

## *Panhandle Seniors*

# Washington DC Cherry Blossoms

8 Days April 8-15, 2025

*Visit the Nation's Capitol at its most splendid; in the spring when thousands of cherry blossom trees are in full bloom. The celebration includes a massive parade, which navigates down Constitution Avenue from 7th Street towards the Tidal Basin where a queen of the festival is crowned. This trip also features national treasures and memorials, world-class museums, monuments and our nation's history.*

### **Tour Highlights:**

- **Cherry Blossom Parade - Grandstand Seating**
- **Monuments & Memorial Tour**
- **Arlington National Cemetery Tramobile**
- **Hillwood Estate Museum**
- **Embassy Row Driving Tour**
- **Washington National Cathedral**
- **Free Time at the Smithsonian Museum**
- **Guide Service while in D.C.**
- **Thomas Jefferson's Monticello**
- **Billy Graham Library**
- **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**
- **Upcountry History Museum**
- **Seven Nights Lodging**
- **Seven Breakfasts**
- **One Lunch**
- **Four Dinners**
- **All Taxes & Tips on these services**
- **Luggage Handling (as available)**
- **Motorcoach Transportation**
- **Driver's Gratuity**

### **Per Person Prices**

**\$2,299** DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

\$2,099 TRIPLE...\$1,999...\$2,899 SINGLE

**\$400 per person deposit due with reservation**

**Final Payment due February 17, 2025**

### **For Information or Reservations Contact:**

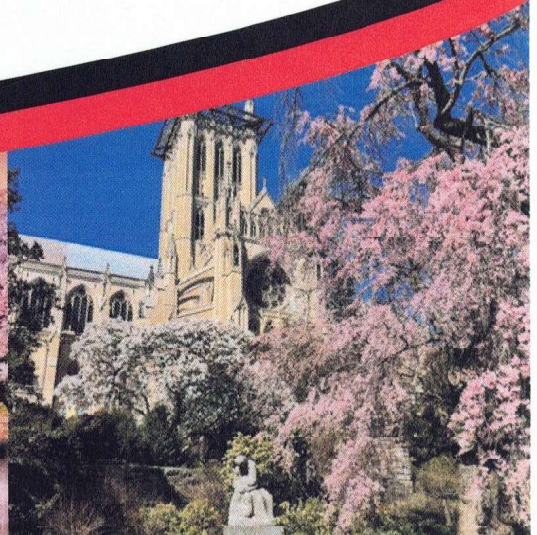
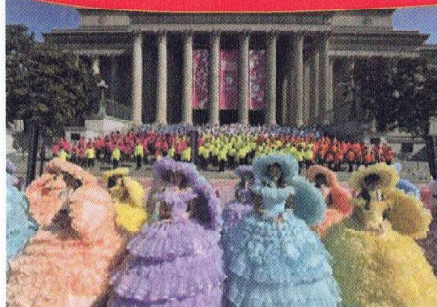
**Steve Lester**

**(309) 314-1935**

**[Spepsi2@mchsi.com](mailto:Spepsi2@mchsi.com)**

**Mark Davis**

**(850) 572-1801**



# Washington DC Cherry Blossoms

8 days April 8-15, 2025

**Day 1 – Anderson, SC** – Travel today takes you to Anderson, SC for an overnight stay at the Hilton Garden Inn. Dinner is on your own this evening.

**Day 2 - Billy Graham Library Tour w/lunch – Charlottesville, VA** – First stop today is in Charlotte, NC to tour the Billy Graham Library. The Library was designed to reflect Billy Graham's journey from a humble farm boy to an international ambassador of God's love, the barn-shaped building is situated on 20 landscaped acres, only miles from where Billy Graham grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina. You will also receive a lunch voucher to use following your tour. End the day in Charlottesville, VA with an overnight stay at the Holiday Inn. Dinner is included this evening at the hotel. **(B,L,D)**

**Day 3 – Thomas Jefferson's Monticello – Gaithersburg, MD** - This morning, visit Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Here you learn about this fascinating Renaissance man famous for writing the Declaration of Independence. Discover his passion for politics, agriculture, architecture, reading and inventing. See firsthand many of his innovative creations. Walking down Mulberry Row, the industrial hub of Monticello, you will learn about the work and domestic life of the many free, indentured, and enslaved people whose contributions helped Jefferson accomplish his achievements both agriculturally and architecturally.

