



NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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VIRGINIA'S CULTURAL REGION

Discover Why Virginia is for Lovers

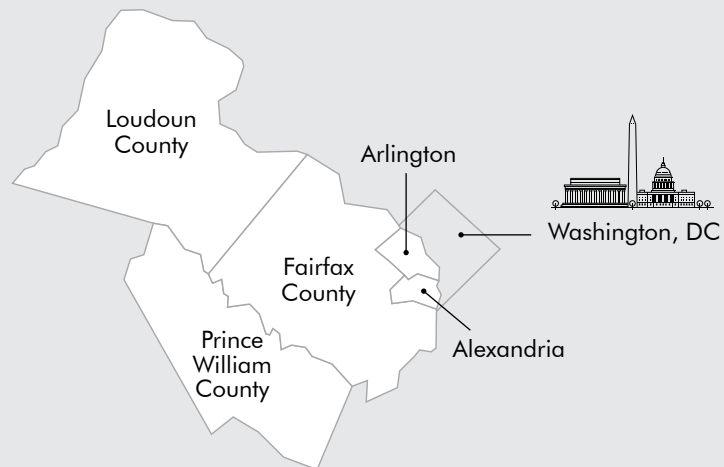
Home to an energetic mix of history, culture, dining and shopping, Virginia's Cultural Region brings together Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, Loudoun County and Prince William County for a vacation experience like no other.

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





Mount Vernon Trail

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 50 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 wine scene will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2024. Inspired by Lew Parker who bottled the first wine in 1984, the wider Loudoun wine scene is one of the most exciting in the US. While Chardonnay, Viognier and Bordeaux grapes prosper, a new generation of small batch winemakers experiment with Albariño, Tannat, Nebbiolo, Petit Manseng and Chardonnay. Innovation is everywhere. Walsh Family Wine opened the Winemakers Studio in 2023 - an incubator that helps upcoming winemakers start their own brands, and winemakers collaborate to create blends or partnerships with neighboring breweries and distilleries. And through it all, there's a communal, family friendly feel to it all. Here, a winemaker will join you for a tasting, an owner will recommend a neighboring estate and you can meet a grower working in the vines. Visit the wineries through the new e- bike wine tours or guided wine tours, including some that pick up from the new Silverline Metro stops in Loudoun.

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, including **Bia Kitchen** - a new Euro inspired Purcellville restaurant- and the cozy **Local Provisions** in eastern Loudoun's urban corridor.

While culinary and craft beverage opportunities abound, there are plenty of ways to get active utilizing the new **LoCo Adventure Trail** guide. Check out Loudoun's first state park, **Sweet Run**, which opened in summer 2023, or access the **Appalachian Trail** to hike the rollercoaster section of this famous trail.

ARLINGTON

Arlington may be most well-known for its military memorials and Arlington National Cemetery, but there's an entirely new Arlington to discover on the shores of the Potomac. Named the Fittest City in the nation for the last six years, Arlington's endless biking and walking trails are just a few of the ways to get outside and explore. It's time to rediscover Arlington.

Part of Arlington's unique history is being told through new and intriguing public art installations across the county. Don't miss Queen City, a towering brick sculpture from renowned public artist Nekisha Durrett that pays homage to the former Arlington neighborhood of the same name. This working-class Black community was displaced for construction of the Pentagon, and today the brick exterior gives way to an interior display of 903 ceramic orbs that represent the 903 individuals who were part of the historic community. Not far away is FREED, a 30-foot-tall beacon which pays homage to the notion of freedom, whether experienced as a historical or contemporary and personal or collective condition. Both are part of the collection of **Arlington Public Art**, which celebrates its 40th anniversary in the 2023-24 season.

Arlington's landscape continues to transform with the recent opening of Amazon HQ2 and along with it, plenty of new restaurants and gathering spaces. Don't miss the reimagined **Crystal City Water Park** in National Landing; its urban greenspace and relaxing water features are the perfect contrast to the bustling activity in the neighborhood. Onsite is the Water Park Food Hall, a series of nine outdoor kiosk eateries from local women- and minority-owned businesses.

