



NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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VIRGINIA'S CULTURAL REGION

Discover Why Virginia is for Lovers

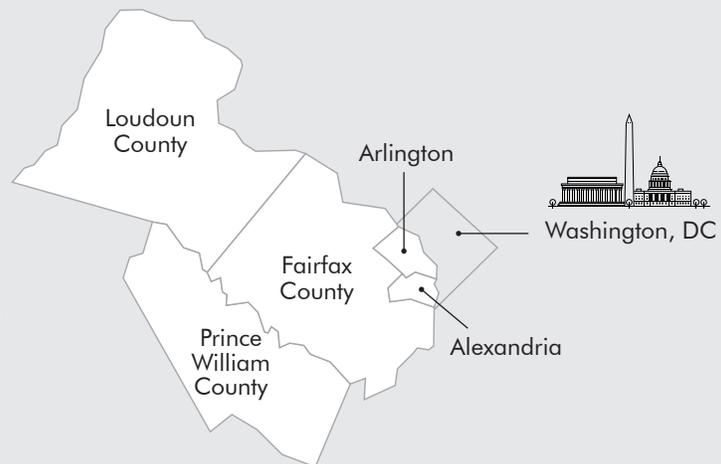
Home to an energetic mix of history, culture, dining and shopping, Virginia's Cultural Region brings together Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, Loudoun County and Prince William County for a vacation experience like no other.

What's Inside:



We're closer than you think!

- Montréal – 600 miles
- Toronto – 475 miles
- Boston – 460 miles
- New York City – 250 miles
- Virginia Beach – 215 miles
- Philadelphia – 160 miles
- Richmond – 100 miles
- Baltimore – 60 miles





Signature Theatre

DESTINATION OVERVIEW

Welcome to Northern Virginia – also known as Virginia’s Cultural Region – where an ideal mix of history and approachable local culture promises visitors a rich experience.

Learn about the events and places that helped shape the United States while discovering quaint downtown neighborhoods where locals treat visitors like family. Stroll tree-lined streets and tour charming boutique wineries. Hop on bikes to ride along the banks of the Potomac River for some of the most stunning views of Washington, DC. Browse the home of America’s first president, hoist a pint at a historic brewery, dine at a celebrity chef’s restaurant or treat yourself to a little retail therapy. It’s all waiting for you in Northern Virginia.

Virginia’s Cultural Region is known as the hip and cosmopolitan side of Virginia, and it’s easy to see why. With award-winning theatre companies, dazzling visual artists, crave-worthy cuisine and chic shopping, it’s the place to be. Indulge in locally sourced dishes at award-winning restaurants featuring cuisines from around the world. Applaud the performances of world-class theatre productions and meet with local artisans as they create everything from watercolor paintings and sculpture to jewelry and woodwork. Enjoy live music from international artists or up-and-coming indie bands. Find the perfect gift or keepsake at shops featuring top designers and local brands. Looking for a bargain? Find the best deal on brand names at two of Virginia’s largest outlet malls.

Just as hip and cosmopolitan are the unique opportunities to sample drinks not available anywhere else. With more than 45 wineries and more than 40 breweries, Northern Virginia is the ideal place to raise a pint or toast a glass. Sample the libations from George Washington’s own recipes, handed down through the generations. Explore our wineries, where producers hand craft wines in intimate settings ranging from renovated dairy barns to Mediterranean-style estates.

In Northern Virginia, you’ll also discover our storied past. America’s first president made his home here, which has set the stage for the region being at the epicenter of many of the historical events and decisive battles that have shaped the nation ever since. Explore Civil War battlefields and honor the soldiers of wars past with solemn memorials and tributes to our nation’s armed forces. Combine that with the quaint side of history, with tree-lined boulevards and cobblestone streets featuring antique shops and friendly one-of-a-kind boutiques. And of course, it’s all just steps from the power and influence of America’s capital city, Washington, DC.

From breweries to battlefields, from cuisine to couture, Northern Virginia is a destination not to be missed. Meet the artistic influences of today and tomorrow as you mingle with the stories of the past and dine or sip with the very best. It’s all found in Virginia’s Cultural Region.

With so much to do, exploring Virginia’s Cultural Region also takes you outside. Bring your bicycle (or rent one via Capital Bikeshare) and take to the miles of bike trails that traverse the region, or ride alongside the shores of the Potomac River for amazing views of the DC monuments and Tidal Basin. Take to the water yourself for a scenic kayak ride or aboard a relaxing dinner cruise. Enjoy a round of golf, a leisurely hike in the woods, or relax with a picnic overlooking acres of vineyards. The possibilities are endless.



