## VIRGINIA IS FOR LOWERS

Discover why Virginia is for Lovers. Home to an energetic mix of history, culture, dining and shopping, Virginia's Cultural Region brings together Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, Loudoun County and Prince William County for a vacation experience like no other.

## **Suggested Itinerary: Culture and Charm**

## Day 1

Arrive Midday at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Arlington, VA

#### Afternoon:

Arlington's Village of Shirlington - Known as Arlington's arts and entertainment district, Shirlington's European-style promenade offers more than 15 shops and 20 restaurants, plus fun night spots and eclectic art-house movies. Spring, summer and early fall also feature some of the best outdoor dining in the region. From American to Asian, Indian to Italian and Mediterranean to microbrews, Shirlington has one of the most diverse selections of cuisine you'll ever find in one neighborhood.

**Don't Miss: Signature Theatre and the Village of Shirlington** - Explore one of the premiere performing arts venues in the Capital region. Recipient of the 2009
Regional Theatre Tony Award®, Signature Theatre is a non-profit professional theater company in Arlington, Virginia dedicated to producing contemporary musicals and plays, reinventing classic musicals, and developing new work. Under the leadership of co-founder and Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer and Managing Director Maggie Boland, Signature has presented 43 world premiere productions and is renowned for combining Broadway-quality productions with intimate playing spaces.

#### **Overnight in Arlington**

## <u>Day 2</u>

## Morning:

Alexandria's Old Town and Waterfront District - Within eyesight of Washington, DC on the Potomac River waterfront, Old Town Alexandria is minutes from the nation's capital but feels like a world away. Find a bustling district of chef-driven restaurants, independent boutiques and arts venues in beautifully preserved 18th century architecture. Old Town hums with a cosmopolitan feel and walkable lifestyle loved by locals and DC elite.

**Don't Miss: Torpedo Factory Art Center** - Experience art in person and in progress! Constructed in 1918 for the manufacturing of torpedoes, the Torpedo Factory now features 82 working artists' studios, six galleries, the Art League School, Alexandria Archaeology Museum, a cafe and gift shop.

**Don't Miss: King Street Shopping District** - King Street is Old Town Alexandria's main thoroughfare, where you'll find an eclectic array of stylish boutiques, art galleries, and quaint cafes and restaurants.



Pictured clockwise from top left:Torpedo Factory Art Center, Signature Theatre in the Village of Shirlington, King Street Shopping District

## Day 2 Continued...

#### Afternoon:

Reston Town Center - The Reston Town Center was the first modern post-war planned community in the USA. It combines the elements of the ideal downtown: the vitality of an Italian piazza and the diversity of a French boulevard. Fountain Square serves as a beautiful centerpiece for the open-air plaza. Famous brands and specialty shops, as well as a myriad of restaurants from award-winning local chefs, line the brick streets. The Pavilion at Fountain Square hosts special events, concerts, and festivals throughout the year and ice skating in winter

**Don't Miss: Greater Reston Art Center -** Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) is a non-profit art gallery located in Reston Town Center that promotes excellence in the visual arts by presenting regional and national contemporary artists in its diverse exhibits. The Center provides Northern Virginia's diverse community with abundant opportunities to experience and explore the visual arts through exhibitions, educational programming, and special events including the annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.



Pictured: Reston Town Center

## **Evening:**

# Wolf Trap - America's only National Park for the Performing Arts -

Through a wide range of artistic and educational programs, Wolf Trap enhances our nation's cultural life and ensures that the arts remain accessible and affordable to the broadest possible audience. A typical season at Wolf Trap includes everything from pop, country, folk, and blues to orchestra, dance, theatre, and opera, as well as innovative performance art and multimedia presentations at one of the site's four main venues: the majestic Filene Center indoor/outdoor amphitheater, the intimate space at The Barns at Wolf Trap, the family-pleasing Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods, or the Center for Education.



Pictured: The Filene Center at Wolf Trap

## **Overnight in Reston**

## Day 3

## Morning:

**Historic Occoquan -** This former mill town, is now home to a selection of over 60 vibrant shops and restaurants. This small town is considered a hidden gem, tucked next to the Occoquan River that meanders just outside the shops and restaurants that line its bank. The true beauty of this town is its thriving shopping district of local shops that attract thousands of visitors each year. Walk through the streets exploring the art galleries, jewelry stores, and gourmet treats.

Don't Miss: Mill House Museum - The Mill House Museum is part of the last remaining structure from the eighteenth century Merchants Mill that once made Occoquan a bustling center for water trade. The first automated grist mill in the United States, Merchants Mill put Occoquan, VA on the map as a thriving industrial town, before the town burned down in 1924. You can learn more about the mill and the Historic Town of Occoquan while perusing the original photographs and artifacts on exhibit, many of which have been donated by the families that still reside in this small riverside town.



Pictured: The Mill House Museum

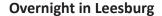
## Day 3 Continued...

#### Afternoon:

**Historic Downtown Leesburg -** Leesburg is a shoppers dream with antique dealers, art galleries, and other specialty shops located within its charming historic district and beyond, and it also offers bargain shoppers the Leesburg Corner Premium Outlets. Dining options range from casual atmospheres to local favorites to fine dining featuring local specialties. Historic attractions include the Loudoun Museum, Balls Bluff Battlefield Regional Park, Oatlands Plantation, and Morven Park/Governor Westmoreland Davis Mansion.

**Don't Miss: Cooley Gallery**- Former Washington Redskins tight end and fan favorite Chris Cooley opened this art gallery to feature his pottery and painting as well as works by other local artists, including pottery by Bill van Gilder, Richard Busch, and David Norton.

Tally Ho Theatre - Located in the heart of downtown Leesburg, the Tally Ho is a historic twin theatre operating under the management of Market Street Productions. While the venue showcases first-run feature films, it also plays host to movie theme nights, live comedy, magic shows and more. **Tarara Winery**- Tarara Winery features 475 acres of Virginia's most beautiful Potomac River front land. Founded in 1985, Tarara is one of Loudoun's oldest wineries, and continues today to make the very best wines from select Virginia grapes.



Day 4

Depart from Dulles International Airport, Dulles, VA



Pictured: Historic Downtown Leesburg



Pictured: Pictured: Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park

## **Contact Information**



Arlington Convention and Visitors Service Arlington Economic Development Cara O'Donnell 703-228-0854 CODonnell@ArlingtonVA.us



Visit Alexandria Leah Spellman, APR Texandria 703-652-5363 LSpellman@VisitAlexVA.com www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com



Visit Fairfax Ali Morris 703-752-9505 AMorris@FXVA.com www.FXVA.com

www.StayArlington.com



Visit Loudoun Jennifer Buske-Sigal 703-669-2002 Sigal@VisitLoudoun.org www.VisitLoudoun.org



Visit Prince William Nicole Warner NWarner@PWCGov.org www.VisitPWC.com