



Minutes from Washington, DC but a World Away

Within eyesight of Washington, DC on the Potomac River waterfront, Alexandria, Virginia, is nationally recognized for its rich history and beautifully preserved 18th- and 19th-century architecture – an extraordinary backdrop for a thriving boutique scene featuring designer clothes, shoes, antiques and home décor; acclaimed, chef-driven restaurants plus vibrant arts and culture.

In Alexandria, extraordinary isn't just a visitor experience; it's a way of life. The city continually makes headlines as a richly authentic, stylish and foodie-forward destination with an arts-minded, independent community. A destination of choice for Washington elite, the city's cosmopolitan essence is on the pulse of DC while standing apart as an intimate oasis with a welcoming, walking lifestyle.

Within eyesight of the Washington monument, Old Town's enchanting waterfront setting, Del Ray's artsy and eclectic scene and thriving neighborhoods beyond, Alexandria is the relaxed and refined home base for a DC vacation and an unforgettable getaway of its own.

Accessible and Easy to Get Around

- 3 airports, with Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport minutes away, plus Dulles and BWI international airports
- Amtrak and Virginia Railway Express
- 4 DC Metrorail stations – King St-Old Town one mile from the waterfront
- Free King Street Trolley
- Capital Bikeshare, bike rentals and Mount Vernon Trail
- Water taxis and Potomac River cruises
- Walkable and compact

George Washington's Hometown

Recognized as a Distinctive Destination by the **National Trust of Historic Preservation**, the city's history is effortlessly woven into the culture of modern life. Visit **George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate**, just a boat or bike ride away, and return to Old Town for a walkable oasis of good living. Tread down cobblestone paths past century-old buildings, where history lies around every corner, and walk amidst walls once sanctuary to some of the most prolific figures in American history. In 2013 the Office of Historic Alexandria's intimate collection of historic sites were awarded the highest national recognition achievable by an American museum with an accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums - now only one of eight municipal organizations in the country to achieve this honor.

Epicurean Escape

Experience Alexandria's history, architecture and culture through food in a buzzworthy culinary scene praised by **Food & Wine**, **Bon Appetit** and **The New York Times**. One of DC's original neighborhoods, Alexandria has been a culinary favorite for George Washington through present-day presidents, with **President Obama and the First Lady** making Alexandria their place for date nights and family celebrations. Alexandria is the hub for restaurants by pre-eminent **chef Cathal Armstrong**, including **Restaurant Eve** as well as "epicurean emporium" **Society Fair**, a lifestyle food market with a reservations-only three-course dining experience at the demo kitchen. Discover locally owned

restaurants and artisan-owner specialty shops, sample Port City Brewing Company's award-winning beer, craft your own culinary itinerary or let a food tour lead the way.

Shop with an Independent Spirit

The Washington Post recommends Alexandria's King Street as a stylish shopping destination and **The Wall Street Journal** praises, "The King Street area has some of the best stores and galleries in the [DC] region." Nearly 80% of the restaurants and retailers in the King Street corridor are independently owned, reflecting a thriving entrepreneurial spirit that has flourished since its early days as part of George Washington's hometown. Fashionistas flock to shops of **the Old Town Boutique District** for high end shoes and unique clothing finds from the latest designers, while the city is also a hub for interior designers, who come for the array of home décor shops and **antiques galleries** bursting with statement pieces. Find fine art and jewelry at the Torpedo Factory Art Center and nearby galleries, delight in tasty treats from olive oils to award-winning hot chocolates and pick up pet friendly goodies and much more at other specialty stores.

A Top ArtPlace 2013

Named one of **America's Top ArtPlaces 2013**, Alexandria is a community with a "backbone of creative culture . . . [that is] exceptionally successful at combining art, artists and venues" with "independent businesses and a walkable lifestyle." The city's visual arts hub is the world-famous **Torpedo Factory Art Center**, a former munitions factory transformed into an arts powerhouse with three floors of artist studios and galleries. Throughout the historic district, independent galleries for art, jewelry and antiques hold treasures to discover. Immerse yourself in live music at **America's legendary music hall, the Birchmere**, which hosts the biggest names in country, folk and rock, or at a moving performance by the **Alexandria Symphony Orchestra**, led by Maestro Kim Allen Kluge, whose dramatic and powerful conducting style is hailed by **The Washington Post**. Theater-goers flock to performances at **MetroStage** for "Off-Broadway on the River's Edge" and productions at the **Little Theatre of Alexandria**, the area's oldest continuously operating community theater presenting musicals, comedies and dramas.

Top Attractions

- George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate
- Torpedo Factory Art Center
- Gadsby's Tavern Museum
- Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum
- Carlyle House
- Potomac River waterfront

Annual Signature Events

- George Washington Birthday Parade
- King Street Art Festival
- Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Holiday Boat Parade of Lights
- First Night Alexandria – *New Year's Eve bash with more than 100 live performances*

Top Touring Activities

- Mount Vernon by Bike and Boat
- Old Town Food Tour
- Potomac Riverboat Co.
- Bike and Roll
- Walking tours – *Including ghost tours*

Offbeat and Unexpected

- Doggy Happy Hour
- Canine Cruises
- Glass harp player on the waterfront
- PX secret speakeasy
- Spite House – *Tiny home is 7 feet wide*

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