

NEW IN VIRGINIA

2017



VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS



VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS[®]
#LOVEVA



♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS OF LIFE

Today only happens once, and Virginia is the place to make the most of it. So go ahead - taste the unfamiliar and explore the unexpected. It's your turn to make history. Come find out why Virginia is for Lovers.

The travel and tourism industry in Virginia has continued to grow year after year. In 2015, tourism generated \$23 billion in revenue, supported 223,100 jobs and provided \$1.6 billion in state and local taxes for the Commonwealth. Dollars invested in tourism are proven to provide a seven to one return in tax revenue for Virginia, and grant awards and matching funds provide a stimulus to localities seeking to increase tourism visitation and revenue.

2016 was a banner year in Virginia. With such an exciting year to build off of, 2017 is shaping up to be one of the best yet for the tourism and film industries in Virginia.

- **Stone Brewery** celebrated it's first anniversary in Richmond by releasing the **"Give Me IPA or Give Me Death,"** a collaborative effort of Ardent Craft Ale, Hardywood Park Craft Brewery and Governor Terry McAuliffe.
- From the luxurious **Cavalier Hotel** in Virginia Beach to the new boutique spot **The Sessions Hotel** in Bristol, Virginia will have 14 new lodging properties in 2017.
- Virginia's **2019 Commemoration** will observe the 400th anniversary of American Evolution.™
- The **American Revolution Museum at Yorktown** will feature an introductory film, timeline, immersive exhibition galleries and living-history experiences that show the epic scale of the Revolution and the richness and complexity of the country's Revolutionary heritage.
- Virginia Tourism Corporation has launched virginia.org/lgbt to showcase Virginia as a great destination for **LGBT travelers**.
- **Ballast Point Brewing and Spirits**, in Daleville, Botetourt Co., is projected to begin operations at some point in 2017. **Deschutes Brewery** has chosen Roanoke as its East Coast location and anticipates to break ground in 2019.
- The new **Amtrak** platform in downtown Roanoke is expected to open by the end of the year or early 2018.
- The inaugural **Pocahontas Reframed Film Festival** will take place at The Byrd Theatre in Richmond, Nov. 17-19. The festival will feature films by and about American Indians, with community and industry leader discussions.
- **Bristol Sessions** will celebrate its 90th anniversary. Special events and activities will take place throughout 2017 to celebrate the historical recordings.
- **Spearhead Trails** opened Stone Mountain and Coal Canyon Trails. The Haysi's Ridgeview Trail and Coeburn Connector are expected to open in 2017. Trails are now accessible to ATV/OHV riding and mountain biking as well, with equestrian trail systems expected soon.

Inspired? If you have an amazing story idea on the great state of Virginia and would like some assistance from Virginia Tourism Corporation, please contact Caroline Logan, Director of Communications (clogan@virginia.org, 804-545-5572). High resolution photos of attractions and properties are available upon request.

Visit virginia.org for more information.



UPCOMING ACCOMMODATIONS



♥ | UPCOMING ACCOMMODATIONS

The historic [Cavalier Hotel](#) in Virginia Beach is undergoing renovations and will reopen in summer or fall 2017 as a 5-star member of Marriott's distinguished Autograph Collection with 85 guest rooms, an onsite bourbon distillery, a ballroom for events and a world class restaurant.

The [Western Front Hotel](#) is a historic boutique hotel in downtown St. Paul situated between the Spearhead Trails and the Clinch River. Opening summer 2017.

Opening April 2017, [The Main](#) is downtown Norfolk's newest world-class, \$147 million, mixed-use entertainment, meeting, dining and hotel destination. It will feature a 300 room Hilton Hotel, an IACC Conference Center and three world class dining venues. The Exchange includes 42,000 square feet of state-of-the-art classrooms, centers for leadership and tiered conference rooms. There will also be two ballrooms in the Hilton. The largest will accommodate groups of up to 1,500.

