

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 Hidden Gems

Day One

AFTERNOON

Pay your respects at **Quantico National Cemetery** with a private flag placing experience at the graves of veterans whose remains were previously forgotten. Hosted by the **Missing in America Project**, their mission is to find, identify and provide full military burial for these now remembered heroes.

Your group will want to experience an awe-inspiring **laser light show** at the **Irene V. Hylton Planetarium**. Listen to music from artists such as The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, and The Beach Boys, as colorful lasers create works of art above you.

Enjoy free-time and a **tour** in the historic town of **Occoquan**. Receive a warm welcome from the mayor, Earnie Porta, and discover over 300 years of history in a guided driving tour of this quaint riverside town as he highlights the past and unique details of Occoquan. Uncover stories of the historic buildings and how the town got its name.

EVENING

Enjoy a thrilling interactive **murder mystery meal** that'll keep you guessing (and laughing) all the way through dessert at **The Workhouse Arts Center** - a former prison turned thriving art space that is now home to more than 65 working artists. Visit the on-site Lucy Burns Museum to learn about the efforts of the courageous "Silent Sentinels", women imprisoned at the Workhouse a century ago for demanding the right to vote in a fierce fight for equality.



Missing in America Project



Occoquan



Workhouse Arts Center

Day Two

MORNING

Visit Fairfax County's newest museum, **The National Museum of the United States Army**. Shining a unique light on the symbiotic relationship between the Army and society, the museum highlights the Army's direct influence on our nation socially, technologically, scientifically, financially, and culturally. Explore the galleries, 300+ degree multi-sensory theater, fully interactive Experiential Learning Center and virtual reality experiences before tucking into a local, sustainable lunch at their gourmet café.



The National Museum of the United States Army

AFTERNOON

For architecture and history lovers, this is a 2-for-1 must-see. **Woodlawn Historic Site** was part of George Washington's Mount Vernon. In 1799, he gave the site to his nephew, Lawrence Lewis, and Lewis' new bride, Eleanor "Nelly" Parke Custis, Martha's granddaughter, in hopes of keeping Nelly close to Mount Vernon. What's more, the house was designed by William Thornton, architect of the U.S. Capitol. Nestled in a wooded area within walking distance of Woodlawn Estate is one of Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpieces; the **Pope-Leighey House**. One of the very few Wright works found on the east coast, the house is a classic example of Usonian architecture. It represents a style intended to be both distinctly American and affordable for middle-class families.



Historic Old Town Alexandria

Enjoy a tasting and tour at **Port City Brewing Company**. An award-winning craft brewery and proud producer of an exciting line of hand-made, great quality, locally crafted beers. Its name comes from Alexandria's rich and colorful origins as an important colonial seaport, and later, a major brewing center, home to the largest brewery in the southern United States.



Pope-Leighey House



Quarterdeck

EVENING

Explore **Alexandria's iconic King Street and Waterfront District** and enjoy dinner on own. Located on the Potomac River within eyesight of Washington, D.C. and a nationally designated historic district founded in 1749, Old Town Alexandria hums with more than 200 independent restaurants and boutiques alongside intimate historic museums and a vibrant waterfront. At the heart of it all is bustling King Street, a walkable mile recognized as one of the "Great Streets" of America. New restaurants tucked in to 18th- and 19th-century architecture, still intact from the city's days as George Washington's hometown ignite historic and off-the-beaten-path neighborhoods as the waterfront district evolves with new energy.

Day Three

MORNING

From presidents to patriots, **Alexandria's Footsteps to the Past** offers a fascinating, educational and entertaining walking tour to many of Old Town Alexandria's significant landmarks and little-known sites. Historically accurate accounts of our city's founders and former residents -- the famous as well as the unsung heroes and heroines -- are revealed by experienced guides as they lead you on an extraordinary journey into the 18th and 19th centuries.

Experience the gallery of icons illustrating each of the 500+ Inductees and their great technological achievements that helped stimulate growth for our nation and beyond. The **National Inventors Hall of Fame** inspires the next generation of innovators by connecting them through the story of invention. Families and groups can interact with and explore the kiosks and archives during their visit.

AFTERNOON

Enjoy **lunch** at the **Quarterdeck**. This longtime neighborhood hidden gem packs in the rustic charm along with delicious Maryland Blue Crabs (in season), seafood and down-home sides.

A 10-minute walk from lunch will take your group to a scenic walk along the Mount Vernon Trail to **Teddy Roosevelt Island**. The only memorial to the 26th President of the United States in the nation's capital is a small island in the Potomac River. Explore the 88-acre nature reserve's upland forests, swamps, and tidal marshes as well as the monuments dedicated to President Roosevelt.



Day Four

EVENING

Quarter Market is a vibrant food hall with globally-inspired dishes from a variety of local restaurants. Located in the new **Ballston Quarter**, this indoor-outdoor market offers everything from street tacos and noodle bowls to wood-fired pizza and artisan ice cream. Diners can pick from Quarter Market's more than a dozen restaurants and eateries, making this an ideal spot for groups.



MORNING

Morning never tasted so sweet. Visit **The Conche**, a restaurant with a deceiving name. When you enter, you will be greeted by the rich aroma of fresh chocolate. Take part in one of their many hands-on activities from a chocolate or cocktail making class to a 5-course chocolate tasting class. Be sure to check out their chocolate boutique and take some home to share.

Time to explore the quaint town of **Middleburg** with lunch on your own today. Named for being the half-way point between Winchester and Alexandria, Middleburg boasts a history heavily seated in the Civil War. Located along the John Mosby Highway, Middleburg is also well known as the Horse and Hunt Capital of the Nation.



AFTERNOON

Built between 1807 and 1809, **Aldie Mill** was an active hub of the community that consisted of a merchant mill, country mill, and granary, and has Virginia's only known tandem water wheels. President James Monroe was even an early customer while living in nearby Oak Hill. Enjoy a tour of this historic mill and learn how the mill worked during a live demonstration with the miller.

Visit **Chrysalis Vineyards** and **Locksley Farmstead Cheese Co.** for a wine and cheese pairing. Just one of Loudoun's over 40 wineries, Chrysalis Vineyards is unique. Not only do they have a creamery and farmstead cheese on site, but they also are well known for the Norton grape, a grape varietal that is native to Virginia. Located in the rolling hills outside of Middleburg, the scenery is almost as delicious as the wine.

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