

WHAT'S NEW TO LOVE IN VIRGINIA | 2019



50 YEARS OF
VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS



2019

Issue No. 3

A curated guide to Virginia in 2019



VIRGINIA TOURISM CORPORATION

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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Caroline Logan
Director of Communications
804. 545. 5572
CLogan@virginia.org

Danielle Emerson
Deputy Director of Communications
804. 545. 5576
DEmerson@virginia.org

Andrew Cothern
Communications Manager
804. 545. 5570
ACothern@virginia.org

Tricia Keppel
Content Specialist
804. 545. 5557
PKeppel@virginia.org

Taylor Paul
Social Media Specialist
804. 545. 5579
TPaul@virginia.org

Jenna Eckel
Communications Coordinator
804. 545. 5573
JEckel@virginia.org

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Christi Braginton
International Media Relations Manager
505. 500. 7396
CBraginton@virginia.org

Brigitte Bélanger-Warner
Canadian Media Relations & Marketing Specialist
804. 389. 4688
BWarner@virginia.org

LOU HAMMOND GROUP

VTC@louhammond.com

ABOUT VIRGINIA TOURISM CORPORATION

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

ALL THINGS SOCIAL

Facebook: [Virginia is for Lovers](#)
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IMAGE REQUESTS

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

[Virginia.org](#) | [Pressroom.Virginia.org](#)

901 East Cary Street, Suite 900
Richmond, VA 23219
804. 545. 5572

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50 YEARS OF LOVE

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

Virginia Tourism Corporation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the iconic “Virginia is for Lovers” slogan. Created in 1969 by Richmond-based advertising agency Martin & Woltz, the slogan is one of the most recognizable and iconic tourism slogans of all time. Virginia Tourism Corporation will celebrate the anniversary with the “50 Years of Love” campaign. Look for activations at wineries, breweries, festivals, hotels, restaurants and small businesses across the state!

During this year of celebration, we invite you to eat, drink and explore what you love in Virginia. 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 2019.

Join us and celebrate!

Caroline Logan
Director of Communications



VIRGINIA REGIONS

The Commonwealth is bordered by Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, and Maryland to the north; the Atlantic Ocean to the east; North Carolina and Tennessee to the south; and West Virginia and Kentucky to the west.

- 1

Southwest Virginia - Heart of Appalachia
- 2

Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands
- 3

Virginia Mountains
- 4

Shenandoah Valley
- 5

Central
- 6

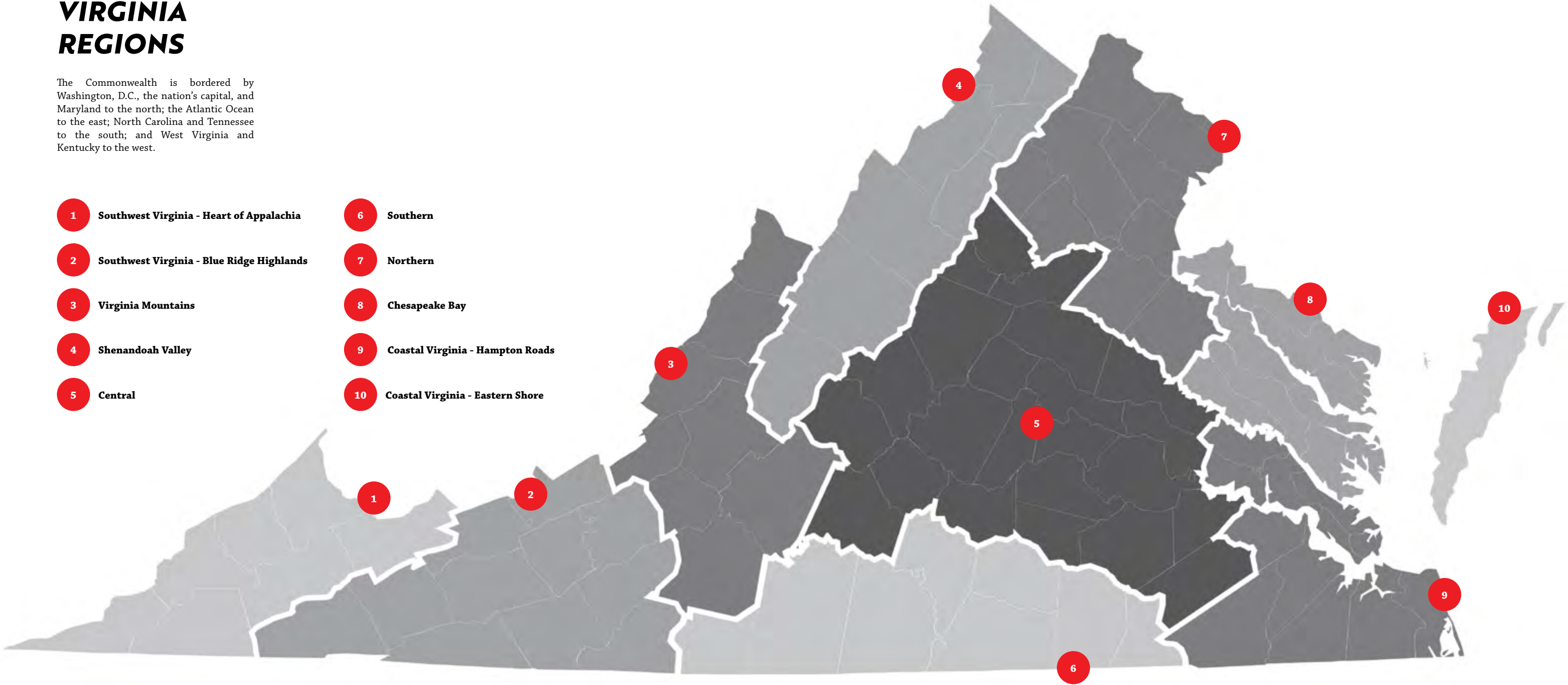
Southern
- 7

Northern
- 8

Chesapeake Bay
- 9

Coastal Virginia - Hampton Roads
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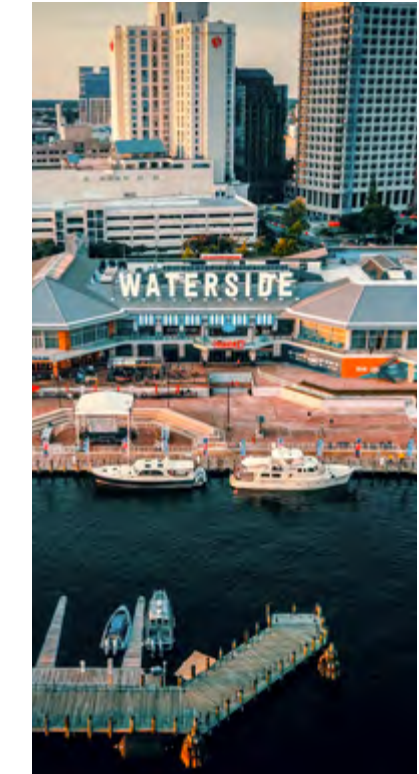
Coastal Virginia - Eastern Shore



CAN'T MISS HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

OVERALL IN VIRGINIA

- Tourism is an instant revenue generator in Virginia. In 2017, tourism in Virginia generated \$25 billion in revenue, which supported 232,000 jobs and contributed \$1.73 billion in state and local taxes for the Commonwealth.
- Virginia Tourism Corporation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Virginia is for Lovers slogan by launching the “**50 Years of Love**” campaign.
- Virginia has nearly 300 wineries and more than 200 breweries, 20 cideries and 70 distilleries.
- Virginia’s 2019 Commemoration, **American Evolution™** will recognize events that occurred in Virginia in 1619 that continue to influence America today. Featured programs, events and legacy projects will position Virginia as a leader in education, tourism and economic development.
- **Richmond Raceway Reimagined**, a \$30 million infield redevelopment project at Richmond Raceway opened September 2018. The project will bring a variety of enhanced amenities for fans during 2019’s races. The facility has a completely redesigned and modernized infield that will bring race fans closer than ever to NASCAR’s best with new garage walkways and inspection viewing areas as well as expansive infield social and engagement areas.



NORTHERN VIRGINIA

- **Amazon, Inc.** will invest approximately \$2.5 billion to establish a major new headquarters in Virginia that will create more than 25,000 high-paying jobs over 12 years. The headquarters will be housed in a collection of new and renovated buildings located in National Landing, which includes portions of Pentagon City and Crystal City in Arlington County, Virginia and Potomac Yard in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.
- The biggest splash at the Old Town **Alexandria** waterfront in 2019 will come from the tall ship Providence, arriving in June as a permanent attraction

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

- **Richmond Region Tourism** now includes the city of Richmond, the town of Ashland and the counties of Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico and Powhatan.
- The **Virginia Foothills** is a new premium destination to explore. The brand is the result of a public-private partnership between five area properties and the Virginia Tourism Corporation, which are joining forces to increase tourism to the Orange County region.
- **The Historic Academy of Music Theater** reopens in Lynchburg after closing in 1958. The theater will seat more than 800 patrons.

