

# Washington, D.C. & Williamsburg

5 OR 6 DAYS



George Washington appointed more Supreme Court justices (11) than any other president.



## PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip transportation
- 4 nights hotel accommodations (5 with extension)
- Air-conditioned motorcoach on tour
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director throughout your stay
- Sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides
- Visits to special attractions per itinerary
- Select evening activities
- Overnight security
- Educational materials developed by the Smithsonian
- Smithsonian Membership

## OPTIONS

- Smithsonian Student Travel Gear
- Lunches
- Extended stay
- Private group
- Opportunity to earn credit for group leaders and students

### DAY 1 Washington, D.C.

**Welcome to Washington, D.C.** • Travel by airplane or motorcoach to the world's first planned capital city. Originally named simply the District of Columbia, the 10-square-mile stretch of land on the Potomac was renamed Washington, D.C., after the president's death in 1799. It has served as the seat of Congress since 1800 when the federal government took up residence here years before designer Pierre-Charles L'Enfant's plan was fully realized. Upon your arrival in this elegant, European-influenced capital, you are greeted by your tour director, who will accompany you throughout your stay.

**Introduction to the Smithsonian** • The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum and research complex, endowed by James Smithson and created by an act of Congress in 1846, dedicated to the increase and diffusion of knowledge. The Smithsonian Institution houses over 136.5 million objects and comprises 17 museums and the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., two museums in New York City and nine research centers around the world. It extends its global outreach through almost 150 Smithsonian Affiliate museums. The Smithsonian is an institution dedicated to discovery, exploration and learning.

**The Smithsonian's museums** • Explore all that the Smithsonian's museums have to offer. On display at the National Air and Space Museum is the Wright 1903 Flyer. You can also see the Apollo 11 command module, *Columbia*, which orbited the moon while Neil Arm-

strong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin first walked on the surface in 1969. A stroll through the National Museum of Natural History will reveal objects as varied as the 45.52-carat Hope Diamond and dinosaur skeletons. To satisfy your artistic side, duck into the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, where masterpieces by Andy Warhol, Willem de Kooning and Pablo Picasso decorate the halls. (Please note: The museum(s) you visit may vary.)

**Washington, D.C. by night** • Experience the magic of seeing Washington's most impressive sights illuminated during your evening scenic tour downtown. Thanks to the foresight of D.C.'s urban planners (who placed strict limits on the height of downtown buildings), you're assured a view of the Washington Monument from nearly every part of the city. Other points of interest on our tour include the Lincoln Memorial, the WWII Memorial and the Korean War Memorial.

### DAY 2 Washington, D.C. • Mount Vernon

**Guided sightseeing of Washington, D.C.** • A local guide introduces you to the sites where national policies and political reputations are formed and reformed daily. You'll observe the quiet dignity of Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place of more than 200,000 veterans and their families. At JFK's gravesite, you'll see the eternal flame that was lit by Jacqueline Kennedy at her husband's funeral. Here, you'll also witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the

Unknowns. Next, visit the United States Marine Corps War Memorial, which depicts U.S. Marines raising an American flag at Iwo Jima. Make a photo stop at the White House, home of every U.S. president except George Washington. On the grassy Mall, which extends from the Capitol to the Potomac River, view the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Washington Monument.

**Excursion to Mount Vernon\*** • Travel through the Virginia countryside to Mount Vernon, the lovely retreat overlooking the Potomac where George and Martha Washington lived from 1754 to 1799. As you tour the restored Georgian mansion, you'll see many symbols of the owner's eminence, including Washington's presidential chair. You'll also see the reconstructed slave quarters and Washington's tomb, as well as the elegant estate's 500 acres of grounds and gardens. Be sure to explore the recently opened Ford Orientation Center and Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. The interactive displays, short films and high-tech immersive experiences featured in the center depict Washington at three significant stages in his life.

