

**VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
LOVERS<sup>®</sup>**



**Virginia's Ultimate Guide to  
Celebrating World Pride 2025**







## Welcome to World Pride 2025!

As Washington DC lights up with the colors of the rainbow for World Pride 2025, we're inviting you to extend your celebration just across the Potomac River into the beautiful and diverse state of Virginia.

During World Pride, Northern Virginia offers visitors plentiful and affordable accommodations, easier parking, and a relaxed atmosphere, with quick public transportation access to D.C. events. You'll find LGBTQI+ friendly communities, historic sites, dining, and shopping in the immediate area, and numerous nearby vibrant cities like Richmond, Charlottesville, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach to extend your holiday. Whether you're seeking off-the-beaten path luxury accommodations, incredible farm-to-table dining and wineries, arts and culture, historic attractions, outdoor adventures, or maybe just some LGBTQI+ welcoming spaces, Virginia has something for everyone.

# VIRGINIA IS FOR LO<sup>VE</sup>ERS<sup>®</sup>

### RESOURCES FOR VISITORS & MEDIA

- ♥ **PLAN** your LGBTQ-friendly travel in Virginia > [Virginia.org/LGBT](https://virginia.org/LGBT) + [VA 2025 Statewide Pride Guide](#)
- ♥ **SHARE** what you LOVE [@visitgayva](#) ( Instagram)
- ♥ **FIND** Virginia [Queer local favorites](#)
- ♥ **DIG** into [Virginia LGBTQ +history](#)
- ♥ **WEAR** your favorite [Virginia is for Lover Pride Gear](#)



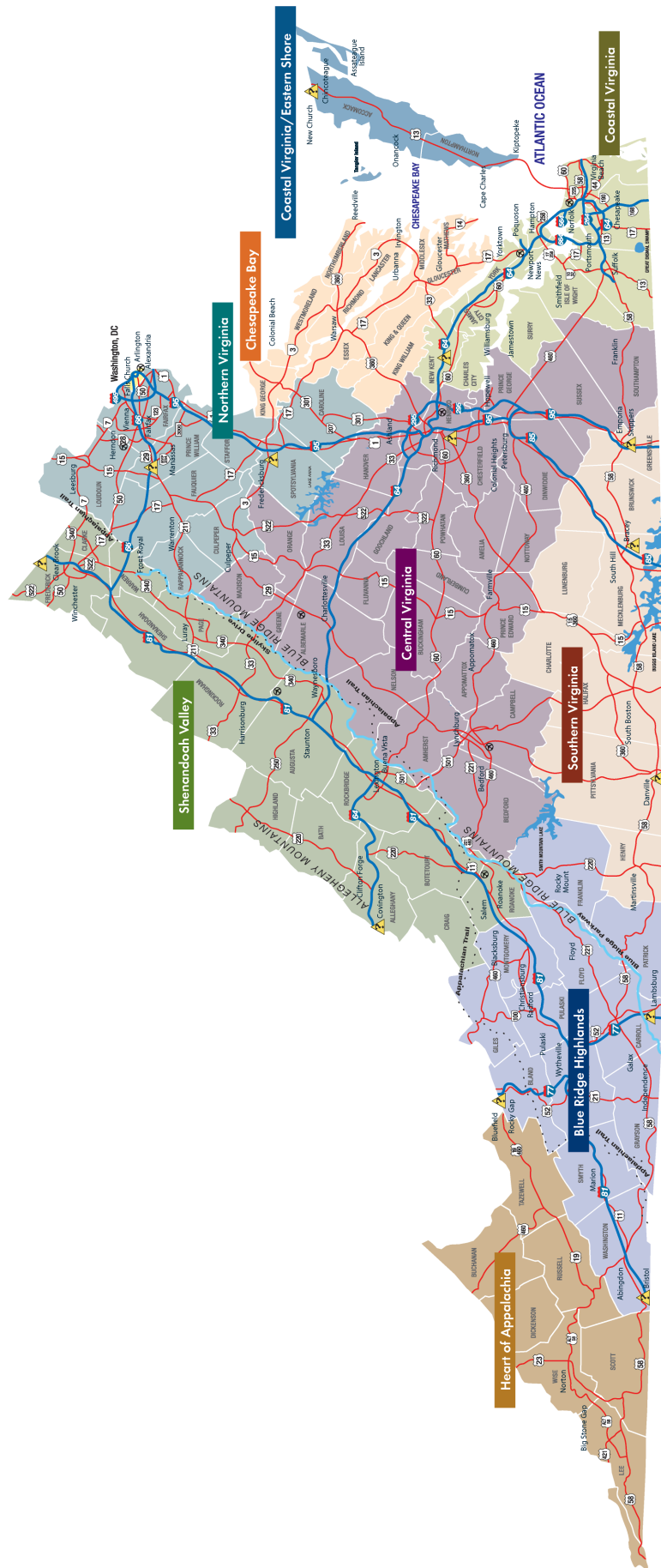


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# 1. Map





## 2. Getting Around

### Virginia Airports

If you're flying in for World Pride 2025, you'll likely arrive at one of two major airports located in Virginia: Dulles International Airport (IAD) or Reagan National Airport (DCA). Here's a breakdown of what to expect at each airport and how to get around from there.