[The Sessions Hotel](#) in Bristol is slated to open late 2017 or early 2018. The owners have taken a grouping of historic buildings and turned them into a boutique hotel just down the street from the site of the landmark "Bristol Sessions" and the new Bristol Birthplace of Country Music Museum. Also expected to open in 2017 is the new **Hotel Bristol**.

Historic Old Town Alexandria is welcoming its first waterfront hotel, [Hotel Indigo](#), April 2017. The new property will add to the bustling development of Alexandria's riverfront district, which includes a new Waterfront Market and a new water taxi service linking Alexandria to the monuments and museums of DC's National Mall.

On track to be completed in time for the summer of 2017, [The Virginian Hotel](#), of Lynchburg, is being restored to appear how it looked when it first opened in 1913. Despite looking historically accurate to the period, it will have modern four- to five-star hotel amenities and 115 guest rooms.

Fenton Inn of Lynchburg is a charming Bavarian village that combines the best of Old World craftsmanship and modern luxuries. The variety of different suites can accommodate romantic couples as well as the entire family. The 600 square foot ballroom offers many options for seating and gathering configurations.

A new luxury inn, **The Monarch Inn**, is planned for construction on Nelson County's "Brew Ridge Trail." The four-star inn will sit on 114 acres on Virginia 151 across from the Rockfish Valley Community Center with 45 rooms in a combination of inn rooms and cottages.

The new [Graduate Hotel Charlottesville](#) offers a unique experience to visitors, paying tribute to the local college and its culture. Accommodating groups up to 170, their ballroom is the ideal space for conferences and business meetings. The rooftop bar, Heirloom, pays homage to Thomas Jefferson's commitment to seed collecting and exchange to preserve homegrown varieties, keeping the table fresh.

The Graduate Hotel will also be featured in Richmond where your intellectual curiosity meets your favorite place to stay. The walnut paneled lobby, complete with a chandelier made of Arthur Ashe's signature frames, is a one of the many nods to Richmond's rich history. Grab a bite to eat in Brookfield, the lobby café and watering hole, or travel up to Byrd House, the rooftop pool and beer garden perched on the sixteenth floor. **The Graduate Hotel Richmond** will open summer 2017.

A 109-room, \$11.2 million **Hyatt Place** hotel in Hampton is planned for development and could open by 2018. The hotel will be the first Hyatt Place (Hyatt flagged) hotel on the Virginia Peninsula.

Chincoteague Island's first boutique hotel, the [Marina Bay Hotel & Suites](#), opened December 2016 and offers 176 comfortable yet luxurious guestrooms, four-star amenities and a beautiful sunset view off the Marina. Meeting and banquet facilities are available.

[Hyatt House Virginia Beach Oceanfront](#) is opening spring 2017 and includes well-equipped oceanfront guest rooms with some featuring full kitchens. Directly situated on the Atlantic Ocean and in close proximity to the Virginia



Beach Convention Center, the hotel will have approximately 2,000 square feet of flexible meeting space with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment. Other amenities include: complimentary hot breakfast daily, on-site self-service laundry and an on-site fitness facility with an indoor swimming pool.

The upscale **Hampton Inn & Suites Roanoke-Downtown** opened in June 2016 and is set in the heart of downtown with sweeping views of the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains. A ten minute drive from the airport, the Hampton Inn has 1,200 square feet of conference space and is steps away from more than 60 restaurants and Elmwood Park - host to the cities' best special events.

Other Accomodation News:

The Tides Inn will be celebrating its 70th anniversary in July 2017 with various specials, offerings and experiences to commemorate the anniversary.

In September 2017, [Primland](#) will offer guests a unique and rarified opportunity to spend three days with nine-time Le Mans winner and motor racing legend, Tom Kristensen, and elite endurance competitor, Harold Primat, for the ultimate driving escape.