Waterfront Dining in Alexandria | © Kristian-Summerer



National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Fairfax County



National Museum of the Marine Corps in Prince William County



WHAT'S NEW?

LOUDOUN COUNTY

An exquisite culinary and heritage destination 25 miles from Washington, DC, Loudoun boasts more than 45 award-winning wineries, 30-plus craft breweries, as well as farm-to-table dining, country inns, resorts and historic towns including Leesburg and Middleburg, the capital of Virginia horse country.

Loudoun is an oenophile's dream. Known as **DC's Wine Country**[®], Loudoun's vineyards and wines receive attention and accolades from across the nation. In recent years, more than half a dozen new wineries have opened across the county's sprawling rural landscape. From a sparkling chardonnay at **Firefly Cellars** to a Chambourcin at veteran-owned **Bleu Frog Vineyards**, the new additions to wine country not only offer surprising blends and bold varietals but breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

While vineyards have thrived in Loudoun for more than 30 years, farm breweries and hard cideries are now also benefiting from the diverse terroir. In Spring 2021, **Flying Ace** opened on the 55-acre working farm of a former Air Force pilot. Flying Ace is the county's first farm brewery and distillery. Multi-generational farm family, the Zurchmeides, have created an agritourism empire in western Loudoun and recently added **Henway Hard Cider** to the mix. Located on the family's pick-your-own farm, Henway features cider pressed from apples, cherries, grapes and other locally grown products.

The craft beverage scene in Loudoun is matched with an unbeatable culinary scene. With four distinct seasons, rich, loamy soil and a storied agricultural tradition, – George Washington hailed Loudoun as "The Breadbasket of the Revolution" – Loudoun's family farms supply a bounty of fresh meats, produce and vegetables to local restaurants, several of which opened their doors this past year. Located in the urban One Loudoun development, **Lost Fox Hideaway** brings a taste of the farm to its menu with seasonally rotating fare like a roasted butternut squash and apple bisque. Also new in eastern Loudoun is **Urbano Modern Italian** where chef Bill Downes' passion for buying local stems from his childhood growing up on his grandparents' farm.

ARLINGTON

Just across the river from the nation's capital, Arlington may be the nation's smallest geographic county, but it's been getting lots of attention in recent years as the home of not just Amazon's new HQ2 headquarters but also some of the hottest tech startups in the nation. And it's easy to see why. In addition to its many historical attractions and a bustling, youthful population, Arlington offers visitors first-class shopping, diverse dining and an eclectic local arts and entertainment scene.

This is the year to rediscover Arlington, as new attractions open and old favorites re-emerge with new exhibits and stories to be told. The newly-reopened **Arlington House** on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery gives visitors a whole new perspective. Closed since 2018 for a multi-million dollar renovation project, visitors now see Arlington House as it was in 1860, with rooms restored to their historical appearance and a transformation of the visitor experience. New exhibits and research interpret the history of the Custis and Lee families alongside that of the more than 100 enslaved people who labored on the plantation. This historic place tells America's story from its founding through the Civil War, including the impacts of slavery on the lives of these families and the site's conversion to a national cemetery. Today, it stands as a place of dialogue and reflection to create a deeper understanding of the American experience.

Also now reopened to visitors is the **DEA Museum**, which has been reimagined as an innovative learning environment that tells the story of the DEA through people and their unique experiences. The museum showcases the various roles of DEA agents and employees, delves into the history of predecessor agencies and emphasizes the impact of drug use on Americans' lives. Exhibits on the science of opium, marijuana, cocaine, and synthetic drug addiction also empower visitors with knowledge of different drugs and their risk factors. Nowhere else can guests investigate these topics with the resources and expertise of DEA.

And the ongoing transformation of Arlington with the arrival of Amazon HQ2 continues with plenty of new restaurants and gathering spaces throughout Arlington's neighborhoods. Check out the trendy **Nighthawk Pizza**, featuring local beers and thin-crust pizza with a 90s vibe. **Ruthie's All Day** has already gained a loyal following among locals as a cozy neighborhood spot with some of the best BBQ around. Or stop by **WHINO's** half restaurant, half art gallery concept in the popular Ballston Quarter.





PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

From rustic event venues and breathtaking outdoor attractions to unforgettable food and drinks, there are wonderful new things coming to Prince William, Virginia this year.

Visitors to Prince William can plan a relaxing afternoon exploring acres of farmland and taking in breathtaking panoramic water views at **The Winery at Sunshine Ridge Farm**. Situated on the banks of Lake Manassas this new winery offers visitors an array of craft Virginia beverages and has plans to expand soon adding a rustic event venue to the property.

Prince William's newest private event venue perfect for family reunions, vow renewals, or receptions can be found at the new **Brentsville Hall at Farm Brew Live**. Their ballroom boasts polished floors and an impressive thirty-foot high, arched ceiling which allows for great space flexibility. With a wide range of menu options and a variety of hosted and cash bar plans, they can easily tailor our service to meet your needs. The terrace, located adjacent to Brentsville Hall, is the ideal location for an outdoor happy hour, break-out, or cocktails. Its concrete surface measures 30' x 80' and is adorned by a stately, string-lit cedar pergola. Heaters overhead invoke a cozy atmosphere in the cooler months while providing a grandiose view of the vibrant Farm Brew LIVE campus.

Feast on an array of local cuisine at the newly opened **epiQ Food Hall**. Truly a celebration of food, authenticity, quality, and community, epiQ Food Hall is a social destination founded on a shared culinary passion & dedication to great food, with 14 culinary partners. Offering visitors a wide range of flavors from traditional fish and chips at London Chippy to southern style BBQ at Southern Flare there truly is something for everything in this unique new food hall.

FAIRFAX COUNTY

An incredible cultural destination located in the heart of Northern Virginia, Fairfax County will see huge new developments, attractions, and experiences this year in addition to a growing craft beer scene.

Fairfax County recently welcomed the **National Museum of the United States Army** to its expansive array of historic sites and museums. The 185,000 sq. ft. free museum is the first and only to tell the comprehensive history of the Army, told through the eyes of the U.S. soldier using interactive exhibits, a multi-dimensional theater, and a G-STEM-anchored Experiential Learning Center great for kids and adults.

At nearby **George Washington's Mount Vernon**, an all-new exhibit will showcase a broader look at how Mount Vernon came to be, from Native Americans through Washington's ownership and into preservation efforts. New specialty tours also include a Founding Flowers garden tour and the "Hamilton: The Musical" tour. In 2022, a permanent tasting room will open at the adjacent **George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill**, allowing visitors to taste Washington's Signature Rye Whiskey on-site for the first time.

Highlighting the important story of the women's suffrage movement in America is the new **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial**, which is the only one of its kind in the country and features an actual piece of the original White House fence from 1917. Nearby, the **Lucy Burns Museum at the Workhouse Arts Center** tells the story of the women suffragists who were imprisoned here for fighting for voting equality.

In Tysons, known as "America's Next Great City," innovation abounds at the new **Capital One Center**, a vibrant, mixed-use entertainment epicenter that is home to a premier performing arts center called **Capital One Hall**, a luxury all-suites hotel called **The Watermark**, and a 1.2-acre skypark called **The Perch**. The outdoor skypark features an amphitheater and biergarten anchored by Starr Hill Brewery, a dog park, a sculpture garden, a pop-up food truck experience, and mini-golf.

Additionally, **Archer Hotel Tysons** brings its industrial chic design, locally curated touches, and contemporary offerings to Fairfax County's vast hotel portfolio. Archer's design philosophy of melding a distinct nod to the destination shines through here, with a nod to Tysons' peach grove past and its homage to the state's indelible slogan, "Virginia is for Lovers."

ALEXANDRIA

A nationally designated historic district founded in 1749, Old Town Alexandria continues to evolve with new waterfront happenings and independent restaurants and shops to explore.

Alexandria's historic waterfront buzzes with new experiences to explore, from a rotating, site-specific **riverside public art installation** to permanent attractions such as **tall ship Providence**. This celebrity tall ship, which has appeared in the international blockbuster *Pirates of the Caribbean*, is a full-scale reproduction of one of the most renowned ships in the Continental Navy. A brand-new pier and visitor center at Waterfront Park will bring Providence closer to the action at the marina and King Street.

