

Alexandria



Welcome to Washington DC and the Alexandria area! As the BESA Rep for Alexandria I am very willing to answer any questions and advise as best I can when you arrive in the area. Please do not hesitate to ask. Alexandria is a large area and facilities can be quite far apart. I have tried to give some idea of the nearest facility geographically to the most popular areas where people have homes but needless to say there will be crossovers and please do explore! I shall look forward to meeting you but if you need any help please email me on besa.alexandria@gmail.com

The hub of Alexandria is the Old Town founded in 1749. The first surveyor was a young lad of seventeen called George Washington, and this Southern city was occupied by the North during the Civil war. There is lots of history, even an archaeology museum, and many places to visit, eat, shop and play.

Old Town is very picturesque but very few of us actually live there as rentals are expensive. It is the social centre of the area and has many excellent restaurants. The area revolves around its N/S communication routes the George Washington Parkway along the river; Route 1 (also called Richmond Hwy and Jefferson Davis Hwy) and the I395/I95. Everything is orientated around one of these routes. We rarely use the 'beltway' I495.

Transport

The Metro is worth it even when you pay to park. Get a Smart Card at the station and keep topping it up. Stations are King St for Alexandria Old Town, for the Hoffman centre Cinema go to Eisenhower Road and to park before going into DC, go to Huntingdon Rd. No charge at Weekends. The stations are serviced by a **Metro bus system**.

Car Parking -All shopping centres and Cinemas have large car parks but Old Town Alexandria is old, with narrow streets and limited parking. Think UK and accept you will have to pay for anything over 3 hrs.

There is free parking on-street parking for 2hrs/3hrs in the streets approaching Old Town, indicated by green-on-white signs. It is generally limited to two hours, from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m., Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. Sunday until 2 a.m. Do check very carefully and do not overstay. The \$40.00 penalty is rigorously policed and makes the \$8.00 max in most of the city car-parks acceptable for a day out.

Large Car parks are off King St., under the Market Square and on N/S Union St. You can get set price cheaper parking, but be warned some of it is low and difficult to maneuver in.

Bus - system timetables and routes are at www.dashbus.com

Main Shopping Malls and Centres (going south)

Pentagon City (On the Metro – very central, also near I395 and Route 1) 1100 South Hayes Street, Arlington Va 22202 Macys; Nordstrom – mainly fashion but with Costco nearby

Potomac Yard (On Route 1)
3671 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Alexandria 22301 – Target, Pier 1, Staples, Best Buy

Springfield Shopping Mall (Off I495 and I95; and near metro) 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield Va 22153 – Macys, Pennys, Target, main mall under renovation until 2014

Landmark Mall (off I395 and Duke St)
5801 Duke Street, Alexandria, 22304 – Sears and Macys

Kingstowne (Beltway Exit 173 (Van Dorn south) to right on Kingstowne Parkway to Kingstowne Towne Center on right) 5955 Kingstowne Center Alexandria, 23315 – Variety including Walmart, Kohls, Safeway and many more

Mount Vernon Plaza (On Route 1)
7694 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306
Bed Bath and Beyond, Home Depot, Staples

Potomac Town Centre (Off I95 at Woodbridge)
15201 Potomac Town Pl Woodbridge, VA 22191 – Wegmans, Clothing and sports shops etc

Outlets and Shopping Centre

Potomac Mills – massive co-location of over 225 retailers and outlets including **IKEA** – off I95 at Woodbridge

Setting Up Home

Home goods are available from many outlets and some suggestions are below. Remember to look out for coupons and discounts in websites, newspapers and use military id. Walmart and Target will try to sell the basics of everything. Alternatives/better prices/quality can be found:-

Walmart www.walmart.com

6303, and 7910 Richmond Hwy and 17041 Jefferson Davis Hwy (Route 1); Kingstowne and Potomac Mills

Target www.target.com

Potomac Yard; Richmond Hwy(Route 1)

Electrical goods

Best Buy www.bestbuy.com

Pentagon City; Potomac Yard, Springfield, Potomac Mills

Sears www.sears.com

Landmark; Potomac Mills

Homestuffs

Bed Bath and Beyond

www.bedbathandbeyond.com

6642 Loisdale Rd, Springfield

7690 Richmond Hwy, (MT Vernon Plaza)

14101 Crossing Pl, Woodbridge (Nr Potomac Mills)

IKEA – Potomac Mills

Macys – Pentagon City; Landmark; Potomac Mills

Sears – Landmark; Potomac Mills

Pennys – Springfield; Potomac Mills

Crate and Barrel Outlet

1700 Prince St, Alexandria

Pier1 – Potomac Yard

4349 Duke St Ste A, Alexandria

14348 Gideon Dr, Woodbridge

Pharmacy

CVS or Walgreens but some large supermarkets also have a pharmacy

Hardware/Garden

Home Depot - Springfield; Mt Vernon Plaza

6555 Little River Tpke, Alexandria

13025 Smoketown Rd, Woodbridge

Lowes - Potomac Mills

6750 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria

13720 Smoketown Rd, Woodbridge

Crafts

Michaels – Springfield; Mt Vernon Plaza

14137 Crossing Pl Parkway, East Woodbridge

Curtains

Bed Bath and Beyond; Overstock.com

Wholesale with membership

Costco www.costco.com

Pentagon City, 1200 South Fern Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Newington- Springfield, 7373 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, VA 22153

Potomac Mills 2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste
200, Woodbridge, VA 22192

NEW Summer 2013 Richmond Hwy S of Mount
Vernon Plaza

Military only

PX stores at Fort Belvoir, Henderson Hall (Fort Myer) and Andrews Airforce Base.

