

# **The Best of the Eastern UNITED STATES of AMERICA**

**"In the Footsteps of the Ulster Settlers"**

**5 - 21 October 2006**

Pennsylvania - Washington, D.C. - Virginia - North Carolina - Tennessee

HUTTONS TOURS in conjunction with AGROTOURS

## **DAY 1 - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October    Belfast - Newark, NJ - Lancaster, PA.    (-- , -- , D)**

08.30 Arrive Belfast International Airport and check-in to Continental Airlines flight CO095 which departs for Newark, New Jersey at 11.10 due there at 13.35 (local time) +5hrs. Meals provided on board. During the flight drink lots of fluids, walk about every 2/3 hours and exercise while seated!

On arrival at Newark Airport meet Elisabet Goodwyn of Agrotours and Bruce Kane, our tour guide, at the baggage claim. We board our private coach and drive to Lancaster, (3 hrs) in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country.

Check-in to Lancaster Country Inn and enjoy a "Welcome Dinner" together in the hotel restaurant.

**OVERNIGHT in the COUNTRY INN - LANCASTER, PA.**

## **DAY 2 - Friday 6<sup>th</sup>                    Amish Farms - Bird-in-Hand - Sight & Sound Theatre (B, -- , D)**

Enjoy a full American-style buffet breakfast at 8:00AM. We'll depart from the hotel at 9:20AM and go down the road to the Mennonite Information Center to meet our local guide, Art Wanger, at 9:30AM. Mr. Wanger is a retired farmer and will take us on a back roads tour of Amish farmlands.

Today we will visit working Amish farms in the area, not the ones designed for tourists! The Amish in this area, who number around 16 - 18,000, are the oldest group of the Old Order Amish. During our visits, we'll learn about their way of life, which stresses humility, family and community life, and separation from the world.

One of the things that Pennsylvania is known for is its covered bridges, particularly in Lancaster County, which has 28 of them still standing. During our drive, we'll stop to admire one of these wooden structures where to this day you can still hear the sounds of horse hooves and wagon wheels. We'll drop off Art and continue to Kitchen Kettle Village in Intercourse for lunch on own and some shopping time.

Back on the bus at 3:30PM and we'll go to Bird-in-Hand for some more shopping. On our way into BIH we'll stop to browse through the quilt shop of Sylvia Petersheim, located just outside of town. A Mennonite woman herself, Sylvia sells quilts made by local Amish and Mennonite women out of a shop located in the basement of her home such as quilted crafts, such as potholders and small wall-hangings.

Next we'll visit the Bird-In-Hand Farmer's Market, which has stands of smoked meats, cheeses, fresh meats, bakery items, candy, flowers and plants, produce, etc. Also on premises is the Clothing Chest Outlet, Snyders Woodcrafts (Pine and Oak Furniture), and the Farmers Market Gift Shop.

At 5:15PM we'll enjoy delicious Pennsylvania Dutch cooking prepared from fresh Lancaster County products at Good 'N Plenty Restaurant. Dinner will be "family style."

At 7:30PM we'll enjoy a Biblical performance of "Ruth" at the Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre, the largest Christian theatre in the United States. Return to the hotel for overnight.

## OVERNIGHT in the COUNTRY INN - LANCASTER, PA.

### **DAY 3 - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Lancaster Market - Mennonite Infor Centre - BBQ (B, --, D)**

[Those who are participating in the host stays will need to check out this morning before we depart from the hotel.]

After breakfast buffet at the hotel at 8:00AM, we'll start off our day with a visit to the Lancaster Central Market, departing the hotel at 9:00AM. This is America's oldest farmers' market, continuously operated since the 1730's. The 1889 market building is a Victorian gem, so bring your camera. The tradition of market today is more like an international whirlwind of foods from here and around the world. The aisles are filled with a wonderful harvest of choices from old world and new, Amish, German, Irish, Greek, Caribbean, Middle Eastern, and Slavic backgrounds.

