



NORTHERN VIRGINIA

# N VA

VIRGINIA'S CULTURAL REGION

## Discover Why Virginia is for Lovers

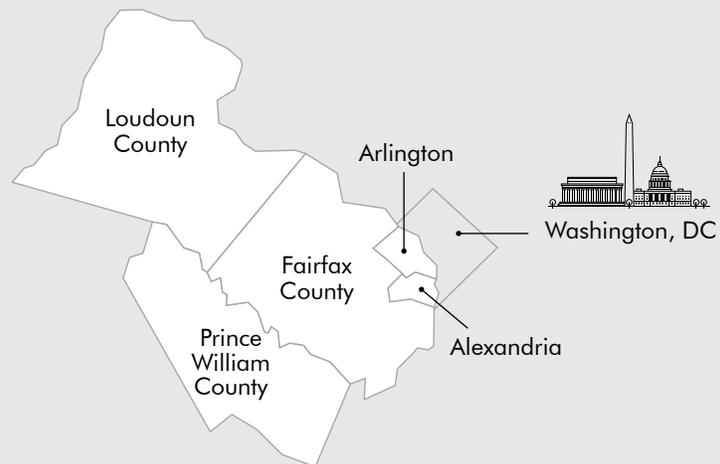
Home to an energetic mix of history, culture, dining and shopping, Virginia's Cultural Region brings together Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, Loudoun County and Prince William County for a vacation experience like no other.

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





Signature Theatre

# 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



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 42 award-winning wineries, 30-plus craft breweries, as well as farm-to-table dining, country inns, resorts and charming towns including Leesburg and Middleburg, the capital of Virginia horse country.

Loudoun County is well known for quality wine and now the players on the other side of the beverage aisle are making waves. Breweries here have doubled in number in recent years and Loudoun is now home to 30-plus and counting! Home to the **LoCo Ale Trail**, Loudoun blends rural farm breweries with industrial-style tasting rooms. Experience tasting rooms on farms where brewers are growing hops and other products to go into their beer or chat with a brewmaster at an urban brewery minutes from Dulles International Airport. Here, get a behind-the-scenes look into the industry by booking a guided tour of the Mid-Atlantic's first commercial-scale hops processing facility at Black Hops Farm or bike to breweries along the W&OD Trail.

Taste your way through Loudoun's wine country with the new **DC's Wine Country Passport**. Created by Visit Loudoun, the passport offers exclusive perks to more than 20 of Loudoun's 40-plus wineries including 2 for 1 tastings, discounts on purchases, gift cards and more. Visitors can purchase an annual pass for \$55 or a three day one for \$25.

In 2019, Loudoun will welcome the **ION International Training Center**. Former Olympic figure skater and Romanian national champion Luiz Taifas and his wife, Mitra Setayesh, are slated to open a 90,000-square-foot, \$24 million center featuring two NHL-sized rinks. The two-story building will also include a full-service gym, cafe, pro shop and hockey training room as well as a multifunctional floor for non ice-related sporting events and concerts. The facility will be encircled with seating for up to 3,500.

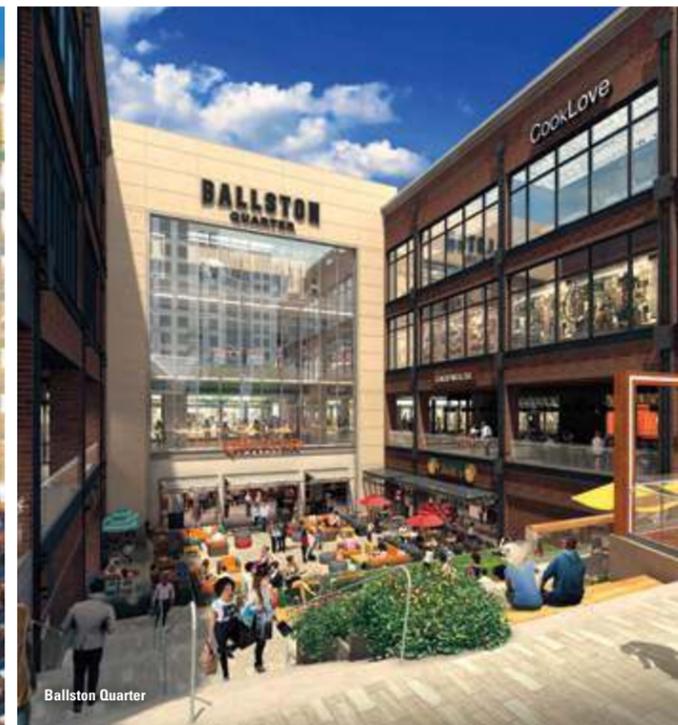
## ARLINGTON

Just across the river from the nation's capital, Arlington may be the nation's smallest geographic county, but it's receiving a lot of attention as one of the locations for Amazon's coveted HQ2. There are plenty of reasons Amazon chose Arlington. In addition to its many historical attractions and a bustling, youthful population, Arlington offers visitors first-class shopping, diverse dining and an eclectic local arts and entertainment scene.

