

WDC Region Photo Destinations

(contact editor@nvps.org with updates)

Name	Primary Photo Opportunity	Peak Viewing Time	State	Destination
Blue Ridge Nature Center	Nature, wildlife flowers	All year	VA	11661 Harpers Ferry Rd., Purcellville, VA 20132 540-668-7640, http://www.blueridgecenter.org/ "Our 894 acres are home to deep woods, streams, a working farm, wildflower meadows, historic farmsteads, apiaries, and wildlife."
Assateague State Park & National Seashore Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge	Nature, birds, wildlife	All year	VA, MD	Assateague Island National Seashore, 7206 National Seashore Lane, Berlin, MD 21811 http://www.stateparks.com/assateague_island.html Assateague State Park, 7307 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, MD 21811 410-641-2120, http://www.stateparks.com/assateague.html Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, 8231 Beach Road, Chincoteague, VA 23336 http://www.stateparks.com/chincoteague.html
Battle for Yellow House Reenactment	History, Civil War	August	PA	436 Walnut Street, Girard, PA http://www.eriecountyhistory.org/special-events/battle-for-the-yellow-house/ A two-day re-enactment and encampment offering demonstrations of 1860s crafts, the opportunity to drill with the regiment, a ladies tea on the lawn, two battle re-enactments. Experience the encampment by candlelight! Be escorted through camp by a military guide and witness battlefield surgery, grave diggers, freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad and more.
Battle of Cedar Creek Reenactment	History, Civil War	October	VA	8437 Valley Pike, Middletown, VA 22645 540.869.2064, http://www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org/
Battle of Laurel Hill Re-enactment	History, Civil War	July or August	WV	Belington, WV 26250 http://www.battleoflaurelhill.org/
Blackwater Falls	Nature, waterfalls	All year	WV	P.O. Drawer 490, Davis, WV 26260, (304) 259-5216 http://www.blackwaterfalls.com/ Named for the falls of the Blackwater River whose amber-colored waters plunge five stories then twist and tumble through an eight-mile long gorge. More water in early spring. Lots of special events.

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Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	Nature, birds, wildlife, flowers	All year	MD	2145 Key Wallace Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613 http://www.fws.gov/blackwater/ Schedule of Wildlife - http://www.fws.gov/blackwater/wcalendar.html
Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge	Birds, nature, gardens	All year	DE	2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977 (302) 653-6872, http://www.fws.gov/nort4heast/bombayhook/ See the Wildlife Calendar for the best times to see flora and fauna.
Brookside Gardens	Nature, flowers, gardens, butterflies	All year	MD	1400 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, MD 20902 301-962-1480, http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/ May – Sept: "Wings of Fancy" Live Butterfly Exhibit in a large greenhouse http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/wings_of_fancy.shtm Best to visit weekday mornings after school is out. There is a fee of \$6.
C&O Canal National Historical Park	History, nature, architecture	All year	DC, MD, WV	Georgetown Visitor Center , 1057 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW Washington, DC 20007 (202-653-5190, Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center , 11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac, MD 20854 (301-767-3714, Brunswick Visitor Center is located at 40 West Potomac Street Brunswick, MD 21716 (301-834-7100), Williamsport Visitor Center , Cushwa Basin, 205 W. Potomac St., Williamsport, MD 21795 (301-582-0813), Hancock Visitor Center , Bowles House near lock 52, 439 East Main Street, Hancock, MD 21750, (301-678-5463), Cumberland Visitor Center , Western Maryland Railway Station, Room 304, 13 Canal St., Cumberland, MD 21502 (301-722-8226) The park is open during daylight hours. Some visitor centers operate on a seasonal schedule. Contact each current hours of operation. There is access to a limited area of the Potomac's Great Falls from the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center
Cherry Blossoms	Flowers	March – April	DC	The Tidal Basin, Washington, DC http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/ Schedule varies year to year; be sure to check newspapers or web site.
Colonial Plantation	History, Civil War, Architecture	Apr – Dec	PA	Ridley Creek State Park, Media, PA 19063 (610) 566-1725, http://www.colonialplantation.org/index.html There are several civil war reenactments and other events of historical significance.

