

## Virginia Road Trip Itinerary - Megan duBois

June 5 - 12

*\*Itinerary Subject to Change\**

About [Megan duBois](#) - [Freelance](#) Writer from Jacksonville, Orlando covering [Arts and Entertainment](#), [Food and Dining](#), [Travel](#), [U.S.](#).

Theme park and food journalist with bylines in [@delishdotcom](#), [@popsugar](#), [@forbes](#) and more. Jacksonville columnist for [@EaterMiami](#). As seen in: [Forbes](#), [MSN](#), [MSN Australia](#), [MSN Canada](#), [MSN India](#), [MSN South Africa](#), [MSN UK](#), [Business Insider](#), [USA Today](#), [Yahoo India](#) and more.

### Itinerary

#### **Saturday, June 5**

4pm - Check in at [Massanutten Resort](#)

*Discover 6,000 acres of fresh mountain air and authentic mountain experiences that will leave you with a sense of freedom like you have never felt before. Best-in-class amenities and world-renowned attractions await you at Massanutten.*

*Taste the local flavors at 12 on-site dining locations, challenge yourself to multiple escape room concepts, feel the freedom of zip lining or mountain biking, indulge yourself at the full-service day spa, play a few rounds on either 18-hole golf courses, and experience what will be the highlight of everyone's trip - the award-winning Indoor/Outdoor WaterPark. If visiting in the wintertime, don't miss your chance to hit some of the best ski slopes in the state of Virginia or enjoy classic winter activities like ice skating and snow tubing.*

*Conveniently located just minutes from the Shenandoah National Park & Skyline Drive and only two hours from our nation's capital, Massanutten is the perfect place to call home as you explore the Shenandoah Valley and beyond. The area offers world-class wineries, craft breweries, nature hikes, caverns, and river rafting. Families and history lovers alike can enjoy a local museum, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, George Washington's Mount Vernon, or an eventful day trip to Washington, D.C.*

Free time at Massanutten / complimentary [WaterPark](#) passes plus a locker

6:30pm - Complimentary dinner at [Campfire Grill](#)

Complimentary stay at [Regal Vista](#)

*Reservation Number: 2435448 - Danielle will forward you additional details for check in.*

*Megan's Notes: We are planning to be at the resort around noon on Saturday, so if the spa has availability anytime after lunch we would be happy to do the spa this day instead of Sunday so we could start the Shenandoah Spirits Trail right after breakfast on Sunday. We would prefer not to do the water park at the resort, so if there's something else you suggest at the resort let us know.*

## **Sunday, June 6**

8am - Breakfast at local favorite [Thunderbird Cafe](#) THIS SOUNDS SO GOOD!!!!

10am-11am - Massage at the [Spa at Massanutten](#) (depending on availability)

11:30am - Depart to explore sites along the [Shenandoah Spirits Trail](#)

*A trail connecting wineries, craft breweries, cideries, and distilleries from Winchester-Frederick County to Clark County, Front Royal-Warren County to Luray & Page County, Shenandoah County, to Harrisonburg & Rockingham County.*

*What you'll find along the way are incredible mountain views, historic treasures, farm-to-table dining, charming downtowns, and an amazing diversity of outdoor recreation. Enjoy the complete experience...one sip at a time. #SipShenandoah*

12-1:30pm - [White Oak Lavender Farm](#) tour, tasting and gift shopping a 1 ½ hour stop

*We found a vineyard called CrossKeys Vineyards that has a Sunday brunch, so if it's possible to do the spa on Saturday, then do CrossKeys for brunch, and move the lavender farm to later in the afternoon, we would love that. If this works we can move Thunderbird Cafe to breakfast Monday and still get to do it because it sounds so good!*

Lunch in Bridgewater outside at [Urgies](#) or the [Cracked Pillar](#) 1 ½ (Do any of the wineries that we're stopping at have lunch or a small plate menu? It could be fun to do a little picnic lunch at one of them instead of stopping again for lunch or stop in Harrisonburg for a late lunch since they look to be a hot spot for food.)

Town has some cute shops which may be open (Sunday is a tough day in the Valley as most businesses are closed)

Visit [Bluestone Vineyards](#) 1 hour

Arrive in [Harrisonburg](#) and explore downtown

- Optional Hike through the [Edith J Carrier Arboretum](#) at JMU (We are not hike type people, but if there's something else not super nature-y in Harrisonburg that you think we

should go to let us know. We also found Sage Bird Cider Works in our own research, which looks like fun.)