#### 1. [Washington Dulles International Airport \(IAD\)](#)

Located about 26 miles west of Washington, D.C., in Chantilly, Virginia, Dulles offers the largest number of direct flights to the region for international travelers. If coming from abroad to join the celebrations, Dulles offers a spacious, modern terminal designed to handle high volumes of international passengers.

#### 2. [Reagan National Airport \(DCA\)](#)

If you're flying domestically, Reagan National is likely your best option. It's located in Arlington, Virginia just across the Potomac River from Washington D.C. and is smaller and more convenient for domestic travelers. It's also known for its quick access to the city.

[World Pride 2025](#) will likely have a significant impact on how people get around due to increased demand for transportation, potential street closures, and festivities taking place across the city and nearby areas. Here's practical advice on the main ground transportation methods:

### Public Transit

Especially during World Pride 2025, public transit will likely be one of the most efficient ways to get around, as many streets may be closed for parades, rallies, and other celebrations.

#### [Metro \(Washington Metro Area Transit Authority\)](#)

- **Routes:** The Metro's Orange, Silver, Yellow, and Blue Lines serve parts of Northern Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C. Major Virginia stops include Reston, Tysons Corner, Arlington, Rosslyn, Pentagon City, and Alexandria.

- **Dulles International Airport:** The newest extension of the Silver Line now connects Dulles International Airport directly to downtown Washington, D.C. with stops in Virginia along the way.

- **Reagan National Airport:** Reagan National is directly connected to the Blue and Yellow Metro Lines, making it easy to reach World Pride events.

- **Connections:** These lines provide direct access from points in Virginia to D.C. locations like downtown, the National Mall, and Union Station.

- **Cost:** Fares depend on the time of day and distance traveled but are generally affordable with a max fare of \$6.75.

- **Tip:** [SmarTrip cards](#) are required for each rider aged 5 and older (up to two children under age five may travel free with each fare paying adult). You can also use the WMATA app for real-time arrival information and route planning.



# Metro Map

wmata.com  
Information: 202-637-7000 | TTY: 202-962-2033  
Metro Transit Police: 202-962-2121 | Text: MYMTDP (696873)

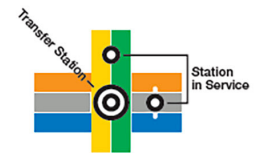
## Legend

- Red Line • Glenmont / Shady Grove
- Orange Line • New Carrollton / Vienna
- Blue Line • Franconia-Springfield / Downtown Largo
- Green Line • Branch Ave / Greenbelt
- Yellow Line • Huntington / Mt Vernon Sq
- Silver Line • Ashburn / Downtown Largo

## Station Features

- P Parking
- H Hospital
- A Airport

## Connecting Rail Systems



Metro is accessible.



No Smoking



No Eating or Drinking



No Animals (except service animals)



No Audio (without earphones)



No Littering or Spitting



No Dangerous or Flammable Items



## Bus Services

- **Metrobus**: Covers much of the area not served by the Metro and operates numerous routes between D.C. and Virginia. Routes can connect you to places not easily reachable by Metro rail.
- **Fairfax Connector and ART (Arlington Transit)**: These local bus services are good options for getting around Virginia, connecting to Metro stations and areas beyond the immediate urban core.
- **Amtrak**: Ideal for traveling between D.C. and farther regions in Virginia (like Richmond, Charlottesville, or Hampton Roads).

- **Car Rentals and Driving**

Driving may be more challenging during World Pride due to increased traffic, road closures, and limited parking in key areas where events are held.

### Car Rentals

- **Availability**: Major car rental companies like Enterprise, Hertz, and Budget have locations in both D.C. and Virginia, including at Dulles International Airport (IAD) and Reagan National Airport (DCA)
- **Traffic Considerations**: Traffic between D.C. and Virginia, especially during peak hours, can be congested. The Capital Beltway (I-495) and I-66 are frequently busy during rush hour and finding parking in D.C. can be difficult. Be prepared for tolls on some Virginia highways like I-66 inside the Beltway and express lanes on I-495 and I-395.
- **Parking**: Street parking can be challenging in D.C., but there are parking garages available. Virginia tends to have easier parking, especially in suburban areas, but urban areas like Arlington and Alexandria may still require parking fees.

