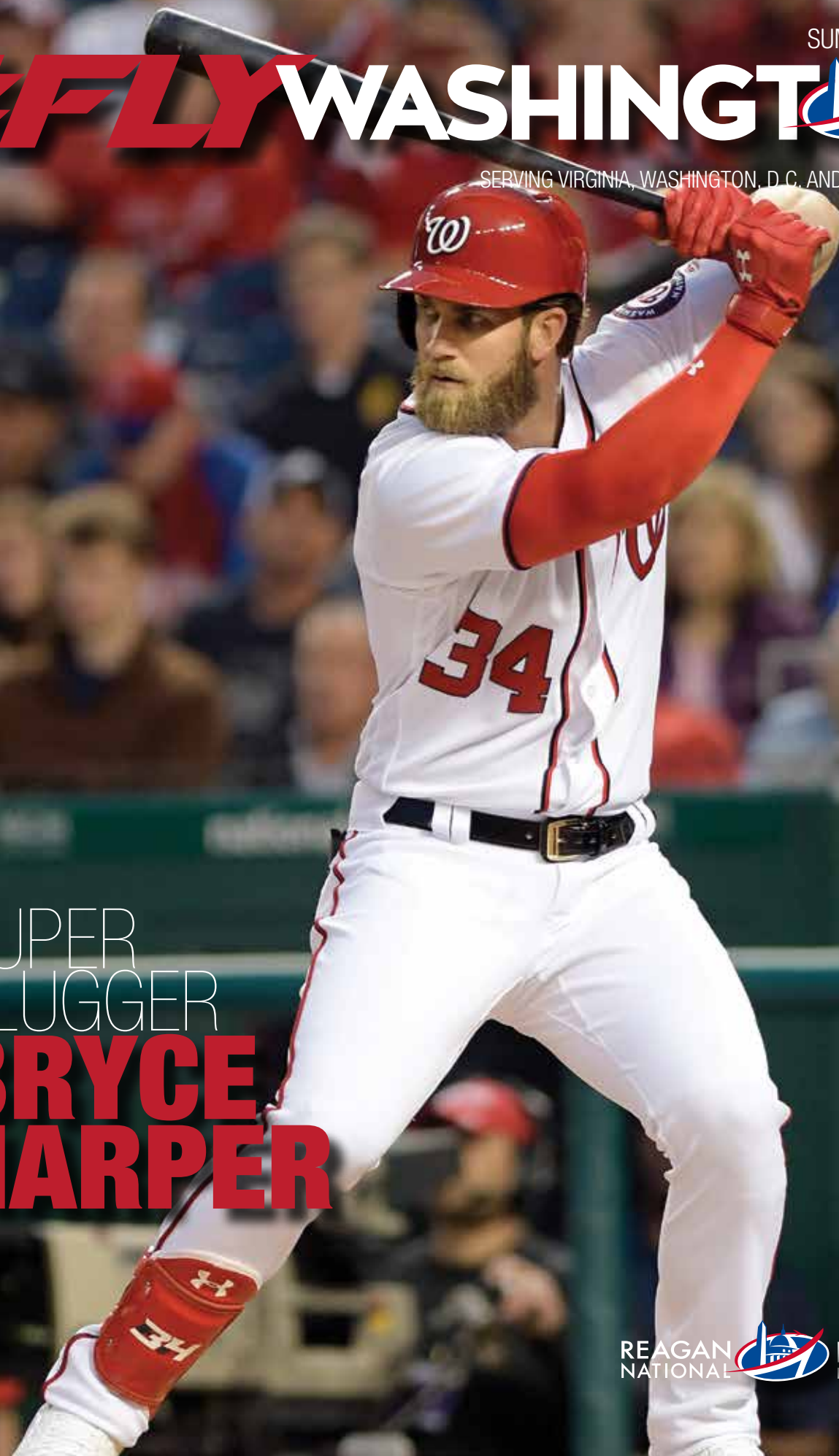


SUMMER 2017

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VIRGINIA DAY TRIPS

Washington harbors enough diversions to keep visitors going full-throttle, even during a lengthy stay. But it'd be a shame to miss what lies beyond the nation's capital. Here are three day trip suggestions that promise history, scenery and more.

By Jayne Clark

Greenhill Winery & Vineyards



Old Town Alexandria



Monticello Vegetable Garden

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Distance from downtown D.C.: 7 miles

Old Town Alexandria considers itself D.C.'s original Old Town. After all, it dates to 1749, preceding by more than four decades the establishment of the future nation's capital across the Potomac. It's worth the trip just to stroll historic streets lined with 18th and 19th century buildings and cobblestone alleys. The main shopping thoroughfare, King Street, is chockablock with one-of-a-kind stores and restaurants extending a mile from the Metro station to the riverfront. And speaking of the river, check out the lively waterfront promenade and spectacular views of the Washington skyline. The paved Mount Vernon Trail, stretching almost 18 miles from Theodore Roosevelt Island to George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, meanders through Alexandria along the river. If you're energetic, rent a bike and explore its entire length. Or stroll over to the Torpedo Factory Art Center, which is, indeed, in a former torpedo factory. In the mid-'70s, the city converted it to creative space that remains an artists' haven with 82 artists' studios, plus retail galleries.

