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thursday, october 27

A Tour of Historic Annapolis and Lunch at the Treaty of Paris Restaurant



All aboard for historic Annapolis, Maryland. This quaint waterfront community has welcomed travelers for over two hundred years. Originally the colonial capital, and currently Maryland's state capital and home of the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis offers visitors a unique blend of historical architecture and scenic maritime vistas.

Colonial costumed guides will meet you for a comprehensive walking tour, viewing the U.S. Naval Academy (the Chapel, John Paul Jones' tomb and Bancroft Hall), and the Maryland State House, which is the oldest state house still in use in the United States. You will also pass the many historic homes and gardens which line the quaint streets of this bustling waterfront town.

All will then enjoy a delicious buffet lunch at the Treaty of Paris period-style Restaurant, part of the eighteenth century Maryland Inn. The restaurant's name refers to the treaty that officially ended the American Revolutionary War, which was signed in Paris in 1783 and ratified in the Annapolis State House. After the ratification, the signatories—John Jay, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin—came to this restaurant to celebrate the United States victory.

Following lunch, guests will have some time for shopping and browsing through the many interesting boutiques and shops, or just investigating the many historical attractions found in Annapolis before your scheduled boarding time for the return trip to Washington.

All Inclusive Fee: \$115 (Includes Lunch)

Coach Departure: 9:00 AM (Please meet at Marriott's 24th Street entrance, near Harry's Pub, at 8:45 AM)

Return: 3:00 PM

Note: A photo ID is required to enter the Naval Academy.

Photos Courtesy of Paul Pobiak



tours

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friday, october 28

A MORNING OF EMBASSIES ~ THE EMBASSY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND LA MAISON FRANÇAISE

You will have the rare privilege of touring two of Washington's Embassies: The Embassy of the Russian Federation and The French Embassy (La Maison Française). (The embassies toured are subject to change depending on Ambassador approval.)

The first stop of the day will be The Russian Embassy. Between 1969 and 1972, the governments of the Soviet Union and the United States agreed to swap plots of land in Moscow and Washington, DC respectively to build their Embassies. Construction in Washington on the Soviet Embassy began in 1977 after the Soviet government acquired a plot of land called "Mount Alto" near the National Cathedral on Wisconsin Avenue, NW. Construction was completed in 1985 at a total cost of \$62 million, but the embassy stood unoccupied for years due to a dispute between the Soviet Union and the United States government. During the official visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the USA in June 1992, the two countries agreed to put into operation their new Embassies in Moscow and in Washington, and the Russian Embassy officially opened in September 1994.

You will have the opportunity to learn more about the Embassy's history and Russian culture as well as explore the available reception rooms consisting of the grand ballroom, four anterooms, an auditorium and a state dining room. Each room is elegantly appointed with colored silk wall coverings reminiscent of the Italianate building exterior one sees in historic St. Petersburg. A dramatic marble staircase, inlaid wooden floors, spectacular chandeliers and a turquoise tinted mural depicting Russian Orthodox churches add to the breathtaking beauty of the Embassy. The state dining room features beautiful contemporary Russian tapestries and a reproduction tile "stove" similar to those in the splendid Summer Palace outside St. Petersburg.

Following an interesting, informative look behind the iron gates of the Embassy of the Russian Federation, you will enjoy a short trip into Georgetown to La Maison Française. The Embassy of France in Washington, DC is the largest French diplomatic mission in the world. A staff of about 400 persons, divided in 15 offices engaged in a wide variety of activities, works under the direction of the Ambassador. The Embassy is at its current location since 1984. The building comprises four interconnected parts. There are three levels of garage parking and the total surface area is approximately 350,000 square feet, including 131,000 square feet of office space.

In accordance with French legislation, one percent of the Embassy's construction budget was allocated for commissioning three works of art: a tapestry by Manessier, a painting by Olivier Debré and a sculpture by Ipousteguy. Other works displayed at the Embassy are part of the French National Fund for Contemporary Arts. This is a collection of works by French artists purchased by the government and lent to museums and public buildings worldwide. You will have the opportunity to view these magnificent works of abstract art first



hand and learn more about how an Embassy of this magnitude functions from day-to-day, as well as explore the building's beautifully light filled reception space, with its 20-foot-high ceilings and glass walls overlooking the landscaped grounds.

Following the Embassy tours, you will board the luxury motorcoach and travel along Embassy Row. Washington's grandest boulevard features impressive turn-of-the-century residences in the city, many designed in the French Beaux-Arts style and now house embassies and consulates. In addition to viewing sumptuous architecture, you'll hear stories about the families who once resided in these stately palaces. Fabulous wealth, extravagant parties, scandals--even "the curse of the Hope Diamond" are mixed with a glimpse of the life led by Washington's diplomatic community today. Your riding tour will continue down to LaFayette Square, named in 1824 after General Lafayette of France. This seven-acre park houses Clark Mills' famous equestrian statue of President Andrew Jackson as well as in its four corners the statues of Revolutionary War heroes. The final tour highlight, just south of Lafayette Square, is Washington's most famous address--1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

All Inclusive Fee: \$55

Coach Departure: 9:00 AM (Please meet at Marriott's 24th Street entrance, near Harry's Pub, at 8:45 AM)

Return: 12:00 Noon

Note: A photo ID is required. Passports are required for non-U.S. citizens.

French Embassy photo courtesy of: Florence Thomas