

DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB

MEETINGS HELD AT American Legion Hall, 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 304, DAMASCUS MD 20872

2023-2024 Officers

President	Cathy Burke	202-302-4941	Treasurer	Tammy Monarch	301-253-0044
1 st Vice President	Jim Kemp	301-253-2859	Tour Treasurer	Lois Kemp	301-253-2859
2 nd Vice President	Diane Dantagnan	301-428-0144	Historian	Barbara Morten	301-253-5824
Recording Secretary	Teresa Brown	240-375-0387	Membership Chair	Barbara Walker	301-253-1519
Corresponding Secretary	Judy Cullen	301-972-0137	Chaplain	Dee Nelson	301-740-1555

Refreshments: Cheryl Shores: 240-605-6255

APRIL 2024

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON APRIL 2 AT 1 PM

from Cathy Burke, President

We are growing about as fast as the spring flowers! We had a whopping 106 members and guests at our March meeting compared to 82 at last year's March meeting. Many of our new members are requesting how they can help. Well, we have a big volunteer "need." We've received the resignation of Lois Kemp, our Tour Treasurer, effective July 1. This position plays a crucial role, requiring an accounting background, attention to detail and someone who loves to work as a team member with other members, the board and Tour Leaders. Without a Tour Treasurer, our trips will be impacted. Please find a copy of the Tour Treasurer position job description below for your consideration. Lois will work with us to help train whomever steps into this role. Lois has 13 years of experience doing this job, so you will learn from the master. Let's work together to ensure the continued success of our club. If you have any questions or wish to express interest in this role, we need to hear from you immediately. We have not received any candidates yet. Please consider this board position and contact me immediately at 202-302-4941.

Tour Treasurer Job Description – *The Tour Treasurer shall give a full report of all receipts and expenditures from the prior month at each Club meeting showing the Tour Account's financial condition. S/he shall have the responsibility of receiving all Trip Reservation Forms, paying all trip bills, and preparing attendee lists for all trips. These lists will be provided to the appropriate Tour Leaders. All Payment/Reimbursement Request Forms will become part of each trip file to support payments made and be available for review by the Auditor(s). A list of all funds and checks received will be tabulated for each trip and attached to a copy of the corresponding deposit slip. The Treasurer will also balance the Tour Account checkbook monthly and keep all monthly bank statements in an organized manner. In addition, the records will be audited annually in August/September and the Tour Treasurer needs to make themselves available to the auditor for this function.*



I am hoping you all are working on your wonderful White Elephant donation items for our April 2 meeting. Please remember this event is for "next to new" kitchen items, jewelry, books, glassware, puzzles, dishes, scarves, purses, gloves, decorations, knick-knack items and more!

No clothes. The "looks like new" and quality appeal of your items will help us move along the auction very quickly. If it looks good to you, it will also look good to someone else. Some folks package like items together and make a gift basket out of their items. This should be a good time and remember to come a little early with your donation items so they can be displayed for review and you have time to consider what to buy before the sale.

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Our Spring Luncheon is May 7 at the Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company Reception Hall at 1008 Twin Arch Rd, Mt. Airy, MD, at 1 PM. Our luncheon will include Fried Chicken and Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Stewed Tomatoes, Cole Slaw, Apple Sauce, drinks, and a brownie sundae for dessert. Please make sure your reservation slip and check reach our P.O. Box before April 26. We will also have Senorita Sunshine for our entertainment. She was amazing when we had her before! You do not want to miss this great event.

Enclosed is a Club membership form for you to complete and submit with your annual membership fee of \$25 a person. You must be a member to sign up for trips. Guests will only be considered when a trip is not full. We are so thankful for all of you and your membership. "You" are the club and what keeps this great club going. What a history to be proud of and awesome future to look forward to. See you soon, *Cathy*

A QUICK GLANCE AT OUR UPCOMING TRIPS AND LUNCHEON

Details of these trips will be printed in this and upcoming newsletters.
If you have any questions, please call the tour guide listed with each trip.