### Ride-Sharing Services

- **Options**: Uber and Lyft are widely available and provide convenient point-to-point service.
- **Cost**: Prices vary depending on traffic and demand, but generally, ride-shares can be expensive during peak hours. They are an excellent option for shorter trips or when public transit is inconvenient.



# Biking



Biking could be one of the most convenient and flexible ways to navigate D.C. and Virginia during World Pride, as it allows you to avoid traffic and street closures.

## Bike-Friendly Routes

- **[Key Bridge and 14th Street Bridge:](#)** These bridges connect D.C. to Virginia and are equipped with bike lanes.
- **[Mount Vernon Trail:](#)** A scenic, multi-use trail that runs alongside the Potomac River, connecting D.C. to Northern Virginia, with easy access to places like Arlington, Crystal City, and Alexandria.

## Bike Rentals and Bike Sharing

- **[Capital Bikeshare:](#)** Available throughout D.C. and Northern Virginia, is a quick and easy way to rent bikes on an as-needed basis. There are numerous docking stations, especially in Arlington and Alexandria.
- **Private Rentals:** Companies like Lime and Bird offer e-bikes and scooters for rent, which are convenient for shorter distances.
- **[Unlimited Biking:](#)** Featuring a huge inventory high-quality bikes in a wide range of sizes to ensure comfort and safety. Unlimited Biking will arm you with all you need for your adventure, including a helmet, a color-coded map, a bike bag, and a bike lock. There are multiple store locations for different pick up and drop off options.



## Water Taxi



**City Cruises:** The water taxi service offers routes connecting The Wharf to Georgetown, Old Town Alexandria, and National Harbor along the Potomac River, with scenic views and audio narration on select tours. ADA-compliant boats are available, although Georgetown Dock is not accessible for wheelchairs. Pets are not allowed, except for service dogs. Audio tours are available for download through the City Experiences app.

**Reservations** can be made online or at ticket booths, with advance booking recommended.

**Departure times** vary depending on location and day, with services starting from The Wharf at 11:45 am and departing every 30 minutes to an hour.

**The docking locations include:**

- The Wharf: Transit Pier, 950 Wharf St SW, Washington, DC
- Georgetown: 3100 K St NW, Washington, DC (not wheelchair accessible)
- Alexandria: 0 Cameron St, Alexandria, VA (behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center)
- National Harbor: 145 National Plaza, National Harbor, MD

**Trip times** range from 30 to 45 minutes depending on the route.

**Staying in the area** before or after World Pride? Reserve a [Monuments Sightseeing Tour](#)

**From Alexandria!** Experience Washington, D.C.'s iconic monuments from a unique perspective on a narrated sightseeing cruise along the Potomac River. Enjoy stunning views of landmarks such as the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, John F. Kennedy Center, Washington Monument, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and more.



### 3. Top Nearby Virginia Destinations during World Pride

#### NORTHERN VA

##### **City of Alexandria** (Northern VA)



Located on the Potomac River within eyesight of Washington, D.C, Alexandria, Virginia welcomes LGBTQI+ couples, families and friends to this historic city. Named one of Travel + Leisure's Best Places to Travel in 2023, one of The South's Best Cities 2024 by Southern Living and given a perfect score for LGBTQ equality by the Human Rights Campaign Municipality Equality Index in 2023, Alexandria is nationally recognized for its rich history and beautifully preserved 18th- and 19th-century architecture—a perfect backdrop for hundreds of independent restaurants and boutiques, a vibrant arts and culture scene, and a welcoming, walkable getaway.

##### [Celebrate World Pride in Alexandria](#)

- **Special Stays, Deals and Packages:**

**Hotel Heron** (valid from May 1 to June 30, 2025):

The [“Allies of Alexandria” package](#) includes late check-out, custom swag and a specialty cocktail on the rooftop. One dollar from each cocktail sold will go to the LGBT Meeting Professionals Association, an Alexandria-based group dedicated to empowering LGBTQ+ professionals in the meetings industry.



## **City of Alexandria** ... continued

**[Hotel AKA Alexandria](#)** (valid from May 23 to Dec. 31, 2025):

The “Celebrate with Pride” package offers guests a two-night stay with perks like round-trip City Cruises’ water taxi tickets to D.C., Pride accessories, cocktails and a disposable camera. A portion of the proceeds from the specialty cocktails will benefit Safe Space NOVA, supporting a safe, inclusive environment for LGBTQIA+ youth in Northern Virginia.

**[Morrison House](#)** and **[The Alexandrian](#)** (both valid from May 21 to June 30, 2025):

The WorldPride package at both hotels includes drink vouchers for specialty cocktails, a welcome tote and a \$10 preloaded Metro pass to D.C. For each package sold, a \$10 donation will go to Safe Space NOVA.

