

Celebrate the National Cherry Blossom Festival April 4 - 8, 2024



Day One, Thursday, April 4, 2024

Arrive at **Dulles Airport**. Meet **motor coach** and **Full Time Escort** and depart.

Visit the **Smithsonian Institution's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center National Air and Space Museum**. **ATTN: THIS MUSEUM IS NOT LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN DC WHERE OTHER SMITHSONIAN'S ARE LOCATED INCLUDING AIR AND SPACE. IT IS LOCATED NEAR DULLES AIRPORT WEST OF THE CITY.**

The Udvar-Hazy Center provides space for the objects that tell the history of aviation and space flight. Over 335 air and spacecraft will be on display. The displays will include the Space Shuttle Enterprise, an SR-71 Blackbird, Dash 80 prototype of the Boeing 707, the B-17 Flying Fortress, an F-4 Phantom fighter, the B-29 **Superfortress "Enola Gay"**, and the de Havilland Chipmunk. Many artifacts will be on display for the first time. Visitors are able to walk among the exhibits and view them from elevated "skyways". There is an Observation Tower where visitor's can watch air traffic at Dulles International Airport. On site there are restaurants, a large theatre, gift shops and more.

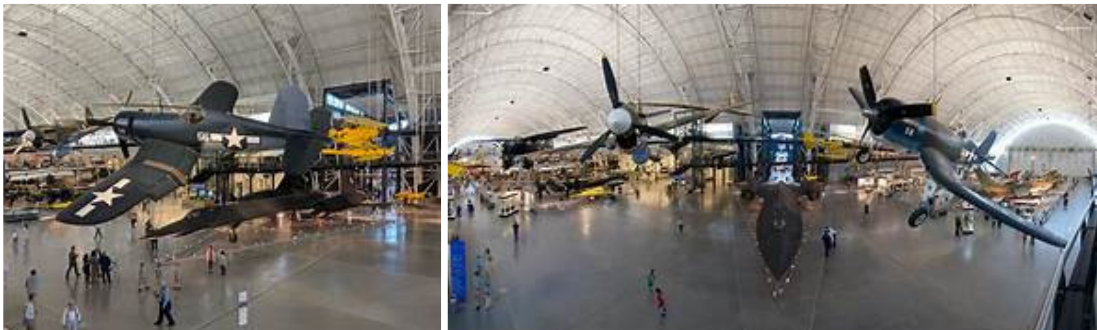
Depart.

Check in to the **Key Bridge Marriott or Holiday Inn Arlington**. **Baggage handling is included.**

Depart.

Enjoy your dinner this evening at **Rock Bottom Brewery** located in the Ballston Common Mall. Choose from: (1) **Brown Ale Chicken served with White Cheddar Mashed Potatoes**, (2) **Alder Smoked Salmon Fish and Chips**, (3) **Pub Tenderloin Tips served with White Cheddar Mashed Potatoes and chef's choice of vegetables**, (4) **Penne Primavera served with fresh baked bread**. All entrees come with house salad, dessert, and unlimited coffee, soda, or ice tea. Choose upon arrival.

Return to the hotel for the evening. **Escort** will remain with the group at the hotel. Meals: D.



Day Two, Friday, April 5, 2024

Enjoy **full breakfast** this morning at the hotel.

Depart with **Escort**.

Visit **Mount Vernon**, the estate of George Washington. Here, he escaped the rigors of public office and enjoyed the life of a successful Virginia planter. America's most visited historic house, Mount Vernon sits on a grassy, shaded slope overlooking the *Potomac River*. Many of the furnishings are original pieces acquired by Washington himself. Mount Vernon is both George Washington's home and final resting-place. This Southern plantation standing on the banks of the *Potomac River* details the life of the "Father of Our Country" while providing fascinating insights into Colonial times. Visit the **Ford Orientation Center & Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center at Mount Vernon**. The center contains sculptures, paintings, portraits, models, photos, films, documents and diverse artifacts, with succinct descriptions and pithy quotations describing the life, times and accomplishments of our nation's first president. With 25 state-of-the-art galleries the museum displays many objects shown at Mount Vernon for the first time. Enjoy **lunch** today at the **Mount Vernon Inn**. Your colonial lunch choices today are: (1) *Colonial Beef Pye*; (2) *Valley Forge Soup & Sandwich*; or (3) *Vegetable & Mozzarella Lasagna*, and a beverage (coffee, tea, or soft drink). Chef's choice of dessert. **Please send in your choices with your rooming list**. Depart. Arrive at the **Capitol Visitor's Center**. 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 that features 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.

