



Founding of America Tour

September 11 - 19, 2010

Our fall motorcoach tour explores America's premier sites, including Washington, DC, Colonial Williamsburg, Monticello and Gettysburg Battlefield

At a Glance:

9-day, 8-night tour aboard Cardinal Motorcoach

Tour fee of \$1,595* includes transportation, all lodging, all dinners and breakfasts, some lunches, all admission fees, taxes and gratuities.

Attractions include:

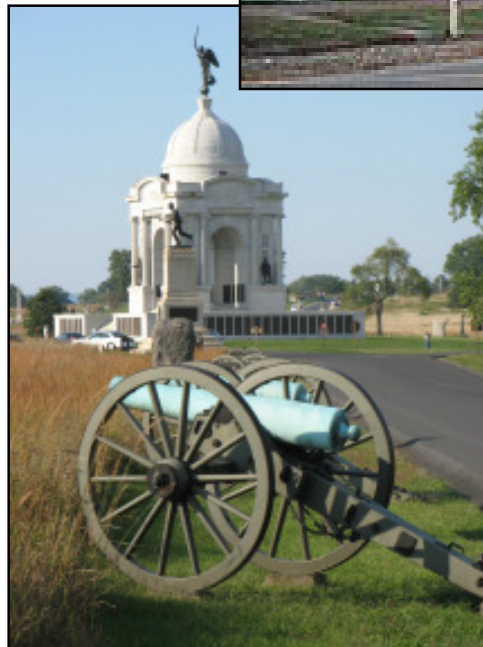
- * Motorcoach tour of Washington, DC
- * George Washington's Mt. Vernon
- * Two days in Colonial Williamsburg
- * Jamestowne archaeology site
- * Thomas Jefferson's Monticello
- * James Madison's Montpelier
- * Gettysburg Battlefield National Park

*Members' price, per person, double occupancy

Right: Duke of Gloucester Street at Colonial Williamsburg, Gettysburg Battlefield, and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.



Duke of Gloucester Street in Colonial Williamsburg



Silent cannons and a memorial at Gettysburg



Thomas Jefferson's beloved Monticello

Founding of America Tour Itinerary

Day 1 – September 11 (Saturday)

We'll depart the History Center parking lot in Berrien Springs bright and early for Bedford, Pennsylvania. Our first attraction along the way will be the steep mountains of northern Ohio, many of which soar to a height of three feet. We'll lunch on the way at one of the region's premier fast-food emporiums and challenge our wits with one or two of Bob's Meaningless Trivia contests. You can win a fabulous prize and astonish everyone with your grasp of useless knowledge.

We'll leave the Ohio cornfields behind as we near Pennsylvania. Cluck the Rubber Chicken has retired (ask one of our veteran travelers), but his replacement, Peck, will supervise the motorcoach stops. We'll stay the night at the



Fairfield Inn in Bedford, with dinner at the Golden Eagle Inn. The Golden Eagle is a restored historic tavern, where “the cuisine is regional American with a Colonial flavor, incorporating fresh, local food items as in the taverns of days gone by.”

Day 2 – September 12 (Sunday)

After a complimentary continental breakfast at the hotel, we take off for our nation's capital. We've arranged a step-on guide for our motorcoach and will take a four-hour afternoon driving tour of Washington. Stops include the Capitol, White House, Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Wall, Arlington Cemetery, the JFK gravesite, and much more.

We'll cross the Potomac River after our Washington tour and head into Virginia. Dinner tonight will be at Clyde's Restaurant, with lodging at the Hampton Inn in Springfield, Virginia.

Day 3 – September 13 (Monday)

George Washington's Mt. Vernon now has so much to offer that we're going to spend an entire day there. This is America's first historic house museum, founded in 1858 by the Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association to preserve Washington's home. The historic site once consisted of just the Mansion itself, but the interpretation has expanded to reflect Mt. Vernon's role as a working plantation.

We'll start at the new Ford Orientation Center with the film *We Fight to be Free*, which describes pivotal times in Washington's life. We then drive three miles to one of Mt. Vernon's newest features, Washington's gristmill and distillery.

The water-powered mill is operated by millers in colonial attire who explain how the mill works and the role it played in Washington's entrepreneurial farming operation. The distillery demonstrates 18th-century techniques and includes five copper stills. Bob's hoping for free samples.

Lunch is at the Mt. Vernon Inn Restaurant. It's a two-course affair and included as part of your tour.

After lunch, we'll tour the Mansion itself and the Donald W. Reynolds Museum, have time to visit the recon-



Berrien County Historical Association Tour Guides

Francie Porter Snyder, executive director
Bob Myers, curator

BCHA Mission Statement

The mission of the BCHA is to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Berrien County through exhibits, tours, publications, and educational and community outreach programs for public benefit.

