

## Planks and Plates – Visiting Alexandria & Prince William

Come experience quaint waterfront towns, feast in memorable restaurants, and catch a glimpse into the past at historic homes in Alexandria and Prince William, Virginia.

### Day 1

Make **Occoquan, VA** your lunch stop upon your arrival, less than one mile from Interstate 95. Today, you can see and feel the charm of this quaint 18<sup>th</sup> century town which sits along its namesake river, Occoquan. All the restaurants and shops in town are independently owned and operated so you'll get a true taste of the town!



**Historic Occoquan**

After lunch, meet the **Mayor of Occoquan, Earnie Porta**, for a guided tour through the historic district. A noted author, historian and entrepreneur, Mr. Porta will share stories and facts of the town's rich history as a bustling port and mill town as it developed throughout the 1800's. Be sure to ask him why the building in the middle of town is called the *Artists Undertaking Gallery*.

Say farewell to Earnie and enjoy some **free time to explore** the quaint mom-and-pop shops along the water. Many visitors choose to stop at **The Golden Plum** to snack on a slice of their Virginia blackberry crumb or butter pecan apple crumb pie. Their preservative-free goodies are so popular that even former First Lady Michelle Obama personally visited this location to order several of their pastries.

After refreshing at the hotel, venture out for dinner. You may want to try one of the following:

Prince William:

- **The Harbour Grille** – A restaurant built behind a marina where they serve freshly caught seafood and tenderly grilled steak.
- **Madigan's Waterfront** – A group friendly favorite for years, sink your teeth into whole lump crab cakes or delicious steaks as you look down the Occoquan river.
- **Bottle Stop** – Sip on savory wines while enjoying the fantastic food at this wine bar and eatery in the heart of Occoquan. Try their tasty flatbreads or tender sliders to pair with your glass of vino.



**The Harbour Grille**

Alexandria:

- **Gadsby's Tavern**- Dine authentically where George Washington would hold important meetings with the founding fathers and his masonic lodge brothers.

- **Mia's Italian Kitchen** – an Italian eatery right in the heart of the city features brick oven pizza, house-made pasta, and other family-inspired Italian specialties.
- **Fish Market**- Indulge in the best local seafood served in a relaxed and fun atmosphere right in the heart of Old Town.

## Day 2

Start your day with an award-winning doughnut from **Elizabeth's Counter** and hit the road to see **Woodlawn**, a home that was once part of George Washington's Mount Vernon and designed by the architect of the US Capitol. While you are there, take a tour of **Arcadia Farm** which is housed on the Woodlawn grounds. They are dedicated to creating a more equitable and sustainable local food system in the Washington, DC area.

Head back into Old Town for a waterfront lunch at **Chart House** then walk up boutique filled King Street to the **Carlyle House**. Built in 1753, the house was built by a British merchant for his lovely bride. Take a tour of this pre-revolutionary Palladian-style stone house then look out for PBS's newest drama *Mercy Street* which takes place at the Carlyle House!

Head back down to the waterfront to enjoy a refreshing take on American fare at **Virtue Feed & Grain**, a restored Feed warehouse situated at the foot of King Street. Make sure to stop in the **Torpedo Factory**, the largest collection of publicly accessible working artist studios in the United States. With 82 studios and six galleries, you can meet resident artists and watch them work. Finish your evening on a moonlit boat tour of DC's historic monuments with **City Cruises by Hornblower**.

## Day 3

Begin your morning by visiting **Rippon Lodge**, an 18<sup>th</sup> century property known for growing tobacco, wheat and other commodities. Built in 1740's and the oldest known home in Prince William County, the property overlooks the Potomac River and is close to the former bustling port town of Dumfries. The owners used their proximity to the waterways to export their goods to England.



**Rippon Lodge**

Blast off to an adventure at the **Hylton Planetarium**. With entertaining films for both the young and young at heart, you will choose a film from their extensive library to entertain your group. This state-of-the-art dome theater immerses you in the film with 360° high-definition projection video, surround sound, and special effects.

Enjoy a casual lunch this afternoon near **Potomac Mills**, Virginia's largest outlet shopping center. Take home some mementos to remind your friends and family of the wonderful time you had in Alexandria and Prince William, VA.

To book this itinerary, contact your personal travel partners, [Mark Kowalewski \(mkowalewski@pwcgov.org\)](mailto:mkowalewski@pwcgov.org) and [Mike Stoupa \(mstoupa@pwcgov.org\)](mailto:mstoupa@pwcgov.org), for help with your suggested itinerary, dining suggestions and hotel selection.