Outdoor Destinations

ADVENTURE AWAITS

AMERICAN EVOLUTION
Unearthing History

FUN ON THE WATER
The Best Beaches in the State

CELEBRATING
50 Years of Love

2019 TRAVEL GUIDE
Fun on the Water

THE BEST BEACHES IN THE STATE

p. 18
Along the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Charlottesville and Albemarle County offer a unique experience in a picturesque setting. Visit Thomas Jefferson’s famed Monticello, the only American presidential home on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and escape into history, and the many passions of its architect and founding father – liberty, learning, horticulture, food and wine. Nearby you’ll discover award-winning wine country in the rolling hills of Albemarle County. Make a full day of it with a walk down Charlottesville’s historic downtown mall, a shopping and dining destination as unique as the town itself.

You’ve like it here, along the Blue Ridge Mountains. The views and vistas are postcard perfect. You’ll wonder aloud why you don’t visit more often. From wherever you are, it’s a short drive to Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Exhilaration and joy greet you at every turn. While you’re here, don’t miss Monticello, a World Heritage Site, home of Thomas Jefferson—author of the Declaration of Independence, and founder of UVa—and inspiration to millions worldwide. Nearly 30 new spaces and exhibits await exploration. Nearby, Charlottesville’s historic downtown mall will charm you with dining and shopping options as unique as the town itself. In every direction, Albemarle County is brimming with festivals, vineyards, trails, breweries, and myriad activities to suit you. Venture out.

ALL DAY FUN FOR EVERYONE AT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG!

From dawn to dusk there’s fun for the whole family at Colonial Williamsburg. Climb into a horse-drawn carriage and travel back in time. Fill the day with the people, sites, and gardens of our 18th-century city. And then end the day with a great meal at one of our many restaurants and an evening show or ghost walk before you turn in for the night.

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Plan to visit Hampton in 2019 to participate in the events, exhibitions, speaker series, performances, and reenactments that recognize the first Africans’ arrival and examine our nation today.

Learn more at HamptonVA2019.com or call 800.800.2202

HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

400 years ago, the first Africans arrived in English North America and helped form a multicultural nation.
Welcome to Virginia...

“Virginia is for Lovers” was created 50 years ago, and it’s become one of the most beloved and iconic slogans in the world. While it’s meant a lot of different things to a lot of different people over the years, one thing remains the same: LOVE. A vacation in Virginia is all about doing the things you love with those you love most – and discovering for yourself why Virginia is for Lovers.

As we celebrate 50 years of love, this guide is a great place to discover the meaning behind the slogan. This year, each writer was invited to share what they love most about Virginia. From exploring our natural beauty and diverse landscape, to enjoying the best of our local food, BEER/WINE, and music, Virginia is for Lovers...for YOU.

Virginia is for Lovers means different things to different people. Whether you’re seeking a romantic retreat, a family friendly adventure, or a celebratory weekend, you’ll find the perfect mix of activities in Virginia to make your next vacation one to remember.

We invite you to make 2019 your year to make history in Virginia. Whether exploring our natural beauty and diverse landscape or simply enjoying our beaches and wineries, Virginia has something for everyone. So pack your bags and get ready for an unforgettable vacation in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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Virginia is for...

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Get ready to be inspired by Virginia’s natural beauty, rich history, and unique experiences. Download the Virginia is for Lovers app for a hands-on guide to finding your perfect beach or celebrating Pride Season, and stay connected with our social media channels to share your love for Virginia.

Virginia is for...
The timing was right in 1969 when the Virginia State Travel Service (now the Virginia Tourism Corporation) adopted what would become its world-renowned “Virginia is for Lovers” slogan.

Love was the word of the times: Jacqueline Susann’s “The Love Machine” was a best seller; Henry Mancini scored with “Love Theme from Romeo and Juliet”; the 1969 Woodstock Music and Art Fair drew more than 300,000 for a weekend of peace, music, mud and—of course—love.

“Virginia is for Lovers” was considered bold and provocative, but it also planted a seed—a new image of a more exciting Virginia. No one knows exactly why it’s been so enduring, but part of its mystique is that it has meant many things to different people over the years. Today, new generations are discovering love for Virginia’s mountains, beaches and history, as well as its breweries, wineries, music scene and more. So in 2019, we’re celebrating 50 years of love in Virginia with special experiences all over the state.

But first, here’s a look back at the evolution of the iconic brand—and some of your own responses to the age-old question: What does “Virginia is for Lovers” mean to you?

What's love got to do with it, anyway?

“I personally love the natural beauty and the wealth of history Virginia has to offer. Our wine is pretty darn good, too!”

JESSICA HOLY Woodbridge, VA

“I always took it to mean ‘lovers’ of history and nature. But having enjoyed multiple trips in Virginia, I would expand that definition to lovers of food, wine and small towns with special qualities. And knowing of a growing craft liquor industry, lover of distilled spirits, something Virginia has had a long history with.”

KEN HOCLUND Winston-Salem, NC

“I personally love the natural beauty and the wealth of history Virginia has to offer. Our wine is pretty darn good, too!”

JESSICA HOLY Woodbridge, VA

“Virginia is for Wine Lovers! We’ve enjoyed visiting many of the hundreds of wonderful, scenic wineries in Virginia. We haven’t tried them all yet, but we’re working on it!”

SHARON SOBIESKI Yorktown, VA

“Virginia has something for anyone to fall in love with.”

DONALD & CORINNA HOSS Richmond, VA

“What it means to us is discovering together the beauty and history of Virginia while sharing the love we have for each other!”

MARIA & ROM STREHPKE Coatesville, PA

“What’s not to LOVE about the state of Virginia? From the mountains, valleys, and on to the shore, Virginia is lush with scenery; history and FUN!”

ELIZABETH SEEKFORD Frederick, VA

“We never get tired of hearing that sweet motto and reminiscing on its wonderful multitude of meanings! We also enjoy finding LOVE signs wherever we go around the state.”

NICKI & PAUL TIFFANY Cape Charles, VA

“It means family together...our best vacation was Virginia on the Chesapeake...in a tiny town named Reedville.”

TORI ZOBEL Clarence, NY

“The love of all the beauty and history that Virginia has to offer.”

CHARLIE UDRIET Hanover, VA

“It means a great place to vacation.”

ELLEN KLINGER Milford, CT
**LOVE Works**

**Family Adventures**

BY LIZ LONG

Meet one family creating lifelong memories as they capture their Virginia LOVEworks travels on Instagram.

**KNOWN AFFECTIONATELY** by friends and family as the “FloYos,” the Flowers-Yost family, comprised of Mandi and Matthew, their daughters Lili and Savannah, and their dog Zoe Jane, takes every opportunity to travel to Virginia’s more than 100 giant LOVE signs, dubbed “LOVEworks.”

