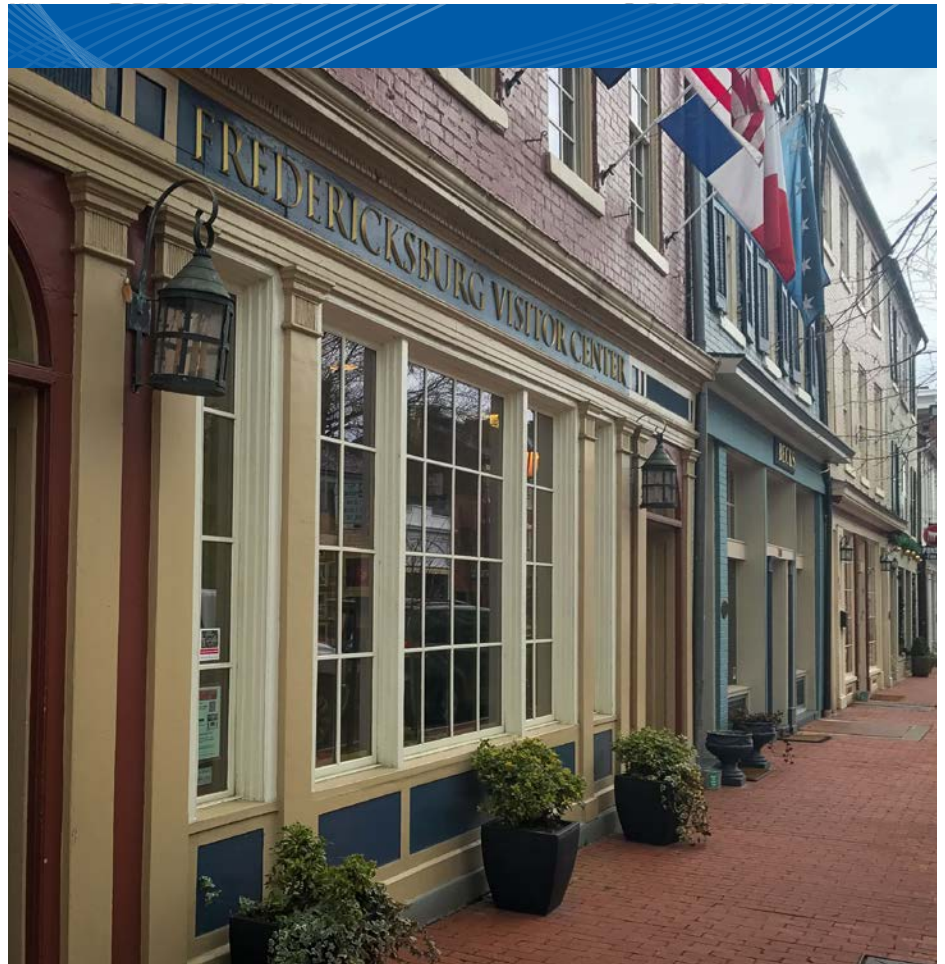


City Guide Fredericksburg, VA



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Moving to the Fredericksburg Area - What You Need to Know

So you're moving to the Fredericksburg area. Well, get excited because there is no shortage of amazing things to see, do and eat! With the Fredericksburg area consisting of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County, Stafford County, King George County and Caroline County, there's an entire region's worth of excitement. Regardless of what your interests are, you're in for a fun-filled next chapter of your life!

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Moving to Fredericksburg, VA

Where to Live

First things first, where to live? The Fredericksburg area has a diverse set of neighborhoods that can accommodate just about any pace – and stage – of life.

Millennials

Fredericksburg and its surrounding counties are some of Virginia's most historic and charming areas – and that's saying something! This draws millennials who might work in D.C. or Northern Virginia, but don't mind a long commute in exchange for the extra local character. Amid the Civil War battlegrounds, museums and antique shops are a slew of amazing restaurants, breweries and outdoor activities that can cater to nearly every young person's interests – and new luxury condos like 600 Amelia Street are right in the middle of it!

