

# All-American Summer Fun



**T**his summer when the temperatures climb, beat the heat by visiting the D.C. area's coolest new resort destination—National Harbor.

With 300 acres of property along the Potomac River, National Harbor offers fine dining, upscale shopping, art, sightseeing, land and water excursions, and world-class events sure to please every type of visitor. People looking for luxury or romance will not be disappointed, but neither will families.

National Harbor's design is similar to, and was inspired by, the tree-lined walkways and colorful streetscapes of the Las Ramblas area in Barcelona, Spain. Shops, restaurants and hotels gather around the main plaza and marina where a cornucopia of recreational activities can be found. Families can rent paddleboats, kayaks and canoes, and weekends bring live music, fireworks, a farmer's market and outdoor movies shown on a big screen.

The marina also features "The Awakening," a 70-foot sculpture by J. Seward Johnson Jr. that depicts a giant buried in the sand. The sculpture is open to the public, and has become a favorite place for kids to play and climb.

## Anchoring the National Harbor

One of the most family-friendly places to stay is also the largest hotel and convention center on the East Coast. Gaylord National boasts 2,000 guest rooms, four restaurants, five retail shops, a rooftop nightclub, a full-service spa and its own private pier.

"People get here and they say, 'Oh my gosh, D.C. is right there but I feel like I've gotten away from everything,'" says Amié Gorrell, director of public relations for Gaylord National.

An 18-story glass atrium that looks out on the Potomac is only one of the things that make Gaylord National a showstopper.

# Waterfront, Family-Friendly Resort Is Within Your Reach at National Harbor



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL HARBOR

Kids will appreciate fountain shows timed to music, firework displays, and the clowns and street performers who entertain during “Atrium Antics” every Saturday. Adults will appreciate the Relâche Spa, boutique shopping, the state-of-the-art fitness center, and the range of fine dining.

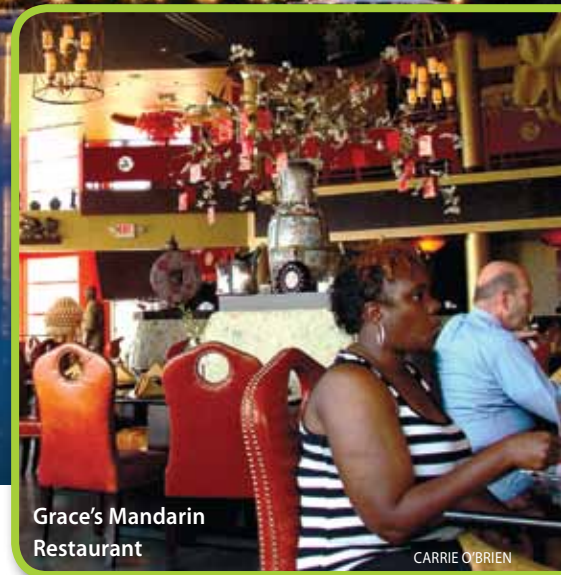
For the ultimate luxury experience, guests dine at Gaylord National’s Old Hickory Steakhouse. Modeled after an 18th-century Georgian row house, this sophisticated restaurant includes a showcase wine cellar, cigar terrace and artisanal cheese cave. Old Hickory even has a maître d’fromage!

Executive Chef Aaron Baxendale serves premium-aged, hormone- and antibiotic-free Black Angus beef from Harris Ranch. His beautiful steaks are graced by sophisticated interpretations of traditional steakhouse sides—dishes like truffled house fries and artisanal mac and cheese.



Gaylord National

COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL HARBOR



Grace's Mandarin Restaurant

CARRIE O'BRIEN

“When you create a dish that someone really enjoys and remembers, they’ll keep the flavor, smell and look of the dish in their minds for a long time,” Baxendale says. “That’s what drives me.”

## A Plate for Every Palate

Whatever your family likes to eat, you’ll find it at National Harbor. One of the Harbor’s original restaurants, Grace’s Mandarin, specializes in Asian fusion cuisine and features an impressive sushi menu, as well as one of the area’s largest selections of sake. The elegant ambiance at Grace’s Mandarin is accented by a three-story waterfall, a 33-foot Buddha and a koi pond. The restaurant’s multi-story floor plan showcases breathtaking views of the Potomac.