COASTAL VIRGINIA AND CHESAPEAKE BAY

- Celebrate the Virginia Oyster at **Shuckapalooza** on April 12 with seven unique oyster experiences at seven different locations in Virginia’s River Realm.
- **Farmhouse Brewing** in Virginia Beach opened an eight-acre craft beer, wine and cider oasis.
- Glass Light Hotel, a Marriott Autograph Collection, will open in Norfolk’s historic Rail District near the nationally ranked Chrysler Museum of Art and its Glass Studio.

HIGHLIGHTS

SHENANDOAH VALLEY

- The Shenandoah Valley welcomed many new and newly updated accommodations across the region, including **The Blackburn Inn**, a new boutique hotel formerly the Western State Hospital; **Hotel Madison**, Shenandoah Valley's Conference Center located in Harrisonburg; and the refreshed **Stonewall Jackson Hotel** in Staunton.
- **The Page County Economic Development and Tourism Office** launched a “Pay for your Stay” campaign to bring more visitors to Page County during the winter months when tourism tends to slow down. Visitors can get up to two nights in lodging at no more than \$300 per reservation. It must be on a weeknight between December and March. The stay will be free to the guest, as long as they commit to booking a stay in summer 2019.



HIGHLIGHTS

SOUTHERN VIRGINIA, SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA AND VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS

- The Southeastern region of Virginia has long been known for its peanuts, salt-cured hams and pork products. So on March 1, the **The Salty Southern Route** will launch to take you on a journey through this picturesque area and experience this tradition first-hand.
- Bedford Area Tourism will rebrand itself as “**Destination Bedford**” in 2019. The rollout of the brand encapsulates the full scope of activities and experiences available in Bedford, including Peaks of Otter, The National D-Day Memorial, Smith Mountain Lake and Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest.
- **Virginia's Blue Ridge** is America's East Coast Mountain Biking Capital and also a designated Silver-Level Ride Center™ by the International Mountain Bicycling Association.
- The 1925-era **Cameo Theater** in Bristol is being developed into a new live music venue and will be fully restored with programming in 2019.
- **The Appalachian Regional Exposition Center** (APEX Center) has opened in Wythe County. APEX Center is an agriculturally-themed arena capable of seating thousands of individuals and hosting events ranging from rodeos, livestock shows, concerts, sporting events and regional fairs.



50 YEARS OF LOVE

SHARE WHAT YOU LOVE

Virginia is For Lovers® was established in 1969, 50 years ago, and has become one of the most beloved and well-known slogans in the world. While it has meant a lot of different things to a lot of different people, one thing hasn't changed – the LOVE. In 2019, we're celebrating "50 Years of Love" with special experiences across the state.

Virginia Tourism Corporation will be leading an activation during the summer of 2019. We'll kick it off the first day of summer on June 21 and end the promotion 50 days later on August 10.

The campaign will include a grant opportunity for instate industry partners to participate by developing their own activations – local events, programs, special offerings - that will last 50 days as well. In total, Virginia Tourism Corporation will award \$300,000 to 30 tourism marketing programs across the Commonwealth to help increase visitation and revenue. Each grant recipient will receive a \$10,000 grant for its "50 Years of Love" project, with the requirement of engaging 10 or more tourism partners in order to receive grant funding.

Virginia is for Lovers was inducted into the Madison Avenue Advertising Walk of Fame on Sept. 21, 2009. The slogan was included in the Advertising Icon Museum alongside fellow 2009 inductees, the AOL Running Man, the Budweiser Clydesdales and State Farm's "Like a Good Neighbor, State Farm is There." This recognition came on the heels of Forbes.com tapping Virginia is for Lovers as one of the top ten tourism marketing campaigns of all time.

For more information about 50 Years of Love, please visit
virginia.org/virginiaisforlovers



HOTELS

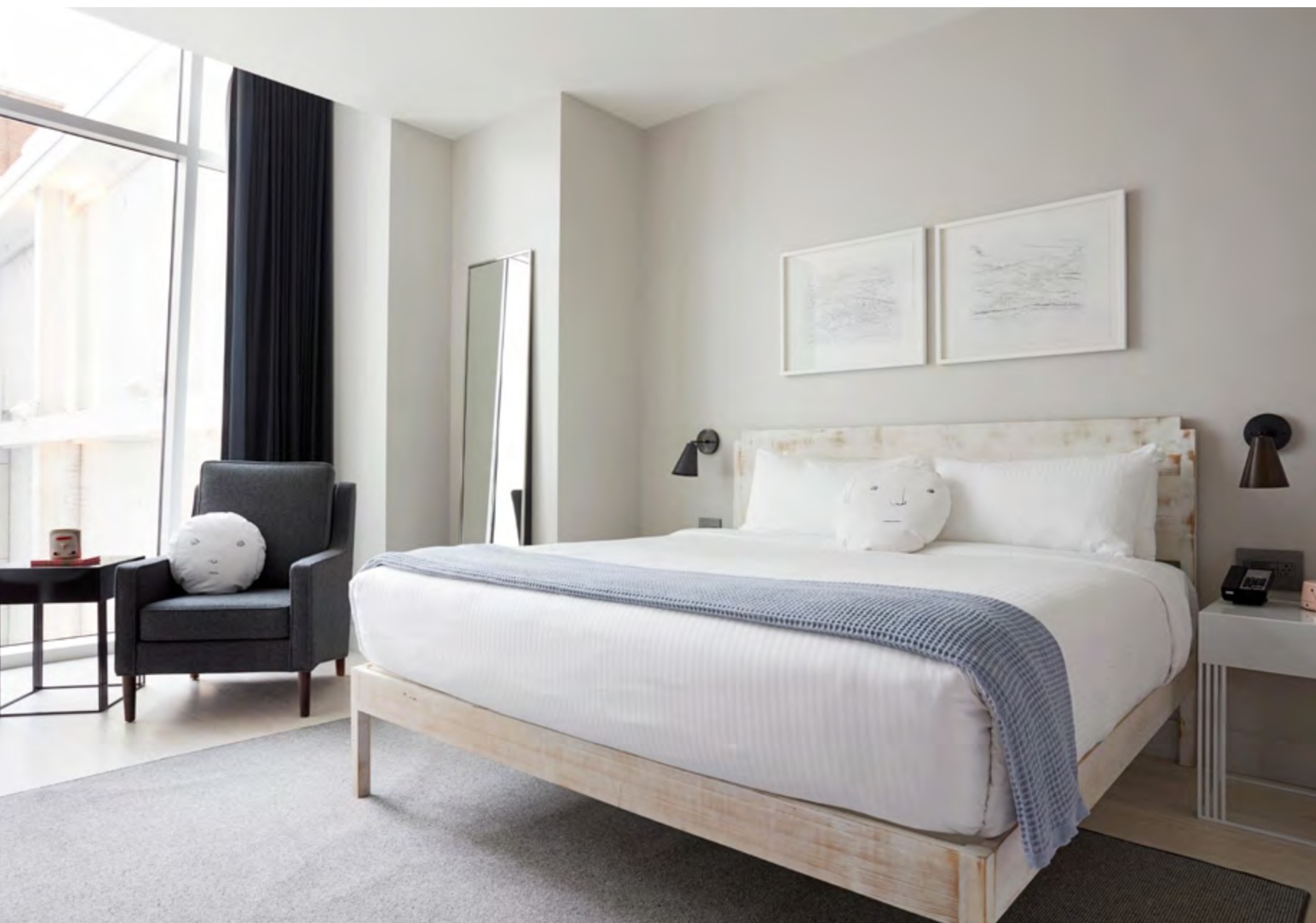
NEW PLACES TO STAY IN VIRGINIA

Make yourself at home by staying at one of these new or newly renovated accommodations across the Commonwealth. We have no doubt you will sleep soundly wherever you choose to stay. Not to mention there are some unique new experiences available too!



NORTHERN VIRGINIA

- Alexandria’s hotel portfolio continues to evolve with changes such as Sage Hospitality expanding their D.C.-area hotel portfolio to include the management contract for **The Alexandrian** and **Morrison House** hotels, both part of Marriott’s Autograph Collection. The hotels are two iconic hotels in Old Town, with The Alexandrian located on King Street and featuring 241 guest rooms and more than 9,000 square feet of meeting space as well as the restaurant Jackson 20. Morrison House is an intimate 45-room boutique hotel located just one block off King Street.
- Other changes to Alexandria’s hotels include a full renovation completed in June 2018 at the **Fairfield Inn and Suites** at Landmark Mall. From the exterior to the lobby and from guest rooms to meeting spaces, the hotel was transformed and upgraded.
- A New **Marriott Town Suites** opened in Front Royal late 2018.
- **Lansdowne Resort & Spa** launched new water activities, giving guests access to neighboring Goose Creek and Potomac River. Guests can also watch their bartender pick ingredients from Fanny’s Garden for their craft cocktail.
- **Salamander Resort & Spa** has found another way to embrace Loudoun’s horse country. On Fridays and Saturdays enjoy cocktails alongside the miniature horse “Cupcake” who visits the resort’s living room. Salamander is also now creating packaged picnics for guests to take while they explore Virginia’s Wine Country.