Fredericksburg's housing market attracts both homeowners and renters alike, and popular choices for millennials include the following:

Fredericksburg

- [600 Amelia Street](#)
- [Cobblestone in Fredericksburg](#)
- Downtown Fredericksburg

Spotsylvania

- [Silver Collection at Cosner's Corner](#)
- [Station Square at Cosner's Corner](#)
- [Abberly at Southpoint](#)

Young Families

Fredericksburg is a wonderful place for young families to flourish, with a lifestyle at a slightly slower pace compared to D.C. There are all kinds of food and music festivals held throughout the year, many of which are family friendly. Fredericksburg's rich history and close proximity to Washington, D.C., Richmond and Williamsburg also provides young families the opportunity to immerse themselves in the early history of our country.

Popular neighborhoods for young families include the following:

Fredericksburg

- [Idlewild](#)

Stafford

- [Aquia Harbour](#)

Spotsylvania

- Lee's Hill
- Holleybrooke

King George

- [Hopyard Farm](#)

School performance can vary between the area's different localities, so it is important to do your research before deciding on a school zone.

Empty Nesters

Fredericksburg is a history lover's playground, which is a tremendous draw for many empty nesters. Even if battlefields aren't your thing, the area's mix of small town charm, outdoor activities and delicious restaurants keeps older individuals occupied. You can find acres and acres in the surrounding counties, but if you want to be more centrally located with less maintenance, new luxury condos like 600 Amelia Street give empty nesters all the benefits of city living.

Empty nesters may want to consider homes in these neighborhoods:

Fredericksburg

- [Celebrate by Del Webb](#)
- [600 Amelia Street](#)

Stafford

- Greenfield Senior Living
- [Falls Run](#)

Spotsylvania

- Regency of Chancellorsville
- Asbury Manor
- [Lee's Parke](#)



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What to Do

The question in Fredericksburg isn't what to do. It's what to do first.

Museums



The National Museum of the Marine Corps

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is open 364 days a year (closed on Christmas Day) and is free to the public. You can find over 230 years of Marine Corps history and artifacts ranging from vehicles, artillery, medals, uniforms and more. For more information on current and upcoming exhibits, visit usmcmuseum.com

CMoR Fredericksburg (Children's Museum of Richmond - Fredericksburg)

CMoR - Fredericksburg is just blocks from Fredericksburg's historic downtown and is filled with different exhibits to entertain and educate children. The museum is open seven days a week, only closing for Easter, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. For hours and information visit c-mor.org/plan-your-visit/fredericksburg

Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop

Hugh Mercer was a doctor in Fredericksburg whose patients included Mary Washington, mother of George Washington. His old apothecary shop is now a museum with a mix of medicine, military and political highlights. For information about admission and hours, visit preservationvirginia.org/visit/historic-properties/hugh-mercer-apothecary-shop

Historical Sites

Ferry Farm

Ferry Farm was home to George Washington during some of his most formative years. Today this historical site is open to the public. Amazingly enough, archeologists only just found the exact site of

his home in 2008. Visitors can tour the gardens and grounds, learn more about Civil War artifacts found on the property and take advantage of the farm's hiking trails. For more information visit kenmore.org/ff_home.html

Kenmore House

Kenmore House, a Georgian-style mansion, was built by George Washington's sister, Betty Washington Lewis and her husband, Fielding Lewis, in the 1770s. The plantation home, located in downtown Fredericksburg, survived the Battle of Fredericksburg, and today visitors can enjoy guided tours of the first floor of the house. For more information visit kenmore.org/kp_home.html

Civil War Battlefields

Fredericksburg and the surrounding areas are home to the sites of many significant Civil War battlefields. In fact, they were some of the most brutal battles leading up to the end of the war. The Battles of Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania are called America's Battleground by the National Park System. For more information, visit nps.gov/frsp/index.htm



Historical churches

The Fredericksburg area has many historical churches, such as Aquia Church, built in the 1750s and one of the oldest active colonial churches still being used today, and St. George's Episcopal Church, which doubled as a hospital during the Civil War. Both of these churches, along with several others throughout downtown Fredericksburg, are rumored to be haunted if you're looking for a dash of fright with your history! For more information, visit virginia.org/listings/HistoricSites/AquiaChurch/ and virginia.org/listings/HistoricSites/SaintGeorgesEpiscopalChurch/

