

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

Contact Us

MARS
800-769-5912

Maryland's Star Spangled Banner

200th Bicentennial— War of 1812

A Group Tour - Baltimore, MD

2012

4 Days – 3 Nights

Visit our *On-Line Tour Catalog* at www.takeafuntrip.com
We've made 'Finding the Perfect Tour' all 'About You'

September 13 & 14, 1814. Baltimore Harbor. Fort McHenry. The pitch of nightfall cloaks the waterfront. Anxiety and bouts of adrenaline course through an American soldier— ears ringing, he hears the distant yelling of commands and the cries of the twenty-four wounded men. There are four dead. Acrid powder invades his nostrils, choking him; constant explosions jar his teeth but the battlement is strong, his gut churns; hoping to defeat the enemy he is passionate— willing to fight and give his life for freedom, family, generations to come, and a new country. The darkness seems eternal but dawn breaks and above the din of battle he realizes the American flag still waves over the ramparts.

Oh Say, Can You See...



DAY 1

- Visit **Fort McHenry** where the British bombardment during the War of 1812 inspired *The Star Spangled Banner*. On September 13, 1814, British Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane ordered the Royal Navy to attack Fort McHenry. The fort, commanded by Major George Armistead, defended the entrance to Baltimore's harbor. The British planned to pound the fort into submission and then assist their army in an assault on the well-prepared American entrenchments east of the city. In a 25-hour barrage, the British fired more than 1,500 mortar bombs and Congreve rockets at the fort, but were unable to drive the men off or silence the guns. A final naval effort to attack the fort from the west with twenty longboats packed with 1,200 Royal Marines was also stopped by the men and guns of Battery Babcock, Fort Lookout and Fort Covington. Having been repulsed in these three separate attacks, the British commander ordered a withdrawal early on the morning of September 14, 1814. The Battle of Baltimore was over.
- Tour the **Flag Museum**— In August 1813 as Baltimore prepared for war, Major George Armistead, Commander of Fort McHenry wrote that "it is my desire to have a flag so large that the British will have no difficulty in seeing it from a distance." Flag maker Mary Pickersgill was given the task of assembling two flags, a 30-foot by 42-foot garrison flag and a 17-foot by 25-foot storm flag. Having learned her craft from her mother who made flags for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, Mary sewed the flags in just six weeks inside her home.
- Visit the ***Pride of Baltimore***, a tall ship moored in the nationally renowned Inner Harbor of Baltimore.
- **Baltimore City Highlight Tour** including Federal Hill, Fells Point, Washington Monument, historic points relating to the War of 1812, and more.
- **Dinner cruise and entertainment** this evening on the waters where the battle took place that inspired Francis Scott Key to pen *The Star Spangled Banner*.
- Overnight in Bethesda, MD. Baggage handling included.

DAY 2

- Visit **Fort Washington**. On August 26, 1814, the fort was blown up and the cannons spiked to prevent capture by a squadron of Royal Navy warships ascending the Potomac River.
- Take a walking tour of **Old Town Alexandria**. After surrendering itself, the city was occupied by British naval forces from August 28 through September 3, 1814. From Shooter's Hill, where the George Washington Masonic Temple now stands, President James Monroe met with others to plan counter measures for attacking the British fleet as it descended the Potomac River. Tour will include a visit to **Christ Church** and **Gadsby's Tavern**.
- Enjoy **lunch on your own** and free time in colonial Old Town Alexandria.
- Visit **Mount Vernon**, the estate of George Washington.
- **Dinner included** this evening at the Mount Vernon Inn.
- Overnight in Bethesda, MD.

DAY 3

- Photo opportunity of **The White House**, burned by the British on August 24, 1814. In retaliation for the burning of York, the provincial capital of Canada, Major General Ross ordered the government buildings to be burned in Washington, D.C. President James and Dolley Madison fled separately, narrowly escaping capture. As Dolley Madison left the White House, she saved the original draft of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington.
- **Visit the National Museum of American History**. The galleries display over 3 million objects including a special state-of-the-art gallery showcasing the original **Star Spangled Banner**. On the morning of September 14, 1814, after the bombardment by British ships, Francis Scott Key

was inspired to write that “the flag was still there” in the famous poem that became America’s National Anthem. The flag is on display in the National Museum of American History. In 1907, the flag was bequeathed to the Smithsonian Institution by the Armistead family.

- Enjoy **lunch on your own** while at the museum.
- Tour the **U.S. Capitol Building**. After defeating the Americans at the Battle of Bladensburg, the British captured Washington D.C. and burned many of the public buildings including the Capitol and White House on August 24, 1814.
- **Dinner included** in historic Gadsby’s Tavern.
- Overnight in Bethesda, MD.

DAY 4

- **City tour of Annapolis** highlighting the sites and events of The War of 1812 and its impact on the state capital of Maryland. Annapolis was the legislative center of Maryland during the War of 1812. In August 1814, Annapolis was threatened during a British battle on the Chesapeake. The dome of the statehouse was used as an observation station for British movements.
- **The U.S. Naval Academy Museum** contains prints, paintings and artifacts relating to War of 1812 naval engagements.
- Depart for home.

Contact Us

Please call 800-779-5912 or email mars@takeafuntrip.com for more information about this tour

Tour Includes: 3 nights accommodation in a Bethesda, Maryland hotel, baggage handling, 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners, admissions and guide service as stated in the full itinerary, taxes and gratuity (gratuity for guide service is not included).

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.

MARS is a wholesale operator offering 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.

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 no 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.

FL424 – Star Spangled Banner

Mid-Atlantic Tours & Receptive Services

The Leader in Tours to our Nation’s Capital and the Mid-Atlantic Region

Post Office Box 1390 Stephens City, VA 22655 800-769-5912 540-869-1864 540-869-1826 Fax

mars@takeafuntrip.com

www.takeafuntrip.com