*Nestled in the heart of the serene and breathtaking Shenandoah Valley, Harrisonburg offers visitors a rich historical and cultural experience, a plethora of ethnic dining options, and an abundance of outdoor activities. It's here you can relax with your activity of choice, whether it be sipping on locally-made beer and wine, digging into farm-fresh dishes, scooping up tickets to see the area's performing artists, or renting a bike to tour the city's picturesque landscape and acclaimed trails all during your trip to Harrisonburg.*

*Harrisonburg is also known for its vibrant downtown; the first designated Arts & Cultural District and the first Culinary District in Virginia. This 10-block walk is rich in Civil War History, iconic 19th century architecture, bike-friendly streets, family-friendly museums, innovative foodie spots, and trendy locally-owned shops. It also lures visitors and residents alike with buzz-worthy festivals and events, including a summer film and music series, weekly live music performances, biannual Taste of Downtown week, and numerous beer, wine and music festivals.*

Dinner at [Rocktown Kitchen](#) This sounds good!

Overnight at Massanutten

## **Monday, June 7**

9am - Breakfast TBD

11:30 am - depart Massanutten and drive to Middleburg (2-hour drive) in [Loudoun County](#)

*Just 25 miles yet a world away from the nation's capital, Loudoun County is the Napa Valley of the Mid-Atlantic, home to more than 40 wineries and tasting rooms in spectacular settings ranging from vine-covered hills and Blue Ridge Mountain slopes to sun-splashed river valleys. Loudoun's acclaimed winemakers work with a range of varietals including Cab Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Viognier and the distinctive Norton grape. But visitors come to DC's Wine Country® for more than tastings and tours. Unique winery experiences include vineyard hikes paired with personal tasting kits, sangria making classes, wine dinners, music festivals, yoga in the vines and cellar tours. And, if you enjoy the day, why not stay longer? Dine at superb farm-to-table restaurants, explore historic towns and villages and check into one of the unique B&Bs or luxury resorts. To start planning your trip, check out [visitloudoun.org](#) #LoveLoudoun*

1:30 pm - arrive in [Middleburg](#)

## **Explore Middleburg**

*America's horse and hunt country capital, and Loudoun's second-largest town, is a gorgeous settlement dating back to 1728 when a fieldstone tavern was established on an old Indian trail by a cousin of George Washington. That tavern became the Red Fox Inn, still going strong*

today. The historic downtown is lined with chic boutiques, raffish men's stores, and superb café and restaurants, while the surrounding countryside is straight out of an Edith Wharton novel: handsome mansions at the end of oak-shaded driveways, thoroughbred horses frolicking in the fields. Scores of wineries are springing up and a distillery, too. Find out why Jackie Kennedy and Elizabeth Taylor called Middleburg home

**Places to stop include:** The Fun Shop (a specialty department store feel since 1956), The Byrne Gallery (rotating art) Chloe's of Middleburg (women's boutique), Middleburg Tack Exchange (for a glimpse of equestrian life), The Christmas Sleigh.

**Lunch options:** [Market Salamander](#); [Thaiverse](#), [King Street Oyster](#) (*The King Street Oyster restaurant sounds the best!*)

3pm - Visit [Greenhill Winery and Vineyards](#) for tour and tasting

**Overnight at Goodstone Inn**

**Tuesday, June 8**

**Breakfast at [The Goodstone Inn](#)**

Garden tour at [Oatlands Historic House and Gardens](#) en route to Leesburg.

**Mid-morning - explore [Leesburg](#)**

*Leesburg, Loudoun's county seat since 1757, has a complete collection of history, shopping entertainment, and dining. The district is bookended by grand homes with historic Morven Park in the north and Oatlands Historic House and Gardens in the south. Throughout the main downtown, visit locally-owned shops and restaurants, about half a dozen craft breweries, and historic sites like The Marshall House and Balls Bluff Battlefield Regional Park, a Civil War site*

*Download [app for a walking tour of the town](#); stop at local shops; visit the Discover Charm mural for a photo or Rafto Park to see sculptures and a Virginia LOVE work sign.*

**Lunch in Leesburg at TBD**

**Head west to [Sunset Hills Vineyard](#), which uses solar panels to turn sunshine into wine**

**Stop at [Catocin Creek Distillery](#) for a cocktail flight. This distillery features one of the leading female distillers in the world.**

**Optional - drive farther north to visit [Breaux Vineyards](#) (about 40 minutes from Goodstone Inn)**

**7pm - Dinner and Overnight at Goodstone Inn (*this resort looks beautiful!*)**

**Wednesday, June 9**

**8am - Breakfast at [Common Grounds](#)**

**9am - Depart for [George Washington's Mount Vernon](#) (slightly more than an hour drive)**

*Come see how the first president of the United States of America lived as you explore the estate of George and Martha Washington.*

