

October, 2024

Extended

WEEKEND

Getaways

- Halloween Events
- Eerie Mystery
- Transylvanian Trail

*Let's Go . . .
Stay Awhile*

THE THORN

The epic story of
God's love for the
world and the spiritual
Battle for all Humanity

Coming Soon To a Theatre
Near You! Tickets >HERE

THE LIVE THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE

50
YEARS
1974-2024

Derby Dinner

PLAYHOUSE



OCT 3 - NOV 10

NOV 13 - DEC 31

JAN 8 - FEB 16



Celebrating 50 years of Entertainment!

812-288-8281 DERBYDINNER.COM



Full Salad Bar!



**Freshly prepared
dinner buffet included!**



Visit our Gift Shop!



*Our stage is in-the-round so every
seat gives you an excellent view!*

LOCATION:

525 Marriott Drive, Clarksville, IN
Just minutes from downtown Louisville,
Kentucky, off of I-65 in Southern Indiana.



**Scan to visit our
website!**

Table of Contents:

Columns:

Travel Trends - Robin O'Neal Smith	P. 6
Going Global: Transylvania - Renée Gordon	P.10
Travel Treasures - Product Reviews	P.13
Sports Spot - FlingGolf	P.14
Delicious Delights - Potao Chips	P. 15
Hotel Hospitality - Kathy Barnett	P.16
<u>South States Section</u>	P.18
Purple Island, FL - Julie Diebolt Price	P.22



Dawsonville, GA - Kathy Barnett	P.26
Vicksburgh, MS - Norman Reed	P.29
<u>Mid Eastern Section</u>	P.31
Black Theatre N. Carolina - Renée Gordon	P.33
Memphis Spirits, TN - Kathleen Walls	P.36
Escape Rooms - Robin O'Neal Smith	P. 40
<u>Northeast States Section</u>	P.43
LaPlata, MD - Michael Upton	P.44

Jersey Devil, NJ- Susan Ferrier	P.46
Thanksgiving, NY - Carol A. Peck	P.50
Gettysburg, PA - Renée Gordon	P.52
<u>Western States Section</u>	P56
<u>Midwest States Section</u>	P.66
Axe Murder, IA - Tim Trudell	P.68
River Haunts, OH - Sarah Miller	P.78
Fall Harvest, OH - Amanda Ensinger	P. 80





Extended Weekend Getaways Magazine is Published Monthly by BarnettPRO Publishing Corp. 1515 W. 3rd, Sedalia, Mo 65301
PHONE; 419-687-0002
Email: info@barnettpro.com

Publisher - Mike Arnold
Mike@barnettpro.com
Editor in chief - Kathy Barnett
kathy@barnettpro.com
Managing Editor - Norman Reed
norm@extendedweekendgetaways.com
Associate Editor - Robin O'Neal Smith
robin@extendedweekendgetaways.com
Associate Editor - Kandy Derden
kandy@extendedweekendgetaways.com
Global Editor - Jamie Ye
jamie@extendedweekendgetaways.com

Office Staff

Project Director - David Derden
david@extendedweekendgetaways.com
Technical Director - Norman Reed
norm@extendedweekendgetaways.com

Website:

Bethany Sowash - beth@barnettpro.com
Kaitlyn Bissen - kaitlyn@barnettpro.com

Visit our Website for event coverage between regular issues at
www.ExtendedWeekendGetaways.com

Copyright 2024 by BarnettPRO Publishing
All rights reserved. Reproductions of any material from this issue is expressly forbidden without permission of the publisher. Advertisements in this publication do not necessarily carry the endorsement of the publishing company.



Cover Photo:

This issue is packed with frights of all types. Just how many do you think you can find? Let's go count...

Up Close:

From the Editor



Spooky season is right around the corner, and studies show that paranormal experiences are actually...normal. Whether it's a ghost sighting, or a strange presence 83% of Americans say they have seen paranormal activity at their home.

It's that time of year again when the leaves turn golden, the air grows crisp, and the Halloween spirit is in full swing! Our October issue is packed with thrilling adventures and ghostly encounters that will have you on the edge of your seat—or hiding under the covers.

Halloween has always been a favorite holiday for families, and we're excited to help you make the most of it by exploring some of the spookiest and most exciting destinations across the state. Whether you're looking to scare the living screams out of yourself with haunted tours and terrifying attractions, or you're seeking something a bit more low-key for the little ones, this issue has it all.

For those who crave adrenaline-pumping experiences, we've rounded up the best haunted houses, eerie forests, and ghostly tales that will chill you to the bone. From haunted mansions with spine-tingling history to abandoned asylums where restless spirits are said to roam, there's no shortage of scares in store.

But Halloween fun doesn't have to be all about frights. For families with young ones, we've highlighted fun, safe events perfect for creating memories. From pumpkin patches and corn mazes to costume parades and kid-friendly trick-or-treat spots, you'll find plenty of festive fall fun.

So, grab your costumes and a sense of adventure, and join us as we explore all the tricks and treats our state has to offer this Halloween season. It's time to pack up the family and embark on an unforgettable spooky adventure!

Stay spooky,

Norman Reed
Managing Editor

TRAVEL TRENDS Bleisure Bliss Combines

The travel landscape is evolving in 2024, and Bleisure Bliss is leading the charge. According to a report by recruiting experts at Howdy, half of business travelers are now blending business trips into extended vacations, a trend known as “bleisure.”



By Robin O'Neal Smith
Associate Editor
<https://RobinOnealSmith.com>

This approach, which involves adding PTO and hotel stays to the end of a business trip, is not just a trend, but a convenient and preferred choice by 60% of workers over the traditional ‘workcation,’ where one travels to a destination but continues to work without taking time off.

With 2 in 5 Americans planning a business trip this year, nearly half intend to transform these trips into bleisure experiences, and many include family members. For 19% of those surveyed, bleisure travel is not just a preference but the only way they can afford a vacation. Welcome to the era of Bleisure Bliss, where work and leisure harmoniously coexist.

Some interesting facts about the travel trend of bleisure bliss Include:

According to workers, the top benefits of bleisure travel are relaxation after a work trip, lower vacation cost, fewer details to plan, and less PTO time needed to travel.



AC Hotel - Courtesy of AC Hotel

What does “bleisure” look like? Avg. of 4 PTO days added to their work trip for leisure, and 67% will stay at the same lodging as the work portion of their trip.

Bleisure travel can be a valuable business perk. Three in four employees say they’d work with international teams if it meant greater opportunity for bleisure travel, and 66% would be more attracted to a job that encouraged bleisure travel.

This not only enhances employee satisfaction but also promotes a healthier work-life balance, leading to increased productivity and retention rates.

My Personal Experiences

My personal experience with bleisure bliss long predates its current trend status. In my previous occupation, I would attend conferences and take a day or two off before or after the conference to visit the area and enjoy some downtime, often taking my family along for

Business & Leisure



Pinnacle Rock State Park - Courtesy of Mercer County

the fun. This not only allowed me to explore new places but also provided a much-needed break from the rigors of work. I recently had a press trip in Clearwater Beach, and while my time there included significant work, I found time to play and spent a couple of extra days in the area. During this visit, I stayed at the Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach. (<https://www.wyndhamgrand-clearwater.com>) The Wyndham Grand features premium

amenities and sophisticated designs. It delivers little luxuries, including lots of bright public space and desk areas in rooms for work. There are many onsite activities and the beach to keep family members occupied while you work, and they are nearby so that you can join them during lunch or free time.

You are also near many fun activities, such as the Little Toot Dolphin and Sunset Tour

and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Many restaurants are within walking distance. The Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach is a perfect place to enjoy bleisure bliss.

Other Places to Enjoy Bleisure Bliss

Another Clearwater Beach hotel offering a bleisure bliss program is the AC Hotel Clearwater Beach. The hotel is a Marriott property on Florida's Gulf Coast, and they are



Bleisure Bliss Picnic - Courtesy of Mercer County

think tanks.

After the meetings or work hours, it's time to unwind. With an extensive list of onsite outdoor activities, individuals can relax or push their boundaries and discover new passions. Whether they're seeking to recharge between meetings or extend their stay for a personal getaway, Paws Up offers the perfect balance.

Mercer County, West Virginia's "business-friendly" city of Princeton, is ideal for both business and leisure travelers. It offers exceptional facilities for business meetings and outdoor activities, creating a seamless blend of business and pleasure. (<https://visitmercercounty.com/>)

Stay at the Lake Mountain Manor (<https://lakemountainmanor.com>) or Bluefield Inn (<https://www.bluefieldinn.com>). These properties seamlessly integrate business and leisure, offering guests the perfect retreat after a productive day.

Lake Mountain Manor is a luxurious lakeside property. Its elegant suites and stunning views of the surrounding landscape offer the perfect mix of comfort and tranquility. Guests can take

offering the Hush Trip Haven package to make "discreet" remote work easier and more efficient for guests looking to blend business and leisure and working parents looking to preserve PTO while vacationing with their family over school breaks. They provide priority access to the business center and AC Media Salon for virtual meetings and tech needs, a hotel-supplied webcam cover, and a refreshment concierge. It's never been easier for remote workers to stay hush-hush about their vacation status-- especially in the greater Tampa market, which plays home to many meetings, events, and conventions annually.

For those who prefer a more secluded and nature-filled bleisure experience, consider Paws Up Montana (<https://www.pawsup.com>), a 37,000-acre private luxury guest ranch in Greenough, MT. This is an ideal retreat for bleisure travelers, offering a variety of unique venues perfect for Montana incentives, corporate retreats, executive meetings, planning sessions, team building, and creative



Paws Up Resort
Courtesy of Paws Up Resort

a nature walk, enjoy a leisurely paddle on the lake, or simply relax by the fire pit. enjoy a leisurely paddle on the lake; it is easy to transition from a day of work to an evening of leisure.

The charming Bluefield Inn combines modern amenities with classic elegance. It features a range of beautifully appointed rooms and spaces for work and relaxation. After a day of business, guests can explore the local culture or enjoy a gourmet meal at the inn's dining room.

Another activity guests can enjoy after hours is ATV Riding over 700 miles on the Hatfield-McCoy Trails. The trails are perfect for dirt bikes, ATVs, and UTVs.

How about hiking the peaceful trails with panoramic views at Pinnacle Rock State Park?

Or consider teeing up at The Resort at Glade Springs. Three championship golf courses offer a relaxed environment for client meetings and networking, set against the scenic backdrop of the Appalachian Mountains.

Mercer County's blend of business amenities, luxurious stays, and leisure activities makes it the perfect destination for those looking to maximize their time away from the office.

In Chicago, the Michelin Key Hotel, Waldorf Astoria (<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/chiwawa-waldorf-astoria-chicago>), in partnership with the award-winning Waldorf Astoria Chicago Spa, has recently launched new group wellness experiences that have been explicitly curated for groups staying on property. Whether attending conferences, meetings, or other

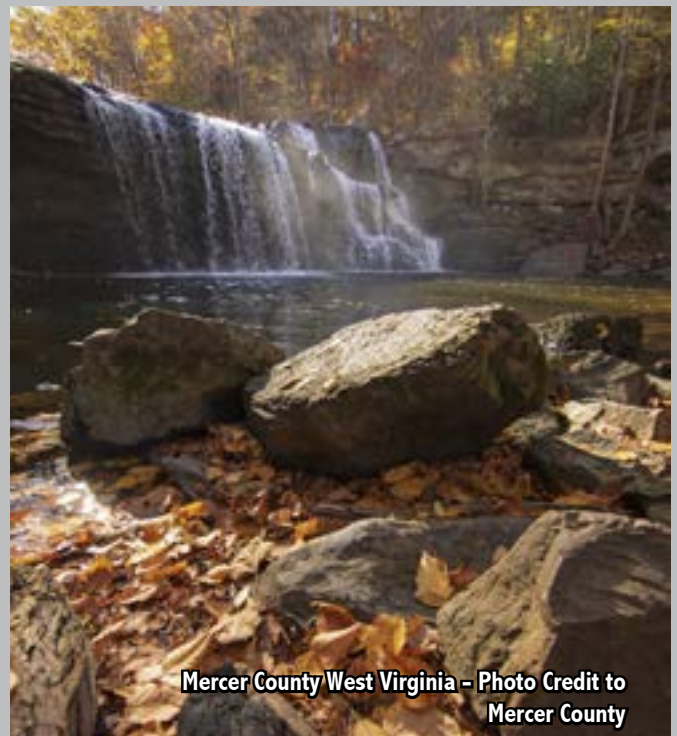


Waldorf Pool - Courtesy of Paige Voeffray

events at the hotel, groups are encouraged to enhance their stay with workshops, signature wellness experiences, and revitalizing spa treatments that are tailored to support guests in achieving their optimal physical and mental well-being. The Spa's

range of group wellness experiences is particularly suited to business travelers who can offset a multi-day meeting with a Guided Meditation and Sound Bath Ritual or tune into the time-zone with the Calming Slumber Jet Lag Recovery Treatment.

At the end of the day, the rise of the Bleisure Bliss travel trend is tied to better work-life balance for many travelers. Combining pleasure with work makes life more enjoyable, and when the family can travel along, that is pure bliss.



Mercer County West Virginia - Photo Credit to Mercer County

GOING GLOBAL Romania

The Transylvanian



‘You may go anywhere you wish in the castle, except where the doors are locked, where of course you will not wish to go.’



By Renée Gordon
History Travel Writer

The movies are what really made Dracula a star. He has appeared in more films than any other horror character, more

than 250 and counting, is the lead character in the most published book after the Bible and that number doesn't include comedy and cartoon depictions. Bram Stoker, the author, never visited Romania and was dependent on stories he heard. Stoker's personal notes are part of a viewable collection housed in Philadelphia's Rosenbach Museum.

Jonathan Harker, states that Transylvania is one of the least known areas of Southeast Europe and that remains true. The trail is located in an area of Romania that is still known as Transylvania and the novel functions as a literary guide to the sites where the fictional tale is to have played out.

Vlad, Tepes II, later known as Dracula, was an honorific given

Trail

to his father, Dracul. The name means “dragon.” Vlad became known as “the son of the dragon,” or Dracula. Vlad was a historical figure who morphed into a semi-mythical figure. He was born in 1431 and in 1448 he was imprisoned in Turkey for 4 years. During this period his father was murdered, his brother was buried alive and he developed an unquenchable thirst for vengeance. Vlad was believed to have been killed in battle in 1476 and decapitated. Most who travel across Romania begin their journey from Bucharest, Romania’s capital and most

populous city. Snagov Monastery, constructed in 1408, was erected in on an island in the center of Snagov Lake. It is thirty-one miles from Bucharest. Architecturally it is Byzantine, has 4 towers and it retains its original brick. A number of the frescoes are the original work of Dobromir the Young from 1563. According to the legend Vlad was buried secretly after his assassination in the Snagov Monastery.

On his way to the castle Harker stopped in the village of Bistrita in the Somes Valley. Near



the Borgo Pass. The Dracula-themed, Golden Crown Hotel and Restaurant are there. Highlights of the hotel are the saan underground salme meal Harker ate while waiting for transportation and a mural in the cellar that depicts the life of Dracula and displays Dracula’s coffin.

The road from the Golden Crown leads through the Bistrita Valley and beside the Bistrita River close to the pass is the Turda Salt Mine. This awesome attraction features a salt lake where visitors can sail, a concert hall and an amusement park.

Sighisoara is a wonderful medieval town that is a World Heritage Site. The name itself is Latin for “the land beyond the forest”. Walking tours of the village should include the Clock Tower History Museum, the Medieval Weapons Col-



lection and the Torture Room. The fortified Citadel is the best preserved on the continent. Vlad was born and lived here until he was four. His former home is now a bright yellow restaurant. Restaurant Casa Vlad Dracula’s menu features vampire-themed meals.

Brasov is an oft visited village with a direct connection to

Vlad. It is on the city walls that he ordered merchants impaled. Brasov is also the location of the Black Church, the largest medieval church in Europe. It owes its blackened appearance to a 1689 fire. The tour ends with a visit to Bran Castle, most closely linked with the legend and said to have been a model for Castle Dracula. Originally a fortress, it was constructed on a 196-foot cliff in 1370. Self-guided tours include furnished rooms, secret staircases and twisting corridors.



The Dracula Trail is approximately a 240-mile drive within the Carpathian Mountains. Live the legend and separate fact from fiction while visiting sites connected with the legendary Dracula by traveling the Romania trail.

“Listen to them, the children of the night. What music they make!”



TRAVEL TREASURES

Must Haves For Fall



Soothing Facial Mask by FACTORFIVE

This helps soothe irritation and inflammation while providing moisturization to your skin. Featuring a bio-cellulose sheet mask based with a powerful blend of adult human stem cell factors combined with nourishing, natural botanicals of aloe, green tea extract, and hemp seed oil to help replenish and soften the skin. Enjoy this ultra-relaxing spa treatment after a day in the sun, a long trip, or cold outdoor winds. Watch the stress melt away.

Price \$22 (Shipping calculated at checkout.)

<https://factorfiveskin.com>

Spot Detergent

These Swedish-made sheets are compact, eco-friendly, and super easy to use. Eco-friendly: Say goodbye to plastic waste with this plant-based, plastic-free packaging. There is no measuring or pouring required with these sheets. Compact and convenient, Spot Detergent Sheets are perfect for travels. No spills or mess in the suitcase or overnight bag. Made with top-notch EU ingredients, these sheets deliver superior cleaning performance every time. Toss the sheet(s) into the washer and start the cycle – it's that simple!

Price: \$8.99 for 60 loads –

<https://SpotDetergent.com>, Amazon & Walmart



WanderFull's HydroBag



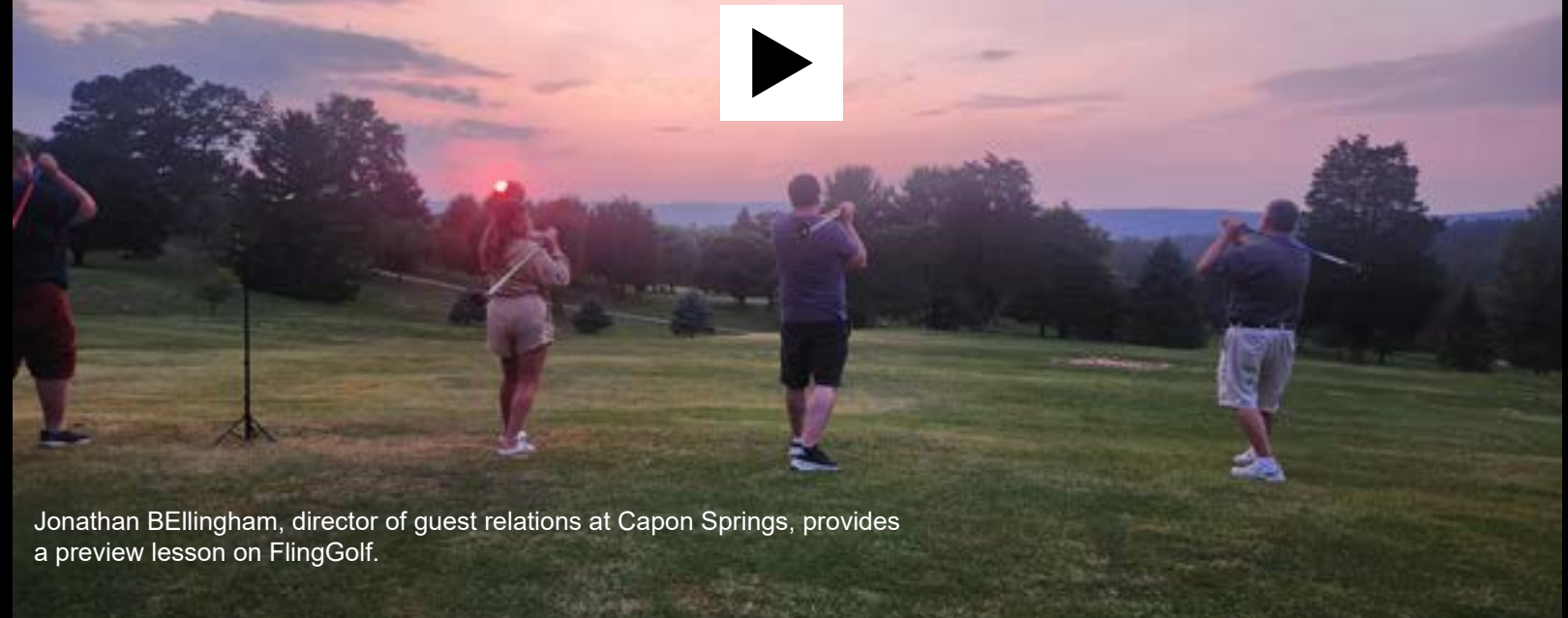
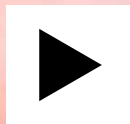
Never sacrifice style for function while going through TSA. This stylish water bottle bag is ideal for keeping your wallet, boarding pass, and phone in one place as you head to your gate. The patent-pending design has water resistant pockets that will store your water bottle, in a waterproof main compartment that fits up to a 32 oz. bottle. Other features include interchangeable adjustable straps for a crossbody bag, double-zipper pockets for storing all the essentials, and is available in over 15 colors.

