

It's All About the Arts

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Discover Fredericksburg's vibrant arts scene with a getaway filled with gallery visits, studio tours, and creative experiences. Enjoy curated meals at locally loved restaurants, explore public art throughout historic downtown and let creative energy inspire you. This art-focused itinerary is perfect for those looking to immerse themselves in culture, creativity, and small-town charm.



DAY 1 (Friday)

5:00 PM – Artful Dimensions

Kick off your evening by visiting Artful Dimensions, a contemporary art gallery featuring a diverse range of paintings, sculptures, photography, and mixed media. The gallery showcases works from local, regional, and national artists, giving you a rich experience of Fredericksburg's artistic landscape.

6:30 PM – LibertyTown Arts Workshop

After exploring Artful Dimensions, head to LibertyTown Arts Workshop, an expansive space that combines artist studios with a gallery setting. This lively workshop gives you the chance to meet local artists and see them at work, whether they're creating pottery, jewelry, paintings, or sculptures.

8:00 PM – Dinner at Foode

Finish the evening with dinner at Foode, a locally-loved restaurant known for its seasonal farm-to-table menu. The restaurant features art from local artists, so you can continue your artistic journey while savoring delicious, locally-sourced cuisine.

DAY 2 (Saturday)

9:00 AM – Curitiba Art Café

Fuel up with a bold Brazilian coffee or light bite at this cozy café and community arts hub. Enjoy local art displayed throughout the space, occasional live performances, and creative ambiance perfect for a break.

10:00 AM – Sophia Street Studios

Browse handcrafted pottery, paintings, jewelry, and other fine art. Often open Saturdays for browsing and conversation with artists-in-residence.

12:00 PM – Lunch at Orofino

Chic yet approachable Italian eatery with fresh pasta and elegant design, just a block from several galleries.

1:30 PM – Wine & Design

Join a casual, instructor-led paint session—no experience needed! Enjoy wine while creating your own art piece to take home. Book in advance to reserve a seat.

5:30 PM – Dinner and a show at Riverside Center for the Performing Arts

Riverside has long been known for top-rate professional entertainment and for a good dinner before the show. Wrap up your day in Fredericksburg with the dazzling sights and sounds of a Broadway-style show, just a little closer to home.



DAY 3 (Sunday)

10:00 AM – Gari Melchers Home and Studio at Belmont

Begin your morning with a short drive to the historic estate of American Impressionist Gari Melchers. Tour the beautifully preserved artist's studio, explore the galleries, and stroll the peaceful gardens and wooded trails. It's a perfect blend of fine art, nature, and local history.

11:30 AM – Ponshop Studio and Gallery

Next, head over to Ponshop, a modern gallery and design studio showcasing contemporary art, ceramics, murals, and street-art-inspired pieces. Kids and adults alike will enjoy the colorful, approachable atmosphere. Check their schedule for Sunday art workshops or interactive exhibits.

12:30 PM – Lunch at Sammy T's

Dine at Sammy T's, a downtown staple offering a welcoming atmosphere and a diverse menu with plenty of vegetarian and gluten-free options. Its art-filled interior and historic charm make it a perfect complement to your arts-focused day.

2:00 PM – Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts (FCCA)

Make your way to FCCA, an artist-run nonprofit that hosts rotating exhibitions and provides space for local artists to display their work. From painting and sculpture to photography and mixed media, FCCA showcases the diversity of Fredericksburg's vibrant creative scene.

3:30 PM – Carl's Frozen Custard

End your weekend with a nostalgic treat. This neon-lit roadside stand has served up frozen custard since 1947—expect a line, but it moves fast!

Downtown Lodging Options:

- **The Richard Johnston Inn** – Historic B&B in the heart of the arts district
- **Ironclad Inn** – Boutique lodging with gourmet breakfast and live music
- **Courtyard by Marriott Fredericksburg Historic District** – Sleek, modern hotel with all the amenities and walkability
- **The Publisher** – Chic, design-forward hotel located on the former site of the Free Lance Star newspaper, featuring artistic décor and thoughtful touches—perfect for art lovers seeking a modern vibe.



Alternate Option: First Friday

On the first Friday of each month, downtown Fredericksburg transforms into an arts and culture celebration. Local galleries, studios, shops, and restaurants stay open late and host live music, artist receptions, and special exhibits.

Afternoon Check-In:

Check in to the Hotel or Bed & Breakfast of your choice

5:00 PM – Start Your First Friday Experience – Participating galleries include:

- **LibertyTown Arts Workshop**
- **Brush Strokes Gallery**
- **Artful Dimensions**
- **Sophia Street Studios**

Take the Free First Friday Trolley

- The "Around the Town Free Trolley" runs every 10–15 minutes from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM, looping through downtown with convenient stops near galleries, shops, and restaurants. Hop on and off to explore more with ease—great for families and art lovers alike!

Enjoy "Sip & Stroll"

- Downtown Fredericksburg's Sip & Stroll program allows adults (21+) to purchase beer or wine from licensed establishments and carry it within designated downtown boundaries during select events like First Fridays. Look for participating venues such as:
 - **Foode**
 - **Rebellion FXBG**
 - **Bilikens Smoke House**
 - **Castiglia's**
 - **Sammy T's**

Just look for the "Sip & Stroll" signage, and you'll be handed your drink in a marked plastic cup that's allowed outdoors in specific areas.

Dinner: Rebellion Bourbon Bar & Kitchen FXBG

- Rebellion offers Southern comfort food with a twist, a stellar bourbon selection, and is part of the Sip & Stroll district—so grab a cocktail and stroll between art stops!

Visit FXBG.com to plan your trip today!

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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, W.....	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



City of Fredericksburg, Virginia