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Magnificent Maryland and Delaware Delights

June 4 -13, 2024

Tour the hidden treasures of Maryland and Delaware, from the mansions of the DuPonts to the historic streets of Annapolis, home of the US Naval Academy! visit the University of Delaware, home of the Fightin' Blue Hens!

One of the comments we have received over the years of sharing Delaware with our travelers is many would also like to visit the neighboring state of Maryland. So this year we decided to combine the two! Since Delaware is such a small state, it is often one of the last states people have left to visit. But despite its small size, the First State has so much going for it, including **Winterthur**, the 5th largest home ever built in the US! As a graduate of the University of Delaware (alums of which are known as Blue Hens), Declan has always spoken highly of his time in Delaware, of the history and the people that call it home. On this tour, we focus on the homes of the DuPont family, who made their fortune manufacturing gun powder during the revolutionary war and the famous chemicals and materials that changed America in the 1900s, such as Teflon, Nylon and Styrofoam. They were also civically invested in their home state, creating benefits programs for the residents of Delaware such as the first state pension fund for seniors, a free clinic for children, and opening their beautiful mansions and collections to the public for touring, including paintings and china once owned by George Washington! We stayed at the **Hotel DuPont**, the most luxurious of hotels in Delaware located in the base of the DuPont Headquarters, where they would host their important clients. After spending a week touring the state, we were pleasantly surprised to find we had more things to do than possible in just a 5-day tour. This tour showcases the best of Delaware and gets you out on the water, experiencing the glitz and enjoying the luxurious hotel in the heart of Wilmington.

We are spending time in Maryland in Ocean City, as seeing the ocean is a big deal for us in the Midwest. We are doing all the Maryland things including seeing the horses on **Assateague Island**, visiting a crab shack and exploring the **Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center**.

By overnighting 4 nights in each of the 2 hotels, there is less hustle and bustle packing and unpacking for each new place. The cost of the tour reflects the cost of living on the Eastern Seaboard, but we have taken care of so many things so that you too can be pampered and enjoy this tour.

Tues, June 4th – To the Old Line State!



Meet Dea and Declan at the St. Louis Airport as we fly non-stop to the Baltimore Airport and head to Annapolis, the capital of Maryland and home of the United States Naval Academy! En route our local guide will distribute boxed lunches so we don't waste any time once we hit the ground in town. We start by seeing the city in a different way – on the water! Our scenic cruise will point out some of the many historic buildings in the city, which has been the capital since 1694! Once back on land, we head to the **Naval Academy** for a Private Colonial Guided Tour of US Naval Academy and historic district! Learn about the long history of this institution, which has been here since 1845. Our home for tonight is the historic Maryland Inn. It's in one of the oldest sections of the city, so we

will be dropped a few blocks away from the charming hotel and enjoy a **Spook'n'Sup Tour** with a costumed guide. Hear the stories of past citizens and find out who may still be lurking around the area in their afterlife! **(L,D)**

Wed, June 5th, 2024 – Cruising and Dining the Chesapeake Bay

After breakfast we head to our first stop, the **Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum**, sharing the long history of the bay with over 80,000 items in their collection, and you can see the restoration of the Bay's historic vessels in their Working Shipyard. You can even buy a boat from them (although you might not be able to fly home with it!). Next we have lunch at a local favorite – **The Crab Claw!** An old school crab house, The Crab Claw is located on the waterfront on Navy Point. Enjoy deck dining watching the water crew deliver their catch; truly from the Bay waters to your table.

