

Mid-Atlantic Tours & Receptive Services
The Leader in Tours to our Nation's Capital and the Mid-Atlantic Region

Contact Us



Mount Vernon and Monticello by Candlelight

Washington, D.C. & Charlottesville, VA

December 10 – 13, 2011

3 Nights – 4 Days



2011

Enchanting Holiday Evening Candlelight Tours

Featuring:

- *Candlelight tour of Mount Vernon at Christmas*
- *Candlelight tour of Monticello at Christmas*



Visit our *On-Line Group Tour Catalogue* at www.takeafuntrip.com

Day One, Saturday, December 10, 2011

- Arrive in **Washington DC**. Enjoy **lunch on your own** at **Union Station** and free time to explore the shops. The city's main train station is a classic Beaux-Arts design of monumental proportions. Restored to its original grandeur in the 1980's, Union Station features a large food court, a movie theater, shops and kiosks.
- Meet our **GUIDE** at **Union Station**.
- Tour the **Christian Heurich Mansion**. This 1894 mansion is an excellent representation of the merchant class homes of the late 19th-century and features a magnificent Victorian parlor. The mansion currently houses the collection of the Historical Society of Washington, DC.
 - Once every year, at Christmas time, the Christian Heurich Mansion is bathed in candlelight and gussied-up with greens and Victorian decorations. A 12 foot tree graces the blue parlor and swags of ribbons and greenery drape the mantels and chandeliers.
- Tour the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**. Built in the Byzantine Romanesque style, the Shrine contains the world's most extensive collection of 20th-century mosaics and an impressive array of other artwork. The Shrine is the largest Roman Catholic Church in the United States and among the largest churches in the world.
- Stop by the **Pageant of Peace** in **Ellipse Park** across from the White House. This is the site of nightly choral performances, a Nativity scene, a burning Yule log, the **National Christmas Tree** and a spectacular display of lighted Christmas trees representing each state and territory of the United States.
- Enjoy a **dinner buffet** this evening at our family friendly downtown restaurant. Buffet items include, Grilled Marinated Chicken Breasts, Barbequed Baby Back Ribs and Grilled Salmon. All entrees include salad, sides, dinner rolls, lemonade, coffee, tea, soda and dessert.
- Visit the **Washington DC's Temple Visitor's Center's Festival of Lights** to see a live nativity scene, listen to live musical performances and experience over 250,000 lights and tree displays from around the world. Tens of thousands of lights adorn the grounds of this Oz-like temple looming above the skyline.
 - **Holiday musical performance** at the Visitor Center. Line forms in the lobby of the Visitor Center.
- **Check in** to our local **hotel**. **Baggage** handling included.

Meals: D

Day Two, Sunday, December 11, 2011

- Enjoy **breakfast** at our hotel this morning.
- Arrive at the **NEW Capitol Visitor Center on Capitol Hill**.
 - The **Capitol Visitor Center** welcomes visitors to the seat of American government. At nearly 580,000 square feet, the CVC is the largest project in the Capitol's 215-year history and is approximately three quarters the size of the Capitol itself. The entire facility is located underground on the east side of the Capitol so as not to detract from the appearance of the Capitol. Features include an exhibition gallery highlighting the House & Senate while in-session, orientation theaters, a 550-seat cafeteria, gift shops, and restrooms all within a secure public environment that will provide visitors shelter from the unpredictable D.C. weather.
 - **The United States Capitol (confirmation # TBA)**. The most recognized symbol of democratic government in the world, the U.S. Capitol has housed Congress since 1800 and is one of the most imposing public buildings in the world. The Capitol is where Congress meets to write the laws of our nation, and where presidents are inaugurated. Its ceilings are decorated with historic images, and its halls are lined with statuary and paintings representing great events and people in the nation's history.
- Visit the **Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History**. Enjoy **lunch on your own** in the **cafeteria** while visiting the museum. After lunch tour the museum.
- **National Museum of American History**. The museum's central atrium with skylights dramatically opens the building. A grand staircase connects the 1st and second floors. The galleries display over 3 million objects including a special state-of-the-art gallery showcasing the original **Star Spangled Banner**.

- The American History museum's popular collection tops the list of must-sees for any visitor with a taste for true Americana. See the flag that inspired the Star Spangled Banner, Dorothy's Ruby Red Slippers, First Ladies' inaugural gowns, quilts, cars, locomotives, and much, much more.
- Visit **The United States Botanic Garden**, a living plant museum. Exhibits interpret the role of plants in supporting earth's diverse and fragile ecosystems and in enriching human life. Established by Congress in 1820, the U.S. Botanic Garden is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America.
- See the **Poinsettias** displayed for the season at the Botanic Garden.
- Enjoy **dinner on your own** today and **free time** to explore historic **Old Town Alexandria**. Browse the antique shops, specialty shops, galleries, and boutiques that give Alexandria its quaint, small-town feel. You'll understand why George Washington chose to live near this once-thriving seaport, years before he chose the site for the nation's capital.
- Tour **Mount Vernon by Candlelight**. A very special holiday program where visitors can learn about the Washington's Christmas traditions, meet historic characters from the past and tour the candlelit home, sometimes (**discretionary by Mount Vernon management – not always available**) including the rarely seen third floor. **On the grounds, guests will enjoy caroling, free cookies and hot cider around a blazing campfire, holiday shopping, and merry music.**