Helen Aument: 240-793-6820 Rusty Embrey: 301-871-7069
Joanne Kessler: 301-253-0335 Casey Koontz: 301-831-6746

- April 16** Sweet & Salty in Pennsylvania (*Rusty*)
- May 7** Spring Luncheon, Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company Reception Hall
- May 15** Mystery Trip (*Joanne*)
- NEW! June 12** Buck County Playhouse, New Hope, PA (*Joanne*)
- June 18-20** Explore Historic Virginia (*Casey*)
- NEW! July 21** Tootsie Way Off Broadway, Frederick, MD (*Rusty*)
- July 16-19** Erie Canal & Niagara Falls (*Joanne*)
- NEW! July 31** The Sound of Music, Dutch Apple Dinner Theater (*Rusty*)
- NEW! August 7** Cambridge, Maryland (*Helen*)
- August 11-16** Bar Harbor, Maine (*Casey*)
- NEW! August 23** Lake Tobias Wildlife Park and More (*Joanne*)
- September 11-20** Ireland (*Joanne*)
- NEW! September 18** Historic Harpers Ferry, WV (*Helen*)
- September 30–October 11** Albuquerque, New Mexico (*Casey*)

Note: Please bring your choice of beverage to keep you hydrated on our bus trips.
We do have cups and limited water if someone needs water for medicine. Thanks.

REMEMBER: All money is non-refundable after the final payment FOR ALL TRIPS. This has always been our policy. However, if you cancel after your final payment and someone wants to take your spot, your money will be returned when/if they have paid in full.

CHECK POLICY: Remember the club will not cash your check until we know the trip is a go. This is in case the trip needs to be cancelled and we would therefore need to return your money. Please note your check could be cashed weeks BEFORE your trip once all seats have been reserved and the venue needs to be paid.

PLEASE send ONE CHECK for each activity. DO NOT COMBINE payments for trips and luncheons. It makes it too complicated for our treasurers. **PLEASE DO NOT MAIL ANYTHING TO THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS P.O. BOX 304, DAMASCUS, MD 20872**



JOYS & CONCERNS



- **Happy Birthday** to all our members who were born in April!
- **Happy Anniversary** to couples celebrating their wedding anniversary in April!

If any of the club members have a special birthday or anniversary to report, we would be happy to publish the event. Just send us an email.

If you know of any sunshine joys or concerns, or have a special birthday or anniversary to report, please contact **Ann Gray** at 301-758-5350 (leave a message if necessary) or email her at anngray1@gmail.com

UPCOMING TRIPS

SWEET & SALTY

**Herr's Snack Factory (Nottingham PA)
and Turkey Hill Experience (Columbia PA)
Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

Sweet & Salty is a go!! This is the last call to fill the few vacant seats. Details of trip were in the February Newsletter. This is your last chance to sign up for this fun trip. **Reservations must be in by March 5.** **All this fun and all the good eats and treats for \$124** includes the tour of Herr's factory, hot lunch, Turkey Hill Experience & Lab (ice cream!) transportation, driver's tip and all taxes and gratuities.



We will leave from Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) at 7:30 AM and return approximately by 6:30 PM. Please park on the side of the store parallel to Ridge Road. We have an arrangement with store management to leave our cars. Please plan for traffic and arrive 15 minutes early to board the bus. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-871-7069. My cell on the day of the trip is 202-304-7407.

OUR MYSTERY TRIP

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Wednesday, May 15, 2024

This very popular trip is already full. Please call me if you want to be on a waiting list at 301-253-0335. There will be walking on this trip so wear your comfortable shoes. I hope you will enjoy the day!

We will leave from Weis Market in Damascus (26075 Ridge Road) at 7 AM and return approximately by 7 PM. Please park on the side of the store parallel to Ridge Road. We have an arrangement with store management to leave our cars. Please plan for traffic and arrive 15 minutes early to board the bus. Any questions call me at 301-253-0335.



