



Newsletter

WWW.LAKEFREDERICKTRAVELCLUB.COM

MEETS THE 2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. IN RACHEL'S KITCHEN

2024 Committee

George Darnell
President

Doc Holladay
Vice President

Gary McDowell
Treasurer

Chris Oxford
Membership Coordinator

Pam Toliver
Communications Coordinator

Dan Mortland
Program Director

Greg Payonk
Cruise & Foreign Travel

Bill Johnson
Domestic & Foreign Travel

NOVEMBER 2024 ISSUE

Please note the change of date for our November meeting! The first Monday of November is reserved for the Veteran's Day Program. Our group will meet on Tuesday, November 12 at 11:30 in Rachel's Kitchen.

President's Message

Fall's Glory

What an awesome October! Not only has the weather been beautiful, but we also had two marvelous trips. Read the reports in this issue. I hope you had a chance to travel yourselves, perhaps a last visit to the beach, of a drive in the mountains to enjoy the fall colors.

October Trips

We had two outstanding trips in October, one for beer and the other for wine. We had perfect weather for both, with only small hiccups along the way to keep us on our toes. Thanks to everyone who joined us to make them a success.

Schedule of Trips Updated

On Chris Oxford's suggestion, we added a Ghost Walk in Winchester to our November schedule. This is an evening carpool or drive-yourself trip on Friday, Nov. 15. See the announcement in this issue and register on MTL so we can have a head count. November is also the deadline for Wreaths Across America donation. Please be generous and join us in December to lay the wreaths in Winchester National Cemetery.

In December we are teaming with the Lake Frederick Veterans Association to have a tour of the Quantico Marine Corps Museum on December 10. If you have a veteran in your family, please register on MTL and join us. We may have to expand registration and use two buses. Also in December, we have our Christmas Tour of Old Town Alexandria. Registration is now open on MTL.

For our December lunch meeting we will purchase beer and wine from the lodge. So, we are asking that you register on MTL and bring \$5.00 to the meeting to cover the cost. Also bring your favorite holiday dish to share.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, November 12, 2024
Rachel's Kitchen
11:30 a.m.
Please bring a dish to share!

Foreign Travel 2025

Check out the cruises and land tours that Greg Payonk has scheduled for 2025 and contact him if you need more information. You can find copies in our August Newsletter.

Planning for 2025

See our list of trips planned for 2025 in this issue. Bring your ideas to our meetings or send them to me if you can't make the meeting. We will continue to support and advertise Shenandoah Tours in Staunton, but we will not include selected trips in our list of trips for 2025.

George Darnell, President

703-850-2132

darnellgd@hotmail.com

Trip Registration Procedure Clarification

We continue to have trouble with the registration process for our trips. This makes it difficult for our treasurer, Gary McDowell, to sort out who registered and when. Please remember the following:

1. Travel Club trips are not added to MTL Events until they have been announced to members in a newsletter. Registration is NOT open until posted on MTL Events.
2. Register on MTL Events for trips you want to take. That gives us an idea of how registration is going.
3. Write a check made out to the Lake Frederick Travel Club and give it to the concierge after you register online. Do not wait to see if the trip is confirmed. We will destroy your check if the trip is cancelled.



www.apparitiontrail.com

WINCHESTER GHOST WALK

NOV 15, 2024, 8:00 PM

HANDLEY LIBRARY

\$20 CASH + TIP FOR GUIDE

CARPOOL FROM LODGE AT 7:00 PM

**OR DRIVE YOURSELF AND MEET AT
LIBRARY**

**SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN WELCOME, but
not free.**

The maximum for this trip is 20.

Registration is free, but we need a head count.