Price: \$59

<https://wanderfullbrand.com/>

SPORTS SPOT: FlingGolf

An Alternative to Golf



Jonathan Bellingham, director of guest relations at Capon Springs, provides a preview lesson on FlingGolf.

Capon Springs and Farms, nestled in the picturesque Potomac Highlands of West Virginia, has become a premier destination for the exciting hybrid sport of FlingGolf. Known for blending lacrosse and golf, FlingGolf allows players to “fling” a regular golf ball using a specially designed FlingStick, offering a fast-paced, family-friendly alternative to traditional golf. Unlike standard golf, players need just one FlingStick to execute every type of shot, eliminating the need for a cumbersome golf bag. The sport can be played on both regulation and prep courses, right alongside traditional golfers, and is scored just like golf, making it an exciting and inclusive option for athletes of all skill levels.

Jonathan Bellingham, co-owner of Capon Springs, is a passionate advocate for the sport and

a two-time FlingGolf Masters Champion. His commitment to promoting FlingGolf has not only made Capon Springs a hub for the sport in West Virginia but also earned him the 2023 WV Tourism Innovator of the Year Award. Under Bellingham’s leadership, Capon Springs has hosted major events, including the World League FlingGolf Potomac Highland Regional, further solidifying its reputation as the state’s FlingGolf pioneer.

Bellingham has also taken steps to introduce FlingGolf across the state, training golf professionals at notable locations such as the Greenbrier Sporting Club, Omni Homestead Resort, and various WV State Parks. His dedication to growing the sport aligns perfectly with Capon Springs’ mission to offer engaging, accessible, and fun recre-

ational activities for all ages.

FlingGolf is easy to pick up—most people can learn the sport in just a few minutes. Capon Springs makes it even more convenient by providing complimentary FlingSticks and golf balls, available to borrow without a reservation. Guests can simply inquire at the Front Desk to get started. Demos and clinics are offered weekly during peak season and monthly in the off-season, allowing everyone to experience the thrill of this innovative sport.

By embracing FlingGolf, Capon Springs and Jonathan Bellingham have brought a fresh and energetic activity to the resort’s array of outdoor adventures, making it a must-visit destination for both avid golfers and those looking for a new, exciting experience.

DELICIOUS DELIGHTS

Potato Chip Factory

MT. JACKSON, VA. - From the moment the first batch of chips was dropped into the fryer in 1992, the process of creating a good-tasting, quality product was the main goal.

“All we really wanted to do was make a great potato chip,” explains Founder Sarah Cohen on the “about us” page of their website. “We started with a tiny little cooker, a garden rake, a great recipe, a lot of energy, some good ole fashioned grit, a little bit of dauntlessness, with some twenty-something delusion thrown in for good measure.”

Her belief was that if they made a quality product, there would be people who would want it. She was right. The company has been frying chips for more than 25 years and can create around 1,200 pounds of their chips per hour during production. They source their potatoes locally and even send the peelings to feed nearby cattle.

In sticking with their brand name, Route 11 provides 11 different flavors. The dill pickle flavor was a favorite in our group. Another favorite was the Yukon Gold, which is only available by the growing season of August to October.



The factory is open to the public Mondays — Saturdays, 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. They are closed on major holidays.

There are no actual walk-through tours in the locations, but there are large windows where you can view the entire process of making the chips. It is best to call ahead to verify their frying schedule. If you have a large group (15 people or more), do call ahead so the staff can prepare for your visit. Individuals, families and small groups are welcome at any time.

Staff members will be happy to talk to you about the potatoes, the process, and the daily realities of chipland.

There are plenty of chips to sample and purchase, and there is no charge for the fry viewing. However, they do ask that no photos be taken of any of the production areas.

See <https://www.rt11.com/>



HOTEL HOSPITALITY

Escape To The We



By Kathy Barnett
Editor - In - Chief

Looking for a charming weekend retreat surrounded by the beauty of rural Virginia? The Western Front Hotel in St. Paul is the perfect destination. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast or just in need of some relaxation, this boutique hotel offers all the amenities you need for a memorable escape.

Start your day with a complimentary grab-and-go breakfast, available daily from 5 AM to 7 AM, before setting off to explore the local area. Located just a minute away from the historic Lyric Theater and a short drive from Clinch River State

Park, the hotel's prime location puts you near some of the best outdoor activities in the region. Biking, hiking, and water sports are all within reach, and the hotel even offers bicycles for rent to help you make the most of your adventure.

For an extra thrill, take advantage of the ATV rental rides offered by the hotel. You can ride up the mountain and experience breathtaking views, perfect for adding an adventurous touch to your stay. After an exhilarating day, treat yourself to a meal at the adjoining Puerto Nuevo restaurant, serving delicious Mexican cuisine and seafood. It's the ideal spot to relax with a flavorful dish before winding down for the evening.

Western Front Hotel



Additional features include free private parking, a 24-hour front desk for all your needs, and luggage storage. Plus, the hotel offers contactless check-out for peace of mind.

If you're ready to discover a hidden gem in the heart of rural Virginia, the Western Front Hotel is waiting to welcome you.

For reservations or more details, visit Western Front Hotel or call the front desk for assistance. Don't miss out on the opportunity to explore St. Paul's scenic beauty and history while staying in comfort!

For reservations or for more information, visit <https://www.westernfronthotel.com/>

After a day of exploring, unwind on the hotel's spacious terrace or enjoy the fun in the arcade/game room. If you're craving a bite, head to Puerto Nuevo, the on-site restaurant, for a satisfying meal, and cap off your evening with a refreshing drink at the bar/lounge.



When it's time to rest, retreat to one of the 30 air-conditioned rooms, each thoughtfully designed with modern comforts. Enjoy free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs with cable, and private bathrooms stocked with complimentary toiletries. With a refrigerator, bottled water, and ironing amenities in each room, you'll feel right at home.

Planning a romantic weekend? Couples rave about the Western Front Hotel's serene atmosphere and rated it a 9.5 for two-person trips.



Southern States



WAREHOUSE

OF

FEAR

Arkansas



HAUNTED HOUSE

AND THE
ALL NEW



SWAMP WALKERS REVENGE

SKIP THE LINE. BUY YOUR
TICKETS
HERE!



OCT/NOV 2024						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

THE UNDEAD HAVE INFESTED RIVERSIDE ONCE AGAIN!
TAKE OUR TRANSPORT VEHICLE TO THE DROP OFF POINT AND
EVADE THE WALKERS AS YOU TRY TO MAKE IT TO THE SAFE
ZONE... BUT THIS TIME YOU ARE UNARMED!

LOCATED AT 17023 CHAMBER SPRINGS RD. SILOAM SPRINGS, AR 72761 • (479) 524 - 0014

OPEN EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT IN OCTOBER
INCLUDING HALLOWEEN NIGHT + NOV 1 & 2

TICKET BOOTH OPENS @ 6:30 - ATTRACTIONS OPEN @ 7

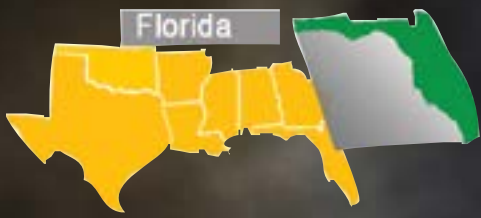
GHOSTS OF RIVERSIDE WALKING TOUR - THURS, OCT 10

WALK THE HAUNTED TRAILS OF RIVERSIDE AND HEAR THE HISTORY OF THOSE THAT ROAM THE GROUNDS

WAREHOUSE OF FEAR NO SCARE NIGHT - THURS, OCT 24

THIS EVENT PROVIDES ALL THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND SMELLS OF A HAUNTED HOUSE, WITHOUT THE SCARE FACTOR.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO: WWW.RIVERSIDE-ENTERTAINMENT.COM



Spooks Are Here!

Whether you are looking for a spine-tingling scare or just a gentle shiver, St. Augustine has the right amount of spooky experiences to get your haunts on.

With more than 450 years of history, ancient narrow streets, two historic cemeteries with graves dating back hundreds of years, a brooding Spanish fortress, and endless stories of roaming spirits, it's the perfect place to seek spooky adventures during this year's spooky season.

Tours galore are stepping up their game for the hallowed season.

A new addition to the tour lineup from The Tasting Tours,

the Ghost with the Most Cocktail Tours will begin setting the mood in September. Learn more about two ancient burial grounds with a guided tour of Tolomato Cemetery and Huguenot Cemetery.

Adventure Boat Tours will launch the Boo Cruises for frightfully-fun experiences on the water in St. Augustine every Friday and Saturday evening in October. The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum has been home to generations of St. Augustinians since 1798. From late September through October Mortality and Mourning—A Century of Death, a family-appropriate exploration of 1800s medicine and mourning practices is featured at the

museum. And, they will host their annual Halloween Safe Trick or Treating on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 1-4 p.m., with games, crafts, candy, and more.

The St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park features the annual Creatures of the Night, Oct. 18-20, with the gates staying open late for three nights of eerie bugs, beasts, and hands-on encounters. Get ready for treats, tricks, and fun for all ages at the World Golf Village Annual Halloween Bash on Oct. 5. Ancient City Kids Day on Oct. 26, is a day just for the littles, with games, giveaways, bounce houses, and live entertainment.

Looking for a truly unique Hal-

loween celebration? On Oct. 11 and 12, The St. Augustine Ballet, presents a classic spooky experience – The Dracula Ballet! Craft a custom Sanderson sister-inspired lipstick at the Salem-inspired Hocus Pocus Beauty with Hopcraft Collective, flying in on Oct. 17. Hair bands and outrageous costumes take center stage at the 8th Annual Headless Bangers Costume Ball on Oct. 26.

Looking to sweat before the treats? Ancient City Brewing is hosting its annual Boos and Brews 5K Race and Halloween Party on Saturday, Oct. 26. The 5K and 1-mile fun run kick off at 5 p.m., with a post-race party complete with an adult costume contest.

There are many more tours and events still in planning stages. Make your Halloween Haunt planning a breeze with the trip planner or Florida's Historic Coast new AI Assistant.

Located midway between Daytona Beach and Jacksonville, Florida's Historic Coast includes historic St. Augustine, the outstanding golf and seaside elegance of Ponte Vedra, the beauty of Hastings, Elkton, St. Johns, and 42 miles of pristine Atlantic beaches.

For more information, call 1.800.653.2489 or go to www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com.

More on Florida
> [HERE](#)



Ancient City
SPOOKTACULAR
LIVE & LAUGH

Every Team gets
RINGS

October 26th-27th
Saint Augustine

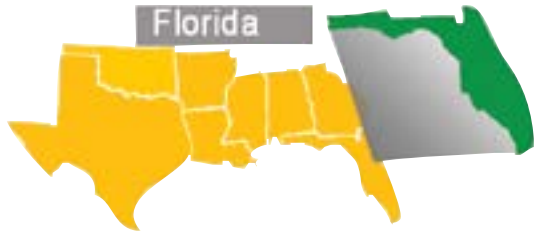
FLORIDA
USSSA
LIVE & LAUGH

Scott Rutherford
813-245-2642

Chris Crawford
904-382-3377

www.FLBASEBALL.USSSA.com

The background of the flyer features a dark, stormy sky with lightning, two glowing lanterns, and three lit jack-o'-lanterns on a wooden surface.



The Purple Island



*By Julie Diebolt Price
Freelance Travel Writer*

The Purple Island, Islamorada, where the sky is painted in shades of purple, never fails to amaze residents and tourists.

Atmospheric conditions and reflections of light off the water cause the purple hue. This spectacle traced back to early Spanish explorers, makes this island in the Florida Keys a must-see on your road trip journey. Come along with me as I explore all that Islamorada has to offer.

What Islamorada Is Known For

Islamorada is known for fishing and snorkeling. It is known as the “Sportfishing Capital of the World” because Islamorada hosts the largest fishing fleet per square mile in the world.



The Netflix family-drama series *Bloodline* was filmed in Islamorada, and the series takes place on the beach at the Moorings Village and Spa.

When Is The Best Time To Visit The Florida Keys

From December through April, the Florida Keys enjoy ideal

weather conditions, making these months the best time to visit. These months also offer the best water sports and fishing conditions. Temperatures hover between the comfortable mid-70s and low 80s Fahrenheit, providing a welcome respite from the chill of winter elsewhere.

It was unseasonably cool and breezy when I was there in early February. However, the sunny days reminded me of the tropical Hawaiian Islands.

November and May are transition months between seasons. Hurricanes occur in the summer, and temps are hot and sultry then.

December through February are the busiest months on the Florida Keys, with high occupancy rates and costs.

Where Is Islamorada

Just 90 minutes south of Miami and 90 minutes north of Key West, the Village of Islands (aka Islamorada) comprises the Upper Matecumbe, Lower Matecumbe, and Plantation Keys. The Overseas Highway connects the islands.

Islamorada's "bay side" is on the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic Ocean is on the east. The water is stunning turquoise and



is a popular destination for snorkeling, boating, and fishing.

How Big Is Islamorada

Islamorada has a population of about 7,000 residents. The island is about 20 miles long and is between Mile Markers 80 and 90 in Monroe County.

Most of the white sand beaches are man-made and are at the resorts. Anne's Beach is an excellent place for beginning snorkelers because the water is shallow, but the beach is narrow and pebbly. A local told me that visitors don't go to Islamorada for the beaches; they go for the fishing.

Things To Do In Islamorada

Here are some suggestions if you are looking for things to do in Islamorada besides fishing.

Windley Key Fossil Reef Geolog-

ical State Park

The Windley Key Fossil Reef comprises Key Largo limestone, an ancient coral reef that turned into rock over time. In the 1900s, this limestone was used to build Henry Flagler's famous Overseas Railroad. The limestone quarry remained in operation until the 1960s when it produced the decorative stone called Key-stone.

You can explore five different nature trails that showcase the island's natural beauty and landscape. At the visitor center, you'll see exhibits displaying old quarry machines and cross-sections of the ancient coral reefs.

The Rain Barrel Artisan Village

Traveling south on the Overseas Highway coming into town, you can't miss Betsy in front of The Rain Barrel Artisan Village.



monthly art walks, partner studios, and galleries.

Florida Keys Brewing Company

The Florida Keys Brewing Company’s tasting room is open every day of the week. Relax in the colorful Beer Garden, taste the Tap Room, and explore the microbrewery. They have live music events and are pet and kid-friendly.

Robie’s Marina

Robie’s Marina is the island destination for shopping, boating, paddling, kayaking, water exploration, and sea life experiences. They are famous for tarpon feeding.

Betsy is a biologically correct model of a Florida Spiny Lobster that is 30 feet high and 40 feet long and is the perfect background for a selfie. “She is one of America’s most famous roadside attractions.”

More than 500 artists are represented in The Rain Barrel Artisan Village galleries. There, you’ll find arts, crafts, resort wear, souvenirs, and refreshments.

History of Diving Museum

History of Diving Museum is a must for history enthusiasts. You’ll learn about the evolution of diving equipment and the history of underwater exploration.

Theater of the Sea

Theater of the Sea is a marine

mammal park with tropical gardens and lagoons and is home to sea lions, fish, sharks, stingrays, sea turtles, dolphins, and birds. Family owned since 1946, this is a destination for the whole family.

Key Dives

Key Dives is a first-class dive facility. They provide diving and snorkeling on Islamorada, which includes coral restoration dives and reef conservation.

Morada Way Arts & Cultural District

Morada Way Arts & Cultural District is an arts non-profit group in the heart of Islamorada in a six-block corridor between the iconic Green Turtle Inn and the Hurricane Monument. The District sponsors

Hurricane Monument

Located at Mile Marker 81.5, the Hurricane Monument is a memorial to the 408 people who tragically lost their lives during the 1935 Labor Day hurricane. This powerful storm was the strongest hurricane ever to hit the United States. The monument is carved out of coral limestone found in the area.



Florida Keys History and Discovery Center

At the Islander Resort, you’ll find the Florida Keys History and Discovery Center, which

has a permanent exhibit that features a replica of what Indian Key looked like in 1840. The exhibit also tells the stories of the Overseas Highway and the people who made lives for themselves on these islands over the years.

Anne's Beach

Situated at the southern tip of Lower Matecumbe Key, around Mile Marker 73.5, you'll find Anne's Beach. This local hotspot was featured in the Netflix series "Bloodline." It was the last stop on my Islamorada itinerary.

This small beach is a memorial to Anne Eaton, a local environmentalist who dedicated her efforts to preserving and protecting Islamorada's natural environment and wildlife.

Florida Keys Food Tours

The Florida Keys Food Tours dishes more than food. Craig Zabransky and his wife Maggie delivered one of the best tours I've ever attended. We sampled authentic Cuban sandwiches, traditional and the best Key Lime Pie, and Hibiscus tea. Craig taught the guests about the local flora and fauna, showed us filming locations for the TV show Bloodline, visited Pilar, the sister ship to Ernest Hemingway's boat (also named Pilar), and toured the Upper Matecumbe Key church with spectacular stained-glass windows.

Craig shared 200 years of Keys history, taught us about island foods, and introduced the art scene and historic landmarks. He even demonstrated how to blow the conch shell.

Dining on Islamorada



Islamorada is known for its fresh seafood. Numerous oceanfront restaurants offer delicious seafood dishes like stone crab claws, lobster, and locally caught fish. I ate at these popular dining spots:

- Shrimp Shack, famous for Guy Fieri's show Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives on the Food Network
- Lazy Days Restaurant, where I ordered the signature dish—Fresh Catch, coconut fried and Lazy Days Style
- Lorelei Restaurant and Bar, where I had my first conch in the Keys Conch Chowder and Lorelei's Smoked Fish Dip

- Islamorada Fish Company Restaurant, where I had the Smoked Wahoo Dip, this time with delicious crisp cucumbers
- Pierre's, where I enjoyed a spectacular sunset over my dinner of renowned Key West Pink Shrimp and a delicate Truffle Gnocchi paired with a crisp Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough, New Zealand

Casa Morada As Home Base

While exploring Islamorada, I stayed at Casa Morada, a boutique hotel in the heart of Islamorada. This hotel is known for its luxurious and intimate atmosphere. It was the perfect home base for peace and relaxation. The hotel's central location in Islamorada allowed me to easily venture out and discover all that Islamorada had to offer.

Casa Morada boasts a private beach where visitors can relax, swim, and have extraordinary boating experiences. The hotel's rooms are elegantly decorated with ocean or garden views. A pool, cabana, outdoor shower, hammock, lounge chairs, and bar are on the private, man-made island exclusively for guests. A delicious breakfast buffet is included, and the balcony overlooks the ocean and island.

Casa Morada hosted me, but all opinions are my own.

