



A Capitol Christmas in Washington DC!

At the Magnificent Gaylord National Resort on the Potomac

Featuring the Dazzling Holiday Lighting of Our Greatest Monuments - and the new Museum of the Bible!

Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Museums, Washington National Cathedral, Old Town Alexandria, Hillwood Estate & Gardens, "A Christmas Carol" at Ford's Theatre, National Portrait Gallery & Much More!

December 8 - 13, 2024 6 Days / 5 Nights

Join us to discover the best of Washington DC in all its radiant Christmas splendor, while residing in luxury at Gaylord National Resort!

Marvel at the sheer incomparable beauty of the bright and brilliant illuminations adorning our nation's capital at Christmas time! Explore George Washington's stately Mount Vernon high over the Potomac, enjoy visits to your choice of Smithsonian Museums, and tour all those iconic sights and monuments you've always hoped to see close-up, including Arlington National Cemetery and the National Cathedral! A highlight of your tour will be the new Museum of the Bible, seeing artifacts that date to the time of Abraham, Dead Sea Scroll fragments and first edition Bibles. Once you step through the 40 foot bronze doors, flanked by a re-creation of the the first page of Genesis, you'll be fully immersed in a personal experience to absorb the powerful history, narrative and impact of the Bible!

Itinerary

December 8, 2024 - Off to the Christmas Lights & Sights of DC!

Board your flight bound for **our nation's magnificent Capital for Christmas on the Potomac!** You'll be met and assisted with your transfer to the **Gaylord National Resort** for the next five nights. Nothing says Christmas more than the Gaylord during the holiday season! Witness its **nightly indoor snowfall** and **Sights and Sounds of the Season Laser Show!** You'll be mesmerized by the region's most beautiful Christmas decorations, with thousands of twinkling lights and a 55-foot-tall **Starlight Christmas tree** suspended over the indoor garden atrium. Enjoy tonight's dinner on your own at the resort or along the scenic waterfront, with your evening free to relax, shop or explore the resort's many attractions. A **free trolley shuttle** operates with stops at the nearby MGM Casino, Tanger Outlet Stores and the many enticing National Harbor restaurants and shops. You'll also be treated to a complimentary ride on the popular **Capital Wheel** anytime during your stay, with its stunning views of the entire DC landscape!

Overnight: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center

December 9, 2024 - Arlington Cemetery and Monument Lights

After breakfast, you'll head out to visit the **United States Botanic Garden**. Established by Congress in 1820, it's one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America and its **Season's Greenings** exhibit overflows with poinsettias seemingly everywhere! After lunch on your own in historic **Union Station** with its holiday train display, you'll depart for the Visitor's Center of **Arlington National Cemetery**. No land in America is more sacred than this square mile of America's shrine to valor and sacrifice, and the final resting place for **President John F. Kennedy**, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Robert F. Kennedy, Audie Murphy and thousands of soldiers from every major U.S. war. Its **Tomb of the Unknowns** speaks of a nation's debt to the many whose ultimate sacrifice helped make this nation free. You'll then visit the **Pathway of**

Peace to view the always impressive **National Christmas Tree**, a large evergreen placed in the Ellipse near the White House. Each year since 1923, the massive tree has been decorated for Christmas and traditionally lit by America's President. After tonight's included dinner, you'll take an **Illuminated Monument Driving Tour**, seeing the **Kennedy Center**, **Washington Monument**, the **Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima Statue)**, the **Air Force Memorial** and more. Washington's grand buildings, memorials, and monuments gleam brightly enough in daytime, but when illuminated at night, their solid stones and bronzes seem even more detailed, as fountains and water features shimmer in reflection and shadows deepen to better highlight the floodlit surfaces. Impressive in daylight - truly stunning at night!

Overnight: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center (B/D)

December 10, 2024 - National Cathedral and Hillwood Estate

After breakfast you'll ride past Washington's **Embassy Row**, home to more embassies than any other city in the world. These stately foreign embassies were once the elegant late-19th-century mansions of DC's political leaders and socialites. You'll then visit **Washington National Cathedral**, the 14th-Century style Gothic wonder covering 57 acres that took 83 years to build. Standing higher than the Washington Monument, it's the sixth largest church in the world! Next comes your tour of **Hillwood Estate and Museum**, where first you'll enjoy your included lunch at the estate's cafe. Once home to cereal heiress **Marjorie Merriweather Post**, Hillwood features one of the finest collections of Russian Imperial art and 18th-century French decorative arts. With nearly **90 Fabergé pieces** and the only **Royal Russian Crown** outside of Russia, this collection is truly astounding! After strolling the estate's gorgeous gardens, you'll top off this afternoon with your tour of the famed **Mansion on O Street** with over 100 uniquely themed rooms and 70 secret doors. Meticulously stylish and imaginative, each room is lavishly decorated with fine art, antiques and

