

Located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, the 36-hole Rock Harbor Golf Course is a scenic and fun way to spend an afternoon as the weather warms. Rock Harbor welcomes players of all levels and offers six sets of tees per course, meaning that dad isn't the only one who will enjoy himself on the green. As they have full golf-themed breakfast, lunch and dinner menus for eating in or carrying out, a day on the fairway can end with a family meal as well.

365 Rock Harbor Drive, Winchester, VA
540-722-7111

3

Check out the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival

This year, the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester celebrates its 100th anniversary, and it has grown significantly over the years. Unlike the first festival, which was a one-day event kicked off by a parade, this year visitors have 10 days of fun to pick from – April 26 through May 5 – and more than 40 events. Activities range from parades and apple orchard tours to carnival rides and pickleball competitions, so there's something for everyone.

135 N. Cameron St., Winchester, VA
540-662-3863

5

Take an art class at Easely Created

Everyone knows that April showers bring May flowers, so when you are looking for a pastime in the April portion of season, settle in at Easely Created in downtown Winchester. It offers art classes for all ages. With floral, family and season-themed paint nights, the whole gang can grab an apron and learn how to craft a blooming spring scene. Between seasonal wooden door hangers, porch leaners and other signs, your home can become a celebration of spring. Private party bookings are available.

47 W. Boscawen St.,
Winchester, VA

MORE INFORMATION



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WASHINGTON COUNTY,
MARYLAND



WHERE METAL MEETS VINYL

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County's popular
and newest
attractions



MORE INFORMATION



by Elizabeth Stinnette

Washington County, Maryland, with its rich historical legacy and stunning views of the Potomac River and the mountains, is a diverse destination worth exploring. The county's largest community, Hagerstown, offers dozens of attractions, as well as a strong arts and cultural district. Browse fine art, catch a show, and enjoy some family fun by visiting these local favorites.

PLAY WITH CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AT HEAVY METAL PLAYGROUND

Satisfy your inner kid by operating real construction equipment at Hagerstown's Heavy Metal Playground! The only place to provide this kind of opportunity in the region, Heavy Metal allows visitors age 8 and up to dig holes, move dirt, stack tires and play games like basketball. All packages come with a brief training, as well as a headset so you always have contact with an experienced professional. Both the 45-minute and hour-long packages will give you an opportunity to drive through an obstacle course.

14515 Pennsylvania Ave., Hagerstown, MD
240-415-8088

BECOME FANS OF A NEW BAND AT LIVE AT HUB CITY VINYL

Hub City Vinyl music store has become a Maryland standard, selling more than 20,000 records, cassettes, CDs and other merchandise in a former Ford dealership in downtown Hagerstown. Last year, owners Sheree and Lloyd Thoburn added an intimate, 200-person performance venue called Live at Hub City Vinyl, and a second larger venue is scheduled to open later this year, which is expected to attract even bigger bands. Some of this spring's performers will include Seldom Scene, a D.C.-based bluegrass band, and Coco Montoya, an award-winning guitarist and singer.

28 E. Baltimore St., Hagerstown, MD
301-800-9390

CATCH DINNER AND A SHOW AT WASHINGTON COUNTY PLAYHOUSE

No art-lover's Hagerstown tour is complete without a visit to Washington County Playhouse, established in 1985. This locally owned, professional dinner theater company stages musicals, plays, interactive murder mysteries and children's theater, all paired with a buffet-

style dinner and full cash bar. This spring, catch "The Rainbow Fish Musical" for children ages 3 and up through March, and "Grease" from April 19 through May 25.

44 N. Potomac St. Rear, Hagerstown, MD
301-739-7469

ENJOY ART AT JUST LOOKIN' GALLERY

Home to the work of more than 50 living Black artists, Just Lookin' Gallery in Hagerstown was designed to introduce the public to the rewards of fine art collecting. While all are welcome to "just look" at about 2,000 pieces of art and sculpture, you'll likely find something that will suit your own home. Some of the gallery's artists are featured in prestigious museums, but according to the business' website, all are masters. Don't think you can afford fine art? Just Lookin' has something for various budgets, ranging from thousands to under \$500. The gallery sells many high-quality prints and offers a full preservation framing service.

40 Summit Ave., Hagerstown, MD
301-714-2278

ROLL INTO THE RAILROAD MUSEUM

Springtime in Hagerstown is not complete without a visit to Hagerstown Roundhouse Museum, dedicated to preserving the rich railroad history of the area. While the Roundhouse itself – a place for repairing locomotives and cars – was taken down in 1999, today, the museum is ideal for train enthusiasts and families alike, offering a look into the locomotive legacy with its model railroad displays and historical exhibits. You'll see an outdoor train yard with rolling stocks, indoor model layouts and artifacts like lanterns, whistles and tools. There's even a research library open by appointment. Catch one of their special spring events or model train shows. Open on weekends.

296 S. Burhans Blvd., Hagerstown, MD
301-739-4665



Downtown Hagerstown is known for its bustling arts and cultural district, its new stadium, and its most delicious attraction – its food.

While there are options for just about every culinary preference, locals recommend the following three places this spring:

It will seem like a trip to Bavarian when you visit **Schmankerl Stube**, an authentic German beer hall and restaurant that serves classic Bavarian cuisine. German memorabilia and staff wearing dirndls add to its Old-World charm. The menu also has options for those with lactose and gluten allergies.

58 South Potomac St., Hagerstown, MD
301-797-3354

Bistro 11 & Lounge is a sit-down restaurant with Italian and American influences. Locals compliment the attentive service and cozy, romantic ambiance.

13208 Fountain Head Plaza,
Hagerstown, MD
301-733-2222

Find something tasty day or night at **District Provision and Supply Co.**, a deli that serves sandwiches and soups for the lunch crowd and tapas by night, with brunch offerings every weekend. The menu is based on seasonal foods from regional suppliers, and also offers homemade desserts and handcrafted cocktails.

6 Rochester Place, Hagerstown, MD
301-791-1717

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VISIT HAGERSTOWN

TOP: See if you can stack tires at Heavy Metal Playground, the only place in the region that allows visitors to operate construction equipment. BOTTOM RIGHT: Enjoy a relaxing sit-down dinner at Bistro 11, voted a top restaurant by locals. BOTTOM LEFT: Dine on schnitzel, sausage and authentic German beer at the charming Schmankerl Stube Bavarian restaurant.