*Tour the home of George and Martha Washington. Wander the estate's four gardens, meet farm animals, and take in the view of the scenic Potomac River. Meet characters from George Washington's life and see the blacksmith at work.*

*Inside the museums, see original items owned and used by President Washington. Experience the American Revolution as it comes to life in the 4D theater, and test your leadership skills in the "Be Washington" interactive leadership experience.*

*Mount Vernon is open 365 days a year. The historic estate is located about 15 miles south of Washington, D.C. and 8 miles south of Alexandria, Virginia along the banks of the Potomac River. Guests are welcome to bring dogs on leashes during daytime public visitation hours. Some areas of the estate are restricted to pets.*

**10:30am-12:30pm - Visit [George Washington's Mount Vernon](#)**

*Come see how the first president of the United States of America lived as you explore the estate of George and Martha Washington. Tour the home of George and Martha Washington, wander the estate's four gardens, meet farm animals, and take in the view of the scenic Potomac River. Meet characters from George Washington's life and see the blacksmith at work.*

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**Drive to [Fredericksburg](#)**

*Fredericksburg is located on the Interstate 95 corridor midway between Richmond and Washington, D.C. where history and many other adventures await you - from battlefields and museums to water fun, hiking trails and children's activities. Historic Downtown Fredericksburg features numerous specialty retail, craft and antique shops and over 60 restaurants in restored 18th- and 19th-century buildings. Outstanding cultural and entertainment events are presented by the University of Mary Washington, Riverside Center for the Performing Arts, local theater groups and area museums. Kayak on the Rappahannock River, tour craft breweries and the distillery or watch artisans as they create unique works of art.*

*Fredericksburg offers the opportunity to experience numerous periods in history. Explore colonial and revolutionary era museums and historic sites in and around the city, including [George Washington's Ferry Farm](#), [Kenmore](#), [Fredericksburg Battlefield](#), [Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park](#), [Chatham Manor](#), [Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop](#), the Mary*

Washington House, and [Rising Sun Tavern Museum](#). Retrace the steps of civil war soldiers and listen to the stories of former slaves on the Trail to Freedom. Experience tributes to participants of modern wars and the civil rights movement.

## **2pm - Late lunch at [FoodE](#) in downtown Fredericksburg**

*The philosophy at FOODE is simple: we believe that the freshest, cleanest ingredients make the best dishes. We also believe in supporting the local community by highlighting the products grown and harvested right here in this region. We have fantastic, organically- grown vegetables from Washington's Birthplace, heirloom produce from Spotsylvania County, organic beef, free-range chickens, and hormone free eggs from Gladys, VA, along with other great ingredients from across Virginia that we proudly serve every day at our restaurant. We're happy to report that, on any given day, we source between 85% to 90% of the food we serve at FOODE from the local farms and merchants we are honored to work with.*

## **Explore Downtown Fredericksburg**

*Set foot into some of the most interesting periods in America's past with a stroll among more than 350 original 18th and 19th century buildings in Fredericksburg's 40-block National Historic District. While here, visitors can also step into over 100 shops, chef-owned restaurants and boutiques, concentrated in the downtown area near the river.*

## **Visit [Historic Kenmore and George Washington's Ferry Farm](#)**

*George Washington was 6 years old in 1738 when his family moved to a farm in Stafford County, Virginia. A visit to Ferry Farm starts in the Visitor Center where there are displays of colonial and Civil War artifacts found on the property and the archaeology lab, where archaeologists can be viewed working Monday through Friday. After leaving the Visitor Center, guests can enjoy the gardens that feature plants grown in the 18th century. Then it's on to exploring the rest of the grounds (approximately 80 acres). On this self-guided tour, visitors can speak to a construction interpreter about the Washington house interpretive replica overlooking the Rappahannock River, walk down the old ferry road, enjoy the hiking trails, and watch for birds in the Wild Meadow.*

*Visitors may also check out an iPad for an interactive tour that includes videos, photos, and in-depth details about Ferry Farm during the time of the Washington family.*

*Hours: Monday – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, Noon to 5:00 p.m.*

## **Optional visit [Bowman Distillery](#)**

*Since 1934, the historic A. Smith Bowman Distillery has passionately produced premium handcrafted spirits that have gone on to win many awards, most notably "World's Best Bourbon" two years in a row. Nestled just five minutes from downtown Fredericksburg and three miles from I-95, A. Smith Bowman Distillery has a lot to offer. Complimentary one hour tour includes:*

