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Virginia colony economics

October 19, 2020 Staff writers Preparing for university before the first day sets up new students for success. Starting university can be overwhelming, even for learners who have taken college courses in the past. To know... Moving to America's cradle content hasn't changed at all, but now it's more seductive than ever Like most Virginia natives, I grew up with an ancestral portrait on the wall. The original was said to hang in a museum in Richmond, so ours was a faded black and white photocopy mounted in a ten-cent store setting. He showed a mustachioed English dandy, black curls falling lushly beyond his shoulders, lace collar spread widely over his chest, staring into the Xerox machine with an air of insouciance: the great-great-great-great-grandfather of my mother, faithful supporter of Charles I, forced into exile after the beheading of his monarch and newly arrived in Virginia with a retinue of servants and cattle in the year 1649. He was called the Horseman. Today's Cavaliers are a football team (the University of Virginia team), but the kind I grew up with — dashing, heroic, extinct — is more essential than ever to the Virginia myth. During the revolutionary period, the idea of the English country squire in the New World gave Washington and Jefferson and their compatriots; less than a century later, the same concept found the flower full in Robert E. Lee's gallantry. Over the years, the legend of the Lost Cause has covered the Landscape of Virginia with a patina of regret that no amount of suburbanization seems able to erase. Seen through this gauze, the past becomes a haze of white columns and red brick people with valiant aristocrats on horseback. But the story is more complicated than that. And since the past is what you're here to find, it's a good idea to know what you're looking for. What made the bulk of Virginia's aristocrats, distinguishing them, say, from the plutocrats of the golden age, was the seriousness with which they took the burden of government and public responsibility, as historian Daniel Boorstin put it. But something changed between the Revolution and the Civil War, as the utopian ideal of pure reason gave way to romantic notions of chivalry-notions that masked the economic imperatives of a 19th century slave society. To understand why this happened, start your visit to Arlington House, Lee's grand mansion overlooking Washington, D.C. The lawns have been covered with graves since Lee left to command a Confederate army and union authorities began burying their dead there: in Virginia, all the time can be from this place. Walk down the Potomac to Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall and Stratford Hall, the great plantations that created the new republic. Go to Williamsburg, the colonial capital where they forged the ideas that would be realized in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Visit Monticello and walk on the grounds of the University of to experience the perfect geometries of the Enlightenment, which Jefferson the architect made brick as skillfully as he did in government. Visit Richmond to see the shrines of Confederation and taste the ashes of defeat. Of course, if you want tourist buses and tourists in T-shirts taking pictures in Historyland before hitting the theme park rides, you won't be hard to find them. But it's not Virginia. Virginia is an ancient place where nothing is far from the ground. These are the incredibly wide rivers of tidal water, which rise and fall with the moon. This is the red clay of Piedmont, where Jefferson the country gentleman trod the Newtonian border. It is a formal garden at dusk, boxed perfuming the air with the scent of decomposition. Breathe deeply, and you too can taste the faded glories of the cavalry. Jefferson Franklin and Adams Streets, Richmond; 800/424-8014 or 804/788-8000, fax 804/225-0334; double \$155-\$225. In 1895, 30 years after the firestorm that consumed Richmond at the fall of Confederation, Carre and Hastings gave the city a magnificent fine art pile that, over the past decade, has been beautifully restored to its crypto-Roman excesses. No, the staircase wasn't used in Gone with the Wind, but the alligators once inhabited the Pools of the Palm Court, and Scott and Zelda once cavorted here. Upstairs you'll find all the luxuries you'd expect, but the place to be is in the middle of the marble columns of the Rotunda, sipping Manhattans in a club chair while the world revolves around you. Homestead Highway 220, Hot Springs; 800/838-1766 or 540/839-1766, fax 540/839-7670; doubles \$117-\$480 per person, including breakfast and dinner. Virginia's first seaside resort may look like an early-century Georgian Revival spa modelled on Baden-Baden, but it's really the Jefferson transplanted into a 15,000-acre forest in the Allegheny Highlands. In its heyday, the Homestead attracted Rockefeller and Vanderbilt; As it nears the end of a long-awaited renovation, you can see why. In addition to golf (three courses, one designed by Robert Trent Jones), Homestead offers tennis, hiking, skiing, skating, horseback riding, skeet shooting, trout fishing, horse-drawn carriage rides, mineral