CHARLES TOWN



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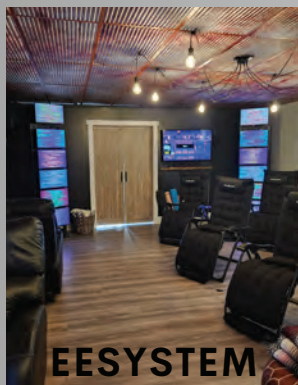
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ADDRESSING GETTYSBURG: RAINBOWS, HIKING, HISTORY

What to do, see, experience and explore
come spring in Adams County

Adams County, Pennsylvania, is probably best known for its most popular town, Gettysburg – the site of President Abraham Lincoln’s epic address and the Battle of Gettysburg, of course. The area offers a wealth of sights, including a range of rich cultural activities and experiences.

By Kate Marsanico

VISIT ADAMS COUNTY

History buffs will love the David Wills House museum. It was the home of Gettysburg attorney David Wills, who was the superintendent of county schools in the mid-1800s. As Confederates occupied the town, locals hid in his basement, and after the Battle of Gettysburg, wounded soldiers were treated in his home, according to the National Park Service.

David Wills House is where President Lincoln put the finishing touches on his Gettysburg Address. Today, visitors can tour one of six galleries there, including two rooms that have been painstakingly restored to their 1863 glory, including the actual bedroom in which Lincoln stayed and perfected his speech.

Also of historical note is the Eisenhower National Historic Site, home of the United States’ 34th president. With its majestic views of South Mountain, the home and farm served as a respite from the bustle of Washington, D.C., during Dwight



ADAMS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Seasonal Fare

Sign of the Buck: This brasserie is in the heart of downtown Gettysburg at the Union Hotel. It is known for its New American menu with dishes inspired by French cuisine, and starring local meats and produce.

29 Chambersburg St.,
Gettysburg
717-337-9251

Hickory Bridge Farm Restaurant: Owned and operated by the Martin family for more than four decades, this restaurant is in a picture-perfect setting and is known for its unique, seasonal family-style menu, which includes a salad, two meat entrees plus the legendary crab imperial, sides, dessert and a beverage. Bonus: It also has a bed-and-breakfast.

96 Hickory Bridge Road, Orttanna
717-642-5261

Food 101: There is always something new and exciting on the menu at Food 101 in Gettysburg. Dishes crafted in the New American epicurean style range from fried Brussels sprouts and heart of palm hummus to crab capellini and primavera pizza.

101 Chambersburg St.,
Gettysburg
717-334-6080

D. Eisenhower's presidency. It is here that he and the first lady escaped for weekend retreats and the chance to host world leaders in a relaxing, picturesque setting. The home opens in spring for tours on select dates, but visitors may tour the grounds year-round.

David Wills House:
8 Lincoln Square, Gettysburg; 717-334-2499

Eisenhower National Historic Site:
243 Eisenhower Farm Road, Gettysburg; 717-338-9114



PHOTO COURTESY OF DESTINATION GETTYSBURG
Shoppers unearth treasures at Lark - A Modern Marketplace. With its handmade jewelry, soy candles and pet toys, Lark may just be the perfect place to pick up souvenirs from your day trip.

SHOP ADAMS COUNTY

"Like finding a rainbow," is how one visitor described Lark - A Modern Marketplace on Tripadvisor. The shop is filled with treasures - from handmade jewelry and small-batch, artisanal perfumes to sustainable candles and home decor. Owner Timbrel Wallace describes her marketplace as the sweet spot between art gallery and retail shop. It's a curated collection of "wonderful items made by small businesses that are handmade, design-oriented, fair-trade, and unique," according to the store's website.

Lark - A Modern Marketplace: 17 Lincoln Square, Gettysburg; 717-334-5275

SEE ADAMS COUNTY

From April 5 through 6, those with a passion for film-and for history-are in for a treat. Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns will headline the Gettysburg Film Festival focused on his work. This will be a two-day examination of the fundamental themes of freedom and democracy portrayed through full-length films and clip reels. The festival is designed to unify us during a time when many are focused on what divides us.

Multiple locations, including the Majestic Theater, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg; 717-334-4723, ext. 101

EXPLORE ADAMS COUNTY

Spring is the ideal time to discover the natural beauty of Adams County. Caledonia State Park is only about 14 miles outside of Gettysburg and features 1,125 acres that include 10 miles of hiking trails, as well as forest, shaded picnic areas, fishing and popular campsites.

When your camping trip is over, check out the blooming flowers at both Hollabaugh Bros. and Boyer Nurseries & Orchards in Biglerville. They are great destinations for blossom peeping, and they even have their own farm markets. Boyer also boasts a wine tasting room and maze. Blossoms are best seen in late April.

Caledonia State Park: 101 Pine Grove Road, Fayetteville; 717-352-2161

Hollabaugh Bros.: 545 Carlisle Road, Biglerville; 717-677-8412

Boyer Nurseries & Orchards: 405 Boyer Nursery Road, Biglerville; 717-677-8558

EXPERIENCE ADAMS COUNTY

Learn about Black history on the "8 Miles from Slavery" 90-minute walking tour. Hear the stories of the Black community - ones of fear, uncertainty and triumph - during the years leading up to the Civil War through the Reconstruction. Learn about abolitionists, kidnappers, heroes and villains, and the reasons why Gettysburg was a vital stop on the road to freedom.

8 Miles from Slavery: gbtgc.com/walking-tours-daytime; 717-253-5737



PHOTO COURTESY OF DESTINATION GETTYSBURG
When the day is done, enjoy Mansion House 1757's farm-to-table fare and revel in its historic tavern before retiring to quaintly appointed guest rooms.

STAY IN ADAMS COUNTY

After a day of exploring Adams County, relax in quaint inns and bed-and-breakfasts. For example, Sleepy Hollow Manor is a beautiful stone inn built just after World War II. It's conveniently located within walking distance of 15 wineries, taverns and restaurants, as well as Gettysburg National Cemetery. It is also near the meeting spot for historic day tours and nightly ghost tours. Or, check out Mansion House 1757, which is just 7 miles from Gettysburg. A boutique inn, Mansion House 1757 also features a farm-to-table dining experience, an historic tavern and live music.

Sleepy Hollow Manor: 34 Locust Ave., Gettysburg; 717-420-0058

Mansion House 1757: 15 West Main St., Fairfield; 717-642-5410



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PAGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

THREE CHARMING TOWNS

Hunt for eggs,
enjoy elephant ears,
catch a trophy fish and
more in Page County

By Gabriele Paonessa

Established in 1831, Page County is part of the greater Shenandoah Valley, which is the home of a United States National Natural Landmark – Luray Caverns – and Shenandoah National Park.

