

## HOWARD COUNTY TOURISM & PROMOTION

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## Celebrate your Bromance on a Mancation in Howard County, MD!

ELLCOTT CITY, MD – Plan the ultimate guys' trip in Howard County, MD! Men of all ages and interests will find something they enjoy here in the center of it all! Adrenaline junkies can speed around racetracks and take their chances on a giant swing. Outdoor adventurers will enjoy access to ample open space and trails great for hiking and biking. Beer lovers will enjoy the growing number of craft breweries and great restaurants offering unique drinking options. Take a break from the norm and plan a Mancation with the fellas. Let the ladies plan an antiquing trip and spa retreat for themselves, this one is just for the guys.

### OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Hey guys! The outdoors abound in Howard County, MD. Did you know there are 30,000 acres of parkland, 5 lakes and ponds, 70 farms, 200 miles of trails for hiking, biking and enjoying the outdoors right in between Washington D.C. and Baltimore? Home of The Patapsco Valley State Park, affectionately referred to as "Moab East" by mountain biking enthusiasts, Howard County is an oasis of eco-tourism activities in the Baltimore & Washington region. Indulge in some adventure with Terrapin Adventures and let them lead you on any number of outdoor excursions. You could test your senses on a nighttime cycle with a local bike group, do some hands-on learning at a state-of-the-art and LEED platinum Nature Center, or book a few nights at a campsite to really get away from it all. "Fore" golfers there are seven golf courses from putt-putt to the pros. How about sunrise or sunset hot air ballooning, the truest form of sailing! There's great wildlife viewing when kayaking, canoeing or paddle boating on local lakes. Wanna really get out and play? How about batting cages, five buck buckets of balls at driving ranges, skate-parks, cricket fields, indoor and outdoor swim-centers and ice hockey rinks for good ol' fashioned guy fun?

### Patapsco Valley State Park

Nationally known for its trail opportunities and scenery, the park extends along 32 miles of the Patapsco River, with 16,043 acres and eight developed recreational areas.

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/patapsco.aspx>

### Terrapin Adventures

Terrapin Adventures offers a variety of Tours – Trips. Let us be your guide and unveil a bold universe of outdoor fun. Learn new skills while you explore local parks, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

<http://www.terrapinadventures.com/>

### **Twenty 20 Cycling Co.**

Named a “Top Shop” and “Baltimore’s Best Bike Shop” by Bicycling Magazine, Twenty20 Cycling’s goal is to not only get more people on bikes, but to ensure that you’re on the right bike. Because after all, if your bike makes you happy then you’ll enjoy riding it.

<http://www.twenty20cycling.com>

### **Columbia Association (CA)**

A nonprofit service corporation that manages many amenities in Columbia, MD including 3 full-service fitness facilities, 3 tennis clubs, 23 outdoor swimming pools, 4 indoor swimming pools, Columbia Ice Rink, Columbia SportsPark and SkatePark, Fairway Hills Golf Club, Hobbit’s Glen Golf Club and more than 3,500 acres of open space.

<http://www.columbiaassociation.com>

### **Robinson Nature Center**

This unique nature education facility offers over 1,000 acres of forest, meadows and river valley to explore. The center is one of few LEED platinum buildings open to the public in the nation. Explore interactive and multisensory exhibits, the NatureSphere digital planetarium and theater and much more!

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=4294969779>

### **Rocky Gorge Golf Fairway**

Driving range, mini-golf, batting cages and more! Open all year – day or night, rain or shine!

<http://www.rockygorgegolf.com/>

### **Timbers at Troy Golf Course**

A par 72 championship course boasting over 6,650 yards from the back tees and a challenging course rating of 134. Plus a state-of-the-art practice range with bentgrass tees, target greens and a chipping area.

<http://www.timbersgolf.com/>

### **Turf Valley Golf**

A premier destination for business and leisure offering championship golf, a full service hotel, European spa and more.

