

# ROADTRIP | Sledding at Oregon Ridge



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MILES

**Brick Ridge Restaurant** cooks up regional American cuisine, from Key West Chicken to Pasta Toledo to Omaha Filet.

**Roby's Photoshopping & Scrapbook Store** has plenty of supplies for stockpiling those precious memories.

**Driver's route**

Watch planes take off and land from the **Airport Cafe** at Montgomery County Airpark.

Who doesn't need more storage? Check out the sheds for sale at the roadside stop next to **Timber Ridge Farm**.

Pig out! **BBQ Man** can dish up Indiana beef simmered in his family's special sauce or outfit you with grill supplies to go.

Stroll around—not on—the 75-acre **Lake Needwood** (sorry, even when there's ice, skating is verboten).

**Start here**

Angels, bunnies, frogs and more—**Stone Cellar Nursery's** got plenty of ornaments for sprucing up your lawn.

Tickle your nose at **Ben Gue Crafts & Collectibles**, which has more than 50 flavors of Yankee Candles.

Walk-ins can get a cream tea at **Gypsy's Tearoom**—and with reservations, you can make a full-blown afternoon of it.

At **Shiloh Pottery**, pick up a hand-crafted sushi plate, then go say hi to the sheep and pigs at the farm next door.

Stock up on regional wines (Basignani, Boordy and Linganore) at **Butler Store & Liquor**.

Sledding time!

Get your gourmet-coffee fix at the **Filling Station**, a charming stone structure with a covered portico.

**WHERE:** Cockeysville, Md.

**WHY:** Fly a plane, sip some tea or sled down a great big hill.

**HOW FAR:** About 60 miles, or 90 minutes from Rockville.

Long, long ago (as in, before the 1980s), Oregon Ridge Park in Cockeysville was a busy ski area where Baltimoreans would take off for lunch and sneak in a few runs. But warmer temperatures and the pains of snowmaking made the area an impractical slope after a few years of operation. Now, all that remains is a dormant tow rope—and an amazing hill for sled-happy adrenaline junkies.

The park's main rise flows into a long, flat field that drops off into yet another flat run-out. When you launch from the top, it's easy to fly across the first field and catch air at the drop-off before coming to a stop in the lower expanse. If the big hill looks a tad intimidating, fear not—there's a shorter, shallower slope next to the main area. And don't worry about getting cold; after walking up the hill a couple of times, you'll warm up quickly. (You can also shake off the chill in the Nature Center next door, which offers fascinating programs on the ecology of the area.)

The road less traveled to Oregon Ridge includes plenty of treats and thrills. You can grab a taste of summer with a barbecue sandwich Maryland-style (aka on a potato roll) at the BBQ Man in Derwood. Then, take to the skies at the Montgomery County Airpark, where you can enroll in an introductory flight lesson for just \$49.

In Mount Airy each week, Brick Ridge Restaurant showcases menu items from a selected state in the nation on its menu of specials. Or, go British! In Westminster, you can sit back and sip a hot brew at Gypsy's Tearoom, which serves tea in four country-inn-style rooms, from a cozy three-person salon to a large study that seats 18.

— Matthew Graham

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