

Northern Virginia

ARLINGTON | ALEXANDRIA

Neighborhood Top Five

- ➊ Walk around **Arlington National Cemetery** (p198) and you can't help but be moved: from the Tomb of the Unknowns' dignified guards; to John F Kennedy's eternal flame; to the simple white headstones sparkling out in every direction.
- ➋ Get lost amid sleek jets and one massive space shuttle in the mammoth hangars of the **Steven F Udvar-Hazy Center** (p200).
- ➌ Take a trip through upper-crust 18th-century society on a tour through the grand **Carlyle House** (p200).
- ➍ Come face to face with the horrors of slavery in the **Freedom House Museum** (p201).
- ➎ Cycle the **Mount Vernon Trail** (p207) to Theodore Roosevelt Island, Old Town Alexandria or beyond to George Washington's estate.



For more detail of this area, see Map p315 and p318. ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Take a day and cycle to Mount Vernon along the eponymous trail. If you start in Alexandria, it's about 12 miles onward. The path hugs the river much of the way and you'll pedal past a lighthouse, bird-filled marsh and 19th-century fort before heading uphill to George Washington's manor. Outfitters have packages where you cycle one way and return via boat.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Restaurant Eve (p205)
- ➔ Caphe Banh Mi (p204)
- ➔ Del Ray Cafe (p204)
- ➔ Myanmar (p202)
- ➔ Rice Paper (p204)

For reviews, see p202. ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ PX (p205)
- ➔ Continental (p205)
- ➔ Ireland's Four Courts (p205)
- ➔ Whitlow's on Wilson (p205)

For reviews, see p205. ➔



Best Museums

- ➔ Steven F Udvar-Hazy Center (p200)
- ➔ Carlyle House (p200)
- ➔ Arlington House (p199)
- ➔ National Inventors Hall of Fame & Museum (p202)
- ➔ Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum (p200)

For reviews, see p206. ➔

Explore Northern Virginia

Safe, green-conscious, well-trimmed and full of surprises. Northern Virginia (NoVa) is DC's perfect neighbor, just across from the picket fence of the Potomac River. NoVa communities are basically suburbs of Washington, attached via the Metro. We concentrate on Arlington and Alexandria, which combine crucial capital sites with historic sites, cozy pubs and a buzzing food scene.

Start with Arlington. It's quite close, just a Metro stop from DC, and it holds the two main reasons to cross the border: Arlington National Cemetery and the Pentagon. Plan on a half-day for these two sights alone. Beyond Arlington you'll find the jaw-dropping Steven F Udvar-Hazy Center, aka the annex of the National Air and Space Museum, which holds three times as many jets and rockets as the Mall building. Also out this way are the Eden Center, a Saigon-style foodie emporium where the Vietnamese community clusters, and Annandale, the Korean community's hub. Unfortunately, you'll be hard-pressed to reach these places without a car.

The charming village of Alexandria is 5 miles and 250 years away from Washington. Once a salty port, Alexandria – known as 'Old Town' to locals – is today a posh collection of red-brick homes, cobblestone streets, gas lamps and a waterfront promenade. Boutiques, outdoor cafes and bars pack the main thoroughfare, making the town a fine afternoon or evening jaunt. It's also a jumping-off spot for excursions to Mount Vernon.

Local Life

➔ **Stay Cool** When temperatures rise, those in the know head to Theodore Roosevelt Island (p199). It's quiet too, since no bikes or cars are permitted.

➔ **Hangout** Whitlow's (p205) is everything a neighborhood hangout should be: boisterous, brunch-awesome, beer-rich and band-savvy on weekends.

➔ **Art Attack** Artisphere (p199) is a secret even to locals. The arts center hosts (often free) exhibitions, performances and films.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** Guess what Arlington Cemetery (Blue Line) and Pentagon (Blue and Yellow Lines) stations are near? Use King St (Blue and Yellow Lines) station for most of Alexandria's sights.

➔ **Trolley** In Alexandria, a free trolley runs along King St between the Metro station and waterfront every 15 minutes from 10am to 10:15pm Sunday to Wednesday, and until midnight Thursday to Saturday.

➔ **Boat** Tour boats float from Alexandria to Georgetown.