More on Florida >HERE

Historic Day Of Fun For

SOUTHEAST

GEORGIA

Kathy Barnett
Editor-In-Chief



In the heart of the North Georgia mountains, Dawsonville offers a delightful blend of outdoor adventure, history, and small-town charm that makes it the perfect destination for an extended weekend getaway. Our journey began with a stay at the stunning Amicalola Falls State Park and Lodge, a hidden gem where nature and comfort meet.

The lodge, perched near the top of Georgia's tallest waterfall, provides breathtaking views and serves as the gateway to some of the region's best hiking trails. We couldn't resist the allure of the waterfall trail, which led us to the majestic Amicalola Falls cascading 729 feet into the valley below. For the more adventurous, the park is also the location of the Len Foote Hike Inn. A five-mile trek through lush forests is required to reach it, but rewards hikers with a rustic retreat featuring a communal dining area and recreation room—a perfect spot to unwind after a day on the trails.

After a long day of traveling,



we had a lovely dinner at the Cascades Restaurant within the resort. We were seated by floor-to-ceiling window so we could enjoy the sunset over the beautiful mountainside. We each ordered our favorites from the generous menu, not even thinking about saving room for dessert. So we took our luscious dessert choices back to our room for a late night snack. I finished mine the next morning, not a wise choice due to breakfast being an all-you-can-eat buffet with a choice of everything entitled "breakfast food." Upon completion, we were ready for a funfilled day of

exploring.

No visit to Dawsonville would be complete without a stop at the

Atlanta Motorsports Park, shown above. This state-of-the-art facility, with its challenging road course and high-speed go-kart track, offers a thrill for both seasoned racers and novices alike. We spent the day experiencing the adrenaline rush of



Dawsonville Is Full A Great Getaway

the track, where precision and speed converge in a high-octane adventure. If you're a motor-sport enthusiast, this park is a must-visit.

For a scenic drive, we headed to the historic Steele Bridge and Edge of the World Trail. The winding roads and natural beauty of the area provided a peaceful contrast to the high-speed excitement of the motor-sports park. The Steele Bridge, an old one-lane bridge over the Etowah River, offers a glimpse into Dawsonville's past, while the Edge of the World Trail, with its serene river views and rocky shoals, is perfect for a leisurely hike.

Dawsonville is steeped in history, particularly as the unofficial birthplace of NASCAR. In the early 20th century, this quiet town was a hub for moonshine runners who souped up their cars to outrun the law while

transporting illegal whiskey to Atlanta. These daredevil drivers unknowingly laid the foundation for stock car racing as they pushed their modified vehicles to the limit on the winding mountain roads.

This rich racing heritage is celebrated at the Dawsonville Pool Room Diner, a local institution owned by Gordon Pirkle, and founder of the Dawsonville History Museum, home to the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame. The Pool Room is a shrine to all things NASCAR, and its walls are adorned with racing memorabilia, including a collection dedicated to the town's most famous son, racing legend Bill Elliott. When you hear the iconic "si-reen" blare, it's a sure sign that another victory has been claimed by a Dawsonville driver.

The Hall of Fame pays tribute to Georgia's greatest drivers

and the vehicles that made history on the track. Whether you're a seasoned racing fan or new to the sport, the museum provides fascinating insights into how Dawsonville became the heartbeat of NASCAR.



For unique one-of-a-kind souvenirs or gifts, stop in at Around Back At Rocky's Place, a gallery of Folk Art. More than 200 self-taught artists are represented here with their paintings, pottery, carvers and more. The owner, Tracey Burnette, is extremely knowledgeable of her inventory and a gracious host to help direct your specific interest. Many of her items are also available from her online store at <https://aroundbackatrockysplace.com/collections>

Whether you're a racing aficionado, nature lover, or simply looking for a charming getaway, Dawsonville is a great choice.

More on Georgia >[HERE](#)





St. Louis Cathedral

NEW ORLEANS - There are several stories of hauntings at St. Louis Cathedral. Some say the ghost of Pere Dagobert, pastor in the mid-1700s, is believed to silently walk through the isles. After worship, it has been reported guests have witnessed his spirit walking with his head lowered through the cathedral. Some say his spirit haunts the gardens while others claim to see his shadow through the beautiful stained glass windows.

Facing Jackson Square and flanked by the historic Cabildo on one side and the equally historic Presbytere on the other, St. Louis Cathedral is among the tallest and most imposing structures in the French Quarter. It has been seen in many movies, TV shows and other visual presentations as it is famous as a local and inter-

national architectural icon.

As the mother church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, it is the oldest continuously active Roman Catholic Cathedral in the United States. Originally built in 1727, it was dedicated to King Louis IX of France. In 1987, the cathedral witnessed the historic visit of Pope John Paul II and the plaza directly in front of the church was renamed in the pope's honor. Shortly afterward the status of the Cathedral was upgraded to a Basilica.

The towering center spire of St. Louis Cathedral, complimented by two smaller spires on each side and a perfectly symmetrical façade opening up to a pedestrians-only plaza has been a favorite subject for painters, photographers and filmmakers for many years.

Viewed from Jackson Square, with the statue of Andrew Jackson in the foreground, this is possibly the single visual image most closely associated with New Orleans.

Although it is a Catholic house of worship, the rich history and beautiful design of St. Louis Cathedral appeals to visitors of all faiths and nationalities. The interior is open for self-guided tours when masses and other functions such as weddings or funerals are not going on. The stained glass windows and paintings in the church are extraordinary works of art, as is the Rococo-style, gilded altar that graces the front of the church.

It seems the ghost of Pere Antoine is most active around the Holiday seasons.

More on Louisiana >[HERE](#)

Vicksburg Haunts



Norman Reed
Managing Editor

If you are seeking a spooky, yet unforgettable, weekend getaway, Mississippi offers one of the South's most notorious haunted locations: The McRaven House in Vicksburg, is often referred to as "The Most Haunted House in Mississippi."

This historic river city sets the perfect eerie atmosphere with its rich Civil War history and ghostly tales. Check into one of the charming local bed and breakfasts, such as Baer House Inn, which is rumored to have its own share of hauntings. The inn is beautifully preserved with Victorian decor, adding an extra spooky element to your stay.

Once you've settled in, head over to McRaven House for the highlight of your weekend. Built in 1797 and expanded over the years, this house is one of the oldest structures in Mississippi and has seen tragedy, war, and death. Known for its paranormal activity, it's considered one of the most haunted houses in the United States.

The guided evening tour will take you through the three different time periods the house represents—from the Frontier era to the Civil War, and into the Victorian age. With stories of Confederate soldiers, heartbroken women, and the tragic deaths that have occurred in the home, it's no wonder guests report everything from cold spots to ghostly apparitions.

The next day, start with breakfast at Walnut Hills, a Southern dining gem in a historic house. After fueling up, explore Vicksburg's other haunted spots like Cedar Hill Cemetery, also known as Soldiers' Rest. The final resting place for thousands of Confederate soldiers, the quiet and eerie atmosphere will make you feel as if you're stepping back in time.

Continue to Vicksburg National Military Park, where reports of ghost sightings from the Battle of Vicksburg are common. Many visitors have claimed to hear the sounds of battle—muffled

gunfire and the distant cries of soldiers.

For lunch, head downtown to Rusty's Riverfront Grill for some seafood with a view of the Mississippi River. Then, explore the charm-

ing streets of downtown Vicksburg, filled with antique shops and quirky boutiques. Don't miss the Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum for a fun break from the hauntings.

As the sun sets, prepare for another spine-chilling evening with the Haunted Vicksburg Ghost Tour. This walking tour takes you through the streets of historic downtown, where your guide will share ghostly tales tied to the town's tragic history. This tour immerses you in the dark side of Vicksburg's past.

A final stop is the Anchuca Mansion, one of the oldest antebellum homes in the area. Not officially listed as haunted, many guests and staff have experienced strange occurrences in this historic home.

More on Mississippi >[HERE](#)





Sea World's Howl-O-Scream

This event has transformed the peaceful park you once knew into something sinister this Halloween. Nightfall has awakened hundreds of creatures roaming Terror-tories and lurking the halls of haunted houses. SeaWorld's Howl-O-Scream includes FREE haunted houses that are included with your park admission.



Back to fuel your nightmares, Howl-O-Scream returns with scarier experiences including SIX horror-filled haunts and EIGHT Terror-tories (ONE ALL-NEW)! Replenish your thirst for terror at one of our signature Howl-O-Scream bars. Find ultimate thrills, as you ride coasters at night. Close the night with live entertainment by some of your favorite creepy creatures and monsters. Thrills and chills await you this September and October at Howl-O-Scream, the BIGGEST and SCARIEST Halloween event in Texas!

Warning: At 7 p.m., the park's scare level increases from haunting to horrifying, which may be too intense for young children. Howl-O-Scream is not recommended for children

under the age of 13 or the faint of heart. Howl-O-Scream is included with park admission.

- SeaWorld San Antonio: Open through October 27
- Tickets: Starting at \$52.99 (includes park admission)
- New and returning attractions like the Dis-Assembly Line and Milton Creek Manor deliver spine-chilling terror, while The Swamp and Atlantis: The Cursed Chasm feature dark legends and evil spirits. Scare zones such as Blackwater Bayou and Vampire Point keep the fear alive, with new additions like Till Death Do Us Party offering



endless chaos.

- Enhance your Howl-O-Scream experience in a frightfully delightful way with priority Haunted House access and more! Get front-of-the-line access with Front Line Fear.
- <https://seaworld.com/san-antonio/events/howl-o-scream/>

More on Texas >HERE

Mid-Eastern States



Haunted Campus



Central East

BOWLING GREEN – The newest Bowling Green attraction “Hilltop History and Haunts Tour” will provide the city and county’s first authentic ghost tour at Western Kentucky University. The tour will unravel the mysteries of the historic campus dating back to the 1800s and educate participants on those living, dead and buried who’ve contributed to The Hill’s spooky intrigue.

The tour will take place in the evenings and last approximately 90-minutes. Participants will learn about the mysteries of Van Meter Hall, Cherry Hall and Cravens Library, all rumored to be haunted. Could they be the spirits of a long-gone professor? A worker who passed tragically during construction of a building? Or someone from an earlier time? The tour also covers Fort Lytle, the historic Civil War fort, and explores the tragedies that occurred there during the war. The question participants will have isn’t “Is the University haunted?” it’s “Why is the University so haunted?” Attraction creator and paranormal investigator Dr. Tamela W. Smith will have the answers.

Dr. Smith’s interest in the paranormal began in childhood, so when she came to WKU as a freshman, she enjoyed hearing



about the campus’ haunting reputation. Having experienced several unexplainable encounters with the supernatural while serving on the WKU Police force, her interest in the paranormal at WKU only grew. After retiring from the university in 2018, Dr. Smith has devoted herself full-time to collecting and documenting stories of supernatural events on campus. She even has an upcoming book with extensive paranormal research, interviews and more, on the haunting events at WKU.

“Hilltop History and Haunts Tour” is an entertaining and spine-tingling adventure sure to enthrall any skeptic or believer. New for fall, there is even a kid-friendly tour “Spooky Tales on the Hill” which will take families through the lighter side of the tour with stories geared for younger minds.

This new tour attraction is a great compliment to other seasonal attractions in the area such as Unseen BG, Skeleton’s Lair, Jackson’s Orchard Pumpkin Festival and more. To read more about what to do around Bowling Green during the fall visit [click here](#). To learn more about Dr. Tamela W. Smith and the “Hilltop History and Haunts Tour” [click here](#).

About Dr. Smith’s Spooky Stories, LLC

Dr. Smith’s Spooky Stories, LLC, is a newly formed business in Warren County. Dr. Smith is seeking to share the true stories of hauntings and unexplainable events at WKU, through a variety of tours. These tours also explore the history of the area, going back to the 1800’s.

More on Kentucky >[HERE](#)



By *Renée Gordon*
Travel &
History Writer

*“All the world’s
a stage, and all
the men and
women merely
players. They
have their ex-
its and their
entrances; And
one man in his
time plays many
parts.”*

William Shakespeare

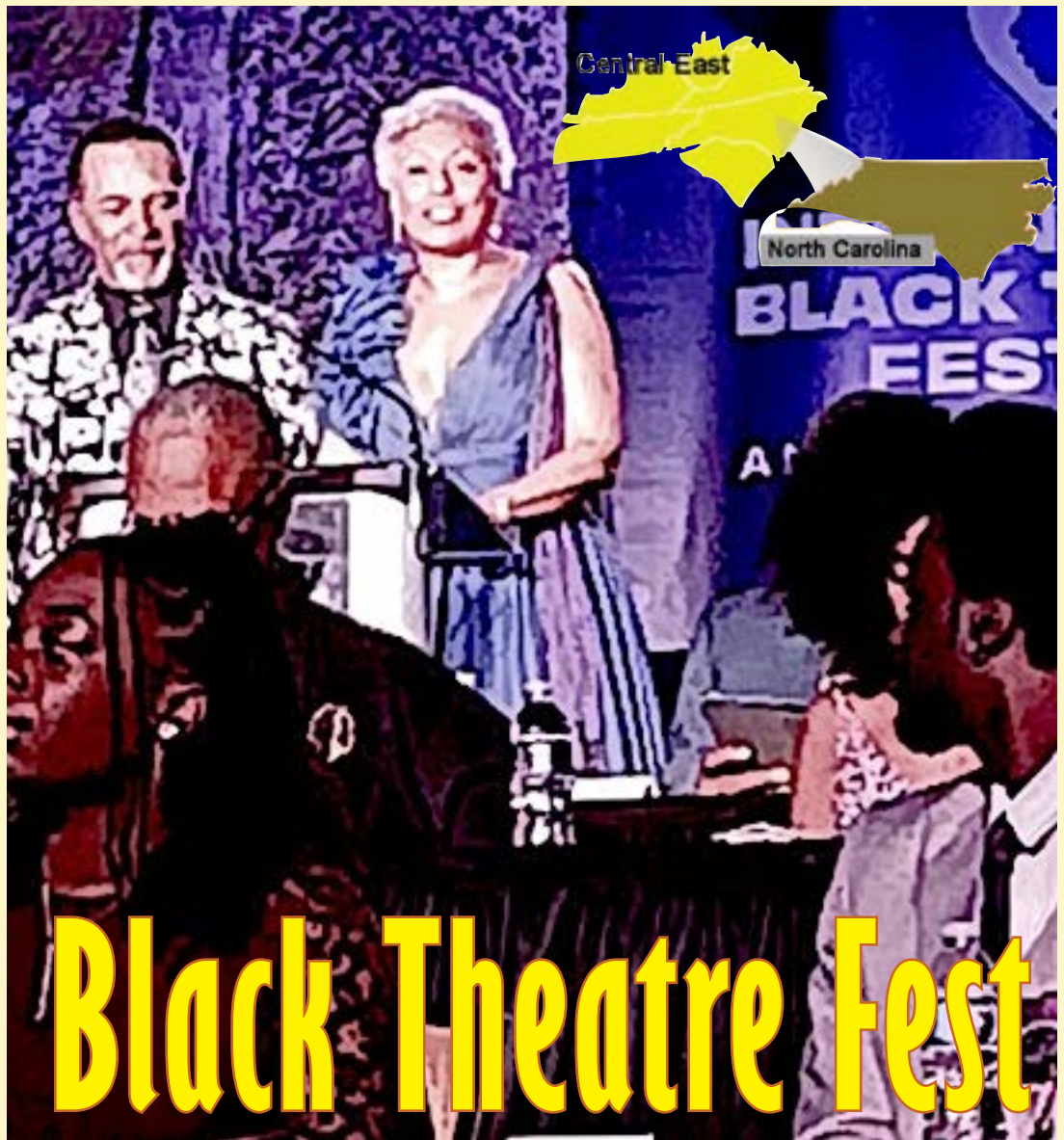
African tribal life was built around storytelling, music and dance as primary vehicles to enhance daily work, rituals and transmission of culture, traditions and survival skills. Community members who excelled in these abilities were honored. Once captured and forced across the Atlantic they carried with them the arts and skills with which they were familiar. Enslaved performers were highly valued and often rewarded, for their entertainment ability.

William H. Brown, a free black man, started providing

Sunday entertainment in his New York home in 1816. He partnered with James Hewlett in 1821 and the two founded the African Grove Theater on Bleeker Street. Their first play was “Richard III” and in 1823 Brown wrote “The Drama of King Shotaway,” credited as the first play written and produced by an African American.

The African Grove’s troupe was the first Black theatrical troupe. Hewlett was the first African American Shakespearean actor and he was joined by Ira Aldridge. The theatre was an affront to many Whites and in 1823 it fell victim to arson.

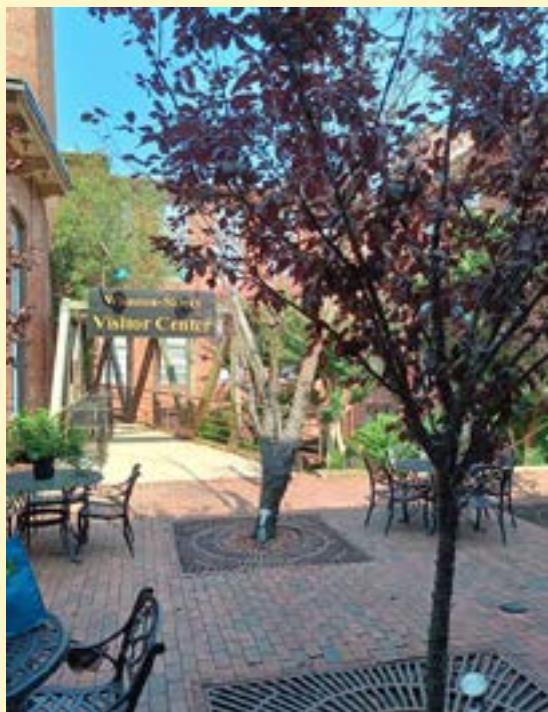
“Clorindy, the Origin of the Cakewalk,” the first legitimate African American production premiered on Broadway 75-years later with Paul Laurence Dunbar as the lyricist. Black theater started to visibly thrive during the Harlem Renaissance and from the 60s onward grew in stature and sophistication and focused more on civil rights, cultural themes and personal struggles. Some of the earliest theater companies include Karamu House (1915), the Federal Theatre Project Negro Unit (1935), American Negro Theatre (1937), Center Stage (1963) and the Negro Ensemble Company



Black Theatre Fest

(1967). blackrep.org
 Larry Leon Hamlin founded the first professional black theatrical company in North Carolina in 1979. His goal was to bring to a wider audience recognition to the issues and power of theater by people of African descent. The North Carolina Black Repertory Company (NCBRC) was born. Hamlin's vision expanded and included black theatre professionals to meet and discuss relevant issues, the necessity of including educational and public programming and expanding the scope to produce additional artistic genres and international performances. visitnc.com

In 1989 Hamlin established the National Black Theatre Festival (NBTF) in 1989. Maya Angelou helped generate \$500,000 and was the first chairperson. The first Festival showcased 30 productions by 17 black companies. The 35-year anniversary 2024 Festival was held July 29-August 3, 2024, under the co-chairmanship of Tamara Tunie and Clifton Davis. Hamlin coined the word "Marvtastic," a combination of marvelous and fantastic used to describe the Festival experience. The current menu of events now includes workshops, learning sessions, youth activities, International Vendors Market, star-studded awards ceremony and a grand Gala opens the festival. Biennially, Winston-Salem, North Carolina hosts the National Black Theatre Festival (NBTF). The city is considered "Black



Theater Holy Ground." The six-day event showcases the indelible and ongoing heritage of African American theatre, honors outstanding members of the international theatre community and serves as a venue for highlighting emerging artists.

In 2007 Larry Hamlin left the behind the earthly stage as well as an outstanding legacy. His wife, Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin was keeper of the flame until her passing in 2022.

The next Festival, while it may seem far away, needs planning well in advance. The Festival has a number of accommodations that offer specials, transportation, shuttles to performance venues and a complete menu of services and room configurations.

