



NECA NASHVILLE 2021

POST-CONVENTION TOUR

Asheville • Lexington • Louisville October 13-18

Dear NECA Members,

We know you're looking forward to experiencing NECA's "in-person" Nashville Convention. We are happy to offer an opportunity to finish the week enjoying and exploring with American Travel's four-day tour to Asheville's *Biltmore Estate* followed by Kentucky's bourbon and horse country!

The Wednesday morning departure from Nashville by coach goes east to Asheville, NC. Nestled between the Great Smoky and Blue Ridge Mountains, Asheville is a "happening" city. Famous for George W. Vanderbilt's palatial Biltmore Estate, we'll also have time to enjoy Asheville's outdoor cafes, cozy pubs, restaurants, eclectic shops and museums. Asheville recently ranked #16 on [Business Insider's Top 50 Places to Live](#) in America.

After two-nights in Asheville we head for Lexington, KY, the "Horse Capital of the World." Our scenic drive is through the Appalachian Mountain range and Cumberland Gap, the historic gateway to the west for buffalo herds, Indians, and pioneers such as Daniel Boone. Friday morning we visit Spy Coast Farm, which specializes in breeding and developing top quality performance horses followed by a tour and bourbon tasting at Buffalo Distillery. Saturday morning finds us behind the scenes at Louisville's Churchill Downs, the "World's Most Legendary Racetrack," enjoying breakfast in the Track Kitchen accompanied by one of their professional jockeys who will share insider views.

In addition to enjoying spectacular natural settings, we're staying in deluxe hotels. Asheville's recently renovated Kimpton Hotel Arras is situated in-town within easy walking to shops and restaurants. In Lexington, the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort was also recently renovated; we're on Concierge floor. We conclude at Louisville's best, The Brown.

Please join us!

Geoff Robertson

American Travel

[This Google Maps link takes you to our journey](#)



Biltmore Estate



Churchill Downs

Itinerary

Wednesday, October 13

Nashville to Asheville

L,D

9:30am Our coach departs from the Omni.

Noon Knoxville is our lunch stop with a quick drive-around, time permitting.

- Late-afternoon arrival & check-in at the Kimpton Hotel Arras <https://www.hotelarras.com/asheville/>

6:30pm We'll gather for a welcome cocktail before heading nearby for dinner.

Thursday, October 14

Asheville

B

7:00am Breakfast opens at the Arras; go at your leisure (breakfast is included each morning of the tour)

9:30am Depart for the 800-acre Biltmore Estate. Our Mansion entrance time is 12:15pm whereupon we experience America's Largest Home®, as magnificent today as it was more than a century ago. Our self-guided house visit spans three floors and the basement. Look closely at original art by Pierre-Auguste Renoir and John Singer Sargent, the magnificent 16th century tapestries, a Library with 10,000 volumes and Banquet Hall with a 70-foot ceiling. <https://www.biltmore.com/>

- Our agenda is allowing from 10-Noon to explore the world famous grounds, gardens and have lunch. The gardens were Designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, America's foremost landscape architect, who also designed New York's Central Park.

Early Lunch There are several restaurants on the property from which to choose, including the Stable Café and in the garden.

3:00pm Return to the Arras whereupon the balance of afternoon and evening are free. Asheville has gained notoriety as a foodie haven.

Friday, October 15

Asheville to Lexington

B,L

7:00am Breakfast opens at Arras Restaurant.

9:00am Our coach departs for Cumberland Gap.

12:00pm The Gap Creek Coffee House is expecting us for lunch.

1:30pm Arrive Cumberland Gap National Park Visitors Center for a briefing on this historic National Park. Cumberland Gap holds a special place in Colonial history as a key passageway through the lower Appalachian Mountains <https://www.nps.gov/cuga/index.htm>

5:30pm Arrival at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort & Spa <https://www.marriott.com/lexington> We're on the Concierge floor.

7:00pm Dinner on our own tonight. The Marriott offers a bistro, and local favorite, Carsons, is nearby.

Saturday, October 16

Lexington to Louisville

B,L

7:00am Breakfast opens in the Bistro, go at your leisure.

9:30am Spy Coast Farm specializes in the breeding and development of top quality performance horses. They employ an integrated approach to all of their reproductive, training, competition, and sales. Their efforts over time have extended this approach to include rehabilitation and fitness services, CEM quarantine, and an Equine Education Center <https://www.spycoastfarm.com/>

12:30pm Locally owned, Wallace Station is our lunch stop.

2:00pm Tour and bourbon tasting at Buffalo Trace Distillery. For 200 years Buffalo Trace has been dedicated to one craft, making fine bourbon whisky <https://www.buffalotracedistillery.com/>

5:00pm Arrival and check-in The Brown Hotel, Louisville <https://www.brownhotel.com/kentucky-luxury-hotel>
The Brown is Louisville's most luxurious hotel. Old World residential atmosphere highlighted by rich fabrics, classic furnishings and luxury finishes. Mahogany beds, classic wallcoverings, upholstered furnishings, featuring The Brown's signature hand-woven throw.

- The evening is open; there are many good restaurants nearby.



