

## **What's new in the Mid-Atlantic travel forecast for 2015?**

**(U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region, February 17, 2015)** Travel to the Mid-Atlantic is always changing and 2015 is bringing a variety of new adventures to the region.

The members of the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) invite travelers to get out and about this winter season. For more information on individual listings, contact the state tourism office or the CVB listed.

### **Delaware**

#### **Kent County and Greater Dover**

The Green, laid out in 1717 by William Penn, and located within downtown Dover, Delaware's historical commercial district, is one of six sites included in the recently created First State National Historical Park which showcases Delaware's role in the early history of our nation. Guided tours by costumed interpreters available. *Kent County & Greater Dover Delaware Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lorraine J. Dion, [ldion@visitdover.com](mailto:ldion@visitdover.com), [visitdover.com](http://visitdover.com).*

#### **Greater Wilmington**

Wilmington's new Creative District links the cultural assets of Market Street to the Quaker Hill Neighborhood forming a 25-block area where artists live and work and locally designed goods and original works are made and sold. A wide range of initiatives are planned from streetscape projects to public art performances. *Greater Wilmington Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lyn Lewis, [lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com](mailto:lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com), [visitwilmingtonde.com](http://visitwilmingtonde.com)*

#### **Southern Delaware**

In 2015, Southern Delaware celebrates the openings of three new hotel properties including an oceanfront luxury property with full service spa in Bethany Beach, new Culinary Coast restaurants, breweries and distilleries, and a newly designated property in First State National Historical Park, the first National Park in the First State. *Southern Delaware Tourism, Tina Coleman, [tinac@visitsoutherndelaware.com](mailto:tinac@visitsoutherndelaware.com), [visitsoutherndelaware.com](http://visitsoutherndelaware.com).*

### **Maryland**

#### **State-wide**

Maryland welcomes drivers to explore the new Carroll County barn quilt trail; 12 barns hung with colorfully painted 8-foot square quilt blocks. Carroll joins Garrett and Dorchester counties in this phenomenon now sweeping the country. Additional new attractions for 2015 may be found in our new press room website. Maryland Office of Tourism, Connie Yingling, [cyingling@visitmaryland.org](mailto:cyingling@visitmaryland.org), [www.visitmaryland.org](http://www.visitmaryland.org)

#### **Annapolis and Anne Arundel County**

Merchants along Maryland Avenue and State Circle in Annapolis now offer a monthly "Second Thursday Night Out". Shops stay open until 9:00 p.m. with refreshments and activities, shoppers will find art galleries, antique shops, women's and children's clothing, fine jewelry, handmade gifts, and Irish Pub in this trendy shopping spot. *Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau, Susan Steckman, [ssteckman@visitannapolis.org](mailto:ssteckman@visitannapolis.org), [www.visitannapolis.org](http://www.visitannapolis.org).*

## **Baltimore**

In spring 2015, the National Aquarium in Baltimore will open *Living Seashore*, a new permanent interactive exhibit featuring two touchpools and a variety of hands-on exploratory experiences. *Living Seashore* will take guests beyond the boardwalk to the ever-changing Mid-Atlantic seashore, where they will encounter an assortment of marine life. *Visit Baltimore*, Moneé Cottman, [mcottman@baltimore.org](mailto:mcottman@baltimore.org), [www.baltimore.org](http://www.baltimore.org).

## **Calvert County**

Immerse yourself in Calvert Marine Museum's new estuarine exhibit and experience the diversity of life found in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Aquariums and interactive elements showcase three unique bay habitats and demonstrate how bay creatures are connected to their surroundings, to each other and to humans. *Calvert County Department of Economic Development*, Joyce Baki, [bakija@co.cal.md.us](mailto:bakija@co.cal.md.us), [www.choosecalvert.com](http://www.choosecalvert.com).

