

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

Hidden Gems

Day One

AFTERNOON

Pay your respects at National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico with a private flag placing experience at the graves of veterans whose remains were previously forgotten. Hosted by the Missing in America Project, their mission is to find, identify and provide full military burial for these now remembered heroes.

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.

Enjoy free-time and a tour in the historic town of Occoquan. Receive a warm welcome from the mayor, Earnie Porta, and discover over 300 years of history in a guided driving tour of this quaint riverside town as he highlights the past and unique details of Occoquan. Uncover stories of the historic buildings and how the town got its name.

The Workhouse Arts Center—a former prison turned thriving art space is now home to more than 65 working artists. Stroll the buildings, watch the artists at work, or shop for a work of art. While there visit the on-site Lucy Burns Museum to learn about the efforts of the courageous “Silent Sentinels”, women imprisoned at the Workhouse a century ago for demanding the right to vote in a fight for equality.

After, and nearby, visit the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, the only place in America that tells the complete story of the suffrage movement.

Day Two



Missing in America Project



Occoquan



Workhouse Arts Center

MORNING

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens is one of the hidden treasures in Fairfax County. This 100-plus acre garden is an oasis filled with ornamental gardens and native plant collections, picturesque gazebos and three sparkling lakes, walking trails, and an authentic Korean Bell Garden, which is the only one of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. Stroll through the gardens and enjoy every season or schedule one of the unique tours offered to groups.



AFTERNOON

For architecture and history lovers, this is a 2-for-1 must-see. Woodlawn Historic Site was part of George Washington's Mount Vernon. In 1799, he gave the site to his nephew, Lawrence Lewis, and Lewis' new bride, Eleanor "Nelly" Parke Custis, Martha's granddaughter, in hopes of keeping Nelly close to Mount Vernon. What's more, the house was designed by William Thornton, architect of the U.S. Capitol. Nestled in a wooded area within walking distance of Woodlawn Estate is one of Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpieces; the Pope-Leighey House. One of the very few Wright works found on the east coast, the house is a classic example of Usonian architecture. It represents a style intended to be both distinctly American and affordable for middle-class families.

Enjoy a tasting of internationally award winning locally crafted brews at Port City Brewing Company, home to the largest brewery in the Southern United States.



EVENING

Explore Alexandria's King Street and waterfront, known for its independent restaurants. Housed in historic buildings in walkable, picturesque Old Town, Alexandria's culinary scene boasts a range of options, from upscale and trendy to family

favorites, such as Kismet Modern Indian, BARCA Pier & Wine Bar, and Il Porto.

Following dinner, take a foodie tour for a taste of the town's iconic ice cream shops or stroll back in time to immerse yourself in the city's centuries-old stories led by a lantern-carrying guide through graveyards for haunting tales of the city's past.

Wrap up the evening by discovering Alexandria's secret and hidden speakeasys, where you can live like locals. Immerse yourself in the charm of classic venues like Captain Gregory's, or explore exciting newcomers such as King's Ransom and Casa Luna. These hidden gems offer a unique and intimate evening.



Day Three

MORNING

For Saturday mornings, enjoy fresh produce and baked goods at one of the nation's oldest continually operating farmers markets at the Old Town's Farmer's Market.

Spend the morning strolling one square mile of historic streetscapes with self-guided walking tours including Alexandria's architectural wonders ending at the world-famous Torpedo Factory Art Center, located at Alexandria's waterfront.

Or discover Old Town's Duke Street corridor, embedded with hidden narratives of Alexandria's Black History Trails. Just steps away, experience The National Inventors Hall of Fame, a gallery of icons illustrating 500+ Inductees and their great technological achievements stimulating the growth for our nation and beyond.

AFTERNOON

Enjoy lunch at the Quarterdeck. This longtime neighborhood hidden gem packs in the rustic charm along with delicious Maryland Blue Crabs (in season), seafood and down-home sides.

A 10-minute walk from lunch will take your group to a scenic walk along the Mount Vernon Trail to Teddy Roosevelt Island. The only memorial to the 26th President of the United States in the nation's capital is a small island in the Potomac River. Explore the 88-acre nature reserve's upland forests, swamps, and tidal marshes as well as the monuments dedicated to President Roosevelt.



Village at Shirlington



Roosevelt Island

Day Four

EVENING

Visit Arlington's Village at Shirlington. Known as Arlington's arts and entertainment's district, Shirlington's European-style promenade offers more than 15 shops and 20 restaurants, plus a vibrant and eclectic nightlife. Spring, Summer, and early fall also feature of the best outdoor dining in the region. From American to Asian, Indian to Italian and Mediterranean to microbrews. Shirlington has one of the most diverse selections of cuisine all in one neighborhood.



The Conche



Aldie Mill

MORNING

Get a peek at some rare items at the National Sporting Library and Museum where groups can take a guided tour of the art museum featuring art from across generations and mediums. Following the museum visit the library for a visit to the 'rare book room' which boasts historic artifacts, handwritten speeches from Roosevelt and a few hidden secrets.

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 during a live demonstration with the miller.

AFTERNOON

Stroll historic downtown Leesburg with Loudoun Art Tours taking in the public art that has been popping up throughout town for the last 10 years. Learn about the artists and their pieces and how they fit within Leesburg and Loudoun's history.

After savoring the art of Leesburg, sip the flavors of Loudoun County at October One Tasting Room. Known for their single varietal wines, Loree and Bob Rupy and their team will pour a tasting and tell you about the Loudoun Wine industry and how they fit!

A sweet surprise! Visit The Conche, a restaurant with a deceiving name. When you enter, you will be greeted by the rich aroma of fresh chocolate. Take part in one of their many hands-on activities from a chocolate or cocktail making class to a 5-course chocolate tasting class. Be sure to check out their chocolate boutique and take some home to share.

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