- *Knowledgeable history of the Distillery*

- *Behind the scenes look at our distilling process*
- *Walkthrough to see our stills "Mary" and "George"*
- *Barrel aging warehouse*
- *Spirit tastings (21+)*
- *Gift Shop & A. Smith Bowman Distillery Museum*

*Tours are open to all ages, Monday - Saturday and Sundays during the summer.*

*Complimentary tours depart every hour, Monday – Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sundays from noon-4 p.m. Gift Shop remains open until 5 p.m. Please visit our website for more details regarding your visit!*

**Overnight and dinner at [Kenmore Inn](#) (It looks like the on-site restaurant is closed until further notice for dinner. Is there another option you suggest somewhere in town?)**

*Originally constructed in 1793, the Kenmore Inn offers nine beautifully appointed guest rooms, a historic Pub and Restaurant, and is the perfect venue for a wedding, reception, and other special events. Situated among stately 18th and 19th century homes in Fredericksburg, Virginia, the Kenmore Inn is just blocks away from fascinating historic sites like Mary Washington's House, Fredericksburg Museum, the Rising Sun Tavern, and a myriad of antique shops, restaurants, and the Rappahannock River.*

*Whether one is looking for the perfect romantic getaway or a place to relax after a long day of work, the Kenmore Inn offers luxury and deluxe accommodations that are perfect for all. Each guest room features a private bathroom, flat screen television, and high speed wireless access and is decorated with period antiques. An exquisite complimentary breakfast served from 7:30am – 10:00am in our Main Dining Room allows our guests to depart in full satisfaction and relaxation.*

### **Thursday, June 10**

**9am - Breakfast at [Mercantile](#) or Kenmore Inn (The Mercantile sounds really good!)**

*Mercantile is the latest spot by restaurateurs Chef Joy Crump and Beth Black in historic downtown Fredericksburg. Just like its sister shop, [FOODE](#), Mercantile's menu is deeply rooted in southern flavors. Here, they focus on breakfast and lunch, still highlighting the best of the season and the Virginia region.*

**10am - Free time shopping and exploring downtown or [Fredericksburg Trolley Tour](#) (Yes to the trolley tour, please, but it looks like they don't start until 11:30 am. So if you can schedule this earlier that's great, if not we're happy to explore on our own.)**

*Start your visit with a ride on the trolley, and get an overview of all Fredericksburg has to offer. Then you will have a better idea of where you want to eat, shop, and explore. During your 75-minute guided tour of the downtown Historic District and the Fredericksburg Battlefield, you will experience the past, present, and future of a city so rich in history and teeming with*

*monuments, markers, and attractions. Enjoy the many unique shops and restaurants still operating in buildings hundreds of years old!*

- Optional coffee and pastry at [Hyperion Espresso](#)
- Stop at Goolrick's Pharmacy or The Virginia Shop for road trip snacks

### **Noon - Depart for [Williamsburg](#) (about two hours drive)**

*Williamsburg is the "Colonial Capital" of Virginia and is internationally known for its restoration activities and re-creation of 18th-century America at Colonial Williamsburg. The Williamsburg area offers visitors exceptional historical, cultural and recreational activities and events throughout the year.*

*Ambience, location and southern hospitality are alive and well and standard operating procedure in the Historic Triangle, wherever you choose to stay, as well as offering endless opportunities for dining to find just the right combination of menu, location and price.*

*Shopping opportunities abound in the area with numerous outlet malls, Merchants Square, New Town and the Farmer's Market. Whether you're seeking bargains or luxury items you will find what you want - and maybe something you didn't know you wanted - in Williamsburg. The Muscarelle Museum of Art at the College of William and Mary as well as the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Fork Art Museum at Colonial Williamsburg provide access to fine works of art from around the world.*

*Recreational opportunities abound in Williamsburg, including world-famous golf courses at Kingsmill and watersports on the James and York Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Families love Busch Gardens theme park and Water Country USA!*

### **2pm - Arrive in Williamsburg**

Late Lunch at [The Williamsburg Cheese Shop](#) and walk around [Merchants Square](#)

*Opened in 1971 by Thomas and Mary Ellen Power. In 2003, the shop relocated and enlarged to its current 9,000 square feet. Offering over 200 cheeses, specialty foods, freshly baked breads, regionally renowned sandwiches, a new wine cellar with over 4,000 bottles and a new restaurant, Fat Canary. Monday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.*