Brookstone Inn, a former mill, is located at the juncture of Winston and

Salem and is walking distance to performance activities and venues. Hot Southern Breakfast, late afternoon Wine and Cheese Reception and evening Cookies and Milk are offered daily. The inn is furnished throughout with antiques and artwork. Francis Levin Fries began construction on the building, then Salem Manufacturing Company, in 1837. The mill made Salem Jeans during the Civil War and, at war's end, the loss of inventory to the Union, coupled with the emancipation of the mill's 40 enslaved individuals, led to a huge monetary loss to the company. #Brookstoneinn

Travel to Winston-Salem affords unique opportunities to immerse yourself in history, culture and the lives of individuals with both ordinary and extraordinary experiences. Winston has more than 50 African American history sites and we will explore them in Part Two. visitwinstonsalem.com

"You use a glass mirror to see your face; you use works of art to see your soul."

George Bernard Shaw





Darker Spirits of Memphis



*By Kathleen
Walls
Travel Writer*

*AmericanRoads.
net*



Spirits of Memphis

When we think of Memphis, the first thing that comes to mind is music. But there's another darker side to Memphis. On a recent Backbeat Tour of haunted Memphis, our guide, Janna took us on a two-hour walking tour to the sites of Memphis' haunted history.

Orpheum Theater

Our tour began and ended at the Orpheum Theater, on the corner of Beale and South Main streets. The theater is Memphis' most haunted spot. It was constructed as the Grand Opera House in 1890 and claimed to be the classiest theater outside of New York City. Fire destroyed the original building on October 16, 1923, but it was rebuilt in 1927. In the 1940s, movies replaced vaudeville shows. The cycle continued in the '1950s and '60s when television competed with movies and the grand old theater fell into disrepair.

Many local citizens did not want to see it destroyed, so they formed the Memphis Development Foundation to save it. It's one of Memphis's most iconic buildings and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in the 1970s. Janna told us it has at least seven ghosts. Most are benign, but one evil spirit attempts to goad people into jumping from the highest section of the balconies.

The most famous ghost at the Orpheum is Mary, a 12-year-old girl. One day in 1923, she was coming to the theater with a ticket in her pocket for seat C5, her favorite seat, when she was hit while crossing the street by either a carriage or a trolley. She loves the theater and even the fire and numerous renovations hadn't prompted her to leave. Her seat, C5, is still where she is most often seen.

Janna said paranormal research societies have discovered at least six more spirits here. Most are benign, but one seems to want to make people jump from the highest balcony.

Green Beetle

Historic bars often have spirits hanging around. We did an inside stop at The Green Beetle, the oldest tavern in Memphis, opened in 1939. It was a speakeasy that was shot up by the gangster Machine Gun Kelly. The ghosts are believed to be two sailors that the then owner, Frank, saw fighting over a lady they both desired. They stabbed one another and died here.



Earnestine & Hazel's

Janna led us into an open lot next to Earnestine & Hazel's, another famous Memphis bar, and pointed to windows on the second floor where many people have seen spirits. The building was built in the early 1900s and used as a pharmacy. Two cousins, Ernestine Mitchell and Hazel Jones, worked in the pharmacist and lived upstairs. They felt it would make a great hotel with a bar downstairs and rooms upstairs with some accommodating ladies.

The then owner had some tax problems and ended up selling to them for just \$1. Not only are there some spirits of the ladies who once worked there, but the jukebox in the bar seems to have its own resident spirit. It often plays songs by Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, and others who have visited the bar but are not on the jukebox.

John Alexander Austin Home

Victorian homes were so big they were often used as rooming houses in later years. This was the case with the John Alexander Austin Home, built in 1873. It's the last original Victorian home in the South Main area. There are at least two haunts here, Sarah and Ed, who met and fell in



love while they were staying in the rooming house. Sarah would not marry Ed because she was already engaged to a wealthy oil tycoon in Texas. Her family had lost their fortune during the depression, and Sarah felt she had to marry that man to save them

from poverty.

A carpenter who was replacing a door on what had been Sarah's room had the door disappear. A dream he had of a man pounding on the door and pleading with a woman inside caused researchers to dig into the mystery. They found a letter from Sarah to Ed where she told him, "I know that we could not be together in this life, but I promise you I will find you in the next."

Morris Cemetery and Resurrection Men

Near the end of the tour, Janna explained why this south part of Memphis might be so haunted. We might have been walking over long buried and forgotten bodies of the dead. Memphis was founded on the North Bluff to prevent flooding in 1819. The area we were touring was then South Memphis, a separate city. The dead from both cities were buried in the Morris Cemetery. Memphis had two large medical universities then. Naturally, to teach anatomy, they needed cadavers. Legally, the universities could only use the bodies of executed convicts, which wasn't enough. The Resurrection Men, as they were called, became suppliers. They bribed caretakers to let them know about burials and they then dug up the bodies and sold them to the universities. Many of the grave robbers were medical students who used the money to pay tuition.

As the population grew and Memphis and South Memphis merged into Memphis, business boomed, and merchants wanted a place to build. One old newspaper from 1859 claims "Morris Cemetery was commonly regarded, save by a few of its lot owners, as almost a public nuisance." Elmwood Cemetery donated plots for the bodies at Morris Cemetery to be re-interred there. A company was hired to move the dead.



In the 1980s, a worker was digging in a business basement to install pipes and found a body. Construction stopped and searches showed there were many more bodies. The company that was hired to move them probably just moved the tombstones.

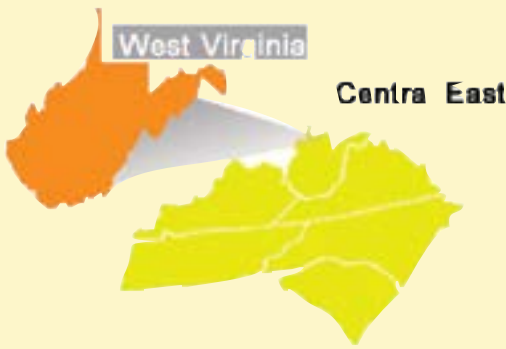
There was so much more to the tour, including voodoo versus hoodoo, and a haunted piano, but I don't want to tell all and spoil the tour when you take it.

More on Tennessee >[HERE](#)

Elmwood Cemetery

It wasn't on the tour, and I'm not sure about the haunts at Elmwood Cemetery but if there are any, I'm betting on Emily Sutton, the Memphis "madam" whose "house of ill repute" was transformed into a field hospital during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1873. Emily died of the Yellow Fever she was loaning her home to fight. She does sort of come to life when Elmwood hosts two "The Soul of the City" tours the last week of October, where volunteer actors portray Sutton and other famous cemetery residents.





If you're searching for a bone-chilling Halloween adventure this year, look no further than *Infernum in Terra*, a haunted attraction in Wheeling that's earned a devilish reputation as "Hell on Earth." With its terrifying, immersive experience and unique setting, this destination offers thrill-seekers the perfect weekend getaway to embrace the eerie.

The Infernum Experience

Located in a historic, sprawling building, the creators have designed a fear-inducing world where guests navigate through a series of elaborately crafted rooms, tunnels, and outdoor scenes, each more terrifying than the last. The attraction pulls you into a story where you're not just a spectator but a participant in a nightmare. With professional-grade special effects, realistic makeup, and spine-chilling actors, this is an experience that will push your fear limits to the brink.

From being chased by sinister creatures lurking in the dark to wandering through an infernal landscape inspired by Dante's "Inferno," every step you take is shrouded in suspense. This is not for the faint-hearted—those looking to test their courage will find this attraction unforgettable.

Infernum in Terra isn't just a single haunt; it's an entire evening's entertainment. The site often features food trucks, live entertainment, and merchandise stands with unique horror-themed items. Depending on the weekend, you might catch special events like costume contests or themed nights. Past weekends have included interactive escape room challenges and live performances from local rock bands, giving you even more reason to stay after the terror ends.

Accommodations

Wheeling offers a range of options, from cozy inns to well-known hotel chains. For a truly eerie vibe, you can stay at one of the area's historic inns rumored to have their own haunted histories, such as The McLure Hotel, where strange occurrences have been reported over the years.

Alternatively, stay close to the action by booking a room at a hotel near the downtown dis-

trict. Oglebay Resort provides a more luxurious option for those who wish to unwind after a night of horror, with a spa and beautiful natural surroundings to relax and recover from the intensity of *Infernum in Terra*.

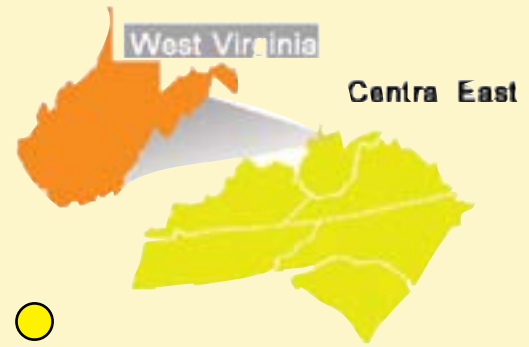
Dining in Wheeling

After an adrenaline-packed night, Wheeling offers plenty of places to refuel. Later Alligator is a popular spot for savory crepes and comfort food, while The Alpha Tavern serves up hearty pub fare in a laid-back atmosphere. If you're in the mood for something more refined, Figaretti's Italian Restaurant is a local favorite known for its homemade sauces and warm hospitality.

Whether you're a horror fan, adrenaline junkie, or just looking to escape into a world of frightful fun, *Infernum in Terra* delivers the perfect spooky weekend getaway this Halloween season.

For more information, visit <https://hellonearthhaunt.com/>

Fright Nights At Glade Springs



DANIELS - Known as the number one haunted attraction in West Virginia, The Resort at Glade Springs has everything ready to welcome their guests.

“We have once again enhanced our haunt with new scares” says Ashley Long, Creative Director at The Resort at Glade Springs. A sixth experience has been added to the agenda as well as revamping Camp Kilamee to “Camp Kilamee vs. Mothman.”

This year Fright Nights WV is thrilled to bring this all new attraction “Moonshine Massacre” to their guests! Attendees will venture into what appears to be an abandoned barn and the surrounding cornfields, where they’ll quickly discover that they’re not alone. With camp Kilamee vs. Mothman, attendees step into the eerie woods of Camp Kilamee, now reopened as a state park campground after the gruesome murders that once plagued it.

a Don’t miss your hand at getting out of the Escape Room created as a five-minute clue game. You and 3 other people will be individually buried alive, entombed with Chrissy, Eddie, Billy, or Barb. Attempt to solve the puzzle to Escape the Grave.

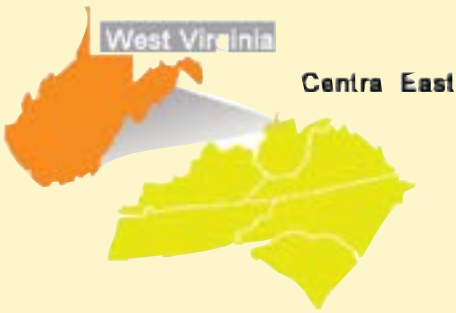
There is also a Spooky Golf putt putt miniature



course and a ghost scavenger hunt to enjoy.

Overnight packages starts at \$122 per person and includes lodging, breakfast before departure, and tickets to Fright Nights Haunted Attraction (up to \$30 per person value). We will bring you six terrifying haunt experiences.

> **More on West Virginia >HERE**



Ultimate Guide 1



Robin O'Neal Smith
Associate Editor

Escape rooms have taken the world by storm over the last decade, evolving from niche entertainment to a mainstream phenomenon. An escape room is a physical adventure game in which players solve puzzles and riddles using clues, hints, and strategy to complete the objectives and “escape” the room within a set time limit. The allure lies in the immersive experience and the thrill of solving complex puzzles under pressure.

The popularity of escape rooms has surged, with thousands of venues worldwide. This trend shows no signs of slowing down as people seek unique and engaging ways to spend their free time. From birthday parties to corporate team-building events, escape rooms cater to many audiences looking for a fun challenge.

The Immersive Experience

Escape rooms offer an unparalleled experience for adventure seekers. When you step inside, you're transported to a different world where every detail is designed to captivate your imagination. The themes are diverse and endlessly intriguing, from a haunted mansion to a holiday-decorated house, a train station, a locomotive, or a pirate ship.



Each escape room offers a unique set of challenges, sparking the curiosity of adventure seekers.

- **Mystery:** Solve a crime or uncover a hidden treasure.
- **Horror:** Escape from a haunted house or a zombie apocalypse.
- **Fantasy:** Embark on a magical quest or save a mythical kingdom.
- **Science Fiction:** Navigate through space missions or futuristic laboratories.



The Role of Storytelling

Storytelling is a crucial element that sets escape rooms apart from other forms of entertainment. A compelling narrative draws players in and keeps them engaged throughout the experience. Each puzzle and clue is seamlessly integrated into the storyline, making the adventure feel cohesive and immersive.

To Escape Rooms



Two standout escape rooms I have experienced are:

Escape Artist Greenville

known for its innovative, tech-savvy puzzles and multi-sensory experiences. With ten different themes, five running at a time, including a holiday-themed room adorned with Christmas decorations and hidden clues in festive items, there's always something new to explore.

During my visit to Escape Artist Greenville, I participated in their Holiday Escape Room with five other writers. It was my first escape room experience, and I wasn't sure what to expect. The festive theme featured a Christmas tree and various winter decorations in multiple rooms. Hidden clues were scattered throughout the rooms, requiring us to work together as a team to solve them.

One of the most memorable challenges involved deciphering numbers to open combination locks. Some clues were easy to find, while others required unlocking hidden compartments to reveal additional hints. The experience was fun, and we escaped with a few helpful clues. I want to do another theme when I visit again. <https://escapeartistgreenville.com>,

Capon Springs Escape Room

Capon Escape <https://www.caponsprings.net/activities-food/escape/> is set in a historic property, this year's escape room, Capon Station, features a train-themed adventure that inte-



grates local history and legends. The attention to detail and the seamless integration of puzzles into the storyline provide an educational and thrilling experience. They offer a different historic escape room theme each year.

I recently experienced the Capon Escape with three other journalists, including editor, Kathy Barnett. This room was more challenging than anticipated, requiring substantial brainpower to solve the clues. The storytelling of this escape room was excellent and realistic. Our team of four had to determine the significance of various numbers, some of which opened combination locks while others helped us decipher additional clues.

The attention to detail in the Capon Station design was impressive, with puzzles seamlessly integrated into the storyline. It took our team 52 minutes to solve the mystery, but we did it in less than an hour.

Tips for Success

Choosing the Right Escape Room

When selecting an escape room, consider the size of your group and the interests of its members. Here are some tips to help you choose the right one:

- **Small Groups (2-4 people):** Look for rooms focusing on detailed puzzles and intricate plotlines.
- **Medium Groups (5-8 people):** Choose rooms with a balanced mix of puzzles and physical challenges.
- **Large Groups (9+ people):** Opt for rooms that offer multiple puzzles simultaneously to keep everyone engaged.



Effective Communication Strategies

Communication is not just important, it's vital to succeeding in an escape room. Here are some strategies to enhance your team's effectiveness, ensuring you're prepared and confident:

- **Share Findings:** Regularly communicate discoveries and progress to keep everyone on the same page.
- **Stay Calm:** Encourage a positive attitude and maintain focus, even when the clock is ticking.
- **Take Turns:** If you know a clue leads to something but can't figure it out, let someone else try.



Problem-Solving Approaches

Approaching puzzles with a clear and logical mindset can make all the difference. Consider these techniques:

- **Think Outside the Box:** Sometimes, unconventional solutions are the key to cracking a puzzle.
- **Break Down Complex Problems:** Divide larger tasks into smaller, more manageable steps.
- **Use All Resources:** Leverage any available tools, hints, and team members' knowledge.

Time Management

Effective time management is crucial in an escape room setting. Keep these tips in mind:

- **Prioritize Tasks:** Focus on the most critical puzzles first.
- **Set Milestones:** Establish checkpoints to gauge your progress and adjust your strategy if needed.
- **Don't Overthink:** Sometimes, the simplest solution is the correct one.

Escape rooms offer an unparalleled adventure for thrill-seekers and a valuable team-building experience for families and groups. Their immersive themes, intricate puzzles, and compelling narratives provide a unique blend of entertainment and family or group bonding. If you have yet to try an escape room, now is the perfect time to plan your next adventure.

New England States



Bird City: La Plata



*By Michael
C. Upton
Freelance Writer*

In the land of the Purple Martin—the largest member of the swallow family in North America—residents have built a welcoming refuge for all birds... and bird-loving visitors.

The migratory Purple Martin makes its way from central South America to its breeding grounds in North America in late February and early March. This is when it shows up in La Plata, a quaint town in Southern Maryland recognized as the state's first "Bird City."

Only 30 miles from Washington, D.C., La Plata, with its blend of history, charm, and nature serves as a serene retreat for visitors looking to explore its rich heritage, vibrant community, and bird watching spots. This hidden gem of a small town has something special for everyone.

For Birders

Launched in 2010, the nationally organized Bird City USA program promotes bird conservation and community engagement in the United States.



Inspired by the Tree City USA initiative, it encourages cities to create bird-friendly environments through habitat preservation, public education, and policies that protect birds. Communities like La Plata—who joined the network in 2019—earn the "Bird City" designation by meeting specific criteria, such as installing bird-friendly buildings, educating the public on bird conservation, and controlling invasive species. The program has expanded across multiple states, fostering local stewardship and enhancing urban habitats for birds.

With its numerous parks, wetlands, and natural spaces, La Plata provides an ideal environ-

ment for a wide variety of bird species, but the town's official bird is the Purple Martin. Visitors looking for birds often explore Laurel Springs Regional Park and Tilghman Lake Park, both hotspots for birdwatching. The town has installed a Bird City Pocket Park (160-142 Centennial St.) providing habitat and feed for birds and an educational experience for humans. From migratory songbirds to native raptors, bird enthusiasts often spot a diverse population thriving in and around La Plata. The town's commitment to conservation extends beyond its borders, making it a central part of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society's efforts to protect bird habitats across

the region. In town, bird images can be found on banners, mural art, and designed onto sidewalks. Local artist and shop owner Shannon Wang designed a purple marlin state license plate anyone in Maryland can purchase.

Other Reasons to Visit La Plata

Wang owns and operates Bird City Records, one of several boutique shops located in downtown La Plata. Visitors enjoy the escape from the fast-paced urban life nearby and often relax here by immersing themselves in a slower, more intimate lifestyle. The town's unique blend of history and natural beauty makes it an ideal destination for a weekend getaway. Art enthusiasts can enjoy performances at the College of Southern Maryland's Fine Arts Center, or by The Port Tobacco Players, or take time to explore local arts at the Town Hall Art Gallery. The nearby Thomas Stone National Historic Site, home to one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the La Plata Train Station Museum



are draws for history buffs.

A Brief History of La Plata

La Plata's roots go back to the 19th century when it was established as a railroad town in 1873. The town's name is believed to be inspired by the La Plata River in Argentina, a possible reflection of the fascination with South American geography in the United States during the late 1800s. Over time, La Plata grew from a modest railroad stop into the thriving seat of Charles County. Its historic downtown area, with buildings dating back over a century, is a rebuilt and revitalized town filled with local pride and Southern charm.

Where to Stay and Eat

La Plata offers a range of accommodations, from the conve-

nient Holiday Inn Express La Plata to local bed and breakfasts like the Rosewood Manor Bed & Breakfast. This historic property offers cozy, elegant rooms and a charming atmosphere that perfectly complements a relaxing stay in La Plata.

Foodies looking for local flavor can visit The Charles, a beloved eatery offering fresh, farm-to-table cuisine inspired by Southern Maryland's bounty. Galazio Restaurant is known for its Mediterranean-inspired dishes and brick oven pizzas. There is also a fun Green Turtle restaurant right in town, only a few steps from the Pocket Park.

La Plata, Maryland, may be small, but it is a town full of character and charm. It offers visitors an opportunity to explore Southern hospitality, immerse themselves in history, savor delicious local cuisine, and connect with nature in meaningful ways.

