



AMERICAN DRIVING VACATIONS PRESENTS:

The Real America: Southern Virginia On the Move

The Best of Southern Virginia 5 Days/4 Nights

We have world-class speedways, mansions, driving tours, Thomas Jefferson; lush parks, vast lakes, great antique shopping, and award winning wines. Most of all, we have history; as good and important as any in the Commonwealth. The quiet historic towns and bustling streets of our contemporary cities belie the vast plantations that once covered the region. Our fields have an incredible story to tell that will astound even the most casual visitor. We are confident you'll find Southern Virginia perhaps the most intriguing and undiscovered destination in America.



In the South of the South, it can feel like time stopped. Our gentility and hospitality are genuine, harkening back to a bygone era when life moved at a much slower pace and civility was the custom of the day. Thomas Jefferson built his retreat in our area to escape the hustle of Monticello. Patrick Henry retired to our area to live in "one of the garden spots of the world." While traveling our rural byways past lush green fields, spotting a mansion every now and then, our region will begin to reveal its own unique brand of the "Southern way."

As life moved on through the years, tobacco production gave way to vineyards, and fields to racetracks. Virginia's NASCAR region is now known world wide. We now find ourselves with some of the nation's best undiscovered and carefully preserved history and unspoiled landscape, ready to welcome visitors from all walks of life. Come to meander our roads, explore our towns and play in our lakes and rivers. Most importantly, enjoy your retreat from the fast lane. Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry couldn't both have been wrong!



Day One

This afternoon as you're traveling into Southern Virginia, we'll route you past **Prestwold Plantation**, a massive combination Georgian-Federal style house constructed in 1760. Tradition has it that the property, once home to Blue Stone Castle, was won by Sir Skipwith in a three day card game with William Byrd,II, of Westover on the James River. Amazingly it stayed in the family that included Lady Jean, a cousin of Thomas Jefferson, until 1914. The interior of the home is best known for its original 18th and 19th century wallpapers which have been copied in a special collection offered by Scalamandre. Substantial African American interpretation exists on the property as well.

Prestwold sits on the river that flows into **Buggs Island Lake**, which is more than 50,000 acres of fresh water, 800 miles of beautiful shoreline and great sunsets. The centerpiece of life in Clarksville, Buggs Island Lake also delivers electric power to the entire region. It is one of the best bass fishing lakes in the country and was voted the number one Crappie fishing lake in the US by "In-Fisherman" magazine. You can rent a boat and enjoy the rest of the afternoon on the lake if you like.

When you're ready to relax for the evening, your accommodations in South Boston are just minutes away.

Choice of Accommodations for night one:

Holiday Inn Express: Stay at this well located, well priced property in South



The Real America: Southern Virginia on the Move

The Best of Southern Virginia 5 Days/4 Nights



Boston, Virginia.

Oak Grove Plantation Bed and Breakfast: Enjoy this 1820s grand antebellum home located on over 400 acres.

Inn at Berry Hill: Experience the incredible elegance of this National Historic Landmark located on 650 acres which merges technological innovation with a meticulous architectural restoration.

Day Two

This afternoon we suggest you begin your visit with a stop at the **Halifax County Visitors Center**, now located in the restored Prizery. The building was named for the process of tobacco being pressed or "prized" into hogsheads for shipment. Carved out of a 19th century tobacco warehouse, the most interesting and handsome of the industrial buildings in downtown South Boston with an Italianate tower, **The Prizery** is more than a welcome center. It is also a community and fine arts center with a 425 seat theater and exhibits highlighting Halifax County's tobacco and river transportation heritage.

A new exhibit currently in development, "**The Crossing of the Dan**," traces the route of Lord Cornwallis in 1781 as he led British troops from Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina, to the Dan River while pursuing General Nathanael Greene and the Americans. The journey ultimately led to Yorktown and Cornwallis' surrender, effectively ending the American Revolution.

Starting near there at Tucker Watkins Bridge, where South Boston itself began, you can stroll through one of the largest and architecturally interesting historic districts in southern Virginia. The district is significant for its late Victorian commercial and residential architecture and a variety of late 19th and 20th century homes.