*Located adjacent to Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area, Merchants Square is an 18th-century style retail village with over 40 shops and restaurants. Visitors and local residents alike regularly experience the Square's unique shopping, dining and special events offerings in a setting of unrivaled beauty.*

3:30pm - Check in to TBD

4:30pm - [Silver Hand Meadery](#) or [Williamsburg Winery](#) (We'd like to do the Silver Hand Meadery)

7pm - Dinner and overnight at TBD

## **Friday, June 11**

8am - Breakfast at TBD and spend the day touring **Virginia's Historic Triangle** (If we can get breakfast somewhere that's considered a historical sight that would be really cool)

*[Virginia's Historic Triangle](#) is full of living history and fun for the whole family.*

*Located in Coastal Virginia between the James and York rivers – Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg together are named the Historic Triangle for their historical significance and close proximity.*

*The area includes five historic sites and attractions from the first English settlement at Jamestown, to the end of the Revolutionary War at Yorktown, and the founding of a new nation at Williamsburg. Highlighted below, the sites are easy to visit when traveling along the scenic Colonial Parkway and many offer discounted tickets and packages when you visit more than one.*

9am - 10:30am - Explore [Colonial Williamsburg](#)

*Visit the 18th century city of [Colonial Williamsburg](#) and you'll discover why this was the capital of Virginia and the largest, most prosperous American colony. Men and women from all walks of life strolled these streets, and you'll follow in their footsteps.*

*Explore dozens of original buildings, homes, and shops reconstructed on 301 acres – most on their original foundations. Rare animal breeds, historic trades, and lovingly restored gardens add layers of authenticity to the Colonial Williamsburg experience. You'll feel as if you've traveled back in time. [Historic Sites](#) | [18th Century Trades](#) | [Museums](#) | [Places to Stay](#) | [Places to Shop](#)*

11am - Drive the **Colonial Parkway**

*The 23-mile [Colonial Parkway](#) connects important historical sites within Virginia's Historic Triangle. Free of commercial development, the Parkway is designed to provide an immersive experience as you drive through more than 400 years of American colonial history.*

*Fun family-friendly historic sites and attractions include Jamestown, Yorktown Battlefield and American Revolution Museum, Colonial Williamsburg, and Busch Garden and Water Country USA. (If the hotel we're staying at this night is in Colonial Williamsburg can we move this drive to the end of the afternoon and go from Jamestown to Williamsburg so we would have more time in Colonial Williamsburg in the morning?)*

11:30am - 2:30pm - Lunch in [Yorktown](#) at TBD and tour of [The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown](#)

*The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown tells the story of the nation's founding, from the twilight of the colonial period to the dawn of the Constitution and beyond. Catch "Liberty Fever," introductory film and tour galleries with period artifacts, immersive environments, exhibits and films, including "The Siege of Yorktown," with a 180-degree surround screen and dramatic special effects.*

*In outdoor living-history areas, explore activities in a re-created Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm, based on a real-life 18th-century family. The state-operated museum of the American Revolution is an excellent starting point for a tour of Yorktown.*

*Open year-round 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Christmas and New Year's days. Outdoor living-history areas open 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

3:30pm - Visit [Historic Jamestowne](#)

*Walk in the footsteps of Captain John Smith, Pocahontas, and the colonists who in 1607 settled England's first permanent colony in North America. Experience the place where Pocahontas and John Rolfe married in 1614 and the first representative assembly in America met in 1619. Share the moment of discovery with archaeologists at the 1607 James Fort excavations, April-October, and view artifacts at the Voorhees Archaearium, the site's archaeology museum.*

*Take an archaeology walking tour at 11 am and 2 pm daily and join a Park Ranger for a walk through New Towne established in the 1620s. View the 17th-century brick church tower and reconstructed Memorial Church along with statutes and monuments commemorating events at Virginia's first capital. Enjoy lunch at the riverside cafe and soak up the island's environment observing bald eagles, blue herons and white-tailed deer. After departing the Visitor Center, drive the five-mile Island Loop. Waysides explain how the early Jamestown settlers survived in this environment. Don't miss a stop at the Glasshouse of 1608 to observe artisans practicing glassmaking, an early industry attempted at Jamestown.*

Dinner at TBD (We'd love this to be a historic restaurant, whether that means the restaurant is in a historic building, or the restaurant is serving up dishes that are recreations of what people ate when they landed in Jamestown or Colonial Williamsburg.)

Overnight

**June 12**

Optional visit to [Busch Gardens Williamsburg](#) and [Water Country USA](#)

Depart

We are planning to get up and leave right after breakfast this morning so we can drive straight home this day. If you have any breakfast places you suggest let me know!