

HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN NEWPORT NEWS

Sample itinerary

Explore maritime history in a whole new way at **The Mariners' Museum**, home to the premier Civil War attraction in the country --- the **USS Monitor Center**. Recovered artifacts, original documents, paintings, personal accounts and interactive experiences will paint an exciting portrait of the *USS Monitor* and the *CSS Virginia*, Civil War icons whose historic clash changed the way ships were built. Visitors will be able to walk on the deck of a full-scale replica of the *USS Monitor*, try their hand at maneuvering a sailing frigate in battle, walk down a mock pier between a wooden frigate and the ironclad *CSS Virginia*, and much more.

Lunch – The succulent scents of the south fill the air as you arrive at The Train Station for a buffet feast! Felix Simmons and Rhythms of Afrika will be there for your “edutainment” on the rich, proud and cultural history of Afrika through Afrikan folktales and drumming.

Next, enjoy a windshield tour of Newport News. See where **Ella Fitzgerald** and **Pearl Bailey** were born and where **Ava Gardner** lived when she attended elementary school and high school. Then arrive at **The Newsome House Museum & Cultural Center**. Tour this restored residence of the African-American attorney J. Thomas Newsome and his wife Mary Winfield Newsome. Mr. Newsome was a respected attorney, journalist, churchman and civic leader, whose elegant Queen Anne home served as the hub of the local African-American community. The Newsome House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register and is a recipient of a 1992 National Historic Preservation Award.

Re-board your motorcoach and continue your tour at the **James A. Fields House**. Mr. Fields was born a slave in Hanover County, Virginia, the son of a shoemaker. In boyhood he served as a caretaker of the horses used by lawyers attending court at the Hanover Court House and spent considerable time in court himself observing the proceedings. In all probability, this experience inspired him to become a lawyer and he was eminently successful. He eventually became the owner of ten houses and lots in the town of Hampton and fifteen houses and lots in the City of Newport News.

Arrive at the **Virginia War Museum** where you'll explore United States military history from 1775 to the present day through more than 60,000 artifacts. Visit their permanent gallery, *Marches Toward Freedom*, which details the role of African-Americans in the American military from the Revolutionary War to the present day. Then depart for home or stay overnight and continue your tour tomorrow with a visit to **Colonial Williamsburg** or enjoy the day at **Virginia Beach**.

Newport News Tourism Development Office

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