



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



terren in Virginia

Neighborhood and Culinary Destinations

Washington DC, Alexandria, 2 Days

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Washington DC Snapshot 11

Alexandria Snapshot 12

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: This trip is designed to be a relaxing, yet comprehensive, view of some of the best neighborhoods in Washington, DC. There are few tourist-focused items on the itinerary, so this is not designed for individuals that have never seen the Washington monument. This trip also involves a lot of walking, sometimes up to a mile or more between stops, but traveling by foot will give you the best feeling for the flavor of DC that many of us see on a daily basis.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Washington DC

DAY NOTE: Day 1 of this trip is designed to expose you to three of DC's best neighborhoods, DuPont Circle, Georgetown, and Adams Morgan. Start your day in DuPont Circle. If it is Sunday, head to the farmers market just northwest of the circle. If not, relax at Kramer Books and do some shopping on Connecticut Avenue. After that, visit the Phillips collection, a smaller gallery located just off the circle. Then head to one of DC venerable institutions, Ben's Chili Bowl. You can get there by simply walking up New Hampshire from the DuPont Circle and making a right once you hit U street. It will be about 4 blocks down. After lunch, hop in a Cab and head to Georgetown. If you like gardens, visit Dumbarton Oaks, otherwise spend some time walking off of M street (north) and check out some of Washington's oldest homes. Then walk up and down M street, shopping and stopping for a drink, as needed, at any of the local watering holes. After that, enjoy a dinner at Hook (reservations needed), a Georgetown seafood restaurant. Then head back up to Adams Morgan. If it is Thursday-Saturday night, there should be huge crowd, lots of live music options, and many places to relax over a drink or two. One great place if you like live music is Madam's Organ, or for a more relaxed evening try the Reef across the street. You can walk back to your hotel from Adams Morgan, just head down 18th until you hit New Hampshire and take that to the DuPont Circle.



Topaz Hotel

New Age hotel in Dupont Circle



Dupont Circle

Lively, artsy neighborhood



Ben's Chili Bowl

A pure DC institution, this chili lover's paradise merits a special visit.



Phillips Collection

Art collection in an historic mansion



Georgetown

Washington's oldest neighborhood



Dumbarton Oaks

This Georgetown mansion is home to an impressive art museum and lovely gardens.



Georgetown House Tour

A peek inside history



Washington Harbour

Riverside festivity in the heart of Georgetown.



Hook

Sustainably farmed, seasonal ingredients



Adams-Morgan

Explore this vibrant neighborhood with great food, boutiques, nightlife



Madam's Organ

Pool, live music and fun

Day 2 - Alexandria, Washington DC

DAY NOTE: Day 2 is designed to expose you to the neighborhood of Alexandria, and specifically Old Town, just on the other side of the Potomac. Take the yellow line over the bridge to the King Street station and start heading toward the water. Along the way, be sure and stop at the upscale stores along King Street, en route to the unique Torpedo Factory Art Center. In addition, stop by one of Alexandria's best stores, Grape and Bean (<http://www.grapeandbean.com/>). It is located at 118 South Royal Street, just off of King Street as you make your way to the water. They have the best coffee in town, not to mention delicious cheeses and an amazing and inexpensive wine selection. After spending the day in Alexandria, head back to visit Michel Richard's restaurant Central (reservations required), located in the Penn Quarter (Yellow Line, Archives/ Navy Memorial). It was recently named one of the top 10 restaurants that opened in the US in 2007.



