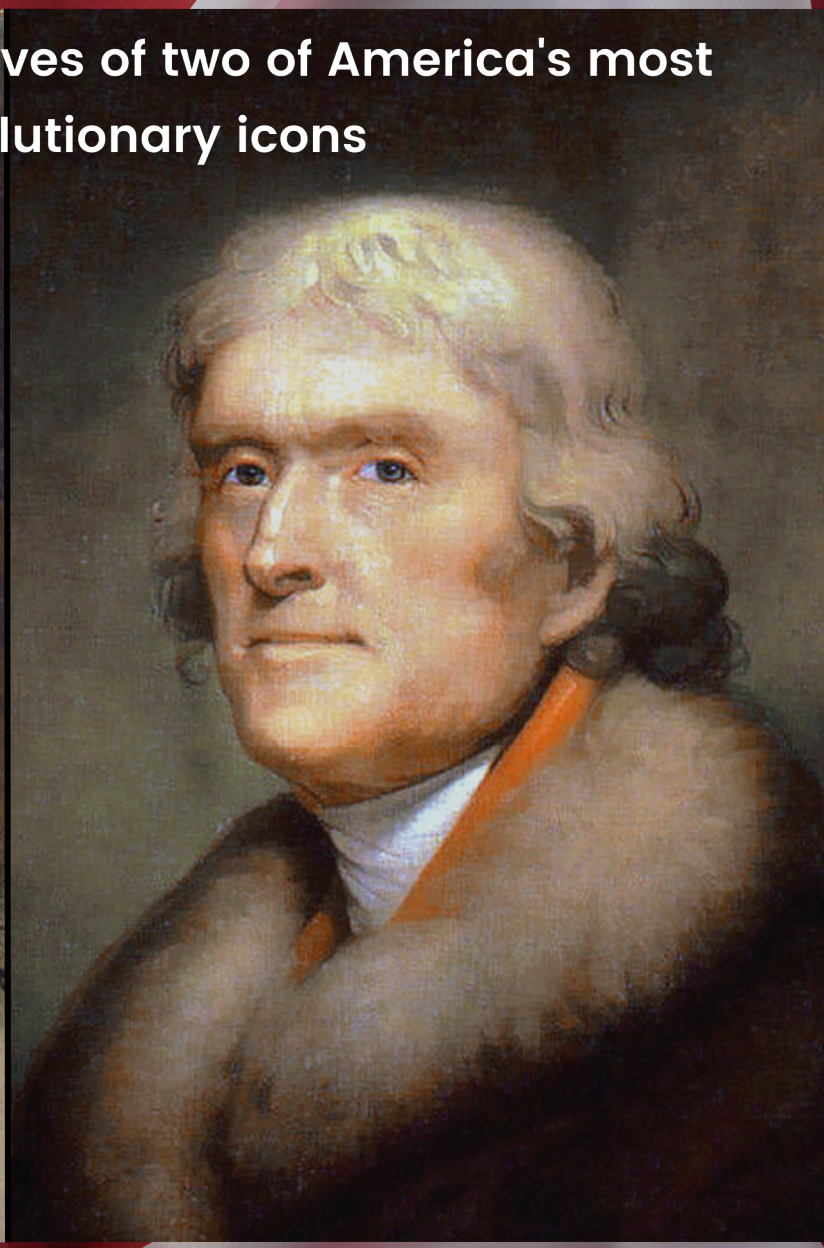
Revolutionary Leaders

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson

Take a deep dive into the lives of two of America's most notable Revolutionary icons



Featuring the cities of
Richmond, Lynchburg,
Charlottesville, Fredericksburg
and Alexandria, Virginia

Day 1

Fly into Richmond (RIC) and check into hotel.

