“With a downtown energized by locally owned shops and restaurants, the Shenandoah Valley town is one of the prettiest and most progressive in the South.”

– Southern Living
Acclaimed as one of the “Best Small Towns in America,” Staunton offers a vibrant cultural scene, great food, and friendly faces.

Explore the world’s only authentic re-creation of Shakespeare’s indoor theater, the Blackfriars Playhouse at the American Shakespeare Center. Step back in time at the Frontier Culture Museum, an outdoor living history museum illustrating the daily lives of Shenandoah Valley’s earliest settlers. Discover the life and legacy of Woodrow Wilson at his presidential library and museum.

Known for its historic architecture, the City of Staunton is best explored by foot. Its compact downtown features over 100 unique shops, art galleries, and restaurants. Music festivals beckon with world-renowned performers all summer long. Staunton’s vibrant dining scene and local food ethos is supported by wine bars, coffee houses, vineyard tasting rooms, a cidery and small-batch breweries—all of which round out the local flavor.

Staunton is the perfect place to base your stay in the Shenandoah Valley. And, if it’s the mountains that are calling you, we’re just a few miles from both Shenandoah National Park’s Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway.
We are open and ready to safely welcome back visitors! Travelers should follow all public health rules.

We encourage you to call ahead to ensure the hours of the business you are visiting and the safety precautions they have in place.

VisitStaunton.com
Follow us for the latest information. Tag your posts and photos with #LOVEstaunton to share your Staunton experience.
INSPIRATION FOR YOUR NEXT VIRGINIA VACATION

“One of the joys of Staunton is its walkability, but if you do want to hop in your car, it’s a quick drive to Skyline Drive and to Shenandoah National Park, with trails and waterfalls, wildlife and scenic overlooks.”
— Distinction Magazine

“Come for the Shakespeare, stay for the mountaintop vistas.”
— Southern Living
**Hiking**

**Shenandoah National Park**

SNP provides more than 500 miles of trails, including 101 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Some hikes will lead you to spectacular waterfalls or viewpoints while others penetrate deep into Shenandoah’s wilderness areas. Car access is provided by Skyline Drive. [nps.gov/shen](http://nps.gov/shen)

**George Washington and Jefferson National Forests**

These two National Forests stretch from one end of Virginia to the other, as well as extending into West Virginia, along the ruggedly beautiful Appalachians. Virtually every type of outdoor recreation activity you can imagine is available. Of course hiking, fishing, mountain biking, and camping lead the way, but don’t forget cross-country skiing, horseback riding, nature photography, and orienteering.

**Humpback Rocks/ Blue Ridge Parkway**

Milepost 5.8 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. A short but strenuous hiking trail leads to a rock summit, providing beautiful and panoramic views.

**Crabtree Falls Trail**

The Crabtree Falls Trail features a series of five large cascades and a number of smaller ones that fall a total distance of 1,200 feet. The trail provides views of the falls from overlooks constructed to accent the beauty of the Valley. The first overlook is just 700 feet from the lower parking lot, making it an excellent stopover for travelers.

**Saint Mary’s Wilderness**

Congress designated the Saint Mary’s Wilderness in 1984 and it now has more than 9,000 acres. The largest Virginia Wilderness on national forest land, it has elevations ranging from 1,700 feet to 3,400 feet, and includes 17 miles of trails. Along the Saint Mary’s River Gorge you can fish for native trout, walk through rhododendron and mountain laurel, and discover a lovely waterfall.

**Saint Mary’s River**

This Virginia landmark, once owned by Thomas Jefferson, is a 215-foot limestone arch. Natural Bridge and its 1,500 surrounding acres is Virginia’s newest state park. Living history exhibits help visitors connect with the lives of the Monocan Indians, past residents of the area.

**Ramsey’s Draft Wilderness Area**

Ramsey’s Draft Wilderness is a rugged and steep piece of land on the eastern side of Shenandoah Mountain, a region replete with memories of America’s Civil War. One of the largest tracts of virgin forest left in the eastern United States has been preserved here. Expect to see virgin hardwoods and hemlocks standing in the upper elevations as well as a more typical Appalachian forest of tulip poplar, red oak, and basswood.

**Shenandoah Lake**

Shenandoah Lake Recreation Area provides an ideal setting for a day trip or an overnight camping destination in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Shenandoah Lake (24 acres) was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the mid-1930s. Today, visitors enjoy hiking, picnicking in the shade, fishing, or swimming and relaxing on the sandy beach.