## **Charles County**

History comes alive in Southern Maryland. The Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House will host the Lincoln 150 – On the Trail of The Assassin. Other featured locations include Port Tobacco Historic Village, Rich Hill Farm, College of Southern Maryland, and James E. Richmond Science Center, [www.charlescountymd.gov/Lincoln150](http://www.charlescountymd.gov/Lincoln150). Charles County Government, Office of Tourism, Catherine Herbert, [herbertc@charlescountymd.gov](mailto:herbertc@charlescountymd.gov), [www.charlescountymd.gov/tourism](http://www.charlescountymd.gov/tourism)

## **Montgomery County**

Pike & Rose is a new town center in Rockville featuring plenty of shops, restaurants and entertainment. This Metro-accessible location features AMP, a live music venue where the menus change seasonally and the music varies nightly; iPic Theaters, a luxury movie watching experience and a Hilton Canopy coming in 2016. *Visit Montgomery County, MD*, Bethany Manimbo, [bmanimbo@visitmontgomery.com](mailto:bmanimbo@visitmontgomery.com), [www.visitmontgomery.com](http://www.visitmontgomery.com).

## **Queen Anne's County**

*Beat the winter blues with art! Queen Anne's County Arts Council's newest exhibit is "Love is Red." Kent Island Federation of Arts Winter Exhibit can be viewed at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitor Center. For more information on these events and others go to: [www.visitqueenannes.com](http://www.visitqueenannes.com). Deborah Carroll Birch, Queen Anne's County Department of Tourism, [dbirch@qac.org](mailto:dbirch@qac.org), [www.visitqueenannes.com](http://www.visitqueenannes.com).*

## **St. Mary's County**

The Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, the only naval museum dedicated to aviation research, development, testing, and evaluation, will open a brand new museum facility in late 2015, replete with interactive interpretive displays, flight simulators, and full-size naval aircraft and instruments, including drones and both Joint Strike Fighter concepts. *St. Mary's County Tourism*, Andrew Ponti, [andrew.ponti@stmarysmd.com](mailto:andrew.ponti@stmarysmd.com), [www.visitstmarysmd.com](http://www.visitstmarysmd.com).

## **Pennsylvania**

### **Butler County**

2015 offers fantastic events in Butler County. Celebration of Chocolate makes March sweet, Pyrofest makes a bang in May, Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival sets Guinness record in June,

Disc Golf World Championships scores in July, get muddy at Tough Mudder in August and see 21 properties during October Farm Tour. *Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau, Patti Jo Lambert, [pjlambert@visitbutlercounty.com](mailto:pjlambert@visitbutlercounty.com), [www.visitbutlercounty.com](http://www.visitbutlercounty.com).*

### **Central PA**

The unique Central PA Tasting Trail offers craft ciders, wines, beers and liquors throughout the month of April with prize packages for those that visit all locations. The Penn State Arboretum offers a children's garden for kids and parents that love nature alike. *Central PA Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andy Rupert, [andy@visitpennstate.org](mailto:andy@visitpennstate.org) or [www.visitpennstate.com](http://www.visitpennstate.com)*

### **Clearfield County**

How do you find your adventure? With 734,000 acres of land to explore our newest outfitter Trailblazer Adventures will help you explore the most profound locations with cross country skis, snow shoes, hiking shoes, a kayak or a stand up paddle board. *Visit Clearfield County, Holly Komonczki, 814-765-5734, [www.VisitClearfieldCounty.org](http://www.VisitClearfieldCounty.org)*

### **Endless Mountains**

Featuring eleven concrete arches spanning mountain to mountain, the Tunkhannock Viaduct, will celebrate its 100th Anniversary from Sept. 11-13, 2015. Located in the town of Nicholson in the Endless Mountains of Northeastern Pennsylvania, this "architectural wonder of the world" will mark the centennial celebration with events planned throughout the year. *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher, [sales@endlessmountains.org](mailto:sales@endlessmountains.org), [www.endlessmountains.org](http://www.endlessmountains.org).*