NEW TRIPS TO CONSIDER

NEW!

NEW HOPE, PA, BUCKS COUNTY PLAYHOUSE

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Join us for a “day away!” Nestled along the banks of the Delaware River, the village of New Hope includes more than 200 years of history. The canal runs through the heart of downtown New Hope. The Bucks County Playhouse was constructed in the early 20th century and has hosted celebrities such as Grace Kelly, Dick Van Dyke and so many others. We will begin our day at the Playhouse Deck for lunch, overlooking the Delaware River. You will have a chance to mix with Broadway actors and artists who come to work at the Playhouse. Our plated lunch is a house salad with shallot dressing, Surf & Turf Duet Plate with a Roasted Salmon Fillet and a Tender Grilled Flat Iron Steak with potatoes, green beans, chocolate mousse, soda, coffee, and tea included. Call me if you need a substitute for this entrée.

After lunch at 1 PM we will enjoy the show “**Noises Off.**” takes a fond look at the follies of theatre folk whose susceptibility to out-of-control egos, memory loss, affairs and more turn every performance into a high-risk adventure. Brimming with slapstick comedy, it is a delightful backstage farce.

Following the show, we will have a walking tour with a leader from New Hope Historical Society and/or shopping time. We leave for home at 5 PM.

Price for this trip is \$239 pp. Full payment is due April 30, 2024. This trip has a very short turn around for reservations because the Playhouse hadn’t settled on its performance and pricing. Sorry for any inconvenience. Price includes motorcoach, lunch, the performance, time in historic New Hope, driver’s gratuity and taxes and tips for our meal and tickets. We will leave from Damascus at 7 AM and return at approximately 8:30 PM. Call me if you have any questions at 301-253-0335.

NEW!

TOOTSIE

Way Off Broadway – Frederick, Maryland

Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Sunday, July 21, 2024

TOOTSIE is the hilarious award-winning musical-comedy. Based on an unemployed actor, Michael Dorsey, who has talent but somehow can’t keep a job, while desperate to make his dreams come true, he disguises himself as Dorothy Michaels in a soap opera to get work. Dorothy has audiences falling for her/him while Michael is falling for his female co-star. All these complications affect his love life and his family. He becomes a star as Dorothy Michaels!

You will have to join us at Way Off Broadway in Frederick to see how this story is going to work out for the price of \$60 which includes the show, buffet, taxes, and tip (if we have 20 people in our group). Includes hot tea or iced tea and coffee. Cash bar on your own. There is no bus. We will car pool to Frederick. The doors open at 12:30 PM. Dress code for this theater is no jeans or shorts. Business casual attire is suggested.

Driving directions will be in the July Newsletter. **Reservations and payment must be in by June 15, 2024.** Any questions, please call me 301-871-7069. Day of the trip my cell is 202-304-7407.



NEW!

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

**Dutch Apple Dinner Theater – Centerville, Pennsylvania
Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Wednesday, July 31, 2024**

The Sound of Music is a favorite musical. Maria is a very high-spirited nun for the religious life and has a hard time adjusting to the rules. Mother Superior dispatches Maria to be a governess to a naval widow, Captain von Trapp, and his seven seemingly unruly children. Captain von Trapp expects her to raise the children by his strict military rules. There are problems and she decides to return to the convent. The children love her and miss her and she has captured the captain’s heart too. She returns to his estate, and everyone knows the rest of the story. The family escapes to the mountains of Switzerland on the eve of World War II with a thrilling and inspirational finale. We cannot forget the memorable music “Do-Re-Mi” “My Favorite Things” and “Climb Every Mountain” “Sixteen Going on Seventeen” and the beautiful “Edelweiss.”



