



MATPRA

MID-ATLANTIC TOURISM PUBLIC RELATIONS ALLIANCE

Pivotal Moments in American History

Take a trip and discover just a little of America's story.



Day One: Arrive in Erie, Pennsylvania

Tour the [Erie Maritime Museum](#) and learn of Erie's extensive maritime history and its role during the War of 1812/Battle of Lake Erie. Exhibits highlight multiple maritime and nautical themes from the early 1800's to present day including the [U.S. Brig Niagara](#), Pennsylvania's official Great Lakes Ambassador. Test your skills at tying knots, loading a cannon, and raising/lowering the mid mizzen mast and special sail setting demonstrations.

Join the "**Cemetery Lady**" for the personal side of the War of 1812. Tour the [Erie Cemetery](#) for stories of Erie pioneer **Daniel Dobbins**, as well as many of the brave men who fought in the **War of 1812**. Hear insights into the personal lives of these great men peppered with historic lore. Tour historic **Downtown Erie** with an expert docent from the **Erie Historical Society of Erie County**. Delve into Erie's storied past and pick up clues as to what Erie would have been like from formation, through the War of 1812, to modern day.

Tour the [Presque Isle Lighthouse](#), stop at the historic [Perry's Monument](#) and **Misery Bay** at Presque Isle State Park to learn the historical significance of Presque Isle's role in the **Battle of Lake Erie** during the **War of 1812**. Known for its seven miles of sandy beaches and unique ecological composition, **Presque Isle** is a designated National Natural Landmark. Discover the Park's endless stretch of sandy beaches, interior waterways and trails or take narrated 90 minute scenic Presque Isle Boat Tour aboard the **Lady Kate** or free lagoon pontoon rides.



3 Hours to Johnstown, Pennsylvania



Day Two: Arrive in Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Take a journey with the heroes of a nation as you visit [Flight 93 National Memorial](#) and St. Mary's Twin Tower monument; [Quecreek Mine Rescue Site](#), where 9 miners were rescued in 2002. Learn of the devastation and rebirth after the 1889 [Johnstown Flood](#) and finish your trip sipping the wines of a family-owned wine cellar.

3 Hours to Shenandoah Valley, Virginia

(Woodstock, Mt. Jackson, New Market)



Day Three: Arrive in the Shenandoah Valley



Visit the historic [Shenandoah County Courthouse](#). Constructed in 1795 of native limestone, the Courthouse is the oldest working courthouse west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in continuous use. It saw much activity during the Civil War, with troops from both sides leaving their mark with graffiti on interior walls. Some of this graffiti is now visible when touring the museum.

Hear the story of Peter Muhlenberg who was authorized to raise and command as its colonel the 8th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army.

[American Celebration on Parade](#) is a Celebration of the American parade float. In an enormous warehouse, full-sized parade floats from over 50 years of history in Rose Bowls and Presidential Inaugurations rest in their full-scale grandeur. It is an incredible tribute to the artistry and spectacle that is the American Parade.

[The Virginia Museum of the Civil War](#) (VMCW) interprets the 1864 Battle of New Market with emphasis on the role of Virginia Military Institute Cadets and the Civil War in Virginia. Featured exhibits include the *Kaminsky Gallery of Civil War Firearms* and the Emmy-winning film *Field of Lost Shoes*, shown daily on the hour. The *General's Store* has a wide variety of regional products and an excellent book selection.

1.75 Hours to Fredericksburg, Virginia



Day Four: Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Virginia

Hop aboard a historic downtown [Fredericksburg trolley tour](#) to learn the history of the area, from the Revolution to the Civil War, with stops at key sites such as Sunken Road, Kenmore, Mary Washington House, Rising Sun Tavern and more. Experience the revitalization of George Washington's boyhood home at [Ferry Farm](#). This property is where George Washington lived from age six to 20 and has recently been known as an archaeology park with grassy fields, beautiful views of the Rappahannock River, large-scale archaeology excavations and an extensive collection of Washington artifacts. Learn about the process of distilling award-winning bourbons, whiskeys and vodkas at [A. Smith Bowman Distillery](#). The distillery welcomes guests for an hour to see the facility and the production process starting from raw hops and yeast to bottling the finished product. Guests end the distillery tour with a tasting.

1.5 Hours to Prince George's County



Day Five: Arrive in Prince George's County, Maryland

Take flight at CPAM! The [College Park Aviation Museum](#), an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is located on the grounds of the world's oldest continuously operating airport. Located in College Park just minutes from the University of Maryland, the airport was founded in 1909 when Wilbur Wright came to give flight instructions to the first military aviators. Your visit to the museum will take you back in time as you discover the many aviation "firsts" that took place at this historic airfield.

Enjoy a tour of the [NASA Goddard Space Flight Center](#), to continue your flight tour up into the stars and beyond. Then soar on your own at Six Flags America and the new ride [Wonder Woman Lasso of Truth ride](#).

1.5 Hours to Annapolis, Maryland



Day Six: Arrive in Annapolis, Maryland

Enjoy a tour of the [U.S. Naval Academy](#), the undergraduate college of our country's naval service with beautiful historic campus. Next enjoy an hour-long trolley tour of Historic Annapolis with [Discover Annapolis Tours](#). Tours depart from the 26 West Street Visitors Center. Then take a two-hour cruise aboard a 74' wooden schooner featured in the movie, *The Wedding Crashers* with [Annapolis Sailing Cruises](#): Schooner Woodwind and Woodwind II.

Contacts:



Visit Erie
Chris Temple
814-454-1000
cvb1@visiterie.com
VisitErie.com



Johnstown Pennsylvania
Olivia Bragdon
814-536-7993
oliviab@visitjohnstownpa.com
VisitJohnstownpa.com



Shenandoah County Tourism
Jenna French
540-459-6227
JFrench@shenandoahcountyva.us
VisitShenandoahCounty.com



Fredericksburg, Virginia
Danelle Rose
540-372-1216
darose@fredericksburgva.gov
VisitFred.com



Prince George's County Conference
& Visitors Bureau
Carl Smith
301-925-8300
csmith@co.pg.md.us
visitprincegeorgescounty.com