



Fairfax County, Virginia
Connect with America

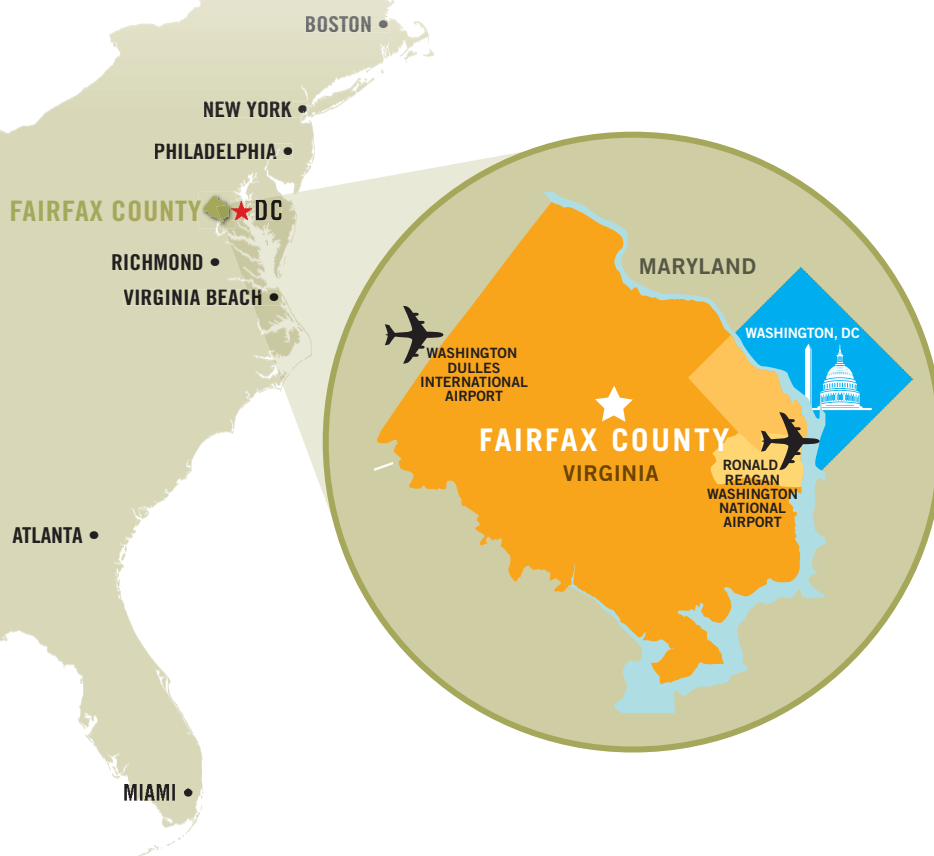
NICE TO MEET YOU



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.

While history touches just about every corner of Fairfax County, from George Washington's Mount Vernon in the east to Civil War battlefields in the west, the area is also a diverse and technologically innovative destination that boasts a vibrant arts and cultural scene with a sophisticated urban vibe. And for a breath of fresh air, its collection of more than 400 wide-open parks, gardens, and natural outdoor escapes will rejuvenate your soul.

With 100+ hotels, easy access to three airports, major highways, Amtrak rail service and an expanding regional Metrorail line, visitors have plenty of ways to get to and around this centrally located Northern Virginia vacation destination. 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

Next Generation LEGO Discovery Center Arrives in DC Region

Springfield Town Center is now home to **LEGO Discovery Center**, a 32,000 square-foot indoor LEGO attraction that features millions of LEGO bricks and 12 attractions, including the Imagination Express ride, Duplo Park, a 4D Theatre, cafe and much more. Billed as the ultimate indoor LEGO playground, this center is the **first of its kind in the country** and is the very first LEGO Discovery Center in the Greater Washington, DC area and in Virginia.



DC Metrorail Extension Now Open at Dulles International Airport

The **Silver Line Metrorail** extension is now open, finally connecting Washington Dulles International Airport and several new stations in Fairfax and Loudoun Counties with the existing Washington Metrorail service, making it easier than ever to get around the National Capital Region. In addition to the airport stop, the new stations in Fairfax County open visitors up to **a world of activities**, including easier access to **Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center** to the historic **small-town charm of Herndon** to retail and dining hot spots at **Reston Town Center**.



Planning Underway for America's 250th Commemoration

George Washington's Mount Vernon, the home of America's first president and **George Mason's Gunston Hall**, the home of the Father of the Bill of Rights, are located within miles of each other along the scenic Potomac River in Fairfax County. Ahead of **America's 250th Anniversary commemoration**, these two sites will be working on events and activities in concert with the **Fairfax County 250th Commission**. Mount Vernon will also be unveiling a brand new Education Center and finished preservation work in 2026. Additionally, the Commission is planning to unveil an interactive "experience" that will travel around the County over the course of the year prior, highlighting historically significant sites and stories from the past 250 years.



