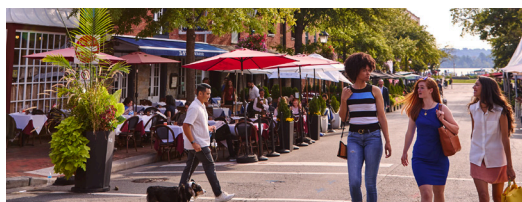


# 18 THINGS TO DO IN OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA



A nationally designated historic district founded in 1749, Old Town Alexandria, Virginia is a welcoming, easily accessible escape on the Potomac River, minutes from Washington, D.C. Old Town Alexandria hums with more than 200 independent restaurants and boutiques alongside intimate historic site museums and new happenings at the waterfront. Enjoy a walkable downtown lined with beautifully preserved 18th- and 19th-century architecture. Whether here for a day trip or as the home base for your D.C. vacation, you'll discover why Alexandria was named a **Top 5 Best Small City** five years in a row in the *Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards*.



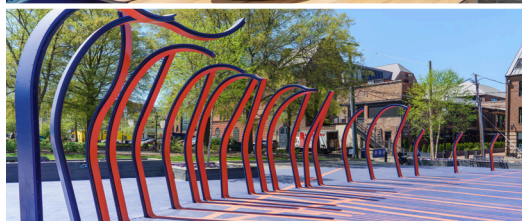
## 1 Stroll the King Street Mile

Take a walk along nationally renowned King Street and see why it's been recognized as one of the "Great Streets" of America. This brick-lined, mile-long avenue leads to the Potomac River, with over 200 independent shops and restaurants along the way. See what's new on King Street and wander just a block or two down side streets to find beautiful homes and hidden gem boutiques and eateries.



## 2 Dine on the Waterfront

Enjoy stunning views of the Potomac River while you dine al fresco at Alexandria's waterfront restaurants. Hummingbird by James Beard nominee chef Cathal Armstrong offers clambakes, crab boils and oyster roasts. Nearby at Vola's Dockside Grill, enjoy fresh shucked oysters, crab cakes, and New England or Carolina low country steamer pails under bright red umbrellas. There are plenty of riverside restaurants to choose from, including newly opened BARCA Pier & Wine Bar and Ada's on the River.



## 3 See Waterfront Park's Public Art Installation

Alexandria's Waterfront Park hosts a rotating display of fascinating public art on display from March until November of each year. The 2023 installation *Two Boxes of Oranges and Admonia Jackson*, created by award-winning artist Nina Cooke John, is inspired by the ships uncovered on Alexandria's waterfront and forms an abstracted ship's hull with steel that rises and bends.



## 4 Discover History Where It Happened

Alexandria is a city that predates the American Revolution and is steeped with history. Explore outdoor walking tours by Alexandria Colonial Tours and Manumission Tour Company. See Carlyle House, a Georgian manor and 1700s social hub, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, which hosted the first five U.S. presidents, the site of one of the nation's earliest civil rights sit-ins and more. The Key to the City Attraction Pass, a \$60 value for just \$20, includes admission to nine historic sites and discounts to more.



## 5 See the Tiny Spite House, the Skinniest Historic House in America

A must-stop for Instagrammers and photographers, Spite House is the skinniest historic house in America at just seven feet wide. A private residence located at 523 Queen Street, John Hollensbury built it out of spite in 1830 to keep loiterers out of his adjacent alley. Wander Old Town's historic red brick sidewalks for more photo-worthy rowhouses from centuries past and check out other top Instagram spots.

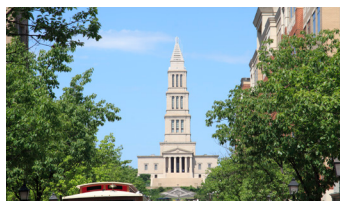


## 6 Sample Local Award-Winning Craft Beer and Cider

Raise a glass of Alexandria's award-winning craft beer from Port City Brewing Company at its brewery and tasting room. Fans and critics rave about Aslin Beer Company's offerings, which you can experience at its West End production facility and 3,500-square foot tasting room. Continue your craft beverage tour by checking out Lost Boy Cider, Northern Virginia's first urban cidery.



# 18 Things to Do in Old Town Alexandria



## 7 Get Lost in Alexandria's Architectural Wonder

Founded in 1749, Alexandria is an architecture lover's dream destination with structures spanning several centuries and styles, from Georgian to Victorian to Mid-Century Modern. Explore more of Alexandria's architectural gems at [VisitAlexandria.com/Architecture](http://VisitAlexandria.com/Architecture).



