

# AMERICA'S HISTORIC EAST

8 days

*Visit the scenes of America's birth and rebirth as you journey through some of the most famous events in our nation's history. Imagine the founding fathers arguing over the Declaration of Independence, the smoke and cannon fire at Gettysburg, daily life in Colonial Williamsburg, and the English colonists at Jamestown struggling to establish themselves in an inhospitable new land. These and other events will come alive on this tour of America's Historic past.*

**Day 1 Washington D.C.** Welcome to Washington D.C.! Arrive at your hotel and spend the evening at leisure. (B)

**Day 2 Washington D.C.** Your half-day guided tour features ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY with the Kennedy Gravesites, and VIETNAM, KOREAN, and WORLD WAR II MEMORIALS, as well as many other well-known sights. Also stop for photos at the White House and Capitol Hill. The afternoon is free to pursue your favorite interests. Maybe visit the Smithsonian Institute, Georgetown, the National Cathedral or other prominent monuments and museums. Try our optional dinner tonight at one of Washington's favorite restaurants, followed by an illumination tour of beautiful monuments. (B)

**Day 3 Washington D.C.-Mount Vernon-Williamsburg.** This morning drive through Old Town Alexandria and then visit MOUNT VERNON, the restored home of George Washington. Tour the house and gardens, and visit the gravesite. Then visit YORKTOWN HISTORICAL BATTLEFIELD, where in 1781 the British surrendered to Washington's troops, bringing the American Revolution to a successful conclusion. This evening enjoy an authentic colonial-style dinner at one of the famous local taverns. (B,D)

**Day 4 Williamsburg. Excursion to Jamestown.** This morning enjoy an exclusive performance from Sylvia Tabb-Lee, a professional historian and actress, who provides a "bottom up" view of the American Revolution. Visit the JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT, a recreation of the first permanent English settlement in the New World, complete with ships, tradesmen, and educational activities. Then proceed to COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG, the nation's most extensive colonial village, where costumed villagers go about their business in an authentic 18th century setting. Stroll down quaint streets and browse through the Historic Trade Shops, where products made the 18th century way are sold. See the Governor's House, the George Wythe House, and many other period buildings. Also be sure to drop in at Raleigh Tavern, where Jefferson, Madison, Patrick Henry, and others debated the future of the British colonies. Enjoy your evening at leisure. (B)

**Day 5 Williamsburg-Monticello-Shenandoah Valley.** First stop is PAMPLIN HISTORIC PARK, located on the Civil War Petersburg battlefield. Get an inside view of the soldier's life at the Museum of the Civil War Soldier, followed by a living history demonstration of military skills including artillery firing and cooking. Finally, there's time to tour the battlefield and view both the original and recreated Confederate earthworks and rifle pits that defended Richmond, Virginia's capital, and once the capital of the Confederacy. After lunch, it's on to MONTICELLO, Thomas Jefferson's estate, with its beautiful gardens and imposing mansion designed by Jefferson himself. Following the house tour a special tour discussed Jefferson and his relationship to the institution of slavery. Finally travel on to your hotel deep in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. (B)

**Day 6 Shenandoah Valley-Harpers Ferry-Gettysburg.** Enjoy photo stops and panoramic vistas from Skyline Drive in beautiful SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK. In West Virginia visit HARPER'S FERRY, where John Brown and his "army of liberation" staged their fateful raid on the U.S. arsenal that was to spark the Civil War. Continue across Maryland to GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK. Enjoy a tour of Gettysburg and hear your local guide vividly recount the 1863 battle that extinguished the Confederate dream of independence. Also spend some free time on your own. This evening enjoy a candlelit dinner at the elegant Dobbin House Tavern, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (B,D)

**Day 7 Gettysburg-Valley Forge-Philadelphia.** After breakfast "Abraham Lincoln" visits to discuss his time in office and to deliver his Gettysburg Address. Then travel through the Pennsylvania Dutch country to VALLEY FORGE and tour the camp where Washington and his troops suffered through the harsh winter of 1777/78. Along with your picnic lunch sample "fire cake," a staple of the snowbound soldiers. Visit such sites as Washington's Headquarters, the Grand Parade, and the Washington Memorial Chapel. Continue to Philadelphia for the evening. (B)

**Day 8 Philadelphia.** This morning visit the shrines of American independence, the LIBERTY BELL and INDEPENDENCE HALL, where the Declaration of Independence was signed. Afterwards you have free time to visit other important buildings of this historic city, the birthplace of the nation. Continue to the Philadelphia Airport to board your return flight home. (B)

**Meals:** B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner