

# VIRGINIA

2020/2021 EDITION

GROUP TOUR GUIDE

Exploring Virginia's  
Striking I-81

Virginia Celebrates  
Suffrage Centennial

Alluring  
Attractions  
& Spectacular  
Scenery Await

There's Something  
for Everyone at the  
Virginia Arts Festival



# CAPTURE THE MOMENT



## BRING YOUR GROUP TOUR TO LIFE.

Where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Chesapeake Bay, our coastal city offers uncommon access to nature's wonders and hands-on experiences for your group to share.

Plan your group's Live the Life Adventure at [VisitVirginiaBeach.com/GroupTour](https://www.visitvirginiabeach.com/group-tour).







The coastal environment of Virginia Beach rolls out a big welcome and invites exploration like no other terrain. Tracing a path along pristine shores, through winding waterways and nature trails, these Adventures give participants a new appreciation for nature's secrets and give groups a chance to take the journey together.





# Welcome to Virginia!

**O**n behalf of the Virginia Tourism Corporation and our statewide tourism partners, I would like to invite you to bring your group tours to Virginia.

We are excited to show off our new attractions, hotels and experiences across the state such as the National Museum of the United States Army, SeaQuest, Rosie's Gaming Emporium, Turning Point Suffragist Memorial and Sessions Hotel, to name just a few.

Centrally located in the mid-Atlantic, Virginia is easily accessible by major highway systems, Amtrak rail service, nine airports and this summer - Metrorail service connecting Washington, D.C. and the Northern Virginia stations in between to Washington Dulles International Airport.

Virginia offers unparalleled heritage, cultural and performing arts, outdoor adventures and scenic vistas, music and artesian trails, an exciting culinary scene and over 300 wineries, 200 breweries and distilleries to customize an unforgettable tour experience! Our commitment to customer service, quality tours and partners with years of experience are a few reasons why groups come back year after year.

Please contact me at [jjohnson@virginia.org](mailto:jjohnson@virginia.org) for personal assistance or visit [Virginia.org/groups](http://Virginia.org/groups) for more information. My partners and I look forward to working with you soon.



**Joni Johnson,  
Director of Domestic Sales & Marketing  
Virginia Tourism Corporation**



All images courtesy of Virginia Tourism Corporation



# VIRGINIA

2020/2021 EDITION

GROUP TOUR GUIDE

Winterfest



## CONTENTS

### FEATURES

- 8 From Fredericksburg to Virginia Beach, Virginia is Singing for the Holidays  
These 10 stops will have your group feeling festive
- 12 Touring Virginia's Spectacular I-81  
Enticing attractions and lovely scenery abound along this magnificent stretch of land
- 18 Virginia Celebrates Suffrage Centennial  
Exhibits and events across Virginia commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement
- 22 There's Something for Everyone at the Virginia Arts Festival  
An impressive lineup of performers will fill out the 2020 event, with a big 25th anniversary performance coming in 2021
- 24 National Army Museum Salutes American Soldiers  
Technological wonder will tell the stories of American heroes



Courtesy of Virginia Tourism Corporation

**ON THE COVER: Natural Bridge, a nature-created arch**  
Courtesy of Virginia Tourism Corporation

### ITINERARIES

- 6 WYTHEVILLE, VA
- 7 ABINGDON AND STAUNTON, VA
- 17 NEWPORT NEWS, JAMESTOWN AND SMITHFIELD, VA
- 21 PRINCE WILLIAM, VA
- 27 WILLIAMSBURG, VA





Wytheville... There's Only One! You can search the world over and not find another town with this name. Discover this charming town, tucked quietly in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains and its countless homegrown attractions, local flavor restaurants, variety of lodging and genuine Southern hospitality.

Wytheville, VA

## It's Time to Get Wythe It!

### Day 1

Wytheville... There's Only One! It's true no other town in the world has this name. When you arrive in this charming mountain town in Southwest Virginia, you'll discover the name is only the beginning of the uniqueness. Begin your visit at the **Thomas J. Boyd Museum** to learn Wytheville's rich history including early medicines, furniture making, lead mining, Civil War and "The Summer without Children" the impact of the 1950 Polio epidemic. Your chance to meet the only Appalachian-born First Lady follows at the **Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum**. One of only eight sites dedicated to the interpretation of a First Lady; here you'll learn of Edith's childhood, her courtship and marriage to President Wilson and her influence on government following his debilitating stroke. Your evening begins with a four-course meal served to your table at **Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre**. This German-themed delight is Virginia's only all-musical theatre. After dinner, sit back and enjoy the latest Broadway-style production that's sure to have you humming along and tapping your toes.

### Day 2

A day of adventure begins with a breathtaking view atop **Big Walker Lookout**. This roadside attraction sits at an elevation of 3,405 feet and is Virginia's oldest privately owned attraction. The more adventurous can climb the 100-foot observation tower for a panoramic view of five states where "Only the birds see more." At **Fort Chiswell Animal Park**, you'll safari through the outback, coming face to snout with animals from six

continents. Zebras, water buffalo, camels and a friendly giraffe named Cheeto eagerly await their sample of your zoo chow. Work up an appetite during a tour of the historic **Mansion at Fort Chiswell**. Elegant bedrooms and gracious stairways add to the story of this 1839 masterpiece positioned along the great Wilderness Road to the West. Lunch is served at on-site **Key Ingredients Restaurant**, prepared by the chef and mansion owner. Afterward, sip your favorite vintage hand crafted on the fourth-generation family farm that is **West Wind Farm Vineyard & Winery**. Peruse the expansive gift shop after your tasting then relax on the patio and drink in the scenic mountain surroundings. Your day concludes with a delicious meal at the **Log House 1776 Restaurant**. Built in 1776, this preserved structure offers a fine dining experience in an early American atmosphere.