elegant furnishings, including original Tiffany stained glass windows and wood carvings. Following tonight's included dinner at a longtime DC favorite, it's time to take your seat at the legendary **Ford's Theatre** for its music-infused production of "**A Christmas Carol**," capturing all the dramatic and heartwarming magic and joy of Dickens' Yuletide classic!

Overnight: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center (B/L/D)

December 11, 2024 - Mount Vernon and Old Town Alexandria

After breakfast on this leisurely morning, you have free time to explore your resort, perhaps to shop at the nearby stores, or you might choose to use your **complimentary tickets to ICE!**, the Gaylord's signature themed holiday show featuring treasured characters and stories in magnificent hand-carved ice sculptures. After lunch on your own, you'll depart for beautiful **Mount Vernon**, George Washington's country estate and **America's most visited historic house**, sitting on a grassy, shaded slope overlooking the Potomac. Now joyfully decked out, "**Christmas at Mount Vernon**" features holiday decorations including 12 Christmas trees, a gingerbread Mount Vernon replica and more! You'll also find some of the most unique and wonderful holiday shopping of the season here, as you explore new Colonial-style holiday traditions for your own home, friends and family. Enjoy the beautifully decorated mansion and grounds, and watch 18th-century demonstrations with stories of Christmases past from costumed characters. You'll then depart for a tour of **Old Town Alexandria** and follow our 18th century costumed guides as they lead you by lantern light while entertaining you with stories, legends and folklore of colonial Alexandria. You'll be charmed by Alexandria's quaint streets lined with 18th century houses and historic buildings, including **Christ Church** where George Washington and Robert E. Lee worshipped. You'll see an Apothecary Shop that's now a museum and gift shop run by a Quaker family, as well as **Robert E. Lee's Boyhood home**. After your included dinner at a local favorite, you'll return for the evening at your resort to enjoy its brilliant holiday light shows and perhaps use your complimentary pass to take a nighttime ride on the **Capitol Wheel!**

Overnight: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center (B/D)

December 12, 2024 - Museum of the Bible and the Smithsonian

Following breakfast, you'll visit the new **Museum of the Bible**, on the **bucket list** of all who visit Washington DC! Discover one of the **world's largest private collections of biblical objects and artifacts**, as the adventure and drama of the Bible come to life in riveting presentations. From the History of the Bible to the Impact of the Bible, the galleries of this beautifully designed museum offer an experience you'll never forget! Then you'll head to the National Mall where you'll have most of the afternoon, including lunch on your own, to visit your choice of all the iconic **Smithsonian Institution's museums!** One inviting option is the recently renovated **National Museum of American History**, with its new state-of-the-art gallery offering a spectacular view of the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner. Other great Smithsonian choices include the **Museum of Natural History, Air and Space Museum, National Gallery of Art**, Museum of the American Indian, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the new Museum of African American History and Culture. Then you'll be treated to a one-of-a-kind yearly event at the **Downtown Holiday Market**, bringing a unique and festive shopping "village" to the heart of Downtown DC! Featuring more than 150 regional artisans, crafters and boutiques, you can browse for countless unique gift items, such as jewelry, pottery, paintings, and textiles. You'll also find festive holiday entertainment, plus tasty snacks and seasonal treats. Or alternatively, you might prefer to visit the nearby **National Portrait Gallery** with its impressive **Hall of Presidents**, housed in the magnificent "Old Patent Office Building" with a unique collection of famous Americans' portraits from politics, sports, literature, and stage and screen. Later on, enjoy a free last evening at your resort on the National Harbor, with dinner on your own, and perhaps afterward a complimentary nightcap at the **Gaylord's Pose Lounge or Belvedere Bar**.

Overnight: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center (B)

December 13, 2024 - Flight Museum and Return Home

After your breakfast and check-out, you'll be assisted with your airport transfer for your flight home. **Wonderful memories of your Capitol Christmas at the Gaylord will be with you for years!**

(B)

CST # 2057913-10

**Please note that itineraries are subject to change.

A Capitol Christmas in DC

\$4,698.00

per person / double occupancy

Single Supplement is an additional \$998.00



Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and recommended.

