

Charleston ranks among America's premier tourist destinations, and for good reason: the beautiful city is steeped in history. Come experience its cultural heritage on our Southern Hospitality Tour. You'll also spend two days in North Carolina—at Biltmore Estate in Asheville and Old Salem Village in Winston-Salem.



Wednesday

We leave Michigan on Wednesday morning, bound for Tennessee, and board in three locations: Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Dundee. The Lansing location is the Meijer parking lot on the south edge of the city; the latter two locations are Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Parkand-Ride lots. You can leave your car there all week. As we motor through Ohio we can snooze, watch a movie on the coach's DVD system, or play one of Bob's Useless Trivia Games.

Dinner tonight is at Rickard Ridge BBQ—reputedly the best barbeque in Tennessee. All of our dinners are at locally owned restaurants, not chains, so you'll experience the area's dining scene. On a Michiganders on the Road™ tour you must be courageous and sample the local fare.

After dinner, we'll repair to the nearby Holiday Inn Express & Suites. All the hotels offer a complimentary breakfast, so we can be ready to hit the road in the morning.





May 2, Thursday If you've never visited Biltmore Estate, imagine Downtown Abbey on steroids. George Vanderbilt started building his country retreat in 1889 and finished it six years later. It's the world's biggest house—four acres of floor space, with 35 bedrooms, 43 bathrooms, and 65 fireplaces. The grounds encompass 125,000 acres. Vanderbilt furnished Biltmore with tapestries, carpets, prints, linens, and decorative objects dating from the fifteenth to nineteenth centuries. Famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted designed the grounds.

Vanderbilt hired environmentalist Gifford Pinchot to manage the land. Lumbermen had clear-cut the mountains around the property, so Pinchot started America's first reforestation project there. Today, spectacular forests surround Biltmore.

We'll spend a full day at Biltmore. An included audio tour lets you go through the house at your own pace. You can explore the acres of beautiful gardens; learn about the estate's army of servants, cooks, farmers, and horticulturalists; and lunch in either the Stable Café or the Conservatory Café.

Dinner is at Pack's Tavern, located in the historic 1907 Hayes and Hopson building, with lodging at Brookstone Lodge in Asheville.



May 3, Friday Our first day in Charleston starts where the city did: Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site. English settlers landed here in 1670 and established the Carolina colony. You can interact with exhibits in the visitors center and take an audio tour on the self-guided history trail. You can also board the *Adventure*, a replica seventeenth-century replica sailing ship, and discover otters, bears, and bison at the Animal Forest natural habitat zoo.

After touring Charles Towne Landing, we'll head into the city itself for dinner at a Charleston institution: Hyman's Seafood. Hyman's originated as a drygoods store in 1890 and became a restaurant 30 years ago. Hyman's meals, especially its seafood, are legendary.

Lodging for the next four nights is the Holiday Inn Express & Suites. No more packing up your luggage while we're in Charleston!





May 4, Saturday Discovering Charleston starts with a horse-drawn carriage tour. Charleston's downtown area was made a Historic District (America's first!) in 1930, so the city retains much of its original architecture. The guides will relate the city's history and point out the scores of nineteenth-century churches, stores, and houses along the route. The Old South Carriage Company takes great pride in its stable of Percheron and Belgian draft horses. As an animal lover, Bob was much taken with its website that details the excellent care that these horses receive.

Our next stop is the Charleston Historical Museum. America's oldest museum was founded in 1773 opened to the public in 1824. Its exhibits tell all about Charleston from its prehistory to the present, including the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the rice plantation system. We've also scheduled a tour of the exquisite Joseph Manigault House, an 1803 Federal-style brick home that reflects the urban lifestyle of a wealthy, rice-planting family and the enslaved African Americans who lived there.

Lunch will be on your own—there are many restaurants and cafés within a block or so of the museum.

In the afternoon, we'll take another driving tour of Charleston to explore the region's unique Gullah culture. Gullah are the people of African descent who live in the Lowcountry regions of Georgia and South Carolina. They developed their own language and a culture rich in African influences. It's a fascinating story, and our guides will give us a two-hour tour of the Gullah community.

After that, we'll take the bus down to the heart of Charleston for free time to walk around "The Battery." The Battery stretches along the Charleston peninsula, bordered by the Ashley and Cooper Rivers and is noted for its beautiful park and historic mansions. It's delightful to walk along, gawk at the houses, and imagine that you had several million dollars in your pocket to buy one.