### Day 3

A stroll through the lavender gardens at **Beagle Ridge Herb Farm** is the perfect way to start the day. After learning lavender distilling techniques, browse the gift shop's countless naturally made products, enjoy tea on the patio and meander through **Flying Flowers**, Southwest Virginia's only walk-through butterfly house. The brick lined streets of **Downtown Wytheville** are bursting with unique shops provisioning collectible books, fine jewelry, home décor, handmade furniture, trendy clothing and a plethora of antique shops. Grab a group photo at Wytheville's LOVE sculpture or Virginia's largest pencil before a casual farewell lunch at **7 Dogs Brewpub**, named in tribute to the furry friends rescued by the owner.

Wytheville...  
there's only one!

#### VISIT WYTHEVILLE

Mary Jo Babbitt  
mjabbitt@wytheville.org  
866-892-3239  
VisitWytheville.com/Group-Tours





Experience live theater, art, and history in two of Virginia's most charming small towns. Your itinerary includes days filled with fun and nights spent at luxurious historic hotel properties. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Abingdon and Staunton are home to thriving artistic communities.



## VISIT ABINGDON VIRGINIA

Monica Hall  
mhall@abingdon-va.gov  
276-492-2235  
visitabingdonvirginia.com

## VISIT STAUNTON

Katie Campbell  
campbellks@ci.staunton.va.us  
540-332-3865  
VisitStaunton.com

## Abingdon and Staunton, VA

# Theater, Art & Historic Hotels in Two of Virginia's Cutest Small Towns

## Day 1

Check in at Abingdon's historic hotel, **The Martha Washington Inn & Spa**. You'll love the elegant surroundings of this historic inn, originally built in 1832 as a private home, and later a Civil War hospital and an elite women's college. This historic hotel offers luxury around every corner including a 4-Star Spa with a saltwater pool helping to relax you for another day of adventure. Before dinner enjoy the walkable tree lined, brick sidewalks in **Abingdon's historic district** and visit unique shops like Holston Mountain Artisans, the Arts Depot, Necessities or Abingdon Olive Oil Company.

Next, head to **Barter Theatre** for a lavish production of a Broadway-style show. This 500-seat theater is the State Theater of Virginia, with historic details dating back to 1830.

## Day 2

Explore **Abingdon's Muster Grounds**, a certified National Park Service location that is the northern trailhead of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. This picturesque nine-acre park has significant history and is where the Overmountain Men gathered to start the march to join the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Before heading to Staunton, have lunch at the **Southwest Virginia Cultural Center and Marketplace** for a true Appalachia lunch, handmade wares by local artisans, or even a traditional square dance for your group.

By bus or foot see Staunton's four historic districts featuring an array of architectural styles while learning about the history and architecture of this award-winning "Main Street." The tour includes stops at **Trinity Episcopal Church** to see 12 original Tiffany stained glass windows and **Sunspots Studios** to watch live glass blowing demonstrations. Check in at the historic **Stonewall Jackson Hotel** before taking in an award-winning performance at the Blackfriars Playhouse.

## Day 3

Take a tour of the world's only re-creation of Shakespeare's indoor theater, the **Blackfriars Playhouse**. There you'll get a behind-the-scenes look as you go on, behind and under the stage. Photography—including selfies is encouraged! Next up, **Inn at Meadowcroft** for southern inspired tea luncheon complete with a beautiful spread of homemade tea sandwiches, shortbread, and scones all served with clotted cream and of course, tea. Discover the life and legacy of the country's 28th President in the city where he was born at the **Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum**. Take a guided tour of Wilson's birthplace, as well as a self-guided tour of the museum featuring Wilson's early years, his eventful presidency, suffrage, prohibition and World War I. Highlights include the President's restored 1919 Pierce-Arrow limousine and a state-of-the-art World War I trench exhibit.



# FROM FREDERICKSBURG TO VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA IS SINGING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

These 10 stops will have your group feeling festive

By Mary Lu Laffey

During the holiday season, the wonders of Virginia shine even brighter than the rest of the year. Illuminations glow against the night sky over the Atlantic Ocean, theaters seize the season with endearing, annual performances, restaurants create traditional menus, historical sites and gardens display their finery. From mid-November into the new year, holidays aren't just spoken in the Virginia, they sing.

It's the most wonderful time of the year at the **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden** in Richmond when the annual Dominion Energy Gardenfest of Lights, well, lights up. More than half-a-million twinkling lights illuminate handcrafted botanical-themed decorations on the grounds. During Gardenfest, escorted visits are available plus the Tea



Courtesy of Visit Virginia Beach

Driving the lights at the Virginia Beach boardwalk

Courtesy of Virginia Tourism





A dazzling light display at Lewis  
Ginter Botanical Garden





# VIRGINIA IS SINGING FOR THE HOLIDAYS



An apple pie on an open hearth at the American Revolution Museum Yorktown during Christmastide in Virginia

Courtesy of Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation

*Real History.  
Real Fun.*

JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT

AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN

Plan your trip today.

**historyisfun.org**

House and The Garden Cafe are open for dining. On Tuesday evenings, carolers stroll the garden. Wow-worthy, for sure. ([lewisginter.org](http://lewisginter.org), [visitrichmondva.com](http://visitrichmondva.com))

**2.** Rockin' around **Virginia Beach** starts with a super holiday experience. "Groups can ride in the comfort of their motorcoach down the iconic Virginia Beach Boardwalk — the only time of year that vehicles are allowed on the Boardwalk," said Jim Coggin, tourism sales manager for **Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau**. "Festive fish, musical crabs and hard-working elves – all in brightly colored lights against the moonlit Atlantic Ocean - are the stars of BayPort Credit Union Holiday Lights Merry Mile." The archways also display appreciative tributes to the region's strong Armed Forces community. "The holidays are a great time to visit Virginia Beach," said Coggin. ([beachstreetusa.com](http://beachstreetusa.com), [visitvirginiabeach.com/group tour](http://visitvirginiabeach.com/group tour))