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What to Do

Chatham Manor

Chatham Manor is a large Georgian-style mansion, overlooking the Rappahannock River. It was built in the late 1700s by William Fitzhugh, a Virginia delegate to the Continental Congress. The home had many famous visitors including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Today the mansion is a part of the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park. For more information visit nps.gov/frsp/learn/historyculture/chatham.htm

Theaters and Music Venues

Riverside Dinner Theater

A great way to entertain friends and family over a meal is to bring them to a performance at the Riverside Dinner Theater. The theater is known for its Broadway-like quality musical productions and even features live music. Amenities include a full bar, dinner service and meeting rooms. For a list of current shows, pricing and schedule, visit riversidedt.com

Celebrate VA Live Afterhours

Each May, this seasonal venue kicks off its summer concert series of popular artists from Boyz II Men and ZZ Top to country artists like Montgomery Gentry. Buy a season pass for guaranteed admission each show or tickets for just your favorite artists. To see the lineup of this upcoming season and pricing visit celebratevirginiaafterhours.com

Dodd Auditorium

On the historic and beautiful campus of the University of Mary Washington is the multi-use performance space Dodd Auditorium, where hundreds of events are held each year, including UMW's philharmonic concerts, live lectures and more. The auditorium seats 1,273 and includes balcony and orchestra level seating. For a schedule of upcoming events and performances visit adminfinance.umw.edu/dodd

Dining

Fine dining

A nice dinner out isn't hard to come by in Fredericksburg. Restaurant Row on William Street alone features acclaimed destinations like Fahrenheit 132, Bistro Bethem, La Petite Auberge and Ristorante Renato. Foode, also located in downtown Fredericksburg, recently



opened its new space and its head chef, Joy Crump, appeared on Top Chef. For a comprehensive list of some of the region's best restaurants, visitfred.com/wine-dine

Casual dining

A more casual meal around town does not compromise on taste. Castiglias Italian Restaurant, locally owned and operated by the Castiglia family from Naples, Italy, offers a daily selection of Italian and American cuisines such as brick oven pizza and specialty pasta in a newly renovated dining room. Mason-Dixon Café offers all kinds of salads, sandwiches and wraps with a southern flair. Right next door to Mason-Dixon Café is Carl's, arguably the best soft serve in America, as demonstrated by its numerous awards. Other casual dining options include Sedona Taphouse, Umi (a local sushi restaurant), Allman's Barbeque and Parthenon Pizza, offering authentic Greek cuisine.

Breweries/Wineries

A great drink is easy to come by for Fredericksburg area residents. First up is Spencer Devon Brewing. Located in downtown Fredericksburg, the restaurant sources approximately 80 percent of its ingredients from local farmers. A. Smith Bowman Distillery produces a range of hand-crafted spirits using the finest ingredients to honor the legacy and groundbreaking spirit of Virginia's pioneers, and they offer complimentary tours! Blue & Gray Brewing is now a part of Adventure Brewing Company, and the 3300 Dill Smith Drive location will now be called Adventure South. Adventure Brewing brews an array of craft beers year round and releases new beers almost weekly. If you're more in favor of wine, look no further than Potomac Pointe Vineyard and Winery. Designed to make you feel like you've stepped into Tuscany, Potomac Pointe offers tastings, facility tours and a full bistro.

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What to Do

Shopping

Downtown Fredericksburg

Downtown Fredericksburg represents the heart of the city's history. The 40-square blocks are home to a wide range of retailers, restaurants, art galleries, craft breweries, boutiques, and local businesses. If perusing storefront windows and shelves gets tiring, enjoy Fredericksburg's Olde Towne Carriage Tours to learn more about the history and sites of the downtown area.



Central Park

The Central Park development, just outside of downtown Fredericksburg, boasts one of the largest power shopping centers on the East Coast. Located along I-95 on Route 3 (Plank Road), it features over 200 restaurants, fashion retailers, and friendly services. Here you can find a Regal Cinema, Sport and Health club, retailers like Loft and DSW, along with an array of restaurants including The Melting Pot and Carrabba's.

Stafford Marketplace

Stafford Marketplace is one of Stafford's largest shopping centers, with all the stores needed for your shopping list like Best Buy, Target, Petsmart and TJ Maxx. Located right off I-95, it's hard to miss and harder to leave.

