

VIRGINIA IS FOR LO♥ERS®

MEET VIRGINIA

Now that U.S. borders are open, potential travelers are planning trips and looking for travel inspiration. But with so many options in America, how do you choose? One tried and true way to learn about a destination is to listen to a local. You can read tons of guides and scores of stories written by travel experts, but no one knows the ins-and-outs of their city or attraction as well as its residents. So, in order to help you **MEET VIRGINIA**, we've pulled together a variety of videos that put citizens front and center, to share their experiences and what they love about their state.



American Bald Eagle at Mason Neck State Park

Just outside of Washington D.C., along the famous Potomac River, visitors to Virginia will find [Mason Neck State Park](#), managed for the protection and preservation of habitat for the American Bald Eagle, along with other wildlife. Mason Neck is a great spot for bird watching, as well as for canoe and kayaking, hiking and bicycling. [Join us here to see and discover what makes Mason Neck so special](#) in this Storytellers video from Visit Fairfax. There are more than 20 videos in the [Storyteller's series](#), with locals sharing insider knowledge on some of their favorite Fairfax County experiences from history to arts, nature and parks, as well as dining and shopping.



Salamander Resort, Middleburg

Heading west towards the mountains and Shenandoah National Park, visitors will find [Loudoun County](#), known as DC's Wine Country for its proximity to the nation's capital and its many wineries. It's also referred to as Horse and Hunt Country, with its rolling green hills, wide-open spaces, and country estates. Tucked into the hillsides, you'll also find a wealth of charming small towns, ripe for discovery. Exploring each little town is easy, even from your own home, with a series of 12 new videos, highlighting some of Loudoun's small-town treasures. Come with us on a [visit to Middleburg, Virginia](#), as seen through the eyes of one of its natives. Afterwards, be sure to check out all the other 12 destinations, showcased in Visit Loudoun's new [Towns & Places video series](#).



Musician in Southwest Virginia

Let's venture down to [Southwest Virginia](#), where the famous Blue Ridge Parkway winds through the Appalachian Mountains and visitors can find a vast wealth of outdoor and cultural activities. Home to Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, The Crooked Road, as well as to Damascus, crossroads for the Appalachian Trail, also known as 'Trail Town USA', Southwest Virginia offers a unique version of America not found in major U.S. destinations. Check out the new [Virtual Visits](#), which take viewers to a variety of attractions and towns to help you plot your best course around the region. This one [takes you to historic Abingdon](#), home of the Barter Theater.



Xavier Duckett – Founder TheHmbleHstleCo

Roanoke, Virginia native, Xavier Duckett, is a creative soul and a multi-faceted entrepreneur making [real change in his community](#). One recent endeavor is his collaboration with Virginia is for Lovers to create a merchandise line encouraging travel across Virginia. In his three-part video series, [The Re-Written Narrative](#), Xavier takes you around Virginia to Richmond, Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Roanoke and Alexandria, to meet some of its citizens and business owners and let them tell you first-hand why Virginia is so worth a visit.



Benchtop Brewing Company, Norfolk

All this traveling definitely brings on an appetite – not to mention a thirst! Let's make our last stop today be Norfolk, where the video series [City with Bite](#), takes you to a few of Norfolk's 600+ Indie restaurants. From tiki-inspired cocktails to the quintessential mom and pop sub shop, elevated menus to low and slow barbecue, you'll go behind-the-scenes to meet the F&B artisans behind some of the best eats and drinks on the U.S. East Coast. [In this one](#), owner founder of Benchtop Brewing Company talks about the craft beer scene – including a beer made with beets!

Videos are just one way to meet a local and hear what they love about their home without ever leaving yours. We'll offer up some others when we circle back again on our mission to help you **MEET VIRGINIA**. For more travel inspiration or to plan your trip visit our website at Virginia.org.