

CHINCOTEAGUE AND ASSATEAGUE

Sunday, April 27 – Monday, April 28, 2025

Your tour packet includes:

- ❖ **Link to Microsoft Form to complete your Participant Information Form & Acknowledgement of Responsibility Statement**
- ❖ **Tour Bulletin**
Please read this carefully. It contains essential information and useful advice for your tour.
- ❖ **Tentative Itinerary**
- ❖ **Map and directions for Mayflower Hotel pickup and fringe pick up at the Comfort Inn Conference Center, Bowie fringe stop.**

If you are traveling with a guest, please share this information packet with them.

Nametags will be provided at the start of the tour. Please wear them throughout the tour. Doing so helps everyone get acquainted and assists the tour staff in carrying out their responsibilities. If you have an alternative name you prefer for your nametag, please indicate this on the Participant Information Form.

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Tour Bulletin

The following information has been compiled to help you prepare for your trip and to serve as reconfirmation of your registration. You will receive a final tour reminder email the week leading up to your trip. If you still have questions or concerns after reading this information, please email the Study Tours department at associates-studytours@si.edu.

As you read on, you will see that there are a few items that we will need from you prior to the start of the tour. **Please complete these items ASAP.** They are as follows:

- **[Link to Participant Information Form \(PIF\) & Electronic Responsibility Statement \(completed via Microsoft Forms\)](#)**

Please be sure to complete this information promptly. Our ability to facilitate your enjoyment of the tour, and to assure your comfort and well-being during the tour, depends on your accurate representation of your needs and preferences and our receipt of that information in a timely manner. The Electronically Acknowledged Signed Responsibility statement is required before you can be admitted to the tour. *It is particularly important that you advise us of the extent of any physical limitations that affect your ability to walk, stand, climb stairs, or otherwise participate in tour activities and to provide precise information on serious food allergies.*

General Information

Departure Locations and Times

Although we do everything we can to notify you in the event of a change, we always recommend you check your email for notification of any last minute changes.

The tour bus departs at **7:00 a.m.** from the **DeSales Street entrance of the Mayflower Hotel**. DeSales is a one-block street, one-way going east from Connecticut to 17th Street and is between L St. (also one-way going east) and M St. (one-way going west). A PMI 24-hour parking garage is available on DeSales St. across from the Mayflower. The cost of parking is approximately \$35/day. Email PMI customer service at monthlycontracts@pmi-parking.com for further information or to confirm rates. The bus will return to the DeSales St. side of the Mayflower Hotel at **9:15 p.m.** on Monday evening. There is a taxi stand at the Mayflower Hotel's Connecticut Ave. entrance and Metro entrance at L Street and Connecticut.

A fringe pickup stop is made at **approximately 7:30 a.m.** at the **Comfort Inn Conference Center, 4500 Crain Hwy, Bowie, MD.** The drop-off stop here will be about **8:45 p.m.** on Monday, for those picked up on the way out or upon request. **Note: Anyone leaving their cars in the parking lot stop by the hotel front desk to provide your cars' make and model, license plate number and a phone number.**

Please remember tours are not delayed for missing participants or anyone not ready to board at the scheduled time, so please be kind to others, and be prompt!

Bus & Seating

The bus is provided by Eyre Bus Service and is equipped with a restroom. Please advise the Smithsonian Representative or Driver if something on the bus needs attention or the temperature is not comfortable. The tour staff normally occupies the front seats on both sides of the aisle. Seat selection is otherwise open when the bus is first boarded each day. Once everyone has selected his/her seat, please continue throughout the day to use that same seat or any seat that was not selected after all had boarded.

Please note that if participants with certain disabilities or conditions need special seating, *tour staff may reserve seats or request participants to move who boarded prior to the tour staff*. If the disabilities requiring special seating are not apparent, participants requesting such seating are asked to provide a statement from their physician confirming the situation and what is needed. This must be done prior to the tour by contacting our office at associates-studytours@si.edu.

Smoking

Is not permitted on the bus, including in the restroom, or at any time when the group is gathered together in a limited space for a tour activity. If you are a smoker, and have requested to share a room, please be sure to note this on your participant information form. PLEASE NOTE: All rooms at the Refuge Inn are non-smoking.

Tour Staff

Study Leader - **Liana Vitali** believes wholeheartedly in the power of nature to foster profound experiences in each of us that can serve to unlock our potential and authentic selves. She feels that immersive, place-based experiences expand our lives and values through both opening our minds and hearts to new ideas, concepts, and lifestyles. Through her career as a Naturalist at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, she leads Citizen Science and Stewardship programs that empower volunteers and aspiring Naturalists to lead scientific and preservation efforts that unlock new understandings and relationships within the natural world.

