



# STAUNTON<sup>TM</sup> VIRGINIA

## VISITORS GUIDE

“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



STAUNTON<sup>TM</sup>  
VIRGINIA

“Most Beautiful  
Main Streets  
Across America”

— Architectural Digest

BIG TIME  
CULTURE | SMALL TOWN  
COOL

VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
LOVERS

VisitStaunton.com

PHOTO BY WOODS PIERCE



CREDIT: KATE SIMON LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

**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.





## VISITOR CENTERS

### DOWNTOWN STAUNTON

35 South New Street  
540-332-3971

#### HOURS:

Mon-Wed 10am-3pm  
Thurs-Sat 10am-5pm  
Sun noon-5pm

### FRONTIER CULTURE MUSEUM

1290 Richmond Road  
Open Daily 9am-5pm  
540-332-7850

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FRONT COVER CREDIT: KARI WATSON  
BACK COVER CREDIT:  
KATE SIMON LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY



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.



CREDIT: KATE SIMON LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

## VisitStaunton.com

Follow us for the latest information.

Tag your posts and photos with

**#LOVEStaunton** to share

your Staunton experience.



instagram.com/visitstaunton



facebook.com/stauntonva



@Staunton



CREDIT: KATE SIMON LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

- 8 The Outdoors
- 12 Attractions & Museums
- 16 Arts & Entertainment
- 20 Eat & Drink
- 26 Lodging
- 28 History
- 34 Getting Around



# 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*



CREDIT: PETER AASLESTAD



CREDIT: ZAK SUHAR



CREDIT: RUBY SKY PHOTOGRAPHY



CREDIT: @MICHAELNURFF



CREDIT: ZAK SUHAR



COURTESY OF VIRGINIA SHAKESPEARE CENTER

“Come for the Shakespeare, stay for the mountaintop vistas.”

— *Southern Living*



CREDIT: WOODS PIERCE



CREDIT: KATE SIMON LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY



# THE OUTDOORS AROUND US

## 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](https://www.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.



CREDIT: ZAK SUHAR

### Crabtree Falls

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.

### 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 redolent 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.

### Sherando Lake

Sherando Lake Recreation Area provides an ideal setting for a day trip or an overnight camping destination in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Sherando 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.

## 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](https://www.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](https://www.BlueRidgeParkway.org)

### Natural Chimneys

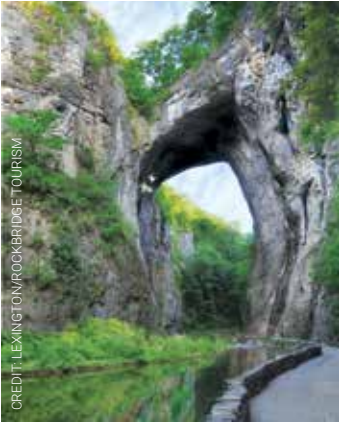
Limestone formations tower as much as 120 feet above the pastoral terrain of the Shenandoah Valley near Mount Solon.

### Natural Bridge State Park

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 Monacan Indians, past residents of the area.

### Humpback Rocks Visitor Center and Mountain Farm

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.



CREDIT: LEXINGTON/ROCKBRIDGE TOURISM



CREDIT: LES WPPS

## Biking

### 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](https://www.ShenandoahBike.org)

### Bike the Valley

Many of our region’s best bicycling trails are located just outside Staunton in Augusta County. Visit [BikeTheValley.org](https://www.BikeTheValley.org) for a full list of on and off-road biking options, from five to 50 miles in length.



# DISTINCTIVE DOWNTOWN ARCHITECTURE

“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



CREDIT: MIKE BAILEY

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](http://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.

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



CREDIT: CHEYENNE CRAWFORD

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

**S**taunton 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.

The city has six historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Look closely and you’ll see buildings designed in an interesting array of architectural styles – all side by side. You’ll see Greek Revival, Second Empire, Romanesque Revival, Colonial Revival, Neo-Classical, Federal, Beaux-Arts, Gothic Revival, and more.

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.”



# ATTRACTIONS & MUSEUMS



COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER

American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriars Playhouse

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.



CREDIT: WOODROW WILSON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum

## 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.



CREDIT: KATE SIMON LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Frontier Culture Museum

## 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.



CREDIT: KARI WATSON

## Staunton Military Academy/ VWIL Museum at Mary Baldwin University

227 Kable Street

540-885-1309 **SMA-Alumni.org**

Past history of Staunton Military Academy and the present history of the Virginia Woman's Institute for Leadership.

## Sunspots Studios and Glassblowing

202 South Lewis Street

540-885-0678 **SunSpots.com**

Live glassblowing daily and a gallery of copper and art glass gifts.

## Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum

20 North Coalter Street

540-885-0897 **WoodrowWilson.org**

Woodrow Wilson's birthplace. Immerse yourself in the state-of-the-art World War I trench exhibit, discover Wilson's Pierce-Arrow limousine. A National Historic Landmark.



CREDIT: WARREN FAUGHT

## < 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.



# 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 Hill 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.

## 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.

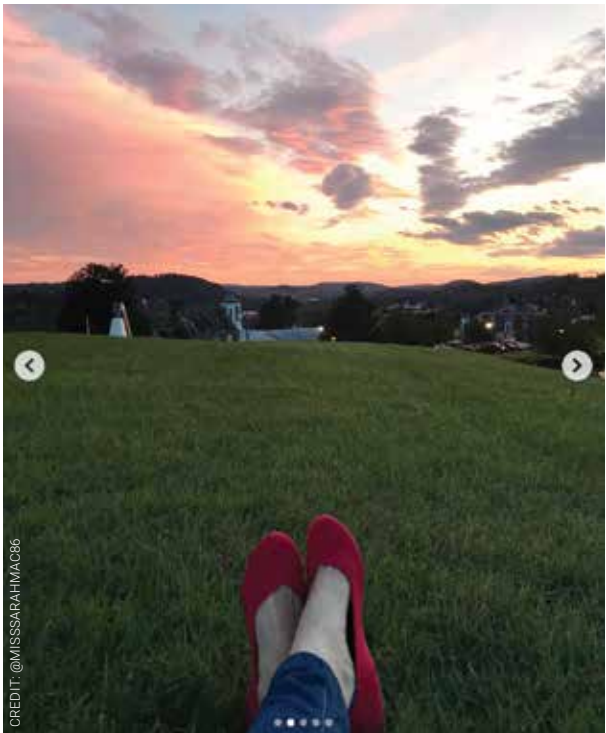
## 5 Gypsy Hill Park - Duck Pond



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

If you're looking for captivating city energy against a background of historic, Victorian architecture, look no further than the bustle of downtown. Farmer's Market? Check. Glass-blowing studio? Check. Historic train station? Check.



## 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.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

“...Staunton is overflowing with culture.”  
— ABC News

**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.

CREDIT: PAT JARRETT

Staunton's rich history of arts and culture goes back to its days as a 19-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  
540-907-4446

### HeifetzInstitute.org

The Heifetz International Music Institute is an intense 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  
540-887-7192

### 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  
540-248-5005

### OakGroveTheater.org

More than 50 years of live theater under the stars. Summer outdoor theater. Season runs late May through August.

## ShenanArts at the nTelos Theatre

300 Churchville Avenue  
540-712-0001

### ShenanArts.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.

## Stonewall Brigade Band

Performing at Gypsy Hill Park  
540-213-3880

### StonewallBrigadeBand.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 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.

## Staunton on Tap

Want to keep up with special events, performances, music, and festivals in Staunton? For weekly e-mail updates on what's going on, sign up for *Staunton on Tap* at **VisitStaunton.com**