More on Maryland >HERE





By Susan Deecoteau-Ferrier
Freelance Travel Writer



In Search of the Jersey Devil

A Journey Through the NJ Pine Barrens

In the heart of New Jersey lies a landscape as mysterious as the legend it harbors. The Pine Barrens, with its dense forests, sandy soil, and tea-colored rivers, stretch endlessly in the shadows of towering pines. Along the dark edges of cedar swamps, nature reigns supreme and the Jersey Devil, born of curse and folklore, is said to roam—a creature as real to the locals as the land itself.

This journey begins where the legend first took root, in the quiet area of Leeds Point. It was here, as the story goes, that Mother Leeds, overwhelmed by the prospect of a thirteenth child, cursed her unborn baby, saying, “Let this one be a devil!”

On a stormy night, the child was born—not human, but a monster with bat-like wings, a horse’s head, and a serpent’s tail. The creature screeched, unfurled its wings, and flew up the chimney, vanishing into the dark woods of the Pine Barrens. From that night on, the Jersey Devil has been both a terror and a symbol of the wildness that defines this region.



Begin searching for the demon and exploring the Pine Barrens near Leeds Point, the center of the Jersey Devil legend. Head to Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge for a drive or bike ride along Wildlife Drive. This 8-mile sand road winds through marshlands teeming with birdlife. On the migratory path for many species, the refuge offers excellent opportunities for birdwatching.

If you prefer hiking, try one of the nature trails. Shrouded in an otherworldly quiet, you can easily imagine the Jersey

Devil lurking, just out of sight.

From Leeds Point, visit the historic village of Smithville, a charming cluster of shops, eateries, and history. The village’s colonial architecture evokes a sense of stepping back in time, to an era when the Pine Barrens were remote, mysterious, and full of untold stories. Here, the legend of the Jersey Devil seems almost tangible.

As the sun casts shadows across the landscape, the journey leads deeper into the Pine Barrens, to

Batsto Village. Once a thriving iron-works village, producing bog iron from the surrounding swamps, the old mansion, general store, and saw-mill offer a glimpse of a bygone era. Walking through the once bustling streets, surrounded by dense woods, it's easy to see why this place has inspired tales of the supernatural. The silence is heavy, broken only by the rustling of leaves and the distant call of an owl—sounds that might easily be mistaken for something more sinister.



Nearby, Atsion Mansion offers a similar look at the past. Built in 1826 by the Richards family, this Greek Revival home is the last remnant of the area's industrial past.

Both properties and the surrounding forest, later acquired by Joseph Wharton, a Philadelphia-born American Industrialist, make up a significant portion of Wharton State Forest, the heart of the Pine Barrens.

The 52-mile Batona Trail winds through Wharton State Forest, where cedar water streams fed by the Cohansey Aquifer traverse forests of ancient Pygmy Pines and Atlantic White Cedars. As you hike deeper into the woods, an unsettling stillness makes it hard to shake the feeling that an unseen presence, just out of sight, quietly tracks your movements.

If you prefer the water, Atsion Lake offers a peaceful but eerie experience. Its dark, tannin-tinged waters ripple softly, reflecting the mystery that permeates the Barrens.

If time permits or as an alternative to Wharton State Forest, visit Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. Less crowded than other parks, this refuge offers a more intimate experience with the wild side of the Pine Barrens.

The Franklin Parker Preserve, near the small town of Chatsworth, spans over 16,000 biodiverse acres. The preserve is a patchwork of pine forests, wetlands, and cranberry bogs, each habitat supporting a unique array of life.

The cranberry bogs are a striking sight, especially during the fall harvest season when the bogs are flooded, and the berries float like crimson jewels atop the dark water. This annual ritual is as much a part of the Pine Barrens as the legends themselves, a reminder of the deep connection between the land and those who work it. Chatsworth, often called the "Capital of the Pine Barrens," is a town where the past feels close at hand. The creaking wood plank floors and shelves lined with staples of a bygone time remind you that Buzby's Eatery & General Store has been the cornerstone of the community since 1897. This is a place where the present mingles with the past over simple, hearty meals and conversations about the region's history and folklore.



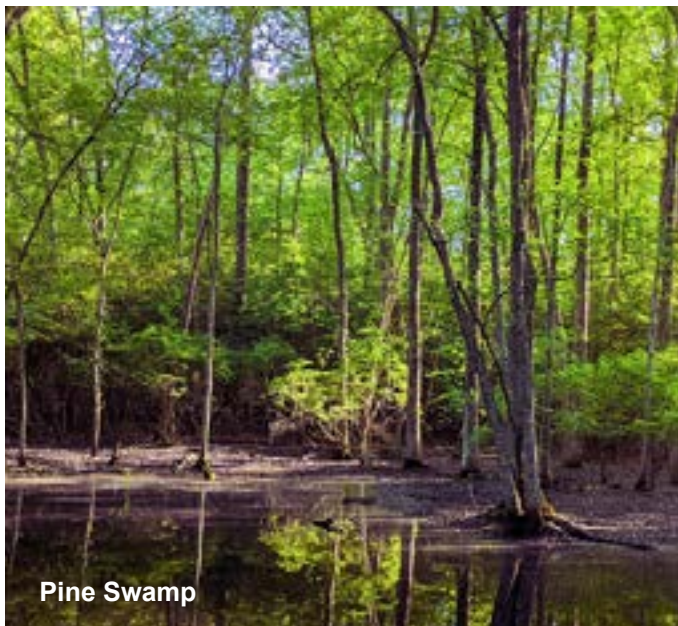
Smithville

Nearby Whitesbog Village adds another layer to the story of the Pine Barrens. Founded in the late 19th century by Joseph J. White, Whitesbog was once a bustling center of cranberry and blueberry farming. It was here that Elizabeth Coleman White, in collaboration with botanist Frederick Vernon Coville, developed the first cultivated blueberry, transforming the agricultural landscape of the region.

Today, Whitesbog is a living museum, where the fields and bogs are still tended, and the rhythms of the past continue to shape the present. Walking through the village, you can almost hear the echoes of those who lived and worked here, their lives intertwined with the land in ways that are both reflective and enduring.

As your journey through the Pine Barrens ends, the mystery remains. This is more than just a wilderness—it's where history, nature, and legend blur, with the Jersey Devil embodying the untamed spirit of the land. Whether you're seeking the creature, exploring the region's past, or simply immersing yourself in its vastness, the Pine Barrens will leave you wondering if there's more to this place than meets the eye.

More on New Jersey >HERE



Pine Swamp

Where to Stay

Make either Smithville or Hammonton your home base for your exploration of the pine barrens.

If you opt for Smithville, stay the night at the Colonial Inn at Historic Smithville which offers a variety of experiences. Other options include the majestic Seaview Hotel or the historic Dr. Johnathan Pitney House, the original home of one of the region's earliest residents. For accommodations in Hammonton consider The Martinn, a downtown, midcentury modern boutique hotel. If quiet, rustic, and quaint is your style, then consider Mullica River Cottage. Alternatively, the Tuscany House Hotel at Renault Winery may be perfect if you are looking for high-end luxury accommodations.

Where to Eat

While exploring Atlantic County, the Oyster Creek Inn a historic seafood restaurant overlooking the bay is perfect for lunch or dinner. If you dare, try the Jersey Devil Shrimp. Spicy!!! If you will be spending the night in Smithville or nearby, enjoy dinner at The Smithville Inn, a historic restaurant offering traditional American cuisine. Try the chicken pot pie. It's a local favorite.

While exploring near Wharton or Brendan T. Byrnes State Forests the Pic-A-Lilli Inn in Shamong, a beloved local spot known for its wings and casual fare. It's the perfect place to regroup and enjoy a quick bite to eat.

In my opinion, no trip to Hammonton is complete without a visit to Bagliani's Market. This Old World Italian market is a terrific place to pick up a picnic lunch to take on the road. They offer fresh bread and produce, custom cuts of meat, homemade pasta, and a to-die-for cheese selection.

For dinner in Hammonton try Annata Wine Bar where you can enjoy a selection of local wines and Italian-inspired dishes or Joe Italiano's Maplewood restaurant for a traditional Italian meal. Both are local picks.



A Fall Nature Hike



ITHACA - Hotel Ithaca invites outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers to explore the breathtaking beauty of Ithaca's fall foliage and renowned waterfalls with its exclusive Fall Hiking Package, available now through Nov. 1,

In the heart of the Finger Lakes region, Ithaca boasts over 150 waterfalls and gorges, offering visitors unparalleled opportunities for hiking and outdoor adventure. The Fall Hiking Package provides the perfect base for exploring iconic sites such as Taughannock Falls, Buttermilk Falls, and Ithaca Falls trails.

Hiking Package includes:

- One night accommodations
- Breakfast for two
- Complimentary parking
- Late checkout at 1 p.m.
- Cinch bag filled with hiking supplies
- Two bottles of water
- Two granola bars
- Sunblock
- Mosquito bracelets

In addition to hiking, guests can explore the Cayuga Lake Wine Trail, America's First Wine Trail, established in 1983. The trail showcases local wineries along the picturesque



shores of Cayuga Lake, providing a perfect complement to outdoor activities.

Hotel Ithaca, the area's only independently owned hotel, is conveniently located in downtown Ithaca, putting guests within easy reach of local attractions, restaurants, and shops.

For more information, visit thehotelithaca.com.

More on New York >HERE..



Experience Macy's Like Never Before a



By Carol A. Peck
<https://btsq.com/>

For decades now, every year on the fourth Thursday of November, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade has captivated audiences with its in-sync marching bands, whimsical, spectacularly decorated floats, beloved singers and Broadway stars serenading the crowd and larger-than-life balloons floating as high as the buildings themselves. If seeing this world-famous parade is on your bucket list, but you prefer not to stand for hours with thousands of spectators lining the sidewalks in the unpredictable weather the Big Apple is known for this time of year, then we've got great news!

Imagine a Thanksgiving morning spent in the heart of New York City, surrounded by a festive atmosphere, but without any of the usual holiday stress. Thanks to Beyond Times Square, you can enjoy this quintessential New York City event stress-free in luxury and comfort at our Exclusive 2024 Thanksgiving Day Parade Viewing Party at Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse! Read on for all of the delightful details!

Location, Location, Location!

Let's talk about this venue first, shall we? Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse offers a unique, indoor alternative that will totally elevate your parade viewing experience. Situated on Sixth Avenue near Radio City Music Hall – and of course along the parade route – this well-known upscale restaurant offers partygoers panoramic views from its two-story building adorned with



floor-to-ceiling windows. Upon entering the venue, you'll be welcomed by festive decorations, thoughtfully arranged tables on both levels to ensure your parade experience is a comfortable affair, plus a warm, inviting staff. This exclusive event starts an hour before the parade, allowing you to settle in at your private table and get the celebration started before the parade makes its way down to Del Frisco's from its starting point on Central Park West.

Buffets, Beverages and Broadway

The buffet at Del Frisco's is a feast for the senses, featuring an array of hot breakfast and brunch items alongside fresh breads, pastries and fruits. The spread is conveniently set up on both floors, minimizing lines and maximizing comfort. And in addition to tradi-



Thanksgiving Day Parade at Del Frisco's



gy of the parade up close, Del Frisco's also offers a private outdoor viewing area that's roped off for our guests. This exclusive space ensures that you'll enjoy curbside views without having to elbow your way through the crowds, giving you the best of both worlds.

A Seamless Experience

Chances are if you're coming to New York City for the Thanksgiving Day Parade Viewing Party, you'll be staying for more than just the day. That means you're going to need accommodations and transportation – and of course, you'll want to take in the Rockettes in the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall, perhaps a Broadway show and don't forget sightseeing! More great news – Beyond Times Square can book all of this and more for you – making for simplified planning and a seamless experience. From 5-star hotels to private luxury transportation to premiere seating at the hottest shows on the Great White Way to holiday-themed tours with an expert guide – we've got you covered!

From the luxurious Thanksgiving Day Parade Viewing Party complete with fabulous fare and top-notch entertainment to the luxury accommodations, transportation and experiences – Beyond Times Square offers a Thanksgiving celebration with memories to last a lifetime! And remember, we have you covered with plenty of private experiences for your getaway to NYC during the holidays as well as year-round! In fact, these options are just a glimpse of what we offer. For a comprehensive look at our customizable experiences contact our Experience Designers today and let us elevate your vacation from mere events to timeless memories!

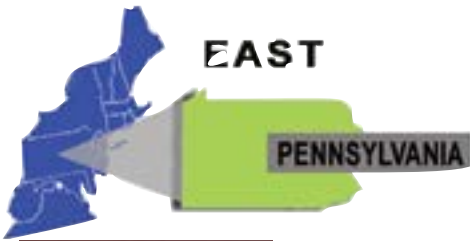
tional non-alcoholic beverages, unlimited mimosas and bloody marys flow freely, adding to the festive atmosphere. And the entertainment? Phenomenal! We bring the spirit of Broadway right to you thanks to live performances by actual Broadway performers. That's not all – there's also a live DJ to keep the party going as the parade passes by. And we certainly didn't forget the kiddos – because as you can imagine this is a super family-friendly event! Keeping the littles entertained all morning is a balloon maker, a face painter and a caricaturist. And of course, there's the main event happening right outside the windows – and on large-screen TVs throughout the venue to guarantee that no part of the parade is missed!

Choose Your Viewing Vantage Point

The parade itself can be viewed from both floors of Del Frisco's as it boasts a spacious, open-plan layout with a second floor that includes a railing, allowing guests to overlook the first floor and enhancing the venue's airy atmosphere. The restaurant's second-story balcony also provides an elevated view of the marching bands, vibrant floats and gigantic balloons. For those preferring to feel the ener-



More on New York >HERE



Gettysburg 1863



By Renée Gordon
Travel &
History Writer

“There’s no honorable way to kill, no gentle way to destroy. There is nothing good in war except its ending.”

The Battle of Gettysburg is considered to be the turning point of the Civil War as well as resulting in the largest number of casualties of any of the war’s battles, an estimated 50,000 over the course of the pivotal period between July 1, 1863 and July 3rd. Approximately 7,000 wounded were left on the battlefield, 4,000 dead horses and nine generals were killed outright or mortally wounded. Creating a health hazard. destinationgettysburg.com

Robert E. Lee, after his victory in Chancellorsville, VA, judged that the time was right to lead the Army of Northern Virginia on its second northern invasion. His goal was to dampen the northern will to fight, get Britain and France to recognize the South as an independent nation and, if possible, negotiate terms to end the war. Brigadier General Buford of the Army of the Potomac was first to meet the Confederates on a road near Gettysburg.



He chose to control the high ground and the town. He managed to hold this ground until General Reynolds arrived with reinforcements. The Union won the larger battle and Lee’s major retreat south took place on July 7th. This was Lee’s first significant defeat, boosted northern resolve and led to the

Emancipation Proclamation

Gettysburg was founded in the 1740s and named after an early tavern owner, Samuel Gettys. Gettys’ slave, Sydney O’Brien, was the first black documented resident. His son James purchased 116-acres and laid out the town of Gettysburg. The 1860 census reveals that the rural town had a population of 2,400 people, 186 of which were black. Significantly it was situated at the juncture of 10 important roads and it was 7-miles from the southern border, 35-miles from Harrisburg, 81.5-miles from Washington, DC and 59-miles to Baltimore.

The Battle of Gettysburg was not an singular event but rather part of a process that took place from 1861-1865 and altered the trajectory of the country. Gettysburg represents a microcosm of the war years and the town has embarked on the ongoing goal of a more holistic story, shedding light

on the significant contributions of noncombatants, ordinary citizens, women and free and enslaved African Americans. An estimated 10,000 African Americans were campworkers with Lee's army

The newly inaugurated, free, digital passport, Gettysburg Black History Trail results from the collaboration between Destination Gettysburg and a number of history institutions. The trail showcases 11 sites and museums as well as individuals including Mag Palm, John and Julia Hopkins and Basil Biggs. A jewel in the trail's crown is, Lincoln Cemetery, the sole remaining Black Cemetery in Gettysburg. Located near the site of the Gettysburg Address, the cemetery was established in 1867. More than 450 African Americans are interred there, 30 are Civil War USCT and a number of unmarked graves. African Americans were barred from internment in the National Cemetery. BlackHistoryTrail.com The Keystone Inn is Gettysburg's first Black-owned B & B. The inn offers 8 accommodations all with deluxe amenities, gourmet breakfast and battlefield views. Free parking is available. www.keystoneinnpa.com

Gettysburg's African American story begins in earnest in June of 1863 when the community became aware of the rebel troops moving toward the town. Because of its proximity to the Confederacy the rebels often raided Pennsylvania towns and kidnapped blacks, taking them south and selling them into slavery. Many of the captured were born free and had never been enslaved. Some of them fought back allied with white neighbors. Mag Palm, a 24-year-old UGRR conductor and washerwoman was captured by 4 bounty hunters. She fought so hard she bit off the finger of a captor. A white neighbor

with a crutch came to her aid and between Mag, the man and the crutch she made her escape. Furious they made another attempt. This time she was armed. She remained free and is buried in Lincoln Cemetery. Many African Americans left town ahead of the troops to protect themselves and their families, never to return.



to protect themselves and their families, never to return. Seminary Ridge Museum is on the grounds of the campus of the United Lutheran Seminary. The cupola is the site of Buford's observations on the first day. The seminary was a field hospital and rooms on the third floor replicate the horrors of medical procedures of the era. The first floor orients visitors to the war and the subsequent three floors, 18 galleries and a 3 thematic videos. Seminaryridgemuseum.org

The Gettysburg Beyond the Battle Museum relates the holistic and unique story of Gettysburg from prehistoric times onward featuring greater than 1,000 artifacts and a plethora of immersive activities. There are 22 viewing areas in 12 galleries. "Caught in the Crossfire" is a 360-degree immersive experience.

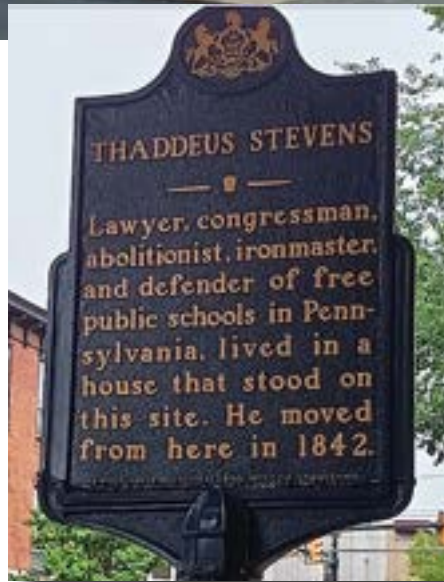
After a brief film visitors enter a typical home of the time and shelter while the battle takes place in the streets outside and the house is strafed. The museum has been featured in National Geographic and The Washington Post. Ticket to the Past—Unforgettable Journeys is located in the historic Lincoln Train Station, used as the first hospital before the battle began. Your tour begins with a museum introduction. Then a virtual reality head-set allows you to select one of three figures, nurse Cornelia Hancock, soldier Eli Blanchard or Basil Biggs

a famed African American who buried the dead after the war. The final portion of the tour places you in the station as Lincoln arrives to give The Gettysburg Address. Gettysburgfoundation.org

The Thaddeus Stevens museum, Thad's Place, is dedicated to the life and legacy of Stevens. As a congressman he worked to write legislation to abolish slavery. He is known as the Father of the 14th Amendment which compels equal treatment under the law and extends civil rights to the state level.

Union Hotel dates from 1804 when George Welsh opened the Sign of the Buck Tavern and Roadhouse. By 1863 the hotel was known as the Union Hotel and was a field hospital. In 1888 two floors were added. After many incarnations new owners refurbished it in 2019. The Union has an enviable location in the center of town and provides luxury linens and amenities, free parking and complimentary breakfast plate and juice served en suite. The restaurant, Sign of the Buck, opened in 2023. The establishment sources local ingredients to create the menu.

