

## Driving Directions

Travel from Clarksville to South Boston to Bedford to Martinsville to Danville.

From Clarksville go west on US-58 to US-501 Business near South Boston.

Turn right onto US-501 and go north to Halifax. At Halifax turn west onto SR-360 and go 3.5 miles and bear right on Chatham Rd (SR-832). Go 27.3 miles on SR-832 as name changes to Halifax Rd and then meets US-29. Turn right on US-29 (north) and go 23.6 miles. Take exit for SR-43 (Bedford Highway) and turn left. Take SR-43 to Bedford. Turn left near Gillespie on SR-43 where SR-24 and SR-43 are one road.

From Bedford take SR-122 south 35.8 miles to US-220. Turn left and take US-220 to Business US-220. Take Business US-220 into Martinsville.

From Martinsville take US-58 east to Danville.



AMERICAN DRIVING VACATIONS  
PRESENTS:

## Travel Southern Virginia Driving Tour 5: Browse, Meander, Stroll and Savor Our Historic Towns

### Bedford

At 250 years old, Bedford has had a long time to steep in history and quaint charm. The fire of 1884 took its toll on many of its original wooden structures. One hundred years later, the town of Bedford was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, supporting the remarkable preservation of Centertown, already underway. Now, with Bedford complemented by two nearby National Monuments, you can enjoy the old, the new, the antique and the modern, all in one place.



### Clarksville

You can feel the fresh lake breeze in Clarksville, even when you can't see the vast Buggs Island Lake. Created by the Corps of Engineers to provide flood control, now the rivers that brought tobacco trade to Clarksville feed the lake that provides the economic and recreational backbone of the town. While things continue to move at a more leisurely pace, the town is continuing its thrust forward to embrace a 21<sup>st</sup> century approach to the heritage that brought it to where it is today. Buildings from the 18<sup>th</sup> century coexist peacefully with contemporary life and brick sidewalks, boat launches, and more. Art galleries and other fun locations are sprinkled in between.

### Danville

When you hear the song, "The Wreck of the Old 97," about a train plummeting off a high trestle, it was above Danville where they were traveling. When you hear the term the "Last Capitol of the Confederacy," they're talking about Danville too. Danville's strategic location, which began as a tobacco warehouse in 1793, has led to it serving as many things over the years. A prison camp, Virginia's largest bright leaf tobacco market and home to Dan River, the largest single unit textile mill in the world are only a few. Today, visitors can enjoy Danville's Millionaire's Row, the very well preserved Victorian mansions left behind by all the region's fortunes and incredibly well preserved today.

### Martinsville

Revolutionary War General Martin or his friend Patrick Henry, wouldn't recognize the Court House that today bears his name. Henry Ford or Harvey Firestone, who had to observe a 12 mile per hour speed limit,



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when traveling through town on The National Highway between Boston, Massachusetts and Jacksonville, Florida, in 1906, wouldn't know it either. The transition from tobacco production and furniture manufacturing to technology industries continues the 150 years of enormous changes that have occurred in Martinsville, while visitors can now enjoy the heritage of all the years combined.

## South Boston/Halifax

Predating Bedford by two years, the Halifax area was surveyed by William Byrd, II, one of the English Lords who owned the original shires of Virginia. Its much larger neighbor, South Boston, was incorporated 130 years later and served as one of the region's bustling tobacco markets. Now in the midst of a significant renaissance, led by the restoration of the large tobacco warehouses into The Prizery Community Arts Center and the Higher Education Center, the shops are once again filled with interesting treasures, restaurants with customers, and visitors enjoying everything from speedways to scenic trails and shopping.