**3.** Have a holly, jolly dinner cruise on the **Spirit of Norfolk**, part of Hornblower's Spirit Cruises. On a two- or three-hour Holiday Dinner Cruise on the historic Elizabeth River, be awed by the lights of **Norfolk's** waterfront and the massive United States Navy Atlantic Fleet. Be entertained and dine from a festive buffet. Staying for New Year's? Celebrate 2021 onboard with a cruise, a lunch or a brunch. ([spiritcruises.com](http://spiritcruises.com))

**4.** On the first day of a holiday tour, step into the early colonies with a glimpse of traditions celebrated in the 17th and 18th century at the **Jamestown Settlement**. "Christmastide in Virginia" includes interpretive programs, demonstrations and appearances by the lively Lord of Misrule. ([historyisfun.org](http://historyisfun.org))

**5.** Santa Claus is coming to the town of **Hampton** for the **First Light Celebration** at Hampton History Museum. Hampton is the oldest



continuous English-speaking settlement in America. ([hampton.gov](http://hampton.gov))

6. Decked halls, yards, trees and rooftops create the fun, flashy Richmond Times-Dispatch (RTD) Tacky Lights Tour, exclusively in Richmond. It is a favorite of Mary Lewis, chief of experiences at Heart of Virginia Tours and Receptive Services. "It's a wow," Lewis said, "and a favorite stop on our tours in Richmond." The tour drives through the neighborhoods where homes and yards commit to a minimum of 40,000 lights, then stay on the coach for a turn on Monument Avenue to be wowed again by elegant mansions dressed in simpler finery. ([visitrichmondva.com](http://visitrichmondva.com), [hovtour.com](http://hovtour.com))

7. Jingle bells rock during the **Riverside Christmas Spectacular** at the **Riverside Center for Performing Arts** in Stafford. A crowd favorite, the returning variety show features at least 20 musical numbers from "Silver Bells" to high-stepping "Hot Chocolate" from "Polar Express." In a few scenes, the audience is encouraged to join in. Matinee performances are available plus dinner-and-a-show presentations, too. ([riversidedt.com](http://riversidedt.com))

8. Frosty the snowman worked up an appetite when he thumpety thump, thumped his way to Virginia Beach. After a taping of the **700 Club** at the Christian Broadcasting Network, lunch at **The Founders Inn** or reserve a group dinner at **Rockafellers**, which is just as much fun at year-end as summer. The restaurant is part of the Virginia Oyster Trail; oyster stew is a Virginia tradition on Christmas morning. The **Thoroughgood House** shares tales of early Virginia Christmases along with low-country Brunswick stew. The Doorway Singers at the **Military Aviation Museum** entertain with a holiday set over lunch. ([visitvirginiabeach.com](http://visitvirginiabeach.com))

9. Have yourself a merry little New Year's Eve in **Portsmouth**. The countdown to the new year begins with the Olde Towne Scottish Walk, fashioned after Scotland's Hogmanay Festival and a grand way to wish luck and prosperity in the coming year. ([portsvacation.com](http://portsvacation.com))

10. There are candles in the windows and carolers on the streets during the holidays at **Colonial Williamsburg**. And great shopping, too. With tradespeople, on Merchant's Square and off-site. ([colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://colonialwilliamsburg.com)) ■



Riverside Center for the Performing Arts | Stafford

See a show, explore authentic historic attractions, arts, wineries, breweries, the great outdoors and award-winning dining. The perfect getaway, right off the beaten path. [visitfred.com](http://visitfred.com)

*Fredericksburg*  
TIMELESS.  
SPOTSYLVANIA STAFFORD



# TOURING VIRGINIA'S SPECTACULAR I-81

Enticing attractions and lovely scenery abound along this magnificent stretch of land

By Dave Bodle

The 325 miles of Virginia's I-81 passes through multiple scenic regions, from Shenandoah Valley in the north, Blue Ridge Highlands in the south and the Virginia mountains in between. Here are a few of our favorite stops along the way.

## ABINGDON

Arriving in Abingdon, it takes visitors about 10 seconds to realize this is a really cool small town. That's just the beginning. Plan to spend a few days and you'll become immersed in the history, culture, diverse landscape and hospitality of Southwest Virginia.

The perfect first stop for an understanding of exactly where you are is **Southwest Virginia's Cultural Center & Marketplace**. The area has a rich musical heritage and it's on full display at the



Musicians perform at the Southwest Virginia Cultural Center in Abingdon.







Marquis Building in Staunton



Photo courtesy of Lauren Parker

Blackfriars Playhouse



Thomas J. Boyd Museum



Fountain outside the Barter Theatre





LOVE sign in Wytheville

center. Home to The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail and the starting point for exploring that heritage, exhibits tell the story of how this roots music was born in the area and still flourishes. Regular concerts in the performance area provide both entertainment and an opportunity to talk with musicians.

A highlight of any visit to the center is the Marketplace. Here, you'll find the most significant collection of art from the area's leading artisans. Viewing all media types, you'll discover items from clay and jewelry to glass and wood.

One of Abingdon's oldest attractions began in 1933 during the midst of the Great Depression. **The Barter Theatre**, the State Theatre of Virginia, began on Robert Porter's basic idea that patrons could pay with produce to support local actors. Area farmers were unable to sell their produce and local actors were literally starving artists. The plan worked.

Today, the theater is attracting more than 160,000 yearly visitors featuring outstanding comedy, musicals, drama and new Appalachian plays. Over the years, Barter Theatre has been the launching pad for the careers of many entertainment giants and continues that tradition today.

Located directly across the street is the four-star **Martha Washington Inn & Spa**. A member of Historic Hotels of America, it was built in 1832. In addition to its first use as a residence, it has served as a women's college, Civil War hospital and residence for visiting actors of the Barter Theatre.

Just 17 miles south of Abingdon is Bristol, Virginia and **The Birthplace of Country Music Museum**, a Smithsonian affiliate. The story is told of the 1927 Bristol Sessions and explores how today's musical heritage has been influenced by technology. Through artifacts, interactive displays and multiple theater experiences, the story of the Sessions is shared.

