



Fairfax County, Virginia  
Connect with America

# NICE TO MEET YOU

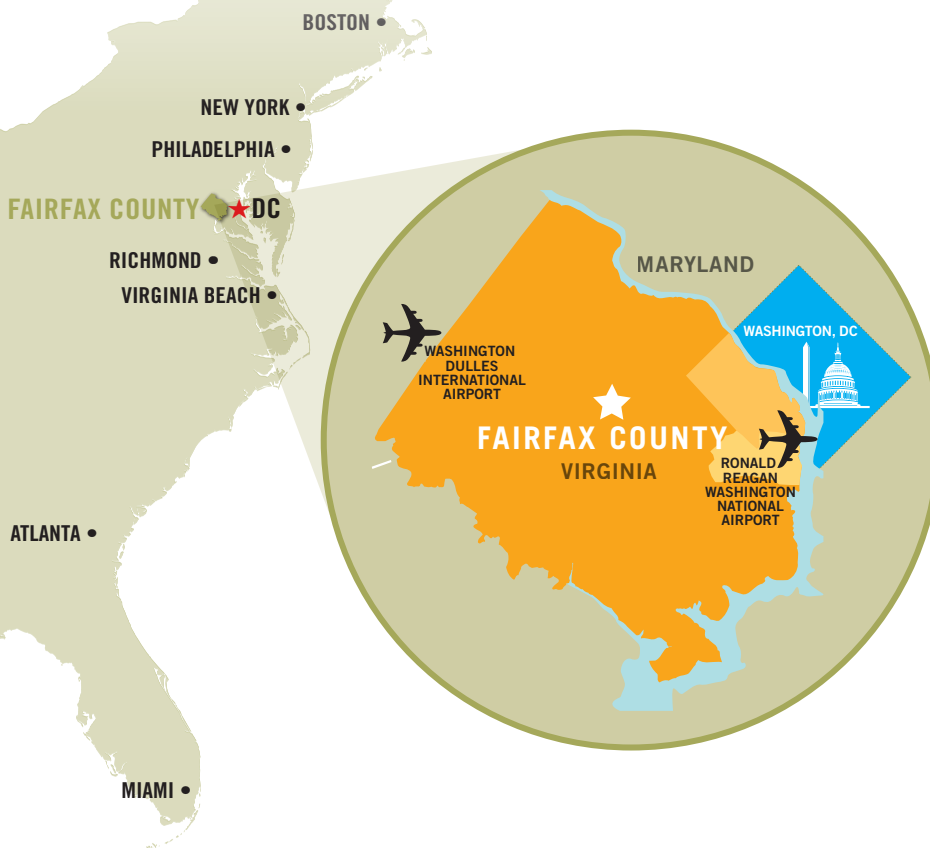


## WELCOME

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

In mid-summer 2023, Springfield Town Center will welcome the opening of the **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 will be 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 Opens 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**.



## U.S. Premiere of Cirque du Soleil's Newest Production

**Cirque du Soleil** has announced that its newest touring show: **"ECHO,"** will hold its U.S. Premiere in Fairfax County. This is the first time in Cirque du Soleil's history that the Washington, DC area will host the U.S. debut. "ECHO" is a story about evolution and the symbiotic unions that our future depends on. The show will debut under the Big Top at in Tysons on September 6, 2023.



## George Mason's Gunston Hall to Open Riverside Garden Restoration

**George Mason's Gunston Hall** is restoring its magnificent river-side garden, which will enhance the authenticity of the historic property, reveal much about the Founding Father himself, and provide 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. A ribbon cutting is expected in early Fall 2023.



## Potomac Banks Established As Tourism District

Fairfax County's southern banks, adjacent to the Potomac River, has been established as **Potomac Banks: Fairfax South** after a multi-year destination development assessment. Tourism assets found here include two Founding Fathers' homes, museums, historic and cultural sites, and state parks. A **new savings pass** unlocks admission and discounts to various places in the area.



## Local Vineyard with Civil War Ties Opens On-Site Museum

**The Winery at Bull Run's** unique connection to the American Civil War has informed its decision to open a new Civil War museum in its barrel room, displaying hundreds of thousands of artifacts found in the region and offering exclusive **wine + history tours**.



# NEW & NOTABLE

## Baseball, Upscale Dining Arrives to Tysons' New Entertainment Complex

In late 2021, **Capital One Center** opened with a state-of-the-art performing arts center, **Capital One Hall**, a new **boutique hotel**, and an **innovative skypark** that sits 11 stories in the air with mini-golf, a Biergarten, an amphitheater and more. In 2023, it adds **The Ballpark**, a baseball diamond that will host numerous college and tournament games, as well as various dining experiences, including **a new concept** from Michelin-starred Chef Pepe Moncayo.

## New Space Center Will Offer STEM Opportunities

A new space center with a focus on STEM programming aims to open in Reston with a 40,000-square-foot center in the next year or two. The **Interstellar Dreams Space Center** will feature a mission command, space station, and planetary habitat in the form of floor-to-ceiling LED walls and educational programming meant to expand the future space workforce by promoting STEM to young students. Until a stand-alone center is built, groups can explore Interstellar Dreams programming at George Mason University's Observatory.

## What's Brewing

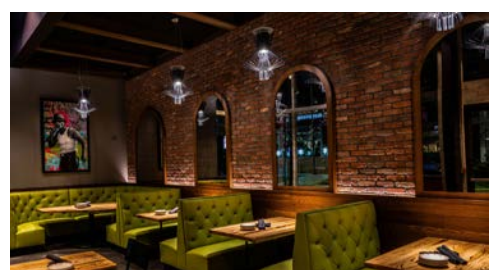
**Bunnyman Brewing Co.** a self-serve brewery concept whose namesake is derived from an evocative urban legend, announced it will open a second location in the Fall of 2023 at the campus of Lorton's **Workhouse Arts Center**, a former prison with direct ties to the local legend itself. **Settle Down Easy Brewing Co.** has opened a second taproom (Oakton, VA's first brewery), offering beer, wine, cider and gourmet, fresh food in an exclusive partnership with local vendor The Fermented Pig. **Ornery Beer Co.** has announced plans to open the Ornery Beer Company Public House in Herndon in late 2023. **Open Road Distillery**, along with a chef-driven, speakeasy-style restaurant called **Heirloom**, will bring new offerings to Reston Town Center in 2023.

## Family-Focused Activities

Fairfax County Park Authority teamed up with some of the best skate park designers in the country to complete a million-dollar renovation of the **Wakefield Skate Park**, adding a challenging concrete competition-style bowl, multilevel jump lines, hips, mini-ramp, A-frame, ledges, and more that caters to all skill levels of skateboarders, BMX riders, and other wheeled athletes. A grand opening will be held in spring 2023. **NOVA Wild**, formerly Roer's Zoofari, brings a new local wildlife experience to Fairfax County this year, focused on animal welfare and family education. **A Great Migration Light Show experience** will welcome guests starting February 17, 2023 through spring.

## Upcoming Chef-Driven Restaurants Opening This Year

From scratch kitchens popping up at cult-favorite breweries to high-end, world-famous steakhouses, to Michelin-starred chef dining experiences, to an array of global cuisine, a slew of new chef-driven restaurants arrive in Fairfax County in 2023. **Keep tabs with updates here.**





# 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](mailto: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



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