Travel continues this afternoon to Gaithersburg, MD where you check into the SpringHill Suites for a three night stay. Tonight, dinner is included at the Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant near your hotel. **(B,D)**

**Day 4 - Arlington National Cemetery Tramobile – Hillwood Estate Museum – Embassy Row – Washington National Cathedral** – This morning, meet your local guide for a day of touring, starting at Arlington National Cemetery. No land in America is more sacred than this square mile. It is America's shrine to valor and sacrifice. This is the final resting place for President John F. Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Robert F. Kennedy, Edward Moore (Ted) Kennedy, Audie Murphy, prizefighter Joe Louis, and thousands of soldiers from every major U.S. war.

The Cemetery is the former plantation and home of Civil War General Robert E. Lee. Arlington House, Space Shuttle Challenger Astronauts' Memorial, and Monuments to nearly every major sacrifice that affected our country are located within these 624 + acres. The Tomb of the Unknowns speaks of a nation's debt to the many whose ultimate sacrifice helped make a nation free.

Next, visit the Hillwood Estate Museum, the former home of cereal heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post. The house features one of the most comprehensive collections of eighteenth and nineteenth-century Russian Imperial art outside of Russia, as well as an extensive collection of French decorative arts.

The afternoon features a driving tour of 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 Embassies, associations, foundations, and clubs have claimed and restored these lovely homes.

Then visit the Washington National Cathedral. In a city of impressive monuments and memorials, the National Cathedral is unique. Standing higher than the Washington Monument, it is the sixth largest church in the world.

The 14th-Century-style Gothic wonder is situated on 57 acres and took 83 years to build. Helen Keller and Woodrow Wilson are interred here. Enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant. **(B,D)**

**Day 5 - Cherry Blossom Parade - Grandstand Seating – Monuments & Memorials Tour – Dinner at Tony & Joe's** - After breakfast at the hotel, meet your local guide for the day. This morning, you enjoy the Cherry Blossom Parade from your reserved Grand Stand Seating. The Cherry Blossom Festival marks the celebration of the original gift of the 3,000 cherry trees by the city of Tokyo to the people of Washington, DC in 1912. The celebration includes a massive parade, which navigates down Constitution Avenue from 7th Street toward the Tidal Basin where a queen of the festival is crowned. Along with the parade are several free concerts on the Mall, lantern lighting, dances and races.

The afternoon features a tour of the Monuments and Memorials. Not only will you get to enjoy the Cherry Blossoms, but this tour includes the following Monuments and Memorials: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, National World War II Memorial and more as time allows.

Dinner is included this evening at Tony & Joe's in Georgetown. If you're in the mood for fresh delicacies from the sea, dive into Tony and Joe's Seafood Place at the Georgetown Waterfront. While enjoying tempting dishes, you have spectacular views of the Potomac River, Kennedy Center, Washington Monument, Roosevelt Island, and the Key Bridge. **(B,D)**

**Day 6 - Smithsonian Museums – Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens – Richmond, VA** - The morning is yours to visit the Smithsonian Museums of your choice. You may want to visit the NEW National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Museum of American History, the National Air & Space Museum, National Air & Space Museum, National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of the American Indian, or the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Gardens.

After lunch on own, depart Washington DC this afternoon. A stop will be made at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in Henrico, VA. The Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden offers year-round beauty on a historic property with more than 50 acres of spectacular gardens, dining, and shopping. A classical domed Conservatory is the only one of its kind in the mid-Atlantic. More than a dozen themed gardens include a Children's Garden, Rose Garden, Asian Valley and Cherry Tree Walk. End the day in Richmond, VA for an overnight stay. Dinner is on your own this evening. **(B)**

**Day 7 – Greenville, SC - Upcountry History Museum** – Today, travel takes you to Greenville, SC. Here, you visit the Upcountry History Museum. Take a walk through three centuries of Upcountry South Carolina history and experience the stories of people who shaped this region through semi-permanent interactive exhibits and collections.

Then check into the Hyatt Place Greenville Downtown for the night. Dinner is on your own this evening, but your hotel is close to award-winning restaurants and bars and exciting shopping and entertainment. **(B)**

**Day 8 - Depart for Home** – After breakfast at the hotel, depart for home. **(B)**