



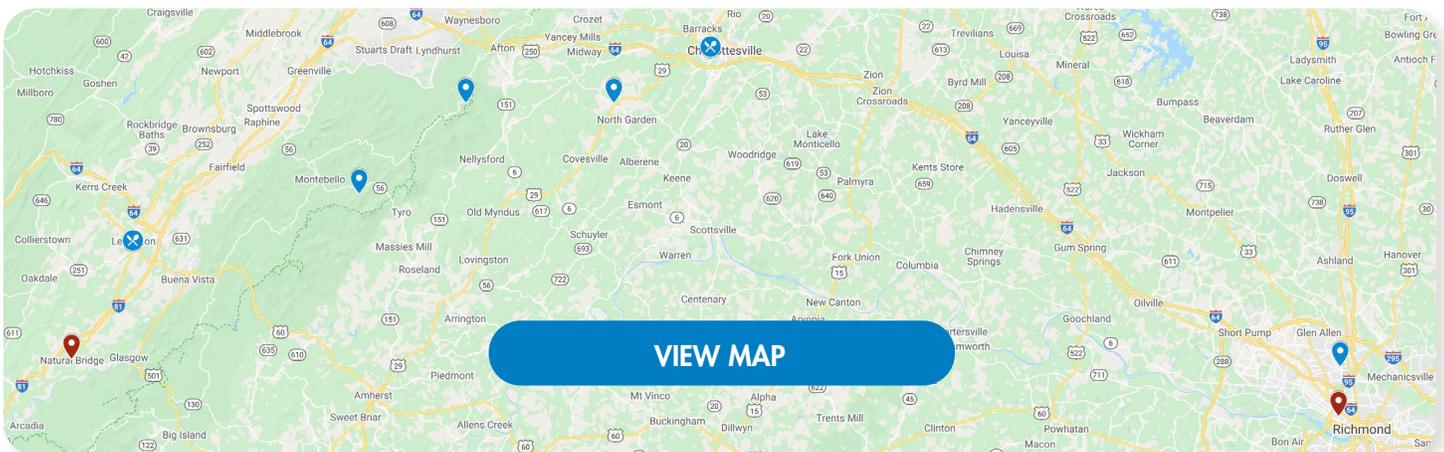
# NATURE LOVER'S ROUTE

## VMFA to the Natural Bridge

Take a road trip curated for nature lovers and inspired by the exhibition *Virginia Arcadia: The Natural Bridge in American Art* at the [Virginia Museum of Fine Arts](#) through August 1, 2021.

Traveling by car, complete this route in its entirety, making all the suggested stops along the way, or pick and choose destinations to create your own itinerary. In approximately 147 miles—from VMFA in Richmond to the Natural Bridge State Park in Rockbridge County—explore the Commonwealth and the beauty of art and nature.

For up-to-date information on the destinations listed here, including hours of operation and other details, visit their websites.



### POINTS OF INTEREST



**Virginia Museum of Fine Arts:** At VMFA, the free special exhibition *Virginia Arcadia: The Natural Bridge in American Art* showcases paintings, prints, decorative arts, photography and more. Experience the exhibition and VMFA's permanent collection as well as more than three acres of gardens, green spaces, and outdoor sculptures, including *Rumors of War* by Kehinde Wiley. VMFA is open 365 days a year: Daily 10 am–5 pm and until 9 pm Wed–Fri. General admission is free. [www.VMFA.museum](http://www.VMFA.museum)



**Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden:** Richmond's Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden offers walking paths through over 50 acres of spectacular gardens, a domed Conservatory, dining, and shopping. Enjoy lunch at the Garden Cafe or grab a coffee from The Robins Tea House. Tickets can be purchased online Wed–Sun 10 am–5 pm. [www.lewisginter.org](http://www.lewisginter.org)



