

MUST SEAS

HISTORY ITINERARY

Norfolk's history dates back to 1682 when it was first founded. From the time it was settled to the present day, countless battles, wars, and fires along with the important role of Norfolk's waterways have shaped the city to be diverse, eclectic and deeply rooted as the historic city it is today.



CANNONBALL TRAIL

The best way to explore our history is through the Cannonball Trail, a self-guided tour that takes you through 400 years of Norfolk and American history. Along the trail, you will notice narrative plaques which mark places and events of historic interest. Allot two hours to complete the entire tour.



HUNTER HOUSE VICTORIAN MUSEUM

This historic home serves as a house museum and can be toured by the public during its open season (April-December). Constructed in 1894 for a local merchant and banker, James Wilson Hunter and his family, it was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style and serves as a rich example of Victorian decorative arts and architecture both inside and out.



BATTLESHIP WISCONSIN

Located in downtown Norfolk, the Battleship Wisconsin is one of the largest and last battleships ever built by the U.S. Navy. Explore its deck through a self-guided tour or, with an additional charge, a guided Topside Tour that will take you back in time to experience this majestic ship that earned five battle stars during WWII.



HERMITAGE MUSEUM AND GARDENS

An early 20th-century 42-room historic mansion on twelve acres of semi-formal gardens along the Lafayette River. Hermitage founders and residents, William and Florence Sloan, were wealthy New Yorkers who moved to the south and constructed this beautiful mansion in 1908. Today, you can tour this historic museum home for free Tuesdays through Sundays.



ATTUCKS THEATRE

The Attucks Theatre is a historical icon here in Norfolk that dates back to 1919. It played a crucial role for African Americans in Norfolk, it was among the first theaters in the United States to be designed, financed, built and operated by only African Americans. Today, you can attend a show at this theatre and relish in its beauty.



OMAR'S CARRIAGE HOUSE

Omar's Carriage House is originally an 1840s, you guessed it, carriage house. Once inside, look up and spot the large opening, this is where they used to load the hay into carriages. As the property has changed hands a few different times, you now can find a folksy dining room serving up delectable American-Mediterranean fusion plates.



HISTORIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Check into your historic accommodations; the Glass Light Hotel, a 1912 downtown skyscraper or Four Eleven York, an 1890s Victorian home turned boutique inn in the heart of the Freemason District.



EXPLORE FORT NORFOLK

Fort Norfolk is the last remaining of 19 harbor-front forts authorized in 1794 by President George Washington. In the Civil War, Confederate forces seized the fort and used its magazine to supply the CSS Virginia (Merrimack) during its battle with the USS Monitor. Guided tours run from Noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Entry requires a form of ID.