We will be picked up from Weis Market parking lot in Damascus at 9:15 AM and return approximately by 6 PM. Enjoy this all-time favorite show for the price of **\$120 pp** which includes show, buffet, motorcoach, drivers tip, taxes, and tips. **Reservations must be in by July 10, 2024.** If you any questions please call me 301-871-7069. Day of the trip my cell number is 202-304-7407.

NEW!

LAKE TOBIAS WILDLIFE PARK AND MORE

**With Amish Lunch and Amish Market – Halifax, Pennsylvania
Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Friday, August 23, 2024**



Experience a truly unique and “wild” safari ride! Come face-to-face with some of the friendliest and craziest animals you will ever see! We board specially designed, open-air land cruisers that will take you across 150 acres of countryside where you will come nose-to-nose with herds of wild and exotic animals from around the world. Tour guides will accompany us. Following the tour there may be some free time to explore exhibits, or enjoy one of the shows.

We will then need to be on time on our way to Mary’s Place in the Millersburg area for an authentic Amish family style lunch on their farm. Served by Mary and her helpers the dishes are made with homegrown, farm-raised ingredients. You will leave Mary’s and be glad you came along for this amazing lunch.

We will continue to the Crossroads Market (mostly Amish) a few miles away where you will have some time to purchase whatever is in season right from the area farms. There will be much to explore indoors and out!

Price for this trip is \$105 pp. Reservations with full payment due August 10, 2024. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-253-0335.

NEW!

DORCHESTER AND CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

**Enjoy Maryland's Eastern Shore and learn about Harriet Tubman
Tour Leader – Helen Aument – Wednesday, August 7, 2024**

Travel to the beauty of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Experience the shore's centuries-old tradition of hospitality served with a heaping side of unparalleled Maryland food and the remarkable stories that come from this area. Everyone loves to hear a story and here is your chance. Do you know the name Harriett Tubman? Most likely you know her in conjunction with the Underground Railroad. Yet this remarkable woman was so much more. Here you will have the opportunity to hear her story from the time she was a slave, known as Minty, then escaped, returned to help others and there is SO MUCH more. You will have the finest tour company taking you on this journey and telling the story. Harriet Tubman Tours is the only company specializing in her story. They advertise: "What great honor to share the incredible history of Harriet Tubman."

Here she was born and enslaved until age 27 when she escaped to freedom. We begin in Cambridge and travel to the Courthouse (site of Harriet's first rescue) and Long Wharf, where the enslaved were transported by ship. We also see the "Take My Hand Mural," painted on the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center building. Traveling into Tubman Country, we stop at Stanley Institute, a historic African American one-room schoolhouse and visit the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center. You will see Brodess Farm, her childhood home, and the Bucktown General Store where Araminta was hit by a 2-lb. weight thrown at her head -- the storied source of spiritual visions leading to her freedom. Lunch is prepared and will be served at the Harriet Tubman Freedom Museum. Lunch includes fried chicken, ham, turkey, home-cooked vegetables, salad, and dessert.



Package Includes:

- Transportation
- Guided tour of Eastern Maryland's Tubman related sites
- All entrance fees
- Lunch
- Taxes and tips on meals and any admissions
- Time in Cambridge

Cost based on 35 participants is \$192 pp. Reservations and payment must be made by June 12, 2024

We leave from Weis Market in Damascus, 26075 Ridge Road, at 7 AM and return approximately at 7 PM.

If you have any questions call me, Helen Aument, at 240-793-6820.

NEW!

MARYLAND MYSTERIES SOLVED

Historic Harpers Ferry and Antietam Battlefield

John, Robert, and George with a special guest as your guide for the day

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – Wednesday, September 18, 2024

You will not find this adventure anywhere. You will have the opportunity to experience one of the finest storytellers there ever was and the most sought-after historian of our times. Dennis Frye recently retired from the National Park Service (NPS) at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, where he served for more than three decades, with 20 years as Chief Historian. While with the NPS, Dennis earned the Department of Interior's "Distinguished Service Award," the highest honor of the department.

