

Tall Ships & Southern Charm Maryland's Eastern Shore

Four Day Tour ~ October 30 – November 2, 2025

Highlights: Three Charming Nights among the Historic Luxury of The Tidewater Inn • Sultana Downrigging: Tall Ship & Wooden Boat Festival, Chestertown • Tours of the Tall Ships • Tall Ship Sail *weather/availability permitting • Sinking Springs Herb Farm at Bristol Plantation • Historic Wye Grist Mill • African American Schoolhouse • Lawrence Wetlands Preserve • Oxford Museum • Charming Oxford Walking Tour • Splendid St. Michaels • Captivating Charlestown • Mount Harmon Plantation • Lums Pond Nature Center & Trails • Cambridge Evening Ghost Tour • All Breakfasts • Three Lunches • Fully Escorted

What do you get when you combine the largest annual gathering of Tall Ships in North America with one of the most charming historic small towns in America and a little dash of bluegrass? The Sultana Downrigging Weekend! So, let's make our way south to the Eastern Shore of Maryland where we'll find quaint Chesapeake Bay towns that contain a collage of charming churches, manicured federal, colonial and Victorian homes, historic maritime heritage, diverse artistic talents, and pleasant southern culture. Our festival day will be filled with music, sailing, ship tours, lectures, and exhibits among the tree-lined brick streets of captivating Chestertown. Further exploration will take us to the relaxed, sleepy bay towns of St. Michaels, Oxford, Easton, and Cambridge where each day begins with a peaceful, glorious view and ends at night in candlelight elegance. Why not slip away on our southern adventure where we'll toast to the Halloween season in quaint bayside towns, discover maritime and Chesapeake history, run from ghosts, and relax the night away!

Day 1. As we make our way south, we'll make a scenic leg stretching stop at the lovely Lums Pond State Park, Delaware's largest freshwater pond. Take a wander along the Swamp Forest Trail that winds around the picture perfect pond through serene wetland forests and browse the Whale Wallow Nature Center for interesting information on native flora and fauna. Now we make our way for a special treat on a scenic 130-acre farm at historic Bristol Plantation. Here at historic Sinking Springs Herb Farm we will enjoy a delicious lunch in a rural setting featuring an 18th century provincial plantation log house, a rustic barn with a bright airy loft, delightful aromatic gardens, and a private pond with an island. There will be time to stroll and explore the grounds, including the amazing 442-year-old sycamore tree born in 1578 and connect with nature through creation of a thyme craft. As we continue south along Maryland's Eastern Shore, we must stop at the Old Wye Mill that's been grinding grain since 1682. Take your time to wander through this technological time capsule and discover its age-old secrets. Once we enter the idyllic small town of Easton, we'll check into our charming rooms at the historic Tidewater Inn and relax before hitting the town filled with lovely restaurants for dinner and exploration on your own.



Sultana Downrigging Tall Ship



Quaint Chesapeake Towns

Day 2. Before our big Downrigging Festival day, let's stop by the one room Worton Point Schoolhouse built for the African American community from 1890-1958 for a quick tour. Onto captivating Chestertown for some Downrigging Fun! Spend the day among the charming town filled with historic character from its uneven quaint brick streets to its beautifully maintained 18th century homes. Step onto the decks of the fascinating Tall Ships and watch as they sail away (we're hoping to be on one of them!). Take a stroll along the meandering trail of the Lawrence Wetlands Preserve that winds through meadows, woods, and wetlands. If we don't make the Tall Ship sail, enjoy the Music Festival Village where you can relax next to a cozy fire pit and dance to the rhythm of the best bluegrass bands in the region. Find a tasty bite from local food vendors until the glow from the illuminated Tall Ships catches your eye. Once back at the comfy Tidewater Inn, have a great night's sleep!

Day 3. Let's step into the entrancing charm of the tranquil town of Oxford where the local museum will reveal 350 years of colonial history from when the town was one of the country's earliest ports to the present day as a premier sailing destination. We'll follow the walking tour path through town to see the historic highlights and hear local stories straight out of the past. Give your legs a rest while we relax for an included lunch at a fun local spot. Now that your legs are ready to go, we'll wander the idyllic waterfront village of St. Michaels, historically known as "the town that fooled the British". You'll be immediately taken by its charm and historical feel as you stroll the randomly patterned brick sidewalks that take you past homes dating back to the mid-1600. Once back at the Tidewater Inn, have a relaxing night here or join us as we travel to the charming Chesapeake town of Cambridge where we'll grab a quick bite before a Ghost Walk on the most haunted street in Maryland. Let's leave the ghosts behind and head back to our warm, comfy Tidewater Inn for a peaceful night's sleep.

Day 4. Before we say goodbye to the lovely Eastern Shore, we must visit Mount Harmon, a beautiful historic tidewater plantation set among a serene nature preserve. With history spanning over four centuries, there will be a lot to learn on our guided tour of the 18th century manor house, colonial kitchen and hearth, smoke house and herb garden, replica slave quarters and tobacco barn. Let's enjoy our last included local lunch in charming Chesapeake City set on the banks of the C&D canal. North is now our direction as we make our way home to New Jersey filled with memories of Southern charm.

Departs Ridgewood Graydon Pool, corner of Linwood Ave & Northern Pkwy at 7:00 AM and returns at approx. 8:30 PM

Departs Madison's Kings Road Parking Lot, 62 Kings Rd. at 7:45 AM and returns at approximately 7:45 PM

Departs South Plainfield High School at the end of Lane Ave at 8:30 AM and returns at approximately 7:00 PM

Price per person is \$1,825 Twin & \$2,275 Single. No reservations accepted without a deposit of \$150 per person. Make checks payable to Group Tours & Travel and mail to the included address. Final payment is due August 5, 2025. Deposits are fully refundable if cancellation occurs on or before August 5, 2025. There are no refunds if cancellation occurs after August 5, 2025. Travel protection/cancellation coverage is available and highly recommended (approximately 10% of the total cost of the tour) but not included. One piece of luggage per person and one carry-on are permitted. Group Tours is not responsible for any delays, cancellations, injuries or circumstances beyond its control and reserves the right to change this itinerary. All trip components are subject to change in accordance with Government, State and Local guidelines and/or mandates. This tour will run rain or shine. Visit www.educatedwanderer.com for additional tours and pictures.

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Please reserve ____ seat(s). The enclosed check is for \$_____ #3365

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

Rooming with: _____ Phone: _____

I will be departing from South Plainfield _____ or Madison _____ or Ridgewood _____

Email for confirmation of registration and final payment _____