Filled with winding country roads winding through the mountains, Page County is made up of three charming small towns: Luray, Shenandoah and Stanley.

Visitors can enjoy a wide variety of activities and breathtaking views the beautiful Page Valley has to offer around every corner. With so many hidden gems tucked away, it could be difficult for one to know where to begin. Consider starting with these events.

FIND THE EGGS (AND CANDY AND TOYS)

The Free Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held March 30 in Big Gem Park at 1 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Christ United Methodist Community Focus Group. This year, the community group will hide 2,000 eggs;

PHOTO BY MIKE FOLTZ

A prize trout is measured at the Stanley Volunteer Fire Department and Luray Boy Scouts Troop #100 Annual Trout Fishing Tournament in 2023.

MORE INFORMATION





PHOTO GABRIELE PAONESSA
Contestants competing for the
Best in Show at the 2023 Dog Show.

1,000 will be filled with candy, and 1,000 will be filled with toys. Ring pop candies will be hidden separately. Free Community Easter Egg Hunt is for ages 2 to 12, and about 200 children participated last year. There will be areas in the park designated for certain age groups to hunt for the Easter eggs. Pizza and water will be available this year thanks to an anonymous community donor. A raffle drawing for a \$50 gift card to Rudy's Diner will also take place. Bring your own basket for egg collection.

736 Fourth St., Shenandoah, VA
Vicki Breedan: 540-652-8890

CELEBRATE SPRING WITH ELEPHANT EARS — AND MORE

The town of Stanley first annual Spring Festival will be held April 20 at Ed Good Memorial Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will host a number of crafters and vendors, as well as a variety of food trucks, one of which will feature a town of Stanley favorite: elephant ears, a crispy cinnamon fried bread. Catch live music featuring Kevin Johnson and Augusta Blue Band. The Ed Good Memorial Park has a huge playground and skate park for the kids to enjoy, along with bounce houses and face painting.

332 E. Main St., Stanley, VA
540-778-3454

GO FISH

The annual Stanley Volunteer Fire Department and Luray Boy Scouts Troop #100 Annual Trout Fishing Tournament will be held on April 27

along the Hawksbill Greenway from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event raises money to help the Stanley Volunteer Fire Department purchase fire equipment, tools and other life-saving gear. The Trout Tournament has also helped raise money to send the Boy Scouts to camp. Last year, there were 282 entries from around Virginia and three other states. All told, the tournament is planning a \$5,000 cash payout, according to its Facebook page. Registration fee required. Search Facebook for more information.

North Broad and Mechanic streets,
Luray, VA

GARDEN LOVERS, THIS ONE'S FOR YOU

Garden Lover's Day, a must-visit event for garden enthusiasts, will be held May 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Birdsong Pleasure Garden. While the garden is open year-round by appointment for tours, during Garden Lover's Day, they pull out all the stops. Going to this event is like Alice getting lost in Wonderland, as visitors touring the gardens may round a corner to find a vendor set up under a tree in the walkway. This rain or shine event is produced by the Hill and Valley Garden Club of Luray, VA. Designed to connect us with nature and help cultivate the joys and benefits of gardening, it includes garden tours, plant sales, refreshments, raffle opportunities, artisans and music. Tickets are \$15 and include one raffle ticket and parking. Proceeds benefit the garden club's environmental scholarship awarded to local students.

1414 Longs Road, Luray, VA 22835
Lesley Mack: 540-743-9389

JOIN THE MEMORIAL DAY FESTIVAL

The 27th annual Memorial Day Festival in Shenandoah will be held on May 24 and 25, starting with a cruz-in on First Street from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday. All makes, models, and years are welcome with no registration fees. That same evening, Boy Scout Troop 8 will hold its annual Flag Retirement ceremony at Veterans Park, 205 Virginia Ave., at 7 p.m.

And if you're planning to stay for the weekend, be sure to bring your pup. The following morning starts early with the dog show at the Carnival Grounds between Second and Third streets off of Virginia Avenue, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. All dogs are welcome to compete in award categories: Most Patriotic, Best Look Alike, Best Trick and Best in Show. Registration is \$5.

Next, join the Memorial Walk and/or the Memorial Service, both hosted at the VFW, Post 8613 Avis O. Comer, 1103 Varina Ave. The walk begins at 10 a.m. and the service at 10:15 a.m.

The entire day can be spent shopping at the yard sale, book sale, and craft show; petting the zoo animals at Shenandoah Landing and River Park; and browsing the car, truck and tractor show. The whole day leads up to both the Children's Parade at the Shenandoah Landing and River Park at 1 p.m., where the children can walk the track decked out in their most patriotic finery, and the Memorial Day Parade from 4 to 5 p.m.

540-742-1141



Grab a bite to eat

Gathering Grounds Patisserie & Cafe serves breakfast and lunch. Enjoy some traditional breakfast options or sandwiches they hand carve and roast on premises. Try out their decadent pies, cakes, cookies and other desserts. The restaurant has a wonderful coffee bar and offers multiple frozen drinks. There is also Wi-Fi for your convenience.

24 East Main St., Luray, VA
540-743-1121

The Chop House Bistro, a new restaurant in Page County, offers both lunch and dinner. Its lunch menu is kept simple with salads, burgers, tacos and their bistro bowls. The dinner menu has much of the same as the lunch menu, but adds multiple cuts of steak, pork tenderloin, salmon steak, scallops and fried catfish. This restaurant also has specific vegetarian meal options and a full bar.

132 E. Main St., Luray, VA
540-860-5605

Dan's Steakhouse has been around since 1949. Only open for dinner, it's renowned for serving the finest steaks. It also has chicken, pork, seafood and pasta entrees for those looking for something different.

There is a full bar, a wide variety of appetizers and sides, and pies aplenty to choose from for dessert.

8512 US-211 Luray, VA
540-743-6285



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GET OUT!

Four ways to
commune with
nature, history
and art this season
in Clarke County

PHOTO BY JEFF TAYLOR

Clarke County is known for its scenic beauty. A horse is shown here grazing in a field of buttercups with the Blue Ridge Mountains in the background.

Clarke County, Virginia, is known for its spectacular natural beauty, preserved and nurtured by sliding scale zoning – limiting residential growth to preserve agricultural land and the rural character of the county – and a hearty conservation easement participation. Approximately 23% of the county’s land area is permanently protected by conservation easements. Agritourism, hiking, history and culture are valued here.

By Wendy Grove Kedzierski

1

Pick your own

Late spring brings “pick-your-own” possibilities in the form of flowers and seasonal fruits and vegetables. Mackintosh Fruit Farm is family-owned and strives to “introduce you to some of the best tasting fruit that you have ever eaten.”