The city's dining scene continues to grow with two 2021 waterfront concepts from Alexandria Restaurant Partners, **Ada's on the River** and **BARCA Pier & Wine Bar**, located at the new Robinson Landing complex on Old Town's southern waterfront. Also in Old Town, brand-new **Kismet Modern Indian** showcases the award-winning fare of Chef Ajay Kumar, bringing with him the recognition of a Michelin Bib Gourmand award from his sister restaurant in Washington, D.C., with dishes ranging from red snapper peri-peri to lamb ghee roast. Visit **Mae's Market & Café**, an all-day food market where you can enjoy a high quality, made-from-scratch selection of coffee, baked goods, salads and gourmet sandwiches.

Alexandria's historic waterfront buzzes with new experiences to explore, from a rotating, site-specific riverside public art installation to an expanding waterfront **African American Heritage Trail**. The northern route of the self-guided waterfront trail highlights the people, places and neighborhoods along the Potomac, from the time of Alexandria's founding through the 20th century. Visitors can anticipate a new southern route in 2021.



STORY IDEAS

BREWS AND BIKING

Northern Virginia is known for quality wine, but it is quickly also becoming one of the hottest areas for craft beer, with **more than 40 breweries** to choose from. From quaint breweries in historic buildings and breweries with self-serve beer walls to farm breweries growing their own hops and hoppin' brewpubs, it's a great way to experience the flavor of the region. If you would prefer to work off the calories before drinking them in, hop on your bike and explore the string of breweries that are along the **Washington & Old Dominion** and **Mount Vernon Trails** that span almost 100 miles throughout the region. Bring your own two wheels or rent one from **Bike and Roll** or from the **Capital Bikeshare** program.

ATTRACTIONS

- More than 40 breweries | Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William
- **Capital Bikeshare** | Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax
- Monuments and springtime cherry blossoms | Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax
- **Port City Brewing Co.** | Alexandria
- Bike and Roll bike rentals | Alexandria
- **Nighthawk Pizza** and **New District Brewing** | Arlington
- **Washington & Old Dominion Trail** | Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun
- Fairfax County's Locally Poured Field Guide featuring 15+ spots | Fairfax
- LoCo Ale Trail featuring 30+ breweries | Loudoun
- **Brew Republic Bierwerks** and **Waters End Brewing Co.** | Prince William
- Mount Vernon Trail along the Potomac River with views of Washington, DC





DIVINE WINE AND A TRIP THROUGH TIME

Pair a crisp Viognier with a trip back in time to George Washington’s home, or try a flavorful Norton with the stories of the American Civil War. Virginia’s Cultural Region will take you on a journey through American history and the craft of winemaking. Sample a great wine and cheese plate just steps from national historical treasures. Choose from the picturesque vineyards of more than 45 wineries featuring everything from Cabernet to Chambourcin and choose from dozens of historic sites that helped shape the United States.

ATTRACTIONS

- More than 45 Wineries | *Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William*
- Wine bars | *Alexandria, Arlington, Loudoun*
- **Arlington National Cemetery Tomb of the Unknowns** | *Arlington*
- **George Washington’s Mount Vernon** | *Fairfax*
- **The Winery at Bull Run** | *Fairfax*
- **Morven Park Historic House & Gardens** | *Loudoun*
- **Manassas National Battlefield Park** | *Prince William*



UNFORGETTABLE ARTS AND CULTURE

Northern Virginia is a travelers’ cultural paradise. Tap into the arts scene with unexpected visual arts centers including a former torpedo factory and a historic former prison. Experience world-class theater and performances at the Tony Award-winning **Signature Theatre** or enjoy a show under the stars at **Wolf Trap**, the only national park dedicated to the performing arts. Discover independent art galleries tucked inside historic buildings along picturesque streetscapes.

ATTRACTIONS

- **Torpedo Factory Art Center** | *Alexandria*
- **Birchmere Music Hall** | *Alexandria*
- **Signature Theatre** | *Arlington*
- **Synetic Theater** | *Arlington*
- **Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts** | *Fairfax*
- **Capital One Hall** | *Fairfax*
- **Workhouse Arts Center** | *Fairfax*
- **Tally Ho Theatre** | *Loudoun*
- **Hylton Performing Arts Center** | *Prince William*



DC's Wine Country



Cheesetique in Alexandria



Wolf Trap National Park For the Performing Arts



King Street, Alexandria | © Kristian Summerer



Historic Occoquan



CUISINE AND COUTURE

The Northern Virginia region has been referred to as the “hip and cosmopolitan side of Virginia,” boasting crave-worthy cuisine and chic shopping. Indulge in locally sourced dishes at award-winning restaurants featuring cuisine from around the world, as well as artisanal treats ranging from chocolates and local cheeses to local coffee and spirits. The region also has some of the best shopping in the country. You’ll find everything from antique shops, independent boutiques, and art galleries in historic towns, to 400+ stores and restaurants plus high-end luxury retail in **Tysons Corner** – home to the “Rodeo Drive of the East Coast.” There are also two outlet malls located in the region for those looking to grab bargains.

