

A MORE PERFECT UNION: VISIONS OF AMERICA THEN AND NOW

Meals: B – breakfast L – lunch D – dinner

Day 1 (Sunday, October 4)

We will gather at 3 pm in the hotel library to get acquainted and launch right into our first discussion.

After a welcome aperitif at The Morris House, we will take a short stroll around the neighbourhood to get our bearings and stop at 7 pm for dinner at a local bistro.

Hotel: The Morris House

Meals: D

Discussion 1: “City on a Hill” and Declaration of Independence

Day 2 (Monday, October 5)

After breakfast, we will have our second discussion in the hotel library.

We will then walk a few blocks to the historic City Tavern for lunch (215-413-1443)

After lunch, we will meet our guide for a private guided tour of historical Old Philadelphia. The walk will take two hours. We will enter several sites, and you will be able to identify those you wish to return to in your free time. You will have a couple hours of free time in late afternoon to catch a nap or explore on your own.

The evening is free for you to discover Philadelphia at night. There will be an optional dinner at local restaurant (not included in fee) for all those interested.

Hotel: The Morris House **Meals:** B L

Discussion 2: Federalist Papers (selections)

Day 3 (Tuesday, October 6)

After breakfast, we meet in the library for our third discussion.

We will go to America’s oldest farmers’ market The Reading Terminal where you will have an exhilarating choice of spots to have an early lunch.

After lunch we will visit Independence Hall and the nearby Constitution Centre.

After a brief time to put up your feet we will set out for dinner at The Victor Café. (1303 Dickinson St., 215-468-3040) Opened in the 1930s, Victor's is a South Philly shrine to opera, with servers who deliver arias along with hearty Italian classics. Opened in the 1930s

Meals: The Morris House

Meals: B D

Discussion 3: Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America* (selections)

Day 4 (Wednesday, October 7)

After breakfast, we meet in the library for our fourth discussion.

We head out to Jackie's Firehouse Grill for lunch, followed by a tour of the Eastern State Penitentiary considered one of America's most historic former prisons open from 1829-1971. Its revolutionary system of incarceration was the first to establish the policy of solitary confinement, emphasizing principles of reform rather than punishment. Notorious criminals such as bank robber Willie Sutton and Al Capone were held inside its unique wagon wheel design. When the building was erected it was the largest and most expensive public structure ever constructed, quickly becoming a model for more than 300 prisons worldwide.

We will convene at a local watering hole for happy hour. There will be an optional dinner at local restaurant (not included in fee) for all those interested.

Hotel: The Morris House

Meals: B, L, aperitif

Discussion 4: Andrew Delbanco's *The Real American Dream: A Meditation on Hope*

Day 5 (Thursday, October 8)

After a leisurely breakfast, Susan and Miles Davis, passionate Philadelphians (and old friends of Ann Kirkland) will take us on a quirky and personal walking tour of their favourite local haunts, some of the including some of the more than 2,000 wall murals have been painted so far on walls around the city and the 9th Street Italian Market, one of the oldest and largest open-air markets in America.

We officially conclude our trip at the end of this walk. If your travel plans permit, you may wish will stay on for an optional lunch in the Italian Market.

Hotel: The Morris House

Meals: B

There is so much more to see and do in Philadelphia. If you will be coming from a distance, you may wish to extend your stay to visit some of the many more sites and museums, such as the Philadelphia Art Museum, The Franklin Institute, The Barnes Collection...