

July, 2024

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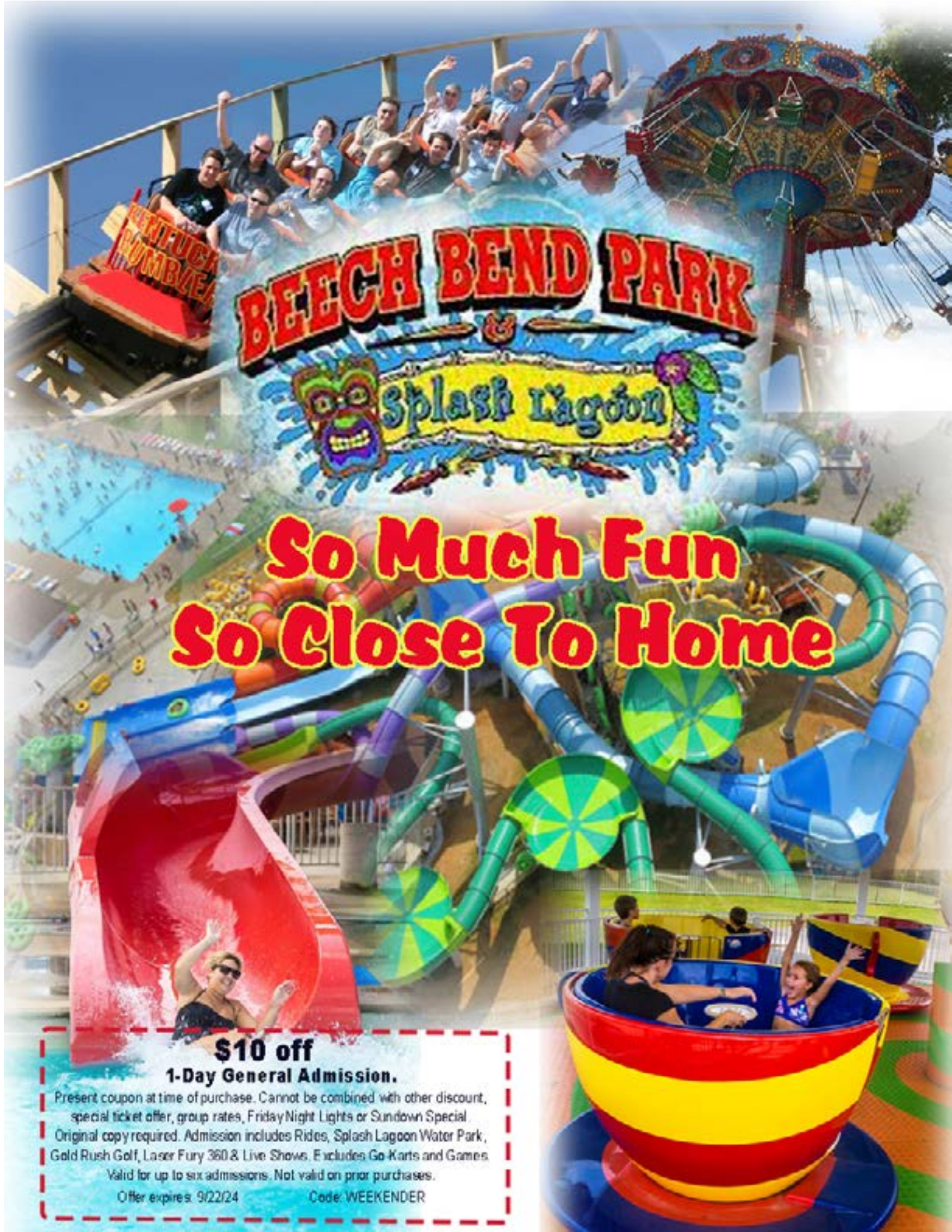
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Up Close:

From the Editor



This month, we are thrilled to take you on a journey through the enchanting world of agritourism. As summer blooms across the countryside, there's no better time to explore the many advantages of visiting agricultural destinations.

Agritourism offers a unique blend of travel and education, providing an immersive experience that connects us with the roots of our food and the hardworking hands that cultivate it. From quaint family farms to sprawling vineyards, these destinations offer a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

I grew up in the city. So my experience with agriculture involved going to my grandparents' farm on my dad's day off to work in family garden. I enjoyed mowing grass on the riding lawn mower so I could listen to my choice of music on my transistor radio. My sister hid in the car and read books.

In our latest issue, we highlight some of the most picturesque agritourism spots where you can indulge in farm-to-table dining, participate in hands-on activities like fruit picking, petting farm animals and enjoy the serene beauty of rural landscapes. You'll discover stories of passionate farmers who are eager to share their knowledge and traditions, and you'll learn how these destinations contribute to sustainable tourism and support local economies.

Whether you're looking for a weekend getaway or a longer retreat, agritourism provides a refreshing change of pace and a deeper appreciation for the land and its bounties. So pack your bags, bring your curiosity, and join us as we explore the rich tapestry of agricultural adventures waiting for you. Enjoy...

And Have a Safe and Happy 4th of July!

*Kathy Barnett,
Editor In Chief*

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Cover Photo:

Schnepf Farms is the largest organic peach grower in Arizona. The photo was submitted by Visit Mesa. See page 6 for the rest of the story.

TRAVEL TRENDS: AGRITOURISM

The Blend of Travel

Agritourism combines the allure of travel with the charm of agriculture.

*Various hosted visits.
All opinions are my own.*



*By Robin O'Neal Smith
Associate Editor*

<https://RobinOnealSmith.com>

What is Agritourism?

Agritourism combines the allure of travel with the charm of agriculture. It is any activity which brings visitors to a farm, ranch or vineyard. It offers travelers and food enthusiasts a unique opportunity to connect with nature. Also learn about farming, and enjoy fresh, locally sourced food and drink. It encompasses many experiences, from picking fruits and vegetables to staying overnight in a farmhouse. In essence, agritourism lets travelers encounter agricultural life first-hand. Common agritourism experiences include:

- **Farm Stays:** Spend time where you can participate in daily chores or relax.
- **U-Pick Farms:** Pick your own fruits, vegetables, or flowers.
- **Farm-to-Table Dining:** Enjoy meals prepared with ingredients directly from the farm you're visiting.
- **Workshops and Tours:** Learn about sustainable farming practices, cheese making, wine production, and more.



Farm Tour 3
Photo courtesy of Tirrito Farm

Why Agritourism is a Travel Trend

Agritourism is becoming increasingly popular for several reasons. It offers a chance to reconnect with nature, breathe fresh air, and enjoy the outdoors.

For food enthusiasts, it offers an unparalleled farm-to-table experience. Visitors can see where their food comes from, learn about sustainable farming practices, and enjoy fresh, seasonal produce. This direct

connection to food sources enhances the dining experience and fosters a greater appreciation for local agriculture. Many destinations focus on environmentally friendly practices, making them ideal for those looking to reduce their carbon footprint. By supporting local farms and businesses, travelers contribute to the local economy and promote sustainable agriculture.

Agritourism is an educational experience. Visitors can learn about various aspects of farm-

And Agriculture

ing: animal husbandry, crop rotation and insights into the challenges and rewards of agricultural work. This knowledge can be enriching for any age. Where Can You Enjoy Agritourism?

Agritourism is a global phenomenon, and there are countless destinations worldwide where you can immerse yourself in the agricultural way of life. Here are a few top agritourism destinations to consider:

Tennessee

The Volunteer State has many options, from vineyards to farmers markets and urban farms.

Situated across 4,200 acres in the Great Smoky Mountains, Blackberry Farm in Walland is a premier destination in Tennessee. Offering breathtaking views, luxurious accommodations, a spa, and a celebrated culinary experience, it's a haven for those seeking relaxation and adventure alike.

Harmony Lane Farm offers goat cuddling and goat milk products at their family-friendly attraction.

Franklin Farmers Market draws crowds for farm-fresh



eggs, honey, freshly baked goods, produce, locally sourced meat, and more. Dubbed an "Ag-Venture Farm Fun Park," Lucky Ladd Farms in Eagleville is a must-visit for families in Music City. It offers playgrounds, corn mazes, wag-



on rides, wilderness trails, and tractor-train rides. Weaving through Middle Tennessee roads, you'll discover Bloomsbury Farm in Smyrna, with barns, fields, hoop houses, and a chandelier in a tree. They host Farm Fridays, a Pick Your Own Field, bonfires, Yoga, whiskey tastings, and more.

Loudon County, Tennessee, is a must-visit destination. It offers a captivating blend of farm-to-table dining, immersive activities, and the beauty of Tennessee's landscape.

Visitors don't just observe farm life; they participate. Sweetwater Valley Farm's cheesemaking workshops

showcase sustainable practices with delicious rewards. Windy Hill Farm & Preserve, a 650-acre haven, offers hands-on activities like bee-keeping, luxurious accommodations, and exquisite farm-fresh dining.

Georgia

Dahlonega, GA, is home to three excellent agritourism experiences: a lavender farm, a butterfly farm, and wineries!!!

Red Oak Lavender Farm is one of the largest lavender farms in Georgia with over 4,000 lavender plants. The public is invited to come. Beautiful gardens offer multiple photo ops and hands-on activities such as lavender wreath making and make-and-take bath products.

The Dahlonega Butterfly Farm offers visitors the chance to learn about the life cycle and get close to 100+ butterflies in a tropical greenhouse. The farm's outdoor garden features a "caterpillar habitat" with various perennials and butterfly host plants.



Dalegonia Butterfly Farm
Photo Credit Discover Dahlonega



Observing Bees at Windy Hill Farm & Preserve
Photo By Pineapple PR

There's no need to hop a plane to Napa, France, or Italy to savor award-winning wines. Dahlonega, Georgia, is home to a highly acclaimed wine country. Dahlonega is known as the Heart of Georgia Wine Country and the Wine Tasting Room Capital of Georgia.

Florida

As part of the Clara White Mission in Jacksonville, FL, the organization has started a beekeeping program run by Mika Hardison-Carr. They are also hosting classes that bring diversity into the urban beekeeping and agritourism industry.

Also in Jacksonville, there's Congaree and Penn - a farm and restaurant dedicated to agriculture. Diners may enjoy dinner, brunch, or a chef's tasting menu. Congaree and Penn also offer agritourism passes where guests can meet the animals, enjoy a wagon ride, do a u-pick experience, and more!

South Carolina

In the Olde English District of SC, there's the Anne Springs Close Greenway, a 2100-acre nature preserve which features the Crandall Bowles Children's Farm. A farm for all ages, it is home to many different animals and an educational garden. Private tours are available to meet the animals and enjoy a hands-on 'life on the farm' experience.

Washington

The Yakima Valley offers a unique craft beer lover's experience. The valley produces over 75% of the nation's hops, making it a beer lover's dream.

Little Hopper Tours and Rooted Yakima Valley present the Yakima Valley's first Hop Farm and Beer Sensory Experience. Visit family hop farms, tour a processing and production facility, then walk among the vines. Little Hopper will shuttle you to one of Yakima Valley's award-winning breweries for a look beyond the taproom.

Arizona

Farm-to-table dining only partially describes Arizona's Fresh Foodie Trail experience, which the city of Mesa provides. This trail ensures you enjoy fresh food accompanied by incredible views. The Arizona Fresh Foodie Trail guide is easy to download and provides all the necessary details to start your agritourism adventure.

Schnepf Farms, the largest organic peach grower in Arizona, has a glamping site called The Cozy Peach. They offer ten renovated vintage Airstream trailers, each with its own unique mid-century style. They are fully equipped with luxury appliances, each facing west toward the outlying San Tan Mountains to capture Arizona's beautiful sunsets.

The farm also includes a bakery and a U-Pick Garden. The Cozy Peach is closed during the summer months, but great for travelers planning for fall travel.

Blossoming from May to July, experience the thrill of spotting lavender fields in the desert at Life Under The Oaks Lavender Farm in Oracle near Tucson. At this farm, guests can pick their own bundle before petting the farm animals or making a flower wreath.

You can bake lavender-flavored desserts at the charming Pine Creek Canyon Lavender Farm in Pine, Arizona. Enjoy



the garden before joining a cooking class or shopping for naturally made products. Sip wine while plucking lavender in the White Mountains at the Red Rock Lavender's annual Boom and Wine Event.

Tirrito Farm is a farmstead hospitality destination located in Willcox, Arizona. The farmstead includes a craft brewery, restaurant, dairy, farm store, event center, suites, and more. The farm has over 200 farm animals guests may see. Sustainability and increased quality truly go hand in hand with this farm.

Massachusetts

Kosinski Farms in Hampden County offers several activities, including farm tours and pick-your-own experiences where visitors can spend their day picking apples and blueberries.

Hancock Shaker Village is the oldest working farm in the Berkshires and includes vegetable and medicinal herb gardens, livestock, and woodlands. Visitors learn about the importance of sustainable and regenerative farming through workshops, tours, and volunteer opportunities. During the summer,

weekly learning experiences allow visitors to gain insight into farming operations. In addition to working in the fields, they learn how to care for farm animals.

California

City Farm SLO in San Luis Obispo, California, encourages future generations to live healthier lives through sustainable agriculture and farm-based education. Volunteers are welcome on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month to assist with planting, transplanting, mulching, prepping beds, and more.

By exploring these destinations, you'll enjoy unforgettable experiences and contribute to the growth and sustainability of local communities. Plan your next adventure around one of these incredible destinations! You'll return home with a newfound respect for agriculture plus memories which will last a lifetime.



HOTEL HOSPITALITY

76 Main Ink Press Hotel

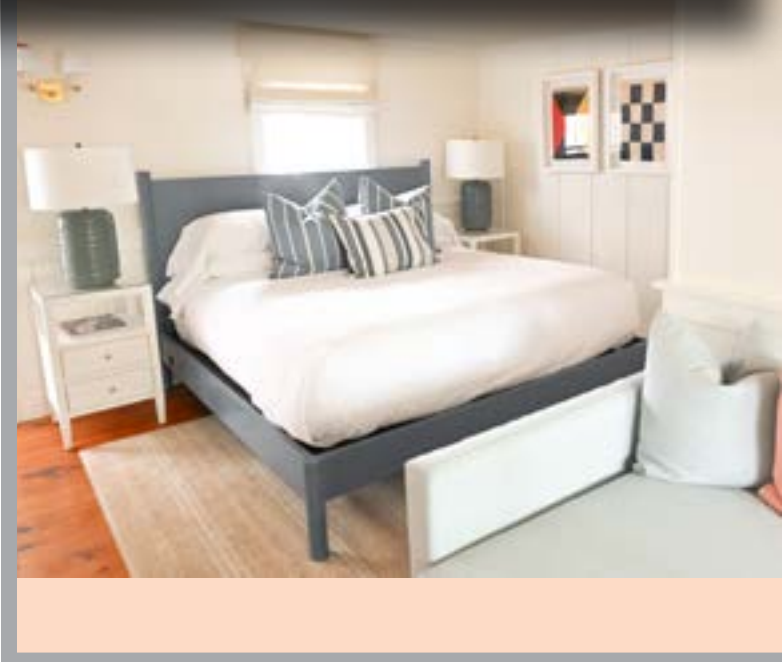


NANTUCKET, MA - 76 Main, a former sea captain's home and only boutique hotel on Nantucket's famed Main Street, has been reimagined and renamed 76 Main Ink Press Hotel.

The hotel's redesign blends retro themes, vintage artifacts, and original artwork that pay homage to Nantucket's media heritage. From the curated bookshelves to the gallery walls showcasing news coverage of captivating tales, every detail contributes to an enchanting and engaging guest experience.

Complementing its unique concept, 76 Main Ink Press Hotel

now boasts fresh contemporary furnishings, new carpet and interior decor that exude an upscale beachy island vibe. Plush linens and complimentary continental breakfast elevate the guest experience, while an outdoor courtyard with fire pits and a cocktail mixer bar welcome guests to unwind in true Nantucket style.



"The history of the island has been richly documented over time by scores of journalists and photographers, and 76 Main Ink

el Gets A New Look

Press Hotel preserves and honors their legacy," explains owner Bruce Percelay, a lifelong island resident and the publisher of N Magazine and the Nantucket Current.

Percelay's vision for 76 Main Ink Press Hotel is to immerse guests in a welcoming space where every corner is a chapter waiting to be explored. From history buffs to inquisitive minds and seekers of untold tales, the hotel beckons visitors to discover the stories that have shaped the island's narrative throughout the years.

At 76 Main Ink Press Hotel, each room, each hallway, and every nook is a meticulously curated vignette. Highlights include:

- Each room has its own theme designed around news coverage of a historical Nantucket event.
- A commissioned sculptural work by American contemporary artist Paul Rousso hangs in the lobby sitting room. Rousso's works are described as 21st century Pop Art dealing in ephemera

and artifacts of an analog culture that is quickly disappearing into the past.

- Vintage newspaper wallcovering in the front entryway and creative graphics throughout the hotel convey Nantucket's history through the eyes of the press of the time.

- Shelves are filled with antique typewriters, press cameras, microphones, etc.

- Tin plates of old newspapers reporting on the sinking of the Andrea Doria, the Great Fire of 1846 and other historic news are displayed in the common area.

- Logos of all the newspapers that have been published on the island fill a wall in the lobby.

- Prominent author Elin Hilderbrand whose novels about life on the island have created interest in Nantucket across the globe and Island resident, author Nathaniel Philbrick, acclaimed for bringing Nantucket's whaling history alive for readers everywhere, each have a room dedicated to them.

