



NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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VIRGINIA'S CULTURAL REGION

Discover Why Virginia is for Lovers

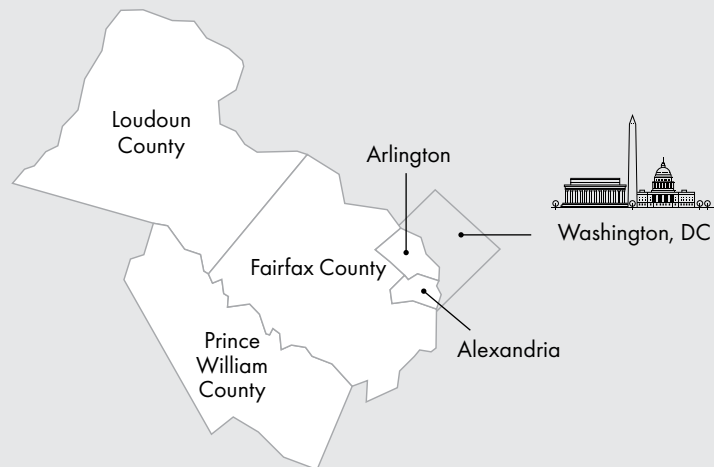
Home to an energetic mix of history, culture, dining and shopping, Virginia's Cultural Region brings together Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, Loudoun County and Prince William County for a vacation experience like no other.

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 celebrates 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 Chardonel. 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 e-bike wine tours or new horseback riding tours. With the Silverline Metro now in Loudoun, visitors can also pick up guided wine tours from the metro station. 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 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 **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 Arlington's world-renowned Public Art collection.

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 **National Landing Water Park**; 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.





PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Explore Prince William, Virginia, where history meets adventure just 30 miles from D.C. Discover the Manassas Battlefield, hike Prince William Forest Park, or relax by the Potomac River. With vibrant parks, museums, and charming towns, there's something for everyone. Experience the perfect blend of nature, history, and modern attractions in Prince William County.

Prince William's **Steins, Vines, and Moonshine** trail is an enticing pathway that winds through PWC's charming landscapes and leads you to all the local breweries, wineries, and distilleries. New to the trail is **Brightworks Brewing**, located in Historic Manassas, Virginia. This women and veteran-owned brewery is run by husband-wife duo, Adrienne and Kenny. Not a part of the trail quiet yet, but a highly anticipated future addition will be **Diamond Farm Winery and Brewery**, a black-owned all in one event space located in Nokesville, Virginia. Divided into three phases, Diamond is currently operating as a premier event space, hosting private winery and brewery events such as weddings and corporate gatherings. Their next two phases will be opening their tasting room in Spring 2025 and then a full, operating opening is set for later 2025.

Traveling with little ones can mean a lot of pent up energy from either long car-rides or sitting on a plane for a few hours. Looking for a spot to let them run wild and play safe? For year-round, full family amusement, check out **Urban Air Trampoline and Adventure Park** in Woodbridge.

New adventures await behind every corner and will keep the little ones busy and entertained! If outdoor thrills are more up your alley, **District Exotic Jetcars** is the newest and most stylish way of traveling and seeing the beauty of northern Virginia's waterfront.

Opening soon, **The Rose Gaming Resort** is Northern Virginia's newest high-end resort located in the heart of Dumfries, Virginia. The Rose will feature excitement around every corner. Located off I-95, it's the perfect stop for families looking for a break during a long road trip. With a sprawling gaming floor, an indulgent hotel, 8 restaurants and bars, and an 80-acre greenspace park—The Rose has it all.

Peruvian-style coffee has made its debut in Manassas with the opening of Artidoro Rodriguez Café first U.S. retail location inside **Taty's Chicken**. Artidoro sources his beans from 150 small producer in the Peruvian mountains.

FAIRFAX COUNTY

An incredible cultural and historical destination located in the heart of Northern Virginia, Fairfax County's new experiences include new culinary and craft beverage options, interactive and wellness-first experiences, several firsts for Virginia and so much more.

Michelin-starred chefs have opened several new restaurant concepts in Fairfax County, from a sophisticated Persian/Iranian concept (**Joon** by Chef Christopher Morgan) and a Lebanese/Egyptian-inspired casual space in a trendy village center (**Kirby Club**, launched by owners of Michelin-starred DC restaurant Maydan) to a specialized menu by Chef Pepe Moncayo at an upscale wine bar in McLean. These top-tier restaurants join other newcomers to Fairfax County including **Neutral Ground Bar + Kitchen**, a new concept by celebrity chef David Guas; a Miami-based small-batch donut shop, **The Salty Donut**, opening its first Virginia location, and a popular DC-based Jewish-style deli, **Call Your Mother**.

