The New World

The year 2007 marked the 400th anniversary of Virginia. The Virginia Company sailed from England in 1607 to establish a permanent English Colony in the New World. On May 14, 1607, the explorers landed on the banks of the James River and the history of America was born with the settlement of Jamestown.



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America

Virginia was the first and largest of the colonies in America. Four of the first five presidents of the United States—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe—called Virginia home. Three other presidents (William Henry Harrison, John Tyler and Zachary Taylor) were also from Virginia.

More major Civil War battles took place in Virginia than in any other state. Since that time, Virginia has been the proud home of all branches of the military service as well as Arlington National Cemetery, the most famous national cemetery in the United States. The cemetery surrounds Arlington House, which was the home of General Robert E. Lee who commanded the Confederate Army in the Civil War.



Mountain Sunrise

The landscape of Virginia is vast and varied, including mountains, valleys, plateaus and coastline. The magnificent Appalachian Mountains extend along the western part of the state. The Blue Ridge Mountains border the Ridge and Valley region of the state. The Appalachian Trail passes within a half mile of the state's tallest peak, Mt. Rogers, named in honor of Dr. William Barton Rogers, the first state geologist.

Robert D. Vandall



Running on the Beach

There's something for everyone on Virginia's beaches. For a shoreline packed with adventure, head to Virginia Beach. For uninhabited sands, the destination is Assateague Island or the hidden beaches of Virginia's tidal rivers. Norfolk's Ocean View Beach offers wide stretches of sand and gentle surf. And Hampton's Buckroe Beach is especially popular with windsurfers. With over 3,000 miles of shoreline, a trip to the beach is never too far away!

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