You'll have the rest of the morning in downtown Lancaster for lunch on own and some free time to browse the shops and museums.

Board the bus at 12:30PM and we'll visit the Mennonite Information Center. The center offers information on the Mennonite Church, including an historical overview as well as an explanation of the global ministry of the church, including its relief ministries and mission programs throughout the world. At 1PM, we'll watch a 30 minute audio three-screen feature entitled "Who Are the Amish?" followed by an 18-minute presentation on both the Amish and Mennonites "Postcards from a Heritage of Faith." Then we'll have about half an hour or 45 minutes to enjoy their walk through exhibit and visit the gift shop entitled "Ten Thousand Villages".

We'll continue to the home of Mr Gerald Metzler for a BBQ cookout with our host families and some of his Amish neighbors. After the cookout, we will go home with our respective host families. Those who opted out of hosting will return to the hotel after the BBQ.

### OVERNIGHT with HOST FAMILIES (or Country Inn for those who opted out of hosting)

### **DAY 4 - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> With host families all day (B\*, L\*, D\*)**

This morning you will attend church with your host family. Many of our hosts are members of the Hershey Mennonite church. If you wish to attend the Mennonite service and your host family does not belong to the church, arrangements will be made for you to attend the service of your choice.

You will spend the day with your host family and get to know a little more of the Amish and Mennonites.

[For those who opt out of hosting the following applies:

Continental breakfast at the hotel or Full American at Friendly's Restaurant across the street .

This morning you have two options for church services. You may opt to attend the 10:15A M service at Ridgeview Mennonite Church. You'll be dropped off at the church at 10AM and picked up afterwards.

Your other option is to attend the 11:00AM morning service at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Lancaster. You'll be dropped off at the church at 10:30A M so that you can take part in the Hospitality Time before the service. After church, you will be picked up and returned to the hotel.

This afternoon is free to do as you please. Options include relaxing at the hotel or walk to the nearby Tanger Outlet Mall, which has over 60 brand name stores . Another option is to visit Hershey Park, where the world famous chocolate comes from! Dinner on own tonight.]

### OVERNIGHT with HOST FAMILIES (or Country Inn for those who opted out of hosting)

### **DAY 5 - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg - Mason-Dixon Farm - Washington, D.C. (B\*, L, D)**

Breakfast with your host family. [Continental breakfast at the hotel.] Those staying at the Country Inn must be checked-out and ready to go by 7:00AM. We'll drive to a designated location where the group will reconvene at 7:30AM.

(\* meals with host families)

At 7:45AM we'll depart for Gettysburg, the site where President Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address in July of 1863 during the Civil War. A step-on guide will join us for a tour of the battlefields, the largest battlefield shrine in America with over 1,000 monuments and cannon and over 40 miles of scenic avenues.

We'll have lunch at General Pickett's Buffet with some free time afterwards to browse the gift shops.

This afternoon we will visit the Mason-Dixon Farm, where they have some 2,000 head of dairy cattle. The farm produces 80,000 quarts of milk daily, designs and manufactures its own innovative equipment in line with its synergistic philosophy of agriculture, and generates enough electricity to receive a monthly check from the local utility company rather than a bill. It is one of the largest and most technologically advanced dairy farms in the world, and functions as a "living laboratory," with more than 3,000 acres of tillable farmland. During our visit, we'll get the chance to see the Waybright family's newest installation - fully robotic milkers - that efficiently milk 500 cows with minimal human labor.

Continue on to the Washington, D.C. area. Check-in to our hotel and dine together in hotel restaurant.

**OVERNIGHT in the HOLIDAY INN EISENHOWER - ALEXANDRIA, VA.**

**DAY 6 - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> White House tour - Washington City tour - Free time (B, --, --)**

After an early breakfast, we will depart the hotel at 7:15AM for a tour of the White House at 8:30AM.

Following the White House tour, we will have some free time to explore the area museums and have lunch on own. Attractions include the Smithsonian Institute Museums, National Air and Space Museum, Botanical Gardens, Corcoran Gallery of Art, and many more.