**Please register on MTL Events no later than
Nov 5.**



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Oktoberfest Blue Ridge Breweries Tour

Oct 4, 2024

By George Darnell

Twenty-four beer lovers joined us for this Oktoberfest tour of breweries in the Blue Ridge area. We left the Lodge at 11:15 and headed down Rt. 340 through Berryville on our way to our first stop, Harpers Ferry Brewery. It is a huge establishment in Loudoun Heights overlooking the Rt. 340 bridge over the Potomac River. It has a wide selection of beers and food that can be enjoyed at many indoor and outdoor seating areas. Some of us chose inside while others sat around a fire pit outside with a view of the Potomac. There was an area



for a bandstand in a covered area outside. There is ample parking for the large crowds that visit on weekends. We enjoyed our beer and food before boarding the bus for our next brewery in Loudoun County.



Our second stop, Old 690 Brewery, is on an old gravel road (Rt. 690) in the Hillsborough area. It is a more modest establishment with many flavored beers. We ordered glasses or flights of beer and some food and took them to an outdoor patio with metal tables and chairs shaded by umbrellas. There is an old 1940's era red pickup truck parked behind the brewery that draws a lot of attention from visitors. We were soon back on the gravel road headed for Rt. 9.

Harvest Gap Brewery, located on a family farm in operation for over 250 years, was our third stop. It is on Rt. 9 with beautiful views of the Blue Ridge. It has ample seating inside and outside in a rustic farmers market setting. We had to change buses here because of a scheduling conflict with another party. The bus arrived later than expected, which gave us more time to enjoy our beer and socialize.



Our final stop was Twisted Oak Brewery in nearby White Post, not far from the remains of Lord Fairfax's estate. This is a recent startup boutique brewery with a limited selection of beers to try. We were impressed with their hospitality, especially the complimentary happy hour snack table. We selected our beers from the modest, but classy bar, and took seats around picnic tables outside. One of the owners joined us and thanked us for visiting. She said they frequently eat at Regions 117. We thanked her for her hospitality and were soon on our way back to Lake Frederick, where we arrived by 6:00 pm.



Fall Colors Tour of Fort Valley & Edinburg with Winery Stops

Oct 23, 2024

By George Darnell

This trip sold out early and we only lost one member due to illness the day of the trip. Seventeen travellers boarded a Shenandoah Shuttle at the lodge and headed for Fort Valley. It was a perfect fall day and the colors on the trees, especially the yellows, were everywhere, including Rachel Carson. We entered Fort Valley Road off Rt. 55 between Front Royal and Strausberg. We drove along Passage Creek for a while, where there is a state park with camping and a swimming hole in the creek, great for grandchildren. John Osius noted that he likes to ride his motorcycle along this road.

We soon reached the old brick church that is now a museum, where we met our tour guides. Two of them, including my friend, Eileen Drinkwater, had retired there. The third one was a third generation local. They explained that when attendance at two churches could no longer sustain them, the community offered to use them as museums of Fort Valley life. One of our guides, John, said the difficulty in finding and entering the valley reminded him of Brigadoon. He confirmed that the valley had been surveyed by George Washington for Lord Fairfax and that he planned to use it as a last stand against the British in the Revolution. One of the residents, Jeanette Conner Rittenour, had



written a history of the area that was on sale in the museum. The brick church was small but had an open second story choir loft. It was packed with articles from the church and daily life in the Valley.

A short distance away was a second museum, a white frame church that could have come to life from a Christmas card. It is still used for community activities and to exhibit other articles of 19th and 20th century life in the Valley. We took our time examining articles from the area from pre-Civil War to the present. Finally, we thanked our guides, gave them a donation to help with the museums, and walked back to our bus, and headed through Edinburg Gap, over the North Fork of the Shenandoah River to the town of Edinburg. (Massanutten Mountain and Fort Valley are bounded by the North and South Forks of the Shenandoah.)

Edinburg Museum, which is housed in a Civil War era flour mill, along with a wine shop and restaurant, was our next stop. The museum has three floors that are served by a small elevator and stairs. It contains a rabbit's warren of themed room filled with articles from pre-Civil War to the mid-20th century. The museum has a small theatre that shows a short film, "The Burning," that covers how the Civil War affected the area. After touring the museum, we gathered in the cellar restaurant for lunch. They were expecting us and had us seated at two long tables facing one another.