### **Pride Events, Activities and More**

On June 13, head to the free **[Pride at Torpedo Factory Art Center](#)** event to explore hundreds of artists and enjoy music and art activations celebrating Pride Month.

Head to **[Port City Brewing Company](#)** in the West End on June 14 for the **[Priday Market & Drag Show](#)** featuring a mini-market of LGBTQ+ vendors from 12 to 4 p.m., plus food trucks, local beer and a drag show at 5 p.m. A portion of beer sales will be donated to Equality NoVA.

Stay tuned for the official date of the **[8th Annual Alexandria Pride Fair](#)** where guests can enjoy an LGBTQ+ family story time, art and poetry workshops, music, refreshments and LGBTQ+ Pride swag. Plus, guests will have access to LGBTQ+ inclusive services along with free and confidential health testing and vaccines.



Torpedo Factory

## Arlington County (Northern VA)



**Arlington** sits directly across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., in the Northern Virginia region. It is the site for the famous **Arlington National Cemetery**, established as an American military cemetery during the Civil War. Bikers can enjoy the 23-mile self-guided tour of Arlington with 12 stops to learn history along the way. **The Mount Vernon Trail** is a popular multi-use trail that follows along the Potomac from DC to George Washington's Estate.

### **Celebrate World Pride in Arlington**

#### • **Special Stays, Deals and Packages:**

#### **Le Méridien Arlington**

Le Méridien Arlington is a chic, mid-century-inspired hotel in downtown Arlington, offering modern rooms and suites with panoramic views of Georgetown and Arlington. Located near the Roslyn Metro station, it provides easy access to Washington D.C.'s attractions. The hotel features an onsite restaurant, Amuse, with a terrace overlooking the Potomac River, perfect for both leisure and business travelers.

#### **Crystal Gateway Marriott**

Crystal Gateway Marriott is only one mile from Reagan National Airport DCA, two miles to Washington, DC and directly connected to the Crystal City Metro station providing the perfect home base for your visit to the Washington, D.C. area. Ideally located in Arlington, the Crystal City VA hotel is just steps to the exciting new National Landing development and Pentagon City; as well as a quick and convenient Metro ride to downtown Washington D.C. and Old Town Alexandria.



## **Arlington County** ... continued

### • **Pride Events, Activities and More** – more details to come

Eat, drink and be merry in countless inviting venues throughout Arlington — and enjoy a culinary scene as dynamic as the people.

**Freddie's Beach Bar** - a lively LGBTQ+, straight friendly spot known for its beach-themed decor, inclusive atmosphere, and popular drag shows, including the famous Freddie's Follies Drag Show every Saturday night.

**Discover Arlington After Dark for Nibbles and Nightlife** - While Arlington is a bustling location by day for seeing historical sites, shopping and outdoor dining, an entirely new Arlington comes alive at night, offering everything from live music and dance to theatrical performances and more.

## **Fairfax County** (Northern VA)



Nestled in Northern Virginia just across the Potomac River from DC, **Fairfax County** offers an enticing mix of big-city amenities, small-town charm and picture-perfect natural surroundings. Rediscover America's history through countless historical sites and hidden gems, including George Washington's Mount Vernon. Unwind at one of the many breweries and wineries. Connect with nature at our endless parks, rivers and outdoor escapes. A great place to **hike and bike** is the W & O.D. Railroad Trail that traverses the urban heartland and countryside of **Northern Virginia** connecting Arlington to Fairfax and continuing on to Loudoun. The official source of information on Fairfax County is **[www.FXVA.com](http://www.FXVA.com)**.

### **Celebrate World Pride in Fairfax**

- **Special Stays, Deals and Packages:**

### **The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner**

This hotel is a celebration of local Virginia art, traditions, and cuisine alongside contemporary luxuries, offering guests easy access to high-end shopping at Tysons Galleria and nearby Washington, D.C. The hotel provides a blend of comfort and decadence with well-appointed rooms, a Club Lounge, and elegant event spaces, along with experiences like wine tastings, live music, children's events, and relaxing therapies at the on-site spa.

### **The Watermark Hotel**

The hotel is a 300 all-suite, elevated residential-style property where each suite features a kitchenette, a spacious sitting lounge, an ergonomic work area, and floor-to-ceiling windows offering views of the bustling Capital One Center and the rapidly growing Tysons, VA. Guests can also enjoy a curated cocktail or culinary experience at Wren, which overlooks The Perch.

**\* World Pride hotel packages and food/drink promotions** will be offered for stays throughout late May/early June 2025 – stay tuned! Participating properties include but are not limited to:

- [DoubleTree by Hilton McLean Tysons](#)
- [Courtyard by Marriott Tysons McLean](#)
- [Hampton Inn Washington Dulles Int'l Airport South](#)
- [Fairfield Inn & Suites Reston Herndon](#)

- **Pride Events, Activities and More**

**Reston Pride Festival** – drag, dance and music performances, vendors, speakers, family activities, and more in a waterfront setting. Expected to be double in size for 2025 with additional events, including a parade and a fundraiser.

