



The mountain-fringed town of Staunton is located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley and is the perfect base of operations for exploring the area.

### DAY 1: EXPLORE STAUNTON

Discover the life and legacy of the 28th President at the [Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum](#). Take a guided tour of the Presbyterian Manse where Wilson was born and spent the first year of his life. Next stop, is the museum which includes Wilson's Pierce-Arrow limousine, an interactive World War I trench and seven exhibit galleries which represent through historic photographs, documents and objects, the life and public service of Woodrow Wilson.



Next head over to the [Anne Hathaway Cottage Tea Room](#). This delightful tea room is housed in a traditional Tudor complete with thatched roof. Enjoy a beautiful spread of homemade tea sandwiches, shortbread, and scones all served with clotted cream and of course tea—imported from England and served in fine china.

Tour the world's only re-creation of Shakespeare's first indoor theatre, the [Blackfriars Playhouse](#). Get a behind-the-scenes look as you go on-stage, behind the stage and even under the stage! Blending lecture and performance in an educational and entertaining way, tour guides tell the story of England's first indoor theatre and describe how the staging conditions of 16th and 17th century London shaped the works of Shakespeare and his fellow playwrights.



Head back to your hotel and freshen up for a night out! Enjoy dinner at one of our local restaurants in downtown Staunton. Visit Emilio's for its authentic Italian taste; Aioli's for its Mediterranean fare; Mill Street Grill for their barbecue ribs; or The Depot for American inspired dishes.

Then head to the Blackfriars Playhouse for an award-winning performance. The American Shakespeare Center recently announced their 2017-18 season which includes Shakespearean staples like *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Hamlet* as well as the Tony Award-winning *Peter and the Starcatcher*, a world-premiere adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* and other exciting works.





## DAY 2: VISIT MONTICELLO

Head over the mountains to Charlottesville and [Thomas Jefferson's Monticello](#). Spend the morning touring Jefferson's estate and gardens then head over to [Michie Tavern](#) for a hearty lunch of southern fried chicken with all the fixins'. Tour the rustic tavern and do some shopping at the General Store before heading back to Staunton.

Take a tour of downtown Staunton with a guide. Learn about the **history and architecture** of this award-winning "Main Street" touring each of the six neighborhoods with stops at Trinity Episcopal Church to see the original Tiffany stained glass windows; Sunspots Studios to watch live glass blowing demonstrations; and finally the R.R. Smith Center to visit the visual art and history galleries.



## DAY 3: DISCOVER THE VALLEY

Visit one of the area's natural wonders: [Luray Caverns](#). Discover the largest series of caverns in the East with cathedral-sized rooms featuring ceilings 10-stories high with towering stone formations of stalactites and stalagmites.

On your way back to Staunton, enjoy a scenic drive through [Shenandoah National Park](#) stopping along the way to take in the many scenic overlooks, breathtaking waterfalls and spectacular mountain views. Stretch your legs with a nature hike and explore the region's flora and fauna. Enjoy a picnic dinner as the sun sets over the [Blue Ridge Mountains](#).



## OTHER AREA ATTRACTIONS:

*If time allows, be sure and check out these other popular attractions:*

[Frontier Culture Museum](#) - visit working farmsteads from Africa, England, Germany and Ireland as you learn about daily life of the Valley's earliest settlers.

[Sunspots Studios](#) - Watch live glassblowing demonstrations and "Blow Your Own Ornament" at this working studio and gift shop.