Consistently lauded for its exceptional accommodations, prime location, and outstanding service, 76 Main Ink Press Hotel, in its new incarnation, further elevates the guest experience and enhances its reputation as one of the premier hotels on Nantucket Island. For more information or reservations, visit 76main.com or call 508.228.2533.

Nantucket Ties and Contributions

Bruce A. Percelay, Founder of The Mount Vernon Company, has deep ties to Nantucket. He married and raised his children on the island, and played a key role in building the Nantucket Whaling Museum and the new Nantucket Cottage Hospital, setting a record for U.S. community hospital fundraising.

Media and Hospitality Ventures

Percelay is the founder and publisher of N Magazine and the Nantucket Current. He has restored and rebranded Nantucket's Victorian homes into award-winning luxury boutique hotels, while preserving their historic façades. In addition to 76 Main Ink Press Hotel, his hotel portfolio includes 21 Broad on Nantucket, the award-winning Revolution Hotel in Boston, and properties in Portsmouth, NH, and Camden, ME.

Achievements and Philanthropy

Percelay currently serves as Chairman of the Board for the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the US Senate. Under Percelay's leadership, The Mount Vernon Company has received numerous awards, including the Community Excellence Award from the Greater Boston Real Estate Board. He has served as Chairman of the Make a Wish Foundation, and Habitat for Humanity.

GOING GLOBAL:

Fairytale Villages

“An unspoiled destination is like a secret; you want to keep it to yourself, yet it’s too good not to share,” says Julianna Marshall, a travel expert from the International Drivers Association.

Nothing embodies this sentiment more than fairytale villages. These storybook destinations hold a special allure due to their minimal tourism and quaint ambiance. These places are perfect for escape and exploration, equipped with ancient history, rich culture, and breathtaking views. However, with the growing interest in travel and discovery, these hidden gems risk becoming overcrowded.

The Magic Behind the Fairytale Villages

Here are five fairytale villages encapsulating the essence of tranquil yet adventurous travel. From scenic European destinations hidden in the Alps and the Dolomites to far-off Asian villages cloaked in mist and folklore, there’s something for every itchy foot.

1. Hallstatt, Austria

Tucked between a serene lake and towering

mountains, the picturesque village combines stunning views and rich history, making it a gem. According to TripAdvisor, it is often considered the oldest inhabited village in Europe.

2. Gásadalur, Faroe Islands

This small, isolated town, surrounded by spectacular cliffs and a waterfall plunging into the ocean, Gásadalur takes your breath away. The BBC praises the beauty and resilience of this village that once nearly vanished.

3. Bibury, England

This historic English village on the River Coln holds immense allure. According to Jane Greenoff, the iconic Arlington Row cottages in Bibury are said to be the most photographed and beautiful cottages in the country.

4. Shirakawa-go, Japan

According to the Japan Guide, this UNESCO World Heritage site is famed for its traditional gasshō-zukuri farmhouses, some of which are over 250 years old.

5. Ploumanac’h, France

Known for its distinctive pink granite coast, this village in Brittany, France, is a unique find. The Brittany Tourism Board highlights the village’s beaches, walking trails, and panoramic views as major attractions.

TRAVEL TREASURES

Summer Style + Comfort



When it comes to footwear, finding the perfect balance between style and comfort can be challenging. However, Charleston Shoe Company has achieved this elusive harmony, offering shoes that are as fashionable as they are comfortable. Founded by Neely Woodson Powell, the company has become synonymous with high-quality, stylish shoes.

A Vision Born from Necessity

Neely Woodson Powell's journey into the world of footwear began out of necessity. While living in Charleston, South Carolina, a city known for its cobblestone streets and charming, walkable neighborhoods, Powell realized there was a glaring gap in the market for shoes that could withstand long hours of walking without sacrificing style. Her own experiences of sore feet and lack of fashionable options inspired her to create a solution.

Powell's vision was clear: to design shoes that would allow



women to walk comfortably while looking chic. With a background in art and design, she set out to create a line of footwear that embodied the spirit of Charleston – elegant, timeless, and practical.

Craftsmanship and Quality

Each pair of shoes is meticulously crafted to ensure durability and comfort. The company uses high-quality materials, including stretch fabrics and cushioned soles, to create shoes that mold to the wearer's feet. The shoes are designed with versatility in mind, making them suitable for a variety of occasions. Whether strolling through a farmer's market, attending a business meeting, or enjoying an evening out, Charleston Shoe Company offers styles that fit seamlessly into any wardrobe.

Stylish Designs for Every Occasion

Charleston Shoe Company boasts a diverse range of designs, from classic sandals and wedges to chic flats and boots. The company's signature stretch fabric is comfortable and washable, making these shoes ideal for travel and everyday wear. The color palette is thoughtfully curated, featuring both timeless neutrals and vibrant hues to suit every taste.

One of the brand's most popular styles is the "Atlantic" sandal (shown) which combines a sleek design with exceptional comfort. The sandal's adjustable straps and cushioned insole make it a go-to choice for those seeking both style and support.

Customer Satisfaction

The company offers a range of sizes and widths to accommodate different foot shapes and preferences. Additionally, the shoes are designed to be worn all day, allowing customers to enjoy their activities without the discomfort often associated with stylish footwear. Another plus - they are washable.

Whatever the occasion, Charleston Shoe Company ensures that every step is taken in comfort and style.

Price: \$135 for Atlantic style
<https://charlestonshoeco.com/>

SPORTS SPOT

Unlock Your Potential

An Expert Guidance for Injury Recovery and Peak Performance

With the Summer Olympics approaching, athletes and fitness enthusiasts are increasingly inspired to push their limits and achieve new personal bests. However, injuries and setbacks can often derail even the most determined individuals. Enter Coach Matt, a seasoned personal trainer specializing in injury recovery, functional strength and conditioning, body transformation programs, and high-performance athlete training. Based in Northwest Arkansas, Coach Matt offers personalized fitness training and nutritional guidance through his online platform, Peakfitnwa.com.

Meet Coach Matt

Coach Matt's journey into fitness coaching began with a career in the medical field. As a former medical lab technician, he recognized the potential for a greater impact as a coach and trainer. With certifications from NESTA, SSPC, and ASFA Running Coach, he has spent over a decade helping clients achieve their fitness goals. His extensive health and wellness knowledge is coupled with a unique ability to tailor programs to each individual's needs, particularly those recovering from injuries.



"I emphasize helping clients committed to making informed lifestyle changes, rather than seeking quick fixes through surgery or medication," says Coach Matt. "It's about integrating physical activity, proper nutrition, and mindful living to promote overall wellness."

Programs Offered at Peakfitnwa.com
Coach Matt offers seven comprehensive programs designed to meet a variety of fitness needs:

Injury Recovery Program: Tailored for those recovering from injuries, this program focuses on rehabilitation and safe, effective exercises to restore strength and mobility.

Functional Strength and Conditioning: Ideal for individuals looking to improve their overall fitness, this program enhances functional strength, flexibility, and endurance.

Work With Coach Matt

Body Transformation Program: For those aiming for a complete body overhaul, this program combines strength training, cardio, and nutrition planning to achieve sustainable results.

High-Performance Athlete Training: Designed for competitive athletes, this program enhances performance through specialized training techniques and personalized coaching.

Metabolic Health Program: Focuses on improving metabolic health through diet, exercise, and lifestyle modifications, ideal for individuals looking to optimize their overall wellness.

Hybrid Athlete Program: Catering to those who participate in multiple sports, this program builds strength, endurance, and agility to excel in various disciplines.

Youth Athlete Development: Helps young athletes develop foundational skills, strength, and conditioning to excel in their chosen sports.

Overcoming Self-Doubt and Setting Realistic Goals

One of the biggest misconceptions potential clients face is self-doubt. "The greatest obstacle to success is often self-doubt," Coach Matt explains.

"Many people don't believe they can achieve their goals and give up before they even start."

Another common mistake is setting goals that are too ambitious and unattainable, leading to frustration and abandonment of their fitness

journey. Coach Matt emphasizes the importance of setting realistic, incremental goals to maintain motivation and ensure steady progress.

A Positive Solution for Injured Athletes

As the Summer Olympics approach, many athletes who have faced injuries may feel discouraged. Coach Matt offers a positive solution, demonstrating that with the right guidance and support, recovery and peak performance are within reach. His programs at Peakfitwa.com provide injured athletes with the tools and confidence to come back stronger and achieve their personal bests.



Whether you're recovering from an injury or seeking to elevate your athletic performance, Coach Matt's expertise and personalized approach make him an invaluable partner on your fitness journey. Visit Peakfitwa.com to learn more about his programs and start your path to peak fitness with a FREE consultation today.

BUDGET BLISS

Explore Conservation a

By Noël Russell
Founding team member
at Whimstay

Western States

Red Rock Reverie:

Sedona, Arizona - Average Savings on Whimstay: 20%
Explore the mystical landscapes of Sedona, where eco-friendly jeep tours offer a close-up view of the stunning red rock formations. Join a volunteer group at the Sedona Wetlands Preserve to help maintain this vital ecosystem. Enjoy a meal at ChocolaTree, a garden oasis that serves organic, farm-fresh meals that delight all senses. Mark your calendar for the Sedona Green Festival, a family-friendly event that focuses on sustainable living and environmental stewardship.

Rainforest Rhythms:

Kauai, Hawaii - Average Savings on Whimstay: 20%
Kauai is a paradise for eco-tourists, offering guided hikes through lush rainforests and kayak tours along its scenic rivers. Participate in a beach cleanup to help preserve the island's natural beauty or join a wildlife count to assist local conservation efforts. The Farm at Hokuala offers a farm-to-table experience with stunning ocean views. Celebrate the



island's rich biodiversity at the annual Kauai Garden Festival.

Desert Discoveries:

Joshua Tree National Park, CA - Average Savings on Whimstay: 22%

Joshua Tree's stark beauty is perfect for family explorations, with guided ecology tours and stargazing events. Help maintain the park's trails with the Joshua Tree National Park Association or join a native plant restoration project. Crossroads Café provides hearty meals with ingredients sourced from local farms. Don't miss the Joshua Tree Earth Day celebration, with educational booths, live music, and activities that teach sustainable practices.

Wind-Powered Wonders and Wine Tasting:

Columbia River Gorge, OR - Average Savings on Whimstay: 20%

The Columbia River Gorge is renowned for its windsurfing adventures and sustainable winery tours. Families can volunteer with the Gorge Ecology Outdoors to learn about and help preserve the area's natural habitats. Enjoy a meal at the Hood River Organic Bistro, known for its organic and sustainably-produced ingredients. The annual Gorge Earth Festival in Hood River celebrates local culture and environmental conservation with a focus on fun and education for all ages.

Sustainable Structures:

Taos, New Mexico - Average Savings on Whimstay: 18%
Discover Taos' innovative earthship biotecture with tours that highlight sustainable living and building techniques. Get involved in a natural building workshop to learn about eco-friendly construction prac-

and Natural Wonders

tices. Savor innovative dishes at the Love Apple, where the menu is based on seasonal produce from local organic farms. Taos hosts an annual Eco Festival that showcases green technology and traditional crafts, providing fun learning experiences for the whole family. east.

Peak Pursuits: **Boulder, Colorado - Average Savings on Whimstay: 20%**

Boulder invites families to its trails for eco-hiking experiences that include educational workshops on local flora and fauna.

Take part in a trail restoration day to help keep Boulder's natural areas pristine. The Kitchen Boulder offers a farm-to-table dining experience that supports local agriculture and sustainability. The Boulder Earth Festival showcases environmental films, lectures, and kids' activities that promote an eco-conscious lifestyle.

Southern States

Airboat Adventures and More: **Everglades National Park, Florida - Average Savings on Whimstay: 24%**

Dive into the heart of Florida's natural beauty with a visit to Everglades National Park. Here, families can enjoy airboat tours that whisk you through the watery wilderness, home to alligators and exotic birds. Volunteer for a day with the Everglades Restoration Initiative to help preserve this delicate ecosystem. Dine at the local favorite, Glades Haven Cozy



Cabins and Oyster Bar, where every dish is crafted using sustainable, locally sourced ingredients. Don't miss the annual

'Swamp Fest,' a celebration of the park's unique environment and wildlife.

Coastal Conservation:

Galveston, Texas - Average Savings on Whimstay: 24%
Galveston is proud of its efforts in wetland preservation and bird sanctuaries. Families can participate in marsh plantings or birdwatching tours to learn about the importance of these ecosystems. Mosquito Café offers dishes crafted from farm-to-table ingredients, perfect after a day of conservation work. Galveston's FeatherFest is an exciting birding festival that features guided bird tours, photography workshops, and family-friendly activities, making it a highlight for eco-tourists.

Make your reservations today at www.whimstay.com



DELICIOUS DELIGHTS

Fire & Smoke from O



SEGUIN TX - For those who cherish the rich, smoky flavors of true Texas barbecue, “Cowboy Barbecue: Fire & Smoke from the Original Texas Vaqueros” by Adrian Davila and Ann Volkwein is a must-read.

This compelling paperback, released in 2018, offers more than just recipes. It delves deep into the history and traditions of Texas barbecue, revealing its Latin roots and vaquero heritage. Garnering an impressive 4.7 out of 5 stars from 66 ratings, this book is a celebration of flavors, techniques, and culture.

The Vaquero Tradition
Long before the mod-

ern smoker or barbecue sauce came into play, the art of barbecue was being perfected by the vaqueros of the Iberian Peninsula. These skilled cattle herders brought their traditions to the New World, where their nomadic lifestyle necessitated cooking over open fires and in underground pits. This method of cooking laid the foundation for what would become the iconic Texas barbecue.

Adrian Davila: A Legacy of Flavor

Adrian Davila, a third-generation pitmaster, is the heart and soul behind this book. Raised in the kitchens of his family’s acclaimed Davila’s BBQ in Seguin, Texas, Adrian learned the secrets of smoked barbecue

from his grandfather, Raul Davila, who opened the restaurant in 1959, and his father, Edward. Adrian’s upbringing was steeped in the values of hard work, dedication, and a deep respect for family traditions.

Recipes to Ignite Your Palate

“Cowboy Barbecue” is not just a cookbook; it’s a treasure trove of 75 recipes that showcase a fusion of Latin American and Texan flavors. Adrian Davila goes beyond standard grilling, offering diverse techniques such as smoking, cooking directly on embers, underground cooking, and

Original Vaqueros



spit-roasting. Some standout recipes include:

- **Mesquite Brisket:** A smoky, tender brisket with the distinctive flavor of mesquite wood.
- **Vaquero Chili con Carne:** A hearty and spicy chili that pays homage to the vaquero roots.
- **Smoked Pulled Pork:** Perfectly smoked pork, pulled apart to reveal juicy, flavorful meat.
- **Fire-Roasted Tomato, Onion, and Serrano Salsa:** A vibrant, smoky salsa that complements any barbecue dish.

Accompanied by over 50 color photographs, the book provides visual inspiration and guidance, making it easier for home cooks to replicate these mouthwatering dishes.

A Family Tradition

Adrian Davila's story is one of pride and heritage. His grandfather and father instilled in him the importance of upholding their Mexican-American cooking traditions while allowing him to explore his unique culinary identity.

Davila's BBQ remains a testament to their commitment to excellence, continuing to serve what many consider the best barbecue in Texas.

Where to Buy

"Cowboy Barbecue: Fire & Smoke from the Original Texas Vaqueros" is available for purchase at Davila's BBQ in Seguin, Texas, as well as through major retailers such as Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble. For barbecue enthusiasts and those interested in the cultural history of this

beloved cuisine, this book is an essential addition to their collection.

In "Cowboy Barbecue," Adrian Davila, with the collaboration of noted food author Ann Volkwein, offers so many recipes and he provides a window into the rich cultural tapestry of Texas barbecue. Through stories and culinary techniques passed down through generations, readers are invited to experience the authentic flavors and traditions of the original Texas vaqueros.

Turn up the heat, savor the flavors, and embark on a culinary journey with this remarkable cookbook. See more at <https://www.davilasbbq.com/>

Western States



Farm-fresh Getaway



If you're looking for a unique and delightful weekend getaway why not explore some of the state's charming farms? Here's a perfect itinerary for an extended weekend that will leave you refreshed and with a taste of Arizona's agricultural richness.

Tolmachoff Farms - Glendale, AZ

Start your farm adventure in Glendale at Tolmachoff Farms, located in northern Phoenix. This family-friendly farm is the perfect place to begin your day. Hop on the farm train for a scenic ride around the grounds. It's a relaxing way to take in the beautiful farm scenery. The kids will love getting up close and personal with the friendly farm animals.

Fresh Produce Stand: Pick up some fresh, local produce to snack on or take home at their fresh produce stand. If you're visiting in Fall, don't miss the pumpkin patch and the six-acre corn maze. For those who dare, the haunted corn maze adds a thrilling twist to your visit.

Queen Creek Olive Mill - Queen Creek

Next, head to the southeastern edge of Greater Phoenix to Queen Creek Olive Mill. This stop promises a blend of culinary delights and informative experiences.

It's a perfect place for a lunch stop. Indulge in fresh bruschetta and sandwiches at the mill's restaurant, which was featured on the Food Network's "The Best Thing I Ever Ate." Take a 30-minute tour of the olive mill to learn about the production process. Sample a variety of olive oils and stuffed olives.



Purchase some local flavors to take home and savor long after your trip.