Lunch was good and reasonable, but unfortunately service was slow because they wanted to serve all of us at the same time. This put us about an hour behind on our schedule, but we had extra time to socialize around the table. Our first winery stop, called and we explained that we would arrive about an hour later than expected. Fortunately, this was not a problem.

Kindred Point is not far from Edinburg. When we arrived, they had us set up in two long tables facing each other. They offered us a group tasting, or glasses of wine of our choice, or flights of wine. We selected all three and they served us accordingly. During our

visit they revealed their plan to open another tasting room, closer to us, near Rappahannock Cellars. We thanked them for their hospitality and patience before moving on to our next stop.

Our driver, Steve, had been to all three wineries on our schedule and he soon had us at nearby Cave Ridge Winery. We had warned them that we would be about an hour late. They were expecting us and offered us flights or glasses of wine. I chose a glass of satisfying red and joined a group at a table on an outdoor patio. Dan and Cheryl Mortland, the former owners of Fox Meadow were at our table and when the owner of Cave Ridge stopped by, they struck up a conversation. They agreed that owning a vineyard and winery was expensive and hard work.



It was soon obvious that everyone was enjoying themselves at Cave Ridge and that a third winery stop was out of the question. We called Wolf Gap Vineyard and gave them our regrets, another winery for another day. As the sun began to cast long shadows, we finished our wine, boarded our bus, and were soon back on I-81 headed home. We arrived at the lodge, tipped and thanked our driver, Steve, said our goodbyes, and headed home. Many thanks to everyone who joined us!

Trip Ideas for 2024, V14

- Nov 11—Deadline for Wreaths Across America Donations
- Nov 13-15—Smoky Mountain Christmas <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Nov 15—Ghost Tour of Winchester - tentative
- Nov 29-Dec 2—A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 5—Holiday Tea at Rosemont Manor (Sold Out)
- Dec 10—Quantico Marine Corps Museum Tour
- Dec 14—Wreaths Across America Laying Ceremony in Winchester
- Dec 16—Christmas in Old Town Alexandria

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Quantico Marine Corps Museum Tour Dec 10, 2024



The Lake Frederick Travel Club is joining with the Lake Frederick Veterans Association to arrange a tour of the National Marine Corps Museum near Quantico, Virginia. It is a great place for people of all ages, but especially for folks with an interest in history and the role of our veterans in American history. It takes at least four hours for a basic self-guided tour. Groups must make a reservation, but there is no fee. We will arrange round-trip transportation from the Lodge for 14 to 25 people for \$60 each, plus driver tip (5.00 cash suggested). Travel time with loading and unloading is about two hours. Food is available at the museum for lunch. Visitors may not bring anything into the museum that would not be allowed on a commercial air flight. Wheelchairs are available onsite.

They do not schedule docent-led “guided tours” of the Museum for groups. The exhibits have been designed as immersive experiences involving sights, sounds, motion and temperature changes and other interactive surprises that are revealed as the visitor proceeds on a self-paced journey of discovery.

There are trained volunteers stationed at posts throughout the Museum to answer questions and provide additional information about their area.

This is the schedule for this trip:

- 0745 Check in at Lodge
- 0800 Bus departs
- 1000 Arrive Museum and begin tour
- 1200 Lunch at Museum
- 1300 Resume tour
- 1500 Conclude tour and board bus
- 1700 Arrive Lodge

The minimum for this trip is 14 and maximum is 25.

Registration is \$60 for transportation. Lunch and driver tip are not included.

Please register on MTL Events and drop off your registration check, made payable to “**Lake Frederick Travel Club**” with your contact information and the date of the trip at the lodge concierge desk no later than **Dec 1, 2024**.

