



WANDERLOVE

VIRGINIA IS FOR MOUNTAIN LOVERS[®]



Start every visit to Bedford at the [Bedford Area Welcome Center](#). Offering RV hook-ups, electric car charging stations, free WiFi, restrooms, a picnic area, and a gift store featuring local items and souvenirs for all ages. Don't miss the 1927 Seagrave fire truck in the Firefighter's Gallery, and be sure to get a photo with the LOVE sign, Bedford's first original LOVEworks, dedicated in 2017. The Welcome Center is open daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.



After leaving the Welcome Center, continue up the hill to the [National D-Day Memorial](#), a deeply moving tribute to the American and Allied forces that fought in the largest amphibious invasion of all time. The Memorial overlooks the Bedford community, which suffered the greatest loss per capita on June 6, 1944, than any other in the United States. It is a solemn atmosphere for veterans and visitors alike to gain insight and learn more about the events that shaped history. Advance tickets are recommended. The Memorial is outdoors and tours are self-guided. The Memorial is open daily 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Turn left onto Burks Hill Road when leaving the Memorial and drive one mile into Historic Downtown Bedford. Find the [Bedford Boys Tribute Center](#), [Bedford Museum](#), [Bower Center for the Arts](#), [Wharton Garden](#), beautiful architecture, unique shopping, local dining, and the Town's only brewery, [Beale's](#), also a full-service restaurant. Call ahead and order for curbside pick-up and drive to your next destination, Route 43 North towards the Peaks of Otter! If you prefer to shop and select your own picnic items, stop at [Mountain Fruit and Produce](#) for deli and fresh baked items, local produce, homemade ice cream, fried apple pies, and more! (Photo: BedCo Photo)

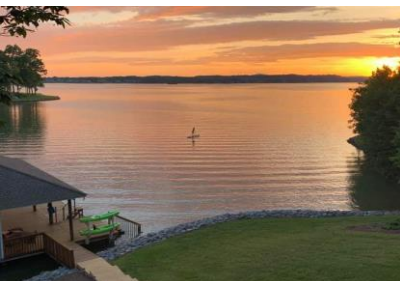


Next, connect with the great outdoors and choose the spot for your picnic! [Gross' Orchard](#) is located in Apple Valley at the base of the Peaks of Otter. Picnic here, and afterwards stroll through the orchards and pick fresh fruit, shop in the country store, and check out the blacksmith shop on site. You may even catch him at work, creating his next masterpiece!





Or if you prefer something different, a short drive up the mountain will take you to the [Peaks of Otter Picnic Area](#), located just before you reach the Blue Ridge Parkway. Here you can relax, play in the creek, take a leisurely walk around Abbott Lake, and enjoy birdwatching, nature, and wildlife.



No road trip through Bedford would be complete without stopping at one of our five wineries! For this trip, we recommend the [Peaks of Otter Winery](#), a six-generation family farm offering dozens of fruit-of-the-farm wines, with names like "Grandma's Apple Pie", "Chocolate Cherry Bomb", and "Kiss the Devil". Don't miss the apple cider donuts made on site, visiting with the farm animals, and the many photo opportunities, including a LOVEworks! This is also the site of the annual Horse & Hound Wine Festival, held every 2nd Saturday of July.



Covering more than 500 miles of shoreline, [Smith Mountain Lake](#) is the "Jewel of the Blue Ridge" and makes up the southern border of Bedford. It is the ideal place for a getaway, and features one of Virginia's award-winning State Parks. End your WanderLOVE day in Destination Bedford with a breathtaking sunset and an overnight stay. [Overnight accommodations](#) include condos, a hotel, B&Bs, cabins, waterfront vacation homes, and camping!

Share your trip experiences with us!    

#DestinationBedfordVA #LOVEVA #WanderLove