Dennis Frye has authored 10 books and 101 articles, writing for every major Civil War publication; and he is a tour guide in national demand, leading programs for the Smithsonian, National Geographic, and the New York Times, as well as universities and Civil War organizations around the country. Dennis has made frequent national television appearances as well.

By special arrangement we will have the opportunity to have him share with us the human stories of John Brown at Harpers Ferry. Brown's plan to stir an uprising of slaves ended up failing...or did it? Was he sane or a crazy man? You will hear the facts and see the sites. You will have time to explore the historic town and try some of its well-known food.

History reports the battle at Antietam (Sharpsburg) was indecisive but with the North's claim of winning Lincoln launched the Emancipation Proclamation. The story is not complete, especially now. Antietam's story includes Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and George McClellan. Each of them had unique personalities which influenced every minute of this battle. And historians for years have put their spin on what really happened. Why was Lee there? Why didn't McClellan attack? How did Jackson get back from Harpers Ferry so quickly?



Dinner at the end of the day will be at the Bavarian Inn, in Shepherdstown, WV.

Entrée Choices (Make your choice on the reservation form on page 13.)

- Grilled Chicken Breast in a White Wine Leek Sauce, Whipped Potatoes & Vegetable Medley
- Schweinebraten Pork Loin Scented with Juniper Berries, with Sauerkraut and a Potato Dumpling in a Rosemary White Wine Jus
- Filet Mignon with Peppercorn Brandy Sauce Served with Whipped Potatoes and Vegetable Medley
- Bavarian Inn Crab Cakes Served with Whipped Potatoes and Asparagus Hollandaise

Package includes:

Transportation	Admission to Harpers Ferry
Admission to Antietam	Historian Dennis Frye
Time in historic Harpers Ferry	Dinner at the Bavarian Inn
Tip for historian guide	Tip for driver

Cost based on 35 participants is \$228 pp. **Full payment must be made by July 30, 2024.**

Send your reservation form and check in now!

TRIPS TO REVIEW... *Won't you join us?*

EXPLORE HISTORIC VIRGINIA

Staunton, Lexington, Bedford and Charlottesville, Virginia

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – June 18-20, 2024



We still have several openings for this trip of historic Virginia sites. Don't miss your opportunity to spend a few days visiting many unique places in the beautiful Shenandoah Mountains and western foothills of Virginia's Blue Ridge mountains. On this trip you will visit Staunton and Lexington where we'll have several tours and a carriage ride. You'll also see the moving National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, and on Smith Mountain Lake you'll have lunch and a narrated tour aboard the *Virginia Dare* as well as a stop to visit Thomas Jefferson's private retreat **Poplar Forest**. Our last day in Charlottesville you will tour **Monticello** and have lunch at the famous Michie Tavern, then tour **Ashlawn**, the home of president James Monroe. See the January and February newsletters for full details which are available on our website www.damascustravelclub.org. Price includes two one-night hotel stays, two breakfasts, two lunches and one dinner, all tours, carriage ride, bus, taxes, and tips. **Contact Casey Koontz (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net with any questions.**

Cost of Package – based on 35 paid reservations:

\$709 pp double / \$864 pp single / \$677 pp triple / \$668 pp quad

Deposit of \$150 pp due by April 2, 2024. Bring your check to our April 2 meeting!

Final payment due May 7, 2024.

ERIE CANAL and NIAGARA FALLS

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – July 16-19, 2024

This is quite a unique trip as you begin your adventures in Brockport, New York. This charming historic town will be yours to explore as the hotel is steps from the town. Dinner is included. The itinerary for this trip was included in the March newsletter. I hope you have it handy for reference as I have not included those details here. The March newsletter is available on our website www.damascustravelclub.org.

