

# Washington, D.C.

## 3-5 Day Trips

**American History**  
**Social Studies**  
**Government Studies**  
**Fun Adventure**

### Program Includes:

- Round-trip transportation
- Deluxe air-conditioned coach
- 2-4 nights hotel (3,4,5day trips)
- Full-time History Pathways guide
- Sightseeing guides
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Gratuities
- Photo ID, caps, t-shirts and tags
- Evening activity
- Special visits per itinerary
- Pre-departure educational materials

## 4-Day Sample Itinerary

## Earth Explore Foundation - History Pathways

### DAY 1

#### Arrival in Washington, D.C.

On the first day of our trip we arrive in the nation's capitol at mid-day. We meet our Earth Explore Educational Manager who will accompany the group during your entire visit. As we relax onboard our deluxe motorcoach, we receive our first orientation about the vibrant history of the seat of American Government.

#### LUNCH

The best place to get a feel for the spaciousness of Washington, D.C. is the National Mall. Here many of the monuments that we have seen in pictures are visible in a single glance.

#### Smithsonian Museums

Our first stop is a chance explore the vast collections and incredible diversity of the 19 museums of the Smithsonian Institution. The world's largest group of museums, here is the National Air and Space Museum, where we view the Apollo 11 command module, which circled the moon during the first landing there, and gaze upward at aircraft representing the history of aviation, including the Wright brother's flyer. At the museum of Natural History, we walk among giant dinosaur skeletons, and view the exquisite Hope Diamond, and at the American History Museum, learn about everything from colonial America, to the events of the modern day. The choice of museums is based upon the interest of the group and availability at the time of our visit.

#### Evening Monuments Tour

The spectacular skyline of Washington, D.C. is illuminated at night, providing a wonderful opportunity to see the nation's most famous monuments by floodlight. Our guided motorcoach tour includes the Lincoln Memorial, the World War Two Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and others.

#### DINNER

#### The White House

A highlight of any trip to the nation's capitol is a visit to the White House. At night the home of the President and First Lady is especially beautiful. This evening's visit is a picture stop, but we will have other opportunities to view the White House later in our trip.

#### HOTEL ARRIVAL AND CHECK-IN

### DAY 2

#### BREAKFAST

#### Guided Sightseeing Tour

Joining with an expert Washington, D.C. guide, we embark on an amazing morning sightseeing tour of the central area of the Capitol. At Arlington National Cemetery, we reflect as we gaze out over the final resting place of more than 200 thousand veterans, their families, and political leaders. At the grave site of JFK, we will see the eternal flame lighted by his widow Jacqueline Kennedy after his death, and observe the formal ceremonies marking the changing of the guard at the moving Tomb of the Unknowns. Traveling across the Potomac River to the National Mall, we visit the Washington Monument, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial, to stand on the steps where Martin Luther King made his famous "I have a dream" speech calling for equality in August of 1963.

#### LUNCH

#### Mount Vernon - Home of George Washington

Just south of the city, but a world away, is the scenic home of America's foremost founding father, and first President, George Washington. On a visit to George and Martha's Virginia home along the Potomac River, we tour the restored Georgian mansion where the first couple lived, and view the President's personal furnishings and historic rooms. Mt. Vernon was also a working farm, and we also see the reconstructed slave quarters, gardens, and farmland that was once in cultivation. Here also is Washington's Tomb. At the nearby museum and education center, interactive displays and hands-on experiences explore our first



President's life from long before the Revolutionary War, until his retirement at Mt. Vernon.

## DINNER

### **Legends of Alexandria - Tour by Lantern Light**

On this unforgettable evening, we join a spooky and historic tour of Alexandria's Old Town area. Led by a guide dressed in 18th century attire, we are enthralled by stories of ghosts, historic figures, and legends of the city where many of our most famous national leaders made their homes, and where history comes alive each evening.

## RETURN TO HOTEL

## DAY 3

### BREAKFAST

### **Jefferson Memorial**

Surrounded by the beautiful and historic Tidal Basin, the Jefferson Memorial is a testament to the genius and intellect of this great American President. Primary author of the Declaration of Independence and the third man to hold the office of president, Jefferson's acquisition of the Louisiana Territory from France made the concept of Manifest Destiny a reality. More than a president, Jefferson was also a farmer, scientist, inventor and ambassador. During his presidency, Lewis and Clark's expedition reached the Pacific Ocean by land. On the walls of the memorial, we can read some of Jefferson's most famous writings, and wonder at his legacy in the country we know.

### **Capitol Hill**

There are few places that so embody the symbols of the American republic and national power. Here we can visit the underground tunnels where members of Congress and their staff travel between offices, and view many of the large public rooms like the Capitol Rotunda. We also view the West Front of the Capitol Building, where the next U.S. President will be sworn in at the Inauguration in January of 2013. Special tours may be arranged by appointment.

## LUNCH

### **Vietnam Memorial**

Many believe this low monument is the most moving in all of Washington, D.C. Engraved here are the names of all U.S. service members killed in the war. The black granite wall of the monument rises to mark the escalation of the war, and then falls as the conflict comes to a close. Here you will witness family members of lost soldiers using tissue paper to make rubbings of their names on the wall, and see the many flowers and other tributes left behind by visitors.

### **National Archives**

Here we can view some of the greatest documents in human history, from the Constitution to the Declaration of Independence. Along with the Bill of

Rights, these three documents form the "Charters of Freedom," and are the most precious documents displayed here. An interactive learning experience takes us on a journey through time, recounting the great moments in U.S. History, as well as the trial and tribulations of our Democracy, through speeches, documents and other forms of media.

### **Newseum**

A celebration of the First Amendment, this amazing interactive museum of information chronicles every important event in American History. In the Great Hall of News, we are bombarded by information in every form via the most high tech media streams. The exhibits include how news has been covered throughout American History, how diverse voices are heard, and how dramatic events in history have been depicted through sound, pictures and the written word. You may even get a chance to step on a modern network news set, and try your hand at anchoring a newscast.

### **Washington Monument (Pictures)**

Take an elevator ride to the top of the Washington Monument, the tallest stone tower in the world, and a tribute to the determination and fortitude of our first President. At more than 500 feet tall, the monument can be seen from throughout Washington, D.C.

## DAY 4

### BREAKFAST

## HOTEL CHECK-OUT

### **Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House**

The museum at Ford's Theatre recounts the night in April of 1865 on which President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. You can feel history come alive as you visit the room in the restored Petersen House, where the stricken president was taken and later died. The strong emotions of the period, and the controversy surrounding the assassination are recounted in the excellent museum.

### **The Holocaust Museum**

A moving tribute and memorial to those who died in the Holocaust during World War II, the story of this dark chapter in human history is told through the stories of the victims, both young and old. Multi media presentations depict the period leading up to the Holocaust, through its aftermath.

### **The Smithsonian Museums**

There is so much to do and see in the many Smithsonian Museums, that this day offers a free time opportunity to revisit and spend more time in your favorites.

*Both three and five day options are also offered, allowing schools to customize their trip to suit their learning and time preferences. Five day trips can include excursions to Williamsburg, the National Zoo, and other key locations.*