Security procedures do not permit motor coaches to drive to the front of the Capitol. Passengers may disembark at Garfield Circle and walk up hill along Capitol Circle. The entrance to the Capitol Visitor Center is located on the East front at First Street and East Capitol Street, NE.

Visit **The United States Capitol (pending availability)**. 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. **GTM will attempt to place reservation approximately 90 days prior to arrival or the group may contact their Congressman. If an inside tour of the Capitol is not available, you may still visit the Exhibits inside of the Visitor Center.**

Visit the **United States Library of Congress**. *Explore. Discover. Be Inspired!*

Established as an act of Congress in 1800, The Library of Congress is the largest national library in the world with more than 100 million items in three buildings. The original Library of Congress Building (now called the Thomas Jefferson Building) is perhaps Washington's most richly ornamented building.

The Library of Congress Experience. Pick up your Passport to Knowledge at the front desk upon arrival. Interactive technologies make the Library of Congress and its collections more dynamic and accessible than ever. This Library of Congress Experience offers "hands-on" interaction with rare cultural treasures in ways that inspire and engage. Highlights on display include *Exploring the Early Americas*, Waldeemuller 1507 Map known as "*Americas Birth Certificate*", *Minerva- The Goddess of Wisdom*, *Creating the United States*, *Thomas Jefferson's Library*, *Bob Hope and American Variety*, and the *History of the Library of Congress*. **If for any reason an inside tour is not available or the wait in line is extremely long our guide will conduct a tour outside the building. (CLOSED SUNDAYS) Open Monday- Saturday 10-5.**

Tour **The Supreme Court Building (pending time and length of lines)**. Within the walls of this white marble monument the third branch of government exercises its mandate to protect and interpret the spirit of the Constitution. **If for any reason an inside tour is not available or the wait in line is extremely long our guide will conduct a tour outside the building. (CLOSED SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS)**

Depart.

Visit the **National Archives (pending availability at time of purchase)**. The spacious rotunda of the National Archives contains the original *Declaration of Independence*, *Constitution*, and the *Bill of Rights*. For the first time in modern history, *all the pages* of these documents are on display to the public. All the displays have been made accessible for viewing by individuals in wheel chairs and children. At night, the display is lowered 20 feet into a bomb- and fireproof vault.

Timed-entry tickets will be pre-ordered by GTM, reservations are not placed or confirmed until guaranteed count and pre-payment is received from client and are based on availability at time order is placed. After order has been placed, any increase in numbers is pending ticket availability; client is still responsible for cost of pre-purchased tickets in the event of a decrease in numbers.

Depart.

Enjoy **dinner** this evening at **Tony & Joe's** on the waterfront in Georgetown. Begin with a garden salad with Dijon Vinaigrette. Your meal includes a fresh medley of vegetables and roasted red potatoes. You may choose the (1) *Broiled Seafood Platter-Shrimp, Scallops, Tilapia, and a Crab Cake*, (2) *Broiled Salmon Filet*, (3) *Maryland Style Crabcakes*, (4) *New York Strip Steak*, or (5) *Spinach Ravioli*. Dessert will be fresh fruit or Tiramisu. Coffee, Tea or Soda are included. **Please choose entrée upon arrival.**

Depart and take a walk through **The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**. Two months after President Kennedy's assassination in November 1963, Congress designated the National Cultural Center as a "living memorial" to Kennedy, and authorized \$23 million to help build what was now known as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. **Head up to the Terrace for amazing views of the city.** Depart and return to the hotel for the evening. **Escort** will remain with the group. Meals: B, L, D.



Day Three, Saturday, April 6, 2024

Enjoy a **full breakfast** at the hotel this morning. Depart with **Escort**.

Arrive for the **Cherry Blossom Parade**. (Timing is tentative.) **View the Cherry Blossom Parade from our Premium-Preferred Grandstand Seating that cannot be acquired elsewhere.**

The **Cherry Blossom Festival** marks the celebration of the original gift of the 3,000 cherry trees by the city of Tokyo to the people of Washington, DC in 1912. The celebration includes a **massive parade**, which navigates down Constitution Avenue from 7th Street towards the *Tidal Basin*. Along with the parade are several free concerts on the Mall, lantern lighting, dances and races.