Join a local historian and learn about Abingdon history at the **Abingdon Muster Grounds**. This is the original mustering grounds of the Virginia Militia for the Revolutionary War. Men and women in period costume share the challenges and mountain spirit that drove these Virginians. This is the northern trailhead of the 330-mile-long Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.

The historic downtown features traditional and contemporary dining options, plus plenty of unique shopping, including **Holston Mountain Artisans** and **Art Depot**. Tastings at the **Abingdon**

**Olive Company** feature numerous varieties of their Ultra Premium extra virgin fruit olive oils. Stop by **Wolf Hills Brewing, Co** and sample its craft beer.

A visit to the **William King Museum of Art** is a must. It showcases outstanding visual arts and is the premier facility in Southwest Virginia. Located in a former school, fine art exhibits from contemporary and heritage change frequently, enhancing the museum's impressive permanent collection.

**The Crooked Road Heritage Musical Festival** features numerous events and venues throughout Southwest Virginia. The Virginia Highlands Festival, which takes place July 24-August 2, 2020 in Abingdon, is a tradition.

The Virginia Creeper Trail begins in Abingdon and is a gentle grade for bicyclists and walkers of all ages. Channels State Forest is one of Virginia's best-kept secrets, and Grayson State Park's wild ponies are a calling card. [visitabingdon.com](http://visitabingdon.com)

### WYTHEVILLE

Approaching this crossroads of Interstates 77 and 81, you're impressed with the spectacular landscape of this small town. Rolling hills and magnificent mountains are just the beginning of what Wytheville has to share.



A visit to Wytheville is only complete with dinner and a show at **Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre**. Broadway-style professional productions are presented year-round with a four-course meal customized to fit the production's theme.

How many of us remember the Great Lakes to Florida Highway? Back in the day, Route 21 was the main route from Ohio to Florida. **The Great Lakes to Florida Highway Museum**, housed in a restored 1926 Texaco station, tells the story of the development of Route 21 and later I-77 with original artifacts, newspaper clippings and exhibits.

To dig deeper into Wytheville's history, a visit to the town's first resident physician is in order. **The Haller-Gibboney Rock House Museum** was built in 1832 for Dr. John Haller, a country doctor, coroner and delegate to the Virginia Legislature. A Registered Historic Landmark, the museum features more than 1,400 artifacts and period furnishings.

The **Thomas J. Boyd Museum** is adjacent to the Haller-Gibboney Rock House. Known as the Father of Wytheville, Boyd was an attorney, town mayor, surveyor, hotel developer and Virginia legislator.

The **Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum** is the birthplace and childhood home of a descendant of Pocahontas and the only Appalachian-born First Lady. One of just eight historic sites dedicated to the interpretation of a First Lady, the museum has an interesting life timeline and highlights her contribution during a critical time of World War I.

**Mansion at Fort Chiswell** has been restored and is now a private residence listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and as a Virginia State Historic Landmark. The good news is the proprietor is ready to share. **Key Ingredients Restaurant** takes pride in

its locally sourced menu.

Step back in time to the 1500s and experience Native American life at the **Wolf Creek Indian Village and Museum**. The village was re-created based upon a 1970 archeology report. Guides are available to escort groups through the village and give a glimpse into the culture of Eastern Woodland Indians.

With a good understanding of Wytheville history under your belt, it's time to step outside. Begin at **Beagle Ridge Herb Farm** and **Flying Flowers at Beagle Ridge**. If you've never been to a lavender farm, you're in for a fragrant treat. This is Southwest Virginia's premier one and is joined by 14 theme display gardens with herbs and perennials.

Alpacas are a South American species related to llamas, but you don't

have to go to the southern hemisphere to interact with them. **Cobb Hill Alpaca Farm** has taken care of that issue. Visitors to this family-owned and -operated farm will see 18 alpacas.

**The Fort Chiswell Animal Park** is a must stop on any itinerary. On 45 acres, there are animals from six continents at Southwest Virginia's largest zoo.

A stop at the **Henley Mountain Berry Farm** promises to be a sweet memory to take home. Pick your own blueberries mid-June to September, or take home a variety of blueberry products.

Winery and vineyard visits are a must when spending time in Wytheville. **Rural Retreat Winery & Vineyards** features a wide selection of full-body reds and lovely whites. **West Wind Farm Vineyard**





**and Winery** offers a broad selection of wines from reds and whites to sweeter offerings. A welcoming tasting room, a magnificent view and a wide array of soaps, candles, unique home gifts round out a relaxing visit. [visitwytheville.com](http://visitwytheville.com)

Just 1.5 hours north is the largest city on Virginia's I-81, Roanoke. With the community's rich rail history, stops at the **History Museum of Western Virginia & O. Winston Link Museum** and the **Virginia Transportation Museum** are a must.

Further north is charming Lexington. History is abundant at the **Stonewall Jackson House, George C. Marshall Museum & Library, Caverns at Natural Bridge** and the **Lee Chapel & Museum** on the campus of Washington and Lee University.

### STAUNTON

This pleasant community is a rare combination of delightful shopping options, a vibrant culinary culture, world-class performance and visual arts and rich history. Welcome to Virginia's Queen City and its scenic setting in the Shenandoah Valley.

The historic downtown is a logical place to start your visit. A compact, walkable community features history-rich architecture and numerous dining options with many featuring locally sourced menus. However, it's the Main Street style of shopping that attracts the locals and visitors alike. More than 60 merchants offer everything from jewelry and home décor to antiques, books and everything in between.

Staunton's theater scene begins at the **American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriars Playhouse**. This re-creation of Shakespeare's indoor London theater presents a year-round offering of up to 14 performances of Shakespeare's plays and contemporary works.