At 2:00PM we will meet in front of the National Museum of Natural History (National Mall side) and board the bus for a four-hour sightseeing tour of Washington, D.C. to include the U.S. Capitol, Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, Vietnam and Korean Veterans Memorials and Arlington Cemetery.

At the conclusion of the tour, you have the option of being dropped off in the city to do some more exploring on your own, or you may return to the hotel. There is a metro stop right across the street from our hotel (YELLOW LINE/EISENHOWER AVE Station). Dinner on own tonight.

**OVERNIGHT in the HOLIDAY INN EISENHOWER - ALEXANDRIA, VA.**

**DAY 7 - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Mt Vernon Farms - Skyline Drive - Monticello - Staunton (B, L, D)**

Check-out and depart at 8:30AM following breakfast and we'll drive southwest across beautiful Virginia on our way to Mount Vernon Farms in Sperryville. The Miller family has farmed on this 830 acre farm since 1827, and they raise 100% grass-fed beef cattle and sheep, as well as pigs and chickens.

Following our visit we'll have lunch at the Sperryville Grill.

Enjoy the vibrant autumn colors as we wind our way down Skyline Drive, stopping at two or three scenic overlooks to take pictures of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley and River below.

This afternoon we'll visit Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, third U.S. President, and author of the Declaration of Independence and Statute for Religious Freedom as well as founder of the University of Virginia.

Late in the afternoon we'll visit Jefferson Vineyards for an educational tour and optional wine-tasting. Thomas Jefferson's original 1774 vineyard sites and winery is located just one mile south of Monticello

We'll have dinner at a restaurant in Charlottesville before continuing to Staunton for overnight. Check-in to hotel.

## **OVERNIGHT in the BEST WESTERN HOTEL - STAUNTON, VA.**

### **DAY 8 - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Shenandoah Valley - Lexington - Staunton - Roanoke (B, -- , D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, check-out and depart by 8:15AM.

Our first visit of the day will be to the Museum of Frontier Culture, a living history site and an educational agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Museum features four historic, reconstructed working farms from Germany, Northern Ireland, England, and Botetourt County, Virginia, and a working 18th century blacksmith forge from Northern Ireland. The farms represent the daily lives and agricultural heritage of the peoples who came to the new world and formed a unique American culture.

The Museum's Ulster Farm was originally built near the town of Drumquin in County Tyrone in what is now the British province Northern Ireland, but was historically known as Ulster, the northern most of Ireland's four provinces. It is included to represent the type of farms left behind by the people who emigrated from Ulster to England's American colonies in the eighteenth century. These people, who came to be known in America as the Scotch-Irish, were prominent among the earliest settlers of the colonial frontier. The Ulster forge comes from the town land of Keenaghan in the Parish of Kinawley in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. This forge building probably dates to the late -18<sup>th</sup> century. At least four generations of blacksmiths in one family operated this forge for more than a century, from the early-19<sup>th</sup> century until after the Second World War.

Next we'll pay a visit to the birthplace of 28<sup>th</sup> U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. We'll have a 10:45AM guided tour of the house and gardens and then you'll have an opportunity to walk through the Museum at your own pace.

One of the few original Presidential birthplaces open to the public, Woodrow Wilson's first home offers an authentic picture of family life in the pre-Civil War Shenandoah Valley. Of Ulster-Scot descent on both sides of the family, his roots were very strong and dear to him. He was grandson of a printer from Dergalt, near Strabane, County Tyrone, whose former home is open to visitors. Throughout his career he reflected on the influence of his ancestral values on his constant quest for knowledge and fulfillment.

After this visit you will have some free time to get lunch on own and walk around downtown Staunton. (The Woodrow Wilson home is downtown and within easy walking distance of half a dozen restaurants.)