If you prefer the ease of already-picked produce, hit up Nalls Farm Market, owned and operated by David and Mary Nalls. They offer fresh local produce, delicious baked goods and a garden shop with flowers, herbs, statuary and more.

Plus, the Clarke County Farmers’ Market Association manages a venue May through October in downtown Berryville. Here, you can buy directly from each vendor and can find local and regional merchandise like fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, home-baked goods, meats, cheeses, jams and artisan crafts.

Mackintosh Fruit Farm: 1608 Russell Road, Berryville, VA; 540-955-6225

Nalls Farm Market: 4869 Harry Byrd Hwy., Berryville, VA; 540-955-0004

Clarke County Farmers’ Market: 317 W. Main St., Berryville, VA



CLARKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Grab a bite to eat

THE LOCKE STORE IN MILLWOOD is a popular lunch spot with porch and terrace seating, and vegetarian, vegan, gluten- and dairy-free menu items. You can also pick up dinner there, but for a nice evening meal sit-down as well as a fabulous Sunday brunch, check out The Buttery next door.

2049 Millwood Road,
Millwood, VA | 540-837-1275

SUECAT'S BISTRO in Berryville is among the area's newest dining spots. The restaurant offers Southern-style favorites like Clarke County kale salad and fried green tomatoes, and features appetizers and sandwiches, as well as craft beer.

9 E. Main St., Berryville, VA
540-277-2401

HOMESPUN is a fast-casual farm-to-table eatery. From craft hot dogs made from grass-fed beef and local draft beers to homemade soups and hand-dipped, locally-made ice cream, Homespun is built around community, sustainability and fun!

20 W. Main St., Berryville, VA
540-955-7800



PHOTOS BY JEFF TAYLOR

TOP: The historic Burwell-Morgan Mill in Millwood will transform into an art show from April 20 to May 5 for its 2024 Spring Art at the Mill. **BOTTOM:** A visitor at the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandly Experimental Farm in Clarke County delights in seeing Virginia Bluebells in bloom.

2 Hike the trails

Behold the Virginia bluebells – If you visit the right spot at the right time, you'll see a sea of sweet little cerulean, bell-shaped flowers. A great place for viewing these blankets of Virginia Bluebells is Shenandoah University's Cool Spring River Campus, which provides the perfect environment for the native wildflower: moist woodlands and river floodplains. Traverse its nature paths and you might also spy great blue heron. Learn more at su.edu/cool-spring.

1400 Parker Lane, Bluemont, VA

Hit the Appalachian Trail

Twenty-two miles of the Appalachian Trail extend through Clarke County and inspired the printing of a Berryville-Clarke County Appalachian Trail Day Hikes brochure, which is available at the Berryville-Clarke County Government Center and Barns of Rose Hill Visitors Center in Berryville. The hikes listed range from less than a mile to 10 miles and were selected based on ease of access, range of skill required and breathtaking scenery. More advanced hikers might want to give the "Roller Coaster" section of Clarke's trails a try to find out firsthand how it got its name. Enjoy hikes at Liberty Hill-Sky Meadows, Rod Hollow, Buzzard Hill, Bears Den Overlook, Raven Rock and Cool Spring River-to-Ridge.

Barns of Rose Hill
95 Chalmers Ct., Berryville, VA
540-955-2004



3 Learn the local history

Perhaps the best place to get an introduction to the rich history of Clarke County is at the home of the Clarke County Historical Association, located in the Coiner House. There you'll find exhibits, a research library and historical archives. Use this as a launching point to plan excursions ranging from visiting a fully operational grist mill to a driving and walking tour of the area's historic districts.

32 E. Main St., Berryville
540-955-2600

4 See the shows!

In spring, the historic 18th-century Burwell-Morgan Mill in Millwood transforms into a gigantic art show, featuring 300 juried artists displaying more than 1,000 pieces of art. A portion of the proceeds goes toward maintaining the mill. 2024's Spring Art at the Mill runs from April 20 through May 5. Learn more at clarkehistory.org/art-mill.

While you're in town, catch a show at the Barns of Rose Hill in Berryville. This nonprofit performing arts venue features live music, exhibits, educational workshops and more. It's located in two restored dairy barns. Check out its upcoming spring concerts, featuring jazz, folk and Celtic music.

Burwell-Morgan Mill: 15 Tannery Lane, Millwood, VA
540-837-1799

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Fire Civil Service Commission Notice of 2024 Testing: Competitive Examination and Certified List of Eligibility for the Position of Firefighter/EMT-Basic In the Martinsburg Fire Department

Individuals that successfully satisfy all the requirements will remain on a list of eligible candidates for a period of three years in the event an opening does occur.



The starting pay for Firefighter/EMT-Basic is \$50,000 + \$4,254 mandatory OT for a total of \$54,245. Employees of the City of Martinsburg are offered a range of fringe benefits including; vacation leave, sick leave, personal leave, health/life/vision and dental insurance benefits, longevity pay and fire pension plan, all of which the Firefighter is entitled to. The City of Martinsburg reserves the right to amend date and/or location to remain in compliance with any COVID-19 guidelines in effect at the time of testing. New hires that possess a current EMT Paramedic through the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services or are certified elsewhere as an EMT-Paramedic and are able to obtain legal recognition as an EMT-Paramedic by the WV Office of Emergency Medical Services within ninety (90) days of first date of employment will receive a \$10,000 sign-on bonus, with new hires being required to sign a minimum of two-year commitment with the City. Beginning salary for paramedics is \$55,125 + \$4,680 (OT) = \$59,805 plus \$500 per year of certification up to 10 years (\$5,000).



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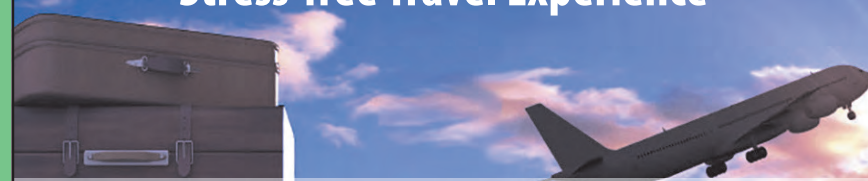
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HARDY COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA



HIKING THROUGH HARDY

Discover adventure and natural beauty in
West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle

LOST RIVER STATE PARK is comprised of 3,934 acres of woods in Mathias, West Virginia. The park provides cabin lodging and an abundance of outdoor recreation. It's best known for the Cranny Crow overlook on top of Big Ridge Mountain, offering a view of five counties.

