

Welcome to Virginia.

Whether it's your first time in Virginia or you're simply looking to explore someplace new, this year's guide highlights plenty of relaxing getaways, exciting adventures and memorable places to discover during your Virginia travels – all through the eyes of passionate Virginians.

For the outdoor lovers, Virginia's adventures abound. We offer 544 miles of the Appalachian Trail (more than any other state!), and we are home to 41 state parks and 22 national parks, including scenic trails and recreational waterfronts. (Find *your* favorite park on page 30!)

From sprawling beaches to winding waterways to majestic mountains, we're also working hard to make these adventures more accessible to all (page 24).

Virginia's diverse beauty is not only in its scenic landscapes but in its rich history, vibrant culture and welcoming locals.

Historic sites provide an important lens to expand our understanding of Virginia and our country, and there are countless opportunities to learn and engage, from the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown to the birthplaces of U.S. presidents to the birthplace of the Student Civil Rights Movement and beyond.

For a new take on history, discover how global influences have merged with local cuisine in delicious dishes all across the state (page 36). Or maybe you'll decide to create a historic moment of your own, exploring all Virginia has to offer with a road trip from coast to cliff. (See one couple's journey on page 48.)

And wherever your travels take you, keep an eye out for our giant LOVE signs. With more than 300 LOVEworks throughout the state, they're perfect for a commemorative photo of your trip (page 14).

We hope this guide will inspire you to embark on a Virginia vacation, and we wish you safe and fun travels as you explore our vibrant Commonwealth. We can't wait for you to experience the spirit of Virginia as you discover for yourself why we're the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Glenn Youngkin
GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA



KEMPER STREET AMTRAK STATION
Lynchburg

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On the Covers



Wilderness Road Blockhouse
by Joshua Moore



Ocean View Fishing Pier
by Ali Zaman



Back of the Dragon
by Hal Brainerd

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