



ST. CHARLES PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

An extension of your own backyard

The History & Beauty of—*Maryland!* **September 22-30, 2023**

Dear Parks and Recreation Traveler:

Join us as we make our first trip here in our trips program, to the state of *Maryland!* We will explore the Inner Harbor of Baltimore, visit the Chesapeake Bay and learn about the Blue Crab Industry and spend three days and nights on the beautiful Ocean City Boardwalk overlooking the sandy beaches of the Atlantic Ocean. Also planned on the trip is a stop at Carillon Historical Park in Dayton, OH with a visit to the *Wright Brothers National Museum* that includes the *1905 Wright Flyer III* as well as a replica of the original *Wright Bicycle Shop!* As always, this itinerary is subject to change.

The first day of our trip is pretty much a travel day with a stop at the Carillon Historical Park in Dayton, OH and a visit to the Wright Brothers National Museum. On display at the museum is the 1905 Wright Flyer III as well as a replica of the Wright Bicycle Shop. Dinner this evening will be at The Chop House in Dayton.

Saturday, we head east to Frederick, MD with a visit to the *National Civil War Museum of Medicine*. We follow in the footsteps of soldiers and surgeons to discover the harsh conditions, personal sacrifices, and brilliant innovations of civil war medicine, innovations that continue to save lives today. Dinner tonight will be at the Dutch's Daughter in Frederick, MD.

On Sunday morning a local Step-on-Guide from Watermark Tours will join us on the bus as we tour Baltimore and the Inner Harbor as well as the surrounding area. We make a visit to Fort McHenry Visitor Center and learn how the Star-Spangled Banner, our National Anthem, was created. Lunch today will be at the famous Phillips Seafood on the Inner Harbor. After lunch we board the Annapolitan II for a cruise on the Inner Harbor of Baltimore.

After our Inner Harbor Cruise about mid-afternoon, we head across state to Ocean City, MD where we will over-night for three nights on the Ocean City Boardwalk overlooking the sandy beaches of the Atlantic Ocean. Dinner this evening will be at Harrison's Harbor Watch overlooking Assateague Island where the Wild Horses roam.

Monday morning a local Step-on-Guide will join us on the bus as we tour *Assateague Island National Seashore & The Wild Horses*. The wild horses on Assateague are actually feral animals, meaning that they are descendants of domestic animals that have reverted to a wild state. We visit Historic Berlin in early afternoon for some retail therapy then back to Ocean City Boardwalk for some R & R the rest of the day.

On day five of our trip, we board the The Assateague Explorer for a cruise around the Assawoman Bay to see the wild ponies up close. We visit *DiscoverSea Shipwreck Museum* for some amazing finds under the Sea. Discover the world of wood as we visit the *Ward Museum* followed by dinner at *The Red Roost!*

On Wednesday we visit the *Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum* founded in 1965 on Navy Point in St Michael's, MD. The Museum's 18-acre waterfront campus was once the site of a busy complex of seafood packing houses, docks and workboats. Mid-afternoon we board *The Patriot* for a cruise on the *Miles River* on the Eastern Shore. Dinner tonight will be at the *Suicide Bridge Restaurant*.

Friday morning, we visit Annapolis, MD and team up once again with Watermark Tours with a tour of the *Maryland State House*, the first peacetime capitol of the United States and the only State House ever to have served as the Nation's Capital. We tour the US Naval Academy and watch the noon meal formation, a USNA tradition that started in 1905. We board the Harbor Queen for a Harbor Cruise with views of the US Naval Academy. We overnight in Winchester, VA as we head for home. Friday and Saturday are pretty much travel days as we overnight in Barboursville, WV. Dinner at Fratelli's Italian Restaurant.

The tour also includes 7 Dinners, 8 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 3 Boat Cruises, attractions, admissions, lodging, all gratuities, escort & deluxe motor coach transportation.

Our coach will have full time Wi-Fi during the duration of our trip. As always, this itinerary is subject to change without advance notice.

Participants should be aware that this trip will include moderate to heavy walking. Travelers will be negotiating steps/stairs on & off and up & down at various sites and motor coach during portions of the trip.

Participants will be restricted to one piece of checked luggage and one carryon bag to be carried inside the motorcoach. The carryon bag will need to be a soft-sided bag. One piece of checked luggage and one carryon bag will be allowed on the motor coach. Luggage tags & final itinerary will be provided to you closer to the actual departure date of the trip.

Participants who register must also complete a consent waiver form which will detail emergency contacts and any current and pertinent medical or medicinal information. This form will be sent at a later date.

It will be the responsibility of the traveler to be punctual when the itinerary states a departure or group meeting time. In order to meet our itinerary commitments and to be fair to our fellow travelers, we will not hold the bus because someone is late. It will be the responsibility of the traveler to rejoin the group.

Fee Schedule:

The cost of this wonderful trip will be **\$2575** per person (double occupancy). The single traveler cost will be **\$3195** (Includes a single traveler supplement of **\$620** per single traveler). The Triple traveler cost will be **\$2425** per person (triple occupancy). This price is all inclusive and includes all gratuities. We are asking you to pay in increments due to the cost of this trip. You can make payments as often as you like, but we will need a minimum amount paid as follows:

Payment Schedule:

Immediately: **\$50** per person deposit (non-refundable). All refunds will be subject to a \$50 refund fee.

Friday, February 24: a minimum of an additional **\$900** must be paid.

Friday, May 12: an additional **\$900** must be paid.

Friday, July 14, 2023: remaining balance of the trip must be paid in full.

Friday, July 14, 2023: After this date no refunds of any kind will be given for cancellations due to our commitment to the various vendors involved with this trip (see the information on travel insurance, highly recommended).

This trip will close out for registration on Friday, July 15, 2023

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Many of you have inquired about travel insurance for our extended trips. Travel insurance is a method for providing you a means to recoup your cost should you have to cancel at the last minute or become sick on a trip. We do not endorse any particular product, but after searching the internet we came up with a couple of sources for travel insurance.

Travel Guard International, 1-800-826-4919 or www.travelguard.com Several of our travelers have used this provider.

Or compare several plans at once at www.InsureMyTrip.com or www.quotetravelinsurance.com With either service you can purchase on line or over the phone. Please make sure you understand what you are purchasing. Buying the travel insurance is totally up to you and making any claim with the carrier is the total responsibility of the person purchasing the insurance.

If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to call 636-949-3372 or John's direct line at 636-949-3580.

This trip is now open for registration and will be conducted on a FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE basis

Thank you for considering traveling with us.
Sincerely,

John Pike
Trip Planner