



100 Miles of Lights

A SAMPLE HOLIDAY TOUR

Virginia
Unpack Once!

Available: Late November thru December, 2010 & 2011
4 Nights – 5 Days

Day One, Thursday

Begin your excursion along the 100 Miles of Lights with a mid-morning arrival into Williamsburg's Historic Triangle:

- Arrive for a **GUIDED** tour of **Jamestown Settlement**. Jamestown Settlement commemorates the first permanent English settlement in the New World. It features full-size replicas of the three ships* that arrived in 1607, as nearly reconstructed as possible to show the size and hardships the hardy settlers had to face. The reconstructed Jamestown Fort is unique and seems to come to life with the costumed interpreters present to perform 17th century activities, and interact with the crowds. Don't miss the Indian village and wonderful museum exhibits.
 - Join in the celebration of an early 17th century **Jamestown Christmas**. Experience early Christmas traditions and holiday festivities as the earliest settlers might have enjoyed.
- Arrive in **Newport News** and **check in** to our local **hotel**. **Baggage** handling included.
- Built between 1851 and 1859, **Lee Hall Mansion** was home to affluent planter Richard Decauter Lee. One of the last remaining antebellum homes on the Virginia Peninsula, Lee Hall offers visitors a step back to the mid-Victorian period. Guests step back in time to enjoy the wonder and elegance of a mid-Nineteenth Century Christmas. The Mansion is replete with all of the finery and decor which a gentleman farmer and his family could provide. Experience the holidays as Richard D. Lee and his family did prior to the American Civil War. Tour the mansion and the unique 1862 Peninsula Campaign Gallery which houses artifacts from the campaign. (*Holiday decorations are displayed starting 12/7/2011*)
- Experience an evening of “**Dinnertainment**” at historic **Boxwood Inn** in **Newport News**. The house is aglow at **Christmas** time with candles and welcoming fireplaces. Our group will be “caroled” in to the house and treated to hot cider before being seated for dinner. Wandering minstrels will treat guests to caroling and Christmas cheer through stories and music from the Old English of Dickens' time. Enjoy a classic Wassail toast and sing-along. Dinner is “Olde English” Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding (baked pop over type batter with brown gravy). Deep Dish Chicken & Vegetable Pie, Bubble & Squeek (hand mashed potatoes with shredded cabbage & onions whipped together). English Peas & Carrots. Dessert and beverage.
- Enjoy the **Celebration in Lights**, a two-mile drive through spectacular light displays in Newport News. See jumping dolphins, whales, angels, Santa, and hundreds of characters and subjects, decorated using hundreds of thousands of lights. It's magical.

