

## TALKING TOURISM

April 5, 2020

*Each month this space will be devoted to a column written by Debbie Robinson, executive director of the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau (VCB). She will provide information about upcoming events, area attractions, bureau services and projects, and most importantly, communicate the tremendous impact that the travel and tourism industry has on this region.*

### Spring Staycation Ideas

We have much to be thankful for even in uncertain times. I am reminded, encouraged and hopeful when I look out my window and see that spring is arriving. The grass is greener and the trees are beginning to bud. The flowers are popping up and the birds are chirping.

We may be separated from one another, but we still have the beautiful outdoors to enjoy. The landscape of Guernsey County threads together an amazing tapestry of forested hills, open meadows, misty valleys and clear streams. It is home to some of Ohio's largest lakes and state parks and more.

The Cambridge/Guernsey County VCB encourages you to plan daily or weekly outdoor adventures locally. Begin your spring "play list" at **Salt Fork State Park**, Ohio's largest state park. It is located only a 15-minute drive from downtown Cambridge. The park boasts 17,229-acres with 14 scenic hiking trails, ranging from easy to moderate. Bring your own equipment and also enjoy canoeing, kayaking or fishing from non-marina docks. The park also boasts the largest inland beach in the state (there's nearly 3,000 acres of water). Please also remember the following areas are currently closed – restrooms, showers, camping/RV areas, cabins and lodge, golf course, playgrounds, marinas, and park offices. Please check their website for the latest information. <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/saltfork>

Another perfect spot to explore is **Seneca Lake**. Thirteen miles southeast of Cambridge, Seneca Lake is Ohio's third largest inland waterway, and it has all the lake activities you might expect. It is the perfect spot to fish for bluegills and bass. Note that the public launch ramps located at the Marina and on SR 574 are open. There are also numerous scenic hiking trails around the lake. Anyone interested in hiking may park at the welcome center to access the trails located within the park, but vehicle access inside the park is not permitted at this time. A quick reminder, the Buckeye Trail is accessible on SR 574 and a parking area is located on SR 574 between 313 and the park entrance. For the latest updates, check out <https://senecapark.mwcd.org/>.

Finally, if you're looking for something in town that feels as if you're a million miles away...enjoy a leisurely stroll with your family or an invigorating 12-mile bike ride along the **Great Guernsey Trail**. This paved, low-grade path offers an unforgettable natural setting. You'll disappear into the serene woods and travel over three bridges as you take in the fresh air. This makes for a great workout. [www.guernseycountycdc.com](http://www.guernseycountycdc.com)

As the developments in Coronavirus (COVID-19) continue to unfold please follow the direction from our public health authorities including the CDC, Ohio Department of Health, and the Guernsey County Health Department to protect the community and visitors. If you haven't seen the latest information posted by Governor DeWine, please visit <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/> or call 1-833-427-5634.

The Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau is here for you. We miss you and can't wait to see you again. Until then, stay home and stay healthy.

For the latest information on our tourism industry cancellations, postponements, and dining in options, please check out our Staycations button on our home page. <https://visitguernseycounty.com/blog/springbreak-staycation.html> To learn more about the VCB, area events, and activities, visit the Cambridge/Guernsey County VCB office at 627 Wheeling Avenue, Suite 200 in downtown Cambridge, call 740-432-2022, email [info@VisitGuernseyCounty.com](mailto:info@VisitGuernseyCounty.com), or log on to [VisitGuernseyCounty.com](http://VisitGuernseyCounty.com).

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