

Greetings From Alexandria, VA!

Voted in 2026 as a top 10 Best City in the U.S. by *Travel + Leisure* and a top 2 Best U.S. Small City by *Condé Nast Traveler*, and earning six consecutive perfect scores for LGBTQ+ equality from the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, Alexandria is a welcoming, **walkable escape** on the Potomac River, just **minutes** from **Washington, D.C.** Alexandria blends **277 years** of history with a modern, creative and independent spirit.

Founded in 1749 and boasting the nation's **third-oldest historic district,** Alexandria hums with a cosmopolitan feel. Stroll **Old Town** Alexandria's **King Street** mile to find more than **200 independent restaurants and boutiques** plus intimate historic museums and happenings at the waterfront.



Explore vibrant neighborhoods beyond Old Town, while new waterfront experiences and a year-round calendar of events invite visitors to explore, linger and return often.

Alexandria At a Glance

King Street Mile: 200+ independent shops and restaurants.

Potomac River Waterfront: Miles of trails, dining, art and more.

Neighborhoods: Six dynamic, vibrant neighborhoods.

Via Train: Amtrak Station in Old Town Alexandria.

Art Everywhere: Find creativity in galleries and on city streets.

Black Changemakers: Discover the people and stories that continue to inspire.

Alexandria Story Ideas

Discover Alexandria's Eateries that Embody International Cultures
➔ *Trends: Destination Dining, Immigrant-Led Stories, Hyperlocal Dining, Culinary Diplomacy*

Alexandria's Independent Spirit Shines in its Small Businesses and Boutiques
➔ *Trends: Retail Travel, Walkability, Nano Neighborhoods, Culinary Travel*

Celebrate History Makers & Trailblazers Across the Centuries
➔ *Trends: Historical Travel, Black History Travel, LGBTQ+ Travel*

Explore Unique, Modern Venues Inside Centuries-Old Buildings
➔ *Trends: Unique Venues, Historic Architecture, Experiential Travel*

Creative Minds Find a Home in Alexandria's Arts & Culture Scene
➔ *Trends: Arts & Culture Travel, Cultural Immersion, Local Artisans*

Experience Immersive Literary Travel in Alexandria
➔ *Trends: Literary and Book Travel*

Trade Screen Time for "Sight-Doing" in Alexandria
➔ *Trends: Interactive Travel, JOLO (Joy of Logging Off), Creative Experiences*

For more PR story ideas, visit VisitAlexandria.com/Press

2026 *Travel + Leisure* **"Best Cities in the US"**



2026 Conde Nast Traveler **#2 Best Small U.S. City**





Andrew Postal, Director of Communications, apostal@visitalexva.com (703) 652-5363

ALEXANDRIA, UNLOCKED

Where Stories are Rooted in History *and* Progress


Alicia Eggert's Now or Never

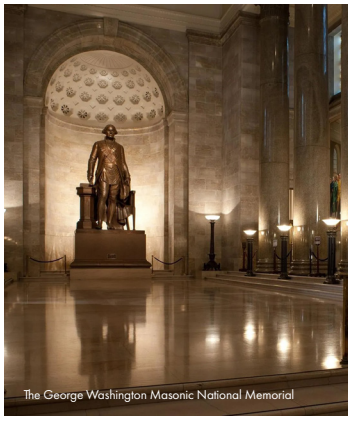
- From March to November 2026, Waterfront Park will come alive with Alicia Eggert's monumental **Now or Never**, a bold public art installation featuring two towering 17.5-foot-tall, 40-foot-long billboards with opposing "Now" and "Never" messages. Designed to spark curiosity and conversation, the striking work explores urgency, polarization, change and the possibilities of finding common ground.

Read Alicia's Story

- Recently opened on the Alexandria waterfront, **Cooper Mill** is a tavern and event space in a restored building that once **served as a Civil War commissary** for the Union Army.
- Explore the artfully constructed **Athenaeum** (built in 1852) or **George Washington Masonic National Memorial**, with grand architecture, unique spaces and a Hollywood connection!

Discover Unique Venues


Jahmond "Jay" Quander, Photo credit: Evan Michio


The George Washington Masonic National Memorial

- Find new artistic inspiration at the **Torpedo Factory Art Center**. Artists create and sell original work, alongside kinetic glass sculpture, live theater and symphonic music.

A Working Art Studio & Art Center

- Discover Black-owned businesses like **1799 Prime Steak & Seafood**, a restaurant by Jay Quander, a member of one of the oldest documented African American families in the United States.

Learn About the Quander Family

- Be welcomed by Alexandria's LGBTQ+ community. Alexandria earned a **perfect Human Rights Campaign** Municipal Equality Index score for **six consecutive years** and celebrates **LGBTQ+** history, businesses and trailblazers.

Alexandria Welcomes LGBTQ+ Travelers

African American Changemakers of Alexandria

Black changemakers have shaped the history of Alexandria and the United States for generations. The city's countless African American changemakers include the self-taught **mathematician who mapped out the nation's capital**, abolitionist sisters who partnered with **Frederick Douglass**, the enduring legacy of the 1971 **"Remember the Titans" football team** and the **first Black NBA player.** Alexandria offers tours, markers and more to lead you through sites and stories that are both harrowing and hopeful.



Unlock Your Alexandria Story

Explore places and moments that shaped Alexandria. Dive into stories of history, progress and possibility, and uncover a new side of this remarkable city.

UnlockYourStoryALX.com

Scan to unlock more story ideas

Stories Come Alive

Alexandria is a city where centuries of stories come alive. Shaped by the legacies of the **Founding Fathers** and the **Black Americans** who built the nation, it also thrives as a hub for today's immigrant entrepreneurs and creative voices. Visit Alexandria will be **unlocking new and creative stories** that make the city unique, from a restaurant in a **restored firehouse to immigrant-led kitchens** serving global flavors to inclusive experiences for all visitors to enjoy. ★