Learn more about the BCHA by visiting
www.berrienhistory.org.

structed blacksmith shop, and then at 3:00 p.m. embark on a special Landscape and Gardens Tour. We'll even have an opportunity for Francie to hit the Mt. Vernon Museum Store.

According to Mt. Vernon, "The Upper Garden includes a wide variety of flowers and trees, boxwood planted in Washington's day, and a few vegetable beds. The beds have been restored to their original size, based on careful archaeological excavations. The Lower Garden supplied fresh produce for the busy Mount Vernon kitchen. English boxwoods were planted in 1786 and now crowd the entry path. Vegetables and herbs are grown in the beds today, as well as cherry, apple, and other fruit trees espaliered along the walls and cordoned onto fences."

We then head for Williamsburg, Virginia. Dinner tonight will be at the Aberdeen Barn, with lodging for the next three nights at Colonial Williamsburg's Woodlands Hotel.

Day 4 – September 14 (Tuesday)

Colonial Williamsburg has so much to see and do that we hardly know where to begin. This is a free day to explore Williamsburg on your own. In planning for the tour, check Williamsburg's website: www.colonialwilliamsburg.com. If you've never been there before (or it's been a few years), this is a good way to update yourself on this great historic site.



Woodlands Hotel is within walking distance of the historic village area, or you can take a free shuttle ride there. The main artery through the village is Duke of Gloucester Street (the locals call it DOG Street) which is free of motorized traffic during the day. You can walk down Dog Street or take a carriage ride through Williamsburg.

Colonial Williamsburg is one of Bob's all-time favorite places to visit, and he has a few recommendations:

- * The Governor's Palace is a "must-see."
- * Take time to enjoy the gardens. The boxwood is wonderful.
- * Whenever you visit one of the craft shops (such as



the gunsmith, silversmith, wig-maker, etc.), be sure to spend some time talking with the craftspeople. They have a phenomenal knowledge of the 18th century and their trades.

* Williamsburg has a number of actors, termed "People of the Past," who do role-playing. They're excellent. It's great fun to engage them in conversation about 18th century life.

* If you enjoy drama, the Play Booth Theater is enormously entertaining and informative. You'll have fun and learn a lot about 18th century theater.

* Have lunch at one of the taverns. It's a little pricey, (plan on \$8-20) but the food is great and so is the atmosphere. Reservations are usually required, so stop by first thing in the morning to put your name in.

* Eat some of the Raleigh Tavern gingerbread - it's fabulous. If you don't like gingerbread, eat some anyway. It's best first-thing in the morning, right out of the oven. Mmmm!

* Come along with Bob and Francie for "Gambols" at Josiah Chowning's Tavern in the evening. Chownings opens at about 9:00 p.m. for games and entertainment - lots of fun and a beer or three.

Dinner will be at Christiana Campbell's Tavern on Tuesday evening and at James Shields' Tavern on Wednesday evening. The taverns are a delight - real 18th century ambience right down to the costumed wait staff and period-correct china. Williamsburg cheats a little, though - the food is actually prepared in out-of-sight modern kitchens, so you don't have to worry about fireplace ash in your gravy and authentic food poisoning.

Day 5 – September 15 (Wednesday)

Wednesday starts with a free morning in Colonial Williamsburg. Walk or take the shuttle from the hotel and take in some of the places you missed on Tuesday. Eat more Raleigh Tavern gingerbread.



At 1:00 p.m. we depart Williamsburg for a short drive to Historic Jamestowne. If you remember your grade-school history class, Jamestowne was founded in 1607 and was the first permanent English settlement in the New World.

Bob remembers visiting the site and looking at the signs that informed visitors that the original Jamestowne village and fort lay about 100 yards out in the James River. “What a pity,” he thought wistfully, “that the original site has washed into the river.”

In 1994, archaeologist William Kelso discovered that nearly the entire fort was still high and dry. The resultant archaeology “dig” has uncovered the fort palisade, structural remains, and over a million artifacts. The dig is ongoing and we’ve arranged a special tour of the site.

Dinner tonight is back in Colonial Williamsburg at James Shields’ Tavern. After dinner, take the motorcoach back to the Woodlands Hotel or join Bob and Francie for another evening of gambols at Chownings Tavern.

Day 6 – September 16 (Thursday)

Monticello is today’s destination. We leave Williamsburg at 9:00 a.m. for Charlottesville and the home of Thomas Jefferson.

Monticello (Italian for “Little Mountain”) was Jefferson’s architectural autobiography. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) designated it a World Heritage Site in 1987. As such, the United Nations has deemed it a site of outstanding importance to the cultural heritage of humanity.