HOTELS

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

- You may think you know **The Commonwealth**, as it has been a landmark hotel in Richmond for over 100 years. And much of what it's been known for—excellent service, spacious suites and a location that can't be beat—remains. But it's totally reinvented itself, and now offers a uniquely Richmond experience. From the tattooed entrance doors on its suites (did you know that Richmond is the fifth most tattooed city in America?) to handcrafted art from some of the area's most talented artisans, The Commonwealth will surprise and delight you at every turn.
- Ready for a good time? Marriott's millennial pleasing brand, **Moxy**, is coming to downtown Richmond in 2019.
- Richmond's **Quirk Hotel** now offers a gathering space in Loft 209 connected to the Courtyard offering an experience unlike any other for corporate meetings or social events with indoor and outdoor use!
- Nestled in the rolling hills of Goochland, **Dover Hall** is the ideal location for a romantic getaway, family reunion or even an in-town "stay-cation." With boutique lodging available enjoy use of the entire home and a variety of amenities including a premium glass of wine in the wine cellar, a game of pool in the billiards room, a quiet read in the two story library, soft piano music in the great room or a refreshing dip in the reflecting pool.
- **The Virginian Lynchburg**, Curio Collection by Hilton, has been the centerpiece of downtown Lynchburg since 1913. This magnificent hotel has been thoughtfully restored to its historic grandeur and refreshed with modern amenities. Walk to restaurants and boutiques, stroll along the James River and dive into the arts and creative scene. Downtown is full of hidden gems, **Point of Honor** is a mile away and the Snowflex Center is nearby for year-round skiing.
- **The Cottages at The Mill at Fine Creek** are charming and picturesque living spaces available for overnight accommodations. There are 13 cottages (seven one-bedroom cottages, five two-bedroom cottages and one three-bedroom cottage) with a large green space and walkways between them.

HOTELS
COASTAL VIRGINIA AND
CHESAPEAKE BAY

- This spring, **Marriott Autograph Collection’s** art- and glass-themed hotel in Norfolk’s historic Rail District will open. The hotel will be down the street from the nationally ranked Chrysler Museum of Art and its Glass Studio. It is expected to open during Norfolk’s first Mural Rail Festival, which is likely to become an annual festival.
- Construction is underway in the City of Hampton for the **Starwood Hotels and Resort’s Element Hotel at Peninsula Town Center**. It will be 95,000 square feet with more than 120 rooms.
- **The Callis House Hotel** recently opened and is the only boutique hotel in Mathews County. Located on Main Street, the town’s popular restaurants and shops are just a few minutes walk away.
- **Huntington House** is a new bed and breakfast in the North End Historic District of downtown Newport News. A 22-block, early 20th-century neighborhood developed primarily between 1900 and 1935, it is the largest and most architecturally cohesive neighborhood of the inner city. The property is also available as a venue for special events and meetings.



SHENANDOAH VALLEY

- Originally constructed in 1828, **The Blackburn Inn** was envisioned and influenced by master builder and Thomas Jefferson’s protégé, Thomas R. Blackburn. The Blackburn Inn, located in Staunton, is a unique renovation of a historic building that was formerly part of the Western State Hospital for the mentally ill. This historic boutique hotel exemplifies artful design and a modern, upscale, state-of-the-art experience.
- **Hotel Madison** opened last spring as Shenandoah Valley’s Conference Center located in Harrisonburg.
- **The Stonewall Jackson Hotel** in Staunton received a historic renovation of all guest rooms and public spaces, including the conference facilities, swimming pool and fitness center.
- In nationally branded hotel news, a Hilton Hotel and Marriott Hotel are expected to open in Staunton and the **Doubletree By Hilton in Harrisonburg** recently went under a renovation. Also, last year, Wyndham Grand Hotel’s **The George Washington** in Winchester received TripAdvisor’s “Certificate of Excellence” and the “Best of Wyndham Grand.”

HOTELS

SOUTHERN VIRGINIA, SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA AND VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS

- Steeped in history, the opening of **The Bristol Hotel** has repurposed downtown Bristol's notable Executive Plaza, which dates back to 1925. Looking to connect the past and the present, the building's historic value will be preserved by maintaining and enhancing its original stucco exterior, display windows and main facade. Situated in the heart of downtown Bristol, this 65-room remodeled boutique hotel features a rooftop bar displaying sweeping views of the scenic Appalachian Mountains, street-front dining serving farm-to-table cuisine and the utilization of the original historic arcade for unforgettable social gatherings and events.
- Since 2012, the incredible adventures of the Black Dog Salvage team have aired on HGTV, DIY and Great American Country as the TV series "Salvage Dawgs". Now you can enjoy some of their salvage finds by staying at **The Stone House**. The house, located next door to Black Dog Salvage, showcases a salvaged-inspired lifestyle with products sourced from Black Dog Salvage. Located minutes from Historic Grandin Village and Downtown Roanoke, and adjacent to the Roanoke River Greenway, guests have easy access to biking, outdoor recreation, shopping and dining. The Stone House has lodging for up to 6 guests and private receptions.

- Relax and enjoy an overnight or week-long stay at **Foxwood Farms** with the whole family. The farm is a private, trout-stocked fishery and resort on one mile of the peaceful Elk Creek.
- **Kairos Wilderness Resort** in Glen Lyn now has new riverside primitive campgrounds and will begin construction on 23 treehouses and cottages in 2019.
- The young, hip and contemporary **TRU by Hilton Hotels** opened late 2018 in Wytheville. A TRU opened in Roanoke as well.
- Marion's historic **General Francis Marion Hotel** will freshen up with a facelift in 2019.
- Thoughtfully brought back to life as a boutique hotel, the **Hotel Weyanoke** in Farmville features a historic building complemented with mid-century modern designed, residential-style furnishings. The hotel also features four dining venues including a coffee bar, kitchen and wine bar, pizza shop and fabulous rooftop bar.
- Coming in 2020! Tucked in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwestern Virginia, Quiltville will open **Quiltville Inn**. Perfect for retreats and getaways for quilters, Quiltville is located in **Mouth of Wilson**.

For more information about accomodations, please visit:
virginia.org/placestostay





VIRGINIA IS FOR
OUTDOOR LOVERS

VIRGINIA IS FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS

#VAOUTDOORS

From the shores of the Chesapeake Bay to the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains, Mother Nature is a major draw in Virginia. The Commonwealth's abundant natural resources offer the perfect backdrop for communities across the state to create new tourism assets. Two new Virginia State Parks, new trail systems, expanded tours and new guided adventures are a few highlights of what's new for outdoor lovers in 2019.



NEW AT PARKS

- **Widewater State Park** opened in Stafford County. It is the Commonwealth's 38th state park. Widewater State Park covers 1,100 acres, including two miles of water frontage along the Potomac River and Aquia Creek.
- **Seven Bends State Park** is slated to open spring 2019 with primitive trails, river access, tent camping and a picnic shelter. The park will encompass over 1000 acres and adjoin to the George Washington National Forest and offer more than four miles of river frontage.
- **Breaks Interstate Park** will offer new night zip tours on the Canyon Rim Zipline and guided canoe tours on Flannagan Lake. Night zip tours will occasionally be planned to coincide with full moon and starry evenings. New canoe tours will consist of day and overnight options with experienced guides sharing knowledge about the lake's unique geology and wildlife. Overnight guests will be treated to a campout under the stars at a prime camping spot in the head of Upper Twin Cove.
- New tent and tipi camping options and horseback riding at Niagara Farms became available to visitors late 2018 at **Explore Park in Virginia's Blue Ridge**. Spring 2019 will bring a new zipline, additional tent sites and yurts.



VIRGINIA IS FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS

NEW TRAILS

- **Haysi-Breaks Trail**, a 10+ mile multi-use trail for hiking, equestrian and mountain biking, will connect Breaks Interstate Park with Haysi. With an added connection to the Pine Mountain Trail, trail users will have access to over 20 additional miles of the Birch Knob Section, and can connect into the towns of Clintwood and Pound.
- The Counties of Bland, Tazewell, Giles, along with the Town of Narrows and Tazewell, have established the **Twin Depots Road Bicycle Trail** that follows Route 61 between Narrows and Tazewell. This old rail bed is a scenic drive or ride mainly along Wolf Creek. The 61-mile trail between depots is historically significant, a leisurely road ride and a popular spot for cyclists.
- James Madison’s Montpelier added the 3.55-mile **Montpelier Loop Trail** in 2017, designed for walkers and hikers who want to experience the full range of landscapes Montpelier has to offer. The trail runs past the Annie DuPont Formal Garden, through the James Madison Landmark Forest and the Demonstration Forest. Montpelier’s 8+ miles of well-marked walking trails are one of the Virginia Piedmont’s best-kept secrets. In addition, the 3.9-mile Montpelier-Grelen Trail links Montpelier’s trail system to Grelen Nursery’s trail system over a route that traverses Chicken Mountain.
- **Kairos Wilderness Resort** has expanded their off-road rail system this year with a new five-mile section of single track trail. The resort’s total trail system is now more than 40 miles. An enduro cross training track is now also available and Kairos Resort will host an ATV/UTV event that incorporates clay shooting competition throughout the 1515-acre property in addition to new clay shooting packages and events in 2019.
- **The New London Tech Trails** opened in 2018 in Bedford, offering 6.5 miles of multi-use trail for hiking, trail running and mountain biking. While designed for employees of the New London Business and Technology Center, the trail system is also open to the public.