Torpedo Factory Art Center

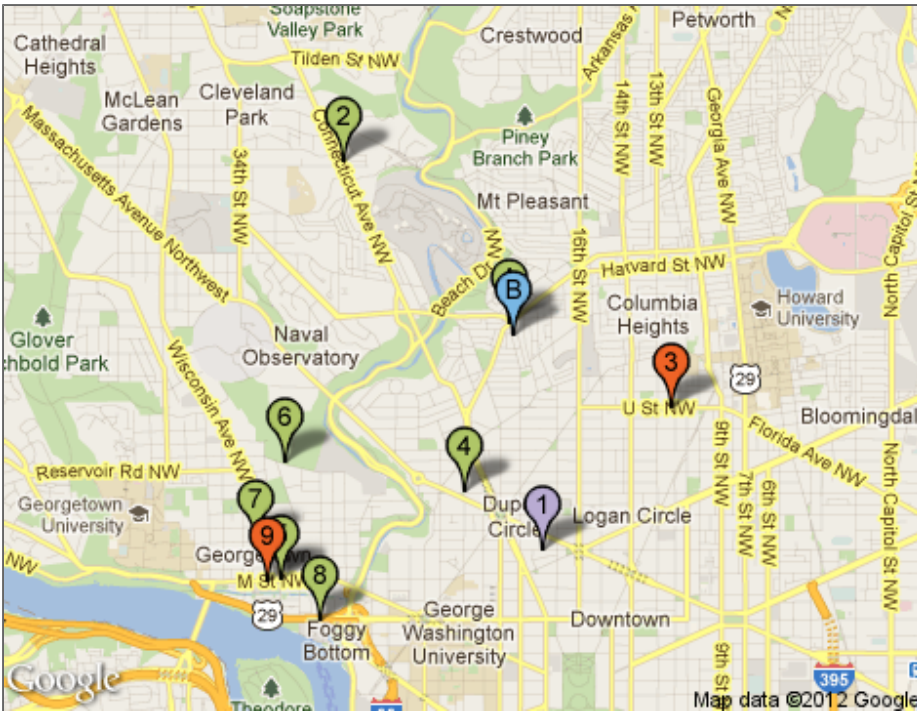
Art galleries, studios and event space on the Alexandria waterfront.



Central Michel Richard

American cuisine with a French accent, from the genius behind Georgetown's Citronelle.

Day 1 - Washington DC



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Day 1 of this trip is designed to expose you to three of DC's best neighborhoods, DuPont Circle, Georgetown, and Adams Morgan. Start your day in DuPont Circle. If it is Sunday, head to the farmers market just northwest of the circle. If not, relax at Kramer Books and do some shopping on Connecticut Avenue. After that, visit the Phillips collection, a smaller gallery located just off the circle. Then head to one of DC venerable institutions, Ben's Chili Bowl. You can get there by simply walking up New Hampshire from the DuPont Circle and making a right once you hit U street. It will be about 4 blocks down. After lunch, hop in a Cab and head to Georgetown. If you like gardens, visit Dumbarton Oaks, otherwise spend some time walking off of M street (north) and check out some of Washington's oldest homes. Then walk up and down M street, shopping and stopping for a drink, as needed, at any of the local watering holes. After that, enjoy a dinner at Hook (reservations needed), a Georgetown seafood restaurant. Then head back up to Adams Morgan. If it is Thursday-Saturday night, there should be huge crowd, lots of live music options, and many places to relax over a drink or two. One great place if you like live music is Madam's Organ, or for a more relaxed evening try the Reef across the street. You can walk back to your hotel from Adams Morgan, just head down 18th until you hit New Hampshire and take that to the DuPont Circle.

contact:

tel: +1 202 393 3000 / +1 800
775 1202

fax: +1 202 785 9581

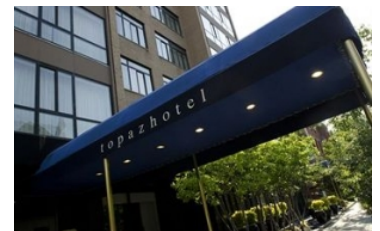
<http://www.topazhotel.com/>

location:

1733 N St NW
Washington DC 20036

1 Topaz Hotel

DESCRIPTION: Formerly the Canterbury Hotel, this fancy boutique hotel is a little bit Tao, a little bit Zen and a whole lot of New Age. How many other hotels offer packages with physic readings, have room service attendants in tunics, offer patrons a daily horoscope and set the whole place up Feng Shui style to promote good karma. The rooms are a feast for the senses. Each is styled with exotic colors and shapes and makes you feel like you are definitely somewhere different, someplace far away from the suit culture of DC. Dupont Circle is two blocks away. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 202 789 7000 (Tourist Information)
fax: +1 202 789 7037 (Tourist Information)
<http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/dc50.htm>

location:

Connecticut Avenue
Washington DC 20036

hours:

Call for details

2 Dupont Circle

DESCRIPTION: DuPont circle is one of Washington's hubs of nightlife, shopping, and dining. The circle itself is filled with Washingtonians day and night, relaxing on the benches, snacking, or playing music or a game of chess. Around the circle, the neighborhood is filled with interesting museums, shops, restaurants and bars. DuPont, and more specifically 17th street off of DuPont, is considered the center of Washington DC's gay and lesbian community. The Brickseller, home of the world largest beer list, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, is located in DuPont. DuPont is also home to a large number of embassies, and one can easily access Embassy Row by simply walking north-west on Massachusetts Avenue, which intersects the circle. DuPont is also home to some of the most important think-tanks in the country, including the Brookings Institution and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). © NileGuide



contact:

tel: 1 202 667 0909
<http://www.benschilibowl.com/>

location:

1213 U Street NW
Washington DC 20009

hours:

Breakfast: 6a-11a M-Sa,
Lunch/Dinner: 11a-2a M-Th,
11a-4a F & Sa, midday-8p Su

3 Ben's Chili Bowl

DESCRIPTION: As much a destination as a place to eat, Ben's Chili Bowl remains one of the few (non-governmental) things in DC that remains unchanged since the 1950s. The food is good – standard diner breakfast items in the mornings plus homemade chili, chili-cheese fries, burgers, coleslaw, veggie burgers, shakes and half-smokes (the fantastic DC and Baltimore local food that lives somewhere between sausage and hotdog). The place oozes history. Ben's opened on U Street in 1958 and fed luminaries such as Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Miles Davis and Martin Luther King Jr. Ten years later riots raged through DC after the assassination of King, closing much of the city. U Street was particularly hard hit. Like a beacon on rocky shores, Ben's was able to stay open past curfew and feed the community leaders, firefighters and police who worked to save the neighborhood. Since that time Ben's Chili Bowl has served a community gathering place as the city contracted and then grew again. Ben's Chili Bowl is still Ben's after fifty years. The stools, long counter, and bright booths are all original, and so is the experience. Parking during the weekdays is not too bad (two hour limit for non-neighborhood residents), but weekends and evenings are difficult. Ben's is directly across the street from the U Street/African American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo station (Green/Yellow lines). Exit via 13th street. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Ben's Chili Bowl

contact:

tel: +1 202 387 2151
fax: +1 202 387 2436
<http://www.phillipscollection.org/>

location:

1600 21st St. NW
Washington DC 20440

hours:

Tu-W, F-Sa 10a-5p, Th
10p-8:30p, Su noon-5p

4 Phillips Collection

DESCRIPTION: **Phillips Collection** [STST] -- This charming museum is even more alluring now that its expansion is complete. Its elegant 1890s Georgian Revival mansion anchors the Phillips, as it has since the gallery opened in 1921 (America's first museum of modern art). Founders Duncan and Marjorie Phillips, avid collectors and proselytizers of modernism, once lived here; now Impressionist, modernist, and American master gems from the 2,500-work permanent collection reside here. Intimate galleries retain homey features: leaded- and stained-glass windows, oak paneling, plush chairs and sofas, and individually designed fireplaces. The new wing houses the main entrance, as well as galleries devoted to special exhibits; a cafe run by a local favorite, Firehook Bakery; a sculpture garden in the courtyard; and, most wonderfully, the Rothko Room, the small room devoted to four large, color-intense paintings by abstract expressionist Mark Rothko. Best known for its Renoir masterpiece, Luncheon of the Boating Party, the Phillips boasts works by Daumier, Bonnard, Vuillard, van Gogh, Cézanne, Picasso, Degas, Klee, and Matisse. Ingres, Delacroix, Manet, El Greco, Goya, Corot, Constable, Courbet, Giorgione, and Chardin are among the premodernists represented. American notables, besides Rothko, include Dove, Hopper, Marin, Eakins, Homer, Lawrence, and O'Keeffe. You'll enjoy viewing the collection for an hour or so. A full schedule of events includes temporary shows with loans from other museums and private collections, gallery talks, and concerts in the ornate music room. Concerts take place October to May on Sunday at 4pm; arrive early. On Thursday, the museum stays open until 8:30pm for **Artful Evenings**, usually a lecture or film screening. **Note:** You may tour the permanent collection for free on weekdays. Weekends, admission is \$10 per adult, \$8 for seniors and students 18 and older. Special-exhibit admission prices vary, but are in effect weekdays; on weekends the regular admission price covers entry to both the permanent and special collections. The Phillips almost always has a special exhibition on view. You may order tickets in advance at the Phillips, or through Ticketmaster, online at www.ticketmaster.com, or by phone at tel. **800/551-SEAT** (7328). © Frommer's



contact:

tel: +1 202 789 7000 (Tourist
Information)
fax: +1 202 789 7037 (Tourist
Information)
<http://www.georgetowndc.com/>

location:

