

VIRGINIA

Northern Virginia

1. **Old Town, Alexandria** - Roughly bounded by Wolfe, Washington and Queen Sts. and the Potomac River. Shady cobblestoned streets of 18th and 19th century houses with courtyards and gardens. Obtain maps and other information at the Ramsay House, location of the Alexandria Visitors Association. Points of interest include Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House, Gadsby's Tavern, Robert E. Lee's boyhood home, Lloyd House, Christ Church, Friendship Firehouse and others. The Torpedo Factory Art Center contains artists' studios and a shop. Excellent photography exhibits.

<http://oha.ci.alexandria.va.us/>

2. **Huntley Meadows Park** - An oasis, a rich and diverse natural area in the middle of vast suburbia. Operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority it is 1,261 acres contain mature forest habitat, freshwater wetlands, and meadows, all of which harbor an abundant variety of wildlife, trees, plants and flowers. The park includes a Visitor Center with exhibits, two miles of interpretive trails, 2/3rds mile wetland boardwalk trail and a wildlife observation tower. Open dawn till dusk. Tel# 703-246-5574.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley/>

3. **Mount Vernon** - Estate and burial place of George Washington. The picturesque grounds include the mansion, Washington's tomb, gardens and many outbuildings. A reconstruction of Washington's round barn demonstrates how horses walking around the second level threshed wheat. Open 8-5 summer, 9-4 winter. Tel# 703-780-2000, admission fees.

<http://www.mountvernon.org/>

4. **Great Falls Park** - Operated by the National Park Service, Great Falls is a natural scenic area where the Potomac River plunges wildly over huge boulders and rocks through the Stephen Mather Gorge. Be careful and observe signs as the rocks are treacherous. Many injuries and deaths have occurred here.

http://www.patc.net/hiking/destinations/grt_falls.html

5. **Skateboard ramp in Woodbridge, Virginia** - Veterans' Park in Woodbridge contains an excellent skateboard facility where photographers can take very interesting action pictures. There is a large ramp and a concrete bowl. More than a half dozen photographers at one time will

probably get in each other's way. Take a wide angle lens, perhaps even a fisheye lens. Photograph from the top of the ramp rather than the bottom to avoid flying boards. The park is open only in good weather. In Spring and Fall the hours are limited to weekends.

<http://www.pwcparks.org/vetspark/>

6. Mason Neck State Park/National Wildlife Refuge - The Park and Refuge sit on a peninsula on the Potomac River between Belmont Bay and Pohick Bay and was set aside for protection of the endangered bald eagle. Mason Neck State Park adjoins the refuge and offers parking, picnic areas, Visitor's Center, interpretive programs and hiking trails. The National Wildlife Refuge includes good hiking trails but is unmanned and without facilities. Both areas include abundant wildlife.

http://www.patc.net/hiking/destinations/masn_sp.html

7. Prince William Forest Park - Triangle, Va. SR 619 .4 mile west of I-95. National Park Service administers 18,571 acres including 35 miles of hiking trails. Pine Grove Visitor Center (703-221-7181) conducts interpretive programs on weekends. This is a very good place to shoot leaves in the fall.

<http://www.nps.gov/prwi/>

8. Colvin Run Mill and Sully Plantation - The restored 19th century mill is on Route 7 approximately 7 miles west of the beltway. Corn meal and whole wheat flour are still ground here, and the millers house and barn contain historical exhibits. Admission to buildings \$4, grounds free. Tel# 703-759-2771. Historic Sully Plantation on SR 28 3/4 mile north of US 50 was built in 1794 by Richard Bland Lee, uncle of Robert E. Lee and northern Virginia's first congressman. The restored house is furnished with antiques of the Federal Period 1795-1811. Admission to house \$4, grounds free. Tel# 703-437-1794.

<http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/crm/>

<http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/sully/>

9. Virginia Towns ([see link to Virginia Towns](#))

10. White's Ferry Terminal - Operating since 1828, the ferry moves passengers, autos and freight from White's Ferry, Md. to the terminal just north of Leesburg. This is the last cable ferry operating on the Potomac River. {no specific known web site}

11. Route 688 in the snow - Just south of Sky Meadows State Park near Paris, Virginia, is route 688 which provides a splendid drive through farmlands with the Blue Ridge in the background. This country road is kept clear of snow, so it's a great place for winter photography. {no specific known web site}

12. Scott's Run Nature Preserve (previously called Dranesville District Park) - Just outside the Beltway on Georgetown Pike is Scott's Run Nature Preserve along the Potomac River. The park is known for its creek and waterfall and a fine array of spring
<http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/bos/dd/Parks.htm>

13. Fredericksburg, Virginia - Approx 40 miles south of the beltway on I-95. The town was founded as a port on the Rappahannock River to handle tobacco shipments from plantations to mother England. Devastated by the Civil War much of the historic area has been restored. The National Historic District contains over 350 original and restored 18th and 19th century buildings. Points of interest on the downtown walking tour include an apothecary shop, the Rising Sun Tavern, Mary Washington House, James Monroe Museum and Kenmore, the Georgian manor house built by George Washington's sister. The interior is one of the best in the country and the gardens are beautiful. Antique shops dot the downtown area. Several important Civil War battlefields and memorials are nearby including Fredericksburg National Military Park, Spotsylvania National Military Park, Chancellorsville and Wilderness.
<http://www.fredericksburgvirginia.net/>

14. Boy Scout National Jamboree near Fredericksburg, Virginia - This international event, last held in 2005 in July, takes place every four years at Fort A. P. Hill near Fredericksburg, Va. Thousands of scouts compete in all kinds of picturesque activities. Try to go on a cool day.
<http://www.scouting.org/>

15. The Flying Circus, Bealeton, Virginia - Features breath taking aerial stunts/wingwalking with restored old bi-planes and other acrobatic aircraft. Open cockpit rides are available before and after each show and a Hot Air Balloon Festival is conducted the third weekend each August. Sundays, May thru October (703)439-8661. Bring a lens of 200mm or preferably longer.
<http://www.flyingcircusairshow.com/>

16. Route 20, Wilderness, Va. to Harrisonburg, Va. - Use this route to Harrisonburg if you have the opportunity. Scenic barns, farms, fields and streams along with the rolling countryside make good landscapes. . {no specific known web site}