Day Two, Friday

- Enjoy **breakfast** at our hotel this morning.
- See **Colonial Williamsburg decorated for Christmas**. Bring your cameras. Nothing says Colonial Williamsburg like the decorations that fill the Historic Area during the Christmas season. From the first candle in the windows in 1936 to the Grand Illumination celebration every year, miles of pine roping, truckloads of greenery, and bushels of fresh fruit combine to give Colonial Williamsburg its much-imitated but never-duplicated charm and elegance. Every year, guests come to see the fragrant handmade decorations that have become the signature of Colonial Williamsburg's Christmas season.
- Meet our **GUIDES** at **Group Arrivals** and begin your tour of **Colonial Williamsburg** including the **Capitol** and the **Governor's Palace**. The Capitol is where Virginia patriots developed principles of self-government, individual liberty and responsible leadership. The Governor's Palace reflects the period of Lord Dunmore's residence, the last English governor of the Virginia colony. After the colonists chose revolution, two commonwealth governors lived here. Virginia's restored 18th Century Capitol showcases a variety of restored and reconstructed homes and public buildings, museums, craft shops, taverns and special entertainment in its 173-acre historic area.
- Enjoy **lunch** today in a **Colonial Tavern** – Fine dining in the heart of historic Colonial Williamsburg. Shopkeepers of the era stocked the latest British cookbooks for “pleasing the palates of those who have the nicest taste”. These recipes inspire food served in the taverns.
- After lunch, spend **free time** on your own visiting your choice of other buildings and museums included with your ticket. **Merchants Square** is the shopping hub of downtown Colonial Williamsburg. Located at the head of Duke of Gloucester Street, the gateway to Colonial Williamsburg, Merchants Square includes many fine stores and restaurants.
- Return to the hotel to rest and freshen up for the evening.
- Be filled with all things Christmas at **Christmas Town, A Busch Gardens Celebration**. This all new holiday event has turned Busch Gardens into a Winter Wonderland packed with holiday traditions, new surprises, and old favorites that make everyone say “now this is Christmas”.
 - Enjoy **dinner on your own** this evening while at **Christmas Town**. Busch Gardens Europe offers an assortment of food venues from grills, cafés, pubs, bakeries, and more.
 - For the first time in the parks history, visitors will experience all new attractions, show, and shopping that fill this with holiday spirit. You will be immersed amid the magic of more than a million twinkling lights as you explore the best holiday traditions from around the world. Santa will visit the park each evening.
 - See **Deck The Halls in Germany** -- Warm up inside Das Festhaus with a live musical tribute to Christmas traditions, and create new ones with your family this holiday season. Fondest Christmas memories come alive as family and friends celebrate the magic of the season. Guests will sing and dance along to everyone's holiday favorites at Deck the Halls, an exciting, live show.
 - **O Tannenbaum in Germany** -- The culmination of your Christmas Town experience unfolds in a larger than life format with the spectacular lightshow, O Tannenbaum, in Oktoberfest, Germany. O Tannenbaum features an iconic 50-foot Christmas tree lighting up the night and dancing to a booming musical score. Community, family and friends gather and celebrate around this German Christmas icon that will have everyone saying, “Now this is Christmas.”
 - **Rejoice in Ireland** -- In Ireland, guests can enter a transformed Abbey Stone Theatre for “Rejoice,” an emotional Christmas performance told through moving imagery, choral harmonies and a full, live orchestra. This production will deliver heart-felt classics in an age-old form of Gregorian music with a modern, contemporary flair.
 - **A Sesame Street Christmas in England** -- Gather the family in the Globe Theatre for a production of “A Sesame Street Christmas” where Abby Cadabby learns about giving and sharing with friends and family during the holiday season. Children young and old will emerge filled with Christmas spirit. Everyone's beloved Sesame Street residents spread holiday cheer as they share their fondest memories of favorite Christmas traditions. Through high-energy song and dance guests will experience a show filled with cookies, stockings, cards, Santa, snow and gift giving.
 - **Caribou Train Station in New France** - Nestled in the evergreen forest of New France, guests can climb aboard one of Busch Gardens' three steam-powered locomotives at the Caribou Train Station. Bundle up with the family to enjoy a 20-minute trip through more than 200 acres of lush landscaping with stops in Scotland and France.

- **Christmas Shopping** -- Grab your family and friends and do some holiday shopping while at Busch Gardens Christmas Town. Find the perfect gift for that special someone. With a variety of shops and stores Bush Gardens Christmas Town has something for everyone.

Park will be closed Christmas Day. Some sections of the park will remain closed. Some rides and attractions are warm weather dependent.

