A ROAD TRIP THROUGH VIRGINIA

Highlighting Charlottesville, Richmond and Williamsburg

Day 1: Charlottesville and Albemarle County

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Charlottesville and the countryside of Albemarle County are surrounded by endless beauty. Experience an exceptional encounter with history, arts and culture, craft breweries, and more than thirty world class vineyards. Hosting one of the most prestigious public universities, the University of Virginia, and the homes of two U.S. presidents, Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello and James Monroe’s Highland, it is a destination unlike any other in the country.

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The day begins at President Thomas Jefferson’s beloved Monticello home to learn about the fascinating Renaissance man and his passion for politics, agriculture, architecture, reading and inventing. See firsthand many of Jefferson’s innovative creations. Walking down Mulberry Row, the industrial hub of Monticello, you will learn about the work and domestic life of the many free, indentured, and enslaved people whose contributions helped Jefferson accomplish his achievements both agriculturally and architecturally.

Lunch at a Virginia Historic Landmark Michie Tavern. You will experience the service and taste of the 18th century and discover why it was named Virginia’s 2020 Restaurant of the Year. Wet your whistle with a local spirit at the 1784 Pub, housed in the oldest section of this historic landmark and see where travelers have eaten and rested for more than 200 years. Grab a souvenir or gift from The General Store or The Tavern Shop, both housed in restored period structures.

The afternoon begins at President James Monroe’s Highland home. Learn how Monroe helped define the young United States in a world dominated by European powers and contributed in multiple ways to the nation’s successful western expansion. View the archaeological remains of Monroe’s primary residence, lost to history that have now been rediscovered and learn how the history of the property is being rewritten. Explore the reconstructed enslaved persons’ quarters that stand alongside two original outbuildings and learn of daily life and work on a 500-acre plantation.

End your afternoon of exploring and learning with a tour and tasting at Mount Ida Reserve in The Tasting Room and Tap House. Situated atop Mount Ida Reserve’s secluded 7,000-acre sanctuary in the rolling hills of High Ridge, you will end your day relaxing and sharing the sunset views with all the historical figures that came before.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

• University of Virginia - Tour Jefferson’s Rotunda, Academical Village and Grounds and view a permanent exhibit about the Declaration of Independence.

• Jefferson School African American Heritage Center with historical and contemporary exhibitions in Charlottesville’s first African American high school.

• Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center tells the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition through an interactive experience.

• Learn the history and enjoy the limitless possibilities of restaurants and shops at the Historic Downtown Mall.

• Tour Montpelier, home of 4th President James Madison, Father of the Constitution, and Architect of the Bill of Rights.

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A VIRGINIA ROAD TRIP: Charlottesville, Richmond, and Williamsburg
Day 2: Richmond Region

We’ve got history, art at every corner, major shopping, a great range of hotels and more than 900 restaurants. Richmond is featured on more “must-visit” lists every day. And we have a whole team of tourism professionals who are here to help group travel planners bring their clients the best experience ever, with free services and support. No matter what size your group or your budget, we’re here for you.

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The Richmond Region was at the heart of America’s quest for independence in Colonial times. This tour brings you to historic sites and famous homes, and you will have some fun with vintage entertainment as well. The area is also home to a bevy of wineries, breweries, distilleries and cideries. We will wet your whistle as you enjoy the unmatched history of Richmond.

Ding! Ding! Goes the trolley! Hop on a Richmond Trolley for a 2-hour tour of one of America’s most historic cities. Next head to Henricus Historical Park and visit the recreation of the second successful English settlement in the New World, where Pocahontas met and married John Rolfe. After experiencing the park enjoy lunch on your own in Richmond’s most unique shopping and dining district, Carytown.

Your next stop is at St. John’s Church – Give Me Liberty Re-Enactment. It was here in this historic church that Patrick Henry fanned the flames of liberty with his stirring Give Me Liberty speech. Local actors give a superb recreation of that event on the site where it happened. Continue your Colonial journey as you walk the halls of the Virginia State Capitol, America’s most historic building. Designed by Thomas Jefferson and opened in 1788, the Capitol is where the Aaron Burr trial was held and where the Bill of Rights was ratified. Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, and Queen Elizabeth, II, have visited.

After a fun day of exploring, it’s time to enjoy wine tasting at one of the Richmond Region’s favorite wineries, James River Cellars Winery. Next you will delight in a truly southern dinner at Hanover Tavern. Patrick Henry favored this historic tavern and so do we! After dinner head downstairs for an evening of theater with an entertaining performance by the Virginia Repertory Theater.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITES

- Riverfront Canal Cruise - Enjoy this historical tour of the Kanawha Canal and hear about Richmond’s history while traveling in a flat-bottomed boat.
- Kings Dominion Winterfest - Enjoy the season’s spirit with a grand display of holiday lighting, live entertainment, and your favorite rides.
- Dominion Energy GardenFest of Lights at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden - Millions of lights line garden paths and twinkle in trees under the night sky.
- Patrick Henry’s Scotchtown - This was the home of patriot Patrick Henry. Tour this Colonial-era house and learn about the statesman and revolutionary who lived here.
Day 3: Greater Williamsburg

Just a short drive from Washington, D.C., the spirit of America is alive and well in Greater Williamsburg — where colonial meets cool. The historic sites in Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown are connected by the 23-mile long Colonial Parkway. Explore the first permanent English settlement, enjoy the world’s largest living museum, and experience thrills and adventure at America’s most beautiful theme park! Discover the sights, sounds, and tastes of America!

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Arrive at Historic Jamestowne, part of the NPS Colonial National Historical Park. Tour the original site of the first English colony in America and explore the Archaearium, a museum that houses some of the two million artifacts uncovered since the Jamestown Rediscovery Project began in 1994. Then observe artisans practice the art of glassmaking at the Jamestown Glasshouse.

Next, head over to Jamestown Settlement for a guided tour of the indoor museum galleries and the recreated fort, Powhatan Indian village, and climb aboard replicas of the three ships that made the historic voyage from England in 1607. Interact with interpreters who will make you feel like you’ve gone back four centuries.

Take the Colonial Parkway to Colonial Williamsburg for a group lunch in one of the Colonial Taverns. Complete the afternoon with a guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg, the world’s largest living history museum that takes you back in time where you will get a new understanding of life in the 18th century.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Experience the fun at Busch Gardens Williamsburg, including award-winning gardens, exhilarating rides, shows, and animal encounters.
- Tour battlefields where our independence was won in 1781 and explore the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.
- Enjoy the Fife and Drums, historical interpreters, or an evening adventure, or even a Ghost tour in Colonial Williamsburg!
- Enjoy the spirits and tastes of Williamsburg. Explore craft breweries, distilleries, a winery, and even a meadery!
- Go shopping at Williamsburg Premium Outlets.

For this itinerary and more, visit virginia.org/groups