

Our Itinerary

The **Mint Museum of Art** has planned another wonderful travel-study program for our membership. Mark your calendars now for **April 19-21, 2010**. On these dates we will be participating in the **77th Annual Historic Garden Week in Virginia**. For seven decades the Garden Club of Virginia has been showcasing the most beautiful homes and gardens across the state. This year our tour will be focusing on the western part of the state. We will be visiting both **Lynchburg and Roanoke**. Our group will depart Charlotte by private motor coach on **Monday, April 19th** en route to Lynchburg, Virginia. As we travel northwest we will enjoy a delicious boxed lunch. Our first stop will be **Poplar Forest** which was designed by Thomas Jefferson as his year round retreat. Jefferson described this unusual octagonal house as “the most valuable of my possessions.” He drew inspiration from Italian architect **Andrea Palladio’s** seamless blending of landscape and architecture. Jefferson’s neoclassical villa is personal, conceptual, and strikingly modern for its time. In 1984 a nonprofit corporation was formed to rescue the site. Poplar Forest has only recently been opened to the public and we will be able to appreciate the award-winning restoration of this exquisite property. Following our visit to Poplar Forest we will have arranged a special private visit to **The Maier Museum** located on the campus of **Randolph College**. Their collection features works by outstanding American artists of the 19th and 20th centuries. After the Maier we will check into our hotel for the next two nights – **The Craddock Terry**. This 44 room boutique hotel, housed in the former Craddock Terry Shoe Factory and adjoining tobacco warehouse, was opened in 2007. The Craddock Terry is located in the Bluffwalk Center, part of the revitalization efforts of Lynchburg’s downtown area. Each of the guest rooms has a unique layout to incorporate the architectural elements of the building. All rooms feature stylish décor and a spacious layout. Each morning the guests receive a complimentary continental breakfast delivered to their room in a **shoebox!** Tonight we have included dinner at **Shoemaker’s Grill** located in the hotel.

On **Tuesday, April 20th** we will focus on the home and gardens included on the Lynchburg tour. Featured are **five carefully selected private homes and gardens**. Each home presents its own personal collection of decorative and visual arts. In addition each of the five homes we visit has a lovely surrounding garden that should be beautiful in late April. Lunch is included today. For those of you who have energy left at the end of the day, you are invited for a tour of the **Old City Cemetery**. History and horticulture abound in this recently restored 200-year-old cemetery. Described as a “grave garden”, the cemetery has an arboretum of 19th century plants and also includes four small museums. Your evening is free.

Wednesday morning April 21st we depart Lynchburg for **Roanoke**. This lovely town is tucked into the Blue Ridge Mountains and is home of the newly renovated and expanded **Taubman Museum**. This museum provides the resources that inspire, educate and celebrate the creative arts. The new facility opened in November 2008 and allows their American collection, often described as a hidden gem, to emerge into full public view.

Among the artists on display are Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer and John Singer Sargent. The 81,000 square foot building is the creative design of Randall Stout Architects. It does a magnificent job of combining the practical with the dramatic. Lunch is included at the **Museum Café**. The Taubman is located in the downtown area above Roanoke's historic City Market. We will allow a little time following our museum visit to explore this charming area of Roanoke. Railroad buffs will want to visit the O. Winston Link Museum. We leave Roanoke and arrive back in Charlotte late in the day. This tour provides the perfect springtime getaway.

Cost per Person

Double Occupancy = \$595 Single Occupancy = \$765