The **Inn at Willow Grove** in Orange broke ground for an expansion project. The inn will add two cottages with five rooms each, 10 additional luxury guest rooms and suites, a fitness facility, full spa, pool and pool house. The spa, fitness center and pool are scheduled to be ready by August 2017 and the guest rooms are to be completed by early fall.

The 110 room [Williamsburg Inn](#) at Colonial Williamsburg has completed an extensive renovation. The colonial feel remains but updates include LED lighting, Flat-screen TVs and Bose radios.



**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS[®]**

#VAPRIDE



♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR ALL LOVERS

Since 1969, our famous state slogan has inspired travelers from all over the world to visit the Commonwealth. Today, Virginia is for all Lovers, and is a great destination for LGBT travelers. Our LOVE story is bigger, better and more inclusive than ever before.

In 2016, Virginia Tourism Corporation launched Virginia.org/lgbt, complete with LGBT-friendly lodging, dining, history, shopping, attractions, events and outdoor experiences statewide. Our website also includes spaces, itineraries and all the resources needed to plan a dream wedding or honeymoon.

In Virginia, Pride festivals across the state are.

- **Hampton Roads Pridefest**, Norfolk, June 16 & 17
- **Shenandoah Valley Pride**, Harrisonburg, July 22
- **Charlottesville Pride**, Charlottesville, Date TBD
- **Virginia Pride**, Richmond, Sept. 2017
- **Northern VA Pride**, Centreville, Date TBD
- **Roanoke Pride**, Roanoke, Date TBD
- **FloydPRIDE**, Floyd, Date TBD

Visit virginia.org/lgbt for more information.



**VIRGINIA
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FOOD
LOVERS™
#VAFOOD**

♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR FOOD LOVERS

Virginia's surging restaurant and bar scene propelled us to new heights in the opinion of leading food and drink journals.

Virginia chefs continue to elbow their way into the top echelon aided enormously by top Virginia-based purveyors in homegrown meat, seafood and produce along with artisanal cheese makers, bakers and salumeria. For that, and for the major tourism driver food has become in Virginia, we owe a lot of gratitude and credit to our farmers and growers – the people who leverage their products to showcase Virginia as a premiere destination to experience the bounty of our soil and our people. Agritourism is also an important part of diversifying our economy.

Rooted in Richmond, **Real Local RVA** is a group of independent, small grocery stores, restaurants, farmers' markets, farmers, growers and supporters dedicated to growing the local food scene in Richmond and the surrounding area. Real Local RVA hosts events throughout the year, including:

- Virginia Specialty Food and Beverage Educational Conference, Omni Richmond Hotel, March 6 – 7
- Joel Salatin: Building a Local Food System That Works, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, March 16, 6 p.m.

Southwest Virginia will develop agritourism opportunities around the region; some of which include a Southwest Virginia wine trail, Southwest Virginia craft beer trail, 'Round the Mountain artisan integration and opportunities to further develop Appalachian cuisine.

Prince William and **Manassas** will partner with **Fauquier** and **Stafford** counties to begin an artisan and agritourism trail in mid-2017.

Arcadia Farm, which is located on the same grounds as Woodlawn Historic Site and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria, has implemented a **Veteran Farmer Program**. Arcadia Farm works with local landowners, nonprofit organizations and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to identify affordable land suitable for farming where veterans can begin their new agricultural careers.

Visit virginia.org/food and virginia.org/agritourism for more information.



**VIRGINIA
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WINE
LOVERS™
#VAWINE**

EM
EARLY
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2013
HARDONNAY RESERVE



♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR WINE LOVERS

Virginia Wine Country stretches across every region of the state, from the shores of the Chesapeake Bay to the Appalachian Mountains. With more than 285 wineries and dozens of wine trails surrounded by lavish scenery, breathtaking views, quaint small towns and monumental historic sites, Virginia offers a unique wine experience.