The fun first began when the FloYos traveled home from a family vacation. They stopped at a rest area and saw their first LOVE sign, and the rest was history. Their Instagram page boasts more than 300 posts of LOVEworks – which, according to Mandi, has been the best way to share the love with others.

“I use the location of the town and search TripAdvisor for things to do, and then I also hashtag the area on Instagram to see what the locals see,” Mandi says. “We usually find a local place nearby to eat and also seek out any roadside America attractions nearby – you’d be surprised how many there are!”

Other stops include museums and forts for a dose of Virginia history. When Mandi and Matt travel solo, they also enjoy trying out the numerous local wineries and breweries. One of Mandi’s favorite areas to visit is the NEON arts district in Norfolk, with “absolutely amazing” street art and murals.

With 75 locations now checked off the list, it’s difficult for the FloYos to narrow down their list of favorites, as each has its own unique charms. But Mandi’s favorite LOVEwork is located at Airlie in Warrenton, as it was one of the first they encountered and uniquely offers visitors a chance to impart some love of their own.

“We put our first lovelock of our marriage on the sign at Airlie,” she says. “The sign is so picturesque and the grounds are simply beautiful. It just has an all-around good vibe, and is so tranquil and relaxing to visit.”

Their second favorite LOVEwork destination is the Virginia Beach area. “I love the fact that there was so much art to be seen! There were several love signs, [and] the street art and murals are absolutely amazing … I have seen the newest LOVEwork recently unveiled there [in the ViBe Creative District] by a local artist, and we can’t wait to get back to visit and check that one out!”

The FloYos know Virginia offers something for everyone and appreciate all the state does to promote inclusivity. From wineries, breweries, art districts and music festivals, to small historic towns, family activities and outdoor recreation, friends and family will always find ways to enjoy quality time together.

“Virginia holds true to their slogan [Virginia is for Lovers],” Mandi says. “Whether it’s music, wine, love, beer, art or something else, there is nothing not to love!”

Mandi and Matt hope Virginia continues to add LOVEworks to every town so they always have one more reason to visit. For them, it’s important to keep creating and sharing the love, because “you never know who you will inspire to get out and see the state.” They have made friends with other Instagram users and families who share and support each other’s LOVEwork adventures.

While the trips are fun and educational, they’re ultimately about making memories. Mandi didn’t get to see much of the country when she was a child, so it’s important that their daughters see the beauty of nature, experience history, and see and appreciate the beauty of art.

“The most important thing we want to teach our beautiful daughters is that there is so much more to life than ‘stuff.’ We would rather collect memories than things,” Mandi says. “Spending time together and creating memories is at the top of our priority list, and we hope that they share that with their families someday.”

“Make memories, have laughs and see something new at every chance you get, because ultimately, life is just too short. We can’t wait to find more LOVE!”

“Start planning your own LOVEwork adventure at Virginia.org/love”
In studying the core of any culture - skills, talents, inventiveness and values - researchers would often look straightway at that culture’s foods: study their gardens, peek into their kitchens and read through their recipes. In today’s industrialized food society, this isn’t necessarily the case. Unless you’re talking about Appalachia.

In Appalachia, it’s the food that tells its people’s story. Furthermore, it’s the creativity and ingenuity of these foods and their cooks that make the story sing.

Generally, the term Appalachia is used to describe the central and southern portions of the Appalachian Mountain Range. More distinctly, it points to the particular people of this region; a culture best narrated through its foodways.

At the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, Appalachia’s story unfolds through living history exhibits, beginning with the villages of the Native Americans and West Africans. Visitors learn that Woodland Indians taught colonists of the Three Sisters: corn, pole beans and squash, which would become foundational foods in every Appalachian garden and home for centuries to come.

“Appalachian... culture is rooted in the idea of sustainability...of living as a whole,” explains Chef Aaron Deal, executive chef and general manager of the Appalachian-inspired River and Rail Restaurant in Roanoke, Virginia. An Appalachian native, Deal grew up immersed in a culture of sustainability: picking and preserving and helping his grandmother put up foods for the winter months.

Appalachian food shares the story of the people, as well as their celebration of history and culture.
Along with sustainability, explains Deal, is utilizing all the parts of an animal, letting nothing go to waste and enabling families to eat well all year.

Other foods that tell Appalachia’s story are those morphed recipes of European descent. From England, Scotland, Germany, Hungary and Italy, immigrants reinterpreted old-fashioned, full-fat buttermilk. Tavern owner Matt Bullington likes his sprinkled with salt and pepper.

Cornbread and Buttermilk. Together or separate, these two foods are a Mountain South staple. River and Rail serves a hearty skillet-fried cornbread with whipped sorghum butter and sea salt. And while you’re in Roanoke, head over to the Texas Tavern for some old-fashioned, full-fat buttermilk. Tavern owner Matt Bollington likes his sprinkled with salt and pepper.

Anything apples. Before it became coal country, southwest Virginia was a major apple producer. Fortunately through the efforts of apple orchardists like Diane Flynt (owner of Foggy Ridge Cider in Dugspur, Virginia), “Apple-achia” is making a comeback. It’s the springtime rhythm of food foraging: “messes” of ramps made into a “sallet,” or morel mushrooms fried into “dryland catfish.” It’s the riff of thousands of heirloom beans, tomatoes, apples and more: varieties unique to the mountain south and born from the hybridization efforts of Appalachian farmers working to create disease-resistant, nutrient-dense, taste-friendly foods.

It’s the hum of dedicated time required to make many traditional Appalachian dishes - in some cases, several days. Out of this “hardscrabble” (as Sauceman calls it) part of America, where extractive industry has pervaded and subsistence living ruled, the incredible creativity, ingenuity and loyalty of a people rises like the trees they grow and the mountain songs they sing.

The Virginia Country Ham is a southern food classic. Along with sustainability, Chef Aaron Deal offers a few of his favorites for helping people experience the best of Appalachian cuisine:

**Want to taste Appalachia’s story for yourself? Chef Aaron Deal offers a few of his favorites for helping people experience the best of Appalachian cuisine:**

**Country Ham.** The Virginia Country Ham is a southern food tradition. Period. While there are many fine sources, Calhoun’s Country Ham consistently makes an appearance on “favorites” lists. Visit them in Culpeper, Virginia, or at the farmer’s market in Old Towne Alexandria. Or, call them at 540-825-8319 to have one shipped to your door.

**Cornbread and Buttermilk.** Together or separate, these two foods are a Mountain South staple. River and Rail serves a hearty skillet-fried cornbread with whipped sorghum butter and sea salt. And while you’re in Roanoke, head over to the Texas Tavern for some old-fashioned, full-fat buttermilk. Tavern owner Matt Bollington likes his sprinkled with salt and pepper.

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**Anything Tomatoes.** Heirloom tomatoes are among the most cherished of Appalachian heirloom seeds. A visit to Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello, is an excellent way to begin exploring the world of tomatoes and other heirloom plants. Visit Monticello.org for a complete listing of garden workshops and seminars, or to purchase your own heirloom seeds.
As a photographer who works for publications like National Geographic and spends more than half the year out of the country, I am often asked where I want to go next.

