



FrontDoorHomes

GROUP

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Northern Virginia Relocation Guide

Congratulations on launching your Virginia Home Search!

Take a look at our relocation guide for our buyers who are new to the Northern Virginia area to find out everything you need to know about living here.

Have a question about living in Northern Virginia that this guide doesn't answer? Please contact us!

Sean Blanchette

PRACTICAL

- VA car registration: <https://www.dmv.org/va-virginia/car-registration.php>
- Voter registration: <http://www.dmv.org/va-virginia/voter-registration.php>
- Convert out-of-state licenses: <http://www.dmv.org/va-virginia/apply-license.php>
- Schools: greatschools.org
- Home improvement services: <http://www.homeadvisor.com/c.VA.html>
- Cleaning services: <http://www.homeadvisor.com/c.VA.html>
- Music lessons: <http://www.bnbmusiclessons.com/locations/virginia/>

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- New Metro riders: <https://www.wmata.com/rider-guide/new-riders/index.cfm>
- Reusable Metro SmarTrip cards: <https://www.wmata.com/fares/smartrip/index.cfm>
- Metrobus information: <https://www.wmata.com/fares/bus.cfm>

ENTERTAINMENT

- Local parks, facilities & recreation centers: <https://www.novaparks.com/>
and <https://www.virginia.org/StateParks/>
- Best dog parks: <https://www.bringfido.com/attraction/parks/state/virginia/>

- Local sports leagues: <https://fxasports.com/> & <http://www.novasc.org/>
- Annual festivals: <https://www.virginia.org/directory/events/festivals/>
- Farmers markets: <https://www.virginia.org/farmersmarkets/>
- Museums: <https://www.virginia.org/Directory/Museums/>
- Live music venues: <http://dcmusicdownload.com/2015/07/30/exploring-northern-virginias-music-venues/>

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN

- Kid camps: <https://www.virginia.org/campsforkids>
- Family fun: <https://www.virginia.org/coolplacesforkids/>
- Top 10 family things to do: <https://blog.trekaroo.com/top-10-things-for-families-to-do-in-virginia/>

RESTAURANTS

- Best new restaurants: <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/best-new-restaurants-2016/>
- Cheap eats: <http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/virginia/cheap-eats-in-virginia/>
- Unique restaurants: <http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/virginia/13-unique-va-restaurants/>
- Best in Virginia: <https://www.thrillist.com/eat/washington-dc/virginia-has-some-mighty-fine-restaurants-these-are-the-best-of-them>
- Ethnic eats: <http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/virginia/ethnic-restaurants-va/> & <https://www.yelp.com/list/best-ethnic-food-in-nova-metro-dc-falls-church>
- Food trucks: <https://www.washingtonian.com/2014/09/18/washingtons-ultimate-food-truck-guide/> & <https://www.washingtonian.com/2016/02/02/13-washington-area-food-trucks-that-will-totally-come-to-your-wedding/>

NIGHTLIFE

- Overview: <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/nightlife/>

- Best beer bars: <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/best-bars/>
- Best bars: <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/entertainment/entertainment-features/2015/10/27/bestbars2015/>
- Best wine bars: <http://thebacklabel.com/4-best-wine-bars-in-northern-virginia/#.WPZp5FPys4U>
- Breweries: <http://scoutology.com/31-northern-virginia-breweries-to-visit/> & <https://www.virginia.org/craftbeer>
- Wineries: <http://www.fxva.com/things-to-do/wineries-breweries/wineries/> & <https://www.virginia.org/directory/wineriesandbreweries/?regionid=5&categories=83>
- Best sport pubs: <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/nightlife/sports-bars/>

SHOPPING

- Overview: <https://www.virginia.org/nvvcshopoutlets/>
- Best malls: <https://www.washingtonian.com/2016/06/01/best-shopping-northern-virginia-malls-tysons-corner-galleria-pentagon-city-leesburg/>
- Outlets: <https://www.virginia.org/shopoutlets/>
- Fashionable boutiques: <https://www.wheretraveler.com/virginia/trend-fashionistas-guide-northern-virginia>
- Major shopping centers: <http://dc.about.com/od/northernvirginiashopping/>