**Evening activity** • Join us for a special activity tonight. You may take a one-hour Legends of Alexandria tour in Old Town, where an 18th-century costumed guide shows you the way through the streets by lantern and shares ghost stories, legends and folklore about the area!

### **DAY 3 Washington, D.C. • Williamsburg**

*Today is your best opportunity to arrange special visits such as meeting your representative in Congress or touring the White House. Please note that these appointments may affect the day's schedule.*

**U.S. Capitol** • Behold the U.S. Capitol, the city's epicenter and the heart of the American legislature. George Washington laid the first cornerstone for the building in 1793, but the edifice was set on fire in 1814 when British troops marched through the city. Much of the structure was salvaged, thanks to heavy rains that quelled the flames, and the Capitol remains the symbol of American government today. **(Please note: Smithsonian Student Travel is unable to make group appointments at the Capitol. Groups are responsible for arranging their own visit.)**

**Supreme Court** • See the imposing white-marble Supreme Court building, where the nine justices of the nation's highest court convene to hear oral arguments and rule on cases that affect the course of law in the United States. **(Please note: Smithsonian Student Travel is unable to make group appointments at the Supreme Court. Groups are responsible for arranging their own visit.)**

**National Archives** • As part of the comprehensive National Archives Experience, you'll see priceless documents that have shaped the history and politics of the United States. Newly constructed interactive components will give you an appreciation for the role records and archivists play in linking the past to the future. View all four pages of

the Constitution simultaneously in the Charters of Freedom Rotunda. Then tour the Public Vaults that store important records from the earliest Native American treaties to presidential websites.

**Ford's Theatre and Petersen House** • Visit the museum at Ford's Theatre, where, on April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth shocked the nation by assassinating President Lincoln during a performance of *Our American Cousin*. The stricken president was carried across the street to the home of tailor William Petersen. At the historically preserved Petersen House, you'll see the room where a 23-year-old doctor worked unsuccessfully through the night to save the mortally wounded president.

**Welcome to Williamsburg** • Travel south to Williamsburg—where you will literally walk through the streets of colonial times in this authentically recreated 18th-century village. In 1699, a year after mosquito-ridden Jamestown burned down, the colonial capital moved to a small village known as Middle Kingdom, which the English settlers soon renamed Williamsburg (after King William III). Once the largest city in Virginia—then the most prosperous colony—Williamsburg remained the seat of colonial government and an important center of revolutionary thought for nearly 80 years. At the 301-acre park, which re-creates colonial Williamsburg, you'll be introduced to the ideas and dreams of the colonists—from average citizens to political leaders—on the eve of the American Revolution. In the more than 500 restored and reconstructed buildings, you'll mingle with the townspeople and hear them discuss British taxes, religious freedom and the alarming notion of revolting against the mother country. Gain a greater appreciation of life in early America and a better understanding of your own heritage.

**Evening activity** • Join us for a special evening activity tonight. Depending on the season, possibilities include a lantern stroll of Williamsburg, colonial dances or bowling.

### **DAY 4 Williamsburg • Jamestown**

**Guided sightseeing of Williamsburg** • An expert local guide leads today's tour of Colonial Williamsburg. After steadily fading from American historical memory following the Revolutionary War, Williamsburg received its first major face-lift in the 1920s, when oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller answered the pleas of a local priest to bankroll Williamsburg's restoration. In 1934, Colonial Williamsburg opened as the first U.S. theme park to use American revolutionary history for entertainment. Touring this working colonial village, you'll visit the Capitol, where Virginia legislators like Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry cut their political teeth; Market Square's Courthouse; and the Public Gaol (jail). Offenders seldom returned here after being found guilty, since the colonials were less than forgiving: more likely than not, sentences involved flogging, hanging or, at the very least, public ridicule! You might also visit either of two 18th-century taverns: the Raleigh, where colonial upstarts like George Washington

and Thomas Jefferson toasted the Revolution; or Wetherburn's, which was also the raucous site of auctions, lectures, balls and gambling. As you stroll through the town, you'll see tradespeople performing colonial vocations, including construction, blacksmithing, bookbinding, shoemaking and foundry work.