Sustainability is also key; Amazon HQ2 has committed to being the first all-electric building in Amazon's real estate portfolio powered by 100% renewable energy, and Arlington County itself has been named the first LEED Platinum community with the ambitious goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. One of the newest trends is vertical farming; Arlington's **Fresh Impact Farms** and **Area 2 Farms** are leading the way in sustainable farming.

And there's never a shortage of exciting new restaurants around Arlington. Check out **Astro Beer Hall** with its extensive brews and its very own donut-making robot. **Our Mom Eugenia** brings classic Greek cuisine to Arlington's Shirlington neighborhood, and be sure to stop by the new **Ballstonian** custom coffee cart for Turkish coffee and baklava.



Queen City by Nekisha Durrett



Our Mom Eugenia



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.

Only 30 miles from the heart of Washington D.C., Prince William County invites you to embark on a captivating journey that seamlessly blends rich history, the breathtaking views of the Bull Run Mountains, and so much more. As you step back in time, exploring landmarks like the storied **Manassas Battlefield** and the **National Museum of the Marine Corps**, your appetite for nature and history will be thoroughly satisfied. But that's just the beginning!

Introducing the **Steins, Vines, and Moonshine trail**—an enticing pathway that winds through PWC's charming landscapes, featuring a curated collection of breweries, wineries, and distilleries. These vibrant establishments promise not only a delectable array of beverages but also a warm, inviting ambiance and live entertainment. Among the newest additions is the sophisticated **Trouville Brewing Company**, born from the creative collaboration of passionate, award-winning brewers, this brewery now offers a haven of luxury in downtown Haymarket. Meanwhile, **Great Mane Brewery** stands as another must-visit gem, nestled in the heart of Haymarket, crafting an impressive array of meticulously balanced beers, from IPAs to Lagers, all within a welcoming and cozy atmosphere.

If you're looking for the best spot to take the whole family, our year-round indoor amusement, **Urban Air Trampoline and Adventure Park** in Woodbridge is the perfect place for you. New adventures await behind every corner and will keep the little ones busy and entertained!

After an exhilarating day, find rest and relaxation at our array of newly established hotels and inns, thoughtfully places for convenient access to Interstate 66. The new **Hilton Garden Inn**, in particular, offers a prime location, ensuring you're perfectly situated to continue your explorations across PWC. Whether you're yearning for a quick caffeine fix at the Crossroads Cafe or a delectable sit-down meal at the esteemed Red House Tavern, our diverse dining options cater to every craving and occasion.

FAIRFAX COUNTY

An incredible cultural and historical destination located in the heart of Northern Virginia, Fairfax County's new experiences include a family-centered hub of creativity, a massive new wellness and social club, stunning riverside garden restorations, and an explosion of unique culinary concepts.

The new **LEGO Discovery Center**, a 32,000 square-foot indoor LEGO attraction that features millions of LEGO bricks and 12 attractions, including the Imagination Express ride, Duplo Park, a 4D Theatre, cafe and much more, is now open at Springfield Town Center. Billed as the ultimate indoor LEGO playground, this center will be the first of its kind in the country and is the very first LEGO Discovery Center in the Greater Washington, DC area and in Virginia.

Balian Springs in Fairfax County is a first-of-its-kind, daily admission-based wellness club designed to transport guests to a tropical oasis. Boasting 100,000 sq. ft. of carefully curated space, the experience includes traditional spas, healing hydrotherapy pools, detoxifying saunas, unique wellness programs, and nutritious eateries that encourage guests to seek a meaningful balance between mental, physical, personal, and social well-being.