Travel approximately 20 miles north to the historic town of Hanover Courthouse and dine at historic Hanover Tavern. The historic Tavern offers exhibits highlighting the history of the property and the renowned guests that have visited through the years. Enjoy dinner on site in a modern, scratch-made restaurant and pub. After dinner, enjoy one of many shows such as the "First Ladies of Fashion" in the 155-seat Bradley Theater, the original home of the nationally recognized Barksdale Theatre (now Virginia Repertory Theatre). (hanovertavern.org)

Photo Courtesy of Richmond Region Tourism

Day 2

Travel from Richmond to beautiful Lynchburg, Virginia located along the Blue Ridge Mountains and the James River to Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest. Hailed as a masterpiece of landscape and architecture, your visit to Poplar Forest will shed new light on Thomas Jefferson's creativity and curiosity, his enslaved community, and his private world. Tour Jefferson's retreat house to learn about its meticulously restored architecture, and what it tells us about daily life for one of the most prominent figures of the 19th century. (https://www.poplarforest.org/visit/)

Photo Courtesy of Lynchburg EDT

Photo Courtesy of Lynchburg EDT

After your tour, have lunch at the Virginia Hotel in Downtown Lynchburg (the meeting spaces are named for the mothers of Presidents) or dine at the Depot Grill located along the Riverfront.

After spending the morning in Lynchburg, VA, make you way up scenic State Route 29 to Charlottesville, VA. Upon arrival, take a tour of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and get to know the author of the Declaration of Independence and the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, the third President of the United States and the Founder of the University of Virginia. A self-taught architect, Jefferson referred to Monticello as his "essay in architecture," with construction continuing on the mountaintop for forty years. The final product is a unique blend of beauty and function that combines the best elements of the ancient and old worlds with a fresh American perspective. In addition to taking a guided tour of the House, explore the gardens and grounds, including Mulberry Row, the main street of the 5,000 acre plantation. Thomas Jefferson enslaved over six hundred people throughout his life. Learn about the men, women, and children who built Jefferson's home, planted his crops, tended his gardens, and who helped run his household and raise his children. (Monticello.org)

Photo Courtesy of Visit Charlottesville

After a full day of touring, enjoy a private group dinner and a little shopping at historic Michie Tavern (ca. 1784). Michie Tavern is located 1/2 mile below Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Servers in period attire offer bountiful Southern Fare. The rustic restaurant setting renders a dining experience rich in southern culture and hospitality for groups to enjoy. While you dine, enjoy the sweet sounds of 18th-centrury musicians. (michietavern.com)

Photo Courtesy of Visit Charlottesville

Refreshed from dinner, board your motorcoach to head back to Richmond for the night.

Day 3

Today your group will explore **Richmond** - Virginia's Capital. Begin your day by exploring the historic neighborhoods and river overlooks with your step-on guide. The tour brings you to Richmond's **Kanawha Canal** for a guided canal boat ride on an authentic flat bottom boat. The Kanawha Canal was at one time part of a larger canal system promoted by George Washington to connect the James River to the Ohio River.

Photo Courtesy of Richmond Region Tourism

Next, enjoy lunch on your own at Richmond's "Mile of Style", **Carytown**. This six block eclectic shopping district offers numerous restaurants and charming shops.

Photo Courtesy of Richmond Region Tourism

After lunch, head up one of Richmond's seven hills to **St. John's Church**, the site of the 1775 2nd Virginia Convention for a reenactment of Patrick Henry's "Give me Liberty" speech. Swayed by Patrick Henry's powerful argument - the delegates at this site made a decision that changed the course of history, lighting the spark of the War for Independence, making St. John's Church one of America's most important historic sites. (historicstjohnschurch.org)

Photo Courtesy of Richmond Region Tourism

After a day filled with history, take some time to relax at one of Richmond's 30 scenic breweries before heading back to your hotel for a quick rest before dinner. Tonight's dinner is at the Historic Tobacco Company. The building, once a tobacco warehouse, dates back to 1866; all brickwork, heavy beams, and columns are original to the building. The space was renovated and opened as The Tobacco Company Restaurant in July 1977.

Satisfied from dinner, board your motor coach to return to your hotel for the night.

