

LIR Trip to Newport, RI and Mystic Seaport, CT

Tuesday, June 23 -Thursday, June 25, 2015

Tuesday, June 23

8:00am - Depart Sheldon Field by bus

10:30 am - Arrive in Newport, RI

11:00 am - Meet our guide and have a one-hour guided walking tour of Old Colonial Newport (more than 60 beautifully-restored 17th-19th century buildings)

12:00 noon - **Lunch on your own**, at any of the many restaurants in the Colonial/Historic District

Afternoon free time, at your own expense in the Colonial/Historic District. Newport's extraordinarily large group of colonial structures is one of our nation's great architectural treasures and includes:

- * The **Touro Synagogue** (America's oldest synagogue, noted for its exceptional architecture), and its nearby, new **Loeb Center**
- * **The Brick Market**, designed in 1761 by Peter Harrison, with influences from Palladio on Georgian architecture
- * **Washington Square**, crossroads of colonial Newport that runs between the Brick Market and Old Colony House
- * **The Old Colony House** - seat of Rhode Island's government from the colonial period into the 19th century; beautiful architecture, furnishings made by Goddard and Townsend; one of Gilbert Stuart's full-length portraits of George Washington, who met here with French Count Rochambeau.
- * **The Friends Meeting House** - In 17th c. Newport, there was a large population of Quakers; built in 1699; once the headquarters for the Quakers in New England
- * **Wanton-Lyman House** - Once the home and office of the least popular man in colonial Newport, the tax collector

- * **Armory of the Artillery Company of Newport** - Built in 1836, and now a museum of American and foreign military weapons, uniforms & flags
- * **Trinity Church** - Built in early 18th century, rising above Queen Ann Square, designed by Richard Munday and modeled on Boston's Old North Church, influenced by Sir Christopher Wren, with handsome, delicate spire seen for miles around
- * **The Old Stone Tower** - Also known as The Mystery Tower, due to various legends about its origin; attributed to the Vikings, the Portuguese, the Indians and the Irish, and actually thought to be the remnants of a mill from the 17th century.
- * **Redwood Library** - First structure in the U.S to have a free-standing portico, which was considered a great architectural innovation; beautiful classical design by Peter Harrison
- * **Newport Art Association** - Designed by Richard Morris Hunt, it's a good example of "stick style" - due to its exterior decoration
- * **Bowen's Wharf** - Some "salty" old dockside structures on the wharf, which are now eating places, craft shops and boutiques that form the heart of this waterfront square.
- * **Easton's Point** - a group of restored homes in what is now a quiet residential neighborhood; streets were named for trees by the original Quaker inhabitants
- * **Hunter House** - elegant house built in 1748 by a merchant, then bought by Ambassador William Hunter and subsequently by two governors, and the was once the headquarters of the French fleet during the American Revolution; house has beautiful 18th c. architecture, complete with the carved pineapple, the ancient symbol of hospitality. Interior has exceptional furniture collection
- * **Samuel Whitehorne House** - four-square Federal dwelling topped by a square cupola, once owned by a sea captain; excellent collection of 18th c. furniture
- * **Newport Casino** - Once the exclusive country club of the Gilded Age, designed by McKim, Mead and White; tennis courts were site of first Men's United States Lawn Tennis Association tournaments before they moved to Forest Hills.

*** International Tennis Hall of Fame and Museum**

NOTE: If you are interested in taking a sail on Narragansett Bay, this afternoon would be a good time to do that, but it must be scheduled and paid for by you, in advance. Also, if you wish to do The Cliff Walk or The Bay Walk, you may wish to take a taxi to one of the points along its length, and then arrange to have the taxi pick you and get you back to the Visitors' Center to join the group before we leave there at 3:30.

3:30 pm - Bus will pick up you/everyone in the group on the lot behind the Newport Visitors' Center (see the map) and take you to your hotel, where you will have a chance to unpack, nap and get ready for this evening's special dinner. Your hotel is the **Homewood Suites Hotel by Hilton, 348 West Main Road, Middletown, RI, 02842(a nearby suburb of Newport)**. [See additional information about your hotel on the Reservation Form, at the end of this itinerary.]

