

## WASHINGTON, DC & GETTYSBURG

Explore American politics, culture, and military history from the Revolution to the Civil War to the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> with stops at the U.S. Capitol Building, national memorials and monuments, and the Gettysburg battlefield.

### *Why Brightspark?*

#### **Safety And Security**

We regularly conduct strict audits of our vendors, ensuring they act in accordance with safety, security, and quality standards.

#### **Our Tour Directors**

You deserve the best, so we only use experienced and enthusiastic Tour Directors who are experts on their destinations.

#### **Quality, Custom Tours**

Our programs are designed for you, by you. From STEM-based DC tours to performance trips to some of our country's top music cities, we have a destination for every budget and every passion.

#### **Industry Experience**

With over 50 years of experience providing custom tours, Brightspark is a leader in student travel.

#### **Travel Protection & Incident Coverage**

With our 24/7 emergency hotline, comprehensive general insurance, and an industry-leading refund guarantee program, we've got you covered.



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# WASHINGTON, DC & GETTYSBURG

### Day 1:

- Meet your Tour Director and board your private motor coach.
- Tour **Gettysburg National Military Park**. The Battle of Gettysburg was a turning point in the Civil War as the Union's unexpected victory ended the South's ambitious invasion of the North. Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle in "the War Between the States." Your guided tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield will walk you through the events that took place over three days in the summer of 1863.
- Spend time in the Visitor Center, featuring a museum, a film, and a cyclorama.
- Enjoy dinner at the **Dobbin House Tavern**.
- Explore the spookier side of history with a **Ghosts of Gettysburg haunted tour**.

### Day 2:

- Board your motor coach and travel to our national capital.
- Visit the **Lincoln, Vietnam Veterans, Korean War, and World War II Memorials**.
- Experience military traditions during a visit to **Arlington National Cemetery**. Pay your respects at John F. Kennedy's "Eternal Flame" and witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- Visit the **Marine Corps War Memorial**, famous for its depiction of six soldiers raising the flag at Iwo Jima. Continue to the **Pentagon Memorial**, established in remembrance of the site's 184 victims during the events of 9/11.
- Visit the **U.S. Holocaust Museum**. This "living memorial" documents the Nazi rise to power, examines the Jewish experience during World War II, and teaches visitors about the dangers of intolerance.
- Enjoy America's national pastime! Take in a baseball game at **Nationals Park**. (Seasonal, pending home schedule)

### Day 3:

- Take a group photo in front of the **U.S. Capitol**. Next, get a real-life civics lesson on a tour of the Capitol building, including its famous rotunda. See if your group can find your state's statue during the tour!
- Go inside the **National Archives**. The building's rotunda houses the original Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights – known collectively as the "Charters of Freedom." Other documents in the collection include the Emancipation Proclamation and an original version of the Magna Carta.
- Stop for photos in front of the **White House**.
- Drive down **Embassy Row** on your way to the **National Zoo**, home of giant pandas, great apes, Asian elephants, and more. For many years, the zoo housed the real-life inspiration for "Smokey the Bear."
- After dinner, enjoy a guided evening tour of the **Roosevelt, Jefferson, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorials**.

### Day 4:

- Travel to **Mount Vernon**. George Washington's estate, dating back to 1735, is one of the most popular historic sites in the country. Your visit includes a tour of the stately mansion and gardens, a pioneer farm, the family tombs, and the Slave Memorial.
- Explore **Ford's Theatre** and the **Petersen House**. Learn about the events of April 1865, when President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.
- Spend the afternoon at various **Smithsonian Institution museums**, including the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of Natural History, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.
- Depart for home.