People are often shocked by that answer, which comes as no surprise. But they shouldn’t be, because Virginia is where I grew up — and places, like music, have an extraordinary ability to help us recall memories and relive experiences. In fact, about three years ago, researchers from Dartmouth University and the University of North Carolina were able to show that our brains lock in memories by tying them to a location.

Tucked under the shadow of Virginia’s tallest peak, Mount Rogers, is Grayson Highlands State Park, a quiet and wild place, about the size of New Jersey. I can’t say exactly how many times I’ve been there but it’s been at least half a dozen. One might think I’d be bored of the place by now, but, you see, I don’t visit for the beauty and solitude of the place alone; I visit to relive my childhood, to unlock memories of that precious time in life.

I recently returned to Grayson Highlands for the first time in more than a decade. Within seconds of entering the park, memories of my childhood trips with my father came flooding back: the curious wild ponies that dot the landscape; the sea of blooming, bright pink rhododendrons; the wild blueberries you can eat in August; the cool, clear swimming holes on Wilson Creek trail; the innumerable rocky outcrops you can scramble up for a spectacular view; and the incredible change in ecosystems as you climb higher in the park. The experience was surreal to say the least. I was transported back in time.

Near the end of this recent adventure, my father joined me, and as we were sitting on the old stone wall that lines the entrance to the park, I was reminded of a passage from Marcel Proust’s “Remembrance of Things Past”: “The only true voyage of discovery, the only fountain of Eternal Youth, would be not to visit strange lands but to possess other eyes, to behold the universe through the eyes of another, of a hundred others.”

I return to Grayson Highlands for many reasons, but above all, I return because each visit is a chance to explore, as Proust says, with new eyes and with new people. Returning to places I know is at once a way to remember, to excavate memories of my early trips with my father — and in the quiet of the mountains it is a way to create new memories that won’t ever disappear.
From lively beach towns to wild hidden gems, from the surf of the Atlantic Ocean to serene mountain lakes, you’ll find the perfect beach in Virginia for solitude or family fun.

**Virginia Beach**

In northern Virginia Beach, First Landing State Park has a swimming beach on the Chesapeake Bay, along with a campground, cabin and an education center. Nearby 20 miles of hiking and biking trails pass through habitats varying from a bald cypress swamp to high forested dunes. The park is named for the 1607 visit by English settlers bound for Jamestown.

**Norfolk**

The city’s eight miles of Ocean View beaches actually face the Chesapeake Bay, with grand views of the 20-mile-long Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel to the Eastern Shore. The fishing pier extends nearly 1,700 feet into the Bay – a perfect place to watch U.S. Navy and cargo ships bound for Hampton Roads Harbor.

**Eastern Shore**

Visit the fun beach town of Chincoteague on your way to Assateague, a wild barrier island where the famous wild ponies run free. The protected National Seashore boasts miles and miles of pristine, undeveloped beauty. Bring binoculars for supreme bird-watching, climb the historic lighthouse, hike or bike the nature trails or take a dip in the Atlantic surf.

**Hampton**

The mile-long Buckroe Beach on the Chesapeake Bay is a local family favorite, with lifeguards, picnic pavilions, a fishing pier and an outdoor stage for concerts and events. By contrast, Grandview Nature Preserve also fronts the Bay, but is a hidden gem.

**Rivers**

Virginia’s many scenic rivers are lined with quaint downtowns and bustling marinas, offering many recreational opportunities as they flow into the Chesapeake Bay. Potomac River beaches include the resort town of Colonial Beach, boasting two and a half miles of sand and a lively beach boardwalk. Don’t forget your photo op at the interactive LOVEwork sculpture, designed to represent the unique qualities of the town! Nearby Westmoreland State Park is famous for its unique teeth fossils and scenic cliffs. On the James River, Newport News’ Huntington Park has Fort Fun, a giant wooden playground and seafood restaurant on a fishing pier made for sunsets. Yorktown’s Riverwalk complex on the York River anchors this historic burg’s two-acre public beach, close to dining, a sightseeing cruise and the Yorktown Battlefield. Take a historic walking tour, grab an ice cream and relax on the beach.

**Beachcombing**

A sunny summer day is a special time to walk a long, solitary stretch of sand, picking up shells and watching shorebirds.

**Whale-watching**

Winter is the only time of year to watch migrating humpback and fin whales feeding at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Cruises depart January through March from Virginia Beach.

**Dog-walking**

Most public beaches restrict pets Memorial Day through Labor Day, but many drop that restriction in the off-season.

**Biking**

Take a leisurely bike ride along the boardwalk and take in the details.

**Pony-viewing**

Visit Chincoteague Island to see the beautiful wild ponies.

Whichever you choose to dip your toes in the sand – whether you are looking for solitude or activity, surf or smooth water – Virginia has a beach for everyone. Find out more at Virginia.org/beaches.

**The Winter Beach Bucket List**

- Beachcombing: A sunny summer day is a special time to walk a long, solitary stretch of sand, picking up shells and watching shorebirds.
- Whale-watching: Winter is the only time of year to watch migrating humpback and fin whales feeding at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Cruises depart January through March from Virginia Beach.
- Dog-walking: Most public beaches restrict pets Memorial Day through Labor Day, but many drop that restriction in the off-season.
- Biking: Take a leisurely bike ride along the boardwalk and take in the details.
- Pony-viewing: Visit Chincoteague Island to see the beautiful wild ponies.
BOLD, BOUNTIFUL & BEACH INSPIRED

TASTE THE GOOD LIFE

The recipe for our culinary scene is born from the rich culture of our surroundings. Come get a taste of the good life, straight from the hands of the people who grow, catch and brew the best of what we have to offer.

VisitVirginiaBeach.com
It had been a long voyage across the Atlantic before the English settlers first landed at Cape Henry on April 26, 1607. cramped quarters and questionable fare probably made the trip seem even longer. But the next day, the longest recorded account of the love of Virginia food took place when explorers stumbled on some plump, juicy Lynnhaven oysters roasting in an open fire. The colonists took them in hand and opened them. Steam from the bubbling juices wafted towards their nose, and they slurped them greedily down. Diarist George Percy, who would later become one of Virginia’s governors, waxed poetic about the experience, noting the oysters were “very large and delicate in taste.” It was the birth of an American cuisine. Admittedly, oysters aren’t much to look at; theirs are not the beautiful shells you find washed ashore on sandy beaches. They are a bit stubborn too – taking effort to crack into – and once there, many folks are given pause before deciding to eat the flesh inside.

