

# 2025 TOURS USS ESSEX REUNION

**FOR ALL TOURS PLEASE BE AT BUS DEPARTURE LOCATION 15 MINUTES BEFORE SCHEDULED TOUR TIMES**

## **Tour #1 ~ Patriots Point & USS Yorktown ~ Monday September 8, 2025 ~ 1000-1500**

The history of Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum began in June 1975 when the legendary aircraft carrier USS Yorktown entered Charleston Harbor. A few months later, the USS Yorktown was dedicated as the first ship of the Naval & Maritime Museum. The museum consists of the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown (CV-10) with 29 aircraft on display from WWII to the present; the USS Laffey (DD-724), a Sumner-class destroyer; and the USS Clamagore (SS-343), a GUPPY III submarine. The Congressional Medal of Honor Society is headquartered here, and their official Medal of Honor Museum is onboard the USS Yorktown. There is also a Cold War Sub Memorial and Vietnam Support Base Camp on the surrounding grounds. Lunch will be on your own at the Geedunk Snack Bar on the USS Yorktown.

## **Tour #2 ~ Boone Hall Plantation ~ Tuesday September 9, 2025 ~ 1000-1500**

**Exploring The Gullah Culture** Boone Hall Plantation is the only plantation in the S.C. Lowcountry to present a live presentation of this unique culture adapted by African slaves. The mansion that exists on Boone Hall Plantation today was built in 1936 by Canadian ambassador Thomas Stone as part of the Second Wave of Reconstruction. Guided tours of the first floor allow guests to see how this Georgian-designed home blends recovered materials and antique furnishings to recreate an atmosphere that would have surrounded a Coastal Carolina planter's family and his guests. The guided house tour will also introduce you to the history of Boone Hall Plantation and its evolution through several owners since 1681. We will start off the tour with a walk through the grounds down to the cabins and the Gullah Theater for a performance then after the performance lunch will be on your own at the Butterfly Café. After lunch we will tour the Plantation House and take a tractor tram ride through the farm. **There will be some walking involved to do the self-guided part of the grounds, please wear comfortable shoes. The house tour is not wheelchair accessible, but you are welcome to participate in the rest of the tour.**

## **Tour #3 ~ Historic Charleston City Market & Carriage Ride ~ Wednesday September 10, 2025 ~ 0945-1445**

Enjoy a relaxing historic carriage ride in Charleston, SC while your engaging guide and lovable horse take you through the historic sites and attractions. After the carriage ride you will have time for lunch on your own and to explore the Charleston City Market which is one of the oldest public markets in the United States. The historic Charleston City Market, a beloved landmark in the heart of downtown Charleston, SC. For over 200 years, it has been a hub of activity, showcasing the best of Charleston's unique culture, rich history, and Southern charm. From sweetgrass basket weavers to local artisans, and from fresh seafood to traditional Lowcountry cuisine, this historic market offers a unique and authentic experience that embodies the spirit of Charleston. Whether you're a local or just visiting, it's the perfect place to discover the city's vibrant atmosphere, shop for unique souvenirs, and indulge in the flavors of the Lowcountry. Experience the best of Charleston, SC, in the heart of the city's historic district.

### **CANCELLATION POLICY**

- **By sending in your registrations form, you are agreeing to the cancellation policy.**
- **Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by August 12, 2025.**
- **A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event.**
- **Cancellations received within 15 days of the event will be non-refundable. All payments have been made to all vendors.**
- **Depending on availability the room rates are available 3 days prior to and after your reunion should you choose to extend your stay.**