As the nation's fifth largest wine grape producing state, Virginia welcomed 1.7 million wine tourists in 2016. Virginia wine reached another record high during fiscal year 2016, with more than 556,500 cases, or over 6.6 million bottles, sold. These sales represent a 6 percent increase from fiscal year 2015, when Virginia wineries sold more than 524,800 cases. Sales of Virginia wine have increased by 34 percent since fiscal year 2010.

New Virginia wineries include:

- **The Wine Reserve at Waterford**, Waterford, is now open. It features a tasting room with breathtaking views of the mountains and serves a variety of wines from small, family owned vineyards in Virginia and beyond.
- **Greenhill Winery & Vineyards**, Middleburg, is slated to open a new production facility and a two-story, equestrian-themed, barn-style tasting room and terrace, complete with outdoor seating and event space.
- **Muse Vineyards**, Woodstock, opened its tasting room. Muse Vineyards won the 2015 Governor's Cup for their 2009 Clio blend.

Visit virginia.org/wine for more information.

Currently, Virginia is sixth in the nation for number of cideries. According to a 2012 economic impact study, the Virginia wine industry, including the Virginia cider industry, employs more than 4,700 and contributes almost \$750 million to the Virginia economy on an annual basis.

Ditchley Cider Works, Kilmarnock, will open in 2017.

Visit virginia.org/cider for more information.

A close-up photograph of a white plate filled with oysters on the half shell. Several bright yellow lemon wedges are scattered among the oysters. In the bottom right corner, a white ceramic dipping bowl contains a pinkish sauce. The background is softly blurred, showing a metal grater and a wooden cutting board.

**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
OYSTER
LOVERS™**

#VAOYSTERS



♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR OYSTER LOVERS

Virginia now has eight different oyster regions producing oysters with distinct flavors, offering an oyster for every palate. The flavor of “The Virginia Oyster” from each region is unique, unlike any others in the world (a concept called “merroir,” similar to the wine concept “terroir”). These exceptional tastes range in salinity, creaminess and sweetness.

Virginia has numerous festivals celebrating The Virginia Oyster:

- 60th anniversary of [Urbanna Oyster Festival](#), Nelson County, Date TBD
- 45th anniversary of [Chincoteague Oyster Festival](#), Chincoteague, Oct. 7
- **Oyster Roast at Cardinal Point Winery**, Afton, Date TBD
- [Terroir & Merroir: Oyster Extravaganza](#), Machipongo, Date TBD

Virginia has developed “The Virginia Oyster Trail,” that connects producers and purveyors with seafood restaurants and raw bars in Virginia’s distinctive bay and river towns for the ultimate oyster tourism experience. The stories of The Virginia Oyster and the culture of the Chesapeake Bay’s watermen are unique in the world. These depictions offer personalized understandings into a way of life, which through generations has shaped the people and communities of the region, and connect with today’s visitor.

- Virginia’s River Realm presented **“Waterman’s Way,”** a public art project that honors the men and women who work the water and have helped shape so much of our regional identity.

Visit virginia.org/oysters for more information.

A group of people are clinking their craft beer glasses in a toast. The glasses are clear and contain golden beer. The background is bright and slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor festival setting. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
CRAFT BEER
LOVERS™**

#VACRAFTBEER



♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR CRAFT BEER LOVERS

The Virginia Craft Beer scene is booming. With more than 160 craft breweries in the state, existing breweries, like Hardywood Park Craft Brewery, are expanding, and big brands, like Deschutes Brewery, are calling Virginia home.