Schnepf Farms - Queen Creek, AZ

Your last destination is just across the street from the Olive Mill, at the renowned Schnepf Farms. Famous for its delicious peaches, this farm offers a variety of activities for all ages.

Spend some time at the petting zoo with the animals and let the kids enjoy the play yard. Take a relaxing train ride through the fields to see the farm's extensive grounds. You can even enjoy the experience of picking your own organic fruits and vegetables if you wish.

Or you can head to their Country Store to browse the crafts and jarred products. Indulge in freshly baked cinnamon rolls, muffins, and pies. These treats are hard to resist and make for a sweet ending to your farm adventure.

An extended weekend exploring the farms of Arizona is a perfect getaway for families, couples, or anyone looking to experience the charm of rural life. From the fun-filled activities at Tolmachoff Farms, the culinary delights at Queen Creek Olive Mill, to the delightful experiences at Schnepf Farms, this trip promises to be memorable.

More on Arizona >HERE



Agricultural Occasions



Located south of San Francisco the region nestles between the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. The unique microclimate flourishes with over 50 working farms. Fishing, u-pick farms and farm-to-table experiences create a unique Northern California experience.



By Julie Dee Suman
Freelance Writer

As Fresh as It Gets

Brussel sprouts, artichokes, blackberries, and pumpkins represent a sampling of the abundance on the San Francisco Peninsula. The “As Fresh as It Gets” Program connects local produce and seafood to visitors and residents. The program recognizes restaurants, breweries, hotels, and other businesses utilizing or serving locally grown and raised goods.

An “As Fresh as It Gets” plaque along with an in-depth list helps visitors identify participating businesses, such as u-pick farms. The San Francisco Peninsula

is also known as the “Pumpkin Capital.” Farmer John’s Pumpkin Farm, with 14 acres of pumpkins, stands out as a u-pick pumpkin patch. Guests can choose from a wide range of ornamental and edible varieties. And trust me, it takes time to pick just one!



Renaissance Gardens and Orchards

The 654-acre estate, Fioli, comprises a 54,000+ square-foot Georgian revival-style mansion, 16 acres of English Renaissance gardens, and a 6.8-acre Gentleman’s Orchard. Located near the verdant coastal mountains in Woodside,

asis In San Francisco

you may recognize the gardens from the movie, 'The Wedding Planner.' The towering twisting oak trees at the entryway call you to explore the lush sunken gardens and marble statues.

No matter the time of year, the property is awash with colorful blooms. Always active with events for the whole family, Orchard Days invites visitors to linger in the fall foliage. The orchard features quince, apple, and pears trees among the grapevines and beehives. Orchard Days events include sampling apple cider, cultural harvest celebrations, and the opportunity to purchase fresh products from the Fioli farm stand.

Back to School

During my visit to Fioli, I had the opportunity to enjoy a local wine tasting hosted by the San Francisco Wine School. Master sommelier and wine educator David Glancy founded the school to provide world-class opportunities to learn about wine. The tasting opened my eyes by exploring the nuances of wine with creamy, acidic, salty, and spicy foods. David encouraged us to play by combining each flavor profile with the four vintages.

The San Francisco Wine School also offers educational series and certification programs in South San Francisco. Classes range from Introduction to Wine to Wine Styles of the World.

You don't need to be local to take the courses, as some are offered in a hybrid format, where the wine ships to you.

Take Me to "The Ave"

The bayfront town of Burlingame represents the heart of the San Francisco Peninsula.



Known as the City of Trees, downtown's oldest park features wood-carved sculptures. Wetlands and trails such as the San Francisco Bay Trail lend to the beauty of this whimsical destination.

Head to "The Ave" or Burlingame Avenue for boutique shopping and dining. Pedestrian-friendly and fun, "The Ave" is the place to be. Caffe Stellato tempts you with 60 flavors of handmade artisan gelato. The Fig Balsamic and Wild Honey flavors were indeed one of a kind.

More on California >HERE





Country Charm In Mo

*By Adam York
Sublime Public Relations*

These days, when people say “Yellowstone,” you can’t be sure that they’re talking about America’s first national park. More often than not, they’re referring to one of TV’s most popular series by the same name. Many tourists are visiting Big Sky country looking for the “Yellowstone” lifestyle even if the drama isn’t real. In a recent joint study by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research and the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana, “Yellowstone” tourists alone spent \$730 million in Montana in 2021.

Here are five ways to visit the “real” Montana and its amazing National Parks.

Explore Yellowstone and Glacier by RV:

Discover the natural beauty of Yellowstone, Glacier, and more with the comfort and convenience of a new Winnebago RV, you’ll have the freedom to travel at your own pace and experience the great outdoors like never before. Based in Bozeman, MT, Blacksford’s



brand new, luxury RVs and camper vans are low-mileage and impeccably maintained, ensuring a safe and worry-free trip. They offer flexible pick-up and drop-off times, all the amenities you’ll need for a fantastic vacation, and support to ensure a seamless rental experience.



Saddle and Paddle Yellowstone:

Flying Pig Adventures’ 3-night Yellowstone tour gives guests the opportunity to experience the park like never before. The thrill of witnessing one of nature’s most iconic environments, tackling rough terrain on horseback, and battling Class III rapids cannot be found anywhere else. From fly fishing, to horseback rides, to Yellow-

Montana's National Parks



stone white-water rafting, guests will be talking about their unique experiences for years

Cycle Glacier National Park:

The Big Sky meets six days of big smiles on Escape Adventures' epic Glacier National Park/Going-to-the-Sun Road bike trip. Based in Montana's 1,583-square-mile Glacier National Park,

with its 375 historic

properties plus six historic landmarks, riders will cycle into some of North America's most breathtaking landscapes, including Going-to-the-Sun Road. At each stop, each slow pass, guests will learn a little more about the "Crown of the Continent" ecosystem.

Big Sky Luxury Adventure:

In Big Sky, Montana, The Wilson Hotel serves as a base camp for adventure whether it's winter or summer. Guests can ski and snowboard Big Sky Resort's expansive 5,850 acres of terrain in winter, and hike nearby shaded forests and wildflower-filled meadows, raft or fly

fish the clear waters of the Gallatin River, and experience the adrenaline rush of lift-served mountain biking in summer. At the end of the day, The Wilson offers spacious, sophisticated accommodations steps from on-site amenities and Big Sky Town Center.

Glamping Cowboy Retreat:

Ranchlands is excited to formally open the 80,000-acre Paintrock Canyon Ranch in the Bighorn Mountains. Guests will immerse themselves in ranch life, explore the surrounding areas on horseback, fly fish, hike, and experience the natural world in this unique landscape. Accommodations are designed for guests to be as close to nature as possible, but with all the comforts of home. Large, safari-style tents are stylishly furnished with full-sized beds, bedside tables, dressers, and chairs. Meals are prepared by a private chef and incorporate Ranchlands beef, local produce, and dairy whenever possible. The ranch makes a great base camp for a Yellowstone National Park adventure.

[More on Montana >HERE](#)





Agritourism Attractions

Known as the gambling and entertainment capital of the country, agriculture is also an important industry across Nevada. Despite having a notoriously arid climate, the Silver State is actually home to some serious ranching operations. Nevada ranks third in the nation in average ranch size – 3,500 acres. But that’s not all the state has to offer. Here are three of the top Nevada agritourism destinations to check out while you’re there.

Vegas Roots Community Garden

Las Vegas may not be the first place that comes to mind when you think about a community garden, but Vegas Roots is well worth a visit if you find yourself in the area. With the help of their parent organization, Together We Can, this community garden spans more

than 4 acres of vacant property downtown. It’s the city’s first and only urban farm, and in addition to growing local produce for the community, it also offers classes, workshops and more for those who are interested in learning more about the benefits of gardening and food production.

Quail Hollow Farm

The family behind Quail Hollow Farm strives to be good stewards of their land by raising nutritious meat and producing quality eggs and honey to serve to the community. They also offer a host of organic fruits and vegetables. They began their small CSA in 2006 and have yet to turn back, expanding their operation to include an orchard, vineyard, greenhouse and apiary. Even if you don’t sign up for their

CSA, you can make an appointment to visit the farm if you’re passing through the area.

Jacobs Family Berry Farm

Nestled on a beautiful property just 30 minutes from Lake Tahoe and Carson City, Jacobs Family Berry Farm is guaranteed to provide the whole family with fun-filled entertainment. The berry farm is located on the Lampe Homestead, which was welcomed onto the Nevada Register of Historic Places in 2018 and includes 14 original structures from the 1800s in addition to ample opportunity to enjoy munching on fresh raspberries and blackberries grown on the property. Pick up some honey, jam or infused syrup while you’re visiting, too!

More on Nevada >HERE

Finding Farm History



LAS CRUCES - Discover a captivating glimpse into the rich agricultural history and cultural heritage of the region. Spread across 47 sprawling acres, this interactive museum is a vibrant tapestry of past and present, seamlessly blending historical exhibits with live demonstrations and engaging activities.

Upon entering the museum, visitors are greeted by a striking bronze sculpture that sets the tone for an immersive journey through New Mexico's farming and ranching legacy. The museum's main building houses an array of fascinating exhibits, including artifacts, photographs, and narratives that chronicle the evolution of agriculture from prehistoric times to modern day. One of the standout displays is the "Generations" exhibit, which highlights the stories of families who have farmed and ranched in New Mexico for generations.

Beyond the indoor galleries, the museum's expansive grounds offer plenty of outdoor attractions. The livestock barn is a particular favorite, showcasing a variety of farm animals such as cows, sheep, and horses. Visitors can also witness blacksmithing and quilting demonstrations, providing a hands-on appreciation for tradition-

al crafts. The Heritage Garden and Greenhouse demonstrate sustainable farming practices and showcase the diverse crops grown in the region.

The museum's commitment to education is evident through its engaging programs and workshops for all ages. From school field trips to summer camps and adult learning sessions, the museum offers a wealth of opportunities to deepen one's understanding of agriculture and its impact on New Mexico's history and economy.

A visit to the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum is not complete without a stop at the Mercantile gift shop, where locally-made products and unique souvenirs capture the essence of New Mexico's rural heritage. The on-site snack bar provides a perfect spot to relax and savor local flavors after a day of exploration.

With its dynamic blend of history, culture, and hands-on experiences, the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces is a must-visit destination for anyone looking to connect with the agricultural roots of the Land of Enchantment.

More on New Mexico >[HERE](#)

Agritourism in Wenatchee



*Julie Diebolt Price Photography
and Travel Writer
www.PhotoTravelWrite.com*



In the middle of Washington State, located near the Cascade Mountains, lies the charming city of Wenatchee. This delightful town offers a one-of-a-kind agritourism experience. With breathtaking scenery, a diverse farming heritage, great places to eat, and many fun activities, Wenatchee has become a celebrated spot for visitors who want to enjoy natural beauty while exploring the local culture.

Apple Capital of the World

Wenatchee is famous as the “Apple Capital of the World” because its endless apple orchards stretch across the landscape. Visitors can tour these orchards, learn how apples are grown and cultivated, and even lend a hand picking apples during harvest.

We visited a bit too early for apple picking in August. But we did get to shop at the Stemilt Retail Store, which sells fresh fruit and other local products from Stemilt Growers, a leader in organic fruit production.

According to Stemilt Growers, organic farming takes three consecutive years before an orchard is inspected and certified

organic. It takes commitment to farm this way, and they have help from Mother Nature with central Washington’s climate.

The store had lots of newly picked fruit, gigantic jars of honey, and other tasty local goods. They were promoting their newest apple, the Rave®. When you think you’ve eaten every apple there is, along comes this new Rave® apple with an explosion of juiciness and sweetness. I can see why it’s becoming such a big hit.

Agritourism in Wenatchee

Wenatchee is considered a top agritourism destination in the Western U.S. because of its semi-arid climate. On average, the area only gets about 10 inches of precipitation per year. That’s less than the U.S. average of 38 inches of rain annually



Wenatchee

Summer is usually scorching and dry, with July and August temperatures frequently climbing into the mid-90s. However, the winters are milder than other regions, with nighttime temperatures rarely dropping below freezing.

Things To Do in Wenatchee

Wenatchee Valley is also famous for its many vacation offerings. People come here for

- holiday getaways
- guided tours
- hiking
- biking
- ski trips
- snowboarding adventures
- whitewater rafting
- apple orchards with fresh fruit
- vineyards and wine tasting
- conventions
- popular tourist attractions
- live concerts
- plenty of sunny days

Downtown

In downtown Wenatchee, you'll find the serene Japanese Garden—a tranquil escape from the city's hustle



Another must-see is the River Walk, which features an Art in the Park display. The city has an extraordinary public art collection, with over 100 pieces along this riverwalk trail through Riverfront Park.

For recreation, check out the Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail. This 10-mile loop winds through natural habitats with scenic overlooks where you may spot wildlife. The trail connects the west side of the Columbia River to the Wenatchee waterfront park system at the point where the two rivers meet.

Ohme Gardens

Ohme Gardens offers a wonderful chance to explore shady pools and gardens while searching for hidden gnomes among the landscaped grounds on a rocky hilltop with stunning views of the Columbia River and Cascade Mountains.

It took us about an hour to explore the hillside grounds and hunt for the cleverly hidden gnomes. The gnome locations change monthly to keep things exciting and challenging for members. Though designed for kids, adults spent a lot of time scouring every nook

and cranny—they don't make the hunt easy!

Be sure to wear sturdy shoes with good traction, as the pathways are narrow, rustic, and uneven. The terrain prevents the use of wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers.

Pybus Public Market

At Pybus Public Market, you can find quality goods, food, and services—all from local businesses in the area. The market is a hub for artisans, farmers, and non-profit organizations to showcase and sell their products. During my visit, I discovered several ways to support the local community by shopping there.

Rocky Reach Discovery Center

Water and power are essential for agritourism in Wenatchee. One unique way to experience the water and power of the Columbia River is by visiting the Rocky Reach Discovery Center. While it has fun, interactive exhibits that are educational for elementary school kids, the Discovery Center is also eye-opening for adults.

In our Rocky Reach Discovery Center tour, we learned that the dam provides clean power and is one of 14 dams located along the Columbia River in Wash-



ington State. The Center explained how it protects the salmon population, and we observed the salmon through underwater viewing windows as they made their journey upriver.

Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center

The past comes alive at the Wenatchee Valley Museum with various exhibits interpreting the life in the Valley of mid-Columbia dating to the Ice Age. From Clovis points that are 11,500 years old and discovered in an East Wenatchee orchard through trade goods used by Native Americans in past centuries to circa 1900 household articles used in Wenatchee homes, you'll get an excellent education about the region. I particularly liked the sculptures on the grounds outside the museum and around town.

Wenatchee Confluence State Park - Horan Natural Area

The Horan Natural Area invites visitors to explore the gravel trails and immerse themselves in the beauty of the Pacific Northwest, where the Columbia and Wenatchee Rivers meet. Watch for Native American talks and e-bike rides hosted here.

Dining in Wenatchee

Visconti's

When we ate dinner at their restaurant, we enjoyed becoming part of the Visconti extended family. The building is a former orchard home with the home-spun look and feel of an intimate Italian eatery. It features classic traditional Italian cuisine using fresh, local ingredients.



without needing any added commercial juices or sugars.

We enjoyed the small-batch ciders made from heirloom and dessert apples and the branch-to-table experience.

We first sampled a couple of their ciders at the Visit Wenatchee Visitor Center & Tasting Room. Then, we headed to Watercore's own taproom to try one of their amazing cider floats made with huckleberry ice cream.

Where to Stay in Wenatchee

We stayed in the perfect location to explore Wenatchee. Our suite faced the Columbia River with the Apple Capital Loop Trail and Walla Walla Point Park at the doorstep. The accommodations, a one-bedroom suite provided at The Residence Inn by Marriott, were spacious and comfortable. The outfitted kitchen and full-sized refrigerator stored our leftovers from great meals in town.

Visit Wenatchee hosted us, but all opinions are my own.

**More on Washington
>Here**

Stones Gastropub

Stones Gastropub features Pacific Northwest cuisine inspired by the local culture. Whiskey tastings, wine pairings, five-course dinners, and other special events are held regularly. After our crafted Old Fashioneds, we ate colorful and tasty bao buns and seafood chowder.



McGlinns Public House

Sitting on the historic Garland Building's outdoor dining patio at McGlinns Public House, we enjoyed a local keyboard musician, watched little kids dance, sipped craft cocktails, and ate comfort food—mac and cheese.

Watercore Cider and Taproom

Watercore Cider transforms an ordinary apple into an intense flavor explosion from the apple tree branch to the bottle. Watercored apples may not look perfect because they ripen on the trees, but in the hands of experts, they produce boldly flavored, complex ciders



Mid - Eastern States



Horse Farm Visits



In the heart of this Bluegrass State lies the epitome of equine excellence: the renowned Claiborne Farm. Situated just outside Paris, this historic farm offers visitors a glimpse into the world of thoroughbred breeding and racing, making it a must-visit destination for horse enthusiasts and casual travelers.

Claiborne Farm boasts a storied history dating back to 1910. It's not just a farm; it's a living museum of horse racing royalty. As you drive through the stately gates, you'll be greeted by the serene beauty of meticulously maintained grounds and the sight of majestic horses grazing in expansive paddocks.

Begin your visit with a guided tour that walks you through the illustrious history of the farm. Knowledgeable guides share captivating stories of legendary racehorses, such as Secretariat,

whose legacy still echoes in the stables. The tour includes visits to the breeding sheds, stallion barns, and even the final resting places of some of racing's greats.