From there it's just six miles to the quaint, historic town of Halifax. You may feel like you've stepped back into antebellum Virginia. The gentility of its curving roads, flowering trees and serene landscape make it to some, "the prettiest historic town in Virginia." If not, it's close. The careful preservation of 18th and early 19th century homes is astounding, especially when you know portions of these homes are going on 250 years old. Plantings at many of the homes date from the 1840s. In addition to residences, the **Mountain Road Walking Tour** takes you past two antebellum churches, the 1828 Masonic Hall, the Courthouse and the Clerk's office. Thomas Jefferson's master builder Dabney Cosby, who constructed the core University of Virginia buildings, traveled to Halifax to build the new clerk's office in 1835 and the new county courthouse, completed in 1839. Absolutely walk the road from end to end. It doesn't get much better than this.

Leaving Halifax, you'll be on your way to **Berry Hill Plantation** (now Berry Hill Inn) where you can marvel at one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in Virginia. As you travel up the tree-lined drive, you'd almost expect Scarlett O'Hara to slip through the massive columns and glide down the stairs to meet you. The massive eight-columned house, built in 1842, is a quintessential southern antebellum mansion. It was also the seat of one of the most successful tobacco plantations in the region. Previous owners of the property included Colonel Edward Carrington who fought alongside General Nathanael Greene in the Revolutionary War. Most recently, Berry Hill was meticulously restored to its original pre-Civil War grandeur after being abandoned for 50 years.

Berry Hill Plantation is located on the **River Road Scenic Byway**, a route that still takes you past a variety of plantations and tobacco fields. During the 18th century, River Road was part of main stage route between New York and New Orleans and the principal road from Halifax Court House to Danville. Berry hill is a reflection of the wealth that was once centered here during the antebellum era.

Then, it's on to **Virginia International Raceway**. Plan to stop even if there is no race scheduled. You won't recognize it as the plantation it once was. The 1840's restored Plantation Clubhouse has been transformed into a restaurant. The Lodge, Paddock Suites and Oak Tree Tavern all surround the 3.27 mile track with two crossovers. Opened in 1957 as one of the country's first permanent road racing locations, VIR reopened in 2000 as America's first "motorsports resort" to rave reviews. Automobile and motorcycle races have been joined by the new Virginia Institute for Performance Engineering and Research and JOUSTER (Joint Unmanned Systems Testing Engineering and Research), the first test site dedicated to

The Real America: Southern Virginia on the Move

The Best of Southern Virginia 5 Days/4 Nights



scientific experimentation in unmanned vehicles. 2006 races included the Rolex Sports Car Series, the Grand-Am Cup Series, the 7th Annual Gold Cup Invitational Historic Races and GT Live!

From there, it's a short drive to your accommodations in Danville.

Choice of Accommodations for night two:

Best Western Windsor Inn and Suites: Stay at this newly constructed property with complimentary breakfast, wireless internet and all the other customary amenities you expect from Best Western.

Lawson Overby Inn: Step back to a more genteel time in a Victorian mansion located on the prime corner of Millionaires Row now restored with wireless internet, an in-ground pool and more.

Day Three

Today after breakfast you'll be off to explore Victorian Danville. Danville's downtown commercial district developed along Main Street, driven by the tobacco manufacturers who created the bustling market. The homes on Millionaires Row are considered by some to be the finest collection of Victorian and Edwardian residential architecture in Virginia. In addition to lining Main Street, they branch out on each side of the commercial district onto the side streets. The Tobacco Warehouse and Residential Historic District occupies another 40 blocks in the heart of the city. These buildings still display the city's mill town personality and rise of the working class who lived in the shadow of the larger structures.

Since becoming a Virginia Main Street Community in 2000, more than 30 buildings in Danville's downtown historic district have been rehabilitated. This activity was greatly enhanced by the restoration of the railroad depot and other core commercial buildings for community functions.

