



# MATPRA

## MID-ATLANTIC TOURISM PUBLIC RELATIONS ALLIANCE

### The Mid-Atlantic Offers Several Sites to Discover Special Moments in American History

**(U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region, June 12, 2018)** - From the battlefields that changed the course of the Civil War to the birthplace of the U.S. National Anthem to the Flight 93 National Memorial, the Mid-Atlantic is filled with places that have changed the course of U.S. history.

Members of the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance ([MATPRA](#)) have compiled a list of historic sites waiting to be discovered. For more information on individual listings, contact the visitors bureaus listed.

#### MARYLAND

##### Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

Annapolis was America's first peacetime capital. The Continental Congress met at Maryland's State House (the Capitol) November 1783-August 1784. Here, George Washington appeared before them to resign as commander-in-chief of the Continental army. Here, too, Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris in January 1784, officially ending the Revolutionary War. *Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Susan Seifried, [sseifried@visitannapolis.org](mailto:sseifried@visitannapolis.org), [VisitAnnapolis.org](http://VisitAnnapolis.org)*

##### Baltimore

Home to many historical sites, museums and figureheads, Baltimore is filled with American culture and heritage. From Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shine, the birthplace of the U.S. National Anthem, to the B&O Railroad, America's first commercial long-distance railroad, Baltimore is teeming with historical significance. *Visit Baltimore, Kelly Nagle, [knagle@baltimore.org](mailto:knagle@baltimore.org), [Baltimore.org](http://Baltimore.org)*

## **Caroline County**

In 1849, Harriet Tubman fled slavery from her parents' home at Poplar Neck in Caroline County. Five years later, she returned to lead her two brothers to freedom. Tubman's frantic rescue of her parents before they could be arrested for working as Underground Railroad agents was her last mission here. *Caroline County Office of Tourism, Ceres Bainbridge, [ceres@visitcaroline.org](mailto:ceres@visitcaroline.org), [VisitCaroline.org](http://VisitCaroline.org)*

## **Charles County**

Discover the legend of one of the 56 men to sign one of the important documents in World History-the Declaration of Independence. The Thomas Stone National Historic Site is 30 miles south of Washington, D.C. Explore the architectural features of the restored mansion and learn about this ordinary planter. *Charles County Government, Department of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism, Catherine Herbert, [herbertc@charlescountymd.gov](mailto:herbertc@charlescountymd.gov), [ExploreCharlesCounty.com](http://ExploreCharlesCounty.com)*

## **Frederick County**

Frederick was the site of the awe inspiring work done by the first American-born saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton. Founder of the Sister of Charity, Mother Seton dedicated her life to education and helping others. Visit her home, museum and basilica, or take a guided tour of the site. *Visit Frederick, Melissa Joseph Muntz, [mmuntz@fredco-md.net](mailto:mmuntz@fredco-md.net), [VisitFrederick.org](http://VisitFrederick.org)*

## **Hagerstown - Washington County**

Visit the now pristine, picturesque fields of Antietam National Battlefield that witnessed the bloodiest single-day battle in American history. Learn how the battle resulted in Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, how it kept Britain and France on the sidelines, and how triage was implemented to care for the battle's mass casualties. *Visit Hagerstown, Betsy DeVore, [betsy@visithagerstown.com](mailto:betsy@visithagerstown.com), [VisitHagerstown.com](http://VisitHagerstown.com)*

## **Harford County**

The Bush Declaration was signed mere weeks before the first shots were fired in the Battles of Lexington and Concord and more than a year before the Declaration of Independence. The Bush Tavern is in the vicinity. The actual document can be viewed at The Historical Society of Harford County. *Visit Harford, Mindy Schneider, [mindy@visitharford.com](mailto:mindy@visitharford.com), [VisitHarford.com](http://VisitHarford.com)*

## **Kent County**

Nestled along Upper Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay, Kent County is a history lover's dream destination. From Caulks Field, the best-preserved War of 1812 battlefield in Maryland, to a living airport museum, and streets graced by George Washington, this destination features highlights sure to delight any history buff. *Kent County Tourism, Bernadette Bowman, [bbowman@kentgov.org](mailto:bbowman@kentgov.org), [KentCounty.com](http://KentCounty.com)*