Fiorella Pizzeria e Caffé

CARRIE O'BRIEN

To date, National Harbor is home to 30 restaurants, but that number is growing all the time. Fiorella Pizzeria e Caffé is the newest, a restaurant so authentic that it was actually built in Italy, shipped over in pieces and then installed by Italian craftsmen. The food is just as authentic: house-

made cheeses and cured meats, and thin-crust pizzas like you'd find in Italy.

"The crust here is thinner because we really want you to taste the toppings," says Alex Curley, manager. "Plus, that makes it less calories," he adds with a wink, "so you can eat as much as you want."

Some of the other things that make Fiorella stand out: the pizza kitchen in the main dining room where kids can watch their order being made; and the nine-foot statue of Bacchus that presides over the fresh mozzarella floating in a marble bowl.

## Segway to Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah Doings

The National Harbor has an amazing array of activities that will have Mr. Bluebird on your shoulder, singing about a wonderful day.

One stop that will appeal to the kid in all of us is Segway of National Harbor. If you've never ridden on one of these two-wheeled, self-balancing electric vehicles, this is an excellent place to try one out.

"This is the best thing I've done here so far," says Will Murphy of Kentucky, age 10, as he hops on his Segway and begins zipping along the sidewalks.

"Kids tend to pick it up right away," confides Adrian Arco, Segway tour guide. "Adults overthink it sometimes, but anybody can do it."

Segway of National Harbor offers tours of the area that familiarize you with all of the shops, restaurants and hotels, before taking you on a scenic path along the river and over the Woodrow Wilson Bridge via a protected bike pathway.

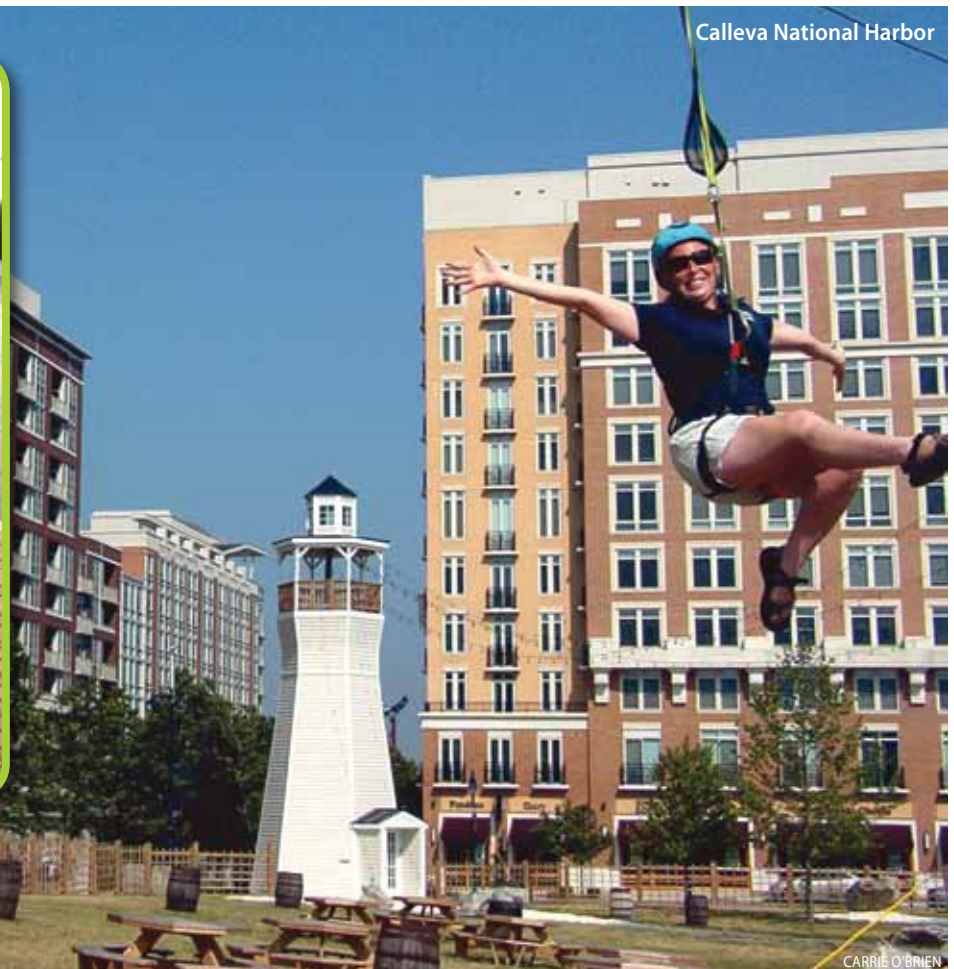
For a host of other exciting outdoor activities, visit Calleva where they offer bike, boat and high ropes course excursions. At the marina, you can rent canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, Hobie Cats, Hobie Mirages, and you can even charter their 44-foot Beneteau sailing yacht for daytime or sunset cruises.

