Dare to Discover... Virginia

By Molly Marcot

Virginia oﬀers more opportunities to visit and enjoy history than Virginia, which boasts, among other sites, the homes of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, the site of the ﬁrst permanent English settlement, the location of North America’s ﬁrst Thanksgiving celebration (yes, it’s earlier than Plymouth), and the battleﬁeld where the Revolution ended. Virginia oﬀers something for everybody: rich living history for families, such as wandering through a reconstructed Powhatan village or the streets of 18th-century Williamsburg; enjoying beautiful antiques and spectacular architectural details in plantations perched along the James River; learning about the Civil War ﬁrsthand by walking into the crater left by Union soldiers who blew up the Confederate line at Petersburg and then got caught inside it and died in droves.

Here you’ll find our whittled-down list. We conﬁdently that it was a diﬃcult task and some of our favorite sites were dropped for one reason or another.

Revolutionary War Alexandria and Northern Heritage

1. Arlington National Cemetery

In 1864 Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton designated Gen. Robert E. Lee’s 200-acre estate as the federal military cemetery. Now 624 acres divided into 70 sections, the grounds contain more than 300,000 gravesites, including those of President Taft. A short walk west leads to the Tomb and Mrs. John F. Kennedy, guarded by the guard ceremony on the hour, and the USS the Spanish-American War Monument, the site of Battleship Texas, and the Korean War Memorial.

2. Carlyle House Historic Park

This 1753 Palladian stone house built by British merchant John Carlyle for his wife, Sarah Fairfax, and later became Gen. Edward Braddock’s headquarters during the French and Indian War. Fifty-minute guided tours of the home include the master quarters, study, parlor, and bedroom. Visitors can tour a historic 18th-century boxwood parterre. (703) 549-2997 or www.carlylehouse.org

3. Christ Church

Robert E. Lee and George Washington worshipped in this Georgian red brick Episcopal church, which has been in continuous use since 1773. Docent guides visitors through the original structure, which contains Washington’s original pew and hand-blown glass windows depicting religious scenes. (703) 549-1450 or www.historicchristchurch.org

4. Gadsby’s Tavern

Open in 1749, the tavern provided the likes of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson with food, drink, and rest. Visitors today can dine in colonial rooms and choose from a variety of early American menu options, including Washington’s favorite, glazed duckling. (703) 548-1288 (restaurant). Or visit the George Washington Hotel, which was built as a wedding gift for George Washington’s nephew, Maj. Lawrence Lewis, and his wife, Sally Custis. Guided tours lead through the two levels of re-created 18th-century period rooms, which feature examples of Lewis’s needlework. (703) 838-4242 (museum), (703) 548-1288 (restaurant), or www.gadsbystavernrestaurant.org

5. George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens

Home to George Washington between 1739 and 1799, the 21-room Georgian mansion sits on a bluff overlooking the Potomac. Self-guided tours of the interior showcase original Washington family pieces, including George’s dressing table and Martha’s china tea service. Two new visitors facilities a quartet of the grounds include the kitchen, dairy, and smokehouse, as well as historic gardens with original gravel walkways and a boxwood alley. (703) 550-9229 or www.mountvernon.org

6. Woodlawn

Originally part of President Washington’s Mount Vernon estate, this Federal-style mansion was built by U.S. Capitol designer William Thornton as a wedding gift for George Washington’s nephew, Maj. Lawrence Lewis, and his wife, Sally Custis. Guided tours lead through the two levels of re-created 19th-century period rooms, which feature examples of Lewis’s needlework and his American Empire sofa. (703) 548-1288 or www.woodlawn1805.org

7. Gunston Hall Plantation

Author of the 1776 Virginia Declaration of Independence, George Mason IV owned this 5,000-acre wheat and tobacco plantation and 1755 Georgian mansion from 1759 to 1792. The home contains intricate English Rococo carvings by Mason’s indentured servant William Bernard Bours, a 1770 walnut bookcase, and 38-piece ﬂatware set used by the Mason family, which visitors can see on a 30-minute guided tour. Self-guided tours of the grounds include the kitchen, dairy, and smokehouse, as well as historic gardens with original gravel walkways and a boxwood alley. (703) 550-9229 or www.gunstonhall.org