321 Park Drive, Mathias, WV
304-897-5372

WOLF GAP RECREATION AREA was once the site of a 1930s African American Civilian Conservation Corps Camp. The area offers many hiking opportunities, most notably to the popular Big Schloss Overlook with its stunning views of Virginia and West Virginia mountains. Campsites are available within the recreation area.

540-984-4101

TROUT POND RECREATION AREA has two luscious lakes: Rock Cliff Lake and Trout Pond. Visitors can relax on a sandy mountain beach or fish for stocked trout while kids splash in the cool waters of Rock Cliff Lake. Trout Pond, home to native brook trout, is the only natural lake in West Virginia, according to the U.S. Forest Service. A designated swimming area and easy lakeside trails make this a good family destination. It's open from May through October.

540-984-4101



STOCK PHOTO
LOST RIVER
STATE PARK

By Tom Markland

Hardy County, located in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, is a peaceful weekend getaway, and a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts.

Surrounded by the picturesque Appalachian Mountains, this county offers a serene and natural setting for hiking, swimming, fishing, boating – essentially for escaping the hustle and bustle of city life.

Check out these things to do there this spring.

COMPETE IN A DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Lost River Open Disc Golf Tournament in Mathias returns in 2024, giving competitors a chance for glory in this Professional Disc Golf Association sanctioned tournament. In this sport, players throw a disc at a target, following rules similar to those of traditional golf.

The 18-hole course, which is described as “demanding but fair,” weaves through Lost River State Park, located in the wooded mountains of Hardy County.

This year, the tournament will be held on Saturday, May 11. See wvstateparks.com and search for the tournament for more information and to register.

If disc golf isn't quite your thing, check out some of Lost River State Park's other outdoor offerings. The park is best known for its Cranny Crow overlook, with a gorgeous view of five counties from its peak. For hiking enthusiasts, the park has 20 trails of varying difficulty crisscrossing the forest.

VISIT CAPON SPRINGS AND FARMS

Looking for something a little more laid back? Nestled in the mountains of Hardy County, Capon Springs and Farms resort boasts 14 cottages with a variety of bedrooms in each. Originally established in the 19th century, it offers breathtaking scenery and outdoor activities across its 4,700 acres.

While you're there, relax in the Hygeia Bath House & Spa after playing a round of golf against mountain backdrops. You can also fish, swim and hike, and, as of last year, there's even an escape room.

3818 Capon Springs Road, High View, WV | 304-874-3695

HIKE THROUGH BREATHTAKING WOODS

With its lush forests, rolling hills and meandering streams, Hardy County offers an abundance of hiking trails that cater to all skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned trekker or a novice explorer, these promise gorgeous vistas and unparalleled experiences in the heart of Appalachia.

Just within a few miles of Wardensville, hikers can traverse trails like White Rocks Loop through George Washington National Forest, which is a 9-mile backpackers' trail. They can also climb Big Schloss – the German word for castle – a nearly 3,000-foot peak with a perfect view of the sunrise.

For more information about hiking trails in Hardy County, visit visithardywv.com.

MORE INFORMATION





MORGAN COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA



PHOTO BY RON AGNIR

A father and son cool off in the 74.3-degree mineral water at Berkeley Springs State Park.

FROM FAUNA TO FILM

Soak in the springs,
spend an evening
under the stars ...
and more in
Morgan County

By Ainsley Hall

Nestled in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, Morgan County beckons with its blend of natural beauty and rich history. From the rejuvenating waters of Berkeley Springs to the scenic trails of Cacapon State Park, the county offers a tranquil escape for nature enthusiasts and outdoor adventurers alike. History buffs will delight in exploring the historic town of Bath, while those seeking relaxation will find it in the area's famous mineral spas.

Check out these five things to do and see while you're there.

1

The Historic Star Theatre

The Historic Star Theatre, located in Berkeley Springs, is a great place to enjoy second-run movies inexpensively. The building itself is quite a treat. It was constructed in 1916 as an automobile garage and turned into a movie theater a dozen years later. Since then, it has undergone many updates and renovations, including a big overhaul in 1949. The theater reopened in 2021 after the Covid-19 pandemic, with the box office restored to its 1949 appearance. A Manley hot oil popcorn machine ("Best Popcorn in 4 states, but nobody's saying which states," jokes the theater's website), an up-lit, glass block auditorium entry and red restroom signs from that era add to its charm today. If you're visiting during the week, pop in for \$2Buck Tuesdays.

49 N. Washington St., Berkeley Springs, WV
304-258-1404

2

Berkeley Springs State Park

Berkeley Springs State Park – Berkeley Springs is known for its natural, warm spring water, making the Berkeley Springs State Park the perfect place to relax. Long before Europeans found the warm waters, Native Americans were attracted to them for their purported restorative effect, and the European settlers learned from them. George Washington visited the springs, and it was through him that they became well-known to the Colonists. Today, that natural spring water flows at a constant temperature of 74.3 degrees. Guests can visit the main bathhouse for massages, facials and more, or the historic, private Roman Bath, where water is heated to 102 degrees.

2 S. Washington St., Berkeley Springs, WV
304-258-2711

3

Eidolon Nature Preserve

Eidolon Nature Preserve – This is a must-visit as the weather gets warmer, with trails perfect for hiking. Located in Great Cacapon, this 354-acre nature preserve has beautiful views of the Potomac River and trails leading through mountaintop forests. The Nature Conservancy took ownership of Eidolon in 2006 when the previous landowner passed away. Check out the stunning flora and fauna that she had helped inventory as you traverse 4 miles of trails that range from easy to strenuous. And when you've run out of trail, check out one of Morgan County's other great places to explore the outdoors: the 6,000-plus-acre Cacapon Resort State Park.

2146 Orleans Road, Great Cacapon, WV
681-252-1387

4

Morgan County Observatory

Morgan County Observatory – Enjoy the wonders of the night sky away from the bright lights of big cities. The observatory is home to a custom-built telescope made by Ferson Optics in 1967. The observatory was designed to give the public access to view and study the stars themselves. It hosts public star gazing events throughout the year where guests can borrow a portable telescope and enjoy a magical night looking at the sky, or request a private viewing of their own. Stargazing is free, though donations are accepted for private viewings.

9047 Winchester Grade Road, Berkeley Springs, WV
304-355-6333

5

Morgan County Ice House

Morgan County Ice House – Be sure to stop by this "cool place for hot art" on your day trip to Morgan County. Originally built around 1910 to store apples, today the building has multiple art galleries, a retail art shop, classrooms and community space. The building is also home to The Ice House Theater Project, Morgan Arts Council's community theater directed by local professionals. It offers four "main stage" shows annually.