Construction of Monticello began in 1768 and Jefferson enlarged and remodeled it in the early 19th century. Our tour includes the house itself as well as its extensive

gardens and grounds. We’ve also arranged a box lunch on site for our tour group.

You’ll especially love Monticello if you’re a gardener. Jefferson was fascinated by plant varieties and cultivated many unusual specimens on his plantation. His vegetable garden alone boasted 330 different varieties, and 170 different species of fruit grew in the Monticello orchards. You can pick up some Monticello heirloom seeds for your own garden in the giftshop.

We’ll spend all afternoon touring Monticello, and then head into nearby Charlottesville for dinner at L’Etoile Restaurant. Lodging tonight is at the Doubletree Inn in Charlottesville.

Day 7 – September 17 (Friday)

Having toured the home of the author of the Declaration of Independence, we’ll now visit the Father of the Constitution.

The staff at Montpelier furnishes a neat summary of Montpelier’s importance:

“For more than 120 years – from 1723 until 1844 when Dolley Madison sold the property – the Madisons owned Montpelier. Montpelier was the lifelong home of James Madison, Father of the Constitution, architect of the Bill of Rights, and fourth president of the United States. It was here that he read, researched, and thought more deeply about our republican form of government than any other Founding Father.”

Montpelier was eventually sold to the wealthy DuPont family who extensively remodeled. After remaining in private ownership for many years, the home was acquired by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1984. The National Trust determined that most of the original features remained intact beneath the DuPont’s renovations and began a restoration of Montpelier that lasted until 2008. The house now appears as it did in the early 19th century.

Coincidentally, our visit to Montpelier falls on Constitution Day. There will be lots of celebratory activities taking place on-site that we can enjoy during our visit.

We’ll depart Montpelier in mid-afternoon and head northwest to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Dinner tonight is at the 1776 Dobbin House Tavern in Gettysburg. The 234-year-old tavern building is on the National Register of Historic Places and promises a delicious dinner in a colonial setting. Should be fun!

Lodging tonight will be in the rustic splendor of the Courtyard by Marriott in Gettysburg.

Day 8 – September 18 (Saturday)

We’ll spend today touring the Gettysburg Battlefield at the Gettysburg National Military Park. We’ll start out the day at



Entrance hall at Monticello



Montpelier, the newly-restored home of James and Dolley Madison

the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center. The 22,000 square-foot museum gallery displays Civil War artifacts from one of the largest museum collections in America. It also features interactive programs and multi-media presentations. A new orientation film, *A New Birth of Freedom* (narrated by actor Morgan Freeman) explains the battle and its importance to American history.

The Museum also features the newly-restored Gettysburg Cyclorama. This 1884 painting is 27 feet high and 359 feet long (!) and underwent a five-year, \$13 million restoration completed in 2008. The enormous painting depicts the climactic Pickett's Charge on the third day of the battle.

After lunch on site on your own in the museum cafeteria, we'll embark on a two-hour driving tour of the battlefield with one

of the Park's incomparable guides. The Gettysburg Battlefield guides are famous for their encyclopedic knowledge of the battle and Civil War. We'll cover the entire battlefield with a special emphasis on the participation of Michigan regiments.

We'll visit the Gettysburg Soldiers' Cemetery, too, where President Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous address that summed up the entire meaning



Dolley Madison

of the war in ten sentences. In so doing, he also redefined the meaning of American democracy. It's an incredibly moving experience to visit the place where it actually happened, and a great way to tie together everything we've learned about Colonial America.

We depart Gettysburg and head back to Bedford, Pennsylvania. The Last Supper is back at the Golden Eagle Restaurant that we visited our first night out (with a different menu!) and we'll stay at the same Fairfield Inn.

Day 9 – September 19 (Sunday)

Our last day is a driving day as we head back to Michigan. We'll leave the work to our motorcoach driver and relax, with time for more of Bob's Meaningless Trivia games and eating the slightly stale but still delicious Raleigh Tavern gingerbread that everyone bought in Williamsburg.

