

The Gardens of North Carolina

September 10-14, 2021



Friday, September 10, 2021

7:00 AM Depart. Breakfast and rest stop en route, on own. Stop at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden with time to explore on your own and enjoy lunch at the café. 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. Pathways will draw you to parts of the garden that delight you around every turn. Arrive in Raleigh, NC and check into your hotel—The Embassy Suites. Enjoy a reception before dinner. Local dinner tonight. (D)

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Breakfast included at hotel. Today we'll visit J.C. Raulston Arboretum ~ a nationally acclaimed garden with one of the largest and most diverse collections of landscape plants adapted for landscape use in the Southeast. Next we will visit Juniper Level Botanical Garden and Plant Delights Nursery ~ established in 1988 when Raleigh native Tony Avent and his wife Michelle purchased a 2.2 acre abandoned sandy loam tobacco field. Approximately 20 minutes south of downtown Raleigh, NC, Juniper Level is located between the rural farming communities of Willow Spring and Panther Branch. Enjoy a visit to Historic Oakwood Neighborhood ~ the only intact nineteenth century neighborhood in Raleigh, it was built in the dense woods known as "Mordecai Grove" and sold off in parcels after the Civil War to individuals and developers. The variety of Victorian architectural styles represented in the neighborhood reflects the middle-class tastes of business and political leaders of Raleigh for whom the homes were built, as well as the skills of architects and builders. Return to the hotel, enjoy reception before dinner. (B,D)

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Breakfast included at hotel. Today we will visit the Sarah P. Duke Gardens on the campus of Duke University. ~ In the early 1930s, Dr. Frederic M. Hanes, a member of the original faculty of Duke Medical School possessed a special love for gardening and was determined to convert the debris-filled ravine, by which he walked daily, into a garden of his favorite flower, the iris. In the previous decade, the land had been under consideration for creation of a lake. But funds were short and that project was abandoned. So the idea for a garden took root. We are now off to visit, North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill ~ The North Carolina Botanical Garden is a conservation garden. The guiding mission is to inspire understanding, appreciation, and conservation of plants and to advance a sustainable relationship between people and nature. Now enjoy a visit to the Coker Arboretum ~ In 1903, Dr. William Chambers Coker, the University's first Professor of Botany and the first chair of the University Buildings and Grounds Committee, began developing a five-acre boggy pasture into an outdoor University classroom for the study of trees, shrubs, and vines native to North Carolina. We will end the day at Montrose Gardens, a listed property in the National Register of Historic Places. The grounds include several 19th century buildings, a rock garden, scree garden, extensive woodland plantings, and large areas of sunny gardens with unique color and planting schemes. Unusual trees and trellises, fences, and arbors, designed and constructed by local artist, enhance the gardens. Winter gardens are a special feature of Montrose. We will arrive at the Embassy Suites in Winston Salem for a 2 night stay. Dinner is included at the hotel tonight. (B,D)

Monday, September 13, 2021

Breakfast included at hotel. Depart for the Reynolda Gardens ~ The Reynolda estate, which was developed as an estate where the family could enjoy clean air, healthy food, and active leisure pursuits. It is distinguished by the fact that it was guided to fruition and managed by a woman, Katharine Smith Reynolds. Historic Bethabara Park ~ The birthplace of Winston-Salem. Founded in 1753 by German-speaking Moravians, Bethabara was the first European settlement in the North Carolina Piedmont. A National Historic Landmark and Local Historic District, historic Bethabara Park encompasses 183 acres of preserved wildlife, historic buildings and grounds, walking and birding trails, and protected wetlands. Local dinner included tonight. (B, D)



Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Breakfast included at hotel. Depart for Old Salem Museum ~ Self-Guided Walking Tour of Historic Town of Salem. Costumed Interpreters, Trades People, and Home Life Educators greet your participants in the historic buildings. 11AM Depart for home with lunch & dinner stops en route "on own". 7PM Approximate arrival back. (B)

Cost:
\$899pp Double Occupancy / \$1199pp Single Occupancy
Terms & Conditions

Deposit Requirements

An initial deposit of \$100 per person is required to confirm reservation. ***Travel Insurance must be purchased at the time of booking to cover pre-existing conditions.*** Full payment must be received by July 25, 2021

Cancellation - Deposit is refundable until June 1, 2021. After that point there are no refunds without insurance.

