

A Salute to Spring in Virginia!

April 27 - May 1, 2018

World Class Military Pageant - Dinner Theater - Gardens



Beach & Boardwalk - Military Museums - English Manor Homes

Springtime in Virginia is the best time of year for the Old Dominion to show off its very best. Color is everywhere, indoors and out. The fantastic Virginia International Tattoo is a world-class military pageant filled with color and music. We'll visit historic gardens busting with blooms and military



museums awash in history. Spring is also a wonderful time to go for a stroll on an Atlantic beach and browse along its boardwalk. Throw in great food, lodging, live theater and hospitality and you have a springtime experience to remember.



Itinerary

DAY ONE - Friday April 27, 2018 Hampton Inn Richmond

Depart for our four day weekend to springtime in Virginia! Arriving in Richmond, Hampton manager David Becker always likes to greet his groups personally, but that's the way it is with Virginia hospitality. Hampton Inn & Suites/Glenside in Richmond is an inviting property and a good place to lay your head for the next two nights. Our welcome dinner will be at the "Capital Ale House", also known as "Cap Ale" to the locals. This is one of Richmond's favorite dining spots for good reason. The food and atmosphere are great, and there are literally hundreds of beers on tap or in stock. What's not to love? We'll have a hearty dinner here and that's a good thing. We'll need our energy because we have a full day tomorrow.

(Dinner)

Day Two - Saturday April 28, 2018 Hampton Inn Richmond

This morning we tour a couple of authentic centuries-old English manors without crossing the ocean. In the early 1900s "Agecroft Hall" was purchased by a wealthy Richmonder, disassembled and moved here from England. The place is stunning and filled with treasures. Outside, the gardens are based on traditional English garden plans of the Elizabethan era. Next, another old English home found its way to Richmond in the 1920s. "Virginia House" is constructed of stone and timbers originally part of a monastery and later used to build a manor house that hosted Queen Elizabeth I. That house was disassembled and brought to Richmond and the materials were used to build what is called Virginia House. That's a story in itself but the real joy is in visiting the house today, which we will do on a guided tour.



Next, it's lunch on your own on Cary Street. This mile-long stretch of Cary Street is known as the "Mile of Style" for its countless funky and fashionable shops. It's also filled with scores of Richmond's favorite restaurants. You'll find everything from French cuisine to burgers. Walk off your lunch and discover the one-of-a-kind gifts.

Just make sure to wear comfortable shoes as walking is a part of the fun.



After lunch and shopping we are off for our Canal Boat Cruise. In the 1700s a canal system was envisioned that reached from the fall line at Richmond all the way inland to the Ohio River. George Washington surveyed and laid out much of the Virginia portion

of that canal, and our ride on a modern day canal boat will follow the course of that historic waterway in Richmond.

This evening we finish the day with a Southern Buffet and Theater at Swift Creek Mill. This 1663 mill took on new life in the 1960s as the home of professional dinner theater. There's not another place quite like it. We'll enjoy a Southern Favorite's buffet dinner in the dining room and then, happily full, take our seats in the theater upstairs for a fun show before heading to our hotel for a good night's rest. (***Breakfast & Dinner***)



Day Three - Sunday April 29, 2018 Hampton Inn Virginia Beach

This morning we depart Richmond and head to Virginia Beach.

Lunch today will be at the Freemason Abbey Restaurant. Located in a gorgeous 143-year-old renovated church, Freemason Abbey has been a local favorite in the heart of downtown Norfolk for some 30 years. There's a good reason for that. The food is great and so is the service. As restaurants go, local folks consider this a holy place.



This Afternoon is for the “Virginia International Tattoo” This largest spectacle of Music and Might in the US offers an astounding display



of inspirational military music, majestic massed pipes and drums, show stopping drill team maneuvers, colorful and elegant dancers, and much more. It's clear why the American Bus Association has put this Tattoo on their must-see list of the most exciting events in the world.

After the show we will check in to Hampton Inn, Virginia Beach Oceanfront. Our hotel sits on the famous Virginia Beach Boardwalk and all rooms look out to the beach and ocean. Virginia Beach is the longest commercial beach in America and the boardwalk is great for strolling. You will be able to go to sleep tonight and wake up with the sound of ocean waves breaking. Dinner tonight is at Rockafeller’s and their food is “as delicious as the view.” Rockafeller’s sources much of its menu locally, and why not? Seafood doesn’t come any fresher than here at Virginia Beach.



(Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Day Four - Monday April 30, 2018 Hampton Inn Virginia Beach

Let’s head to the beach! A 24-foot statue of King Neptune watches over the three-mile-long Virginia Beach Boardwalk. Take a stroll along the Boardwalk or adjacent Atlantic Avenue for the best of beachside shopping for fashion, beach apparel, accessories and fun stuff. You’ll find lots of good restaurants for a tasty lunch on your own. You can pedal the Boardwalk, too - rent a bike, tandem or multi-passenger family bike and cruise in style. Take your time and relax on the clean Atlantic beach or even dip your toes in the water.

This afternoon its off to the Military Aviation Museum, home to one of the world’s largest private collections of WWI and WWII era military aircraft, the Military Aviation Museum is a wonder. All aircraft have been restored to their military condition and most are



airworthy. Messerschmitts, P-51 Mustangs, Corsairs, Wildcats and bombers are part of the WWII collection while vintage Fokker, Nieuport and Sopwith fighters harken to the days of the “Red Baron” of Germany.

Dinner tonight is at Waterman’s Surfside Grille which has long been one of the true “go-to” restaurants of Virginia Beach. It’s located right on the Boardwalk and is a fun- loving place with great seafood, pasta, salads and more. (***Breakfast & Dinner***)

Day Five - Tuesday May 1, 2018

Today we head for home with a visit to the new “American Revolution Museum” in Yorktown. America won its independence when British forces surrendered to George Washington at Yorktown. Now a brand new 80,000 square foot museum tells the story of America’s struggle for independence through compelling exhibits and a 170 seat theater and “4-D” film “Liberty Fever”. Outside, visit the Continental Army encampment and Revolutionary-era farm where costumed interpreters provide demonstrations and interactive activities. (***Breakfast***)

Price:

\$ 995 per person double.

\$ 925 per person triple.

\$ 1295 per person single.

Inclusions:

- Four Nights Accommodations – Friday and Saturday in Hampton Inn and Suites Richmond and Sunday and Monday at Hampton Inn and Suites Virginia Beach
- Nine meals including Capital Ale House Downtown Richmond, Southern Buffet at Swift Creek Mill Theater, Waterman’s Surfside Grille, Rockafeller’s on the Water & Lunch at Freeman’s Abby
- Agecroft Hall & 16th Century Gardens

- Virginia House – Charles Gillette’s southern garden
- Free time along the “Mile of Style” Carytown for shopping and lunch on own
- Kanawaha and James River Canal Boat Ride
- Swift Creek Mill Theater Performance
- International Tattoo
- Free time on the beach
- Lunch and shopping along Virginia Beach
- Military Aviation Museum
- Admission to the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.