**Pippin Hill Farm:** Just outside of Charlottesville, Pippin Hill Farm and Vineyards provides beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains as well as farm-to-table cuisine. Tour the grounds, partake in a wine tasting, or sit at one of their many outdoor tables to enjoy the view and a delicious meal. The hours at Pippin Hill are Tue–Fri and Sun 11 am–5 pm; Sat 11 am–4:30 pm. [www.pippinhillfarm.com](http://www.pippinhillfarm.com)

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**Humpback Rock Hiking Trail:** Humpback Rock offers stunning views of the Rockfish and Shenandoah Valleys in Nelson County. The trail begins at the Humpback Gap parking area and continues for 3.9 miles to the Humpback Rocks picnic area. You can hike to Humpback Rocks (1 mile), Humpback Mountain (2 miles), or the picnic area (3.9 miles).

[www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/humpback-rocks-trails.htm](http://www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/humpback-rocks-trails.htm)



**Crabtree Falls:** Crabtree Falls is a scenic 60-foot waterfall in Montebello. The Crabtree Falls Hiking Trail takes visitors on a 2.5 mile loop to the top of the falls for views of the Tye River Valley. The waterfall is also visible from an overlook just off of the parking lot if hiking is not preferred.

[www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/crabtree-falls-trail.htm](http://www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/crabtree-falls-trail.htm)



**Claudius Crozet Blue Ridge Tunnel Trail:** The Claudius Crozet Blue Ridge Tunnel Trail in Nelson County gives visitors the opportunity to bike through the historic and newly restored Claudius Crozet Bridge Tunnel. Built in 1850, the Claudius Crozet Bridge Tunnel offers a stirring experience for a variety of visitors: hikers, cyclists, wildlife, history and railroad buffs, school field trips, and nearby residents. The trail spans 4,264 feet and offers views of the Shenandoah Valley. [www.blueridgetunnel.org/overview-faqs/](http://www.blueridgetunnel.org/overview-faqs/)



**Natural Bridge State Park:** Visit Virginia's iconic natural wonder. The 400-million-year-old rock formation measures 215 feet high and 90 feet wide. The experience will leave you in awe of nature's creation and its majestic beauty. Accommodations for those with accessibility needs can be made upon request at the park's Visitor Center 10 am–6 pm. Park hours: Daily 8 am–Dusk, weather permitting.

[www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/natural-bridge](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/natural-bridge)

## PLACES TO EAT

**VMFA (Richmond):** The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts features fine dining in Amuse, casual fare in Best Café, and curbside pick-up menus through VMFA 2Go. Visit the museum's website for menu details and hours of operation.

[www.VMFA.museum](http://www.VMFA.museum)

**Boylan Heights (Charlottesville):** In the heart of Charlottesville, Boylan Heights Burger Bar offers casual dining with a variety of food options suitable for all members of the family. [www.boylanheights.co](http://www.boylanheights.co)

**Southern Inn (Lexington):** Located in the heart of Lexington and open for dinner 7 days a week and for lunch Friday to Sunday, the Southern Inn Restaurant specializes in a wide variety of comfort food for the whole family. [www.southerninn.com](http://www.southerninn.com)

## PLACES TO STAY

**Museum District Bed & Breakfast (Richmond):** Experience the comforts of home while relaxing in the heart of Richmond's Museum and Fan Districts and just across the street from VMFA. [www.museumdistrictbb.com](http://www.museumdistrictbb.com)

**Linden Row Inn (Richmond):** Located in Richmond's Monroe Ward district, the Linden Row Inn offers comfortable lodging with convenient proximity to downtown attractions, including the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

[www.lindenrowinn.com](http://www.lindenrowinn.com)

**Natural Bridge Historic Hotel & Conference Center (Natural Bridge):** Natural Bridge Historic Hotel & Conference Center is conveniently located within the Natural Bridge State Park and has 152 rooms. The hotel features two restaurants and a patio with stunning views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. [www.naturalbridgeva.com/about](http://www.naturalbridgeva.com/about)