Staunton Music Festival

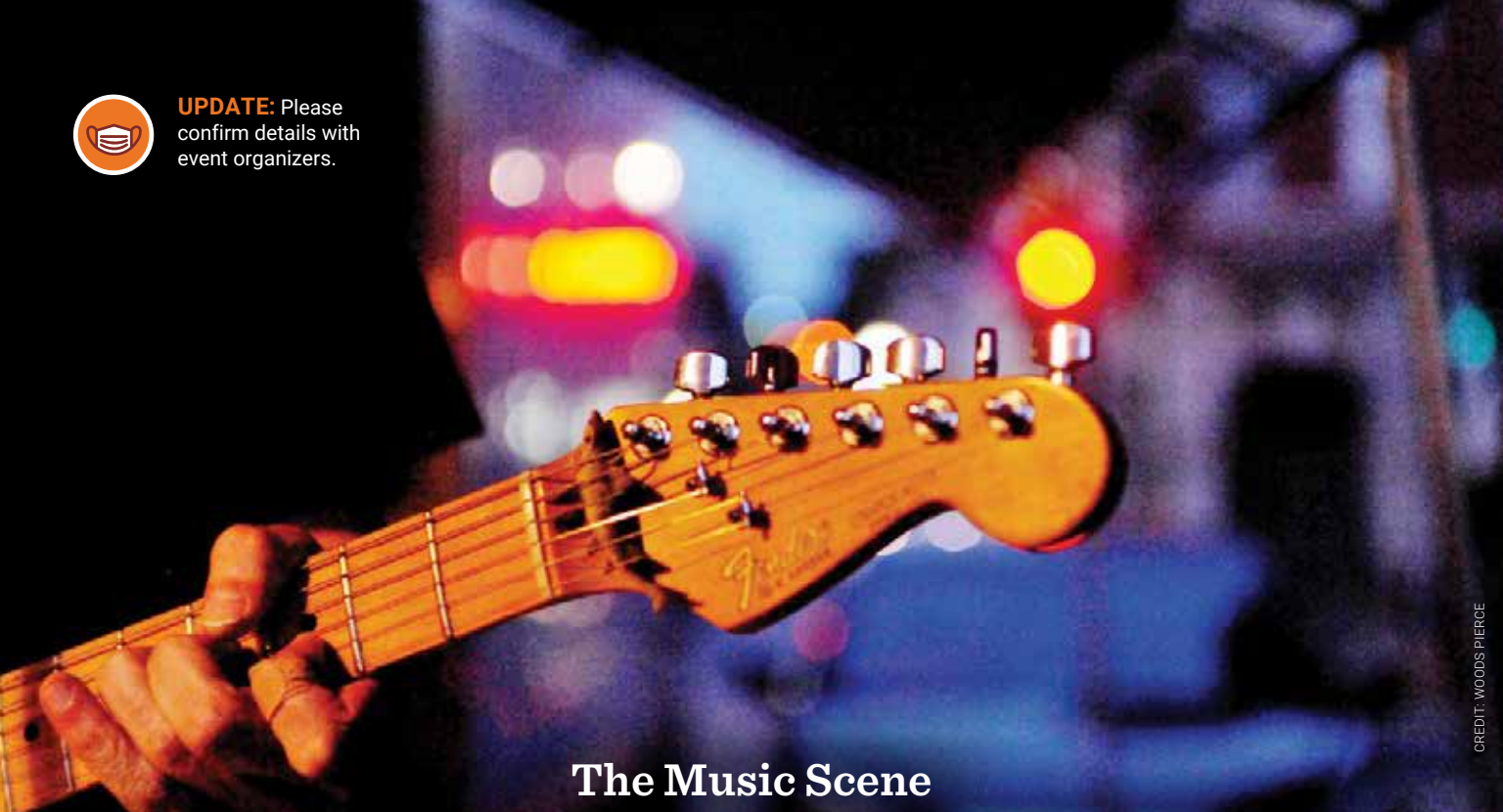


CREDIT: LINDSEY WALTERS





**UPDATE:** Please confirm details with event organizers.



CREDIT: WOODS PIERCE

## 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.



CREDITS: RED WING ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

## 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](http://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  
Thur. 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 lasts 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.



CREDIT: ZAK SUHAR



CREDIT: KATE SIMON LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY



CREDIT: @SABRINA TEMPE

**TraipseStaunton.com**

Unlock the city with Traipse

Explore streetscapes, historic landmarks, and locally-owned businesses while challenging your brain with fun puzzles and clues.

Available on the App Store | GET IT ON Google play

**FREE DOWNLOAD**

Meet **Traipse**, an urban adventure in "One of the Best Small Towns in America." It's a cool new way to travel and challenge your brain at the same time.



# EAT & DRINK



Check the health & safety measures taken at each establishment. Takeout and delivery options are available throughout downtown.



CREDIT: SERA PETRAS

“Why This Region of Virginia Could Be the South’s New Foodie Hotspot”

– Vogue

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](https://VisitStaunton.com/dining) for a fresh list of dining options.



CREDIT: @BLUPONTSEAFOODCO



COURTESY OF REUNION BAKERY

“Who knew that Staunton is one of the country’s best-kept foodie secrets?”

– Baltimore Magazine



CREDIT: KATE SIMON LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY



CREDIT: VTC



CREDIT: @THEGREENROOMSTAUNTON



# 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](http://shenandoahvalleywinetrail.com)



Ox-Eye Vineyards Tasting Room

### Ox-Eye Vineyards Tasting Room

44 Middlebrook Avenue, Staunton  
540-849-7926 [OxEyeVineyards.com](http://OxEyeVineyards.com)  
This downtown tasting room features estate-grown wines produced from Ox-Eye Vineyard's 23-acres of grapes, grown nearby in the Shenandoah Valley.

### Barren Ridge Vineyards

984 Barren Ridge Road, Fishersville  
540-248-3300 [BarrenRidgeVineyardsVa.com](http://BarrenRidgeVineyardsVa.com)  
Located on the grounds of a former apple orchard, Barren Ridge Vineyards features a diverse selection of handcrafted wines.

### CrossKeys Vineyards

6011 E. Timber Ridge Road, Mt. Crawford  
540-234-0505 [CrosskeysVineyards.com](http://CrosskeysVineyards.com)  
This 125-acre estate winery grows 12 varietals of grapes and produces award-winning wines. Open daily for tasting and tours.