M Street and Wisconsin
Avenue
Washington DC 20007

hours:

Call for details

5 Georgetown

DESCRIPTION: Georgetown is one of the most historically significant areas of DC. It is a great place to spend the afternoon shopping or just strolling along the tree-lined streets, looking at the expansive homes and mansions. "M" street in Georgetown is the main upscale shopping area in DC. There are numerous historical sights mixed throughout the area, including the Old Stone House on M street, the oldest building in DC, and Dumbarton Oaks, where the United Nations was outlined in 1944. Georgetown is also one of DC's best places for eating, drinking, and nightlife. Local favorites include such places as Mr. Smith's, a piano bar, J. Pauls, and Old Glory Bar-B-Que. The Georgetown Waterfront is also a popular place to spend the afternoon. The restaurants that line the Potomac make for a great venue for drinks, although the food is better a couple of blocks north on M street. Recently, there has also



been a proliferation of new, upscale restaurants in Georgetown including Hook and Mendocino Grille & Wine Bar. © NileGuide

contact:
tel: +1 202 342 3200
<http://www.doaks.org/>

location:
3101 R Street Northwest
Washington DC 20007

hours:
Museum: 2p-5p Tu-Su,
Gardens: 2p-5p M-Su Nov-
Mar, 2p-6p M-Su Apr-Oct

6 Dumbarton Oaks

DESCRIPTION: From El Greco's "The Visitation" to Byzantine and pre-Columbian artworks, jewelry and mosaics, this restored mansion is filled with elegant treasures. Built in 1801, the estate achieved its height of glory in the wealthy 1920s when it served as the high-society showpiece of Robert Bliss and his heiress wife, Mildred. The gardens occupy 10 acres above Georgetown and include terraced lawns, winding footpaths and elaborate fountains. © wcities.com



contact:
tel: +1 202 338 2287
fax: +1 202 338 3921
<http://www.georgetownhouse tour.com/>

location:
3240 O Street Northwest
Washington DC 20007

hours:
Sa-Su 11a-5p

7 Georgetown House Tour

DESCRIPTION: Take a rare opportunity to see the interiors of stately old Georgetown homes, which are opened to the public just once a year during a late April weekend. Admission includes afternoon tea with homemade sandwiches and cookies at the parish hall at St. John's Church. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of
georgetownhousetour

contact:
tel: +1 202 789 7000 (Tourist
Information)
fax: +1 202 789 7037 (Tourist
Information)
<http://washingtonharbour.net/>

location:
3000 K Street Northwest
Washington DC 20007

hours:
Call for details

8 Washington Harbour

DESCRIPTION: This scenic setting combines the social pleasures and style of Georgetown with the natural beauty of the Potomac riverfront. The wide promenade is enjoyed by office workers, shoppers, strollers and diners at several restaurants offering outdoor seating. This is a perfect place to stroll at midday, before a sunset dinner, or after dark when the terraces are lit up. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: 1 202 625 4488
www.hookdc.com

location:

3241 M Street NW
Washington DC 20418

hours:

Dinner: Monday – Thursday
5pm to 10pm Friday –
Sunday 5pm to 11 pm Lunch:
Thursday - Friday 11:30am to
2:30pm Brunch: Saturday &
Sunday 10am to 3:30pm

9 Hook

DESCRIPTION: Georgetown can always use another good restaurant (as opposed to another busy bar or boutique store), so the fairly new Hook (opened mid-2007) is a welcome addition, as is its even newer sibling, Tackle Box, which opened in April 2008. Situated near the intersection of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue, the restaurant's bar lies at the front, the spare, all-white dining room beyond that, with the semi-open kitchen pulling up the rear. Hook is committed to the "sustainable" movement, which means that the chef shops for locally farmed produce and that the menus are printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, to give just two examples. But Hook's real "hook" is sustainable, in-season seafood, so you can expect the blackfin tuna that arrives with the crème fraîche and potato purée on your plate to have been pulled from the water sometime within the preceding 24 hours. Get this: The chef receives a daily text message from Tobago island fishermen telling him of that day's catch, and the fish arrive within 18 to 24 hours. Be sure to order one of pastry chef Heather Chittum's lovely desserts, from warm madeleine cookies to an inventive carrot cake. © Frommer's



