



Day Trips from Washington, DC

Mount Vernon p209

The beautifully preserved estate of George Washington is a great place to explore the legacy of one of America's great visionaries.

Baltimore p210

The city has a vibrant waterfront, top-notch art and history museums, and a totally underrated eating and drinking scene.

Annapolis p214

Maryland's small, historic capital has 18th-century architecture, great seafood restaurants and a scenic harbor. Nearby, waterfront towns and islands dot Chesapeake Bay.

Harpers Ferry p217

Set on the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, peaceful Harpers Ferry is packed with historic sites and charming B&Bs. Great hikes and bike rides begin just out of town.

Leesburg & Middleburg p219

Two of Virginia's many small-town gems, Leesburg and nearby Middleburg have grand estates and delightful restaurants. Virginia's up-and-coming wine region is nearby.

Shenandoah National Park p221

This vast wilderness has hundreds of miles of hiking trails, plus plenty of scenic overlooks to take in the rolling verdure of the Blue Ridge Mountains.



TOP SIGHT MOUNT VERNON

JAN HART / GETTY IMAGES ©

A visit to George Washington's Virginia home, Mount Vernon, is an easy escape from the city – one that the president himself enjoyed. It's also a journey through history: the country estate of this quintessential gentleman has been meticulously restored and affords a glimpse of rural gentility from a time long gone.

The Setting

Above the Potomac banks, the 21-room mansion displays George and Martha's colonial tastes, while the outbuildings and slave quarters show what was needed for the functioning of the estate. At over 11,000 sq ft in size, the house was over 10 times the size of the average Virginia home when it was built. Highlights include the architecturally rich New Room, used to receive visitors; the little parlor, where the family hosted social gatherings, the study where Washington read and wrote; and a river-facing two-story piazza, which functioned as the family living room in warm weather. George and Martha are both buried on the grounds.

Ford Orientation Center

This modern center is a must-see on the grounds. It features a 20-minute film that shows Washington's courage under fire, including his pivotal crossing of the Delaware River (the do-or-die moment of the Revolutionary War).

Reynolds Museum & Education Center

These galleries and theaters gives more insight into Washington's life through interactive displays, short films and life-size models of Washington himself. The museum also features period furnishings, clothing and jewelry (Martha was quite taken with finery), and George's unusual dentures (made of human, cow and horse teeth as well as ivory).

DON'T MISS...

- ◆ The New Room
- ◆ Period clothing
- ◆ Washington's dentures
- ◆ The distillery

PRACTICALITIES

- ◆ ☎703-780-2000, 800-429-1520
- ◆ www.mountvernon.org
- ◆ 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, Mount Vernon
- ◆ adult/child \$17/9
- ◆ 🕒8am-5pm Apr-Aug, 9am-4pm Nov-Feb, to 5pm Mar, Sep & Oct, gristmill & distillery 10am-5pm Apr-Oct