



MATPRA

MID-ATLANTIC TOURISM PUBLIC RELATIONS ALLIANCE

Small Businesses are the Bedrock for Tourism in the Mid-Atlantic Region

(Mid-Atlantic Region, October 16, 2018)- Artisan chefs and confectioners, boutique hoteliers, artist galleries, craft brewers, farm markets, annual events, and tattoo artists provide visitors unique shopping experiences they might not find in their own home base. These entrepreneurial and innovative businesses are the foundation of our communities bringing character and economic prosperity to our small towns, rural counties and city main streets.

In the listings below, members of the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance ([MATPRA](#)) have compiled a list of places important to their communities. You are invited to come see for yourself and maybe you'll leave with something for you or your home, a souvenir for a friend, or a memorable experience that will stay with you always. If you are interested in learning more about a specific destination or topic, contact the individual destination marketing organization listed below.

MARYLAND

Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

Café Normandie, Galway Bay, Boatyard, Carroll's Creek, Osteria 177, Chick & Ruth's, and Annapolis Ice Cream serve personality with every dish. Annapolis Pottery, Local by Design, Hobo International, Blanca Flor, Zachary's, and McBride Gallery offer unique gifts. Watermark and Schooner Woodwind provide water adventures. These and others help promote Annapolis.

*Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Susan Seifried, VisitAnnapolis.org,
sseifried@visitannapolis.org*

Baltimore

Baltimore makers pair style and creativity to provide shoppers with a local and authentic feel-and some pretty cool souvenirs! Small shops like Treason Toting Company work with Baltimore

artists to design, create and specialize products so travelers can leave with a one-of-a-kind creation.

Visit Baltimore, Kelly Nagle, Baltimore.org, knagle@baltimore.org

Caroline County

Turnbridge Point is a luxurious bed and breakfast in downtown Denton on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Victorian-era house on the Choptank River offers beautifully appointed rooms for a relaxing escape. Pastry chef Steve Konopelski provides amazing breakfasts and guests can book private baking lessons. Private parties are welcome. *Caroline County Office of Tourism, Ceres Bainbridge, VisitCaroline.org, ceres@visitcaroline.org*

Cecil County

Imagine going back in time to your favorite childhood candy store. Capture the magic and tempt your tastebuds with the confections at North East Chocolate Shop. This tiny historic building on Main Street North East, is surrounded by antique and specialty shops, award-winning restaurants, seasonal events, and small town charm! *Cecil County Tourism, Sandy Turner, SeeCecil.org, sturner@ccgov.org*

Charles County

Discover Shop 53 Custom Tattoo & Art Studio in La Plata. Located just 30 miles south of Washington D.C., this all-female studio boasts custom tattoos and a themed art gallery full of one-a-kind gifts from artists from the Mid-Atlantic region. *Charles County Government, Department of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism, Catherine Herbert, ExploreCharlesCounty.com, herbertc@charlescountymd.gov*

Frederick County

Downtown Frederick is home to over 200 boutique specialty shops, over 50 locally-owned restaurants, and a variety of other small businesses! The area is easily walkable and has plenty to keep any visitor busy for a full day or more. *Visit Frederick, Melissa Joseph Muntz, VisitFrederick.org, mmuntz@fredco-md.net*

Hagerstown - Washington County

For more than two decades, businesses owned by New York Times best-selling author Nora Roberts have attracted people to Boonsboro. Turn the Page Bookstore draws large crowds for book signings. Other popular destinations include Roberts' boutique hotel Inn Boonsboro and artisan shop Gifts Inn Boonsboro, celebrating its tenth anniversary. *Visit Hagerstown, Betsy DeVore, VisitHagerstown.com, betsy@visithagerstown.com*

Harford County

Eat, art, and shop in Harford County. Support locally-owned restaurants by dining during Harford County Restaurant Week - always the third week in January. After enjoying a delicious

meal in town, browse at an art gallery or a clothing, jewelry, or gift boutique store on one of our main streets! *Visit Harford, Mindy Schneider, VisitHarford.com, mindy@visitharford.com*

