

# Historic Garden Week Tour in Virginia & The Virginia International Tattoo

## Two Great Events; One Spectacular Itinerary



and understandable to the general public. The museum's Green House is the first of its kind in Virginia and one of the first anywhere in the United States. And that's just the beginning! Stroll the boardwalk along a wooded lake for an up-close safari into the lives of many native Virginian animals and plants, then walk through a 5,500 square-foot outdoor aviary with over 15 species of birds. Next, it's time to go inside and experience the Museum's 62,000 square-foot exhibition building featuring a two-level walk-through habitat of an Appalachian mountain cove and a cypress swamp, a 30,000-gallon Chesapeake Bay deep-water aquarium and much more.

Check-in to your Newport News hotel with dinner on your own.

### DAY 2 – Garden Tours and International Tattoo

**Enjoy Virginia Garden Week tours today.** For one week in April, visitors will tour inspired private landscapes, public gardens and historic sites across Virginia during the peak of spring. In addition, more than 1,000 world-class floral arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members will enhance tour properties. This beautiful event is hosted by 48 member clubs located from the foothills of the Shenandoah Valley to the beaches of Coastal Virginia.

**Take a break for lunch at the Crab Shack.** Located on the James River, and at the base

### DAY 1 – Afternoon Arrival – Newport News, VA

You've read all those articles about living "green" – maintaining your home in a manner that uses less energy, produces less waste, and is kinder to Mother Earth. Now don't you wish you could go somewhere that actually shows you, up-close and hands-on, how it can be done?

*You can.* In 2009, the **Virginia Living Museum** opened the Goodson House, a "Living Green House" environmental education center. In its exhibit house and yard, homeowners, architects and contractors can see all the latest techniques and products they can use to build and maintain an earth-friendly home, presented in a way that makes them visible

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of the James River Bridge, your group will watch boats and beautiful skyline from this waterfront dining experience! When completed in 1928, the 4.5-mile bridge was the longest bridge in the world over water. After lunch, take a stroll and watch the fishermen as they catch their prize from the James River Pier. The pier is 2,364 feet and runs parallel to the bridge.

Next, stop by the **Huntington Park Rose Garden** in Newport News, named an *American Rose City* by the American Rose Society. By early May this garden bursts into a carnival of color and remains in bloom until late October or November. Hybrid tea, grandiflora, floribunda, climber, shrub, and miniature roses are represented in the 74 varieties of the 1,000 bush garden. A site not to be missed.

Dinner this evening is in a beautifully restored 131 year-old renovated church, **Freemason Abbey**. This Victorian casual atmosphere restaurant provides a unique dining experience. Then take part in the Virginia Arts Festival's annual **Virginia International Tattoo**. For over 20 years, performers from all over the world present an unforgettable spectacle of marching bands, precision drill teams, massed pipes and drums, gymnasts, Scottish dancers, choral groups and so much more! From the rousing show of patriotism to the moving sounds of the lone piper, emotions and energy run high!

### DAY 3 – Depart by Noon

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This morning tour Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News. During the 1862 Peninsula Campaign of the Civil War, Confederate Major General Magruder used this 1859 Italianate Plantation house as his headquarters. Lee Hall Mansion's gardens and grounds are currently being restored in partnership with the Garden Club of Virginia. Phase One contained the installation of board fencing, 12 varieties of flowering shrubs and 16 varieties of trees. Phase Two included an alley of trees along the main entrance road.