

# STRATFORD-ON-THE-POTOMAC WEEKEND INFORMATION PACKET

We hope this Information Packet gives you the information you need to make a decision about joining us on the Stratford-on-the-Potomac Weekend. Don't hesitate to email [info@virginiaodysseys.com](mailto:info@virginiaodysseys.com) or call 757-810-3102 with any questions you might have.

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# STRATFORD-ON-THE POTOMAC ITINERARY

## Day 1 Friday, October 30

We'll meet at the Cheek House on the grounds of [Stratford Hall](#) in the afternoon. Most cyclists will arrive between 4 – 6 PM, but feel free to arrive earlier if you like. Relax on the deck at your lodging, or explore the grounds and hiking paths on the 1900 acres of Stratford Hall. You may want to jump right into history and take a guided tour (included) of the Great House to learn about the Lees and of Stratford Hall. The Visitor Center and the Gift Shop are also well worth visiting. We'll kick-off the weekend with a welcome reception followed by an oyster roast.



## Day 2 Saturday, October 31

### [Loop tour from Stratford Hall](#)

Distance - 20 (shuttle), 35, or 40 miles

After a hearty plantation breakfast, we'll be off to explore the peninsula landscape between the Potomac and the Rappahannock Rivers. The cycling is easy as we roll first to the [George Washington National Monument](#), where George Washington was born in a modest farmhouse overlooking Popes Creek on the Potomac. We watch the Visitor Center film and then tour the Memorial House constructed in 1930-32 representing a typical house of the upper classes of 1732. The original house burned in 1779 but the foundations are outlined with oyster shells. There is also a Kitchen House, Colonial Herbs and Flower Garden, and the Washington family burial ground. The Memorial obelisk of Vermont marble is a one-tenth replica of the Washington Monument in the Nation's capital.



It's not far to lunch at [Ingleside Plantation Winery](#). Our box lunch catered by Stratford Hall will be followed by a tasting of award-winning wines, including Ingleside special Reserve Collection. You will bike at your own pace in the afternoon as you wind your way along the Rappahannock River at Leedstown, through farmland, and by country churches and return to Stratford Hall. Time to relax on the deck of the Cheek House, stroll the gardens of Stratford Hall, walk to the beach



and gristmill, or carve your Jack-o-lantern. Our three-course dinner will be in the [Stratford Hall Dining Room](#). The special Halloween tour of the Great House is after dinner when all is dark! Some might want to extend the evening with a walk on the grounds to soothe any spooked nerves - can you see the Milky Way?

## Day 3 Sunday, November 1

Distance - 20, 30, or 40 miles

There are two biking options perfect for a leisurely Sunday morning spin. The first leaves from Stratford and goes to Currioman Landing on the Potomac. The second option is a remote start at the Rappahannock River Valley Nature Preserve near Warsaw which features biking by the Rappahannock River. [Belle Mount Vineyards](#) is conveniently located along this route if you are ready for another tasting! Both of these biking options have longer loops to add mileage if you so desire. The hiking option takes you along one or more of the many scenic trails right at your doorstep at Stratford Hall. You may want to cap off your weekend with a guided tour of the Great House, if you have not already done so. It is open on Sunday from 10 AM – 4 PM.



## WHAT'S INCLUDED, PRICE, & PAYMENT SCHEDULE

**Tour Price** \$ 395 per person, double; \$ 470 per person, single

### Included in the Tour Price

- 2 nights accommodations
- Welcome reception
- 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, 1 lunch and all snacks and drinks for each day's ride
- Full Sag Support along the route
- Maps and Cue sheets
- Entrance fees to Stratford Hall and George Washington National Monument
- Vineyard Tour and Tasting
- Experienced guides

**Payment Schedule** Space is guaranteed when full payment is received. No reservations will be taken after October 19, 2009.

Please make checks payable to: Virginia Odysseys LLC.  
Address: 109 Woodmere Dr., Williamsburg, VA 23185

**Cancellations** Full refund if cancellation received in writing before October 19 (less \$25 fee). No refunds after October 19.