Thrift Shops – (There are many, and also consignment shops in Old Town)

Salvation Army 6528 Little River Tpke, Alexandria

Amvets 3115 Sherwood Hall Ln, Alexandria, VA
22306

Military Thrift Shop 10002 Caples Rd, Fort Belvoir
(Check opening times

www.fortbelvoirthriftshop.org)

Grocery Shopping

The main supermarkets are Safeway and Giant; There are many stores within 25 miles of Old Town Alexandria – below are some of them.

Whole Foods and Trader Joes have more specialty options; Harris Teeters and Wegmans are up market and good quality. World Market is more cosmopolitan. Target sells Boots toiletries. Costco is good for cheese and combines wholesale food, clothing and home goods but you have to subscribe. Those of us with Military ID can use the Commissary's at Fort Myer; Fort Belvoir and Andrews Airforce Base in Maryland.

Safeway www.safeway.com

1624 Belle View Alexandria, VA 22307

500 S. Royal St Alexandria, VA 22314

6130 Rose Hill Dr. Alexandria, VA 22310

3526 King St Alexandria, VA 22302

5980 Kingstowne Towne Center VA 22315

8646 Richmond Hwy Alexandria, VA 22309
299 S Van Dorn St. Alexandria, VA 22304

Giant www.giantfood.com

6800 Richmond Hwy. Beacon Mall 22306
3131 Duke Street, Alexandria, Commons 22314
530 First Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
5870 Kingstowne Blvd. Kingstowne 22315

Trader Joes www.traderjoes.com

612 N Saint Asaph St Alexandria, VA 22314
6394 Springfield Plaza, Springfield, VA 22150

Whole Foods www.wholefoodsmarket.com

1700 Duke St Alexandria, Virginia 22314

World Market www.WorldMarket.com

5954 Kingstowne Towne Ctr, Alexandria .

Harris Teeter www.harristeeter.com

4641 Duke St, Alexandria, VA 22304

Wegmans www.wegmans.com

14801, Dining Way, Woodbridge Va 22191

Playtime

Recreation Centres and Public Pools (see links to Sports Centers, ice rink, pools and parks)
www.alexandria.gov/recreationcenters
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-recenter.htm
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/

Public Libraries

Alexandria City

5005 Duke St, Alexandria 703) 746-1702.
717 Queen St, Alexandria . (703) 746-1703
4701 Seminary Rd, Alexandria . (703) 746-1704

Alexandria Fairfax County

See www.publiclibraries.com/virginia.htm

There are plenty of restaurants, pubs and eateries in Alexandria, particularly in Old Town where the locals go out to eat. There are too many to list but many are excellent so do explore and check the online posting for menus and costs.

www.visitalexandriava.com/restaurants

All the shopping Malls are well equipped with food outlets.

Cinemas

Hoffman Centre - 206 Swamp Fox Rd., Alexandria, VA 22314 (888) 262-4386

Regal - Potomac Yard, Kingstowne

AMC movie theater - Potomac Mills -

Visits

See www.visitalexandriava.com

Alexandria has much to offer if you are interested in history, art or culture. Don't miss :-

- The Torpedo Factory Art Centre
- Archaeology Museum;
- The Masonic Monument;
- The Apothecary Shop;
- Carlyle House;
- Gadsbys Tavern;
- The Black History Museum

Check out what is available at the Visitor Centre, located at 221 King Street where you can also purchase the [Key to the City booklet](#). The pass includes admission to nine historic sites (worth \$26) and over 100 special offers at area attractions, shops, and restaurants. For Active Duty Military members, the booklet is only \$5! The Civil War edition includes a free guided mobile phone tour with commentary for over 15 locations in Alexandria relating to the Civil War.

And for another thing:-

- Visit the Farmers Market every Saturday 05.00-1200 in the Market Square, King St, Alexandria.
- Attend Sunday Services at the Church that was attended by both Generals George Washington and Robert E Lee. www.historicchristchurch.org
- Take a bike ride along the Potomac on the Mount Vernon Trail.
www.visitalexandriava.com/things-to-do/biking-in-alexandria

Further afield there is the Mount Vernon Trail along the river to the home George Washington, Mount Vernon, and Gunston Hall the home of the campaigner for the Constitution George Mason. Some of the best wildlife watching in the Washington metropolitan area is at Huntley Meadows Park and south along the Potomac river at Accotint; Mason Neck and Occoquan wildlife refuges. Look out for beaver, nesting ospreys and bald eagles.