VIRGINIA IS FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS

NEW OUTFITTERS, GUIDES AND RENTALS

- **Mobjack Kayaking** opened in 2016 as Mathews County's kayaking outfitter offering kayak and SUP rentals, as well as guided tours. Growing from high demand, they are offering new guided tours in 2019 including a tour of Winter Harbor, Historic lighthouse tours and a paddle to a local waterfront oyster bar.
- **Bruno Bike Builders** in Scott County are building, renting and selling handmade wood bikes and also offer outdoor excursions.
- E-bike rentals are now available at the **Big Stone Gap Visitor Center** for \$5 per hour.
- Richmond's popular **Basket and Bike** is offering a new **"Discover Downtown Richmond Tour"** departing from the Jefferson Hotel that includes a snack stop at Whisk RVA.
- **Lansdowne Resort and Spa** recently launched a series of outdoor activities along the Potomac River. Guests and other visitors alike can participate in guided kayak and paddleboard tours as well as fly and spin casting fishing lessons.
- **Alleghany Outdoors** is an outfitter company specializing in running river trips on the upper Jackson River and the Jackson River scenic trail between the outflow of the Gathright Dam and the city of Covington. This outfitter rents kayaks, rafts, tubes and mountain bikes for a variety of trip lengths and formats.

NEW EVENTS

- Presented by Racine MultiSports, the new **Luray International Duathlon** will put duathletes to the test in August 2019 with an Olympic distance duathlon set in the scenic Shenandoah Valley near Luray. Participants will experience trail runs, road cycling, a 10k and more.
- In September 2018, organizers of the 24-hour Shenandoah Epic adventure race expanded to include a multi-day expedition called the **Shenandoah Tough Adventure Race**. The expedition is 3.5 days and covers 250 miles with soloists and small teams navigating their way across the challenging and beautiful terrain of the Northern Shenandoah Valley via foot, mountain bike and boat.

For more information, please visit:
virginia.org/outdoors



#VAFOOD

Virginia's red-hot culinary scene continues to wow visitors and Virginians alike. From Appalachian heritage cuisine to the fresh tastes of Coastal Virginia, it's easy to see why Virginia is for Food Lovers.

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 premier destination to experience the bounty of our soil and our people. Agritourism is also an important part of diversifying our economy.



**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
FOOD
LOVERS**

NEW IN FOOD

There are an impressive number of new offerings across the Commonwealth, from coast to cliff.

- Richmond's multiple James Beard nominee Lee Gregory, co-owner of The Roosevelt and Southbound, has opened his first restaurant. **Alewife**, a fish-focused restaurant in Richmond's Church Hill neighborhood, focuses on sustainable dishes from the bounty of the Chesapeake Bay. Also in Richmond, Mike Ledesma has opened **Perch**, offering "Pacific-inspired flavors with Virginia spirit."
- Opening in Arlington's bustling Clarendon neighborhood is **Le Kon**, a Mexican and Japanese fusion restaurant from former "Top Chef" contestant Katsuji Tanabe. It's the first venture into the D.C. area market for Tanabe, best known for his kosher taco spot MexiKosher in New York. Le Kon, called "modern chic," will serve everything from smoked Hamachi ceviche flavored with lemongrass and chipotle to full cuts of meat including a wagyu flat-iron steak.
 - Arlington's new Ballston Quarter retail and entertainment complex also welcomed **Quarter Market**, an 18-concept food hall that brings the newest up-and-coming food establishments to Arlington along with some tried and true favorites. Among the offerings are South American restaurant **Maizal**, casual seafood restaurant **Slapfish**, and **Sloppy Mama's BBQ**, which are all opening their first Virginia locations; pop-up sandwich shop **French Exit** and DC-based **All About Burger**.
- including Shack Shout Sauce and Shack BBQ Sauce.
- Devils Backbone Outpost Tap Room and Kitchen** opened a new restaurant in August 2018. The brewery is located on a beautiful hillside in Lexington and houses the custom-built brewery, bottling and canning lines, taproom with fast-casual dining and outdoor beer garden.
 - The Valley Cork** opened in downtown Luray a wine bar/shop, offering bottles, wine by the glass, tastings and light food. **Compass Tea Room** also opened in Luray with tea, coffee and a variety of Made in America products in their retail space.
 - If food trucks, beer, wine and cider are your thing check out **Farmhouse Brewing Co.** Rooting in the soil of Virginia Beach this old farmhouse venue provides a relaxed and fun atmosphere to enjoy your favorite beverage.
 - Gordonsville welcomed new restaurant **Rochambeau** to its Historic Downtown in the autumn of 2018, featuring fine French dining in a storybook Main Street setting.
 - Come by boat and discover this **Hole in the Wall** waterfront grill in Mathews County serving local oysters from the East River.
 - The Northern Neck's town of White Stone welcomed its newest restaurant,

- **The Shack** in Staunton, owned by James Beard nominated chef Ian Boden, is now serving brunch on Sundays. They are also making, bottling and selling a line of sauces including Shack Hot Sauce and Shack BBQ Sauce.
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- The Northern Neck's town of White Stone welcomed its newest restaurant,

606. Previously the old White Stone School House, 606 features **The Quays**, an Irish restaurant, bar and lounge and **Walkabout Creek**, a casual restaurant and bar specializing in the taste of the Aussie Outback.

- **Top Chef** alum **Spike Mendelsohn** is opening a new restaurant inside the massive sports complex, The St. James, in Springfield. Mendelsohn plans to work with local purveyors so that members can also pick up regionally grown produce on-site.
- **Cheesetique** has opened its first Fairfax County location in the Mosaic District, serving up a steady diet of wine, cheese and gourmet comfort foods like lobster mac and cheese, beer-spiked poutine and Halloumi-topped seafood. Meanwhile, Fairfax City will welcome **Mama Chang**, a new restaurant by acclaimed chef Peter Chang in winter 2019.

For more information, please visit:
virginia.org/food



VIRGINIA IS FOR
OYSTER LOVERS

VIRGINIA IS FOR OYSTER LOVERS

Shuck and eat fresh oysters right from the Chesapeake Bay, the Atlantic Ocean and its tributaries as you discover for yourself why Virginia is for Oyster Lovers. From briny to mild, these bite-sized bundles of love have been bringing local flavor to Virginia since the first settlers at Jamestown harvested them from our waters.

Virginia has eight different oyster regions producing oysters with distinct flavors, offering an oyster for every palate ranging in salinity, creaminess and sweetness.

“Shuckapalooza” debuts April 12 and will be an exclusive, bucket list worthy, event of private oyster tastings, tours and educational experiences. Modeled after **Virginia’s Garden Week**, this one day only event showcases water excursions, oyster farm tours, wine and oyster pairings and lots of ways to learn more about the great bivalve.

Virginia has numerous other festivals celebrating oysters. Each October, the northern end of Virginia’s Eastern Shore celebrates the saltiest of oysters at the **Chincoteague Oyster Festival**. Not to mention, every November, the town of Urbanna, founded on the Rappahannock River, throws the country’s largest and longest-running oyster festival called the **Urbanna Oyster Festival**. The town’s streets are closed to vehicle traffic and become filled with oyster booths, seafood dishes, music and crafts. The festival highlight is the oyster shucking contest which draws spectators from around the world.



OYSTER TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

See and experience first-hand what it takes to get our fresh, local seafood from the Virginia Waters to your table by taking part in these experiences:

- **The Virginia Oyster Trail** connects producers, farmers, purveyors, seafood restaurants and raw bars in Virginia’s distinctive bay and river towns for an authentic oyster tourism experience.
- **The Virginia Oyster Academy Program** is located on the Virginia Oyster Trail and is a taste, touch and learn bay-to-table experience. Learn about Virginia’s oyster history, oyster ecology and tools of the harvest. Participants will then accompany a traditional Virginia waterman by boat for a harvest excursion.
- Visit **Merroir** for the ultimate oyster “tasting room” experience. Featuring the celebrated farms of Rappahannock Oyster Company, everything is served raw or cooked on an outdoor grill, small-plate-style and paired with craft brews and world-famous wines.
- Sign up for the Chef’s Table Tour at **Pleasure House Oyster Farm**. Hosted by Capt. Chris Ludford, owner and oyster farmer. This tour is a dining experience you won’t forget as you stand in waders knee-deep in the Lynnhaven River at a table set up directly in the water at the oyster farm.
- “The Virginia Oyster” pairs perfectly with another recognized Virginia product: Wine! Some of our oyster regions share watersheds with Virginia wineries, proving the point that “what grows together, goes together.” Sip some wine and slurp oysters in **Virginia’s River Realm** at **The Dog and Oyster**.