### Rockbridge Vineyard

35 Hill View Lane, Raphine  
540-377-6204 [RockbridgeVineyard.com](http://RockbridgeVineyard.com)  
This 17-acre vineyard south of Staunton produces a wide range of wines including red, white, rosé, and dessert wines.



The Green Room

### Veritas Vineyard and Winery

151 Veritas Lane, Afton  
540-456-8000 [VeritasWines.com](http://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.

## WINE BARS

### Seed to Tail Kitchen & Market

2303 N. Augusta Street, Staunton  
540-490-4879 [seedtotail.com](http://seedtotail.com)  
This gourmet sandwich shop and fresh market also has local, national and international selections of fine wine, beer and cider. Wine tastings available daily from their by-the-glass list.

### The Green Room

130 West Beverley Street, Staunton  
540-712-0293  
[TheGreenroomStaunton.com](http://TheGreenroomStaunton.com)  
This comfortable, modern wine bar offers a curated selection of wine, craft beer, and cider along with small plates and charcuterie boards.

### Yelping Dog Wine

9 East Beverley Street, Staunton  
540-885-2275 [YelpingDogWine.com](http://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.

# CIDER

### Ciders from Mars

121 South Lewis Street, Staunton  
540-416-2120 [CidersFromMars.com](http://CidersFromMars.com)  
Ciders From Mars offerings vary from single-varietal cider classics to modern blends and fruit forward co-ferments with auxiliary Virginia fruits.



Ciders from Mars

# 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](http://BeerwerksTrail.com).

### Queen City Brewing

834 Springhill Road, Staunton  
540-213-8014 [QCBrewing.com](http://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](http://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 Wharf District.

### Shenandoah Valley Brewing Co.

103 W Beverly St, Staunton  
540-887-2337  
Located on Staunton's main street, this brewery is easy to find and offers a relaxed tavern-style atmosphere. As many as 12 beers are brewed on-site and available on tap.

### Basic City Beer Co.

1010 E. Main St., Waynesboro  
540-943-1010 [BasicCityBeer.com](http://BasicCityBeer.com)  
Basic City Beer Company makes its home in a former industrial complex that once housed

Virginia Metalcrafters. High ceilings, saw-tooth windows and reclaimed pipe 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.

### Seven Arrows Brewing Company

2508 Jefferson Highway, Waynesboro  
540-221-6968 [SevenArrowsBrewing.com](http://SevenArrowsBrewing.com)  
Seven Arrows Brewing Company is a lager-forward brewery featuring a large taproom and sessionable beers. Twelve true-to-style beers are always on tap. A full kitchen with onsite dining is available through Nobos Restaurant.

### Skipping Rock Beer Co.

414 Parkersburg Turnpike, Staunton  
540-466-5692 [SkippingRockBeer.com](http://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](http://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 is an ideal place to sample 16 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-pub style menu.



# TRAILBLAZERS WELCOME!

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](http://BEERWERKSTRAIL.COM)



# SMALL TOWN COOL

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



CREDIT: WARREN FAUGHT



CREDIT: KATE SIMON LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY



CREDIT: @ALLIEBABS40THIEVES

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](http://QueenCityMagic.com)



CREDIT: @TESSKROPE

CREDIT: @BILLYGROVE

CREDIT: @BREWSMTHNATALLIE

COURTESY OF STELLEROSOVA

CREDIT: @RONNIE.CO

CREDIT: @UPSIDETOWNLADY

CREDIT: @GROWEXPLORE

CREDIT: @UPSIDETOWNLADY

CREDIT: @KSI.VIR

CREDIT: @LIZAM250

CREDIT: @KAYIBAY.SHAJAWAN

COURTESY: BITTSEENING STATION

CREDIT: @BILLCHRISTPHOTOGRAPHY

CREDIT: @NOTTIMAIEN

COURTESY: ZYNODAH RESTAURANT

CREDIT: @ZAK.SUJAR

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](http://stauntondowntown.org)