<http://www.turfvalley.com/>

### **Waverly Woods Golf Club**

Award winning golf course and practice facility situated in beautiful Western Howard County.  
<http://www.waverlywoods.com/>

### **Willow Springs Golf Course**

An 18-hole links style executive course with driving range, full-service clubhouse and pro shop.  
<http://www.willowspringsgolfcourse.com/>

### **FUN ON ROUTE 1**

The revitalization of Route 1 not only includes mixed use residential and retail in the heart of the commuter-friendly Baltimore / Washington corridor, but has lots of opportunities for heart-pumping fun too. At Terrapin Adventures, your adrenaline adventure begins. Offerings include zip lines, a climbing tower, giant swing, team building and more. The Autobahn Raceway Experience is a thrill like no other: European style, indoor kart racing at speeds up to 50 MPH! Feed your need for speed at their state-of-the-art, completely indoor racing facility with perfect racing conditions every day on their two Grand Prix style tracks. Monster Mini-Golf offers 18 holes of indoor glow-in-the dark monster themed mini golf. While you putt a live DJ spins records with 1980s music, you can enjoy corny contests and win party prizes. There's also a great arcade and two rooms for social or corporate events. Patapasco Valley State Park,

Maryland's first State park welcomes 1.1M visitors annually and is known as "Moab East" for mountain bike enthusiasts. With 117 miles of trails and 16,000 acres of parkland is perfect for leaf peeping in the fall on the wooded Grist Mill Trail. This paved pathway parallels the Patapsco River for a mile and a half and passes many sites of historic interest including the Orange Grove Flour Mill, the Bloede Dam and two swinging bridges with plenty of opportunities for seeing wildflowers, wildlife and waterfalls. Rockburn Skills Park, with 450-acres includes 7.4 miles of trails, has scenic woodlands, marshes and stream valleys; an 18-hole disc golf course; three courses for mountain bike riders of varying skill levels; a rock-armored climbing trail; a pump track; picnic pavilions; and more.

### **Terrapin Adventures**

Adventure starts here, offerings include ziplines, a climbing tower and giant swing, kayak tours, mountain biking, tubing, team building and more!  
<http://www.terrapinadventures.com/>

### **Autobahn Indoor Speedway**

Experience a thrill like no other: European style, indoor kart racing at speeds up to 50 MPH! Our state-of-the-art facility is completely indoors for perfect racing conditions every day on our two Grand Prix style tracks.  
<http://www.autobahnspeed.com/>

### **Monster Mini Golf**

18 holes of indoor glow-in-the dark mini golf, DJ with music, contests, and prizes. Great arcade, two party rooms for birthdays or corporate events.

<http://www.monsterminigolf.com/fran-md-columbia/>

### **Patapsco Valley State Park**

Nationally known for its trail opportunities and scenery, the park extends along 32 miles of the Patapsco River, with 16,043 acres and eight developed recreational areas.

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/patapsco.aspx>

### **Rockburn Skills Park**

The 450-acre Rockburn Branch Park includes 7.4 miles of trails; scenic woodlands, marshes and stream valleys; several multipurpose athletic fields, ball diamonds, tennis courts, basketball courts and two playgrounds; an 18-hole disc golf course; three courses for riders of varying skill levels; a rock-armored climbing trail; a pump track; picnic pavilions; and more.

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=4294969779>

### **BOATS & BREWS**

Enjoy a day boating and tasting craft brews. Head to Centennial Park in the morning and rent a few kayaks for an active paddle around Centennial Lake or take a row boat out and spend a few leisurely hours fishing. After your float, discover one of the newest craft beer scenes in Maryland. In Howard County, you can easily imbibe in a local pint and grab a bite along a self-led brew tour of the area. Or hire a driver for the day to make sure everyone can enjoy in the fun. Whether your group has 2, 6 or 20+ people, there is a transportation option for you. Start your tour at Ellicott Mills Brewing Company in historic Ellicott City for lunch and a taste of one of their eight craft beers on tap. After your meal, venture out to Heavy Seas Brewery for a tour and a little Pirate-themed adventure. Next, stop by Jailbreak Brewing Company for a sample flight or two. Finish up your ale-tastic day at Victoria Gastro Pub for dinner and a pick or two from their extensive and eclectic tap menu. And don't forget to pack a cooler. You'll definitely want a growler or two to take home with you.

