



Harrisburg Hosts Herefords

The 2014 Junior National Hereford Expo will be in Pennsylvania's capital city July 5-12.

by *Kindra Gordon*

Each summer the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) is known by many as the ultimate family vacation — and 2014 will be no different. The event will head to Harrisburg, Pa., July 5-12 and will offer a jam-packed week of competitions, educational and leadership activities, and, of course, fun.

The region is famously known for nearby Hershey (just 22 miles away), where a visit to Chocolate World offers a variety of options. The Great American Chocolate Ride takes participants on a tour following cocoa beans on a journey from the tropical rainforest to their delicious transformation into Hershey's famous

chocolate. The tour concludes with a free sample.

Other highlights at Chocolate World include a chance to create your own candy bar — from choosing the ingredients to designing the wrapper. There are also a 4-D chocolate factory mystery movie, a tasting adventure, a trolley tour and much more. You'll definitely get your chocolate fix.

For thrill seekers, Hershey Park features 65 rides and attractions — including 12 roller coasters — along with live shows, games and special events. Its newest coaster, the Cocoa Cruiser, will open for the 2014 season and is designed for families to ride together.

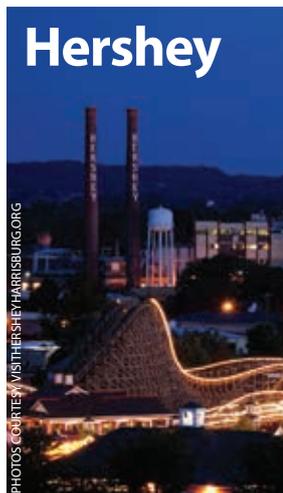
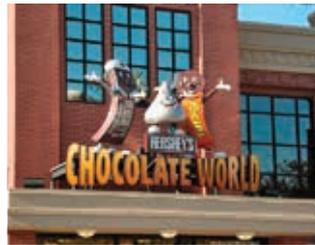
Two other family favorite rides will open in the park for the 2014 season — Tea Cup Ride and Sweet Swing.

Adjacent to the park is ZooAmerica, which can be accessed by a covered bridge walkway. The wildlife park features more than 200 animals from five regions of North America, and admission is free with admission to Hershey Park.

Other attractions include Hershey Gardens, a 23-acre botanical garden featuring an assortment of flowers, shrubs and trees and a butterfly house, and The Hershey Story, a museum where visitors can take an inspirational journey through the life of Milton S. Hershey — the man, his chocolate company, the town that bears his name and his generous legacy.

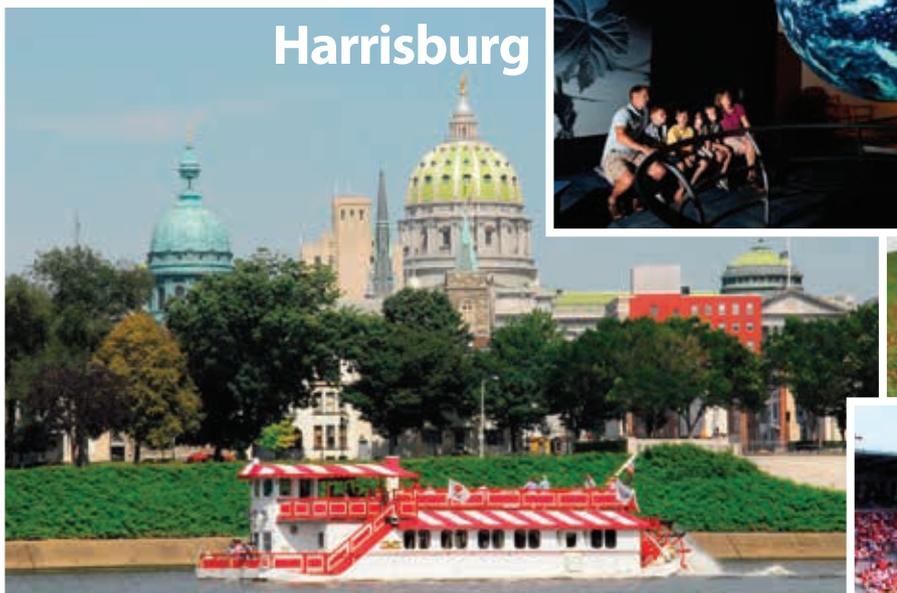
Within Harrisburg, City Island offers the perfect setting to relax and to unwind. The 63-acre recreational area includes miles of hiking, biking and boating, along with miniature golf, paddleboats, volleyball courts and batting cages. There's even an old-time antique carousel. The Harrisburg Senators baseball team also plays on the island, with home games scheduled July 7-10.

Also, from City Island, you can board The Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat, an authentic stern-driven paddle wheeler. During the summer, The Pride launches every day for



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Harrisburg



45-minute sightseeing cruises, leaving at 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. No reservations are required.

The Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts offers three floors of hands-on science exhibits and fun-filled galleries to delight all ages — from toddlers to grandparents. Attractions include Forces of Nature, KidsPlace, Carnival of Health and Move It! as well as an IMAX screen.

History buffs will want to spend time at the National Civil War Museum, located in Harrisburg. It is one of the largest museums in the world dedicated solely to the American Civil War. Both Northern and Southern viewpoints are presented, and military as well as civilian perspectives are highlighted.

A 45-minute drive from Harrisburg is the Gettysburg

National Military Park, which encompasses nearly 6,000 acres of major battlefield landmarks including Cemetery Hill with over 1,400 monuments, markers and memorials; 400 cannons; and three historic houses. Visitors should begin at the Museum and Visitors' Center for an orientation to touring the park as well as certified guide services. The museum features 12 exhibit galleries that tell the story of the Civil War and Gettysburg through one of the largest collections of Civil War relics in the world, maps and high-tech interactive displays, plus a 22-minute film "A New Birth of Freedom" about the Battle of Gettysburg.

Start planning your trip at Visithersheyharrisburg.org. **HW**



One for the bucket list

If riding a Segway is on your bucket list, the opportunity awaits you in Harrisburg. The two-hour tour — with an experienced guide — will take you past some of Harrisburg's most popular destinations including City Island, Riverfront Park and the State Capitol.



Neat places to eat

A variety of food options can be found throughout Harrisburg. A local favorite is The Firehouse, which can be found downtown in a completely restored 1871 Harrisburg firehouse. The multi-level dining rooms offer a variety of dining options, from a private table to an area large enough to accommodate parties of up to 60 people. Its well-rounded menu includes a variety of steaks, seafood, pasta, sandwiches and salads.

BBQ lovers will want to check out Smoke BBQ Joint, which touts itself as a restaurant sourcing food from local growers and family farms. MoMo's BBQ & Grill is also popular and boasts that all of its sauces and rubs are made in house, with

meats slow smoked with a combination of apple and hickory woods. Its painstaking attention to flavor has paid off. MoMo's has won numerous awards including two Top Ten finishes at the International BBQ Championship at the American Royal in Kansas City.

Harrisburg's hotspot for award-winning micro-brewed beer and great-tasting American cuisine can be found at the Lancaster Brewing Company, located near the Harrisburg Mall. The menu includes everything from pizza and sandwiches to steaks and gourmet burgers made with the restaurant's signature blend of shortrib, chuck and brisket. **HW**