**Natural Chimneys**

Limber limestones form formations as much as 120 feet above the pastoral terrain of the Shenandoah Valley near Mount Solon.

**Scenic Road Trips & Destinations**

**Skyline Drive**

Located along the crest of Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains, the Skyline Drive is a 105-mile scenic byway that traverses the entire length of Shenandoah National Park. Skyline Drive is considered one of America’s favorite drives. Plan to stop for a picnic at one of 75 overlooks and relax with breathtaking views of the Shenandoah Valley and the Virginia Piedmont. [VisitSkylineDrive.org](http://VisitSkylineDrive.org)

**Blue Ridge Parkway**

Outstanding scenery and recreational opportunities make the Blue Ridge Parkway one of the most popular components of the National Park System. Split-rail fences, old farmsteads, and historic structures complement spectacular views of distant mountains and neighboring valleys. [BlueRidgeParkway.org](http://BlueRidgeParkway.org)

**Natural Chimneys**

Limber limestones form formations as much as 120 feet above the pastoral terrain of the Shenandoah Valley near Mount Solon.

**Ramsey’s Draft Wilderness**

Visitors can tour a collection of 19th-century farm buildings. The area also houses a visitor center with exhibits, a picnic area, and trails. Interpretive programs during the summer months are staffed with costumed rangers who demonstrate mountain crafts and skills.

**Fall Foliage Bike Festival**

Bikers of all abilities will enjoy mapped and supported riding opportunities. In addition to awesome rides and sightseeing, food and entertainment also take center stage at this popular Staunton biking festival. (Every October) [ShenandoahBike.org](http://ShenandoahBike.org)

**Bike the Valley**

Many of our region’s best bicycling trails are located just outside Staunton in Augusta County. Visit [BikeTheValley.org](http://BikeTheValley.org) for a full list of on and off-road biking options, from five to 50 miles in length.
“In Staunton, the ethic of preservation has been integrated throughout the community. New ideas and traditions are blended in a way that points to a rich future for all.”
— David Brown, Chief Preservation Officer, National Trust for Historic Preservation

The HISTORIC STAUNTON FOUNDATION was established in 1971 to promote the preservation and revitalization of the rich architectural and historic resources in Staunton. Every Saturday from May through October, at 10am, they offer FREE guided architectural walking tours. Learn more at HistoricStaunton.org

Architect T.J. Collins greatly influenced Staunton’s architectural legacy. After moving to Staunton in 1891 to work for the Staunton Development Company, Collins later established his own firm — where he designed more than 200 buildings in Staunton alone, including the courthouse, schools, churches, theaters, commercial buildings, and private residences.

Staunton has an architectural advantage over most other small towns in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia: it escaped the Civil War relatively unscathed. Many of its 18th- and early 19th-century homes and buildings still stand and are wonderfully preserved.

If you stroll into the neighborhoods adjacent to downtown, you will discover the early 19th-century Classical Revival buildings of some of Staunton’s great educational institutions — Mary Baldwin University, Stuart Hall, and The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind.

Staunton’s downtown district is a compact 19th-century “Main Street.” Beverley Street is often cited as one of the most celebrated and honored Main Streets in the United States. The American Planning Association has named Staunton one of the “Great Places in America.”

“...an architectural gem in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley...”
— Washingtonian

Opposite page: Staunton’s main street is characterized by a well-preserved collection of 19th-century buildings. This page, architectural styles clockwise: Beaux Arts at the National Valley Bank Building; English Gothic at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church; Second Empire at the R.R. Smith Center for History & Art

CREDIT: MIKE BAILEY

Opposite page: Staunton’s main street is characterized by a well-preserved collection of 19th-century buildings. This page, architectural styles clockwise: Beaux Arts at the National Valley Bank Building; English Gothic at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church; Second Empire at the R.R. Smith Center for History & Art

CREDIT: CHEYENNE CRAWFORD

CREDIT: WOODS PIERCE

CREDIT: WOODS PIERCE
Staunton is buzzing with arts and cultural offerings such as the renowned American Shakespeare Center and the Heifetz International Music Institute. If history is your passion, make time to explore living history at the Frontier Culture Museum. Staunton is also the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson, and The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum pays homage to our nation’s 28th President. Photography lovers will enjoy the Camera Heritage Museum, which features more than 2,000 specialty cameras and lenses.