The 100,000-square-foot museum celebrates 234 years of U.S. Marine history in “Making Marines,” “Legacy Walk,” and eight other exhibition galleries. Four important “Leatherneck” aircraft—a Curtiss “Jenny,” two Corsair ﬁghters from World War II, and an AV-8B Harrier “jump jet”—hang from the glass ceiling A
Korean War-era exhibit has a room chilled to mimic winter weather. Retired marines conduct three 90-minute tours daily that leave from the front entrance desk. (800) 997-7385 or www.usmcmuseum.com

9. Ben Lomond Historic Site
This 1837 Federal plantation home was used as a Confederate field hospital during both Manassas battles. Visitors can tour the home, see soldier graffiti on the walls and bloodstains on the floors, and learn about some famous patients treated here, including Robert E. Lee’s cousin, Lt. Col. William Fitzhugh Lee. Self-guided tours of the surrounding grounds include a dairy, smokehouse, and slave quarters. (703) 367-7972 or www.pwc.gov/history

10. Manassas National Battlefield Park
On July 21, 1861, the first major land battle of the Civil War occurred here at the junction of two rail lines. Thirty-two thousand Confederate troops under Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard defeated Gen. Irvin McDowell’s 35,000 poorly trained Union soldiers in a brutal 10-hour battle witnessed by hundreds of picnickers from Washington, D.C. The town again was a hot point from August 28 to 30, 1862, when Gen. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia overran Gen. Pope’s Army of Virginia. The Henry Hill Visitors Center features a 45-minute film and battle map program. (703) 361-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana

11. Oatlands Plantation
Founded as a wheat plantation by John Carter in 1798, this 3,408-square-foot estate became the center of a flourishing agricultural enterprise, surrounded by a mill complex, acres of vineyards and fields. The Greek Revival-style home, features a library, breakfast room, and octagonal dining room that contain the Carter family’s original furniture and portraits. Visitors can also walk the terraced formal gardens of boxwood, lilies, irises, and roses. (703) 777-3174 or www.oatlands.org

12. George C. Marshall International Center at Dodona Manor
In 1941 George C. Marshall and his wife, Katherine, purchased this Federal-style manor as a weekend retreat. Guided tours start with an 18-minute video on Marshall’s military career, followed by a 45-minute walk through the restored home, which is furnished with Marshall’s red leather chair, bed, and Chinese artwork. (703) 777-1880 or www.georgemarshall.org

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Colonial Charlottesville

18. University of Virginia
Thomas Jefferson designed the University of Virginia because “it is safer to have the whole people respectably enlightened than a few in a high state of science and the many in ignorance.” He situated 10 pavilions around a common area known as “the Lawn,” each containing a classroom on the first floor and the professors’ living quarters upstairs. The campus, opened in 1825 to 123 students, also included a library housed inside a three-story Palladian Rotunda inspired by the Pantheon in Rome. Free guided tours of the Rotunda and Lawn are offered daily. (434) 924-7569 or www.virginia.edu

19. Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello
Founding father Thomas Jefferson spent half his life building and modifying Monticello, his 45-room mountain-top Palladian masterpiece, with its 6,700-square-foot library and elegant, columned Southwest Portico. Visitors can book a 30-minute guided tour of the house’s first floor and a 45-minute walking tour of Muleberry Row, home to the now 150 slaves who operated the 5,000-acre plantation. A new visitors center displays interactive exhibits on Jefferson’s transformational ideas on liberty and a bronze model of the plantation. (434) 984-9822 or www.monticello.org

20. Michie Tavern
Built in 1774 as a country inn, the tavern building was relocated to Charlottesville in 1927. Visitors can tour a meeting room, smoke house, root cellar, and ladies’ parlor. A log cabin dining room serves a Midday Fair colonial meal. Costumed interpreters give interactive tours during which visitors can participate in period games, such as Shut the Box, and dance an 18th-century reel. (434) 977-1234 or www.michietavern.com

21. Ash Lawn-Highland
America’s fourth president, James Monroe, built his family estate two and a half miles from Jefferson’s Monticello in 1799. The 30-minute tour of the farmhouse leads through Monroe’s bedchamber and study, containing a Louis XVI desk and other 17th-century mahogany furniture designed by Duncan Phyfe, a well-known Scottish woodwork craftsman. Visitors can also explore ornamental gardens and plantation grounds that feature a restored 18th-century slave quarters and overseer’s cottage. The 553-acre site hosts craft demonstrations and summer music festivals. (434) 293-8000 or www.ashlawnhighland.org

