

Manassas National Battlefield park preserves the scene of two major Civil War battles in 1861 and 1862.

 **Smithsonian**
STUDENT TRAVEL



D.C. & THE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS

- Round-trip transportation
- Air-conditioned motorcoach on tour
- 4 nights hotel accommodations (6 nights on 7-day tour)
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director throughout your stay
- Visits to special attractions per itinerary
- Evening activities
- Overnight security
- Educational materials developed by the Smithsonian
- Medical and accident coverage
- Travel ID Badges and student backpacks
- Smithsonian Membership

Options

- Downtown hotel (private group only)
- Extended stay
- Lunches
- Gratuities
- Opportunity to earn credit for group leaders and students

DAY 1: WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ MANASSAS

Welcome to Washington, D.C. • Travel by airplane or motorcoach to Washington, D.C. The world's first planned capital city, Washington has served as the seat of Congress since 1800. Upon arrival, you are greeted by your Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director, who will accompany you throughout your stay.

Transfer to Manassas • Continue to the Manassas region.

Bull Run Battlefield • In Manassas, visit the Bull Run Battlefield. Following the initial shots fired at Fort Sumter, the Civil War began in earnest amid these gentle Virginia hills on July 21, 1861, when 25,000 Union troops tried to disrupt a railroad link to the Shenandoah Valley. It was in the Battle of Bull Run that Confederate General Jackson's stoicism won him his nickname, Stonewall.

DAY 2: ANTIETAM ★ GETTYSBURG

Visit to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park • Thomas Jefferson described the view from a Harpers Ferry overlook as "one of the most stupendous scenes in Nature." Discover the beauty of an area that was once host to many revolutionary events. It was here that John Brown took his famous stand against slavery, the Confederate Army claimed a victory during the Civil War and a racially integrated school, Storer College, was founded. Now, as a national park, Harpers Ferry provides hours of enjoyment for history buffs and nature enthusiasts alike. See vestiges of 19th-century buildings, John Brown's Fort, memorable views of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers and more.

Antietam National Battlefield • Continue your exploration of Civil War sites with a visit to Antietam National Battlefield, situated in the rolling farmland of Maryland. At Antietam Creek's juncture with the Potomac, the deadliest single day of the war took place in 1862, as Union troops resisted General Lee's army. Although the war was far from over following the indecisive struggle, the strength and resolve of the Union troops prompted Lincoln to write the Emancipation Proclamation.

Transfer to Gettysburg • Travel to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This tiny town came to woeful notoriety as the site of the most cataclysmic battle in the Civil War. In turn, this sanguinary site provided the occasion for one of the most powerful presidential orations in American history.

DAY 3: GETTYSBURG ★ WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg National Military Park • Stroll through this historical burial ground, America's first national cemetery. Located on the southern edge of Gettysburg, this scenic spot was the site of the pivotal Battle

of Gettysburg, a Union victory considered the "high water mark of the Confederacy." The battle was the most brutal of the Civil War, with 51,000 casualties. The Soldiers National Cemetery serves as the final resting place for 3,512 Union soldiers interred here after the battle.

Guided sightseeing of Gettysburg • A local guide leads today's tour of Gettysburg National Military Park, the battlefield where 170,000 fought and 51,000 died during the Civil War's bloodiest battle in July 1863. Four months later, President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. Calling the battle a "flat failure," Lincoln exhorted Americans to remember the principles of the Constitution in the name of the slain soldiers. Today, visitors can enjoy the recently opened 139,000-square-foot New Museum and Visitor Center, where an extensive collection of Civil War artifacts and archives are preserved.

Cyclorama Experience • Immerse yourself in the Battle of Gettysburg at the Cyclorama Experience. Start by seeing *A New Birth of Freedom*, a film that looks at the life and work of President Abraham Lincoln, particularly as he struggled to abolish slavery during the Civil War. Calling for "a new birth of freedom" during his famous Gettysburg Address, Lincoln redefined the course of the United States. Move on to the three-dimensional circular painting depicting the dramatic charge of the Confederate infantry led by General George Pickett. Originally created from 1883 to 1884, the giant canvas had become damaged by decades of neglect before a major \$15-million restoration project returned the masterpiece to the way it was intended to be viewed. The conservation project was the largest of its kind ever undertaken in North America.

Transfer to Washington, D.C. • Return to the nation's capital.

Introduction to the Smithsonian • The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum and research complex, endowed by James Smithson and created by an act of Congress in 1846, dedicated to the increase and diffusion of knowledge. The Smithsonian Institution houses more than 136.5 million objects and comprises 17 museums and the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., two museums in New York City and nine research centers around the world. It extends its global outreach through more than 150 Smithsonian Affiliate museums. The Smithsonian is an institution dedicated to discovery, exploration and learning.

The Smithsonian's museums • Explore all that the Smithsonian's museums have to offer. On display at the National Air and Space Museum is the *1903 Wright Flyer*. You can also see the Apollo 11 command module, *Columbia*, which orbited the moon while Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin first walked on the surface in 1969. A stroll through the National Museum of Natural History will reveal objects as varied as the 45.52-carat Hope Diamond and dinosaur skeletons. To satisfy your artistic side, duck into the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, where masterpieces by Andy Warhol, Willem de Kooning and Pablo Picasso decorate the halls. (Please note: The museum(s) you visit may vary.)