baths, indoor and outdoor pools, a 1930s cinema, afternoon tea and five-course dinners with an orchestra. You can also drive up the road to the village of Warm Springs, where the hotel has two 98-degree soaking pools with rustic enclosures dating back to the Jeffersonian period. After that, you'll probably just want to sit on the veranda and the rock. Williamsburg Francis St., Williamsburg; 800/447-8679 or 804/221-8840; \$235-\$340. Some time after John D. Rockefeller Jr. was persuaded to undertake the restoration of Virginia's colonial capital, he realized that visitors would need a place to stay. The result is a formal but intimate hotel that offers Southern hospitality as only a Rockefeller could envision. Some rooms can be a bit plump plump small, but everything else on the place whispers comfort and comfort, from the view of the green bowling alley as you take tea in the East Lounge to the 1930s Regency Revival décor (which comes as a relief after the relentless Georgianism of Colonial Williamsburg himself). Don't forget to pack a suit if you want to join the Daddy Warbucks guys by sipping a lobster bisque in the dining room. Tides Inn King Carter Dr., Irvington; 800/843-3746 or 804/438-5000; doubles \$137 - \$154 per person, including breakfast and dinner. You visited Williamsburg and Monticello, you led the ridge of the blue ridge, you saw the monuments and the battlefields. You think you know Virginia. You don't-do until you've been to the tides, a time-capsule station on a wide entrance just upstream from the Chesapeake Bay. It's the kind of place you no longer thought existed, a brick and clapboard station rowing where couples from Richmond or Norfolk or a plantation between dancing the foxtrot like moonlight inclines in the water. During the day there is golf and tennis and a saltwater pool, as well as charter boats for fishing and cruises on a vintage yacht. At first you think it's mainly for the older crowd, but then it hits you: you're going to get older too. And you can barely wait. Small Hotels and Country InnsMorrison House 116 S. Alfred St., Alexandria; 800/367-0800 or 703/838-8000; double \$150-\$295. This small, refined hotel on a quiet street in 18th century Alexandria's Old Town is just downstream from Washington and convenient at Arlington House and Mount Vernon.Linden Row Inn 100 E. Franklin St., Richmond; 800/348-7424 or 804/783-7000, fax 804/648-7504; double \$99 - \$119. Seven Greek Renaissance townhouses on the edge of downtown Richmond, cleverly combined and finished in just the right shade of faded mulberry. Downstairs is a courtyard garden that may or may not have inspired Poe.Red Fox Inn 2 E. Washington St., Middleburg; 800/223-1728 or 540/687-6301, fax 540/687-6187; doubles \$135-\$155, including continental breakfast. The country inn of your hunk in the country village of your hunk: comfortable rooms furnished with hanging rugs and wing chairs in an 18th century stone tavern, with a kitchen that is rightly famous for its crab cakes. Hostel in Little Washington Spindle and Main Sts., Washington; 540/675-3800; doubles \$250-\$390, including continental breakfast. In a sleepy village about 70 miles west of D.C., Reinhardt Lynch has created the ultimate romantic refuge, a luxurious cocoon that surrounds a small secret garden. Does the outside world still exist? Do we care? Conyers House 3131 Slate Mills Rd., Sperryville; 540/987-8025, fax 540/987-8709; double 135 - \$200, including breakfast. A rustic 18th century inn where hunting country gives way to the Blue Ridge. Lynch sometimes gives way to character here: the floors squeak and the doors can be kissed, but the hospitality is as authentic as the English tack on the porch (\$40 per person for a two-hour guide). Clifton 1296 Clifton Inn Dr., Charlottesville; 804/971-1800, fax 804/971-7098; doubles \$150-\$265, including breakfast. This 1799 house built by Jefferson's son-in-law is now a smooth inn in a secluded forest, with croquet on the lawn, tennis courts at the back, and a private lake down the hill. The rooms, especially those of white and chintz in the transport house, have a warm and romantic atmosphere that will make you want to put a match to the logs in the fireplace and keep the shutters pulled until noon. Sampson Eagon Inn 238 E. Beverley St., Staunton; 800/597-9722 or 540/886-8200; doubles \$85. Despite its natural beauty, the Shenandoah Valley has a shortage of top-notch places to stay. Fortunately, there is the Sampson Eagon Inn, a wonderfully restored 1840s mansion in the leafy Staunton Gospel Hill, just down the street from the Presbyterian manse where Woodrow Wilson was born. RestaurantsThe Trellis 403 Duke of Gloucester St., Williamsburg; 757/229-8610; dinner for two \$66 (meal prices everywhere do not include drinks, taxes, or tip). In the past, Virginia cuisine meant that Chesapeake Bay crustaceans swam in butter, and the rich salty taste of Smithfield ham. It still does, except that the crustaceans are only wading now and the ham has been joined in the past. RestaurantsThe Trellis 403 Duke of Gloucester St., Williamsburg; 757/229-8610; dinner for two \$66 (meal prices everywhere do not include drinks, taxes, or tip). 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