22. James Madison’s Montpelier
Apart from his two presidential terms, James Madison and his wife, Dolley, lived in this 23-room manor house, which is currently under restoration. The visitors center features Madison portraits, the Madison/Monroe flintlock pistols, and a 10-minute video presentation, while the education center contains the exhibit “James Madison: Architect of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.” Hour-long guided tours take visitors through the manor house, while self-guided audio tours lead tourists throughout the 2,630-acre grounds, including a visit to the two-acre Anne du Pont formal gardens. (540) 672-2728 x140 or www.montpelier.org

Frederickburg Estates and Battlefields

13. Historic Kenmore
Home to George Washington’s sister, Betty, and her husband, Virginia merchant Fielding Lewis, their 1775 Georgian mansion has retained its lavishly appropriate period furnishings. Intricate plasterwork ceilings adorn most rooms, and the carved overmantel in the dining room depicting Aesop’s fable “The Fox and the Crow” was reportedly suggested by Washington. The Bissell Gallery at the visitors center houses some of Kenmore’s original artwork. Visitors can also walk through the three-acre 18th-century gardens. (540) 373-3381 or www.kenmore.org

Based on drawings and archaeological evidence, Walkersville National Memorial Association has re-created the main house in which George Washington lived until age three when fire burned it down. Tours also visit several outbuildings, including the kitchen, and the Washington family burial ground. (804) 324-1732 or www.nps.gov/gewa

15. Stratford Hall Plantation
This brick Georgian home, the birthplace of Robert E. Lee, is now a 1,500-acre working farm. The cultivated fields surrounded by outbuildings include an 18th-century kitchen and re-created mill. Guided tours of the Grand House reveal American and English decorative art and elaborate furniture, such as the drop-leaf table. The visitors center features audiovisual exhibits on Lee family history. (804) 495-8838 or www.stratfordhall.org

16. Scotchtown
Virginia’s first governor, Patrick Henry, his wife, Sarah, and their six children lived in this colonial home between 1717 and 1778, harvesting tobacco on the 4-acre plantation. On a 30-minute tour, visitors can view a 1802 map, a Charles Prade Peck portrait of George Washington, and period restored rooms. (804) 227-2580 or www.apexarc.org/scotchtown

17. Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park
Encompassing four major Civil War battlefields—Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Wilderness, and Chancellorsville—this 535-acre site hostscraft demonstrations, visitors can also explore ornamental gardens and plantation grounds that feature a restored 18th-century slave quarters and overseer’s cottage. The 553-acre site hosts craft demonstrations and summer music festivals. (434) 293-8000 or www.ashlawnhighland.org

23. Tuckahoe Plantation
Although the prominent Randolph family built this plantation in the early 18th century, it is largely remembered as the boyhood home of President Thomas Jefferson. Self-guided tours of the grounds include the one-room schoolhouse in which Jefferson studied math. Sixty-minute guided tours of the home start in the parlor and provide overviews of the plantation’s residents, architecture, and furnishings. (804) 379-9554 or www.tuckahoeplantation.com

24. Hollywood Cemetery
High on bluffs overlooking the rapids of the James River, this 135-acre cemetery was designed in 1847 by Philadelphia architect John Notman to commemorate the spot where Capt. Christopher Newport planted a wooden cross weeks after settling Jamestown in 1607. Historical walking tours guide visitors to the graves of Virginia’s favorite sons, including Presidents Tyler and Monroe and Confederate leader Jefferson Davis. (804) 648-8301 or www.hollywoodcemetery.org

25. Shirley Plantation
Virginia’s first plantation, founded by English settler Edward Hill in 1615, has been home to 11 generations of Hills and Carters, including Gen. Robert E. Lee, and still operates as a private working farm. Thirty-minute tours of the Georgian house focus on its unusual three-story wattle and daub staircase and Queen Anne forecourt. Original outbuildings and plantation grounds include a stable, smokehouse, and dovecote. (804) 829-5121 or www.shirleyplantation.com

James River Plantations and Colonial Richmond

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28. American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar

Located within the original walls of the 1861 Tredegar Gun Factory on the Richmond riverfront, this new center offers interactive exhibits on the Civil War, including a film outlining the causes of the war. Displays explore the lives of common infantrymen, military strategists, and Northern industrial workers. The center also contains a large collection of photographs, uniforms, and armaments. (804) 785-1855 or www.tredegar.org