A GILDED ERA FOR OYSTERS

Virginia’s beloved bivalve has a unique legacy, offering experiences that are delightful to both tastebuds and tourism.
harvesting methods, as well as was also its downfall. Unsustainable coin, and the oyster’s popularity around the turn of the last century, The world was Virginia’s oyster: 12 dozen oysters – as an appetizer. William Howard Taft downed In 1909 a visiting President wildly successful oyster roasts. Virginia’s oyster history has been rich for more than four centuries, reaching its first gilded era in the 19th century. Barrels packed to the brim were shipped by the thousands. But the gains were not lasting. Pollution levels in the Chesapeake Bay and her tributaries caused the oyster population to plummet. By the turn of the 21st century, oyster stocks began to make a comeback. Oyster sanctuaries and rotational harvest systems have been key to rebuilding oyster populations. Today Virginia is in a second gilded era for oysters, and there are many ways to get up close and personal with these little bivalves of joy. These include tours that have you wading knee-high into the Lynnhaven Bay and sampling them, or sitting around a roaring fire at an Eastern Shore winery and relishing roasted oysters perfectly paired with Virginia wine.

Pleasecraftsfillmarinas, and their passengers fill the quay, nearby restaurants and shops along waterfront Main Street. The advent of the Virginia Oyster Trail gives opportunities to explore destinations via a scenic drive, or paddling hikes through the countryside. The declaration of November as Virginia Oyster Month adds to a bvy of long-established celebrations, such as the Urbanna Oyster Festival. Across the state, there are eight distinct growing regions from Chincoteague south, into the Chesapeake Bay, and along notable rivers such as the James, Rappahannock and York. Because the waters in each of these locations are kissed with varying levels of minerality and salinity, oysters have distinct tastes in each locale. Flavors range from salty and sweet to buttery and creamy — something for every palate.

Restaurants across the Commonwealth – from seafood shacks and oyster bars to fine dining eateries with AAA Diamonds – showcase these gems in every way from raw to roasted, to folded into rich, creamy stews, as well as breaded and fried. And these dishes conveniently pair perfectly with Virginia craft beers, wine and even distilled spirits.

Each bite is (delicious) history on the (sustainable) half shell.
Growing up in Virginia and knowing the amount of history that happened here is something I took for granted, as many do. School trips to places like Jamestown and Mount Vernon were never too far a drive, and even George Washington’s childhood home in Fredericksburg was only a stone’s throw away from my own. Fortunately, I realized how special these places were sooner rather than later. I love the feeling of time and place that’s captured at many historic sites, and feel comfort in knowing their landscapes will go mostly unchanged for many years to come. But recently, significant changes have made way into some of Virginia’s most prominent historic sites, changes that many believe were long-overdue. Decades-long research and archaeology have uncovered facts and stories about the enslaved communities who once lived and worked here. These findings have led to many recreated structures and dialogue that better represent the lives of the enslaved. They have given me reason to visit again and often, but more importantly, they’ve allowed the sites to tell a more comprehensive story of the past.

Notable sites telling the stories of their enslaved communities are featured here, along with other new exhibits and helpful information for planning your next visit.

**George Washington’s Mount Vernon (Fairfax)**

*Fairfax*

Home of the first U.S. President and Father of Our Country, Mount Vernon is perched high above the Potomac River just outside of Washington D.C., where Washington lived from age 22 until his death in 1799. More than 300 slaves worked the 8,000 acres over his lifetime, and he was the only slaveholding founder to free his slaves in his will.

**What’s New:** Step into Washington’s shoes and make his challenging decisions through the Be Washington exhibit. Explore the personal stories of the enslaved and gain insight into Washington’s evolving opposition to slavery through the Lives Bound Together exhibit.

**Know Before You Go:**
- Ticketing and tours begin at the main entrance visitor center. Open 365 days a year, April to October from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and November to March from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. House tours begin every 15 minutes.
- Explore the personal stories of the enslaved and gain insight into Washington’s evolving opposition to slavery through the Lives Bound Together exhibit.

**Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello (Charlottesville)**

*Charlottesville*

An autobiographical masterpiece, designed and redesigned for more than 40 years, this mountaintop estate provides a glimpse into Jefferson’s life and many accomplishments, as well as the paradox he lived by asserting “all men are created equal” while enslaving more than 600 people over the course of his life.

**What’s New:** Monticello underwent a multi-year restoration of Mulberry Row, once the industrial “main street” of the 5,000-acre agricultural enterprise. Explore the Life of Sally Hemings—Jefferson’s concubine who not only bore several of his children, but successfully negotiated their freedom as well.

**Know Before You Go:**
- Arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled tour and park at the visitor center where you’ll take a short shuttle to the house. After your house tour, explore additional tours and exhibits on the grounds included in the price of admission.
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**Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest (Lynchburg)**

*Forest*

Jefferson owned several plantations but only designed and built elaborate homes for himself at Monticello and Poplar Forest. Poplar Forest was his personal retreat where he “came to indulge in the life of the mind and renew his personal creativity.” Explore its restoration and see how the neoclassical architecture of the octagonal house has been returned to Mr. Jefferson’s design.

**What’s New:** Learn about those who labored for Jefferson’s happiness through a guided Enslaved Community Tour. Dig deeper through an Archaeology Behind-the-Scenes Tour or Barrels, Bottles and Casks Tour.

**Know Before You Go:**
- Poplar Forest’s more than 600 acres sits just outside of Lynchburg in Forest. Open daily from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for guided tours every hour from mid-March to December 30.
Virginia’s beginnings were established in 1607 at the first permanent English settlement in the new world. Explore the original settlement at Historic Jamestowne with onsite archaeology and exhibits telling the stories of its three cultures – European, Native American and African. Visit the adjacent Jamestown Settlement museum for more exhibits, films and recreated living history.

WHAT’S NEW: Archaeology at Historic Jamestowne recently uncovered two important figures in America’s early history the possible remains of George Yorksday, Virginia’s first governor, as well as the site occupied by Angela, the first recorded African to arrive in the new world. Jamestown Settlement’s Tenacity: Women in Jamestown and early Virginia explores real women of Jamestown, their tenacious spirit and their impact on a fledgling society.

JAMES MADISON’S
MONTPELIER
Charlottesville

Learn about Madison and his critical role in drafting the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, as well as his conflict with the institution of slavery. The fourth U.S. President and Father of the Constitution did much of his research and writing at home at Montpelier, where his desk still sits in the library today.

WHAT’S NEW: Archaeological research is returning the House and landscape to original appearances. The Mere Distinction of Colour exhibition, located in the cellars and south yard, examines the paradox of slavery to connect the past to the present through the lens of the Constitution.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:
- Located 30 miles northeast of Charlottesville, Montpelier is open daily from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Neighboring Monticello, Monroe’s close friend and teacher was Jefferson, who urged him to move to the area to create a “society to our taste.” The fifth U.S. president and last Founding Father spent half of his 50 years of public service at Highland. Set on more than 500 acres, the house and gardens are nestled along a ridge with a landscape preserved much like Monroe would have known it.