- [Mosaic District Pride Festival & Parade](#)
- [Fairfax Pride](#)
- [Reston Pride](#)
- Pride Events at [The Perch at Capital One Center](#) \* TBD



## **Loudoun County** (Northern VA)



**Welcome to DC's Wine Country!** Home to more than 50 wineries, Loudoun is where vine-covered river valleys, rolling hills and glorious views abound. Meet with a winemaker, enjoy music in the vineyard and sample more than 25 varietals less than 25 miles from Washington, DC. After a glass of wine, explore 18th-century towns, boutique shops and fresh flavors that delight the palate. A visit to Loudoun County in Northern Virginia is a feast for the senses in any season.

### **[Celebrate World Pride in Loudoun](#)**

#### **Special Stays, Deals and Packages:**

##### **[Lansdowne Resort and Spa](#)**

Lansdowne Resort, located in the scenic riverside setting of Leesburg, Virginia, offers a luxurious retreat in the heart of Virginia's wine country. This AAA Four-Diamond resort features 296 guest rooms, including 14 suites with stunning views, and provides a range of authentic experiences for families, couples, and groups. Guests can enjoy championship golf at The Golf Club at Lansdowne, a world-class spa, and four on-site restaurants. Recently renovated, the resort's accommodations blend modern design with upgraded amenities, all inspired by the surrounding wine country and Potomac River.



## Pride Events, Activities and More

**Pride in the Vines** - Visit any of the participating Loudoun County wineries during June to pickup a passport and start collecting stamps! Once you visit your 10th winery, you'll be entered into a drawing to win one of several amazing prizes! Prizes include private wine tastings, bottles of wine, gear, tickets to events, and tours of the vineyards and wineries.

**Shop at the Leesburg Premium Outlets** - Leesburg Corner Premium Outlets features 110 upscale designer and brand name outlet stores offering savings of 25% to 65% every day.



*LOVEwork Community Art | Leesburg, VA*

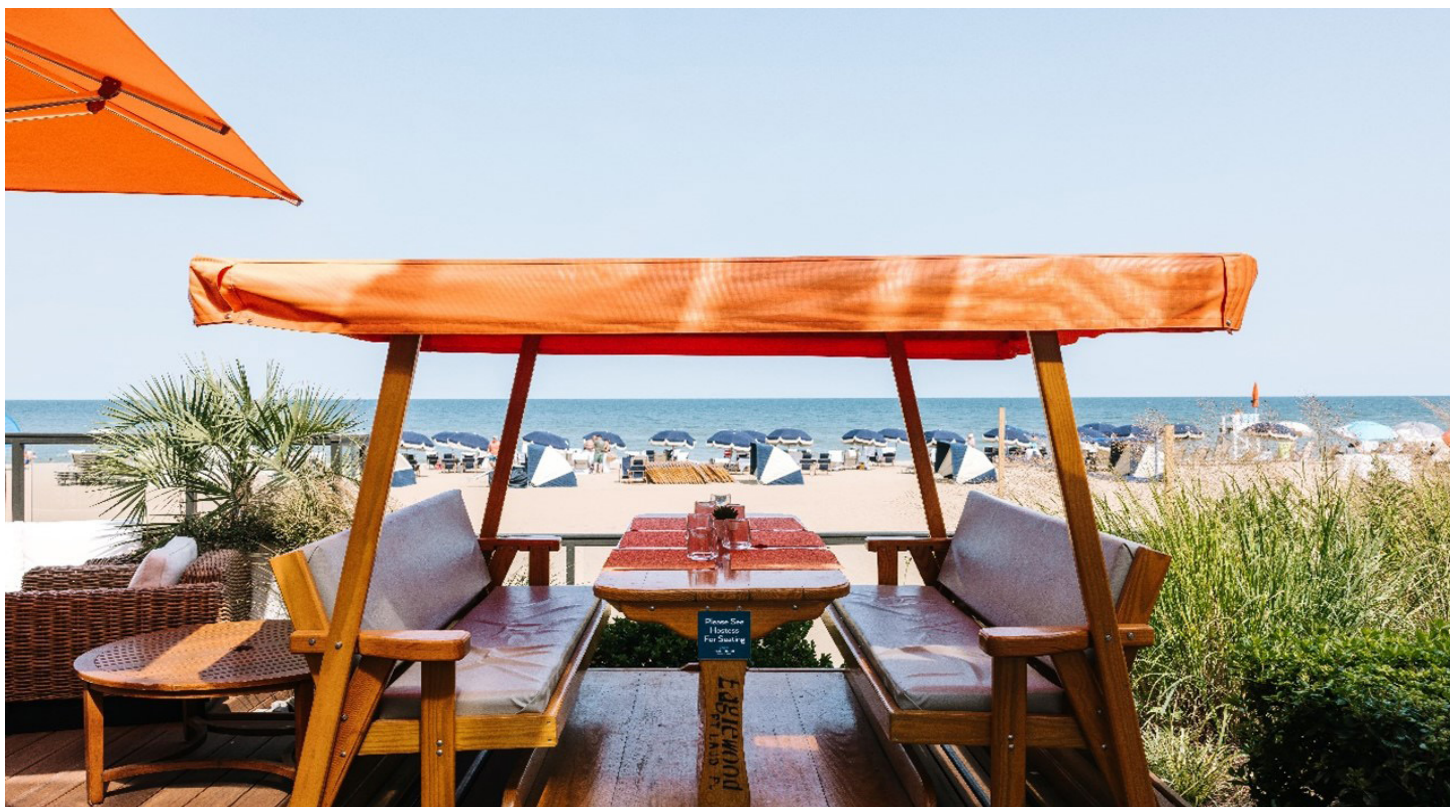
Here in Virginia, it's pretty easy to tell: we love LOVE. From our iconic Virginia is for Lovers slogan to the 300+ LOVEworks around the state, LOVE can be found in every corner of the Commonwealth. Check out our "[LOVEworks Map](#)" to find one when visiting Virginia.



