



Virginia's Charming Countryside

History and Hidden Gems

Explore the history and charms of Northern Virginia's charming countryside as we travel through the rolling hills of Loudoun and Prince William County.

Day 1

- Check in to **hotel (Sterling/Dulles)**.
- **Dinner and beer tasting** is at **Old Ox Brewery** in the tank room with a tour and brewing overview. Old Ox is a family owned and operated commercial brewery. Old Ox is one of the oldest roads in Loudoun County and was originally built to connect the agricultural producers of Loudoun County to the markets in Fairfax County and beyond. They brew in a 30-barrel brewhouse. Each batch brewed produces 930 gallons of beer which is enough for 9,920 12-oz. cans of beer or a little over 413 cases of beer per batch.
- Return to the hotel.



Day 2

- The **Conche Chocolate Lab bon-bon** making. Join a chocolate-making class with Master Chocolatiers and pastry chefs. Your event includes an introduction to the history and origin of chocolates, how to differentiate between good and bad chocolate, chocolate tastings and a visit to our chocolate lab to roll your own bon bons.

- **Shop in Downtown Leesburg** and enjoy **lunch on your own**. Historic downtown is a picturesque little burg bustling with restaurants, cafes, bars, breweries, boutiques, and chic home décor stores.
- After lunch the group will split in two for separate tours. The group will switch at a designated Time
 - Group one will tour the historical location of **Dodona Manor**. Dodona Manor, the former home of General George Catlett Marshall, is a National Historic Landmark and historic house museum. Sit on the front porch and begin your tour by reading a history of the house and an explanation of its architectural style. From there, you may walk around the house to look at specific architectural features.
 - Group two will enjoy a **history talk at Loudoun Brewing Company** with beer or coffee (and beignets). Loudoun Brewing Co. is a family owned and operated business located in Historic Downtown Leesburg, VA. They have designed over 160 recipes, and have only eight taps.
- Experience a Sangria making class at **Bluemont Vineyards**. Learn the art of sangria making then try your hand at crafting the perfect sangria recipe with a variety of ingredients. Make it a competition by dividing into teams and taste-testing to vote on the best recipe.
- Stop at **Great Country Farms** to shop at the market. Great Country Farms is a 400-acre working farm situated at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains outside the village of Bluemont, VA. Great Country Farms offers produce as well as the farm experience to its customers.
- Dinner at **Magnolia's at the Mill**, a premier American restaurant located in the heart of Loudoun County's Wine Country. Everything on our menu is prepared with locally-sourced ingredients, and you can taste the freshness in every bite. From fried green tomatoes to wild game, there's something delicious for everyone in your group.



Day 3

- Check out of your hotel.
- **National Sporting Library tour**. The inviting, 6-acre campus, world-class research Library, and fine art Museum highlight the rich heritage and tradition of country pursuits. Angling, horsemanship, shooting, steeplechasing, foxhunting, flat racing, polo, coaching, and wildlife are among the subjects one can explore in the institution's general stacks, rare book holdings, archives, and art collection.
- Depart with a local guide (Rich Gilesie suggested) for a **driving Civil War and wine region history tour** with stop at **Aldi Mill** that includes a milling demonstration.
- Enjoy lunch on your own in **Middleburg**.



- Visit **Brentsville Courthouse tour**. Prince William County used the Courthouse from 1822-1893. All manner of important business occurred here, from voting for presidents, mustering up for the Army, legal battles over lost payments or property, to capital crime case deliberations. After the county seat moved to Manassas, the building was repurposed as a college for teachers, then an elementary school, a community center, and office space for the Park Authority, before being acquired and preserved by the county Historic Preservation Division.
- Have dinner at **Bristow Manor Golf Club**. Tucked away in the peaceful, historic countryside of Northern Virginia, Bristow Manor Golf Club seamlessly merges its traditional Southern roots with a true links-style championship golf course designed by Ken Killian.
- Take your seats for a show at **Hylton Performing Arts Center**. The Hylton Performing Arts Center stimulates and transforms the cultural and economic vitality of our region by presenting diverse performances and programs of high quality and artistic excellence to inspire, educate, enrich and enhance the community.
- Check in to your local Woodbridge hotel.



Day 4

- Tour **Rippon Lodge**. The home provides a vital connection and opportunity to interpret our community's link to Colonial Virginia. The site's story includes important people, events and times in Prince William History. Stop by and step back in time to experience a home and setting that has been around since 1747.
- Take a historic tour of **Occoquan**. Occoquan has enjoyed a very long history, from the Dogue Indians to Revolutionaries and Red Coats, Confederates and Yankees, and despite floods and fires, this vibrant town has survived. In the 1700s it was home to three water wheels and six sets of millstones going at the same time. The swift flowing water from the river powered the mills.
- **Enjoy lunch on own** with shopping in Occoquan.
- Visit the **National Museum of the Marine Corps**. The National Museum of the Marine Corps is a lasting tribute to U.S. Marines--past, present, and future. Situated on a 135-acre site adjacent to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, and under the command of Marine Corps University, the Museum's soaring design evokes the image of the flag-raisers of Iwo Jima and beckons visitors to this 120,000-square-foot structure. World-class interactive exhibits using the most innovative technology surround visitors with irreplaceable artifacts and immerse them in the sights and sounds of Marines in action.
- Experience a **Missing in America Project Flag Placing**. Groups will experience a flag placing experience at the grave sites of these previously forgotten veterans. Included in the experience is a guided tour of the cemetery, allowing you to hear the touching stories of some unique veterans and their families at Quantico National Cemetery. Donations are highly encouraged but not required in order to make a reservation for your group. Weekdays are preferred but select weekends can be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.



- Dinner tonight will be on the waterfront dinner at **The Harbour Grille**. Enjoy casual waterfront dining where everything is prepared fresh and prepared to perfection, from appetizers to desserts. Relax by the outdoor stone firepit with waterfalls or on the heated patio with inside tiki bar and indoor bar with TV's. Live bands perform Friday and Saturday nights.

Day 5

- Visit the **Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center**. The Udvar-Hazy Center provides space for the objects that tell the history of aviation and space flight. Over 335 air and spacecraft will be on display. The displays will include the Space Shuttle Enterprise, an SR-71 Blackbird, Dash 80 prototype of the Boeing 707, the B-17 Flying Fortress, an F-4 Phantom fighter, the B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay", and the de Havilland Chipmunk. Many artifacts will be on display for the first time. Visitors are able to walk among the exhibits and view them from elevated "skyways". There is an Observation Tower where visitors can watch air traffic at Dulles International Airport. On site there are restaurants, a large theatre, gift shops and more.
- Enjoy lunch before departing for home.

Tour Submitted By:

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