Baggage ~ Portage of baggage is included in program; it is based upon a maximum of 1 piece of standard baggage per person plus 1 carry on.

Items Not Included ~ Our tours do not include items of a personal nature such as laundry, room service, laundry, telephone charges or other hotel extras. All passengers are responsible for settling any such costs incurred before checking out of each hotel or returning home.

Gratuities ~ tips for baggage handling, and waiting staff for included meals are included. Gratuities for the motor-coach driver, local guide and tour escort are not included.

Taxes ~ Our prices include all government taxes as levied as of the date of this proposal. In the event that additional taxes are introduced by governing bodies or existing taxes increased, we will have to pass on all such additional charges to the individual passengers concerned.

Insurance ~ We strongly recommend that all passengers be adequately insured for medical expenses, baggage loss or damage and trip cancellation or interruption. This is the responsibility of individual tour participants. Insurance cost: \$125pp.

Hotels ~

Embassy Suites

2 Nights Raleigh ~ 201 Harrison Oaks Blvd, Cary NC 27513 (919) 677-1840

2 Nights Winston-Salem ~ 460 North Cherry St. Winston-Salem, NC 27101 (336) 724-2300

Room Amenities: Hair dryer, Microwave, Minifridge, Iron and Ironing Board.

Hotel Amenities: Free Internet Access, Fitness Center, Indoor Pool, On-site Restaurant.

Trip Includes:

Transportation, 4 Nights Hotel, Admission to Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens,, Tour J.C. Raulston Gardens, Juniper Level Botanic Gardens, Historic Oakwood, Tour Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Tour NC Botanical Garden, Tour Montrose, Tour Coker Arboretum, Tour Reynolda Gardens, Old Salem Museum, Historic Bethabara Park, 4 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners, Escort, Taxes and Meal Gratuities.

RESPONSIBILITY OF SERA: The State Employees Recreation Association, its officers, directors, representatives and members, expressly disclaims all responsibility or liability of any nature whatsoever for loss, damage or injury to property or to the person due to any cause whatsoever, occurring during or attributable to the tour, or tours, described herein and purchaser/participant by his or her subscription to or participation in the travel opportunity, does release SERA from such liability or responsibility. Without limiting the foregoing, SERA is not and shall not become liable or responsible for accidents, loss, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, discontinuances or change in transit or hotel accommodations and/or services and other causes over which they have no control. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser and/or participants of this tour. SERA is not responsible, and the purchaser and/or participant waives all claim against SERA, for all of the aforesaid conditions as well as loss or damage resulting from delays, cancellations, or substitutions of equipment, financial conditions, or any act, omission, negligence, or any other faults by the travel agent, carriers, hotel or any other transportation or service providers or companies, their agents, servants, employees and sub-contractors or other causes. In the event that, in the opinion of SERA, it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort and/or well being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary of this tour, including the airline and type of equipment, accommodations and/or service utilized, SERA reserves the right to do so at its sole discretion and without notice. SERA is a non-profit organization, comprised of volunteers, for the benefit of all Commonwealth employees, active or retired, their relatives and friends. It is solely responsible for its own affairs and completely independent of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State government.

Gardens of North Carolina

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\$899pp Double Occupancy / \$1199pp Single Occupancy

Enclosed please find a deposit in the amount of \$ _____ (\$100 pp) to secure reservation for _____ # people

I (We) wish to purchase Travel Insurance \$125pp Yes _____ No _____

Enclosed please find payment in the amount of \$ _____ to secure Travel Insurance.
Travel insurance must be purchased with original deposit to cover pre-existing conditions.

Total Payments \$ _____

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact / Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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Roommate Name: _____ Date of Birth : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone # _____

Email Address: _____ Cell # _____

Emergency Contact / Telephone: _____

Special Requests: _____

Pick up location: Sam's Club Mechanicsburg _____ Weis Markets Linglestown, Harrisburg _____

Please make checks payable to Lowee's Group Tours, LLC & mail to:

SERA
Gardens of North Carolina
PO Box 796
Federal Square Station
Harrisburg PA 17108-0796

Or register online @ www.lowees.com

Questions: Call 717-657-9658 or Email ckelly@lowees.com

Payment by Credit Card (circle one) Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____ CID Code _____

Amount to be Charged : _____ Signature : _____ Date: _____

Deposit due with registration \$100 per person / Final payment due by July 25, 2021