One of the highlights of the tour is meeting the resident champions. Standing face-to-face with these magnificent creatures, you'll appreciate the power and grace that have made them legends on the track. Don't forget your camera—every corner of Claiborne Farm offers picture-perfect moments.

For those looking to extend their equestrian adventure, nearby Lexington offers additional attractions such as the Kentucky Horse Park and Keeneland Racecourse. After a day immersed in horse culture, unwind at one of the charming local bed-and-breakfasts or enjoy a hearty meal at a traditional Southern restaurant, savoring the flavors

of Kentucky.

A visit to Claiborne Farm isn't just about seeing horses; it's about experiencing the soul of Kentucky's thoroughbred heritage. Whether you're a lifelong fan of horse racing or simply looking for a unique weekend getaway, Claiborne Farm promises an unforgettable journey into the heart of the Bluegrass.

Plan Your Visit:

Location: 703 Winchester Road, Paris, Kentucky

Tour Hours: Monday to Saturday, 10 AM and 1 PM (reservations recommended)

Nearby Attractions: Kentucky Horse Park, Keeneland Racecourse, Bourbon Trail

Embrace the tradition, feel the history, and witness the future of horse racing at Claiborne Farm, where every visit is a thoroughbred experience.

More on Kentucky >HERE



The Crooked Road



By Renée S. Gordon
History & Travel Writer

“Where words fail n

Music critic Nat Hentoff told a story of Charlie “Yardbird” Parker on a break during a New York club gig. Bird was observed selecting songs on a jukebox and to his friend’s amazement they were country songs. When jokingly asked why those songs he responded, “Listen to the words.”

The lyrics and emotions were a focal point of tunes, that the 17th-century English, German, Irish and Scottish colonists and African brought to the new world. These basic songs would incorporate elements of Blues, spirituals and gospel as the people migrated inland to areas in the Appalachians recalling their homelands and this synthesis of musical tradition, emotion and lyrics. The music they created is considered the second oldest musical genre in the US, with Native American music recognized as the oldest.



Southwest Virginia inaugurated the Crooked Road Heritage Music Trail in 2004 with the goal of promoting and presenting Appalachian old time and bluegrass music. The trail is 333-miles long and features

10 major sites, 60 smaller locations and 50 towns. This is a spectacular year to travel the road at your own pace to celebrate and pay homage to this cultural trail and join celebrations of the 20th-anniversary of both The Crooked Road and the Ralph Stanley Museum, the 10th Anniversary of the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, the 40th Anniversary of the Floyd Country Store Friday Night Jamboree and the 50th-Anniversary of the iconic Carter Family Fold. thecrookedroadva.com

An ideal place to begin your road trip is in Bristol, Virginia, a unique city that abuts Bristol, TN. Once the site of a Cherokee village in 1771 a trading post and fort were constructed there to provide aid to westward travelers.



A Heritage Music Trail

music speaks."

Hans Christian Anderson

In 1890 both Bristol, TN and VA were chartered as Bristol. In 1901 a line was drawn down the middle of State Street as a boundary between the two states. Bristol, VA has a congressional designation as the "Birthplace of Country Music."

Brass markers etched with the state names denote the state line and visitors can straddle a marker for a photo op.

In 1910 the iconic Bristol Sign was placed atop a hardware store. In 1915 the 25-ft sign was moved to State Street. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are more than 50 venues in the downtown district that offer shopping, dining and entertainment.

On State Street in 12 days in August 1927, 19 artists recorded 76 songs in a former hat factory. Victor Talking Machine Company representative Ralph Peer produced the first commercial country music recordings including songs by the Carter Family and the event is widely recognized as "the big



bang" of country music. Bristol was selected as the site of the sessions because it was accessible to the railroad.

Over two floors The Birthplace of Country Music Museum, a Smithsonian affiliate, relates stories of the Bristol Sessions, music, instruments, individuals and pivotal events through state-of-the-art displays, artifacts, memorabilia, 4 films, galleries, performances and live WBCM Radio Bristol @ListenRadio-Bristol.org. Highlights of the exhibitions are Jimmie Rogers' stage guitar and galleries on the contributions of African Americans to

the genre including the African genesis of the banjo and race recordings.

Union 41, helmed by Torrece "Chef T" Gregoire, adapted the open kitchen style to present masterful menus with local, fresh, ingredients and a taste of her island roots. The infusion of flavors unique to

the African diaspora make each dish a culinary masterpiece. She adds tastes to her cuisine as people contributed to the music. Her skills have been displayed on Hell's Kitchen Season 14 and Food Network's Big Restaurant Bet. @union41bristol

Continue the Crooked Road experience with a stay at the Sessions Hotel. Rooms are curated to reflect the ethos of



country music's birthplace. Guest rooms and public spaces harken back to the session's era and events through art and accoutrements. The hotel presents performances on an outdoor stage, offers comfort food in the Southern Craft restaurant and helps you feel like a star in the Vision Salon and Star Barber Shop.

The Carter Family recorded 300 songs from 1927-1942 and A. P. Carter, head of the family, often traveled throughout the area to obtain unrecorded songs. He hired Lesley Riddle, an African American, to accompany him and memorize the music as he memorized the lyrics. Riddle's style was unique because he had lost two fingers and a leg in two different accidents. His 5-year contribution is acknowledged at the Birthplace of Country Music and the Carter Family Fold. He has been credited with teaching Maybelle guitar techniques.

The Family Fold was founded to memorialize the memory and legacy of the Carter Family. The original family lived on the land here in the foothills of Clinch Mountain in SW Virginia. The complex includes A.P. Carter's old general store



museum, the reconstructed original A.P. Carter Homeplace and a concert venue. In August a concert will be held to commemorate the anniversary of Alvin Pleasant Carter, his wife Sara, brother Ezra and sister-in-law Maybelle formed the original Carter Family band. The museum showcases photographs, instruments, stage outfits and other family items donated by June Carter and Johnny Cash. A. P.'s birthplace is a furnished log cabin near the store. Carter Family Memorial Center was established in 1979 to nurture and preserve traditional bluegrass and folk music. The 800-seat auditorium presents scheduled concerts. Johnny Cash returned to The Fold when his health began to fail. He called it his home and his final concert was played there.

Wayne C. Henderson School of Appalachian Arts in Marion is named for Wayne C. Henderson, an international ambassador

for the music of the Southern Appalachian region. Workshops are offered on the creation of guitars, fiddles, stained glass, quilts and letterpress. You can build your own guitar and then participate in an on-site jam session. @waynehendersonschool

The Blue Ridge Music Center highlights evolving musical traditions and the influence of American Roots music. Galleries in the interpretive center include a museum, theater and gift shop. Live music is regularly scheduled on the breezeway of the center.

Floyd Country Store is an extraordinary site to end this portion of the road. It is in this authentic general store that the community would gather in the early 1900s for Friday night jamborees. On the weekends you can still participate in the ongoing Appalachian experience. This is still a functioning store and includes a café. You can learn to dance or show off your skills along the Crooked Heritage Road.

More on Virginia >HERE



BRISTOL RHYTHM: ↳ ROOTS REUNION



WITH 49 WINCHESTER • ASHLEY MCBRYDE
THE WALLFLOWERS • THE RED CLAY STRAYS
MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY • SAM BUSH • WILDERADO
THE STEELDRIVERS • BRITTNEY SPENCER • DRAYTON FARLEY
JAIME WYATT • BELLA WHITE • SILVERADA (FORMERLY MIKE & THE MOONPIES) • PLUS

GRACE BOWERS • JESSE DANIEL • DALE WATSON & HIS LONE STARS
THE WAYBACKS • HANNAH DASHER • STEPHEN DAY • LOGAN LEDGER
SAM GRISMAN PROJECT • JIM LAUDERDALE & THE GAME CHANGERS
ROB ICKES & TREY HENSLEY • TOMMY PRINE • LONESOME RIVER BAND
JOSHUA HEDLEY • AJ LEE & BLUE SUMMIT • J & THE CAUSEWAYS
WYATT ELLIS • THE KODY NORRIS SHOW • LAID BACK COUNTRY PICKER
THE RESONANT ROGUES • RADIO BRISTOL'S FARM & FUN TIME SHOW

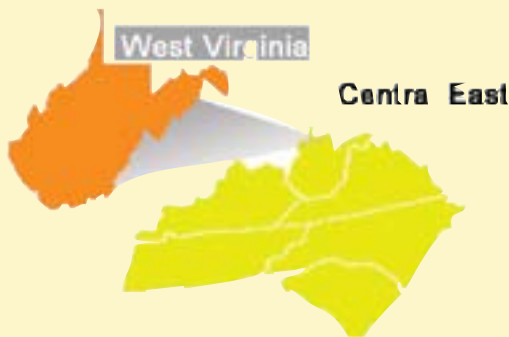
ED SNODDERLY • DALLAS WAYNE • CRUZ CONTRERAS • LAUREN MORROW • DAVE EGGAR
BRISTOL LIGHTNING • JUNIOR SISK • AMANDA FIELDS • NOAH SPENCER • LILLIAN HACKETT
GOLDPINE • HOLY ROLLER • THE JARED STOUT BAND • HIPPIES & COWBOYS • VADEN LANDERS
JUSTIN GOLDEN • KATIE POWDERLY • THE ETSU BLUEGRASS PRIDE BAND • ZYDECO YA-YA

ADAM BOLT • ALLI EPPERSON • ANTHONY CHILDRESS • AUSTIN BARRETT • CEDAR VALLEY • CHANCELLOR LAWSON
CLAIRE & SOPHIE CHILDRESS • CLAUDIA FENOGLIO • CLINCH MOUNTAIN ECHO BAND • CODY KENNEDY • THE CORKCLICKERS
CRAIG STREET RAMBLERS • DAN CARTY'S BASEMENT • THE DIMESTORE COWBOYS • DONNIE & THE DRY HEAVERS • DUTY FREE
GILBERT NELSON'S JAMTOWN BLUEGRASS JAM CAMP W/ THE WERNICK METHOD • THE GREAT BIG HUG • THE HONEYBADGERS
HOOT & HOLLER STORYTELLING • JAMEN DENTON TRIBUTE • KEVIN MICHAEL DUGGAN • THE KINDEST PEOPLE • KT VANDYKE
LONESOME HEART BLUEGRASS BAND • THE LOVELY MOUNTAINEERS • MY NEW FAVORITES • NOAH DENTON • NOBODY'S BUSINESS
ORBITAL PLANES • OSCAR HARRIS • PARKER COLLINS • PIERCETON HOBBS • POSSUM CREEK PLAYBOYS • POST BOP REVIVAL
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BRISTOL, TN&VA

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July, 2024~ ExtendedWeekendGetaways | -37-



Time To Hit The Hay



*By Sarah Miller
Freelance Writer*

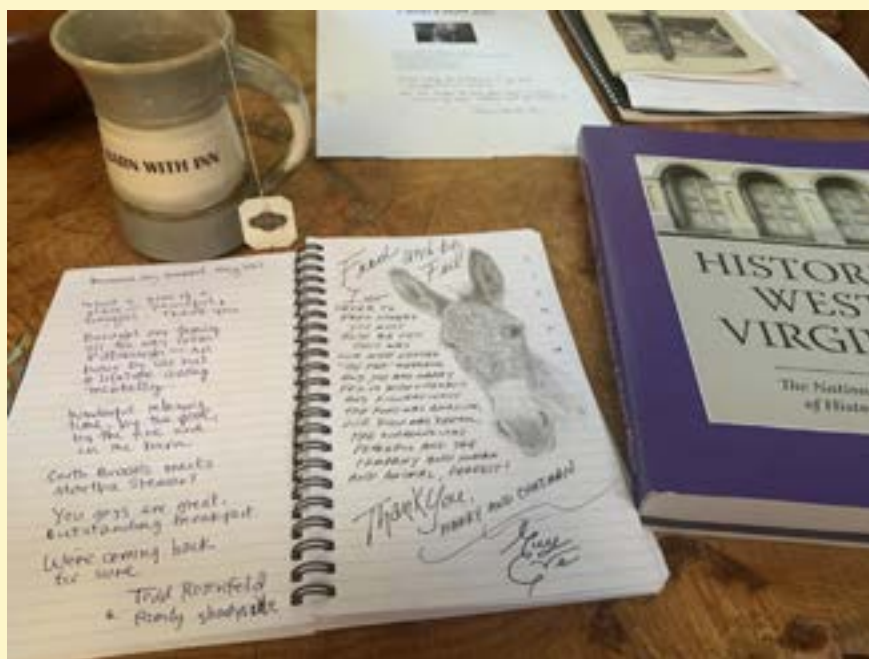
Have you ever considered a farm stay? Maybe you're a suburbanite, like me, who romanticizes over the pages of *Country Living Magazine* or

loves the idea of escaping to a quiet place with iced tea served in mason jars. Even if you've never considered a farm stay, maybe you should. We travel to live a full life--one that's different from our every day. That's why landlocked people head to the ocean or city dwellers seek solitude. For years, I've wanted to try a farm stay. I can honestly say, the one we happened upon more than fulfilled my farm dreams.

The Barn With Inn in West Virginia is convenient, just over an hour's drive from Pittsburgh, on West Virginia's panhandle. The inn is situated on Highland Springs Farm, a 35-acre farm with a seasonal vegetable garden, flower and butterfly gardens. Productive pastures and hayfields dot the grounds that hosts a sanctuary for animals. Fresh water springs gurgle and dip, with one spring diverted to provide fresh water to the "family."

Welcome to The Barn With Inn

After leaving Route 88, as soon as our tires turned down the gravel driveway to The Barn With Inn, I knew this was going to be a special place. The sound of the tires on the gravel was like soothing music. To the right, a pond with a wooden dock. Further ahead, I could see the farmhouse and our Barn With Inn. Natural



beauty and open spaces made room for quiet, you couldn't help but feel relaxed. Clouds were rolling in, and we received a friendly welcome from the hosts Harry and Chatman.

Of course, the other hosts were beyond hospitable, charming even--Cooper, the Pot Belly Pig, sauntered up the hill to drink from the gurgling creek. Buddy Ray, a friendly terrier, wagged his way over in a friendly greeting. Dave, the cat, was social and found his way to us. Nothing compares to being greeted by a whole cast of charming creatures.

When we arrived, everything was just like I imagined it, only better. Our loft was in a separate building from the hosts' farmhouse. After introductions from our hosts and the animals, we were greeted by our room—a cozy, refurbished farm loft. The renovated loft was previously used for storing hay. You'd never guess this though, a large sitting area is decorated with locally cut and milled cherry, white pine, and poplar finishes. Nicely-appointed up-

y! Sweet Dreams Farm Stay

holstered chairs beg for relaxation as light pours in through skylights illuminating the vaulted ceiling. Every detail of the inn felt like a comfort, and the handmade quilt was like the icing on a perfectly delicious cake. The only giveaway that it's a renovated barn loft? A large window overlooks the livestock barn, adding to the fun of this novel farm stay.



Inside the loft, the spirit of West Virginia was woven in the details—a locally-made pottery mug, a pewter pitcher filled with wildflowers by the window, and plenty of good West Virginia history reads on local treasures. In the corner was a handmade walking stick, binoculars, and fresh towels with local soap.

The clouds just burst with a deluge of summer rain, and we waited for a break before running to the main farmhouse for “feeding time.” We’re not usually bed and breakfast people, but after reading the reviews, I thought this was a “not-to-be-missed” opportunity, and I was right. The hosts were thoughtful and interesting and the animals were downright hospitable hosts as well. Not every day do you get to walk up the hill with a gentle donkey, laugh with the rooster, or saunter with a pot-bellied pig. We felt at home with Buddy Ray, the easy-going dog ambassador of the farm, and a fun menagerie of animals. We were



able to have acres of West Virginia farmland to explore all to ourselves.

The rain continued at night, so it was the perfect time to play a fun, family board game of “The Farm Life,” left for guests to enjoy. Also, it was the perfect time to catch up on some West Virginia reading before bed. The morning called for sun, and we could enjoy the

property. Breakfast was farm-fresh eggs, bacon, sausage, juice, and pastries served on colorful,

Fiesta dishes (made in West Virginia). On-site trails wound past a wildflower meadow, gentle hills, and the sparkling, spring-fed pond. This is the perfect way to greet a new day.

Later, we took a dip in the salt-water pool with summer blooms and a waterfall (which we had completely

to ourselves).

Stepping into a different way of life was rewarding. Our farm stay reminded me to make time for what matters most—exploring the road less taken, spending time with family, and taking in each moment. The farm stay was sweet—like a slice of homemade pie served on Fiesta ware—meant to be savored slowly.

More on West Virginia >[HERE](#)

New England States



Glow in the Park evenings at The Adventure
Park in Storrs, Connecticut

Winvian Farm In Litchfield Hills



*By Rebecca Embry
Staff Journalist*



Nestled in the heart of Litchfield Hills, Connecticut, Winvian Farm is a captivating retreat that promises an unforgettable escape from the ordinary. This hidden gem, set on 113 acres of rolling meadows and lush woodlands, is where rustic charm meets luxurious comfort. Whether you're a nature lover, a culinary enthusiast, or simply in need of a rejuvenating getaway, Winvian Farm has something extraordinary to offer.

Unique Accommodations: A Collection of Cottages

Winvian Farm is renowned for its unique collection of 19 individually designed cottages, each with its own distinct theme and character. Here, your accommodation is not just a place to stay, but an experience in itself. Let's explore a few of these whimsical havens:

Treehouse Cottage: Elevate your stay, literally, in this enchanting cottage perched 35 feet above the forest floor. Enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding woods and feel the serenity of being one with nature.

