Partner Now for OTD's "Open for the Holidays" Promotion

There’s nothing like coming home to Maryland for the holidays, but this year, families are looking for an additional reason to support local businesses. That's where OTD's "Open for the Holidays" campaign comes in, encouraging travelers to visit family with the comfort of a hotel stay, buying from that shop down the street, or dining in a favorite restaurant. "Open for the Holidays" is a multi-media marketing campaign to encourage consumers to, in a socially responsible way, support local businesses. We are asking for deals, incentives or gift with purchase that will be featured on the OTD web site. For more information about "Open for the Holidays", email Rich Gilbert,
Travel Trade Sales Manager, OTD, at rgilbert@visitmaryland.org. To register your discount package deal, click below.

REGISTER DISCOUNT PACKAGES HERE

Radio Stations Partner with OTD for “Masks on Maryland” PSA

More than a dozen radio stations around the state have teamed with OTD to run “Masks on Maryland” PSAs. The PSA’s promote proper mask use and social distancing to fight the Coronavirus pandemic, and feature notables such as University of Maryland women’s basketball coach Brenda Frese, UM men’s basketball coach Mark Turgeon, and Orioles manager Brandon Hyde. Stations running the PSAs include iHeart-affiliated stations throughout Maryland; Manning Media’s four stations in Hagerstown and Frederick; Alpha Media 5 stations in Hagerstown; and WJEJ-AM in Hagerstown. To listen to a sample PSA, follow this link, and follow the link below for more on “Masks On Maryland” including signage for your place of business.

MORE ON MASKS ON MARYLAND

OTD to Launch C&O Canal and Underground Railroad Certified Host Programs

The Maryland Office of Tourism is pleased to announce the launch of two new Certified Host Programs in 2021. Certified Host Programs provide training to Maryland front-line staff to increase knowledge about Maryland Office of Tourism initiatives with local tourism partners, increase knowledge of regional visitor experiences, increase business promotion, and provide basic customer service training. This training is designed to
provide staff and partners the information and tools they need to inspire and assist visitors to stay longer in a destination and support their businesses. Training sessions are 90 minutes long and will be conducted online.

The C&O Canal Experience Certified Host Program is designed for tourism partners in Montgomery, Frederick, Washington, and Allegany counties interacting with visitors to the region. Training is on January 12 at 1pm and January 20 at 7pm. Maryland's Underground Railroad Certified Host Program is designed for tourism partners across the state who are near Maryland National Park Service Network to Freedom sites. For a list and locations of Network to Freedom sites please see www.visitmaryland.org/network-to-freedom. Training is on January 19 at 3pm and January 27 at 7pm. Registration is open now; please click below for a registration form.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER]

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**Find the Right Historic Preservation Grant Program with MHT’s Virtual Roadshow**

Which grant program is the best fit for your historic preservation or heritage tourism project? Find out by watching the MHT Virtual Roadshow streaming December 8 at 10am. The Roadshow will cover eligibility requirements and application process tips for all of the grant programs that the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland Heritage Areas Program oversee.

[VIEW LIVE ON YOUTUBE]
Tourism Again Leads Statewide Jobs Recovery in October

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released state jobs and unemployment data. According to the preliminary survey data, Maryland added 10,200 jobs in October. The Leisure and Hospitality sector experienced the most growth with an increase of 9,100 jobs from the Accommodation and Food Services and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sub-sectors. In the last six months, Maryland has gained a total of 206,300 jobs. Overall, the tourism sector added the most jobs during the past six months, with 88,700 jobs!

Governor Hogan “Strongly Encourages” Marylanders to Support Their Favorite Restaurants, according to WJZ

Six COVID-Safe Outdoor Holiday Light Displays

St. Mary’s College Dedicates Memorial to Enslaved People

Maryland Women’s Heritage Center Gets New Home in Baltimore

Visit Baltimore Launches New Tourism Ad Campaign Amidst Travel Advisory

Montgomery County Tourism Anchor Institution Grants Available to Nonprofits Focusing on Arts, Culture, Agriculture, and Recreation That Have Been Affected By COVID

Music Venues Shuttered by COVID Push Congress to “Save Our Stages”

*Esquire* Names New Baltimore Restaurant NiHao #4 on “Best New Restaurants in America” List
Maryland Minute

Each week, the Maryland Minute provides highlights and insights on this weekend's events around the state. Maryland Minute is featured on Entercom radio stations in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., WERQ on Baltimore's WBAL-AM 1090.

Maryland Travel Tips

For the latest on events and everything going all around Maryland, view the latest edition of Visit Maryland Now!