ATTRACTIONS & MUSEUMS

American Shakespeare Center’s Blackfriars Playhouse
10 South Market Street, 1-877-MUCH-ADO; 540-851-1733
AmericanShakespeareCenter.com
Behind the scenes tour of the 300-seat Blackfriars Playhouse – the world’s only re-creation of Shakespeare’s original indoor theater with award-winning performances.

Camera Heritage Museum
1 West Beverley Street
540-886-8535 CameraHeritageMuseum.com
Largest camera museum open to the public in the United States. Includes daguerreotypes, wooden cameras, spy cameras, and 100+ Leicas and Zeiss cameras. Over 4,500 cameras and lenses on display. Tours available upon request.

Crack the Code Escape Room
300 Church Street
540-688-2085 CrackTheCodeEscapeRoom.com
Escape rooms are interactive real life escape games in which you must solve the puzzles in order to escape the room. You have 60 minutes to find the clues, solve the puzzles and make your way to freedom. Perfect for adventure seekers, birthdays, team building events.

Frontier Culture Museum
1290 Richmond Road
540-332-7850 FrontierMuseum.org
Outdoor, living history museum with exhibits and programs that explore the diverse old world origins of the earliest immigrants to America and the culture they created together.

Frontier Culture Museum
COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER

R. R. Smith Center for History and Art
20 South New Street
540-885-2028 RRSmithCenter.org
Headquarters to three non-profit organizations – Augusta County Historical Society, Staunton Augusta Art Center and Historic Staunton Foundation. Art and history galleries, research archives, historic preservation resource center.

Staunton Military Academy/ VWIL Museum at Mary Baldwin University
227 axle Street
540-885-1307 SMA-Alumni.org
Past history of Staunton Military Academy and the present history of the Virginia Woman’s Institute for Leadership.

Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum
20 North Coalter Street
540-885-0897 WoodrowWilson.org

< Public Art
Willy Ferguson was a Staunton-based welder and sculptor. He is best known for his oversized metal sculptures of carbon steel, such as Staunton’s giant watering can (18 ft. tall and 20 ft. wide) and flower pots at the intersection of US 250 and US 11 and the huge book outside the Staunton Public Library.

Staunton Military Academy/ VWIL Museum at Mary Baldwin University
CREDIT: WOODROW WILSON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

American Shakespeare Center’s Blackfriars Playhouse
CREDIT: WARREN FAUGHT

American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriars Playhouse
10 INSTA-WORTHY SITES

Our visitors love to take pictures, and we love sharing them on our Instagram feed! Would you like to be part of the magic? Simply tag @VisitStaunton or use the hashtag #LoveStaunton.

1. You Belong Here mural

Celebrate your trip to Staunton with a photo in front of the new Staunton mural. The mural functions as a giant welcome sign, urging visitors to make themselves at home.

2. Thornrose Cemetery

Thornrose offers many old trees and ornamental structures, including a stone footbridge and tower. You can be Victorian-era cemetery cool and still be respectful.

3. Wright’s Dairy Rite

Like posing with food and neon? Wright’s Dairy Rite offers retro charm that looks great in photos and feels awesome in real life.

4. Sears Bridge & Woodrow Park

Cross the Sears Hill Bridge for the best view of downtown short of standing on somebody’s roof. Your shots will be epic if they include the cool iron bridge.

5. Gypsy Hill Park - Duck Pond

Gypsy Hill Park has multiple insta-worthy locations, including a dog park, a skate park, two playgrounds, and a bandstand, but perhaps the best place to pose is tossing feed at the duck pond.

6. Downtown streetscene


7. Tunnels under railroad in Landes Park

Landes Park is one of Staunton’s lesser-known parks, but it’s a terrific place to stop and snap a few photos of arched walkways passing under the railroad tracks. Many a Staunton engagement photographer has taken advantage of this secluded and odd cool vibe.

8. Bells Lane

Bells Lane is a quiet country road just outside of town that is lovely to walk at any time of year. If you’re looking for some gorgeous shots of farmland, Bells Lane offers endless pastoral views in all seasons.

9. Cannon Hill at Mary Baldwin

Incredible views extend in all directions from the highest point of Mary Baldwin’s campus. You’ll see historic buildings, cannons, a giant, flower-shaped solar panel, and the Blue Ridge in the distance.

10. Frontier Culture Museum

This place is a treasure trove of still-life opportunities. From wooden shoes to looms to bowls of eggs all set up in natural light. Plus, in the spring there are lots of cute baby animals looking to star in your pics.
Staunton is overflowing with culture.

