

Historic Garden Week in Coastal Virginia



DAY 1

Welcome to Coastal Virginia! Your journey begins in Hampton, the oldest, continuous, English speaking settlement in North America. When the English arrived in 1607, they stopped on land that offered "good comfort." From then on, known as "Old Point Comfort," it was also where the first recorded landing of Africans arrived in 1619. Built on this same site is Fort Monroe, the largest fort by area ever built in the United States. An interesting fact is Robert E. Lee was the chief engineer during the construction. Although Virginia became part of the Confederate States of America, Fort Monroe was a Union stronghold and attained the nickname "Freedom's Fortress" as shelter for thousands of enslaved freedom seekers due to the Contraband Decision. The fort had many purposes throughout its army life, highlights such as Jefferson Davis' imprisonment after the war as well as Edgar Allen Poe who was once stationed here. The fort remained an active base until September 15, 2011. (Trivia question... can you find the picture with Barb and Bruce in it?)

Outside we walk to the top of the hill and look out onto one of the most stunning views; the beautiful Chesapeake Bay, also known as Hampton Roads Bay Harbor. Looking across the bay you see Naval Station Norfolk, the world's largest naval station, with the largest concentration of US Naval forces through 75 ships alongside 14 piers and with 134 aircraft and 11 aircraft hangars. Don't forget your camera!

After a wonderful dinner and a ride on the carousel in Hampton we make our way to our hotel.

DAY 2

Day two begins with a leisurely breakfast at the hotel and then board the coach for a day of exploring. Take a walk down Mennonite memory lane as we celebrate the Garden Club of Virginia's centennial. Four homes with connections to the Newport News Mennonite community and historic Providence Mennonite Church will be on tour. Group tour rates are \$30/pp with two complimentary tickets for 25 people or more for the tour.

On the banks of the Warwick River, two contemporary homes sit on lots that were a part of the original 1,200 acre tract purchased by Mennonites, D.Z. Yoder of Wayne County, Ohio and I.D. Hertzler of Long Green, Maryland in 1897. Our 3rd tour home and part of the original 1,200 acres, is still owned by a Mennonite family. The brick house was built by hand by the present owner's grandfather. The owners are active in the Warwick River Mennonite Church, the church founded by the Warwick River Mennonite Colony in 1897.

Lunch

The Mennonite church on the Newport News tour is Providence Mennonite Church, established as part of the Amish Mennonite denomination by several families who withdrew from the Warwick



For more information, please contact
Barb Kleiss | Group Marketing Manager
Newport News Tourism
757.926.1442 | bkleiss@nnva.gov
newport-news.org

Newport News
in Coastal Virginia

Historic Garden Week

in Coastal Virginia (continued)

River church in 1900. D.Z. Yoder, co-founder of the Warwick River Mennonite Colony, served as Pastor. The original interior hand-crafted woodwork is still intact. The hitching ring for church members traveling by buggy in the early years remains, and the congregation's cemetery is adjacent to the church lot.

Tender Branch, the C.P. Yoder Homestead, is located on the other side of the church. C.P. was co-owner and founder of Yoder Dairy and acquired the Young's Mill Tract in 1930 where he built the family homestead. The home is still owned and lived in by C.P.'s youngest daughter. Tender Branch is situated on 3.5 acres of former field and pasture lands on busy Warwick Boulevard. Behind a serpentine wall, duck, geese and swan swim placidly in the family pond and wander around the property.

Back to our hotel for rest and freshen up before dinner.

DAY 3

Day three takes us through the tunnel to Norfolk Historical Garden Week tour and the Virginia International Tattoo.

Relax along a tree-lined riverbank at the Hermitage Museum and Gardens. This early 20th century historic home appears frozen in time, offering visitors an extraordinary trip through antiquity. The museum and gardens consist of a worldwide art collection and contemporary exhibition galleries, all surrounded by twelve acres of formal gardens and natural woodlands. Combo tours are available to experience both the home and the 12-acre garden.

Lunch will be located in the Freemason District at Omar's Carriage House. This quaint restaurant is sure to please! This historic site in Norfolk was built in the early 1840's, when the patrons then were horses. Savor the fresh jumbo lump crab cakes and succulent potato crisp flounder at Omar's contemporary bistro.

Then, take a stroll across the Hague foot bridge to the Chrysler Museum of Art. This museum is home to Walter Chrysler Jr.'s world-class collection of more than 30,000 pieces of art. The museum features a world-renowned Tiffany glass collection, Art Nouveau furniture, and works of art from African, Egyptian, Pre-Columbian, Islamic, and Asian cultures. The Chrysler Museum also offers an extensive European and American collection of paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts.

Discover over 20 local artists and their studios with a guided tour of d'ART Center in Norfolk's NEON arts district. The d'ART Center is an environment where working artists are a part of an interactive arts community that engages the public through the experience of art and the creative process.

Dinner and entertainment on the Spirit of Norfolk. (waiting for blurb from Mel)

Return to the hotel.

DAY 4

We say goodbye and hope we have given you memories to last a lifetime of our beautiful Coastal Virginia! At least until next time.



For more information, please contact
Barb Kleiss | Group Marketing Manager
 Newport News Tourism
 757.926.1442 | bkleiss@nnva.org
newport-news.org

Newport News
 in Coastal Virginia