29. Virginia State Capitol

Designed in 1785 by Thomas Jefferson, who modeled it after the Roman temple Maison Carrée in Nîmes, France, this newly renovated building continues to serve as the state legislative center. Seven marble busts of Virginia-born presidents, including James Monroe and Zachary Taylor, are located in the rotunda as well as a lifesize Houston statue of George Washington. The Old Hall of the House of Delegates, where Aaron Burr was acquitted of treason by Chief Justice John Marshall, features intricately carved woodwork and a 1938 English silver mirror. (804) 698-1788 or www.vc.state.va.us

30. Valentine Richmond History Center

Located in downtown Richmond, the 1812 Wickham house now serves as a museum that features 10 displays on the city’s history, including “Settlement to Streetcar Suburbs” and the Edward V Valentine sculpture studio. (804) 695-0717 or www.vrhp.org

31. John Marshall House

The fourth chief justice’s 1790 brick Federal-style home remains one of the last buildings from the colonial period that still stands within downtown Richmond. Forty-five-minute guided tours take visitors through Marshall’s law office, bierkammer, and dining room, which contain the original porcelain service. The 18th-century garden features an assortment of flowers and herbs such as spring irtes, summer perennials, and fall asters. (804) 648-7998 or www.spva.org/marshall

32. Richmond National Battlefield Park

This 100-square-mile park encompasses 15 different sites related to four major campaigns, including the 1864 Overland and 1864–65 Richmond-Petersburg actions, where Grant and Lee clashed for the first time after three years of conflict. The visitors center at Cold Harbor Battlefield featurer economic maps, which the 13-day battle. A self-guided two-mile walking trail at Malvern Hill winds past historic markers and Civil Warera cannons. (804) 226-1981 or www.nps.gov/rich

33. Petersburg National Battlefield

Lasting from June 1864 to March 1865,
Gen. Ulysses S. Grant’s nine-month assault on Petersburg, the strategic Confederate supply hub 25 miles south of Richmond, was the longest siege in American warfare, exhausting Gen. Robert E. Lee’s ragged troops and forcing his surrender at Appomattox. Today the 2,642-acre park contains Grant’s headquarters at City Point, which Abraham Lincoln visited shortly before his assassination, and the Crater Battlefield, now a 900-foot-deep, 950-foot-wide depression left from an attempt by Union army engineers to break the Confederate defenses by detonating explosives under-neath enemy lines. Visitors can tour a replicated siege encampment and Fort Steadman, the location of the last Confederate offensive in the war. The Eastern Front visitors center features exhibits on siege history and extensive displays of period uniformed, medical kits, cannon balls, and swords. (804) 732-3331 or www.nps.gov/ptse

34. Pamplin Historical Park This 422-acre living history site contains eight museums and historic buildings, including the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier and the 1812 Ford Hall Plantation. Park ranger offers a “Lay of the Land”-guided tour of the plantation and an interpretive walk through the Breakthrough Battlefield, the spot at which Grant finally drove through Lee’s defenses at Petersburg. Open to visitors are the Field Quarter, which separated homes of slaves from the former headquarters of Confederate Gen. James Lane at the Banks House. A 45-seat theater located at the Battlefield Center showcases a multimedia presentation on the April 2, 1865, battle. (888) 961-2409 or www.pamplinpark.org

35. Appomattox Court House National Historical Park On April 9, 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in the parlor of Wilmer McLean’s house, now a national park facility and open for self-guided tours. Adjacent is the Appomattox Court House, which houses the two-floor visitors center and contains artifacts and informational panels documenting the buildup to the April 9th surrender. Two slide programs are shown at the 70-seat theater, located next to the visitors center. The park also includes 25 other period structures. (434) 352-0887

42. Endview Plantation This 1769 colonial plantation served as a training ground during the War of 1812 and later as a Confederate hospital. Veheld for its onsite freshwater spring, visitors can explore a Civil War-era battlefield and cemetery and take a 30-minute guided tour through the home, which has been restored to its 1862 appearance, complete with period furniture and a reproduction of former owner Humphry Harwood Curtis’s doctor’s office. (757) 887-1862 or www.endview.org

43. Lee Hall Mansion Virginia tobacco planter Richard D. Lee completed this Italianate mansion in 1859, only three years before Confederate Gen. John Magruder erected it for his headquarters during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign. Thirty-minute guided tours lead visitors through seven period rooms furnished with 19th-century decorations. (757) 883-1371 or www.lenhall.org

