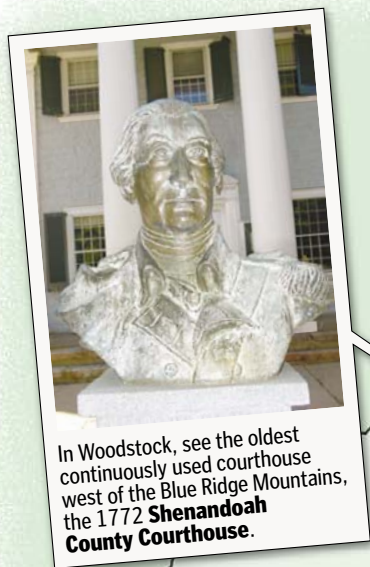


RoadTrip

The Spooky Depths of Shenandoah



In Woodstock, see the oldest continuously used courthouse west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the 1772 **Shenandoah County Courthouse**.

At the **Shenandoah Vineyards and Winery**, toast one of the valley's first vineyards.

Search for pirate flags — and the way out — in **Bridgmont Farms'** corn maze.

Step into **Congress Street Publik House's** new gourmet food shop for crusty bread, a hunk of cheese and a bottle of wine.



Strike a pose with a giant **Johnny Applesseed statue**, which guards the Johnny Applesseed Restaurant at the Quality Inn.

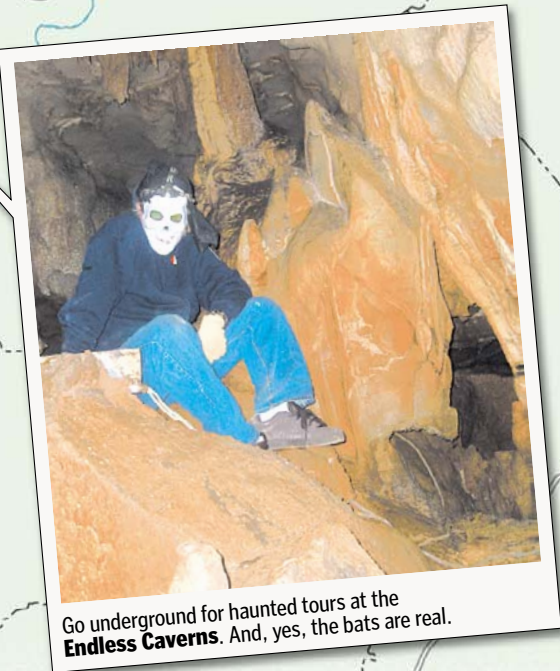
Own a piece of the **Hotel Strasburg**, which sells many of the antiques decorating the Victorian inn.

Dust off a treasure at the **Great Strasburg Emporium Antiques**, which has 90,000 square feet full of dealers.



Get an earful of historical gossip during the **Apple Blossom Inn's** walking tours of New Market.

Celebrate autumn Appalachia-style at the annual **Heritage Days Fall Festival** in New Market, Oct. 28 and 29.



Go underground for haunted tours at the **Endless Caverns**. And, yes, the bats are real.



Brush up on Civil War history at **Manassas National Battlefield Park**.



WHERE: Endless Caverns in New Market, Va.

WHY: Ghosts of the Civil War, the big apple and trick-and-treat caverns

HOW FAR: 117 miles from Washington, or about two hours by car.

You could head to the nearest haunted house for a fright, but why not go deeper, into cryptlike depths? Shenandoah Valley's Endless Caverns give their limestone caves a macabre makeover for Halloween, with live ghouls, low lighting and plenty of props that up the fear factor. The spooky adventure runs Friday through Oct. 31.

Before heading underground, experience ghosts of a more somber sort at Manassas National Battlefield Park, site of the first major Civil War land battle. With its sprawling greenery and tidy rows of cannons, the battlefield is the main attraction, but if you have time, duck into the bookstore and ask the staff to trace your Civil War ancestry. Perhaps great-great-great-uncle Lou fought on a certain side of the Mason-Dixon line.

Entering the heart of apple country, get your one-a-day at the Apple House in Linden, where breakfast is served all day. Stock up on snacks (apple butter doughnuts, sparkling cider) or browse the gift shop's surprisingly elegant array, from handbags to fancy candles.

If you need goblets for your cider or a fruit bowl for your Fujis, stop by the Great Strasburg Emporium Antiques. Nose around, and you just might find those Abraham Lincoln bust bookends you never knew you wanted.

As you leave Strasburg, wind through a trio of quaint towns — Woodstock, Edinburg and Mount Jackson — before landing in New Market, a dollhouse of a village with a colorful past. If you don't know who Jessie Rupert or Mother Crim were, have no fear: Betty Karol Wilson will clue you in during a guided tour of New Market's historic district.

Wilson, who with her husband owns the Apple Blossom Inn, is brimming with historical facts and the lowdown on the town, including directions to the hard-to-find apothecary. Take a daytime stroll with Wilson, who leads the way in period dress, or schedule an evening lantern walk.

It's now time to go subterranean — as deep as 200 feet. Endless Caverns' underground chambers are filled with calcite formations that cover more than five acres (the end hasn't been found yet, hence the name). With its fingerlike stalactites and stalagmites, plus a contingent of bats-in-residence, the caves are a skin-tingling sight any time of the year.

For Halloween, the caverns and their staff get ghoulish with a 45-minute haunted tour through fog-filled, cobweb-draped rock formations. To join in the holiday spirit, slip on a costume: We recommend warm layers and flat shoes with good tread, because you don't want too much bone chilling.

— **Christina Breda Antoniadis**

Endless Caverns, 1800 Endless Caverns Rd., New Market, Va. 800-544-2283. www.endlesscaverns.com.

Road Trip maps are available at www.washingtonpost.com/roadtrip, as are addresses and hours of operation (be sure to check before you go). Have an idea for a trip? E-mail roadtrip@washpost.com.