



RILL'S BUS SERVICE
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CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250th: FOUNDING FATHERS in CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

OCTOBER 22-23, 2026

There's no better place to celebrate America's 250th birthday than historic Charlottesville, located at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains! See the brilliant colors of the fall season in this beautiful area as we visit the homes of three of our early Presidents & Founding Fathers: Monticello (Thomas Jefferson), Montpelier (James Madison), and Highland (James Monroe), along with other highlights on this mini-overnight Presidential excursion!

Departure/return times and pickup location are as follows:

	<u>DEPART</u>	<u>RETURN</u>
Kohl's, Westminster Rt. 140 & Market St. (Rear of parking lot)	7:00 A.M.	9:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22: We will travel south along scenic routes to historic **Michie Tavern**, built in 1784, which served as the social center of its community and accommodated travelers with food, drink and lodging during the 18th century. Servers dressed in period attire will assist with our **buffet lunch** served in a rustic tavern setting featuring delicious, authentic Southern fare including colonial fried chicken, pulled pork barbecue, black-eyed peas, buttermilk biscuits, and more. After lunch, have time to browse the unique shops on property. This afternoon, we will visit **Monticello**, the home of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, third president of the United States, and founder of the University of Virginia. Situated on a mountaintop outside Charlottesville, Monticello, a 5,000-acre plantation, is the only historic house in the U.S. on the United Nations' World Heritage List. Get an intimate look at the extraordinary house Thomas Jefferson built and furnished for himself and his family while on the **guided house tour** which includes first floor spaces in the home, the West Lawn, and the South Wing. You'll learn about Jefferson and his vision for America, the realities of slavery on the Monticello plantation, and the mountaintop's iconic architecture. See the furnishings, art, books, gadgets and other objects that reveal Jefferson's unique mind. In the cellar area, visit the dependencies at your leisure, as well as the restored wine cellar, kitchen, smokehouse, and slave quarters. Walk to Mulberry Row to learn more about the experiences of the enslaved people who lived and labored on the Monticello plantation. Visit the historic gardens which were a botanic showpiece, a source of food, and an experimental laboratory of ornamental and useful plants from around the world. On the shuttle coming back down the mountain, there's an optional stop to get off and see Thomas Jefferson's gravesite where he is buried with his wife, his two daughters, and Governor Thomas Mann Randolph, his son in-law. Explore the David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center where you can watch *Jefferson's World Film*, a 15-minute introductory film that explores Jefferson's ideas and accomplishments, especially his core concepts about liberty, and highlights Monticello's central importance to his life and work. See exhibit galleries and have time to visit the gift shop on property. We will then check into our overnight accommodations at the:

OMNI CHARLOTTESVILLE HOTEL (434)817-6664
 212 Ridge McIntire Road
 Charlottesville, VA 22903



Located in downtown Charlottesville and nestled amidst iconic landmarks, discover Charlottesville's charm at the Omni Hotel which bridges history with modern allure. A seven-story breathtaking atrium with a cool garden setting, luxurious guest rooms, modern amenities, and a convenient location will provide a comfortable, relaxing stay. Just steps away, Charlottesville's **historic Downtown Pedestrian Mall** awaits, an eight-block pedestrian promenade with its inviting mix of shops, dining, and cultural gems like art galleries and museums. Enjoy the remainder of the day and dinner at your leisure.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23: Following **breakfast** at the hotel and check out, we will head to the nearby **University of Virginia** where we will meet our local guide for a **tour** of the historic **Rotunda and Academic Village**. The Rotunda at the University of Virginia was designed by Thomas Jefferson as the architectural and academic heart of the University's community of scholars. He named the University's original buildings the "Academical Village." As the phrase suggests, the Academical Village is based on the Jeffersonian principle that learning is a lifelong process, and that interaction between faculty and students is vital to the pursuit of knowledge. Jefferson modeled the Rotunda after the Pantheon, a second-century temple in Rome. Construction began in 1822 and was completed in 1828, two years after Jefferson's death on July 4, 1826. Built at a cost of almost \$60,000, it was the last structure to be finished on the Lawn. Together with Monticello, the Academical Village is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Afterwards, we will head to **Highland**, the home of our fifth President, James Monroe. Take a **guided tour** with an experienced interpreter beginning with a 30-minute outdoor history walk of Highland where Monroe lived with his family from 1799 to 1823, including the site of the recently discovered 1799 Main House, the 1818 Presidential Guest House and more. Learn the significance of Highland to the Monroe family, as well as how recent archaeological discoveries have upturned the understanding of this plantation. Mystery and misunderstanding surrounded the site for years—only now are historians and archaeologists peeling back the layers of history to uncover Highland's—and Monroe's—true past. Visitors will learn about how the people and events of Highland are connected to larger threads of American history, and how recent archaeology has transformed the understanding of the plantation and its free and enslaved occupants. Enjoy **boxed lunches** onboard the bus as we travel to our final Presidential home, **Montpelier**, the home of the fourth President of the United States, architect of the Constitution, and one of the most revered thinkers in American history, James Madison. Learn about Madison the man, The Constitution & Bill of Rights, Slavery - Madison's worst regret - and Dolley Madison, America's first First Lady. History often focuses on his mild demeanor and small stature, however, he is arguably one of the most important figures of the Founding Era. As we venture home this afternoon, we will take in the natural beauty of the autumn colors and Blue Ridge Mountains along the way. A dinner stop at Cracker Barrel will be made en route as we complete our travels home with fond memories of our autumn Presidential getaway in celebration of America's 250th!