### **Erie**

Hello Erie! Check out Erie Zoo's new Cat Exhibit, HUGE new wave pool at Waldameer Amusement Park, Lake Erie Ale Trail (4 breweries!), downtown Cultural Arts Bus Loop, Scallywags Pirate Ship Adventures, Peek 'n Peak Mountain Adventure Course, Mazza Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing. *VisitErie, Christine Pennsy [cvb1@visiterie.com](mailto:cvb1@visiterie.com), [www.visiterie.com](http://www.visiterie.com).*

### **Franklin County**

Visit the new Monterey Pass Battlefield Museum. Hike the Appalachian Trail Communities of Waynesboro and Washington Township and reflect at the 9/11 Tribute at Red Run Park with artifacts including a 1,088 pound steel I-beam from the World Trade Center, limestone from the Pentagon and rock from Shanksville, Pa. *Franklin County Visitors Bureau, Lauren Cappuccio, [lcappuccio@explorefranklincountypa.com](mailto:lcappuccio@explorefranklincountypa.com), [www.explorefranklincountypa.com](http://www.explorefranklincountypa.com),*

### **Hershey Harrisburg Region**

PA's Hershey Harrisburg Region has two major headliners for May 2015. Hersheypark, named One of America's Top 5 Theme Parks by USA Today's 10Best, introduces their 13<sup>th</sup> rollercoaster Laff Trakk; and Harrisburg's Midtown District welcomes The Millworks, an unprecedented 24,000-square-foot facility housing locally sourced restaurant & bar with 23 artist studios. *Rick Dunlap, PR Director, Hershey Harrisburg Regional Visitors Bureau, [Rick@HersheyHarrisburg.org](mailto:Rick@HersheyHarrisburg.org), [www.HersheyHarrisburg.org](http://www.HersheyHarrisburg.org)*

### **Indiana County**

Visit the tasting bar and lounge at the new trendy Disobedient Spirits Distillery. Captivate the family with fun all day at the Fire & Ice Festival on Feb. 21. Big parade hails the green St. Patrick's Day, March 14, Downtown Indiana. Snowy adventures abound in our beautiful parks and trails. *Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Maria Jack, [mjack@visitindianacountypa.org](mailto:mjack@visitindianacountypa.org), [www.visitindianacountypa.org](http://www.visitindianacountypa.org)*

## **Lancaster County**

Lancaster County is new this year with the unveiling of the SciDome XD Theater at the North Museum of Nature & Science in March; the debut of the fun, Amish-inspired production *Josiah for President* at Bird-in-Hand Stage in April; and as host of the U.S. Women's (Golf) Open, July 6-12. *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff, [jcliff@discoverlanaster.com](mailto:jcliff@discoverlanaster.com), [www.discoverlanaster.com](http://www.discoverlanaster.com)*

## **Laurel Highlands**

The one-of-a-kind Nemacolin Woodlands Resort kicked off 2015 with a \$30 million renovation to the award-winning property. A new Fatbird Super Flyer dueling zip line and the Holistic Healing Center are among the resort's new amenities. Nemacolin also houses Pa.'s largest wine cellar and the \$45 million Hardy Art Collection. *Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, Julie Donovan, [jdonovan@laurelhighlands.org](mailto:jdonovan@laurelhighlands.org), [www.laurelhighlands.org](http://www.laurelhighlands.org).*

## **Lehigh Valley**

The brand-new PPL Center in downtown Allentown is home to the Lehigh Valley Phantoms AHL ice hockey team, world-class concerts including Tom Petty and the Eagles, and great events such as Disney on Ice and The Harlem Globetrotters. The PPL Center is part of a revitalized downtown Allentown. *Discover Lehigh Valley, George Wacker, [george@discoverlehighvalley.com](mailto:george@discoverlehighvalley.com), [www.discoverlehighvalley.com](http://www.discoverlehighvalley.com).*

