

Stagecoach to Motorcoach... Traveling the Old Post Road

Harford & Cecil Counties MD and New Castle County DE

DAY 1:

10:30 - 2:35 *Historic Havre de Grace*

The picturesque town of Havre de Grace received its current name from a colonial visitor - the Marquis de Lafayette. Located on the Susquehanna River at the top of Chesapeake Bay, it reminded him of a town in France named Le Havre. Citizens embraced the new name, which means Harbor of Grace. In 1789 during the nation's first meeting of Congress, leaders were tasked with selecting a town to become the U.S. capital. Havre de Grace received one vote shy of a place called Washington DC. Historian Mike Dixon will share the town's history and connection to the Old Post Road. He'll accompany visitors to museums which preserve and interpret the important heritage and culture of the decoy and maritime industries of the town.

10:30 - 11:30 *Decoy Museum*

Havre de Grace is known as the Decoy Capital of the World. Step back in time to learn about the Susquehanna Flats and why flocks of birds descended on the area.

11:45 - 12:45 *Lunch at MacGregors Restaurant*

Dine in the heart of downtown.

12:45 - 1:30 *Shopping*

Take time to explore this fascinating city on your own. Voted one of the Best Small Towns in America.

1:30 - 2:30 *Maritime Museum*

Explore the history behind the mystery of the role of water in our nation's past. Learn the role the waterway played from early settlers to the underground railroad to today and beyond. Where the Susquehanna River meets the Chesapeake Bay.

2:35 *Depart town*

2:35 - 3:00 *Drive past Rodgers Tavern & Principio Furnace along the Old Post Road*

3:00 - 3:30 *Best Western ~ North East Inn*

3:30 *Depart hotel*

3:45 - 5:20 *"Taste of North East" - Main Street*

This waterside town experienced settlement as early as the 17th Century. The Northeast River and Old Post Road played a significant role in its early years. Native Americans traded their wares, mills were built, and farmers and fishermen prospered. Residents and visitors once

arriving by horseback or stagecoach, now arrive via boats and cars to visit the vibrant small town. Shops filled with gifts, fashions, antiques, and specialty foods surround award winning local restaurants along a friendly Main Street. The first stop is Port House Grill for a delicious sample. Wander south for a few blocks on Main to enjoy shopping and sampling along the way.

5:25 Bus departs from historic St Mary Anne's Church, Main Street

5:45 – 7:15 Dinner at *The Wellwood Restaurant*

Enjoy a delicious group-friendly “Crab Feast” for seafood and non-seafood lovers alike, at an eatery with fascinating heritage!

7:20 - Depart

7:35 *Hollywood Casino Perryville - Free slot-play and sweet munchies*
(departure time for Best Western TBD)

DAY 2:

7:00 – 8:30 *Breakfast at hotel*

8:35 - Depart

9:00 – 9:30 *Fair Hill*

Learn about a prestigious new equestrian event – “Maryland 5 at Fair Hill”. It’s one of only two of its kind in the USA, and seven world-wide*

9:30 - Depart

10:15 – 12:30 *Hagley Museum*

Take a journey through the historic DuPont Company’s impressive black powder complex and the first Du Pont family home, gardens, and office in the United States. The Hagley tour will illustrate what makes Hagley unique – black powder yards, a machine shop that demonstrates early industrial ingenuity, a water turbine that brings eight-ton iron roll mills to life, and a black powder explosion. The tour wouldn’t be complete without a visit to the Barn to see the covered wagon and other vehicles that would have traveled the Old Post Road. Tour guests will hear from speaker and Hagley Historian, Lucas Clawson, during lunch.

12:30 – 1:40 *Lunch at Hagley*

12:50 - Depart

2:30 – 5:20 *Historic New Castle*

Experience the charm and beauty of colonial New Castle located on the Delaware River. This captivating town founded in 1651 is steeped in history. In 1682 William Penn came ashore at New Castle to take control of the colony of Pennsylvania. In 1704 he granted the "Lower Three Counties" (today's Delaware) independent status. New Castle became the colonial capitol of Delaware, but in 1777 the state moved the capital to Dover. Today the town is a popular place to live, work, and visit. Tour guide Mike Connelly will talk about its importance as a colonial transportation hub and guide the group to historic buildings.

Tour includes:

Visitor Center at the Arsenal
Amstel House
Immanuel Church
Strand, wharf & battery

Court House
Dutch House
Read House

5:20 - Walk to Jessop's

5:30 - 7:30 Dinner at Jessop's Tavern & Colonial Restaurant

The Colonial themed tavern, named after its original owner - Abraham Jessop, represents the English, Dutch, Belgian, and Swedish presence in the region.

7:30 - Depart

8:00 - Homemade sweet treat from the farm, at Best Western (Kilby Cream Ice Cream)

DAY 3:

7:00 - 8:15 Breakfast & Check out - Best Western

8:20 - Depart

During the ride to Mt Harmon, step-on guide Wayne Hill will provide narrative about a destination we don't have time to visit. The tiny but fascinating town of Port Deposit has a unique and abundant heritage.

9:25 - 10:40 - Mt. Harmon Plantation

This beautiful 200 acre waterfront plantation and nature preserve, circa 1700s, is located at what old maps called - World's End. Travel back in time as you ride along a tree lined, two mile lane, winding through the woods and past farm fields. Tour guide Paige Howard will share the plantation's heritage with a tour of the manor house, colonial kitchen, slave quarters, boxwood garden, and more. This special destination is a hidden heritage gem!

10:45 - Depart

11:15 - 12:15 Walking tour of Chesapeake City

Author and professor David Healey, will lead a walking tour of this picturesque, 19th Century village along the banks of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. When the new nautical route was built, it sparked the creation of a town. As shipping ensued, houses and businesses sprung up along the shorelines. Today this scenic town is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a tourist destination with waterfront restaurants, historic bed & breakfast inns, and shops. Ships and pleasure vessels from around the globe pass through the canal and slip beneath the town's majestic bridge on their way to ports near and far.

12:15 - Go inside Chesapeake Inn's ballroom

Pick up box lunches and visit the restroom

12:30 - Depart for BWI