

Living Heritage Tours

While we will visit many sites of the early days of the church, we won't just focus on the dates, locations, and events that occurred at each historical site. We will focus on how the lessons learned at each site can help us grow closer to the Savior in our everyday life.

July 30 – August 7, 2021

Below is a detailed itinerary of our upcoming Church History Tour

Friday, July 30: Today you will fly to Rochester, New York. Once you land in Rochester, New York, you will need to take a taxi or Uber to the hotel. The hotel is only 3 miles from the airport. Everyone is responsible for their own lunch and dinner today. Our hotel shares its property with several restaurants.

Saturday, July 31: Our bus will pick us up early this morning and we will spend the day seeing the sites of Palmyra. Our stops will include the Sacred Grove, the Smith Family Farmhouse, the rebuilt log home where the Moroni visits took place, the Hill Cumorah, the Grandin Press (where the Book of Mormon was first published), the Martin Harris Farm, the Palmyra Cemetery, and the Palmyra Temple. Reservations are required to attend the temple. Please let me know if you are interested as I will be making a group reservation. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Sunday, August 1: We will start the day by attending Sacrament Meeting with a local ward. Then it's on to Fayette, NY where we will visit the Peter Whitmer Farm. This is where the Church was officially organized and where the Three Witnesses saw the plates. We will then travel to Harmony, PA and to the Susquehanna River where the Priesthood was restored. The Church has restored and dedicated several sites along the Susquehanna River. The homes of Joseph and Emma and the Isaac Hale home have been rebuilt. New monuments and statues have been installed, and a new Visitors' Center is now open. We will be some of the first to see these new features! Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided.

Monday, August 2: Today we will travel to Hiram, Ohio. It was here at the John Johnson Farm that Section 76 was received. Joseph and Sidney saw the Celestial Kingdom, the Father and the Savior, and many other things in the upper room of this home. This is a very sacred place. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided.

Tuesday, August 3: Our day will be spent in Kirtland, Ohio. We will start the day with a devotional either at the hotel or on the Kirtland Temple grounds before our private tour of the interior of the Kirtland Temple. It was here that the Savior appeared to Joseph and Oliver. Moses, Elias, and Elijah also appeared and restored Keys of the Priesthood. We will visit the Visitors' Center, the Newell K. Whitney home (where Joseph and Emma lived) and the Newell K. Whitney store (which included the School of the Prophets and where many revelations, including the Word of Wisdom, were received). We will also visit the John Johnson Inn (where the Church periodical *The Evening and Morning Star* was published), the reconstructed Kirtland Schoolhouse, and the Kirtland Ashery along with a reconstructed water-powered sawmill. We will visit the Morley Farm where General Conference was held, the Father and the Son appeared, where missionaries were first sent from, and where the first High Priests of this dispensation were ordained. We will also see the exterior of homes belonging to Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, and Sidney Rigdon. We will have lunch at the Chaplin Forest Stone Quarry where much of the stone for the Kirtland Temple was obtained. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Wednesday, August 4: Our first day in Nauvoo will include the Visitors' Center, carriage and wagon rides around Nauvoo, the Relief Society Statue Gardens, Brigham Young's home, Wilford Woodruff's home, Heber C. Kimball's home, the Seventies Hall, and many other historical sites. You may want to visit the "Land and Records Research Center" where you can discover your personal connection to Nauvoo. If you have ancestors that once lived in Nauvoo, they will show you on a map exactly where your ancestor lived. Tonight, we will attend the outdoor stage production of "Sunset on the Mississippi", and the Trail of Hope. Breakfast and dinner are provided.

Thursday, August 5: Our second day in the Nauvoo area will start at Carthage Jail. Here at the jail, Joseph and Hyrum sealed their testimonies as martyrs. We will then head back to Nauvoo and visit Joseph Smith's home and grave site, the Red Brick Store, plus many other historic homes and sites. In addition to the sites listed on the previous day, you may want to visit the Brickyard, the Browning Home & Gun Shop, the John Taylor Home, the Lucy Mack Smith Home, the Nauvoo Groves, Pioneer Pastimes, the Print Shop, the Scovil Bakery, the Tin Shop, the Blacksmith Shop and more. There will be time to attend the Nauvoo Temple this afternoon. You can also attend the stage production of "The Promise". Breakfast and dinner are provided.

Friday, August 6: Today we will visit the sacred sites of Missouri. Our first stop will be at Adam-ondi-Ahman where we will discuss the sacred events of the past and the promised millennial events of the future which will take place there. We will stop at Far West at the temple site before continuing on to Liberty Jail. Our last stop will be at the Visitors' Center in Independence. Across the street is the Temple Lot where the future millennial temple will be built. While traveling, we will discuss the all-important events of 1831-1839 including the Mormon War, Haun's Mill, and ultimately the Extermination Order and exodus to Illinois. Lunch and dinner is provided today.

Saturday, August 7: Today, the free hotel shuttle will be available to transfer you to the Kansas City, Missouri airport for your flight home.

Each hotel offers a complimentary hot breakfast,
King Bed or 2 Queen sized beds, coin laundry, swimming pool, and Jacuzzi.

I normally do this tour in 11 days. Our 9-day tour includes everything the 11-day tour includes but we will have earlier mornings and later nights in order to compact everything in.

Like President Nelson said,
"Get some rest. Eat your vitamins. It is going to be exciting."

General Information

I suggest the following:

- Dress for comfort. Our chartered bus is fully air conditioned but there is little shade at the sites we visit, and it will be hot and humid.
- Be prepared for a lot of walking and standing each day.
- You will want bug spray.
- I'll have the bus stocked with bottled water.

You will need to obtain an airline flight so that you are in Rochester, New York (ROC) on July 30, 2021. Once you have purchased your flight, please let me know your flight details so I can arrange with the hotel for your arrival. You will need to take a taxi from the airport to the hotel. The hotel is only about 3 miles from that airport. The last time I was in Rochester, the airport did not allow Uber or Lyft.

You will also need to obtain a flight home from Kansas City, Missouri (MCI) on August 7, 2021. There are no scheduled activities this day, so you can make your flight arrangements for anytime of the day. The hotel has a free airport shuttle.

Enclosed is a Detailed Itinerary. Please take note of the meals which I will coordinate and pay for and which meals you will be responsible for.

If you would like to get a head start, I would suggest that you read the Institute manual "Church History in the Fulness of Times" and the new Church History book called "Saints". Both books can be found in the Gospel Library app.

"It is good to look to the past to gain appreciation for the present and perspective for the future. It is good to look upon the virtues of those who have gone before; to gain strength for whatever lies ahead. It is good to reflect upon the work of those who labored so hard and gained so little in this world, but out of whose dreams and early pains, so well nurtured, has come a great harvest of which we are the beneficiaries. Their tremendous example can become a compelling motivation for all of us."

President Gordon B. Hinckley