Your Beach & Wine Getaway in Virginia

Day 1 – Virginia Beach

Your Virginia getaway begins in Virginia Beach. Whether you like tranquil and serene beaches, or a more cosmopolitan vibe, the Virginia Beach area will have a beach that is perfect for you. Not only are the beaches along the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay pristine, with beautiful blue waters, Virginia Beach offers a variety of truly unique and unforgettable experiences.

Try your hand at horseback riding on the beach, or for those who want to get more up close and personal with the water and the wildlife, kayaking with dolphins is sure to leave a lasting impression. Ride the gentle waves in sit-on-top ocean kayaks, while you take a guided tour and discover the fascinating and fun world of the bottlenose dolphins that call these waters home.

Day 2 – Virginia Beach

Explore the ViBe Creative District, located conveniently within the oceanfront area of Virginia Beach. This cultural arts enclave is a local hotspot where creative businesses have come together to share their passion and love of the arts with visitors and locals alike. After getting in touch with your creativity and artsy vibes, visit the Military Aviation Museum, home to one of the largest private collections of World War I and World War II era military aircraft in the world. Enjoy the heritage and machinery of these inspiring aircraft, many of which are airworthy and flown at the museum during flight demonstrations and at air shows throughout the year – they even offer rides to the public!
**Day 3 – Virginia Beach**

On your third day in Virginia, enjoy a relaxing day in the sand in Virginia Beach, the world’s longest pleasure beach! Be sure to take a stroll or a bike ride along Virginia Beach’s famous five-kilometer boardwalk.

After your day at on beach, get ready to dazzle your taste buds with some of the region’s impressive culinary offerings. Fine dining options abound in this city by the sea and seafood lovers are in for a treat, as the fresh catch found in Virginia Beach offers up an unparalleled epicurean experience. Dubbed the oyster capital of the East Coast, Virginia has eight distinct oyster regions. Try a few from each area and then pick your favorite. Some are salty, some are sweet, but they are all succulent and delicious – and they pair beautifully with a glass of Virginia wine! Check out Pleasure House Oysters for an unforgettable Virginia oyster experience.

**Day 4 – Williamsburg & Central Virginia**

Depart Virginia Beach and head west to begin your Virginia wine journey, starting with the exceptional wineries along the Colonial Wine Trail. Just over an hour from Virginia Beach, and minutes from Colonial Williamsburg, make a stop at Williamsburg Winery for a tour and wine tasting at one of Virginia’s oldest wineries. Just up the road, experience award-winning wines on with calming views of the James River at Upper Shirley Vineyards.

Head two hours West on I-64 to Barboursville Vineyards for a tasting and tour at this spectacular vineyard on a 900-acre estate with breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Stay on the Barboursville estate at the 1804 Inn or enjoy a night at the nearby Inn at Willow Grove. For history lovers, James Madison’s Montpelier is just a short drive away, offering a fascinating look inside the life of America’s fourth President.
Day 5 – Charlottesville

Head further west to the greater Charlottesville area to experience the heart of Central Virginia wine country. The picturesque Monticello Wine Trail features nearly 40 wineries offering tastings and tours; many of these wineries have onsite restaurants to enjoy a meal with sweeping mountain views. Many local wine tour companies offer seamless transportation options between wineries, providing hotel pick up for guests and even offering to pack a gourmet lunch for you to enjoy at one of the wonderful wineries! While in the Charlottesville area, be sure to visit Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and don’t forget to check out Charlottesville’s Historic Downtown Mall, where you can enjoy a delicious feast al fresco away from automobile traffic.

Day 6 – Northern Virginia

For an unforgettable Virginia wine experience, head to Northern Virginia’s Loudoun County, where you can experience many of the region’s 40+ wineries. For the ultimate pampering experience, stay at the beautiful Salamander in Middleburg, or at Lansdowne Resort. While in Northern Virginia, be sure to visit some of the world’s most famous attractions such as Arlington National Cemetery, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and do a little shopping in Alexandria or the Potomac Mills outlet mall.
Day 7 – Northern Virginia

A week in Virginia would not be complete without visiting the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly. Before beginning your journey home, be sure to check out this remarkable companion facility to the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum, featuring thousands of significant aviation and space artifacts, including the Space Shuttle Discovery.

Questions? Contact Brigitte Bélanger-Warner for more information on Virginia vacation ideas.