Day 4

After breakfast, depart for Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Discover the beauty of Historic Kenmore, home of George Washington's sister, Betty Washington Lewis, and her husband, Fielding Lewis. This beautiful Georgian style brick mansion contains some of the finest decorative plasterwork in the country and reflects the pre-Revolutionary War wealth and gentry status of Fielding and Betty Lewis. The guided tour focuses on the Lewis family and the sacrifices it made to support the American cause during the War for Independence as well as how the Eighteenth-century furniture and accessories accurately depict the Lewis' gentry-level wealth. Don't forget to visit the Bissell Gallery inside the Crowninshield Building Visitor Center for the featured exhibit *Here's to the Ladies: A Century of Preservation at Historic Kenmore*. This exhibit commemorates the centennial of the saving of Kenmore, and the remarkable group of women who led the effort in 1922. Experience rarely-seen early 20th century pieces from Kenmore's collection. (kenmore.org/visit-kenmore)

Photo Courtesy of FXBG EDT

Next, acquaint yourself with George Washington's mother, Mary Ball Washington, by visiting the Mary Washington House. In 1772, George Washington purchased this home in Fredericksburg, Virginia for his mother. Mary Ball Washington spent her last seventeen years in this comfortable home. The white frame house sits on the corner of Charles and Lewis Streets and was in walking distance to Kenmore, home of Mary's daughter Betty Washington Lewis. Tradition has it that, during the Revolution, General Lafayette came by the home seeking a visit with Mrs. Washington and found her working in her garden.

The President-to-be came to this home to receive his mother's blessing before attending his inauguration in 1789. You will also learn about the lives of the enslaved workers who lived on this property and how their work supported Mary Washington's daily activities and lifestyle. Unlike other enslavers, we know the names of the people enslaved by Mary Washington and they are Old Bet, Little Bet, Lydia, George, Tom and Frederick. So little is known about what happened to them. It does appear, the enslaved Black man, George, was sent to Mount Vernon. (washingtonheritagemuseums.org)

Photo Courtesy of FXBG EDT

Next, pay a visit to the **Rising Sun Tavern**. Built by George Washington's youngest brother Charles around 1760 as his home, this frame building became a tavern in 1792 when it was purchased by the Wallace family. It operated for 35 years as a stop-over for travelers in the bustling port town of Fredericksburg. While it is no longer an operating Tavern, historical interpreters in period attire guide guests through the Tavern experience as if you were an 18th century traveler. (washingtonheritagemuseums.org)

Photo Courtesy of FXBG EDT

Take a break and have lunch at one of over 40 chef or family owned restaurants in **Downtown Fredericksburg.** Whether you are looking for fine-dining or a quick sandwich, there is something to meet your cravings.

Continue your exploration of Fredericksburg with a visit to George Washington's boyhood home, **Ferry Farm**. George Washington's Ferry Farm is where young Washington spent his formative years. The future general and first president was 6 years old when his family moved to King George County (now Stafford County), Virginia, in 1738. The guided tour of the Washington house replica explores the lives of George, his mother Mary, other Washington family members, and the enslaved community. The tour recounts the adversity these individuals faced after the death of Augustine Washington, George's father. You can walk Ferry Farm's grounds before and after your house tour. The Visitor Center features the introductory exhibit *The Science of History at Ferry Farm* with colonial and Civil War artifacts excavated at Ferry Farm and windows into the Archaeology Lab, where you can see archaeologists identify and study thousands of artifacts found at Ferry Farm. (Kenmore.org/visit-ferry-farm)

Photo Courtesy of FXBG EDT

In the afternoon, sip and savor at **A. Smith Bowman Distillery** – Virginia's oldest distillery, located just 5 minutes from Downtown Fredericksburg. Winner of multiple awards for their spirits, visitors to the area can experience a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the production of hand crafted spirits. Tours explore distillation, barreling and bottling of high quality bourbon. Products are available for tasting and purchase. (asmithbowman.com)

Photo Courtesy of FXBG EDT

Check into your hotel and take a much need rest before departing for dinner.

Enjoy, dinner and a show at Riverside Center for the Performing Arts - Winner of the 2019 Theater of the Year for Central Virginia Award by Broadway World. Sally Struthers calls Riverside "Broadway on the Potomac." Located, approximately 15 minutes from Downtown Fredericksburg, the theatre is a traditional proscenium stage boasting Virginia's only dinner theatre fly loft for exquisite sets and seamless transitions between scenes. It's ever-widening reputation and recognition for production excellence has attracted performers from the Broadway stage and national-tour casts. Dinner Theatre patrons enjoy a three-course, chef-prepared meal served by an experienced staff of waiters, a service not generally found in dinner theaters elsewhere. (Riversidedt.com)

Photo Courtesy of FXBG EDT

After the show, return to your hotel.