**Guided visit to the Jamestown Settlement** • Even older than Williamsburg, Jamestown—sponsored by King James I, but owned by the Virginia Company—was the first successful English colony in the New World. The settlement was constantly troubled by territorial disputes with the Powhatan natives, but it was the colonists themselves who sealed the fate of Jamestown when, in 1675, they burned their fort to the ground to protest the lack of protection offered to them by the crown. On your guided visit to Jamestown Settlement, join Captain John Smith and other costumed interpreters that take you back to 1607, when these Englishmen first landed on the banks of the James River. Explore the three boats that originally carried the men over to Virginia, wander through a re-creation of a Powhatan Indian village or marvel at a 17th century colonial fort.

**Optional excursion to Busch Gardens (mid-May to August)** • Opt for an exciting excursion to Busch Gardens Williamsburg theme park. More than 100 attractions showcase the cultures of 17th-century France, Ireland, England, Germany and Italy. Highlights include a vaudeville show, the German Festhaus, the Globe Theater and dozens of thrilling rides!

#### **DAY 5 Washington, D.C. • Departure**

**Transfer to Washington, D.C.** • Return north to Washington, D.C.

**Free time in Washington** • Depending on your return flight, you'll have a chance to explore the capital city on your own. Explore the majestic Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts or any of the Smithsonian's museums you may have missed. Watch money being created right before your eyes at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing or marvel at modern artworks by masters like Kadinsky, Picasso, Matisse and van Gogh at the Phillips Collection (where the 1890s mansion that houses the collection is almost as impressive as what it holds). D.C. is packed with exciting surprises for the adventurous traveler.

**Return home** • Your tour director assists with your departure. Alternatively, extend your stay and continue on to Virginia for one more day.

#### **EXTENSION**

##### **DAY 5 (continued) Charlottesville**

**Transfer to Charlottesville** • Travel to the college town of Charlottesville. The University of Virginia, founded here in 1819 by Thomas Jefferson, is the economic, geographic and cultural heart of the city.

**Monticello** • Begun in 1770 and completely designed by Thomas Jefferson, the estate of Monticello was completed in 1809. The 35-room

house was his home for 56 years and is now a national shrine. The brick mansion has a Greek portico and a Roman-style dome and is filled with innovations like a dumbwaiter to the wine cellar, an all-weather passage linking the kitchen and dining room and an indoor compass to register wind direction via a rooftop weathervane. The president is buried in the family plot on the grounds.

**Ash-Lawn Highland** • Today, you'll also visit the magnificent 500-acre plantation home of James Monroe, good friend of Thomas Jefferson. The museum on the site interprets the life of the fifth U.S. president.

#### **DAY 6 Washington, D.C. • Departure**

**Walking tour of Bull Run Battlefield** • En route to D.C., you'll stop at Bull Run, a small stream near Manassas, Virginia. In Manassas, visit the Bull Run Battlefield, known as the Battle of Bull Run to the North (named for the stream near where the fighting took place) and the Battle of Manassas to the South. Following the initial shots fired at Fort Sumter, the Civil War began in earnest amid these gentle Virginia hills on July 21, 1861, when 25,000 Union troops tried to disrupt a railroad link to the Shenandoah Valley. It was in the Battle of Bull Run that Confederate General Jackson's stoicism won him his nickname, Stonewall. Discuss with students how the nearly 5,000 casualties in this battle would later pale in comparison to the battles which would follow over the next four years of the Civil War. Just over a year later, on August 29, 1862, the Second Battle of Bull Run was fought in virtually the same area and Union troops were once again defeated.

**Return home** • Your tour director assists with your departure by flight or motorcoach.

**Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.**

*\*Smithsonian Affiliates are institutional partners that showcase the Smithsonian's vast collection and resources in local communities across the country.*