

MATPRA

MID-ATLANTIC TOURISM PUBLIC RELATIONS ALLIANCE

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Festivals showcase the fun of fall around the Mid-Atlantic

(Mid-Atlantic Region, USA, July 17, 2017) - Kick off the fall season by enjoying some of the best festivals and events throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Celebrate this harvest season in style experiencing unforgettable food, craft beer, wine, and family fun!

Members of the Mid Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance ([MATPRA](#)) have compiled a list of some of the best festivals and events you don't want to miss this fall. If you're interested in learning more about a specific event or venue, contact the individual Destination Marketing Organization.

Delaware

Kent County & Greater Dover

The Delaware Wine and Beer Festival is held the second Saturday of October. The festival highlights the state's best offerings of wine, beer, and spirits. Foodies will love sampling some of the First State's finest culinary landscape. Live entertainment and games also add to the fun of the festival experience. *Kent County Tourism, Danielle Jonigan, [VisitDelawareVillages.com](mailto:djonigan@visitdelawarevillages.com), djonigan@visitdelawarevillages.com*

Maryland

Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

Catch the Maryland Seafood Festival and Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival in September. The Maryland Renaissance Festival (second largest in the nation) runs September through October. Additional favorites include the Captain Avery Museum's Oyster Festival and the U.S. Sailboat and U.S. Powerboat Shows (largest and oldest) at City Dock in Annapolis. *Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Susan Seifried, [VisitAnnapolis.org](mailto:sseifried@visitannapolis.org), sseifried@visitannapolis.org*

Baltimore

Meet your favorite author, attend a reading, and enjoy live music at the Baltimore Book Festival the third weekend of September. In October, celebrate Baltimore Beer Week with festivals, tap takeovers, and brewery events. October is also Free Fall month - choose from hundreds of free events citywide! *Visit Baltimore, Kelly Nagle, Baltimore.org, knagle@baltimore.org*

Calvert County

Meet Calvert County's rural community at the annual Calvert County Farm Festival. Take a hay ride; try a corn maze, purchase pumpkins and other farm produce, sample wines, visit a petting zoo, view interactive exhibits, and much more. Experience the flavor of Calvert County. *Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Katie Brittain, ChooseCalvert.com, brittake@co.cal.md.us*

Caroline County

The Antique and Art Festival at the historic Linchester Mill in Preston features a day filled with history, art, food, music, and fun! With more than 30 antique and art dealers, you're sure to find a treasure! This mid-September event also includes mill tours, live entertainment, food and more. *Caroline County Office of Tourism, Ceres Bainbridge, VisitCaroline.org, cbainbridge@tourcaroline.com*

Charles County

Celebrate Charles! FallFest returns the third Saturday in October. Join us at the Capital Clubhouse for an afternoon of shopping for beautifully handcrafted items, enjoy live entertainment, and let the little ones play in the Family Fun Zone after testing out their Halloween costumes on the Trick-Or-Treat Trail. *Charles County Office of Tourism, Catherine Herbert, CharlesCountyMD.gov, herbertc@charlescountymd.gov*

Frederick County

Bratwurst, Oktoberfest beer, German wines, dancing, music, children's events, and much more! Frederick's Oktoberfest is one of the best ways to enjoy German heritage. The event kicks off the

month of October each year at the Frederick Fairgrounds. Visit Frederick, Melissa Joseph Muntz, VisitFrederick.org, mmuntz@fredco-md.net

Harford County

Held the first Saturday in October, the Darlington Apple Festival is an annual extravaganza that celebrates community, fun and of course, everything apples! Experience arts and crafts vendors, an outdoor stage with all-day entertainment, great food, children's activities and more. Come join the crowd in our welcoming town of Darlington! Visit Harford, Mindy Schneider, VisitHarford.com, mindy@visitharford.com

St. Mary's County

Celebrate all things "oyster" at the Annual U.S. Oyster Festival in St. Mary's County, one of the oldest and most popular oyster festivals in the country. Home to the U.S. National Shucking Championship and National Cook-Off, enjoy incredible local seafood, family activities, shucking competitions, and general Chesapeake Bay heritage. St. Mary's County Division of Tourism, Andrew Ponti, VisitStMarysMD.com, andrew.ponti@stmarysmd.com

Wicomico County

Two Wicomico County festivals are held at Pemberton Historical Park each fall. The Good Beer Festival is the second weekend of October and the Autumn Wine Festival is the third weekend of October. Enjoy unlimited samples of craft beer and Maryland wine. Visit GoodBeerFestival.org and AutumnWineFestival.org for information. Wicomico County Tourism, Vanessa Junkin, WicomicoTourism.org, vjunkin@wicomicocounty.org

