

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, Prince William County and Manassas for a vacation experience like no other.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Civil War-Steps Through History

Day One

AFTERNOON

Explore Historic Leesburg and enjoy dinner at one of several unique restaurants. Leesburg, Loudoun's county seat since 1757, has a complete collection of history, shopping entertainment, wining and dining. Throughout the main downtown, visit locally owned shops and restaurants, about half a dozen craft breweries and historic sites.

Take a guided tour of Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park. One of the smallest but more significant battles in Loudoun occurred at Ball's Bluff, which is remembered for a faulty intelligence report that led to an early and disastrous defeat of advancing Union troops in October 1861. A Union party crossed the Potomac to raid a Confederate camp, only to discover the "camp" was actually a row of trees that had been mistaken for tents by an earlier reconnaissance patrol. While awaiting new orders, the Union troops inadvertently came upon a Confederate patrol and the first fight ensued. Today, Ball's Bluff Battlefield is a National Historic Landmark. It is also the site of one of the smallest national cemeteries.

Take a guided tour at Oatlands, a National Trust site. Oatlands encompasses 360 acres in scenic easements and features a Greek Revival mansion, circa 1804, rare 19th century brick dependencies including America's oldest restored propagation greenhouse, circa 1810, and a magnificent four acre English terraced garden.

EVENING

Enjoy dinner at Clyde's Willow Creek Farm. Clyde's is a charming restaurant that blends historic elegance with modern American cuisine. Housed in a beautifully restored farmhouse, it features multiple dining rooms adorned with antique furnishings and artifacts, creating a warm and inviting ambiance. The menu showcases several farm-to-table dishes, emphasizing fresh, locally sourced ingredients and seasonal flavors.



Ball's Bluff National Cemetery



Oatlands



Clyde's Willow Creek Farm

Day Two

MORNING

Meet a local guide for a driving history tour along Route 50 and Middleburg where much of Loudoun's Civil War history took place. Learn about the multiple battles fought, the Grey Ghost lore and stop at significant locations along the way.

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 and the role it played during the Civil War.

Right down the road visit Mt. Zion Historic Park. The church was established in 1851 and held services continuously until 1980, except for a brief period during the Civil War when control of the area was constantly shifting between Confederate and Union forces. During the Civil War, Mount Zion was a battlefield, hospital, barracks, prison and burial ground. It was also a meeting place for Col. John S. Mosby and his Rangers prior to raids.

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 Little River Turnpike formally known as the John Mosby Highway, Middleburg is also well known as the Horse and Hunt Capital of the Nation.



AFTERNOON

Nestled adjacent to the historic Manassas National Battlefield, The Winery at Bull Run offers a unique blend of fine wine and rich history. As the closest winery to Washington, DC, it showcases a deep passion for the land's Civil War heritage. Visitors can enjoy specially curated and priced tours, for tour operators which include a tasting alongside a private tour of the on-site Civil War museum, home to thousands of artifacts. This experience perfectly marries the region's storied past with its celebrated vintages.

Let your guide, dressed in his Civil War military uniform, lead you around Manassas National Battlefield Park. While at the park, watch the Richard Dreyfuss narrated film, "Manassas: A Day of Innocence". Once on the battlefield, discover the artifacts uncovered from the battlefield and walk the hallowed ground where two major Civil War battles unfolded.

Ben Lomond Historic Site, built in 1837, was used as a hospital for Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War and you can tour the rooms where soldiers recovered, surgeries occurred, and the family whose house it was lived during the ordeal.

Day Three

MORNING

Visit Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretation Center. Historic Blenheim is famous for its graffiti! It is a c.1859 brick farmhouse that is nationally significant for the more than 120 Union soldier signatures, drawings, and poetry inscribed on the interior walls. The "diary on the walls" provides insight into typical soldier life during the Civil War. The Civil War Interpretive Center features a full-sized replica of the house attic, which is closed to the public. Examine the graffiti up-close and be thrust back in time with soldiers who wanted to be remembered. Learn about the impact of war in the area, the family, and enslaved residents of Blenheim, and the Union soldiers that left their mark as they traveled through Fairfax Courthouse.