Independence & Mercer streets,
Berkeley Springs
304-258-2300

MORE INFORMATION



PHOTO BY EMILY KEEFER

Berkeley Springs' Historic Star Theatre was built in 1916 as an automobile garage and transformed into a movie theater in 1928. Today, this historic building screens second-run films.

Let's eat!

LOT 12 PUBLIC HOUSE serves seasonal, upscale comfort cuisine, pairing it with wines, microbrews and fine spirits. Chef Damian Heath uses local sourced farm fresh ingredients. Vegetarian options and gluten-free choices are available. Enjoy porch seating during warm weather.

117 Warren St.,
Berkeley Springs, WV
304-258-6264

MARY'S VEGETARIAN CAFÉ LLC & BISTRO

offers a cozy retreat for health-conscious diners. The cafe prides itself on its international flair, with many dishes inspired by Asian cuisines. Committed to sustainability, it sources from local farms, according to its website, catering to both vegetarians and those simply seeking a nutritious, delicious bite.

42 Independence St.,
Berkeley Springs, WV
571-318-3347

THE NAKED OLIVE LOUNGE

in Berkeley Springs has a "speak easy" atmosphere with popular food and cocktails. Open on the weekends, the lounge offers a diverse menu with some outstanding small plate cuisine. They have outdoor seating and live music.

87 N. Washington St.,
Berkeley Springs, WV
304-500-2668



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1... Stop in for Travel information



The Edinburg Mill is a **Certified Virginia Visitor Center**

Check with us for maps, books and information about local places, area hiking and events.

2... Come & Explore!

The museum at the 1848 Edinburg Mill is a treasure-trove of Route 11 memorabilia, antiques, old equipment and tools, as well as exhibits featuring Civil War history, the nation's first CCC camp, the farming community and so much more! Exhibits are constantly updated so there's always something new to discover.

Learn the fascinating story of how the Mill survived Sheridan's fires during the Civil War and be sure to keep an eye out for our resident ghost, the mischievous Frankie.

First floor Visitor Center/shop is open to the public. Admission To floors 2 & 3 museum displays, donation \$3. Includes a showing of the film "The Burning." Elevator available.

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3... Stay to eat & shop!

The Edinburg Mill Restaurant in the lower level of the Mill is charming. The old timbers and rock walls transport you back to the origins of a working mill and best of all, the chefs are dedicated to good food and fresh local products. Check hours @ www.edinburgmillrestaurant.com



The Museum Gift Shop
Lots of interesting collectibles, books and art. Open daily



Heritage Mill Wines All you need to enjoy a good glass of wine. Wed-Sat 11:30-6:30



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The Edinburg Heritage Foundation and the Town of Edinburg



OH, SHENANDOAH

Follow the river to find
historic sites, wineries
and unique attractions

By Ashley Miller

Shenandoah County, nestled between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Alleghenies, is known for its charming historic towns and picturesque views, so it's no wonder visitors slow down to behold the beauty as they drive along U.S. 11.

"There's nothing like the fresh air and beautiful scenery to relax in and recharge your energy," said Sharon Baroncelli, Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce president. "Shop our quaint and unique stores, enjoy a glass of wine or two at our many wineries, grab lunch or dinner at one of our specialty restaurants. So much to do in one day you'll be returning for more."

As spring approaches and the trees begin to blossom, here are five must-see or must-do attractions in Shenandoah County.

MORE INFORMATION



PHOTO BY RICH COOLEY

A member of a Model T club drives a 1924 touring car through the Meems Bottom Covered Bridge in Mount Jackson.





SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VIRGINIA



COURTESY PHOTO

Located in the Seven Bends area of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, Seven Bends State Park in Shenandoah County is a great destination for outdoor enthusiasts looking to connect with nature.

GO ANTIQUING AT THE EMPORIUM

In the historic town of Strasburg, stop by Strasburg Emporium, the largest antique and collectibles shop in the state. Browse wares from more than 60 dealers across 52,000 square feet of treasures. From vintage jewelry and rare coins to books and second-hand furniture, there's something for every budget and taste.

Plus, save the date for Strasburg's annual Vintage in the Valley event, held in the downtown area April 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to more than 100 vendors, enjoy carriage rides and live music.

160 N Massanutten St., Strasburg, VA
540-465-3711

WIND THROUGH SEVEN BENDS STATE PARK

This popular day-use park in Woodstock, open from 6 a.m. to dusk, encourages outdoor lovers to take in the 8 miles of hiking or biking trails, or as temperatures rise, to hop in a canoe or kayak down the river for an afternoon in the sun. Don't forget to pack lunch and enjoy the picnic area. Looking for a little education? The park offers opportunities for children and adults alike.

2111 South Hollingsworth Road, Woodstock, VA
800-933-PARK

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME AT FORT VALLEY MUSEUM

Filled with an abundance of rich Fort Valley history, the Fort Valley Museum offers visitors a look into what life was like in the Shenandoah Valley in its early days. Popular exhibits include arrowheads, music, clothing and a vast collection of donated pottery. You'll see displays about a one-room school, cold-blast iron furnaces, music in the fort and more. Be sure to walk across Dry Run Road to see the

museum's recent acquisitions in Trinity Brethren Church. The museum is closed for the winter, and will open Memorial Day weekend.

Save the Date: Join the museum in June as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. Dry Run Road, Fort Valley, VA

CHECK OUT MEEMS BOTTOM COVERED BRIDGE

Constructed between 1892 and 1893, the Meems Bottom Covered Bridge is among the best-known covered bridges in the Valley – perhaps in the state of Virginia. Its massive arch supports and stone abutments attract thousands of visitors to this Mount Jackson destination annually. Part of the Wilderness Trail in Shenandoah County, the bridge still accommodates vehicles. It was burned by vandals in 1976, but reconstructed with salvaged timber and undergirded with steel beams and concrete pillars and reopened to traffic three years later. With a small parking lot and picnic tables, it's the perfect spot to stop and take in the scenic views.

State Route 720, Mount Jackson, VA

MARCH THROUGH THE AMERICAN CELEBRATION ON PARADE

American Celebration on Parade, part of Shenandoah Caverns in Quicksburg, is considered one of the nation's most distinctive museums. Offering an up-close and personal experience of parade floats from national celebrations, television, and even a Thanksgiving Day Parade, this family-friendly venue is sure to bring joy to all involved. Pull out those cell phones and take selfies in front of popular backgrounds used by presidents and other famous Americans.

