



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

Charlottesville, Virginia

English Now!

Charlottesville is a small city located approximately two hours from Bethesda. It is best known for its historic sites, such as **Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello**, as well as the university he created, the beautiful **University of Virginia**. Take a walk among the classically Virginian architecture of the university and see a great example of an American "college town." Nearby, you can also a walking tour of downtown Charlottesville and visit other early-American **historic sites**.

Monticello is a great place to learn about early American history, the culture of colonial Virginia and the early republic, and one of America's most famous Presidents. This is also a great place to learn about the American South, including the tragic story of slavery that eventually led to our Civil War. Jefferson's home has been beautifully preserved, and guided tours are convenient and accessible. Note: you must purchase tickets to tour Monticello. For more information on Monticello or Jefferson, or to purchase tickets, visit the Monticello website at: <http://www.monticello.org/>

Yet there is more than just history to enjoy here. Charlottesville has developed a rich **arts and entertainment scene**, especially when it comes to live music. You can hear music in clubs, theaters, and on the street. In addition, many good restaurants line the quaint streets downtown. The **Charlottesville Historic Downtown Mall** is the place to go. A short walk from the University of Virginia's campus, the Mall offers many arts, entertainment, and restaurant options. You can even go ice skating at an indoor city ice rink on the Mall, in the winter!

Beyond the *city* of Charlottesville, miles and miles of undeveloped *rural* forest and fields are dotted with quaint pockets of rural life. So take a drive along the **scenic and gentle roads** that wind over hills and low mountains, opening suddenly on to beautiful views. You may even want to drive part. If you like to get moving outdoors, you can kayak the **James or Rivanna Rivers**, hike wilderness trails, or bike long trails and quiet country roads where farmers are harvesting crops in fields that have been worked by their families for generations.

There are also many **orchards** along those roads, in the summer you can pick strawberries, cherries, and peaches. In the autumn, there are shiny and juicy apples waiting to be picked. Finally, speaking of fruit, **enjoy tours and tastings at more than 20 vineyards** along the **Monticello Wine Trail**, and the area's award-winning small-batch beer breweries that make up the **Brew Ridge Trail**.

For More Information. Please let Paul or Kirstie know if you are traveling to Charlottesville. 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!