



Faith and Nation

Featuring The Museum of the Bible & Queen Esther at Sight and Sound

5 Nights / 6 Days

Washington, D.C. & Lancaster

Day One - Shrines & Monastery

Arrive at **Union Station** and enjoy **lunch on your own**. The city's main train station is a classic Beaux-Arts design of monumental proportions. Restored to its original grandeur in the 1980s, Union Station features a large food court, a movie theater, shops, and kiosks. Meet **GUIDE** at entrance of parking garage and depart. Visit the **Basilica of the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception** where you see the largest Roman Catholic Church in North America and one of the ten largest churches in the world. Later arrive at the **Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land** – Over 40 acres of roses, azaleas, tulips, and more, the Franciscan Monastery is a continuous flower festival. Franciscan father Godfrey Schilling founded the monastery in 1897 to educate Franciscan missionaries to the Holy Land. This stately retreat features an enclosed garden with a statue of St. Francis and Holy Land Shrines. The Monastery's main attraction is the eerie catacombs that echo the environment in which the early Christians hid. Visit **Saint John Paul II National Shrine**. Designated as a national shrine on March 14, 2014, this is a place of pilgrimage, displaying two 'first class' relics of Saint John from the Romans. Enjoy **dinner included** at a **popular D.C. restaurant**. Depart and check-in to **area hotel**. (Meals: D)

Day Two - Museum of the Bible, Embassy Row, & Cathedrals

Enjoy **breakfast** at your hotel then visit the **Museum of the Bible** – Tour this amazing new state-of-the-art, 420,000 square foot facility. Spend the afternoon discovering one of the World's largest private collections of biblical objects and artifacts which conveys the global impact and compelling history of the Bible in a unique and powerful way. Enjoy **lunch on own** while visiting the museum then meet your **GUIDE** at the entrance of the museum and depart. Drive on **Embassy Row**. After the Civil War, the powerful and socially elite built large mansions along Massachusetts Ave. After the Great Depression, many of the families who built these homes went broke. Today, the area is known as Embassy Row. Embassies, associations, foundations, and clubs have claimed and restored these lovely homes. Tour the **Washington National Cathedral** – In a city of impressive monuments, memorials, and historic sites, the National Cathedral is unique. Standing higher than the Washington Monument, it is the sixth largest church in the world. This 14-century style Gothic wonder is situated on 57 acres and took 83 years to build. Helen Keller and Woodrow Wilson, the only president buried within Washington, D.C., are interred here. It is a living symbol of our country's heritage of faith and religious freedom. Depart and **Tour the St. Nicholas Orthodox**

Cathedral – The National War Memorial Shrine, Gateway to Orthodoxy in the Nation's Capital. Enjoy **dinner included** on the waterfront in Georgetown. Continue with an **Illuminated Monument Driving Tour** – Washington's grand buildings, memorials, and monuments sparkle and are impressive during the day; but in the evening they are illuminated and soft, focusing on the solid stones and bronzes; fountains and water features shimmer in reflection; shadows darken, highlighting the floodlit detail. Impressive during the day – stunning at night! Walk through **The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** to see amazing views from the terrace and the famous bronze bust of John F. Kennedy in the grand foyer. Two months after President Kennedy's assassination in November 1963, Congress designated the National Cultural Center as a "living memorial" to Kennedy and authorized \$23 million to help build what is now known as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. During your tour today, drive by the **Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima Statue)**, the **Air Force Memorial**, the **Washington Monument**, and the **National World War II Memorial**. Return to the hotel for the remainder of the evening. (Meals: B, D)

Day Three - Cathedral and Biblical Scriptures & References Tour

Enjoy **breakfast** at your hotel this morning then depart and visit **St. Matthew's Cathedral**. This cathedral is one of the most impressive houses of worship in the United States. It has been cited as having one of the most beautiful church interiors of modern times. The funeral for President John F. Kennedy was held here on November 25, 1963. Depart and meet your **GUIDE** for **one of a kind tours featuring biblical scriptures and references** to our **Christian Heritage** all around the **Nation's Capital: Jefferson Memorial, US Capitol Building, Congressional Prayer Room, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, Holocaust Memorial Museum (lunch on own while visiting), Martin Luther King Memorial, Washington Monument, & Lincoln Memorial**. Enjoy dinner included this evening at a local favorite restaurant, then return to your hotel for the evening. (Meals: B, D)

Day Four - Smithsonian's on the National Mall & Amish Dinner

Enjoy **breakfast** at your hotel this morning prior to check out. Visit your choice of the **Smithsonian Institution's** museums on the **National Mall**. Visit the **National Museum of African American History and Culture**, the newest museum on the National Mall opened September 24, 2016. The NMAAHC is a museum that seeks to understand American history through the lens of the African