## 4. Extend Your Stay: Pre- and Post-World Pride Exploration

Come early or stay for more. Virginia's rich history, stunning natural beauty, and unique attractions offer far more to explore. And after experiencing the energy of World Pride, you just might need a holiday!

### **Virginia Beach** (Coastal VA)



[Virginia Beach](#) features a flourishing local culinary scene, rich history, a variety of arts and entertainment and family-friendly attractions that keeps locals and visitors entertained year-round. From the lively Oceanfront area to remote Sandbridge beach, the calming Chesapeake Bay to bustling Town Center, or the eclectic ViBe creative district to our surrounding inland areas, your well-earned Virginia Beach vacation awaits you.

### **Celebrate World Pride in Virginia Beach**

#### **Hampton Roads Pride Weekend**

- Pride in the Peninsula
- Brew Tour
- Block Party
- Pridefest
- **Pride at the Beach**

### • Special Stays, Deals and Packages:

#### Historic Cavalier Hotel and Beach Club

Built during the roaring 1920s, The Historic Cavalier Hotel today stands as a masterpiece of modern-day elegance and classic Virginia Beach hospitality. Following a multi-million restoration, guests may relax, unwind, and enjoy its rich history and unique modern-day holiday experiences, including three restaurants, an in-house craft spirits distillery, a luxury day spa, and exclusive access to the private Cavalier Beach Club.

#### Moxy Virginia Beach Oceanfront

Across from a beach along the Atlantic Ocean, this hip hotel is 2 miles from both the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center and Interstate 264. It's 4 miles from First Landing State Park. There's a cool brunch restaurant and a trendy bar, as well as a contemporary lobby lounge with a video wall and ocean views.

### • Pride Events, Activities and More

Pride at the Beach - Join us for a vibrant and unforgettable experience filled with music, entertainment, and a rainbow of festivities. Embrace the spirit of inclusivity as we gather at the heart of the 757 to honor the LGBTQ+ community. From dazzling performances to delicious bites, the Hampton Roads Pride Festival is a celebration of acceptance and pride.

Attend a show at the Rainbow Cactus - Virginia Beach's One and Only LGBTQIA+ Nightclub and Show Bar. The Rainbow Cactus Company was established in 1996 and offers a newly revamped food menu and shows 4 nights a week with the finest in female impersonation, Drag, Dance Music and LGBT entertainment.





## Norfolk (Coastal VA)



**Norfolk** is home to a vibrant [LGBTQI+ scene](#), filled with history, events and plenty of entertainment! For over 30 years, Norfolk has hosted the Annual Hampton Roads Pride Fest, showing this community has grown into a vital part of the city's culture. The city has many bars and restaurants like MJ's Tavern and The Wave that heat things up as the sun goes down. Norfolk's walkable, [waterfront downtown](#) is the urban hub of the city full of shopping, entertainment, restaurants and excitement. The creative center of the city, the [NEON District](#) has 80+ pieces of public art, live performances and eclectic restaurants.

### [Celebrate World Pride in Norfolk](#)

#### • **Special Stays, Deals and Packages:**

#### [Glass Light Hotel & Gallery, Autograph Collection](#)

Glass Light Hotel & Gallery invites you to experience boutique hospitality unlike ever before in the heart of Downtown Norfolk. Brimming with artful accents that celebrate the glass art culture of Virginia, restored historical features and furnishings dating to the original Royster Building, and an unprecedented food and beverage program that highlights the bounty of the Southeast, the Glass Light is a study in the art of modern hospitality.

