

**WELCOME** to Fairfax County, Virginia! Located just west of the U.S. capital of Washington, D.C., Fairfax County offers an unexpected blend of picture-perfect natural surroundings and big city amenities, positioning visitors in the heart of the National Capital Region. Whether you want to do it all - or get away from it all - there's a special place for you here.

Experience history up close by visiting one of the many historically significant attractions in the area, explore the vibrant arts and cultural scene or savor eclectic cuisines at our renowned restaurants all right here in Fairfax County. Alternatively, rejuvenate your soul in the great outdoors at one of our 400-plus wide-open parks and gardens.

With Washington, D.C. just minutes away, hotels for every budget and easy access to three airports, major highways, and an expanding regional Metrorail line, Fairfax County is a close, convenient, and less-expensive home base for exploring all our nation's capital has to offer. Come see for yourself and Connect with America.



# FAIRFAX COUNTY AT A GLANCE



Approximately 15 miles west of Washington, D.C.



2nd highest concentration of attractions in the Capital Region



Approximately 19,000 rooms in 100+ hotels



Visit these one & only's in Fairfax County:

Home to the most visited historic estate in the U.S.

The country's only national park dedicated to the performing arts

The first bald eagle refuge in America

One of the only places to walk under the wing of a Space Shuttle

# **NEW & NOTABLE**

## **National Museum of the US Army**

Opened in 2021. Free timed-entry admission tickets required for entry. Groups of 10+ considering a visit can fill out a request form on the **Group Ticketing Page.** It features several interactive exhibits, a multi-dimensional theater & a cafe. The Experiential Learning Center uses high-tech, simulated Army training to provide adult and youth groups with new skills in Geography, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (G-STEM). See **flyer** and take a **peek** here.

### **George Washington's Mount Vernon**

In March 2022, a new "Mount Vernon: An American Icon" exhibit, will open to the public and broadly explore how Mount Vernon came to be, from Native Americans through Washington's ownership and into preservation efforts. New specialty seasonal tours provide an inside look at a variety of topics, including the new Founding Flowers garden tour and the Hamilton: The Musical tour. George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill, located 3 miles from the Mount Vernon estate, still produces Washington's famous Rye Whiskey using his 18th century recipe and methods. A new, permanent tasting room will open on the property in 2022.

#### **Visit Our Local Wine and Beer Makers**

Fairfax County is home to many breweries and two historic wineries. Visiting these craft makers is the perfect way to get a taste of America when on your visit. Our wineries offer tours to groups who are interested in learning about the wine making process and the history of the land on which they reside. Our breweries have ample space to host groups for gatherings after spending the day touring the sites and sounds of the National Capital Region.

#### **Explore America's Next Great City**

The Tysons area of Fairfax County has undergone a dramatic transformation over the last ten years. New performance halls, parks built "in the sky," enhanced shopping experiences featuring hundreds of retailers, walkable streetscapes giving visitors access to new restaurants and local shops, and many different hotel brands that put visitors in the middle of it all, are all a part of this new vibrant landscape.

## **Workhouse Arts Center**

This former prison turned art haven features 65+ of the region's finest artists. Groups can tour the galleries and artist studios or participate in a thrilling murder mystery meal (25-80 people, starting at ~\$36 per person, will vary with meal selected). The Lucy Burns Museum, located onsite, opened in early 2020. The museum highlights the compelling story of the suffragists who were imprisoned here in 1917 for demanding the right to vote. Hear more about suffrage at the Workhouse **here.** 

#### Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center

Located close to Dulles Airport and highlights the history of flight, from 18th century ballooning to 21st century aviation and space exploration.

One of the only places in the U.S. where you can stand next to a NASA Space Shuttle! Experience the museum virtually via this 5-minute video here.













# **NEW & NOTABLE**

#### **River-Sea Chocolates**

Fairfax County's 1st Chocolate Factory! Enjoy bean-to-bar tours, tastings or chocolate bar decorating classes. Indulge your creative side as you decorate chocolate bars with nuts, dried fruit, and a variety of spices. Ideal for groups of 13 or less. Located 3 miles from the National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center.

# **Huntley Meadows Park**

Offers a variety of naturalist-led group tours such as a twilight boardwalk stroll, birding for beginners or more seasoned birders or a wildlife walk. Walk along the forested paths to the wetland boardwalk and experience the park as it transitions from day into night. Open to groups of 20 or less. Tours of Historic Huntley, an 1820's villa nearby, also offered on Saturdays. See group offerings <a href="here">here</a> or virtually explore Huntley Meadows via this video.

## **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial**

Opened in May of 2021, it is the only place in America that tells the complete story of the suffrage movement. The memorial features a section of the White House Fence in front of which suffragists picketed in 1917 and highlights the 120+ suffragists who were imprisoned at what is now the Workhouse Arts Center. It is also a stop along the "Constitution Trail," which links sites connected to the Constitution in Washington, DC and Virginia, such as George Washington's Mount Vernon and the National Archives. **Docent-led tours** available for groups of 10+.