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Covered Bridges	History, Architecture	All year	MD, VA, PA	Maryland: http://www.tc2u.com/home/MD_Bridge_Index_01.html Virginia: http://www.virginiadot.org/info/faq-covbridge.asp Pennsylvania: http://pacoveredbridges.com/
Cunningham Falls	Nature, waterfalls, flowing water	All year	MD	Cunningham Falls State Park, Inc. 14039 Catoclin Hollow Road, Thurmont MD 21788 http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/cunninghamfalls.html Cunningham Falls – more water in the early spring. Also of note: Historic Catoclin Iron Furnace, annual maple syrup program, numerous special events.
Dunbarton Oaks	Flowers, gardens	All year	DC	1703 32nd Street, NW, DC 20007 (located in Georgetown) 202-339-6400, http://www.doaks.org/ Flowers bloom through the year, (http://bloomingatdoaks.com/average-bloom-times-2/). Gardens are closed during inclement weather, federal holidays and on Christmas Eve. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children and seniors. Commercial photography is not allowed. No tripods or monopods.
Edgar J Kaufmann House (Fallingwater)	Architecture	Apr – Nov	PA	1478 Mill Run Road, Mill Run, PA 15464 724-329-8501, www.fallingwater.org Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture, surrounded by deep forests.
Fort Frederick State Park	History	Mar – Nov	MD	11100 Fort Frederick Road, Big Pool MD 21711, 301-842-2155 http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/fortfrederick.asp See calendar of special events
Fort McHenry National Monument	History	All year	MD	2400 E Fort Ave, Baltimore, MD 21230 http://www.nps.gov/fomc/index.htm See calendar of special events
Fort Washington State Park	History	Apr – Oct	MD	From I-95/495 take exit 3, Indian Head Highway South/MD 210. Travel about 4 miles to Fort Washington Road, turn right. The park is located at the end of the road. http://www.nps.gov/fowa/index.htm See calendar of special events

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Gettysburg Battle Reenactment	History, Civil War	July	PA	Gettysburg National Military Park, 1195 Baltimore Pike, Suite 100, Gettysburg, PA 17325 http://www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm Civil War Re-enactments http://www.gettysburgaddress.com/HTMLS/Reenact.html
Great Falls Park	Nature, waterfalls, flowing water	All year	VA	9200 Old Dominion Dr., McLean, VA 22102 http://www.nps.gov/grfa/ See C&O Canal for Maryland access.
Harpers Ferry, WV	History, Festivals	All year	WV	There is Harpers Ferry Historical Park, which includes much of the oldest part of the town. Park Visitor Center is at 171 Shoreline Drive, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 http://www.nps.gov/hafe/index.htm And there is the town of Harpers Ferry, which is very quaint with many old buildings and is host numerous festivals and craft/art fairs. http://historicharpersferry.com/ & http://www.harpersferrywv.net/
Horseshoe Crabs on Delaware Bay	Nature, wildlife	May – June	DE	http://www.dnr.state.md.us/features/Horseshoe_Crabs.asp http://www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/realbirds/dbhsc/SBMigration.html Near the full and new moons of May and early June, predominantly at night, hundreds of thousands of horseshoe crabs will make their way on to sandy beaches to spawn. This spawn also serves as fuel for the migration of shorebirds from Tierra de Fugo at the southern tip of South America to the Northern Arctic circle where these birds will nest. There is some spawning activity on Maryland inland sandy beaches both in the Chesapeake Bay and along the coast if you don't want to travel so far. Also if you intend to observe the horseshoe crab spawning on the Delaware Beaches make sure you stick around until day time to observe the shorebirds which feed on the horseshoe crab eggs,
Huntley Meadows	Nature, birds, wildlife, flowers	All year	VA	Huntley Meadows Park & Visitor Center 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, 703-768-2525 http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley/ 1,425 acres Fairfax County's Hybla Valley has ½ mile boardwalk wetland trail, wildlife observation platforms and a 2 mile interpretive trail system. Offers some of the best wildlife watching in the Washington metropolitan area with excellent views of beavers, frogs, dragonflies and herons. Huntley. Is well known as a prime birding spot, with over 200 species identified in the park. Closed Tuesdays. Hours vary; see web site.