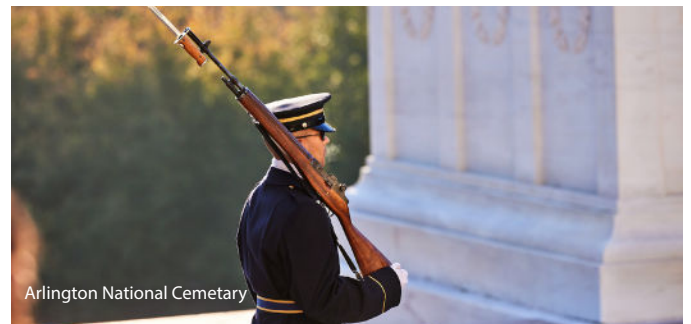
Visit the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington to learn more about the African American journey to freedom in Arlington County, the history of Freedman's Village and how African Americans played a vital role in the formation and development of Arlington County, a central part of our shared history.

AFTERNOON

Fort C.F. Smith is the best-preserved Civil War fort in Arlington and one of the best preserved of all the Washington defenses. It lies within 19-acre Fort C.F. Smith Park with a late-19th and early-20th century estate with embedded Civil War-era ruins.

The Civil War Visitor Center features exhibits about Union soldiers and the Defenses of Washington between 1861 and 1865. Artifacts from archeological studies from Ethan Allen and C.F. Smith are on display. Open on Saturdays and Sundays.

Arlington National Cemetery - The grounds of Arlington National Cemetery honor those who have served our nation by providing a sense of beauty and peace for guests. The impressive landscape serves as a tribute to the service and sacrifice of every individual laid to rest within the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery. Make time to visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and witness the Changing of the Guard ceremony, performed by the U.S. Honor Guard. More than three million people visit Arlington National Cemetery each year.



Located at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, The Military Women's Memorial is the only major one of its kind in the United States (and the world!) to showcase the service of women in the military, preserving moments and stories of military women from the Revolutionary War through the present. The structure features 16 exhibit alcoves for permanent and rotating exhibits, as an education center, interactive exhibits, and a world-class collection of military women's stories.



Day Four

MORNING

Most of Alexandria's leading businesses and properties could not have operated without the unpaid labor of the enslaved men, women, and children who lived and worked here. Walk through the streets of through America's timeline to learn the empowering stories of individuals and communities that overcame adversity and even pushed our society forward as you explore the city's historic sites with Manumission Tour Company.

AFTERNOON

Explore Old Town Alexandria and its rich Civil War history. This Union-occupied town is filled with intriguing sites like the largest Civil War general hospital, Gadsby's Tavern, Carlyle House, The Stabler-Leadbetter Apothecary, and The Athenaeum. Discover the mystery of the \$200,000 deposit by John Augustine Washington from the sale of Mount Vernon. Stay overnight at The Alexandrian Old Town Alexandria hotel, site of the war's first two casualties. Tour Lee-Fendall House, Robert E. Lee's boyhood home, and Christ Church, built in 1775 with Washington's involvement.

Day Five

MORNING

When the Civil War—America's national tragedy—wrenched the country apart in the 1860s, it also splintered the Marine Corps. Visitors to the National Museum of the Marine Corps

Corps explore the Civil War through the eyes of both Union and Confederate Marines, understand the importance of noncommissioned officers, and conclude with the story of one Marine who accompanied President Abraham Lincoln to Gettysburg where Lincoln delivered his memorable address.

Step back in time at the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre! Explore 19th-century life through a jail and courthouse built in 1822, a one-room schoolhouse, and an 1850's farmhouse, all offering a glimpse into Virginia's rich history.

AFTERNOON

Hike through the grounds of Bristoe Station Battlefield where General Robert E. Lee made his last offensive push north of the Civil War during the Battle of Bristoe Station. Learn about the strategies and sacrifices that shaped the nation from a knowledgeable guide.



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