For more information, please visit:
virginia.org/oysters



VIRGINIA IS FOR
WINE LOVERS

VIRGINIA IS FOR WINE LOVERS

#VAWINE

With nearly 300 wineries scattered across seven different American Viticultural Areas throughout the Commonwealth, Virginia continues to be the fifth largest wine producing region in the United States.

The sheer number isn't what stands out to those who know great wine though. The 400-year history behind the vines, the unforgettable experiences, the awe-inspiring scenery, the incredible food matched with a glass and of course the world-class quality that you taste in a Virginia bottle makes it easy to see why Virginia is for Wine Lovers.

NEW IN WINE

- **The Chateau Morrisette Winery** will open a tasting room in downtown Roanoke.
- Wytheville will present its first **Wytheville Wine Festival** in July 2019 featuring Southwest Virginia wines, cuisine and musicians.
- **Hilltop Berry Farm and Winery** has expanded to Buggs Island. Visit their new tasting room located in historic Clarksville.
- **Blue Quartz Winery** in Madison County will open in early 2019.
- **Zoll Vineyards** will open new farm-to-table winery in Gloucester County.



VIRGINIA WINE TRAILS

- **Southwest Virginia Wine Trail** will include all wineries in Southwest Virginia's 19 county footprint.
- The **Montpelier Wine Trail** is a collection of small, family owned wineries located in and around historic Montpelier in Orange County.
- **211 Scenic Vino Wine Trail** includes seven wineries and one distillery along Route 211.
- **Artisanal Wineries of Rappahannock** features five wineries, a short drive from Washington D.C.
- **Bedford Wine Trail** offers five wineries and scenery of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Smith Mountain Lake.
- **Blue Ridge Whiskey Wine Loop** is a convenient trail including wineries, a distillery and many restaurants.
- **Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail** offers a captivating trip highlighted by history and waterways. This trail includes 12 stops.
- **Fauquier County Wine Trail** provides 25 wineries and vineyards, each with its own unique flavors.
- **Foothills Scenic Wine Trail** is nestled between Old Rag Mountain and White Oak Canyon with two family-run wineries.
- **Heart of Virginia Wine Trail** features six wineries near Virginia's State Capitol of Richmond.
- **Loudoun's DC Wine Country** offers four clusters of boutique wineries that are sprinkled throughout Loudoun's bucolic countryside.
- **Monticello Wine Trail** includes five wine trails and features 30 vineyards and wineries.
- **Mountain Road Wine Experience** showcases five wineries, a meadery and a cidery with the Blue Ridge Parkway as your scenery.
- **Nelson 151 Trail** is a way to sample Nelson County's many wineries and breweries, all along scenic Rt. 151.
- **Shenandoah County Wine Trail** includes breathtaking mountain views as the backdrop for these seven award-winning wineries.
- **The Shenandoah Valley Wine Trail** is located in Virginia's Great Appalachian Valley and includes 19 wineries and vineyards.
- **SoVA Wine Trail** in Southern Virginia is an up-and-coming grape-growing region with 12 wineries!

For more information, please visit: virginia.org/wine



VIRGINIA IS FOR
CIDER LOVERS



VIRGINIA IS FOR CIDER LOVERS

Cider is a rich part of the Commonwealth's heritage. Cider styles vary from dry to sweet, still to sparkling, simple to complex. Virginia cider makers craft a range of balanced dry cider that will delight the palate. Enjoy Virginia cider by pairing it with different foods and enjoy the wide range of styles available in the Commonwealth.

NEW IN CIDER

- **Ditchley Cider Works** will open its tasting room during 2019 in Kilmarnock. In the meantime, they offer tastings at the Dug In Farmstand in White Stone. Ditchley has roughly 60 varieties of apples grown on 15 acres. Ditchley also offers a Cider Club and a Meat/Charcuterie Club.
- **Sugar Hill Cidery** will locate its new hard cider production facility and restaurant in Norton. The estimated opening date will be in Summer 2019.
- **Sly Clyde Ciderworks** in Hampton Roads creates delicious hard ciders craftily crushed from Virginia apples. This tap room is opened Tuesday through Sunday.
- **Halcyon Days Cidery** in Natural Bridge features a 1.7-mile chartres labyrinth apple orchard containing over 2,000 trees. This family owned and operated cidery creates small-batch cider blends.
- With its first location located in Richmond's Scott's Addition, Buskey Hard Cider opened **Buskey Cider on the Bay**, a second location on Virginia's Eastern Shore in Cape Charles.

For more information, please visit: virginia.org/cider

BALLAST POINT

BREWING COMPANY

VIRGINIA IS FOR
CRAFT BEER LOVERS

VIRGINIA IS FOR CRAFT BEER LOVERS

#VACRAFTBEER

The Virginia craft beer scene is booming. With more than 200 craft breweries in Virginia, existing breweries, like Hardywood Park Craft Brewery and Starr Hill Brewing, are expanding, and big brands, like Stone Brewing and Deschutes Brewing Company, now call Virginia home.

NEW BREWERIES:

- **Skipping Rock Beer Company**, Staunton
- **Bacova Beer Company**, Hot Springs
- **Seven Sisters Brewery**, Wytheville
- **7 Dogs Brew Pub**, Wytheville
- **Eastern Divide Brewing Company**, Blacksburg
- **Heliotrope Brewery**, Lexington
- **Twisted Know Brewing Company**, Newport News
- **Lonesome Pine Brewing Company**, Lebanon
- **Box Office Brewery**, Strasburg
- **Settle Down Easy Brewing Company**, Fairfax
- **Honor Brewing Company**, Chantilly
- **Nostrum Brewing Company**, Fairfax County
- **Cedar Run Brewery**, Nokesville
- **Bingo Beer Company**, Richmond
- **Dogtown Brewing Company**, Richmond
- **Richbrau**, Richmond
- **Tabol Brewing**, Richmond
- **Tradition Brewing Company**, Warsaw
- **Hillsborough Farm Brewery**, Purcellville
- **Shotwell Brewery**, Madison County



EXPANSIONS:

- **Stone Brewing Company** to open its World Bistro and Gardens in Richmond.
- **Devils Backbone Outpost Tap Room and Kitchen** opened a new restaurant in Aug. 2018. The brewery is located on a beautiful hillside in Lexington and houses the custom-built brewery, bottling and canning lines, taproom with fast-casual dining, and outdoor beer garden.
- **Basic City Beer Company** to open second location in Richmond.
- **Old Ox Brewery** will be opening a second location in Middleburg.
- **Buggs Island Brewing Company** will be moving to a new location in downtown Clarksville.
- **Backroom Brewery** is expanding to include meeting space and is installing a 20 barrel system.

ON THE HORIZON:

- The **Southwest Virginia Mountain Brew Trail** includes the breweries in Southwest Virginia's 19-county footprint and will expand to include new breweries in the area.
- The **LoCo Ale Trail** will continue to expand, with seven new breweries slated to open in 2018. With the new openings, Loudoun County will be home to almost 30 breweries – the most for any county in Virginia.

For more information, please visit:
virginia.org/craftbeer



VIRGINIA IS FOR SPIRITS LOVERS

#VASPIRITS

Virginia is the Birthplace of American Spirits—the first batch of whiskey was distilled right here in 1620. From there, George Washington went on to be the biggest producer of Virginia whiskey during his time, producing more than 11,000 gallons in 1798 alone.

Today, distilleries span across the Commonwealth; from the mountains to the shores, and the hills and the hollers, with 70 distilleries making some of the finest spirits in the United States, and proudly holding titles of the “World’s Best Bourbon” and the “Best American Single Malt Whisky” as rated by the “World Whiskies Awards”, presented by *Whisky Magazine*!



NEW VIRGINIA DISTILLERIES, TASTING ROOMS AND TOURS

- Richmond welcomed their newest addition to the craft spirits scene with the opening of **Virago Spirits** tasting room in November 2018.
- **Three Crosses Distilling**, located in the village of Powhatan, is veteran-owned and family-run with a female distiller. Three Crosses Distilling produces whiskeys, rums, vodkas and good ole corn liquor (moonshine). Spirits are handcrafted on-site and sourced locally.
- Travel to Franklin County, the “Moonshine Capital of the World” and inspiration for the 2012 movie “Lawless” for an **Appalachian ‘Shine and Spirits’** tour with Roanoke Food Tours. Virginia’s Blue Ridge and in particular Franklin County VA – referred to by many as The Wettest County in the World – is known worldwide for its colorful distilling and moonshining tradition. You’ll learn more about this history, but more importantly, you’ll taste the history with every sip
- Visit Virginia’s Blue Ridge launched **Virginia’s Blue Ridge Cheers Trail** in August 2018 which provides a map and listing of the region’s breweries, distilleries and wineries, as well as incentives and prizes for visiting multiple locations.
- **The Tides Inn** partnered with **A. Smith Bowman Distillery** in Fredericksburg to create a private single barrel bourbon that was aged in the barrel for 11 years and 3 months. This is only available at the Tides Inn and only by the drink. There are no bottle sales of any kind. The Tides Inn also offers mixology classes and bourbon tastings.
- **The Vanguard Brewpub and Distillery** opened in 2018 and is home to **Caiseal Spirits and Beer**. The Vanguard is a venue with live music seven nights a week. There is also a restaurant and cigar parlor for guests to enjoy.