Spotsylvania Towne Centre

Spotsylvania Towne Centre is Fredericksburg's one-stop shopping destination for everyone's favorite stores. Bring the family to shop and dine at the likes of Macy's, Aveda, White House Black Market, Arhaus, Bravo, Firebirds and more. Visit the new elegant outdoor

shopping and dining lifestyle center behind the mall called The Village at Towne Centre, which includes Muvico, an upscale movie theater with a bar, and Splitsville, a restaurant and bowling alley combo. Featuring a Residence Inn by Marriot, the shopping hub invites you to shop, dine, and stay.

Outdoor Recreation

Fredericksburg City Dock

The City Dock is located on the Rappahannock River, located near the downtown train station and at the end of Sophia Street. The historic dock dates back to when George Washington was president and is a perfect spot for fishing, boating, river views, and water sport rentals. For more information visit fredericksburgva.gov/facilities/facility/details/City-Dock-4

Virginia Central Railway Trail

Originally a 38-mile railway line that connected Fredericksburg and Orange County and was operational from 1877 to 1984, this trail is being renovated for walking and biking. The trail currently offers more than four miles of trail across two disconnected segments: one from downtown Fredericksburg to the Idlewild neighborhood and the other in nearby Chancellor. For more information visit fredericksburgva.gov/index.aspx?NID=742

Canal Path/Heritage Trail

The Canal Path and Heritage Trail together form a paved loop perfect for biking and walking. The Canal Path is 1.8-miles long and winds along the Rappahannock Canal from Fall Hill Avenue to Princess Anne Street. The Heritage Trail is a 1.6-mile stretch that connects the pathway. For more information visit fredericksburgva.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Canal-PathHeritage-Trail-3



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Moving to Fredericksburg, VA

What to Do

Virginia Outdoor Center

Virginia Outdoor Center is run by a group of outdoor enthusiasts from a 35-acre riverfront beach site on Fall Hill Avenue. The center prides itself on being as hidden as possible from the stress and sounds of the real world, where you can relax and explore along the Rappahannock River. The Virginia Outdoor Center offers an array of classes and activities like kayaking and tubing on the river or hiking and backpacking through the Shenandoah National Park, if you want to get out of Fredericksburg for the day. For information on upcoming events, classes, trips, and rental rates visit playva.com.

Motts Run Reservoir Recreation Area

Motts Run is an 860-acre natural area that offers eight different hiking trails, fishing, kayaking and canoeing (kayak and canoe rentals are available). The recreation area is open everyday, except Tuesdays and Wednesdays. For more information, visit fredericksburgva.gov/facilities/facility/details/Motts-Run-Reservoir-Recreation-Area-10

Fredericksburg First Night

Welcome the new year on the streets of downtown Fredericksburg with music, performers, carnival-type activities, vendors and more while waiting for the "ball drop". The celebration is held on multiple streets and is family-friendly for all ages. For this year's activities, vendors and information visit fredericksburgfirstnight.com

Stafford also offers similar holiday celebrations like its Christmas parade, New Year's Eve festivities and Independence Day celebration. Visit tourstaffordva.com/events to find out more.

Are you excited yet? You should be! Whenever you're ready to start planning your move to the Fredericksburg area, we're here to help! Visit Hilldrup.com to schedule a free in-home move estimate.

Seasonal Events

Memorial Day luminaries in the Civil War cemeteries

What better way to commemorate our veterans than to honor them in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery where Union soldiers from the Civil War are laid to rest. Each May, thousands visit the historic site to participate and watch the lighting of candles during the three-hour ceremony.

Fredericksburg Christmas Parade

Voted the No. 1 best community event in the area, you won't want to miss this annual parade. In the heart of Old Town Fredericksburg, people of all ages fill the sidewalks of Caroline Street and Princess Anne Street to watch the parade and wait for Santa. For information on parking, timing and this year's participating groups, visit www.fredericksburgchristmasparade.com

Candlelight Tour at Christmas time in downtown Fredericksburg

For almost 50 years, residents, tourists and travelers participate in the annual Candlelight Tour during the holiday season. Take a date or make it a group event! Evening tour tickets include a cocktail party! For this year's schedule and ticket pricing visit visitfred.com/events/46th-annual-candlelight-tour

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