### **Centennial Lake Boat Rentals**

Centennial Lake, which spreads across 50 acres of low-lying valley in central Howard County, has a very popular facility to rent canoes, paddle boats and rowboats. (Please note you will need a Maryland Freshwater Fishing License if you want to fish.)

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments.aspx?id=6442456361>

### **Ellicott Mills Brewing Company**

A brewery restaurant nestled in the historic district of Ellicott City, MD featuring eight craft beers on tap and serving wild game, seafood, burgers, salads and more.

<http://www.ellicottmillsbrewing.com>

### **Heavy Seas Brewery**

Visit Baltimore's largest craft beer brewery and learn how beer is made. Tours are offered most Saturdays. Use "Halethorpe, MD" for GPS directions.

<http://www.hsbeer.com>

### **Jailbreak Brewing Company**

A production brewery and tap room that features at least eight unique brews on tap. Open Wednesday through Sunday for tastings, tours, events, food truck visits, live entertainment and more.

<http://www.jailbreakbrewing.com>

### **Victoria Gastro Pub**

Innovative twists on classic pub fare with extensive and eclectic beer and wine lists offering indoor and outdoor dining.

<http://www.victoriagastropub.com>

### **URBAN COWBOY**

Take advantage of Howard County's balanced blend of city and country as you dine on delicious barbeque, rock out at an outdoor concert in one of America's finest amphitheaters and play cowboy at a rodeo! Join us for the annual Bull Blast & Rodeo Extravaganza and watch bull riding, mutton busting, a cowboy shootout, and get your grub on at an authentic 1818 chuck wagon! Dust off your cowboy hats and break out your cowboy boots boys for this highly anticipated Fall event. If the rodeo isn't enough, check out the Columbia Horse Center for a lesson on horseback. Make plans to rock out at a concert at Merriweather Post Pavilion. The world-class, outdoor amphitheater hosts some of country's brightest acts throughout the year.

Also, make sure you have some time to venture out west and chow down on some of Howard County's favorite barbecue at the Town Grill at Lisbon Auto Center. People come from near and far every Saturday to wait for their smoked ribs, we hear they are more than worth the trip.

### **Bull Blast & Rodeo Extravaganza**

Watch bull riding, mutton busting, a cowboy shootout, and an authentic 1818 chuck wagon serving up grub! The Bull Blast & Rodeo Extravaganza are part of the Farm Heritage Days (tickets for the event sold separately).

<http://www.farmheritage.org/>

### **Columbia Horse Center**

A complete equestrian facility offering lessons for children and adults. Also offering lease and boarding programs, showing opportunities, horse sales, camps, clinics and more.

<http://www.columbiahorsecenter.com/>

### **Merriweather Post Pavillion**

Regional music venue offering the biggest names in contemporary entertainment in a beautiful amphitheater nestled in a 40 acre forest in the heart of Columbia.

<http://www.merriweathermusic.com/>

### **Town Grill at Lisbon Auto Center**

One-stop general store with a full service locally renown deli and BBQ pit. Now dog friendly!

<http://www.lisbontowngrill.com/>

### TOURISM...Having FUN is Serious Business!

Howard County Tourism & Promotion's mission is to increase, develop and promote tourism in Howard County by featuring the county's unique sites, services, products and people. For more information call 410-313-1900 seven days a week or online 24/7/365 at

[www.VisitHowardCounty.com](http://www.VisitHowardCounty.com).

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