Even as tobacco declined and textiles moved in, the High Gothic Victorian mansions in Danville welcomed new owners. Now restored and renovated, these grand, delightful structures range from American Picturesque, Italianate and "The Wedding Cake House," to Corinthian columns, American Four Square, Queen Anne, and Georgian Revival. Resplendent in gables, gingerbread scrollwork, columns, porticos, cupolas and minarets, various residences served prosperous tobacco manufacturers as well as the entrepreneurs who formed Dan River, Inc.

The five architecturally distinctive churches that grace Millionaires' Row remind us why Danville is often referred to as the City of Churches. The ocher colored brick and gray cobblestone streets that once graced the genteel district remain intact beneath the asphalt covering.

You can tour the home on Millionaires Row once considered "the grandest house in Danville." **Sutherlin Mansion** was built by William Sutherlin in 1856 as a city home that allowed him to oversee the second largest tobacco factory in Virginia. That structure still stands at the corner of Lynn and Loyal Streets.

After resigning as Mayor of Danville, Sutherlin served as Confederate Quartermaster for Danville and worked diligently to ensure that supplies reached the front lines on a regular basis. He was such a close friend of CSA President Jefferson Davis that the Mansion served as the "Last Capital of the Confederacy" when Davis made his way from Richmond to points farther south. The government remained in Danville until receiving news of Lee's surrender at Appomattox in April 10, at which time the last cabinet meeting occurred. Davis, however, did not hold the last war council until May 2, 1865 in Upstate South Carolina. Now home to the **Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History**, the house has been restored to appear as it did when Jefferson Davis and his family were in residence. Along with tours of the historic house, the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History offers a wide variety of exhibitions, classes, workshops, camps and educational programs.

When you've finished exploring the historic district, meander down to the waterfront where the City of Danville has taken an old railroad warehouse and a historic train station and created an entertainment complex called **The Crossing**. The **Danville Science Center** is housed in the 1899 Passenger Rail Station and an additional renovated Southern Railroad building. The Community Market is housed in the Southern Railroad Warehouse. **Riverwalk**, a pedestrian trail, begins with a converted 1856 iron railroad bridge that

The Real America: Southern Virginia on the Move

The Best of Southern Virginia 5 Days/4 Nights



serves as the gateway to the 3.5 mile trail along the Dan River.

Military buffs will enjoy being surrounded by over 15,000 international tank and cavalry artifacts dating from 1509 to the present at the **American Armoured Foundation Tank Museum**, likely the most extensive collection of international artifacts of this type in the world. Over 115 tank and artillery pieces, 150 machine guns, rifles, rocket launchers, hundreds of uniforms, banners and flags, small arms, hats and helmets, tank and artillery optical instruments and toys are on hand. Exhibits include the Treat 'Em Rough WWI exhibit, Seek, Strike and Destroy-Tank Destroyers, Women in Uniform and Through the Eye of the Camera.

If you're game this evening, the Martinsville Speedway is now celebrating its 60th year of operation. Founded the year before NASCAR was formed, the speedway is one of the oldest tracks in America that's still a part of the Nextel Cup series. It is the only original NASCAR-sanctioned track still running Nextel Cup events. Richard Petty, now a car owner, holds the track's winning record with 15 victories. Although it is the shortest track on the NASCAR circuit, the 800 foot straights coupled with turns banked at only 12 degrees performs like "two drag strips with a turnaround on each end." Even if you've never been to a race before, enjoy the action!

Choice of Accommodations for night three:

Best Western Martinsville: Stay at this 95-room well-maintained property with complimentary breakfast, wireless internet and all the other customary amenities you expect from Best Western.

Clubhouse Bed and Breakfast: Experience this historic property originally built as the Marshall Field Clubhouse, later named the Fieldcrest Lodge after the textile company. The relaxed wooded setting lets you get out into the countryside.

Day Four

We thought it would be best to leave the **Virginia Museum of Natural History** until today so you could spend plenty of time exploring the vast array of artifacts from the museum's 22 million item collection on display in the new \$33 million world class facility. At the forefront of scientific discovery of the natural world, the eight scientists of the museum actively engage in research on subjects ranging from dinosaurs to millipedes. The museum shares its new discoveries with exhibits, programs, publications, field trips, and teacher education. Two of the new exhibits: "Feathered Dinosaurs of China" and "Chinasaurus: The Great Dinosaurs of China" were undertaken in cooperation with the National Geological Museum of China. The exhibits feature the largest collection of Chinese fossils to tour North America including specimens that rarely leave China. The only way to appreciate 65 million year old dinosaur eggs and a 30 foot Yangchuanosaurus is in person!

