



One of  
America's Favorite  
Mountain Towns

- Travel + Leisure

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

## DAY 1: EXPLORE STAUNTON

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

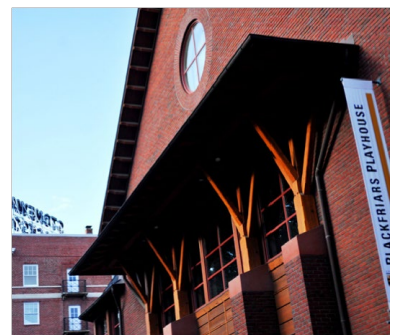
After your tour, head to the [Inn at Meadowcroft](#), a beautifully renovated 1795 log home surrounded by pastoral views of Augusta County. There you'll enjoy a southern take on a traditional English tea. Next, try an assortment of finger sandwiches using the Meadowcroft Farm's scratch-made pickles, jams, and relishes. Then indulge in their signature cookies like their lemon bars or thumbprint cookies. Served with your choice of tea.

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

Head back to your hotel and freshen up for a night out. Enjoy dinner at one of our local restaurants in downtown Staunton. Visit [Aioli's](#) for its Mediterranean fare; [Mill Street Grill](#) for their barbecue ribs; or [The Depot](#) for American inspired dishes. After dinner head over to the Blackfriars Playhouse for an award-winning performance. Choose from over 15 productions including Shakespearean staples, contemporary works, and world premiere musicals.

## DAY 2: VISIT MONTICELLO

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



## DAY 2: TOUR DOWNTOWN STAUNTON

Take a tour of downtown Staunton from the comfort of your bus with a step-on guide or do a walking tour! Learn about the history and architecture of this award-winning “Main Street” touring four of the six neighborhoods with stops at [Trinity Episcopal Church](#) to see the original Tiffany stained glass windows; [Sunspots Studios](#) to watch live glass blowing demonstrations; and finally the [R.R. Smith Center](#) to visit the visual art and history galleries.

Wind down your day with a 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.



## DAY 3: DISCOVER THE VALLEY

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

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



## OTHER AREA ATTRACTION:

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

