

Family Attractions Begin Opening Throughout Southeast Ohio

CAMBRIDGE, Ohio (April 16, 2025) – From safaris to theatrical productions, Guernsey County, Ohio offers numerous attractions. Many family-oriented points of interest are beginning to open for the busy travel season.

“Cambridge/Guernsey County is a world away from overcrowded destinations,” shared Debbie Robinson, Executive Director of the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitor & Convention Bureau. “We really offer an amazing mix of outdoor recreation with affordable and unique overnight accommodations, paired with fascinating history.”

The meadows come alive as visitors safari across what appears to be an African plain complete with real rhinos, giraffes, camels, zebras and much more, all right here in Ohio! **The Wilds**, operated by the Columbus Zoo, offers an incredible destination with up-close animal encounters for the whole family. Specialty tours add to the fun. Open daily from April 28 through October 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., it's the perfect destination for a day trip or weekend getaway. For an even more thrilling experience, book a 2.5 hour zipline safari and see The Wilds from an aerial perspective. Advanced reservations are required, so visit www.thewilds.org today to plan your adventure!

Throughout the 20th century, Cambridge Glass was synonymous worldwide with fine craftsmanship. Today, the **National Museum of Cambridge Glass** displays more than 10,000 exquisite pieces of this coveted vintage glassware. The museum offers tours and interactive exhibits to help visitors understand the intricate process of glass making from gathering to shaping, etching and engraving. Step back in time as you admire a dining room display showcasing period furniture and a table setting from the early 1900s. The Education Center allows guests to create their own rubbings from original etching plates, while a 1940s movie made by the Cambridge Glass Company provides an interesting glimpse into the past. The gift shop offers pieces of Cambridge Glass, jewelry made from it, books and other items for sale. Open from April 2 to October 31, visit Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 12-4 p.m. Admission is \$6; seniors/AAA members pay \$5; children 12 and under are free. For more information, visit www.cambridgeglassmuseum.org.

Head to the **Deerassic Park Welcome Center** for a learning experience about the local ecosystem and wildlife with an emphasis on fun. Kids will love the center's slide and interactive activities. Open from May to October on Thursdays-Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., the center is free for all visitors. Don't forget to check out the Ohio Whitetail Deer Hall of Fame while you're there. Plan your visit now at www.deerassic.com.

Connect with this region's fascinating past at the **Guernsey County History Museum**, located in a nearly 200-year-old, restored 16-room house. Immerse yourself in the rich history of the area with a life-like replica of an Ohio coalmine from the 1890s. And kids will love exploring the unique one-room schoolhouse. Everyone will be engaged in hands-on activities and interesting artifacts.

The museum is open from May 1 to December 30 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 12-3 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Learn more at www.facebook.com/guernseyhistory.

Explore American history from the Great Depression to the Great Space Race by visiting the **John & Annie Glenn Museum**, a National Historic Site. From May 1 to October 26, you can experience the lives of the Glens and gain insights into life in 1937. Natives of Guernsey County, the Glens left their fingerprints of generosity and love for the community throughout the area. The museum is open on Wednesdays - Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission fees are \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and groups of 10 or more, \$3 for students, and free for children aged six and below. www.johnandannieglennmuseum.org For a deeper understanding of the Glenn family's impact, download the John & Annie Glenn Heritage Trail guide. It will take you through three towns, each with its own unique connection to the Glens. Explore their legacy in detail as you travel the trail. www.visitguernseycounty.com/things-to-do/john-annie-glenn-heritage-trail

America's fascinating history of a bustling western route is the plot for many a Zane Grey novel. Delve into the legacy of renowned Grey and his books at the **National Road & Zane Grey Museum**. Discover the rich narrative behind the construction of the National Road and the pioneering spirit that shaped America's heartland. Immerse yourself in an engaging exhibit dedicated to Ohio's own Zane Grey, complemented by a stunning array of locally crafted art pottery. Guided tours are available from May 1 to October 26, Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$3 for students, and \$5 for groups. Plan your visit today at www.ohiohistory.org/visit/museum-and-site-locator/national-road-and-zane-grey-museum.

Visit the last remaining original homestead structure in the area with a visit to the **Stone House Museum**. Built in 1837 by Benjamin Kennedy, the home is made of sandstone quarried nearby. The museum is open from May 2 to October 26, every Friday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Learn more at www.ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/stone-house-museum-the-kennedy-stone-house

Seneca Lake Park has raised the bar for family fun with its new beachside **Splash Pad**, located between the Parkside Central Campground and scenic rolling hills. This state-of-the-art water play area features interactive elements, slides, a tree house, and picnic-themed water stations, offering safe fun for kids while adults relax and supervise. Opening date is May 23. Plus, new attractions like pickleball courts, lawn games, and a storybook trail make it the perfect destination for both active play and peaceful lakeside moments. Passes and event rentals are available for all types of visitors! www.mwcd.org/visit-our-lakes/activities/seneca-splash-pad/#seneca-lake

Families can embark on an exciting, educational adventure at the **Salt Fork State Park Eco-Discovery Center**, where Bigfoot guides visitors through an interactive journey to explore the park's forest ecosystem. Inside, the mythical creature teaches how, despite big feet, his environmental footprint is small, while exhibits highlight the importance of sustainability and nature's interconnectedness. Outdoor spaces feature native plantings, a rain garden, and a trail leading to the lake. The center opens April 22. The center, part of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' ConServe Ohio initiative, showcases sustainable design with features like solar panels, EV charging stations, and water-saving systems, offering families a hands-on way to learn about conservation and eco-friendly practices. www.ohiodnr.gov/business-and-industry/business-opportunities/improvement-projects/salt-fork-eco-discovery-center.

Finally, it isn't only animals and artisans and local history that make Cambridge/Guernsey County, Ohio, such a unique destination. **The Living Word Outdoor Drama** is Ohio's only outdoor passion play. This nondenominational outdoor theater depicts the moving and powerful life and death of Jesus Christ on a spectacular 400-foot panoramic stage.

Performances take place each Friday from June 13-September 26, 2025. Be part of the production as an “extra” in scenes and engage with the story like never before. Tickets are available for adults at \$18, seniors at \$16 and children aged 4-12 at \$6. Visit www.livingworddrama.org to secure your spot today.

For more information and these and other attractions and events, contact the Cambridge/Guernsey County VCB office at 627 Wheeling Avenue, Suite 200 in downtown Cambridge, call 740-432-2022, email destination@VisitGuernseyCounty.com, or log onto VisitGuernseyCounty.com.



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