Calleva's high ropes course features two zip lines and a three-story pirate ship with rope nets and platforms that move, swing or float. "I've worked at ropes courses my entire career, and this is by far the most unique ropes course I've ever seen," says Alexa Fuerth, manager of Calleva National Harbor.



Segway of National Harbor

CARRIE O'BRIEN



Calleva National Harbor

CARRIE O'BRIEN

Adults and children older than eight can climb the ropes course and conquer the two zip lines—one descends from the main sail of the pirate ship, and the other from the top of the 45-foot lighthouse. “What’s nice about the challenge course, and the reason why I’ve stayed in the industry for so long,” Fuerth says, “it’s not the kid who can get up there and do it and run around and be comfortable with it. It’s the kid who thinks he can’t do it, and then surprises himself, that gets something out of it.”

Calleva also offers a climbing wall, a giant swing, a trust fall and, for younger children, a clipper ship climbing activity. Everything can be done on an individual basis or as part of a group experience for corporate groups, birthday parties or other events.




### Sightseeing That Will Float Your Boat

In addition to so many great restaurants and activities, National Harbor offers hassle-free sightseeing from an entirely new perspective.

The Potomac Riverboat Company operates a water taxi from Gaylord National and the marina to Old Town Alexandria. From there, visitors can take the Metro into D.C. and do their own sightseeing, or they can take a cruise downriver to Mount Vernon or upriver to Georgetown.

On the way to Georgetown, visitors experience D.C. from a totally different perspective, appreciating the Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and Kennedy Center from the relaxation of a riverboat.

“The Potomac has always been a divider in the area between Maryland, Virginia and the District,” says Rocell Viniard, vice president and director of marketing for National Harbor. “One of the things that was very important to our developer, Mr. Peterson, was to really connect the region through the river.”

So whether you’d like to hop over to Old Town, Mount Vernon, Georgetown, or just take advantage of the many activities at the marina, National Harbor makes your vacation a breeze. It’s close enough for a daytrip, but has so much to offer that you may end up staying longer! 

## Summer’s a Splash at the National Harbor

### FOR FREE FUN ...

The American Market offers farmer’s goods, specialty foods and handcrafted gifts. Saturdays May 28–Oct. 29, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Fireworks light up the Potomac by Gaylord National every Saturday through Sept. 4 at 9:30 p.m.

Movies on the Potomac are shown outdoors at sunset next to the marina through Sept. 4. Fridays are date movies, and Sundays offer family films. Bring lawn chairs and blankets.

Sounds of the Summer Music Series jam outdoors at the Plaza through Aug. 27. Concerts take place Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

### IF YOU’RE CRUISING FOR ADVENTURE ...

Calleva offers bike, boat and high ropes excursions June 1 through Labor Day. Call 301-216-1249, ext. 7, or visit [www.calleva.org](http://www.calleva.org) for more information.

Potomac Riverboat Company offers Washington Monuments Cruises, departing every two hours. Call 703-684-0580 or visit <http://potomacriverboatco.com> for more information.

Segway of National Harbor will take you on a guided tour of National Harbor or Old Town. Call 571-289-5956 or visit [www.HarborSegs.com](http://www.HarborSegs.com) for more information.

### IT’S SURE TO BE EVENTFUL ...

- ◆ **Uncle Sam Jam** on July 2
- ◆ **Red Bull National Wake 2.0** on July 23
- ◆ **Cruisin’ on the River Car Show** on Aug. 6
- ◆ **Chesapeake Crab and Beer Festival** on Aug. 20
- ◆ **Abbey Road on the River** on Sept. 1–5 (Labor Day Weekend)

For more information, visit [www.nationalharbor.com](http://www.nationalharbor.com).