— ABC News

Staunton's rich history of arts and culture goes back to its days as a 19th-century rail junction and a center for travelers to stop over and enjoy opera, vaudeville, and rollicking nightlife. That tradition lives on today as the city offers a profusion of performing arts options.

**American Shakespeare Center’s Blackfriars Playhouse**
10 South Market Street
1-877-MUCH-ADO; 540-851-1733
AmericanShakespeareCenter.com
Shakespeare is serious fun at the Blackfriars Playhouse, the world’s only re-creation of Shakespeare’s indoor theater. Performing Shakespeare, contemporary works, and new plays year-round. “Shamelessly entertaining” — The Washington Post

**Heifetz International Music Institute**
107 East Beverley Street
540-997-4446
HeifetzInstitute.org
The Heifetz International Music Institute is an intensive six-week musical experience for advanced violin, viola, and cello students. Designed to develop the expressive potential of every performer while encouraging technical growth, the program includes a rigorous schedule of private lessons, chamber music coaching, the Heifetz signature Performance and Communication training as well as performance opportunities. Daily performances by students and celebrity faculty take place June through August.

**Mary Baldwin University Theatre**
Fletcher Collins Theatre, Deming Hall
Mary Baldwin University
540-463-7192
MaryBaldwin.edu/arts/theatre
Five show season with a broad range of dramas, comedies, experimental plays, and at least one musical in an intimate black box setting.

**Oak Grove Theater**
845 Quick’s Mill Road, Verona
540-248-3055
OakGroveTheater.org
More than 50 years of live theater under the stars. Summer outdoor theater. Season runs late May through August.

**ShenandoArts at the nTelos Theatre**
300 Churchville Avenue
540-546-3070
ShenandoArts.org
A nonprofit community theatre that produces a variety of plays and musicals throughout the year.

**Staunton Music Festival**
Performing at historic venues in downtown Staunton
540-569-0267
StauntonMusicFestival.com
Rethink classical at one of Virginia’s most exhilarating summer music festivals. Each August, the Staunton Music Festival brings renowned musicians and composers from around the world to perform programs that are consistently innovative — spanning 600 years of music, from the Renaissance to the present.

**Stoneswell Brigade Band**
Performing at Gypsy Hill Park
540-213-3880
StoneswellBrigadeBand.com
Oldest continuous community band in the nation. Free concerts every Monday, June through August at 8pm in Gypsy Hill Park. Lawn chairs suggested as permanent seating is limited.

**The Heifetz International Music Institute** attracts some of the most talented and promising young musicians in the world to Staunton. During the six-week summer season, the Institute presents over 40 concerts and events.

**ShenandoArts at the nTelos Theatre**
Want to keep up with special events, performances, music, and festivals in Staunton? For weekly email updates on what’s going on, sign up for Staunton on Tap at VisitStaunton.com

> The American Shakespeare Center is home to an internationally acclaimed theatre company that performs Shakespeare’s works under their original staging conditions as well as contemporary pieces. Pictured here is Brandon Carter as King Henry V in a promotional photo for Henry V.
FREE THINGS TO DO IN STAUNTON

What’s better than a trip to Staunton?
Finding free things to do while you visit, of course!

For Kids

Sears Hill Bridge - One of downtown’s most beloved landmarks, this century-old iron truss pedestrian bridge at Staunton’s historic train station offers close views of the railroad tracks and Staunton’s skyline from above.

Antique Fire Engine Museum - If your obsession leans toward fire trucks, you’ll like the Staunton Fire Station, where you can see JUMBO, the oldest motorized fire engine in Virginia.

Sunspots Studios - See live glassblowing demonstrations until 4pm daily.

Gypsy Hill Park - Fish, feed the ducks, play on the playgrounds, ride bikes, swim, or show off at the skatepark. The bandstand hosts free summer concerts and family movie nights.

Montgomery Hall Park - Get a workout on the mountain biking and hiking trails at Montgomery Hall Park. If disc golf is more your style, tee up on the 18-hole course.

Live Music in Gypsy Hill Park

Stonewall Brigade Band Concerts
June through August
Mon. 8pm
StonewallBrigadeBand.com

Praise in the Park
July through August
Tues. 7pm

Bluegrass in the Park
July through August
Wed. 7pm

Jazz in the Park
July through August
Thurs. 7pm

For Grown-Ups

Saturday morning Architectural Walking Tours, led by Historic Staunton Foundation. Free tours meet in front of the R.R. Smith Center for History & Art and last nearly two hours 10am Saturday (May - October)

Tiffany Windows at Trinity Episcopal Church - Twelve of the historic church’s stained glass windows, including the triptych that is installed over the altar, were created by the studios of Louis Comfort Tiffany in New York.