## **George Mason's Gunston Hall**

The home of one of the Founding Fathers of the US. Mason wrote the Virginia Constitution and the Virginia Declaration of Rights on which the U.S. Bill of Rights was based. Groups can enjoy a guided tour of his mansion or field trips focusing on 18th century life or exploring Mason's legacy on preserving individual rights. Watch this clip to learn why George Mason was integral to U.S. history and what you can see while visiting his beloved Fairfax County home.

#### **Arcadia Farm**

Interested in Agriculture? Arcadia Farm invites groups of 20 or less to engage all of their senses – especially taste! – on educational, hands-on visits to their farm guided by farm educators. **Click here** for more information and the tour request form.

# **Frying Pan Farm Park**

Step back in time to experience rural America in the 1900s. Their selection of field trips give students plenty of opportunities to meet the farm animals, take workshops and gain knowledge of how a farm thrived in the 1920s-50s. Learn all about Frying Pan Park <a href="https://example.com/here/">here</a>.













# **ITINERARIES**

#### **Historic Homes**

Nothing will give you a taste of history more than this Virginia historic homes tour. Visit famous homes that were occupied by George Washington, George Mason, and more and see all the best architecture Fairfax County has to offer.

### **Women's History**

Find women who've changed history, preserved history, and broken all molds. Walk in the footsteps of the "Silent Sentinels" who fought for the right to vote, or the conservationist who championed the US' first bald eagle refuge, or the arts advocate whose donation enabled the creation of the only national park dedicated to the performing arts.

#### **Arts and Culture**

From an incredibly unique prison-turned-artists' studio and the only Frank Lloyd Wright house in the DC metro region to the country's only national park dedicated to the performing arts, Fairfax County showcases the talent of an amazing array of artists and performers.

## **Student Programs & After-Hours Activities**

Take in Virginia's rich living history and educational experiences with hands-on programs at our museums, historic sites, parks, farms and much more. Learn about the exciting STEAM offerings and after-hours entertainment to keep the fun going once the sun goes down.

### **Black History**

The African American experience is intricately entwined in the rich tapestry of Fairfax County's history and in America's story. From one of the oldest thriving African American communities in the US, to the site of the first rural NAACP office and last remaining African American school in Northern Virginia, journey through Fairfax and reflect on the sacrifices and vital contributions that African Americans have made throughout our history.

### **Military History**

With the Union capital of Washington to the east and the Confederate capital of Richmond to the south, Fairfax County was firmly in the center of the Civil War and was the site of several important battles. Today, Northern Virginia is home to multiple museums, Civil War battle sites, and poignant historic venues telling the story of the most turbulent time in American history.

#### Nature & Parks

If you enjoy Mother Nature, then you've come to the right place. At Fairfax County's vast array of parks, marshes, and gardens, you can rent a canoe or kayak, hike, bike, or horseback ride on nature trails. Or witness the mighty power of the Great Falls rapids. Located along the "Atlantic Flyway," bird lovers can watch millions of birds of prey, songbirds, and waterfowl migrate through the region or see the symbol of the United States in action at America's first-ever bald eagle refuge at Mason Neck.



# LET US HELP YOU PLAN!

# WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

Here's how we can help plan your group's visit at no cost:

- Group dining: Send us your group dining needs and we'll distribute information to our restaurant partners and give you several options or the best fit. Click here for a list of group friendly restaurants & boxed meal vendors. Click here for sample group menus
- **Group-friendly hotels:** Send us your accommodation needs and we'll find hotels that offer net rates for your groups and FITs
- **Itineraries:** Contact us for sample itineraries or a customized itinerary
- **FAM tour planning:** Arrange FAM tours and site visits and let us connect you with our accommodation, dining, and attraction partners
- Connections: Put you in touch with suppliers and attractions
- **Assets:** Provide promotional materials such as photos, videos, and copy.

# PHOTO/VIDEO REQUESTS

Photography, b-roll video clips, and logos can be downloaded to promote Fairfax County, Virginia to your groups. To request access to our online photo and video library, contact Lori A. Scott at LScott@fxva.com.

# SIGNATURE EVENTS

No matter what season you visit, there are a variety of signature events, fairs & festivals, and creative pop-up events happening all year long in Fairfax County. Put these on your calendar!

#### **SPRING**

- National Cherry Blossom Festival
- Historic Virginia Garden Week

#### **FALL**

- Fairfax County Brewfests
- Fall Festivals & Halloween Haunts

#### **SUMMER**

- Wolf Trap Summer Concert Season
- Innovations in Flight Outdoor Aviation Display

#### WINTER

- Christmas at Mount Vernon
- Holiday Light Shows

Find a full list of events at **FXVA.com/events.** 