Queen Anne's County

Join Queen Anne's County in buying local on Small Business Saturday (every Saturday after Thanksgiving.) Heck with the Malls, a local favorite, occurs every December in Downtown Centreville. It is a day of celebrating local small business, art, and holiday fun. Avoid the mall and shop small! *Queen Anne's County Office of Tourism, Ashley Chenault, VisitQueenAnnes.com, achenautl@gac.org*

Talbot County

Talbot County is a premier shopping destination. Midnight Madness in St. Michaels kicks off in December with festive decorations, carolers and stores open late - just as Easton ends November with Moonlight Madness. Talbot Restaurant Week in April offers discerning diners opportunities to taste the region's finest cuisine. *Talbot County Office of Tourism, Cassandra M. Vanhooser, TourTalbot.org, cvanhooser@talbgov.org*

PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania is proudly home to one million small businesses, dotting small towns that beckon visitors to its charming main streets. From Lititz and Lancaster, to Wellsboro and Jim Thorpe, travelers can find quaint eateries, friendly local storefronts, and hidden gems when shopping, dining, and exploring in the Keystone State. *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Natalie Buyny, VisitPA.com, nbuyny@tierneyagency.com*

Central Pennsylvania

Tait Farm Foods is famous for its shrub sweet-tart mixture which can be added to sparkling water or iced tea to add some fruit flavor. Shrub, which was once used as way to preserve spoiling fruit in the 19th century, quickly became a popular item for mixologists. *Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andy Rupert, VisitPennState.org, andyr@visitpennstate.org*

Clearfield County

Grice Gun Shop, Inc. is a family owned business bringing tourists from near and far to the largest gun shop in Pennsylvania. The Grice family helped create one of the best Sportsmen's Weekend events in the Commonwealth. The three-day event takes place every year at the end of March. *Visit Clearfield County, Josiah Jones, VisitClearfieldCounty.org, jjones@visitclearfieldcounty.org*

Endless Mountains

Located at the only traffic light in Sullivan County, The Jolly Trolley is an Endless Mountains variety store featuring local products and memorabilia. The store's old-fashioned soda fountain serves an assortment of home-baked pies, cakes, and muffins in generous portions. Delicious ice cream sundaes and shakes are local favorites. *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher, EndlessMountains.org, sales@endlessmountains.org*

Franklin County

Small Business Saturday is a big event for Franklin County! From specials in the downtowns of Chambersburg, Shippensburg, Waynesboro, Greencastle, and Mercersburg, to the grand opening of the Franklin County 11/30 Visitors Center, this will be an exciting day to visit the county! *Franklin County Visitors Bureau, Lauren Cappuccio, ExploreFranklinCountyPA.com, lcappuccio@explorefranklincountypa.com*

Huntingdon County

Scout troops travel up to six hours for educational programs at Lincoln Caverns. Family owned Seven Points Marina is the only place in Pennsylvania where you can rent a houseboat and stay on Raystown Lake. Rothrock Outfitters has adapted their shop and rental offerings as the Allegrrippis Trails have grown. *Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, Edward Stoddard, Raystown.org, estoddard@raystown.org*

Lehigh Valley

Explore the quaint shops along Main Street in Bethlehem, including the Moravian Book Shop. Recognized as the oldest continuously-operating bookstore in the world, the shop is an independent bookseller specializing in Bethlehem-related decor. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger, DiscoverLehighValley.com, kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com*

Pittsburgh

Some of the city's most notable small businesses are the Colony Café, a cat sanctuary and coffee shop, and Wigle Whisky, both located in the Strip District neighborhood. In addition, love, Pittsburgh and Steel City Clothing offer unique gifts for locals and tourists alike.