The sky's the limit in Arlington with the new **Observation Deck at Central Place**. See a bird's eye view of the region atop the tallest building inside the Beltway, where visitors can catch panoramic views 31 stories above ground, sip cocktails at sunset, or try the unique Hover DC virtual reality experience.

Now open is **Ballston Quarter**, a true live-work-play entertainment complex located on the Metrorail line and just four miles from DC. Ballston Quarter includes 364,000 square feet of retail, an 18-concept food hall, a three-story dining and entertainment complex, with even more to come in 2019 – it's a true city center in Arlington, VA.

Fall 2019 brings the grand reopening of **Arlington House**: the Robert E. Lee Memorial on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery. Currently undergoing a multi-million-dollar renovation project, when complete, visitors will see Arlington House as it was in 1860, with rooms restored to their historical appearance. Additionally, the quarters for the enslaved people of Arlington House will be restored to better represent and tell their stories. As visitors move between the mansion and the new museum and bookstore, they will pass along accessible paths that stretch through the restored grounds, including heirloom gardens. People who cannot visit in person will enjoy a robust experience through virtual tours, complete with detailed displays of the rooms and objects that belonged to George Washington and the Lee family.





Sweeney Barn



Neabsco Creek Boardwalk



The Black Sheep whiskey + wine + noshery



National Museum of the United States Army



Fairfax County Brewery Field Guide

## 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.

Visitors to Prince William, home to the Cultural Region's largest collection of dedicated park and forest space, can plan a relaxing afternoon exploring the **Neabsco Creek Boardwalk**. This mile long, 10-foot-wide elevated boardwalk will soon become part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail that stretches between the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania to the Chesapeake Bay. The trail will connect, from the town of Occoquan down through Belmont Bay, Occoquan Bay Wildlife Refuge, Veterans Memorial Park, Featherstone Wildlife Refuge, and on to Rippon Lodge and Rippon Landing, before crossing the boardwalk to the Metz wetlands.

Prince William's newest private event venue perfect for family reunions, vow renewals or receptions can be found at the new **Sweeney Barn at Innovation Park**. This fully renovated dairy barn with modern design and technology is a repurposed hayloft built circa 1939. Owned by the Birkett family, the barn originally housed cows waiting to be milked as Prince William County's dairy industry boomed in the early 20th century. Now restored as a weddings and events venue, the barn's rich history and rustic setting will create the perfect Virginia event experience.

Enjoy an afternoon or evening taking in live music at **The Black Sheep whiskey + wine + noshery**. The spectacular, two-story, historic dairy barn with exposed-beam vaulted ceilings – known as the Thomasson Barn and built in 1929 – sits on sprawling 8-acre **Farm Brew Live** campus at Innovation Park in Manassas, Virginia. The vintage barn will also feature a dedicated arts and entertainment space as well as private dining rooms in the lower level barrel-aging quarters.

## FAIRFAX COUNTY

An incredible cultural destination located in the heart of Northern Virginia, Fairfax County will see huge new developments, attractions, and experiences this year in addition to a growing craft beer scene.

**Tysons Corner Center** recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and will ring in 2019 with several new retail and experiential concepts. The shopping mecca – one of the largest in America – has been a cornerstone in the transformation of the city of Tysons into **"America's Next Great City."** From a new virtual and augmented reality entertainment center to several interactive pop-up concepts plus a new digital-first retailer pop-up called BrandBox, Tysons Corner Center continues to reinvent the retail experience.

In craft beverage news, Visit Fairfax has launched the official **Fairfax County Brewery Field Guide**, highlighting the independent craft breweries of the destination. Beer fans can collect stamps from the participating breweries to receive exclusive incentives throughout the year. New taprooms in Fairfax County include **Settle Down Easy Brewing Co.** and **Caboose Commons** – a brewery, coffeehouse, biergarten, and restaurant.

Now open in Springfield, **The St. James** is a brand new 450,000-square-foot mega sports complex – the first of its kind along the East Coast. The complex offers an incredibly comprehensive combination of sports and wellness venues and programming, plus an active entertainment center featuring a zip line, trampolines, virtual reality games and eSports, an indoor waterpark, and a Spike Mendelsohn restaurant.

On the horizon: Fairfax County will soon be home to one of the most anticipated museums in American history. Despite being the oldest (and largest) branch of the military, the Army is the last branch to receive a national museum. Next year, the 185,000-sq-ft **National Museum of the United States Army** will open on the public grounds of Fort Belvoir and will provide the only comprehensive, holistic portrayal of Army history and traditions in the country.

