

# AMERICAN CHRONICLE

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## Warren County is Reaching New Heights!

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Travel Desk

*Drivable Vacations Still "Soaring" Despite Tough Economy.*

MASON, OH ? Cross the Little Miami River on a steel cable at 170 feet above the ground, drop a gut-wrenching 215 feet at speeds of 80 miles per hour, or float over the county carried by 120,000 cubic feet of air. The new attractions and the location of Warren County, (60% of the U.S. population is within 500 miles) make this drivable destination a fun affordable getaway, that's not far away.

"Warren County is a great travel destination under any circumstances; but particularly when people are cutting back," says Warren County Convention & Visitors Bureau Executive Director, Shirley Bonekemper. "A vacation in Warren County is affordable, providing families with a chance to get out and have a great time."

Adventurous families will love the new Ozone ZipLine Adventures, the largest zipline tour in the Midwest, which will include two of the longest single zipline runs in the U.S. The full canopy (tree-top) tour will consist of nine ziplines connecting across the canopy of the Little Miami River Valley including Fort Ancient. This will give the participants well over 10,000 feet (two miles) of zipping at heights up to 170 feet above the ground. The final decent will include a trip down two ziplines, both projected to be the longest single zipline runs in continental United States, estimated at 2,800 feet. Ozone opens in May 2009.

Also new in 2009, Kings Island introduces its tallest fastest and meanest roller coaster to ever "strike" Kings Island. Diamondback stands 230 feet tall at its highest point and includes a first drop of 215 feet at a 74-degree angle. The 5,282 feet of track includes 10 vertical drops, speeds hitting 80 miles per hour and a splashdown ending. The total ride will last three "heart-pounding" minutes. Diamondback opens in April 2009.

Or, plan your next adventure with a bird's-eye-view of the entire county as you soar along in Bella Balloons' newest passenger balloon, Bell' Aria. Warren County's premier full-time hot air balloon ride company will introduce Bell' Aria, Italian translation "beautiful air" this spring. Bella Aria will stand a whopping 7-stories tall, hold 120,000 cubic feet of air, and will carry up to six passengers plus a pilot on each sunrise or sunset flight. Bell' Aria flights begin April 2009.

In Warren County, the fun doesn't stop when you land. This summer the best men's and women's players in the world will take center court at the Western & Southern Financial Group Masters and Women's Open August 8 ? 23. Adding to the impressive lineup of Venus Williams, the reigning French Open champ, Ana Ivanovic, and reigning US Open champ Serena Williams, World No. 1 Kim Clijsters has announced her return to the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour at this summer's Western & Southern Financial Group Women's Open in Mason.

Ohio's only dinner theater, La Comedia's summer lineup includes "Disney's High School Musical" May 7 ? July 5, and "Annie" July 9 ? August 30. La Comedia has been treating families to Broadway-style productions and scrumptious buffet style dinners for over 30 years.

Or, hit the beach, The Beach Waterpark that is, for fun-in-the-sun with real ocean sand, sounds and live palm trees surrounding this tropical oasis which spans 35 acres and includes over 50 rides and attractions. The Beach Waterpark celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2009.

For more wet and wild fun ? try a trip down one of the top ten scenic rivers, the Little Miami River, by canoe at Morgan's Livery offering canoeing, kayaking, rafting tours and camping. Celebrating 50 years of outdoor and river recreation in 2009.

For these and more affordable fun family getaway ideas, visit [www.ohioslargestplayground.com](http://www.ohioslargestplayground.com).

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