



TOUR #8283

Springtime in Coastal Virginia featuring Virginia International Tattoo April 14-20, 2024

What is a tattoo? While the word has become known for body art made with ink, the true origin of the word comes from the 17th-century tradition of military drummers alerting soldiers that it was time to return to their barracks for the evening. After hearing the call of the drums, the innkeepers would call out “Doe den tap toe!”, meaning “Turn off the taps!” The “tap too” evolved over time, and the word tattoo now refers to a ceremonial performance of military music by massed bands. Since 1997, the Virginia International Tattoo has become an annual celebration of patriotism and international goodwill. The area of Norfolk, Virginia welcomes over 800 performers from all over the world in a display of bands, drill teams, massed pipes and drums, Celtic dancers, choirs, and more. It is the largest tattoo in the United States and draws audiences from around the world.

Highlights:

- American Civil War Museum
- Virginia Beach Boardwalk
- Cape Henry Lighthouse
- First Landing Site
- Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel
- Cape Charles
- USS Wisconsin
- Victory Rover Naval Base Cruise
- Virginia International Tattoo Show
- Virginia State Capital
- Historic Michie Tavern Lunch



Sunday, April 14th - Grab your bags, board the motorcoach, and get ready for an exciting and entertaining trip to the shores of Virginia. Meet your fellow passengers as our route takes us southeastward to the Chillicothe, Ohio area for our overnight accommodations. **(LS)**

Monday, April 15th - The fun continues on the motorcoach as we travel through the beautiful mountains of West Virginia and into Virginia. We will arrive in Richmond this evening and enjoy a light supper. **(B,LS)**

Tuesday, April 16th - Following breakfast, we depart for a day exploring Richmond, the capital city of Virginia. Our **step-on guide** will give us a narrated history of the local area, including a stop at the **Virginia State Capital**. There will be time on your own to explore historic Carytown, Richmond's Mile of Style! From bookstores to candy shops, craft breweries, hot cocktail spots, and more, you will find great places to enjoy a bite to eat and some gifts to bring home. The **American Civil War Museum** is our next destination. Located in the "White House of the Confederacy," this historic landmark built in 1818 served as the executive mansion of the Confederacy during the Civil War. The museum will show legacies from multiple perspectives of the war: Union, Confederate, enslaved and free African Americans, soldiers, and civilians. We depart for dinner on your own at the **Virginia Beach Boardwalk**. Spanning over 3 miles, there is a variety of quaint outdoor restaurants and vendors. Our hotel is right off the boardwalk, so spend time enjoying the area at your own pace before returning to our hotel for the evening. **(B)**

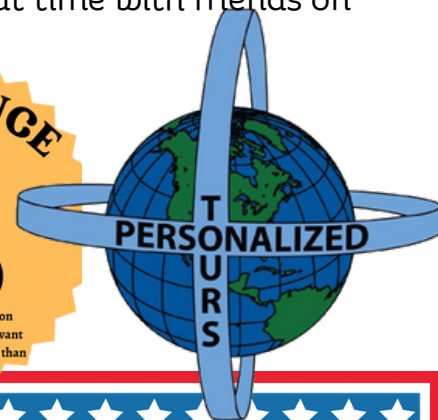
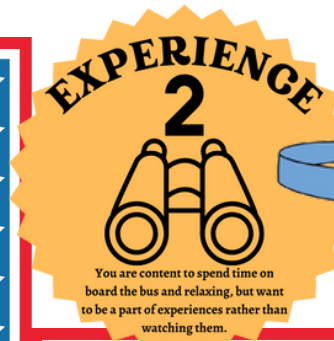
Wednesday, April 17th - A day filled with history and shopping lies ahead of us. As it was the first stop for the English Colonists more than 400 years ago, the **First Landing Site** is where we begin our journey. Now one of Virginia's most-visited state parks, it is an oasis within the urban setting of Virginia Beach. Native American canoes, Colonial settlers, 20th century schooners, and modern cargo ships have navigated this park's waterways. Its Cyprus swamps were a source of fresh water for merchant mariners, pirates, and military ships during the war of 1812. After seeing the natural marvels of the area, it is time to experience an engineering marvel - the **Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel**. This unforgettable journey will leave you in awe as we cover over 17 miles by bridge over the Bay - without a single stop sign, traffic light, or intersection in sight. It also offers sight-seeing of vibrant wildlife and stunning views over the bay. This takes us into **Cape Charles**, where we will spend the afternoon shopping and exploring. Take time to enjoy lunch on your own at one of the many options. After an afternoon of fun, we head back to our hotel. We will have time to relax or even enjoy the boardwalk before our group goes to dinner at a local favorite featuring signature seafood options. (MEAL CHOICE NEEDED AT RESERVATION). **(B,D)**



Thursday, April 18th - Naval fun awaits us! Today we head to the **Nauticus Museum**, home to the **USS Wisconsin**. This maritime discovery center located along the waterfront of downtown Norfolk, offers a unique form of experimental learning for all ages. Through interactive exhibits, the Battleship Wisconsin, sailing center, and more, it teaches the story of maritime environment, industry, and the military. You will have time to explore **Historic Granby Street**, just one block from the museum, where you can enjoy lunch and some more shopping. After lunch, we make our way to the **Victory Rover Naval Base** for a cruise. After our day out on the water, we enjoy a delicious meal before the main event. This evening, the moment we have been waiting for is here - **The Tattoo Show!** Get ready to be amazed by this display of military bands from across the globe. It will inspire hope, patriotism, and international goodwill. **(B,D)**

Friday, April 19th - Our time in the maritime cities of Norfolk and Virginia Beach has come to a close. We begin to make our way north as we depart this historic and scenic area. Our toes are still tapping and our mouths still humming some of our favorite patriotic tunes from the night prior. Lunch is included at the **Historic Michie Tavern**. Our overnight accommodations are in the Chillicothe, OH area this evening. **(B,L)**

Saturday, April 20th - After breakfast, we make our way home. The day passes quickly as we watch the signs of summer along our route north. It's been a great time with friends on this tour "Planned With You In Mind." **(B)**



Tour Price:

\$2119 Per Person Double

\$2689 Per Person Single

\$500 Per Person Deposit Due With Reservation

Peace of Mind Protection: \$139 P/P

Final Payment Due February 1, 2024

Tour Inclusions

- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- 6 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 2 Dinners, 2 Light Suppers
- Hotel Accommodations for 6 Nights
- Sightseeing & Admissions Per Itinerary
- Luggage Handling for 1 Suitcase Per Person
- Services of a Personalized Tour Director

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