Our trip includes:

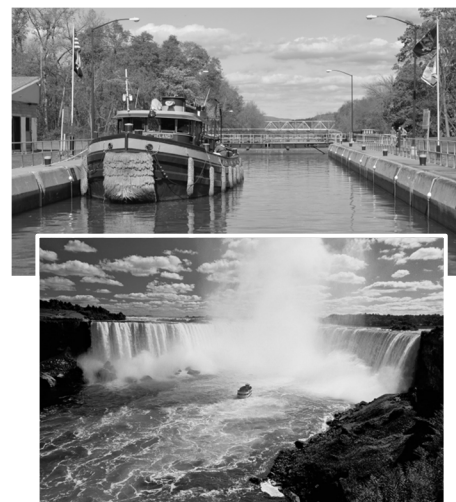
- 3 nights hotel accommodations
- 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners
- 2 different canal boat trips with lunch on the Erie Canal
- Admission to museums and attractions
- Niagara Falls and Maid of the Mist
- All taxes, gratuities, guide tips

We leave from Weis Market in Damascus at 7 AM on July 16 and return at approximately 8:30 PM to Damascus on July 19. Any questions, call me at 301-253-0335. Please note the deadlines for your payments.

Cost of Package – \$1,176 pp double / \$1,417 pp single / \$1,097 pp triple / \$1,057 pp quad

Deposit of \$390 pp due by April 20, 2024 / Final payment due May 29, 2024

Bring your reservation form and your check to our April 2 meeting! Don't miss this terrific trip!



BAR HARBOR, MAINE

Lighthouse, Lobsters & Seaport Village Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – August 11-16, 2024

This scenic tour of Maine will be an experience for all your senses, including your taste buds. Summer is the peak time for visiting, with breezy days and cool nights, ideal for a late summer get away.

Day 1 – Depart Damascus and arrive in the mid-afternoon in the southern Maine town of **Ogunquit** where you'll check into the **Meadowmere Resort**, a family run business where you can enjoy the indoor Roman bath, indoor and outdoor pools and hot tub along with a health club. Or you may choose to visit one of the downtown shops, pristine beaches, art galleries and scenic Marginal Way trail which are just steps away. Dinner will be on your own tonight at one of the local or resort restaurants.



Day 2 – Breakfast at the Resort before traveling to **Bar Harbor**. Upon arrival you'll take a **sightseeing/nature cruise of Frenchman's Bay** where you'll see seals basking on the rocks and enjoy the majestic scenery of the Maine coast. Spend some time for lunch on your own in Bar Harbor with time to explore the shops, boutiques and galleries. This afternoon, meet a local guide for a **tour of Acadia National Park**. Check into the Atlantic Oceanside Hotel for the next two nights. Dinner is included this evening at a local Bar Harbor restaurant.

Day 3 – Following breakfast at the hotel, take a **guided leisurely stroll through Bar Harbor's** historic past and hear tales of how Bar Harbor grew into both a summer haven and year-round residences for many Euro-Americans and how previously established native Indian encampments adapted as the town grew. The tour will visit sites of Indian camps, buildings erected during the heyday of the famed Cottage era and those built after the Great Fire of 1947. Next, you'll hop aboard a traditional, **Down East-style lobster boat** where you'll experience a sample of the life and work of the Maine lobstermen/women. Watch a demonstration of how lobster traps are hauled. Dinner (included) this evening will be at a local favorite. Then you're off to the **Great Main Lumberjack Show** where you'll see "the Olympics of the Forest" reenacted as the lumberjacks and loggers used to compete 100 years ago. Watch thrilling lumberjack sports of wood chopping, sawing, tree climbing, ax throwing and log rolling, all with a modern twist, mixed with history, comedy and razor-sharp action.