Michelin-starred chefs have opened several new restaurant concepts in Fairfax County, from the first Singaporean restaurant in the DC area (**Jiwa Singapura** by Chef Pepe Moncayo) to a sophisticated Persian/Iranian concept (**Joon** by Chef Christopher Morgan) to a Lebanese/Egyptian-inspired casual space in a trendy village center (**Kirby Club**, launched by owners of Michelin-starred DC restaurant Maydan). Chef Moncayo also has a wine bar concept called **The Wine Junction** that recently debuted.

Bunnyman Brewing Co. a self-serve brewery concept whose namesake is derived from an evocative urban legend, announced it will open a second location in 2024 at the campus of Lorton's **Workhouse Arts Center**, a former prison with direct ties to the local legend itself. Plus, this year, **Open Road Distillery** brings distillery tours, tasting room, and full restaurant experience to Reston in late summer 2023.

To bring it all together, the new **Silver Line Metrorail extension** finally connects Fairfax County and Washington, DC with the Washington Dulles International Airport, making it even easier for visitors to experience the heart of Northern Virginia.

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 and the new southern route of the self-guided **African American Heritage Trail** to permanent attractions such as **tall ship Providence**, a replication of the first ship commissioned to the Continental Navy, once helmed by legendary naval Captain John Paul Jones. In summer 2023, the **Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center** debuted as a permanent home for tall ship *Providence*. The new floating visitor attraction hosts immersive dockside tours and serves as the launch point for weekend sunset sails.

The city's dining scene continues to grow with an influx of new eateries including **Thompson Italian** on King Street. The second location of the acclaimed husband-and-wife-owned Falls Church venture features the olive oil cake that earned Pastry Chef and Co-owner Katherine Thompson a James Beard nomination, expanded pasta and seafood menus and an infusion of Middle Eastern flavors courtesy of Executive Chef Lucy Dakwar's Palestinian roots. **1799 Prime Steak & Seafood** is a polished but inviting steakhouse in Old Town owned by Jahmond Quander, a member of one of the oldest documented African American families, and co-founded by Chef Sonny Tena.

Alexandria's hotel scene continues to expand with **Hotel AKA Alexandria**, one of world-renowned architect Piero Lissoni's first U.S. hotel projects, opened in spring 2023. Slated to open in the heart of Old Town in spring 2024, **Hotel Heron** is Aparium Hotel Group's flagship adaptive-reuse development, located steps from the bustling King Street mile. Originally occupied from 1926 to 1971 by George Mason Hotel, the new space will boast 134 guest rooms and 30,000 square feet of hotel amenities, meeting space and ground floor retail.



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 **Unlimited Biking** 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*
- Unlimited Biking bike rentals | *Alexandria*
- Nighthawk Pizza and Brewing and Astro Beer Hall | *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
- Pedego E-bike LoCo Ale Trail Brewery day | *Loudoun*





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 50 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*



DC’s Wine Country²



Cheesetique in Alexandria



Wolf Trap National Park For the Performing Arts



King Street, Alexandria | © Chris Cruz



Historic Occoquan



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*
- Museum of Contemporary Art-Arlington | *Arlington*
- Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts | *Fairfax*
- Capital One Hall | *Fairfax*
- Workhouse Arts Center | *Fairfax*
- Tally Ho Theater | *Loudoun*
- Hylton Performing Arts Center | *Prince William*



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*
- Antique shopping | *Leesburg, Middleburg, Lucketts and Purcellville*



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 learn about Alexandria's Black history and the Black experience in America at **Freedom House Museum** or the **Alexandria Black History 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

- Freedom House Museum and Alexandria Black History 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.



Arlington Convention and Visitors Service

Scott Baker
571-305-0664
sbaker@arlingtonva.us
StayArlington.com



Visit Alexandria
Rebecca Doser
703-652-5363
RDoser@VisitAlexVA.com
VisitAlexandria.com



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



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



Visit Prince William
Alecia Kirby
703-792-8420
akirby@pwcv.gov
VisitPWC.com