5:30 pm - Bus will pick up the group at the hotel and take you to **The Atlantic Beach Club** for a **Clambake/Lobsterbake/Steak Dinner**, at this seaside restaurant. (You will have a choice of which type of dinner you prefer.)

The bus will take you back to your hotel to spend the night.

Wednesday, June 24

6:00 to 9:00 am - Breakfast is available at the hotel (included in your room cost)

9:00 am - We will spend today seeing and learning about some of the elaborate summer "cottages," otherwise known as the Mansions of Newport. Our guide for the day will meet us at the hotel, and board our bus with us. The guide will take us on a driving tour along Bellevue Avenue, where most of the grand mansions are located, and will tell us something about the sites we are passing. We will stop and tour three of the most famous "cottages" of the Golden Age tycoons:

Rosecliff - greatly enlarged by Stanford White, in 1891 for Mr. & Mrs. Herman Oelrichs (she was the daughter of the Irish immigrant who discovered The Comstock Lode in Nevada). In its eventual grand form, it was intended to imitate the Grand Trianon at Versailles, France. It has the largest ballroom in Newport and is known for its rose gardens.

The Breakers - Built by Cornelius Vanderbilt, designed by Richard Morris Hunt, and modeled on a High Renaissance Italian palace. It is an opulent 70-room mansion that includes The Grand Salon (Music Room), which was completely constructed in France then deconstructed, shipped across the ocean and re-constructed here.

The Elms - Edward Julius Berwind, son of poor German immigrants, rose to prominence in the second half of the 19th century as the King of America's Coal Industry. In 1899, wealthy and powerful, he commissioned Horace Trumbauer to build him a residence to rival the "cottages" of Newport's established millionaires who regarded him as an outsider, a "nouveau riche." Inspired by a French chateau, the huge and elaborate rooms are awesome, the conservatory was inspired by the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, many more rooms are extravagantly decorated and the formal gardens are impressive.

NOTE: We will have an hour-long walking tour of each of the mansions, doing the first two in the morning, then stopping for a lunch break from 1:00 to 2:30 (on your own, at a choice of restaurants), and enjoying The Elms in the afternoon, where there are benches in the gardens where you may wish to sit and delight in your surroundings.

5:00 pm - The bus will take you back to your hotel, where you will have dinner and stay there for the night.

6:00 pm - Dinner at the hotel (included in your room cost), which includes a set main course with vegetables plus a salad bar. In the lobby, there is a shop where you could buy snacks/Ben&Jerry ice cream bars, for your sweet tooth. OR, there is an Applebee's Restaurant across the street and a Carmela's Pizza Shop at the edge of the hotel parking lot, if you would prefer to have dinner at one of those restaurants, at your own expense - OR - you could take a taxi into Newport and have dinner there, at your own expense. NOTE: The hotel has a shuttle bus, for which you could make an advanced reservation, at the cost of \$3 each way. The shuttle bus runs between 10 am in the morning until 9:30 pm, in the evening. It drops people off and picks them up at Bowen Wharf, in the middle of downtown Newport.

Thursday, June 25 - 6:00 - 9:00 am - Breakfast is available at the hotel (included in your room cost)

NOTE: Make sure you have packed, that your luggage is in front of the hotel, ready for the bus driver to load it into the bus, and that you are on the bus, before the 9:00 am departure time.

9:00 am - The bus will depart the hotel, driving us an hour or so west to **Mystic Seaport** in Connecticut.

Located on the Mystic River, the village of Mystic has been building boats since the 17th century. Following the War of 1812, Mystic developed into a busy seafaring center as its merchant vessels sailed to the Far East to engage in trade with the Orient. In the 1850s, clipper ships reflecting the glory of America's maritime era were built in Mystic yards. At about the same time, whaling became a major industry on the coast and Mystic's fleet grew to include more than 18 whaling ships. Local boatyards turned to the construction of pleasure craft in the early 20th century and during WW-II, it built ships for the U.S. Navy.