## **Queen Anne's County**

History is plentiful in the over 300-year-old county of Queen Anne's. Kent Island, situated at the foot of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, is Maryland's first English settlement (1631) and third in the

country! Discover colonial history on the guided site tour of the county's 20 historic sites. *Queen Anne's County Office of Tourism, Ashley Chenault, [achenault@gac.org](mailto:achenault@gac.org), [VisitQueenAnnes.com](http://VisitQueenAnnes.com)*

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

History buffs, prepare yourself. Pennsylvania is home to the birthplace of the nation and has the history to prove it! See a reenactment of the Civil War in Gettysburg in July, commemorate the Battle of Fort Mifflin in October, and see George Washington cross the Delaware River in December. *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Natalie Buyny, [nbuyny@tierneyagency.com](mailto:nbuyny@tierneyagency.com), [VisitPA.com](http://VisitPA.com)*

### **Huntingdon County**

J.C. Blair invented the paper writing tablet in Huntingdon. Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain) wrote a letter in 1884 thanking Blair for its invention. Huntingdon is the hometown of Tom Hoover, "Father of the Hemi" engine that changed NASCAR forever and powered generations of muscle cars. *Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, Edward Stoddard, [estoddard@raystown.org](mailto:estoddard@raystown.org), [Raystown.org](http://Raystown.org)*

### **Lancaster County**

Tour the beautiful grounds and mansion of President James Buchanan's Wheatland in downtown Lancaster, home to the man who preceded Lincoln in the White House and struggled to keep a divided nation out of civil war. Experience living history in a setting that has changed very little since Buchanan's time. *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff, [jcliff@discoverlancaster.com](mailto:jcliff@discoverlancaster.com), [DiscoverLancaster.com](http://DiscoverLancaster.com)*

### **Laurel Highlands**

Whether your visit serves as a patriotic rite of passage or an educational experience, the Flight 93 National Memorial is a beautiful place of remembrance and honor. Recognize the sacrifice made by the heroes of September 11 whose courage prevented their plane from reaching its intended target of Washington, D.C. *Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, Anna Weltz, [aweltz@laurelhighlands.org](mailto:aweltz@laurelhighlands.org), [LaurelHighlands.org](http://LaurelHighlands.org)*

### **Lehigh Valley**

On July 8, 1776, Easton was one of only three places where the Declaration of Independence was read publicly for the first time. Each year, this event is commemorated during Easton Heritage Day. Celebrate with a reenactment of the historic reading, activities for families, and more. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger, [kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com](mailto:kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com), [DiscoverLehighValley.com](http://DiscoverLehighValley.com)*

### **Pocono Mountains**

Located in the Pocono Mountains, Honesdale is known as the birthplace of the American railroad. The town is home to the first commercial steam locomotive run on rails in the U.S., the Stourbridge Lion. Today, a similar locomotive, called the Stourbridge Line, offers rides for

tourists. *Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Kelly Shannon, [kshannon@poconos.org](mailto:kshannon@poconos.org), [PoconoMountains.com](http://PoconoMountains.com)*

## **VIRGINIA**

### **Alexandria**

The best way to unlock Alexandria's rich culture and history is with a Key to the City museum pass (\$15). From Alexandria's co-founders to a replica of George Washington townhouse and from the Civil War to civil rights, learn about remarkable history and walk amongst original 18th- and 19th-century architecture. *Visit Alexandria, Leah Spellman, APR, [lsPELLMAN@visitalexva.com](mailto:lsPELLMAN@visitalexva.com), [VisitAlexandriaVA.com](http://VisitAlexandriaVA.com)*

### **City of Fredericksburg**

See where George Washington spent his youth and was shaped into the man who became president. Seminal Civil War moments, such as the wounding of Stonewall Jackson and the first time Lee and Grant faced off are part of local history. Also walk in the footsteps of former presidents. *City of Fredericksburg, Debbie Aylor, [daylor@spotsylvania.va.us](mailto:daylor@spotsylvania.va.us), [VisitFred.com](http://VisitFred.com)*