Day 4 – After breakfast at the hotel depart for **Portland's Historic Old Port Waterfront District** where you'll have lunch on your own. Next meet a **local guide for a narrated tour of Portland**, through historic neighborhoods and learn about Portland's maritime history. This tour includes "the lighthouse loop" with a stop at the **Portland Head lighthouse**. Then you'll enjoy a **narrated Portland Harbor Cruise** passing through the Calendar Islands of Casco Bay and past several lighthouses. Check into a South Coast Main hotel. This evening, roll up your sleeves for a **traditional Maine Lobster bake** (or non-seafood entrees), with clam chowder, steamed mussels, corn of the cob, Maine potatoes and a local favorite - blueberry cake.

Day 5 – Following breakfast at the hotel enjoy free time for **shopping in Ogunquit / Perkins Cove**. Stop at Main's southernmost lighthouse, **Nubble Lighthouse**, then travel to Mystic, CT to visit **Mystic Seaport** for lunch and shopping on your own before enjoying the **Mystic Seaport Museum** which includes the Village featuring three tall ships and 19th century historic buildings, exhibit galleries filled with mariner's art, scrimshaw, figureheads of antique vessels, plus a working shipyard. We'll overnight at a Mystic CT hotel. Dinner included this evening at a local favorite.

Day 6 – After breakfast at the hotel, make your way home with your magical Maine coast memories.

Contact Casey Koontz (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net with any questions.

Cost of Package – based on 35 paid reservations

\$2,164 pp double / \$3,044 pp single / \$1,894 pp triple / \$1,794 pp quad

Deposit of \$500 pp due by May 7, 2024 / final payment due July 9, 2024

ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – September 30-October 11, 2024

Experience the thrill of the **Flight of the Nations Mass Balloon Ascension** and witness the magic of the evening Balloon Blow at the “After Glow” Fireworks Show. Spend 3 days in New Mexico where you’ll receive professionally guided tours of a number of sites in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. While traveling by coach to and from Albuquerque enjoy stops and activities along the way in Memphis, Tennessee; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Fort Smith, Arkansas; Amarillo, Texas; Branson and St. Louis, Missouri; and Columbus, Ohio.

While the March newsletter lists all the activities for this wonderful trip, this newsletter focuses only on the activities for the days you are in New Mexico. Upon arriving in Albuquerque, you will be treated to a Mexican dinner at **Tomasita’s**, a short walk from your hotel. On Day Two we will meet our professional guide who will be with us for the entire stay in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The day starts with a stop at the **Turquoise Museum** where you’ll see a lapidary demonstration and behind the scenes look at silversmithing and ample time to view the museum exhibits. Enjoy lunch (on your own) in Old Town Albuquerque at the **Sawmill Market**; an urban food hall experience in a repurposed lumber mill. Following lunch receive an orientation of **Old Town Plaza**, then have time to visit the shops followed by a comprehensive **driving tour of Albuquerque** through historic and beautiful neighborhoods as you learn about Albuquerque’s history and growth. Dinner tonight will be on your own at a restaurant of your choice.

Day Three starts early (5 AM) when we’re off to the **Opening Day Festivities of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta!** Our **Gondola Club** admission tickets give us the best seats on the field, exceptional viewing of the **Mass Ascension** and a gourmet breakfast buffet, open bar golf cart shuttle to the Main Street vendors, dedicated restrooms, collectible lapel pin and souvenir gift. We’ll return to the hotel mid-morning for a short rest, then depart for a day of touring at **The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC)**, and the **Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum**. The IPCC is owned and operated by the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico and showcases the life and history of the Pueblo tribes. While here you’ll enjoy a cultural dance performance and arts and crafts vendors. Lunch is on your own at one of many restaurants located on the IPSS campus. At the Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum, you’ll see life size air craft displays, interactive exhibits and a full history of balloon flight. Dinner (included) will be at the **66 Diner**, originally a Phillips 66 filling station.



