



Dates: July 16 – July 25: Concord to Cooperstown: America’s Story Tour

Celebrate America’s 250th birthday on a unique educational journey tracing the nation’s story through its founding ideals, religious heritage, and beloved sports traditions. Hosted by historian Ross Peterson and professionally arranged by Blue Planet Vacations, this immersive tour combines Revolutionary War history, early Latter-day Saint Church history, presidential legacy sites, and the great American pastime. Guests will explore Kirtland, Ohio and Palmyra, New York, walk the Freedom Trail and Lexington & Concord, cruise the historic Erie Canal, visit the Baseball, Football, and Basketball Halls of Fame, attend two Major League Baseball games, experience Niagara Falls, and stay at the historic Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. More than a sightseeing vacation, this journey is a traveling classroom designed to help you not only see America — but understand it.

Tour Highlights

- **Baseball Hall of Fame – Cooperstown, NY**
- **Pro Football Hall of Fame – Canton, OH**
- **Basketball Hall of Fame – Springfield, MA**
- The Erie Canal experience and America’s westward expansion story
- Church history sites in Kirtland, Ohio and Palmyra, New York
- The Freedom Trail, Lexington & Concord, and Revolutionary War history
- John F. Kennedy Presidential Library
- Norman Rockwell Museum — the art that defined American identity
- Stay at the legendary **Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, Massachusetts**
- Cleveland Guardians vs Pittsburgh Pirates MLB game
- Boston Red Sox vs Toronto Blue Jays MLB game
- Niagara Falls Maid of the Mist boat experience
- Amish country dinner experience
- Private historical commentary and lectures throughout the tour

Reservations and Information
Blue Planet Vacations
888-718-7717

Pricing and Information:

Land Tour Price:

- \$3,199 per person based upon double occupancy
- \$4,399 based on single occupancy
- \$1,999 For 3rd person in a room
- Airfare – Call for pricing (Available in March)



Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 – Thursday, July 16 - Travel to Cleveland, Ohio – Tour Begins

Your journey begins as the group travels to Cleveland, Ohio. After arrival, we transfer to our downtown hotel and gather for a welcome orientation. Ross Peterson will introduce the themes of the trip — the founding of a nation, the growth of faith communities, and the cultural importance of sports in American life — setting the stage for the experiences ahead.

Overnight: Hampton Inn Downtown Cleveland

Day 2 – Friday, July 17 - Kirtland, Ohio — Early LDS Church History

Today we begin with one of the most significant religious history locations in the United States. In nearby Kirtland, we visit the Kirtland Temple and associated historical sites, including the Newell K. Whitney Home and Store, the Ashery, Johnson Farm, and the restored village area. Ross will provide historical context explaining why this location mattered not only to the early Church but also to the broader story of religious freedom in 19th-century America.

This evening, we experience a change of pace with a traditional Amish-style dinner at Mary Yoder’s Amish Kitchen, offering insight into another American religious and cultural tradition that continues to thrive today.

Overnight: Hampton Inn Downtown Cleveland (Meals: Breakfast & Dinner)

Day 3 – Saturday, July 18 - Pro Football Hall of Fame & Major League Baseball

This morning, we travel to Canton to visit the **Pro Football Hall of Fame**. Here we explore how professional sports helped shape American culture, community identity, and national traditions in the 20th century.

In the afternoon we return to Cleveland for one of the tour’s highlights — a Major League Baseball game as the Cleveland Guardians host the Pittsburgh Pirates. Ross will discuss baseball’s role as “America’s pastime” and how the sport connected generations of Americans through immigration, industrialization, and social change.

Overnight: Hampton Inn Downtown Cleveland (Meals: Breakfast)

Day 4 – Sunday, July 19 - Niagara Falls & Travel to Palmyra, New York

We depart Cleveland and travel east toward New York. Along the way we stop at one of North America’s natural wonders — Niagara Falls. We experience the famous Maid of the Mist boat ride, bringing us close to the power and scale of the falls.

After lunch in Buffalo, we continue to the historic region of Palmyra, an area central to early American religious movements and 19th-century frontier life.

Overnight: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Rochester/Victor (Meals: Breakfast)

Day 5 – Monday, July 20 - Palmyra — Sacred Grove and Restoration History

Today we explore the Palmyra Church history sites, including the Sacred Grove area and associated historical locations. Ross will discuss the religious awakening movements of early America and how the region known as the “Burned-Over District” played a major role in shaping American religious life.

In the afternoon we continue to the Syracuse area for the evening and enjoy a group dinner together.

Overnight: Hampton Inn Syracuse/Dewit (Meals Breakfast & Dinner)

Day 6 – Tuesday, July 21 - Erie Canal & Cooperstown — Baseball Hall of Fame

We begin the day with a private cruise on the historic Erie Canal. This engineering marvel opened the American interior to settlement and commerce and transformed the United States into a continental nation. Ross will explain how transportation

innovations like the canal helped build the modern economy and encouraged westward expansion. **NOTE:** This activity is open to the first 40 guests that register for the trip due to the size of the boat.