44. Fort Monroe and Casemate Museum As a lieutenant in the Federal Company of Engineers, Robert E. Lee helped to supervise fort’s final three years of construc-

First Settlements and Decisive Battlegrounds

36. Jamestown Settlement Not far from the original Jamestown site lies this living history park, which contains a reconstructed 1607 fort, an armory, church, and Powhatan Indian village. A 30,000-square-foot museum exhibits educational panels, films, and 17th-century muskets, swords, and Indian armaments, as well as artifacts from the African slave trade. Costumed interpreters operate throughout the settlement. Visitors can climb aboard the fully operational 17th-century trawler “Archimedes” enabling visitors to look through special viewers and see a virtual 17th-century landscape. Some of the more than 1 million artifacts recovered from the site, including tools and musical instruments, are also on view. On the grounds, visitors can see the ruins of the first glass furnace in North America, as well as a 1608 brick church. Costumed interpreters guide living history tours of the site in the summer. (757) 229-1773 or www.historyisfun.org

38. College of William & Mary Chartered by King William III and Queen Mary II of England in 1693, this state university is the second oldest of its kind in the nation, as well as the alma mater of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, and John Tyler. General admission tours take two hours and explore the founding of the school and its historic structures, including the 1695 Sir Christopher Wren Building, designed by the architect of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. (757) 221-4800 or www.wm.edu

39. Colonial Williamsburg Eighty-eight 18th-century structurescrowd historic Colonial Williamsburg’s 301 acres, including the Governor’s Palace, where Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson worked, Bassett Hall, the former home of John D Rockefeller Jr., and the King’s Arms Tavern, where Revolutionary CITY dined. Great Hopes Plantation, a living history reproduction of a southern tobacco farm, features dramatic and interactive presentations on the African American slave experience. Themed walking tours and special programs include “Historic Trades,” a look into 20 types of 18th-century trades, and “Revolutionary City,” which explores life in Williamsburg during the American Revolution. Several advance pass options are available for purchase online. (757) 229-1800 or www.history.org

40. Yorktown Victory Center This 25,000-square-foot museum examines the successful patriot siege of British forces at Yorktown, the Revolutionary War’s decisive final battle. The “Witness to Revolution” gallery presents 10 primary-source war accounts, while the “Yorktown” Sunken Fleet” exhibit features artifacts from the Betty, sunk during the siege. Costumed interpreters fire muskets and tend to crops in an outdoor Continental army encampment and 1780s farm. (757) 253-8138 or www.history.org

41. Yorktown Battlefield On October 19, 1781, Gen. Charles Cornwallis surrendered his British army to American and French troops under Gen. George Washington after unsuccessfully trying to establish a British port at Yorktown. The Encampment and Battlefield Road tours pass through original redoubts and Washington’s headquarters. The visitors center features a 16-minute film and a reconstructed section of a gun deck. (757) 898-2410 or www.nps.gov/york

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47. Hampton Roads Naval Museum and Battleship Wisconsin NORFOLK’s maritime science museum features exhibits spanning more than two centuries of naval history in the strategic Hampton Roads region. Moored on the grounds of the museum, the 450-foot, 57,000-ton Wisconsin’s “Winky Walk” has displays that explore its three tours of duty from 1943 to 1991 and such artifacts as a 16-inch shell. (757) 822-2987 or www.nmm.navy.mil

48. Naval Shipyard Museum and Lightship Portsmouth Founded in 1767, America’s oldest and largest shipyard peaked with more than 43,000 workers during World War II. The museum features exhibits of 18th-century model ships, military artifacts, and decks highlighting the history of Portsmouth. Visitors can board and explore the 195th-lightship Potomac, which served as a navigational guide along Hampton Roads for 48 years. (757) 394-2591 or www.portsmouthmuseums.com

49. Mariners’ Museum Sited on a 300-acre park, this 60,000-square-foot museum celebrates sea-going history with extensive galleries, displays, and exhibits featuring more than 35,000 international maritime artifacts, including navigational instruments and maps. Visitors can also see a full-scale replica of the Civil War ironclad at the USS Monitor Center. The “Defending Sea” gallery contains five re-created scenes of U.S. Navy military ships, including the helm of an Asia submarine. The Crabtree Collection of 2,000 miniature ships illustrates the evolution of boatbuilding. (757) 596-2222 or www.mariner.org