# LODGING

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	ADDRESS	WEBSITE	PHONE
Avid Hotel	62 Sangers Lane	ihg.com	540-712-3939
Best Western	92 Rowe Road	dominionlodging.com	540-885-1112
Blackburn Inn and Conference Center	301 Greenville Avenue	blackburn-inn.com	540-712-0601
Comfort Inn	1302 Richmond Avenue	choicehotels.com	540-324-2727
Econo Lodge	1031 Richmond Avenue	choicehotels.com	540-885-5158
Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott	114 Crossing Way	marriott.com	540-213-4100
Hampton Inn	40 Payne Lane	hilton.com	540-886-7000
Holiday Inn Express & Suites	47 Rolling Thunder Lane	ihg.com	540-609-5700
Holiday Inn Staunton Conference Center	152 Fairway Lane	ihg.com	540-248-6020
Howard Johnson Express Inn	268 North Central Avenue	wyndhamhotels.com	540-416-1917
Hotel 24 South & Conference Center	24 South Market Street	hotel24south.com	540-885-4848
Sleep Inn	222 Jefferson Highway	dominionlodging.com	540-887-6500
TRU by Hilton	120 Crossing Way	hilton.com	540-213-4000
Quality Inn & Suites	200 Frontier Drive	choicehotels.com	540-324-2730
B&B's • Unique Stays	ADDRESS	WEBSITE	PHONE
Berkeley House Bed & Breakfast	303 Berkeley Place	bhbandb.us	540-480-6706
Frederick House	28 North New Street	frederickhouse.com	540-885-4220
Gaie Lea	267 Bells Lane	gaielea.com	540-292-5435
Gibson's Warehouse	19-21 Middlebrook Avenue	gibsonswarehouse.com	540-324-5050
Montclair Bed & Breakfast	320 North New Street	montclairbnb.com	540-885-8832
Orlesa Farms	1329 Commerce Road	orlesafarms.com	540-712-7937
Staunton Stays	208 Kalorama Street	stauntonstays.com	540-292-2604
Ubon Thai Victorian Restaurant Inn	515 West Frederick Street	ubonthaivictorian.com	540-886-4141



