Nautical Navigations

The Connecticut and Massachusetts Tour

September 28-October 6, 2023
9-day, 8-night tour
$2,495 per person*

Register at www.hsmichigan.org/motr
or by calling (800) 692-1828

* Includes motorcoach transportation; all lodging; all dinners and breakfasts; some lunches; and all admission fees, taxes, and gratuities. HSM membership required. Price is per person based on double occupancy.
Mystic Seaport, Old Sturbridge Village, the Mark Twain Home, the Submarine Force Museum – they’re all part of our fabulous Michiganders on the Road tour of New England. Our custom tour includes some of the region’s world-famous attractions, in addition to stops at Morristown National Historical Park and Herman Melville’s Arrowhead.

Transportation, lodging, admission fees, all dinners and breakfasts, taxes, and gratuities are all included. Dinners are always at locally owned restaurants, so you’ll experience the local dining scene. We learn a lot, eat more than we should, and return with great memories.

**DAY 1**
*September 28, Thursday*

We leave Michigan on Thursday morning and board in four locations: Grand Rapids, Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Dundee. The Lansing location is at our office building on the city’s west edge; the other three locations are Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Park and Ride lots. You can leave your car all week. As we motor through Ohio and Pennsylvania, you can snooze, watch a movie on the coach’s DVD system, or play one of Bob’s Useless Trivia Games.

Dinner on this night is at the Moena restaurant in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, a great locally-owned dining establishment. Our Michiganders on the Road always include full dinners every evening—and dessert. Desserts are de rigueur for historians! Lodging tonight is at the nearby Holiday Inn Express in Clearfield. All of the hotels on our tours offer complimentary breakfasts, so we can be ready to hit the road in the morning.

**DAY 2**
*September 29, Friday*

Today, we arrive in New Jersey for a tour of George Washington’s headquarters at Morristown National Historical Park. Valley Forge may be better known, but the Continental Army encamped at Morristown during the “Hard Winter” of 1779-1780: the coldest on record and an even more desperate time for the cause of liberty. Despite terrible conditions, fewer than 10% of the troops deserted and the Continental Army emerged in the late spring to continue the war. In 1933, Morristown became the nation’s first National Historic Park. Known as “the place where America survived,” Morristown includes Jockey Hollow, the Ford Mansion, Fort Nonsense, and Washington’s Headquarters Museum.

We’ll have dinner at The ’76 House in Tappan, New York, a 300 year-old restored tavern listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After dinner we’ll head to Stamford, Connecticut, and soft beds at the Hampton Inn & Suites.
DAY 3
September 30, Saturday

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum is amazing—and the destination for this morning. When the museum opened in 1998, it set new standards for the interpretation of northeastern Native American history and culture. The tribal-owned museum in Mashantucket, Connecticut offers multi-sensory dioramas and exhibits about the history of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the natural and cultural history of the eastern woodlands. The visitor experience includes films and videos, interactive programs, exhibits of archival materials, ethnographic and archaeological collections, commissioned art, and traditional Native crafts.

The sprawling 308,000-square-foot museum complex includes permanent and temporary exhibits, classrooms, a 320-seat auditorium, a restaurant, and a museum store. Visitors can also ride an elevator to the top of a 185-foot stone-and-glass tower to enjoy a breathtaking view of the region. We’ll spend the whole morning at the Pequot Museum and enjoy a boxed lunch (included) in the museum cafeteria.

In the early afternoon, we’re off to Groton, Connecticut for a tour of the Submarine Force Museum and its star attraction: the USS Nautilus.

Groton is home to the U.S. Navy’s “Silent Service”: the submarine fleet. The Electric Boat Company, founded in 1899, has built our Navy’s submarines from the pre-WWI “Plunger” class boats to the Los Angeles-class attack boats still in use today. The Submarine Force Museum on the Thames River exhibits the world’s finest collection of submarine artifacts—33,000 items, plus photographs and documents. The Nautilus, launched in 1954, was the Navy’s first nuclear submarine. In addition to the Nautilus, we’ll tour museum exhibits that trace the development of American submarines from David Bushnell’s Turtle (used in the Revolutionary War) to the present time.

After dinner and a full day of touring, we’ll check in at our home for the next three nights: the Hyatt Place Uncasville, just north of Mystic, Connecticut.

DAY 4
October 1, Sunday

Sea lions, and tiger sharks, and penguins, oh my! It’s a morning at the famous Mystic Aquarium. Scales, flippers, and fins are all part of the exhibits at the Mystic Aquarium, an institution founded 50 years ago that now ranks among the nation’s premier marine sites. Some 800,000 people visit the aquarium each year to learn about the world’s oceans and marine life, and to find out about the latest developments in research and conservation. The aquarium’s most popular exhibits include “Ocean Solutions,” “Undersea Explorer VR,” and the Foxwoods Marine Theater. The aquarium is home to thousands of species of marine mammals, fish, invertebrates, and reptiles, and is a leader in research and conservation. We’ll spend the morning at the Mystic Aquarium and have lunch in the Saltwater Café.
We’ll continue our exploration of the Mystic area’s natural history in the afternoon with a visit to the nearby Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. Located just outside the village of Mystic, the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center is a combination wildlife sanctuary, natural history museum, and educational facility that interprets the habitats of southeastern Connecticut.

After learning about the area’s natural history, we’ll have a little time to explore the picturesque shops of downtown Mystic before heading to dinner at the Steak Loft.