NEARBY VACATION SPOTS

- Overnight getaways: <http://www.funinfairfaxva.com/8-great-overnight-getaways-in-and-near-northern-virginia/>
- Road trips: <http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/virginia/road-trips-va/>
- Family getaways: <https://mommypoppins.com/kids/virginia-is-for-families-6-great-resorts-for-family-vacations-in-virginia> & <https://www.virginia.org/familyfungetaways>

PERSONAL & FAMILY FAVORITES

Hylton Performing Arts Center: <http://hyltoncenter.org/>

Harris Pavilion - Summer & Cultural Events, Farmers Market, Winter Ice Skating:

<http://harris pavilion.com/>

St Patricks Day Parade: <http://www.stpatparade.net/>

Christmas Parade: <https://gmchristmasparade.org/> (Attending both parades annually have become fun tradition for my family. Truly a great experience of Hometown America.)

SURF & TURF

DC Warf - Drop your Jaw – Endless Fresh Seafood Market. Also an upscale Venue next door:

<http://www.wharfdc.com/fish-market/>

Old Ox Butcher: <http://thewholeox.com/>

Wilson Butcher – Catlett: <http://www.wilsonfarmmeats.com/>

Whiffletree Farm (Awesome young Farm Family – amazing chicken & loved our Thanksgiving Turkey): <http://www.whiffletreefarmva.com/>

COFFEE / BAKERY

Red Truck Bakery (Warrenton & Marshall) - Excellent Coffee! <http://redtruckbakery.com/>

OLD TOWN VENUES

Alexandria: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/>

Manassas: <http://www.manassascity.org/>

Winchester: <http://www.winchesterva.gov/>

Warrenton: <http://www.warrentonva.gov/>

Occoquan: <http://www.occoquanva.gov/>

FARMERS MARKETS

Manassas - Best Farmer's Market in Area – Thursdays & Saturday:

<http://visitmanassas.org/listings/farmers-market/>

Warrenton: http://www.warrentonva.gov/visitors/local_attractions/index.php

Yankey Farms – Nokesville (This is an “on your honor” farm stand on Glenkirk Rd.):

<http://www.yankeyfarms.com/>

PUBS & WINERIES

McMahons Irish Pub – Warrenton (Family Favorite: Owners are Great Friends – Ask for Francis or Erica): <http://www.mcmahonsirishpub.com/>

Murphy's Pub – Alexandria: <http://murphyspub.com/murphys/alexandria/>

Old Bust Head Brewery: <http://www.oldbusthead.com/>

2 Silos Brewery: <http://2silosbrewing.com/>

Barrel Oak Winery: <http://www.barreloak.com/>

Pearmund Cellars: <http://pearmundcellars.com/>

Rappahannock Winery: <http://www.rappahannockcellars.com/>

The Four Provinces - "Four P's" (This is where it all began.... Met my bride here & the rest is history. They pour an excellent Pint of Guinness - guaranteed.): <http://www.4psva.com/>

FINE DINE & FAMILY DINING

Claire's at the Depot: <http://clairesrestaurant.com/>

Field & Main: <http://www.fieldandmainrestaurant.com/>

Ciao Osteria: <http://www.ciao-osteria.com/>

Foster's Grille: <http://www.fostersgrille.com/>

Moo Thru Ice Cream - (Hand's down our kids absolute favorite summer ice cream drive thru. Yes worth driving to.): <http://moothru.com/>

Effee's Ice Cream: <http://www.effees.com/>

Northside 29 Diner (Nothing fancy, comfort foods & Greek flair. Love surprising our kids to stop here after Church - if they behaved :) - <http://northside29.com/>

We Love to Support Family Run Businesses:

Boyle's School of Irish Dance - Irish Dance Lessons: <http://www.boyleschool.com/> (5 of our 6 kids have schooled here. Irish sisters Ellen & Alannah have organized an amazingly talented school, top shelf training & performances.)

Econize Closets: <https://www.econizeclosets.com> (Awesome storage & closet solutions. We've had installed in our house. Tell owner Noel Sweeney that Sean & Mary Pat highly recommended Econize)

Tree Surgeon: <http://awflaytreesurgeoncom.ipage.com/about-us/> (Awesome family run business. New Zealand Rugby Legend - Tony Flay & Son Pdraig provide excellent tree service... and our favorite supplier for fire-wood for the winter months.)