Check with your club representative for details.

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airport transfers including gratuities
- Roundtrip airfare to Washington DC area (checked baggage fees not included)
- **5 nights lodging at Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center!**
- 3 dinners, 1 lunch and breakfast daily at your resort hotel
- **Visit with admission to the new Museum of the Bible!**
- All admissions and visits as described in the detailed itinerary including Hillwood Estate and Gardens, Mount Vernon, Ford's Theatre's "A Christmas Carol," Arlington National Cemetery, Washington National Cathedral, National Archives, Vietnam Memorial, Korean War Memorial, US Botanic Gardens, Smithsonian Museums and more
- Services of a full time escort while in Washington DC
- TRIPS ticket wallet and luggage tags
- Porterage of 1 suitcase per person
- All government fees, taxes and fuel surcharges

Call today to reserve your space!!! Reservations for "**A Capitol Christmas in DC at the Gaylord**" are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$650.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour. Your deposit is fully refundable up to August 30, 2024.

Final payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before August 30, 2024.

Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted to your club director at least 10 days prior to this date.

100% non-refundable as of August 30, 2024.

Make checks payable to **First State Bank / Travel and Leisure Club**

c/o Brook McCarty - Penny James

PO Box 506 / Waynesboro, MS 39367

(601) 671-2050 - Brook McCarty or Penny James

The taxes, fuel surcharges, and other fees imposed by airlines and cruise lines have been included in the cost of your tour as of printing on May 9, 2023. Any increases in these fees or baggage fees imposed by any air carriers or cruise lines are the responsibility of the individual passenger. TRIPS makes arrangements with airlines, hotels and other independent parties to provide travel services you purchase. We do not own or operate any of the accommodation, transport or other facilities used in connection with our programs. We therefore cannot accept liability for negligence of the staff of these organizations. These parties are independent suppliers over whom we have no direct control. TRIPS is not liable in the event of any failure by any person or company to render any transportation, accommodation or other travel service provided on tours, or for expenses incurred due to delays caused by weather, strikes, war, civil disturbances, natural disasters, flight delays, government actions, mechanical failures or any acts of God. TRIPS cannot assume any responsibility for flight delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom, and such expenses are to be borne by the traveler. Specific airline Conditions of Carriage will apply. These conditions are the subject of International Agreements and may limit or exclude liability. The participant waives any claim against TRIPS for any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, due to any act or negligence of any airlines, surface transportation companies, hotels or any person rendering any of the services or accommodations included. TRIPS cannot be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages for delay of baggage or other properties, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset and disappointment, distress or frustrations, whether physical or mental, resulting from the act or omission of any party providing services. The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death and that participation in activities, including but not limited to: driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, horseback and any other activities. The information contained in this brochure and online has been compiled with all reasonable care, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is given in good faith. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which services are rendered. Payment for any TRIPS tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in these Terms & Conditions and is binding on all travel participants.



Travel & Leisure Club

“A Capitol Christmas” Registration Form

Please complete and return with your \$650 **per person** deposit.

Name: _____

(MUST BE EXACTLY AS IT IS ON YOUR DRIVER’S LICENSE THAT WILL BE USED FOR THIS TRIP.)

Any charges by airline for name changes will be the responsibility of the passenger.

Name on Badge: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Email: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Work): _____ (Cell): _____

I am a Travel and Leisure Club Member (Circle one) YES NO

Travel Companion Information

Name: _____

Lodging preference: ___ Double ___ King ___ Single

Other lodging options may be available upon request.

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone #: _____

Please note if your birthday or anniversary occur during the tour:

Occasion: _____ Date of celebration: _____

Group Seating on Flights: Each air carrier has a different policy for group seating. Many times, group seats are allocated in blocks by the airline. In some instances, seats are not allocated at all in advance of travel. We understand that each passenger has personal preferences in regards to airline seating. However, aircraft group seating is dictated exclusively by each carrier and we are not permitted to request any special seating in regards to group travel. Our goal is to provide a travel experience that exceeds your expectations. However, the seating policies of the air carriers are beyond our control.

Travel Protection: () Yes, I wish to purchase Travel Protection () No, I decline Travel Protection

SIGNATURE REQUIRED: I have read, received a copy of, understand, and accept the terms and conditions stated in the Operator/Participant Agreement located on the specific tour brochure.

Signature: _____

Deposit Amount: _____ Date Received: _____

Reservations can only be confirmed when full deposit amount and insurance decision has been received.