New Breweries:

- **Colonial Beach Brewing**, Colonial Beach
- **Portner Brewhouse**, Alexandria
- **Bald Top Brewing Company**, Madison
- **Two Silo's Brewing**, Manassas
- **Headspace Brewing Company**, Marion
- **The Farm Brewery at Broad Run**, Broad Run
- **Buggs Island Brewing Company**, Clarksville
- **Billsburg Brewery**, James City County Marina, Williamsburg
- **Black Narrows Brewery**, Chincoteague
- **Cape Charles Brewing Company**, Cape Charles
- **Hammer & Forge Brewing Company**, Boones Mill

Expansions:

- **Hardywood Park Craft Brewery**, of Richmond, opened Hardywood Pilot Brewery and Taproom in Charlottesville on Feb. 18. Hardywood will also expand to Goochland County most likely in fall 2017 with an epic facility music venue and massive increase of brewing capacity.
- **Caboose Brewing Company** will open a second location in the already hot Mosaic District in Fairfax.
- **Crooked Run Brewing** will open a 10 barrel brewery and tasting room in Sterling.
- **Big Lick Brewing Company** will expand to downtown Roanoke.

On the Horizon:

- **Ballast Point Brewing and Spirits**, Daleville, Botetourt Co., is projected to begin operations at some point in 2017.
- **Deschutes Brewery** has chosen Roanoke as its East Coast location. Deschutes Brewery anticipates to break ground in 2019.

Want to make a day of beer tasting? Virginia's Beer Trails are convenient and fun ways to discover several breweries within a few miles of each other:

- **Shenandoah Valley Beerwerks Trail** features 13 craft breweries in Staunton, Augusta County, Waynesboro, Rockbridge and Harrisonburg.
- **The Richmond Beer Trail** is quickly becoming a major craft beer destination. With more than 20 craft breweries and more on the way, it's clear why the Wall Street Journal said Richmond "is home to one of the region's fastest growing beer scenes."
- **LoCo Ale Trail** will continue to expand, with seven new breweries slated to open in 2017. With the new openings, Loudoun County will be home to almost 30 breweries.

With already more than 40 licensed distilleries and a number of additions on the way, Virginia is crafting everything from moonshine to award-winning bourbon.

- **Ironclad Distillery**, Newport News, sources 100 percent of its corn, wheat and rye needs from Virginia agricultural producers. Its tasting room is projected to open sometime in 2017, and its bourbon is now sold in select Virginia ABC stores.
- **Springfield Distillery**, Halifax, is open Thursday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The distillery also offers cabins to rent.
- **Three Brothers Distillery**, Disputanta, is opening in February 2017.
- **Falls Church Distillers**, Falls Church, anticipates opening in 2017 or 2018.
- **Bondurant Brothers Distillery**, Chase City, is currently open on Fridays and Saturdays.

Visit virginia.org/craftbeer for more information.



**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
MUSIC
LOVERS™**

#VAMUSIC

♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR MUSIC LOVERS

Virginia's music scene boasts an array of genres from symphony and opera at some of the nation's grandest concert halls, to rock, jazz and blues at city nightclubs. Virginia's music venues provide music lovers hundreds of performances a year by world-famous musicians on stages around the state.

Virginia is home to many music and arts festivals. Here are some can't miss Virginia festivals and events in 2017:

- The [Virginia Arts Festival](#) will present two world premieres this year. The new opera, *Kept: A Ghost Story*, will debut at Norfolk's Attucks Theatre on May 25 and 28. And *Hair and Other Stories*, performed by Brooklyn-based dance company Urban Bush Women, will open on April 22 at the Attucks Theatre.
- [Ella at 100: the Centennial Celebration](#), Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center is hosting a year-long celebration in Ella Fitzgerald's memory, which began in September 2016. *Reflections: 100 Years of Ella* pays homage to Newport News' beloved native daughter with a series of performances and events that tell the story of her extraordinary life and legacy.
- [Bristol Sessions](#) will celebrate its 90th anniversary. Special events and activities will take place throughout 2017 to celebrate the historical recordings. Virginia Tourism Corporation in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and the Birthplace of Country Music will debut the "Born in Bristol" feature film.
- [Tom Tom Founders Festival](#), Charlottesville, April 10 – 16
- [Dominion Riverrock](#), Richmond, May 19 – 21
- [Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival](#), Martinsville, May 25 – 28
- [Mountains of Music Homecoming](#), Various areas on the Crooked Road, June 9 – 17
- [Shenandoah Valley Music Festival](#), Orkney Springs, Various dates July - September
- [Red Wing Roots Music Festival](#), Mt. Solon, July 14 – 16
- [FloydFest](#), Floyd, July 26 – 30
- [Galax Old Fiddlers Convention](#), Galax, August 7 – 12
- [Staunton Music Festival](#), Staunton, August 11 – 17
- [Lockn' Festival](#), Arrington, August 24 – 27
- [American Music Festival](#), Virginia Beach, Sept. 1 – 3
- [Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion](#), Bristol, Sept. 15 – 17
- [The Festy Experience](#), Nelson County, Oct. 5 – 8
- [Richmond Folk Festival](#), Richmond, Oct. 13 – 15

