

# WHAT'S NEW TO LOVE IN VIRGINIA

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2018



VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
LOVERS



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A curated guide to Virginia in 2018.



# VIRGINIA TOURISM CORPORATION

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### *About Virginia Tourism Corporation*

The Virginia Tourism Authority promotes and develops the tourism and motion picture industries to stimulate Virginia's economy and enhance the quality of life of all Virginians.

### *Image Requests*

Virginia Tourism Corporation maintains a library of photographs and video covering the beauty and activities across the Commonwealth. Please contact Andrew Cothorn at ACothen@virginia.org and Jenna Eckel at JEckel@virginia.org for images.

**Virginia.org | Pressroom.Virginia.org**

# VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

*of Life*

A vacation in Virginia is about doing the things you love with the people you love most. This year, there's a whole lot more to love in the Commonwealth.

In 2018, Virginia will welcome a multitude of new wineries, breweries, distilleries, and cideries, helping to solidify our reputation as a bona fide destination for craft beverages. There will also be an influx of new restaurants, cooking up fresh flavors and dishes that represent the bounty of the Commonwealth's diverse farm-to-table offerings.

New outdoor recreation attractions and updates to parks across the state will be sure to delight nature enthusiasts and adrenaline junkies alike. And keeping true to our roots as the most historically rich destination in the country, there are plenty of new stories and legends to uncover here in the Birthplace of the Nation.

Whether you're soaking up the sun on one of our warm sandy beaches, sipping wine overlooking mountainous vistas, or enjoying our vibrant arts and culture, we can't wait for you to discover for yourself why Virginia is for Lovers.

On the following pages, Virginia Tourism Corporation is pleased to showcase the many new things Virginia will enjoy in 2018.

Cheers!

**Caroline Logan**  
Director of Communications





VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
FILM  
LOVERS™

## #VAFILM

The film industry has 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.

The seventh season of the award-winning Showtime series "Homeland," starring Claire Danes and Mandy Patinkin, began filming in Central Virginia in September 2017, and is expected to continue through March 2018. The presence of the high-caliber show has generated significant economic activity, jobs, and media buzz in each locality touched.

AMC's "TURN: Washington's Spies," PBS' "Mercy Street," along with the films, "Juanita," "Permanent," "Believe," "Burning Sands," "Swing Low," "Art Show Bingo," and "Public Affairs," were also filmed in Virginia in 2016 and 2017.

While both "TURN: Washington's Spies" and "Mercy Street" ended their respective four-year and two-year runs in 2017, the economic impact continued through tourism opportunities and products built around themed experiences. Popular film and history trails brought visitors to Alexandria, Petersburg, Richmond, and Williamsburg, all of which either served as the film location or story setting for the two fan-favorite series.

### Film Festival News

The inaugural **Pocahontas Reframed: Native American Storytellers Film Festival** took place at the historic Byrd Theatre in Richmond Nov. 17-19, 2017. The landmark festival featured three days of film, music, and live performances, with special guests from around the world. The festival's 13 films and three performances by and/or about First Nations and Native American people drew full attendance to the event, sponsored largely by the **2019 Commemoration**, local businesses and organizations, and

celebrated filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola. The festival is led by representatives of Virginia's state-recognized tribes, with creative support from a team of leaders in the Virginia arts community.

The **Virginia Film Festival** celebrated its 30th year in 2017 in Charlottesville, hosting special guests such as filmmaker Spike Lee ("4 Little Girls") and actor William H. Macy ("Krystal") to ring in the milestone celebration, alongside producer, Virginia native, and VFF board member Mark Johnson, who brought along his film "Downsizing," starring Matt Damon and Kristin Wiig.

### Upcoming Virginia Film Festivals

- **French Film Festival,** Richmond, March 22-25
- **Richmond International Film Festival,** Richmond, April 23-29
- **Experimental Film Virginia,** Cape Charles, July 2018
- **Afrikana Independent Film Festival,** Richmond, September 2018
- **PUSH! Film Festival,** Bristol, October 2018
- **Middleburg Film Festival,** Middleburg, October 2018
- **Washington West Film Festival,** Washington, October 2018
- **Virginia Film Festival,** Charlottesville, November 2018

Visit [filmvirginia.org](http://filmvirginia.org) and [virginia.org/virginiainfilmfestivals](http://virginia.org/virginiainfilmfestivals) for more information.