This afternoon we'll visit Natural Bridge, one of the seven natural wonders of the world at over 215 feet tall and 90 feet wide. Before the settlers came to the New World, the Natural Bridge was a sacred site of the Native American Monacan Indians. Natural Bridge and the Monacan Indian Nation of Virginia joined together to construct a living history Monacan Village complex which demonstrates what life would have been like in a typical Monacan Village 300 years ago. We'll spend about two hours here before continuing on our way to Roanoke for overnight.

Later check-in to our hotel in Roanoke this evening but dinner is included at EJ's Landing Restaurant in the hotel so we don't have to go in search of dinner. EJ's Landing is known for the best seafood in town. Known as the 'Capital of the Blue Ridge' and a crossroads for commerce, Roanoke goes back to 1740's.

## **OVERNIGHT in the HOLIDAY INN TANGLEWOOD - ROANOKE, VA.**

### **DAY 9 - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Sheep Research Centre - Asheville (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out at 8:00AM and we'll drive an hour to the Virginia Tech Copenhaver Sheep Center in Blacksburg. The Sheep Center plays a vital role in the teaching, research and outreach missions of the Department of Animal Science and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The center currently maintains four flocks for these purposes - registered Suffolk and Dorset flocks, a composite Dorset x Finn x Rambouillet out-of-season breeding flock, and a flock of hair sheep (St. Croix, Barbados Blackbelly, and various crosses). Lambing seasons span from September through April. Current research efforts at the center are focused on the genetics of out-of-season breeding, evaluation of hair sheep, parasite resistance, and ultrasonic evaluation of body composition.

We'll drive for about an hour and thirty minutes before stopping for lunch at the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Restaurant and Gifts in Wytheville.

Continuing on our way, we'll arrive late afternoon in Asheville, a picturesque mountain town with unique restaurants and eclectic shops. Over the last 15 years, Asheville has experienced a dramatic transformation, becoming one of the Southeast's most welcoming and vibrant American downtowns. The unique mix of culture here has led this city to be dubbed the "Paris of the South."

We'll check-in and have dinner at the hotel.

### **OVERNIGHT in the HOLIDAY INN BILTMORE EAST - ASHVILLE, NC.**

<b>DAY 10 - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Free day in Asheville</b>	<b>(B, --, --)</b>
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Today is a free day for you to choose your own activities or relax in lovely Asheville mountain resort.

You might want to take in the Western North Carolina Farmer's Market, set on a thirty-six-acre site with a beautiful panoramic view of the mountains and the Biltmore Estate. The retail area features displays of high quality fruits and vegetables, mountain crafts, jams, jellies, preserves, sourwood honey, and dozens of other farm fresh items. Inside you will also find a deli that offers sandwiches and ice cream. Jesse Israel & Sons Garden and Nursery Center features the best in top quality plants, trees, and shrubs. You will enjoy strolling through this colorful facility that includes a greenhouse full of tropical plants, ponds full of water plants, bonsai, and a forty-foot waterfall.

The Asheville Urban Trail is a great way to be exploring downtown Asheville. The 1.7-mile walking tour showcases Asheville's rich history and the distinctive Art Deco architecture dating to the 1920s. The rest of your exploration will take you to locally-owned art galleries and museums, shops, nightspots, outdoor festivals and restaurants.

You could visit the beautiful Biltmore Estate and Winery, the largest privately owned home in the US. [Entrance fee.] Take a stroll through the intriguing Historic Biltmore Village with all its fine shops, galleries and restaurants.

### **OVERNIGHT in the HOLIDAY INN BILTMORE EAST - ASHVILLE, NC.**

<b>DAY 11 - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Morning worship in Asheville - Cullowhee - Dillsboro (B, L, D)</b>
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Breakfast at the hotel, then check-out and depart by 10:00AM. This morning we'll attend the 10:55A morning service at First Presbyterian Church. After church, we'll have lunch at the Café on the Square, just a few blocks away.

Today we'll enjoy the company of Mr. Paul Smallwood, past President of the Ulster-Scots Society of America. The Ulster-Scots Society is primarily an educational and social organization committed to the promotion of the Ulster-Scots history and heritage, especially as it pertains to the nearly one quarter of a million immigrants who left Northern Ireland during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and settled in America.

