

Suggested Itinerary: Washington, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky

Tucked in between Virginia and Maryland, Washington, D.C. is a world-renowned hub of historic and cultural attractions. Explore beyond the city to find expansive beaches, a mountainous wonderland and a paradise for horse lovers and bourbon aficionados.

Washington, D.C.

Suggested: 3 - 5 days

The nation's capital, Washington, D.C., is an exciting destination for visitors. At its core is the National Mall - a popular park that stretches from the U.S. Capitol to the Potomac River. The Mall incorporates numerous monuments, including the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the World War II Memorial. Plan to spend several days exploring the world-class museums that line it. As admission is free to many of them, visitors can wander in and out at their leisure. The National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of Natural History and the National Gallery of Art, with its classical and modern collections and six-acre sculpture garden, are among the most popular. Other popular museums in the city (admission charged) include the Newseum and the International Spy Museum. Throughout the year, festivals of all kinds celebrate music, food and the seasons in the nation's capital city. In spring, the Cherry Blossom Festival marks the blooming of hundreds of cherry trees, which surround the Tidal Basin in a cloud of pale pink-and-white blossoms. Throughout the year, enjoy concerts and theatre performances at the Kennedy Center, and spend some time in tree-lined Georgetown for fabulous shopping and dining along the charming cobblestone sidewalks.

Williamsburg & Virginia Beach, Virginia

Suggested: 3 – 4 days

Best known for its role during the American Revolution, Williamsburg, Virginia, forms what is known as the 'historic triangle' with the towns of Jamestown and Yorktown. Beautiful Colonial Williamsburg is a historic district and living-history museum where re-enactors in period costume depict Colonial life in the streets, restored stores and workshops. Charming B&Bs, hotels and historic taverns in the area add to the charm of a visit here. For a sandy escape, head to nearby Virginia Beach and its long, wide beach lined with high-rise hotels, family attractions, ice cream stands and seafood restaurants. Stroll or bike along the boardwalk, kayak through marshes, go on a dolphin watching cruise or explore history at the Cape Henry Lighthouse and First Landing State Park. For a more serene beach experience, stay in a vacation rental in the lovely Sandbridge area of Virginia Beach.

West Virginia

Suggested: 3 days

Visitors will find plenty of outdoor activities to enjoy in West Virginia, nicknamed the Mountain State. Hike or rock-climb to amazing vistas, swim in a hot spring and see waterfalls, forests and wildlife on a scenic train ride through the mountains. Taste some of the 39 wines at Kirkwood Winery, then join in the fun of stomping the grapes. Learn about the state's coal-mining history on a ride into the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, and do a tandem base jump (or just watch others take the leap) from the New River Gorge Bridge. West Virginia is home to the Gauley, New and Cheat rivers, so plan to head out on a memorable white-water rafting trip while visiting the state.



Kentucky

Suggested: 3 days

From West Virginia, head southwest to a state known for its Bluegrass music, horse farms and bourbon distilleries. Kentucky is home to the Kentucky Derby, one of the most famous horse races in the world, as well as scores of horse farms. To get a true sense of the destination, tour a horse farm in Lexington, visit the International Bluegrass Music Museum in Owensboro, or go underground to explore Mammoth Cave National Park, the world's longest cave system. Explore bourbon's rich traditions along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, which leads to large distilleries and small-scale craft operations.

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