DON'T MISS: Mount Vernon, George Washington's estate on the Potomac, just 8 miles south.

MIDDLEBURG, VA.

Distance from downtown D.C.: 40 miles

Long an enclave for the horsey set, this historic town in Virginia's rural Piedmont region makes a bucolic retreat from the bustle of the city. Jackie Kennedy rode in fox hunts during her years as First Lady, and Elizabeth Taylor married Sen. John Warner at his local estate. Get a glimpse of the equestrian life by attending a steeplechase race in the spring and fall in the town that dubs itself the Nation's Horse and Hunt Capital. Middleburg has more than 200 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, and its shop-filled, compact downtown is a pleasant place to stroll. When you need a break, duck into the Red Fox Inn & Tavern for a hearty meal. The fieldstone building on Washington Street has stood here since 1728. Another fixture, The Fun Shop, with an eclectic (and fun) selection of gifts, books, clothing and home décor items, has been in business since 1956. If you're feeling daring, check out the action at Empower Adventures behind the Salamander Resort & Spa for zip-lining over the treetops.

DON'T MISS: A visit to a winery or two. At least 20 are within 30 minutes of Middleburg. If you fancy something stronger, check out Mount Defiance Cider & Distillery for rum tasting.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

Distance from D.C.: 117 miles

This lively college town is stately, too, thanks in part to the architectural legacy of Thomas Jefferson, whose neoclassical Rotunda forms the heart of the University of Virginia grounds. The city's commercial heart lies along the eight-block pedestrian Downtown Mall. Here, you'll find buzzy shops, restaurants with al fresco dining, art galleries and a couple of excellent live music and events venues, the outdoor Sprint Pavilion and the vaudeville-era Jefferson Theater. Set in the Blue Ridge Mountain foothills, the countryside outside the city is lovely any time of year. For a themed excursion (with a designated driver, of course), the Monticello Wine Trail leads to 30 vineyards for tours and tastings. More of a beer drinker? Set out on the Brew Ridge Trail, featuring six small-batch breweries. Outdoors possibilities are endless, from paddling on the James or Rivanna rivers to hiking wilderness trails in the city and beyond. Plus, an entrance to Shenandoah National Park is just 30 minutes away.

DON'T MISS: Jefferson's estate, Monticello, is a must-see. But two other presidential homes, James Monroe's Highland and James Madison's Montpelier (recently restored) are within easy driving distance.



WASHINGTON, D.C. EVENTS CALENDAR

*Fourth of July fireworks
over the National Mall*

SUMMER

2017

Advertising War: Selling Americans on World War I

Before the advent of radio and motion pictures, art and illustration were the primary forms of mass communication. With the outbreak of World War I, governments, militaries, and service organizations hired artists and illustrators to depict the ravages of war and to rally patriotism. Poster imagery created before and during American military participation was used to mobilize citizens to enlist, give aid to refugees and soldiers, and motivate any and all people to join the fight through rationing, buying bonds, or charity work.

March 17 – Oct. 1

National Museum of American History

DC JazzFest at the Yards

A selection of jazz genre's most acclaimed artists as well as emerging artists play entertaining jazz performances. The event provides enhanced exposure for the rich treasure trove of musicians from the Washington, DC area. Kids are welcome but pets are not. This year's lineup features artists like GRAMMY-winning vocalist Gregory Porter, GRAMMY-winning Robert Glasper Experiment, Korean sensation pianist Youngjoo Song, Lori Williams, Ola Onabule, Kandace Springs, the exciting hip-hop group Black Violin, and the 2016 DCJazzPrix winning band the New Century Jazz Quintet.

June 16 - 18

355 Water Street SE

Summer Escape at Mount Vernon

Sip craft beer and taste local and historic culinary treats while watching the sun set at the first president's home! Relax to live bluegrass music from Bud's Collective, play colonial games, and unwind against the backdrop of the Potomac River. Mount Vernon's chocolatiers will demonstrate the process of making chocolate while serving chocolate martini samples. The event also offers foodies a chance to talk with an 18th-century herbalist and sample flavorful herb-infused dips and teas.

June 9-10

**3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway
Mount Vernon, Virginia**



Artscape in Baltimore

Dulles Summer Fine Art Festival

Presented by Paragon Fine Art Festivals, the Dulles Summer Fine Art Festival features some of the most talented artists displaying unique and breathtaking fine art. The event brings together high quality artists and an experienced art buying public, creating a community centered around the shared love of fine art.

June 24 - 25

Dulles Towne Center

21100 Dulles Town Cir, Sterling, VA

All Night at the Museum

On July 1, the National Air and Space Museum will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its flagship building in Washington, D.C. An evening ceremony and all-night celebration will commemorate the date and officially open the newly renovated Boeing Milestones of Flight Hall. For the first time, the Museum will stay open throughout the night with special guests dropping by and ongoing activities including a film festival, music, tours, a scavenger hunt, and much more. Museum admission is free.

July 1, 2017, 8:30pm-8am

National Air and Space Museum