The Staunton Farmers’ Market is a producer-only market featuring local, Shenandoah Valley products. Saturdays from 7am - noon. (April - November) in the Wharf parking lot.

Visit one of our galleries - Staunton’s galleries showcase local and regional art. See what’s on display at the Staunton Augusta Arts Center, Beverley Street Studio School Gallery & Co-Art Gallery, MBU’s Hunt Gallery, the Ox-Eye Vineyards Tasting Room gallery, and the Artisans Loft.

The Music Scene

Many people know that Staunton is home to Statler Brothers, the legendary country vocal quartet. But did you also know that Staunton is home to a vibrant roots music scene? Check out the live music scene, happening almost nightly, at our breweries, tasting rooms and restaurants. In the summer, look for the Red Wing Roots Music Festival at nearby Natural Chimneys Park, as well as jazz and blues music festivals around town. Classical music fans will love Staunton Music Festival, a 10-day summer celebration of chamber music, as well as celebrity and student appearances from the renowned Heifetz International Music Institute, which is based in Staunton. Buskers entertain on the streets of Staunton every weekend and most of the eateries along Main Street feature a steady stream of live music options.
Staunton’s restaurant scene is lively with an eclectic vibe. All kinds of dining establishments co-exist cheerfully — from authentic Americana to upscale dining. Epicureans will enjoy innovative, award-winning chefs and excellent wine lists. Locavores will delight in the city’s burgeoning farm-to-table movement, fueled by the region’s rich agricultural heritage and the seasonal Farmers’ Market. Whether it is southern-style comfort food, delicious ribs, or even artisanal pizza — you’ll find it in Staunton. If you are looking for something casual, turn to bakeries, small grocers, and coffee shops that serve up fresh soup and sandwiches — or visit one of the local lunch spots (make sure you ask about the daily special). A fun selection of wine bars, coffee houses, vineyard-tasting rooms, a cidery, and small-batch breweries round out the local flavor.

» VisitStaunton.com/dining for a fresh list of dining options.
**WINE**

The Shenandoah Valley AVA is one of the country’s most exciting wine-producing regions today. A tour of the Valley’s wineries offers a special experience, with rural scenery, entertainment, quality restaurants and award-winning wines. Learn more at shenandoahvalleywinetrail.com

**Veritas Vineyard and Winery**

151 Veritas Lane, Afton
540-456-8000 VeritasWines.com

Located on 50 acres of land in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Veritas produces an elegant selection of red, white, and sparkling wines.

**Cross Keys Vineyards**

Located on 50 acres of land in the northern part of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Cross Keys Vineyards features a diverse selection of handcrafted wines.

**Cider**

**Ciders from Mars**

121 South Lewis Street, Staunton
540-416-2130 CidersFromMars.com

Ciders From Mars offerings vary from single-varietal cider classics to modern blends and fruit forward co-ferments with auxillary Virginia fruits.

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**CRAFT BEER**

Shenandoah Beerwerks Trail

Staunton is part of an exciting and growing craft beer community. On the Shenandoah Beerwerks Trail, you can taste some of the best craft beer in the country. Our breweries offer a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, with plenty of insights and opinions on how great craft beer is made. Grab your friends and pick up a passport at the Visitors Center and start planning your beercation at BeerwerksTrail.com.

**Queen City Brewing**

834 Sprout Hill Road, Staunton
540-213-8014 QCbrewing.com

Queen City Brewing, the first post-Prohibition brewery in Staunton, is more than just a brewery — it’s an experience. Not only can you choose from nearly two dozen beers on tap, you can also brew your own private batch, selecting from over 80 different recipes. Saturdays let visitors watch the brewing process and offer the opportunity to join in through the Brewer’s Apprentice program.

**Redbeard Brewing Co.**

120 South Lewis Street, Staunton
540-430-3532 RedbeardBrews.com

A true microbrewery in downtown Staunton, Redbeard Brewing Company brews small batches of big beer, all handcrafted by one brewer from beginning to end using traditional methods. Redbeard’s beers are warm fermented, unfiltered, and naturally carbonated in the kegs they are served from. The 40 seat taproom is located in Staunton’s Wheat District.