#### [Hilton Norfolk The Main](#)

The Main is Downtown Norfolk's upscale hotel, dining, and meeting destination. At Main and Granby Streets, our luxury hotel sits along the Norfolk waterfront. Embrace the downtown lifestyle and walk to cultural attractions, trendy shopping and dining and the Elizabeth River. With its elegance and cutting-edge technology, Hilton Norfolk The Main is a modern luxury hotel with vibrant spaces for your business and social lifestyle

- **Pride Events, Gay Bars, Activities and More**

### **Bars/Restaurants**

The Queer community enjoys these long-standing Queer bars in Norfolk: **M.J.'s Tavern**, **37th & Zen** and **the WAVE**.

The Pride Boat Parade, part of the Hampton Roads Pride Festival, takes place along the Elizabeth River and is not to be missed. The only Pride Boat parade in the country, this fun experience is a unique celebration that captures the beauty of the city and community.

Support the LGBTQ+ community by shopping at local small businesses in Norfolk like [Norfolk Candle](#), [Kitsch](#), [The Velvet Witch](#) and more.

[Throughout the month of June](#), you'll find a variety of pride events taking place in the city.





## **Richmond** (Central VA)



The [Richmond Region](#) generally speaks for itself. The rich culture, incredible food, deep historic roots, gorgeous natural landscapes, creative vibes and a diverse, welcoming community set it apart from the everyday destination. But sometimes it is best to step back and let others do the talking. [CNN Travel just named RVA as the #1 town in America to visit in 2024](#). Come discover what the locals already know; the Richmond Region is the place to be in 2025!

### **Celebrate World Pride in Richmond with OutRVA**

[OutRVA](#) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2024, a program of Richmond Region Tourism promoting LGBTQ tourism in partnership with community members and organizations. See Richmond through the eyes of locals as you explore the region's best in LGBTQI+ events, nightlife, dining, arts, culture and more. Go out. Stay out. Live out.

#### **• Special Stays, Deals and Packages:**

##### **Quirk Richmond**

Art-forward and designed to inspire, Quirk Hotel redefines and celebrates Richmond, Virginia, channeling its energy into a boutique hotel experience with exactly the right amount of whimsy. Discover local artists at Quirk Gallery, browse the art-filled boutique, or enjoy a meal thoughtfully crafted from local ingredients. Creative delights are all around you.



##### **Love is Love Package includes:**

- 1-night stay at Quirk Richmond
- \$50 Food and Beverage Credit
- Quirk's 'Love is Love' swag bag
- \$10 donation per package to Side by Side, a Virginia based local non-profit committed to creating supportive communities for Virginia's LGBTQ+ youth

## **Richmond** ... continued

### **Linden Row Inn**

Linden Row Inn is a 70-room boutique historic hotel located in the heart of downtown Richmond. Conveniently located at First & Franklin Streets, our hotel is just minutes away from all major attractions in the capital area. In a city where history abounds, Linden Row Inn stands alone in offering its guests the “True Richmond” experience.

### **Pride Events, Activities and More**

#### **• Bars/Restaurants**

The Queer community enjoy these long-standing Queer bars in Richmond, which host special events around pride, but also year-round: [Babes](#), [Barcode](#), [Godfreys](#), [Thirsty's](#) and [Papi's](#)

#### **• Events**



[VA PrideFest](#), held every September in Richmond during Virginia Pride Month.

[Dine Out for Pride](#), an annual Pride Month event each June when Richmond restaurants offer signature Pride items with a portion of the proceeds donated to LGBTQ organizations

[TransJam](#) , a trans-led event service that aims to organize and host fun, inclusive local events, parties and workshops

Visit [OutRVA](#)'s website for all things LGTBQI+ food, shopping, entertainment, night life, and arts & culture in Richmond



## Charlottesville (Central VA)

**Charlottesville** is centrally located in the eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the **Central Virginia region**. Charlottesville's rich cultural, natural, and artistic history is showcased in a selection of **things to do**, including first-rate museums, galleries, wineries, shops, restaurants, and numerous outdoor recreation options dispersed throughout the area. The nearby **Shenandoah National Park** is only 30 minutes from the City of Charlottesville and its **historic pedestrian Downtown Mall**.

The abundant natural spaces offer wonderful settings for sports, picnics, relaxation, and adventure. Visitors will also find charming boutiques, antique shops, antiquarian bookstores, distinguished local wineries, including more than 40 wineries located along the **Monticello Wine Trail**, and small towns nearby filled with pleasant surprises.

