ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

Washington and the Blue Ridge

The capital, Skyline Drive through Shenandoah, and colonial Virginia.

Length	11 days, 10 nights
Distance	780 km, 6 driving days
Behind the wheel	10 h 50 min
Travellers	2, 1 room, 1 car
Hotels	Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars)
Flights	Amsterdam – Washington Dulles (IAD), Washington Dulles (IAD) – Amsterdam

CONTENTS

Washington	Days 1–3	**8**
Luray	Days 4–5	**10**
Charlottesville	Days 6–7	**12**
Williamsburg	Days 8–9	**14**
Washington	Day 10	**16**

Day by day

DAY	DATE	NIGHT	KM	DRIVE	°C
1		Washington	50	1 h	
2		Washington			
3		Washington			
4		Luray	150	2 h	
5		Luray			
6		Charlottesville	100	1 h 30 min	
7		Charlottesville			
8		Williamsburg	190	2 h 20 min	
9		Williamsburg			
10		Washington	250	3 h	
11		Flight home from IAD	50	1 h	

780 km · 10 h 50 min behind the wheel · on average 130 km a driving day

Kilometres and drive times by road (OSRM, OpenStreetMap), without stops: plan generously.

The route



Map: US Census Bureau (public domain) · roads © OpenStreetMap contributors

ON THE ROAD

Day 1	Land at Washington Dulles (IAD), drive to Washington · About 50 km (30 mi), 1 h
Day 4	Washington, drive to Luray · About 150 km (90 mi), 2 h
Day 6	Luray, drive to Charlottesville · About 100 km (60 mi), 1 h 30 min
Day 8	Charlottesville, drive to Williamsburg · About 190 km (120 mi), 2 h 20 min
Day 10	Williamsburg, drive to Washington · About 250 km (150 mi), 3 h
Day 11	Washington to Washington Dulles airport (IAD), fly home to Amsterdam · About 50 km (30 mi), 1 h

Well prepared

ESTA

Dutch and Belgian travellers need no visa for a holiday of up to 90 days, but do need an approved ESTA before boarding. It costs about $40, is valid for two years (or until your passport expires) and is applied for online. Apply at least 72 hours before you fly, and only on the official site.

esta.cbp.dhs.gov

Passport

An electronic passport (with the chip symbol), valid for the whole stay. Children need their own passport and ESTA.

nl.usembassy.gov

Driving licence

Your Dutch driving licence is accepted for renting and driving a car as a visitor. An international driving permit next to it helps with police and some rental desks.

anwb.nl

Renting a car

The renter is the main driver and pays with a credit card in their own name (no debit or prepaid card); the deposit is held on it. Usually from 21, and from 21 to 24 you pay a young-driver fee of about $25 a day. Book from home with insurance included (CDW/LDW and extra liability, SLI) and an extra driver if you want to take turns. Returning the car elsewhere (a one-way trip) costs extra. Fuel is sold by the gallon (3.8 litres); fill it up yourself before you bring it back.

Driving in the USA

Keep right; speeds are in miles an hour (65 mph is 105 km/h). Turning right on red is allowed after stopping, unless a sign says no. At a 4-way stop, whoever stopped first goes first. For a stopped yellow school bus with flashing lights you stop in both directions. Toll roads are often electronic only: ask your rental company about its toll pass. On remote stretches (parks, desert) there's little signal and a long way to the next pump: fill up at half and download the map.

Renting an RV

You can rent an RV from about 21 with an ordinary car licence. On top of the rent, count on mileage (often per mile), a kit with bedding and kitchen things, cleaning and the campsite: in the popular parks you book those months ahead on recreation.gov. Big RVs aren't allowed on every park road. Take photos of the RV when you pick it up: damage and missing items are the most heard complaint.

recreation.gov

National parks

Most big parks charge per car. Visitors from abroad pay $100 a person extra at 11 popular parks; the annual pass for non-residents is $250. Some parks need a timed-entry reservation in high season.

nps.gov

Money and tipping

Prices are without sales tax, which is added at the till. In restaurants a tip of 15 to 20% is usual. Cards are accepted almost everywhere; at the pump you may be asked for a ZIP code, so pay inside.

Travel insurance and health

Care in the USA is very expensive: take travel insurance with worldwide medical cover, and check whether your health insurance covers the USA. Cancellation insurance covers the trip if you can't go; insure the rental car with the rental company (see Renting a car). Take medicines in their original packaging, with a prescription in English. Emergency number: 911.

Power, phone and time

110 volt with flat two-pin plugs (type A/B): bring an adapter. A US eSIM is cheaper than roaming. The mainland has four time zones, Arizona mostly without daylight saving time.