**Seven Arrows Brewing Company**

2508 Jefferson Highway, Waynesboro
540-221-6968 SevenArrowsBrewing.com

Seven Arrows Brewing Company is a lager forward brewery featuring a large taproom and seasonable beers. Twelve tour-style beers are always on tap. A full kitchen with on-site dining is available through Nobos Restaurant.

**Skipping Rock Beer Co.**

414 Pen Argyl Temple, Staunton
540-466-5692 SkippingRockBeer.com

Worry less. Live more. That’s the Skipping Rock state of mind behind their exceptional craft beer. The brewery, taproom, and outdoor beer garden has a family friendly atmosphere.

**Stable Craft Brewing**

375 Madrid Rd., Waynesboro
540-490-2609 StableCraftBrewing.com

Stable Craft Brewing is located at Hermitage Hill Farm & Stables — a trendy barn venue and real working farm that guests are encouraged to tour. Remodeled from what was formerly ten horse stalls, the taproom features unobstructed views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and it is an ideal place to sample 15 farm-fresh beers on draft and made from Stable Craft’s homegrown Cascade and Nugget hops. Visitors can also dine on local foods with a chef-inspired Agri-tooth window.

**WINE BARS**

**Seed to Tail Kitchen & Market**

2303 N. Augusta Street, Staunton
540-490-4879 seedtotail.com

This comfortable, modern wine bar offers a curated selection of wine, craft beer, and cider along with small plates and charcuterie boards.

**The Green Room**

130 West Beverley Street, Staunton
540-712-0293 TheGreenroomStaunton.com

This 17-acre vineyard south of Staunton produces a wide range of wines including red, white, rosé, and dessert wines.

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**CIDER BARS**

**Yelping Dog Wine**

9 East Beverley Street, Staunton
540-885-2275 YelpingDogWine.com

Yelping Dog is both a wine bar and a store — featuring a robust selection of wine and beer, cheese plates, charcuterie boards, and gourmet grilled cheeses.

**The Green Room**

130 West Beverley Street, Staunton
540-712-0293 TheGreenroomStaunton.com

This downtown tasting room features estate grown wines produced from Ox-Eye Vineyards 23 acres of grapes, grown nearby in the Shenandoah Valley.

**Cider from Mars**

This comfortable, modern wine bar offers a curated selection of wine, craft beer, and cider along with small plates and charcuterie boards.

**Veritas Vineyard and Winery**

151 Veritas Lane, Afton
540-456-8000 VeritasWines.com

Located on 50 acres of land in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Veritas produces an elegant selection of red, white, and sparkling wines.

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**Basic City Beer Co.**

1010 E. Main St., Waynesboro
540-493-1010 BasicCityBeer.com

Basic City Beer Company makes its home in a former industrial complex that once housed Virginia Metalcrafters. High ceilings, sawtooth windows and reclaimed pine and wood taproom tables pay homage to the architecture of the original foundry. A natural spring pumps a million gallons of artesian water for use in the brewery’s beers.

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**Shenandoah Beerwerks Trail**

Blaze your own trail on the Shenandoah Beerwerks Trail! Our 19 breweries are located within an easy hour’s drive from one another. Explore our great outdoors while enjoying some of the best craft beer in the country. Come tap into that authenticity you crave and...

**DRINK IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.**

**BeerwerksTrail.com**
Staunton, an award-winning Virginia Main Street community, features over 100 independently owned shops, art galleries, and restaurants. Offering a wide mix of antiques, arts, and distinctive gifts, Staunton is made for exploring and shopping.

“One of America’s Best Main Streets”
— Fodors

Wizards and muggles from near and far descend upon Staunton, Virginia for the annual Queen City Mischief & Magic the last weekend of September. With a touch of wizardry, the historic downtown is transformed into a magical village, offering themed shopping, dining and hands-on activities for all ages. QueenCityMagic.com

The award-winning Staunton Downtown Development Association is part of the National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. To learn more about Staunton’s vibrant downtown area, or to view available properties, see stauntondowntown.org
Staunton has plenty of choices to match your style, location preference, and budget. With nearly 1,300 rooms available in our hotels, inns, guesthouses, and bed-and-breakfasts, Staunton is sure to please. Select from our many award-winning properties for an amazing night’s rest and wake up refreshed and ready to explore.