The **Heifetz International Music Festival** attracts gifted violin, viola and



Woodrow Wilson Museum in Staunton

cello students to the campus of Mary Baldwin University for six weeks in the summer. **ShenanArts** produces plays and musicals for participants of all ages. In Staunton, home of the Statler Brothers (who can forget "I'll Go to My Grave Loving You."), the music never stops. The city's nightlife is lively and a pair of music festivals is each worth a visit. **Red Wing VIII Roots Music Festival** will be July 10-12, 2020 with a dozen performers scheduled. The **Staunton Music Festival** offers brilliant chamber music performed by world-class musicians. This year's festival in August 2020 will share 29 concerts at historic venues over 10 days.

The **Beverley Street Studio School**, in addition to providing high-quality art instruction, has a gallery with rotating exhibits throughout the year. Also located on Beverley Street in downtown Staunton, the **CoArt Gallery** exhibits local artists' originals in various media. Presenting art for almost 60 years, the **Staunton Augusta Art Center** features changing and permanent exhibits. The annual **Art in the Park** event during Memorial Day weekend showcases quality fine arts and crafts.

Glassblowing demonstrations, unique art and one neat festival each come from the artisans at **Sunspots Studios**. Get up-close and watch a glassblower demonstrate his art, or have one assist you in creating your own piece. Virginia's **Hot Glass Festival** attracts area glass artists over Memorial Day weekend.

The **Frontier Culture Museum** tells the story of immigrants to America and their descendants. Structures from 1700s England, Ireland, Germany and West Africa have been constructed.

Staunton was the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson and you can learn about our 28th president at the **Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library & Museum**. A guided tour takes groups through seven galleries exploring Wilson's early years and his presidency including women's suffrage, prohibition and World War I. [visitstaunton.com](http://visitstaunton.com)

North on I-81, Harrisonburg, in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, has numerous attractions and a fantastic farm-to-fork culinary scene. It's on to Winchester with its rich Civil War history, **Patsy Cline Historic House** and the **Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival**. ■

Photo courtesy of Zak Suhair Photography





Get ready to explore the history of America's first permanent English settlement, a mansion that has been part of history since 1859, a plantation that played a key role in three American wars and one of the nation's largest maritime museums, which shares everything that floats. There's plenty of fun in store with a visit to the home of Virginia's native animals. All of this comes with shopping opportunities and culinary delights.

**Newport News**  
in Coastal Virginia

## NEWPORT NEWS IN COASTAL VIRGINIA

Barb Kleiss  
bkleiss@nnva.gov  
757-926-1442  
Newport-news.org

Newport News, Jamestown, Smithfield, VA

# Coastal Virginia...Off the Beaten Path

## Day 1

Arrive in Newport News and check into one of the city's group friendly hotels. Tonight, it's a catered meal with adult beverages at **Tradition Brewing Company**. Following dinner, enjoy entertainment at the area's leading performance center, **CNU's Ferguson Center for the Arts**.

## Day 2

First stop is **Lee Hall Mansion**. One of the last remaining antebellum homes on the Virginia Peninsula, the home was used by Confederate Major General John B. Magruder and General Joseph E. Johnston during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign.

Close by **Endview Plantation** is historically unique in that all three wars fought on American soil have left traces at Endview. During the Revolutionary War, militia on their way to Yorktown enjoyed fresh water from the spring. For lunch and shopping, **Hilton Village** is perfect. Built between 1918 and 1921 as housing for shipyard workers during World War I, this planned English-style neighborhood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Get ready to be engaged with the world's waterways at **The Mariners' Museum and Park**. The Nation's National Maritime Museum offers more than 60,000 square feet of gallery space for exploration. Visitors are amazed with the rare figureheads, maritime art, hand-crafted ship models, navigation instruments and artifacts from the Civil War ironclad, USS *Monitor*.

After a brief rest at your hotel, enjoy a seasonal dinner menu at **NEST Kitchen & Taphouse**.

## Day 3

Following breakfast at the hotel, it's off to "Virginia's Animal Attraction and Dino Destination," **Virginia Living Museum**. The museum is home to more than 250 species of Virginia animals, plus native plants and geology and a planetarium.

Then, delve deep into history with a stop at **Historic Jamestowne**. Join a member of the Jamestown Rediscovery team at this active excavation site. There's always a chance to see a 400-year-old artifact discovered. Finish your morning adventure with a visit to James Fort. Next stop is **Jamestown Settlement** and lunch at the **Jamestown Settlement Café** with its varied menu of freshly prepared, sandwiches, salads and grilled foods. Dinner tonight is at **Schlesinger's Chop House**, a locals' favorite featuring corn-fed beef and fresh seafood.

## Day 4

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before checkout and departure for Smithfield and a tour of **St. Luke's Church and Museum**. Virginia's oldest brick church and an architectural masterpiece, the church serves as a living symbol of religious freedom. The grounds are quite lovely. You'll continue your Smithfield and Isle of Wight visit with a local historian, as you travel downtown to picturesque Main Street. There are plenty of shops and boutiques to fill your morning, but stay away from the ice cream. That's for after lunch, which will be at **Taste of Smithfield**. Do try the ham that made the city famous. Now you can get that ice cream.



# VIRGINIA CELEBRATES SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

Exhibits and events across Virginia commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement

By Michelle Donato

This year is the start of a new decade, and as such, this year contains milestones on national levels. On August 18, 1920, America rejoiced as the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, was ratified. This summer is the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the women's suffrage movement, where brave women used their voices to gain traction in advocating for women's rights. This year, many locations in Virginia are celebrating this anniversary with exhibits and events to commemorate both the fight and the victory of women earning the right to vote.

In August, **Occoquan Regional Park** in Fairfax County will host an exhibit at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial honoring American suffragists, with a special focus on those imprisoned at Occoquan. These suffragists endured harsh conditions and abuse to win voting rights for American women. The memorial will honor these brave women and provide awareness and education about how their courage, methods and commitment led to the passing of the 19th Amendment.