- **Falls Church Distillers**, which opened in 2017, produces a range of small batch ultra-premium spirits including vodkas, gins, rums and whiskies. Now, they are the only Virginia distillery to also boast a full bar and restaurant in the middle of their premises, offering a wide range of traditional Italian fare and large selection of beer and wine. Visitors can also purchase bottles from a retail store on site.
- The tasting room at the **Ironclad Distillery Co.** in Newport News officially opened in March 2018. New releases include the Hot Southern Honey Barrel Finished Bourbon and Straight Bourbon Whiskey release, both in fall 2018. Coming in 2019 is the Vermouth Barrel Finished Bourbon release. Also opening in 2019 is a new tasting room cigar deck.

ACCOLADES

- Lovington-based **Virginia Distillery Company** won the *Whisky Magazine* title “Best American Single Malt Whisky” for their Virginia Highland Malt.
- **A. Smith Bowman Distillery** in Fredericksburg won World’s Best Bourbon for their John J. Bowman, Single Barrel Straight Bourbon Whisky. This is the second consecutive year that the distillery has been recognized by Whisky Magazine.

For more information, please visit: virginia.org/distilleries



VIRGINIA IS FOR
MUSIC LOVERS

VIRGINIA IS FOR MUSIC LOVERS

#VAMUSIC

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.

NEW LIVE MUSIC VENUES

- **The Cameo Theater**, a historic theater in Bristol, is being re-developed into a new live music venue and will be fully restored with programming in 2019.
- After 60 years in the making, the **Historic Academy of Music Theatre** in Lynchburg, built in 1905 and closed in 1958, completed its renovation and opened its doors to the public in December 2018 celebrating the integration of the theatre, a space that was previously segregated when last closed.
- **Hardywood Park Craft Brewery** is developing a new live music amphitheater at its **West Creek location** to open in 2019





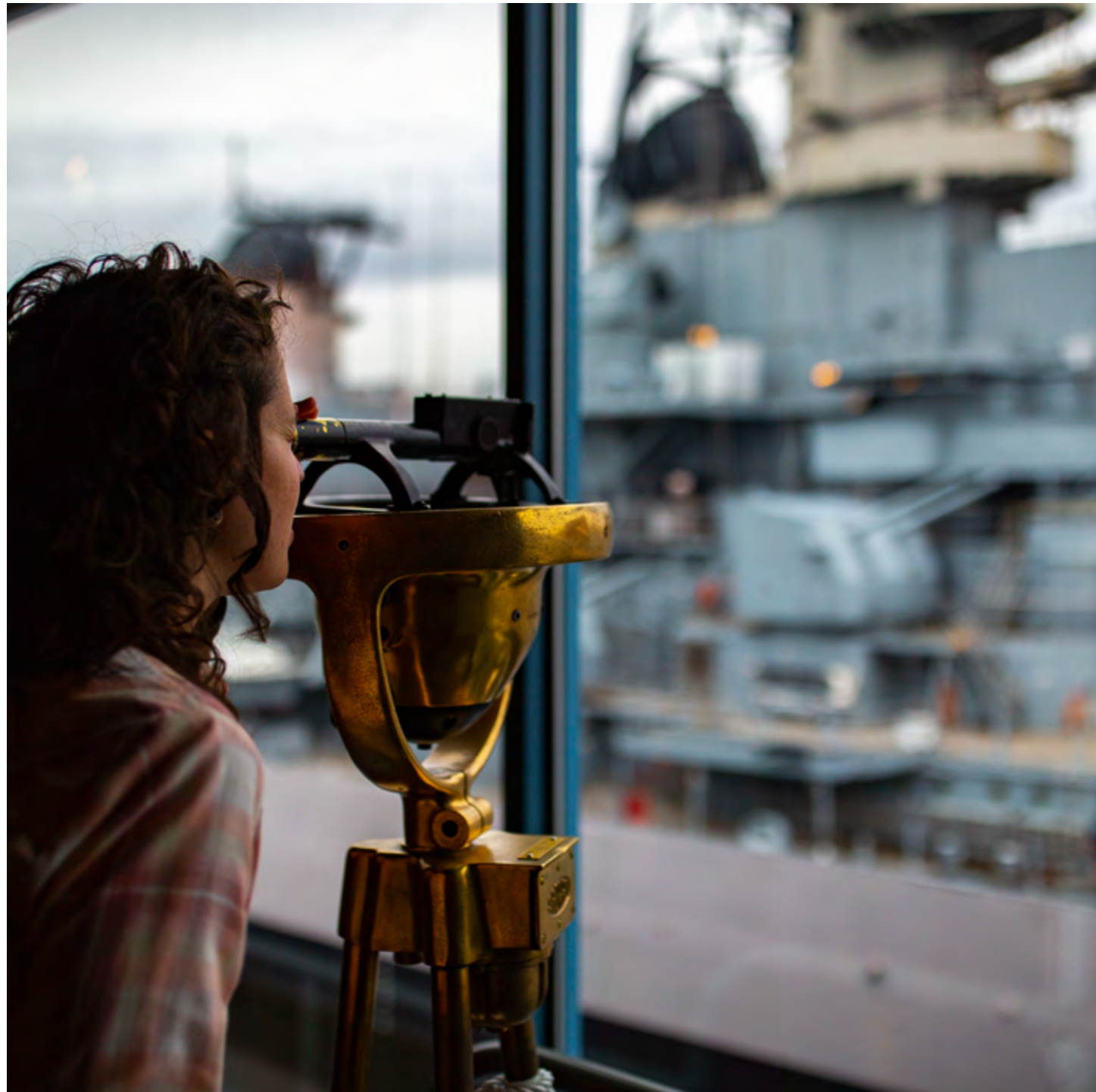
VIRGINIA IS FOR MUSIC LOVERS

MUSIC FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Virginia is home to many music and arts festivals. Here are some major Virginia festivals and events in 2019:

- **Tom Tom Founders Festival**, Charlottesville - April 8-14
- **Virginia Arts Festival**, Hampton Roads area - various dates in April & May
- **Rooster Walk Music and Arts Festival**, Martinsville - May 23-26
- **5th Annual Mountains of Music Homecoming**, various areas on The Crooked Road - June 7-15
- **Hampton Jazz Festival**, Hampton - June 28-30
- **Red Wing Roots Music Festival**, Mt. Solon - July 12-14
- **FloydFest**, Floyd - July 24-28
- **Richmond Jazz Festival**, Richmond - August
- **Galax Old Fiddlers Convention**, Galax - August
- **Staunton Music Festival**, Staunton - Aug. 16-25
- **Lockn' Festival**, Arrington - Aug. 22-25
- **Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion**, Bristol - Sept. 20-22
- **Richmond Folk Festival**, Richmond - Oct. 11-13

For more information, please visit: virginia.org/music



VIRGINIA IS FOR
HISTORY LOVERS

VIRGINIA IS FOR HISTORY LOVERS

AMERICAN EVOLUTION™

It's easy to remember Virginia as the "Birthplace of a Nation," but many are not aware of the historic events that took place here in 1619, 12 years after the first colonists settled in Jamestown. Virginia's 2019 Commemoration, **AMERICAN EVOLUTION™** will observe the 400th anniversary of the first representative legislative assembly in the New World, the arrival of the first recorded Africans to English North America, the First Official English Thanksgiving in North America, the arrival and expanding impact of women on the Virginia Colony and the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of the Virginia Colony.

NEW IN HISTORY

- A new exhibit, called **American Adventure**, will open at the **Virginia Living Museum** Jan. 19 through April 21 in Newport News. Minotaur Mazes' American Adventure takes visitors on an immersive, educational role-play adventure that asks people to survive the year as one of the original Jamestown colonists.
- **The Booker T. Washington National Monument** located in Franklin County will offer events focused on African American history to commemorate the 400th anniversary of AMERICAN EVOLUTION™.
- The public can get even more experiences of Alexandria's rich African-American history in 2019 as the **Office of Historic Alexandria** offers expanded access to the **Freedom House Museum**, new walking tours and new historic interpretation along the Duke Street corridor. Alexandria's African-American history tells America's story from colonial times to the Civil War to Civil Rights.
- **The Virginia Women's Monument**, titled "Voices from the Garden," is set to open in late summer of 2019 on the Capitol Square at The Virginia State Capitol. The 12 women chosen to be depicted as bronze statues, the Virginia Women's Monument represent women from all corners of the Commonwealth, both widely-celebrated women, as well as those with previously unknown, but equally important stories. Many more women will be memorialized on the Wall of Honor and in the accompanying virtual educational modules.