50. Red Hill Patrick Henry National Memorial Patrick Henry, the Revolutionary War pa- tron and Virginia’s second governor, lived here from 1794 to 1799. The simple home, reconstructed on the original site using paintings and plans, is furnished with authentic 18th-century pieces and features a portion of Henry’s original office. Visitors can also see a carriage house, smokehouse, slave cabin, and the kitchen and cook’s quarters, in addition to a museum that has exhibits on the man who proclaimed, “Give me liberty or give me death!” (804) 514-7465 or www.redhill.org

51. Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest In 1806 Thomas Jefferson laid the foundation for his unusual octagonal Palladian house, which he designed as a personal ido- latic architectural delight and a refuge from bustling Monticello. Its 96-room guided tours, visitors can travel through the dining room and bedrooms, later exploring the kitchen and lower wing on a self-guided tour. (434) 522-1806 or www.poplarforest.org

52. Booker T. Washington National Monument Author and statesman Booker T. Washington spent the first nine years of his life as a slave on James Burroughs’s 207-acre tobacco farm. Visitors can see the reconstructed house, which served as the nexus of the area’s social and political scene for nearly 200 years. On 60-minute guided tours, visitors can see the winter kitchen, children’s bedroom, schoolroom, and parlor. (540) 231-3947 or www.smithfieldplantation.org

53. Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park This four-story, sunstone and limestone mansion in Big Stone Gap was built in 1888 for Virginia Attorney General Rufus Ayers, who hoped to exploit the area’s rich iron ore and coal deposits. The museum features ex- hibits on the pioneer stories of westward migration and life during the Civil War and bust era of the late 1880s. (276) 528-1322 or www.swmuseum.org

54. Wolf Creek Indian Village and Museum Eastern Woodland Indians lived in the Wolf Creek Valley during the early 13th century. Visitors can tour the excavated original site as a 24-acre re-created village, featuring wigwams, a lodge, and a museum. Costumed guides demonstrate how these Indians lived and worked. (276) 688-3431 or www.indianvillage.org

55. Historic Smithfield Plantation Built by Revolutionary War veteran William Preston in 1773, this colonial plantation home served as a nexus of the area’s social and political scene for nearly 200 years. Visitors can tour through the Monacan Indian Liv- ing Seas’ gallery containing w wigwam s, a lodge, and a museum. Costumed guides guide these Indians lived and worked. (276) 688-3431 or www.indianvillage.org

56. Natural Bridge In 1750 George Washington first surveyed this 20-story limestone natural feature, which would become one of the oldest tourist destinations in America. Thomas Jefferson acquired the site in 1774. Visitors can tour through the Monacan Indian Liv- ing Seas’ gallery containing w wigwam s, a lodge, and a museum. Costumed guides guide these Indians lived and worked. (276) 688-3431 or www.indianvillage.org

14. Fort Wool Sitting on a five-acre manmade island in the Chesapeake Bay, formerly known as Rip-Raps, the fort controlled the entrance to the harbor of Hampton Roads and the James River during the Civil War. A passenger ferry, Miss Hampton H., transports visitors from the Booker T. Washington Bridge to the island, where interpreters discuss the crucial role played by the fort during the war. Visitors can climb through open ramps and view the bay and Virginia coast. (757) 727-1102

46. Fort Norfolk The only harbor fort remaining of the 19 authorized by George Washington in 1779, it protected Norfolk services during the War of 1812 and Civil War. The four- acre site includes the “Black Hole” dungeon, where soldiers awaited military, officers’ quarters bearing Confederate graffiti, a restored carpenter’s shop, a navy magazine with four-inch brick walls, and a guardhouse. (757) 642-8311 or www.norfolkhistorical.org

18. Museum of the Shenandoah Valley This 50,000-square-foot museum features 11 exhibit spaces on the art and history of the Shenandoah Valley, including the R. Lee Taylor miniatures gallery and the Julian Wood Glass Jr. collection, which has several of Gilbert Stuart’s oil portraits. Visitors can also tour the 1791 Glen Burnie House and the Chinese, pastoral, and herb gardens on the six-acre grounds. (540) 662-1473 or www.shenandoahmuseum.org

59. Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park Gen. Philip Sheridan’s historic counterattack at Middletown on the grounds of the Belle...
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