The Blackburn Inn and Conference Center



Staunton Stays



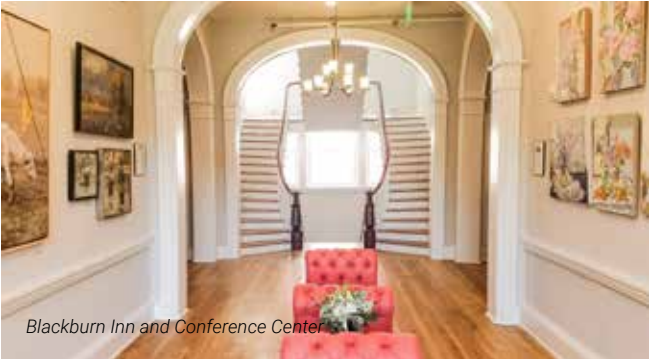
Gibsons Warehouse



Frederick House



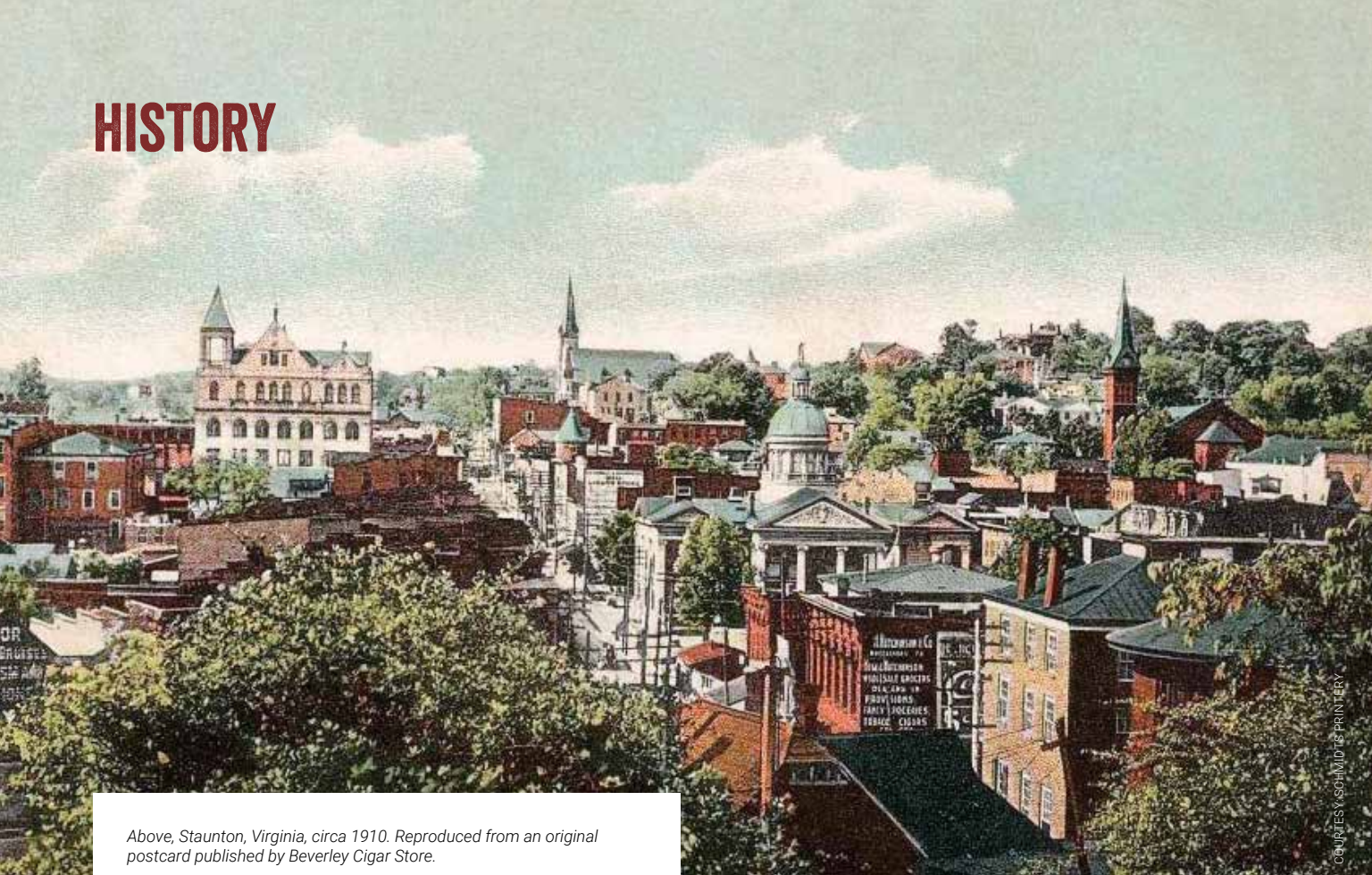
Hotel 24 South & Conference Center



Blackburn Inn and Conference Center

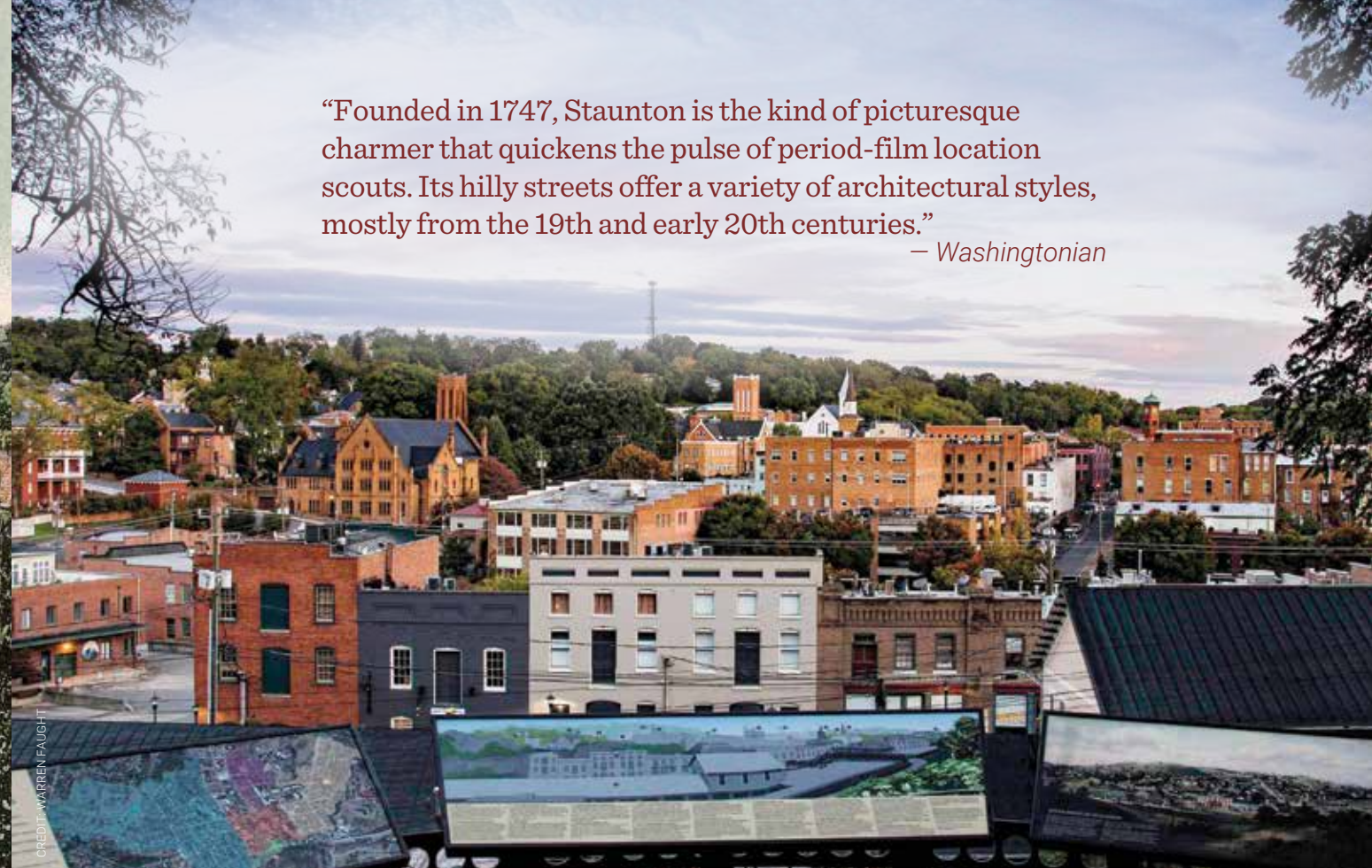


# HISTORY



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

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



“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*

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,

Few places in the nation can boast of a community heritage as rich, deep, and varied as that of Staunton and Augusta County.

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.



In 1856, the 28th President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, was born in Staunton. Wilson served as President from 1913 to 1921.



# MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY



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)



# 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)



**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.



**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](mailto:williamsjb@ci.staunton.va.us) or check our website at [visitsaunton.com/groups-meetings](http://visitsaunton.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



# WEDDING & EVENT VENUES

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.