VisitPITTSBURGH, Kristin Wenger, VisitPittsburgh.com, kristin.wenger@visitpittsburgh.com

Potter County - Tioga County

Highland Chocolates, a non-profit factory and retail store in Wellsboro that provides employment for adults with disabilities, is a "must stop" when visiting the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. In addition to the famous pretzel bark, the store offers hundreds of molded chocolates, snack mixes, fudge, and handcrafted gifts for any occasion. *Visit Potter-Tioga, Morgan Christopher, VisitPotterTioga.com, morgan@visitpottertioga.com*

Reading, Berks County

In 1948, to the delight of family and friends, William Koziar decorated his home for the holidays in Christmas lights. Today, people travel from near and far to marvel at the twinkling lights and holiday magic of Koziar's Christmas Village. *Pennsylvania's Americana Region, Lisa Haggerty, VisitPaAmericana.com, lisa@visitpaamericana.com*

VIRGINIA

Arlington

From innovative tech startups to foodie havens, Arlington is home to hundreds of small businesses. Check out District Taco, a taco cart start-up that now owns a dozen freestanding restaurants in the region. Sample artistic bonbons at Artisan Confections, sip Commonwealth Joe coffees, or find colorful textiles at ArlingtonWeaves. *Arlington Convention & Visitors Service, Cara O'Donnell, StayArlington.com, codonnell@arlingtonva.us*

Fairfax County

Find colonial-era toys or handmade jewelry at Claude Moore Colonial Farm's shop, one-of-a-kind art straight from the artist studios at Workhouse Arts Center, history-focused gifts and locally-crafted Virginia wares at Gunston Hall, and many more unique treasures at these under-the-radar shops nestled in some of the area's most beloved attractions. *Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris, FXVA.com, amorris@fxva.com*

Hampton

Miss Hampton II Harbor Cruises, Hampton's best-loved tour, is the product of a small business with a dedicated staff. This tour sails down the Hampton River and across the Hampton Roads Harbor to see the mighty ships of Naval Station Norfolk before docking at the abandoned island fortress Fort Wool. *Hampton Convention and Visitor Bureau, Elizabeth Severs, VisitHampton.com, elizabeth.severs@hamptoncvb.com*

Harrisonburg

Jack Browns Beer and Burger Joint has been attracting visitors for nine years. The menu includes the Danny Laruso, cream cheese and jalapeno jelly, the Elvis, peanut butter, bacon, and mayo and cheese. It's so good they opened 11 more locations in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama. *Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services, Brenda Black, VisitHarrisonburgVA.com, brenda.black@harrisonburgva.gov*

Lynchburg

Lynchburg is for locavores! Visitors and locals alike love the Lynchburg Community Market, where more than 50 artists, farmers, and restaurants share their wares at one of the oldest continually-running farmers markets in the nation. Since 1783, the Market has served fresh German pastries, Filipino Delight(s), and down-home southern fare. *Lynchburg Office of Economic Development & Tourism, Krista Boothby, LynchburgVirginia.org, krista.boothby@lynchburgva.gov*

Prince William County

Historic Occoquan is home to over 60 vibrant shops and restaurants. Also showcasing local artisans at the bi-annual Arts & Crafts Show, it is a wonderful place to find unique treasures. The true beauty of this town is its thriving shopping district that attracts thousands of visitors each year. *Prince William County Office of Tourism, Nicole Warner, VisitPWC.com, nwarner@pwgov.org*

Richmond

The Richmond region is bursting with creative boutiques. Blue Bones Vintage & Steady Sounds Records is a one-stop shop for vintage threads and music. Little Nomad offers trendy children's fashions. Plant lovers flock to Pomona Plants, and Mongrel and Dear Neighbor is the perfect place to finish holiday shopping. *Richmond Region Tourism, Meghan Gearino, VisitRichmondVa.com, mgearino@visitrichmondva.com*

Shenandoah County

Above a small town storefront, a neon bowling pin is a beacon for the tiny 6-lane Duck Pin alley that comes to life at the top of a narrow staircase. Step into a room and back in time to a piece of Virginia history at Shenandoah Bowling Lanes. *Shenandoah County Tourism, Jenna French, VisitShenandoahCounty.com, jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us*

WEST VIRGINIA

Hampshire County

Capon Crossing Farm (CCF) is family-owned and run with over 30 years of experience raising black angus cattle. Specializing in pastured raised meats and farm goods, CCF is open year round with an on-farm market, as well as monthly bluegrass concerts, farm workshops, and rental venue for weddings and events. *Hampshire County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Jonathan Bellingham, CometoHampshire.com , info@cometohampshire.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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Kaitie Burger
MATPRA Chair 2018-2019
midatlantictourism@gmail.com