

RoadTrip

Show Some Esprit de Corps for Veterans Day

Prince William Forest Park, a former training ground for the Office of Strategic Services (precursor to the CIA), provides such diversions as cross-country skiing and backcountry camping.

Quantico National Cemetery looks much like its big brother in Arlington, with white burial markers set on 700 rolling green acres.

Leatherneck Lager is on tap and the decor is decidedly Devil Dog at the 39-year-old **Globe & Laurel**, which has been featured in Patricia Cornwell's mysteries.

Highlights at the **National Museum of the Marine Corps** include hanging aircraft, a (laser) shooting range and a gift shop carpeted in camouflage.

A replica of the **Iwo Jima Memorial** graces the main gate of the Quantico Marine Corps Base.

The **Command Post Pub & Restaurant**, owned by a retired Marine major who is the mayor of Quantico, has burgers, salads, pasta and plenty of Corps memorabilia.

If military history is your preferred bedtime reading, pick up a few hardbacks at the **Marine Corps Association Bookstore**.

Peruse articles, artifacts and photos covering Quantico, trains and Marine Corps history at the remodeled **Virginia Railway Express-Amtrak Station**.

For a peaceful respite from all the ooh-rah on base, tour **Chopawamsic Wildlife Viewing Area**, which includes moderately strenuous trails, fishing on Chopawamsic Creek and bird-watching for ducks, geese, ospreys and great blue herons.

At the **Library of the Marine Corps**, pause in front of the **Marine war dogs memorial** in the lobby. The statue honors such mutts as Cappy, Bunkie and Blitz, who gave their lives liberating Guam in 1944.

Driver's route

Start here

WHERE: Quantico and Triangle.

WHY: A museum, at ease; natural and military-made camouflage; and memorials to two- and four-legged war veterans.

HOW FAR: About 10 miles from start to finish.

For Veterans Day this year, write to a Marine. As part of its one-year anniversary festivities, the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle will supply postcards that visitors can inscribe and mail to deployed troops. The celebration starts Saturday, which happens to be the Marine Corps' 232nd birthday and the beginning of Veterans Day weekend.

The museum covers the branch's history from inception (which, legend has it, was at Philadelphia's 18th-century Tun Tavern, now re-created as a pub in the museum) to present (with moving photos of Sept. 11, Afghanistan and Iraq). But often it's the visitors who provide the most provocative narration: "It's like, one guy's been to Vietnam and I've been to Iraq," says Jonathan Jameson, 24, of San Diego, who recently returned from his second tour there. "You gotta live up to the older guys."

Around the corner from the museum is one of the largest Marine Corps installations in the country. The Quantico Marine Corps Base sits on about 100 square miles and is home to the FBI Academy and the Drug Enforcement Administration Training Center. Access is limited on much of the base, but the grounds and the tiny town of Quantico (or Q-town, as the locals call it) are open to the public. If you're headed onto the grounds, bring your ID, don't speed and watch out for deer.

For those who secretly long to be a Jarhead, some of the weekend's activities — such as donning the weighty uniforms and equipment from various eras and tasting the notoriously unpalatable Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) — may convince you otherwise. But if you prefer your celebrations without a sprinkling of suffering, the Marines can accommodate that as well: Just show up for the ceremonial cake cuttings — by sword, of course.

— **Melanie D.G. Kaplan**

National Museum of the Marine Corps Veterans Day weekend, Saturday-Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Cake cuttings are Saturday, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. 18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Triangle. Free. 877-635-1775. www.usmcmuseum.org.

Road Trip maps and addresses are available at www.washingtonpost.com/roadtrip.

WEDNESDAY IN STYLE | Escapes salutes veterans at the National D-Day Memorial.