Ross and Kay Peterson have coordinated with the USU Alumni Association and Morris Columbus Travel for the past twenty-five years to offer unique travel experiences to Aggies and friends. The current global and national challenges, including COVID, the Ukraine/Russian conflict, Race Theory, and political divisions on many issues, prompted Ross’s vision to assemble a tour that emphasizes the beauty of the American experience.

The National Government has preserved the culture and history through parks, landmarks, museums, and buildings. This tour features the birth of the nation, its battles, Civil War, and unification. The origins of many contemporary debates will be explained. This tour will illuminate the grandeur of this ongoing American endeavor.

**DAY BY DAY ITINERARY**

**MAY 2, MONDAY, DAY 1 – FLY TO BALTIMORE**
Fly to Baltimore and transfer to the Holiday Inn at Baltimore airport. This evening we’ll have a get acquainted dinner. We overnight at the Holiday Inn. (Dinner)

**MAY 3, TUESDAY, DAY 2 – BALTIMORE TO PHILADELPHIA**
Today’s sites include Fort McHenry, the fort that was under bombardment from the British that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the lines of our National Anthem. It is an inspiring story. Then to Annapolis and the US Naval Academy to learn of the 175+ years of history and exceptional Naval traditions. One of Dr. Peterson’s hallmarks of every trip is to include a major league baseball game and this evening we’ll see the Philadelphia Phillies play the Texas Rangers at the beautiful Citizens Bank Park. This evening we’ll stay at the Holiday Inn Philadelphia.
MAY 4, WEDNESDAY, DAY 3 – IN PHILADELPHIA
Today, visits are made to Independence Hall to learn of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and to see the Liberty Bell. Other highlights of the day include Franklin Park Visitor Center and the Betsy Ross House. We stay at the Holiday Inn Philadelphia for a second night.

MAY 5, THURSDAY, DAY 4 – PHILADELPHIA TO GETTYSBURG
Today’s activities start at Valley Forge, the location of the 1777-1778 winter encampment of the Continental Army under General George Washington. Here the Continental Army emerged under Washington’s leadership as a cohesive and disciplined fighting force.

Then we’ll travel through Pennsylvania’s Amish County, where thousands still live a centuries-old "Plain" lifestyle. In Amish Country you step back in time to enjoy a slower, more peaceful pace – one where the horse & buggy remains a primary form of transportation and where windmills dot the landscape. An Amish lunch is included at the Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant.

We stay in Gettysburg at the Gettysburg Inn. (Lunch)

MAY 6, FRIDAY, DAY 5 – IN GETTYSBURG
The entire day is spent at the Gettysburg Battlefield. The Battle of Gettysburg was fought July 1–3, 1863. The battle involved the largest number of casualties of the entire war and is often described as the war's turning point. At the Visitor Center we'll see the film, A New Birth of Freedom, and see the Cyclorama of the battlefield. The museum gives an overview of not only the battle but of the Civil War. A licensed Battlefield guide will take us through the battlefield’s highlights including Little Round Top – the site famously held by the 20th Maine and Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. Other sites include Soldier’s National Cemetery – the resting place for more than 3,500 Union Troops killed in the battle.

This evening we’ll have dinner at the Dobbin House Tavern Restaurant. Established in 1776, The Dobbin House Tavern is a landmark ale house and restaurant. We stay at Gettysburg Inn again this evening. (Dinner)

MAY 7, SATURDAY, DAY 6 – GETTYSBURG TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
Today we continue our visits to some of the Civil War’s most important battle fields. Antietam, the deadliest one-day battle in American military history, showed that the Union could stand against the Confederate army in the Eastern Theatre. It also gave President Abraham Lincoln the confidence to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation at a moment of strength rather than desperation.

Then we'll go on to Manassas where two battles were fought. They were known as the Battles of Bull Run. The first Battle of Bull Run was the first of the war. Many from the capital brought picnic baskets to watch it, thinking it would be over in a matter of hours and the war would be over. It was a victory for the Confederate forces, followed by a disorganized retreat of the Union forces.

At Second Manassas, Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Confederate army again defeated Union forces, hastening the Federals’ retreat back toward their defenses in Washington and allowing Lee to lead his army across the Potomac River into the North and ultimately to Gettysburg.

We continue to Washington, D.C. This evening we will see the Musical “Grace” at Ford’s Theatre. We'll stay at Double Tree Crystal City.
MAY 8, SUNDAY, DAY 7 – IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
Today we’ll visit the National Mall and Memorial Parks, home to many of our country’s most iconic memorials telling the story of people and events that shaped us as a nation. It is full of inspiring monuments, memorials and museums that honor American forefathers, heroes and history. While you’ll have time to visit many of the monuments and museums, Dr. Peterson wants to highlight a visit to Smithsonian’s Museum of African American History as it is a dynamic conclusion to one of the major themes of the trip, the power of a national history.

We will conclude the trip this evening with a group dinner at the hotel followed by a drive around the monuments of the National Mall lighted at night. They are impressive. (Dinner)

MAY 9, MONDAY, DAY 8 - FLY WASHINGTON, D.C. TO SLC
This morning before transferring to the airport for return flights we’ll go to Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima Monument, and the Pentagon 9-11 Memorial before going to the airport for our return flights home.

RESERVATION INFORMATION

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: Ryan at Morris Columbus Travel 800-373-3328 Ext. 2026

Land Tour Costs:
• $1,776 per person based upon double occupancy
• $2,395 based on single occupancy
• $1,581 per person based on triple occupancy

Airfare costs: Call for current airfare costs.

LAND TOUR DEPOSIT: Full tour amount due at time of reservation

CANCELLATION AND REFUND: Tour is non-refundable once purchased. Airfare is per airline policies.

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As a matter of privacy, we do not disclose addresses or other personal information about other travelers in the group. We reserve the right to remove passengers from the group at their own expense if the care of or actions of a passenger become detrimental to the functioning of the tour. Payment of deposit(s) as outlined in this agreement shall be deemed consent to be bound by the terms and conditions of this agreement.

This tour’s airfare may start and/or end in a different city. Airline schedule changes, mechanical or weather delays may affect flight times. Your connecting flights and/or transportation to and from the tour start and end point, whether issued by Columbus Travel or on your own arrangement, may be affected. Please allow extra connection time. Columbus Travel is not responsible for misconnections, delays, and/or cancellations. Once your first flight has commenced the air carrier controls your reservation. Any flight delays, misconnections, or cancellations must be re-scheduled by the responsible airline.

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