

WHAT'S NEW TO LOVE IN VIRGINIA

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 ACoThorn@virginia.org and Jenna Eckel at JEckel@virginia.org for images.

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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
HISTORY
LOVERS™



#VAHISTORY

Virginia is an American history icon. As the first, largest, and most prosperous of the British colonies in America, Virginia is home to four of the first five presidents of the United States, and eight in total more than any other state. Homes of the first four presidents (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe) have been and/or are in the process of major upgrades including renovations and exhibit expansions.

- The most visited historic estate in the U.S., **George Washington's Mount Vernon** will reopen its Revolutionary War Theater in early 2018, marking the completion of a year-long \$2.2 million renovation to the 4-D theater and an overhaul of the feature film. The theater, which first opened in 2006, features state-of-the-art 4-D effects, including: snowfall, fog, and rumbling seats to tell the story of General George Washington's major victories during the American Revolution. With these updates, guests will feel like they are in the midst of the action of the Revolutionary War. The new 17-minute film focuses on the same

major battles as its first iteration: Washington's victories in Boston, Trenton, Princeton, and Yorktown. The updated production includes improved live action and animated sequences, as well as a two-minute pre-show that provides background of the causes of the Revolution.

- **George Washington's Ferry Farm** in Fredericksburg has recreated the house where George Washington spent his youth. The George Washington Foundation is charging forward with its multi-year venture to physically develop George Washington's Ferry Farm into an outdoor living museum.
- **Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest Parkway** will be a trail system that connects visitors to the deep history of Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest while also serving as a recreational opportunity for local residents. The trail systems are designed to be implemented in phases and, when complete, will provide six miles of trails that traverse the majority of its 600 acres.

- In 2017, James Madison's Montpelier opened **The Mere Distinction of Colour**, a groundbreaking exhibition on slavery. The culmination of nearly two decades of historical and archaeological research, this exhibition explores how the legacy of slavery impacts today's conversations about race, identity, and human rights. The exhibit shows Montpelier's connection to the national story of slavery, and the economic, ideological, and political factors that cemented it in the newly created American nation and Constitution.
- The reconstruction of the **Birthplace of President James Monroe**, just outside of Colonial Beach, will include a rebuilt colonial home, a scenic walk (complete with granite historical markers along the trail telling the story of Monroe's career), a bicycle trail, a canoe launch, benches, an overlook, and a picnic pavilion.

Other Historic Events

A few other historic events, happenings, and anniversaries in 2018:

- 2018 is the 200th anniversary of the town of Clarksville.
- May Faire celebrates the county's cultural history at the **Mathews County Historical Museum** on May 5.
- Memorial Day 2018 will mark the 150th anniversary of the very first Decoration Day National Observance at **Arlington National Cemetery**.
- The **Naval Support Facility Dahlgren** in King George County will celebrate its 100th anniversary in coordination with the Dahlgren Heritage Museum on Oct. 16

Other Virginia History News

Lee Hall Depot is the last remaining station from the C&O Railroad's expansion into Warwick County. Newport News is restoring the depot to preserve an entity important to the city's development. The Lee Hall Train Station Foundation is a support group assisting with this effort.

Visit Virginia.org/history for more information.