WHAT’S NEW: Archaeology recently found Monroe’s Presidential Guest House built in 1818 and a new augmented reality tour brings history to life.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:
- Highland is open daily for guided tours April through October from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- November through March from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- The Slavery at Highland program is offered April through October from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

No place feels as alive and authentic as the streets of Virginia’s colonial capital. Step back in time with historical interpreters portraying real people who lived in 18th-century Williamsburg, such as Patrick Henny, George Washington and the young Thomas Jefferson, along with lesser known figures like Aggy, a slave fighting for her family’s freedom while entangled with her master.

WHAT’S NEW: Below when Virginia said “yes” to American Independence through the thought-provoking play, Resolved: An American Experiment. Visit Market Square to shop the 18th-century market, dine at period taverns and enjoy happy hour in their colonial gardens.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:
- Find free parking at the visitor’s center.
- Hop on a colonial carriage ride or explore by foot or shuttle bus.
- Check the daily event calendar and plan around your interests.

JAMESTOWN
Williamsburg

Virginia said “yes” to American Independence through the thought-provoking play, Resolved: An American Experiment. All places feel as alive and authentic as the streets of Virginia’s colonial capital. Step back in time with historical interpreters portraying real people who lived in 18th-century Williamsburg, such as Patrick Henny, George Washington and the young Thomas Jefferson, along with lesser known figures like Aggy, a slave fighting for her family’s freedom while entangled with her master.

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HIGHLAND is open daily for guided tours April through October from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Colonnial WILLIAMSBURG
Williamsburg

No place feels as alive and authentic as the streets of Virginia’s colonial capital. Step back in time with historical interpreters portraying real people who lived in 18th-century Williamsburg, such as Patrick Henny, George Washington and the young Thomas Jefferson, along with lesser known figures like Aggy, a slave fighting for her family’s freedom while entangled with her master.

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History in Your Hand

In addition to these national historic icons, Virginia offers many lesser-known sites scattered all throughout the state. Explore these sites using the Virginia History Trails App as your guide. With 20 curated trails and more than 400 stories that relay important parts of Virginia and American history, the App is part of Virginia’s 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution honoring the 450th anniversary of key historic events that happened in Virginia in 1619—and continue to influence America today.

For the curious and uncompromising, who believe the best treasures tell the story of their origin, Virginia wine embodies the grace, grit and experimental spirit of its home.

Find a Virginia wine adventure today. Visit virginiawine.org to request your winery guide.
Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail

Chesapeake Bay. Named the #1 wine trail in Virginia by readers of Savor Virginia magazine in 2017, this charming trail comprises eight wineries along scenic byways dotted with historic attractions, such as the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Stratford Hall and Menokin. Quintessential nature and beautiful waterways all contribute to the region’s charm.

Want to make a trip out of it?

Try the Virginia Spirits Trail, with a handy map to guide you throughout the state to the local distilleries, attractions and cocktail-concocting restaurants ready to showcase their work. You can also narrow down your search to specific spirits, guaranteeing your favorite flavors.

Find your next sip at VirginiaSpiritsTrail.org.
Relive Famous Films

BY LIZ LONG

No one puts you in a corner! “Dirty Dancing” fans will love their chance to relive the movie at Mountain Lake Lodge in Pembroke, located in Grayson County. One of the movie’s scenes was filmed at the lodge. Fans should also grab a bite to eat at the cast and crew’s favorite spots, including Mama J’s, Blue Ridge Grille at the lodge, and even morning yoga.

“Homeland” viewers will recognize locations in Alexandria, including the Virginia State Capitol building, the Ford’s Theatre, and Union Station; plus tour the Berkeley, Battersea and Tuckahoe Plantations to explore not only Virginia’s history, but also the TV show’s settings, but Virginia history itself.

Virginia is for Music Lovers

Every year, thousands flock to major Virginia music festivals like FloydFest, Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion, LOCKN’ and more. But if you want to add some variety to your annual lineup, block your calendar now for these up-and-coming music festivals for a full list of festivals — as well as historic music venues and Virginia-bred artists — check out Virginiav.org/music.
WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE, Virginia is the best love for her people, her natural beauty and her growing spirit of diversity and inclusion. 2019 is an exciting time; as Virginia celebrates 50 Years of Love (p8), the nation celebrates the birth of LGBTQ+ rights – with NYC’s 1969 Stonewall Uprising. These days, Pride celebrations across the Commonwealth continue to grow in number and scale. So we asked a few local experts to weigh in on their favorite places to visit when celebrating in their communities.

*Get your southern food fix at Southern Kitchen "The Mouth of the South" in Shockoe Bottom (you HAVE to try the Ok Roll) and make time to explore significant history through stories at the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia in Jackson Ward.*

*Kitchen by Braise serves as a Chaplain for a Senior Living Community and as Community Outreach Coordinator for a local elementary school. He was recently named the 2018 Placemaker of the Year by City Works (x)Po in Virginia.*

*Joe Cobb is the Roanoke Vice Mayor and a member of Roanoke’s City Council. The first openly gay person elected to City Council, he sits on committees with Metropolitan Community Churches, and serves as a Chaplain for a local LGBTQ community and as Community Outreach Coordinator for a local LGBTQ non-profit.*

*Jasmin Best is the Executive Director of June Bug Center all situated on a beautiful little lake.*

*PFLAG President, Floyd Center serves as a Chaplain for a Senior Living Community and as Community Outreach Coordinator for a local elementary school. He was recently named the 2018 Placemaker of the Year by City Works (x)Po in Virginia.*

*Brian Reach is President, Charlottesville Pride Community Network.*

*Colette Werkheisser is President, Hampton Roads Pride.*

*“Visit the central, longstanding LGBTQ+ owned The Park, Roanoke’s 40-year strong local LGBTQ+ dance club, and Mill Mountain Theatre, the fantastic LGBTQ-friendly theatre with main-stage and fringe shows throughout the year.”

*“Come to Harrisonburg for The Artful Dodger Coffeeshop and Night Club, a coffee shop by day that transitions into an LGBTQ-friendly nightclub. You’ve got to try a famous hot dog with secret recipe chili from Jess’ Quick Lunch, a small, family-owned restaurant that’s served the city for nearly 100 years!”

*“Ask The Experts: Pride RVA Co-Founder, Black LACETTE CROSS Ward.”

*“Make a day of it and visit the exquisite winey Chateau Morrisette and the Richmond Triangle Players, the only professional theatre company opened in 1933 in the entire Mid-Atlantic region which expressly and regularly serves the LGBTQ+ community.”

*“Check out Freddie’s Beach Bar, the most notable gay-owned restaurant in NOVA, and the always amazing Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.”

*“Everyone loves Decorum Furniture & The Gift Shop, home to quirky and unique gifts for any occasion; the Rainbow Cactus Company, one of the area’s most notable gay bars and nightclubs featuring legendary drag performers, dancing and other LGBT bands; and Croc’s, located in Virginia Beach’s arty ViBe District, a bar and restaurant best known for their Drag Yourself to Brunch on Sundays at 11!”

