



FOUNDING FATHERS SAMPLE ITINERARY CHARLOTTESVILLE & CENTRAL VIRGINIA

There is no better place than Charlottesville to learn about some of our most fascinating historic figures. Home to three of America's Founding Fathers, our destination provides endless learning opportunities, all in a gorgeous setting in the shadows of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Day One

Drive to the charming town of Orange to discover [James Madison's Montpelier](#). The property recently underwent extensive restorations, which have returned it to the way it was built in the 1820's.

Then, head back to Charlottesville for a memorable 18th century-style meal at [Michie Tavern Ca. 1784](#). After this amazing food, explore the historic buildings around the Tavern; you may even find some Virginia-made treasures to take home at one of their unique shops.

Time to get to know another President! Travel down beautiful windy roads to [Ash Lawn-Highland](#), home of President James Monroe. You will be astounded by the beauty of this property, and fascinated to learn about one of our lesser-known Founding Fathers.

Since you just happen to be where the birth of American wine took place, why not make a stop at [Jefferson Vineyards](#), where you will savor grapes revered by Thomas Jefferson.

And to make your day absolutely complete, why not hire one of our talented Jefferson or Monroe first-person interpreters to join you at dinner!

Day Two

This morning, it is all about Mr. Jefferson! Start your day by walking amongst intellect at the [University of Virginia Grounds](#) (UNESCO World Heritage site). You may even take part in a guided tour of the [Rotunda](#), the most iconic building of Thomas Jefferson's university.

Then, head down the road to [Monticello](#), home of President Jefferson (UNESCO World Heritage site). There, you may enjoy a tour of the house, the gardens or even a behind-the-scenes tour. Learn all about this fascinating Renaissance man, who was passionate about politics, agriculture, architecture, reading and inventing (among others!)

Time for lunch and the Café inside the [David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center & Smith Education Center at Monticello](#) will satisfy your hunger and thirst with a multitude of delicious options.

Your day of discoveries is far from over, as you drive back towards downtown Charlottesville. Your first stop is at [Historic Court Square](#) - where Jefferson, Monroe, and Madison once practiced law. Then, walk the [Historic Downtown Pedestrian Mall](#), a European-style shopping plaza which features eight blocks of restaurants and boutiques...the perfect place to enjoy a delicious meal under the stars!