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### CHRISTMAS AT THE NEWPORT MANSIONS

DECEMBER 2-5, 2021

Photo Credit: Discover Newport

The holidays are a magical time in Newport, Rhode Island with the white lights festooning trees to twinkle-like falling snowflakes and mansions filled with thousands of poinsettias, evergreens, wreaths and decorated Christmas trees. The glitter of gold and the sparkle of silver will dazzle you through the magnificent Newport mansions decked out in Yuletide finery featuring music, tours and spectacular decorations. Join in the holiday festivities and see why Newport was recently named one of the 10 Best American Beach Towns for Christmas by *Coastal Living Magazine*.

Departure/return times and pickup locations are as follows:

	<u>DEPART</u>	<u>RETURN</u>
Kohl's, Westminster Rt. 140 & Market St. (Rear of parking lot)	6:00 A.M.	7:30 P.M.
Chartley Park Shopping Center, Reisterstown	6:20 A.M.	7:15 P.M.
*Drop off & pick up only		

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2:** We will travel to Newport, Rhode Island, America's first resort town, today making breakfast, lunch and rest stops en route. Upon arrival, we will check into our harbor side accommodations located in downtown Newport at:

**THE NEWPORT HARBOR HOTEL** (401)847-9000  
49 Americas Cup Avenue  
Newport, Rhode Island 02840

Surrounded by historical cobblestone streets and world-famous yachts, Newport Hotel and Marina neighbors everything in the downtown area. From shopping and dining to simply strolling around and seeing the sights, the hotel is steps away from experiencing the city by the sea. In a community collaboration, only clear bulbs illuminate the scenic harbor and wharves and the Victorian splendor of Bellevue Avenue. The lights are meant to stimulate candlelight and recapture the candlelit holidays of bygone days. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3:** After breakfast, we will depart the hotel with our local guide for a full day of holiday touring. This morning, we will visit the Marble House and The Elms Mansions, both National Historic Landmarks and icons of the Gilded Age in America, which are filled with thousands of poinsettias, fresh flowers, evergreens and wreaths. Dining tables set with period silver and china complete the elegant setting. The windows of each mansion are lit with individual white candles, in keeping with the colonial tradition. **Marble House** was built

between 1888 and 1892 for Mr. and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, as a summer "cottage" as "Newporters" called them in remembrance of the modest houses of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. **The Elms Mansion** was the summer residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Julius Berwind who made his fortune in the coal industry. Modeled after the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century French chateau d'Asnieres outside of Paris, The Elms is magnificently decorated in Yuletide finery, with thousands of poinsettias, spectacular evergreens, fragrant trees, decorated wreaths, and 19<sup>th</sup> century style ornaments which transform the mansion and its grounds into a Christmas wonderland. Enjoy some free time for lunch and shopping on your own in downtown Newport. This afternoon, we will travel a short distance to the countryside of Bristol, where we will visit the **Blithewold Mansion**. This 33-acre summer estate with grand views of Narragansett Bay, is nationally significant in American history as one of the most fully developed and authentic examples of the Country Place Era. The property features a 45-room mansion filled with family heirlooms and will be decorated for the season. Freshen up at the hotel before having a delicious dinner at **La Forge Restaurant**, situated on the grounds of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, which has been family owned and operated for more than 35 years.

Photo Credit: John W. Corbett/Preservation Society of Newport County

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4:** This morning, following breakfast at the hotel, we will meet our local guide to embark on a **narrated tour of the Newport area**. See the picturesque Ten-Mile Ocean Drive, which encompasses the southern coastline of Newport and considered one of the region's most memorable experiences, along with the fabulous mansions along tree-lined Bellevue Avenue. Enjoy the charm of Newport's historic buildings and restored homes while learning about the history of this coastal city. The tour will showcase stunning views, historic landmarks, and incredible architecture. Then, it's off to **Newport Playhouse** for a luncheon buffet and to see their holiday production (show to be announced). We will have a little free time this afternoon at the hotel to relax before the evening's activities, or to stroll through some of the unique shops downtown. This evening, enjoy live holiday music and light refreshments as you stroll through softly lit rooms, taking in the ambience of a Gilded Age holiday at the **Breakers Mansion**. The Breakers is the grandest of Newport's summer "cottages" and a symbol of the Vanderbilt family's social and financial preeminence in turn-of-the-century America.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5:** After breakfast at our hotel this morning, we will depart Newport with fond memories of our exciting holiday tour. Meal and rest stops will be made en route home.

#### PRICE PER PERSON:

SINGLE	\$1,220.00	(PRICE INCLUDES: motorcoach transportation, lodging, luggage handling, 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners, admissions, 1 show, guided tour with guide gratuity, and tax & gratuities on meals included)
DOUBLE	\$1,020.00	
TRIPLE	\$ 970.00	
QUAD	\$ 950.00	

A DEPOSIT OF \$300.00 PER PERSON IS REQUIRED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF BOOKING. ALL RESERVATIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY OCTOBER 19, 2021. Luggage tags and itinerary are mailed about 10 days prior to the trip. Bills are not mailed for balances due.

Our motorcoach is equipped with restroom, reclining seats, air-conditioning/heating as needed, luggage compartments, and electrical outlets.

CASUAL CLOTHING is appropriate for the entire tour. Comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended.

In order to accommodate our tour members who are non-smokers or who cannot tolerate cigarette smoke, we must insist that no smoking be allowed on board our coach. The consumption of alcoholic beverages by any tour member while onboard our coach is strictly prohibited. Rill's Bus Service reserves the right to change itineraries and reservations, if in the best interest of the customer.

In the event of a cancellation, any non-refundable expenses for reserved seat tickets, admissions, meals, or lodging may be forfeited. Rills will guarantee full refund only if the cancelled reservations can be resold to another customer.

Trip cancellation insurance is available through Travel Guard Insurance. For specific questions regarding cancellation insurance, call Travel Guard at (800)826-1300. You will need to refer to Agency #50810 (Rill's Bus Service as agent). All policies will need to be quoted and/or purchased electronically, or by calling the 24-hour service center (paper applications are no longer accepted). Insurance coverage information will be mailed to you upon request to Rill's Bus Service.



Photo Credit: Allan Millora