## 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](http://FrontierMuseum.org)



CREDIT: BLACKBURN INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER



## MORE STAUNTON WEDDING VENUE OPTIONS:

Barren Ridge Vineyard  
[BarrenRidgeVineyards.com](http://BarrenRidgeVineyards.com)

Cana Barn  
[canabarn.com](http://canabarn.com)

Four Winds at North Mountain  
[FourWindsAtNorthMountain.com](http://FourWindsAtNorthMountain.com)

Hermitage Hill Farm & Stable  
[HermitageHillWeddings.com](http://HermitageHillWeddings.com)

Mary Baldwin University  
[MaryBaldwin.edu](http://MaryBaldwin.edu)

R.R. Smith Center for History & Art  
[RRSmithCenter.org](http://RRSmithCenter.org)

The American Hotel & Banquet Room  
[TheAmericanHotel.net](http://TheAmericanHotel.net)

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://Blackburn-inn.com)

## CLASSIC: Hotel 24 South

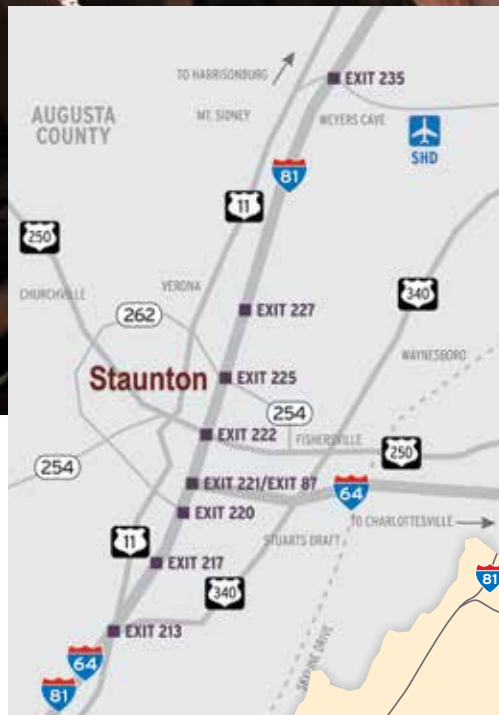
The Hotel 24 South is the perfect Staunton fit for those seeking an all-inclusive wedding venue. This historic hotel has been refreshed with new (almost) everything. Classically beautiful and worry free! [Hotel24south.com](http://Hotel24south.com)



CREDIT: @USAMIMSPHOTO



# GETTING AROUND



Staunton is centrally located in the historic Shenandoah Valley of Virginia at the intersection of I-64 and I-81, exits 220 through 225.