George Mason's Gunston Hall Opens Riverside Garden Restoration

George Mason's Gunston Hall has restored its magnificent river-side garden, enhancing the authenticity of the historic property, revealing much about the Founding Father himself, and providing an educational setting as distinctive as Mason's original garden design for the signature landscape feature of his home - the Home of American Rights. **The restoration** is the culmination of more than four decades of archaeological research.



Potomac Banks Established As Tourism District

The **Potomac Banks** area of Fairfax County continues to develop. A new Visitor Savings Pass has been rolled out – this time free to visitors and residents – that features exclusive discounts on admission to historic sites like George Mason's Gunston Hall and George Washington's Mount Vernon, as well as discounts on museum shops, gift stores, facility rentals, and breweries. No apps to download, no email subscriptions – just go to **www.fxva.com/potomacbanks** for your pass.



NEW & NOTABLE

What's Brewing in #FXVA

Bunnyman Brewing Co., a self-serve brewery concept whose namesake is derived from an evocative urban legend, has opened its second location at the campus of Lorton's Workhouse Arts Center, a former prison with direct ties to the local legend itself. Additionally, Negus Winery and Meadery recently opened, becoming the first and only honey wine tasting room in the U.S. The small winery features Ethiopian Honey Wine (Tej) made on premises.

Balian Springs Spa & Wellness Social Club is New Luxury Option

Balian Springs is a first-of-its-kind, daily admission-based wellness club designed to transport guests to a tropical oasis. Boasting 100,000 sq. ft. of carefully curated space, the experience includes traditional spas, healing hydrotherapy pools, detoxifying saunas, unique wellness programs, and nutritious eateries that encourage guests to seek a meaningful balance between mental, physical, personal, and social well-being.

J.W. Marriott, AC Marriott Hotels Plus Activities Arriving in Reston

Virginia's first J.W. Marriott property will be opening in 2025 at Reston Station, a bustling lifestyle center adjacent to the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail station. The 26-story hotel will include 243 guest rooms and 94 upscale condos, plus two restaurants and luxury amenities. Adjacent to the hotel will be a new upscale, tech-infused mini-golf experience as well as Ebbitt House, the first expansion of the world famous Old Ebbitt Grill in Washington, DC. Prior to this opening, in October of 2024, a dual property AC Marriott & Residence Inn Reston will open, the first dual concept of this type from Marriott. Reston itself is growing immensely and was recently named one of "The Best Cities on the Rise" by *Southern Living*.

Level Up: Golf, Virtual Reality, Social Gaming Playground on Deck

New experiences and activities are either now open or on deck throughout Fairfax County including: City Swing, an indoor golf simulation experience paired with food and drink; Sandbox VR, a futuristic VR experience inspired by *Star Trek's* Holodeck; Level99, a first-of-its-kind social gaming playground with 50 real-world physical and mental challenges plus food & drink; and Movement, a 37,000 sq. ft. climbing, yoga, and fitness center.

Unique Culinary Offerings, Food Tours in #FXVA

A number of new restaurants have recently opened or are slated to open in the coming year, including a new concept from celebrity chef David Guas, Neutral Ground Bar + Kitchen; a Miami-based small-batch donut shop opening its first Virginia location, The Salty Donut; an authentic New York-style classic diner, The Carnegie Diner; a seasonality-first neighborhood bistro with a family name, Evelyn Rose; a DC-based Jewish deli, Call Your Mother; and a new patio experience at the popular, Michelin starred Chef-operated Persian/Iranian concept, Joon.

Virginalicious, a local woman-owned company, has started exclusive food tours of Annandale's Korean food scene, exploring the food, the culture, and the community that helps establish Annandale as some of the best Korean food in the United States.



STORY IDEAS

Complement Your DC Trip

In Fairfax County, you can delve deeper into America's history – even after you've seen Washington, DC's iconic monuments and memorials. Pair the two destinations together for a complementary experience. Take in the Washington Monument, but then learn why they created such a grand monument in George Washington's name at his home, Mount Vernon. Or, visit the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in DC to learn about the history of air and space flight, but then head to Fairfax County to walk amongst the machines, planes, and space shuttles that powered this history at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. There are stories like this all around Fairfax County just waiting to be told.

Historic Homes

Nothing will give you a taste of history more than exploring the fascinating historic homes of Fairfax County. Trace the steps of two famous George's at the 18th century homes of our nation's president, George Washington, or the Father of the Bill of Rights, George Mason. Glimpse into the mind of Frank Lloyd Wright at his Usonian masterpiece, the Pope-Leighey House. Or dive into the diverse and captivating history of Woodlawn Estate, the first ever site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Women's History

Fairfax County is home to a multitude of sites and stories that celebrate the contributions of women to the United States. Visit two critical sites that celebrate the fight for women's equality during the suffrage movement. Then learn about how one woman helped create America's first national wildlife refuge for the protection of bald eagles and how another donated land and funding to create America's only National Park for the performing arts. Finally, honor the forward-thinking women responsible

for saving George Washington's home, creating one of the earliest preservation organizations in the U.S.

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 U.S. to the site of the first rural NAACP office to the last remaining African American school in Northern Virginia, and to several sites on the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, Fairfax County gives you ample opportunities to 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 conflict and was the site of several important battles. Today, Northern Virginia is home to multiple museums, battle sites, and poignant historic venues telling the story of the most turbulent time in American history. Pair this with a visit to some of DC's most iconic monuments and memorials and don't miss the soaring new National Museum of the U.S. Army, located near Fort Belvoir.

Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation

If you enjoy Mother Nature, then you've come to the right place. At Fairfax County's 400+ 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 reflect on the nation's symbol at America's first-ever bald eagle refuge at Mason Neck.



STORY IDEAS

Global Cuisine

Take your taste buds on a tour around the world without ever leaving Northern Virginia. Fairfax County - and its surrounding localities - boasts an exceptional and staggering array of globally inspired cuisine, from Uyghur and Australian to Afghan and Ethiopian. In fact, here you will also find many exclusive concepts - the first Iraqi dessert shop in the U.S. that specializes in lokma and one of the only places in the States that serves an all-day Pakistani breakfast.

Made in Fairfax

Home to an incredible and diverse group of artisan makers, Fairfax County embraces locally made products and the people who create them. From creamy peanut butter made with Virginia peanuts and blended with a variety of flavors like espresso, bee pollen, and turmeric, to meticulously painted tea towels featuring the landmarks of the region, to handcrafted chocolate made from sustainably-sourced cacao beans, there are a variety of gift ideas or unique experiences in Fairfax County to satisfy your urge to buy local.

Beer & Wine Profiles

Known as the “Gateway to Virginia’s Wine Country,” Fairfax County’s two uniquely historic vineyards are easily accessible during a stay in the Capital Region and give visitors a taste of why Virginia is considered an up-and-coming wine destination. The craft brew scene continues to boom and many local brewmasters work with local makers to craft delicious beer profiles, using cacao husks from a neighboring chocolate factory or single-origin coffee beans from the neighborhood roastery. Pair these with unique concepts like a hazy IPA made with 50 lbs. of gummy bears or a spicy ale blended with jalapenos and honey.

Arts & Culture

From an incredibly unique prison-turned-arts center with ties to women’s suffragists and the only public Frank Lloyd Wright home in Virginia to America’s only national park dedicated to the performing arts, Fairfax County showcases the talent of an amazing array of artists and performers. Pair this with larger-than-life murals, self-guided public art walking tours, or a venture to see an intricately designed, handcrafted Korean Bell Garden for an arts experience you’ll never forget.

Hands-On Educational Fun

Get hands-on at Fairfax County’s array of immersive and educational attractions. From stepping into the shoes of George Washington at Mount Vernon’s digital “Be Washington” interface and the G-STEM activities at the National Museum of the U.S. Army to the simulator rides at the National Air and Space Museum and the Experiment Bar at the Children’s Science Center Lab, kids and adults will be having so much fun they might not even realize they’re learning!

Luxury

Embrace a luxurious getaway with a stay at The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, conveniently attached to Tysons Galleria, known as the “Rodeo Drive of the East Coast.” Browse brands like Versace, Chanel or Rolex and end your day with a spa treatment and wine tasting at the hotel. A short drive away, dine at one of the region’s most exclusive restaurants, L’Auberge Chez Francois or visit one of Fairfax County’s two stunning wineries.



RESOURCES

HOW WE CAN HELP

- **Additional story ideas:** Fairfax County is a diverse destination with a variety of stories to be told. Let's brainstorm!
- **Itineraries:** We can share sample itineraries to showcase how Fairfax County can be explored in 24 hours, 48 hours, a weekend getaway, or a week-long vacation.
- **Press Trips:** Press trips can be arranged on a case-by-case basis. Contact us to request a visit.
- **Interviews:** We can help arrange interviews with local leaders and destination partners, as needed.
- **Photo & Video Assets:** We have a vast media gallery and would be happy to provide imagery or b-roll as needed.

PHOTO/VIDEO REQUESTS

Photography, b-roll video clips, and logos can be downloaded for editorial use or to promote Fairfax County, Virginia as a tourism and meeting/sports destination. To request access to our online photo and video library, contact Ali Morris at AMorris@fxva.com.

Find more resources at [FXVA.com/press](https://www.fxva.com/press).

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](https://www.fxva.com/events).

CONTACT INFORMATION



Ali Morris
Senior Manager,
Communications & Marketing
AMorris@fxva.com
703-752-9505
[FXVA.com](https://www.fxva.com) & [FXVA.com/blog](https://www.fxva.com/blog)

@VisitFairfax // #FXVA