Visit virginia.org/music for more information.



**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
OUTDOOR
LOVERS™**

#VAOUTDOORS



♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS

If you're chasing new adventures in the great outdoors, Virginia is the perfect place to get your heart racing. With such abounding variety and beauty, it's hard not to create a new historic outdoor moment on each trip.

This year, the [Virginia Creeper Trail](#) marks its 30th anniversary. One of the earliest rails-to-trails success stories, the Creeper Trail is now a major economic engine for Southwest Virginia, drawing over 200,000 visitors annually. The Creeper Trail will now feature an urban path system to connect the trail to business and arts organizations of downtown Abingdon. Abingdon will host the first Virginia Creeper Fest on April 29.

2017 will feature many new outdoor quests in Virginia:

- [Spearhead Trails](#), is a multi-use (including ATV/OHV) multiple-system of trails in Southwest Virginia, with over 350 miles available on four different systems in the region (Mountain View Trail, Coal Canyon Trail, Original Pocahontas Trail, and Stone Mountain Trail. The permit-required trails allow users to ride the trails into the Southwest Virginia mountains to/from downtowns such as St. Paul, Pocahontas, and Pennington Gap. A fifth trail system, Haysi's Ridgeview Trail (Haysi/Breaks area), and connector trail in Coeburn (to the Mountain View System), are expected to open in 2017. Trails are now accessible to ATV/OHV riding and mountain biking as well, with equestrian trail systems expected soon.
- Enjoy 52 scenic miles of nature including Virginia parks, plantations and historic battlefields on **Virginia's Capital Trail**, a largely flat pedestrian and bicycle trail that connects the Commonwealth's past and present capitals of Jamestown and Richmond along the Scenic Route 5 corridor. New in Spring 2017, the **Cap Tail Bike Shuttle** service offers transportation for riders and their bicycles along the trail, making planning easy for cyclers to head out one-way and hop a shuttle back. Pickups are planned for the Lehigh parking area in downtown Richmond, Upper Shirley Vineyards, the Charles City Courthouse and the Jamestown Settlement.