Noon (approx) After the parade walk to the **National Mall** and visit your choice of the **Smithsonian Institutions** museums. Enjoy **lunch on your own** in one of the museums' **cafeterias*** while visiting. **The Smithsonian Institutions security policy is: All bags, purses, attaches, shopping bags satchels, suitcases, etc will be hand searched. To expedite this please bring only a small purse or fanny pack. DO NOT bring daypacks, backpacks, or luggage in to the museums. Most locker rooms have been closed. DO NOT bring sharp items into the museums, such as knives (including pocket), screwdrivers, corkscrews, scissors, nail files, etc.**

***National Air & Space Museum.** Experience the history of flight at one of the world's most visited museum, from the plane flown by the Wright brothers to the Apollo 11 command module. Features an incredible collection of aviation and space technology treasures.
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. This donut-shaped building boasts a collection of 19th and 20th century paintings and sculptures.

National Museum of African Art is the only museum in the United States dedicated exclusively to the collection, exhibition and study of the traditional arts of sub-Saharan Africa.

National Museum of American History. The new central atrium with skylights dramatically opening the building. A grand staircase connects the 1st and second floors. Galleries with over 3 million objects including new galleries and exhibitions never displayed before. A special state-of-the-art gallery displaying the original **Star Spangled Banner**. This very 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.

National Museum of Natural History. The Hope Diamond and dinosaur fossils and the world's largest African bush elephant top the amazing natural treasures on display along with a live insect zoo.

Experience something of the unique nature and welcoming spirit of **The National Museum of the American Indian (pending availability)**. From the American Southwest, Hawaii, Canada, South and Central America you will feel the spirit of these native people. See items from the great American pyramid builders to the beautiful craftsmanship of North, Central, and South America's indigenous people. **Group entrance** to this museum is on the south side of the building on Maryland Avenue.

National Gallery of Art houses an outstanding collection of masterpieces that trace the development of Western art from the Middle Ages to the present. The original **West Building** concentrates primarily on European works from the 13th century, while its contemporary counterpart, the **East Building**, highlights works of modern artists.

Meet the motor coach on the **National Mall entrance** of the **National Museum of American History** and depart. Enjoy dinner another popular Washington, DC area restaurant.

Depart on an **Illuminated tour** of the following:

Stop at the **Air Force Memorial** built on a hillside overlooking the **Pentagon**. The memorial is bold and graceful and truly representational of the Air Force. Central to the design are three stainless steel spires which soar skyward. The highest of the spires ascends 270' above the 3-acre elevated promontory site. Other key elements of the Memorial include a bronze Honor Guard, inscription walls, and an open glass Chamber of Contemplation, all landscaped to create a park.

You can see the **Pentagon** from the Air Force Memorial. The Pentagon is the world's largest office building. With over 17 miles of hallways and a telephone system that rivals many of the world's smaller cities, the pentagon is an engineering masterpiece and headquarters of the United States Department of Defense. On September 11, 2001 the Pentagon was a target by terrorist in an attack against The United States.

Stop at the **Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Park**. The memorial will honor the 184 victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks at The Pentagon. At the heart of the memorial 184 illuminated benches are arranged according to the victim's ages, from 3 to 71. The benches representing the victims on the plane will face skyward, and the benches representing the victims that were inside the building will face the Pentagon (in both cases, the line of sight follows the flight's path). As part of the landscaping, there will be approximately 80 Paperbark Maple trees planted. **Note: Walking is required to reach memorial grounds.**

Arrive at the hotel to retire for the evening. **Escort** remains with group. Meals: B,D



Day Four, Sunday, April 7, 2024

Enjoy a **full breakfast** at the hotel this morning. Depart with **Escort**.

Visit **Arlington National Cemetery**. No land in America is more sacred than this square mile. It is America's shrine to valor and sacrifice. This is the final resting place for President John F. Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Robert F. Kennedy, Edward Moore (Ted) Kennedy, Audie Murphy, prizefighter Joe Louis, and thousands of soldiers from every major U.S. war. The Cemetery is the former plantation and home of Civil War General Robert E. Lee. Arlington House, Space Shuttle Challenger Astronaut's Memorial, and Monuments to nearly every major sacrifice that affected our country are located within these 612 acres. The Tomb of the Unknowns speaks of a nation's debt to the many whose ultimate sacrifice helped make a nation free. Arlington averages 27 funerals a day. The crews, service members, and groundskeepers follow an elaborate choreography to ensure that each funeral feels like it is the only one taking place.

Tourmobile tickets are included for your visit.