ATTRACTIONS

- King Street shops and restaurants | *Alexandria*
- **Cheesetique** | *Alexandria, Arlington*
- **Artisan Confections** | *Arlington*
- **WHINO** | *Arlington*
- **Tysons Corner Center** and luxury shopping at **Tysons Galleria** | *Fairfax*
- **River-Sea Chocolate Factory & Liquid Cafe** | *Fairfax*
- Antique shopping in Leesburg and Middleburg | *Loudoun*
- Outlet malls | *Loudoun, Prince William*
- Art galleries in Historic Occoquan | *Prince William*



CHARMING DOWNTOWN DISTRICTS

Soak up the small town charm of Northern Virginia’s downtown districts. Get a taste of the equestrian life in **Downtown Middleburg**. Stroll bustling King Street in **Old Town Alexandria**, within eyesight of Washington, DC on the Potomac River waterfront for dining, boutiques and galleries. In nearby Arlington, the stylish **Village of Shirlington** features a European-style promenade with outdoor dining, fun night spots and eclectic art-house movies. Visit **Historic Downtown Occoquan** for riverside shops, restaurants and Mill House Museum. **Historic Downtown Leesburg** boasts antiques dealers, art galleries and other specialty shops. And visit the charming small town of **Historic Clifton**, where you can dine at destination restaurants or visit Fairfax County’s first winery, shop antique stores, and end your day with homemade custard.

ATTRACTIONS

- **King Street/Old Town** | *Alexandria*
- **Village of Shirlington** | *Arlington*
- **Historic Clifton** | *Fairfax*
- **Downtown Middleburg** | *Loudoun*
- **Historic Downtown Leesburg** | *Loudoun*
- **Historic Occoquan** | *Prince William*



HISTORICAL HOTSPOTS

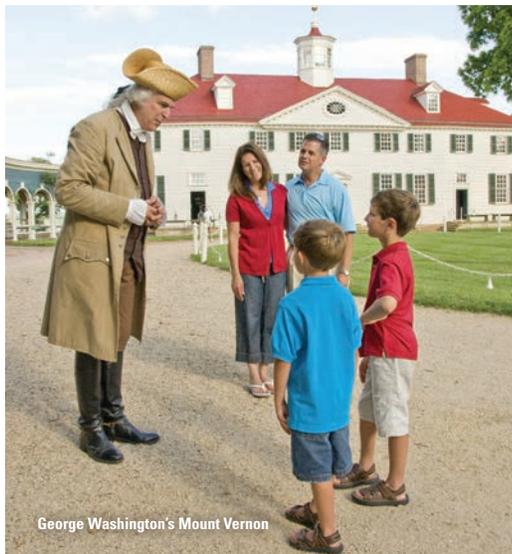
Immerse yourself in the rich American history that permeates Northern Virginia. Get to know America's first president at **George Washington's Mount Vernon** or see where he interacted politically at **Gadsby's Tavern Museum**. For American Civil War history, visit **Manassas National Battlefield Park**, the site of the first two major battles of the war. Pay your respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at **Arlington National Cemetery** and the nearby **National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial**. Homes of great architectural significance like **Morven Park** in Leesburg can also be found throughout the region. Sample a great wine or craft beer just steps from national historical treasures.

ATTRACTIONS

- **Gadsby's Tavern Museum** | *Alexandria*
- **Arlington National Cemetery and Marine Corps War Memorial** | *Arlington*
- **George Washington's Mount Vernon** | *Fairfax*
- **Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center** | *Fairfax*
- **Oatlands Historic House and Gardens** | *Loudoun*
- **Manassas National Battlefield Park** | *Prince William*



Manassas National Battlefield Park



George Washington's Mount Vernon



Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center



Marine Corps War Memorial



Need help planning your visit?

Please contact the following for media assistance, sample itineraries, story ideas and more.



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