



# WELCOME TO CAPITAL REGION USA

WASHINGTON, DC • MARYLAND • VIRGINIA

The Capital Region is known for iconic monuments and museums, but it's also a great destination for beaches, cuisine, shopping, family fun, thrilling attractions and more. Whether you want to soak up American culture, stroll along the ocean, take a scenic drive or hike through the mountains, a fun-filled time awaits.

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**Opposite page, from top:** Lincoln Memorial, Getty Images; Waterfront in Annapolis, Maryland, Visit Maryland; Little Stony Man mountain in the Shenandoah National Park, Getty Images. **This page from left:** US Capitol building, Washington.org; Kayaking along the Harriet Tubman Byway in Maryland, Visit Maryland; Blue Ridge Parkway near Roanoke, Virginia.org/Scott K Brown.

# WASHINGTON, DC

## CLAIM TO FAME

It may be compact, but the influence of Washington, DC looms large as the nation's capital. In addition to the **White House** residence and **US Capitol**, top-notch museums like the **Smithsonian Institution** and famous monuments such as the **Lincoln Memorial** offer plenty of opportunities for cultural and historical exploration.

From **The Wharf** — a lively development along the **Southwest Waterfront** — to the hip **14th Street** corridor near **Logan Circle**, DC also boasts an assortment of eclectic neighbourhoods, ideal for experiencing the city's vibrant nightlife, booming restaurant scene and diverse entertainment.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Each summer, catch more than 125 performances across Washington, DC during **DC Jazz Fest** (12–20 June 2020) at amazing venues like The Wharf, Kennedy Center Concert Hall and The Hamilton. Also in June, experience traditions from around the world at the free **Smithsonian Folklife Festival** (24–28 June and 1–5 July 2020) held on the National Mall. The 2020 edition celebrates the musical cultures of Benin, Brazil, the southern United States and Washington, DC with music, dance, crafts, storytelling and more.

Held in Rock Creek Park, the **Citi Open Tennis Tournament** (1–9 Aug. 2020) brings the world's best men's and women's players to town each summer for nine days of world-class tennis. Twice a

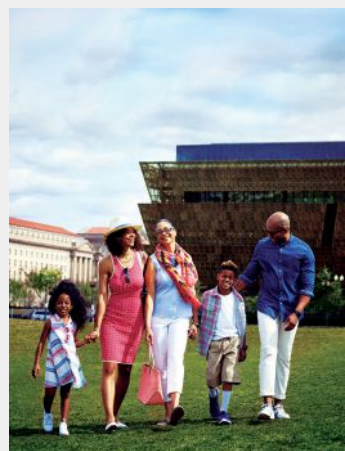
year, diners can take advantage of specially priced menus during **Metropolitan Washington Restaurant Week** (August 2020 and January 2021). More than 200 participating restaurants offer three-course lunch and dinner menus at a bargain.

## THE LATEST & GREATEST

In 2019, the **International Spy Museum** relocated eight blocks south to its new and expanded home on L'Enfant Plaza. The **National Children's Museum** also moved to the Ronald Reagan Building in downtown DC following a four-year closure, with a renewed STEM-based focus. After the first-ever major renovation in its history, the **Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** opened **The REACH** in autumn 2019, an extension of the campus that bridges audience and art through collaborative spaces.

Bordering the south side of the National Mall near the US Department of Education, the brand-new **Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial** — a Frank Gehry-designed tribute to the 34th president of the United States — is scheduled to open May 2020. Also in 2020, the anticipated completion of the **Metrorail Silver Line extension project** will add six new rail stations and provide direct transportation between Washington Dulles International Airport and downtown.

From top: Jefferson Memorial, Adobe Stock; Southwest Waterfront, Washington.org; National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington.org.



# MARYLAND

## CLAIM TO FAME

A perfect blend of cosmopolitan sensibilities and outdoor recreation make the **Old Line State** — its nickname referring to the Maryland Line soldiers of the American Revolutionary War — a can't-miss destination. Many of Maryland's key experiences are influenced by the **Chesapeake Bay**, from sailing and boating to beaches and enjoying signature blue crabs.

Maryland's **Eastern Shore** is full of endless treasures and surprises, including the roaming wild horses of **Assateague Island**, gorgeous beaches and charming small towns like **St. Michaels**. The **National Aquarium in Baltimore** gives visitors an under-the-sea look at 20,000 animals in award-winning habitats.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

For one day in May, suds-lovers descend on **Frederick** for the **Maryland Craft Beer Festival** (May 2020), which features tastings from more than 50 Maryland breweries. The **Annapolis Crab**

**Feast** (August 2020) is your chance to dig into an all-you-can-eat smorgasbord of the state's culinary crown jewel.

Downtown **Salisbury** is home to the **National Folk Festival** (11–13 Sept. 2020), the country's oldest multicultural traditional-arts fete. Enjoy continuous music on seven stages, crafts, parades and folk-life demonstrations, all for no admission cost. Celebrate the rich naval traditions of the Chesapeake Bay and the contributions of Marylanders to the defence of the country during **Maryland Fleet Week & Air Show Baltimore** (9–14 Sept. 2020). Activities around Baltimore's Inner Harbor include ship tours, a festival, live music and more.

