

HARPERS FERRY HOLIDAY

Adventures in Good Company's General Information

Welcome to Adventures in Good Company's long weekend in Harpers Ferry! We have compiled some information that may be helpful as you prepare for your journey. Please feel free to contact the Adventures in Good Company office (1-877/439-4042) if we can provide any additional information.

Emergency contact information

The number for Harpers Ferry Hostel is (301) 834-7652. Cell phone reception is spotty here. The address is: 19123 Sandy Hook Road, Knoxville, Maryland 21758 USA

Weather

In mid-October, highs are typically in the high 60s and lower 70s, and night-time temperatures may fall into the 30s or 40s. While this is not the rainiest season, rain would not be unusual at some point during the long weekend. Check the weather forecast before you come and adjust the packing list accordingly.

Conditioning

While no specific conditioning is suggested for this trip, we will be quite active during our long weekend with cycling, hiking and canoeing. However, the hostel is a great place to just hang out and that is always an option too. If you would like some general conditioning guidelines, please contact us.

Tipping Guidelines

Tipping at the end of the trip is completely optional. If you feel your guide(s) did an outstanding job and would like to reward them for their efforts, a suggested rule of thumb is US \$5-\$10 per person, per day. Oftentimes, trip members organize a group envelope (this makes it anonymous) and present it to the guides at the last shared meal.

Some possible pre-trip reading

The following diverse selection will give you some sense of the land, culture and history.

Barry, Joseph *Strange Story of Harpers Ferry* Eyewitness account of the town's history by a Civil War era resident

Oates, Stephen *To Purge This Land With Blood* Most of us don't know very much about John Brown beyond the song about him. While more detailed than some might appreciate, this is widely regarded as one of the most objective biographies of Brown.

Hearn, Chester *Six Years of Hell, Harpers Ferry During the Civil War*. Harpers Ferry changed hands 8 times during the course of the war and was almost destroyed in the process. This book is a

comprehensive history of the Civil War at Harpers Ferry

Jamieson, Perry. *Death in September: The Antietam Campaign*. A concise history of the Antietam Campaign, which included the single bloodiest day during the War. with short biographies of the major players. Contains historic photos and maps.

Kytel, Elizabeth. *Home on the Canal* The story of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal emphasizing the people who worked and lived along this historic waterway.

Gilbert, David. *Waterpower: Mills, Factories, Machines & Floods at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia*. Harpers Ferry has played an important role in the industrialization of America. This book explores the long, uneasy relationship between man, machine, and rivers at Harpers Ferry, and explains how local millwrights and entrepreneurs kept pace with new developments in American hydraulic technology.

Some useful websites

The official web site of the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park is www.nps.gov/hafe/home.htm. This web site is not as comprehensive as some NPS sites but it does give a good overview of the historical significance of Harpers Ferry, has some great pictures, and lists some of the activities that are available.

You can buy the books we've suggested from the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. Their web site is www.harpersferryhistory.org/

Getting There: Plan to meet at the Harpers Ferry Hostel at 1:00 pm (it's actually located in Brunswick, MD) or, if you can't get there that early, at 6:30 pm.

If you are flying: Both Washington Duller (IAD) and Baltimore-Washington Airport (BWI) are serviced by most of the major airlines, including many lower cost airlines such as Spirit, Southwest, America West, and AirTran. You can rent cars from either airport.

If you are driving: To get there from Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, take Route 340 East for about 4 miles (the distance by road is less direct and twice as long as the walking distance). This will take you across the Shenandoah River into Virginia and then across the Potomac River into Maryland. Turn right at the first Maryland exit, which is the "Keep Tryst Road" exit. Then take the next right onto Sandy Hook Road, and the hostel is the first house on the left.

To get here from Frederick, Maryland take Route 340 West for about 17 miles. Turn left at the last Maryland exit, before crossing the Potomac River into Virginia. That will be the "Keep Tryst Road" exit. Take the next right onto Sandy Hook Road, and the hostel is the first house on the left.

To get from Washington D.C. to Frederick take Route 270 North for 50 miles. To get from Baltimore to Frederick, take Route 70 West for 50 miles. To get from Harrisburg or Gettysburg to Frederick, take Route 15 South.

Lodging

Depending on your connections, you may be able to fly into BWI or IAD the morning of the trip. If not, here are some possible lodging options. Prices were current at the time, but may have changed, and do not include taxes. AAA rates may be lower. Let us know if you're interested in finding someone on the trip to share a room with and we'll try to hook you up.

If you have a gambling spirit, the cheapest way to find a hotel room is to go through Priceline (www.priceline.com). When you have a choice of area, choose the airport area. All, or almost all, of the hotels in this area offer an airport shuttle. Our guides have stayed at very nice places for \$25 or \$30 a night, a bit more with service fees and taxes but still a bargain).

If you prefer to know what you're getting into, the following are a sample of the possibilities:

Comfort Suites-BWI Airport 410/691-1000 or 877-424-6423

815 Elkridge Lading Rd, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

Single or Double: \$79-\$145

Free deluxe continental breakfast and local phone calls.

Free shuttle service to airport and nearby restaurant. AAA

Fairfield Inn by Marriot (800) 695-8284 or (410) 859-2333

1734 W Nursery Rd, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

Single or Double: \$69-\$149

Pool and fitness center, continental breakfast, airport shuttle.

Comfort Inn Dulles Airport (877) 424-6423 or (703) 437-75550 200 Elden St, Herndon, VA 20170

Single or Double: \$69-149

Exercise room, continental breakfast, free local calls.

Airport shuttle. AAA

Courtyard by Marriott (703) 478-9400 or (888) 236-2427

533 Herndon Parkway, Herndon, VA 20170

Single or Double: \$69-\$154

Heated indoor pool, whirlpool, exercise room. High speed internet access, onsite restaurant. Free shuttle service to airport