- [Southern Gap Outdoor Adventure](#), Coal Canyon (section of the Spearhead Trail in Buchanan County), the Southern Gap Outdoor Adventure will offer easy access to ATV/OHV and mountain bike riding on the Coal Canyon trail, a rock climbing wall, archery tag, all-season tubing, elk viewing and guided elk tours. Expected to open spring 2017.
- [Ridge Runner Zip Tour](#) at the **Omni Homestead**, Hot Springs, is now open. During this three hour tour spanning more than 4,000 feet, fly through the treetops on eight zip lines and then descend 1,300 feet on the Red Tail Racer (opening early 2017) for an exhilarating experience with views of five mountains.
- [GearHead Moto Tours](#), Pearisburg, is now offering an all-inclusive dual sport motorcycle trip.
- [Kairos Resort](#), Glen Lyn, will open their campground on May 1, with RV hookups and tree houses soon to follow. The resort will also be the site for a new event for off-road enthusiasts, the [New River 500](#), a first of its kind in Southwest Virginia. The event takes place April 7 – 9 and encompass over 500 kilometers of riding through the mountains of the New River Valley.
- [Pedego RVA](#), Richmond, sells and services electric bikes and offers electric bike rentals for tours.
- **Lake Fairfax Bike Park and Pump Track**, Reston, is now open and feature a 5,000 square foot track for a broad range of bike wheels.
- [New River Water Trail](#), Giles County, will offer four new boat landings along the New River in 2017.
- [Massanutten Mountain Bike Park](#), Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge Mountains, are known for their phenomenal bike offerings that Massanutten's lift-served bike park will allow you to experience - without the climb! The park features a lower lift that will provide access to beginner and intermediate trails for newcomers while also offering advanced jump and singletrack trails accessible from an upper lift that are sure to thrill any enthusiast.
- The [Upper James River Water Trail Expansion](#) is being extended 18 miles (from 45 miles to 63 miles) from Alpine to Snowden. New trailhead signs will be installed at Glasgow Landing and Snowden and 11 new access sites will serve the extended trail. The full length of the trail is also being designated as a Virginia Scenic River. The extension is expected to be complete Spring 2017.
- Maddox Family Campground is now called **Chincoteague Island KOA**. It has made major renovations including 10 new cabins, a tiki bar and food truck and deluxe RV and tent sites. It will open on Memorial Day.
- **Butterfly Trail and Pollinator Gardens**, in Southern Virginia, will open pollinator and monarch butterfly gardens sites within 25 miles of the US Route 360 corridor at existing sites, including: [MacCallum More Museum and Gardens](#) and the [Danville Science Center](#).
- **Jagged Edge**, Southwest Virginia, provides motorcycle trails along the Blue Ridge parkway. The Lodge at Primland is centrally located to the 269 mile Jagged Edge premier motorcycle route. It features eight loops that navigate 12 separate mountains.

Visit virginia.org/outdoor for more information.



**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
HISTORY
LOVERS™
#VAHISTORY**



♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR HISTORY LOVERS

It's easy to remember Virginia as the "Birthplace of America," but many are not aware of the historic events that took place here in 1619, twelve years after the first colonists settled in Jamestown.

These events mark the beginning of our American Evolution™ and ongoing journey toward key ideals of democracy, diversity and opportunity.

Virginia's [2019 Commemoration](#) will observe the 400th anniversary of:

- The first representative legislative assembly in the New World
- Arrival of the first recorded Africans to English North America
- The First Official English Thanksgiving in North America
- Arrival and expanding impact of women on the Virginia Colony
- The Entrepreneurial and Innovative spirit of the Virginia Colony

The 2019 Commemoration will showcase these historic events through American Evolution™ programs, signature events and legacy projects over the next three years. Visit www.americanevolution2019.com for more information.

The **American Revolution Museum at Yorktown** will feature an introductory film, timeline, immersive exhibition galleries and living-history experiences that show the epic scale of the Revolution and the richness and complexity of the country's Revolutionary heritage. The museum will celebrate its grand opening celebration March 23 through April 4. Over the course of the 13-day celebration, each day will highlight one of America's 13 original states in the order that they ratified the Constitution, with a special dedication April 1 for Virginia.

The [Lives Bound Together: Slavery at George Washington's Mount Vernon](#) is a new exhibit that explores the personal stories of the people enslaved at Mount Vernon while providing insight into Washington's evolving opposition to slavery. This exhibit is open through 2018.