Smithsonian Representative – **Dale Theurer** will be handling all logistics and assisting you with any problems or question that you may have concerning the tour schedule or operation. Dale is a long-standing Smithsonian tour representative who has traveled with Associates on numerous tours, most recently *Second Manassas*, *War and Memory on the National Mall*, and *Smithsonian Exhibits*. Please feel free to approach him at any time.

Clothing

Casual clothing is appropriate for all group activities. Please bring layers and wear comfortable, sturdy shoes for walking and standing at sites. Layers such as a light jacket or hooded sweatshirt are highly recommended for Sunday boat ride as it will always be colder on the water than it is on land.

Departure Times & Schedules

You will be given a final version of the Itinerary and Participant List when the tour departs. This will be on colored paper, different from the tentative itinerary enclosed here. We recommend that you keep it with you at all times as it can help you follow the activities more closely. Itineraries are always subject to change, however, so it is important to stay alert to announcements concerning changes throughout the tour. Also, you will notice a cell phone number on your final itinerary. Please use this for urgent matters.

Adhering to the schedule is essential to completing all tour components and fulfilling our obligations to those who

arrive on time. Tours may depart without latecomers. In such circumstances, latecomers are responsible for arrangements and expenses associated with their rejoining the tour or returning to their home. Don't let this happen to you!

Accommodations

You will be staying at **Refuge Inn** located at **7058 Maddox Blvd, Chincoteague, VA 23336**. The telephone number is **757-336-5511**. We recommend that you leave this number with anyone who would need to reach you in an emergency.

You may be required upon check-in to provide a credit card to the hotel for any incidentals charged to your room outside of group activities.

Check-out Procedures

No special check out procedures are necessary, however, please remember to pay any incidental charges you may have made to your room prior to departure time.

Meals

The following meals are included in your tour package. *Be sure to indicate dietary restrictions on your Personal Information Form.* Contact us at associates-studytours@si.edu if you have any questions.

Sunday lunch	<i>Smoked Turkey & Brie with Roasted Pepper & Honey Dijon Dressing on Herbed Ciabatta. With Assorted Fruit Salad, French Herb Potato Salad & Brownie or Cookie. Bottled Water. (Splendid Fare Catering)</i>
Sunday dinner*	<i>Garden Salad; Choice of Entrée: 1) Faroe Island Salmon - Silky North Atlantic Salmon, Grilled and Served with Romesco Sauce, Garnished with Cilantro Pesto; 2) Chicken Marsala - Pan-Fried Chicken Breast Covered in a Sauce of Sweet Marsala Wine, Mushrooms, and Butter Served Over Fettuccine; 3) Seafood Diavolo - Crab, Scallops, Shrimp, and Clams, in Our House-Made, Slightly Spicy Marinara, Tossed with Fettuccine and Fresh Basil; 4) Ravioli Caprese - Jumbo Cheese Ravioli Served Over Pomodoro Sauce and Basil Pesto, Garnished with Fresh Mozzarella and Parmesan Cheeses. Dessert. Beverages. (AJ's on the Creek)</i>
Monday breakfast	Assorted Choices at The Refuge Inn
Monday Lunch*	<i>Garden Salad with Choice of: 1) Broiled Crab Cake Sandwich with Hollandaise Sauce; 2) Island Chicken Salad - Tender Chicken & Pineapple in Special Dressing, served With Lettuce & Tomato, or 3) Oyster Po' Boy - Toasted Baguette, Single Fried Chincoteague Oysters, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles & Spicy Remoulade. Each served with Granny Smith Apple Coleslaw. Beverages. (Bill's Prime)</i>

***Please select entrée choice in advance on your electronic Participant Information Form**

You are welcome to bring whatever snacks and/or beverages (such as a thermos of coffee, bottled water, etc.) you normally need or desire between mealtimes. Please review the itinerary with any personal needs or preferences of this nature in mind. If you have special concerns about your food needs or preferences, please contact our staff at associates-studytours@si.edu as soon as possible. Note that alcoholic beverages are not included with meals and would be at your own expense.

What is Included

Participants purchase their own snacks and beverages other than those included with meals. Your tour fee includes bus transportation, tuition, accommodations, admissions, and meals listed above.

Gratuities

Gratuities have been included for all group meals and for the bus driver. Where appropriate, donations have been made on behalf of the Smithsonian. Although a housekeeping surcharge is included, additional gratuities for the chambermaid are not included, and are at your own discretion. Your Smithsonian Representative and Study Leader are professionals who do not receive tips.

Cancellation & Trip Insurance

Please review the cancellation policy located on the back page of your Associate Magazine or on the web at smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/help/refund-policy. This information is important, as we are not able to make exceptions regardless of the reasons for cancellation. This tour is 100% non-refundable after **April 12, 2025**. Up until that time, cancellation fees apply. If you have chosen to purchase trip cancellation insurance, you would need to consult your individual policy for cancellation details, in addition to contacting us.

Some Additional Items to Bring Along

- Layered clothing including jacket for variable weather
- Sturdy shoes suitable for walking on pavement and flat trails
- Bug spray and sunscreen
- A reusable water bottle
- Umbrella and/or fold-up lightweight rain poncho
- Additional face masks if you would like to wear one
- Camera, lenses, batteries, chargers
- Regional area map if desired
- Wet wipes or hand sanitizer for freshening up
- Whatever snacks and/or beverages (such as a thermos for coffee, bottled water, etc.) you normally need between mealtimes. Please review the itinerary with these needs in mind.

Post-Tour Questionnaire

Your opinion is important in our continuing effort to provide you the best in value and educational travel. At the end of your tour, you will receive form on which you can express your satisfaction with, or concerns about, each aspect of the tour. Each evaluation is carefully reviewed, so candid comments are appreciated. We appreciate your time completing this evaluation. Only you can tell us we have met our goal in providing a quality educational travel experience.

*We appreciate your participation in this program and
hope it meets your highest expectations!*



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Sunday, April 27 - Monday, April 27, 2025

Study Leader: **Liana Vitali**

Smithsonian Rep: **Dale Theurer**

Tour Cell Phone: **TBD**

Sun., April 27

- 7:00 a.m. Departure from the **Mayflower Hotel**
- 7:30 a.m. Pick-up at the **Comfort Inn Hotel & Conference Center**, Bowie, MD
- 10:30 a.m. Approximate arrival at **Assateague Island Visitor's Center**
Explore the Visitor's Center with free time to view educational videos on island creation and horses and speak with rangers, followed by a picnic boxed lunch and short hike
- 1:00 p.m. Depart
- 2:30 p.m. **Chincoteague Pontoon Boat Tour**
- 4:30 p.m. Boat tour concludes; depart for town
- 5:00 p.m. Check into the **Refuge Inn**
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner at **AJ's on the Creek**
- Return to hotel for **educational talk**

Mon., April 28

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 8:45 a.m. Approximate departure from the hotel. Stay tuned for information regarding timing, baggage & loading.
- 9:00 a.m. **Museum of Chincoteague Island**
Welcome & orientation from Executive Director Cindy Faith, followed by free time to explore the museum
- 10:00 a.m. Depart
- 10:15 a.m. Walking tour of Chincoteague with Cindy Faith (appx. 1/2 mile)
- 11:45 a.m. Depart for lunch
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch at **Bill's Prime**
- 1:30 p.m. Depart
- 1:45 p.m. **Chincoteague Island Visitor's Center**
Welcome from ranger and time to explore the Visitor's Center before an outing in the refuge
- 4:30 p.m. Depart for Washington, DC

Rest stop made to purchase a meal
- 8:45 p.m. Approximate drop off at **Comfort Inn Hotel & Conference Center**, Bowie, MD
- 9:15 p.m. Arrival at **Mayflower Hotel**

