

Selected Outdoor Photography Locations
for
Northern Virginia



Northern Virginia

It can be difficult to decide what to have as your session “backdrop” in the Washington DC metro area. What kind of feeling are you going for? Wineries, barns, parks, rivers, historic downtowns, mansions & plantations, memorials and monuments – there are literally thousands of locations both inside the Beltway as well as far beyond for just about everyone!

Your outdoor session is just that, *yours*, so I would love for you to recommend the location. However, many Clients want suggestions for outdoor locations, and of course I want to provide you with many options, and the possibilities are endless – if you've had your eye on a location just let me know, I'd love to add it to my growing list!

If you are looking for location suggestions in [DC](#), [Maryland](#) or [Virginia](#), please see our other Outdoor Session Recommendation Lists.

Top Picks

Old Town Alexandria & Waterfront
Mount Vernon
Stone Mansion
Roosevelt Island
Marine Corps War Memorial
Historic Fairfax & GMU
Occoquan Regional Park
Manassas Battlefields
The Winery at Bull Run
Historic Clifton
Historic Morven Park
Chapman's Mill

Locations available for Mini Sessions

Minis are only allowed at a limited number of locations

Monumental Arts Studio in Ft Washington, MD
National Harbor & the Gaylord Hotel and Convention Center
MGM National Harbor
Ft Washington National Park
Oxon Hill Farms & Oxon Hill Manor
Old Town Alexandria & Bellehaven area
JBAB & Historic Anacostia
Nationals Park & Navy Yard/Barracks Row

Alexandria & Arlington County

Old Town Alexandria <http://www.visitalexandriava.com/about-alexandria/old-town-alexandria/>

Address: King Street & Lee Street, Alexandria, VA

About: Old Town is one of the most versatile locations in Northern Virginia. From industrial, urban landscapes, water views, and historic cobblestone streets there is something for everyone. It's bustling on the weekends and full of quaint shops and charm. The streets feature row homes, office buildings, shops and businesses, plus the dramatic views of the river and beyond.

Green Spring Gardens <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/>

By Appointment Only • Monumental Arts Studio & Offices Located in Ft Washington Maryland
www.monumentalarts.com • 1-800-687-9350 (call) • 201-781-6863 (text) • monumentalarts@outlook.com

Address: 4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria, VA

About: Like their website says, there's "something for everyone" at Green Spring Gardens. For the family being photographed, there are endless trees and flower beds, a gazebo, brick cobblestone paths, a lake with a fountain at the bottom of a hill and an old plantation home with rustic architecture. It offers a variety of shaded options, making it ideal for families looking to book in the morning hours!

Note: This location is part of the Fairfax County Parks Association, which requires a \$100+ permit. Client is responsible for all fees. See website for more details.

More to come in Alexandria &
Arlington! Gravelly Point Park
Roosevelt Island
Marine Corps War Memorial
Cutis Trail & Canal Trail
Mount Vernon Trail
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Spout Run Park
Doctor's Run Park
Lubber Run Park

Fairfax County, City of Fairfax & City of Falls Church

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

http://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens

Address: 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court Vienna, VA

About: Meadowlark is a huge botanical garden nestled in suburban Washington D.C. It's a popular location for photographers and its size lends itself to various backdrop options. Turned over boats, to cherry trees, gazebos, bridges and more, there are plenty of options for creating a unique image.

Note: Due to the popularity of this location, there are limits to the number of portrait sessions per day, so plan ahead of time to ensure the photographer can reserve your time. In addition, there is a *\$25 photography fee for this location*, in addition to an admittance fee of \$5 per person on average. Client is responsible for all fees. See website for more details.

Brides: There is a \$250 bridal fee for this location – non-negotiable!

Gunston Hall <http://www.gunstonhall.org/>

Address: 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, 22079

About: Gunston Hall is the historic home and plantation of George Mason (yes, that George Mason). Similar architecture and landscape of George Mason, but no crowds and easier trails for kids. From the sprawling fields, the stone house, and farm buildings, there are lots of varieties in backdrops.

Note: There is an admittance fee of \$5 per person. The grounds close early at 6pm. Client is responsible for all fees. See website for more details.

Mount Vernon <http://www.mountvernon.org/>

Address: 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA (follow until the end of the road past gristmill)

About: The home of our first U.S. President George Washington, is there anything to better represent

Virginia history? Located on the edge of a large hill overlooking the Potomac, the plantation is full of historic buildings, animal pastures, trees and a long porch overlooking the water.

By Appointment Only • Monumental Arts Studio & Offices Located in Ft Washington Maryland
www.monumentalarts.com • 1-800-687-9350 (call) • 201-781-6863 (text) • monumentalarts@outlook.com

Fees: Adults \$15, Children (5+) \$7, Senior (62+) \$14. Client is responsible for all fees.

More to come in Fairfax!
Historic Downtown Falls Church
Mount Vernon Trail
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Stone Mansion
GMU
Burke Lake Park
Virginia Arboretum
Frying Pan Park

Prince William County, Manassas, Occoquan & Woodbridge

Historic Old Town Occoquan <http://www.occoquan.com/>

Address: 440 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125 (cul-de-sac meeting point)

About: With buildings dating as far back as 1758, it is a popular location for clients as it features a rustic, urban feel with trademark Virginia lush green scenery. Overlooking the Occoquan river, it features old buildings and stone walls, cobblestone walkways, ivy covered stone and a scenic bridge overlook. A little bit of everything!

