

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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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

STEAMing Through Northern Virginia

Day One

AFTERNOON

Step back into the past at **Aldie Mill** along scenic Route 50 in southwestern Loudoun County and enjoy a **grinding demonstration** with the miller and learn the mechanics behind this piece of history. Opened for business in 1809, Aldie Mill was the largest mill in Loudoun throughout the 19th century. It witnessed the Civil War on its doorstep and even inside the mill itself.

Find the connection between agriculture and science at the **Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum**. From learning about plants and agriculture to weights and measures, the programs offered cover a variety of topics from science and math to history and social studies.

EVENING

Take on the night at **The Zone**. Have a blast with the latest in high-tech gaming, including multi-level adventure themed laser tag, boutique cosmic bowling and 37 awesome arcade games. While here, enjoy dinner from their full-service restaurant.



Day Two

MORNING

Start the morning at **Summit Ropes**, the largest indoor ropes course in the country, where the group will not only climb, but also learn the mathematics and physics behind the sport. Built to resemble Zion National Park, this create your own adventure course is perfect for those with varying levels of skill. Never been climbing before? No need to worry, there is something for everyone here.



AFTERNOON

The **Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center** in Chantilly, Virginia is the companion facility to the Museum on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Together, these two locations make up world's largest collection of air and space artifacts in the world! Student groups can participate in STEAM lab experiences such as the Smart Skies™ lab featuring an interactive Air Traffic Control Simulator. These 1-hour programs combining demonstrations, experiments, and hands-on activities for grades K-12. Enjoy lunch at the museum's onsite restaurant.

Looking for a thrilling activity that is less taxing on the body? Look no further than **Autobahn Speedway** where you'll experience an indoor go-kart race with speeds up to 50 mph. Their safety precautions include a four-point harness and superior braking system that will ensure a great environment to put the pedal to the metal! Student groups can also participate in their classroom-based, STEM focused, education programs to enhance your experience.



EVENING

Students will then enjoy a show at The **Hylton Performing Arts Center**. Home to an abundance of cultural expression, the opera house and theater provide a wide variety of music and performances sure to leave the students on the edge of their seats. The Performance A La Carte program allows you to tailor to exactly what your student groups need. Choose a program and space that will work with your schedule and The Hylton Performing Arts Center will do the rest!



AFTERNOON

Arlington National Cemetery, the tranquil resting place for many of the USA's fallen heroes. Purchase a ticket at the Welcome Center and take an interpretive trolley tour of the cemetery's notable graves and sites. Take a moment of silence at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and see the Changing of the Guard, a ritual performed by The Old Guard — the oldest active-duty infantry unit in the U.S. Army.

EVENING

Enjoy dinner at **Pentagon City Mall**, just moments from Arlington National Cemetery. Offering a variety of options for students, this is a great place to blow off a little STEAM.

Enjoy a show this evening at the **Signature Theatre**. The Signature Theatre is a Tony Award -Winning, non-profit theater company with a mission to produce contemporary musicals and plays, reinvent classic musicals, develop new work, and reach its community through engaging educational and outreach opportunities.

Day Three

MORNING

Enjoy a half day of scientific inquiry and learn about cutting-edge technology at Virginia's largest university by enrollment. **George Mason University** offers the **Global STEM Pathways Program**, a hands-on immersive STEM experiences for middle, high school and community college students. Explore emerging STEM careers in areas like forensic science, data science, bioinformatics, climate dynamics, environmental science, geo-information science, and more.



Day Four

MORNING

The most visited historic estate in America, **Mount Vernon** offers a glimpse into 18th-century plantation life. Enhance classroom teaching with engaging field trips that deepen students understanding of STEM through a variety of activities. Groups interested in a more in-depth workshop can serve on Washington's cabinet in The Situation Room. This high-intensity role playing crisis simulation enables participants to examine the functions of the American government through a multitude of sources and active participation.



AFTERNOON

Located in a former World War II torpedo factory, the **Torpedo Factory Art Center** is home to the largest collection of publicly accessible working artist studios in the U.S. Guests can visit 82 artists' studios featuring a variety of media including painting, ceramics, jewelry and printmaking, plus seven galleries, two workshops, and the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.



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.

EVENING

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.



Day Five

MORNING

Your next stop is an experience at the **National Museum of the Marine Corps**. Uncover the history of the Corps, test your skills as a Marine, and get insight into the lives of those who fight for our freedom. During your visit, see the incredible Gene Hackman-narrated film "We, The Marines" to get an unparalleled view into the experiences of Marines from boot camp through modern warfare training. Your group will also participate in a STEM education program where students will participate in hands-on activities to learn about how science, technology, and engineering impact the daily lives of Marines.

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