Helicopter Cottage: Aviation enthusiasts will delight in this cottage featuring a fully restored 1968 Sikorsky Sea King Pelican HH3F helicopter. The helicopter's interior has been transformed into a cozy lounge and bar area, creating a truly unique lodging experience.



Beaver Lodge Cottage: Immerse yourself in a woodland fantasy in this charming lodge, complete with handcrafted wood furnishings and a stone fireplace. The lodge is surrounded by a tranquil pond, adding to its serene and secluded ambiance.

Greenhouse Cottage: Step into a botanical wonderland in this airy, glass-encased cottage. Filled with lush plants and natural light, this cottage is perfect for those seeking a peaceful retreat amidst greenery.

Maritime Cottage: Set sail in this nautically themed abode, featuring porthole windows, ship-style furnishings, and a cozy captain's bed. The Maritime Cottage brings the spirit of the sea to the Connecticut countryside.



Culinary Delights: A Feast for the Senses

Winvian Farm is not just a feast for the eyes but also for the palate. The farm's restaurant, helmed by Executive Chef Chris Eddy, offers a dining experience that is both innovative and deeply rooted in the farm-to-table philosophy. Here's a glimpse of what you can expect:

Farm-to-Table Excellence:

The restaurant's menu changes daily, driven by the freshest seasonal ingredients sourced from Winvian's own organic gardens and local farms. Every dish is a masterpiece, showcasing the flavors of the region in creative and unexpected ways.

Intimate Dining: With only a few tables, the dining room offers an intimate and personalized experience. The ambiance is warm and inviting, with large windows framing picture-

esque views of the surrounding countryside.

The Bar: Unwind with a craft cocktail or a glass of wine from the extensive wine list. The bar at Winvian Farm is the perfect place to relax after a day of exploration, offering a cozy setting with a crackling fireplace and comfortable seating.

Private Dining: For a truly special occasion, guests can arrange for a private dining experience in one of the unique cottages or in a secluded spot on the property. This personalized service ensures a memorable and exclusive meal.

A Retreat Like No Other

Beyond its extraordinary accommodations and dining, Winvian Farm offers a range of activities to enhance your stay. Explore the extensive grounds on foot or by bicycle, indulge in a spa treatment, or simply

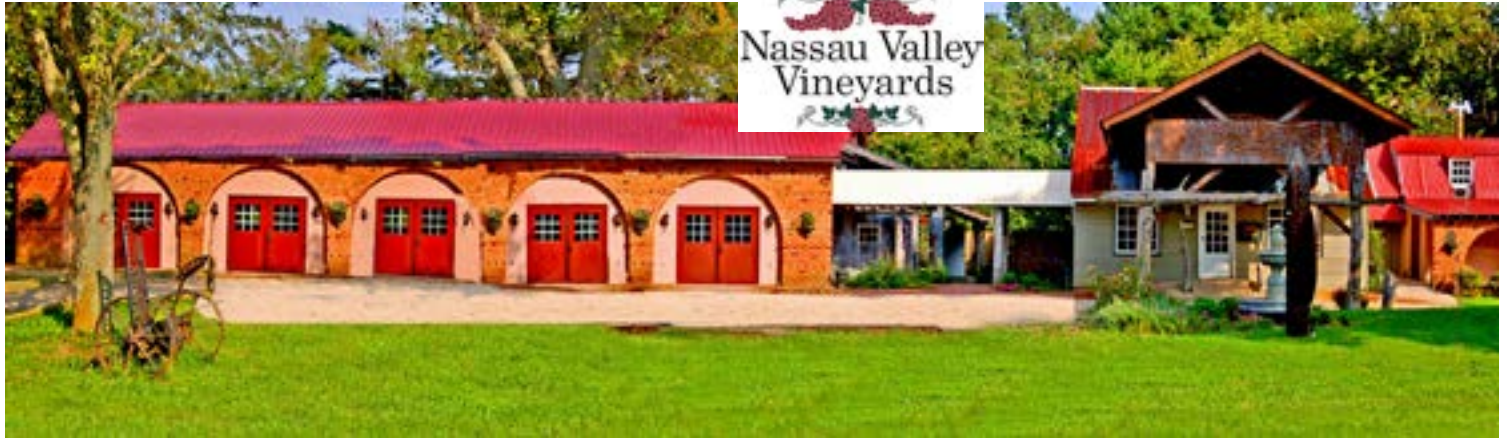
relax by the pool. Each season brings its own beauty, from the vibrant colors of fall to the blooming flowers of spring.

For those looking to venture further, the charming towns of Litchfield Hills offer antique shops, art galleries, and outdoor adventures. But with so much to experience at Winvian Farm, you may find it hard to leave the property.

In every corner of Winvian Farm, there is a story waiting to be told, a memory waiting to be made. Whether you're seeking romance, adventure, or tranquility, this magical retreat in the Litchfield Hills is the perfect destination. Come and discover the enchantment of Winvian Farm – a place where dreams come to life.

More on Connecticut >[HERE](#)

Go On A Farmstay



Delaware, often overshadowed by its larger East Coast neighbors, offers a serene escape through its charming farmstays. Nestled amidst lush landscapes and tranquil countryside, Delaware's farmstays provide a unique blend of rustic charm and modern comfort, perfect for a rejuvenating getaway.

The Appeal of Farmstays

Delaware's farmstays promise an authentic rural experience, allowing visitors to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of city life. Guests can indulge in activities such as milking cows, collecting fresh eggs, and even participating in seasonal farm tasks. These hands-on experiences offer a deeper appreciation for the state's agricultural heritage.

Top Farmstay Destinations

Stoney Ridge Farm in Greenwood is a family-friendly haven, offering cozy accommodations and a variety of farm

activities. Guests can enjoy fresh produce from the farm's garden, interact with friendly farm animals, and savor homemade breakfasts.

Nassau Valley Vineyards near Lewes combines the charm of a farmstay with the sophistication of a vineyard. Visitors can explore the scenic vineyards, participate in wine tastings, and stay in beautifully restored farmhouses.

Coverdale Farm Preserve in Greenville provides a unique educational experience, emphasizing sustainable farming practices. The farm offers guided tours, workshops, and seasonal events, making it a perfect choice for eco-conscious travelers.

Activities and Attractions

Beyond the farm gates, Delaware offers a plethora of attractions. Guests can explore the picturesque coastal towns, hike

through lush state parks, or visit historic sites like the Winterthur Museum and Gardens. The state's vibrant farmers' markets are also a must-visit, showcasing local produce, artisanal goods, and handmade crafts.

Culinary Delights

A farmstay in Delaware wouldn't be complete without savoring its culinary offerings. Farm-to-table dining experiences are abundant, with many farmstays providing meals made from fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Guests can also explore nearby farm markets and local eateries for a taste of rich agricultural bounty.

Delaware's farmstays offer a peaceful retreat, rich in rural charm and authentic experiences. They provide the perfect backdrop for a memorable escape. So, pack your bags and embark on an extended weekend **getaway**.

More on Delaware >HERE



Discover Charm At Smiling Hill Farm

WESTBROOK - This hidden gem offers a delightful escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Only a short drive from Portland, it provides an idyllic setting for a relaxing and fun-filled day.. With its rich history, picturesque landscapes, and array of activities, Smiling Hill Farm promises a memorable experience for visitors of all ages.

Stay Awhile

Start your journey early to make the most of your first day. Check into your cozy accommodation – whether you've chosen a nearby bed and breakfast or a quaint cottage rental, you'll find plenty of options to suit your style and budget at [Whimstay.com](https://www.whimstay.com) with last-minute discounts offered. Once you've settled in, it's time to explore.

The Farm

As you drive to Smiling Hill Farm, the sight of rolling pastures, grazing animals, and the historic farmhouses will instantly transport you to a simpler time. Begin with a guided tour of the farm, where you'll learn about its history dating back to the 18th

century. The farm's heritage is deeply rooted in Maine's agricultural tradition, and you'll appreciate the stories behind its longevity and success. The Knight family has sustainably managed this 500 acre farm of fields and woodlot since the 1700s.

Farm Animals

Wander through the dairy barns and barnyard to meet the friendly animals. Learn how the cows are milked



and how they are fed. Other behind-the-scenes activities show how animals are cared for at the farm. The barnyard is open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. during the summer months.

Dairy Store

Don't miss the chance to sample the farm's fresh milk, ice cream and cheese – the cheddar is a local favorite! The farm store offers a variety of homemade goods and lunch is served 11-3 p.m. Summer hours are 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Before you leave, be sure to stock up on some of the farm's delicious products to take a piece of Smiling Hill Farm home with you.



JAZZ FEST SATURDAY LINEUP



Marcus Mitchell and Joi Carter



Latrice Carr



Julian Vaughan



ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

POTOMAC JAZZ & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Weekend of Jazz!

JULY 12-14 2024

Friday, July 12 | All Day



Friday Jazz IN LEONARDTOWN

Kick off your weekend with a FREE jazz concert, dining, shopping and fun in Leonardtown.

FREE JAZZ CONCERT

at College of Southern Maryland, Leonardtown Campus

FRIDAY, 5 - 7 PM - Music by Causal Groove.

Saturday, July 13 | Noon to 8 p.m.

Jazz Fest THE MAIN EVENT

St. Clement's Island Museum
\$85 General / \$250 VIP

Relax waterside on the museum lawn and enjoy great music, food and gorgeous views of the Potomac!

— Opener 1 PM —
LATRICE CARR

— Second Act 3:15 PM —
MARCUS MITCHELL & JOI CARTER

— Headliner 5:30 PM —
JULIAN VAUGHAN

NEW THIS YEAR! Limited trolley and boat transportation from Leonardtown to Main Event! Purchase fares in advance on the website.

Sunday, July 14 | All Day

Jazzin' Sunday IN LEONARDTOWN

Enjoy jazz cruises, brunch, shopping, wine tastings and more throughout Leonardtown.

Leonardtown JAZZ CRUISES

Friday and Sunday

More Cruises Added!
See website for info and tickets.

AFTER PARTY AT BRÜ

SATURDAY, 10 PM

Free admission; food and drinks separate cost.



www.PotomacJazzFest.com

More info, tickets, discount packages, discount hotel nights and more.



Hotel Welcome RECEPTION

FRIDAY, 2 - 4 PM - FREE MUSIC by Higher Standards at the Inn at Leonardtown!

Fun All Day in Leonardtown!

See website for schedule of activities.





Farmers' Museum

Within the scenic village of Cooperstown, The Farmers' Museum offers visitors a delightful journey back in time. Founded in 1944, this living history museum immerses guests in the agricultural heritage of rural America, providing an authentic glimpse into the lives of 19th-century farmers.

The museum's sprawling 120-acre grounds are home to over two dozen historic buildings, including a working farm, a general store, and an old-school blacksmith shop. The buildings, meticulously relocated from various parts of New York, create a charming and historically accurate village setting. Costumed interpreters bring history to life, demonstrating traditional crafts and daily activities such as butter churning, weaving, and woodworking.

One of the museum's highlights is the Cardiff Giant, a famed 10-foot-tall stone figure unearthed in 1869 and considered one of America's greatest hoaxes. Visitors can also enjoy a ride on the Empire State Carousel, a beautifully hand-carved merry-go-round that celebrates New York's rich cultural and natural heritage.

Interactive exhibits and seasonal events, such as Harvest Festival and Tractor Fest, make the museum a dynamic destination for families and history enthusiasts alike. Kids can partake in hands-on activities, including animal encounters at the Children's Barnyard, while



adults explore the extensive gardens and scenic pathways.

The Farmers' Museum is more than just a historical site; it's an educational and entertaining experience that connects visitors with the agricultural roots that have shaped New York State and the nation. Whether you're a history buff, a nature lover, or simply looking for a unique family outing, The Farmers' Museum offers a memorable escape to a simpler time.

SPECIAL JULY 7-9 EVENT JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW

The Junior Livestock Show brings together the best livestock and youth exhibitors from a nine-county region. The event tests the skills of youth handlers ages eight to eighteen who present animals that they own, care for, and have prepared for competition.

For more information and to plan your visit, <https://www.farmersmuseum.org/> or follow them on social media for updates on upcoming events and exhibits.

More on New York >HERE

Harbor Hotel

CHAUTAUQUA LAKE • CELORON

Check-in for Nonstop Fun

A destination waterfront hotel with beautifully landscaped grounds, Chautauqua Harbor Hotel offers luxury accommodations and myriad outdoor recreation, as well as proximity to the National Comedy Center.

- Luxurious guest rooms & suites
- Balconies with panoramic views
- Fine & casual dining on-premise
- Lakeside Carousel Bar
- Outdoor firepits
- Indoor & outdoor swimming pools
- Transient boat dock
- Spectacular sunsets



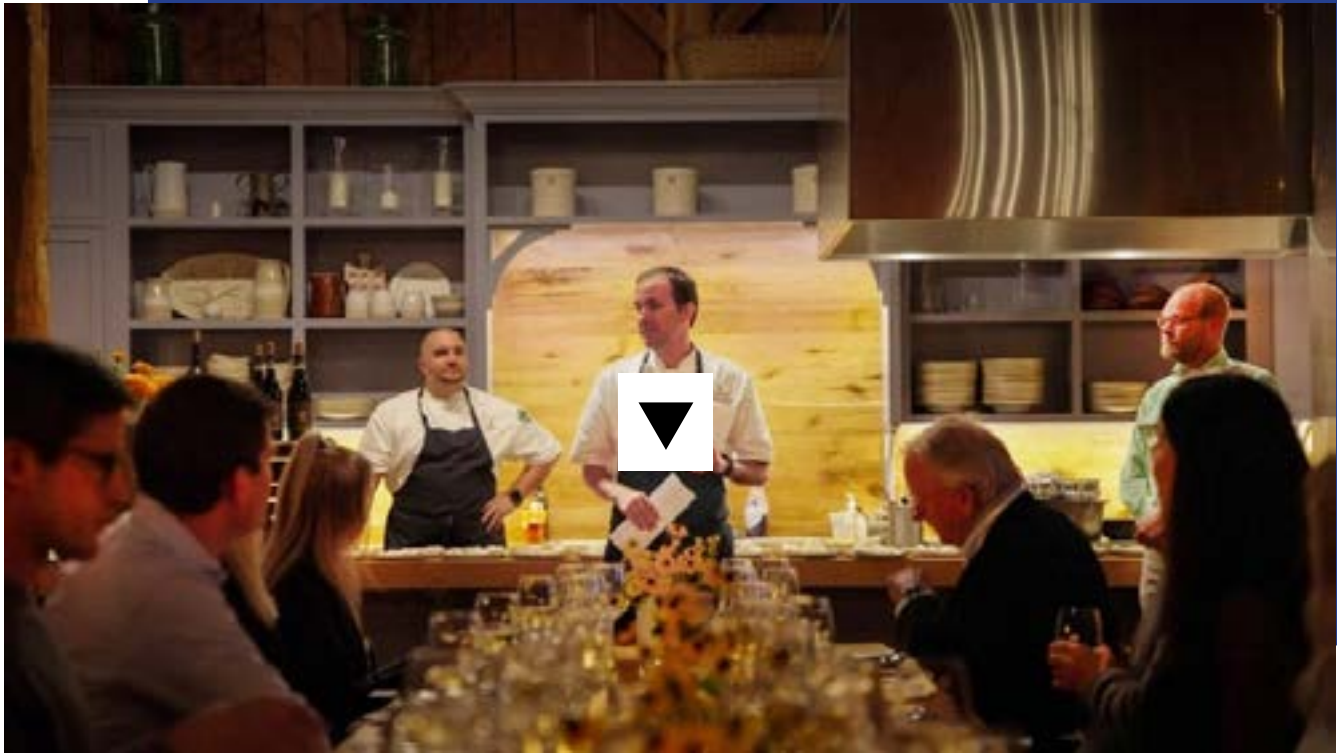
Hilarious Getaway

Includes Deluxe Accommodations; two tickets to The National Comedy Center and Lucy/Desi Museums; \$30 meal voucher. We will give you a pair of Groucho Marx glasses. Wear them to dinner and enjoy dessert on us. No joke!

Reservations call 716.489.2800
TheChautauquaHarborHotel.com



Red Barn Dinners



By Norman Reed
Managing Editor

WOODSTOCK – Woodstock Inn & Resort announces a full plate of new dates for this season’s farm-to-table Red Barn Dinner Series. This year, the experiences have been expanded to include two separate services highlighting community-driven partnerships on select Thursdays and family-style affairs on Sundays. Both will continue through September.

Reimagined by seasoned Executive Chef and Director of Food and Beverage Matthew McClure, each meticulously crafted multi-course menu will be anchored by Vermont’s seasonal harvest, all grown at the Inn’s own Kelly Way Gardens helmed by Master Gardener Benjamin Pauly. Hy-

per focused on incorporating the freshest ingredients in each recipe, the menus will feature dishes like artfully crafted charcuterie and garden grazing boards, entrees such as five-spice pork belly porchetta and coffee braised short ribs to desserts like Kelly Way Gardens Rhubarb Tart.

“We’re excited to create memorable experiences for guests that truly showcase the depth of Vermont’s culinary ecosystem, from our own offerings at Kelly Way Gardens in partnership with Benjamin and his team to our standout community partners.” says Chef McClure. “It’s what makes the Red Barn Dinners and the meals we create here at the Inn one-of-a-kind.”

