Governor Hogan Announces Lifting of Capacity Limits

With sustained vaccine progress and significant improvements in all of the state’s key data metrics, Governor Larry Hogan announced on March 9 that new actions will be in effect to further ease the COVID-19 mitigation measures currently in place.

"With the pace of vaccinations rapidly rising and our health metrics steadily improving, the lifting of these restrictions is a prudent, positive step in the right direction and an important part of our economic recovery," said Governor Hogan.

Beginning Friday, March 12, capacity limits will be lifted on outdoor and indoor dining, retail businesses, religious facilities, and personal services. Large outdoor and indoor venues may operate at up to 50 percent capacity, and quarantine requirements will be lifted on out-of-state travel. Masking and distancing protocols will be maintained.
OTD Making News for Maryland

The OTD team is constantly working to promote Maryland’s unique and amazing tourism assets, with the Office of Tourism’s PR team making great strides at placing Maryland in the media. Through this work and the relationships developed by the PR team with media outlets around the world, OTD is able to facilitate numerous media appearances. While this is a continuing process, we’d like to mention some recent successes of note.

USA Today Names Two Maryland Trails “10 Best”

USA Today held a reader’s vote for the “Best Recreational Trails of 2021,” and two iconic Maryland trails made the top ten. The C&O Canal Towpath and the Great Allegheny Passage took the eighth and ninth spots, respectively. In addition to being beloved hiking, biking, and horseback riding destinations, the two trails have been the recent focus of promotions by OTD and our DMO partners highlighting the remarkable recreational activities these trails represent. Follow these links to VisitMaryland.org for more information on the C&O Canal and The Great Allegheny Passage.

Register Now for Certified Host Training
The Maryland Office of Tourism is pleased to announce additional Certified Host training sessions. Certified Host Programs provide training to Maryland tourism partners who interact with visitors daily. This program’s goals are to increase knowledge about Maryland Office of Tourism initiatives and how you and your business/site can benefit from participating in them, increase your knowledge of regional visitor experiences in order to enhance the visitor experience, increase your business/site promotion, and provide basic customer service training. Training sessions are 90 minutes long and will be conducted online.

The Great Chesapeake Bay Loop Certified Host Program is designed for tourism partners along the loop. For more information on the Great Chesapeake Bay Loop, go to VisitMaryland.org. The sessions will be held virtually on March 31 from 2:00-3:30 pm, and April 8 from 10:30 am-12:00 pm.

For More Information and to Register

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**IN THE NEWS**

Delfest Pushes Date to September

“American Pickers” to Film in Anne Arundel County

*Outside* Names C&O Canal in “4 Awesome Winter Road Trips to National Parks”

Old Wye Mill Releases Tree-Ring Study Funded by Maryland Heritage Areas Authority

*Thrillist* Travels to “The Most Beautiful Places in Maryland”

Tourism Industry Responds to Pandemic with Eco-Awareness
WBAL Studies Maryland Underground Railroad Sites

Billie Holiday Biopic Chronicles Baltimore Jazz Legend

Water’s Edge Discovery Center Seeks to Open “Preview Center” in Belcamp

Savage River State Forest Rolls Out Online Reservations

Walters Art Museum to Reopen March 17 with New Exhibits

Towson Music Venue “The Recher” to Reopen

Leonardtown Ready to Celebrate First Friday

Well-Known Boonsboro Historian and Collector Passes, Owner of Boonsborough Museum of History

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!