

USS Essex 51st Annual Reunion Tour Information

Lancaster/Amish country

Today we embark on an *Amish Experience* not to be forgotten! Enjoy the story of Jacob's Choice shown on 5 different screens, witness his struggle in choosing the Amish church or leaving his family behind for the allure of the modern world. Tour an *Amish Country Homestead* and one-room schoolhouse before embarking on a *guided tour of the Amish farmlands*. Enjoy an Amish style lunch!

Next, we enjoy a guided tour of *Columbia, PA*. Learn how this town played a critical role in the Civil War and was once considered to be named the capital of the United States. Then we will explore *Turkey Hill Experience!* Help yourself to unlimited samples of Turkey Hill Ice Cream and Turkey Hill Iced Tea flavors! This is a self-guided, indoor, interactive attraction where you will learn how these products are made. End your visit by taking a seat in the *Taste Lab* where you can create your own ice cream flavor!

Gettysburg

"Fourscore and seven years ago..." Join us for a trip back in time where two armies met in the tiny town of ***Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.***

We begin our day at the ***Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor's Center, Museum and Cyclorama Experience.*** A colossal painting in the round, longer than a football field - will immerse you in one of history's most pivotal moments. View the ***Film: A New Birth of Freedom,*** narrated by Morgan Freeman. The film places you in the midst of the momentous issues of the Civil War while providing an orientation to the complex Battle of Gettysburg.

Lunch will be at the ***Historic Dobbin House Tavern,*** which was built in 1776 by the Reverend Alexander Dobbin and served as a station on the underground railroad. Our lunch buffet will be held in the unique country charm of the ***Abigail Adams Ballroom.***

After Lunch we will be transformed back in time as our ***Licensed Battlefield Guide*** boards our coach and brings history to life for us. Our ***two-hour tour*** will take us to many of the battlefields famous sites: Little Round Top, Devil's Den, and the site of Pickett's charge where so many heroes on both sides lost their lives on July 3, 1863, and many more.

Harrisburg & Hershey

We begin our day in ***Harrisburg***, Pennsylvania's Capitol City. Our first stop is the ***National Civil War Museum***. This museum caters to the history enthusiast, the Civil War buff, and those who are proud to be Americans, and those who want to know more about one of the most tragic times in American History.

Next, come and join us on one of the last remaining paddle-wheel riverboats in America. The ***Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat*** is an authentic stern-driven paddle wheeler built and launched in 1988. You will have a spectacular view of the Harrisburg skyline from the deck of this boat. See Harrisburg from a completely different perspective.

Lunch is at the "oldest freestanding restaurant in Hershey since 1935." ***Fenicci's of Hershey*** is known for great food and with family and friends.

Then we go to ***Hershey's Chocolate World!*** Enjoy some free time shopping after we take a one-of-a-kind sightseeing chocolate tasting experience!

The Hershey Trolley Works "Historical Trolley Tour" will take you on a journey through the inspiring life of Milton Hershey, visiting the historical sites of the town he created, and tasting the chocolate that made him famous