George Darnell

(703-850-2132)

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Old Town Alexandria Christmas Walking Tour Dec 16, 2024

Old Town Alexandria and Old Town Winchester share a rich Colonial Period history. The Potomac River Seaport of Alexandria was linked to Winchester by colonial roads through Appalachian Mountain gaps and fords across the Shenandoah River, for transportation of goods and people. Those roads, Route 7, and Route 50, still connect the cities, although much improved.



For this tour we will take a bus to Old Town. There, we will have an early dinner at The Wharf before meeting our guide and beginning our walking tour around the Cobblestone streets to historic sites

Alexandria is so close to D.C. that it used to be a part of the federal district, yet it manages to feel as it belongs to another world ... another era. Home to one of the oldest historic districts in America, Alexandria boasts a heavy dose of colonial charm. Wander the streets decorated for the holiday spirit to learn about Alexandria!

From its founding in 1749, you'll learn about this pre-Revolutionary home where George Washington worshiped and occasionally stayed, Robert E. Lee grew up, and other stories of this historic town.

Sights we see or talk about on the Old Town Alexandria Walking Tour:

- Market Square
- Carlyle House
- Gadsby's tavern
- Secret Garden Walkways
- Christ Church (pictured)
- and more

We will discuss the history and development of this old town.

Schedule:

- 3:00 Bus leaves Lodge
- 5:00 Dinner at The Warf (Not Included)
- 7:00 Meet guide and begin walking tour.
- 9:00 Board bus for ride home.
- 11:00 Arrive Lodge

The minimum for this trip is 14 and maximum is 25.

Registration is \$90 for transportation and guided walking tour. Dinner, and driver and guide tips are not included.

Please register on MTL Events and drop off your registration check, made payable to "Lake Frederick Travel Club" with your contact information and the date of the trip at the lodge concierge desk no later than **Dec 1, 2024.**

George Darnell

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Trip Ideas for 2025, V2

- Jan—Luray, & Shenandoah Caverns Tour
- Feb—Wine & Chocolates Pairing
- Mar—St. Patrick's Pub Crawl
- Mar 31—Cherry Blossom Lunch Cruise on the Potomac (confirmed)
- April—Apple Blossom Parade Watch Party
- May 2-11 Globus Land Tour: Budapest to Prague with Greg Payonk
- May 30-Jun 9—Trip to Ireland (confirmed)
- Jun—Monticello & Wine Tour
- Jun 5-6—Fredericksburg Area Civil War Battlefields Tour
- Jul—Fauquier County Wine Tour
- Aug 7-21—Norwegian Fjords & Artic Circle Cruise w/Greg Payonk
- Aug—Wine & Beer Tours
- Sep—Lexington Upper Valey Tour
- Sep—Outlet Mall Shopping Spree
- Sep—Oktoberfest Beer Tour
- Oct 15-16—Pennsylvania Disaster and Trains Tour
- Oct 23—Fall Colors Lunch Cruise on Smith Mountain Lake
- Dec—Christmas at Mount Vernon
- Dec 3-5—Christmas in Williamsburg, VA
- Dec 4-18—Seaboard Antarctica Exploration with Greg Payonk
- Dec 13—Wreaths Across America in Winchester



Springtime in Ireland

with Lake Frederick Travel Club

May 30 – June 9, 2025



\$5399 per person sharing (LAND ONLY)*

Optional Group Air Available Will Be Available in August
Single Room Supplement **\$2329** (limited space available)

Your Tour Includes:

- ❖ Breakfast Daily (B)
- ❖ 5 Table d'hôte dinners (D)
- ❖ 9 Nights 4 & 5-star hotels
 - ♣ 2 Nights Fitzwilliam Hotel, Dublin
 - ♣ 2 Nights Galway
 - ♣ 2 Nights Great Southern, Killarney
 - ♣ 2 Nights Hayfield Manor, Cork
 - ♣ 1 Night Kilkea Castle, Castledermot
- ❖ Fully escorted via deluxe motorcoach
- ❖ Admissions as highlighted on itinerary
- ❖ Portage of one suitcase per person

*Not Included:

- ❖ Airfare
 - ❖ Gratuity to driver/guide
 - ❖ Single Supplement is \$2329 (limited number of single rooms available)
 - ❖ Meals where not indicated
 - ❖ Travel Protection/Insurance (strongly suggested)
- We recommend Travel Guard. It can be purchased directly from their website that can be reached by visiting <https://isleinntours.com/travel-protection/>

Payment Schedule:

A \$1000 per person non-refundable deposit secures your spot on the tour.