Today, it is known as **Mystic Seaport**, a museum village which recreates the atmosphere and activities of an era out of America's maritime past. Here, you will be able to stroll the village streets and stop in to visit any and all of the following, many of which will have working guides who can answer your questions and tell you about the work of the village:

* **The Planetarium** - There are daily programs here that include information about how seamen used their knowledge of the stars to navigate their ships - and - there is a film of an actual whale hunt, which makes a good introduction to the Seaport village and the era that it represents.

* **The Village and the Waterfront** - Here, you will find many businesses and activities that were found in 19th c. Mystic: the bank, the printer, the tavern, shops of the craftsmen who worked to outfit the vessels (including a wonderful ship's chandlery), and a ropewalk.

* **The Charles W. Morgan** - the last surviving wooden whaling ship in the U.S. and a National Historic Site. You can board the ship, climb down into the hold, and look it over, with knowledgeable seamen there to answer your questions.

* **The Joseph Conrad** - A Danish-built sailing ship that is still used as a training ship for young seamen and seawomen.

* **The Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard**

* **The Fisheries Exhibit**

* **The North Boat Shed**

* **The Stillman Building** - an excellent museum with a magnificent collection of ship's figureheads, nameboards ship models and scrimshaw (beautiful carvings that seamen did on whalebone and narwhal tusks, during long, sometimes boring sea voyages).

NOTE: There is a cafeteria on the Mystic Seaport grounds, where you may buy your lunch.

4:00 pm - The bus will leave the parking lot to make the return trip to Northampton

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The cost of the trip is \$300 per person plus \$327.70 for your two nights' accommodations, two breakfasts and one dinner, at the Homewood Suites Hotel by Hilton in Middletown, CT.

NOTE: Each "room" is a suite that includes a bedroom with a king-sized bed, a kitchenette, a full bathroom AND a living room with a hide-a-bed couch that opens into a comfortable queen-sized bed. (There is no door on the bedroom.) *Therefore, several people could share a suite.*

Reservations must be received by Liz in the LIR office no later than May 1, 2015. There can be no refunds or cancellations, once you have registered and paid your registration fee (with the exception of cancelling the hotel reservation for your individual suite, if you should have a personal emergency, after you sign up.) First-come, first-served!

BRING A FRIEND!

Contact Marybeth Bridegam, if you have any questions,
at 413-253-9562 or bmarybeth@comcast.net.

Registration Form

1. Complete this Registration Form and mail it, along with your \$300 check, per person, (made payable to Five Colleges, Inc.), to Liz Tiley, Five College Learning in Retirement Office, Neilson Library, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063.
2. Call the Homewood Suites Hotel at 401-848-2700 and identify yourself with the assigned group code of LIR, in order to get the group discount and to be included in the group meal arrangements.
3. Reserve a suite/room, in your name(s) and pay for it with your credit card. Your card should be charged \$327.70, which will include full payment for your two nights' accommodations on June 23 & 24, your cooked breakfasts on the following two mornings, and your dinner on Wednesday evening, June 24. NOTE: The price of the room remains the same, no matter how many people are sharing the room.
4. Get a confirmation number from the hotel clerk, write it down here, and take it with you on the trip. CONFIRMATION NO. _____
5. Make and keep a copy of this Registration Form, and take it with you on the trip.

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PLEASE RESERVE _____ PLACES @ \$300 PER PERSON, IN THE LIR TRIP TO NEWPORT, RI/MYSTIC SEAPORT, CT ON JUNE 23-25, 2015 (CHECK ENCLOSED.)

I am a single, and would like to share a room.

NAME(S) OF ALL PERSONS SHARING ROOM/SUITE: _____

ADDRESS(ES) _____

PHONE(S) _____

EMAIL(S) _____