

Mid-Atlantic Destinations Host Thrilling Summer Festivals

(Mid-Atlantic Region, USA, June 8, 2016) - Festivals are the sign of summer and the Mid-Atlantic hosts a variety of celebrations each year. From Fourth of July fireworks and boating fetes to county fairs and wine carnivals, destinations represented by the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) host a wealth of annual festivals and special events.

Interested in learning more about a festival listed below? Contact the visitors bureau in the description for information.

Delaware Wilmington

Wilmington hosts more than 100 festivals every year and many long running favorites occur during the summer months. There's a wonderful mix of ethnic celebrations, concerts and outdoor theatre performances including St. Anthony's Italian Festival, DuPont Clifford Brown Jazz Festival, Ice Cream Festival, Delaware Shakespeare Festival and August Quarterly. *Greater Wilmington Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lyn Lewis, lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com, VisitWilmingtonDE.com*

Maryland Baltimore

Summer in Baltimore marks a time for free live music and events, outdoor movies and family fun! Not-to-miss summer festivals in July includes Artscape, the nation's largest free arts festival celebrating its 35th anniversary; the African American Festival; Baltimore Pride; and Rainbow Fest, a LGBT film festival, celebrating five years. *Visit Baltimore, Moneé Cottman, mcottman@baltimore.org, Baltimore.org*

Calvert County

"Catch our Drift" at festivals throughout the summer including Artsfest, Eat-Drink-Go Local North Beach, the 150th annual Calvert County Jousting Tournament, Calvert County Watermen's Festival, Dragon Boat festivals, the Solomons Plein Air Festival, Sharkfest, the Screwpile Lighthouse Challenge sailing race, and the Southern Maryland Wine, Jazz, Blues & Funk Festival. *Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Joyce Baki, bakija@co.cal.md.us, ChooseCalvert.com*

Cecil County

Enjoy a day of wine, local food, crafters, artisans, live music and more, along the beautiful banks of the North East River at the Cecil County Food & Wine Festival and celebrate at an old-fashioned country carnival during the Cecil County Fair, with 4H exhibits, rodeo, midway rides and games. *Cecil County Tourism, Sandy Turner, sturner@ccgov.org, CCGov.org/Tourism*

Hagerstown and Washington County

Hagerstown is home to several annual festivals. The world-renowned Western Maryland Blues Fest brings blues music fans together over the first weekend of June. Wine lovers can taste award-winning local wines at the Interstate Wine Festival in mid-June. Celebrants close the summer with Augustoberfest in late August, with authentic Bavarian food, dancers, and crafts. *Hagerstown-Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Betsy DeVore, betsy@visithagerstown.com, VisitHagerstown.com*

Harford County

Summer shines brightly at Harford County attractions hosting outdoor concert series - "Concerts in the Meadow" at Jerusalem Mill, and Ladew Gardens' "Groovin' In The Grass". Find great music and more at our summer events: Brews & Blues Festival, Cal Ripken World Series, BBQ Bash, and Fish, Fowl & Folk Festival. *Harford County, Maryland, Greg Pizzuto, greg@visitharford.com, VisitHarford.com*

Montgomery County

Plan a sizzling summer getaway to Montgomery County! The area shines in the summer months with fantastic food festivals, tasty wine and beer events, free outdoor concerts, movies and more for the entire family. Visit us in August for the largest county fair in the State of Maryland. *Visit Montgomery, Bethany Manimbo, bmanimbo@visitmontgomery.com, VisitMontgomery.com*

St. Mary's County

Relax waterside along the Potomac River on the beautiful lawn of St. Clement's Island Museum and enjoy popular live jazz artists, lots of incredible seafood delicacies, and gorgeous views of St. Clement's Island at the famous Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival in scenic St. Mary's County. *St. Mary's County Tourism, Andrew Ponti, andrew.ponti@stmarysmd.com, VisitStMarysMD.com*