Pennsylvania

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Whether it's the bright colors at the iconic Bedford Fall Foliage Festival, the small-town charm of the Covered Bridge Festival, or a hefty dose of history during Fort Ligonier Days, Pennsylvania has the events (and the backdrop!) to soak in the splendor of autumn. Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Robin Tilley, VisitPA.com, rtilley@tierneyagency.com

Butler County

Take a step back in time and embrace history and heritage at the Portersville Steam Show Fall Fling; the first weekend in October. Replicating a wide variety of agriculture from the 1920s, this unique festival features tractor pulls, steam engines, and more! Enjoy fresh apple cider and the fall festivities. Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau, Tiffany Hernandez, VisitButlerCounty.com, tiffany@visitbutlercounty.com

Central Pennsylvania

Annual fall festival events include the Bellefonte Fall Festival in picturesque Talleyrand Park. Not to be outdone, the Philipsburg Harvest Fest is a local favorite in the community. The Punkin' Chunkin' Fall Festival is a fast-growing event with food, fun and, of course, the launching of pumpkins into Sayers Lake. Central PA Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andy Rupert, VisitPennState.org, andy@visitpennstate.org

Cumberland Valley

Fall in the Cumberland Valley is filled with foliage, fairs, food, and festivals! The Pennsboro Pumpkin Fest and New Cumberland Apple Festival have plenty of unique foods with their namesake. The McClain Festival is held the first weekend September and offers traditional Irish and Scottish heritage events and activities. Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, Aaron Jumper, VisitCumberlandValley.com, aaron@visitcumberlandvalley.com

Huntingdon County

Hartslog Day in Huntingdon County is filled with 200 craftspeople, exhibits, great food, music, and kids' activities. Admission is free. Rockhill Trolley Museum Fall Spectacular has special trolley rides. Ghosts and Goblins haunted tour at Lincoln Caverns offers spooky thrills UNDERGROUND with a new theme each year. Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, Ed Stoddard, Raystown.org, estoddard@raystown.org

Lancaster

Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum's annual Harvest Days in early October celebrate a traditional Pennsylvania German harvest with cooking and craft demonstrations, horse-drawn wagon rides, a pick-your-own pumpkin patch, live music, delicious PA Dutch food, and plenty of hands-on activities. Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff, DiscoverLancaster.com, jcliff@discoverlancaster.com

Laurel Highlands

There's no better place for family-friendly Halloween fun than Idlewild's HallowBOO! Every weekend in October, Idlewild puts on a special spooky twist for the Halloween season that the kids will love featuring trick-or-treating through Story Book Forest, costumed characters, themed rides and attractions, hay bale maze, and more! Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, Anna Weltz, LaurelHighlands.org, aweltz@laurelhighlands.org

Lehigh Valley

Festival season continues all year long in Lehigh Valley. In September, make your way to Bethlehem for two great festivals. Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites celebrates fall's favorite treats during Apple Days. And, get ready to break out your kilts for the annual Celtic Classic & Highland Games. Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger, DiscoverLehighValley.com, kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com

Pennsylvania's Americana Region

Pennsylvania's Americana Region invites you to experience the best Oktoberfest in the United States. The Reading Liederkrantz Oktoberfest won USA Today's 2015 10Best Oktoberfest competition. The fun-filled celebration of German traditions, food, drink, and music attracts visitors from around the world. Come see for yourself. Dirndls and lederhosen optional. *Pennsylvania's Americana Region, Lisa Haggerty, VisitPaAmericana.com, lisa@visitpaamericana.com*

Pocono Mountains

Fall foliage and festivals make the perfect combination for fun September - October in the Pocono Mountains' four-county region. *Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Kelly Shannon, PoconoMountains.com, kshannon@poconos.org*

Virginia Alexandria

Art festivals abound in Alexandria, located just minutes from Washington, DC, in the fall. The King Street Art Festival occurs the third Saturday and Sunday in September followed by Art on the Avenue, a multicultural arts festival in Del Ray showcasing the works of 300+ artists. *Visit Alexandria, Leah Spellman, VisitAlexandriaVA.com, lsPELLMAN@visitalexva.com*

Charlottesville & Albemarle County

Thomas Jefferson's Monticello hosts an annual fall event in September called the Heritage Harvest Festival. This festival celebrates Thomas Jefferson's renowned agricultural legacy in a fun, family-friendly way, while promoting gardening, sustainability, local food, and the preservation of heritage plants. *Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau, Bri Warner, VisitCharlottesville.org, warnerb@charlottesville.org*