Churchill Downs

Brown Hotel



Sunday, October 17 Louisville

B,R/D

7:00am Depart for breakfast in the Track Kitchen along the backside of Churchill Downs. We'll be joined by a professional jockey, who will embellish our behind-the-scenes experience. Enroute then to the Derby Museum and a 30-minute tour of the front side of Churchill Downs. A prime feature of the Museum is the epic 360 degree screen movie "*The Greatest Race*" along with and two floors of exhibits. This promises to be a memorable morning.

<https://www.derbymuseum.org/plan-a-visit/general-information.html>

- The afternoon is then open to explore and enjoy Louisville, home of Muhammed Ali, Louisville Slugger baseball bats and KFC. There are stores, cafes, restaurants and museums near The Brown.

6:30pm Gather in the lobby bar for cocktails before enjoying dinner in the Brown's English Grill.

Monday, October 18 Columbus Day Louisville/Home

B

7:00am Breakfast opens at J-Graham's Café

- The Brown has an airport shuttle; ATA will coordinate times & reservations thereon.

Tour Package Cost

\$2,678 per person double occupancy

\$3,633 single occupancy

Tour Package Inclusions

Five-nights deluxe hotel accommodations:

two-nights Asheville Hotel Arras Deluxe Rooms <https://www.hotelarras.com/asheville/>

one-night Lexington Marriott Griffin Gate Resort Concierge Floor <https://www.marriott.com/lexington>

two-nights Louisville The Brown Hotel Deluxe Rooms <https://www.brownhotel.com/kentucky-luxury-hotel>

- Hotel taxes and portorage
- Breakfast daily
- Entrance fee to Biltmore Estate including grounds and gardens
- Cumberland National Park entrance fee and Visitors Center Park Ranger presentation
- Guided tour of Spy Coast Farm
- Guided tour of the grounds and tasting Buffalo Trace Distillery
- Churchill Downs Backstretch Breakfast Tour with jockey commentary
- Entrance fee to the Kentucky Derby Museum
- Lunch at Wallace Station in Lexington & Gap Creek Coffee House per itinerary
- Dinner at a local restaurant in Asheville the 13th
- Cocktails and dinner The Brown Hotel Sunday night the 17th
- Coach transportation and driver provided by Wise Coaches from pick-up in Nashville until drop off at the Brown following Churchill Downs
- Gratuities for hotel, restaurant staff, local guides & coach driver are included
- ATA tour escort throughout

Hotel Room Upgrades—Mountain Views Jr. Suites, for example, are available; call or e-mail Geoff at ATA to discuss 706-681-3329 travelata@aol.com

Meals: B = breakfast is included daily at the hotels. Other included meals are noted by L= lunch, D=dinner R=reception.

Features Not Included: Air transportation; personal items such as room service and phone calls, mini-bar charges; medical expenses and immunizations; meals and drinks not specified. Coffee and tea are included with the meals; unless otherwise specified alcohol, soft drinks and bottled water are an individual expense. Bottled water will be available on the coach.

Air Note: Book your flights into Nashville (BNA) & home from Louisville (SDF). As we plan be aware the carriers are slowly ramping up their schedules, and more flights will become available.

NECA Show Nashville <https://www.necaconvention.org/>

Registration for the NECA Convention and accommodations in Nashville are done directly through your local Chapter or the national NECA office -Taylor@necanet.org (618-975-0833).

For Post-Tour Information contact Geoff Robertson - American Travel Association 706-681-3329.

ATA's landline, 706-773-2171 has been discontinued in favor of our cell phones, which have not - Geoff 706-681-3329 (travelata@aol.com) and Phebe's 706-681-2964 (travelata2@gmail.com).

CONDITIONS

Covid-Tour Operations – Everyone participating in any of our tours will need to be fully vaccinated. ATA will follow and monitor the CDC's Interim Guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html> which now say “Fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.”

Reservations & Payment: You are encouraged to register without delay to insure your place. Reservations will be confirmed by American Travel Association (ATA) upon receipt of the Reservation Form, a \$250 per person deposit, and a copy of your vaccination card. Receipt of final payment is due in the office of ATA no later than August 10th. All payments must be by check payable to American Travel Association or Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express cards.

Cancellation: Cancellations must be made in writing to ATA. To avoid discrepancies, ATA will not act on information given over the phone until written notice has been received.

Land Package: Cancellation fee of \$175 per person applies between the date of deposit and August 10th. After August 10th, all moneys paid will be non-refundable. In case of any cancellation, ATA will make their best effort to recover from the suppliers to whom payment has been sent; however, there is no guarantee. There will be no refund for unused services once the tour has begun. Trip cancellation insurance is a good idea to protect your travel investment.

Prices: This price is subject to change due to land & hotel cost increases, and in number of participants (16) upon which the tour cost is based. ATA reserves the right to increase the price for such reasons. All prices are based on rates and tariffs in effect on June 21, 2021.

Trip Cancellation Insurance is designed to offset non-refundable air, hotel, and operator charges. ATA suggests Allianz Travel Insurance <https://www.allianztravelinsurance.com/> or 800-284-8300. Chose the plan that best suits your needs.