- Highlighting the program’s homegrown nature and usual artisanal flare, each Thursday will pair a different regional purveyor, featuring their product as a centerpiece in the four-course dining experience. The collaborative services will bring

together fellow gardeners, craftsman, local farmers and seasoned Chefs including self-described bean evangelist, Joe Bossen of Vermont Bean Crafters; "I Am From Here" author and James Beard Award-winning Chef Vishwesh Bhatt of Snackbar in Oxford, Mississippi; and Chef Roshara Sanders, the first Black female chef instructor at the Culinary Institute of America and a Food Network Chopped Champion Chef. Beginning with cocktail hour starting at 6:00pm, dinner service will follow at 7:00pm. The experience is \$160 per person, plus tax and gratuity, with expert-led wine pairings included. This series kicks off on June 6 with reservations available online. Subsequent event dates available through September.

- Reminiscent of a traditional supper club, Sunday dinners will bring guests together over a three-course family-style meal that will feature a grazing course alongside seasonal soups or salads and entrees that honor local purveyors, topped off with a dessert made by the resort's own French Pastry Chef and his team. Similarly, the evening will begin with cocktail hour in Kelly Way Gardens at 6:00pm, followed by dinner in the Red Barn at 7:00pm. The experience is \$140 per person, plus tax and gratuity, with expert-led wine pairings included. Reservations available online for June 16 dinner service with additional dates through September.

Housed in refurbished 19th century red barn, the 11,000 square foot Red Barn Culinary and Garden Studios make the perfect backdrop for these Chef-driven experiences. The intentionality presented in each dish carries through to the design elements found throughout the Red Barns, like

the white pine tables crafted using ethically harvested wood from nearby Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

Paying homage to the conservation legacies of the Rockefeller and Billings families, Kelly Way Gardens serves as a holistic produce source for the Inn. Spanning more than three-acres, the garden acts as the culinary inspiration to the resort and culinary team, comprised of more than 200 varieties of vegetables, 50 varieties of herbs and edible flowers, 75 varieties of berries, and features its own mushroom glen. Guests and visitors alike can tour the garden grounds, enjoy tastings and even partake in gardening classes.

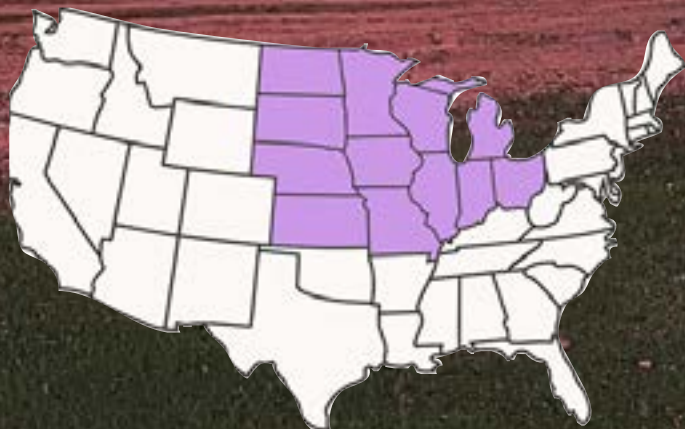
Over the course of his lauded 20-year career, Chef Matthew McClure's culinary prowess has earned him multiple nominations like Best Chef South by the prestigious James Beard Foundation and awarded Best New Chef 2015 by Food & Wine. Prior to joining the team at Woodstock Inn & Resort as Executive Chef and Director of Food and Beverage in 2022, he held leadership positions at Harvest Restaurant in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and most recently The Hive, a restaurant at the 21c Museum Hotel in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Learn more about Chef McClure's culinary philosophy for the Woodstock Inn & Resort. For more information on the services, menus and to make reservations for both Thursday and Sunday evening dinners, please visit the Red Barn Dinner

More on Vermont >HERE



Midwest States





SAVAGE RACE

MUDGIRL
OBSTACLE RACE DEDICATED TO WOMEN



Head To The Farm

A Destination of Fun and Adventure For All Who Visit

Nestled in the picturesque landscape of Illinois, Richardson Farm is more than just a farm—it's a hub of exciting activities, events, and unforgettable experiences. Whether you're a thrill-seeker, an outdoor enthusiast, or simply looking for a family-friendly adventure, Richardson Farm has something for everyone.

What They Do

Richardson Farm is renowned for its world-class corn maze, sprawling across 28 acres and offering a challenging and fun experience for visitors of all ages. But the farm offers much more than just the maze. Visitors can enjoy:

- Pumpkin patches
- A 700-foot zip line
- A giant slide
- Wagon rides
- A petting zoo
- Live music and bonfires

Savage Race and Savage Blitz - July 20, 2024
Mark your calendars for July 20, 2024, when Richardson Farm hosts the Savage Race and Savage Blitz. This isn't just any race—it's an epic adventure designed to push your limits and create lasting memories. Participants will tackle the world's best obstacles, featuring mud, fire, and water challenges that demand strength, endurance, and teamwork.

Here's what to expect:

Personal Achievement: Set and smash personal goals as you navigate through demanding obstacles.

Limit Testing: Push your boundaries and experience the thrill of overcoming the toughest challenges.

Teamwork and Friendship: Foster bonds with fellow racers, as teamwork is essential to conquer the course.

Memorable Moments: From the mud-soaked trails to the fire jumps, every moment is Instagram-worthy and unforgettable.

Upcoming Events

Richardson Farm is buzzing with activity throughout the year, and here are some other exciting events you won't want to miss:

MUDGIRL - Mud Run

Dates: August 10th & 11th, 2024

Details: Join the #PinkArmy in an empowering and unifying mud run. This event welcomes women of all ages and fitness levels. Face mud, obstacles, and inflatables in a vibrant atmosphere. It's a perfect opportunity to bond with friends, family, and colleagues while celebrat-

ing strength and camaraderie.

3rd Annual LCJC Jeep Invasion

Date: August 17th, 2024

Details: Hosted by the Lake County Jeep Club, this family-friendly event features Jeep trail riding, an obstacle course, a charity raffle benefiting Veterans Path to Hope, Jeep vendors, family activities, food vendors, and a car show. It's a fantastic day out for Jeep enthusiasts and families alike.

Plan Your Visit

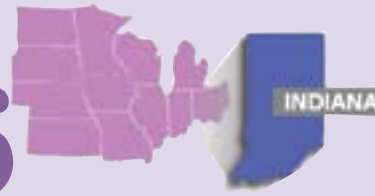
Richardson Farm is not just a destination—it's an experience. Whether you're navigating the corn maze, flying down the zip line, or participating in one of their exciting events, you're guaranteed a day of fun, adventure, and memories that will last a lifetime. Don't miss out on the unique events and activities that make Richardson Farm a must-visit destination in Illinois.



NEW~ The sunflower field has been planted with intricate trails throughout the entire 13 acre field. There are the traditional big yellow-headed ones, and also bright red multi-branched plants, and even orange, peach and gold blossoms! There are 24 varieties in all and lots of types not usually seen. The sunflower fields are expected to be open much of September and maybe into October, but check their website at <https://richardsonadventurefarm.com/> for the exact dates as the time gets closer – Mother Nature will determine the exact dates of the blooms. 13 acres of different colored sunflowers with trails throughout

More on Illinois >HERE

Follow The Trails



With Kosciusko County Digital Passports



Located in the Northern part of Indiana, Kosciusko County boasts a diverse array of trails perfect for adventurers and casual explorers alike. The next time you visit, there's a new way to experience the beauty and culture of the area with the Engage Kosciusko Digital Passports.

These free, digital passports offer a unique way to discover new places while earning prizes and exclusive discounts at participating businesses. Here's a glimpse into the different trails you can explore:

Sip & Savor Passports

Taco Trail: Embark on a culinary journey tasting the best tacos in the county.

Breakfast Trail: Start your day right with visits to top breakfast spots.

Sipping Trail: Enjoy a selec-

tion of the finest beverages from local cafes and bars.

Complete any of these trails to enter a grand prize drawing for \$100 in Kosciusko Cash, plus receive exclusive discounts at participating locations.

Challenge Passports

Trail Blazer Challenge:

Discover the county's scenic trails, parks, and natural beauty.

Public Art Trail Challenge:

Visit and appreciate public art installations around the county.

Adventure Challenge: Take on various adventure activities from hiking to kayaking. By visiting just five locations in any Challenge Passport, you'll earn a special prize.

Waterways Challenge: This county has more than 100 lakes, making water recre-

ation the center of many of the communities. Use the passport to find the public access points.

How to Get Started

You're just a couple of clicks away from your next adventure. Choose one of the Engage Kosciusko Digital Passports found at <https://visitkosciuskokounty.org/> and start exploring the rich offerings of Kosciusko County. Whether you're savoring favorite flavors or taking on new challenges, these passports provide a fun and rewarding way to experience all that the county has to offer.

Ready to explore? Join the Engage Kosciusko Passports today and uncover the hidden gems of Northern Indiana's Kosciusko County.

More on Indiana >HERE



Pennsy Trail Art



GREENFIELD - Looking for a delightful weekend getaway that blends art, music, and community spirit? Head to Greenfield, Indiana, on July 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the Pennsy Trail Art Fair and Music Festival. This vibrant event, held on the Courthouse Plaza, promises a memorable experience for visitors of all ages while supporting a great cause. Best of all, there's no charge for admission!

A Feast for the Senses

The Pennsy Trail Art Fair and Music Festival showcases over 50 talented artists and food vendors, transforming the Courthouse Plaza into a bustling hub of creativity and culinary delights. Stroll through the fair and marvel at a diverse array of artworks, from intricate jewelry and stunning paintings to unique ceramics and handmade crafts. This is the perfect opportunity to find one-of-a-kind pieces that speak to your soul or serve as beautiful gifts for loved ones. As you explore, indulge in a variety of delicious foods offered by local vendors. Whether you're craving classic festival fare like funnel cakes and corn dogs or seeking something more gourmet,

there's something to satisfy every palate. The vibrant atmosphere, filled with the mouthwatering aromas and the joyful chatter of fellow festival-goers, is truly infectious.

Live Entertainment to Enrich Your Experience
Adding to the festive ambiance, the Pennsy Trail Art Fair and Music Festival features live entertainment throughout the day. Enjoy performances from local musicians and bands, offering a mix of genres that will have you tapping your feet and swaying to the rhythm. The event's lively music scene provides the perfect soundtrack to your art-filled adventure.

A Community Event with Heart

More than just a celebration of art and music, the Pennsy Trail Art Fair and Music Festival is a fundraiser event for Mental Health Partners. By attending, you're not only supporting local artists and enjoying a fantastic day out, but also contributing to a cause that promotes mental health awareness and services in the community.

More on Indiana >[HERE](#)

Pennsy Trail

Art Fair and Music Festival
9 AM - 5 PM JULY 27, 2024



In Beautiful Downtown Greenfield, IN
on the Courthouse Plaza



- *Live Entertainment*
- *Talented Artist Booths*
- *Delicious Food Vendors*
- *Ducky Derby Raffle*



FREE ADMISSION

Presented by:



Mental Health Partners
of
Hancock County



www.facebook.com/pennsytrailartfair/



Agritourism in No



*By Kathleen Walls
Travel Writer
AmericanRoads.net*

North Central Kansas is a huge farming area, mainly of grain crops, so it's no surprise they have many great breweries, wineries, and distilleries. Here are just a few I visited and enjoyed. Each had a different personality and is about more than just the drink. They help tell the story of their area.

Oz Winery

When you visit Oz Winery, you get the feeling you are in Oz. The 19th century limestone building is decorated in Emerald Green, a darker green, and bright blue. Inside there are tables and an Oz themed gift shop. There are Oz pictures on the walls and the pressed tin ceiling reflects the glass chandeliers. The bar is set up in the back corner where customers can enjoy two free samples or buy a flight, glass, or bottle of wine while enjoying some chocolates or cheese.

The winery is owned and operated by husband-and-wife team, Brooke Balderson and Noah Wright. Noah is the winemaker. They have been in business since 2007 and all of the wine is made, bottled, and labeled on-site. Brook's father owned the building and had a business here that he was moving to Manhattan, Kansas so it was a perfect spot to start a winery.

Since Oz Winery is a few doors down the street from the Oz Museum, the wines have names that relate to the Wizard of Oz book and movie. They have a Flying Monkey, a bold Syrah red



wine with a fruity flavor. Another interesting red is the Drunken Munchin, a Cabernet Sauvignon with an oaky and black currant flavor.

Kristin Philip, the operation manager, greeted us and told us about the winery. We asked which wine was her best seller and she said, "That's Squished Witch, it's a semi sweet red wine with berry flavors. It's from an Ives Noir. That's one of the hybrid grapes that does well in Kansas, it is our sweetest wine by far, but it's also interesting. It's kind of like a cousin blend to the concord, but it has a little bit more of a berry flavor and more depth."



North Central Kansas

I sampled it and see why it is so popular.

In the whites, Emerald City Lights, a dry Sauvignon Blanc with honeydew melon notes and citrus finish, is popular. I sampled another white, Witch Gone Good, a Moscato with cherry blossom nose and creamy orange finish, that was delicious.

Kristin told us a little about the history of the building. It was a hotel back in the 1890s and actors performing at the Columbian Theatre, just down the street, would stay there. The spirit of one remains. She said, "He let us know that his name is Frank and that he died in the hotel."

The town already draws lots of paranormal researchers that come to visit the Colombian Theater which is very haunted. One of the wonderful things about Oz Winery is that they do have a heart. They help make sure every Toto finds their way home by partnering with local non-profits like Helping Hands Humane Society to help animals in need.

Irrigation Ales

Irrigation Ales, a rural brewery in Courtland, KS (population: 294), took a big



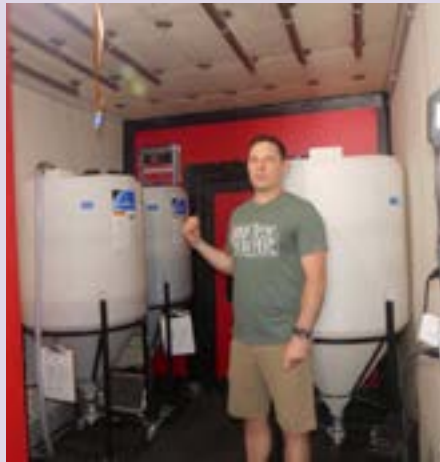
step for small brewers and wineries in Kansas. Luke Mahin wanted to open a brewery but not a restaurant. The town already had two that were struggling. He didn't want to compete and make things harder for them but there was a county rule requiring businesses serving alcoholic drinks to get 30% of their gross revenues from food sales. Luke got an initiative on the ballot to repeal it that passed by 78%. He, along with most of the county agreed, a brewery is rarely just a brewery especially on a remote Kansas prairie. Luke and his wife and co-owner, Jennifer, agree, "It's a gathering place for the whole community."

His county is dependent on The Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District, one of the largest surface water (not pumped from an aquifer) irrigation districts in the state to grow their crops of wheat, sorghum, and corn as well as the malt, hops, fruits, veggies, and herbs he uses in his brews. The water comes from Lovewell Lake and the Republican River.

Since Luke's father and grandfather worked for the district, and he worked a few summers there, too, the name "Irrigation Ales" is a tribute to the system.

His first beer was a red ale called Red Trucks for the service vehicles his father and other ditch riders drive while delivering water and maintaining the canals.

He presently makes eight handcrafted beers almost always with locally sourced ingredients. For non-beer drinkers, he serves Kansas wines, ciders, and non-alcoholic drinks. Guests can bring in food from other local businesses, but they do offer some snacks like a charcuterie box,



potato chips, pretzels and a few other items. He took us on a tour, and I was amazed at how well he uses recycled items. For brewing the beer, he uses retrofitted dairy tanks. To light the tap room, he uses irrigation pipe bar lighting. Best of all, he had turned a 60-foot semi-trailer into his cold room to store and ferment his beers out back.

The Farm and the Oddfellows



Keir and Ashley Swisher are the owners of The Farm & The Odd Fellows. The Farm portion of the name recognizes Ashley growing up on a family farm. The Odd Fellows part honors the original roots of the building.

They opened in 2021 in a 1916 three-story building that originally was home to The Odd Fellows, a philanthropic group common in the early 20th century. They have restored woodwork and the original design to house multiple businesses: The Bean, a coffee café with sandwiches and lots of food choices, The Pickle, an indoor pickleball court, The Seed, a recreational area with custom-built games including shuffleboard, mini-bowling, and a 10-man foosball table, and The Hops on the top-level is a taproom and brewery that showcases the original pressed tin ceiling.

You can sit right next to the brewing tanks or dine in the large open hall. Their wall tap offers 20 choices of beer. The menu offers some delicious choices from charcutery boards, flatbreads, and a fantastic Brewhouse Cheese Fondue. The pretzels are some of the best I ever tasted and the cheese beer mix is perfect.

Riverbanks Brewery

Riverbank Brewing emerged from the collective vision of five friends: Pat Atchity, Jesse and Deidre Knight, and Lindsay and Joshua Gant.

Their dream was to create a welcoming space where people could gather and enjoy themselves.

The Knights and Gants reside in Council Grove, while Pat

Atchity calls Kansas City home. Deidre and Jesse purchased a neglected building near the Neosho River for another business venture. They decided to transform half of it into a brewery.



The project kicked off in spring 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic caused construction delays. Nevertheless, in November 2021, Riverbank Brewing proudly opened its doors.