## 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.

A dramatic change is coming to Alexandria's historic waterfront in 2019. A major new waterfront destination is opening at the intersection of the Potomac River and Alexandria's most historic retail corridor. **Waterfront Park** will transform throughout the seasons with pop-up programming such as a waterfront beer garden and live music.

The biggest splash at the waterfront in 2019 will come from the **tall ship Providence**, arriving in the summer as a permanent attraction. This celebrity tall ship, which has appeared in the international blockbuster *Pirates of the Caribbean*, is a full-scale replica of one of the U.S. Continental Navy's first warships, which was captained by John Paul Jones, the father of the U.S. Navy, under the leadership of General George Washington. The public can look forward to public tours, chartered cruises, educational programs and beer cruises presented in partnership with Alexandria's own Port City Brewing Company.

Alexandria's food scene is also booming with new restaurants and a recent taco trend. Newly opened **Urbano 116** embraces the traditional Mexican food experience with authentic ingredients and innovative cocktails. Diners can expect fresh tortillas made in house daily from whole kernels of corn sourced directly from Oaxaca and an agave-based spirits menu. **Chop Shop Taco** opened in the fall of 2018 in North Old Town and serves up unique takes on tacos and creative offerings like Frito pie in a casual setting that was converted from an actual 1970s automotive chop shop. They join 2018 newcomers **Smoking Kow BBQ**, offering American BBQ tacos with brisket, pork or chicken served in a homemade flour tortilla topped with chipotle aioli and coleslaw, and **Tequila and Taco**, serving up creative tastes like the crispy pork belly taco and the cauliflower and kale taco.



## 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 **Bike and Roll** or from the **Capital Bikeshare** program.

#### ATTRACTIONS

- More than 40 breweries | *Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William*
- "2015 Best Small Brewery in the U.S." **Port City Brewing Co.**, featuring Pedals and Pints bike ride | *Alexandria*
- **Brew Republic Bierwerks** and **Waters End Brewing Co.** | *Prince William*
- **Heritage Brewing** and **New District Brewing** | *Arlington*
- **LoCo Ale Trail** featuring 30+ breweries | *Loudoun*
- **Caboose Tavern** and the Lorton Beer Trail | *Fairfax*
- **Bike and Roll** bike rentals | *Alexandria*
- **Capital Bikeshare** | *Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax*
- **Washington & Old Dominion Trail** | *Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun*
- Mount Vernon Trail along the Potomac River with views of Washington, DC
- Monuments and springtime cherry blossoms | *Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax*



## 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 45 Wineries | Loudoun, Fairfax, Prince William
- Quirky wine bars | Arlington, Alexandria
- Arlington National Cemetery Tomb of the Unknowns | Arlington
- Manassas National Battlefield Park | Prince William
- The Winery at Bull Run | Fairfax
- George Washington's Mount Vernon | Fairfax
- Oatlands Historic House & Gardens | Loudoun



## 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

- Signature Theatre | Arlington
- Synetic Theater | Arlington
- Torpedo Factory Art Center | Alexandria
- Birchmere Music Hall | Alexandria
- Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts | Fairfax
- Workhouse Arts Center | Fairfax
- Hylton Performing Arts Center | Prince William
- Tally Ho Theatre | Loudoun

## 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

- Artisan Confections | Arlington
- Cheesetique | Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax
- King Street shops and restaurants | Alexandria
- Antique shopping in Leesburg and Middleburg | Loudoun
- Tysons Corner Center and luxury shopping at Tysons Galleria | Fairfax
- Art galleries in Historic Occoquan | Prince William
- Outlet malls | Prince William, Loudoun

## 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

- Downtown Middleburg | Loudoun
- King Street/Old Town | Alexandria
- Village of Shirlington | Arlington
- Historic Occoquan | Prince William
- Historic Downtown Leesburg | Loudoun
- Historic Clifton | Fairfax



# 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 see where he interacted politically at **Gadsby's Tavern 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

- **George Washington's Mount Vernon** | *Fairfax*
- **Manassas National Battlefield Park** | *Prince William*
- **Oatlands Historic House and Gardens** | *Loudoun*
- **Arlington National Cemetery and Marine Corps War Memorial** | *Arlington*
- **Gadsby's Tavern Museum** | *Alexandria*
- **Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center** | *Fairfax*



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**

Cara O'Donnell  
703-228-0854  
codonnell@ArlingtonVA.us  
StayArlington.com



**Visit Alexandria**  
Leah Spellman, APR  
703-652-5363  
lspellman@VisitAlexVA.com  
VisitAlexandriaVA.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**  
Nicole Warner  
703-792-8426  
NWarner@PWCGov.org  
VisitPWC.com