### Celebrate World Pride in Charlottesville



### • Special Stays, Deals and Packages:

#### The Inn at Court Square

The Inn at Court Square is a small boutique hotel where you'll discover two beautifully restored houses known for their architecture. Built in 1785, the federal period house is the oldest existing house in historic downtown Charlottesville. Next door, the 1918 houses boasts a rare Mansard roof, characteristic of the mid-nineteenth century.

#### Keswick Hall

Pursue your passions at the iconic, and historic resort outside Charlottesville, near the famed Blue Ridge mountains. Since 1912, Keswick Hall has been known for elegance, luxury, grandeur, and a sense of true peace within the Virginia hills. Today, the resort has taken on a new role, marrying classic sophistication with luxurious, modern-day comfort. From an unforgettable dining experience provided by Michelin-starred chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten to indulgent hotel suites with mountain vista views.

## **Charlottesville** (Central VA)

### **Pride Events, Activities and More**

- Check out [Out&AboutVA](#) for all things LGBTQI+ in Charlottesville.
- Also [Cville Pride's website](#) for all things LGBTQI+ in Charlottesville.
- Experience a Wine Tour and Tasting in the Award-Winning [Charlottesville Wine Region](#)

Whether you're looking to book a private tasting, transportation to multiple wineries, or an experience that's completely unique, we have everything you need to plan the perfect wine getaway.

## **Harrisonburg** (Shenandoah Valley)

[Harrisonburg](#), Virginia, offers a welcoming and intimate atmosphere for LGBTQ+ travelers seeking vibrant pride celebrations without the overwhelming crowds of larger cities. A highlight of the city's LGBTQ+ events is the annual [Shenandoah Valley Pride Festival](#), typically held in September at Court Square in downtown Harrisonburg, featuring music, drag performances, and a variety of vendor booths.

For ongoing community engagement the [Friendly City Safe Space](#), established in November 2021, serves as a hub for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies, providing resources, education, and a sense of community. The [Shenandoah LGBTQ Center](#) hosts regular events, including monthly Pride Nights in collaboration with local venues like [Sage Bird Ciderworks](#), fostering social connections in a relaxed setting.

Additionally, the annual Miss Gay Harrisonburg Pageant showcases regional drag talent, offering entertainment and cultural enrichment at the Court Square Theater. Local establishments such as [The Golden Pony](#) are known for their LGBTQ-friendly environments, providing inclusive spaces for dining and socializing.

## **Staunton** (Shenandoah Valley)

Tucked in the Shenandoah Valley, Staunton (pronounced "Stan-ton") offers a lively yet laid-back destination for celebrating LGBTQ+ pride in a charming, small-town setting. The city's marquee event, [Staunton Pride](#), returns October 11, 2025, to Gypsy Hill Park, promising a full day of music, drag, food trucks, family activities, and a vibrant vendor market. Visitors looking for a slower pace will enjoy exploring Staunton's walkable downtown, filled with LGBTQ+-friendly businesses, cozy cafés, and welcoming art galleries. Staunton Pride works year-round to foster inclusivity and visibility in the community, not just during the festival season. Locals and visitors alike can connect through smaller gatherings and pop-up events, or during the [Queens City Mischeif & Magic](#) weekend, or the unique [American Shakespeare Center](#).





Staunton, VA

## **Fredericksburg** (Northern VA)

**Fredericksburg** blends historic charm with a growing LGBTQ+ scene that makes it an appealing getaway for Pride travelers looking for something more relaxed. This year's **FXBG Pride Festival** takes over Riverfront Park on June 28, offering live performances, community booths, and activities that highlight the city's inclusive spirit. But Pride in Fredericksburg isn't limited to just one day—ongoing programs at the **FAHASS Pride Center** keep the momentum going with game nights, peer groups, and educational workshops. The **Fredericksburg Area Museum** adds another layer with “Out and About,” an exhibit running through summer 2026 that shines a light on the region's queer history. Around town, you'll find a variety of LGBTQIA+-owned and allied businesses, from vibrant salons to cozy cafés, all adding to the city's open and creative vibe. Evenings can be spent enjoying quirky events like drag bingo at **Haley's Honey Meadery** or catching a show at a local venue. The city's size makes it easy to explore, and its community-minded energy ensures everyone feels seen. For travelers wanting a Pride experience that's both meaningful and manageable, Fredericksburg is a hidden gem worth discovering.

## **5. Trip Ideas**

- [LGBTQ+ Travel Experiences - A Journey Through Culture and Community](#)
- [An Amtrak Train Itinerary - “Experience Virginia History and Culture”](#)
- [Amtrak in Virginia Train Itinerary - “To the Mountains”](#)
- [A Virginia Amtrak Train Itinerary - “To the Coast”](#)
- [Luxury Travel Experiences](#)
- [Health & Wellness](#)