

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

# NOVA

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

# Holidays in NOVA



### Day One

#### AFTERNOON

You are invited to join in the festivities at one of the nation's most beloved historical sites, George Washington's Mount Vernon. Take a step back in time to the 18th century to discover the Christmas traditions and practices observed by the Washingtons. Holiday programming varies daily throughout the festive season and can be obtained through the website at [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

Enjoy warm drinks in cozy cafes and pubs and unforgettable meals in independent restaurants while strolling Alexandria's iconic King Street. Step inside dozens of locally owned boutiques that welcome you with greenery at their doorsteps.

#### EVENING

Stroll Historic King Street under a canopy of twinkling lights while you shop at independent boutiques tucked into 18th century buildings. Voted as the Fodor's Quaintest Christmas Villages Across the U.S. (Alexandria #3) – and Goodhousekeeping's 20 Best Places to Travel in December — Alexandria hums with holiday magic on twinkling historic streets located on the waterfront.





# Day Two

## MORNING

From Alexandria's parade-filled Biggest Holiday Weekend, the first weekend of December. Start your morning off with the Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade featuring a parade of Scottish clans and Scottie dogs. Stay the evening for the region's largest boat parade with brightly lit boats across the Potomac River, for Alexandria's Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.



Fashion Centre at Pentagon City goes all out for the holiday season with a Christmas tree, glitzy decorations, and holiday photo experience. Stop into major retailers to do some holiday shopping and pick up a few goodies for yourself. Adjacent to Fashion Center is West Post that brings the Christmas spirit outdoors with an ice-skating rink adorned with giant glowing stars, a menorah and a Christmas tree. Grab some hot cocoa and hit the ice!



## AFTERNOON

The Village at Shirlington always puts on its seasonal best with hanging light ornaments, holiday lights and a Christmas tree. 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. 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.



Experience a tasting only to be had during the holidays at the Winery at Bull Run. Sip, savor, and indulge as you sample three of their most popular wines perfectly paired with three holiday treats. And if your on the "nice list" a sample of mulled wine is included. It's an experience that combines the sophistication of wine tasting with the nostalgic comfort of holiday treats, making it a truly memorable occasion for wine enthusiasts and festive revelers alike.

## EVENING

After a tasting at the Winery at Bull Run, pack up the bus, crank up the holiday music, and drive through Bull Run's Festival of Lights. This 2.5 mile route filled with illuminated holiday light displays is enjoyed from the comfort of your bus as you turn off the headlights and follow the magical glow.



# Day Three

## MORNING

Tour the historic mansion at Morven Park decorated for Christmas, this historic 19th Century home, former residence of Westmoreland Davis, innovative farmer and governor of Virginia from 1918-1922. The 1,000-acre property includes the Greek Revival-style main mansion, boxwood gardens, replica Civil War-era log huts and a modern Equestrian and Event Center.

Enjoy Lunch at The Conche followed by a Gingerbread Making Program – an exclusive chocolate-themed boutique restaurant located in the Villages at Leesburg. Featuring an array of artisan handmade chocolate confections, desserts, chocolate infused savory cuisine and hand crafted cocktails, we are here to deliver an exceptional experience for your next meeting or group outing.





Visit Leesburg Corner Premium Outlets for some holiday shopping. Leesburg Corner Premium Outlets features 110 upscale designer and brand name outlet stores offering savings of 25% to 65% every day. Stores include Banana Republic Factory Store, Burberry, Brooks Brothers Factory Store, Coach, J.Crew, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Lucky Brand, Tumi, True Religion, Polo Ralph Lauren, and many more!

Visit Dodona Manor, the historic home turned museum of statesman General George C. Marshall, author of the Marshall Plan that rescued Europe after World War II. Walk the rooms of the 19th Century Greek Revival mansion where he and his wife worked, dined and entertained visiting dignitaries. As the sun sets, walk the Dodona Manor Tree Walk, a holiday event highlighting Marshall's impact on Europe. 17 trees are decorated to represent each of the 17 nation's that participated in the Marshall Plan.



Join StageCoach Dinner Theater at a local Loudoun County winery for a holiday themed interactive dinner theater experience. Get ready for an evening full of laughs, food, wine and maybe a little murder.

## Day Four

### MORNING

Start your day at Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre. Once the center for conducting business in Prince William County, Brentsville served as the center of community life for over 70 years in the 1800's. During your visit, you will be led through the holiday traditions of multiple time periods from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries as you tour the numerous buildings on-site. Discover how a typical farm family would have celebrated the holiday season by making historical cinnamon ornaments to take home with you.

Enjoy lunch at Out of the Blue Crabs and Seafood, while carolers

or musicians entertain you with sounds of the season. Out of the Blue is a modern-day seafood restaurant featuring fresh seafood selections, alongside Maryland style blue crabs, in a trendy and comfortable atmosphere

### AFTERNOON

Now that your travelers are thirsty for more holiday fun, stop at MurLarkey Distilled Spirits for a holiday season cocktail tasting and tour. Unaged and aged distilled spirits are made, stored, bottled, and shipped right on site. Their resident mixologists will show you how to make some holiday favorites to spice up your next get together, family event, or relaxing night at home.

The sound of wood crackling on an outdoor campfire is a wonderful holiday experience. Add in s'mores and warm apple cider and you're ready for the holidays at Ben Lomond Historic Site. Enjoy a guided tour of this 18th century home, once used as a field hospital during the Civil War.

### EVENING

The holiday's come alive at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, an elegantly styled opera house with a 100-foot stage and orchestra pit. Its clever design provides every audience member an intimate experience and the perfect setting for Mesdames de la Halle, The Nutcracker, A Charlie Brown Christmas and an array of symphonies, dance, opera and theater.

## Day Five

### MORNING

Holiday trees and concerts at the National Museum of the Marine Corps – The National Museum of the Marine Corps decks the halls with holiday décor and, depending on the day you visit, you may be greeted with musical entertainment celebrating this special time of year. Several bands, choirs, orchestras, and other performing groups greet visitors in December to ring in the holidays.



## Contact Information



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