Bunnyman Brewing Co., a self-serve brewery concept whose namesake is derived from an evocative urban legend, opened its highly anticipated second location on the campus of Lorton's **Workhouse Arts Center**, a former prison with direct ties to the local legend itself. This gives visitors to the Workhouse options for food and drink for the first time. **Negus Winery and Meadery** recently opened, becoming the first and only honey wine-tasting room in the U.S. The small winery features Ethiopian Honey Wine (Tej) made on the premises.

In addition to the recently opened **LEGO Discovery Center**, a 32,000-square-foot, first-of-its-kind LEGO attraction, more new experiences and activities are either now open or on deck throughout Fairfax County including **City Swing**, an indoor golf simulation experience paired with food and drink; **Sandbox VR**, a futuristic VR experience inspired by Star Trek's Holodeck; **Level99**, a first-of-its-kind social gaming playground with 50 real-world physical and mental challenges plus food & drink; and **Movement**, a 37,000 sq. ft. climbing, yoga, and fitness center.

In hotel news, Virginia's first **J.W. Marriott** is poised to open in 2025 at the growing Reston Station, bringing 243 guest rooms and 94 upscale condos, plus restaurants and amenities to the Metro-adjacent plaza. (In 2025, **Ebbitt House** will debut here, the first expansion of world-famous Old Ebbitt Grill.) Nearby, a first-of-its-kind dual-concept **AC Marriott and Residence Inn** will open in late fall of 2024.

ALEXANDRIA

Founded in 1749, Alexandria celebrates 275 years with new hotel openings, waterfront experiences, drinks destinations and independent shops to explore.

Alexandria's historic waterfront buzzes with fresh experiences, from a rotating riverside public art installation and the newly expanded 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.

In summer 2024, Aparium Hotel Group's flagship adaptive-reuse development, **Hotel Heron**, opened in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. Originally opened in 1926 as the George Mason Hotel, the 134-room property combines the iconic inn with an adjacent new building. Elevated dining options include **KILN**, a hearth-inspired restaurant offering Mid-Atlantic cuisine and **Good Fortune**, a cozy cocktail bar and the city's first seasonal rooftop bar. Meanwhile, **Archer Hotel** has opened its doors at the former Lorien Hotel, boasting the city's only hotel spa, a house art collection and luxurious touches to enhance guests' stays from start to finish.

No matter your drink of choice, Alexandria's new spots to sip have you covered. Wine-wise, **Negus Winery and Meadery** specializes in renditions of Ethiopian tej, honey wine, and is thought to be the first tej tasting room in the U.S. Beer buffs can enjoy D.C.-based **Atlas Brew Works** with a brewery and taproom running on sustainable energy, while whisky lovers will savor an expansive menu and live music at **MacMillan Spirit House** in Old Town North. Plus, the cocktail-inclined should head below **Kisso Asian Bistro** to **Casa Luna**, exuding subterranean speakeasy vibes with creative handcrafted cocktails paired with sophisticated bar bites.

Alexandria's shopping scene has expanded with the opening of **Crème de la Crème**, a King Street boutique offering high-end tableware and home goods inspired by French and Italian living. Plus, a new concept from **American In Paris** centers around globally curated apparel from independent designers, a private label collection and more. Local boutique owner Amy Rutherford opened her third Old Town shop, **Pippin Toy Co.**, a magical oasis for kids, while nearby, upscale New York City-based boutique **Frances Valentine** features fashionable finds inspired by co-founders and best friends Elyce Arons and Kate Spade.



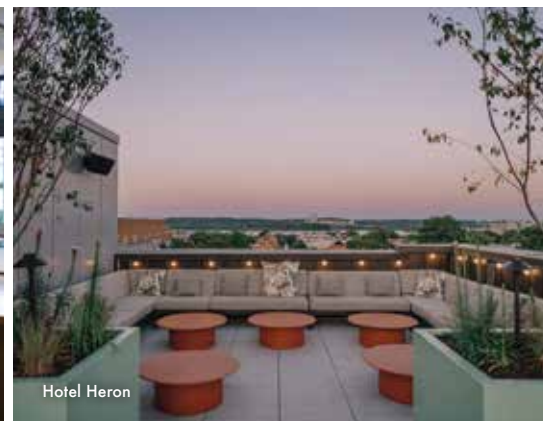
STORY IDEAS

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*



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*



DC’s Wine Country



Cheesetique in Alexandria



Wolf Trap National Park For the Performing Arts



King Street, Alexandria | © Chris Cruz



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*
- 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 will welcome its first boutique hotel in 2025, which will be among the art galleries, restaurants 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.



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