

A Town of Gardens

Fredericksburg, VA

If, as the poem goes, *a garden is a lovesome thing*, then you'll love some beautiful gardens in Fredericksburg! Virginia's beloved *Historic Garden Week* began here nearly 100 years ago, and with good reason. This town is filled with gorgeous gardens and historic landscapes. Come in the Spring or, better yet, during *Historic Garden Week*.





DAY 1

2:30 p.m. **Arrive in Fredericksburg and tour Wildflower Garden & Fairy Retreat**

Trees, bees, butterflies, birds, bugs, berries, hummingbirds, wildflowers, a labyrinth, edible forest and, yes, fairies await you in this garden oasis. Select a group workshop on bird watching or pollination or make your own seed bombs or pine cone bird feeders.

4:30 p.m. **Check into area hotel**

5:30 p.m. **Dinner in Historic Downtown**

Downtown Fredericksburg is a haven for good food. Choose a restaurant to suit the mood and eat and drink well – there's still more in store tonight.

7:00 p.m. **Candlelight Tour of Rising Sun Tavern**

Winsome wenches in historic costumes conduct a fun and frolicsome tour that shows how travelers ate, slept and partied in Colonial times. The tavern was built by George Washington's brother, Charles, in 1760.

DAY 2

6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast at hotel**

9:00 a.m. **Tour Kenmore House and Garden**

Historic Garden Week in Virginia, the longest-running statewide garden event in America, began here in the 1920s. The Georgian-style mansion was the home of George Washington's sister and her husband and is famed for its intricately carved plastered ceilings. The gardens are based on popular Colonial designs.

11:30 a.m. **Luncheon at Gari Melchers' Home and Studio**

Gari Melchers was one of America's best-loved artists in the early 20th century. The garden pavilion of his antebellum home will be the setting for a delightful luncheon.

1:00 p.m. **Tour Gari Melchers' Home and Studio**

This historic home was the romantic abode of Melchers and his wife, and what a love story they lived! You'll learn about the Melchers, his work and their lovely home on a guided tour.

2:30 p.m. **Self-guided garden walk at Chatham Manor**

The pastoral gardens at Chatham Manor belie their use as a Civil War headquarters and hospital (where Clara Barton and Walt Whitman tended the wounded). Native and ornamental plants abound in classic English garden style accented by romantic statuary. See the two Catalpa "witness trees," which were here during the war.

4:30 p.m. **Return to hotel**

5:30 p.m. **Dinner and Wine Tasting at Brock's Riverside Restaurant**

Start the evening with a wine tasting and then sit down to a good meal in a riverside setting.



DAY 3

6:30 a.m. -8:00 a.m. Breakfast at hotel

9:00 a.m. **Gardening Program at George Washington's Ferry Farm**

Ferry Farm was the childhood home of George Washington. Explore the garden as it appeared during Washington's time and learn about the common herbs, vegetables and ornamentals grown here.

10:30 a.m. **Visit the Mary Washington House and Garden**

This was the home of George Washington's mother, Mary. Tour her beloved garden and house and learn more about the mother of the "Father of our Country."

12:00 p.m. **Lunch and shopping on your own in downtown Fredericksburg**

For a small town Fredericksburg is big when it comes to good restaurants and shops. Stroll downtown, grab a good lunch and browse the stores.

2:00 p.m. **Wine tasting and cheesecake and Mattaponi Winery**

This rustic country winery has some goodies waiting for us – wine and cheesecake. Mattaponi's wines are fruity and tasty and go great with a selection of locally-made cheesecake.

4:00 p.m. Return to hotel

5:15 p.m. **Dinner at Amy's Café**

Situated across the Rappahannock River in an antebellum tavern building, Amy's serves up good food to go with good fellowship in an authentic historic setting.

DAY 4

6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at hotel

9:00 a.m. Tour Walnut Hill Farm

A working farm since 1843, Walnut Hill now offers farm tours and experiences. Follow the farmer as he or she goes through part of the daily routine. Learn about the farm ecosystem, their heritage breeds and what goes on in the farm garden.

11:00 a.m. Head for home

Or "SuperSize" your experience by coming to Fredericksburg during Historic Garden Week in Virginia. Tour private homes and gardens not usually open to the public and learn about the history of the home and the family living there. Hosted by the Rappahannock Valley Garden Clubs.

About Fredericksburg, Virginia

Fredericksburg, VA tells America's story - from 1608 when Captain John Smith sailed up the Rappahannock River to George Washington's childhood and adolescence to John DeBaptiste, a free Black man fighting in the Revolutionary War to the Civil War with four major battles and where 10,000 enslaved people crossed the river to freedom, to Reconstruction and the fight for Civil Rights and social justice. The region is filled with historic sites and compelling stories, a phenomenal food and drink scene and is all easily accessible just off the interstate.

Location

Fredericksburg, VA is located fifty miles south of Washington, D.C. on Interstate 95, midway between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia.



Mileage From Major Cities to Fredericksburg

Albany.....	437
Baltimore.....	106
Boston.....	529
Charleston, WV.....	309
Cleveland.....	427
Detroit.....	577
Montreal.....	655
Newport.....	472
New York City.....	290
Philadelphia.....	210
Pittsburgh.....	295
Toronto.....	592
Washington, DC.....	50
Wilmington, DE.....	178

Services

Itinerary Planning / Confirm reservations at historic sites, with guide service / Referrals for dining and lodging / Access to on-line Videos / Brochures