Talbot County

Celebrations abound in Talbot County. The Plein Air Easton Art Festival in July is the country's largest and most prestigious juried plein air painting competition. August festivals include the Great Chesapeake Balloon Festival and Waterman's Appreciation Day, featuring boat docking contests, hot crabs, and cold beer. *Talbot County Office of Tourism, Cassandra Vanhooser, cvanhooser@talbgov.org, TourTalbot.org*

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Tourism Office

From the Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival in June to the Little League World Series in August, summer in Pennsylvania brings with it festivals and events jam-packed with entertainment for the whole family. New in 2016, the Democratic National Convention makes its way to Philadelphia while Pittsburgh celebrates its bicentennial. *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Jenna Lefever, jlefever@tierneyagency.com, VisitPA.com*

Butler County

Butler County is home to great festivals and events, including the Butler County Farm Show that showcases the local farming community and the North Washington Rodeo, with all-professional rodeo performances. *Butler County, Pennsylvania, Kimberly Windisch, kimberly@krolmedia.com, VisitButlerCounty.com*

Central Pennsylvania

Check out the Central PA Festival of the Arts, which Sunshine Artist named the #1 Fine Art and Design Show. State College's 4th fest is the largest all-volunteer fireworks display in the nation. The Annual Centre County Grange Fair Encampment is a nine-day festival of food, music and fun. *Andy Rupert, Central PA CVB, andy@visitpennstate.org, VisitPennState.org*

Cumberland Valley

There are summer festivals of every variety in the Cumberland Valley, including Jubilee Day, the largest, longest-running one-day street fair on the East Coast, held every third Thursday in June. The Valley is also home to some of the largest car shows in the world throughout the summer. *Aaron Jumper, Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, aaron@visitcumberlandvalley.com, VisitCumberlandValley.com*

Endless Mountains

Eagles Mere, "the town that time forgot", is the site of two summer arts festivals: July's Summer Antique Market and August's Arts & Craft Festival. Each draw visitors looking for a relaxing weekend surrounded by the pristine beauty of Sullivan County in the Endless Mountains of Northeastern Pennsylvania. *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher, sales@endlessmountains.org, EndlessMountains.org*

Erie

Hello Festivals, Hello Erie! Mark your calendars for Roar on the Shore, Discover Presque Isle Days, Beer on the Bay, Harley Davidson Bike Fest, Celebrate Erie, Erie Art Museum, Blues/Jazz Festival, Microbrew Fest, Ethnic Festivals, Eerie Horror Fest, and Wine Country Harvest Festival, plus free concerts, fairs and performances year-round!

VisitErie, Christine Temple, cvb1@visiterie.com, VisitErie.com

Greater Reading

Summertime means festival time in Greater Reading. The impressive line-up of unique festivities keeps things hopping and visitors happy all season long. Almost everything is celebrated from World War II, Americana, PA Dutch folk life, hamburgers, and pretzels. If you can think it, there's likely a festival for it! *Lisa Haggerty, Go Greater Reading, lisa@gogreaterreading.com, GoGreaterReading.com*

Indiana County

Amid fireworks, funnel cakes, and old-time reenactments, the summer festival season has begun in Indiana County! Families and couples enjoy Smicksburg's Peachy Saturday, Blairsville's Twilight Cemetery Tour & Knotweed Festival, Christmas in July events, Downtown Indiana's Taste & Tour, and the Jimmy Stewart Airport

Festival! *Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Maria Jack,*
mjack@visitindianacountypa.org, VisitIndianaCountyPA.org

Laurel Highlands

There is no shortage of fun festivals to enjoy in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands! This year's schedule features festivities like the Lavender Festival, Antique Tractor Festival, Laurel Highlands Garlic Festival, Great American Banana Split Celebration, Stahlstown Flax Scutching Festival, Mother Earth News Fair, Ligonier Highland Games and three huge county fairs. *Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, Anna Weltz,*
aweltz@laurelhighlands.org, LaurelHighlands.org

Lehigh Valley

Summertime brings festival season to Lehigh Valley! In August, enjoy more than 500 performances at Musikfest, the nation's largest free, non-gated music festival. Celebrate the unique charm of the Great Allentown Fair, and close out the summer with a visit to Bethlehem's annual Celtic Classic in September. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger,*
kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com, DiscoverLehighValley.com