- ATA's Allianz ACCAM ID is FO27608. Including this ID in your insurance purchase will enable us to help should you need to cancel & file a claim.
- Additionally, ATA via Allianz offers the option of the “cancel anytime” option. Go to [Allianztravelinsurance.com](https://www.allianztravelinsurance.com) In the blue box click on Travel Agent ACCAM? & enter FO27608. Fill-in your information & click “get a quote” and under “find a plan” The Classic Plan With Cancel Anytime reimburses if you cancel for a covered reason; otherwise, 80%. This plan is certainly more expensive; please consider carefully.
- Most (depends on the State) Allianz Plans include an *Epidemic Coverage Endorsement* should you or a family member become ill with Covid-19. For example, this link will take you to Allianz/Jefferson's coverage. The insurance carrier will vary by state; this link for a GA resident.

<https://www.allianztravelinsurance.com/api/certificates/download/all?ProductID=26429&State=GA>

- Please **also** note the Pre-Existing Conditions Exclusion in the Medical Conditions section. If one exists, you need to purchase the insurance *within 14 days of your first payment (air or land)*. *Cancel For Any Reason must also be purchased within 14-days*. Check with your insurance agent to see what is covered under your existing homeowners (usually suitcases and contents) and medical policies.

- Because each State has different and fluctuating Covid policies, a refund is not constituted should the *Participants* (see Responsibility below) be unable to enter a State due to government mandates or quarantine requirements initiated from the time of the initial deposit. This tour visits North Carolina & Kentucky.
- If you decide against travel protection insurance, the Participants personally assume full responsibility for any financial loss.

Health: The Participant represents that neither he nor she nor anyone traveling with him or her has any physical or other condition or disability that could create a hazard to him-or-herself or other members of the tour. This program involves walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs at locations that are not handicap accessible. A letter of explanation of any physical or mental condition that may require medical attention or special equipment (wheelchair, for example) must be enclosed with the Reservation Form.

Responsibility: American Travel Association (ATA), the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and/or their employees or agents, act only on behalf of the owners and contractors providing means of transportation or other services such as hotels and restaurants or other provider to purchasers of this tour and their travel companions (Participants). Subject to any and all items and conditions under which any transportation or any other services whatsoever are provided by such owners and contractors, ATA and NECA, their affiliates and their employees officers, directors, affiliates, successors and agents (collectively ATA and NECA) shall not be liable or responsible to Participants for the acts or omissions of the aforesaid owners, contractors and employees thereof supplying transportation or other services hereunder, including but not limited to breach of contract, intentional or negligent delay or bodily or property loss, injury or damages. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country or state in which they're provided. ATA and NECA shall not be liable or responsible to Participants for any loss, injury or death, or other damages caused by or resulting from acts of God, fire, breakdown or defects of vehicles, machinery or equipment, acts of governments and other authorities, wars, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics or quarantines, monetary crisis, diseases, terrorism or novel conditions. Participants shall have the responsibility to be aware of and determine the validity of any travel advisories, which may exist. Unless the term "guaranteed" is specifically stated in writing on any invoice or reservation itinerary, ATA and NECA do not guarantee any of such suppliers' rates, bookings or reservations. The Participants' retention of air tickets, tour reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute consent to the above terms and conditions. In addition, Participants shall be responsible for conveying the terms and conditions hereunder to travel companions. If, due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend additional nights before or after the tour, participants will be responsible for their own hotel, transfers, meals and related costs. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. ATA and NECA reserve the right to cancel any itinerary or any part thereof and to make such alterations in the itinerary they deem necessary or desirable.

Map: [This Google Maps link takes you to our journey](#)

Personal Note:

Phebe & Geoff have moved to NY state– 111 Stone Bridge Lane, Bedford Hills, NY 10507-2243, which is Westchester County, adjoining NYC on the Northeast. Covid helped us decide the future is now and we moved to be with young Phebe, Geoff & their three children (12, 10, 8 yrs).



2021 Asheville - Lexington - Louisville Post- Convention Tour RESERVATION FORM

Name(s) _____
(if children coming, ages please)

Company (If Applicable) _____
* Please correspond to the following __ office __ home address:

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Suite or Apt. # _____

Cell Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Preferred First names _____

Hotel Rooms king two-beds if no kings, prefer 2 beds

* Children will share our room yes no
(preferences cannot be guaranteed)

Covid-19 Vaccination I/we are fully vaccinated by Moderna Pfizer Johnson&Johnson

Deposit & Payment A deposit of \$250 per person is due with this reservation form. The remaining balance is due **August 10**. Enclosed is a check for

\$ _____. Or, charge to:

Visa MasterCard Discover American Express:

Card number _____ Exp date _____

Security Code _____

Name on card _____

Billing address of card Holder (if different from above)

I have read and understand the conditions set forth in this brochure. Reservations will not be accepted without signature here _____.

Return this form with payment information and a copy of your immunization card to: American Travel Association, 111 Stone Bridge Lane Bedford Hills, NY 10507-2243 fax: 706-225-2551, e-mail travelata@aol.com

Buffalo Trace Distillery