*“Come to the heart of Charlottesville and pay a visit to the Downtown Mall, the go-to place for inclusive dining and shopping, featuring The Pie Chest, owned by an LGBTQ couple, with lovely pies and coffee, as well as monthly Trans Night Out gatherings, and Tin Whistle, An Irish Pub that hosts a drag brunch on the first Sunday of each month. If you have a sweet tooth, the Saturday Farmer’s Market with Cocoa and Spice, a local chocolate-maker and LGBT entrepreneur, and this gay-owned Marie Bette Café & Bakery are a must!”

*“There’s nothing better than the Lake Anne Village Center Plaza. Built in the 1960’s as a planned community for a Live-Work-Play/lifestyle, this village center embodies the diverse community that Reston was founded to be! Amazing, independently-owned businesses include Lake Anne Brew House, Lake Anne Coffee House, Nordic Knot Bakery and the historic Reston Museum, all situated on a beautiful little lake.”

*“DJ’s Rajun Cajun and Wabi Sabi in Old Town Petersburg are LGBTQ+ owned and the main sponsors of our Pride. They offer a great variety of food, drinks, live music and entertainment. You’ll also want to catch a show at the historic Beacon Theatre, which was built in 1928 for silent movies and Vaudeville shows.”

*“Visit the central, longstanding LGBTQ+ owned The Park, Roanoke’s 40-year strong local LGBTQ+ dance club, and Mill Mountain Theatre, the fantastic LGBTQ-friendly theatre with main-stage and fringe shows throughout the year.”

*“Make a day of it and visit the exquisite winey Chateau Morrisette and the Richmond Triangle Players, the only professional theatre company opened in 1933 in the entire Mid-Atlantic region which expressly and regularly serves the LGBTQ+ community.”
Adventures that make for great fireside stories tend also to be the most challenging - earned with sweat, sore muscles and even a few blisters.

When such an adventure ends in a town offering a hot shower, a delicious dinner and a cozy room at a historic inn – now that’s the stuff from which memories are made! Hard-earned respite awaits in these iconic Virginia Trail Towns.

Damascus’ legendary hospitality culminates each May when the town plays host to Trail Days, coinciding with the time of year when most Appalachian Trail through-hikers reach Virginia on their 2,176-mile journey from Georgia to Maine. Invariably, a hiker wedding takes place sometime during the weekend in this charming mountain village.

Virginia contains some 550 miles of the AT, more than any other state and what many claim to be the most scenic - and difficult - miles. Not far from town is Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, boasting the highest point in Virginia, as well as high mountain meadows where wild ponies run free.

If you’d rather explore by bike, shuttle companies take cyclists to the top of nearby Whitetop Mountain for the 17-mile coast back into town, where the Virginia Creeper Trail runs right down Main Street.

Front Royal began in 1788 as a rowdy frontier settlement at the crossing of wagon trails, traversing from Manassas and Chester Gap to meet at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Today’s travelers pass through Front Royal as the gateway to the 105-mile scenic Skyline Drive along the mountain ridges of Shenandoah National Park.

Follow the Battle of Front Royal Driving Tour, or catch a Friday night Gathering at the Gazebo for free live entertainment. Eclectic dining choices range from BBQ and all-American diners to Asian specialties.

Mount Rogers National Recreation Area—Mouth of Wilson

38 VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

VIRGINIA.ORG 39
Bedford
Small Town Charm
Virginia Mountains
Downtown Bedford is pedestrian-friendly and lined with more than 200 historic buildings that house shops and eateries. Just eight miles from downtown, the three Peaks of Otter are relatively easy day trips rewarding hikers with stunning panoramic views. The trailheads are steps from the Blue Ridge Parkway, which gives access to more than 100 trails along its 475-mile route through the Appalachian Mountains. Visit the National D-Day Memorial and the Booker T. Washington National Monument, birthplace of the African-American leader who overcame slavery to become an educator and presidential advisor.

St. Paul
Off-Road Adventure
Heart of Appalachia
Spearhead Trails comprises more than 400 miles of multi-use trails in far Southwest Virginia, creating a vast recreational playground for off-highway vehicles such as ATVs, dirt bikes and mountain bikes. Trail Towns like Pocahontas, Coeburn, Grundy and St. Paul offer ATV rentals, trail access and places to eat and sleep after your adventure. Enjoy St. Paul’s ATV-friendly atmosphere with a visit to Sugar Hill Brewing, kayak or tube down the Clinch River, and a stay at the new, rustically-chic Western Front Hotel.

Roanoke
Mountain Biking Mecca
Virginia Mountains
Boasting a Silver Level Status from the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), Roanoke Ride Center is the only destination on the East Coast to achieve this ranking. Three ride parks in the city offer trails for all abilities and there are miles of epic backcountry riding around the city as well.

Wachapreague
Paddler’s Paradise
Coastal Eastern Shore
The 75-mile-long Seaside Water Trail traverses the ocean side of Virginia’s Eastern Shore, the longest undeveloped coastal wilderness left on the East Coast. Launch your day trip from the quiet watermen’s community of Wachapreague and return to a fresh seafood dinner at Island House Restaurant & Marina. Or enjoy world-famous flounder fishing and a variety of eco-tours when you extend your stay. Learn about the fishing and hunting communities that once inhabited the seaside islands at the nearby Barrier Islands Center in Machipongo.

Williamsburg
Seat of the Historic Triangle
Central and Coastal Hampton Roads
The 32-mile shared-use Virginia Capital Trail links the first settlement in Jamestown, the Colonial Capital in Williamsburg and Virginia’s modern seat of government in Richmond. The paved trail accommodates pedestrians and cyclists of all abilities. Immerse yourself in history by staying right in the midst of the living history museum that is Colonial Williamsburg. Tastings with Chefs and Christiana Campbell’s serve dishes based on centuries-old recipes. Stay in one of the Colonial Houses, furnished with period reproductions with all the modern comforts.

South Hill
Family-Friendly Fun
Southern Virginia
The Tobacco Heritage Trail is a series of long-distance, multi-use, non-motorized trails utilizing former railroad beds. It passes through trail towns like Clarksville, Brodnax and South Hill, located just off I-85 along Historic Route 1. North Bend Park Campground sits just off the Trail and on Virginia’s largest lake, Buggs Island Lake. Ride your bike on the trail, kayak on the lake, or sit and enjoy the lakeside views. Visit the Tobacco Farm Life Museum and Whittle’s Mill for historical context of the area. At the Virginia S. Evans Doll Museum & Model Railroad Museum, you’ll see more than 500 historic dolls and a scale model of the railroad and town inside the same building. Dine on traditional fare at the Horseshoe Restaurant, a classic 1930s diner. Try the pimento cheese and fried green tomato atop the famous Cajun salad. Be sure to try the iconic Country Ham Burger for a true taste of the “southside” of Virginia.

