How to Celebrate the Lunar Landing 50th Anniversary in Ohio
Ohio.org provides guide to Ohio’s unrivaled role in space and aviation history

COLUMBUS, Ohio (June 4, 2019) – To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Ohioan Neil Armstrong’s first steps on the moon, Ohio is celebrating its groundbreaking history in space and aviation with special space-inspired celebrations throughout the year. This summer, Ohio attractions, restaurants, breweries, dark sky parks and more will honor the historic lunar landing and showcase Ohioans’ crucial roles in flight and space exploration.

As the birthplace of aviation, the first American to orbit the Earth and first man on the moon, Ohio’s role in space and aviation is unparalleled. In 2019, the state is celebrating one of the country’s greatest achievements, the lunar landing of Apollo 11. To mark the momentous occasion, TourismOhio has launched the “To the Moon and Back” webpage as a one-stop guide for planning an Ohio air & space road trip that features events, exhibits, museums and lunar-themed food and drinks across the state.

“Come to Ohio this year to experience our state’s long history of flight at the homes, museums, exhibits and special events honoring John Glenn, Neil Armstrong and more,” said Matt MacLaren, director of TourismOhio. “The ‘To the Moon and Back’ webpage showcases distinctive Ohio attractions and events where visitors can learn more about the Ohioans who bravely soared into space.”

The “To the Moon and Back” webpage highlights the many Ohio attractions where visitors can see one-of-a-kind space and aviation artifacts in addition to special exhibits this year. Museums including the Armstrong Air & Space Museum in Wapakoneta, NASA Glenn Visitor Center at the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, COSI in Columbus, Cincinnati Museum Center and more are featuring space-related exhibits, movies and special events this year. Explore the stars in dark sky and Ohio State Parks, build a rocket, see Apollo 11 artifacts and moon rocks and don’t miss the lunar-inspired food and drinks on the Moon Menu Trail. The webpage is organized in six out-of-this-world sections including:

- **Road Trip Itinerary** – Discover museums, exhibits, dark-sky parks, science centers and more all showcasing aviation and space flight across Ohio. Some even feature special exhibits from NASA.

- **Lunar Landing Events** – Celebrate the Apollo 11 lunar landing with festivities all-around Ohio! Join in Wapakoneta’s 50th Anniversary Parade, build a model rocket at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, hear first-hand accounts from an astronaut at the Ohio History Connection and more.

- **Outdoors and Beyond** – Enjoy the wonder of the universe at these top spots for astronomy and stargazing around the state. From dark-sky parks to planetariums, you’re sure to experience out-of-this-world sights.
- **Lunar Inspired Eats** – The restaurants in Neil Armstrong’s hometown of Wapakoneta have created a Moon Menu Trail with dishes from CinnaMoon pancakes to Houston – We Have a Pot Roast. Ice cream shops and microbreweries are on board too with flavors including Velvet’s Blue Moon and Young’s Jersey Dairy’s Moon Rocks or Land Grant’s Tranquility Base, a black IPA inspired by the depths of space.

- **Air & Space Experiences** – Tour aircraft from the Wright Brothers 1903 Flyer to rockets, Gemini and Apollo space capsules, a Space Shuttle trainer and more up-close and personal at Ohio’s best space and aviation museums. There’s something for every explorer to enjoy – from stepping inside a real space suit and viewing one-of-a-kind artifacts to taking a ride in a historic plane.

- **Meet Ohio’s Astronauts** – From the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, and the first American to orbit the Earth, John Glenn, to Sunita Williams, who has spent 322 days in space and is training for another mission aboard the International Space Station – read up on the fascinating stories of some of Ohio’s most well-known astronauts and their contributions to space exploration.

TourismOhio invites travelers to join in the lunar landing anniversary celebration and share photos by using #FirstOnTheMoon and #OhioFindItHere. For more travel inspiration, follow @OhioFindItHere on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**About TourismOhio**
TourismOhio, operating within the state of Ohio’s Development Services Agency, works to ensure Ohio is positioned as a destination of choice, enriching lives through authentic travel experiences. The branding *Ohio. Find It Here.* supports Ohio’s $46 billion tourism industry. For more, visit Ohio.org.

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