

CONNECTICUT SHORE TOUR

Mystic and more

June 6 - 8, 2017

3 days/2 nights

Tuesday, June 6

7:30am **Depart Rome** – Freedom Plaza, 205 Erie Blvd.

8:00am **Depart Utica** – Radisson Hotel

8:30am **Depart Herkimer** - Walmart

- We'll make a quick restroom-only break, and a longer stop for lunch

Mark Twain House – Hartford, CT

Tour this 19-room mansion, considered one of the ten Best Historic Homes in the world. Learn about life in the Clemens household with a costumed role player – usually a staff or nosy maid – who will give you the behind-the-scenes information about the interesting family and guests.

4:00pm Approximate check-in at **Hilton Mystic Hotel** – 20 Coogan Blvd. The Hilton is conveniently located a mile from Mystic Seaport and is directly across the street from Olde Mistick Village and Mystic Aquarium.

Guest rooms include coffee makers and free wi-fi. The hotel has a restaurant, lounge, large fireplaced lobby and fire pit area plus an indoor, heated pool.

6:00pm **Dinner – Go Fish Seafood Restaurant**

Located just across the street at Olde Mistick Village. Meal includes salad, potato, vegetable, rolls, beverage, dessert and choice of:

() **Baked Cod** () **Chicken Marsala**

() **Sliced Sirloin w/mushroom sauce**

**Vegetarian meal available by prior request*

Wednesday, June 7

Breakfast buffet included at the hotel dining room.

We'll take a maritime adventure in the area today. Submarines have fascinated people from Alexander the Great to the Beatles.

Find out why when you visit the **Submarine Force Museum** on the river in Groton, and peer into the lives of the men who sail the ocean depths in their “sharks of steel”. Walk on board the **USS Nautilus** berthed here and see what life on a sub is like.

Next, take a **guided highlights tour** of **Mystic Seaport**, featuring the museum’s three tall ships and 19th century historic buildings, exhibit galleries filled with mariners’ art, scrimshaw, figureheads of antique vessels, plus a working shipyard. The **Mayflower II** will be berthed at the seaport for renovation all summer! And don’t miss the **Charles W. Morgan**, the last wooden whaleship in the world. Have lunch on your own at your leisure in the Galley cafeteria here.

This afternoon we’ll bring you back to the hotel and you can choose to relax or explore on your own. Just across the street at **Olde Mistick Village** there are 60 specialty shops and restaurants in a beautiful outdoor setting of colonial buildings, paths and gardens. Or you might want to visit the **Mystic Aquarium** beside it, where you’ll be enchanted by the animals they have rescued. See penguins, dolphins and even Beluga Whales! (There is an admission fee to visit the aquarium.)

We will regroup tonight for a special dinner. At the **Haley Mansion**, which sits on a hilltop overlooking the water in Mystic, take in gorgeous sunset views. Mrs. Haley always wanted a mansion built on this hill. Mr. Haley, a wealthy shipbuilder, started the project but then thought the location would be too cold and windy and refused to continue. When he died two years later, the determined Mrs. made her dream home come true! A **buffet dinner** will be enjoyed.

After dinner, we are treated to a Connecticut seafaring tradition with local maritime **Sea Chantey entertainment** at the Mansion. From the 1790s to the 1930s, Mariners developed sea chanteys to coordinate shipboard work and composed songs to sing at leisure. In doing so they described their lives and expressed their thoughts and opinions. Gain insight into the lives of deep-water sailors, fishermen, whalers and others who made their living at sea. The presentation includes instrumental accompaniment on the concertina (a squeezebox that was often taken to sea) as well as the guitar and banjo. Your toes will be tappin’!

Thursday, June 8

A hot **breakfast** is included at the hotel before we depart.

This morning we make our way along the Connecticut coast to the

mouth of the Connecticut River.

We'll board the "**RiverQuest**" for a **90-minute narrated cruise** and see the magnificent **Gillette Castle** and the historic **Goodspeed Opera House** from the water.

After the cruise, we'll enjoy a **boxed lunch** on the motorcoach as we continue our way along the coast.

This afternoon brings us to the **PeZ Factory Store** in Orange, Connecticut. This houses the largest, most comprehensive collection of PEZ dispensers and memorabilia in the world. See the PEZ motorcycle built by Orange County Choppers and the world's largest PEZ dispenser. View the production area, a fun, interactive historical time line, browse the factory store, try your hand at the PEZ trivia game and take part in a special candy demonstration.

We'll depart for home mid-afternoon and make a break stop en route.

7:00pm **Approximate return to Herkimer**

7:30pm **Approximate return to Utica**

8:00pm **Approximate return to Rome**

**All times are approximate and can vary due to weather, traffic, construction, etc. Tours By Design is not responsible for delays. We reserve the right to alter the itinerary if needed for the safety and comfort of our travelers.*

COST PER PERSON:

TWIN OCCUPANCY \$549.00
QUAD OCCUPANCY \$534.00

TRIPLE OCCUPANCY \$539.00
SINGLE OCCUPANCY \$684.00

TOUR INCLUDES:

Round trip transportation via deluxe motorcoach (Hale Transportation), tour escort, two nights at Hilton Mystic Hotel including all taxes and baggage handling, two breakfasts, two dinners (one with entertainment), one boxed lunch, guided tours at Mark Twain House and Mystic Seaport, Submarine Force Museum and *USS Nautilus*, Demonstration program at PEZ Museum/Factory Store, and Connecticut River Expedition narrated cruise. **Not included:** *Optional but customary gratuity for driver and escort, or hotel housekeeping.*

RESERVATION & PAYMENT INFORMATION: **\$100.00 deposit per person** within two weeks of reservation, **full payment by April 22.** For individual cancellations before April 22 a full refund is given less \$5.00 service fee. Cancellations on or after April 22 may not be fully refunded, determination will be made by the vendors

involved and any refund would be given after the tour. Reservations made after April 22 are accepted based on availability and must be paid in full at time of reservation. Checks payable to *Tours By Design, Inc.* There is a \$25.00 fee for checks returned for insufficient funds. Sorry, we do not accept Credit Card payments. **Travel insurance** is available; please ask for a brochure if needed. *Tours By Design reserves the right to cancel a tour due to low registration. Please sign up early to avoid disappointment.*

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