Virginia Is for Lovers®
41
The Best Public Golf Courses in Virginia

BY LIZ LONC

Our state hosts several of the country’s greatest golf destinations and most impressive courses.

TRAVEL ANYWHERE in Virginia and you won’t be far from amazing public golf courses. With many ranked among the best in the country, enthusiasts are sure to enjoy plenty of rounds on the fairway while taking in some of Virginia’s best sights.

Get your golfer’s bucket list started with these top public courses from Golf Digest’s 2017 ranking of “The Best Golf Courses in Virginia.”

See more beautiful golf courses at Virginia.org/golf.

Colonial Williamsburg’s Golden Horseshoe Golf Club is ranked among Golf magazine’s “Top 500 Golf Holes in the World” and Golfweek magazine’s “Top 100 Resort Courses in America” and named Golf Digest’s 2016 Best Golf Resort in the Mid-Atlantic. Two beautiful, recently renovated courses boast 45 walkable holes, while the golf club offers access to two on-site restaurants. Round out your weekend with a visit to Colonial Williamsburg, offering every amenity from luxury accommodations and fine dining to historic reenactments and family fun.

The Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs comprises two challenging and historic courses surrounded by serene Allegheny Mountain landscapes. Its fairways have entertained two generations of golfers, as well as former Presidents William H. Taft, Dwight D. Eisenhower and George H.W. Bush.

Located on 2,900 acres along the scenic James River, Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg is not to be missed. Many of the world’s best PGA and LPGA players have played the River Course, reborn thanks to original architect Pete Dye. Their Plantation Course is an Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay design, with large greens and landmarks from the 1736 plantation that make it truly historic. The variety and challenges will take every player to the next level, while their many resort amenities – including a full-service spa, tennis center, outdoor pools, marina, four restaurants and luxury accommodations – will elevate your entire vacation experience.

The Highland Course at Primland in Meadows of Dan offers incredible mountain views and an 18-hole, Audubon-certified, all-bent grass course designed by renowned architect Donald Steel. GOLF magazine ranked it as one of the “Top 100 Courses You Can Play,” inviting all skill levels to enjoy the design and natural beauty of the course.

In Cape Charles, the award-winning Bay Creek Resort and Club features signature courses from Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer. The 18-hole courses rank 12th in the nation (Golf World), and challenge even the best golfers. Palmer once claimed he could play it every day, while Nicklaus praises the great views and environmentally sensitive design.

The Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech in Radford offers a “Distinctively Dye” design, while Virginia Tech’s commitment to excellence and tradition are obvious from the moment you arrive. Playing host to the 2011 NCAC Regional Championships and the 2016 Virginia State Amateur Championships, the course is one of the top in the region. Also home to the Virginia Tech and Radford University golf teams, Dye says it has “all the ambiance and qualities that make a course really good...the river and scenery are unbelievable.”

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A golfer’s dream: Unlimited play on our green and bunk 6,400 yard Shenandoah Valley course nestled amid Virginia’s equally beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. Package includes meals and lodging, greens fees and cart for 18 holes daily and extra round for cart fees only!

For more details check out www.luraycaverns.com or call (540) 743-6551.

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Play the most historic 177 yards of golf in America.
From the mountains of Appalachia to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, our commonwealth is as diverse as the people who call it home.

Virginia State Parks are the best way to explore the rich, natural wonder of our beautiful state. From a quiet hike to a bluegrass festival, state parks offer hundreds of programs, activities, concerts and other ways to enjoy Virginia.

With lodges, cabins, yurts and campsites, the fun doesn’t end at sundown. Many cabins are available year-round, and most campgrounds are open from the first Friday in March to the first Monday in December. Primitive campers are available year-round.

Many parks offer overnight facilities suitable for reunions, weddings and special events. Some parks even have equestrian campsites.

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Love is freedom. Inspiration. Expression.

VIRGINIA HAS NO SHORTAGE of incredible art throughout the state. From enormous outdoor murals and sculptures to art museums and local galleries, visitors and residents alike are able to find extraordinary works that provide inspiration to feed the soul (and your eyes). Celebrate the artistic talents within our state any time you visit, and share the love of beauty made by passionate hands.

A   “WE CAN CREATE” BY ESTEBAN DEL VALLE — NORTHEASTERN VIRGINIA
B   “THE LUCY SIMMS MURAL” BY ANDRE SHANK AND PAUL SOMERS — HARRISONBURG
C   “VIRGINIA’S PLAYGROUND” BY STEPHANIE AKERS — PEARISBURG
D   “A DAFFODIL CELEBRATION” BY LOUISE CHEN JONES — GLOUCESTER COUNTY
E   “BOJANGLES” BY ANIEKAN UDOFIA — RICHMOND
F   “UNTITLED” BY JAMES BULLOUGH — ROANOKE
G   “BEADED CURTIN” BY ERIN CURTIS — ALEXANDRIA

**GIFT GUIDE**

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**VIRGINIA Welcome Centers**

1. Virginia Welcome Center at Bristol, (276) 466-2932
2. Virginia Welcome Center Rocky Gap, (276) 928-1873
3. Virginia Welcome Center at Lambsburg, (540) 755-3931
4. Virginia Welcome Center at Covington, (540) 559-3010
5. Virginia Welcome Center at Clear Brook, (540) 722-3448
6. Virginia Welcome Center at Manassas, (703) 361-2134
7. Virginia Welcome Center at Fredericksburg, (540) 786-8344
8. Virginia Welcome Center at Bracey, (434) 689-2295
9. Northern Virginia Gateway Welcome Center, (804) 448-3980
10. Virginia Welcome Center at Main Street Station, (804) 545-5581
11. Virginia Welcome Center at Skippers, (434) 634-4113
12. East Coast Gateway Welcome Center, (804) 966-7450
13. Virginia Welcome Center at New Church, (757) 824-5000

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**VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS**
The Virginia Mountains region connects the Shenandoah Valley to the southwestern regions. Notable features include The Omni Homestead Resort, Humpback Bridge, and Smith Mountain Lake. The largest city, Roanoke, is surrounded by many charming mountain towns. Find out more on page 138.

**SHENANDOAH VALLEY**
Stretching 200 miles, the Shenandoah Valley sits between the border of West Virginia and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Visitors will enjoy exploring the various charming towns from Winchester to Lexington and many more in between. Notable features include Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park, and Luray Caverns. Find out more on page 120.

**BLUE RIDGE HIGHLANDS**
The region encompasses the Blue Ridge Parkway, a favorite for scenic drives. Known as the Birthplace of Country Music, this region also includes notable features such as The Crooked Road, the Floyd Country Store and the small towns of Bristol and Galax. Find out more on page 154.