After lunch we'll travel to Cullowhee to visit the Mountain Heritage Center at Western Carolina University. The Heritage Center celebrates the natural and cultural heritage of the southern Appalachian region. Through exhibitions, publications, educational programs, and demonstrations, the Center promotes the rich traditions of the mountains, offering visitors a unique understanding of its land, culture, and people. Of special interest is a permanent exhibit in Gallery A which focuses on the migration of the Scotch-Irish.

Next we'll enjoy a special presentation by the Ammons sisters, as they share with us the story of the Appalachian heritage of the area.

Continue on to Dillsboro and we'll have dinner at the historic Jarrett House. Check-in to the hotel and time to relax in the Jacuzzi or go for a swim in the heated indoor pool before bed.

### **OVERNIGHT in BEST WESTERN RIVER ESCAPE INN & SUITES - DILLSBORO, NC**

#### **DAY 12 Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Dillsboro - Great Smoky Mountain Train - Gatlinburg (B, --, D)**

This morning enjoy an early breakfast on the patio beside the Tuckaseegee River. We'll check-out at 7:30AM and drive to Bryson City to board the Great Smoky Mountain Train departing at 9:00AM for a scenic excursion to Nantahala Gorge. This magnificent trip offers some of the most breathtaking scenery in Western North Carolina, with highlights such as the Horseshoe Curve, Fontana Lake Trestle and the Nantahala River Gorge.

There will be a one-hour layover at Nantahala Gorge, where we will enjoy a pre-booked boxed lunch, (\$8 per person) since waiting for 52 people to be served in Slow Joe's Café could be a really slow experience!

The train returns to Bryson City at 1:30PM. We'll drive around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Gatlinburg, TN, with a visit to the Oconaluftee Cherokee Indian Village en route.

Check-in to the hotel and relax. Tonight we'll have dinner at Eleanor's Restaurant in the hotel.

### **OVERNIGHT in the PARK VISTA RESORT HOTEL - GATLINBURG, TN.**

#### **DAY 13 - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Gatlinburg - Dollywood - Pigeon Forge (B, --, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel at 9:00AM and then depart from the hotel at 9:45AM. This morning we will attend the 31<sup>st</sup> 'Annual Fall Craftsmen's Fair' at the Gatlinburg Convention Center from 10:00AM until 12:00PM. Art, crafts and music lovers will find over 200 booths featuring some of the nation's finest work. Artisans and craftspeople are on-hand to demonstrate their skill, answer questions and offer their unique art for sale.

Next we'll go to Dolly Parton's Dollywood, a one-of-a-kind Smoky Mountain theme park spanning 125 acres and nestled in the lush foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Dollywood's live entertainment showcases the best in country, bluegrass, mountain and gospel music with more than a dozen stage shows. Master craftsmen demonstrate centuries-old crafts including blacksmithing, glass blowing and wood carving. Lunch on own at park.

Meet back at the bus at 4:30PM and we'll go to the Dixie Stampede Dinner Show! We'll enjoy a special Carriage Room Opening Act, followed by the thrilling main show in a beautiful Arena with 32 horses, dozens of cast members, live buffalo, amazing ostrich races and magic! During the show we'll be served a delicious four-course dinner complete with dessert.

### **OVERNIGHT in the PARK VISTA RESORT HOTEL - GATLINBURG, TN.**

#### **DAY 14 - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Southern Appalachia - Knoxville - Nashville (B, L, --)**

Following breakfast at 7:30AM this morning, check-out at 8:30AM. We will drive to Norris to visit the Museum of the Appalachia, dedicated to the everyday lives of the mountain folk of Southern Appalachia. It was opened in the late 1960s with one log building, the General Bunch House, on a two-acre plot. Now it has grown to 65 acres, including dozens of authentic log structures, a large Display Building, and extensive Craft and Gift (and Antique) Shop, a Restaurant, the Mountain Heritage Room, the popular Appalachian Hall of Fame Building, the People's Building, and over a quarter million items.