Customs

Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

Packing list

- [ ] Passport (valid for the whole trip)
- [ ] ESTA, printed
- [ ] Driving licence (and an international one)
- [ ] Credit card in the driver's name
- [ ] Travel and cancellation insurance
- [ ] Confirmations: flights, car, hotels
- [ ] America the Beautiful pass for the parks
- [ ] Plug adapter for type A/B (110 volt)
- [ ] Car charger and phone holder
- [ ] eSIM or offline maps
- [ ] Sunscreen, sunglasses and a cap
- [ ] Water bottles for the desert
- [ ] Hiking shoes
- [ ] Layers: the coast and the nights get cold
- [ ] Medicines, in your hand luggage
- [ ] A pen, for this booklet

DON'T FORGET

Notes



DAYS 1–3

Washington DC

The monuments and the Capitol

Land at Washington Dulles (IAD), drive to Washington: about 50 km (30 mi), 1 h

3 nights

WASHINGTON · DAYS 1–3

HOTEL

- ☐ Hotel Hive · 3★ — roughly €90
  2224 F Street NW
- ☐ Phoenix Park Hotel · 3★ — roughly €80
  520 N Capitol St NW
- ☐ Motto by Hilton Washington DC City Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  627 H Street NW
- ☐ The Normandy Hotel · 3★ — roughly €80
  2118 Wyoming Ave NW
- ☐ Homewood Suites by Hilton Washington DC Convention Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  465 New York Avenue NW

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DAYS 4–5

Luray VA

Skyline Drive and Shenandoah National Park

Washington, drive to Luray: about 150 km (90 mi), 2 h

2 nights

LURAY · DAYS 4–5

HOTEL

- [ ] Cozy Luray Townhome Getaway 3 Bedroom Townhouse by RedAwning · 3★
  111 Baker Drive
- [ ] Peaceful Luray Cabin w/ Hot Tub, Deck & Fire Pit! · 3★
  993 Leaksville Rd
- [ ] The Barn at Evermore: riverfront retreat w/hot tub · 3★
  165 Kibler Drive
- [ ] Woodruff House · 3★
  330 Mechanic St
- [ ] Paradise View Cabin · 3★
  223 Paradise Lane

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DAYS 6–7

Charlottesville VA

Monticello and the vineyards

Luray, drive to Charlottesville: about 100 km (60 mi), 1 h 30 min

2 nights

CHARLOTTESVILLE · DAYS 6–7

HOTEL

- ☐ Inn at Monticello · 3★
  1188 Scottsville Rd
- ☐ 200 South Street Inn · 3★
  200 W South Street
- ☐ Holiday Inn Express & Suites Charlottesville by IHG · 3★ — roughly €90
  870 PANTOPS CORNER WAY
- ☐ Hyatt Place Charlottesville · 3★ — roughly €100
  2100 Bond Street
- ☐ Hampton Inn & Suites Charlottesville at the University · 3★ — roughly €100
  900 W Main St

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DAYS 8–9

Williamsburg VA

Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown

Charlottesville, drive to Williamsburg: about 190 km (120 mi), 2 h 20 min

2 nights

WILLIAMSBURG · DAYS 8–9

HOTEL

- [ ] Cedars of Williamsburg Bed & Breakfast · 3★
  616 Jamestown Road
- [ ] Holiday Inn Express - Williamsburg Busch Gardens Area by IHG · 3★ — roughly €80
  480 McLaws Cir
- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites Williamsburg Historic District · 3★ — roughly €70
  911 Capitol Landing Rd
- [ ] Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Williamsburg-Historic Gateway by IHG · 3★ — roughly €90
  515 Bypass Rd
- [ ] Hilton Garden Inn Williamsburg · 3★ — roughly €90
  1624 Richmond Rd

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DAY 10

Washington DC

Georgetown

Williamsburg, drive to Washington: about 250 km (150 mi), 3 h

1 night

WASHINGTON · DAY 10

HOTEL

- [ ] Hotel Hive · 3★ — roughly €90
  2224 F Street NW
- [ ] Phoenix Park Hotel · 3★ — roughly €80
  520 N Capitol St NW
- [ ] Motto by Hilton Washington DC City Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  627 H Street NW
- [ ] The Normandy Hotel · 3★ — roughly €80
  2118 Wyoming Ave NW
- [ ] Homewood Suites by Hilton Washington DC Convention Center · 3★ — roughly €100
  465 New York Avenue NW

NOTES

What it costs

DAY	PLACE	HOTEL	TOURS	CAR	TOTAL
1	Washington	€160	–	€60	**€220**
2	Washington	€160	–	€60	**€220**
3	Washington	€160	–	€60	**€220**
4	Luray	€160	–	€60	**€220**
5	Luray	€160	–	€60	**€220**
6	Charlottesville	€160	–	€60	**€220**
7	Charlottesville	€160	–	€60	**€220**
8	Williamsburg	€160	–	€60	**€220**
9	Williamsburg	€160	–	€60	**€220**
10	Washington	€160	–	€60	**€220**
11	Flight home from IAD	–	–	€60	**€60**

Flights	€1,700
Hotels	€1,600
Excursions	€0
Car hire	€660
Total	**€3,960**
	€1,980 a person

An estimate to plan with (prices of 2026-10): hotels, the ticked excursions, car hire and flights. No fuel or meals.

Notes

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Notes

About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: usa.roundtrip.expert/tours/virginia-blue-ridge/

PHOTOS

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Luray	Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort near Luray, Virginia, at dusk, 2007.jpg · DimiTalen, CC0
Charlottesville	Daedalus Books - Charlottesville, Virginia - October 2023 - 1.jpg · Oddjohnphoto, CC0
Williamsburg	US Navy 070406-N-4034B-003 Storekeeper 3rd Class Daniel Trusty assists Yeoman 2nd Class Allisandra Denson with the fit of her body armor during gear issue of pre-deployment training in Williamsburg, Va.jpg · U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Karin R. Burzynski, Public domain
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MAP AND TYPE

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