Final Payment date will be due no later than February 21, 2025

Tour price is per person based on double occupancy

Trip insurance is available for additional cost through Travel Guard (approximately 8% of total tour price) and is strongly recommended. Visit <https://isleinntours.com/travel-protection/> to learn more. You can click through to Travel Guard's website to purchase from here as well.

Sightseeing Highlights: Welcome drink reception, Dublin, Guinness Storehouse, dinner and storytelling at the Brazen Head, Tullamore DEW, Athlone, Galway City, Connemara Heritage Centre, Kylemore Abbey, Burren, Cliffs of Moher, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Blarney Castle, Cork City, Middleton Distillery, Cobh, Cahir Castle, Rock of Cashel

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY YOUR FIRST, MIDDLE, & LAST NAME **EXACTLY** AS ON YOUR PASSPORT

THIS IS HOW YOUR AIRLINE TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED IF APPLICABLE. CHANGE FEES MAY APPLY IF YOUR NAME HAS TO BE CHANGED.

NAME: _____ NAME: _____

date of birth _____ PHONE: () _____ PHONE: () _____ date of birth _____

ADDRESS: _____ ADDRESS: _____

email: _____ email: _____

Sharing Accommodations Desired: Double (1 bed for 2 people): _____ Twin Bedded (2 beds for 2 people): _____ Single Traveler: _____

Would you like assistance with air? Yes: _____ No: _____

Have you purchased travel insurance? Yes: _____ No: _____ <https://isleinntours.com/travel-protection/>

Any pre/post nights, special requests, or dietary requirements? _____

The payment of required deposits or full payment for a reservation constitutes consent to all provisions of the Terms & Conditions contained in our brochure and on our website. **Any special requests must be made at time of booking. Airline seats are assigned by the airline and seat preference cannot be guaranteed.**

Please sign below to accept the above terms and conditions.

X _____ X _____

Send your deposit checks made payable to Isle Inn Tours to the address below:

By US Mail: Isle Inn Tours, PO Box 2559, Moorpark, CA 93020 Attn: Bill0525

By FedEx or UPS Service: Isle Inn Tours, 100 West High Street, Moorpark, CA 93021 Attn: Bill0525

OR Sign up online at www.isleinntours.com

Day 1: May 30 – Departure

Embark on an overnight flight to Dublin, full of excitement and anticipation for the journey ahead. Air not included, but you can contact Isle Inn Tours for assistance with flights.

Day 2: May 31 – Welcome to Dublin!

After arriving in Dublin, guests who land before 11:00am will be transferred to the luxurious Fitzwilliam Hotel. Early arrivals can explore the nearby St. Stephen's Green or enjoy a stroll through Grafton Street. In the evening, we meet for a **welcome drinks reception** to kick off the trip. **Overnight: Fitzwilliam Hotel, Dublin**

Day 3: June 1 – Explore Dublin

We begin the day with a **guided panoramic tour** of Dublin, taking in its elegant Georgian squares, vibrant streets, and famous landmarks. We'll make our way to the iconic **Guinness Storehouse**, where we'll enjoy sweeping views of the city and sample the world-famous stout. The evening promises a taste of Dublin's history and charm with dinner at **The Brazen Head**, Dublin's oldest pub, where stories of old Ireland come to life in the cozy setting.

