

# VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS<sup>®</sup>





## **Sip and Savor Your Way Around Super Scenic Virginia**

With more than 300 wineries, nearly 300 craft breweries and 70+ distilleries, as well as an award-winning food scene garnering more and more attention every day, Virginia gives visitors more than enough reasons to visit. Add in our gloriously scenic outdoors and you have a recipe of perfection for your next American road-trip itinerary.

### **Day 1 & 2 – Dulles International Airport to Leesburg (approx. 27 km + touring Loudoun County)**

Even before you hit the road, Virginia makes it easy with direct flights from numerous primary international destinations to Washington Dulles International Airport located in Chantilly, Virginia, about 45 km from the U.S. capital. The airport is conveniently also just a few kilometres from your first stop.

[Loudoun County](#), known as DC's Wine Country, offers more than 40 award-winning wineries and wine tasting rooms, as well as over 30 craft breweries, and a handful of cideries and distilleries. Loudoun is also home to Virginia's Horse and Hunt Country and filled with rolling green hills, grazing horses and beautiful country estates.



*Loudoun County – DC's Wine Country*

You'll find several [wine clusters](#) with self-driving trails making it convenient when deciding where to stop, sip and savor. Visit the Loudoun Heights Cluster, which surrounds one of the smallest and most historic Virginia towns, Hillsboro, or the Potomac Cluster, which follows a two-lane highway lined with farms, roadside stands and antique shops. Each trail conveniently notes other craft beverage locations as well as restaurants and historic stops. Rather not drive? Take a tour with one of many local companies like [Cork and Keg Tours](#) or [Reston Limousine](#).



*Greenhill Winery & Vineyards*

Make a stop at the [Restaurant at Patowmack Farm](#), just 20 minutes outside Leesburg, often hailed as one of the best dining spots in the region. This working organic farm features a 100-seat restaurant serving a progressive menu; a tented patio for open air dining; and a spectacular view. Housed in a glass conservatory overlooking the Potomac River, the owners refer to it as 'a 1,000-star restaurant' and you can certainly see 1,000 stars on a clear night as you dine. As Virginia has more official International Dark

Sky Parks than any other east coast destination, you can easily imagine you are in for a spectacular show.

Head to [Leesburg](#) for your overnight at [Lansdowne Resort & Spa](#). Perched perfectly on the edge of DC's Wine Country it makes an ideal location to rest your head in between wine tours. Plus their restaurants serve a variety of Virginia spirits, so the tasting doesn't have to stop for the day. The world-class spa also offers wine-inspired treatments to keep on theme. And when you're not touring, the resort offers two golf courses and a variety of outdoor adventures from hiking to biking.

Stay two nights in Loudoun County

### **Day 3 & 4 – Leesburg to Charlottesville through Shenandoah National Park (approx. 280 km)**

From Leesburg you're less than an hour's drive from the entrance to [Shenandoah National Park](#) and its scenic Skyline Drive, which winds its way south all the way to The Blue Ridge Parkway. Whether you just drive, stopping at the many incredible overlooks, or pause to hike through wooded hollows to a cascading waterfall, Shenandoah offers a wealth of nature's wonders to explore.



*Stony Man Hike in Shenandoah National Park*

A less than 30-minute detour off Skyline Drive takes you to the only Michelin three-starred restaurant in the Capital Region, [The Inn at Little Washington](#). Cited by TripAdvisor's Traveler Awards as the Best Restaurant in the U.S., The Inn's food has been described by critics as 'so good it makes you cry.' Whether you just stop to dine or stay the night in one of The Inn's sumptuous rooms, you'll not soon forget the experience.

Continuing on Skyline Drive and exiting near Afton, your next stop is [Charlottesville](#) and the [Monticello Wine Trail](#), named after Thomas Jefferson's home. More than 35 wineries can be discovered within a 50-kilometre radius and the wines from this region are considered some of the best in the Eastern United States. [Guided wine tours](#) make it easy to narrow down your options. Make sure to include a visit to **Monticello** in your itinerary to learn why Jefferson is often called The Father of American Wine.



*Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards*

[Boar's Head Resort](#) provides the perfect jumping off point for your various visits around Charlottesville. Tucked in the foothills of the stunning Blue Ridge Mountains, it also offers up an abundance of outdoor activities across their 600-acre property and beyond.

Stay two nights in Charlottesville

**Day 4 & 5 – Charlottesville to Richmond (approx. 114 km)**

Travel southeast to [Richmond](#), Virginia's state capital, renowned for its craft beer scene. The Richmond Region is home to almost 40 craft breweries, distilleries and cideries. The city is also making a splash in the food world with new headlines about one or more of its 900+ restaurants bringing recognition on a regular basis. And many of the best are locally owned. An easy way to explore what there is to taste is to follow the [Richmond Beer Trail](#). Or leave the driving to someone else and really imbibe via one of the [city's several tour companies](#).



*Rooftop Bar in Richmond*

Between swallows, head down to the James River, which runs right through the middle of the city and serves-up white-water rafting, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding, along with some fantastic hiking and biking opportunities. It's a great way to work up a thirst – not to mention an appetite.



*Kayaking the James River in Richmond*

All that scenic beauty and stupendous food and drink calls for an incomparable place to call it a night. [The Jefferson](#) definitely fits the bill. Right in the heart of downtown, the luxury hotel has been providing an exceptional travel experience for more than a century. And the property's classic Southern Afternoon Tea is a fantastic way to rejuvenate before a night out on the town.

Stay two nights Richmond

**Day 6 & 7 – Richmond to Virginia Beach (approx. 172 km<sup>213</sup>)**

Next stop, [Virginia Beach](#), where a growing [brewery network](#) and the Chesapeake Bay's legendary oysters inspire local chefs to constantly push what it means to be fresh-to-table, creating a culinary scene that is truly something to be savored.



*Pleasure House Oyster Chef Table Tours, Virginia Beach*

Great beer isn't the only craft spirit you'll find in Virginia Beach. Combine your overnight with a nightcap when you stay at [The Historic Cavalier and Beach Club](#) where the onsite Tarnished Truth Distilling Company makes award-winning bourbon, as well as rye, vodka, gin, and other specialty spirits. During a tour, you can brush up on Virginia's rich distilling legacy, which dates back to the 17th century. Then enjoy a dram while dining in the rustic ambiance of the adjacent Hunt Room tavern, or surrounded by the plush décor of Becca, the resort's four-diamond dining experience.



*Tarnished Truth Distilling Company – The Cavalier, Virginia Beach*

As if the longest pleasure beach in the world isn't enough of a scenic view, the nearby [Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge](#) provides a tranquil environment for kayaking, biking, and hiking. Or take a trip across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel to Cape Charles on Virginia's Eastern Shore – the views from the bridge are stunning! – and combine a little wine tasting with your kayak adventure, organised by [Southeast Expeditions](#).



*Paddle Your Glass Off Tour with Southeast Expeditions, Virginia's Eastern Shore*

Stay two nights Virginia Beach

### **Day 8 – Virginia Beach to Washington Dulles International (approx. 342 km)**

After you've taken in Virginia's amazing scenery - from the valleys to the mountains, and the rivers to the sea - and savored every little sip and bite along the way, a three-and-a-half-hour drive will finish the loop, taking you back to Dulles International Airport. Or catch a flight through Dulles International from nearby Norfolk International Airport (about 28 km from the Beach) or Richmond International Airport (roughly 160 km) for your trip home.