### Hotels

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<td>Avid Hotel</td>
<td><a href="http://ihg.com">ihg.com</a></td>
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<td>540-248-6020</td>
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<td><a href="http://wyndhamhotels.com">wyndhamhotels.com</a></td>
<td>540-416-1917</td>
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<td>540-887-6500</td>
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<td>540-213-4000</td>
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### B&B’s • Unique Stays

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley House Bed &amp; Breakfast</td>
<td><a href="http://bhbandb.us">bhbandb.us</a></td>
<td>540-480-6706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick House</td>
<td><a href="http://federickhouse.com">federickhouse.com</a></td>
<td>540-885-4220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaia Lea</td>
<td><a href="http://gailea.com">gailea.com</a></td>
<td>540-292-5435</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gibson’s Warehouse</td>
<td><a href="http://gibsonswarehouse.com">gibsonswarehouse.com</a></td>
<td>540-324-5050</td>
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<td>Montclair Bed &amp; Breakfast</td>
<td><a href="http://montclairbnb.com">montclairbnb.com</a></td>
<td>540-885-8832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orlosa Farms</td>
<td><a href="http://orlosafarms.com">orlosafarms.com</a></td>
<td>540-712-7937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staunton Stays</td>
<td><a href="http://stauntonstays.com">stauntonstays.com</a></td>
<td>540-292-2604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ubon Thai Victorian Restaurant Inn</td>
<td><a href="http://ubonthavictorian.com">ubonthavictorian.com</a></td>
<td>540-886-4141</td>
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</tbody>
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Staunton is one of the oldest cities west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The first settlers arrived in the 1720s from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and eastern Virginia. Many were German-born or the Pennsylvania-born children of German-speaking Protestant immigrants, or came from the province of Ulster in the north of Ireland. English and African-Americans were also among the early settlers.

In the 1730s, Virginia Governor William Gooch hoped to protect his colony from possible French or Indian incursions by establishing settlements west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Shenandoah Valley. In 1736, Colonel William Beverley, an enterprising and wealthy planter from Essex County, Virginia, successfully petitioned the Governor for land and secured a patent for 118,491 acres, an area that embraced a large part of today’s Staunton and Augusta County. Soon thereafter, in 1747, Staunton was named after Lady Rebecca Staunton, the wife of Governor Gooch.

By the mid-1700s, Augusta County stretched westward to the Mississippi River and encompassed much of what now makes up the states of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, most of West Virginia, and a portion of western Pennsylvania (including present-day Pittsburgh). Staunton served as the county seat, the government center, and the hub of business for this large land area.

Strategically located at the intersection of the Great Wagon Road and early thoroughfares to the west, Staunton continued to develop as a major center for trade. This commercial growth was greatly enhanced with the arrival of the Virginia Central Railroad in 1854.

During this period, the Augusta Female Seminary (now Mary Baldwin University), the Virginia Female Institute (now Stuart Hall), and the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind were founded in Staunton.

Staunton played a pivotal role during the Civil War years when the Shenandoah Valley served as the “Breadbasket of the Confederacy.” While most of the battles were being fought north or west of the town, it was the presence of the railroad that provided a vital link between the Valley and eastern Virginia, making Staunton an important supply depot for the Confederacy. When Union troops, under the command of General Philip Sheridan, laid waste to the Valley of Virginia, Staunton escaped the brunt of destruction.

The reconstruction period that followed was less difficult for Staunton than it was for other areas in the South. Only months after Lee’s surrender, Staunton’s railroads had been repaired and postal service restored.

With the growth of the Virginia Central Railroad, Staunton transformed into a thriving center of commerce and wealth. Most buildings in the downtown area date from these boom years of 1870 through 1920.

“Founded in 1747, Staunton is the kind of picturesque charmer that quickens the pulse of period-film location scouts. Its hilly streets offer a variety of architectural styles, mostly from the 19th and early 20th centuries.”

— Washingtonian

Above, Staunton, Virginia, circa 1910. Reproduced from an original postcard published by Beverley Cigar Store.

Right: Downtown Staunton view from Sears Hill, present day.

Few places in the nation can boast of a community heritage as rich, deep, and varied as that of Staunton and Augusta County.
Founded in 1842, Mary Baldwin University is a small, co-educational liberal arts university that offers a range of degree programs from bachelor to doctoral. This fast-growing university serves a diverse student population on its main campus in historic Staunton, Virginia, and at the Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences in nearby Fishersville. Recently released college rankings from U.S. News & World Report show that MBU is a university that encourages student potential and paves the way for professional success.

