

## **Suggested Itinerary:** **Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and Virginia**

Begin in Baltimore, a classic Mid-Atlantic city with a bustling seaport, rich naval history and neighbourhoods full of character. From there, explore Washington, D.C., and Virginia's historic monuments and Colonial-era towns. Next, wind through scenic wine country and explore two islands renowned for their unspoiled beauty.

### **Baltimore, Maryland**

*Suggested: 2-3 days*

Inner Harbor, the city's centrepiece, is a hub of family-friendly attractions. Head to National Aquarium, poised on the waterfront, to explore a rainforest and brave the shark tank. Afterward, stroll along the harbour until you reach Pier 1's USS *Constellation*, the last sail-only warship built by the U.S. Navy. Explore the four decks of the vessel before visiting more historic ships. Just minutes away, discover Camden Yards, home to the Oriole Park baseball field and the Baltimore Orioles professional team. Finally, take a tour of Fort McHenry National Monument, site of the famous battle that inspired Francis Scott Key to write what would become the USA's national anthem, the 'Star-Spangled Banner'.

### **Washington, D.C., and Alexandria, Virginia**

*Suggested: 3 days*

There's a lot to see in Washington, D.C., but a trip to the National Mall will get you far. Encompassing Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the U.S. Capitol and more, this national park is a must-see destination. Two nearby attractions, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, offer a fascinating look into the history of paper currency and the birth of the USA. Head north to experience Georgetown University, surrounded by lively shops and cafes, for lunch and people-watching. Board a water taxi from Georgetown to Old Town Alexandria's charming historic district.

## Virginia's Wine Country

*Suggested: 2 days*

With more than 200 wineries across five regions, Virginia has been producing whites, reds and pinks for centuries. Its best-known region is Shenandoah Valley, southwest of Alexandria. Pass through idyllic small towns and farms on your way to Shenandoah, where the wine trail tracks north to south and takes you to sprawling riverside vineyards and small-farm wineries nestled in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Attend winemaker dinners, explore historic sites, or take a hot-air balloon ride over the pastoral countryside. The Monticello Wine Trail launches from Charlottesville, skirts 30 wineries and follows the wine-making vision of President Thomas Jefferson.

## Shenandoah National Park and Charlottesville, Virginia

*Suggested: 2-3 days*

Enjoy more of Virginia's bucolic landscape on Skyline Drive, a scenic highway that runs about 106 miles (170 kilometres) through Shenandoah National Park and offers glimpses of wildlife as well as entry to the Appalachian Trail. In Charlottesville, visit Monticello, once the home of Thomas Jefferson, and spend hours marvelling at the meticulous gardens and noble estate. For dinner and nightlife, head to Charlottesville Historic Downtown Mall, a vibrant shopping, dining and entertainment complex. Leave enough time for an enthralling historical tour of the city's University of Virginia; founded by Jefferson in 1819, the venerable institution's Academical Village was conceived by Jefferson himself.

## Chincoteague Island, Virginia, and Assateague Island, Maryland

*Suggested: 2 days*

Journey to the Eastern Shore and Chincoteague Island for a much-needed respite. While the sightseeing won't stop – imagine unfettered views of the sunset over unspoiled beaches, wild ponies galloping in the surf and bird-watching for days – the fast pace will. Go swimming, horseback riding or bicycling or simply unwind in the sand. Assateague Island, just 15 miles (24 kilometres) north, is an equally serene barrier island offering kayak tours of its remarkable environment, beaches studded with seashells, romantic bed-and-breakfast inns and more wild ponies. Visitors to both islands will find friendly, relaxed seaside communities where looking for clams, fishing in the surf and hiking the beach are popular pastimes.

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