Fairfax County

Oktoberfests, pumpkin patches, and foliage galore! Festival season continues into autumn in Fairfax County with family-friendly events like Smithsonian's Air and Scare and Cox Farms Fall Festival - now featuring the quirky Foamhenge attraction (a full-size Stonehenge replica) - and adult-friendly events like Mount Vernon's Fall Wine Festival and NOVA Brewfest. *Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris, FXVA.com, amorris@fxva.com*

Hampton

Celebrate traditional autumn fun at the Bluebird Gap Farm Festival in Hampton, Virginia. Hop on up for a hayride! Bob for apples, then make and take apple butter! Pumpkins abound both in the pumpkin patch and on the Punkin' Chunkin' field, where festivalgoers use trebuchets to launch pumpkins at targets. *Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau, Elizabeth Severs, VisitHampton.com, elizabeth.severs@hamptoncvb.com*

Harrisonburg

The Harrisonburg International Festival is a free day of family fun on the last Saturday in September that celebrates the many cultures that make up our community. We feature international foods, music, and dance, activities for all ages, and a World Bazaar featuring traditional folk art. *Harrisonburg Tourism, Jessica Williams, VisitHarrisonburgVA.gov, jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov*

Lexington & Rockbridge Area

The Rockbridge Regional Fair & Expo comes to Virginia Horse Center in September. Enjoy carnival rides, live music and entertainment, livestock and horse shows including the Rare Breeds on Parade, milking and blacksmith demonstrations, tractor pull, arts and crafts competitions, beer garden and food vendors, and activities galore. *Lexington & Rockbridge Area Tourism, Patty Williams, LexingtonVirginia.com, marketing@lexingtonvirginia.com*

Loudoun County

Visit the historic Paxton Mansion in Leesburg every October for Shocktober- a spectacular spooky experience in a truly haunted home. Each year the haunted house features a different theme to tell the story of the Carver family who once occupied the mansion. *Visit Loudoun, Jennifer Sigal, VisitLoudoun.org, sigal@visitloudoun.org*

Lynchburg

Lynchburg is Trending Festive! The Lockn' Music Festival in August brings 30,000+ people to Central Virginia for groovy music in a scenic setting. Sleep in Lynchburg, shuttle in. It's Chic to Reek! The Virginia Wine & Garlic Festival in October embraces food, wine, music, arts, and GARLIC, including Garlic Ice-Cream! *Lynchburg Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, Krista Boothby, LynchburgVirginia.org, krista.boothby@lynchburgva.gov*

Prince William County & Manassas

Downtown Manassas hosts the Annual Fall Jubilee festival with fun for kids and adults. Over 100 crafts and community booths, live music and entertainment, and more will be part of the event! Sign up for the pumpkin pie contests to show off your recipes or how fast you can eat! *Discover Prince William & Manassas, VA, Nicole Warner, DiscoverPWM.com, nwarner@discoverpwm.com*

Richmond

The Richmond Folk Festival celebrates American culture through music, dance and food. Fire, Flour and Fork is a culinary festival honoring Richmond chefs and their friends from around the country. Halloween on Hanover Ave. in the Fan neighborhood has garnered national attention as a spooky destination. *Richmond Region Tourism, Meghan Gearino, VisitRichmondVA.com, mgearino@visitrichmondva.com*

Shenandoah County

The smell of hickory and smoke fills the crisp fall air as you sample BBQ from around the country at Shenandoah Autumnfest, a Kansas City BBQ Society sanctioned championship in the heart of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Enjoy live music, local craft beer and even a log-splitting contest. *Shenandoah County, VA, Jenna French, VisitShenandoahCounty.com, jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us*

**West Virginia
Hampshire County**

Hampshire Co. Events: SEP: Capon Bridge Founders Day; OCT: Wendell Manor Haunted House & Barn, Hampshire Highlands Studio Tour; NOV: Squirrel Festival, Christmas Festival of Lights; DEC: 76th Children's Christmas Party and Parade, Christmas Train - N Pole. Visit the Hampshire County website for information about all events. *Hampshire County Convention & Visitors Bureau Debbi Su Cassady, ComeToHampshire.com, whccvb@atlanticbbn.net*

Pocahontas County

Push your taste buds to the limit and sample some one-of-a-kind Appalachian fare at the Autumn Harvest Festival and RoadKill Cook-off in Marlinton, WV. Taking place the final Saturday in September, dishes showcase road kill whipped up in some pretty delectable ways! The vittles can be found alongside the road. *Pocahontas County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Chelsea Walker, NaturesMtnPlayground.com, cwalker@pocahontascountywv.com*

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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Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance

Jennifer Sigal
MATPRA Chair 2017-2018
midatlantictourism@gmail.com

Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau,
1004 West Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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