



WCRC Tour Retreat:
Experience Hampton Roads
April 23-26, 2012

**Sponsored by TravelVenture Tours and
Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center**

OUR LEADERS

Ed and Edie Bontrager, of TravelVenture Tours, will be hosting this tour. They were the pastoral couple at the Huntington Mennonite Church in Newport News, for 10 years, and now live in Harrisonburg, VA. Their combined experience in leading 30 overseas tours as well as local bus trips makes them the ideal leaders with whom to explore the Virginia Peninsula. They have two wonderful daughters and sons-in-law along with four delightful grandchildren!



OUR TOUR

This Spring, our Tour Retreat will focus on the Hampton Roads area. We will learn the history of the Mennonites who settled on the Peninsula and the impact they continue to have on the community. The tour will also highlight some of the area's attractions such as the Virginia Air and Space Center and Jamestown Settlement. We will dine at a local seafood restaurant and take a cruise along scenic waterways. In the following pages you will learn more about the exciting things we will be doing. We hope that you will join us as we tour the Virginia Peninsula.

Schedule

Monday

Arrival
Dinner at WCRC
Fellowship time at WCRC

Tuesday

Breakfast at WCRC
History of the Hampton Roads Mennonite community
Virginia Air and Space Center
IMAX
Lunch at a special seafood restaurant
Visit Warwick River Mennonite Church and School
Dinner at WCRC

Wednesday

Breakfast at WCRC
Miss Hampton II Harbor Cruise
Lunch at Peninsula Town Center
Visit Calvary Community Church
Dinner at WCRC
Bonfire and hymn sing

Thursday

Breakfast at WCRC
Jamestown Settlement
Lunch at Jamestown Settlement
Return to WCRC for farewells and departure

Monday, April 23 We will arrive at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center (WCRC) at 3:00 p.m. or later. WCRC has over 300 beautiful acres which includes three lodging facilities, a village consisting of five cabins, large recreation fields, and countless trails. After a fine dinner we will have a get-acquainted time, and then we will be lodged at Oakwood Lodge, which has 24 motel-style rooms with private facilities, along with two meeting rooms.

Tuesday, April 24 After breakfast we will board a motor coach and head toward Newport News, one of several cities in the Hampton Roads area. Within the cities of Williamsburg, Newport News, and Hampton there are five Mennonite churches affiliated with the Virginia Mennonite Conference. Throughout the day, Susan Ackerman, author and historian, will join us on our bus, as she tells about the history, culture, and life of the Mennonites who settled in this area in 1897. We will pass both the Williamsburg and Huntington Mennonite Churches, along with the Yoder Barn. It was at this location where, during the late '90s and early '00s, a number of musical dramas were performed by the Mennonite community.

Our motor coach will take us first to the Hampton Visitor Center, a perfect place to learn more about the area. Virginia Air and Space Center and Riverside 3D IMAX Theater in Hampton are located here. There we will see the African-based film, *Born to be Wild*, on the center's five-story IMAX screen. The Air and Space Center also houses an "Adventures in Flight" gallery and more than 100 hands-on exhibits. The Apollo 12 Command Module is here along with a Mars meteorite and a three billion year-old moon rock!



Lunch will follow at a local seafood restaurant. Following this break, we will head to the Denbigh area, passing by Providence Mennonite Church and Menowood, a retirement facility begun by the Mennonites, and make a stop at the Warwick River Mennonite Church. Next to the church is the Warwick River Christian School sponsored by several of the Mennonite churches. We will learn about the scope of ministries that Mennonites in the area have been involved in over the years.

As the day ends, we will return to WCRC for a delicious dinner. The rest of the evening is free for you to stroll around the camp, find the hiking path and walk to The Learning Tree or just relax for the evening.

Wednesday, April 25 After a good night's sleep and breakfast, we will board our motor coach once again, passing through Newport News, and arrive in downtown Hampton for the Miss Hampton II Harbor Cruise on the Chesapeake Bay and James River. From 10:00 am to 12:30 pm we will take to the water on this double-decked tour boat to see local fishing boats, mighty commercial cargo ships, Blackbeard's Point, Old Point Comfort, Fort Wool and the awesome gray fleet at the world's largest naval installation, Norfolk Naval Base.



We will then go to the Peninsula Town Center, a newly renovated shopping area that contains 46 different stores and 17 eating establishments. Here you will be able to find the cuisine that suits your taste buds, and you may continue for the next hour or so shopping. There is another option: close by is Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World located in Coliseum Central. Bass Pro Shops feature in-store interactive sports such as fly-casting, rock climbing and a shooting arcade. There is also a 19,000 gallon aquarium and true-to-life wildlife exhibits showcased throughout the store.



We will also plan to visit the Calvary Community Church, one of the largest Mennonite churches in MC USA, as Bishop and Pastor Leslie Francisco III tells about their ministry. In the 1950s, this church developed as an outreach of the Warwick River Mennonite Church among the African American population in downtown Newport News when working cross-culturally was not acceptable.



Then it's time to go back to WCRC and have a great dinner in the Magnolia Dining Hall. For those of us who are still energetic, the staff at WCRC will be treating us to some enjoyable camp activities including a campfire, hayride and hymn sing after dinner.

Thursday, April 26 Today we go to the Jamestown Settlement and discover the Start of Colonial America which took place in 1607. At the Jamestown Settlement we will have a guided tour with interpreters in costume as we learn about the settlers' many trials and adventures. There are full-scale recreations of the colonists' fort and a Powhatan Indian village, a riverfront discovery area, and replicas of the three English ships that brought the settlers to the New World. We'll see hundreds of artifacts from the period, among them portraits, documents, furnishings, ceremonial and decorative objects, tools, and weapons. We can try our hand at grinding corn, scraping an animal hide, weaving natural fibers into cordage, and engaging in several other hands-on experiences.



There will be plenty to do for the day and you may stay as long as you wish. The settlement is open until 5:00 p.m. There are restaurants and snack bars on the premises so you will be on your own for lunch.



Jamestown is within easy driving distance from WCRC so we will not charter our motor coach today, but instead will car-pool. This will give us more freedom as to when we would like to go back to WCRC and head for home.

Lodging Options

Oakwood Lodge provides both single occupancy as well as double occupancy rooms.



WCRC is located about 12 miles northwest of Colonial Williamsburg. To get to WCRC take exit 227 off of I-64. Head north on Rt.30. Take the first left onto Barnes Road. The Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center is about a mile down on the right.

