

2020 TOURS USS ESSEX REUNION

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

All tours require a minimum number of people. If these minimums are not met, a tour may be cancelled and a refund will be issued.

Tour #1 ~ TreeHouse Vineyards ~ Monday August 10, 2020~ 1400-1730

Treehouse Vineyards is a North Carolina family owned Vineyard and Winery, which was established in 2005 on the 200 year old family farm and opened to the public in 2010. They produce hand crafted Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Dry White Blend, and several award winning Native Muscadine Wines. Treehouse Vineyards is named for our Treehouses charmingly placed around the Vineyards.

Tour #2 ~ White Water Park & Southern Grace Distillery ~ Tuesday August 11, 2020 ~ 0930-1700

Raft on the world's largest manmade, recirculating whitewater river. There are two levels of rafting offered you will need to select one. The first is the Family rafting (beginner level) and is for guests 8 years and older and includes class 2 and 3 rapids. While you will definitely get wet doing this type of rafting and there is always a chance of falling out of the boat, this experience is less intense than Adventure rafting. Adventure rafting begins with class 2 and 3 rapids and ends with the biggest class 4 and 5 rapids. For all rafting trips, boats have guides as well as river guards along the channel for assistance. Items that you will need are secure footwear with a heel strap is required, old sneakers, water shoes, or sandals with a rubber sole are also allowed. Eyeglass strap, sunscreen, towel, a change of clothes and shoes are suggested. Recommend attire for warm weather: bathing suit, shorts, t-shirt, rash guard, or quick drying clothing is ideal. Lunch will be on your own at the water park. Next we will visit Southern Grace Distilleries at Mt. Pleasant Prison, it is the first distillery in the US to be located in a former prison. Go behind bars and tour former NC prison that is home to America's first distillery. Taste award winning whiskeys including a corn whiskey (white liquor) as it once was. It is the Moonshine of lore that fueled rebellions and feuds.

Tour #3 ~ Feel The Thrill Speedway & NASCAR Hall of Fame~ Wednesday August 12, 2020 ~ 1300-1730

Your thrill seeker's tour begins at the Feel the Thrill Speedway Tour, which takes you into several areas that are off-limits on race days. Visit the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series garage area, travel down pit road and take a picture in Victory Lane. Then, get a feel for the 24-degree banking of the racetrack by riding in a Speedway van. Next we will visit the NASCAR Hall of Fame. It's where the sport's biggest names are enshrined in the Hall of Honor. There is a lot to see. Begin your visit at Glory Road, an exhibit that uses racing machines – past and present – to trace the evolution of the Cup Series car.

Tour #4 ~ Transportation Museum & Historic Latta Plantation ~ Thursday August 13, 2020 ~ 0900-1730

Train enthusiasts flock to the North Carolina Transportation Museum, located on the site of what was once Southern Railway Company's largest steam locomotive repair facility. The 57-acre complex features an authentic train depot, antique automobiles, airplanes and a 37-bay roundhouse that includes 25 locomotives, dozens of rail cars and other exhibit areas. Our second stop will be the Historic Latta Plantation, a circa 1800 cotton plantation and living history farm located within the 1,343 acre Latta Nature Preserve in Huntersville, NC. You will tour the plantation home and a chance to explore the eleven outbuildings which give you a glimpse of life in North Carolina from 1800 to 1865. Lunch will be on your own at Hendrix BBQ.

Tour #5 ~ Charlotte City Tour ~ Friday August 14, 2020 ~ 1400-1630

Come discover Charlotte North Carolina you will learn a lot about the history of our gleaming, modern city and see many different types of architecture from modern skyscrapers to Victorian and early 19th century homes set along beautiful tree lined streets. Along the way, our professional guides inform you about each area of the City including interesting facts and history.

Tour #6 ~ Dinner Cruise ~ Saturday August 15, 2020 ~ 1730-2230

Come aboard a custom designed replica of a Mississippi riverboat and take in the beautiful sights of Lake Norman as you step back in time on the "Catawba Queen" and enjoy an amazing dinner on this two-hour cruise.