<http://www.hookdc.com/images/home/04.jpg>

contact:

tel: +1 202 789 7000 (Tourist Information)
fax: +1 202 789 7037 (Tourist Information)
<http://www.adamsmorgan.net/>

location:

18th Street Northwest &
Columbia Road Northwest
Washington DC 20009

hours:

Call for details

A Adams-Morgan

DESCRIPTION: A true melting pot of DC culture, Adams Morgan offers a little bit of something for everyone. Centered at 18th street and Columbia Road, by day, it is the one of city's most interesting neighborhoods, with a large variety of unusual stores. By night, the true character of Adams Morgan emerges. Traffic comes to a near standstill as 18th street turns into one of the hubs of DC's nightlife scene. Adams Morgan has a wide variety of restaurants serving food from a variety of countries such as Ethiopia, Turkey, Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil, Italy, Vietnam, and Ghana. Almost every restaurant transforms into a bar or nightclub come sundown. At 3 AM, partiers flood the street again, looking for late night food including falafel and DC's famous "Jumbo Slice" pizza. Adams Morgan is a must-visit for those that want to experience one of the most diverse dining and nightlife areas of DC. © NileGuide



contact:

tel: +1 202 667 5370
<http://www.madamsorgan.com/>

location:

2461 18th Street Northwest
Washington DC 20009

hours:

Su-Th 5p-2a, F-Sa 5p-3a

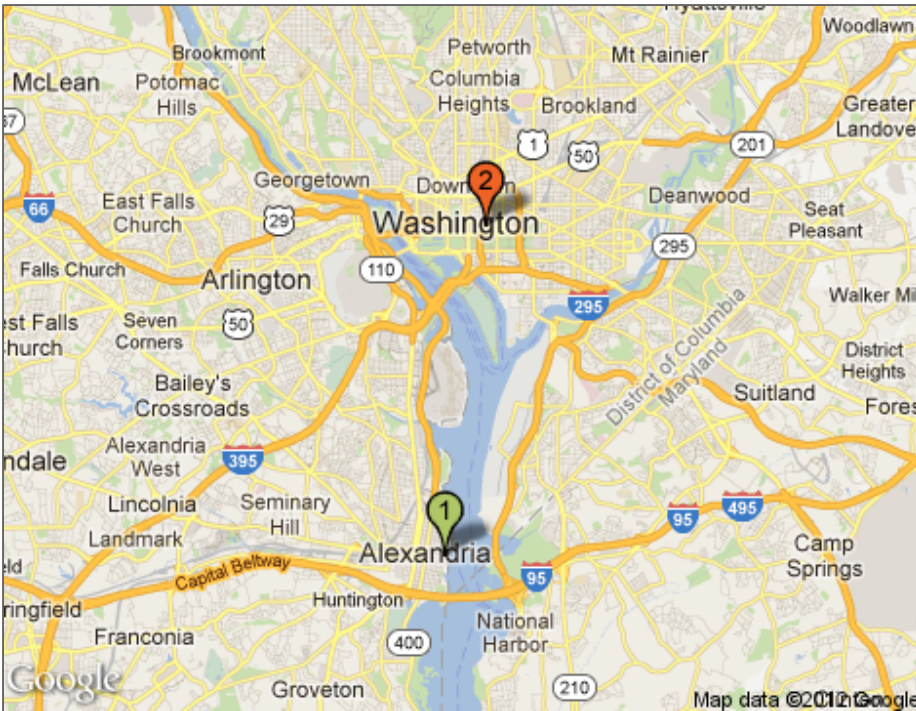
B Madam's Organ

DESCRIPTION: This Adams-Morgan landmark, is a popular hangout. It is a place that clearly does not take itself too seriously, which is a relief in a neighborhood always hot with trendy schemes. Here, there is pool and live music every night from 9:30pm, usually blues or bluegrass. The place is bound to be jumping well before midnight. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of madam

