



TRAVEL

Weekend Getaway: See What Makes Charlottesville Way More Than A College Town

From rich history and immersive art to Blue Ridge hiking and wonderful wineries, the home of the University of Virginia should be on your weekend getaway must list.

By **Kelly Magyarics** November 30, 2020

This story, which ran in our [December issue](#), is part of a series about great college towns to visit.

The Town: Charlottesville

The School: University of Virginia

Drive Time from NoVA: 2 hours, 10 minutes



Selfies at Monticello (Courtesy Virginia Tourism Corporation)

What Makes it Great

American history, Southern charm, stunning architecture and world-class wines beckon in this charming town in Albemarle County nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Founding father Thomas Jefferson's stamp can be found everywhere, from his neoclassical home and grounds at [Monticello](#) to the [University of Virginia](#), which he founded; both are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Don't miss a glimpse of the latter's iconic Rotunda, the centerpiece of the campus; you can also see the room where Edgar Allan Poe lived when he was a student and some of the nation's most historical documents at the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library. Jefferson was a huge oenophile, and though he failed at making wine, today the region is world-renowned, with more than 35 palate-piquing wineries, such as [Glass House Winery](#), located in a tropical conservatory, or [Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards](#), where you can enjoy an elevated pairing menu at The Vintner's Table. But two other U.S. presidents also called the area home, and tours of James Madison's [Montpelier](#) and James Monroe's [Highland](#), both on the National Register of Historic Places, are great ways to immerse yourself in the architecture and history of the era. Carve out some time to stroll down the historical pedestrian Downtown Mall: One of the longest of its kind in the

entire country, it features more than 120 restaurants and shops open year-round. And restaurants like [Oakhart Social](#) and the aptly named [The Local Restaurant](#) prove why *Forbes* has referred to Charlottesville as the “locavore capital of the world.”



Oakhart Social (Courtesy Virginia Tourism Corporation)

Must-Do's

- Grab an everything bagel with cream cheese at [Bodo's](#), which prides itself on authentic New York-style water-boiled bagels made from scratch.
- If bronuts are more your thing, [MarieBette Café & Bakery](#) has received accolades for the sweet treat that's a mash-up of brioche and a doughnut.
- Take a hike on [Humpback Rocks](#), located just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, with views of the surrounding valley and hardwood forest.

- Ponder Virginia's first immersive art exhibit, a whimsical installation called *The Looking Glass*, at [IX Art Park](#), followed by a walk around the outdoor art park.

Where to Stay

The [Quirk Hotel](#) is C'ville's first boutique art hotel, located on West Main Street in two historical former 19th-century homes. Rooms are uniquely decorated in a chic vintage style with pieces from local artists, and dining options include locally sourced fare and craft cocktails at the Pink Grouse and curated global whiskeys at sophisticated lounge Bobboo. Recently renovated, [Boar's Head Resort](#) is one of the town's most well-known accommodations. Its 168 rooms and suites are joined by a luxury spa; Audubon-certified Birdwood Golf Course (UVA's official course); 600 acres with trails, lakes, ponds and wetlands; and several dining options, including the farm-inspired restaurant The Mill Room.



The Quirk Hotel (Courtesy Virginia Tourism Corporation)

This story originally appeared in the [December issue](#). For more stories like this, [subscribe](#) to our monthly print magazine.