If desired, groups must arrange a Wreath Laying Ceremony on their own directly with the Army's Ceremonies and Special Events. Tour operators cannot place these reservations. A representative of the requesting organization must write to Arlington National Cemetery, Attn: Public Wreath Ceremonies, Arlington, VA 22211 on organizational letterhead. The sender should indicate on the outside of the envelope that it is a "wreath-laying request." The letter should indicate when the group is visiting, its schedule limitations, and complete contact information. If a Wreath Laying Ceremony is approved, tour operators must notify Mid-Atlantic of the group's ceremony time. Mid-Atlantic Receptive Services will order the groups wreath at an additional charge. Please advise us of the colors for the Wreaths Ribbon and Verbiage to be placed on the wreaths ribbon.

Depart and stop at **The Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Statue)**. One of the largest bronze statues ever depicts the American Flag being raised on Mount Suribachi during World War II and commemorates all marines who have died in battle since 1775. The view from this hillside looking across the *Potomac* into Washington is spectacular.

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.

Depart.

Stop at **The National World War II Memorial**. This *newest memorial* honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S. during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th Century, the memorial is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people to the common defense of the nation and to the broader causes of peace and freedom from tyranny throughout the world.

Stop at **The Vietnam Veterans Memorial**. This privately funded memorial has drawn millions who have come to touch the over 50,000 names, make pencil rubbings and leave flowers, letters, flags and personal mementos.

Stop at **The Lincoln Memorial**, overlooking the Reflecting Pool, was patterned on a classic Greek temple. Inside, inscriptions from his Gettysburg Address and Second Inaugural Address flank the 19-foot marble statue of our 16th President.

Stop at **The Korean War Veterans Memorial**. The triangular field contains nineteen ground troopers, clad in foul weather ponchos, fully equipped for battle. Representing those who supported the ground troops are hundreds of faces etched on a polished granite wall. Depart and return to the hotel for the evening. Enjoy free time and **dinner on own** this evening. Meals: B.



Day Five, Monday, April 8, 2024

Enjoy a **full breakfast** at the hotel this morning prior to checking out. **Baggage handling** is included. Depart with **Escort**.

Stop for a **photo opportunity of the White House**.

Stop at **The Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial**. This memorial to FDR combines sculpture, water and natural landscape to forge a dramatic setting for recounting the events and terms of office of the nation's 32nd President. The FDR is unique among the memorials of Washington, DC. Its shade trees, waterfalls, statuary and quiet alcoves create the feeling of a secluded garden rather than an imposing structure. The memorial is divided into four outdoor galleries, or rooms, one for each of FDR's terms in office. Water cascades and quiet pools are present throughout.

Stop at the Tidal Basin for a **photo opportunity of the Cherry Blossoms (pending bloom time)**.

Stop at **The Jefferson Memorial**. The 19-foot statue of the third president stands beneath a rotunda inscribed with passages from the Declaration of Independence and Jefferson's other famous writings. Looking from the memorial across the *Tidal Basin* provides an unforgettable view of the city.

Arrive and **begin boarding the Odyssey III Cruise Ship**.

Enjoy a **lunch cruise** today aboard the *Odyssey III Cruise Ship*, Washington's Premier Dining Cruise! Travel beneath the historic bridges spanning the Potomac while enjoying live entertainment, impeccable cuisine and unparalleled views of the Capital's greatest monuments.

Depart.

Group is dropped off at **Dulles Airport. Service ends.** Meals: B, L.

Inclusions:

- Four night's accommodations
- Five days motorcoach service
- Nine Meals: Four breakfasts, two lunches including a lunch cruise on the Potomac, three dinners
- Services of a professional tour escort
- Reserved seating at the National Cherry Blossom Parade
- Tour of Washington Memorials
- Tour of Smithsonian Museums
- Admission to Mount Vernon Tour
- Arlington National Cemetery via the Tourmobile
- Admission to the "Newseum"
- Capital Hill, Library of Congress, Supreme Court Building & National Archives
- The Kennedy Center
- Photo stop at the White House
- All taxes and gratuities except motorcoach driver & escort
- Baggage Handling at hotel
- Round trip motorcoach transportation

Price Per Person	Min 40	Min 35	Min 30	Min 25	Min 20
Marriott Tyson's Corner					
Double Occupancy	\$ 1239.00	\$ 1279.00	\$ 1329.00	\$ 1389.00	\$ 1439.00
Triple Occupancy	\$ 1169.00	\$ 1209.00	\$ 1259.00	\$ 1309.00	\$ 1369.00
Single Occupancy	\$ 1549.00	\$ 1589.00	\$ 1639.00	\$ 1689.00	\$ 1739.00

Add Round Trip Air From: _____ **To Washington DC Dulles Airport \$** _____