“Top Performer for Social Mobility”
— U.S. News & World Report
(MBU ranked #21)

Mary Baldwin University

Guided Tours

Historic Staunton Foundation’s FREE Guided Architectural Walking Tours
20 South New Street, Staunton
540-885-7676
HistoricStaunton.org
Stroll through four of Staunton’s six historic districts as your tour guide describes Staunton’s development from frontier settlement to booming 19th century commercial center and its beautifully restored architecture. Tours meet in front of the R.R. Smith Center for History & Art and last 1½ hours. 10am Saturday (May – October)

Ghosts of Staunton
540-448-2743
GhostsOfStaunton.com
Experience a 90-minute walking tour of the Queen City by lantern where history and hauntings meet. (Weekends April – October)

Staunton Guided Tours
540-885-2430
StauntonGuidedTours.com
Enjoy a customized tour of Staunton, its wonderful architecture and attractions — all led by an experienced guide. Pick the tour type that suits you best - narrated walking tours, driving tours, step-on trolley tours, or step-on motorcoach tour.

Groups & Meetings

Staunton is a compact, walkable city with an eclectic vibe that resonates with the group tour and meeting market. Change up your next meeting, and escape to a nationally-celebrated mountain town that has it all — a charming main street teeming with fabulous restaurants and shops, a vibrant arts scene, and fascinating historic attractions. We are an affordable and accessible meeting destination, located at the crossroads of Interstate-81 and Interstate-64 in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Staunton is accessible by car, air, and train. Once inside the city, a city trolley can move visitors from point to point. Group rates and packages available; please contact us at williamsjb@ci.staunton.va.us or check our website at visitstaunton.com/groups-meetings to start planning your visit.

KEY FACTS:

- Hotels: 14
- Total Sleeping Rooms: 1,285
- Conference Center Space: 18,500 SF
- Largest Ballroom: 6,000 SF
- Average Hotel Room Rate: $90

UPDATE: The health of our community, tour guides, and visitors remains a top priority. Before booking, please check in with tour organizers, and ask about specific safety requirements.
Staunton boasts a wealth of wedding and special event venues for both intimate gatherings and galas for a crowd. Whether you envision your special day being stylish and elegant or hip and trendy, these unique spaces will lend it a distinctly Staunton flavor.

**HISTORIC: Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library**
The historic gardens at Woodrow Wilson’s birthplace are a ready-made, gorgeous, historic ceremony setting. The gardens are one of 13 maintained by the Garden Club of Virginia. They feature two gazebos in a quiet, private spot easily accessed from Staunton’s busy downtown. WoodrowWilson.org

**ROMANTIC: Gaie Lea**
Multiple ceremony and reception options make Gaie Lea (Old English for “Happy Meadows”) quite the contender when it comes to all-in-one wedding venues. Besides the estate home, the two hundred acres include a pavilion overlooking a pond, a formal English boxwood garden, and a patio with a fire pit. GaieLea.com

**DRAMATIC: The Blackburn Inn and Conference Center**
Spend your special day with The Blackburn Inn & Conference Center and embrace a romantic, outdoor or indoor wedding venue in Staunton, Virginia. Staunton’s newest boutique hotel offers regal and timeless charm, set against the backdrop of 80 acres of picturesque Virginia landscape. Blackburn-inn.com

**CLASSIC: Hotel 24 South**
The Hotel 24 South is the perfect Staunton fit for those seeking an all-inclusive wedding venue. This historic hotel has been refreshed with new (almost) everything. Classically beautiful and worry free! Hotel24south.com

**MORE STAUNTON WEDDING VENUE OPTIONS:**
- Barren Ridge Vineyard
  BarrenRidgeVineyards.com
- Cana Barn
  canabarn.com
- Four Winds at North Mountain
  FourWindsAtNorthMountain.com
- Hermitage Hill Farm & Stable
  HermitageHillWeddings.com
- Mary Baldwin University
  MaryBaldwin.edu
- R.R. Smith Center for History & Art
  RRSmithCenter.org
- The American Hotel & Banquet Room
  TheAmericanHotel.net

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**UNFORGETTABLE: Frontier Culture Museum**
Indoors or out, with a barn, a tent, or under the sun...you have many choices at the Frontier Culture Museum, and your guests (up to 400) are in for a real treat. FrontierMuseum.org

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**COURTESY:** XXXXXXX
**CREDIT:** FRONTIER CULTURE MUSEUM
**CREDIT:** BLACKBURN INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER
**CREDIT:** @LISAMIMSPHOTO

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Staunton is centrally located in the historic Shenandoah Valley of Virginia at the intersection of I-64 and I-81, exits 220 through 225.
“One of the Best Small Towns in America”
– Smithsonian