May 5, Sunday Today, we visit the place where the Civil War—or as Charlestonians prefer to call it, "The Recent Unpleasantness"—started in 1861: Fort Sumter. The fort surrendered after a 34-hour bombardment, and the ensuing Civil War would take the lives of more American soldiers than all of our other wars combined. Fort Sumter is now a National Park Service site, and the Park Service maintains an excellent interpretive center there. Fort Sumter

Upon our return, we'll find lunch and souvenirs during free time in the City Market. This historic four-block market dates to the 1790s and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tours provides the boat to take us there and back.

Then it's time to discover Charleston's ecology on a four-hour eco-tour. Barrier Islands Eco Tours takes passengers on naturalist-guided boat excursions to Capers Island State Heritage Preserve, one of the last undeveloped barrier islands. We'll board a 49-passenger pontoon boat and listen to guides explain the flora and fauna of Charleston's saltwater

marshes and the barrier islands. Along the way, the naturalists bring up crabs, small fish, and other aquatic life in dip nets and explain their part in the ecosystem.

At Capers Islands we can explore the shoreline and hunt for shells while the guides set up a Low Country Boil: shrimp, sausage, sweet corn, potatoes, and onions all cooked together. If you're not keen on seafood you can opt for hamburgers and hot dogs. We'll picnic on the beach as the sun sets over the salt marsh.





May 6, Monday



Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum showcases the World War II aircraft carrier USS *Yorktown*. Commissioned in 1943, the *Yorktown* served in the Pacific, where she earned a Presidential Unit Citation and 11 battle stars. She also served in the Vietnam War and recovered the Apollo 8 astronauts in 1968. *Yorktown* hosts aircraft dating from World War II to the Vietnam War, a theater, and countless exhibits. We can also tour the museum's two other vessels: the destroyer USS *Laffey* and the submarine USS *Clamagore*.

In the afternoon, we'll visit the world's first successful combat submarine, the *H.L. Hunley*. In 1864, the Confederate submarine attacked and sank the USS *Housatonic* off the Charleston coast. She then vanished with her crew of eight. In 1995, an expedition funded by author Clive Cussler found the *Hunley* and, in 2000, brought her to the surface. Today, a team of scientists are conserving the submarine. We'll tour the museum and get a

firsthand look at the *Hunley* at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center.

Dinner tonight is at the Charleston Crab House. It's rated among the city's best seafood restaurants—a local favorite for more than 25 years.





Before departing Charleston, we'll visit Drayton Hall. Built from 1738 to 1742 in the Georgian architectural style, this rice plantation house on the Ashley River has survived the centuries almost completely unaltered. No one ever installed modern features, so the house is recognized as the nation's finest example of architecture from British colonial America. Its owner, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, offers fascinating tours of the house and grounds.

After lunch, we'll begin our drive north, stopping in Salisbury, North Carolina, for dinner at the Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse and lodging at the Comfort Suites.





May 8, Wednesday Today, we visit Old Salem Village in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Old Salem is the town's historic district and showcases the culture of the Moravian settlement during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It includes communal buildings, churches, houses, and shops, including the Salem Tavern and the Single Brothers' House. The latter was built in 1769 to house the "Single Brethren"—the unmarried men of the Moravian Congregation.

Living history interpreters staff Old Salem and present a view of Moravian life. The staff interpreters include tinsmiths, blacksmiths, cobblers, gunsmiths, bakers, and carpenters, practicing their trades. About 70 percent of the buildings in the historic district are original in this unique living history museum.

We'll drive to Charleston, West Virginia, for dinner at Bricks & Barrels Restaurant and then collapse at the Holiday Inn Express.





May 9, Thursday Today is a driving day back to Michigan. We'll watch a movie, play a couple of Bob's Useless Trivia Games, and reflect on all we've seen, all we've learned, and all we've eaten.

We hope you can join us for our Southern Hospitality Tour! Give us a call at (517) 324-1828 or e-mail us at hsm@hsmichigan.org if you have any questions.

Why Pineapples? You may have noticed a pineapple frame for each of our photos of Charleston's sights. The pineapple, or "Pine of the Indies," as Christopher Columbus referred to it, has long been seen as a symbol of hospitality and good fortune. During Charleston's colonial days as a shipping town, returning sailors speared pineapples outside their homes to mark their safe return and serve as a sign of celebration. Today, Charleston has embraced the pineapple as a symbol of its southern hospitality.



Yes! I (we) want to join Michiganders on the Road for the Southern Hospitality Tour: Charleston & The Old South for \$1,995* per person.

*Includes motor coach transportation; all lodging; all dinners and breakfasts; and all admission fees, taxes, and gratuities. Historical Society of Michigan \$39.95 membership required. Price is per person based on double occupancy. We encourage the purchase of travel insurance in case unforeseen events force you to cancel at the last minute. Deposits or payments made after the reservation deadline of March 20, 2019, cannot be refunded.

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