American experience. Visit the **National Museum of American History** – View the Museum of American History's complete make-over and renovation! Browse through the state-of-the-art gallery that offers a spectacular view of the **Star-Spangled Banner** and view the exhibits that top the list of must-sees for any visitor with a taste for true Americana. See the First Ladies' inaugural gowns, quilts, cars, locomotives, and much more! Visit the **National Air & Space Museum** – Experience the history of flight at one of the world's most visited museums, from the plane flown by the Wright Brothers to the Apollo 11 command module. Features an incredible collection of aviation and space technology treasures. Visit the **National Museum of Natural History** – The Hope Diamond, dinosaur fossils, and the world's largest African bush elephant top the amazing natural treasures on display, along with a live insect zoo. Experience something of the unique nature and welcoming spirit of **The National Museum of the American Indian**. From the American Southwest, Hawaii, Canada, South, and Central America you will feel the spirit of these native people. See items from the great American pyramid builders to the beautiful craftsmanship of North, Central, and South America's indigenous people. The **National Gallery of Art** houses an outstanding collection of masterpieces tracing the development of Western art from the Middle Ages to the present. The original West Building concentrates primarily on European works from the 13th century, while its contemporary counterpart, the East Building, highlights works of modern artists. Visit the **Freer & Sackler Gallery**. The Freer & Sackler galleries boast one of the finest museum collections of Chinese art outside of China, with over ten thousand objects dating from Neolithic times (ca. 700 – ca. 2000 B.C.E.) to the present. While the sheer number of items is impressive, it is their variety and quality that is truly remarkable, with nearly every medium and category of Chinese art represented. Visit the **Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden** – This donut-shaped building boasts a collection of 19th and 20th century paintings and sculptures. The **National Museum of African Art** – The only museum in the United States dedicated exclusively to the collection, exhibition, and study of the traditional arts of sub-Saharan Africa. Lunch on own while visiting museums. Depart and arrive in Lancaster, PA. Enjoy **dinner included** at a local hot spot! A typical dinner may include crispy fried chicken, baked country ham or sausage, roast beef, real whipped potatoes, buttered noodles, vegetables, chow chow, freshpepper cabbage, homemade bread, shoo fly pie, and much more! Be sure to allow enough time for exploring **Good n' Plenty's** bake shop and gift shop. Depart and check into your area hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Day Five - Ephrata Cloister & Sight and Sound's 'Queen Esther'

Enjoy a **buffet breakfast** this morning then board your motorcoach and depart. Visit the **Mennonite Information Center** – A Museum and historical library dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories of Mennonite faith and life in eastern Pennsylvania. Mennonite Christians first settled in the Delaware Valley in 1683 and have been part of eastern Pennsylvania's community and religious life for over 300 years. Enjoy a showing of **"Who are the Amish?"** – A highly acclaimed 3 screen feature explaining the faith, practices, and spirit of the Amish. Visit **Biblical Tabernacle Reproduction** – The Bible comes alive with our life-sized replica of Moses' Tabernacle in the Wilderness as described in the Scriptures. Enjoy this unique and moving 45-minute guided tour. Board your motorcoach and depart for the **Clip, Clop, and Shop experience at Kitchen Kettle Village**. Enjoy a lunch on own, buggy ride tour of the farmlands, and shopping at the shops featuring Amish wares. The Amish are known for simple living, plain dress, and reluctance to adopt many conveniences of modern technology. Depart and tour **Ephrata Cloister** – Conrad Beissel, who attempted to influence his German Baptist Brethren with his more emotional and spiritual mysticism, particularly his teachings regarding Sabbath (Saturday) worship and celibacy, founded this "experiment in faith" in 1732. Enjoy a **farewell dinner included** at local restaurant. Arrive at **Sight and Sound Theatre** and enjoy the show featuring **Queen Esther** ('Jesus' not available at Lancaster location). Original Biblical shows are performed on an epic scale. The theatre features a 300-foot-long wraparound stage and state of the art lighting, sound, and special effects. Return to the hotel for the evening. (Meals: B, D)

Day Six - Amish Faith Tour & Depart

Enjoy a **buffet breakfast** this morning at the hotel prior to **checking out**. Meet your **GUIDE for Amish Faith Tours** this morning. Experience Lancaster's Living Heritage at America's first Amish attraction! Come explore where today touches history at the **Amish Farm and House** and learn about the unique culture of Lancaster County's Old Order Amish. The historic 1805 farmhouse, which was last occupied by a real Amish family, is furnished like a modern Amish home. Your highly knowledgeable guide will explain the history, customs, clothing, and culture as you visit the various rooms of the home. You will learn the "whys" behind many of the traditions on this tour. Depart for home, stop for lunch on own en route. (Meals: B)

Rates starting at \$699/pp/dbl

Mid-Atlantic Tours & Receptive Services

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Tour Includes: 5 nights' hotel accommodation; 5 breakfasts; 5 dinners; admissions to events and guide service as stated in the itinerary. Based on 35 paying passengers and one (1) comp in double occupancy. Rates subject to increase. Based on availability and while supplies last. Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No ST39040; State of California Seller of Travel Reg. No 2121204-40