Day 2 - Alexandria, Washington DC



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Day 2 is designed to expose you to the neighborhood of Alexandria, and specifically Old Town, just on the other side of the Potomac. Take the yellow line over the bridge to the King Street station and start heading toward the water. Along the way, be sure and stop at the upscale stores along King Street, en route to the unique Torpedo Factory Art Center. In addition, stop by one of Alexandria's best stores, Grape and Bean (<http://www.grapeandbean.com/>). It is located at 118 South Royal Street, just off of King Street as you make your way to the water. They have the best coffee in town, not to mention delicious cheeses and an amazing and inexpensive wine selection. After spending the day in Alexandria, head back to visit Michel Richard's restaurant Central (reservations required), located in the Penn Quarter (Yellow Line, Archives/Navv Memorial). It was recently named one of the top 10 restaurants that opened in the US in 2007.

contact:

tel: +1 703 838 4565
<http://www.torpedofactory.org/>

location:

105 North Union St
Alexandria VA 22320

hours:

Daily 10a-5p

1 Torpedo Factory Art Center

DESCRIPTION: This impressive, several-story building is home to close to 100 artists' studios, and also displays the works of many talented craftspeople. Every type of artistic material, from paintings to textiles, are available to view and often to purchase. Private events here are quite special, owing to the building's interesting architecture and to its location on the river.

© NileGuide



contact:

tel: 1 202 626 0015
www.centralmichelrichard.com

location:

1001 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington DC 20535

hours:

Mon-Fri 11:45am-2:30pm;
Mon-Thurs 5-10:30pm; Fri-Sat 5-11pm; Sun 5-9:30pm

2 Central Michel Richard

DESCRIPTION: This modern American brasserie, is located on Penn. Ave NW between the White House and the Capitol. It offers great American cuisine, both modern and classic, with a French accent. A vibrant bar scene with boutique beer and wines, and modern and classic cocktails.



Zagat

Washington DC Snapshot

Local Info

Politics have helped to shape Washington, but they don't define it. It's the nation's capital, and arguably one of the most powerful places in the world, yet DC is often overlooked in favor of seemingly more glamorous US cities. But scratch the ostensibly dry surface and you'll find a city far more diverse than one might think; not surprising, considering that all of the embassies and consulates are here. It's impossible to list Washington's must-see sights in a paragraph, but certain places simply cannot be missed. The Smithsonian Institution, with its myriad museums and galleries, provides something of interest

for every visitor, from the arts to aerospace engineering and everything in between. Beyond the majesty of the National Mall, plenty of lesser-known DC institutions lie a bit off the beaten track. Washington's music scene has long been lauded for its originality (everything from go-go funk to hardcore punk has heavy DC roots; Fort Reno's outdoor concerts are a summer tradition). Changing administrations make for prevalent transience (it's actually quite difficult to find many people in DC who are born-and-bred natives), yet there are certain venerable city establishments – like Ben's Chili Bowl, where Presidents have been known to dine – that stand the test of time. And Washington continues to grow

and evolve – visitors can sample exquisite Ethiopian cuisine in the city's revitalized U Street Corridor neighborhood, wander through small, privately owned art galleries in Dupont Circle, or sip ale at Columbia Height's new Commonwealth Pub. One of the many things that DC has in its favor is that it's a very walkable town, so visitors can fill their days with activities in several different neighborhoods without traveling unreasonable distances. And Washington is imminently family-friendly, with plenty of events and activities that will please kids of all ages.

© NileGuide

Alexandria Snapshot

Local Info

Introduction

5 miles S of Washington, D.C.; 95 miles N of Richmond

Founded by a group of Scottish tobacco merchants, the riverfront town of Alexandria came into being in July 1749, when a 60-acre tract of land was auctioned off in 1/2-acre lots. As you stroll the brick sidewalks and cobblestone streets of highly gentrified

Old Town, the city's official historic district,

you'll see more than 2,000 buildings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.

George Washington stood in the door of Gadsby's Tavern and reviewed his troops for the last time. Robert E. Lee spent his boyhood here. Both worshiped from the pews of Christ Church. Indeed, if they weren't instantly shocked back to death by the cars jockeying for prized parking spaces, Washington and Lee would still recognize their old haunts.

There's more than history here to explore. With its abundance of shops, boutiques, art

galleries, restaurants, and tourists(not to mention hordes of older teens hanging out on Fri and Sat nights), Old Town Alexandria serves as our hip version of Georgetown over in D.C. Once you get here, you will find plenty to see, do, and eat in Old Town. Give yourself 2 days to poke around the historic district and a third to see Mount Vernon and the other Potomac plantations a short drive to the south.

© 2000-2010 by Wiley Publishing, Inc.