From Martinsville, it's on up the **Blue Ridge Parkway**, considered by some to be the most scenic highway in America. Welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, the 459-mile long Blue Ridge Parkway is one of the premier National Scenic Byways in the United States. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the depression, the highway has been meticulously maintained to allow travelers to have an awesome scenic drive through unspoiled forest, punctuated every so often with a scenic overlook where most of the time, "on a clear day, you can see forever."

Virginia's Explore Park is located near Roanoke on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Streaming down the Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia, settlers from all walks of life began migrating to western Virginia in the early 18th century. Explore Park features an authentic glimpse of the life of the Native Americans who lived in the area when the settlers began arriving, with a fortified homestead typical of those commonly found on the western Virginia frontier in the 18th century and a 19th century farm, complete with farm animals, a one-room school, blacksmith shop, and a working grist mill. You can also enjoy lunch at the Brugh Tavern and learn more about the Blue Ridge Parkway at the Visitor Center.

From there, it's a short drive north on the Parkway and your accommodations this evening.

Choice of Accommodations for night four:

The Real America: Southern Virginia on the Move

The Best of Southern Virginia 5 Days/4 Nights



Peaks of Otter Lodge: Stay at this well maintained property located right on the Blue Ridge Parkway. 60 lake front rooms let you enjoy the stay and the view.

Mariner's Landing: Enjoy the accommodations of this full service golf and lake resort community right on Smith Mountain Lake. Indoor and outdoor pool, full kitchens, fireplaces, and more.

Ashleigh Manor: Experience this majestic 5,200 square feet Smith Mountain Lake antebellum plantation turned Bed and Breakfast retreat. Stoll 9 acres of unspoiled nature, relax in a Jacuzzi.

Day Five

When you visit the powerful **National D Day Memorial** you can begin to feel the might of the forces involved as you approach the massive granite-clad Operation Overlord Monument. Don't think for a minute that this is any ordinary monument. By the time you have explored the whole presentation, you'll realize that the monument has not only memorialized the soldiers who fought in this famous World War II battle, but has also taught you about how the battle occurred and how it felt. Strategically placed water "bullets" zing past the sculptured soldiers leaving the watercraft and more soldiers can be seen just barely reaching the top of the precipice over which they had to climb to reach their goal on Omaha Beach. For those not familiar with the battle, this is a great piece of living history. For those who are, you can see and feel the action.

Leaving Bedford, it's a short drive to Forest, Virginia to visit **Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest**. Wrenched from near ruin in 1984, Poplar Forest was the country retreat that Thomas Jefferson built in 1806 and used to escape the constant guests and hospitality of Monticello. Jefferson's writings reveal his pleasure in the quality of the design of his octagonal retreat. "When finished, it will be the best dwelling house in the state, except that of Monticello; perhaps preferable to that as more proportioned to the faculties of a private citizen." It was a place where Jefferson got to play with his grandchildren, read in his study and relax in the mountain air without the trappings of a statesman. As the house deteriorated, passing through multiple ownerships, the 4,800 acres that Jefferson amassed gave way to local subdivisions. Today, with the restorations nearly complete, you can see how Jefferson lived at Poplar Forest and explore the artifacts that have been uncovered right around the house.

From there we wish you a safe and pleasant journey home.

Prices starting at (using lowest price accommodations): **\$319**. Per person, double occupancy. Package rates may vary by season and day of the week. Not all activities may be available in every season.

This package includes:

- **Four night's accommodations**
- **All hotel taxes**
- **Breakfast each morning**
- **All paid hotel parking**
- **Admission to all highlighted attractions and activities**
- **Complete Personal Travel Portfolio with story, detailed driving directions, customized maps and information about all activities and attractions**
- **24/7 assistance**