Mystic Seaport Museum numbers among America’s premier maritime attractions. The museum was founded in 1929 as America’s seafaring traditions were rapidly disappearing. The museum’s grounds cover nineteen acres on the Mystic River and include a recreated New England coastal village, a working shipyard, exhibit halls, and more than 500 historic watercraft. The vessels on display include four National Historic Landmark vessels, most famously America’s oldest extant commercial ship: the 1841 whaler Charles W. Morgan.

Exhibits interpret some of the museum’s more than two million artifacts, among them marine paintings, scrimshaw, models, tools, ships’ plans, an oral history archive, extensive film and video recordings, and more than one million photographs. In the shipyard, you’ll find historians, storytellers, musicians, and craftspeople who relate the stories of seafaring life, and you can watch shipwrights in the Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard practicing age-old skills as they restore and maintain the museum’s watercraft collection. Bob spent much time during his most recent visit talking with workmen who were caulking seams in the Charles W. Morgan with oakum.

After an early dinner in Mystic, we’ll head out to sea on a cruise aboard the schooner Argia. This adventure is a two-hour cruise aboard Mystic’s sole remaining commercial vessel, a two-masted gaff topsail schooner. The Argia is modeled on a 19th century East Coast trading schooner (a “packet”) and is built of mahogany, white oak, yellow pine, and cypress. The cruise takes passengers on a relaxing voyage along the scenic coastline and lighthouses off Mystic.

Samuel Clemens (“Mark Twain”) and Harriet Beecher Stowe lived next door to each other in Hartford, Connecticut, and our journey today takes us to both homes.

In 1873, Samuel and Olivia “Livy” Clemens hired New York architect Edward T. Potter to design their Hartford home. They and their daughters Susy, Clara, and Jean, moved in a year later and spent the happiest days of their lives in their new house. It was here that Sam
wrote The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Life on the Mississippi, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, and more. Sam wrote extensively about life in their home, providing present-day guides with riotous stories for the home tours. We’ll also tour the adjacent museum and its exhibits about Twain and his life.

Our next stop, the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, is right next door. Stowe, famous as the author of the novel Uncle Tom’s Cabin, settled in Hartford in 1864. She moved into a Gothic Revival house in town in 1873 and lived there for the rest of her life. We’ll tour the house and the Center, then head to dinner and our hotel.

Old Sturbridge Village, like Mystic Seaport, ranks among America’s top historic sites. We’ll spend most of our day here experiencing life in 1830s New England on the recreated village’s 200 acres and its 40 historic buildings. Costumed interpreters populate Sturbridge Village, including the Tin Shop, Thompson Bank, Bullard Tavern, Friends Meeting House, and Asa Knight Store. There are flower and vegetable gardens everywhere, orchards, barnyards, and “heritage breed animals.” It takes little imagination for visitors to believe that they’ve time-traveled into a world two centuries in the past. You can have lunch at the Bullard Tavern or indulge in an ice cream cone at the Village Scoop Shop, and you won’t want to miss the extensive exhibits in the Wells Historical Museum.

Having learned about maritime history in Mystic and novelists in Hartford, we simply can’t pass up Pittsfield, Massachusetts and the home of the author of Moby Dick, so our drive back to Michigan pauses to tour Arrowhead, the home of novelist Herman Melville. Melville bought the 160-acre farm in 1850 and named it Arrowhead for the Native American artifacts he found on the property. In 1841, Melville had signed on as a crewman aboard the whaler Acushnet; that experience—and time in Tahiti, Hawaii, and in the US Navy—gave him material for his novels Typee, Omoo, and Moby Dick. Arrowhead itself inspired many features of his books. After touring Arrowhead we’ll depart for the Rochester, New York area for dinner and our hotel.

We complete our trip back to Michigan today with time along the way to once again test our wits with Bob’s Useless Trivia Games, watch a movie or two, and reflect on all we’ve enjoyed during the tour.
Yes! I (we) want to join Michiganders on the Road® for Nautical Navigations: The Connecticut and Massachusetts Tour for $2,495* per person.

*Includes motorcoach transportation; all lodging; all dinners and breakfasts; some lunches; and all admission fees, taxes, and gratuities. Historical Society of Michigan $39.95 membership required. Price is per person based on double occupancy. We encourage the purchase of travel insurance in case unforeseen events force you to cancel at the last minute. Deposits or payments made after the reservation deadline of August 28, 2023, cannot be refunded. NOTE: HSM Staff will be monitoring COVID 19 and will communicate trip policies before departure.

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☐ I would like to pay the full tour price of $2,495 per person. Price is based on double occupancy.

☐ I would like to pay the $250 per person deposit for the tour. The balance of $2,245 per person will be due on or before the reservation deadline of August 28, 2023. Deposits are fully refundable on or before August 28, 2023. Deposits or payments made after the reservation deadline cannot be refunded.

☐ Are you a member of the Historical Society of Michigan? (Membership is required to participate in this tour.)
  ☐ Yes, I am already a member.
  ☐ I want to become a member for $39.95 so I can go on this tour. This membership includes Michigan History and Chronicle magazines.

☐ I am a single person and would like single-room accommodations. I understand there will be a $700 surcharge for this service.

☐ I am a single person and would like to be paired with another single of the same gender so that my reservation can be based on double occupancy.

☐ I would like to have vegetarian meals.

☐ A check for $________________________ is enclosed, payable to Historical Society of Michigan.

☐ Please charge $________________________ to my credit card listed below.

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☐ Check Enclosed. Made payable to: Historical Society of Michigan

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Mail or fax this form to:
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