*We're **really** excited about this trip! We think it's our best one yet and hope you'll be able to join us. Give us a call at (269) 471-1202 or email Bob at rmyers@berriehistory.org if you have any questions.*

~ Francie & Bob

Learn More On-Line ~

Visit these internet websites to learn more about our tour destinations :

Attractions:

Washington, DC: www.washington.org

Mt. Vernon: www.mountvernon.org

Colonial Williamsburg: www.colonialwilliamsburg.com

Jamestowne: www.historicjamestowne.org

Monticello: www.monticello.org

Montpelier: www.montpelier.org

Gettysburg Battlefield: www.nps.gov/gett

Founding of America Tour Itinerary September 11-19, 2010

Day 1: Saturday, Sept. 11

8:00 a.m. Depart Berrien Springs
12 m. Lunch en route on your own
6:00 p.m. Dinner at Golden Eagle Inn, Bedford, PA
8:00 p.m. Check-in at the Fairfield Inn, Bedford, PA

Day 2: Sunday, Sept. 12

9:00 a.m. Depart Bedford, PA for Washington, DC
12:30 p.m. Driving tour of Washington, DC with step-on guide
4:30 p.m. Depart Washington for Alexandria, VA
6:00 p.m. Dinner at Clyde's at Mark Center, Alexandria
8:00 p.m. Check-in at Hampton Inn, Springfield, VA

Day 3: Monday, September 13

9:00 a.m. Depart Springfield for Mt. Vernon, VA
10:00 a.m. Tour of Washington's gristmill and distillery
12:00 m. Lunch at Mt. Vernon (included)
1:00 p.m. Tour of the Mt. Vernon and Reynolds Museum
3:00 p.m. Landscape & Gardens tour of Mt. Vernon
4:30 p.m. Depart Mt. Vernon for Colonial Williamsburg, VA
7:30 p.m. Dinner at the Aberdeen Barn, Williamsburg
9:30 p.m. Check-in, Colonial Williamsburg's Woodlands Hotel

Day 4: Tuesday, September 14

Free day to explore Colonial Williamsburg!

7:15 p.m. Dinner at Colonial Williamsburg's Christiana Campbell's Tavern

Day 5: Wednesday, September 15

Free morning to explore Colonial Williamsburg!

1:00 p.m. Depart Colonial Williamsburg for Jamestowne
2:00 p.m. Tour Jamestowne archaeology site and museum
4:30 p.m. Depart Jamestowne for Colonial Williamsburg
5:00 p.m. Rest up at Woodlands Hotel or shopping in Colonial Williamsburg
7:15 p.m. Dinner at Colonial Williamsburg's James Shield's Tavern

Day 6: Thursday, September 16:

9:00 a.m. Depart Williamsburg for Monticello
11:30 a.m. Box lunch on site (included)
1:00 a.m. Tour Monticello
5:00 p.m. Depart Monticello for Charlottesville, VA
6:00 p.m. Dinner at L'Etoile Restaurant, Charlottesville
8:00 p.m. Check-in at Doubletree Inn, Charlottesville

Day 7: Friday, September 17:

9:00 a.m. Depart Charlottesville for Montpelier
10:00 a.m. Tour Montpelier
12:00 m. Lunch on your own on site
2:30 p.m. Depart Montpelier for Gettysburg, PA
6:45 p.m. Dinner at 1776 Dobbin House
8:30 p.m. Check-in at Courtyard by Marriott, Gettysburg

Day 8, Saturday, September 18:

9:00 a.m. Depart hotel for Gettysburg Battlefield National Park
10:00 a.m. Tour Gettysburg Museum and cyclorama
10:15 a.m. Orientation film at museum
12:00 m. Lunch on your own (on site)
1:00 p.m. Bus tour of Gettysburg Battlefield with guide
4:00 p.m. Depart Gettysburg for Bedford, PA
6:00 p.m. Dinner at Golden Eagle Inn, Bedford
8:00 p.m. Check-in at the Fairfield Inn, Bedford

Day 9: Sunday, September 19

8:00 a.m. Depart Bedford, PA, for Berrien Springs
12:00 m. Lunch en route on your own
6:00 p.m. Arrive Berrien Springs

Yes! Sign me/us up for the History Center's Founding of America Tour!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

A \$200 per person deposit will reserve your place on the tour. Balance will be due at the reservation deadline, August 1, 2010. Deposits are fully refundable 60 days before the tour.

___ Reservations at members' price, \$1,595 per person

___ Reservations at non-members' price, \$1,645 per person*

___ Single supplement, \$400 per person

Payment

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____

Please charge \$ _____ to my Visa/Mastercard

Card No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Join the History Center Today!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Fax: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership categories:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Basic | Supporting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 |

*** Your membership immediately qualifies you for the members' discount on the Founding of America Tour!**

Additional donation \$ _____
Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the Berrien County Historical Association or

Please charge my credit card: (Circle one)
MasterCard Visa

Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: _____

Mail or fax to: BCHA, PO Box 261,
Berrien Springs, MI 49103
Phone: (269) 471-1202 Fax: (269) 471-7412



Post Office Box 261
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Berrien Springs, MI
PERMIT NO. 38

*Sign Up for the History Center's Tour
of Historic Washington, DC, Mt.
Vernon, Williamsburg, Jamestowne
Monticello & Gettysburg
September 11-19, 2010*