Occoquan Regional Park <http://www.nvrpa.org/park/occoquan/>

Address: 9751 Ox Road, Lorton VA

About: Located just across the river from Historic Old Town Occoquan, this park is set back deep into the woods and follows the edge of the Occoquan River. Featuring the remains of a mid-century kiln, old brick buildings, brick walkways and tall staircases down the water, the park has many different picture perfect backgrounds.

Manassas Battlefields <http://www.nps.gov/mana/index.htm>

Address: 12521 Lee Highway, Manassas, Virginia 20109

About: There is no other location I could suggest that will give the roaming, open field backdrop like that of the historic Civil War Manassas Battlefields. Old buildings, tall grass, handmade fences all provide a gorgeous and educational backdrop to your session - perfect for anytime of the year and by far my most popular location.

Old Town Manassas <http://www.visitmanassas.org/>

Address: 9431 West Street, Manassas, VA

About: Old Town Manassas is a 1914 town nestled in the Northern Virginia area. It offers train tracks, old train cars, and lots of old buildings with rich architecture and stone work. Popular for its variety and quaint feel, it's a location with endless possibilities for families, couples and seniors.

Note: It is illegal to shoot on train tracks, so they will not be used as part of the session.

The Winery at Bull Run <http://www.wineryatbullrun.com/>

Address: 15950 Lee Highway, Manassas 20120

About: The closest winery to Washington DC, this location boasts a working winery and grounds adjacent to the Manassas Battlefields. It's a small location, but boasts green grounds, a tree lined drive and barn on site.

Note: This location is used regularly for weddings, and is not suggested on the weekends as there are a lot of crowds and wedding parties using the grounds.

Leesylvania State Park http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/lee.shtml

By Appointment Only • Monumental Arts Studio & Offices Located in Ft Washington Maryland
www.monumentalarts.com • 1-800-687-9350 (call) • 201-781-6863 (text) • monumentalarts@outlook.com

Address: 2001 Daniel K Ludwig Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22191-4504

About: Located on the Potomac, Leesylvania State Park is full of trails, trees, picnic pavilions and features a playground, water bridge and water front views of the Maryland coast.

Fees: \$4 per car weekdays, \$5 per car weekends. Client is responsible for

all fees. More to come in PWC!

Leesburg, Purcellville & Loudoun County

Historic Downtown Leesburg

The Marshall House

Historic Morven Park

Historic Aldie

Historic Downtown Purcellville

Point of Rocks Park – OK, it's on the Maryland side of the river, but you get the idea

Oatlands Plantation in Leesburg

Oatlands Historic House and

Gardens Balls Bluff

Historic Morven Park Address: 17263 Southern Planter Ln., Leesburg, VA 20176

Red Rock Wilderness Overlook Regional Park

The Marshall House

Temple Hall Farm Regional Park

Loudoun County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden

Audubon Naturalist Society Rust Nature Sanctuary

Purcellville Historic Downtown and Train Depot

Wineries, Wineries, Wineries

More to come in Loudoun County!

Fauquier County

Chapman's Mill <http://www.chapmansmill.org/>

Address: 17504 Beverley Mill Road, Broad Run, VA 20137

About: Located near Haymarket just off I-66 towards Front Royal, Chapman's Mill is a beautiful structure of what remains of an 18th century mill. The stone remains of this large structure serve as a perfect backdrop and the mill house located just next to it has a picture perfect window for families, children and couples.

Note: This location requires a \$40 "donation" to shoot there. Client is responsible for all fees. It is illegal to shoot on train tracks, so they will not be used as part of the session.

Wineries, Wineries, Wineries

Fredericksburg, Stafford & Spotsylvania County

Government Island <http://www.gostaffordva.com/government-island.cfm>

Address: 191 Coal Landing Road, Stafford, VA 22554

About: Located off Route 1 in Stafford, this historic rock quarry remains was once the site where our forefathers gathered rock to build many monuments and buildings in Washington, D.C. Featuring tree covered paths, a long wooden bridge and quarry remains it is a "mountainous" backdrop just right off a convenient and local highway.

Marine Corps Museum & Walking Trails <http://www.usmcmuseum.com/index.asp>

By Appointment Only • Monumental Arts Studio & Offices Located in Ft Washington Maryland
www.monumentalarts.com • 1-800-687-9350 (call) • 201-781-6863 (text) • monumentalarts@outlook.com

Address: 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway, Triangle, VA 22172

About: Hidden behind a hill and located below the Marine Corps Chapel, the museum offers miles of tree lined paved walking paths that serve as a picture perfect backdrop for your photos. A bridge, stone walls, and a sense of patriotism fill this location. Just miles from Quantico Marine Corps base, it is a great location for those coming from the south or looking for a meeting place with an attraction for before/after your session!

Wineries, Wineries, Wineries

Points West – Front Royal, Warrenton, Culpepper, Winchester & Harpers Ferry, WV

Historic Downtown Warrenton
Historic Downtown Culpepper
Historic Downtown Winchester
Historic Front Royal and Skyline Drive
Luray Caverns
Skyline Caverns

Points South – Charlottesville, Richmond, Barboursville & Orange County

UVA Campus
Historic Downtown Charlottesville
Historic Orange
Historic Richmond & the Fan district

Additional Fees: Please note, the Client is responsible for any entrance/admission fees or photography fees for any location, and these may change, so always check the website first to make sure you accept the additional cost – you will be charged the additional fees when I run your balance.