District of Gardens

DC AND THE TIDEWATER

SEPTEMBER 23 – 30, 2021
The tour begins at wonderful Dumbarton Oaks, a manor built in 1801 and once lived in by Vice President Calhoun. The estate includes a museum and gardens by landscape architect Beatrix Farrand. She was one of the first women landscape architects in the country and the terraced gardens are some of her best work. They include the Orangery, Beech Terrace, Rose Garden, Fountain Terrace, Arbor Terrace (with wisteria) and the Lover’s Lane Pool.

Hampton Mansion, in the late-Georgian style, was the largest private home in America in 1790 with grounds eventually expanding to 24,000 acres before being divided. A large Italianate parterre garden (a formal garden with designed gardens in the interior) on the south side and an English garden filled with perennials and shrubs on the north side enhance the native woodland with many exotic species. Designated an historic site in 1948, the mansion and its remaining 60 acres were later given to the National Park Service which now owns and operates the property.

Self-taught gardener Harvey Ladew created 15 garden rooms each devoted to a single plant, color or theme. Included are the Victorian Garden, Berry Garden, Yellow Garden, White Garden and the Garden of Eden. Access to the Keyhole Garden is through a ‘keyhole’ in the hedge. Interspersed are 100 topiaries.
Smithsonian Gardens

Enid Haupt (left) and Lady Bird Johnson in the Enid A. Haupt Garden near Smithsonian Castle. Mrs. Haupt, a noted supporter of horticultural projects, donated funds to build the garden atop the underground complex housing the National Museum of African Art and the Sackler Gallery. Most of the gardens were designed by architect Jean Paul Carlhian in conjunction with landscape architects Lester Collins and Sasaki Associates. Impressive Renwick Gates act as the entrance to the garden. The Smithsonian has plans to demolish the Haupt Garden to increase access to the Smithsonian.

Hillwood Estate

Hillwood was the home of Marjorie Merriweather Post, a business entrepreneur, whose father was C.W. Post. The house was built in the 1920's. Ms. Post, the richest woman in America, bought Hillwood in the 1950's and expanded the gardens to include the Lunar Lawn, a 13,000 square-foot outdoor expanse from which you can see the Washington Monument.

Tudor Place, a neoclassical style home built in 1794, is one of the few Federal-era homes and gardens still intact today. There are many heirloom plants on the property and it is ringed by great trees including a 200-year-old tulip tree (Liriodendron).
Day Four

Classic Small Town America

DC and the Tidewater are home to wonderful, intact, early-American cities, places that developed before the age of the automobile. Annapolis (1646), Alexandria (1749), Georgetown (1751) and parts of The District (1790) are home to well-preserved examples of building stock from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Main Street in Annapolis, King Street in Alexandria and Wisconsin Street in Georgetown with their cobblestone streets, brick sidewalks and charming architecture create distinctive streetscapes full of shops and restaurants. A wide range of architectural styles is represented as well including Federal, Georgian, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne and Romanesque.

On Your Own
Plenty of time, on multiple days, has been set aside for self-exploration. The Hamilton Hotel is conveniently located in Downtown DC, close to the Mall, Capitol Hill and the monuments.
The National Cathedral, which took 83 years to build, is the second largest cathedral in the United States. The gardens surrounding the building include the Frederick Law Olmsted-designed Bishop’s Garden.

“On fame’s eternal camping ground their silent tents are spread
And glory guards with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead.”

– Theodore O’Hara (1847)
Mount Vernon

The iconic home of George Washington on the Potomac River – in the Palladian style – was built by George's father in 1724. The estate, which appears much as it did in George and Martha's time, sits on 500 acres (originally 8,000) with about 30 buildings. There is an upper garden to the north surrounded by greenhouses and a lower garden to the south with a distillery, blacksmith and smokehouse. Beyond is the tomb of the President and his wife and nearby is a four-acre working farm depicting life in the eighteenth century.

River Farm

The American Horticultural Society's River Farm was originally part of Mount Vernon, George Washington's estate. The many gardens include White House Gates, which incorporates the gates installed in a White House restoration after the building burned during the War of 1812. Removed in a later renovation, the gates sat derelict for nearly fifty years before being rescued in 2004 and placed at River Farm.
The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum is an outstanding collection of Japanese Bonsai, Chinese Penjing and American Bonsai created when Japan gave the United States bonsai trees in 1976 to honor the Bicentennial. The Viewing Stone collection includes more than 100 stones to encourage contemplation.

Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens are part of the Anacostia River Park that Congress set aside in 1926 to protect the waterways around D.C. Parts of the gardens go back to the 1800’s when Walter Shaw bought a section of the wetlands, built raised paths to keep out brackish water and created a water lily garden.

The National Arboretum was created in 1927 and sits on 446 acres in an area particularly well-suited for an arboretum with its varied soils and physiography. Situated on a grassy knoll are the original Corinthian columns from the U.S. Capitol’s East Portico. These impressive pillars were removed during a remodeling and relocated to the arboretum.

The National Herb Garden has more than 400 varieties of herbs, an historic rose collection as well as a small grove containing almost every state tree.

Thomas Jefferson and James Madison helped establish the United States Botanic Garden in 1820. In 1842 when the Wilkes Expedition returned with a load of plants from the South Seas, the entire collection moved to a greenhouse on the Mall until the current Conservatory was built in 1933. Collections include ethno-botanical plants, unusual plant adaptations, rare and endangered plants and plants that existed during the Jurassic Period.
Boordy Winery
The Boordy Winery in the Long Green Valley of Baltimore County is the oldest winery in the state. The land started as a farm in the early eighteenth century (grapes were smuggled from France before 1945). Their special wines are Albarino, Terra Maria, Pinot Gris and Cabernet Franc.

**DC AND TIDEWATER TOUR**

**September 23 through Sept. 30, 2021**

**Reserve Today:**

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