**CENTRAL VIRGINIA**
Located about two hours south of Washington D.C., and two hours west of Virginia Beach, this region is centrally located around Richmond, spanning out to the base of the Shenandoah Valley. Notable features include Monticello, the Virginia State Capitol, Appomattox Court House, and the cities of Richmond, Petersburg and Charlottesville. Find out more on page 98.

**HEART OF APPALACHIA**
Located at the westernmost tip of the state, Heart of Appalachia is comprised of scenic beauty and rugged landscapes. Notable features include the Spearhead Trails, Breaks Interstate Park, Burke’s Garden and the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail. Find out more on page 168.

**COASTAL VIRGINIA**
Located about two hours southeast of Richmond, this region is home to many coastal cities, such as Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Hampton and Newport News. Highlights include Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg and Yorktown. Find out more on page 54.

**COASTAL EASTERN SHORE**
Stretching 70 miles and situated between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, its notable features include the Town of Chincoteague, Wallops Island and Cape Charles. To get there, travel the 17-mile Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel that connects the Eastern Shore to Virginia Beach. Find out more on page 74.

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA**
Northern Virginia is next door to the nation’s capital, Washington D.C. Notable features include The Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery and Mount Vernon. Visitors will enjoy the bustling cities of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax juxtaposed with the rural countrysides in Loudoun County. Find out more on page 84.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY**
Comprised of the Northern Neck and the Middle peninsulas, this region sits along the Chesapeake Bay, starting in the north at the Potomac River and ending along the York River. Here visitors will find small waterfront towns, fresh oysters, quaint B&Bs and plenty more. Find out more on page 78.

**SOUTHERN VIRGINIA**
Running along Virginia’s southern border with North Carolina, this mostly rural and rolling landscape of farms and woodlands takes visitors into the Virginia version of small-town America. Notable features include Kerr Lake, NASCAR speedway in Martinsville and various American Main Street communities. Find out more on page 114.
### National & Regional Parks, Refuges & Forests

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<td>Fountainhead Regional Park</td>
<td>Station, VA</td>
<td>703-239-3704</td>
<td>novaparks.com/parks/fountainhead-regional-park</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Washington &amp; Jefferson National Forests, Roanoke, VA</td>
<td>Roanoke, VA</td>
<td>540-265-5002</td>
<td><a href="mailto:trumplin@usgs.gov">trumplin@usgs.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Suffolk, VA</td>
<td>Suffolk, VA</td>
<td>757-986-3705</td>
<td>fws.gov/refuge/Great_Dismal_Swamp</td>
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<td>Hemlock Overlook Regional Park</td>
<td>Clifton, VA</td>
<td>800-877-0954</td>
<td>novaparks.com/parks/hemlock-overlook-regional-park</td>
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<td>Meadowlark Botanical Gardens</td>
<td>Vienna, VA</td>
<td>703-255-3631</td>
<td>novaparks.com/parks/meadowlark-botanical-gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area, Marion, VA</td>
<td>Marion, VA</td>
<td>803-520-1250</td>
<td><a href="mailto:potomacriverpark@virginia.gov">potomacriverpark@virginia.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Cherrys Park, Mt. Solon, VA</td>
<td>Mt. Solon, VA</td>
<td>540-350-2100</td>
<td>co.augusta.va.us/nat-cherrys-sprk</td>
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<td>Occoquan Regional Park</td>
<td>Lorton, VA</td>
<td>703-690-3211</td>
<td>novaparks.com/parks/occoquan-regional-park</td>
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<td>Pohick Bay Regional Park</td>
<td>Lorton, VA</td>
<td>703-339-6104</td>
<td>novaparks.com/parks/pohick-bay-regional-park</td>
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<td>Potomac Overlook Regional Park</td>
<td>Arlington, VA</td>
<td>703-528-3340</td>
<td>novaparks.com/parks/potomac-overlook-regional-park</td>
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<td>Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge-Complex, Woodbridge, VA</td>
<td>Woodbridge, VA</td>
<td>703-480-4979</td>
<td>nps.gov/refuge/Potomac_Neck/About_the_Complex</td>
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<td>Pohick Bay Regional Park</td>
<td>Lorton, VA</td>
<td>703-239-4104</td>
<td>novaparks.com/parks/pohick-bay-regional-park</td>
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<td>Prince William Forest Park</td>
<td>Triangle, VA</td>
<td>708-221-7181</td>
<td>nps.gov/pwi/index.htm</td>
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<td>Rapagnanremember River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Warsaw, VA</td>
<td>Warsaw, VA</td>
<td>804-333-1470</td>
<td>fws.gov/refuge/rapagnanremember_river_valley</td>
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<td>Red Bank Wilderness Overlook Regional Park, Luray, VA</td>
<td>Luray, VA</td>
<td>702-337-7300</td>
<td>novaparks.com/parks/red-rock-wilderness-overlook-regional-park</td>
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<td>Shenandoah National Park/ Skyline Drive, Luray, VA</td>
<td>Luray, VA</td>
<td>540-999-3050</td>
<td>nps.gov/shen</td>
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<td>Shapedock National Park</td>
<td>Skyline Drive, Luray, VA</td>
<td>540-999-3050</td>
<td>nps.gov/shen</td>
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<td>Upton Hill Regional Park</td>
<td>Arlington, VA</td>
<td>703-528-3340</td>
<td>novaparks.com/parks/upton-hill-regional-park</td>
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<tr>
<td>W &amp; OD Regional National Park</td>
<td>Ashburn, VA</td>
<td>703-720-2596</td>
<td>novaparks.com/parks/washington-and-old-dominion-national-regional-park</td>
<td>N</td>
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* B-Blue Ridge, C-Central, Ch-Chesapeake, Co-Coastal, E-Eastern Shore, Hi-Heart of Appalachia, H-Mountains, N-Northern Virginia, S-Shenandoah, So-Southern

**Virginia License & Registration System**

DGIF’s online solution to support Virginia’s hunters, anglers, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

### Highlights & Features

- **Customer Accounts**
  - System users will be required to create a DGIF user account. With this, customers can manage their licenses and preferences using a customer ID.

- **License Packages**
  - Take the hassle out of determining which licenses and permits you need. Choose a package by activity type, ensuring you have everything you need.

- **Auto Renewals**
  - Enroll in DGIF’s new auto renewal program allowing customers to set up their licenses to be automatically renewed every year.

- **Annual Hard Cards**
  - Now offering customers a stylish, durable hard card license for an additional $5. Cards offer customers a more durable option featuring collectible designs.

### Go Outdoors VA

**Sync & Download Your Licenses**
- Never be caught without your license.

**Buy Your License on the Go**
- Always be prepared for your next outdoor adventure.

**Access the Go Outdoors Toolbox**
- Find weather, tides, feeding times, events, & more!

**Game Check**
- Record your harvest in the app.

**GoOutdoorsVA.com**
- Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries
  - Conserve. Connect. Protect.