The **Lucy Burns Museum** in Lorton focuses on commemorating the party's efforts in obtaining women's right to vote. The museum tells the story of the suffragists who were arrested for courageously picketing the White House in 1917. The museum also aims to engage visitors in the history of the Lorton Correctional Facilities that operated from 1910-2001, founded by President Roosevelt during the era of progressive reform but was later repurposed for a growing arts center.



Virginia Museum of History & Culture







The Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond is hosting the exhibit **Agents of Change - Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today** through late September. This exhibit was organized in conjunction with the Women's Suffrage Centennial and it celebrates a century of women's social and political activism in the Commonwealth. The exhibit's goal is to illustrate the efforts of the suffragists as well as the impact they made in history, their communities, the commonwealth and the nation. The VMHC will also engage a group of contemporary "agents of change" to recreate an iconic 1915 photograph of the Virginia suffrage movement.

Also taking place in **Richmond** is the **#BallotBattle: Richmond's Social**



Moria Nisbet

The Lucy Burns Museum in the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

**Struggle for Suffrage** exhibit which will be on display at **The Valentine Museum** through late September. The exhibit uses modern social media platforms to profile Richmond viewpoints and the racial and generational tensions exposed. The Valentine Museum will be using the hashtag **#BallotBattle** on social media in order to illustrate five different Richmond viewpoints that reflect the social, racial and generational tensions between the pro and anti-suffrage activists.

**The Library of Virginia** in Richmond will host the exhibit, **We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia**, through early December. This exhibit reveals how Virginia women created two statewide organizations to win the right to vote. Three years of dedicated research went into the exhibition, which showcases banners, pins and flags that were all used during the fight for women's right to vote.

The **Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum** in Staunton will have a temporary **Protesting the President** exhibit on display through 2020 discussing the issues that President Wilson faced while in

office. The exhibit will feature objects that cover the suffrage movement as well as anti-war, civil rights, and Prohibition. Wilson's views on women's rights changed throughout the duration of his presidency as his daughter was active in the movement, and his wife hinted she wanted him to support women's right to vote.

**The Lynchburg Museum** will offer an exhibit commemorating **100 Years of Women's Suffrage in Lynchburg, Virginia**. The major exhibit on display beginning in August is **We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia**, which will run through September. This exhibit will tell the stories of the important heroines that played large roles in women's suffrage such as Elizabeth Langhorne Lewis, who was the second most influential suffragist in Virginia behind Virginia founder Lila Meade Valentine. The exhibit will include other storylines such as the Men's League for Equal Suffrage and will highlight the first three African American women who registered to vote in Lynchburg: Lucy Bolding Stephens, Lugie Buck Ferguson and Virginia Cabell Randolph. ■

## WOLF TRAP SUMMER 2020

BEAUTIFUL  
THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

GOO GOO DOLLS  
MIRACLE PILL SUMMER TOUR  
LIFEHOUSE  
FOREST BLAKK

AND MANY MORE!

ALL GROUPS SAVE!  
BOOK 2020 NOW!

CONTACT GROUP SALES:  
703.255.1851  
GROUPSALES@WOLFTRAP.ORG  
15 MILES FROM DC IN VIENNA, VA





Manassas National Battlefield Park

This itinerary blends a tribute to our military heroes and a critical American Civil War battlefield with delicious food, craft beers, wine and local shopping. The result is a masterful experience for groups in Prince William Virginia's charming towns.

Quantico, Occoquan, Manassas, Gainesville, Nokesville, VA

## Boats, Bottles, Bites and a Bit of History

### Day 1

Arrive early afternoon for an elegant lunch in the Officer's Club on **Marine Corps Base Quantico**. Next, visit **Quantico National Cemetery**, where our nation's veterans are remembered. Have the honor of helping the **Missing in America Project**, an organization that aims to find, identify and inter unclaimed remains of fallen veterans. Experience a once in a lifetime opportunity by participating in placing flags at the graves of these forgotten heroes. Next, it's on to the **National Museum of the Marine Corps**, a lasting tribute to U.S. Marines past, present and future.

### Day 2

This morning, receive a warm welcome from Town of Occoquan mayor, Earnie Porta. Enjoy a **guided tour** of this quaint riverside community as he highlights the history and unique details of the town. Discover stories of the historic buildings and how the town got its name. Get a taste of Occoquan's best culinary creations and libations during an **Occoquan Progressive Meal**. Start at the **Bottle Stop** with a delicious appetizer and glass of wine. Choose from starters like the parmesan-asiago dip or the seared buffalo & smoked chipotle sausage bathed in cheddar-beer sauce.

Take a scenic stroll along the water to **Madigan's Waterfront** for your main course. Enjoy a platter featuring a mini crab cake, chicken salad filled pastry cup and filet of tilapia topped with chopped tomatoes and basil with a balsamic glaze. Then board **Miss Rivershore** for a boat tour along the river and take in the

beautiful scenery as your captain highlights the history and unique features of the area along your journey. For dessert, choose from one of the many decadent flavors of handcrafted pastry from **Mom's Apple Pie**.

After dessert, **So Olive** can provide a tasting and education about their unique olive oils, such as the blood orange fused olive oil. Peruse their selection of over 20 different flavors of olive oil and balsamic vinegar for use at home. After spending time exploring the unique shops, unwind at **Brew Republic Bierwerks**, where you'll discover the brewing process from start to finish, before shopping at **Stonebridge Potomac Town Center**.

### Day 3

After breakfast, start your morning with a Civil War guide dressed in his military uniform who will lead you to **Manassas National Battlefield** "Where the southern victories tested the national resolve." This was the first major land battle of the United States Civil War. Two armies clashed for the first time and heavy fighting swept away any notion of a quick war. Afterward, visit a Civil war hospital at the **Ben Lomond Historical Site**. Soldiers were taken here after the Battle of First Manassas to care for their wounds.

