



MEJDI TOURS

MEJDI Tours Scheduled Departure

- Tour:** The American Dual Narrative Series: Blue/Red Divide in The Nation's Capital
- Dates:** August 20-22, 2021; April 8-10, 2022
- Included:** 2 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): Grand Hyatt Washington
1 conservative guide for 3 days
1 liberal guide for 3 days
Walking tours on day 1
Private coach transportation on days 2 & 3
Meals listed in the itinerary: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
Group departure airport transfer
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers¹
US-based customer service representatives
- Not included:** Airfare
Arrival airport transfers
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement-\$200
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Gratuities
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing²:** 10+ Paying Participants - \$1,575 Per Person
without accommodation (day touring only) - \$1,400 Per Person

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability

² Subject to change based on confirmation. This quote is valid for 2 weeks.

Overview:

Take an in-depth look behind the curtain of American politics in the nation's capital with two guides – one conservative, one liberal. Visit important sites and explore challenging issues that contribute to the city's fabric. Meet with expert speakers from both sides of the aisle to shed light on such topics as race, socio-economic status, religion, sexuality, and more. Explore sensitive, typically “taboo,” subjects in the safe space of a dual narrative tour, fostering honest dialogue and a more intimate understanding of Washington, DC, and its place in our nation and the world. Explore the role of human engagement and emotion in political conflict and learn how to approach uncomfortable conversations from a place of understanding, rather than persuasion. Discover the necessary steps to stop verbally assassinating “the other” and learn to “disagree better.”

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival - Washington, D.C. & National Mall

Arrive into Washington, D.C. and transfer to your hotel (on own). This afternoon, meet your guides and set the stage for an exploration into the complex and polarized politics of our nation's capital with a classic **walking tour of the National Mall**, home to Washington's most iconic monuments. Visit the **Lincoln Memorial** and discuss the polarization of America at the time of the Civil War and Lincoln's presidency from a dual narrative perspective. **Hear about America's involvement in the Korean and Vietnam Wars as you pass both memorials.** Discuss multiple perspectives on America's foreign policy and wars. See the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial** and hear about the famous March on Washington in 1963, where King gave his legendary “I Have a Dream” speech. Discuss the current racial climate in America and hear conservative and liberal views on the topic. **Visit the White House** and discuss the “coin flip” of transferring power every 4-8 years in a two-party system. At the eastern end of the Mall, **tour the U.S. Capitol** and hear from your guides a dual narrative account of the insurgence at the capitol on January 6, 2021. This evening over dinner, **meet with a bipartisan group working to narrow the political divide in the U.S.** by finding common ground on key issues facing lawmakers today. Discuss how members of opposing political parties can reach across the aisle and work toward better understanding each other and communicating more effectively.

Overnight: Grand Hyatt Washington (D)

Day 2: Northern Virginia

This morning, **embark on a tour of some of the most notable Civil War battlefields and sites around Northern Virginia.** Visit **Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center** and see hundreds of signatures, pictographs, games, and thoughts left inscribed on the house walls by Union soldiers during their occupation of the Fairfax Court House area in 1862-1863. This “diary on walls” provides insight into typical soldier life and the effect of this war on local residents and free and enslaved people of African descent. Discuss the polarizing political climate that led to the Civil War and unpack lessons that can be applied to politics today. **Stop along the way and sample some of the best local multicultural fare in/around D.C.'s northern suburbs.** Explore D.C.'s growing diversity, **meet with first and second generation immigrant business owners, and discuss the issue of**

immigration in dual narrative. Visit the **NRA National Firearms Museum** in Fairfax, learn about the use of firearms for competition shooting, hunting, personal defense, recreational shooting, and police work, and discuss the history of firearms from early colonial protection to the modern day debate over gun control. Head back towards D.C. and visit **Arlington National Cemetery** to pay respects to those who have fallen in service of our country. Discuss competing perspectives on America's involvement in international wars, military spending, and national defense. Return to D.C. and for **dinner and a live performance at the historic Atlas Performing Arts Center**, which strives to expand the reach and strengthen the bonds of D.C.'s neighborhood communities through the arts.
Overnight: Grand Hyatt Washington (B, L, D)

Day 3: Anacostia & Georgetown

This morning, transfer to Anacostia, an historic neighborhood and one of D.C.'s first suburbs. Originally known as Uniontown, **Anacostia** was off-limits to immigrants and minorities and known as a white working class neighborhood until the late 1800's when it became primarily African American. Visit the **Frederick Douglass National Historic Site** museum in Anacostia and learn how a man born to slavery spent his life fighting for justice and equality as a leading voice in the abolitionist movement. **Visit The House DC, a Christian organization whose vision is to transform and empower the lives of inner-city youth and their families by giving them hope, a productive future, and a changed community.** Talk about the role of faith and politics in humanitarian efforts both in our nation and abroad. **Meet up with an urban planner and take a tour of a green renewal project in Anacostia Park.** Discuss how the recent clean-up and regeneration of the notoriously polluted Anacostia River has led to neighborhood controversy over gentrification, and whether green space revitalization leads to equitable planning and racial reconciliation or cultural displacement and vulnerability. Transfer to Georgetown, and set out on a **walking culinary tour on and around iconic M Street.** Learn about the history of Georgetown, including the import/export of merchant goods and services as you sample local delicacies at cafes, bakeries, and local restaurants. Discuss the roots of American politics and explore how the two-party system came to be and what led to the drastic polarization of American politics we know today. **Meet with students from local universities to discuss foreign affairs from both the liberal and conservative perspectives.** Meet the group for a final farewell drink then transfer to the airport and depart for your flight home.

(B, L)