We then continue to Cooperstown, New York, home of the **National Baseball Hall of Fame**. Here we explore the legends of baseball and the sport's powerful connection to American identity, immigration, and community life.

We finish the day traveling into the Berkshires and check into the historic **Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, Massachusetts**, operating since the 1700s and a living symbol of traditional New England America.



HOTEL NOTE: The Red Lion Inn — A Living Piece of Americana

Located in the heart of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, the historic **Red Lion Inn** has welcomed travelers since the late 1700s and stands as one of New England's most enduring symbols of early American life operating during the years surrounding the American Revolution. In the 20th century, Stockbridge became closely associated with artist Norman Rockwell, whose paintings captured everyday American values — scenes that still feel present when staying at the inn today. More than simply a hotel, the Red Lion Inn represents the continuity of American culture from the Revolutionary era through modern times, making it a perfect setting to experience the spirit of America during its 250th birthday celebration.

Overnight: Red Lion Inn Stockbridge (Meals: Breakfast)

Day 7 – Wednesday, July 22 - Norman Rockwell & Basketball Hall of Fame — Travel to Boston

This morning, we visit the Norman Rockwell Museum. Rockwell's art captured everyday American life and helped define how Americans see themselves — families, neighbors, and shared values.

Next, we travel to Springfield to visit the **Basketball Hall of Fame**, completing our trio of major sports halls. We then continue to Boston, one of the most important cities in American history.

Overnight: Hilton Boston Park Hotel (No included meals)

Day 8 – Thursday, July 23 - Lexington & Concord and the American Revolution

Today we explore the beginnings of the American Revolution. We visit Lexington and Concord, where the first battles of the Revolutionary War were fought. Ross will guide discussions on the causes of the revolution and how colonial political ideas developed into American independence.

We also visit the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, examining the modern presidency and America's role in the 20th century world.

Overnight: Hilton Boston Park Hotel (No included meals)

Day 9 – Friday, July 24 - Freedom Trail & Boston Red Sox Game

This morning, we walk portions of Boston's famous Freedom Trail, visiting historic sites such as meeting houses, burial grounds, and locations connected to the founding generation.

In the afternoon we attend another unforgettable highlight — a Boston Red Sox baseball game at Fenway Park the oldest MLB ballpark in operation. The experience brings together American history, sports tradition, and community in one of the nation's most iconic venues.

Overnight: Hilton Boston Park Hotel (No included meals)

Day 10 – Saturday, July 25 - Return Home

(No included meals)

Deposit, Payment, Cancellation, & Refund:

- \$500 per person at the time of reservation (\$250 non-refundable once paid)
- Final payment is due on or before April 10, 2026
- Land Tour Cancellation: All cancellations must be in writing and received by Blue Planet Vacations.
If cancelled:
 - \$250 per person is non-refundable after deposit is made.
 - After April 10, 2025, 50% of payments made are non-refundable.
 - After May 15, 2025, all payment made are non-refundable.

Travel Protection: For your convenience Blue Planet Vacations offers travel protection plans through Travelex Insurance Services to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For more information on the available plans visit <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/index.aspx?location=44-0128BluePlanet&go=bp&navigation=off> or contact Travelex Insurance 800-228-9792 and reference location number 44-0128. The full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, are contained in the insurance policy. The product descriptions provided here are only brief summaries and may be changed without notice. The full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, are contained in the insurance policy. Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Insurance coverages underwritten by individual member companies of Zurich in North America, including Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC #16535, state of domicile: New York). RETWEB

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As a matter of privacy, we do not disclose addresses or other personal information about other travelers in the group. We do all in our power to assure seats for passengers traveling together on aircraft are assigned together, but because airline seating assignments for groups are controlled by the air carrier, we cannot guarantee specific seat assignments. Passengers must be in good health and able to care for their own needs. Please contact us regarding any health concerns you may have or if you need to bring any specialized medical equipment such as wheelchairs, oxygen tanks, C-Pap, etc. so that we can determine if transportation services, hotels, and other suppliers can accommodate your equipment. If it is determined that your equipment can be accommodated, you or your traveling companion are fully responsible for it and must be able to lift, fold, push, and handle the equipment. Tour directors on the trip cannot be of assistance with such needs. We reserve the right to remove passengers from the group at their own expense if the care of or actions of a passenger become detrimental to the functioning of the tour. Payment of deposit(s) as outlined in this agreement shall be deemed consent to be bound by the terms and conditions of this agreement.

For full terms and conditions visit www.blueplanetvacations.com/tc.

For reservations and information please contact

Blue Planet Vacations

888-718-7717