Enjoy lunch at **Virginia Gateway Center**, a premier shopping destination boasting a selection of more than 120 regional and local shops and restaurants in a convenient shopper-friendly environment.

After lunch, visit **Effingham Manor Winery** to sample their signature wine 'Kings Ransom', or enjoy craft beer, craft food and live local music at **2 Silos Brewing Company**, a place where locals bring their friends.

Visit  
**PRINCE  
WILLIAM**  
— VIRGINIA —

**VISIT PRINCE  
WILLIAM**

Mark Kowalewski  
mkowalewski@pwcgov.org  
703-792-8423  
visitpwc.com



# THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

An impressive lineup of performers will fill out the 2020 event, with a big 25th anniversary performance coming in 2021

By Michelle Donato

Groups seeking diverse performances filled with art, dance, theater and music will cherish a visit to the **Virginia Arts Festival**. The spring festival charms attendees with a wide array of events and performers.

Since 1997, the festival has transformed the cultural scene in southeastern Virginia, presenting talented performers from around the world to local audiences and making this historic region a cultural destination for visitors from across the globe. The fest is noted for regularly commissioning new works of music, dance and theater from some of today's most influential composers, choreographers and playwrights.

The festival, which offers dozens of performances during the spring and throughout the year across nine Virginia cities including Norfolk,

Virginia Beach, Newport News, Williamsburg and Portsmouth, aims to leave an impactful memory for the tens of thousands of visitors it attracts each year. Its arts education programs reach thousands of area schoolchildren through student matinees, in-school performances, artists' residencies, master classes and demonstrations.

In 2021, the festival will celebrate its 25th anniversary, which promises to be a massive event featuring a wide variety of performances.

This year, the fest will celebrate 24 years of entertainment with an array of entertainment including the **John Toomey Trio** playing live jazz, **The Queens Six** a cappella group, the **Kingdom Choir**, the **Quartetto Adorno** Italian string quartet and many more. The fest will also feature *A Soldier's Play*, a stage performance from the

The Virginia Arts Festival is filled with entertaining performances.



Photo courtesy of Heiko DeWees





United States Air Force drill team

Norfolk State University Theatre Company. The fest will also feature presenting dance groups like **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo** and **Collage Dance Collective**. Another significant musical performance is the **Violins of Hope**, a chamber concert played on violins that have been recovered and restored from the Holocaust. The concert will be a tribute to those who lost their lives to the devastation of the holocaust, a timely performance as the 75th anniversary of World War II approaches.

One of the festival's most popular elements is Norfolk's **Virginia International Tattoo** April 30-May 3. The signature event of the fest each year is different with new performers and unique themes so you'll never see exactly the same tattoo twice. Prior to each of the performances there will also be a three-hour Hullabaloo celebration, in which guests will partake in food, music, dancing and other entertainment such as taking photos with performers and drill performances before the tattoo begins. The 2020 Virginia International Tattoo will honor the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, *A Salute to the*

*Greatest Generation*. With more than 1,000 performers from eight different countries, this year's performance is set to honor those that fought and the many who died bravely fighting. This tattoo display will illustrate the honor, courage, and sacrifice of the soldiers who fought in World War II. The grand public display will consist of a marching military band, alongside a military drill team, dancers and a choir. Festival organizers have started a World War II Veteran Photo Project for those that may want to share veteran photos of loved ones that will be displayed during the performance.

The festival will also host **PANFest**, which is held in Virginia Beach and features a prestigious steel drum competition that welcomes groups from all over the world. Steel pan ensembles show off their talents to the audience as they engage in a competition in which judges choose a grand champion winner.

Another noteworthy show will feature the **Rhythm Project**. Founded in Portsmouth in 1996, the Rhythm Project is made from an ensemble of talented performers dedicated to bringing inspiration and self-esteem to those who watch and those who perform. Rhythm Project programs consist of four elementary schools and four middle schools that premier the All Stars, a group of collaborating high school students that perform for a live audience.

There will also be a **Parade of Nations**, the only parade in the United States in which NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is honored. The annual Norfolk festival attracts thousands of attendees. There will be a flag raising April 30 along with a festival banquet. [vafest.org](http://vafest.org) ■

---

*Editor's Note: The 2020 International Tattoo has been canceled due to cautions being taken due to the coronavirus.*



# NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM SALUTES AMERICAN SOLDIERS

Technological wonder will tell the stories of American heroes

By Kathy Nolan

Selfless service and sacrifice will be celebrated at the **National Museum of the United States Army**, a new national landmark opening in June and designated to honor the 30 million men and women who have worn the Army uniform since 1775.

Located just 30 miles south of Washington, D.C. on 84 acres in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, the technological wonder is the first and only comprehensive museum to tell the fascinating true stories of American heroes.

"The Army has served American citizens for 244 years, protecting the freedoms that are precious to all of us. Millions of people have served in the Army, and this museum gives us the chance to tell their stories to the public, and show how they have served our nation and our people," said acting Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy.

The centerpiece of the National Army Museum will be an iconic architectural 185,000-square-foot marvel where compelling exhibitions will be curated from 15,000 pieces of authentic memorabilia in the **Army Art Collection** and 30,000 precious artifacts, historic documents and archived images, rarely or never seen by the American people. A powerful art installation featuring 190 illuminated, overhead glass panels representing each of the Army's historic campaigns will dramatically light the way through the 7,500-square-foot lobby. The museum campus will include an immersive theatre, an experiential learning center, café, memorial garden, amphitheater, parade ground and trail, planned to accommodate ceremonies, reenactments, lectures and special events.

## SOLDIER STORIES GALLERY

Brave brigades have conducted countless missions in the areas of exploration and discovery, science and technology, communications and cooperation along with recovery and disaster relief. The ingenuity of American soldiers has greatly aided the nation's progress and prosperity for more than 240 years.



