

# Cherry Blossom Time in Washington, DC

12 Days: April 6-17, 2010



*This travel package planned and escorted by Mary Egger.*



Join us for one of our most popular trips! Want to see Washington, DC, and not fight the traffic? Stay **six nights** in a DC hotel, a stone's throw away from the U.S. Capitol (instead of that long commute to and from the city every day) right on (literally) the Metro (subway) line for those of you who want to do a little sightseeing on your own. Discover historic Annapolis and the Naval Academy. You'll find no better way to see and experience the sights and excitement of our nation's capital city than by motor coach.

This year's **Cherry Blossom Festival** marks the 97<sup>th</sup> celebration of the original 3,000 cherry trees in 1912

given by the people of Tokyo to the people of Washington, DC. Cherry Blossom time is beautiful as more than 4,000 trees of several varieties surrounding the tidal basin should create a sea of pale pink and white when we are there (if the weather cooperates).



April 6 we pick up along the way as we journey south and east to Shelbyville, IL, meeting our fellow travelers and enjoying the scenery. On arrival, we will be treated to a **get acquainted dinner** at a restaurant near our hotel.

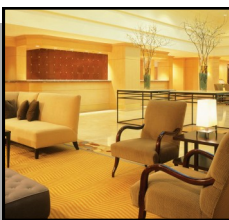
April 7 following **breakfast** we travel through the Appalachian Mountains. Our overnight stop is at a new hotel in Huntington, WV.

April 8 after **breakfast** we visit **Monticello**, the beautiful and fascinating home of President Thomas Jefferson. Monticello represents the remarkable integration of Jefferson's love of classical architecture and his passion for modern innovation. Our third president also delighted in gardening, which shows in the restored orchards and gardens on the property. In Jefferson's time, over 250 varieties of vegetables and herbs were in abundance including 20 varieties of English peas, believed to be his favorite vegetable. Our overnight stop is historic in Williamsburg, VA.



April 9 after **breakfast** we travel to **Colonial Williamsburg**, Virginia's first colonial capital, where the 1870s are alive and well! Step back into the time of Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Patrick Henry and other famous forefathers of American history. Some craftsmen will be busy using the tools and knowledge of yesterday. Carriages and wagons are found on the narrow streets while fife and drum corps parade at least once a day. Lose yourself in the history and learn from the "residents" who are anxious to share their stories!

Early this evening we arrive at our Washington, DC, hotel where we stay for the next **six nights**. Our hotel is one of the prime hotels in the downtown area. This excellent location will give you the opportunity to step out to 4 of the 5 Metro mass transit lines and travel all over the city to visit the sites that interest you the most (if not already covered on our journeys). The hotel is so centrally located it is within walking distance to the Smithsonian Institute and only steps from the Air and Space Museum, World War II Memorial and the Washington Mall. The hotel received rave reviews from previous travelers who indicated this is a "must" location to enjoy the benefits of the city during our six-night stay.



April 10 after **breakfast** we leave the city for a short drive to **Annapolis, MD**, the site of our **U.S. Naval Academy**, training our military for over 200 years. Following

**Reservations & Information: 1-877-694-8687 or [www.northlandtravel.com](http://www.northlandtravel.com)**



**lunch** at the Academy, our next stop is **Mount Vernon**, home of Martha and George Washington. Overlooking the Potomac, Mount Vernon was acquired by President Washington in 1754. He personally oversaw every detail of design, construction and decoration, even while away at war. The mansion has been restored to the last years of Washington's life and still contains much of the original furniture. The **Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center** has 23 theaters with interactive displays and original videos produced by the *History Channel*, offering viewers a state-of-the-art theater experience depicting Washington's life story. We return to our hotel for the night.

April 11-14 following **breakfast** we're off to see the sights and sounds of our nation's capital city. Planned stops include the **Jefferson, Lincoln, Vietnam Veterans, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Iwo Jima Memorials**, the newly dedicated **World War II Memorial**, **Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**, a service at **Washington National Cathedral**, the very new **Pentagon Memorial** and so much more. Picture stops will be made at the **Capitol** and the **White House**. We have scheduled a stop at the new **Capitol Visitors' Center**. An **expert local guide** will join us for an afternoon, an evening and another half-day, so we can learn more. You'll have time at the **Smithsonian Institute**, allowing you to visit the museums that interest you. Tickets have been reserved for a visit to the **National Holocaust Museum**. Enjoy **lunch at a local seafood buffet** for you seafood lovers and lunch at **Gadsby's**, an 18<sup>th</sup> century historic tavern that was a center of political, business and social life in early Alexandria



(Benjamin Franklin may even have lunch with us!). We will also visit the **Newseum**, which has just been open about a year. This is the world's first interactive museum of news with fantastic exhibits and programs. If time permits, we may visit the **National Archives** and the **Library of Congress**. The new **Capitol Visitor Center** is now open, designed to enhance our knowledge of the US Capitol. Enjoy a 13-minute orientation film and informative exhibits that tell the history of the Capitol along with the story of representative democracy in the United States. The 580,000 square foot Visitor Center took 6 years to complete at a cost of \$621 million. We'll travel across the Potomac to witness the very solemn and moving **Changing of the Guard** at **Arlington National Cemetery**, visit the **John F. Kennedy Gravesite**, tour **Arlington House** and view the newest **memorial for the Air Force**.



April 15 enjoy **breakfast** then depart for **Gettysburg**, where one of our favorite **local guides** will join us for a **tour of the battlefields**. Our guide will share accounts of the battles fought on these now peaceful Pennsylvania fields. As a preview to your tour we will provide you with a unique perspective of the **Gettysburg Miniature Battlefield Diorama**. This light and sound show takes you through the three days of battle by way of a very detailed "H-0" scale diorama. After a **lunch buffet**, we will tour the **Eisenhower National Historic Site**, the only home ever owned by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and his wife, Mamie. We plan to arrive at our hotel in Bedford, PA, early in the evening. We have a restaurant and lounge in the hotel.



April 16 following **breakfast** we begin our journey home. We'll travel north and west to Elkhart, IN, where we will stay at one of our favorite stops, with several restaurants nearby.

April 17 is our final travel day, and following **breakfast** we make our way back to our departure cities, enjoying our newfound friends and the beautiful scenery.

**Your 12-day Cherry Blossom package includes:** Luxury motorcoach transportation, lodging for 11 nights, luggage handling, tickets to all listed attractions, gratuities for step-on guides, 11 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 1 dinner (meals inclusive of tax and gratuity)

\$2,359 per person, double occupancy

\$2,282 per person with 3 or 4 persons sharing a room with 2 beds

\$3,167 single room accommodations

**Reservations:** anytime as long as space is available

**Deposit:** \$280 per person, due with reservation

**Balance due:** March 5

Cancel by: March 5

**Early Booking Discount:** \$50 per person discount applied toward final balance if deposit is received by September 21

**Peace of Mind protection:** 5% of trip cost, due with deposit or **Travel Insurance** is available at a group rate for this travel package. Call for details and prices.

**Guaranteed departure cities:** Fort Dodge, Webster City, Williams, Ames, Des Moines, Newton, Decorah, West Union, Independence, Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Clear Lake, Charles City, Waverly and Waterloo

**Government-issued photo identification required for this trip.**