There will also be many new family-friendly attractions in 2017, including:

- **Busch Gardens**, the new [InvadR](#), a wooden coaster ride, will open in spring 2017.
- **Kings Dominion**, will feature a Planet Snoopy expansion and offer a [Kings Dominion Pre-K Pass](#) for free admission to children 3 to 5 years of age during the 2017 season.
- Luiz Taifas, former Olympic figure skater and Romanian national champion, and his wife, Mitra Setayesh, will open the **ION International Training Center** in Leesburg, anticipated to open in fall 2017.
- **Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs**, a professional league ice hockey team, expanded to Roanoke for the 2016-2017 season.
- The **Virginia Living Museum Dinosaur Discover Trail**, a \$500,000 permanent outdoor exhibit opened in late 2016. Features 16 life-like dinosaurs, hands-on paleo camp, dig pits and dinosaur and ice age fossils.
- A **Children's Museum** will be coming soon to Center in the Square in Roanoke.
- The **Waterside District and Norfolk Premium Outlets** will open sometime in 2017.
- The **Legacy Pavilion at Museum of Chincoteague** Island opened in fall 2016 overlooking the waterfront and Assateague Island. The building can accommodate up to 100 people and will be used for lectures, workshops, field trips and other events.
- The [Amazement Square](#) education center in Lynchburg is expanding its programs and capacity.

Visit virginia.org/history for more information.



**VIRGINIA
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FILM
LOVERS™
#VAFILM**

*Ruth Negga (left) stars as Mildred Loving and Joel Edgerton (right) stars as Richard Loving in Jeff Nichols' LOVING, filmed in Virginia in 2015
Photo credit: Ben Rothstein / Focus Features.*

♥ | VIRGINIA IS FOR FILM LOVERS

The film industry has had a significant economic impact in Virginia, building on an innovative film incentive program and a strong homegrown industry. In 2015, the total economic impact of Virginia's film industry was \$615.6 million. Since Fiscal Year 2011, film projects receiving incentives in Virginia have produced a return of \$11 to the Virginia economy for every \$1 invested.

AMC's **"TURN: Washington's Spies,"** PBS' **"Mercy Street,"** Fox News' **"Legends & Lies,"** along with the films, **"Imperium," "Permanent," "Believe," "Shooting the Prodigal," "Maine," "Burning Sands," "TRI," "Public Affairs," "In-Lawfully Yours"** and **"Loving,"** were filmed in Virginia in 2015 and 2016.

The Oscar-nominated film "Loving," shot in Central Virginia in 2015, put a well-deserved spotlight back onto the story of Virginians Richard and Mildred Loving and their role in legalizing interracial marriage in the United States. In 2016, Governor McAuliffe declared June 12th – the date of the landmark Supreme Court decision *Loving v. Virginia*— to be officially known as **Loving Day** in Virginia. In celebration of Loving Day and the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Court's decision, a major celebration will be held in Capitol Square in Richmond June 10th, celebrating multiculturalism, love, and honoring the legacy of the Lovings.

The inaugural **Pocahontas Reframed Film Festival** will take place at The Byrd Theatre in Richmond Nov. 17-19. The festival will feature films by and about American Indians, with community and industry leader discussions. The festival is led by representatives of Virginia's state-recognized Indian tribes, with creative support from leading Native American filmmakers Chris Eyre, Georgina Lightning, and George Aguilar.

Other Virginia film festivals:

- **Richmond International Film Festival**, Richmond, Feb. 27 – March 5
- **French Film Festival**, Richmond, March 27 – April 2
- **Experimental Film Virginia**, Cape Charles, July 1 – 15
- **PUSH! Film Festival**, Bristol, Dates TBD
- **Afrikana Independent Film Festival**, Richmond, Sept. 14 – 17
- **Virginia Film Festival 30th Anniversary**, Charlottesville, Dates TBD

Although not filmed in-state, Hampton served as the backdrop for the true story of Oscar-nominated **Hidden Figures**, about the three African-American women who were the minds behind the groundbreaking launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. Travelers are able to visit [NASA's Virginia Air & Space Center](#), located in Hampton and although not specifically related to the movie, travelers can also visit [NASA's Wallops Island](#) facility on the Eastern Shore. Pharrell Williams, originally from Hampton Roads, did the score for the film, and his non-profit [From One Hand to AnOTHER \(FOHTA\)](#), founded in Virginia Beach, encourages STEM education for youth.

Visit film.virginia.org for more information.



