

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

NOVA

VIRGINIA'S CULTURAL REGION

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

Holidays in NOVA

Day One

AFTERNOON

One of the nation's most beloved historic sites, **George Washington's Mount Vernon** offers a glimpse into 18th century plantation life through beautiful gardens and grounds, intriguing museum exhibits, and immersive programs honoring George Washington's life and legacy. After arriving, you should start your visit at the Ford Orientation Center where staff will help you plan your day and you can get your estate map which can assist you in making sure you see everything that peaks your interest.

Holiday programing includes:

*Fireworks on December 22

*Chocolate and pie making demonstrations

*Holiday Time for the Washington's Tour - a 60 minute holiday-specific tour highlighting how the household celebrated Christmas

Stroll **Historic King Street** under a canopy of twinkling lights while you shop at independent boutiques tucked into 18th century buildings.

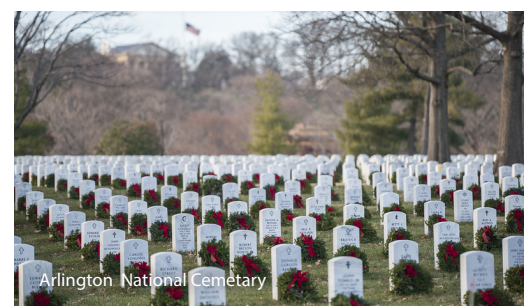
EVENING

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours - Travel through centuries of local history as you learn more about Alexandria during the holiday season at Carlyle House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Lee-Fendall House. Enjoy each site by candlelight, smell seasonal greenery, and admire the holiday decorations.

Day Two

MORNING

Arlington National Cemetery - The grounds of Arlington National Cemetery honor those who have served our nation by providing a sense of



beauty and peace for guests. During the holiday season each grave is adorned with a wreath which creates a beautiful landscape on the sacred grounds. This impressive landscape serves as a tribute to the service and sacrifice of every individual laid to rest within the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

AFTERNOON

Enjoy **lunch** at locally owned restaurants and **free-time** to shop at the charming Village at Shirlington. Locals love the beautiful Christmas decorations and the dazzling Christmas Tree that lights up the tree-lined streets.

Ice Skating Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion

- Centrally located in the heart of Reston Town Center, the open-air ice-skating pavilion is open seasonally from early November to mid-March, and offers public skating every day and extended hours for all holidays. The skate shop is stocked with over 500 pairs of skates ranging from size 8 toddler through men's size 13, in both Figure and Hockey styles.

EVENING

Enjoy **dinner at Reston Town Center**, where the vitality of an Italian piazza meets the diversity of a French boulevard. Your options abound from top notch seafood at PassionFish, French bistro dining at Mon Ami Gabi, traditional comfort foods at Clyde's, or locally sourced seasonal fare at Red's Table.

Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights - Named the #1 Botanical Garden with "Wow-Factor Winter Transformations" by Fodors, the Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens should be on every family's to-do list. Every year from mid-November until just after New Year's Day, the garden is transformed into a half-mile, animated walk of lights. Revisit perennial favorites such as the Lakeside Lights, the Fountain of Lights, and the Holiday Nature Walk - and look for new displays each year. Put on your walking shoes and bring the family to experience a Northern Virginia festive tradition. Round out your visit by roasting marshmallows and sipping on hot beverages by the fire.

OR

Kick off the holiday season with song at **Wolf Trap**. The annual favorite Wolf Trap Holiday Sing-A-Long, held the first Saturday in December, features a performance by the United States Marine Band and an extended Sing-A-Long session full of traditional holiday songs. Enjoy other Christmas-themed performances at the Barns, an intimate indoor venue, in December.



Day Three

MORNING

Oatlands at Christmas Time - a National Trust site, encompasses 360 acres in scenic easements and features a Greek Revival mansion decorated for Christmas, circa 1804, rare 19th century brick dependencies including America's oldest restored propagation greenhouse (circa 1810) and a magnificent four acre English terraced garden. Oatlands offers guided tours of the mansion, and self-guided tours of the grounds and garden. For an added experience enjoy a historic Tea at Oatlands.

Enjoy Lunch at **The Conche** followed by a **Gingerbread Making Program** - an exclusive chocolate-themed boutique restaurant located in the Villages at Leesburg. Featuring an array of artisan handmade chocolate confections, desserts, chocolate infused savory cuisine and hand crafted cocktails, we are here to deliver an exceptional experience for your next meeting or group outing.

AFTERNOON

Visit **Leesburg Corner Premium Outlets** for some holiday shopping. Leesburg Corner Premium Outlets features 110 upscale designer and brand name outlet stores offering savings of 25% to 65% every day. Stores include American Eagle Outfitters, Banana Republic Factory Store, Burberry, Brooks Brothers Factory Store, Coach, J.Crew, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Lucky Brand, Tumi, True Religion, Polo Ralph Lauren, and many more!



EVENING

Stroll through **Holiday Road at Morven Park**, the newest and most exciting holiday experience in Loudoun County. You can expect to see larger than life holiday installations, thousands of Christmas lights, Santa, Mrs. Claus, Elves, countless candy canes and all your favorite holiday cheer! Join us this season at Holiday Road for the most wonderful time of the year!



Day Four

MORNING

Start your day at **Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre**. Once the center for conducting business in Prince William County, Brentsville served as the center of community life for over 70 years in the 1800's. During your visit, you will be led through the holiday traditions of multiple time periods from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries as you tour the numerous buildings on-site. Discover how a typical farm family would have celebrated the holiday season by making historical cinnamon ornaments to take home with you.

Next, enjoy a holiday themed **lunch at Bristow Manor Golf Club**, while carolers or musicians entertain you with songs of the season. This colonial revival manor home was built in the 1800's and provides an impeccable view of the rolling countryside and adjacent golf course.

AFTERNOON

Now that your travelers are thirsty for more holiday fun, stop at **MurLarkey Distilled Spirits** for a holiday season cocktail tasting and tour. Unaged and aged distilled spirits are made, stored, bottled, and shipped right on site. Their resident mixologists will show you how to make some holiday favorites to spice up your next get together, family event, or relaxing night at home.

The sound of wood crackling on an outdoor campfire is a wonderful holiday experience. Add in s'mores and warm apple cider and you're ready for the holidays at **Ben Lomond Historic Site**. Enjoy a guided tour of this 18th century home, once used as a field hospital during the Civil War.

EVENING

The holiday's come alive at the **Hylton Performing Arts Center**, an elegantly styled opera house with a 100-foot stage and orchestra pit. Its clever design provides every audience member an intimate experience and the perfect setting for *Mesdames de la Halle*, *The Nutcracker*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and an array of symphonies, dance, opera and theater.

Day Five

MORNING

Holiday trees and concerts at the **National Museum of the Marine Corps** – The National Museum of the Marine Corps decks the halls with holiday décor and, depending on the day you visit, you may be greeted with musical entertainment celebrating this special time of year. Several bands, choirs, orchestras, and other performing groups greet visitors in December to ring in the holidays.



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