After lunch we are back on the water with a guided cruise the **Chesapeake Bay**. The Chesapeake is the largest estuary in the United States and third in the world, home to more than 18 million people and 3,600 species of plants and animals. After our delightful afternoon we head to our hotel for the next 4 nights, the Holiday Inn & Suites Ocean City, located right on the water! **(B, L)**

Thurs, June 6th, 2024 – Wild Horses

After breakfast it's off to the Sinepuxent Bay. Enjoy a guided cruise as we learn about this unique inland waterway connected to the Atlantic via an inlet that was created by one hurricane after two other hurricanes had closed it in with sand over 70 years before. Back on land and after lunch on your own in the quaint town of Berlin, it's off to **Assateague Island**, home to the famous wild ponies. Locals say they were descended from animals abandoned after a shipwrecked vessel or by pirates, although it was most likely farmers who used the island as grazing areas to avoid paying property taxes. Just be careful – they are truly feral animals who will bite and kick! After seeing these majestic animals, if they are out, it's off to the hotel. **(B)**



Friday, June 7th, 2024 – Underground Railroad

Enjoy breakfast this morning before we head to the **Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center**. The most famous of the Underground Railroad Conductors, Harriet Tubman was a former slave who dedicated herself to freeing others, putting herself in grave danger every time. Learn about her incredible life with a presentation at the museum and the many artifacts and exhibits. Then we head to the city of Quantico, famous for the FBI training facility. We're going there for a locally famous restaurant, **The Red Roost**, where we enjoy an All You Care to Eat lunch of Crabs, Fried Chicken, Fried Shrimp, Clam Strips, Corn and Hush Puppies! After this filling meal we head back to the hotel for a free evening. We are in the heart of the Ocean City beach side area and there are many restaurants and shops to explore. Or just go for a walk to hear the crashing waves. **(B, L)**

Sat, June 8th, 2024 – Free day at the Beach!

Enjoy a free day to relax at the beach or explore what Ocean City has to offer! On a long tour such as this, everyone likes to have time to rest, regroup and refresh. There will be lots of activity around us and we won't have to fight the traffic because we are already where everyone else wants to be. Enjoy the shore and get ready to head off to the first state tomorrow. **(B)**

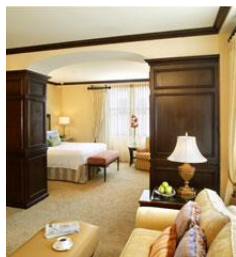
Sun, June 9th, 2024 – Cape and the Capital



We depart the hotel and head North, towards the cape of Delaware and the second city to claim the title of "Oldest City in Delaware." **Lewes** (pronounced 'Louis') was settled earlier than New Castle, but had some periods of bad luck, such as fire and raids from both land and sea. These attacks continued even after the Revolutionary War – one building still has a cannonball embedded in the outer wall! We will explore the city by land and sea, taking a **walking tour** of the historic district by an incredible interpreter, enjoy a **Coffee, Tea and**

Chocolate tasting in the old tavern followed by a **boat cruise** after lunch. Our cruise will head out to where the bay meets the Atlantic Ocean, as we visit a lighthouse that has guided shipping traffic into the mouth of the Delaware River on their way to Philadelphia for decades.

Then it's time to head to **Dover**, the capital of Delaware. Enjoy our private walking tour, *Hidden Lives: Slavery, Freedom and The Green*, highlighting the stories of African Americans and their triumphs through oppression. We see the exterior of the Statehouse where representatives were the first to ratify the **US Constitution** in 1787.



After our trip through time, we enjoy dinner at a local favorite before we head to **Wilmington**, the largest city in Delaware. Delaware has the most thorough corporate case law in the country, which, combined with favorable tax laws, makes it a popular state to for companies to incorporate. It was also the headquarters of **DuPont**, the chemical company that is responsible for many of the chemical breakthroughs of the 20th century, including Teflon and Nylon. Our hotel is the **Hotel DuPont**, located in the historic headquarters.