## **Pocono Mountains**

It's always waterpark season in the Pocono Mountains. Two new indoor waterparks will open in 2015; Kalahari Resorts and Conventions and Camelback Lodge and Aquatopia, bringing the number of waterparks in the region to five. The new resorts will add over 900 guest rooms, restaurants, spas and convention space. *Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Elizabeth Richardson, [erichardson@poconos.org](mailto:erichardson@poconos.org), [www.poconomountains.com](http://www.poconomountains.com).*

## **Tioga County**

Old Antlers Inn (adjacent to the Pine Creek Trail in the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon) is open and serving the finest food to be found along Route 6. Surrounded by the lush beauty of Pennsylvania's northern tier, hikers, campers, and travelers will find excellent cuisine and a warm welcome! *Morgan Christopher, Tioga County Visitors Bureau, [morganckc@gmail.com](mailto:morganckc@gmail.com), [www.visittiogapa.com](http://www.visittiogapa.com)*

## **Valley Forge**

Delve into "Patriot Trails," a self-guided Revolutionary War journey from the Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board. Web-based and designed for mobile, the richly detailed story of our quest for independence unfolds throughout Montgomery County, Pa. Customized itineraries highlight historic sites – as well as notable places to stay and eat. John Golden, [golden@valleyforge.org](mailto:golden@valleyforge.org), [www.valleyforge.org](http://www.valleyforge.org).

## **York County**

Wyndridge Farm is perfectly paired as a craft beverage and special events destination, and recently opened in the beautiful southern York County countryside. Cider is the Wyndridge Farm beverage specialty, along with craft beer and wine, and the gorgeous grounds and event spaces position Wyndridge as a premier wedding destination. *York County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Brent Burkey, [bburkey@yorkpa.org](mailto:bburkey@yorkpa.org), [www.yorkpa.org](http://www.yorkpa.org).*

## Virginia

### Alexandria

A donut speakeasy, a spectacular French tall ship, and new waterfront dining are just a few of the new things coming in 2015 to historic Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, just outside of Washington, DC. Visit Alexandria, Claire Mouledoux, [cmouledoux@visitalexva.com](mailto:cmouledoux@visitalexva.com), [VisitAlexandriaVA.com](http://VisitAlexandriaVA.com)

### Arlington

Arlington National Cemetery Tours, Inc., have started new expanded interpretive tours that allow visitors to see a larger portion of the cemetery. Additionally, the tours offer free or discounted admission for military personnel and veterans as well as free shuttle service for family and friends looking to visit a gravesite. Cara O'Donnell, Arlington Convention & Visitors Service, [codonnell@arlingtonva.us](mailto:codonnell@arlingtonva.us), [www.stayarlington.com](http://www.stayarlington.com).

### Hampton

Virginia Air & Space Center, official visitor center for NASA Langley, recently unveiled the brand new exhibit Space Racers: Adventures in Space Exploration, based on the PBS animated show *Space Racers*. Geared towards children ages 3-6, it allows kids the opportunity to explore space in a fun and creative atmosphere. Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau, Ryan Downey, [ryan@hamptoncvb.com](mailto:ryan@hamptoncvb.com), [www.visithampton.com](http://www.visithampton.com)

### Harrisonburg

The historic Cassco Ice Plant will soon house Pale Fire Brewing Company, Black Sheep Coffee, and Ice House Studios. Pale Fire will be the third craft beer company in downtown; Black Sheep Coffee will be serving up baked goods, coffee and tea. Ice House Studios is a merger of two great yoga studios. Harrisonburg Tourism and Visitor Services, Jessica Williams, [jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov](mailto:jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov), [www.visitharrisonburgva.com](http://www.visitharrisonburgva.com)

### Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism

Restorations invigorate historic downtown Lexington, Virginia! The Georges Inn offers custom guestrooms and Haywood's, a piano bar and small plate restaurant. The Robert E. Lee Hotel showcases luxury rooms and Rocca Ristorante. The Natural Bridge Historic Hotel reopens after a 4M room renovation with amenities integrating recreation, conservation and education. Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism, Patti Williams, [marketing@lexingtonvirginia.com](mailto:marketing@lexingtonvirginia.com), [www.lexingtonvirginia.com](http://www.lexingtonvirginia.com).