OTHER VIRGINIA HISTORY NEWS

- The biggest splash at the **Old Town Alexandria** waterfront in 2019 will come from the tall ship "Providence," arriving in June as a permanent attraction. This celebrity tall ship, which has appeared in the Academy Award-winning film "Master and Commander" and in the international blockbuster "Pirates of the Caribbean", is a full-scale replica of one of the U.S. Continental Navy's first warships, which was captained by John Paul Jones, the father of the U.S. Navy, under the leadership of General George Washington. Built in 1768, the ship's first mission in the American Revolution was to clear the Chesapeake Bay of enemy British ships. The public can look forward to public tours, chartered cruises, educational programs and beer cruises presented in partnership with Alexandria's own **Port City Brewing Company**.
- Fall 2019 brings the grand reopening of **The Arlington House**, the Robert E. Lee Memorial on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery. Currently undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation, once complete the Arlington House will be restored to its original 1860 appearance. Additionally, the quarters for the enslaved people of Arlington House will be restored to better represent and tell their stories. As visitors move between the mansion and the new museum and bookstore, they will pass along accessible paths that stretch through the restored grounds, including heirloom gardens. People who cannot visit in person will

enjoy a robust experience through virtual tours, complete with detailed displays of the rooms and objects that belonged to George Washington and the Lee family.

- 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.
- In 2019, **James Madison's Montpelier** most popular week-long participatory program, The Archaeology Excavation Expedition, is expanding its lab expeditions by adding lab conservations Feb. 17 to Feb. 22. Montpelier will also offer a new excavation expedition April 28 through May 3 that includes a birding component.
- **Madison-Barbour Rural Historic District**, the newly recognized historic district in Virginia, marks two architecturally important plantation complexes that stand in Montpelier and Barboursville. The Madison-Barbour historic district is Virginia's largest rural district and one of the Commonwealth's best-preserved cultural landscapes. A web of 18th- and 19th-century roadways offer expansive views of unspoiled pastoral scenery and early landscape features such as fence rows and old road beds. Sprinkled through the district are several 19th-century hamlets including Tibbstown, Barboursville and Somerset.
- **The Germanna Foundation** is building an addition of the Hitt Archaeology Lab that will be built adjacent to the Fort Germanna Visitor Center later this year. It will be used to preserve and showcase the different artifacts that have been discovered at the Fort Germanna/Enchanted Castle archaeology site, as well as a location for our archaeologist, interns and volunteers to clean and process the artifacts. This will help with advancing the Germanna Archaeology program, which currently plans on continuing to do excavations in 2019.
- 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the **Science Museum of Virginia's** building. Originally the Broad Street train station in Richmond, the building was designed by John Russell Pope. Pope's other notable designs include the Jefferson Memorial, the National Archives and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.
- **Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Interpretive Center** opened in Duffield.
- The Bristol community will celebrate the 100th birthday of **Tennessee Ernie Ford**, a country music legend from the twin cities of Bristol, during his birthday week of Feb. 13.

For more information, please visit:
virginia.org/history



VIRGINIA IS FOR
ALL LOVERS

VIRGINIA IS FOR ALL LOVERS

#VAPRIDE

Since 1969, our famous state slogan has inspired travelers from all over the world to visit the Commonwealth. Virginia is also a welcoming destination for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender families, couples and friends.

Our LOVE story is bigger, better and more inclusive than ever before. Our virginia.org/LGBT website lists self-designated, LGBT-friendly events, lodging, dining, shopping, attractions and outdoor experiences, statewide. The website also includes meeting spaces, itineraries and all the resources needed to plan a dream wedding or honeymoon.

Follow us on Twitter @VisitGayVA and Instagram @visitgayva for daily LGBT travel ideas, travel deals and inspiration.



VIRGINIA PRIDE

Virginia's robust 2019 Pride Season occurs April through October:

- **Hill City Pride,**
April 13, Lynchburg
- **Reston Pride Festival**
June 1, Reston
- **Winchester Pride Celebration**
June 2019, Winchester
- **Roanoke Pride**
Spring 2019, Roanoke
- **Hampton Roads Pridefest**
June 2019, Norfolk
- **Shenandoah Valley Pride Festival**
July 2019, Harrisonburg
- **Black Pride RVA**
July 18-21, Richmond
- **Charlottesville Pride Festival**
September 2019, Charlottesville
- **Petersburg Out & Proud**
September 2019, Petersburg
- **Virginia Pridefest**
September 2019, Richmond
- **NOVA Pride**
October 2019, Centreville
- **Staunton Pride**
October 2019, Staunton
- **FloydPRIDE**
October 2018, Floyd
- **Star City VA Pride Festival**
Fall 2019, Roanoke

For more information, please visit:

virginia.org/LGBT



A full-page photograph of a wedding couple walking away from the camera through a field of wildflowers. The groom is on the left, wearing a light tan suit, and the bride is on the right, wearing a white lace wedding dress. They are holding hands. In the background, there are rolling green hills and a range of blue mountains under a soft, overcast sky.

VIRGINIA WEDDINGS

VIRGINIA WEDDINGS

When you turn with your partner to face your friends and family for the first time as a married couple, it's a moment you never forget. Since Virginia is for Lovers, it makes sense to marry the love of your life here! Virginia offers the perfect backdrop for every couple, whatever their style: modern, classic, whimsical, vintage or edgy. Whether you want to get married in a historic hotel or at a beautiful vineyard, Virginia has a world of choices just waiting to be discovered. Combine this with epic views, delicious local food and perfect local wine pairings and it's easy to see Virginia is the perfect spot for a **destination wedding**.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Virginia is the 12th most popular state for weddings in the country and the 5th most popular on the East Coast.
- Couples will find more than 200 venue options for a perfect wedding day, including rustic farms on rolling hills, majestic wineries nestled amongst acres of Virginia vines and historic hotels with opulent staircases and lavish details.
- Virginia boasts 28 miles of sunny beaches, 21 luxurious resorts, 200 bed and breakfasts, more than 300 wineries and more than 3,000 miles of scenic roadways, taking your out-of-town guests to coastal beauty, mountain vistas, quaint small towns and peaceful countrysides en route to your wedding venue.
- Virginia is a great place to celebrate almost any milestone. Anniversaries, engagements, bachelor or bachelorette parties and family reunions.
- Virginia is for Lovers' iconic LOVE letters are now available to rent for your special day! These giant signs just scream fun, and are a great way to add personality to your big day. The LOVE letters offer a perfect backdrop for photo opportunities of the bride and groom, family and friends.





VIRGINIA WEDDINGS

WEDDING VENUE NEWS AND EXPOS

- **Boxwood Villa**, located just outside the town of Orange has renovated a 1891 home to add to their event and lodging options for their Market at Greden guests and area visitors. Set on an expansive 13.6-acre parcel and named for its large boxwood bushes circling the house, Boxwood Villa is close to town and a wonderful addition to **The Greden** properties.
- A beautiful and enchanting gem, **The Mill at Fine Creek** has facilities for weddings, banquets, meetings or other special events. The Mill can accommodate up to 225 people and offer a spacious main room with balcony, large dance floor, full kitchen and bar, bride's changing room, children's room and wrap around porch. On this 10-acre historic property, you will find remnants of an old gristmill and of the Fine Creek Manor built in the 1700's, but destroyed by fire in 1928. This property is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Built in approximately 1820, **Bienvenue** retains much of its original character and charm. The estate was extensively renovated in the spring of 2017 in order to offer modern amenities. The utmost care was taken to keep as many of the original fixtures as possible and respect the authenticity and character of the home. Bienvenue can comfortably seat 98 people inside and has several ideal tent locations for your outdoor events.
- **Dover Hall** in Manakin Sabot is so much more than just a picturesque estate atop beautiful rolling acres. From the sprawling bridal suite to the professional summer kitchen to a ballroom that opens onto blue stone

terraces, Dover Hall is an undeniably unique experience. Exemplary service was built into the estate's mission, and our staff is thoroughly trained to remain one step ahead of you throughout your wedding planning.

- **Abingdon Vineyards** located in Southwest Virginia now hosts weddings.
- **The Farm at Glen Haven** is relatively new to the wedding scene, but rapidly becoming a premier wedding venue located just outside of Clifton Forge. The Farm at Glen Haven offers a completely renovated three story barn, bridal suite, bar, stage for musicians, custom dance floor and 50 acres of land with a beautiful mountain backdrop.
- **Glass Hill Venue** didn't start out as a wedding venue. Located in Bedford County on a beautiful piece of land, Glass Hill Venue has found a new purpose as a premier wedding facility with the Peaks of Otter draping the landscape.
- In Staunton, **The Blackburn Inn** is the newest wedding venue in the area. Couples can use the grounds for wedding ceremonies and receptions. The Penthouse is also available for private functions.
- **The Inn at Old Virginia** is expanding their lodging and also building a indoor wedding venue.
- **The Seclusion** is one of the most elegant barn venues in America. Nestled on 72 private acres in the majestic mountains of the Shenandoah Valley, our elegant barn venue affords privacy, panoramic views of Virginia's breathtaking beauty and luxury amenities for your very special event. It is currently under construction in the mountains near Lexington and taking reservations for 2019.