Meals: B, L

Day Three, Saturday

- Enjoy **breakfast** at our hotel this morning.
- We're off to **Yorktown Victory Center** for a **GUIDED** tour. Recapture the drama of the American Revolution. Powerful new galleries tell the story of everyday people who lived during the war. Costumed interpreters demonstrate 18th century military and domestic life on a re-created 1780's farm site and in a re-created Continental Army encampment. -- Hear accounts of **Christmas** and winter in military encampments during the American Revolution, and glimpse holiday preparations on a 1780s Virginia farm.
- Visit **The Casemate Museum at Fort Monroe**, the nation's oldest stone fort. In the 1860's slaves seeking their freedom knew Fort Monroe as Freedom's Fortress. Here Harriet Tubman was commissioned as the directress of Dixie Hospital because of her achievement as a Union scout and spy. The museum contains Civil War memorabilia and an exhibit about the historic Battle of the Ironclads.
- Enjoy **lunch** today at the **Historic Chamberlin**. The Chamberlin Hotel boasts a rich and colorful history. Located within the nation's oldest military base, Fort Monroe, the original hotel to occupy the Chamberlin site was called The Hygeia. Named after the Greek goddess of health, the Hygeia offered well-heeled guests the opportunity to experience a refreshing and invigorating vacation. Built on this magnificent spot surrounded by the Chesapeake Bay, the Hygeia opened its doors in 1820. The hotel welcomed a steady stream of important visitors, including Edgar Allen Poe, who recited "The Raven" and "Annabel Lee" on the Hygeia's porch in September 1849, just one month before he died. After serving as a hospital during the Civil War, the Hygeia was torn down. Another hotel was placed on the site, followed closely by the first Chamberlin Hotel.
- Arrive in **Norfolk, VA**. Tour **The Chrysler Museum of Art** and discover an acclaimed encyclopedic collection of over 30,000 objects spanning almost 4,000 years of art history.
- Tour the **Douglas MacArthur Memorial**. An "army brat" with no hometown, the controversial war hero designated this navy town as the site for a monument for himself because it was his mother's birthplace. Enjoy the filmed biography of his life.
- Arrive in **Virginia Beach, VA**. Enjoy **dinner** this evening at **Waterman's Surfside Grill** where the *Chesapeake Bay* meets the *Atlantic Ocean* and every table in the main dining room has a wonderful view of the ocean.
- Drive along the **Holiday Lights at the Beach!** With more than 250 light displays using over 400,000 bulbs, Virginia Beach shines for 25 blocks. Delight in this two-mile illuminated journey surrounded by festive fish, colorful sailboats, jumping dolphins and Santa Claus himself in a variety of animated nautical and holiday themes.

Meals: B, L, D

Day Four, Sunday

- Enjoy **breakfast** at our hotel this morning.
- Depart to enjoy Holiday Happenings today:
- Tour **Berkeley Plantation** -Located along the *James River*, this picturesque plantation was the setting of the first official Thanksgiving in 1619, and is where "*Taps*" was composed. Five terraced gardens, leading from the house to the *James River*, were dug by hand before the War of Independence. The handsome Adams woodwork and the double arches of the "Great Rooms" in the mansion were installed by Benjamin Harrison VI in 1790 at the direction of Thomas Jefferson. The rooms in Berkeley are furnished with a magnificent collection of eighteenth century antiques. *Good Housekeeping Magazine* suggests: "*If you only have time for one plantation, Berkeley should be at the top of your list.*"
 - **Centuries of Christmas at Berkeley Plantation**. The elegant 1726 mansion will be beautifully decorated with fresh greenery from Berkeley's gardens. Costumed guides will add a special touch to your holiday season with stories of Christmas at Berkeley through four centuries of history. (*Holiday decorations are on display starting 12/5/2011*)

- Walk through history at **Edgewood Plantation** on the *James River* where time stands still. Enjoy a **Holiday Tea Luncheon** and **Christmas Spirit Tour** in antebellum splendor. Edgewood was once a part of Berkeley Plantation, the ancestral home of U.S. Presidents William Henry and Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Throughout its dramatic history, it has served as a church, post office, telephone exchange, restaurant, nursing home and a signal post for the Confederates to spy on McLellan's Army.
- Tour **Shirley Plantation**. Virginia's oldest plantation, Shirley was established six years after the founding of Jamestown. Birthplace of Robert E. Lee's mother, Anne Carter Lee, it has been in the Carter family since 1723. A remarkable walnut staircase seems to rise unsupported for three stories through the center of the house.
 - **Home for the Holidays**. Guided house tours feature holiday-decked rooms and family stories representing 11 generations of the Hill Carter family's Christmas celebrations. (*Holiday decorations are on display starting 11/31/2011*)
- Continue to Richmond.
- Tour the **Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens** with an extensive display on nearly 24 acres. The gardens have an elegant Victorian garden and mansion, an exotic Asian garden, a water garden with many native species and a three-acre lake. Admire the brilliant lights reflecting off a large Japanese-style lily pond, displaying the creative lighting amidst the **Gardenfest of Lights**. (*Holiday decorations are on display starting 11/25/2011*)
- Enjoy **dinner** this evening in a beautiful room in one of the historic homes located within **Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens**.
- Return to the hotel for the night.

Meals: B, L, D

Day Five, Monday

- Enjoy **breakfast** at our hotel this morning prior to **checking out**. **Baggage** handling included.
- Depart for Mount Vernon.
- Visit **Mount Vernon**, the estate of George Washington. If you haven't been to Mount Vernon since the 2006 opening of the *Ford Orientation Center* and the *Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center*, two facilities with 25 galleries and theaters, it's time for a visit!
 - Mount Vernon is joyfully decking the halls for **Christmas at Mount Vernon**, a special daytime program offered **from Thanksgiving Day weekend through the Twelve Days of Christmas**. George Washington was fond of unusual animals and plants, and he paid 18 shillings in 1787 for a camel to temporarily live at Mount Vernon for his guests during Christmas.
 - Discover the real George Washington with a Hollywood-produced action adventure movie, interactive exhibits, an immersive Revolutionary War "snow" experience, more than 1,000 artifacts, original films, and life-size models of Washington created from a forensic investigation! Visitors may also tour the restored Mansion, its outbuildings, and 50 spacious acres of gardens and grounds, which include the tombs of George and Martha Washington, a memorial to the slaves who worked at Mount Vernon, and a four-acre working farm. And of course there's the gorgeous view of the Potomac River that can be enjoyed from one of several Windsor chairs on Washington's piazza!
 - Enjoy **lunch** today at the **Mount Vernon Inn**. Your colonial lunch choices today are: (1) *Colonial Beef Pye*; (2) *Valley Forge Soup & Sandwich*; or (3) *Vegetable & Mozzarella Lasagna*, and a beverage (coffee, tea, or soft drink). Chef's choice of dessert. **Please send in your choices with your rooming list.**

Meals: B, L



From \$579.00 per person
Double Occupancy

Minimum 35. Numbers below subject to price increase.
35 paid + 2 comps in double occupancy or higher.

Prices are Net, Non-Commissionable.
Based on availability and pricing at time of reservations.
All proposals are subject to change.
Rates may be adjusted based on fuel surcharges, tax change(s),
and/or currency exchange rate change(s).

Tour includes: 4 nights accommodation, baggage handling, 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners, admissions and guide service as stated in the itinerary, taxes and gratuity, **Except gratuity for Guide Service is NOT included. Transportation is not included in this package price but can be chartered upon request. Inquire for rates.**

All itineraries are subject to change. Every attempt will be made to include all sites mentioned within this itinerary. At times, circumstances beyond our control such as lines, traffic, closures, weather and late arrivals can severely restrict timing and cause items to be excluded. All timing, except scheduled appointments, is approximate. It is strongly suggested that the timed itinerary be utilized by the driver, escort, and/or group leader and guide only. We suggest that more general itineraries be supplied to the tour participants. Mid Atlantic assumes no liability for itinerary exclusions, or guarantees that all sites be visited within the itinerary.

MARS is a wholesale operator offering competitive pricing at net, non-commissionable rates which are based on cash transactions. Credit card, individual payment processing and credit card transactions may be quoted upon request.

Any cash stipends included in tours are at the sole risk of the client and any cash stipends that are not delivered, lost, stolen or in any way misplaced or missing will not be the responsibility of Mid Atlantic and will not be reimbursed. Mid Atlantic assumes no risk in the shipping or handling in any way of cash stipends. Mid Atlantic discourages utilizing cash stipends on any and all tours.

Note: At times Restaurant menus may change at the discretion of the Restaurant Management. These circumstances are beyond the control of Mid-Atlantic Receptive Services. Mid-Atlantic will notify the client of any changes that occur.

FL414 – 100 Miles of Lights



Mid-Atlantic Tours & Receptive Services

P.O. Box 1390 Stephens City, VA 22655 Toll free: 800-769-5912

[www. Take A Fun Trip .com](http://www.TakeAFunTrip.com)

Local: 540-869-1864 Fax: 540-869-1826

MARS is a proud member of these industry organizations:



The Alliance of Military Reunions