397 Caverns Road, Quicksburg, VA
540-477-3115

Dine out!

QUEEN STREET DINER

Serving breakfast all day, the Queen Street Diner is a popular stop for locals and visitors alike. Guests enjoy homemade pies, pork barbecue and fried oysters – just like grandma used to make them.

728 E. Queen St.,
Strasburg; 540-465-4658

JALISCO MEXICAN RESTAURANT

With sidewalk seating, this quaint cantina is known throughout the Valley for its tacos and margarita pairings. With vegetarian options, everyone in the family is sure to find something delicioso!

9403 S Congress St.,
New Market; 540-740-9404

EDINBURG MILL RESTAURANT

Guests are sure to enjoy this farm-to-table experience in this mill established in 1848. Try the club sandwich topped with pork tenderloin and grilled zucchini. It goes great with a glass of sweet iced tea. Open Thursday through Sunday.

214 S. Main St., Edinburg
540-984-8898



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5 INEXPENSIVE WAYS TO SALUTE SPRINGTIME

in Rockingham
County

By Harleigh Cupp



FILE PHOTO

View the vibrant spring blossoms by Broadway's town hall, and stop by the town's community yard sale.

PHOTO BY DANIEL LIN
Kaitlin Jones, of Luray, and her daughter, Huntleigh Jones,
pick strawberries at Overlook Produce last year.

While vacations – even just weekend getaways – can be rough on the wallet, Rockingham County provides plenty of opportunities to keep busy that are easy on the budget. From exploring public parks to agritourism activities to hometown events, the county has a little bit of a whole lot for locals and tourists alike to make this season one to remember.

1

Plan a picnic at the park

Rockingham County is filled with free public parks perfect for pitching a blanket or spreading out on a picnic table. Popular spots include Wildwood Park in Bridgewater and Grand Caverns Park in Grottoes, where you can explore Weyer's Cave. Discovered in 1804, the latter is billed as "the oldest continually operating show cave in the United States" on its website.

Traveling from too far away to pack lunch? Stop by Sunrise Market & Deli in Dayton to stock up on locally made sandwiches and snacks for the occasion.

Wildwood Park: 648 W. Bank St.,
Bridgewater, VA

Grand Caverns: 5 Grand Cavern Road,
Grottoes, VA; 540-249-5705

Sunrise Market & Deli: 950 Mason St.,
Dayton, VA; 540-879-9100

2

Find treasures at one of several community yard sales

Rockingham County is made up of seven incorporated towns – Bridgewater, Broadway, Dayton, Elkton, Grottoes, Mount Crawford and Timberville. Most of them reserve a weekend each year to host a community yard sale day. Yard sales combine the thrill of the thrift-shop hunt with being outdoors, but they also help raise funds for local churches or school groups and provide the opportunity to meet local folks who can give you more tips on what to explore in the area.

This year, the town of Broadway's community yard sale will take place on Saturday, April 20, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information on other yard sales happening throughout the county, reach out to each of the town offices to get dates and times.

3

Catch an Easter Sunday sunrise at High Knob

A lesser-known Shenandoah Valley tradition is climbing one of the mountain peaks and watching the sun as it rises on Easter morning.

High Knob Fire Tower, which is on the National Historic Lookout Registry, offers 360-degree views of Virginia and West Virginia and is accessible via a 5-mile out and back

hike. It's located in the George Washington National Forest. Enjoy sunset over West Virginia's highest mountain Spruce Knob and the Eastern Continental Divide.

Those more inclined to see sunrise can catch a breathtaking view from Reddish Knob. "The drive into Reddish Knob is worth taking slowly with the windows rolled down to listen for ruffed grouse, wild turkey, and other animals who might run onto the road, as well as warblers, vireos, and flycatchers," according to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

High Knob Trail, Brandywine, WV
Reddish Knob Spur, Dayton, North River, VA

4

Pick strawberries from Overlook Produce

Nothing marks late spring fading into early summer quite like clutching a basket of ripe, red strawberries – which Overlook Produce in Mount Crawford works hard to grow each year.

Strawberry season typically begins mid-to late-May and lasts about three to four weeks. Last year, producers across the state experienced optimal growing conditions and were able to open stands and pick-your-own fields several weeks early. Strawberries are sold per pound and doing the labor oneself can prove to be much less expensive than picking up a pint up from the grocery store.

609 Friedens Church Road, Mt. Crawford, VA; 540-421-6913

5

Ride in the Rocktown Rambler cycling event

Those looking to scratch an itch for adventure this spring can check out Rocktown Bicycles' annual gravel event – the Rocktown Rambler. Based in Basye, the cycling race wends along Shenandoah Valley backroads on a 25-mile course filled with twists, climbs and scenic views. There will be gravel, some climbing, some descending, some singletrack, and a lot of fun! "We welcome everyone that wants to have a good time - whether that is by racing, riding, or partying (or doing all three at once)!" according to the event website. This year's race will take place on Sunday, May 19. Registration costs \$100 per rider and includes an event T-shirt, on-course aid station support and a post-race meal.

Rocktown Bicycles: 50 S. Mason St., Suite 100, Harrisonburg, VA
540-689-0070

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Local eateries

YE OLDE COFFEE HOUSE

This mother- and daughter-owned coffee shop takes visitors back in time with every cup it brews. Owner Diane Semenov wanted a coffee with a historic taste, and after much research, she found a modern blend that flavor- matches the coffee served to railway depot guests by Norfolk and Western.

100 7th St., Grottoes, VA
540-820-2752

MELISSA'S SWEET TEA & SLIDERS

This woman-owned food truck just set up shop in January. Menu items include a variety of bite-sized sammies, like owner Melissa Wyant's famous ham and cheese slider, breakfast sliders, soups, coffee, sweet tea and several options for kids.

220 W. Spotswood Trail, Elkton, VA

HANDS OF HOME

This not-for-profit, Christian-run haven offers a variety of locally sourced, handcrafted gifts and home decor – but has earned a reputation for having the best homemade pretzels in town. Just recently, the family-owned business added house-made soups to the menu, too.

157 W Spotswood Ave., Elkton, VA
540-298-6001

MORE INFORMATION





WARREN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

PHOTO BY RICH COOLEY
Bluebells are abundant
along the Shenandoah
River in early April. You'll
find them in Eastham
Park in Front Royal and
along the Bluebell Trail at
Shenandoah River State
Park in Bentonville.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Warren County is gateway to Shenandoah National Park



By Laura Ruby

Spring is a great time to shed the layers of winter and the confines of home. Warren County, and its county seat Front Royal, offer ample opportunity to explore blooming springtime in the great outdoors, as well as art, shopping, and festivals.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

Slow down and watch for bears and other wildlife in Shenandoah National Park. The park is surrounded by eight Virginia counties.



