You’re invited to discover the people who bring history to life. There’s something new to discover every season, for every generation. With entertaining evenings, mouthwatering menus and excellent accommodations at official Colonial Williamsburg hotels, spending time together has never been easier.

SEE WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS SEASON

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Virginia wine was born here hundreds of years ago. Her love of local Viognier was born here today.

Tales of outdoor adventure emerge around every corner in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. From local vineyards to historic grounds, every visitor can broaden their horizons—and leave with a new story to tell.

Walk in our Founders' footsteps

Or if you prefer – sail, drive, paddle or ride.

You can't know history till you know the whole story. A visit to the eight destinations that make up the Founders District is a chance to see history unfolding before your eyes — but in a fun, modern way. You’ll learn about the Starving Times, and maybe visit a food truck. Retrace the route taken by Capt. John Smith in the days before navigation apps, and learn how Pocahontas may have lived. You’ll see how early settlers, Virginia Indians and Africans came together to forge a new nation and get inspired to build on their legacy. Plan your trip at [TheFoundersDistrict.com](http://TheFoundersDistrict.com)
A vacation in Virginia is about reconnecting with what you love - and making memories that will last a lifetime.

While travel may look different right now, the love of travel is still strong in Virginia. Whether you take an eastern route to Virginia’s pristine beaches or traverse the scenic curves of storied mountains, a trip through the Commonwealth is a perfect way to vacation safely with your loved ones.

We hope the stories and photos featured in this guide will inspire you to take an adventure in Virginia when you’re ready to travel.

Virginia’s outdoor recreational opportunities are accessible and unforgettable. We’re home to 41 state parks and 22 national parks, including national wildlife refuges, national scenic trails and national historic parks. We also have more miles of the Appalachian Trail than any other state - 544 miles, more than one-fourth of the 2,175-mile footpath.

Love can be found in every corner of the Commonwealth at more than 250 life-sized LOVE signs. These “LOVEworks” are special places for both locals and visitors, who often choose them as backdrops for engagements and family photos and inspiration for road trips and bucket lists.

You can also immerse yourself in Virginia’s history by visiting our hundreds of historic sites that date back to the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown and cover every important period of American history. And while Virginia has had a complex and often painful past, the historic sites and attractions enhance the educational experience.

We hope you will enjoy all that the Commonwealth has to offer while staying safe and healthy. Whether you’re hiking one of our many trails, sipping wine overlooking mountain views, or taking the scenic route along the Blue Ridge Parkway, we can’t wait for you to discover for yourself why Virginia is for Lovers.

Sincerely,

Ralph and Pam Northam
GOVERNOR AND FIRST LADY, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Meet the Contributors

**Layla Khoury-Hanold**
Believes that taking an adventure is one of the quickest ways to wake up to the wonder of life. She travels as often as possible with her family.

Favorite Virginia experience: Smith Mountain Lake

**Samantha Nelson**
Has called Virginia home since her college days. Though regularly scratching her travel itch throughout the U.S. and abroad, she still appreciates exploring Virginia and revisiting favorite sites. She also loves writing about her state and sharing its abundance of can’t-miss destinations.

Favorite Virginia experience: Grayson Highlands State Park

**Johnny Holloy**
Is a writer and adventurer who has hiked, paddled and camped throughout Virginia from Cumberland Gap to the Eastern Shore. He’s written numerous Virginia-centric guides including Top Trails: Shenandoah National Park, “Free Star Trails: Roanoke: ‘Hiking Through History: Virginia’ and “Mount Rogers Hiker Guidebook.”

Favorite Virginia experience: Hiking at Shenandoah National Park

**Brandon Presser**
Is an award-winning features writer who covers emerging destinations and luxury and adventure travel for a variety of influential publications including Bloomberg Businessweek and Condé Nast Traveler. He’s visited over 125 countries and contributed to over 50 books on travel, most for Lonely Planet.

Favorite Virginia experience: Woodloch & Pope-Leighey House (Alexandria)

**CAYLE JESSUP WHITE**
Is Monticello’s first Public Relations & Community Engagement Officer and the first descendant of Thomas Jefferson and the enslaved community to be employed by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, the nonprofit organization that owns and operates Monticello. She and her husband, writer Jack White Jr., enjoy exploring Virginia’s natural, cultural and historical sites.

Favorite Virginia experience: Monticello, Staunton (and its American Shakespeare Center), Skyline Drive and Great Falls.

**Virginia's 10 Travel Regions**

“Virginia is for Lovers” was created more than 50 years ago, and it’s become one of the most beloved and iconic slogans in the world. While it’s meant a lot of different things to a lot of different people over the years, one thing remains the same: LOVE. We hope this guide helps you find what you love in Virginia!

**Virginia Welcome Centers**

In no other state will you receive the hospitality and assistance that Virginia offers. Hold us to it! For more information visit Virginia.org/WelcomeCenters.

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