We'll enjoy a tour, followed by a BBQ lunch. You're in for a special treat, with one full hour of old-time mountain and bluegrass music by the popular Museum of Appalachia Band!

On our way out of Norris, we'll drive into Knoxville for a sightseeing tour of this city, which has strong connections with the early Scots Irish settlers [see Billy Kennedy's books] . Among our stops will be the First Presbyterian Church and East Tennessee Historical Society. Continue to Nashville for dinner on our own and overnight. \*\*Note: On the way into Nashville, we will cross a time zone. Be sure to set your watches back one hour! For example, if we arrive in Nashville at 6:00PM, it will actually be 5:00PM.

## **OVERNIGHT in the SHERATON HOTEL - NASHVILLE, TN.**

### **DAY 15 - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Nashville City tour - Ryman Theatre - River cruise (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel at 7:00AM. Then we'll take a morning sightseeing tour of music-famed Nashville with a step-on guide, beginning at 8:00AM, to include a walking tour of the Ryman Theatre.

We'll enjoy a "Farewell Lunch Cruise" on the Cumberland River aboard the historic 300 -foot-long General Jackson Showboat. Styled in the grand tradition of the paddlewheel riverboats that cruised the great Southern waterways in the 1800s, the General Jackson was named after the first steamboat to operate on the Cumberland River in 1817. This two and a half hour cruise will include a music show entitled, "Now That's Country" featuring Tim Watson.

The rest of the afternoon is free for last minute shopping and packing.

Enjoy a farewell dinner tonight at F. Scott's at 6:00PM.

## **OVERNIGHT in the SHERATON HOTEL - NASHVILLE, TN.**

### **DAY 16 - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Nashville - Newark - Belfast (B, --, --)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out and transfer to airport for flights home. Continental Airlines split our group into three smaller groups for the internal flight between Nashville and Newark each departing Nashville at different times, however we all meet again in Newark for the Belfast flight CO094 @ 20.55.

Your flight numbers and times have been indicated on your joining instructions letter but just to restate: First flight: CO3256 @ 10.05 - second flight CO2562 @ 12.50 - third flight CO2567 @ 16.05. Make sure your baggage is checked straight through from Nashville to Belfast and that boarding cards for both flights have been issued to you at Nashville!

The split has been made on the basis of later bookings traveling on the earlier flight with some consideration given to friends traveling together. The coach will transfer each group in time for check-in.

Those traveling on the earlier flight from Nashville have the option of getting a bus into New York after their arrival in Newark at 11.50. There is a regular bus service from Newark Airport into New York city.

Ensure that you have your boarding card and allow sufficient time to get to the stated departure gate.

Meals on board the flight to Belfast.

**Overnight on board aircraft.**

### **DAY 17 - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October Belfast - travel home in Northern Ireland (B, --, --)**

Breakfast on board. Continental Airlines flight CO094 due to arrive Belfast International Airport at 08.30.

AGROTOURS and HUTTONS trust that you enjoyed this Eastern United States holiday tour.

- ❖ **Mr. Bruce Kane and Mrs. Elisabet Goodwyn of Agrotours are our tour managers throughout this tour.**
- ❖ **Meals included are shown as BLD for each day B=breakfast/L=lunch/D=dinner.**
- ❖ **Hotel portage, in and out, is included at most of the hotels one bag per person.**

- ❖ Tour Manager will advise on gratuities that are expected at hotels and restaurants.
- ❖ Our flights are with Continental Airlines who provide complimentary meals and drinks.
- ❖ To telephone home dial 00 44 28 followed by the local code and telephone number.
- ❖ Pre-purchased telephone cards are generally the cheapest way of telephoning home.
- ❖ Good time-keeping is of critical importance on this tour - please do not let us down.
- ❖ Take sensible precautions to safeguard your valuables ie passport, money/credit cards.