Gettysburg National Mili-



tary Park Museum and Visitor Center is a great way to begin or end your vis-it. There is a 22-minute film narrated by Morgan Freeman followed by viewing the 360-degree Cyclo-rama inter-pret-ing Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863. The Cyclorama is a painting 377

feet long, 42 feet high and weighing 12.5 tons. From here marked routes lead to the 17-sq.-mile battlefield. The vast majority of the cannon cylinders are original but the carriages are metal replicas of the original wooden ones. [Subscribe To Our Podcast | Destination Gettysburg](#)

[More on Pennsylvania, >HERE](#)



The PROVIDENCE FLEA
VINTAGE ★ ARTISANS ★ MAKERS



- AND -

Witches' Night Out Market

The Halloween Market

The ORIGINAL experience returns!

- A TRULY MAGICAL EVENING OF -

- mystical merchants and artisans - psychic readings
- lighted labyrinth with live music - community ritual
- art installations - food trucks & special drinks - mini lectures
- & much more! - Free entry and free parking

FRIDAY OCT 18TH | 5:30-9:30PM - FARM FRESH RI, 10 SIMS AVE, PVD

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 31ST

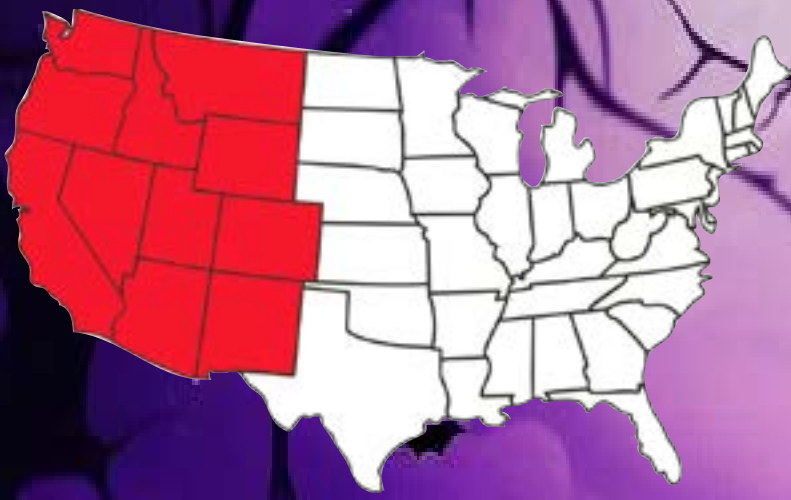


TRAP EYETON

HALLOWEEN NIGHT

THE
VERMONT

1020 N VERMONT AVE LOS ANGELES CA 90029



Western States



AJ PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS

HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL



**Skip the lines!
Get your
wristbands in
advance!**



**OCTOBER 26TH, 2024 AT SUPERSTITION SHADOWS PARK
4PM-8PM (1091 W SOUTHERN AVE)**

FREE!

COSTUME CONTESTS
CONTESTS STARTS AT 5PM

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST
BEGINS AFTER COSTUME CONTESTS
CONCLUDE

TRUNK OR TREAT
PRESENTED BY LOST DUTCHMAN REALTY

GAME BOOTHS &
INFLATABLES
WRISTBAND REQUIRED

FOOD TRUCKS
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

LIVE MUSIC & FREE
ACTIVITIES
PRESENTED BY CAFA



**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.APACHEJUNCTIONAZ.GOV/HALLOWEEN OR CALL 480-474-5240**

CALIFORNIA

A Visit To Ceme



Hollywood Forever Cemetery



When it comes to travel, most people think of beaches, mountains, or vibrant city streets. But have you ever considered exploring the quiet charm of a cemetery? Cemeteries often evoke images of solitude, peace, and even beauty. In California, you'll find some truly breathtaking resting places—where history meets art and tranquility abounds.

Whether you're a history buff, a nature lover, or just someone seeking an escape from the hustle and bustle, these cemeteries might surprise you with their allure. Here are six stunning

cemeteries in California worth visiting.

Hollywood Forever Cemetery

Glitz and glamor, even in death? That's Hollywood for you. Located in the heart of Los Angeles, the Hollywood Forever Cemetery isn't just a final resting place; it's a cultural landmark. Famous stars of the silver screen, like Judy Garland and Rudolph Valentino, lie here amidst lush palm trees and peaceful fountains. Visiting this cemetery is like walking through Hollywood history. You can take a guided tour of about 2.5 hours to learn about

its fascinating past and celebrity residents. What makes it even more special is the annual summer "Cinespia" outdoor movie screenings—yes, movies in a cemetery!

6000 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90038
 Daily 8.30 AM - 5 PM (closes at 4.30 PM Wkds.
 Contact: (866) 706-4826

Mountain View Cemetery

Nestled in the hills of Oakland, this cemetery is a true architectural and natural gem. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the same visionary behind

etaries

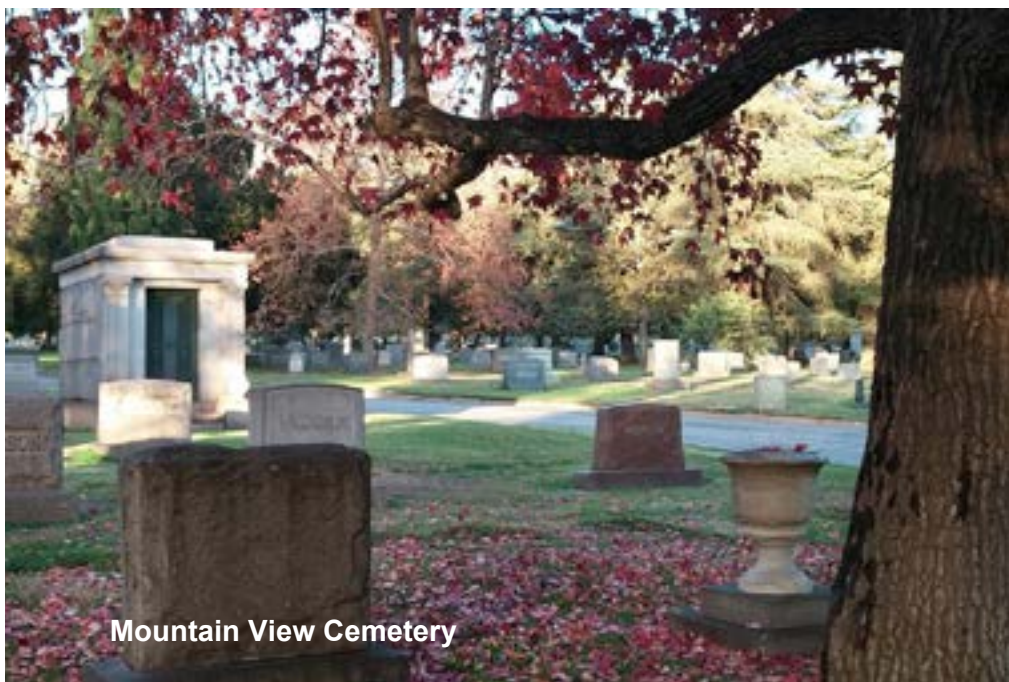
New York's Central Park, this cemetery offers a blend of history, nature, and stunning panoramic views of the Bay Area.

As you wander through its well-manicured grounds, you'll find the graves of famous Californians, including authors, politicians, and industrialists. Notable ones include chocolatier Domingo Ghirardelli, railroad builder Charles Crocker, rapper Andre "Mac Dre" Hicks, and coffee-brand founder James A. Folger.

The cemetery's serene setting, with its rolling hills, towering trees, and picturesque vistas, provides a tranquil escape from the urban bustle. It's a perfect spot for a peaceful stroll or even a quiet afternoon of reflection.

If your plan permits, try to catch the walking tour offered by the cemetery every second and fourth Saturday at 10 am. Every tour is centered around various themes such as food, sports or just the general cemetery walkthrough. Don't miss the breathtaking view of San Francisco from the top of the cemetery—it's worth the hike!

5000 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, CA 94611
Daily, 8 AM - 6 PM (office and mausoleum hours vary)
Contact: (510) 658-2588



Mountain View Cemetery

Forest Lawn Memorial Park

GLENDALE - Forest Lawn Memorial Park is one of California's most iconic cemeteries. More than just a resting place, it's a beautifully landscaped park that's home to artistic sculptures, serene gardens, and a vast collection of art. The cemetery spans over 300 acres, featuring stunning views of the Los Angeles skyline, lush greenery, and various memorials, making it a peaceful place to escape the city's hustle.

Founded in 1906, Forest Lawn has become the final resting place for many of Hollywood's most famous stars, including animation pioneer Walt Disney, Australian-American swash-buckling actor Errol Flynn, and Chicago Bears NFL player Duane Allen. Its Great Mausoleum is considered one of the most beautiful burial structures in the world, with breathtaking stained-glass windows and mosaics inspired by Renaissance art.



Forest Lawn Memorial Park Great Mausoleum

Visitors can also explore the cemetery's museum, which houses an impressive collection of art, including reproductions of Michelangelo's greatest works. Be sure to check out the Hall of Crucifixion-Resurrection, which features a massive painting of the Crucifixion, one of the largest religious paintings in the world.



Cypress Lawn Cemetery

Note: Not all graves of Hollywood stars are accessible to the public, and some are hidden away in obscure areas.

1712 S Glendale Ave, Glendale, CA 91205
Daily, 8 AM - 6 PM
Contact: (888) 204-3131

Cypress Lawn Cemetery

COLMA - Just a dozen miles from San Francisco, this cemetery is nestled in a place where the dead outnumber the living! Known as the "City of Souls," Colma is famous for its abundance of cemeteries, but Cypress Lawn stands out with its rich history and beauty.

With rolling terrain, grand fountains, and stunning views, this 200-acre cemetery is a peaceful haven. Many notable figures from California's history including businessman William Hearst, writer Gertrude Atherton, stuntman Lincoln Beachey, and others are interred here.

If you're a fan of historical monuments and unique architecture, Cypress Lawn is a gem. The quiet paths and towering statues create a surreal and calming atmosphere.

1370 El Camino Real, Colma, CA 94014
Daily, 8 AM - 6 PM (7 PM in spring and summer)
Contact: (650) 667-7404

Mission San Luis Rey Pioneer Cemetery

OCEANSIDE - This Catholic cemetery is one of the oldest in California, dating back to

1798. It's more than just a resting place—there's a historic church, a museum, and beautifully manicured gardens to explore. The entire site is a journey through California's Spanish and Mexican past.

The cemetery itself is small but serene, with whitewashed walls and lush green or brown grass in spring or summer

respectively. As you explore, you'll discover graves of early settlers, Native Americans, and Franciscan friars who played a crucial role in California's history.

After visiting the cemetery, be sure to tour the Mission grounds. The architecture and history are captivating, and the museum offers insights into the region's past.

4050 Mission Ave, Oceanside, CA 92057
Daily, 7 AM - 5 PM
Contact: (760) 757-3651



Mission San Luis Rey Pioneer Cemetery



Rose Hill Memorial Park Cemetery

Rose Hills Memorial Park Cemetery

WHITTIER - Rose Hills Memorial Park is known as the largest cemetery in North America, spanning over 1,400 acres. This place is more like a park than a traditional cemetery. With rolling hills and serene ponds with a variety of fish, Rose Hills offers a peaceful escape from city life.

This cemetery has multiple burial options, from traditional gravesites to beautiful mausoleums and even cremation gardens. But the real draw is the stunning landscape—think

endless greenery, blooming flowers, and perfectly manicured grounds.

Must-See: The SkyRose Chapel. With its stunning architecture and panoramic views, it's a perfect place to pause and reflect.

Conclusion

California may be known for its beaches and bustling cities, but it also offers a different kind of beauty—one found in the peace and history of its cemeteries. These cemeteries, each unique in their own way, provide a serene escape from the busy world, with lush landscapes, historical significance,

and fascinating stories waiting to be discovered.

So next time you're looking for a little peace and quiet, consider visiting one of these beautiful cemeteries. You might find a new appreciation for the tranquility they offer, and who knows, you may even learn something new about California's rich history.

3888 Workman Mill Rd, Whittier, CA 90601

Daily, 8 AM - 5 PM

Contact: (562) 699-0921

More on California >HERE

Beyond Silicon



When most people think of San Jose, their minds go straight to its reputation as the heart of Silicon Valley. But during your next extended weekend getaway, you might see that San Jose is a city rich in culture, culinary treasures, and exciting activities—perfect for anyone looking to experience a side of Northern California that goes beyond tech.

Exploring Cultural Neighborhoods and Culinary Delights

Start your trip by diving into San Jose's diverse neighborhoods. Head to Little Portugal, where the sweet aroma of pastel de nata from the local bakeries fills the air. A must-stop is Popular Bakery, where you can indulge in the classic Portuguese custard tart. For dinner, treat yourself to the culinary artistry at Petiscos, a cozy family-owned spot known for its delicious Portuguese dishes and Bib Gourmand recognition.

A short walk away, Little Italy offers a tight-knit, welcoming atmosphere. Stop by Paesano Ristorante Italiano for classic Italian comfort food or try Henry's Hi-Life for a BBQ experience with a surprising Italian



twist. For dessert, grab a cannoli from a nearby café and stroll through the streets, soaking in the old-world charm.

End your evening with a visit to Japantown, one of the last three remaining in the U.S. Pop into Shuei-do Manju Shop to sample traditional manju pastries, then stop by the lively Japantown Farmers' Market if you're visiting on a Sunday. For dinner, you can't go wrong with a fresh sushi roll at Kazoo.

Unique Attractions and Hidden Gems

No trip to San Jose is complete without a stop at the Winchester Mystery House. This

historic mansion, with its maze-like design and secret passages, is unlike anything you've ever seen. The legend of Sarah Winchester and her attempt to outsmart the spirits adds an eerie but fascinating element to your tour.

For a hands-on experience, spend your afternoon at The Tech Interactive, an interactive science center that's fun for both kids and adults. Dive into exhibits on robotics, AI, and climate change while enjoying design challenges that will spark your creativity. Whether you're into technology or not, this place makes innovation accessible and enjoyable for all.

Valley Is San Jose

Next, head to Monopoly in the Park, where you can play on the world's largest Monopoly board! This quirky attraction is perfect for an afternoon of fun and relaxation in the park.

Festivals and Wine Country

Plan your extended weekend to coincide with one of San Jose's vibrant festivals. In October, the Little Italy San Jose Street Fair (October 5-6, 2024) is a lively celebration of food, music, and culture. Sample artisanal cheeses, enjoy live music, and check out the classic car show for a festive start to your day.

Later in the month, the Silicon Valley African Film Festival (October 10-13, 2024) offers a unique opportunity to explore African culture through film. This year's theme, "Africa through the African Lens," showcases powerful storytelling that offers fresh perspectives and captivating narratives.

After the festival, take a short drive to Alamitos Vineyards, San Jose's only vineyard winery, nestled in historic landscapes. Meet co-owner Shaun Coleman, whose award-winning wines, including the Double Gold 2021 "White Egret" Estate Sauvignon Blanc,

are not to be missed. If you're up for more tastings, J. Lohr and Coterie Winery are just around the corner, making for a delightful wine country afternoon.

Outdoor Adventure and Relaxation

Before heading home, enjoy San Jose's beautiful outdoor spaces. If you're feeling adventurous, hike the Los Gatos Creek Trail or visit Alum Rock Park, where you can unwind with scenic views and fresh air.

For a more leisurely day, stroll through San Pedro Square Market, where local vendors offer a variety of eats and

treats. Grab a coffee, settle in with a book, or just take in the lively atmosphere.

San Jose is a city that seamlessly blends tech innovation with rich cultural experiences. Whether you're indulging in the diverse flavors of its neighborhoods, exploring fascinating attractions, or enjoying its outdoor beauty, there's something for everyone. This extended weekend getaway will leave you with a newfound appreciation for the vibrancy and charm of Silicon Valley's capital, proving it's much more than just a tech hub.

More on California
>[HERE](#)





7 Official Gho



Colorado ghost towns offer a peek in the foggy windows of a once-rowdy brothel, an ATV trek on roads no one bothered to pave on their way out of town and stories of intense standoffs in gulches will remind you why this was the Wild West.

Colorado's mining boom put the state on the map as one of the most lucrative places to be in the late 1800s. Promises of riches brought gold-starry-eyed workers in by the droves as newcomers quickly assembled towns near medal-laden landscapes on grassy meadows and rocky hillsides.

Some of these towns, like Breckenridge, Leadville and Idaho Springs, remain some of Colorado's top destinations, while the not so lucky faded into some of the coolest ghost towns of America. Visiting these eerily quiet spots revives Colorado's boom time as modern-day adventurers wander through abandoned streets once teeming with rambunctious saloons, outlaw showdowns and a lucrative industry that bol-

stered — and built — the West.

Colorado Ghost Towns You Can Visit

Here are a few of the state's most accessible options, where there are still buildings to see. Be careful. Many of the abandoned buildings are unsafe to enter, and many are privately owned or protected by a local or state historical society. Taking souvenirs is strictly prohibited. Take all the photos you like, though.

Independence

Independence sits close to 11,000 feet on Independence Pass, a steep and nail-biting passage for stagecoach travelers headed to or from Leadville and Aspen in the 1800s. Just off Highway 82, the Aspen Historical Society gives tours of the short-lived town that was deserted by miners via wooden skis made from cabins in 1899.

St. Elmo & Tin Cup

West of Buena Vista, St. Elmo is one of Colorado's best-preserved ghost towns. With wooden storefronts and a dusty main street, it looks straight out

of a John Wayne movie. You can get to St. Elmo in a regular car or by ATV, but after you explore a bit, make your way to the nearby infamous town of Tin Cup. One of the more rowdy towns, sheriffs didn't last very long here, and you can see echoes of their sorry fates lingering at the town cemetery.

Vicksburg & Winfield

North of Buena Vista you'll find the tree-lined streets of Vicksburg, located in a steep clear-creek canyon. A little farther on this scenic route, you'll come to Winfield, where not much remains but the spirits of disappointed miners. This flash in the pan went boom and bust in only three years.

Carson

Visitors to Carson often think they're the first to discover the high-altitude town when they see its undisturbed buildings and remote, tricky-to-get-to location near the Continental Divide (from this point, rivers east of the divide flow to the Gulf of Mexico; those west flow to the Pacific Ocean). In addition to its harsh winters, Carson was also

Best Towns in Colorado



unpopular with miners because of its inaccessibility; it sits at nearly 12,000 feet. The best way to get to Carson is from Lake City on Wager Gulch Trail (via 4x4, bike or hike). Continue to the Pacific side of the divide and you'll find the sister town of Old Carson.

Capitol City

Also near Lake City, 9 miles up the 4x4 Henson Creek/Engineer Pass road, George S. Lee dreamed of being Colorado's governor and making this area and silver-mining town — you guessed it: the state's capital

city. In the 1870s, he built a mansion here, and the town featured hotels, saloons, a post office, other homes and more. Today visitors can still see the post office, a smelter stack and blankets of aspen trees and evergreens.

Animas Forks

Plagued by avalanches, the staple feature in Animas Forks is the huge bay window in the two-story Duncan House. Local lore has it the mining heiress and owner of the Hope Diamond, Evalyn Walsh, wrote her biography here. Four-wheel

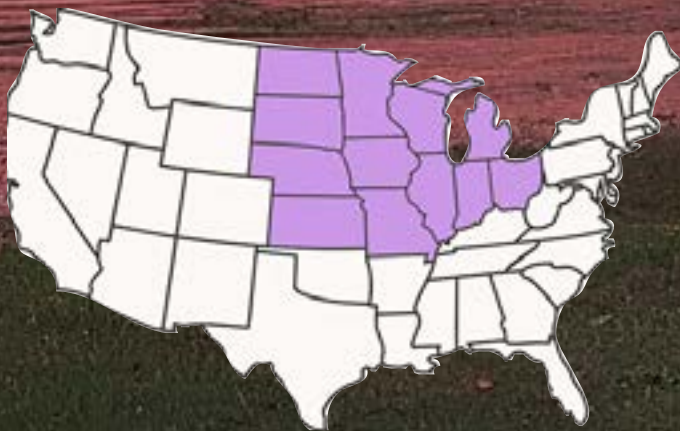
drive is the best way to reach Animas Forks, or you can rent an ATV in nearby Silverton or Lake City.