MAYFLOWER HOTEL

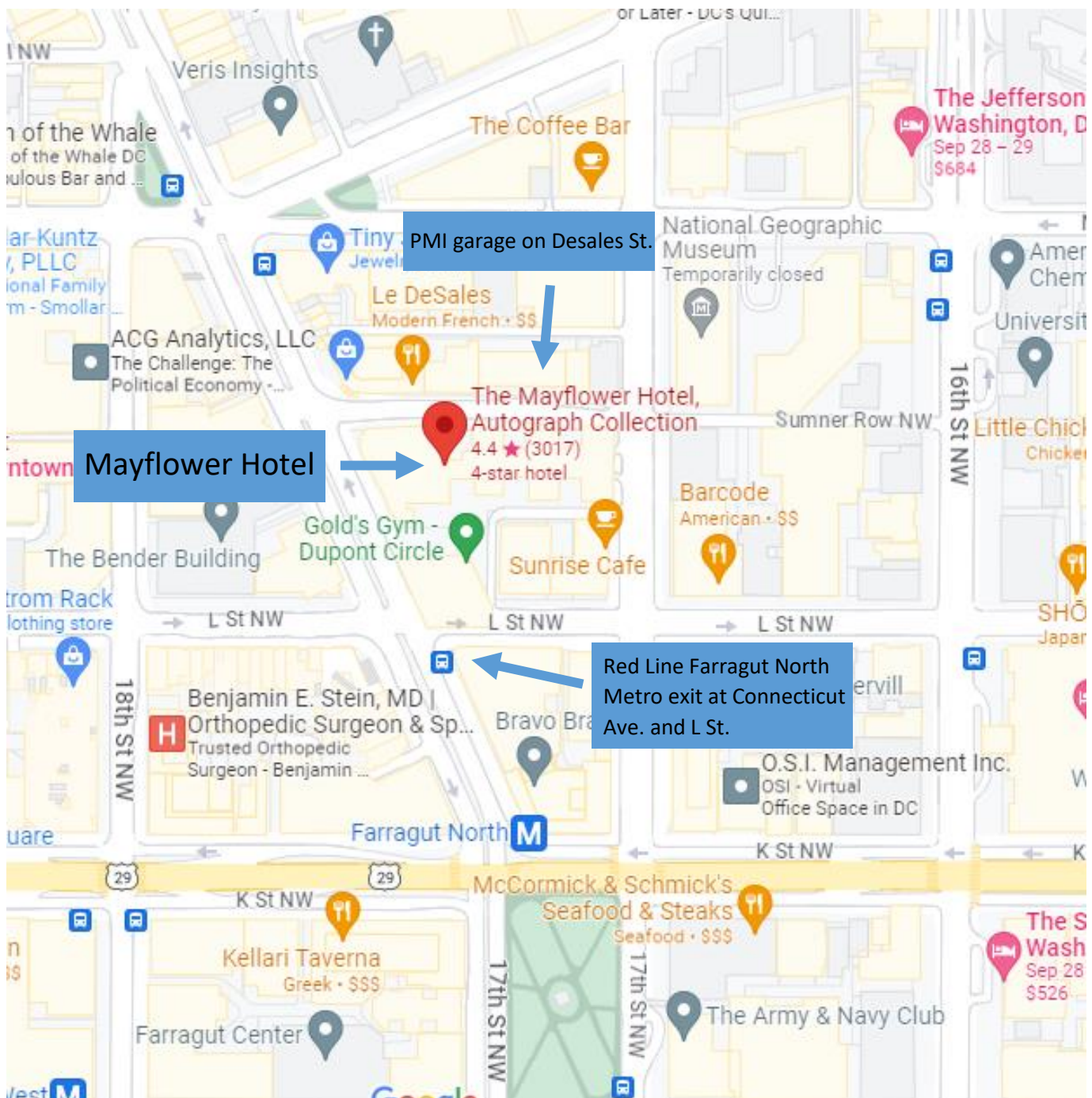
1127 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington DC

The **Eyre bus** normally departs and returns from DSales Street NW, just east of Connecticut Avenue (on the north side of the Mayflower Hotel). The bus does NOT normally wait on Connecticut Avenue.

Metro: Take the Red Line to the FARRAGUT NORTH station. Exit onto Connecticut Avenue and L Street. Walk a block north on Connecticut Avenue, passing the main entrance to the Mayflower Hotel, and turn right onto DeSales Street.

Car: DeSales Street is one way eastbound between Connecticut Avenue and 17th Street.

Parking: Use the 24-PMI parking garage at 1725 DeSales Street. PMI information: 202-785-9191.



Comfort Inn Conference Center

4500 Crain Hwy, Bowie, MD

Directions

Eastbound on Route 50:

Use the right 2 lanes to take Exits 13A-13B-13C to merge onto US-301 South toward Richmond. Turn right onto Harbour Way. Take the first quick right. Follow the road until you veer left into the Comfort Inn parking lot.

Westbound on Route 50:

Use the right 2 lanes to take Exits 13A-13B-13C toward US 301 South. Use any lane to take the US 301 South ramp to Richmond. Continue on US-301 South. Turn right on Harbour Way. Take the first quick right. Follow the road until you veer left into the Comfort Inn parking lot.

Southbound on Route 301:

Turn right on Harbour Way. Take the first quick right. Follow the road until you veer left into the Comfort Inn parking lot.

Northbound on Route 301:

Use the second from the left lane to turn left onto Harbour Way. Take the first quick right. Follow the road until you veer left into the Comfort Inn parking lot.

Park in the parking lot and go inside via the front door under the portico. Give the front desk your car's make and model, license plate number, and your phone number. Wait for the Eyre bus under the portico near the front door.