When we visited, the brewery exuded a busy yet relaxed vibe. Comfortable sofas, chairs, and tables invited patrons to settle in. Gleaming brewing tanks occupied one section, showcasing the art of craft beer production. The modern bar catered to all tastes: craft beers, alternative brews, and even cocktails for non-beer enthusiasts. I personally enjoyed their oak barrel-aged Margarita—it was fabulous!

Riverbank Brewing emphasizes local ingredients, with many of their beers featuring Kansas grains and hops. Their inaugural beer, aptly named “All In,” symbolized the dedication and passion invested in the project.

While they don’t offer a full food menu, guests are welcome to bring in food from local restaurants. For lighter fare, Riverbank serves flatbreads, pretzels, and charcuterie boards—perfect accompaniments to their brews. Riverbank Brewing stands as a testament to friendship, creativity, and the love of great beer.

More on Kansas >HERE



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Nebraska Tests The Nation's Tractors



By *Tim Trudell*
Freelance
Travel Writer

Wilmot Crozier thought he was buying a tractor from the Ford Motor Company when he purchased his first motorized farm implement in 1917. Instead, it was from the Ford Tractor Company, and it was a dud.

Crozier's story and the history of tractor testing is explored at the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Museum on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Visitors relive farming's early days of tractors.

Crozier and other farmers who bought tractors from the Minneapolis Ford Tractor Company were disappointed with their lack of performance. "Designed" to pull two plows, the tractor couldn't even pull one, and often broke down.

Unbeknownst to farmers, the company's owner purposely used the Ford name to confuse customers into thinking they were buying a vehicle from the more-reputable automobile company. The actual Ford company produced tractors in the United States from 1917 to 1928 under the name Fordson. They were sold in the United Kingdom until the mid-1960s.

Crozier, who farmed near Osceola, bought a second tractor, a 1917 Bull tractor. Again, he encountered failure. Instead of returning to horse-pulled plows, he rolled the dice a third time, purchasing a Rumely Oil-Pull. Success! It exceeded his expectations.



After being elected to the Nebraska Legislature - then a two-chamber house - Crozier co-sponsored a bill with Senator Charles Warner that required tractors sold in Nebraska to meet minimum testing standards. The Nebraska Tractor Testing Lab opened in 1920.

Opened 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, a visit to the world's only museum connected to a full-tractor testing facility, visitors should watch a short film on the lab's history. Then, tractor and history enthusiasts will enjoy spending 1-3 hours checking out the vintage tractors on display.

Nebraska's lab is the country's designated testing facility. Each spring and fall, manufacturers bring new vehicles to Lincoln for testing on a paved track, including torque and engine performance.

The first tractor tested at the Nebraska lab was John Deere's Waterloo Boy. The company produced about 5,600 tractors in 1918. The Waterloo

Boy passed all facets over 10 days of testing. It solidified John Deere as a major force in tractor production for more than a century.

The Waterloo Boy and its test results are the first items on display at the museum. Placards provide background about each tractor. The Waterloo Boy's test results are also on exhibit.

As you meander the small concrete building, constructed in 1919, soak in the history of tractors and the importance of farming to Nebraska and the rest of the world.

A who's who of classic tractors is on exhibit at the 26-year-old museum. From Minneapolis-Moline and Oliver to Allis-Chalmers, Farmall and Canadian-based Co-op, dozens of tractors are on display.

You'll even see the Minneapolis Ford Tractor that led to required testing. The owner of the company would often require a \$75 down payment and then not deliver the tractor.

Next to it is the Rumely Oil-Pull that Crozier took a chance on instead of returning to horses for plowing fields. Tested in 1920, the Rumely passed with flying colors. Sold for \$2,400 a century ago, a new Rumely would go for \$35,000 today.

With more than 100 tractor models produced in the early 1900s, it's likely several wouldn't have passed Nebraska's tractor testing. However, over the years more than 1,900 tractors have succeeded.



Another classic tractor to check out is the Gambles Farmcrest, which sold in the United States for a few years following World War II.

The museum is home to the actual Case SC-4 used for

testing in 1953. Built in Racine, Wisconsin, the tractor's drag link (steering arm) was often used as a roost for chickens.

While testing has been consistent over the past century, the lab did shut down during World War II, as Allis-Chalmers, John Deere and International Harvester retooled to produce tanks, trucks, troop transports and ammunition, as well as airplanes. Testing resumed in 1946.

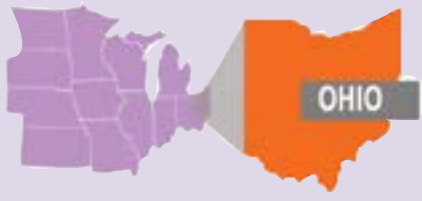
In order to test a tractor's power and agility, an instrumentation car is pulled from behind the implement. It measures engine and fan rpm, fuel rates, axle rotation and drawbar pull, among other items. Visitors can see the instrumentation car used 1941-62.

Housed in the original tractor testing lab, the museum has been recognized as a historical landmark by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

The Larsen Tractor Museum also encourages children to learn about farming through hands-on activities and play area.

With cornfields and other farm settings as backdrops, the Larsen Tractor Museum transports visitors to vintage Midwestern farm life.

More on Nebraska >[HERE](#)



Visit Coshocton

Summer in Coshocton is all about sunshine, energy and endless fun! From outdoor adventures to cultural experiences and relaxing retreats, your perfect summer getaway awaits.

Step Back in Time

Historic Roscoe Village offers a journey through the past with self-guided Living History tours. Discover the lives of 19th-century tradespeople like printing press operators, broom squires, and weavers through engaging digital kiosks. This tour features seven historic buildings and is offered 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Don't miss the Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum with its collections of East Asian Art, Ohio history, and Prehistoric Art. Plus, enjoy a leisurely ride on the Monticello III Horse-drawn Canal Boat, open Fridays through Sundays all summer.

Natural Escapes

Clary Gardens is a year-round, free botanical paradise. Wander through 20 scenic acres of vibrant rose gardens, tranquil ponds, an outdoor amphitheater, and a storybook trail. It's perfect for a romantic stroll, a family picnic, or simply soaking in nature's beauty. Kids will love the whimsical play area, and the open-air pavilion is ideal for special events.

Sip and Stay

Experience Coshocton County's craft beverage scene with



the Sip and Stay Thursday Package. Available Thursdays through October 31st, this package includes a stay at Coshocton Village Inn & Suites, complimentary breakfast, and vouchers for four local wineries or breweries. Transportation by Cork & Tap Excursions ensures a safe and enjoyable experience. Book your stay at (740) 622-9455 or visit VisitCoshocton.com.

Rock Out and Rev Up

Get ready for an unforgettable night with the Our Town Coshocton Summer Concert Series! On July 20th, rock out with the Def Leppard tribute band Adrenalize at Coshocton Court Square. Bring your own chair, enjoy the DORA, and sing along to your favorite hits. The fun continues at the Rock Coshocton Motor & Music Festival from July 26th to 28th at the Coshocton County Fair-

grounds. Three days of live music and exciting motorsports await!

A Floral Festival

The Coshocton Sunflower Festival brightens up August at Coshocton's KOA campground. Kick off with "Sippin' on Sunshine" on August 3rd, featuring wine and beer tastings among the sunflowers. Explore the 4-acre field, enjoy wagon rides, vendor booths, food trucks, a beer and wine garden, photo booths, and live music from August 9th to 11th. Each festival ticket includes one sunflower, with over 50 varieties to choose from!

Mark your calendar for more summer events in Coshocton by visiting <https://www.visitcoshocton.com/>

More on Ohio Here



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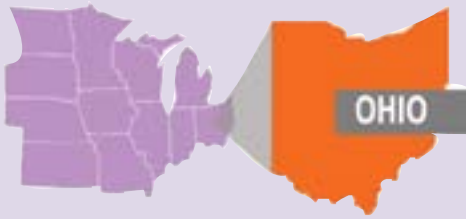
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Summer Escape to Hocking Hills



Hocking Hills is a haven for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike. This region transforms into a playground of activities and attractions, making it an ideal getaway for a weekend of exploration and relaxation.

Hiking Trails/Natural Wonders

Hocking Hills is renowned for its diverse and scenic hiking trails that wind through lush forests, dramatic gorges, and past cascading waterfalls. The Old Man's Cave trail is a must-visit, offering a captivating journey through caves, rock formations, and picturesque streams. Ash Cave, with its enormous recess cave and stunning waterfall, provides a serene backdrop for a leisurely hike or a peaceful picnic.

Water Adventures

For those looking to cool off, Hocking Hills offers plenty of water-based activities. The Hocking River offers canoeing, kayaking, and tubing, providing a refreshing escape from the summer heat. Lake Logan, invites visitors to fish, paddleboard, or simply relax.

Zip Lining and Adventure Parks

Thrill-seekers will find plenty to satisfy their adrenaline cravings. The region boasts several zip lining courses with breathtaking views of the lush landscape below. Adventure parks, such as Hocking Hills Canopy Tours, provide a variety of activities including rappelling, rock climbing, and obstacle courses, ensuring fun for all ages.

Scenic Drives and Local Charm

For a more relaxed pace, take a scenic drive through the rolling hills and charming towns of the region. The Hocking Hills Scenic Byway offers stunning vistas and easy access to many of the area's natural attractions. Along the way, visitors can explore local shops, artisan galleries, and cozy cafes that capture the unique charm of Hocking Hills.

Stargazing and Nighttime Magic

The region is known for its dark skies, making it a prime location for stargazing. The John Glenn Astronomy Park is a fantastic spot to marvel at the night sky, with telescopes available for public use and regular astronomy programs that educate and inspire.

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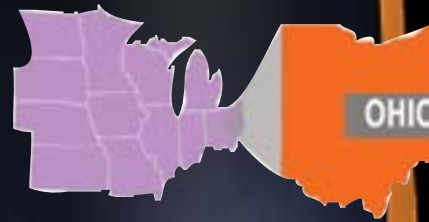
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Gibsonburg



Small Town, BIG Adventures!

If there are two things that stand out about the village of Gibsonburg, it is hometown pride and a can-do belief. Gibsonburg is a close-knit community that truly stands out among small towns. Because of these qualities, several years ago the village administration was able to secure a piece of the World Trade Center's North Tower antenna. The sacred steel is now a piece of the 9/11 – Public Safety Service Memorial in Williams Park that is dedicated as a tribute to the 9/11 tragedy, the victims who perished that day and to our Nation's First Responders.

While in Gibsonburg, visitors will want to check out White Star Park which boasts the area's best inland quarry diving as well as a great location for fishing, kayaking, swimming, hiking and camping. Other area local favorites include several mom and pop restaurants and pizza places and a local bakery featuring the best donuts, cinnamon rolls and apple turnovers money can buy! Gibsonburg is also home to a family-owned furniture store that has been in operation since 1882 and a locally owned home appliance store featuring a variety of name-brand appliances. Gibsonburg has a little bit of everything that people are looking for!



Public Safety Service Memorial
Photo by: David Thornbury

Waggoner's Run Mountain Bike Trail

Mountain bike enthusiasts rejoice! A new mountain bike trail in Gibsonburg, Ohio offers a unique location that is fun for riders of all skill levels. Waggoner's Run Mountain Bike Trail was a collaborative project between the Flatlanders Bicycle Club and the Sandusky County Park District in 2019. It is located within SCPD's "White Star Park". The trail features nearly 6 miles of twists, turns and exciting natural and man-made features, including the newest feature, a challenging teeter-totter placed right before one of the biggest drops on the trail.

The trail is open for mountain bikes as well as hiking; it is recommended that hikers hike the trail in reverse and stay alert for oncoming bike traffic. The trail is a one-way mountain bike trail, beginning at the parking lot next to the railroad tracks on County Road 65. Please, no horseback riding, pets, or motorized vehicles! For those looking for more information, trail conditions and closures, see the Waggoner Run Mountain Bike Trail Facebook Page. Sandusky County has so much to see and do. Visit sanduskycounty.org for more ideas and help planning your visit.



Waggoner's Run Mountain Bike Trail
Photo by: Doug & Kathy Metzger

For over **100** Sweet Years!

Ideal Bakery was established in Gibsonburg, Ohio in 1922. In May of 2011, a second store was opened on the west side of Fremont.

The bakery is known all around the country for its famous coconut bars, giant cut-out cookies, apple or cherry turnovers and donuts made fresh daily. When in Gibsonburg, it is a "MUST DO" stop for sweets!



Lilyfest

At Bishop Educational Gardens

July 12, 13 & 14, 2024

Friday: 10am–6pm

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Gardens

Three acres of artistically designed gardens, ponds and garden sculptures. OSU Master Gardeners and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists on hand to answer questions.

Music

Live music throughout the festival. See www.lilyfest.com for this year's line up!

FOOD Returning this year, Chef Moe's On-the-Go serving a selection of sandwiches, salads, and special desserts, and Pap's Ice Cream with ice cream and coffee.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: LOVE HOCKING HILLS Initiative, Ohio Certified Naturalist, Master Gardener, and Division of Natural Areas & Preserves on site for questions.

ADMISSION is free, donations always appreciated!

PARKING in two fields. Car pool if possible.

Bring a friend but **NO PETS** please. Lilyfest follows the ADA guidelines related to service animals.

Special thanks to our sponsors: LOGAN-HOLL FOUNDATION, OHIO MAGAZINE, and HOCKING HILLS TOURISM ASSOCIATION



Elkhart Lake



**By Kathy
Condon
Travel Writer**



Revisiting my birth state brings wonderful memories. I moved from Wisconsin in 1974 when my husband's position resulted in us moving to Southern California. Now, I was invited back to explore Elkhart Lake on the east side of Wisconsin, which I had never visited. It is known for being a place to relax and appreciate many recreational activities. I soon discovered how accurately that description captured this quaint community's essence.

Arrival in Wisconsin

I flew into Milwaukee Airport and was picked up for the 50-mile drive. I marveled at how green everything was; I had flown in from the desert in Palm Springs. After leaving a more populated area near the airports, the flat landscape revealed expansive farms plowed and ready for future crops to be planted.

With four other first-time visitors to the state in the same van, I pointed out the silos, holding grain, near the neatly painted red and white barns. So many memories started rearing up—the small rivers reminding me of days I wandered to the creek near our home to see tadpoles, which would eventually be frogs that provided a chorus after the sun went down.

Town of 1000 People

Driving in, on the outskirts, we could see large new buildings being built. We learned later that those buildings help house the workers that flow into the area during the summer and support visitors who have discovered this once-sleepy Wisconsin community.

Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin's clearest and deepest lake, was calm and reminiscent of a mirror revealing the tiniest wave

from a paddle board. Surrounding the lake, deciduous trees and giant cedar trees graced its edges.

Ostoff Resort

We turned the corner, and there before us was The Osthoff Resort, a stately white edifice spreading out before us. Later, we learned this palatial place began as a humble hotel in

1886, created by German entrepreneurs Otto and Paulina for a summer resort. This resort now has 360 rooms, three restaurants, and a magnificent Aspira Spa and offers an extensive array of spa treatments that pay homage to the Native Americans.

You first notice the outstanding flowers that adorn the edge of the lawns, which appear to go forever. The registration area is adorned with comfy leather seating, which proved to be a great place to meet colleagues for activities. If you forgot something, the adjacent shop had every essential you may need and great souvenirs to remind you to slow down in the future.

More than a resort for visitors, The Osthoff hosts many large conferences. When we visited, Sargento, an internationally

known cheese packager, was holding a conference in the grand ballroom. Many of the small meeting spaces were holding breakout sessions. Like other resorts in the area, many residents are year-round and own their units. The administration of the Osthoff not only watches over the permanent residents but also handles the renting and maintenance of the units. The administration provides a seamless living environment for residents, running it like a typical resort.

The Shore Club Wisconsin Ascend Hotel Collection

This hotel reveals itself the longer you stay, for it first appears to be a nicely remodeled older hotel at first glance. Every amenity is there you may need, and the patios looking out onto the tall trees surrounding the hotel are lovely and fun to listen to, with the leaves whispering in the wind as you lay your head on your pillow.

The creativity is on super drive by owners Tom Shorth and Kristin Pagel. For example, instead of removing the old sink in the room, Tom made a cover. He called it an ice box, which is perfect for cooling that bottle of wine. With a collection of vintage gaming machines, what better thing to do than share it with your guests? An entire room is devoted to gaming—about ten vintage machines and a pool table. After intense gaming,

head through the doorway and swim in the heated pool.

Near sunset, head down toward the lake and the Tiki Bar. The bar is open all day and has become a popular gathering place for people who spend the day at Road America.

Siebkens



This historic hotel, built in 1872 and called the Rustic Hotel, is now owned by Rob and Wendy Orth. They have transformed the hotel into a welcoming hotel with decor reminiscent of walking into your great-grandparents' home. One can't help but relax the minute you walk in the door.

The entire home has been rewired with up-to-date technology, and air conditioning throughout the hotel offers a refreshing sanctuary for a

hot, humid Wisconsin summer day. Be sure to check out the beds with their handcrafted bed frames created from local wood. Throughout the house, there are historic photographs honoring the sites of Elkhart Lake and the people who maintained the Siebkens throughout its 152-year history.

Activities in Elkhart Lake Cooking School

What a delight to experience cooking lessons from Chef Roy at the Osthoff. I always wondered what it would be like to make pasta from scratch—now I know. Yes, I made the well of flour, added the eggs, and made the dough by hand. Plus, I learned how to make authentic sauces—I guess it is time to invite someone over to display my new culinary skills.