Ashcroft

Once home to two newspapers (even Denver only has one!), 20 saloons, a school and many private homes, Ashcroft faded before the turn of the century. Only 10 miles from Aspen, take a self-guided tour of a dozen or so buildings preserved by the Aspen Historical Society, including the jail, livery stable and a couple saloons.

More on Colorado >HERE

Midwest States



A Weekend Beach Is Tops



Just across the Ohio River from Louisville, Kentucky, GoSoIn CVB offers visitors a unique blend of small-town charm, rich history, and modern attractions. From luxurious accommodations to local dining and sightseeing gems, here's your guide to an unforgettable weekend getaway.

Accommodations

Your weekend begins with a stay at the TownePlace Suites by Marriott Louisville North. This extended-stay hotel in Jeffersonville offers all the comforts of home, including spacious suites with full kitchens, free Wi-Fi, and complimentary breakfast each morning. Whether you're unwinding after a day of sightseeing or preparing for a night out, the relaxed atmosphere and excellent service ensure a peaceful stay.

Located conveniently near the Big Four Station Park and downtown Jeffersonville, the hotel provides easy access to popular attractions, dining, and outdoor spaces. Its prime location, combined with modern amenities, makes TownePlace Suites a top choice for weekend travelers.

Dining and Entertainment

No trip to Southern Indiana is complete without a night at

the Derby Dinner Playhouse, located in Clarksville. As one of the oldest and largest professional dinner theaters in the country, it offers guests the opportunity to enjoy a live Broadway-style show while indulging in a delicious buffet meal. Save room for dessert to be served during your intermission.

Sightseeing

For those who appreciate scenic views and outdoor exploration, the Big Four Station Park is a must-visit. This park sits at the foot of the Big Four Bridge, an iconic landmark connecting Southern Indiana to Louisville across the Ohio River. Originally built as a railroad bridge in the 19th century, it has since been converted into a pedestrian and cyclist bridge, offering stunning panoramic views of the river and both city skylines.

Delve Into History

Learn about river transportation with a tour of the Howard Steamboat Museum in Jeffer-



sonville. Housed in the 1894 family Victorian mansion, this museum provides an immersive look into the world of steamboat construction, which was once the lifeblood of the Ohio River. Exhibits detail the craftsmanship of the Howard Shipyard, which built steamboats of the era.

More on Indiana >[HERE](#)





A Haunting Axe Murder In Villisca



*By Tim Trudell
Freelance Writer*

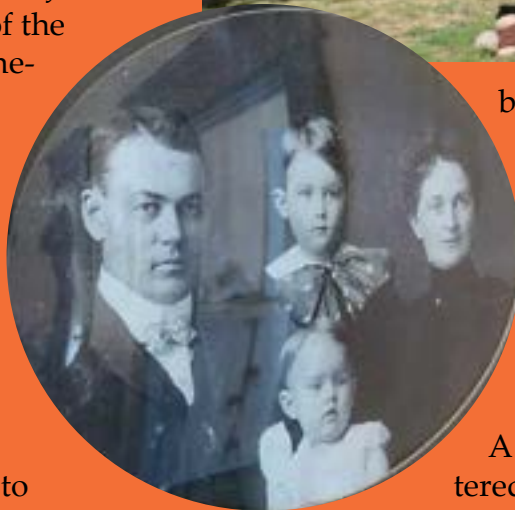
It was a hot, humid June night, when the Josiah and Saraha Moore family attended a church service in their hometown of Villisca, Iowa. Afterward, the family returned home, hosting Leah, 12, and Ina Stillinger, 8, as overnight guests.

Sometime overnight on June 10, 1912, as the rest of the rural town slept, someone sneaked into the two-floor wood-framed house and bludgeoned to death six members of the Moore family and both Stillinger girls. The killer used the blunt end of an axe to deliver multiple blows to seven people, while slicing the front of the weapon into Sarah Moore's face.

In southwest Iowa, the Villisca Axe Murder House offers tours of the site of one of the state's most-gruesome murders, still unsolved after more than 100 years.

While self-guided tours are available, guided experiences are recommended, as visitors learn the background of the Moores, the evening's events and speculation about what transpired that night.

The bodies were discovered by Josiah Moore's brother the next morning. About 8 a.m., a neigh-



bor noticed that the Moores hadn't completed their chores, so she walked over to check on them. As she tried to open the door, she discovered it locked, which was odd. Attempting to peer through the windows, the curtains were drawn. Nervous, she contacted Ross Moore, who let himself in with a spare key.

A gruesome sight awaited them. Blood-splattered walls, mirrors covered with sheets and the axe was leaned against the doorway to the Stillinger girls' room.

The killer washed his hands in a bucket of water. He also took the time to cook a meal, but left it on the table.



While the house includes furniture and decor from the time period that the Moores lived in there, photos of the family in the front room are the only original items. Townspeople had entered the house and took souvenirs from the crime scene.



While walk-ins are welcome, online reservations are encouraged. Tours begin at the gift shop, where guides whet guests' appetites with photos of four suspects before entering the house.

Sitting in the front room, the guide relives the events of the murder, from the family heading to church and the fateful decision by the Stillinger family to let the girls spend the night. Did the killer hide in the house and wait for everyone to fall asleep? Since, it was common for smalltown people to leave doors unlocked, did the murderer grab the axe from the family's shed and sneak into the house while everyone slept?

It's believed the killer struck Josiah Moore first, eliminating the biggest threat to stopping the crime. Then, likely, Sarah Moore woke and was killed with the sharp edge of the axe. The four Moore children were slaughtered in their beds in an adjacent upstairs room. Then, the Stillinger girls were killed in a first floor bedroom.



Four men were considered suspects. Frank Jones, a local businessman and state senator, was the initial suspect. After having fired Josiah Moore, he was allegedly upset that Moore opened a hardware store, competing with his former boss. No evidence connected Jones to the crime beyond rumors.

Two men believed to have been hired by Jones were released because no evidence connected them to the crime.

The Rev. George Kelly appeared to be the likeliest suspect. The traveling minister seemed to know intimate details of the crime. He also confessed, but it was thought he was mentally ill, possibly a schizophrenic. Acquitted after a second trial - the first resulted in a hung jury - Kelly later disappeared, never to be heard from again. No one else was ever charged with the crimes.

The eight victims' spirits are believed to roam the house, with ghost hunters claiming they've had encounters. One tour guide refuses to enter the house alone after a ball mysteriously rolled into the parents' bedroom from the attic as

she was opening the house for that day's tours. Another has an image of Mrs. Moore clad in the dress she wore that day.

Overnight stays are available and EMF (electromotive force) meters are available for rental.

Whether or not a person believes in haunted houses, the Villisca Axe Murder House provides a historical look at a true crime scene.

Put the **NATIONAL FARM**

By Debbie Behne

In our family, a discussion about attending the National Farm Toy Show usually begins in the summer and could run right up to a few days before the event. Sometimes, our decision depends on the weather, while other times it hinges on the work or school schedules of all five family members.

No matter when the final decision is made, however, we all knew we wanted to go to the national show from the first moment of discussion. It wasn't just the farm toys, but everything the national show offered that drew us, including the chance to see friends we had made through the years. We were hooked.

If you are considering making a trip to the 2024 National Farm Toy Show, here are some helpful hints to smooth the way to Dyersville, Iowa.

The 47th Annual National Farm Toy Show will be held Nov. 1-3 in Dyersville, Iowa, at the usual sites, including Beckman High School and the National Farm Toy Museum, where general admission hours are 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. The third site is Commercial Club Park, where general admission hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and an 8 a.m. start on Sunday. Hours for outdoor sales are the same, although they can vary somewhat by location and vendor.

Where to stay?

Dyersville is typically a quiet community of about 4,550, but things change during the weekend of the National Farm Toy Show, when the population swells, parking becomes a challenge and traffic backs up, especially Saturday morning near Beckman, which is located on Highway 136 just a few blocks north of Highway 20.

Trying to find a motel room? That can be the first and most immediate challenge in successfully attending the show. Many make motel reservations and travel plans a year in advance. Dyersville features several motels, but don't be surprised if you are looking in nearby towns from Manchester to the west, Guttenberg to the north and Dubuque to the east or perhaps even farther away. Get on the internet and start searching for motels close to Dyersville. The earlier this can be done, the better.

Besides hotels, there are other choices. The Dyersville Chamber of Commerce (563-875-2311 or www.dyersville.org) spearheads a program that matches local residents, who are willing to open their homes, with visitors in need of a room during the national show. Make sure all arrangements (including the rental price for a bedroom) are agreed upon in advance, so there are no surprises once you arrive in Dyersville.

TOY SHOW[®]

on your calendar!



NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024



General admission is \$10 daily. A floor rights ticket costs \$30 for all three days and allows the purchaser to enter earlier than posted hours throughout the weekend and be "on the floor" while dealers might still be setting up on Friday. Floor rights tickets offer an advantage (especially Friday afternoon) to beat the crowds and see many of the displays and vendor tables before crowds make it more difficult to do so. Those who wish to purchase floor rights tickets are encouraged to contact Toy Farmer in advance; general admission tickets are available at the door.

For more information, see the Toy Farmer website at www.toyfarmer.com or call 800-533-8293. Toy Farmer sponsors the National Farm Toy Show.

Upon entering the national show, pick up a copy of the free show program, published by the Dyersville Commercial newspaper. The program includes information such as where vendors are located, specials at area businesses, show history and other feature stories, plus ads for upcoming auctions and shows.

Hundreds of vendors will be located down the hallways, in classrooms and in the new gym at Beckman High School, as well as in the gym at the National Farm Toy Museum and at Commercial Club Park. Additional vendors are located outdoors near Beckman and the museum. It's nearly impossible to describe the variety of items available

for sale at the show; a majority are farm toy-related, but there is much more to see and purchase.

Displays in a variety of sizes, by youth and adults, are also popular and can be found at Beckman. In recent years, those displays have been in one location in the Beckman new gym, which makes it convenient for the show attendees.





"The farm toy and ag memorabilia market is on fire," Cornwell stated in a recent *Toy Farmer* ad promoting the auction. "Some fabulous pieces have already been committed!" Only quality consignments will be accepted and a list of items must be submitted in advance, said Cornwell, who has handled the auction at the national show since 1993. A catalog will be available in early October. In addition to the live auction, items will also be sold online at www.cornwellauction.hibid.com. For more information, call 402-694-2216 or see the company's website at www.cornwellauction.com.

Crafts, food and more are featured at an annual Mercy Medical Center Holiday Festival on Saturday. Free bus service has been available in past years to this event (see more about the bus service below).

The sounds of the National Farm Toy Museum sanctioned micro-mini pull fill the air at Commercial Club Park beginning at 3 p.m. Friday and at 11 a.m. Saturday. That event is usually held in the south building in the park area.

A sanctioned pedal pull for all ages will be held on Saturday only. Registration begins at 10 a.m. and pulling continues until all have had a chance to compete.

Free bus service is usually available throughout all three days of the national show. Buses run periodically and stop at Beckman, the museum and Commercial Club Park. Additional stops are usually made at several

What to do?

When making lodging arrangements, consider everything you want to do in Dyersville. The main event is the national show, which runs from Friday through Sunday. Leave plenty of time to see tables set up by the hundreds of vendors at the three sites as well as those located outside near Beckman, the museum and at Commercial Club Park.

In addition to vendor tables, numerous displays are set up at Beckman. These displays are always fun to see, especially when noticing how small details are so skillfully crafted. Displays are judged in youth and adult categories and receive awards during the show. Top entries in the various categories earn a "gold tractor," which is a gold-plated version of that year's show tractor. For those who wish to enter a display, see contest rules at www.toyfarmer.com.

Another attraction is the National Farm Toy Museum, established in 1986 and located within walking distance of Beckman High School. The gym area holds vendors associated with the national show, so admission or floor rights tickets are needed for that area, but the rest of the museum is also open and the regular admission fee is waived during the show. More than 30,000 farm toys can be seen, as well as a video, farm scenes and historical displays.

There is a collector's showcase at the museum, a manufacturing showcase and a display of National Farm Toy Hall of Fame winners.

For those who examine museum displays thoroughly, this attraction alone could take from a couple hours to a whole day. For more information on the National Farm Toy Museum, see its website at www.nationalfarmtoy.com or call 563-875-2727.

The auction conducted by Tom Cornwell and associates begins at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Beckman auditorium.



other locations, including downtown Dyersville, Samuelson Pedal Tractors and at three companies that help give Dyersville the title of "Farm Toy Capital of the World:" Scale Models, SpecCast and TOMY Outlet Store, which features numerous items for sale as well as scale models made by the company (formerly The Ertl Co.).

But there is even more to see and do, although these activities are not necessarily farm toy-related. The "Field of Dreams" movie site is located just outside Dyersville and is typically open during the national show. Admission has not been charged in the past and visitors can run the bases, play catch or recreate the scene where ghost players walk out of the corn field (depending upon if fields have been harvested). For more information, call 888-875-8404 or see the website www.fieldofdreamsmoviesite.com.

A new feature at the "Field of Dreams" site sits nearby – a new specially constructed stadium, which has hosted Major League Baseball games. The movie site is owned and operated by Go The Distance.

An "If You Build It" exhibit is located at 310 Second St. SE, Suite 103, in Dyersville (phone 563-230-7180).

"Explore an exhibit dedicated to the making of America's slice of heaven," according to the website, www.ifyoubuilditexhibit.com. "See how the magic continues after Hollywood left a small town living the dream! Experience the history of the 'Field of Dreams' and explore the community that it calls home."

Located nearby is the Baseball Hall of Dreams (phone 563-875-8970), which "celebrates the magic, beauty and joy of baseball. Rare memorabilia, interactive displays and rich personal stories will enhance your love and appreciation of the game," according to its website, www.thebaseballhallofdreams.com.

The Basilica of St. Francis Xavier is one of only 52 such structures in the United States and is a beautiful example of Gothic architecture. The basilica, which is open daily, is located in downtown Dyersville. More information can be obtained at 563-875-7325.

More than 1,200 dolls can be seen at the Dyer-Botsford Doll Museum, located in a restored Victorian house, which is the original home of

Dyersville's founder. In addition to dolls, a rare revolving German feather Christmas tree and German ornaments are on display. For more information, call 563-875-2504.

Plaza Antique Mall bills itself as "eastern Iowa's largest antique, collectible and farm toy shopping experience." This business is located close to the National Farm Toy Museum and can be reached by calling 563-875-8945.

Dyersville is located in far eastern Iowa, only about 20 miles from Dubuque, which is right on the Mississippi River and across the state line from Illinois. Dubuque is home to the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, sponsored in association with the Smithsonian Institution.

Many more attractions, scenery, shops and museums are available within a relatively short distance of the Dyersville/Dubuque area and might interest those attending the national show, depending upon interests and available time. In addition, other farm toy businesses are located in the area. The website, www.dyersville.org, has a wealth of information about Dyersville and nearby areas.

And finally...

The national show is sponsored by Toy Farmer, which has a booth at Beckman High School's new gym area. If you need to renew your magazine subscription, pick up show tractors, buy a binder or want to meet many of

the Toy Farmer staff at the show, this booth is the place to go.

This year's show tractor is a Wagner WA-17, available in 1/32 scale and 1/64 scale.

Although the show is sponsored by Toy Farmer, with a great deal of planning required throughout the year by magazine employees, the event could not be held without help from Dyersville residents and groups, who also share in the financial success of the show. The Beckman Music Boosters, for example, appreciate business at the school's lunch stand, with profits benefiting students in the music program. Local groups help with parking and ticket taking and, as a result, share in show revenues.

Those who have entered the national show by the main doorway at Beckman High School in the past saw a variety of display tables featuring wares from local groups, such as the Iowa FFA, Lions Club, and the Historical Society. Those groups are not charged setup fees and are also able to retain profits from sales made at those tables. Toy Farmer organizers say such gestures are a way to give back to the community.

It takes a community to put on an event like the national show, that's for sure. Think of hosting thousands of your favorite friends and the work it would take to keep everyone not only happy, but well fed, entertained and ready to come back the next year.

The National Farm Toy Show has been called "the granddaddy of them all." And it's definitely an event you have to see to believe. Make the decision today to attend. TF



A farm toy collectors dream.

47th Annual

National

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024

FARM TOY

Show[®]

Weekend Highlights:

- » Display Contest
- » Auction by Cornwell
Catalog Available in Early October.
Tom Cornwell & Associates, Auctioneers
Phone: (402) 694-2216
- » Sanctioned Micro-Mini Pull
Friday at 3 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m.
- » Mercy Hospital Presents
Holiday Festival 2024
- » National Farm Toy Museum



GENERAL ADMISSION: \$10
FLOOR RIGHTS PASS: \$30

Get into the show early all weekend!

Floor Rights Hours:

Friday at 2 p.m., Saturday & Sunday at 8 a.m.
Purchase now by calling our office.

General Admission Show Hours:

Fri., Nov. 1: 5-8 p.m.
Commercial Club Park: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat, Nov. 2: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Commercial Club Park: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun, Nov. 3: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Commercial Club Park: Opens at 8 a.m.

Located at Beckman High School, the National Farm Toy Museum,
Commercial Club Park and Outdoor Sales

DYERSVILLE, IOWA



Sponsored by:

TOY FARMER
Serving Collectors Worldwide



For more info go to
WWW.TOYFARMER.COM
or Call 1 (800) 533-8293

Magic and Mystery Of



Continued partnership with Quixotic brings a unique and immersive outdoor experience this fall

Kingsville – Powell Gardens, Kansas City’s botanical garden, is thrilled to announce the return of Dark Forest, an extraordinary outdoor event in collaboration with renowned performance art collective, Quixotic. Now in its fourth year, this highly anticipated event will take place on October 18-19, 24-26, 31 and November 1-2 from 7-11 p.m. Dark Forest visitors are invited to explore a mesmerizing 1-mile trail through the enchanted woods of Powell Gardens.

“Partnering with Quixotic continues to elevate the Dark Forest experience,” said Powell Gardens’ Chief Executive Officer Cody Jolliff. “This event is a great example of our commitment to creating innovative and memorable experiences that celebrate the natural beauty of the Midwest. We can’t wait to welcome visitors back to our woods to experience the magic, mystery, and enchantment that Dark Forest offers.”

The Dark Forest trail will captivate guests with spellbinding performances, ethereal music, and cutting-edge technology. Artist Rachel Eilts returns to craft new and updated art installations from natural materials and new and returning performances will fill the trail.

This year’s event introduces Fire Feasts, an exclusive add-on culinary experience available from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a wood-fire

grilled supper, including chicken, beef, and veggie kabobs with chimichurri sauce, spiced rice, grilled ears of corn, and dessert. Each meal comes with one drink, with options for specialty fire-themed cocktails and mocktails. The Fire Feast also features pop-up fire performances, creating a truly unique dining atmosphere. Meals are gluten-free, dairy-free, and vegetarian friendly. Advance purchase of Fire Feast tickets is required.

Limited VIP tickets are available. VIP tickets include VIP parking, two drinks, and a souvenir t-shirt, as well as the chance to skip the line and visit a VIP bar and seating area.

Garden Galleries will showcase a night blooming plant exhibit, and the Mystic Faire near the Missouri Barn and Silo will delight with even more oddities and curiosities. Guests can warm up and shop for event gear at the Cabinet of Coffee & Curiosities before setting off on their nocturnal adventure.

Designed for a PG-13 audience, Dark Forest is a limited-ticket event, running only October 18-19, 24-26, 31 and November 1-2, 2024, at Powell Gardens. Gates open at 5:30 p.m., with trail experience available from 7-11 p.m.

Advance ticket purchases are required and can be made at powellgardens.org/dark-forest starting at noon on Thursday, August 15, 2024. Powell Gardens members and e-mail subscribers receive early access to ticket sales.