## VISITOR CENTERS

### DOWNTOWN STAUNTON

35 South New Street  
Staunton, VA 24401  
540-332-3971

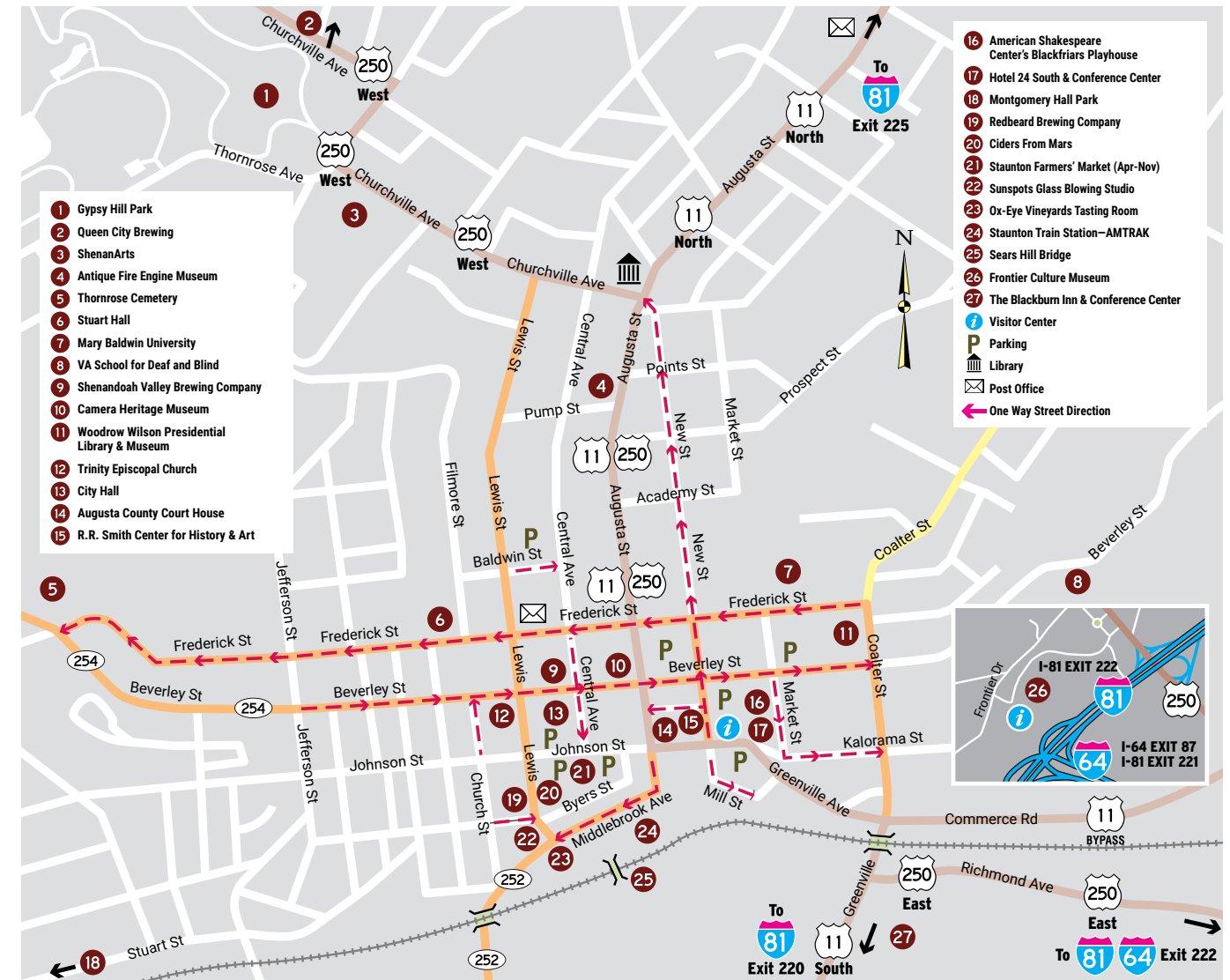
#### HOURS:

Mon-Wed 10am-3pm  
Thurs-Sat 10am-5pm  
Sun noon-5pm

### FRONTIER CULTURE MUSEUM

1290 Richmond Road  
Staunton, VA 24401  
Open Daily 9am-5pm  
540-332-7850

## Downtown Staunton



### AIR

#### Shenandoah Valley Airport (SHD)

77 Aviation Circle, Weyers Cave  
540-234-8304  
The Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport provides the quickest, most convenient access to the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and now flies to Chicago O'Hare (ORD) and Washington Dulles (IAD). With well-timed departures and arrivals, SHD makes it easy and affordable to fly local. [FlySHD.com](http://FlySHD.com)

### RAIL

#### Staunton Train Station (STA)

1 Middlebrook Avenue, Staunton  
800-872-7245  
The Cardinal offers unforgettable views of the Southeast's stunning natural beauty. You'll see gently rolling horse country, the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains and the Shenandoah Valley as the Cardinal approaches Staunton. This is an unmanned station. For tickets or long-term parking information, call 1-800-USA-RAIL or visit [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com).

### TROLLEY

**The Green Trolley Route** includes the downtown area, the Wharf Historic District, and Gypsy Hill Park. The trolley makes a continuous loop around downtown and stops at the Visitors Center every 30 minutes. There is a 25-cent charge to ride the trolley. Schedule information can be found at visit [BriteBus.org](http://BriteBus.org).



VisitStaunton.com

“One of the  
*Best Small Towns*  
in America”  
– Smithsonian

STAUNTON<sup>TM</sup>  
VIRGINIA  
VISITORS GUIDE



Staunton Convention and Visitors Bureau  
City of Staunton  
PO Box 58  
Staunton, Virginia 24402-0058