Overnight: Fitzwilliam Hotel, Dublin (B, D)

Day 4: June 2 – Journey to Galway

Today, we depart for the bustling city of Galway. En route, we'll stop at the historic **Tullamore Distillery** for a whiskey-tasting experience, then continue to Athlone, where we can enjoy lunch and perhaps visit Sean's Bar, the oldest pub in Ireland, with a history stretching back over 1,100 years! Arriving in Galway, we check in at the elegant G Hotel (*or similar*), where we'll enjoy a **group dinner**. **Overnight: Galway (B, D)**

Day 5: June 3 – Connemara Adventure

Get ready to be swept away by the beauty of Connemara! Our first stop is at **Dan O'Hara's Homestead**, where we'll hear fascinating tales of emigration and rural life. We continue through the rugged landscape to **Kylemore Abbey**, where you'll have time to explore the romantic castle, the Victorian Walled Gardens, and the stunning lakeside setting. After returning to Galway in the late afternoon, the evening is yours to explore the city's lively streets, sample fresh seafood, or enjoy traditional Irish music in the local pubs. **Overnight: Galway (B)**

Day 6: June 4 – Cliffs of Moher and Burren

Today's journey takes us along the **Wild Atlantic Way** to the majestic **Cliffs of Moher**, towering over the Atlantic Ocean. You'll have plenty of time to take in the breathtaking views and walk along the cliffside trails. We then continue through the unique, rocky landscape of the Burren before arriving in Killarney, where we check into the historic Great Southern Hotel. A **welcome drink** awaits before we gather for an **exquisite dinner** in the hotel.

Overnight: The Great Southern Hotel, Killarney (B, D)

Day 7: June 5 – Touring the Ring of Kerry

Prepare for a day of awe-inspiring scenery as we tour the **Ring of Kerry**, one of Ireland's most famous and scenic drives. As we wind along the coastline, we'll stop at picturesque villages, stunning viewpoints, and the vibrant town of Kenmare for lunch. Take in the stunning mountain vistas, rugged cliffs, and rolling green landscapes that have inspired poets and artists for centuries. After returning to Killarney in the late afternoon, enjoy dinner at your leisure in one of the town's inviting restaurants or pubs. **Overnight: The Great Southern Hotel, Killarney (B)**

Day 8: June 6 – Blarney Castle and Cork

This morning, we head toward Cork with a stop at **Blarney Castle**, where those who wish can kiss the legendary **Blarney Stone** to receive the "gift of gab." Stroll through the beautiful gardens surrounding the castle before we arrive at the luxurious **Hayfield Manor** in Cork. Tonight, we'll enjoy an elegant **private dinner** in the manor's exclusive dining room. **Overnight: Hayfield Manor, Cork (B, D)**

Day 9: June 7 – Cobh & Midleton Distillery

This morning, our day begins with a visit to **Midleton Distillery**, home to **Jameson Irish Whiskey**. Here, we'll enjoy a guided tour and tasting before continuing to the coastal town of **Cobh**. At the **Titanic Experience**, we'll learn about the town's deep connection to the famous ship and hear the moving stories of its passengers. In the evening, relax back at Hayfield Manor or take a short stroll into Cork city for dinner on your own in Cork's lively city center.

Overnight: Hayfield Manor, Cork (B)

Day 10: June 8 – Cahir Castle and Kilkea Castle

On our final full day, we travel to **Cahir Castle**, one of Ireland's largest and best-preserved castles, followed by a visit to the **Rock of Cashel**, an ancient royal site steeped in history. We arrive at **Kilkea Castle** in the afternoon, where we'll have time to explore the grounds before gathering for a **farewell dinner** in the castle, celebrating the journey we've shared. **Overnight: Kilkea Castle, Castledermot (B, D)**

Day 11: June 9 – Departure

After breakfast, we head to **Dublin Airport** for our return flights. (Flights should be scheduled for 12:30 pm or later.)

Weather and circumstances beyond our control may suggest or require changes to the itinerary. Flight times are subject to change and are set by the airline. This tour is subject to the terms and conditions listed on www.isleinntours.com. Mobility requirement is moderate.