## WHEN, WHERE, & HOW TO ARRIVE

**The Start:** Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Rd, Stratford, VA 22558 near Montross, Virginia on Friday, October 30 between 4 -6 PM Phone 804-493-8038.

**The End:** Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Rd, Stratford, VA 22558 near Montross, Virginia on Sunday, October 30 between 2 - 4 PM Phone 804-493-8038.

# WHAT TO EXPECT

## Accommodations

Lodging will be in three different types of accommodations located on the property of Stratford Hall. The rooms are very comfortable and set in a wooded area on the grounds of Stratford Hall. There are fourteen rooms in the Cheek House (seven with king size beds; eight with twin beds). The Astor House has five rooms (three with queen beds; two with twin beds). All rooms have a private bath. All have large decks for enjoying the outdoors.



## Food

All meals are included, except for lunch on Sunday. Various options for biking and hiking are available on Sunday so we most likely will not be in the same place at the same time for lunch. The Stratford Hall Dining Room – located next to the Cheek House - is open to the public for lunch Sunday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Dinner Friday evening will be at the Cheek House, but all other meals will be in the Dining Room.

## Number of Adventurers

The lodging and transportation logistics require that our group size be capped at 35, plus two leaders.

## Bikes

Cyclists will use their own bike. The route is paved, except for 0.6 mile on Day 1. Either a road, touring, or hybrid bike with a wide gear range would be appropriate.

## Support Vehicles

Support vans will be capable of carrying cyclists and bikes as needed. The support vans will provide shuttle service for some of the shorter mileage options.

## Terrain and Miles per Day

The terrain in Westmoreland County and Richmond County is flat, and the occasional stream valleys provide the few "hills" we encounter. Daily mileages are listed in the day-by-day itinerary. Shorter mileage options, with support van shuttles, are available to allow even a beginning recreational cyclist to complete a typical day.

## Multi-Sport Adventures

The weekend allows for biking, hiking, and bird watching. It is possible to bring your own canoe or kayak and paddle the Potomac or Rappahannock. There are public boat launches near Stratford Hall, one of which is next door at Westmoreland State Park. Contact Virginia Odysseys for more information about water activities.

## Climate

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Temperatures:</b>  | Late October average High 66° F; Low 45° F |
| <b>Daylight:</b>      | Sunrise 7:25 AM - Sunset 5:55 PM           |
| <b>Precipitation:</b> | October average 3.3 inches                 |

## BEFORE & AFTER YOUR TOUR

You can arrive a day early or extend your stay at Stratford Hall if you like. Activities on these extra days might include canoeing or kayaking, birding, photography, visiting historical sites and museums not included in the weekend itinerary - and of course additional biking. Just contact Virginia Odysseys for ideas and details. We'll be glad to offer suggestions. The Northern Neck of Virginia – the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers - is called "Historyland" for good reason. Three of our Nation's presidents were born here – George Washington, James Madison, and John Monroe. The southern area of the Northern Neck around Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone have many attractions including the Steamboat Museum, the Mary Ball Washington Museum, and Christ Church (1735) built by the wealthy planter Robert "King" Carter.

## STRATFORD-ON-THE-POTOMAC RESOURCES

### Websites

Belle Mount Vineyards [www.bellemount.com](http://www.bellemount.com)  
Christ Church [www.christchurch1735.org](http://www.christchurch1735.org)  
George Washington National Monument [www.nps.gov/gewa/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gewa/index.htm)  
Ingleside Plantation Winery [www.inglesidevineyards.com](http://www.inglesidevineyards.com)  
Northern Neck Tourism Information [www.northernneck.org](http://www.northernneck.org)  
Northern Neck Today [www.northernnecktoday.com](http://www.northernnecktoday.com)  
Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail [www.nps.gov/pohe/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pohe/index.htm)  
Stratford Hall [www.stratfordhall.org](http://www.stratfordhall.org)  
Westmoreland State Park [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/wes.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/wes.shtml)

### Books

*The Stronghold, A Story of historic Northern Neck and Its People.* Miriam Haynie.