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HISTORIC HAMLETS & HERITAGE

3 Days / 2 Nights

Tour Highlights:

- Nora Robert's Bookstore and Gift Shop
- Antietam National Battlefield
- Wilson's Historic Village
- Great Evening Entertainment

Day 1

Begin the day with a visit to **Hancock, MD**. Built astride the **Old National Pike**, it was one of the principal stopping-off places for stagecoaches and Conestoga wagons headed west. Get a glimpse of Hancock's history at the **C&O Canal Visitors Center**, operated by the National Park Service. Railroad history buffs will enjoy this site for the history of the **Western Maryland Railroad**.

After, visit the **Hancock Antique Mall**, and a stop at **Hepburn's Orchards** for fresh local produce and jams, or a fresh baked pie. A historical church tour is next, at **St. Thomas's Episcopal Church**, which served as a hospital for Union soldiers during the Civil War. Lunch at the **Park & Dine Restaurant** located along the scenic **C&O Canal** and **Western Maryland Rail Trail**. They specialize in home-cookin' so bring along your appetite! After lunch, travel eastbound to visit **Fort Frederick**, a stone fort that was restored to its 1758 appearance. It's the site of Maryland's frontier defense during the French and Indian War. For dinner, partake in the rich German heritage of the area with a hearty lunch at the **Schmankerl Stube Bavarian Restaurant**. A unique "old country" home-style restaurant, with an atmosphere that is reminiscent of Bavaria. Or, dine in our **Arts & Entertainment District** at one of our fine eateries, such as **Bulls & Bears**. After dinner step across the street to the **Maryland Theatre**, our Grand Lady of the Performing Arts. Take in a play or a ballet, or another one of the special shows being offered. The **Maryland Symphony Orchestra** is housed here-check schedule for concert events.

Day 2

Begin your excursion at the **Rural Heritage Museum**. There you will go back in time to the post War of Independence days of America, in the late 1700's/early 1800's. See an authentic hearth cooking demonstration and learn how to make an old fashioned rag doll. Next we travel to **Sharpsburg, MD**, home of **Antietam National Battlefield**, and site of "The Bloodiest One Day Battle in American History" in which 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or missing after twelve hours of savage combat on September 17, 1862. The battle led to Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Our tour of this national park will take place with an authorized battlefield guide, provided by Antietam Guide Service. They can tailor the tour to the special interests of your group. Lunch and Shopping! Experience the Power of Passionate Shopping at the next stop, **Prime Outlets**! Over 100 famous brand name stores, with savings of up to 25%-65% everyday. A food court with several options is sure to please everyone. Vouchers are available for purchase for meals. After lunch we will continue on to Clear Spring to **Wilson's Historic Village**. Along the National Pike sites this historic landmark that includes an old country store, a blacksmith's shop, pos office, and a one-room school. Settlers heading west found the store a great place to rest, gather supplies, and maybe enjoy a quick game of checkers by the pot-belly stove. Enjoy a night of great food and entertainment at the **Luhr's Center for the Performing Arts** in Shippensburg, PA.



Day 3

Spend a leisurely afternoon exploring historic downtown **Boonsboro, MD**. Founded in 1792, and located at the foot of South Mountain, the town was named for George and William Boone, cousins of the famous Daniel Boone. First stop is **Turn The Page Bookstore**. Located in a pre-Civil War townhouse, it is the home for the bookstore owned by New York Times Bestselling author, **Nora Roberts**. Autographed copies of Nora's books are available for purchase. Nora also owns **Gifts Inn Boonsborough** - right next door – a gift shop featuring the crafts of local artisans. Next we will take a short stroll over to the **Boonsborough Museum of History** which houses an extensive Civil War collection that includes items from the Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns. For lunch, we will return to Hagerstown and dine at the **Landing Restaurant** – lots of fresh Maryland seafood and more! After lunch enjoy a delightful visit to the **Miller House & Gardens**, an early 19th century brick townhouse with period furnishings, and headquarters of the **Washington County Historical Society**. In addition to C&O Canal and Civil War, their collections include local pottery, dolls & toys, quilts and country store items. After, take a short stroll to the **Discovery Station**. The museum creates exciting hands-on learning experiences that stimulate a curiosity for discovery, exploration and further investigation by both children and adults to foster life-long learning. It is also the home of the **Hagerstown Aviation Museum**. Explore a collection of artifacts, memorabilia, exhibits and displays depicting the aviation heritage of the Hagerstown area, which for 70 years was one of the nation's leading centers of aircraft manufacturing. Board the bus for our next stop, the **Jonathan Hager House**, historical home of Hagerstown's founder, Jonathan Hager. The home is maintained in its original fashion, and furnished with authentic pieces of the 1740's era, offering a true glimpse into the past. Depart for the **Washington County Museum of Fine Arts** – a true hidden treasure. The museum has a collection of American paintings, Old Masters and European works, Oriental and African art. This extensive collection also includes drawings, prints and sculpture from the eighteenth century to the present. Many surprises await visitors at this stop - there's even a Picasso! Museum staff can arrange a docent guided tour, and be sure to ask about their Scavenger Hunt for groups. For evening entertainment the **Washington County Play House** offers great food and outstanding theatrical performances. The **Academy Theater**, home of the **Potomac Playmakers**, is also a great choice for dinner and theater – both located in historic downtown Hagerstown.