Next day we travel along the **Turquoise Trail**, a scenic byway and stop in **Madrid** (an eclectic artist community and a popular movie set location). After some time to look in the shops and galleries we’ll continue to Santa Fe which is one of our country's greatest art cities, home to many art galleries and installations. Our tour includes the **Loretto Chapel Museum** with its Miraculous Staircase and will end at the **Historic Plaza** and the **Palace of the Governors**. There are numerous restaurants featuring distinctive Mexican cuisine as well as bistros and cafes. Enjoy free time for lunch, shopping, museums, and galleries. Time for a siesta on the bus as we travel for one hour back to Albuquerque and return to the **Gondola Club** for the **Balloon Glow**. As the sun sets, they fire the glow burners on their tethered balloons which light up and create a spectacular site at the Balloon Fiesta. Following the Balloon Glow, you will be treated to an impressive firework display and drone light show. The wonderful Gondola Club goodies, food and amenities are included tonight.

Contact Casey Koontz (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net with any questions.

Cost of Package – based on 45 paid reservations

\$4,221 pp double / \$5,596 pp single / \$3,872 pp triple / \$3,730 pp quad

1st Deposit of \$500 pp due by 4/2/24 * 2nd Deposit of \$500 pp due by 6/4/24 * Final payment due 8/23/24

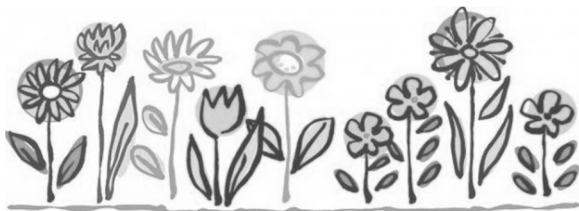
Bring your deposit check and reservation form to our April 2 meeting!

DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB
P.O. BOX 304
DAMASCUS, MD 20872
April 2024



Keep these newsletters for future reference!

Come join us at our Spring Luncheon!
Tuesday, May 7 at 1 PM



You're Invited!

We are offering a delicious Spring Luncheon at the Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company Reception Hall
1008 Twin Arch Road, Mt. Airy

\$25 pp / Please send in your reservation form
with your check by APRIL 26.

*We will have Fried Chicken, Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Stewed Tomatoes, Cole Slaw,
Apple Sauce, drinks, and a Brownie Sundae for dessert.*

Hope to see you there!

RESERVATIONS

Please remember: SEND ONE CHECK FOR EACH TRIP
Mail to: Damascus Travel Club * P.O. Box 304 * Damascus, MD 20872

Spring Luncheon – May 7, 2024

Payment of \$25 pp due by April 26, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Bucks County Playhouse – June 12, 2024

Payment of \$239 pp due by April 30, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Historic Virginia – June 18-20, 2024

Deposit of \$150 pp due April 2 / Final payment due May 7, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Erie Canal & Niagara Falls – July 16-19, 2024

Deposit of \$390 pp due April 20 / Final payment due May 29, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Tootsie – Way Off Broadway – July 21, 2024

Payment of \$60 pp due by June 15, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

The Sound of Music – July 31, 2024

Payment of \$120 pp due by July 10, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Cambridge, Maryland – August 7, 2024

Payment of \$192 pp due by June 12, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

RESERVATIONS

Please remember: SEND ONE CHECK FOR EACH TRIP

Mail to: Damascus Travel Club * P.O. Box 304 * Damascus, MD 20872

Bar Harbor – August 11-16, 2024

Deposit of \$500 pp due May 7 / Final payment due July 9, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

Lake Tobias Wildlife Park – August 23, 2024

Payment of \$105 pp due by August 10, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

Historic Harpers Ferry – September 18, 2024

Payment of \$228 pp due by July 30, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

MENU CHOICE (CHOOSE ONE): ___ GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST ___ PORK LOIN ___ FILET MIGNON ___ CRAB CAKES

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____

Albuquerque – Sept 30-Oct 11, 2024

1st Deposit of \$500 pp due April 2

2nd Deposit of \$500 pp due June 4 / Final payment due August 23, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___ _____
