



With four distinct seasons, each offering an unparalleled experience, plan an unforgettable group trip— any time of year—to the heart of Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley.

DAY 1: SPRING IN BLOOM

Just 20 miles from downtown Staunton lies to scenic drives: the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) and [Skyline Drive](#). These scenic routes make for a great driving tour offering overlooks with breathtaking mountain views ideal for photo ops and picnics. They also provide access to a number of the area’s most popular hiking destinations for all ages and abilities. From Skyline Drive try Blackrock Summit, a geological wonder that’s an easy 1-mile loop. From the summit of boulder-strewn Blackrock enjoy views that extend for miles in multiple directions.



For those looking for an easy leg-stretcher, try Humpback Rocks. Start at the Humpback Visitor Center and take the Mountain Farm Trail (.25 mile) leading to the Outdoor Farm Museum where you can tour a 19th century log cabin and outbuildings complete with costumed interpreters providing demonstrations of subsistence farmers. Another nearby hike, Catoctin Trail, starts at the Humpback Rocks picnic area and is an easy walk (.3 mile) leading you to an overlook of the Shenandoah Valley. Spend the afternoon discovering the region’s flora and fauna culminating in a picnic lunch. On your way back to Staunton, stop in at [Barren Ridge Vineyards](#) to take in the views from their expansive patio which boasts incredible pastoral and mountain views. Enjoy a wine tasting and take a tour led by the winemaker himself. End the day with a glass of wine on the patio.



DAY 2: DISCOVER DOWNTOWN

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.



Take to the streets of downtown Staunton — board your coach or do a walking tour — as you visit Staunton's Historic Districts 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. Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring this charming downtown.



Head back to your hotel and freshen up for a night out. Enjoy dinner at one of our local restaurants in downtown Staunton. Visit [Mill Street Grill](#) for their barbecue ribs; [Byers Street Bistro](#) or [The Depot](#) for American inspired dishes.

Then it's off to the [American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriars Playhouse](#) for an award-winning performance at the world's only re-creation of Shakespeare's original indoor theater. Producing over 15 shows a year ranging from Shakespearean staples, contemporary works, and new plays year-round.

DAY 3: SATISFY YOUR CULINARY CRAVINGS

Foodies will love this food tour of Staunton and Augusta County. Start your day at [Staunton Olive Oil Company](#) learning about the health benefits of olive oil, watching a cooking demo, and tasting over 30 different oils. Next tour [Meadowcroft Farm's pickle factory](#) where they produce all-natural pickles, relishes and spreads.



After your tour, head to [The Cheese Shop](#) where foodies will delight in the unique snack selection, gluten free products, old-fashioned candies, hard-to-find baking ingredients and much more.

End your day with **cheese making class** paired with wine. Join cheesemaker Louella Hill with master vintner and owner of [Ox-Eye Vineyards](#), John Kiers with a 101 on the basics of home cheesemaking. Taste your way from fresh to aged cheeses and learn why cheeses are so different from one another. Next work on pairing a final cheese tasting flight with the award-winning wines of Ox-Eye.

OTHER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:

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

[Grand Caverns](#) - Experience the U.S.'s oldest continually operating show cave. A Natural National Landmark, Grand Caverns contains magical rock formations along with historic treasures such as Civil War-era signatures.

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