Originally for visiting guests of the corporation, it is now open to the public, and with luxurious décor and amazing rooms, you will see why it is the place to stay in Delaware. **(B,D)**

Mon, June 10th, 2024 – Hagley - The DuPont Family’s Explosive Start

The du Pont family story begins at **Hagley**, where the family home and manufacturing facilities were located. With access to running water to power the mills, the family was able to create a number of products, including gunpowder! Fortunately for the Continental Army, the du Pont family was sympathetic to their cause, and provided much of the gunpowder used by Washington’s troops. In addition to touring the grounds, we will have a special (and explosive) treat – a gunpowder testing and mortar firing demonstration! We will have time to explore the home and grounds, where you can watch a water turbine bring an eight-ton iron roll mills to life. We will enjoy delightful lunch at Buckley’s Tavern before we return to Wilmington for free time at the hotel. **(B, L)**



Tue, June 11th, 2024 – Historic New Castle

Our first stop is **Historic New Castle**, one of two cities that claim the title of “Oldest City in Delaware.” New



Castle is unique as it was conquered by various European forces such as the Dutch and English, but each time, they let the civilians remain in the settlement, only forcing the soldiers out. As a result, it is the oldest continuous settlement in Delaware. After lunch on own, we enjoy a walking tour of the historic district, visiting the **Colonial Courthouse** and the **George Read House**, the latter of which has enjoyed spectacular views of the river since 1804, when the family bought both the lot on which the home is built as well as the lot across the street, to prevent anyone from blocking their view.

After our tour we return to the hotel **(B)**

Wed, June 12th, 2024 – Winterthur - A Large Collection of American Art, in the 5th Largest American Home

Founded by Henry Francis du Pont, Winterthur (pronounced “winter-tour”) features some of the rarest and important examples of American decorative arts, including an original painting of George Washington as well as George and Martha’s China set. (The ones in Mount Vernon are reproductions). The original structure was built in the European country house style, but as his collection grew to nearly 90,000 objects made or used in America between 1640 and 1860, H. F. du Pont kept adding onto the home, eventually increasing the number of rooms to 175, and spanning 96,582 sq ft, making it the 5th largest home built in the United States of America. He opened his home to the public as a museum in 1951, moving with

his wife to a small cottage of 21,345 sq ft. The Winterthur Library includes more than 87,000 volumes and approximately 500,000 manuscripts and images, mostly related to American history, decorative arts, and architecture.

In addition to the museums, Winterthur boasts **60-acres of naturalistic garden**, which is ranked among the country's best. He selected the choicest plants from around the world to enhance the natural setting, arranging them in lyrical color combinations and carefully orchestrating a succession of bloom from late January to November. Du Pont translated his love of the land into a unified work of art that embodies a romantic vision of nature's beauty. In addition to the gardens, H. F. du Pont built himself a golf course, now part of the country club, and mounted speakers on the cooling house so that he could play golf while listening to the opera on Saturday afternoons.



After lunch on your own we head to Newark, DE, home to Declan's Alma Mater, the **University of Delaware**. Thanks in part to generations of generous donations by the du Pont family and corporation, UD is a leading institution in the sciences; when Declan was taking classes in Chemistry and Biology, they used to say that UD stood for University of DuPont! Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the campus, where classical architecture meets high-tech designs. We'll also visit **UDairy**, an ice cream shop that opened in 2011. Produced by UD agriculture students, this premium ice cream has taken the campus by storm. They also sell other products such as wool blankets and even honey from animals raised by agriculture students! Then we return to the hotel. **(B, Ice Cream)**

Thurs, June 13th, 2024 – Nemours - An American Versailles

When Alfred I. duPont married his second wife Alicia in 1907, he showered her with gifts, including a spectacular new house and garden that he named **Nemours**, after the French town from which his family lived. He hired



Carrere and Hastings, a prestigious New York architectural firm best known for their work on the NYC Public Library, to design the mansion in the late-18th-century French style that Alicia adored, while incorporating the latest modern technology and even some of his own inventions. The home contains an amazing collection of artwork, from 16th-century religious works, paintings by the European masters, and even early works by Americans Frederic Remington and Sidney Lawrence. Of particular interest is a rare **Louis XVI musical clock**, circa 1785, by David Roentgen and Peter Kinzing, which plays four tunes on a dulcimer and pipe organ. Another clock at the mansion was created for Marie Antoinette, which she never received. The mansion also has a chair from the 1937 coronation of King George VI and a chair from Independence Hall.