More on Missouri >HERE

Early Bird Shopping SATURDAY ONLY 8am - 10am

\$8 Early Admission *Tickets must be purchased online to attend Early Bird*

General Admission \$6.00 *Online or at the Gate (no cc at gate) (Children under 12 Free)*



37th ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER

OLD MILL STREAM CRAFT SHOW

Sat, Oct 5, 2024 • 10am-5pm

Sun, Oct 6, 2024 • 11am-4pm

GET READY FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

Come shop at over 280 exciting exhibits, from 8 states in 9 buildings and dozens of outdoor locations. A great place to shop and a tradition in Findlay for 37 years!

HANCOCK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

1017 East Sandusky Street • Findlay, OH 45840

Ample Free Parking • Demonstrations • Delicious Food • Entertainment • RAIN or SHINE
Tickets available after September 1st • www.cloudshows.biz

It's Spine-Tingling Fear At Fear Field



Looking for an unforgettable scare this Halloween season? Head to Saint Clairsville, Ohio, and brace yourself for a heart-pounding adventure at Fear Field Haunted Attraction. Situated on a sprawling farm property, Fear Field is not your typical haunted house—it's a twisted, immersive journey into fear that attracts thrill-seekers from all over. Whether you're looking for a family-friendly outing or a night of bone-chilling frights, Fear Field delivers both in a way that will leave you begging for more.

Fear Field Daytime Not So Scary Trail

If you're looking for a tamer, fun-filled experience for the whole family, the Daytime Not So Scary Trail is perfect. This interactive trail is packed with games, music, scavenger hunts, and fall-themed photo opportunities. Suitable for children, teens, and even adults who enjoy adventure without the scares, it's the ideal way to ease into the Halloween spirit.



Dates: Fridays and Saturdays from September 20 through October 2024

Time: 12 PM to 4 PM

Price: \$5 online or onsite (Children under 36 months enter free)

Note: *Closed September 28 for the Giant Pumpkin Parade at the Barnesville Pumpkin Festival*

Fear Field Nighttime Scary Trail

Once darkness falls, Fear Field transforms into a nerve-racking gauntlet of horror on the Nighttime Scary Trail. You'll wind your way through a terrifying, wooded path where redneck Hill-Jacks are determined to scare you out of their land using booby traps and spine-chilling surprises. What sets Fear Field apart is its commitment to authenticity—real bones and eerie artifacts gathered from haunt-

ed locations enhance the experience. And beware of the notorious "Creepy Ed," who might still be lurking in the maze, waiting to send shivers down your spine.

Dates: Every Friday and Saturday in September and October

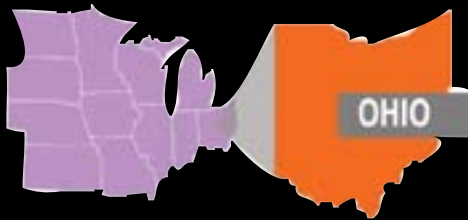
Time: 7 PM to 11 PM

Price: \$20 advance tickets online (\$5 off when buying 3–20 tickets, \$7 off for 21 or more). Onsite tickets are \$25. Special Event: Friday the 13th, September 13th—a can't-miss night of extra thrills!

Why You Should Go

Fear Field Haunted Attraction promises an exhilarating mix of suspense, horror, and fun, making it a must-visit destination this Halloween. Skip the lines by purchasing your tickets online, and prepare for a night that you'll never forget. Whether you're bringing the family for daytime fun or testing your nerves on the Nighttime Scary Trail, Fear Field is Ohio's top spot for Halloween thrills.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit FearField.com.



Haunts On The Ohio River



*By Sarah Miller
Freelance Writer*

Listen to the rapids of the Ohio River, they have stories to tell. For years, these currents carried steamboats and provided a link between the North and the South (Cincinnati, Ohio and Newport, Kentucky). In the 1920's, Newport was a known hangout for mobsters. From their storied history to today, visitors can now find family-friendly attractions like the Newport Aquarium and the Purple People Bridge which links the two cities. Fall is the ideal time to visit for a bounty of Halloween and harvest happenings.

Old Haunt, Be Our Guest!

Time to check into an old haunt, Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. In the heart of downtown, this French Art Deco designed grand dame is elegant with rare Brazilian rosewood, marble, custom fixtures, and a Hall of Mirrors. Critics heralded the Netherland Plaza's opening in 1931 saying it "challenged the splendor of King Solomon's Temple." Today it's a National Historic Landmark and is just steps from Fountain Square and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

All great old haunts have stories, and the plaza is riddled with colorful tales. The Lady in Green is said to haunt the halls looking for her husband, a hotel construction worker, who was killed during the hotel's construction and was never found. Sir Winston Churchill, Bing Crosby, and Elvis Presley have all been guests at the plaza. Other famous guests include George H. Bush, Celine Dion, The Radio City Rockettes, and a host of other promi-



nent people who visit the Queen City.

Brave the Bridge: Cincy to Newport, KY
Walk from Ohio into Kentucky on the Purple People Bridge which spans 2,670 feet over the Ohio River. The bridge is the longest connecting bridge of its kind in the country, and has been linking the states since 1872. Named for its purple color and pedestrian-only use, the Purple People Bridge is a must-do for your fall fun lists on the Ohio River.

Newport on the Levee
Sharks, Schnitzel, and Floating Pumpkins—Oh, My!
Cincinnati, the Queen City, boasts a booming



scene, but Cincy's Southern cousin is worth the walk or short drive for happening new haunts and harvest fun. Newport on the Levee is a family-friendly tourist area on the Ohio River packed with restaurants, attractions, and hotels.

First stop: The Newport Aquarium, an aqua-



filled wonderland, is teeming with thousands of animals in a million gallons of water. This immersive aquarium allows you to get up close to jellyfish, manta rays, and even walk over sharks. Shark Bridge—a 75-foot suspended rope bridge dangles over a tank filled with sharks, rays, and fish.

Sharks might stir up enough Halloween fun, but Newport Aquarium's new treat this year is the Underwater Pumpkin Glow. Watch divers plunge underwater to carve pumpkins. Listen to eerie music accompanied by glowing lights, all intermixed with real pumpkins. Pumpkins will take on larger than life personas as octopus that will double as an artificial reef. Spy fish zig through the underwater pumpkin patch, an eerily cool Halloween sight.

Second Stop: Walk to the nearby Hofbräuhaus Newport on the river where the food and atmosphere screams fall. Hofbräuhaus Newport claims to be America's first authentic Hofbräuhaus, a tribute to the iconic 400+ year-old Hofbräuhaus in Munich, Germany. Oktoberfest beers, live music, and German comfort foods warm a soul on a crisp day. Order a huge, soft Hofbräuhaus Pretzel and dunk in Bier Cheese. Sit on long wooden tables and soak in the aroma

of dishes like Bauern Schnitzel, mingled with brats and spaetzle. Or, try vegetarian offerings and gluten-free options. Save room for fall desserts like Apfel Strudel, a traditional German apple strudel imported from Bavaria topped with vanilla and raspberry sauces.

Walk off your celebratory German meal around Newport on the Levee. Stroll along the river, browse unique stores, and look out for the famous paddle boats. Catch a movie or go bowling to wind down the day.

Third Stop: Head back to the hotel to appreciate Fountain Square, a bubbling oasis in Cincinnati's city center since 1871. Dine at a classic Cincy restaurant like Graeter's Ice Cream, Via Vite, and Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse. The square is the place where live music and festivities happen.

Plan Ahead for These Tricks and Treats:

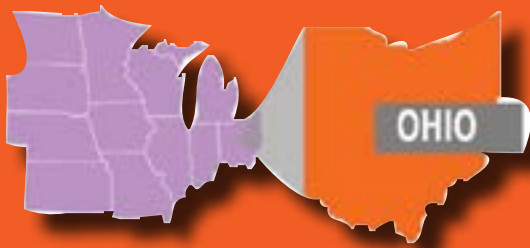
Looking for a bit of history to pair with your hauntingly cool vacation? Reserve a cruise on the Ohio River with BB Riverboats. They offer fall sightseeing cruises and a murder mystery cruise with a Harry Potter theme.



American Legacy Tours tells the stories of the old Newport, Kentucky, one of gangsters and raucous gambling. Choose from the Newport Gangster Tour or the Newport is Haunted Tour to add mystery and history into your extended weekend. Other tours include a walk through the Queen City's Underground Railroad and the Hidden Caverns Tour.

Newport Aquarium's Underwater Pumpkin GLOW will take place from September 16 to November 3, 2024. This inaugural event will take place every day from open to close and is included with General Admission or Membership.

More on Ohio >[HERE](#)



Fall Harvest A



*By
Amanda
Ensinger
Freelance
Writer*

The start of fall marks the celebration of the fall harvest and the changing of the seasons. It also is the perfect time to explore regions you typically might not visit this time of year. While many visit Shores & Islands Ohio in the summer, fall is breathtaking time to embark on some adventure in the area. Below are some unique communities in the region that offer a variety of fun ways to celebrate the season.

Huron

Known for its breathtaking views of Lake Erie, natural sandy beaches and paddleboarding and kayaking, Huron is the perfect place to visit any time of the year. In the fall, explore Sheldon March Nature Preserve and enjoy the changing of the foliage, as well as the variety of bird species before they migrate south.

Don't miss Pumpkin Fest at the Huron Boat Basin Amphitheater in October. This annual event offers fall inspired food, games and activities for all ages.



Berlin Heights

This charming village in known for its fertile soil and abundance of farms, including wineries, orchards and farm markets.

Visit Quarry Hill Orchards to enjoy the variety of apples grown in the region. This family-owned fruit farm has been in operation since 1929. Shop at the rustic market barn that sells everything from fresh cider to donuts to produce grown right on the farm. The orchard hosts an annual Ap-

ple Peak Harvest Gathering in October that celebrates all things fall. This year, enjoy apple picking wagon rides, food trucks, wine, a vendor market, live music, honey demo, hiking and face and pumpkin painting.

Quarry Hill Winery also is a favorite in the region. Located next to Quarry Hill Orchards and owned by the same family, it offers a variety of wines made with grapes grown from the winery. Enjoy a glass of local fruit wine, while viewing the sunset from the wineries'

Along Shores and Islands

wraparound deck.

Port Clinton

Located right on Lake Erie, this community has been named the “Walleye Capital of the World” and attracts fishing enthusiasts from all over the country. However, there is so much more to Port Clinton than fish.

Home to the Miller Boat Line, this ferry runs an 18-minute trip to Put-in-Bay. During this boat ride you can enjoy the beauty of the lake and the fall foliage of the island as you arrive. Once on Put-in-Bay, walk off the ferry directly to E’s Golf Carts. Offering two, four, six and eight-person golf cart rentals, guests enjoy having their own transportation to explore the island. There is a variety of gold cart parking on the island, and it makes it quicker and eas-



ier to explore Put-in-Bay in one day.

While at Port Clinton, also stop by Toft’s Ice Cream Parlor to enjoy a sweet treat. The parlor has been serving ice cream in Port Clinton for over 25 years and offers a variety of unique flavors, specialty sundaes, milkshakes and more.

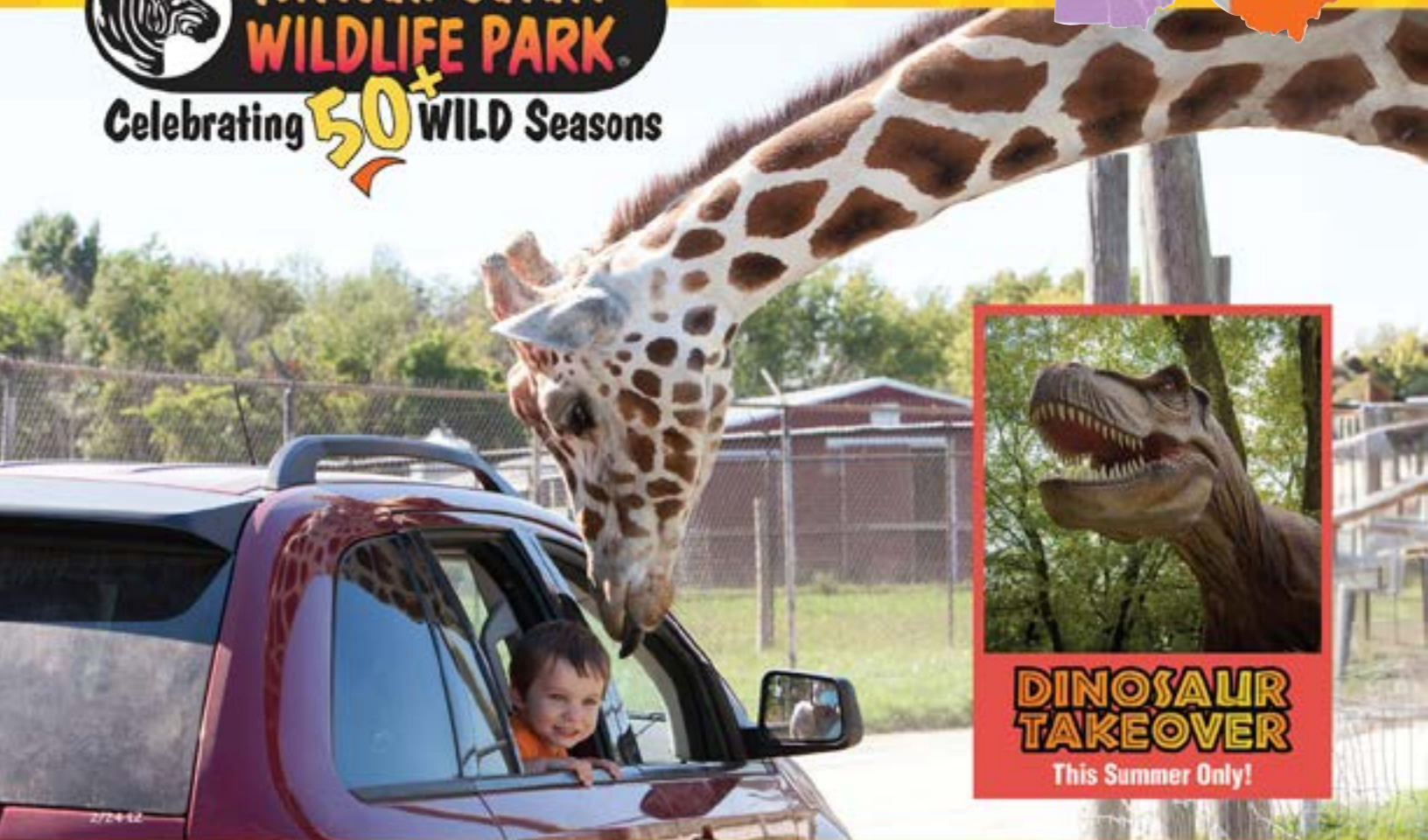
Before leaving Port Clinton make sure and visit the Liberty Aviation Museum. This museum showcases historical aircrafts and vehicles used during WWII. Listen to volunteers about how these airplanes and vehicles were used during the war and the work it takes to restore them and keep them pristine.

Finally, don’t miss out on visiting the African Safari Wildlife Park. Offering families an experience of a lifetime for over 50 years, guests enjoy feeding a variety of animals from the comforts of their car. Interact with giraffes, zebras, bison, deer and other animals you would normally only see at the zoo.

After visiting with the animals, stop in the gift shop for a souvenir and explore the interactive activities for families.

As you make your fall plans, consider a trip to Shores & Island Ohio. Offering a serene settings, fresh and local produce and entertainment for everyone, fall is the perfect time to visit this unique part of Ohio.





267 S. LIGHTNER RD • PORT CLINTON, OH 43452
17 MILES WEST FROM CEDAR POINT
1-800-521-2660

**\$3.00
OFF**

Regular Admission
(Ages 7 years+)



WEX3

**\$2.00
OFF**

Children's Admission
(3-6 years)



WEX2

Valid for up to 6 people with coupon. May not be used in combination with any other offer. Expires 12/1/2024.

AFRICANSAFARIWILDLIFEPARK.COM
The Midwest's Original Drive-Thru Safari!

LAKE EERIE

FEARFEST

HAUNTED HOUSES

PLUS:

ZOMBIE VR | ESCAPE ROOM
4D HAUNTED MINE RIDE

SEPT. / OCT.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

8PM - 11PM

ADMISSION \$25

BUY TICKETS ONLINE NOW
[HTTPS://LAKEEERIEFEARFEST.COM/](https://lakeeriefearfest.com/)

419-626-4467

3319 MILAN RD.
SANDUSKY OHIO



WORLD'S ONLY AIRBOAT, GATOR & DRIVE-THRU SAFARI PARK!



There are many sides to Florida you may not know about. At Wild Florida, you can explore its wild side! Discover Florida's natural wildlife on a chartered airboat tour, explore our Gator Park, home to more than 200 native and exotic animals, and journey through our Drive-thru Safari Park where wild animals like reticulated giraffe, watusi, and scimitar oryx roam freely!

WHEN IT COMES TO ADVENTURE, WE'VE GOT IT ALL.

For **WILD** times and **WILD** fun, it has to be **WILD FLORIDA!**

**WILD
FLORIDA**

(407) 957-3135
3301 Lake Cypress Rd.
Kenansville, FL 34739

\$2 OFF

**SAFARI PARK
ADMISSION**

Expires 12/31/24

\$5 OFF

**9AM ONE-HOUR
AIRBOAT TOURS**

Expires 12/31/24

Closed on Sundays. Not valid with other offers
or discounts. Expires 12/31/24

Bring these coupons the day you visit or book online
using the code WEEKNDR24 to redeem these discounts!

GET STARTED AT www.WILDFL.com!

JOUST FOR YOU!

31ST ANNUAL CAROLINA **R**ENAISSANCE FESTIVAL™ & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE



OCTOBER 5-NOVEMBER 24 SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS



JOUSTING • FEASTING • MUSIC • COMEDY
GAMES • RIDES • CIRCUS ENTERTAINMENTS



Harris Teeter
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET



BUY TICKETS NOW WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

2024 Kansas City Renaissance Festival



FREE PARKING
PROVIDED BY

KCRENFEST.COM
913.721.2110

Renewal
by Andersen
WINDOW REPLACEMENT

NEW IN 2024!

HOUSE OF THE DRAGON PUB - BARBI MERMAID
CROW'S NEST RIDE - FREEZE DRIED CANDY

Saturdays & Sundays | Aug 31 - Oct 13 10am - 7pm
PLUS Mondays | Sept 2 10am - 7pm & Oct 14 10am - 5pm
RAIN OR SHINE

USE CODE "2024RENFESTAD" FOR \$3 OFF YOUR ONLINE TICKET

BUY TICKETS ONLINE OR AT: **HuVee** **Dillons** **COSTCO** **MENARDS** **Walgreens**

633 N. 130TH ST. BONNER SPRINGS, KS

2024 St. Louis Renaissance Festival



House of Dragon Pub
Freeze Dried Candy
7 Weekends • Barbie Mermaid
Renaissance Royalty Program
Washing Well Wenches
New Games and Rides

Weekends Sept. 14th to Oct. 27th • Plus Oct. 14th • 10 am to 6 pm
Rain Or Shine • 636-639-5173 • STLRenFest.com

Follow Us @STLRenFest



FREE PARKING

The Blue Bicycle is under new ownership!

featuring fresh flavors, familiar favorites, and friendly faces!

**NOW
SERVING
BRUNCH!**

Come see what's new:

EAT!

New menu items
spotlighting seasonal,
local, high quality
ingredients



DRINK!

Full bar offering
reliable classics
and refreshing
concoctions



ENJOY!

Management
you already
trust!



Joshua Mundy
General Manager

Don't worry, this Dawsonville staple isn't going anywhere.
We hope you'll come experience this new era with us!

Dine with us:

Sun BRUNCH 10:30 - 3:00
Tues - Thurs 11:00 - 9:00
Fri - Sat 11:00 - 10:00
Mon CLOSED

Give us a call:

706-265-2153
Now taking reservations!
📍 30 Industrial Park Rd
Dawsonville, GA

Find us online:




The Blue Bicycle
...a bistro