

Christmas at the CAPITOL December 10-13, 2024

Experience the most wonderful time of the year at the Gaylord National Harbor Resort. Ignite your Christmas spirit by spending 3 incredible nights at this modern upscale hotel set on the Potomac River. With endless possibilities of holiday cheer, this hotel features a 19-story glass atrium boasting Christmas decorations with 1,000's of twinkling lights, a 55-foot-tall Starlight Christmas tree and nightly indoor snowfalls! Experience Christmas festivities at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, see the beautifully decorated mansion and grounds at Mount Vernon, and enjoy holiday performances at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Ford's Theatre. No trip to DC is complete without experiencing the grand buildings, monuments, and memorials after dark, all illuminated in their full glory. Truly a stunning experience!

Trip Includes:

- » Deluxe Motor coach transportation
- » 3 nights lodging
- » 6 meals (3B, 3D)
- » All attractions & sightseeing per itinerary
- » All taxes and fees
- » Professional Tour Manager
- » All gratuities for baggage handling, drivers, local step-on guides, and Tour Manager

Tour Fare:

- » \$1,979 - Double occupancy
- » \$2,329 - Single occupancy

Travel Insurance:

The premium is \$145 per person double and \$187 per person single



Activity Level: **Moderate**
May require moderate walking and extended standing.
There may be steps or uneven surfaces.

Day 1:

Springfield, OH - Oxen Hill, MD

This morning, we depart for our Capitol on a deluxe motor coach. Sit back and enjoy the journey with your fellow travelers and enjoy holiday games and trivia. We arrive later this afternoon at the stunning Gaylord National Harbor for a 3-night stay. Dinner is included this evening at the Resort. D

Day 2:

Botanic Gardens - Holiday Market - Hillwood Estate - Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Enjoy an included breakfast at the Resort before we start our holiday festivities. This morning, we visit the **United States Botanic Gardens**. This living plant museum is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America. The exhibits interpret the role of plants in supporting earth's diverse and fragile ecosystems and in enriching human life. Enjoy one-of-a-kind shopping at the downtown **Holiday Market**. The market features more than 150 regional artisans, crafters, and boutique businesses of ethnically produced goods. Enjoy lively seasonal entertainment and festive treats while shopping. Enjoy lunch on your own at the Christmas Market or the National Portrait Gallery. This afternoon, we experience the Christmas festivities at **Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens**. The mansion is the former home of cereal heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post and

features one of the most comprehensive collections of 18th and 19th century Russian Imperial art outside of Russia. The greenhouse and formal gardens are set among 25 acres of wooded hillsides located in the heart of Washington DC. This evening, enjoy an included dinner at a local favorite on the waterfront in **Georgetown**. Afterward, we arrive at the **Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** for a holiday performance. You'll have a chance to explore the Hall of Flags, see the larger-than-life bronze bust of Kennedy himself and see the incredible view of the city from the rooftop terrace. Two months after Kennedy's assassination in November 1963, Congress designated the National Culture Center as a "living" memorial to Kennedy and authorized \$23 million to help build what is now known as the JFK Center for the Performing Arts. B, D

Day 3:

Mount Vernon Christmas - Ford's Theatre performance - Memorial viewing - Illuminated Monuments

Breakfast is included at the Resort this morning. Today, we will visit **Mount Vernon** and experience some of the most unique and wonderful holiday shopping of the season to be found. See the beautifully decorated Mansion and grounds including a tour of the Mansion. Discover what the Washingtons, enslaved people, and hired workers ate during this season. Learn how food was grown, preserved, prepared, and served during the holiday season. Watch 18th century demonstrations and hear stories of Christmases past from costumed characters. Enjoy lunch on your own as you are exploring the estate today. This afternoon, get in the Christmas Spirit with a professional performance of the beloved, "A Christmas Carol". Originally conceived by Michael Baron,

Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts



this music-infused production captures the magic and joy of Dickens' Yuletide classic. Afterwards, we will visit the National World War II Memorial and the Pageant of Peace and the National Christmas Tree. The memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the United States during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home. Smaller live trees representing the 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia, form a "Pathway of Peace". Today, the annual ceremony is known as the "Pageant of Peace" and takes place south of the White House on the Ellipse.

Tonight, dinner is served at the impressive **Fogo de Chao Brazilian Steakhouse**, an upscale Brazilian chain known for all-you-can-eat meat carved tableside plus an extensive salad bar. Fogo de Chao is the leading Brazilian steakhouse specializing in fire-roasting high-quality meats since 1979 utilizing the centuries-old Southern Brazilian cooking technique of churrasco. We will end our day with an **illuminated monument driving and holiday lights tour**. Washington's grand buildings, memorials, and monuments sparkle and are impressive during the day and stunning at night. B, D

Day 4:

Washington D.C. – Springfield, OH

Enjoy an included breakfast at the Resort and a leisurely morning to explore the Resort a bit more or perhaps do some Christmas shopping or satisfy any other final wishes at the Gaylord Resort or National Harbor. After lunch on your own, we depart for home. Sit back, reminisce with your fellow travelers enjoying some Christmas snacks, trivia, and games. B

Mount Vernon



Georgetown Waterfront



Payment Policy:

A \$500 deposit per person is due no later than September 6, 2024. First come, first served. Final payment is due no later than October 28, 2024. Please complete the attached form, make checks payable to Nowak Tours and send to Nowak Tours, 1395 Barn Run Drive, Valley City, Ohio 44280 or drop off at the United Senior Services building in Springfield. Want to pay by debit/credit card (no extra fees), call Nowak Tours at 330-483-4900.

Refund Policy:

Cancellations made prior to the final payment date are subject to a processing fee of 5% of the payment received. The Insurance premium is 100% refundable up to the final payment date. Cancellations made after the final payment date are subject to cancellation fees assessed by hotels, attractions, and other ground operators.

USS Tours Membership Requirements:

All those purchasing a USS tour must have a current United Services Membership. This policy was established to ensure fairness and consistency with our members.