Meals: B

Day Three, Monday, December 12, 2011

- Enjoy **breakfast** at our hotel this morning prior to **checking out**. **Baggage** handling included.
- Arrive in Charlottesville, VA. Free time for some holiday shopping and lunch on your own at the historic downtown mall filled with many restaurants, cafés, and unique shops and stores. Meet our **GUIDE**.
- Stop for a **photo opportunity** of Thomas Jefferson's **Rotunda** at the **University of Virginia**. Jefferson's architectural talents are evident in the classic beauty of UVA. He patterned the Rotunda in his original "**Academical Village**" after the Roman Pantheon, and it is still the focal point of the grounds.
- **Check in** to our local **hotel**. **Baggage** handling included.
- Enjoy a **buffet dinner** today at historic **Michie Tavern**. Costumed waitstaff serve a hearty Colonial period fare buffet in this 200-year old converted log house. **Tour of tavern is not included.**
- Arrive at **Monticello**.
 - Tour the **Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and Smith Education Center**. The Visitor Center is built around an open courtyard with fountain that visitors immediately began tossing Jefferson nickels in to. The green energy saving buildings includes galleries, educational facilities, theatre, gift shop, and a great café with indoor and outdoor seating. Mr. Jefferson would be proud!
 - See *Thomas Jefferson's World*, in the **Carl and Hunter Smith Education Center** a **14-minute introductory film** that dramatically present Jefferson's ideals and accomplishments and illustrate Monticello's central importance to his life and work. The film is shown on a 16-by-9-foot screen in a 2,400-square-foot theater with 125 seats. **This free film shows every 20 minutes.**
 - Tour new **Robert H. and Clarice Smith Gallery**:
 - **The Words of Thomas Jefferson**, an innovative exhibition in which quotations by and about Jefferson are projected in light.
 - **Thomas Jefferson and 'the Boisterous Sea of Liberty,'** an exhibition tracing the development and ongoing influence of Jefferson's ideas about liberty through an **interactive presentation** on a wall of high-definition screens.
 - **Monticello as Experiment: 'To Try All Things,'** an exhibition that explores Jefferson's use of Monticello as a laboratory for his belief that "useful knowledge" could make life more efficient and convenient.
 - **Making Monticello: Jefferson's 'Essay in Architecture,'** an exhibition covering the architectural origins, construction, and 40-year evolution of the iconic Monticello house.
 - Tour **Monticello by Candlelight**, the mountaintop home of Thomas Jefferson. The house is a remarkable integration of classical architecture and modern innovation designed by Jefferson and built on the mountain top where he had played as a boy. Mr. Jefferson named his home Monticello, meaning *Little Mountain* and always used the Italian pronunciation of Monticello (*mon-ti-chel-oh*). We'll also visit the spectacular Gardens and Mulberry Row, the plantation "street" along which Monticello slaves lived and labored.

Meals: B, D

Day Four, Tuesday, December 13, 2011

- Enjoy **breakfast** at our hotel this morning prior to **checking out**. **Baggage** handling included.
- In the splendor of the Virginia countryside sits **Montpelier**, the home of James and Dolley Madison. Madison was the 4th President of the United States and **Father of the Constitution**. The home had grown to a 55-room mansion after Madison's death. It has been returned to its original 22-room size when the Madison's lived there. This is a National Treasure not to be missed! Even the cellars have been restored to the time the Madison's lived there. When you step into the library you are in the room Madison used to research, think, and define the basic concepts of American democracy.
 - The new **Visitor's Center/Museum galleries** at Montpelier displays of how Montpelier looked during the ownership of the wealthy DuPont family before restoration began. The Visitor Center includes a gift shop, café with indoor and outdoor seating, and theatres.
 - See **introductory theatre presentation**.
 - On the scenic roads of Route 20 in Orange County, Virginia stands a **century-old train depot**, home to the local **Montpelier Station**, Virginia post office. On February 21, 2010, the depot became the home of James Madison's Montpelier's newest exhibit— **The Montpelier Train Depot: In the Time of Segregation**.
- Depart for home.

Meals: B

**From \$435.00 per person
Double Occupancy**

Contact Us

**Minimum 35. Numbers below subject to price increase.
35 paid + 1 comp in single occupancy or higher.**

Prices are Net, Non-Commissionable.

Based on availability and pricing at time of reservations.

All proposals are subject to change.

**Rates may be adjusted based on fuel surcharges, tax change(s),
and/or currency exchange rate changes(s).**

Tour includes: 3 nights accommodation, baggage handling, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners, admissions and guide service as stated in the itinerary, taxes and gratuity, **and gratuity is not included for Guide Service**.

MARS is a wholesale operator that offers competitive pricing at NET, Non-commissionable rates which are based on cash transactions. Credit card, individual payment processing, and credit card transactions may be quoted upon request.

All itineraries are subject to change. Every attempt will be made to include all sites mentioned within this itinerary. At times, circumstances beyond our control such as lines, traffic, closures, weather and late arrivals can severely restrict timing and cause items to be excluded. All timing, except scheduled appointments, is approximate. It is strongly suggested that the timed itinerary be utilized by the driver, escort, and/or group leader and guide only. We suggest that more general itineraries be supplied to the tour participants. Mid Atlantic assumes no liability for itinerary exclusions, or guarantees that all sites be visited within the itinerary.

Any cash stipends included in tours are at the sole risk of the client and any cash stipends that are not delivered, lost, stolen or in any way misplaced or missing will not be the responsibility of Mid Atlantic and will not be reimbursed. Mid Atlantic assumes not risk in the shipping or handling in any way of cash stipends. Mid Atlantic discourages utilizing cash stipends on any and all tours.

Note: At times Restaurant menus may change at the discretion of the Restaurant Management. These circumstances are beyond the control of Mid-Atlantic Receptive Services. Mid-Atlantic will notify the client of any changes that occur.

FL418 Mount Vernon and Monticello by Candlelight

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