### **Fairfax County**

History runs through the veins of Fairfax County. Visit the stunning homes of two Founding Fathers-George Washington's Mount Vernon and George Mason's Gunston Hall. Learn how the Workhouse Arts Center helped spur the passage of the 19th Amendment and get up close and personal with NASA's longest-serving space shuttle. *Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris, [amorris@fxva.com](mailto:amorris@fxva.com), [FXVA.com](http://FXVA.com)*

### **Hampton**

In August 1619 a new culture was introduced to English North America when the first Africans arrived in the colony aboard the White Lion at Hampton's Old Point Comfort. These twenty-or-so Angolan men and women will be commemorated for their unique roles in American history during 2019 in Hampton. *Hampton Convention and Visitor Bureau, Elizabeth Severs, [elizabeth.severs@hamptoncvb.com](mailto:elizabeth.severs@hamptoncvb.com), [VisitHampton.com](http://VisitHampton.com)*

### **Harrisonburg**

Sites in Harrisonburg played significant roles in two important campaigns of the American Civil War. Confederate Gen. Thomas J. Stonewall Jackson's famous 1862 Valley Campaign earned him a permanent place in military history and, in 1864, Union Gen. Philip H. Sheridan ordered "The Burning" of the Shenandoah Valley. *Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services, Brenda Black, [brenda.black@harrisonburgva.gov](mailto:brenda.black@harrisonburgva.gov), [VisitHarrisonburgVA.com](http://VisitHarrisonburgVA.com)*

### **Richmond**

History buffs always enjoy a visit to the Richmond region. A "don't miss" on any history-lover's list is a visit to St. John's Church. This landmark spot in the city's beautiful Church Hill neighborhood is where Patrick Henry gave his "give me liberty, or give me death" speech. *Richmond Region Tourism, Meghan Gearino, [mgearino@visitrichmondva.com](mailto:mgearino@visitrichmondva.com), [VisitRichmondVA.com](http://VisitRichmondVA.com)*

## **Shenandoah County**

The Virginia Museum of the Civil War tells the story of the Civil War in the Old Dominion. Set on 300 acres of Battlefield Park with walking trails, scenic overlooks of the Shenandoah River, and a historic farmstead, the site provides opportunities to reflect upon the Battle of New Market. *Shenandoah County Tourism, Jenna French, [jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us](mailto:jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us), [VisitShenandoahCounty.com](http://VisitShenandoahCounty.com)*

## **Virginia's Blue Ridge**

Travel to Bedford to experience the National D-Day Memorial in Virginia's Blue Ridge. The nine-acre memorial, dedicated by President George W. Bush in 2001, pays respect to the Bedford Boys who paid the ultimate sacrifice, leaving their hometown with the highest per capita D-Day losses in the nation. *Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Taylor Spellman, [tspellman@visitvbr.com](mailto:tspellman@visitvbr.com), [VisitVBR.com](http://VisitVBR.com)*

## **Winchester - Frederick County**

Winchester changed hands 72 times during the American Civil War, being at the crux of the Shenandoah Valley and Union strongholds to the northeast. Four preserved battlefields, the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum, 55+ Civil War Trails sites, and annual events and reenactments make it the quintessential Civil War destination. *Winchester - Frederick County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Justin Kerns, [justin.kerns@visitwinchesterva.com](mailto:justin.kerns@visitwinchesterva.com), [VisitWinchesterVA.com](http://VisitWinchesterVA.com)*

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

### **Hampshire County**

Hampshire County serves as a unique locale to explore the frontier of the French & Indian War as well as several battles of the Civil War. Visit Fort Edwards where a young George Washington built his military reputation. Or stroll among the Union trenches of Fort Mill Ridge. *Hampshire County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Jonathan Bellingham, [jonathan@caponsprings.net](mailto:jonathan@caponsprings.net), [ComeToHampshire.com](http://ComeToHampshire.com)*

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### **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](http://www.matpra.org).

### **Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance:**

Kaitie Burger

MATPRA Chair 2018-2019

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