Off-Roading at Road America

Admittedly, I am not a racing fan, but I found Road America fascinating. Located on 640 acres, it has many facets.



They recreated the original 1950 racetrack—4.048 miles, which ran through the town of Elkhart Lake. We watched amateurs test their driving skills this particular day. The experience of going off-road- ing through the forest and landscape gave us an experi- ence that took us out of our comfort zone. Let’s say we’re glad vehicles were in front of us so we knew we could get over that gigantic root and up that steep hill.

Two Fish Gallery



When you do not know what to do with a pile of soft clay, having a renowned ceramic artist carefully explain the process is helpful. First step: throw it on the tabletop as hard as possible to flatten it out—who knew? Then, roll it out so you can begin creating a vessel. It felt good to make a bowl, which will arrive at my home as a finished red bowl. Restaurants in Elkhart Lake Don’t worry about going hun- gry in Elkhart Lake

- The Concourse (at the Ost-

hoff Resort) is an upscale dining with farm-to-table cuisine. Otto’s a great place to start your day with breakfast.

- The Social (Speakeasy at Shore Club Wisconsin), where you can have an authentic fish fry or start your day with an expansive breakfast.
- Lake Street Café is located downtown and is a place to have a lovely lunch.
- P.A.M.’s (At the Siebkens) Offers fabulous cuisine in an Old-World setting.



Osthoff Platoon Ride

What a lovely way to spend the last morning of our stay, floating quietly around Elkhart Lake. The relaxing ride was the perfect way to understand why visitors keep returning. It was simultane- ously peaceful, relaxed, and beautiful—an excellent way to pull yourself away from the world’s cares.

As we pulled out of Elkhart Lake and saw the brid- al wreath in full bloom, I thought to myself, I’m proud Wisconsin is my birth state. (I still have family here) Plus, realizing I must return more often to explore this beauti- ful state where manners and helping others are the guiding light.

More on Wisconsin >HERE



Southern States



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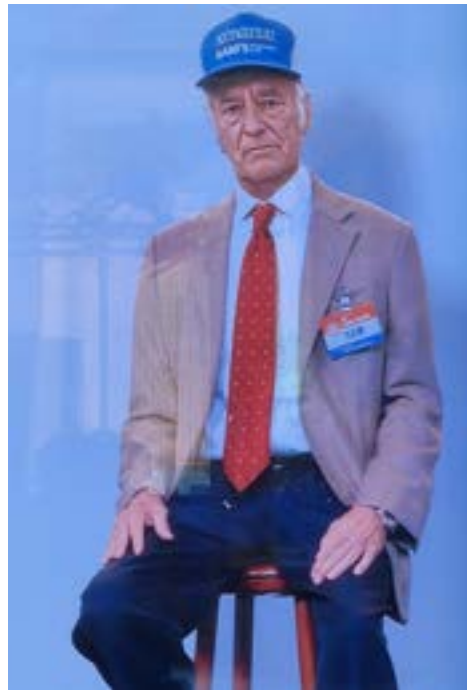


*By Kathy Barnett
Editor-
In-Chief*

Bentonville seamlessly blends outdoor adventures, cultural experiences, and rich history. Known primarily as the birthplace of Walmart and home to its founder, Sam Walton, Bentonville has evolved into a dynamic destination that appeals to a diverse range of visitors. From biking enthusiasts to art lovers, the city offers an array of attractions that cater to every interest.

There are so many places to go, things to do and people to see connected to my career, I often comment it will really takes something big to “wow” me. When I recently visited Bentonville, I knew it was where the first Walmart was born. Yes, Walmart is big but we all already know that. What I didn’t expect was to learn just how big it really is.

Expecting to see only the original 5&10, where a museum of vintage collectables were known for display, I learned it is currently closed for extensive renovations. However, partial displays from the museum have been temporarily housed



at the Walmart Museum Heritage Lab a few blocks away.

This lab is also the destination where the Walmart Corporation tests new technologies, new exhibits and new ways to preserve and share Walmart’s heritage. In the exhibit corner, you can see a hologram of Sam Walton

and even ask questions. It seems so real, it’s easy to believe you are actually talking to him. One question was asked, “Since you are the CEO of this company, who give you orders? Who is your boss.”

The hologram easily answers “the customers do. They can fire you in a minute by going somewhere else to shop.”

Visitors can explore exhibits that chronicle Sam Walton’s life, the evolution of Walmart, and the impact the company has had on the global retail landscape. It offers a fascinating glimpse into the humble beginnings of what would become the world’s largest retailer.

Art Connection

The Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art is a must-visit, showcasing an impressive collection of American masterpieces in a stunning architectural

Home Of Walmart



setting. The museum's surrounding trails and outdoor sculptures provide a perfect blend of art and nature.

It was Sam Walton's only daughter, Alice, who was focused on curating art. As a small child, she discovered painting with watercolors and often painted with her mother on family outings. She founded the museum in 2005 as a non-profit charitable organization for all to enjoy.

Five miles of sculpture and walking trails link the museum's 120-acre park to Downtown Bentonville. There is more to come. Construction is currently underway.

Scott Family Amazeum

The Amazeum features about 50,000 square feet of exhibit and learning spaces to enhance family involvement while evoking a sense of curiosity and discovery through hands-on activities. Interactive exhibitions include a

Load and Haul; Market sponsored by Walmart; to show

Osage Park

At the heart of Bentonville lies Osage Park, a stunning urban park that offers a wealth of natural experiences

and recreational activities for visitors of all ages. Spanning 12 acres of wetlands, the park features floating boardwalks that allow visitors to immerse themselves in the serene ecosystem. Whether you're an avid bird watcher or simply looking to unwind in nature, the wetlands provide a tranquil escape.

For those seeking more active pursuits, Osage Park delivers in spades. The Quiver Archery Range offers unique

programming that caters to both novice and experienced archers. Pickleball enthusiasts can enjoy the well-maintained courts, while dog owners can let their furry friends run free in the expansive dog park. The park also hosts live music events, creating a lively atmosphere that draws in locals and tourists alike.

Art lovers will appreciate the six public art installations by Oz Art NWA, throughout the park's trails. These installations enhance the park's aesthetic appeal and provide thought-provoking experiences to connect visitors to the local culture and environment.

The Walton Family Foundation supported the development of Osage Park and improvements to Lake Bentonville Park as part of its efforts to improve quality of life in Northwest Arkansas. The foundation represents several generations of the Walton family.

Bentonville is a destination that promises adventure, culture, and history. I can honestly say, "I was wowed."

To be continued.

More on Arkansas
>HERE





Florida

24 Karat Ranch Charm

LOXAHATCHEE GROVES - Explore the charm of this family-owned and operated 10-acre rustic ranch nestled in the heart of Palm Beach County, just minutes away from PBI airport. The beautiful farm venue is a haven for unique and memorable experiences, hosting a variety of educational, wellness, and cultural agritourism events suitable for all age groups.

Immerse yourself in the joy of Goat Yoga with baby goats. Socialize with baby goats & piglets during some of the special events, and embark on enlightening Farm Tours. Indulge in the delectable flavors of delicious farm-to-table dinners. Partnering with local farms, the

menu showcases the vibrant flavors of South Florida's agriculture.

Revel in the magic of Full Moon Cultural Festivals. Experience the warmth and magic of a bonfire gathering. Celebrate life's special moments by holding private events like a farm weddings, birthdays, reunion, a sorority get-togethers and even corporate retreats.

24 Karat Ranch is a hub for equine enthusiasts, too. They are offering boarding and training services, along with breeding exotic varieties of goats, cattle, pigs, horses, and donkeys. As an organic and sustainable farm, the cultivate a diverse ar-

ray of medicinal herbs, organic vegetables, and fruits.

Nestled across a Nature Preserve, the ranch provides a unique and tranquil space for our guests to unwind and connect with nature. We take pride in being rated as the top goat yoga, farm festival, and ranch experience in the Palm Beaches. Discover the perfect blend of rustic charm, natural beauty, and unforgettable experiences at our ranch in Palm Beach County, where every visit promises a lasting connection with the wonders of farm life.

More on Florida >[HERE](#)

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A Walk A

*By Lisa Waterman Gray
Freelance Writer*

FREDERICKSBURG - Combine a walkable downtown with delicious food and wine and you have the tasty essence of a weekend stay.

If you love dark, decadent chocolate, you'll adore the liquid-center confections that burst open and flood your mouth with deliciousness, from Quintessential Chocolate/Chocolat. Crafted using a centuries-old technique, they're infused with non-alcoholic fillings, more than 20 liquors/liqueurs, luscious port, and other wine. In the mood for a cool treat? While touring, sample ultra-fresh Italian ice perhaps with a pour of Prosecco at bright and bold Piccolina.



Quintessential Chocolate/Choco



Another mainstay in the heart of town is Becker Vineyards Main Street tasting room. This is a must-do for wine enthusiasts. It occupies a vintage, former Buick dealership with plenty of original neon. Winemaking thrives in this climate reminiscent of the Mediterranean, and Becker grows more than a dozen grape varieties. They work with other Texas growers and were the state's first maker of Malbec and Viognier wines.

Grape Creek Vineyards has a Main Street tasting room too. Check out the estate vineyard and winery, where guided tastings reflect your personal taste preferences.

and Dine Trip



Less than 10 minutes from downtown, Signor Vineyards offers tasty varietals amid gorgeous natural and man-made beauty.

Also nearby, family-run Pedernales Cellars features a grassy hillside turned underground wine cellar. Concerned about their environmental impact, Pedernales Cellars uses a geothermal system that cools their cellar and case storage facility.

Be sure to check out Kalasi Cellars too, the passion project of spouses, Greg and Nikhila

Narra Davis. Kalasi Cellars reflects Nikhila's broad winemaking education and experience, along with the couple's enthusiastic wine tastings. Taste their grapes from the 140-acre family vineyard in Sangiovese Rosé, Malbecs, fresh-tasting white Albariño and others.

There's also a great trio of locally owned eateries in downtown Fredericksburg. Inside a historic building, Sunday Supply offers fresh coffee and pastries to wine and curated picnic fare. Savor your choices on the patio alongside a cocktail from the renovated VW Das Bar Bus. Or enjoy fine dining at the adjacent Hill and Vine, a huge restaurant with a somewhat rustic vibe. This is the place where meal-sized salads meet gargantuan surf and turf plates, and hearty tenderloin sandwiches.

More tasty local restaurants include cozy basement bistro, Vaudeville, offering organic salads, charcuterie boards, and gourmet sandwiches. Or order

dinner on the intimate Alla Campagne patio, from handcrafted pizzas to massive pasta plates, and decadent tiramisu.

Inside its Main Street shop, Fischer & Wieser offers more than 150 sauces, jams, and jellies. However, for your best 'taste' of F&W, visit the original Farmstead store. Mouthwatering products line the walls inside Das Peach Haus®, once a roadside market where



Fischer Wieser Cooking School

Wieser sold fresh peaches and his mother's jellies. Customer favorite flavors include multi-award-winning The Original Roasted Raspberry Chipotle Sauce, and Amaretto Peach Pecan Preserves.

Co-founded by Mark Wieser and Case Fischer, the company's offerings have expanded enormously with the help of Fischer's family. Our group enjoyed a delicious evening meal inside Fischer & Wieser's Cooking School. Selections included ultra-fresh Grilled Peach Rice and Arugula Salad with Peach Habanero Vinaigrette, and Tomato Galette.

There was also succulent Plum Garlic Pork Tenderloin and Chocolate Pot de Crème. Wines crafted by Fischer's son and Na-

pa-trained winemaker, Simon, accompanied the delicious meal.

Nightcaps at Dietz Distillery followed. After his European distilling education, a second son, Dietz, runs the business with his sister, Elle. Think cocktails such as Bee's Knees, with house-made Five Judges Gin, lemon juice and honey syrup, to Berry Lemon Drop, with Himberre vodka, lemon juice, simple syrup, and a sugar rim. Natural wood, bright lights and comfortable seating fill the tasting room.

You can even spend the night here! Book a five-bedroom, 1910 Farmhouse, an 1894 Private Palace Pullman Car for two, a cozy 'tiny home' or a lovingly-revamped 30-foot Airstream trailer.



Near Becker Vineyards tasting room, Hill Country Herb Garden Restaurant and Spa nestles amid beautiful mature trees and edible or spa-friendly plants. Antique stone buildings house the spa, some cozy lodging, and the restaurant, known for its emphasis on fresh, natural ingredients. My lunch began with a tall, refreshing glass of Green Goddess, which incorporated kale, celery, spinach, apple, and peach juices, plus aloe, spirulina, and vitamins. Then I savored a

pair of shrimp spring rolls with two dipping sauces.

If you enjoy homemade ice cream or big breakfasts, and a vintage vibe, be sure to check out the 1940s-inspired Airport Diner. This is also a place where there are aircraft views of the nearby Gillespie County Airport. It's part of Hangar Hotel & Conference Center whose pilot owner wanted to create a hotel that resembles a WWII military hangar. His goal was to honor the city's long history as a war training destination and home to the National Museum of the Pacific War. Reserve a booth for dinner at the enormous retro Officers' Club, and a cocktail at the Tiki bar, operating inside the low-lit Pacific Showroom.

For a delicious taste of Texas wines and local foods, plan a trip to Fredericksburg soon.





Heritage Hu

“Houston is a city of resilience a



*By Renée S. Gordon
History & Travel Writer*

Texas was the final region to receive word of emancipation, in June of 1865, after the Civil War. It was also the place where enslaved African descendants were brought by the Spanish into Spanish Texas. Their entry preceded James-town’s 19 blacks by nearly 100-years, arriving around 1528. Until 1836. Texas was Mexican territory and they outlawed slavery in 1824.

Stephen Austin established a colony on a grant inherited from his father in 1821 and in order to lure settlers to his colony he contracted ownership of 80-acres for each bondsman they brought with them. Slavery was a tenuous Texas institution until after the Texas Revolution and the 1845 admission of Texas to statehood. By the 1850s thirty percent of the population was comprised of slaves and at the start of the Civil War they numbered 182,566. The Civil War did not stop the trade, in fact, Texas is the only state where the enslaved population actually grew. Southern owners moved

their slaves to the interior of Texas because they were considered “safer.” #explore-houston

Houston was established on 6,600-acres at the juncture of Buffalo Bayou and White Oak bayous in 1836. Two brothers, John and Augustus paid \$10,000 for land to build a trading post. The settlement was named after Sam Houston and was Texas’ capitol for 2-years. In 1839 Houston was divided into four wards numbered clockwise and were designated, geographical, political districts.

The city boasts seven sites on the international UNESCO Slave Route. The route was initiated in 1994 to combat the general lack of knowledge surrounding the international slave trade and its ramifications. The Houston sites include Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Emancipation Park, Gregory School African American Library, Olivewood Cemetery and three historic homes, the Kellum House, Fourth Ward Cottage, and the Yates House,



Many emancipated slaves migrated to Houston after freedom was official. They founded a settlement that became known as Freedmen’s Town in the Third Ward. It became a center of culture and business and in the 1930s housed 33% of Houston’s black residents. The 10-acre Emancipation Park dates from 1872 and was purchased by former slaves for \$1,000. Some of the streets feature handmade and paved bricks that date from 1865. Freedmen’s Town was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1984. @visit_houston

Texas Southern University (TSU), once named the Houston College for Negroes, is one of the largest HBCUs in the US. It was founded as an

nting In Houston

and strength.”

– Beyoncé



outgrowth of H. Sweatt’s quest to go to Univ. of Texas’ School of Law. The school refused to integrate and instead created TSU to get around the law.

Third Ward was the place where Beyoncé grew up. Her home is privately owned but can be viewed from the exterior.



In the Fourth Ward the 1866 Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, the first African American Baptist Church in Houston, stands. On their third site 9 former slaves erected the first brick structure in Houston to be built and owned by African-Americans in 1879.

The Kinsey African American Art & History Collection is on view at the Houston Holocaust Museum and it is not to be missed. The Kinsey Collection features paintings, sculptures, photographs, documents and artifacts highlighting African American life from 1595 to present day. The exhibit juxtaposes the Holocaust experience with that of African American slavery. A life-sized rail car is particularly poignant. hnh.org

The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum is dedicated to collecting and preserving the stories of the African American military. The museum is divided both thematically and chronologically with artifacts, photographs, dioramas, artwork and videos. A special exhibit, “The Blue Helmets in Action,” focuses on the 93rd Infantry Division, the first WWII activated African American combat division. Buffalosoldiersmuseum.org

NASA/Space Center Houston offers an opportunity to get closer to space through tram tours, videos and exhibits. Highlights of a visit include a facilities tour, Historic Mission Operation Control Room, Artemis Exhibit, Astronaut Training Facility and a tactile experience with a moon rock!

La Maison in Midtown, an urban bed and breakfast, provides perfect accommodations for a Houston visit. Each room is creatively furnished and offers all the amenities including WIFI. A full breakfast is chef prepared and served daily.

Barbara Jordan, a graduate of TSU, was the first African American female Congresswoman and the first African American state senator since 1883. A life-sized sculpture of a seated Jordan is on the exterior of what was a historic post office building. The building is now a multi-use structure with shops, a food court and the country’s largest rooftop urban farm. The roof has public spaces and breath-taking, panoramic, city views.

Toast your trip at Pur Noire Urban Wineries, the first Black-owned urban winery in the downtown area. Pur Noire is owned by Carissa and Kenneth Stephens and a visit is an adventure in culture, camaraderie, soul food and exceptional wine.

More on Texas >[HERE](#)

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