PHOTO BY DANIEL LIN
Shenandoah National Park, which encompasses part of the Blue Ridge Mountains and includes Skyline Drive, stretches 105 miles from Front Royal to Waynesboro.

DRIVING TOUR

Home to the northern entrance of Shenandoah National Park's Skyline Drive, Warren County has scenic drives and hiking trails for just about everyone. Enjoy the valley's springtime vistas with a leisurely drive along Skyline Drive, the only public road that runs through the park. Private vehicle passes are \$30 and are good for seven days. 540-999-3500

HIKING

Hiking trails are abundant in the county, with access not only to Shenandoah National Park, but also to the Appalachian Trail. Located at milepost 9.2 on Skyline Drive, Lands Run Falls is an easy 1.3 mile waterfall hike that's accessible for the whole family. For details on this or other short hikes in the park, visit [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov).

Another fun hiking option is the bluebell trail at Shenandoah River Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. State Park, located just south of Front Royal at 350 Daughter of Stars Drive in Bentonville. The mostly flat, mile-long hike hugs the river with a spectacular sea of bluebells that bloom in early April. 540-622-6840

SHOPPING

Front Royal's downtown is charming in the spring, with shops within easy walking distance of each other on Main Street. For gifts that celebrate the local area, visit Turnmeyers, which features fine art photography. For women's clothing that trends toward western wear, check out Belle & Buckle Boutique. Or step back in time with a visit to Stokes General Store, where you'll find everything from footwear to snacks to yoga blankets. For your outdoor needs, stop into Mountain Trails. Several Main Street stores feature one-of-a-kind items for your home, including Bungalow Furniture & Home Decor, White Picket Fence, Dogwood Decor and Ole Timers Antiques.



PHOTO BY RICH COOLEY
If you're looking for overalls, Stokes General Store in Front Royal has you covered.

FESTIVALS

Front Royal's downtown is also home to several festivals throughout the year. The gazebo on Main Street will be the gathering spot for the 36th annual Virginia Wine and Craft Festival slated for May 18. In 2023, the event drew more than 120 artists and crafters from all over the East Coast, along with local merchants. While the craft festival is free, wine tasting is not. The event is family friendly with live music and kids' activities.

PARKS

When you're looking to stay closer to Front Royal, Eastham Park, located at 860 Luray Ave., is a great place for the family to stretch their legs with a walking trail, dog park, playground and playing fields. Picnic tables allow for a picturesque lunch. It is also home to spring bluebells. Shallow river access at the boat landing is ideal for skipping rocks or getting your feet wet. 540-635-1021

MORE INFORMATION



chow down

L'DEES PANCAKE HOUSE

They say breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and you'll get plenty of it if you stop at L'Dees Pancake House.

It's decorated like an old-fashioned diner, with spinning counter seats and vinyl booths. Enjoy breakfast and lunch all day at prices that won't hurt your bottom line. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

522 E. Main St., Front Royal, VA
540-635-37912

SPELUNKER'S

Spelunker's has made a name for itself with glowing reviews from customers, day trippers and food critics alike. The restaurant welcomes guests to drive through on their way to the Shenandoah National Park or to dine inside or outside. Burgers are ground fresh and handmade daily from 100% ground beef, but the menu also features frozen custard cones and shakes, often in unusual flavors.

116 South St., Front Royal, VA
540-631-0400

ON CUE SPORTS BAR & GRILL

Wrap up your day of exploring at On Cue. Following its move last year to 206 E. Main St., the restaurant has expanded its menu options with fresh house-made dips, soups, salads and desserts, as well as bar favorites like burgers, sandwiches, nachos and wings. It has live music most weekend nights.

206 E Main St., Front Royal, VA
540-636-8424

SUMMER FUN IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

SHENANDOAH THEATRE SUMMER MUSIC

JUNE 21-30

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF



JULY 5-14

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE



JULY 19-AUGUST 4

THE WIZARD OF OZ



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

Visit Hardy for a
unique shopping
experience



Visiting Moorefield? Stop in at **Our Roots** and the **South Branch Inn Gift Shop** offering WV-made products, books, local artisan handicrafts, apparel, and locally sourced honey, syrup, sauces, and jellies. **West Whitehill Winery** hosts tours, tastings, and sells locally produced wines.

In Wardensville, you'll find exhibitions showcasing local and regional artists at **Grasshopper Gallery** and **Lost River Works**. Be sure to visit **WordPlay**, an independent bookstore featuring author events and stop at **Dakota Glass Works** for glassblowing demonstrations and unique gifts.

Lost River Artisans Marketplace, located in the Lost River Valley, features handcrafted artwork by regional artists from April through November and be sure to stop at **Lost + Found Provisions** in Mathias and at **The Gift Shop** at **Lost River State Park**.

Explore a modern take on the traditional general store at **Lost River Trading Post**, **South Fork General Store**, and **Lost River General Store** where you'll find artwork and handmade crafts, antiques, made to order food, amazing coffee, and craft beverages.

And, throughout the year, there are farmers markets, traditional quilt shows, craft shows and demonstrations, and pop-up art shows featuring contemporary work, all presenting the best of our regional creative arts.

So, plan to stay the night or the whole week in Hardy County, WV!

There is so much to keep you busy with plenty of adventures left over for the next day, and the next, too. Check our website for places to stay and **Visit Hardy** on **Facebook** and **Instagram**.



VISITHARDYWV.COM



2024 SPRING HARNESS RACING

Shenandoah Downs • Woodstock, VA

APRIL 6 - MAY 19

Racing every Saturday & Sunday • 1:05 - 4:30 PM
(Post Time on May 4 & 18 is 2:05 PM)

Pacers & trotters compete in 10 or more races every day

Betting available - Win, Place, Show, Exacta, Trifecta & Superfecta

\$1 Hot Dogs, \$2 Canned Beer every Sunday

For details, visit shenandoahdowns.com

KEY PROMOTIONS:

SUNDAY APRIL 14 CORGIS & CUPCAKES

SATURDAY APRIL 27 BLUES 'N BBQ DAY

SATURDAY MAY 4 KENTUCKY DERBY DAY PARTY

SATURDAY MAY 18 PREAKNESS DAY PARTY



FREE PARKING - FREE ADMISSION - FAMILY FRIENDLY