



HORSING AROUND

delaware
county
a playground for generations

Horsing around in Delaware, Ohio is a way of life and entertainment. Located smack-dab in the middle of the state, the county celebrates its equestrian roots through a series of events, shows, sales, and outdoor recreational activities that make this as much a vacation destination for the horse as it does its owner!

CROWN JEWEL OF RACING

Delaware's affinity for horse entertainment dates back to the end of World War II when the Delaware County Agricultural Society moved its annual county fair to a new location and constructed a half-mile track for harness racing. What emerged was the famed **Little Brown Jug Harness Race**. For more than 60 years, the race continues to woo approximately 50,000 horse breeders, racers, and the public to the Delaware County Fairgrounds each September.

Considered one of the premier horse races in the country, the **Little Brown Jug** is part of the triple-crown of Grand Circuit harness racing. Enthusiasm for the race begins in July with the

annual "chaining of the chairs." Spectators chain their lawn chairs, in all shapes and sizes—sometimes 20 deep—to the outer fence of the track, ensuring their front row view of the race.

BRIDLE TRAILS

For those who desire a slower pace, Delaware's **Alum Creek State Park** offers more than 38 miles of picturesque bridle trails for horseback riding and camping. From lakeshores and hillsides to meadows and creeks, the park is an ideal location for spending time "unplugged" from the world.

ALL-HORSE PARADE

Horse enthusiasts line the sidewalks in downtown Delaware for an All-Horse Parade the Sunday prior to the Delaware County Fair. A unique tradition, the parade boasts more than 500 animals of all sizes and shapes. Only the steady clip-clop of hooves marching down Sandusky Street can be heard, as this is a completely non-motorized event. The entire town gathers for an extravaganza of horses, bands, and community groups.

BEST IN SHOW

Delaware is home to numerous horseshows and blooded horse sales. For the serious rider and breeder, these activities offer an exceptional opportunity to compete in and learn more about their passion, as well as shop for the perfect horse and its attire

—from the saddle to its shoes and everything in between.

The equine theme is even embedded into the area's culture. Locally owned restaurants have reined in on the scene with popular venues such as **Trotters Coffee Company** and the **Brown Jug Restaurant**.

Coffee connoisseurs and every day Joes are greeted at the door of **Trotters Coffee Company** with a heavenly aroma of caffeine brewing! The perfect place to ease into the day, this relaxing café provides seating both inside and out, and serves as an inviting spot to gather with friends or simply read the paper. For those who prefer their own custom blend to go, small barrels filled with a variety of coffee beans are available to select from for a custom blend to take home.

When it comes to “good eats” another local favorite is the **Brown Jug Restaurant**. Named after the famous Little Brown Jug Harness Race, the restaurant proudly displays racing photos and memorabilia.

Its menu is full of All-American favorites including steaks, fresh wraps, seafood, as well as an Italian fare of spaghetti and meatballs. Alfresco dining showcases the inviting atmosphere of Delaware's charming and lively downtown district. Patrons can sit back, sip a glass of ice tea, and feel a part of the city—but removed from its hustle.

When You Have More Time

Historic Shopping Districts – Spend time exploring Delaware County's cities and towns. Tree-lined streets, village squares, and inviting storefronts, create a unique ambience. From handmade candies, to specialty wines and gourmet foods, to antiques and clothing—Delaware's downtowns can keep one entertained for hours.

A Good Night's Sleep - Whether you seek quiet, easy-going convenience or the modern, pampering of a quality hotel, Delaware County has a room for you. Comfortable, affordable accommodations are perfect for families.

To Learn More

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