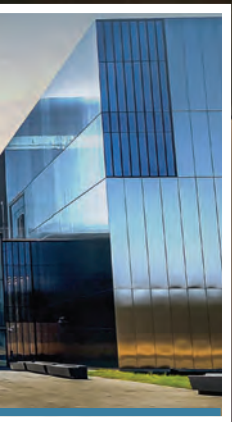
The front entrance of the National Museum of the United States Army.



The Army Historical Foundation, Kerri Kline



Museum features like the Experiential Learning Center provide an immersive learning space for visitors and groups to participate in hands-on G-STEM learning activities and working in small teams to solve an Army humanitarian mission.





# NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

## FIGHTING FOR THE NATION GALLERY

On June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy. The National Museum of the United States Army honors these brave warriors and recreates that landing at actual scale in a gallery featuring those who stormed the beaches and the tools they used on the “longest day.” The dynamic multi-sensory exhibit includes 63 life-sized cast soldier figures that will bring D-Day and other historic scenes to life. The Fighting for the Nation Gallery will feature six exhibit areas depicting significant chronological periods in the Army’s history.

## ARMY AND SOCIETY GALLERY

The **Army and Society Gallery** will show the Army’s strength as an agent of peace and nation-building. An interactive educational experience will explain the Army’s role in creating and defending our nation, as well as highlighting the social initiatives and the symbiotic relationship between the Army, its civilian government and the people.

The United States Army will own and operate the museum 364 days a year (closed December 25).

Museum officials expect 750,000 visitors in the first year of operation and the opening is scheduled for June 4, 2020.

“The National Museum of the United States Army will be a family-friendly, educational experience that immerses

visitors in the inspiring stories of American soldiers since 1775,” said Pauline Bonilla, director of visitors engagement and programs for the Army Historical Foundation.

Tour groups arriving by school bus, motor coach, or 15-passenger van should reserve advance tickets and parking.

“This state-of-the art museum will engage visitors in the Army’s story – highlighting how the Army was at the birth of our nation over 240 years ago, and how it continues to influence our everyday lives,” said Tammy E. Call, the museum’s director. “The National Museum of the United States Army will be stunning, and we can’t wait to welcome visitors from around the world to see it.” [thenmusa.org](https://thenmusa.org) ■

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS™

MacGillivray Freeman's  
**WE, THE MARINES**  
NOW PLAYING IN OUR GIANT-SCREEN THEATER...

**AMERICAN HISTORY AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF MARINES**

**NOW OPEN | Legacy Walk Extension**

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS  
18900 Jefferson Davis Highway, Quantico, VA  
32 miles south of Washington, DC | Free admission and parking

LEARN MORE AT [USMCMUSEUM.COM/LEGACYWALK](https://usmcmuseum.com/legacywalk)





Relax and reconnect with your family at Colonial Williamsburg. You are invited to an unforgettable vacation filled with the people, places and programs that make art and history come alive.

Williamsburg, Virginia

# History Comes Alive at Colonial Williamsburg

## Day 1

A day in **Colonial Williamsburg** begins with a visit to the **Capitol**, a recreation of the building that served as the home for the **House of Burgesses** – colonial Virginia's representative government. Here visitors can witness laws being passed and debates over American independence. Continue down Duke of Gloucester Street by foot or buggy to **Raleigh Tavern**, where you can debate American sovereignty with local patriots or learn about 18th-century brewing techniques. At the **Apothecary** you'll learn about how much medicine has changed since the days of George Washington, while the **Foundry** demonstrates how buckles, knobs and utensils were created using metal castings. Take time in the afternoon to visit the many craftspeople that create objects using accurate period tools. Weavers, wigmakers and wheelwrights are all willing to share their knowledge and discuss their art. Be sure to see the **Fife and Drum Corps** march down Duke of Gloucester Street, one of the most iconic parts of Colonial Williamsburg. After a long day of walking, relax at one of the **Historic Taverns** and enjoy one of the evening programs.

## Day 2

Your second day begins with a journey through the **Governor's Palace**, which evokes the grandeur of Virginia's early state government before the capital was relocated to Richmond in 1780. Famous

occupants included **Thomas Jefferson** and **Patrick Henry**. Your group will pass through the elegant dining room and reception areas. Down the road lies the **Colonial Garden**, which grows herbs and vegetables using accurate 18th-century methods. Further down the **Palace Green** your group will find the **George Wythe House**, home to the prominent attorney who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. On the corner lies **Bruton Parish Church**, a three-centuries-old Episcopal worship center where several Founding Fathers worshiped. Be sure to observe a trial at the **Courthouse**, one of Williamsburg's signature attractions. Groups witness court sessions, prosecutions and justice meted out at the pillory and stocks outside.

Few visitors realize that half of Williamsburg's 18th-century population was black. Groups can learn about the stark contrast of freedom and slavery throughout the town.

2020 marks a year of special events at the **Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg**, from the opening of the new guest-friendly entrance, to new exhibitions in our seven new galleries where we can display objects from our collections that have spent too much time in storage. Check out the new museum café and store, when you visit an exhibition or take a tour.

Conclude your day with a hearty, colonial-inspired meal at **Chowning's Tavern**. Illuminated by candlelight, this restaurant serves old favorites such as Brunswick stew and Welsh rarebit as well as Shepherd's Pye and Bangers & Mash.

*Colonial Williamsburg®*

### COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

Winette Jeffery  
Wjeffery@cwv.org  
1-800-228-8878  
[www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/plan/group tours](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/plan/group tours)



# WHERE history NEVER GETS OLD



**DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS OF 15 OR MORE**

Meet America's founders, dine on world-class fare, and step through lush gardens during a customized tour of Colonial Williamsburg. Don't let a historically good time pass you by!

*Colonial Williamsburg*

We offer a variety of options for dining, lodging and tours. Book your group trip today:  
call **1-800-228-8878**, email [groupsales@cwf.org](mailto:groupsales@cwf.org), visit [colonialwilliamsburg.org/groupstours](http://colonialwilliamsburg.org/groupstours)