Pocono Mountains

With 2,400 square miles of picturesque backdrops, festivals in the Pocono Mountains offer up year-round beauty and fun. Summer festivities include wine and beer festivals, music and movie festivals and cultural and food festivals. Favorites include the Pocono Garlic Festival, Wally Lake Fest and Sweet Corn & BBQ Festival. *Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Elizabeth Richardson,*
erichardson@poconos.org,
PoconoMountains.com

Tioga County

June's 75th annual PA Laurel Festival the Mountain Laurel, the state flower, and the Endless Mountain Music Festival in July offer arts, entertainment and family fun surrounded by the beautiful backdrop of Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon region! *Tioga County Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher,*
morgan@visittiogapa.com,
VisitTioga.com

Virginia

Alexandria

On the Potomac River waterfront within eyesight of Washington, DC, Alexandria was made for summer fun. Watch spectacular fireworks during the Alexandria/USA Birthday Celebration, soak up the sun at Vine on the Waterfront Food & Wine festival, or take in local bands at the 9th Annual Del Ray Music Festival. *Visit Alexandria, Leah Spellman,*
ispellman@visitalexva.com, VisitAlexandriaVA.com

Fairfax County

Celebrate summer in Fairfax County, where many festivals are free and packed with activities for all. Taste local wine and beer paired with some of the best food in the region, peruse fine art and handmade gifts, jam to live music, or let the kids cut loose on carnival rides. *Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris,*
amorris@fxva.com, FXVA.com

Hampton

From swashbuckling fun at the Blackbeard Pirate Festival to major speed at the Hampton Cup Regatta, the oldest continuously running power boat race in North America, Hampton is home to many unique festivals. Get inked at the Hampton Roads Tattoo Festival or jam out at the world-renowned Hampton Jazz Festival. *Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau, Ryan Downey, ryan@hamptoncvb.com, VisitHampton.com*

Harrisonburg

Harrisonburg has great summer festivals! Start with the Valley 4th RUN and celebrate with Valley Fourth. Fill Court Square with positive energy and celebrate our LGBT community during the Shenandoah Valley Pride Festival. Enjoy three days of music, food, and fun at the Red Wing Roots Festival. *Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services, Jessica Williams, jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov, VisitHarrisonburgVA.com*

Lexington and Rockbridge

Live music under starry skies is a magical experience in Lexington, Virginia. Venues such as Lime Kiln Theater, Natural Bridge, and Glen Maury Park serve up toe-tapping genres such as Appalachian, folk, gospel, and beach music. Nothin' Fancy Bluegrass Festival is a longstanding favorite, with musicians jamming around campfires. *Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism, Patty Williams, marketing@lexingtonvirginia.com, LexingtonVirginia.com*

Lynchburg

Lynchburg is trending festive! In June, the Batteau Festival launches historic "boats" for their eight-day James River journey. In July, get a taste of Virginia at the James River Wine & Music Festival. In August, the LOCKN' Music Festival is back starring Phish and over 30 bands! *Lynchburg Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, Krista Boothby, krista.boothby@lynchburgva.gov, DiscoverLynchburg.org*

Prince William and Manassas

Celebrate America with the largest fireworks display outside of Washington D.C., on July 4th or experience living history at the annual Civil War Weekend celebration every August in Historic Downtown Manassas. Rides, demolition derby, tractor pull, crafts and more can be found at the Prince William County Fair each year. *Prince William & Manassas, VA, Nicole Warner, nwarner@discoverpwm.com, DiscoverPWM.com*

Shenandoah County

Spend your summer in the scenic Shenandoah Valley. Enjoy a concert under the stars at the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival. Located in historic Orkney Springs, the festival has been showcasing legendary performances in a rustic and intimate setting for over 50 years. *County Tourism, Jenna French, jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us, ShenandoahTravel.org*

About Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance

The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the mid-Atlantic destination as a whole. For more information, visit www.matpra.org.

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