### Loudoun County

Soar through the trees in historic Middleburg at the new Empower Adventures zipline tour. Located just an hour outside the nation's capital behind Salamander Resort & Spa, this course includes five ziplines and two rope bridges that give people a bird's eye view of America's horse and hunt country. Visit Loudoun, Jennifer Buske-Sigal, [Sigal@visitloudoun.org](mailto:Sigal@visitloudoun.org), [www.Visitloudoun.org](http://www.Visitloudoun.org)

### Lynchburg

Lynchburg is home to twelve Civil War Trails sites. Discover part of our nation's story at Old Sandusky, an 1808 Federal-style home appropriated by Union General Hunter; Fort Early, series of 1863 earthen forts; Old City Cemetery, with over 2,200 Confederate graves; and down the road Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park and Museum of the Confederacy.

Lynchburg Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, Krista Boothby,  
[krista.boothby@lynchburgva.gov](mailto:krista.boothby@lynchburgva.gov), [www.discoverlynchburg.org](http://www.discoverlynchburg.org).

### **Newport News**

Take a tour of Newport News... marathon style! The inaugural Newport News One City Marathon, the Virginia Peninsula's first full marathon, will be held March 15, 2015. The marathon, conceived as a way for the city to show its community pride, will cover the entire 26-mile length of the city. *Newport News Tourism Development Office, Rebecca Cutchins, [rcutchins@nngov.com](mailto:rcutchins@nngov.com), [www.newport-news.org](http://www.newport-news.org)*

### **Prince William & Manassas**

Just 40 miles outside of Washington D.C., there is a unique and patriotic beer trail that has developed over the last two years. Home to three microbreweries, Bad Wolf Brewing Company, Heritage Brewing Company & Tin Cannon Brewing Company, Prince William County has a wide array of unique hand crafted microbrew options that are sure to please any pallet. *Discover Prince William & Manassas, VA, Nicole Warner, [nwarner@discoverpwm.com](mailto:nwarner@discoverpwm.com), [www.discoverpwm.com](http://www.discoverpwm.com)*.

### **Richmond**

Last year, Richmond rolled into the No. 4 spot on BuzzFeed's "10 Cities You Should Explore on Two Wheels." Appropriate timing since Richmond will host the 2015 Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) World Road Cycling Championships, a nine-day spectacle taking place Sept. 19-27, 2015. The races are expected to attract cyclists and spectators from all over the world. *[richmond2015.com](http://richmond2015.com) Richmond Region Tourism, Juliana Comer, [jcomer@visitrichmondva.com](mailto:jcomer@visitrichmondva.com), [www.visitrichmondva.com](http://www.visitrichmondva.com)*

### **Roanoke**

Booker T. Washington National Monument Juneteenth 2015 Celebration of Freedom will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the 1865 emancipation of Booker T. Washington and the nearly four million people released from the bondage of slavery at the end of the Civil War with a signature event June 20, 2015. *Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau, Catherine Fox, [cfox@visitroanokeva.com](mailto:cfox@visitroanokeva.com), [www.visitvablueridge.com](http://www.visitvablueridge.com)*.

### **Shenandoah County**

Craft beer industry breathes new life into historic sites. Shenandoah's Craft breweries emerge in unexpected places. Swover Creek Farms, a Virginia Century Farm, now makes craft beers using their own hops. Woodstock Brewhouse opens this spring in a former Casey Jones Denim plant in the heart of historic downtown Woodstock. *Shenandoah County Tourism, Jenna French, [jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us](mailto:jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us), [www.shenandoahtravel.org](http://www.shenandoahtravel.org)*.

### **About the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance**

The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance 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. Learn more about our partnership at [matpra.org](http://matpra.org).

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