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Ida Lee Park	Nature, gardens, architecture	June – August	VA	60 Ida Lee Drive, NW, Leesburg, VA 20176 http://www.leesburgva.gov/index.aspx?page=463 Near the heart of old town Leesburg, great day of shooting and lunch!
Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens	Flowers (aquatic), birds	June (mid) – July (mid)	DC	1550 Anacostia Avenue, NE, DC 20019 http://www.nps.gov/keaq/index.htm Great place for lotus flowers and waterlilies. The adjoining Kenilworth Marsh is an excellent place for bird watching anytime.
Lake Anna Winery – Renaissance Festival	Festivals	May or June	VA	5621 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania, VA 22553 540.895.5085, http://lawinery.com/ The winery has a Renaissance Festival on property. In addition, you have access to the lake (a bit more of a drive), but lots of opportunities for shooting in this area.
Lily Pons	Flowers (aquatic)	June (mid) – July (mid)	MD	6800 Lily Pons Road, Adamstown, MD 21710, 800-999-5459 http://www.lilypons.com/ Lily Pons is a private dealer of aquatic plants and water gardening supplies. They allow public access to their extensive landscaped ponds.
Long Branch Hot Air Balloon Festival	Festival	October	VA	830 Long Branch Lane, Millwood, VA 22646, 877.868.1851 http://www.historiclongbranch.com/balloonfestival.htm
Margaret's Garden	Flowers, gardens	May – June	NOVA	12410 Lawyers Road, Herndon, VA 20171, (703) 860-3378 A private collection of irises and other flowers that is open to the public each spring. Open sunrise to sunset. There is no entrance fee.
McKee Beshers Wildlife Mgmt Area	Nature, wildlife, birds, flowers	All year	MD	Off River Road adjacent to C&O Canal National Park http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Publiclands/central/mckeebeshers.asp The two sunflower fields are major attractions in July. http://hankinslawrenceimages.wordpress.com/2008/07/06/sunflowers-at-mckee-beshers-wildlife-management-area-in-maryland/ . There are two fields. The first is located just off River Road at the first parking lot for Mc-Kee Beshers. The second field is on Sycamore Landing Road, just south of River Road. You'll need to park along the side of the road for the second field since there isn't a convenient parking lot. Each field covers a few acres.

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Meadowlark Botanical Gardens	Gardens, flowers	All year	VA	9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court Vienna, VA 22182, 703-255-3631 http://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens/ 95 acre complex of large ornamental display gardens and unique native plant collections. Walking trails, lakes, more than twenty varieties of cherry trees, irises, peonies, an extensive shade garden, native wildflowers, gazebos, birds, butterflies, seasonal blooms and foliage.
National Arboretum	Nature, gardens, flowers	All year	DC	There are two entrances: 3501 New York Avenue, NE, DC 20002 24th & R Streets, NE, off of Bladensburg Road. (best) http://www.usna.usda.gov/
National Mall	History, gardens, flowers, statues, architecture	All year	DC	http://www.nps.gov/nacc/index.htm Lots of photogenic monuments, memorials, museums and small secluded gardens. Don't forget about the Vernal Equinox (March) when there is alignment of full moon with monuments. Can also be viewed from Arlington, VA
Oatlands Plantation	Gardens, flowers, architecture	April – December	VA	20850 Oatlands Plantation Lane, Leesburg, VA 20175 703.777.3174, http://www.oatlands.org/ Oatlands is beautiful throughout the year. The facility is closed January through March.
Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge	Nature, Birds, Wildlife	All year	DE	11978 Turkle Pond Rd. Milton, DE, 302-684-8419 http://www.friendsofprimehook.org/index.htm Directions: http://www.friendsofprimehook.org/directions.htm
Rich Mountain Battlefield Reenactment	History, Civil War	June or July	WV	Rich Mountain, PO Box 227 Beverly, WV 26253, (304) 637-RICH http://www.richmountain.org/ Battle of Corricks Ford Reenactment. http://www.corricksford.org/
Riverbend Park	Nature, Birds, Wildlife, Flowers	All year	VA	8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls, VA 703-759-9018, http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/
Rock Creek Cemetery	Cemetery, stained glass, sculpture	All year	DC	St. Paul's Rock Creek Episcopal Parish Rock Creek Church Road & Webster St., NW, Washington, DC 20011 http://www.rockcreekparish.org/pages/Rock_Creek_home Open daily 8:00 am until 6:00 pm Dates to 1719 and contains many sculptures and monuments. It is of note because of the several mausoleums with stained glass. There are also many notables in residence,

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Seven Oaks Lavender Farm	Flowers	June (mid)	VA	8769 Old Dumfries Rd. Catlett, VA 20119, 540-272-7839 http://www.sevenoakslavenderfarm.com/ Park along the lower drive; you may walk past the lavender shop up to the lavender field in front of the gray Cape Cod house.
Shenandoah National Park	Nature, birds, flowers	All year	VA	See Directions to the four entrances 540-999-3430, http://www.nps.gov/shen/index.htm This area could be visited in any month.
Union Mills Homestead Civil War Encampment & Living History	History, Civil War	July	MD	Union Mills Homestead 3311 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD. 21158 410-848-2288, http://www.unionmills.org/2011_events/2011_encampment.htm
US Botanic Gardens	Gardens, flowers	All year	DC	100 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20001 http://www.usbg.gov/ Use of tripod requires a permit; call (202) 226-4145

List from Denise Silva and updated by George McLennan