The Orange County Department of Tourism & Visitors Bureau is committed to raising the awareness of Orange County; enhancing its image; and promoting its interests and name recognition - locally, nationally and internationally.

The top ten states of visitor origin are Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, New York, Florida, California, Ohio, New Jersey, and Texas. Florida, California, and Texas have been in the top ten for the past six years!

International visitors have come from all continents, with the exception of Antarctica. The United Kingdom, Canada, Thailand, and Germany have the largest visitor percentages of all the countries.

International visitors have come from all continents, with the exception of Antarctica. The United Kingdom, Canada, Thailand, and Germany have the largest visitor percentages of all the countries.

One wouldn’t expect a small town at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains to be considered the “Fried Chicken Capital of the World”, but indeed, one time in history the title belonged to Gordonsville.
On January 1, 1840, the arrival of the iron horse changed Gordonsville forever, contributing immeasurably to its growth and vitality as a prime rail junction. The two railroads that formed that junction were the east-west Virginia Central, and the north-south Orange and Alexandria.

With the introduction of rail service, enterprising African-American women started a tradition that was to label Gordonsville forever as the “Fried Chicken Capital of the World.”

In those days, passenger trains did not enjoy the luxury of dining cars. Instead, they were greeted by “Waiter Carriers” who later became known as “Chicken Vendors.” The women balanced platters of fried chicken on their heads and served hungry passengers through open coach windows.