



ADVENTURES
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HARPERS FERRY HOLIDAY

Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hiking up the Maryland Heights Trail while imagining what it was like to drag 9 ton cannons behind you
- Biking on C&O Canal Towpath alongside the gorgeous Potomac River
- Paddling the historic Shenandoah River while singing John Denver songs
- Learning about the history of Harpers Ferry
- Hanging out at the Blue Mountain Retreat with other really fun women

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

- Location:** Harpers Ferry, WV
- Activities:** Multisport
- Arrive:** At 12:30 pm at Washington Dulles Airport (IAD) or 2:00 at the Blue Mountain Retreat on Day 1
- Depart:** Departure is on Day 4. If you're driving, you can plan to leave after lunch at 1:30 pm. If you're flying, we'll have you back to IAD by 2:30 for a flight after 4pm on the last day.

Trip Overview

Harpers Ferry, located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, is known for both its great natural beauty and its historical significance. As a result it is a center point for numerous activities: hiking on the Appalachian trail and other Civil War historic trails, biking on the gently graded C&O Canal towpath a.k.a "The Grand Old Ditch", canoeing down one of the lively rivers, and visiting the historic old town. Mid-April in this area is beautiful with many flowering trees and shrubs and temperatures typically in the 60s and 70s, there is no better place for an active and relaxing long weekend getaway. Maximum Group size: 13

Rating

Each day includes 3 to 5 hours of activity and the variety of activities (e.g. hiking, bike riding, and canoeing) require a good all-around fitness level, so this trip requires being in good physical condition. The trip is rated 3. Prior to beginning the trip, participants should be engaging in aerobic conditioning, such as walking vigorously up hills, jogging, cross country skiing or stair stepping for 30 - 45 minutes at least 3 - 4 times a week. **Rating:** 1 2 **[3]** 4 5

What's Included

- 1 - 3 experienced AGC guides based on group size
- Three nights lodging
- Meals and snacks from dinner on Day 1 through lunch on the last day
- Dinner in town at a Harpers Ferry restaurant
- Bike and canoe rental and canoe shuttles
- Transportation during the trip including airport transfers at the specified times.

All activities listed in itinerary

What's not included: Travel to and from IAD, alcoholic beverages, guide gratuities, and travel insurance.

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

If you're flying in, we'll pick you up at 12:30pm at the Washington-Dulles Airport (IAD). If you're driving, plan to meet us at the Blue Mountain Retreat at 2:00pm. We'll settle in and then go out for our first hike. The Maryland Heights hike is a 3.1 out and back to a gorgeous overlook with spectacular views of the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers and fascinating Civil War history. Our hike follows a worn military road, leftover from the Civil War, that steeply winds its way up the mountain and turns onto a wooded path leading down to the cliffs. Alternatively, if you prefer something that is flatter but no less scenic, an out and back hike on the C&O canal towpath is a delightful option. If you cannot get to the trip lodging by 2:00 pm, plan to join us there for dinner at 6:30 pm and an evening of relaxation and games.

DAY 2

After a hearty and relaxed breakfast we head to the Shenandoah River above Harpers Ferry for some delightful canoeing. This lovely Class I waterway for paddlers offers ripples and ledges, interspersed with flatwater sections that afford relaxation. Winding its way through the scenic Shenandoah Valley, nestled between the rolling Blue Ridge Mountains, the river is home to heron and osprey, and deer sometimes break through the thickets to drink at the water's edge. If you have never paddled before, no worries - you will get the instruction you need to have a fun and safe day. And if that weren't thrills enough, we'll try a nearby zipline. If you have wanted to give ziplining a try, this is a perfect place to start.

We'll end the day with another hearty dinner back at our lodging.

DAY 3

The C&O Canal Towpath stretches for 185 miles from Washington DC to Cumberland, Maryland. Running parallel to the Potomac River, the path is both flat and tree-shaded, and can be navigated on either fat tire or regular tire bikes (although fat tire is preferable). We will cycle about 8 miles to a campsite where we stop for lunch. Those wanting more cycling can continue up the towpath to the town of Shepardstown, WV (about 40 miles total). Others may choose to visit the town of Harpers Ferry (we can lock our bikes up and walk in), or return to the hostel to have some time to relax, go for a walk, or enjoy a quiet moment to read. Tonight we'll go out to dinner at a nearby local restaurant.

DAY 4

This morning we will walk along the towpath into the Harpers Ferry Lower Town Historic District, which sits on the point of land where the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers converge. George Washington convinced the Federal Government to build an Armory & Arsenal here and this, plus its geographic location, has determined much of the town's history. This is also the site of John Brown's ill-fated raid of October 16, 17, and 18, 1859. Several park exhibits and museums occupy restored 19th century buildings in the Lower Town today. To get the most from our visit, our local tour guide will tell us the fascinating history of this unique town. We will enjoy our final farewell picnic and end our weekend together by 1:30 pm. Those who are flying can plan flights out of IAD for anytime after 4pm.

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Getting There

If you're flying, we'll pick you up at 12:30 pm at Washington Dulles Airport (IAD). If you're driving, plan to meet us at the Blue Mountain Retreat at 2:00pm.

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

Accommodations

We will be staying in the lovely [Blue Mountain Retreat](#) for the week. It is a private, spacious house with ample parking space. There is a wraparound deck with a dining area, and a living room full of comfy chairs to relax in after a long day of hiking.

The lodging has 9 bedrooms 4 bathrooms, 2 living rooms and 2 dining rooms. Some bedrooms can accommodate up to 4 people, but we will only have a maximum of 2 people per room.

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

[Click here for our Cancellation & Payment Policies and Booking Terms & Conditions.](#)