



Nighttime Is the Right Time MBPR Clients Offer Unique Experiences After Dark

(June 29, 2026) – We’re officially into summer and past the longest day of the year, which means each day will bring us a smidge more nighttime. And that’s great, because summertime also brings more pleasant weather. In that spirit, we think this is the perfect time to share some of the best after-dark (or approaching-dark) events and activities offered by our client destinations, resorts and attractions.

Here’s our roundup of how to spend some special nights this summer:

[Star in the Valley Winery in Shenandoah County, Virginia](#)

Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley is notable for wine grapes, which thrive thanks to the limestone-rich soil found in this part of the country. Eight vineyards and wineries operate in Shenandoah County, and all are worth a visit. But if it’s nearing a full moon, you must head to the perfectly named Star in the Valley, which is perched on high ground right outside the small town of Strasburg. Once a month during the summer, the winery hosts [AfterDARK @ Star in the Valley](#) from 6 to 10 p.m. The tasting room remains open until 9 p.m., a DJ spins disco sets, and the whole family is invited to bring a picnic of late-night snacks to munch on while they gaze up at the stars and admire the moon. The winery offers the perfect dark-sky environment, far away from light pollution. This summer, the events are scheduled for July 25, August 29 and September 26.



[Green Ridge State Forest in Allegany County, Maryland](#)

Allegany County, the Mountain Side of Maryland, is home to unmatched outdoors experiences on public lands that include national parks, state parks and state forests. Green Ridge State Forest, which at 49,000 acres is the largest contiguous block of public land in the state, is noted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as one of the state’s top spots for [viewing dark skies](#). The forest is nestled in the Appalachian Mountains, and the best way to ensure that you’re getting a terrific view of the skies above is by pitching a tent in one of nearly 100 designated, drive-up primitive campsites within the forest.

Stargazing at the Pier at [Gulf State Park in Alabama's Beaches](#)

If you're into beautiful skies but perhaps not so excited about the prospect of tent camping, Gulf State Park, nestled along Alabama's Beaches, offers a full array of lodging options – including an eco-friendly hotel, cottages, cabins, a newly-opened second RV park (now the biggest of any state park in the country), and yes, tents, too. Whether or not you're staying at a park property, all visitors are invited to participate in an upcoming exploration of the night sky at the park's famed pier, perched above and looking out onto the Gulf. The park will provide a telescope and human guide but also encourages visitors to set up their own equipment as they learn to spot stars, constellations and planets. The event is set for 8:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28. If you're in the area earlier that day, register for a special session about constellations at the park's Nature Center from 1 to 2 p.m.

Outdoor Movies in [Bowling Green, Kentucky](#)

If you're looking for an innovative way to enjoy a night at the movies, we like what [Lost River Cave](#) and [Chaney's Dairy Barn](#) are up to. At Lost River, movies are shown on a cave wall. Admission requires that participants purchase a membership, but that gives you six free tickets to each of the season's movies. For the remainder of this season, those features are scheduled for July 16, August 6, August 21, September 10, September 23 and October 8. Meanwhile, [Chaney's Ice Cream and a Moovie](#) offers a changing selection of films every Friday and Saturday night at dusk. The whole family can get into the fun, and Chaney's has a full restaurant (insider tip: always, always go for their Burger of the Month!) and all that delicious ice cream. For these nighttime events, our flavor recommendations include Blue Moon (blue cotton candy ice cream) and Cookie MOOnster (blue ice cream with chocolate chip and sandwich cookie pieces in it).



Credit: VisitBGKY

A Classic [Drive-in Theater in Butler County, Ohio](#)

This part of southwest Ohio just outside Cincinnati is home to an amazing array of nostalgic experiences, including the Holiday Auto Theatre, a classic drive-in. The theater dates to 1948 and today shows a pair of first-run movies every Thursday through Monday night. Movies begin at dusk, which means that if you stay for both movies at this time of year, you're out well past midnight. In addition to stars of the Hollywood variety on the giant screen, there are plenty of the astronomical variety in the sky above. This theater is designed for the entire family, featuring a play area that closes as the first movie begins and welcoming four-legged friends who want to join their humans for a night out.

Full Moon Walks at [The Otesaga Resort Hotel](#) in Cooperstown, New York

On the night of each full moon for the next few months (July 29, August 28, September 26 and October 26), the resort offers a [Full Moon Hike & Dinner](#) package. This includes a light guided hike (sometimes in the dark, dependent on the season) followed by a dinner buffet curated by the resort's culinary team and concluding with a drink at The Otesaga's famed Fire Bar, which affords an amazing view of both Otsego Lake and the skies above. This package is available to everyone, whether they're a resort guest or not, but does require advance reservations.

Beach BBQ at [Sunset at the Palms](#) in Negril, Jamaica

We're cheating a bit on this one, but at a resort with "sunset" in the name, we must mention the sun setting rather than the moon rising, right? Every Wednesday night, the resort hosts a Beach BBQ on its pristine beach overlooking Bloody Bay. The food is picnic-style Jamaican fare, and the vibe is pure celebration and relaxation. There's a band providing island music and usually someone pulls out the limbo stick, too. The view as the sun sets over water is unbeatable, and then there's plenty of music, food, drink, and fun to keep guests on the beach to watch as the stars appear in the night sky. Also, it's Jamaica ... so it's never too cold to host this celebration. Fun fact: On your way back to your treehouse-style accommodations, follow your nose and keep your eyes peeled for the night-blooming jasmine plants that line the walkways.



Credit: Louisiana's Cajun Bayou

[Sunset Swamp Tour](#) in [Louisiana's Cajun Bayou](#)

Since we bent the rules for our Jamaican client, we'll do it for our Louisiana clients, too. It's not a trip to this part of the country without a visit to a swamp. Especially in the heat of summer, a great time to do it is on the last tour of the day. [Airboat Tours by Arthur Matherne](#) offers a sunset visit to the swamp, bringing guests back as night is falling. You learn all about the swamp, get some insight into Cajun culture, and see plenty of wildlife (including the region's signature alligators), since many of the animals are active at dusk.

Evening Garden Tour at [Houmas House Estate & Gardens](#) in [Louisiana's Sweet Spot](#)

Houmas House is where you'll find some of the best dining in this part of Louisiana. That's thanks in great part to the efforts of executive chef Jeremy Langlois, who puts his own twists on traditional Cajun and Creole cuisine. After a delicious meal at [The Carriage House](#), you can enjoy a stroll through the gardens, which are illuminated with soft white lighting. There's cozy seating throughout the property, so you can take your time to enjoy the scenery and stargaze. If you want to start your evening off by welcoming the sunset, arrive early for your dinner reservation, cross the Sweet Spot Landing Bridge to the Mississippi River Levee and watch as the sun goes down.



Credit: MBPR

Night Experiences at [Dollywood](#) in [Pigeon Forge, Tennessee](#)

Each summer, Dollywood finds new ways to make nighttime in the theme park even more exciting. This year, that equates to [Sweet Summer Nights](#), a 3D drone and firework show that starts at 9:40 each night in the theme park, plus a new [Neon Nights](#) event at Dollywood's Splash Country water park. On select Friday and Saturday nights between now and August 1, Splash Country provides high-energy music, vibrant neon lights, immersive glow experiences and a festive nighttime atmosphere designed for the whole family. All of this is a buildup to the real news for Dollywood's 2026 season ... the highly anticipated opening of [NightFlight Expedition](#), an immersive indoor adventure coaster that takes guests on a nighttime ride through Dolly Parton's beloved Smoky Mountains. Because it's indoors, this first-of-its kind ride will operate all season long, regardless of weather.

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