## THE LATEST & GREATEST

Dedicated to the ideals of religious freedom and tolerance, **Hagerstown's Thomas Kennedy Center** memorialises the eponymous state legislator and his legacy of advancing inclusiveness in the 19th century. As of summer 2019, **Western Maryland Scenic Railroad's Chesapeake & Ohio steam locomotive #1309** is back in service for excursions departing from the **Cumberland Depot**.

**Baltimore's Broadway Market** returned in 2019 with a mix of previous and new vendors. Originally established in 1786, a full renovation added a central outdoor patio and more stalls, amongst other upgrades. In 2021, look for **Great Wolf Lodge** — a hybrid waterpark and resort — to make a splash in **Cecil County**.



Clockwise from top: Chesapeake City, Adobe Stock; Ocean City, Visit Maryland/Helen Norman; The National Aquarium; Calvert Marine Museum, Visit Maryland/Helen Norman.



# VIRGINIA

## CLAIM TO FAME

The land between the Appalachian Mountains and Atlantic Ocean was once home to key American political figures, such as presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, and bears deep historical ties to the **American Revolutionary** and **Civil wars**. Many hard-fought battles occurred on Virginia soil during the Civil War; today you can visit six different **National Parks** that reflect on these events.

The state also enjoys a robust wine country, which sustains more than 300 wineries (not to mention nearly 300 craft breweries), in addition to its reputation as the **Oyster Capital of the East Coast**. **Shenandoah National Park**, near **Luray** in the Blue Ridge Mountains, is a recreational gem covering 200,000 acres of protected lands.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Despite its name, the **Virginia International Tattoo** (30 April–3 May 2020) in **Norfolk** is actually a massive showcase of marching bands, drill teams, dancers and other performers — no ink required. In July, the **Red Wing Roots Music Festival** (10–12 July 2020) brings together national and regional bands in **Mount Salon** for a family-friendly event that welcomes camper vans and tent camping.

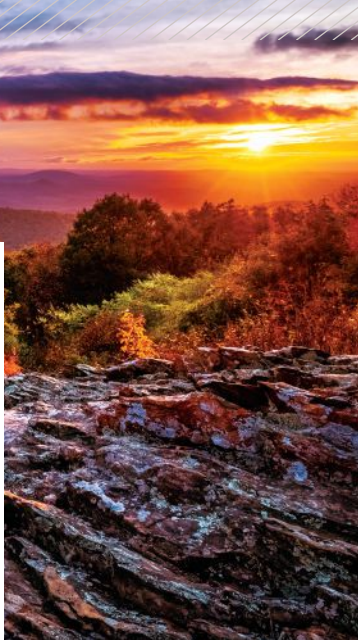
Combining sports and music, **Richmond's Dominion Energy Riverrock** (15–17 May 2020) is an experience like no other, from mud pits and stand-up paddleboarding to dancing under the stars and art

scavenger hunts. Virginia's **River Realm** is the perfect setting to experience the oyster-centric **Shuckapalooza** (April 2020), whether it's learning the tools of the trade or partaking in a beach roast.

## THE LATEST & GREATEST

Journey along the **Salty Southern Route** in the southeast part of the state, passing through towns such as **Smithfield**, **Sussex** and **Suffolk**, getting your fill of famed peanuts and salt-cured hams. The tall ship **Providence** is now docked at **Alexandria City Marina**. The ship, featured in movies such as two of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films, offers visitors a taste of life aboard an 18th-century sailing vessel.

Encompassing more than 1,000 acres with trails, river access and tent camping, the new **Seven Bends State Park** near **Woodstock** is a beautiful respite in the Shenandoah Valley. **Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial** in **Arlington National Cemetery** reopens in early 2020 with enhancements to better tell the stories of the mansion's enslaved people. Sixty years in the making, **Lynchburg's Historic Academy of Music Theatre** has reopened, providing a space to enjoy live performances, films and concerts. Just in time for the 100th anniversary of the amendment guaranteeing women's right to vote, the **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial** will open in **Lorton** in 2020.



From top: Shenandoah National Park, Adobe Stock; Virginia Beach, Virginia Tourism Corporation; Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, Eugene Roberts.