



# Visit Howard County Maryland

Howard County is the green in between Baltimore & Washington D.C. and the perfect starting location for any trip to the Capital Region. Hidden gems and outdoor oases abound. Here are a few story ideas to get you started.

## Bites & Brews



Get hopped up on the HowardOnTap craft beer trail! Featuring 8 breweries, brew pubs and restaurants, (plus several more on tap,) this is Maryland's most exciting ale trail! Lost Ark Distilling Company, Howard County's first craft distillery is scheduled to open Fall 2016. When your stomach starts to grumble, you'll be glad you don't have to travel far for world-class barbeque, Maryland seafood, farm to fork fare and anything else your taste buds desire.

## Agritourism



Howard County, MD has over 300 farms. There is always a lot to do while visiting a farm, from pumpkin patches and pick-your-own produce, to wine making, cheese pairings and spinning alpaca fiber. Area farms are not only fun for all ages, they provide an educational opportunity to learn where food and household goods are grown and produced.

## Outdoors



An outdoor oasis just a hop, skip and jump away from I-95 and the Beltways! Howard County is home to Patapsco Valley State Park, Maryland's largest and oldest state park. Often called 'MOAB East' by mountain bike enthusiasts, the park welcomes over 1 million guests annually. Swing through the trees on ropes courses, zip lines and giant swings. Close to 100 miles of paved paths connect much of Columbia and are perfect for running, walking and cycling.

## History



From colonial settlers to vintage amusement parks, Howard County has got some history. Some debate Ellicott City and the Patapsco Valley were the birthplace of the industrial revolution, there's an Underground Railroad stop underneath a restaurant in Elkrigde and the Historic National Road runs right through the county. Children of all ages still enjoy the storybook characters from The Enchanted Forest (open from 1955 - early 1990s) at Clark's Elioak Farm.

## Arts Al Fresco



From outdoor sculpture tours and plein air painting festivals to music under the stars, The arts come alive outside in Howard County. Merriweather Post Pavilion is one of the world's most beautiful and storied amphitheaters – nestled in 40 acres of forest, smack between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore.



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## September 24, Main Street Music Fest at Merriweather Post Pavilion

This event is historically held in Ellicott City, but after the devastating floods on July 30, Merriweather offered to host the festival as a benefit and will donate 100 percent of its event proceeds to the Ellicott City Partnership.

## November & December, HoCo Holidays

The holidays are positively twinkly in Howard County! Symphony of Lights returns to downtown Columbia and the Bollman Bridge Lighting in Savage Mill continues to delight.

## June 2017, Columbia, MD's 50th Birthday Celebration

Columbia, MD is an award winning planned community and on June 21, 2017, will celebrate 50 years of this vibrant community. Many events, exhibits and celebrations are planned to mark the occasion.

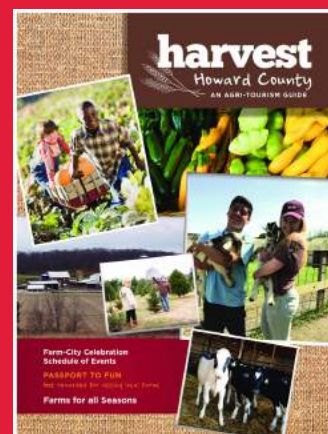
## July 2017, Merriweather Post Pavilion turns 50

Designed by st-architect Frank Gehry, this top rated amphitheater has hosted the likes of Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and the Grateful Dead! There's a mosh pit because of Green Day and eco-friendly amenities thanks to Jack Johnson. More information about an anniversary event to come.

## Services offered to journalists

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The NEW Harvest Howard  
County Agritourism Guide  
is now available!



**HOWARD COUNTY  
MARYLAND**

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Howard County Tourism & Promotion

Sarah Kurtanich | 410-313-1903 | sarah@howardcountytourism.com

8267 Main Street Ellicott City, MD 21043