

Visit Shenandoah Valley

Performing Arts in the Valley

The Shenandoah Valley may be pastoral and relaxing, but has no shortage of the performing arts. Follow the road to some first-class performances.

American Shakespeare Center

Staunton, VA

877-MUCH-ADO,

www.americanshakespearecenter.com

Experience Shakespeare up close and riveting. At the American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, Virginia, characters are funny, tragic, and slapstick. In the small wooden theater copied from Shakespeare's original, the audience can't help but interact with the characters, sometimes becoming part of the drama itself.



Shakespeare is fun here. Petruchio or Othello might just doff their costumes and play acoustic rock-and-roll during intermission. Plus, you're never sure who's going to pop up in drag. Because women didn't take to the English stage until after 1660, all the women in Shakespeare's plays were originally played by men. The American Shakespeare Center believes Shakespeare is about everyone — male and female — so it is not

Othello, at the American Shakespeare Center, features Sarah Fallon; René Thornton, Jr.; and Benjamin Curns.

an all-male company, but they try to re-create some of the fun of gender confusions by casting women as men and men as women.

Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* and *Othello*, along with John O'Keeffe's rollicking romantic comedy *Wild Oats*, are playing through early November. The excitement and bawdiness of *Henry IV*, Part 2, starts on Sept. 1. If you come on Friday and leave late Sunday afternoon, you may see three different shows. Why not make it a Shakespeare-immersion weekend and catch them all? Staunton is inviting, full of 19th-century buildings, enticing storefronts, and great restaurants specializing in locally grown foods.

Mockingbird Artisan Fare and Roots Music

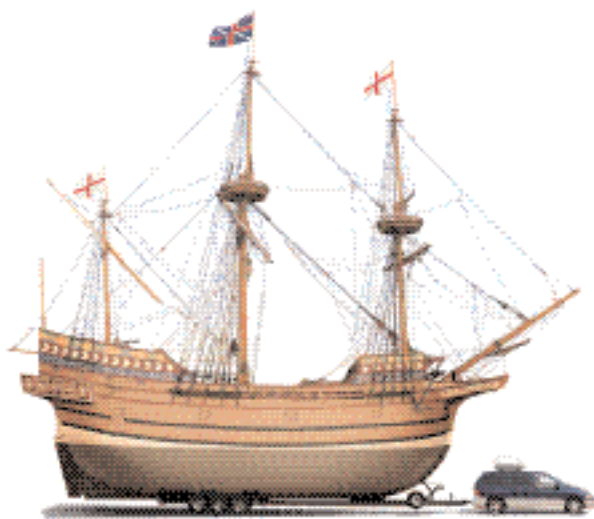
Staunton, VA

540-213-8777, www.mockingbird123.com

Mockingbird is a restaurant and live-music venue in historic downtown Staunton with its own historic vibe. The original wide oak floors and pressed-tin ceilings exude traditional flavor, while the bar of local soapstone and tables made from nearby woods show a modern sensibility. Owner Wade Luhn mixes in his interests in organic farming, micro-brewing, and traditionally-inspired acoustic music.

Mockingbird hosts a healthy mix of local and nationally touring artists in its Roots Music Hall, adjacent to, but acoustically separate from, the restaurant. The listening room atmosphere has attracted such notable acts as Seldom Scene, Mountain Heart, Blue Highway, and John McCutcheon. Murder mystery theatre is the fare almost every summer Sunday.

continued on page 41



Make Room for the Memories.

An adventure of historic proportion is waiting for you—at two living-history museums that explore America's beginnings. Board replicas of colonial ships. Grind corn in a Powhatan Indian village. Try on English armor inside a palisaded fort. Then, join Continental Army soldiers at their encampment for a firsthand look at the Revolution's end. Don't forget your camera. Because the history here is life size. And your memories will be even bigger!

JAMESTOWN & YORKTOWN
SETTLEMENT & VICTORY CENTER
1-888-593-4682 or www.historyisfun.org

Save close to 20% on a combination ticket to both museums.

Shenandoah River Outfitters
Celebrating 40 years!
Come Play on the River with us!

Canoe, kayak, raft & tubes for Fun on the River!

Call 800-6CANOE2
or www.shenandoahriver.com
6502 S. Page Valley Road Luray, VA 22835

Stay in our River Log Cabins

Slice of the Shenandoah Valley

Harrisonburg Virginia

Discover... Front Royal VIRGINIA

Experience Page County's Open Roads...

For more information or a free color brochure, call or visit the following:

Luray - Page County Tourism
888-743-3915 • www.LurayPage.com

Front Royal Warren County Tourism
800-338-2576 • www.DiscoverFrontRoyal.com

Harrisonburg Tourism
540-432-8935 • www.HarrisonburgTourism.com