Day 5

Depart for Alexandria, VA.

Take a tour of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria. The Alexandria-Washington Lodge is the second most closely associated Lodge to George Washington. This is where he was elected Charter Master under the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Through the generosity of Washington's family and friends, the Alexandria-Washington Lodge became the repository of many artifacts pertaining to George Washington and the Washington family. However, a fire in 1871 destroyed much of the original lodge and artifacts. Inspired by Epyt's Alexandria Lighthouse, the current George Washington Masonic National Memorial was completed in 1970 and remains a lasting monument to George Washington, the Man, the Mason, and Father of our Country. (https://gwmemorial.org)

Photo Courtesy of Visit Alexandria

Check into The Alexandrian Hotel located in the Heart of Old Town Alexandria; located across from City Hall where the longest running Farmer's Market takes place every Saturday and near where the first fatal shots of the Civil War were taken in May 1861.

Walk the charming streets of Historic Old Town and follow the steps of George Washington along the brick lined streets. Stop for a coffee break at King & Rye. From Colonial times through the Civil War, Alexandria has been the scene of many "firsts" in American History.

Photo Courtesy of Visit Alexandria

Photo Courtesy of Visit Alexandria

Stop for lunch at Gatsby's Tavern Restaurant; a historic 18th century tavern with Colonial Entertainment daily.

Enjoy some free time by exploring Alexandria's vibrant shopping, or take advantage or a self guided walking tour. The complimentary Trolley through King Street is a great way to see the sights in Old Town.

By night, hop aboard a City Cruises boat for an illuminated tour of the monuments on the Potomac River.

Day 6

After breakfast, hop back on the Water Taxi to George Washington's Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon offers a glimpse into 18th century life through the restored 21- room mansion, beautiful gardens and grounds, intriguing museum and education center exhibits and immersive programs that honor George Washington's life and legacy. During your visit, enjoy a guided tour of the Mansion to learn about America's most visited historic home and see the "New Room,", the grandest space in the house, the Key to the Bastille, given to Washington by the Marquis de Lafayette and many other Washington family artifacts and spaces. Don't miss the two-story porch that overlooks the Potomac River with an incomparable view! This is one of the Mansion's most iconic architectural features and was designed by Washington himself. Following your Mansion tour, explore the historic area comprised of more than a dozen historic outbuildings. In these outbuildings learn how the labor of more than 300 enslaved individuals made life possible for the Washington family. Lastly, visit the Tomb of George and Martha Washington, located in a gently wooded enclosure on the Mount Vernon grounds. (https://www.mountvernon.org)

Photo Courtesy of VTC/Sarah Hauser

Photo Courtesy of Mount Vernon

Enjoy a mid-day break with lunch at the iconic **Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant.** Offering modern dining staples and a few colonial favorites, this dining experience will be sure to leave your group recharged and ready to continue their adventure. To enhance your dining experience, enjoy a visit from a costumed character from George Washington's world. First person interpreters can greet your group while you enjoy your meal at the Mount Vernon Inn. Imagine dining with Martha Washington!

Photo Courtesy of Mount Vernon

Photo Courtesy of Visit Fairfax

Finally, take a tour of **George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill**. This fully functioning reconstruction of the original distillery and gristmill is located 2.7 miles from Mount Vernon's main entrance. In 1799, George Washington's distillery produced nearly 11,000 gallons, making it one of the largest whiskey distilleries in America. Today, the distillery produces small batch spirits on site using the same 18th century methods and recipes that Washington employed. On the guided tour you will get to see these features in action. Tastings are not included as a part of the tour, but products are available for purchase on-site, including George Washington's Signature Rye Whiskey, which in 2017 was named the Official State Spirit of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Photo Courtesy of Visit Fairfax

Photo Courtesy of Mount Vernon

Fly out from Ronald Regan Washington National Airport (DCA) located 5 miles away.

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