- **Ditchley Cider Works** in Kilmarnock offers wedding and event space.
- Inspired by centuries of rich history, **Bella Rose Plantation** is the perfect balance between luxury and authenticity. Shrouded in the forests and hills of Lynchburg, Bella Rose boasts an impressive array of on-site locations, including the historic Rosedale Mansion, Graves Mill and Johnson Cottage, as well as our Honeymoon Treehouse, creek-side ceremony rotunda and greenhouse aviary.
- In 1799, George Washington gave Woodlawn to his step-granddaughter, Eleanor "Nelly" Custis and his nephew, Lawrence Lewis, as a wedding present. Throughout Nelly's lifetime and into the 20th century, **Woodlawn** was renowned for the gracious hospitality of its hosts and the beauty of its historic and pastoral setting. Today, you can continue that tradition. Woodlawn and **Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House** offers a variety of outdoor locations with beautiful gardens, a stunning historic mansion, a brand new event tent with permanent flooring and gorgeous views.

For more information, please visit:
virginia.org/weddings



VIRGINIA IS FOR
FILM LOVERS

VIRGINIA IS FOR FILM LOVERS

#VAFILM

Virginia offers a perfect palette for filmmakers – rolling hills, scenic coastlines, picturesque towns, bustling cities and pristine historical structures, all in close proximity. Productions large and small have called Virginia home over the years, from classics like “Lassie”, “Coal Miner’s Daughter” and “Dirty Dancing” all the way through 2017’s “Homeland”.

Production is an instant cash-generator for the Commonwealth, with film, television and new media contributing \$697 million in total economic impact in 2016. Since 2011, film projects receiving incentives in Virginia have produced a return of \$11 to the Virginia economy for every \$1 invested.

This past year, Virginia has been home to several independent films, as well as flagship productions like Showtime’s acclaimed series “Homeland” (filming 2017-2018) and the sequel to last year’s box-office hit “Wonder Woman”; titled “Wonder Woman 1984”, starring Gal Gadot and Kristen Wiig, which filmed in Northern Virginia. Most recently, Focus Features’ upcoming biopic “Harriet”, starring Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom, Jr., and Janelle Monáe, called Virginia home.

In addition to the high-paying jobs and powerful economic effects that projects bring during filming, the buzz generated is an equally beneficial tool, and unique to this type of industry. When a project comes to Virginia, it often offers national exposure to the localities in which it films, and powerful tourism opportunities after it departs.

PBS’s historical television series “Mercy Street”, which filmed in Richmond and Petersburg in 2016 and 2017, gave rise to popular tourism trails developed by the locales where filming took place. This tourism opportunity was also harnessed by Alexandria, Virginia, where the historical events that inspired the series took place, resulting in lucrative tourism products tailored to the show’s devoted fan base.



FILM FESTIVALS

Virginia’s thriving arts community and popularity as a filming destination has created a robust film festival circuit, with over 100 festivals calling Virginia home.

The Virginia Film Festival in Charlottesville is one of Virginia’ longest-running and established film festivals, with past guests such as Spike Lee, Sandra Bullock, Oliver Stone, Meg Ryan, Sigourney Weaver, Robert Duvall, Katie Couric, Shirley MacLaine and Tippi Hedren.

- **Middleburg Film Festival**
Middleburg, October 2019
- **Washington West Film Festival**
Washington, October 2019
- **PUSH! Film Festival**
Bristol, October 2019
- **Virginia Film Festival**
Charlottesville, November 2019
- **Pocahontas Reframed Storytellers Film Festival**
Richmond, November 2019
- **Afrikana Film Festival**
Richmond, September 2019
- **French Film Festival**
Richmond, March 2019
- **Richmond International Film Festival**
Richmond, April 2019
- **Northern Virginia International Film Festival**
Fairfax, April 2019
- **Experimental Film Virginia**
Cape Charles, July 2019

For more information, please visit:
virginia.org/virginiafilmfestivals and
filmvirginia.org



Atlantic Ave
800
STOP
BEACH
PARKING
PAY
HERE

VIRGINIA HAS
MORE TO LOVE

**MORE TO LOVE
IN VIRGINIA**

THE ARTS

From artisan craft work to the performing arts, Virginia's arts scene showcases the brilliant creative talents that come out of the Commonwealth. The artistic works of Virginia are first class, and whether you travel to the far Southwest Virginia mountain region or the coastal lowlands of the Eastern Shore, you'll discover impressive examples of the rich art scene of Virginia.

- Since 1997, the world-renowned **Virginia Arts Festival** has brought the world's great artists to performance venues throughout the Hampton Roads area, making this beautiful region a cultural destination for travelers from around the world.
- **The Virginia International Tattoo** is largest spectacle of Music and Might in the United States and offers an astounding display of inspirational military music, majestic massed pipes and drums, show stopping drill team maneuvers, colorful and elegant dancers and much more. Check it out April 25 through April 28.
- Sixty-five years after the launch of its original Artmobile, the **Virginia Museum of Fine Arts** will once again bring traveling art exhibitions and educational offerings to audiences across the Commonwealth with VMFA on the Road: An Artmobile for the 21st Century.
- **A Return to the Grand Tour: Micromosaic Jewels from the Collection of Elizabeth Locke** at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will feature 92 works ranging from jewelry to paperweights and will demonstrate the popularity of micromosaics as travel souvenirs in the mid-18th to late 19th century. This exhibit will be on display April 27 through Sept. 5.
- For more than 85 years, the Garden Club of Virginia has presented the **Historic Garden Week**, which is the nation's only statewide house and garden tour. Each spring, visitors are welcomed to over 250 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks during "America's Largest Open House." This 8-day statewide event provides visitors a unique opportunity to see unforgettable gardens at the peak of Virginia's springtime color, as well as beautiful houses sparkling with over 2,300 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members. This year, the Historic Garden Week will be held April 27 through May 4.
- Explore the undiscovered art scenes of coastal Virginia, including Virginia Beach's **ViBe Creative District** and Norfolk's **Neon District**. Norfolk's art scene is expanding to the **Railroad District** where an art- and glass-themed hotel will open that will compliment the nationally ranked **Chrysler Museum of Art** and its **Glass Studio**.
- **The Ashland Theatre** reopened at the end of 2018 after a \$2.1 million capital campaign and nearly two years of renovations. The theatre will show movies, live theatre performances, stand-up comedy and music performances.

For more information, please visit: virginia.org/thearts



MORE TO LOVE
IN VIRGINIA

PET-FRIENDLY TRAVEL

Virginia is unofficially for dog lovers too! Don't leave your fur babies at home, vacation with them at the many pet-friendly accommodations, shops, events, state and national parks, attractions, wineries, breweries and so much more!

Just a reminder, pets are welcome at all **Virginia State Parks**, as long as they're on a leash or in an enclosed area at all times.

Be sure to visit **Alexandria**, Fido will feel right at home as it was named one of the most dog-friendly cities in the U.S. by Animal Planet.

(Of course, we don't want to forget about our feline friends, they are welcome in Virginia too!)

For more information, please visit:
virginia.org/pets



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Relaxation and wellness is a big part of enjoying a vacation in Virginia. Whether you're looking for a wellness retreat, digital detox, a fitness weekend getaway or just time at the spa, Virginia has something available for you to refresh and restore.

Eupepsia Wellness Center nestled in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains and bordering the Jefferson National Forest, the Eupepsia Wellness Center is Virginia's newest wellness sanctuary. Set on 256 acres of farm and woodland, it is a unique destination for health and wellness retreats, designed to help people reconnect with themselves and align with nature.

The **Williamsburg Salt Spa** is the first salt spa on the East Coast. Salt therapy is said to improve health and mood through breathing air that is saturated in minerals. The salt room is made of 15 tons of Polish and Himalayan salt. The Williamsburg Salt Spa also offers massage services and flotation tanks. Floating is an experience of ultimate peace and relaxation in which you spend one-hour in a private, specialized pod, filled with ten inches of highly-saturated salt water. This causes you to float completely and effortlessly atop the water, experiencing near zero-gravity.

For more information, please visit:
Virginia.org

MORE TO LOVE
IN VIRGINIA

YOGA

If you're a yogi, Virginia offers many varieties of yoga and different yoga experiences. From goat yoga to yoga at a winery we're certain you'll find your center.

- **Boxwood Villa** offers weekend yoga retreats with a full itinerary of relaxation and wellness experiences.
- **Triangle Rock Club** brings passion for climbing, community and adventure-fueled fitness to the Richmond with an indoor climbing gym and yoga studio.
- Nestled along the banks of the James River is Satchidananda Ashram's **Yogaville**, one of the world's premier Yoga destinations, retreat centers and living yoga communities.
- **Autumn Ridge Cottages** in Lexington offers goat yoga sessions. Goat Yoga offers the many therapeutic benefits of yoga and animals in a fun, beginners yoga class... with adorable miniature goats.
- **Brew Republic Bierwerks** in Prince William holds a monthly beer and Pil-Yoga (pilates and yoga) class. A basic 60-minute Vinyasa Flow with basic and advanced poses, hands on assists, breathing instruction, core strengthening and lots of fun along the way.
- Several Virginia wineries offer yoga sessions with wine tastings.

For more information, please visit:
virginia.org





See you soon!