PRICE PER PERSON:

SINGLE	\$720.00	(PRICE INCLUDES: motorcoach transportation,
DOUBLE	\$600.00	lodging, luggage handling, 1 breakfast, 2 lunches,
TRIPLE	\$570.00	admissions, guided tour with guide gratuity,
QUAD	\$550.00	and tax & gratuities on meals included)

A DEPOSIT OF \$200 PER PERSON IS REQUIRED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF BOOKING. ALL RESERVATIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY **SEPTEMBER 8, 2026**. Payment can be made by cash, check or money order and mailed to our office at above

address. Luggage tags and final itineraries are mailed about 2 weeks prior to the trip. Bills are not mailed for balances due, however, courtesy calls as a reminder will be made in case payment is not received by due date. Bus driver & tour director gratuities are not included in tour cost.

***PLEASE NOTE** that much walking is involved with this tour. Comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended. CASUAL CLOTHING is appropriate for the entire tour. At Montpelier, there is an approximate ¼ mile walk from the Visitor Center to the mansion.

In the event of a cancellation, any non-refundable expenses for package inclusions such as 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. In the event where travel companions sharing the same room should need to cancel one or more persons in that room, the remaining passengers will be responsible for paying the supplemental charge to change occupancy.

We strongly recommend purchasing trip cancellation insurance which is available through Travel Insured International. For information and to obtain a quote, visit our agency specific link: <http://www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=61986> For specific questions regarding trip cancellation insurance, call Travel Insured's customer care at (800)243-3174 and refer to Agency #61986 (Rill's Bus Service as agent).

Our motorcoach is equipped with restroom, reclining seats, air-conditioning/heating as needed, luggage compartments, Wi-Fi and electrical/USB outlets. Smoking of any kind is strictly prohibited onboard the motorcoach. The consumption of alcoholic beverages by any tour member while onboard our coach is also strictly prohibited. While every reasonable effort will be made to handle your luggage carefully, Rill's Bus Service will not assume any liability for lost or damaged luggage, due to breakage, theft, hotel or carrier handling, fair wear and tear, etc.

Rill's Bus Service reserves the right to change itineraries and reservations at their discretion, with or without notice, if in the best interest of the customer and to improve the quality of the tour, which could be necessary for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, local weather conditions, cancellations/substitutions for trip inclusions made by outside vendors, and/or any other circumstances beyond their control. Rill's Bus Service acts only as an agent on behalf of tour patrons in all matters relating to tour package inclusions, except transportation by their own vehicles, and is not responsible for any damage, delay, loss, injury, or accident to person or personal property when passenger is participating in tour activities and/or traveling by other transportation means while on tour prepared by Rills. Furthermore, Rill's is not responsible for any additional expenses incurred as a result of sickness, injury, weather, or any other unforeseen circumstances that are beyond their control.

By traveling with Rill's Bus Service and participating in any and all tour package inclusions, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.

*Photo Credits: Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau

