

Opsail 2012

The 1812 Bicentennial Event

Midweek Itinerary

June 6 – 8, 2012

Wednesday June 6, 2012

Check into your **Newport News hotel** and get ready for an amazing nautical adventure. All aboard for **Fort Norfolk**, where you will view the **Air and Sea Parade**, the opening event for Opsail 2012. You'll be up front and comfortable in your private seating area. This Military Parade of Sail will include naval ships, Grey Hulls from around the world and military flyovers.

Then, take a tour of this last remaining harbor-front fort authorized in 1794 by President George Washington. The fort helped protect Norfolk during the War of 1812. In the Civil War, Confederate forces seized the fort and used its magazine to supply the CSS Virginia (Merrimack) during its battle with the USS Monitor. In 1862, the fort was recaptured by the Union Army and used as a prison. Later it was an ordnance depot for the Navy. In 1923 the fort was occupied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which still owns Fort Norfolk.

Sit back and relax as you enjoy a driving tour of downtown Newport News' maritime tradition, which will include the **Newport News Shipbuilding**, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries. As you drive by, check out the yard's first ship Hull #1, the iron steam tugboat **Dorothy**. Then discover the **Victory Arch**, a perfect location for a group photo. Since 1919, the Victory Arch has paid tribute to the heroism of the Peninsula's men and women in the military. Walk through this magnificent arch into **Victory Landing Park**. You might just see an aircraft carrier docked for overhaul or ships unloading cargo from abroad!

This evening enjoy dinner at one of many restaurants located at **City Center** (Red Star Tavern, Hayashi Sushi & Grill, Salsa's, Rockefeller's, Aromas Specialty Coffees and Bakeshop and more.) Leave time for shopping as this open-air shopping district, complete with a breathtaking 5-acre fountain, offers regional and national retailers plus unique and exciting home and gift ideas from around the world.

Thursday June 7, 2012

Enjoy the day actually boarding the naval vessels and Grey Hulls you saw yesterday as the outdoor festival on the water - **Opsail 2012** - officially opens. Ships from countries around the world – including Italy, Brazil, Ecuador, Spain and the Netherlands – have been invited to Norfolk's waterfront for this spectacular event. Special group touring of these vessels and educational programs can be arranged.

Stroll over to **Granby Street**, just one block walking distance from Opsail. Experience more than 30 locally owned and operated restaurants, from American Bistro to Tapas or Mexican. Whatever your taste buds are, Granby will satisfy.

Take a bus tour of the world's largest naval installation, **Naval Station Norfolk**. A knowledgeable, active duty Navy guide will board your motorcoach and give a narrated tour of the base.

Opsail 2012 Itinerary Continued

Dinner this evening is at the historic **Boxwood Inn**. This 100+ year-old bed and breakfast was built in 1896 and served as the Warwick County (now Newport News) Hall of Records, a general store, a post office and a hotel for soldiers during both World Wars. Enjoy entertainment this evening by the **Doorway Singers**. Choose from a variety of entertainment ranging from “Liberty Call, Liberty Call” to “Those Fabulous ‘50s” to “The Banquet of Brian Boru”.

**Friday
June 8, 2012**

This morning enjoy a tour of **The Mariners’ Museum and the USS *Monitor* Center**. Designated by Congress as America’s National Maritime Museum, The Mariners’ Museum offers a captivating look at centuries of seafaring adventures. The dramatic USS *Monitor* Center brings to life the “Battle of the Ironclads” and offers visitors the chance to walk the deck of a full-scale *Monitor* replica. Other treasures await you at this maritime gem. The world-class collection includes 35,000 maritime paintings, artifacts, figure heads, ship models, decorative arts and small craft from around the world. Enjoy lunch at the Compass Café before heading back home.



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