The house is only outshined by the incredible gardens. At 300 acres, the estate has the most developed and largest *jardin à la française* (French formal garden)-style landscape in North America. The design is patterned after the gardens of Versailles, extending $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile from the mansion facade, paralleling the main avenue leading to the house. The grounds are beautifully landscaped with plantings, fountains, pools, a carillon tower, statuary, and a pavilion surrounded by naturalized woodlands. The centerpiece is the magnificent ***Achievement***, designed by French sculptor Henri Crenier, gilded with 23-karat gold leaf. Carrara marble fountain-statues of Triton face each other across the pool. ***The Sunken Gardens***, which were built between 1928 and 1932, feature Italian travertine walls and steps, while the statuary is Carrara marble. The main statuary group at the top and the side statues in the fountains are by French sculptor Charles Sarrabezolles (1888–1971). The bronzes in the pool and the wall fountains along the side are the work of Claude Grange (1890–1971). The grotto areas in the side fountain at the Colonnade end of the gardens have a mosaic background, and are reminiscent of many Italian grottoes.



We depart Nemours and enjoy lunch onown at a local favorite before heading to the Philadelphia Airport for the flight home to Saint Louis, with fond memories and to tell all your friends about the “Small Wonder” of Delaware. Thank you for traveling with us! **(B)**

Tour includes:

- ☑ Round trip flights on Southwest Airlines OR add \$150 for motorcoach & 2 overnights June 3 – 14
- ☑ Stay 1 night in the heart of old Annapolis, Maryland
- ☑ Stay 4 nights at the luxurious Hotel du Pont and 4 nights in Ocean City, right on the Atlantic!
- ☑ Tour the historic cities of New Castle and Lewes, learning about Delaware’s role in American history
- ☑ Sail on some of the most iconic waterways of the region, from the Chesapeake Bay to the Delaware
- ☑ Lighthouse cruise in the Delaware Bay
- ☑ Explore Hagley, the original homestead of the du Pont family, with a mortar firing demo!
- ☑ Tour the opulent Nemours home and garden, with its 23-karat gold leaf statue!
- ☑ Visit Winterthur, the 5th largest home ever built in America, and explore the amazing collection of art
- ☑ Enjoy a sight-seeing tour of the University of Delaware, plus enjoy ice cream at UDairy!
- ☑ Visit great museums like the Harriet Tubman museum, Chesapeake Bay Museum and more
- ☑ 14 meals (8 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 2 dinner), many in historic buildings
- ☑ All other Activities as described above
- ☑ Baggage Handling
- ☑ Professional Tour Directors Dea Hoover and Declan Rutan
- ☑ All gratuities including step-on guides, included meals, driver and director

Please note: Any notice of fuel surcharges imposed by carriers and/or attractions will be disclosed at least 30 days prior to tour departure.

Price:

\$ 4,123 pp dbl \$ 5,960 pp single \$ 3,576 pp tpl/quad

Save 3% on this tour!

Experience the grandeur and luxury of the du Ponts

for \$ 3,999 pp dbl occ* when you pay with check or money order!

\$ 3,999 pp dbl \$5,763 pp single \$ 3,469 pp tpl/quad

**These prices reflect 3% savings by paying with check or money order*

Make your reservation with a \$500 deposit per person. Once this tour fills, a wait list will be formed. Please send a check or call with a credit card along with your legal name, address, phone number, and all roommates’ names if you are sharing a room and any dietary or walking restrictions.

We encourage all travelers to purchase travel protection with initial deposit. Include Travel Protection payment with deposit, if purchasing. Please remember that certain benefits are Time sensitive. Plans help provide coverage for unexpected circumstances and help protect your trip and your investment.

Balance on base tour price is due April 4, 2024, and no refunds will be given after that time. If you purchase Travel Protection and need to cancel after April 4, 2024, you must file a claim.