



Places to visit for a day or a weekend...

## Alexandria

### English Now!

#### **Why You Should Go**

Established in 1695, Alexandria is a beautiful colonial-era city in the state of Virginia. It is only about 7 miles (11km) south of Washington, D.C., so it is a wonderful place to visit to take a break from the fast-paced atmosphere of the capital.

#### **George Washington Masonic National Memorial**

This is the first thing you will notice as you approach Alexandria, a huge tower visible from miles away. This beautiful structure imitates the architecture of the Lighthouse of Alexandria in Egypt. It is dedicated to the memory of George Washington, who called Alexandria home. It is 333 feet (101 meters) tall. Inside, you will see a 17-foot statue of George Washington and fascinating Washington artifacts.

#### **Torpedo Factory Art Center & Alexandria Archeology Museum**

This building, which was once a munitions plant, now houses the largest number of publicly accessible working artist studios in the U.S.! This is a great place to visit, as a main destination for a trip to Alexandria, if you are interested in art and enjoy meeting working artists. There are more than 160 resident artists, 82 working studios, and six galleries where you can view art being created. You can also visit the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, which can also be found in the Art Center. Plan on spending at least an hour here – probably more – during a visit to Alexandria.

#### **Old Town Alexandria**

A beautifully-preserved historic district on the Potomac River, Old Town Alexandria is the heart of the city. Today Old Town's cobblestone streets and red brick sidewalks hum with an energy that attracts everyone from presidents to pet lovers to some of the city's best restaurants, arts, events, shopping and historic attractions. This is a very nice walking district with some fascinating architecture and many restaurants that feature outdoor dining. It is walkable from the King Street Metro.

#### **Gadsby's Tavern Museum**

This tavern was built in 1785 and has hosted many elegant parties and dances over the years. It was even the location of several of George Washington's birthday parties. Today, you can enjoy lunch in the Colonial dining room or take a 30-minute tour of the tavern museum.

#### **John Carlyle House**

John Carlyle was a Scottish merchant who helped found the city of Alexandria in 1749. You can visit his home which he built in 1753. It is a gorgeous example of Georgian Palladian architecture.

### **Jones Point Light**

The Jones Point Light is a small river lighthouse on the Potomac River. It was used as a warning light for naval ships approaching the Washington Navy Yard. It is located in Jones Point Park, just south of Old Town Alexandria. While in the park, you can also take time to walk the interpretive trails, go fishing or canoeing, or participate in Park Ranger led programs.

### **Woodlawn Plantation**

This site was once part of George Washington's Mount Vernon plantation. In 1799 it was given to George Washington's nephew and his wife who had a beautiful Georgian/Federal house built on the site. It was designed by the same architect who built the U.S. Capitol. It is now a historic house museum. While you are at the plantation, you can also see the Pope-Leighey house designed by the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

### **George Washington's Mount Vernon Plantation**

Finally, if you travel to Alexandria by car, George Washington's Mount Vernon home is only 10 miles further south from Old Town Alexandria and a great additional part of a trip to Virginia. Please ask at the school for more information about Mount Vernon, if you'd like to make the trip.

**Getting There.** You can travel from English Now! to Alexandria in less than an hour. Take the Metro's blue line King Street Station in Alexandria. It is also an easy drive from the Washington, D.C. area, though traffic at rush hour can be difficult.

**Where to Stay.** There are many chain hotels in Alexandria. It is a great destination for an "overnight getaway." One favorite of travelers is Hampton Inn Suites; rooms with two double beds usually cost around \$150-175/night and include breakfast. These hotels have pools too.

**For More Information.** Please let Paul or Kirstie know if you are traveling to Alexandria. We would love to hear about your plans, and we would love to hear how your trip goes, after you return, so that we can share what you learn with other students.