## 8 Take a Ride on a Rental Bike

Whether you're in the mood for a casual ride around Old Town, a speedy trip down the riverside Mount Vernon Trail or a guided electric bike tour, two-wheel options abound in Alexandria. Enjoy an endorphin boost on a rented ride from Unlimited Biking or Pedego Electric Bikes. Journey the Mount Vernon Trail northward into D.C. or southward along the tidal marsh, scanning for sun-tanning turtles and stately bald eagles.



## 9 Take a Water Taxi into D.C.

As a historic port city and a hub for City Cruises anchored by Hornblower, Alexandria is the launching point for sightseeing cruises and water taxis during the warmer months, with boarding at Old Town's bustling marina featuring street performers and outdoor dining. See D.C. landmarks on the narrated Washington Monuments Cruise and take water taxi to the National Mall, Georgetown, The Wharf and National Harbor.



## 10 Shop 100+ Independent Boutiques

Browse one-of-a-kind finds in the Shop Small destination of the D.C. region. Old Town Alexandria is home to more than 100 independently owned boutiques, all in a walkable mile centered around King Street. From designer shoes to home decor, shopping in Alexandria is an experience with activities like "yarn tastings," trunk shows and DIY workshops.



## 11 Get Spooked on a Ghost Tour

Founded in 1749, Alexandria's haunted history comes to life on ghost tours led by a lantern carrying, historically-garbed guide. Roam through graveyards, stroll haunted neighborhoods and visit historic sites known for their eerie legends.



## 12 Engage in Alexandria's Black History

Explore the African American history that shaped Alexandria and the United States. Find tributes to abolitionists, the former 18th-century D.C. boundary marker laid by a renowned Black astronomer, a key location in the *Loving v. Virginia* Supreme Court decision and more. Embark on a walking route led by Manumission Tour Company or visit new exhibitions at the Freedom House Museum. [VisitAlexandria.com/BlackHistory](http://VisitAlexandria.com/BlackHistory)



## 13 See Art in Action at a Former Torpedo Factory

Located in a former World War II torpedo factory, the Torpedo Factory Art Center is home to the largest collection of publicly accessible working artist studios in the U.S. The studios feature a variety of media including painting, ceramics, jewelry and printmaking, plus seven galleries, two workshops, and the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. Check the Torpedo Factory calendar for new exhibit openings and special happenings.



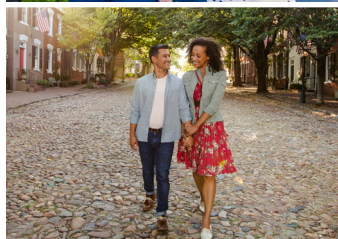
## 14 Explore the Old Town Farmers' Market

This market may be over 260 years old, but the produce was picked just yesterday. As one of the nation's longest continually operating farmers' markets in one site, the Old Town Farmers' Market bustles in the shadow of City Hall every Saturday morning. During peak season, you'll find over 70 vendors offering fruits, vegetables, breads, cheeses, meats and more. Grab a pastry and coffee at the market then walk down to the waterfront for a riverside refresh.



## 15 Treat Yourself to a Sweets Crawl

There's always room for dessert in Alexandria, which Forbes named the nation's "Ice Cream Cone Capital." Find ice cream parlors, cupcakeries and chocolate shops lining King Street. Try authentic artisanal gelato from Old Town Dolci Gelati—whose chef is a global "gelato ambassador"—or one of Alexandria Cupcake's made-from-scratch flavors like chocolate peanut butter.



## 16 Fall in Love with a "Most Romantic City"

With its cobblestone streets, picturesque rowhouses from the 18th century and enchanting restaurants, it's no wonder Alexandria is known as one of the country's most romantic cities. Pair a stroll through Old Town's iconic cobblestone block Captain's Row (100 block of Prince Street) with dinner at Ada's on the River or Mia's Italian Kitchen.



## 17 Have a Picnic in a Park

Enjoy fresh air with a picnic in one of Alexandria's parks. From Oronoco Bay to Jones Point, you'll find plenty of greenspace to unwind and enjoy takeout from Alexandria favorites. Pack a basket and settle in a waterside park with a Detroit-style pizza from Emmy Squared or gourmet subs and cannolis from The Italian Place.



## 18 Explore Mount Vernon, the Most Visited Historic Home in America

Alexandria has more than 140 locations associated with the nation's first president. For the quintessential experience, head eight miles south of Old Town to George Washington's Mount Vernon. Tour the mansion, explore the lush gardens and grounds—including can't-miss Pioneer Farm and the distillery and gristmill—and hear the whole story on specialized tours.

Alexandria Visitor Center

221 King Street | 703-838-5005 | [VisitAlexandria.com](http://VisitAlexandria.com)

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