Washington, D.C. by night • Experience the magic of seeing Washington's most impressive sights illuminated during your evening scenic tour downtown. Thanks to the foresight of D.C.'s urban planners (who placed strict limits on the height of downtown buildings), you're assured a view of the Washington Monument from nearly every part of the city. Other points of interest on our tour include the Lincoln Memorial, the WWII Memorial and the Korean War Memorial.

DAY 4: WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ MOUNT VERNON

Guided sightseeing of Washington, D.C. • A local guide introduces you to the sites where national policies and political reputations are formed and re-formed daily. You'll observe the quiet dignity of Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place of more than 200,000 veterans and their families. At JFK's gravesite, you'll see the eternal flame that was originally lit by Jacqueline Kennedy at her husband's funeral. Here you'll also witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Next, visit the United States Marine Corps War Memorial, which depicts U.S. Marines raising an American flag at Iwo Jima. On the grassy National Mall, which extends from the Capitol to the Potomac River, view the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Washington Monument. Visit the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and finish your sightseeing with a photo stop at the White House, home of every U.S. president except George Washington.

Excursion to Mount Vernon* • Travel through the Virginia countryside to Mount Vernon, the lovely retreat overlooking the Potomac where George and Martha Washington lived from 1754 to 1799. As you tour the restored Georgian mansion, you'll see many symbols of the owner's eminence, including Washington's presidential chair. You'll also see the reconstructed slave quarters and Washington's tomb, as well as the elegant estate's 500 acres of grounds and gardens. Be sure to explore the comprehensive Ford Orientation Center and Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. The interactive displays, short films and high-tech immersive experiences featured in the center depict Washington at three significant stages in his life.

Evening activity • Join us for a special activity tonight. You may take a one-hour Legends of Alexandria tour in Old Town, where an 18th-century costumed guide shows you the way through the streets by lantern and shares ghost stories, legends and folklore about the area! Or visit Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Jefferson Memorial or the Kennedy Center or enjoy games at ESPN Zone.

DAY 5: WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ DEPARTURE

Today is your best opportunity to arrange special visits such as meeting your representative in Congress or touring the White House. Please note that these appointments may affect the day's schedule.

U.S. Capitol and Visitor Center • See the U.S. Capitol, the city's epicenter and the heart of the American legislature. George Washington laid the first cornerstone for the building in 1793, but the edifice was set on fire in 1814 when British troops marched through the city. Much of the structure was salvaged, thanks to heavy rains that quelled the flames, and the Capitol remains the symbol of American government today. You'll also explore the Visitor Center, a new 580,000-square-foot extension to the Capitol Building. The underground facility features an exhibition gallery, orientation theaters, a 550-seat cafeteria and gift shops. The addition is the largest project in the Capitol's 215-year history.

(Please note: Smithsonian Student Travel is unable to make group appointments at the Capitol. Groups are responsible for arranging their own visits.)

U.S. Supreme Court • Behold the imposing white-marble Supreme Court building, where the nine justices of the nation's highest court convene to hear oral arguments and rule on cases that affect the course of law in the United States.

Library of Congress • Marvel at the green-domed Library of Congress, whose collection of 113 million items includes a Gutenberg Bible.

(Please note: Smithsonian Student Travel is unable to make group appointments at the Library of Congress. Groups are responsible for arranging their own visits.)

National Archives • This important landmark holds priceless documents that have shaped the history and politics of the United States. Interactive components will give you an appreciation for the role records and archivists play in linking the past to the future. View all four pages of the Constitution simultaneously in the Charters of Freedom Rotunda. The Public Vaults also store important records from the earliest treaties with Native tribes to presidential websites.

Ford's Theatre and Petersen House • Visit the museum at Ford's Theatre, where, on April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth shocked the nation by assassinating President Lincoln during a performance of *Our American Cousin*. The stricken president was carried across the street to the home of tailor William Petersen. At the historically preserved Petersen House, you'll see the room where a 23-year-old doctor worked unsuccessfully through the night to save the mortally wounded president.

Departure • Head home on Day 5 or choose to stay for our 7-day tour.

★7-DAY TOUR★

DAY 5: WASHINGTON, D.C. (CONTINUED) ★ RICHMOND

Transfer to Richmond • Travel south to Richmond, the capital of Virginia. The city also served as the capital of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War.

DAY 6: RICHMOND

Tour director-led sightseeing of Richmond National Battlefield Park • This park commemorates 11 different sites associated with the Union army's attempts to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond. As your tour director leads the way, explore historical exhibits at the Chimborazo Medical Museum and Cold Harbor Battlefield as well as audio stations, walking trails and electric battle maps at the Tredegar Iron Works, Fort Harrison and Glendale/Malvern Hills visitor centers.

Cold Harbor Battle Site • The long siege at Cold Harbor in May and June 1864 culminated in a Confederate victory and 15,500 casualties. In his memoir, Union leader General Ulysses S. Grant admitted that this was the only attack he wished he had never ordered.

Museum and White House of the Confederacy • Discover what it was like to be a soldier or a civilian in the Confederate South. See displays of Lee's Appomattox uniform, Stuart's plumed hat, Armistead's Gettysburg sword and countless other Civil War artifacts. Tour the restored Confederate "White House"—a place of both familial peace and tragedy—that served as the home of Jefferson Davis, his wife Varina and their children during the war.

DAY 7: WASHINGTON, D.C.

Transfer to Washington, D.C. • Return to our nation's capital.

Free time in D.C. (time permitting) • Depending upon your return flight schedule, you might enjoy free time to further explore D.C. on your own.

Departure • Your tour director assists with your departure.

Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

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