

SPECIAL ADVERTISING PROMOTION



National Shrine highlights visit to Baltimore

By David Warner

Nearly 20 million people visit Washington, D.C., each year to indulge in the capital city's magnificent attractions, meeting and convention facilities, and many monuments.

Prominent among those monuments is the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at Fourth Street and Michigan Avenue, N.E., adjacent to the campus of The Catholic University of America.

Established by the bishops of America and built through the generosity of millions of Catholics across the nation, the shrine is our nation's tribute to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. It is the largest Roman Catholic church in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world.

The shrine — which Pope John Paul II named a basilica in 1990 — each year draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from every part of the nation and from foreign lands. These pilgrims come to the shrine to renew their faith, worship God and honor Mary.

Recorded in each of the shrine's chapels and in its stained glass, mosaic, art and architecture is the history of American Catholic devotion to Mary. Visitors may take part in daily Masses and guided tours. The structure is accessible to the handicapped, and offers a cafeteria and gift shop. For more specific information, write to: The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Fourth Street and Michigan Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1566. You may also inquire by phone: 202/526-8300.

A tip for those who decide to visit Washington: Make use of the free advice — on subjects ranging from lodging to safety — available through the Washington Visitor Information Center, 1455 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.

Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, the information center is a comprehensive, walk-in tourist facility, a one-stop shopping source for free brochures, maps and personal advice. The week-day phone number is 202/789-7000.

What's new in Washington? The U.S. Navy Memorial at 701 Pennsylvania Avenue opened its long-awaited Visitors Center this month. The center features a high-tech, wide-screen motion picture theater; ship's store; and Log Room for Navy veterans.

American Sightseeing International is offering a new scheduled day-trip excursion to Harpers Ferry, W. Va. and Gettysburg, Pa., two of the most prominent sites of Civil War action, during the summer months.

A National Music Festival during the summer celebrates Washington's bicentennial with free public performances scheduled at venues throughout the capital.

The new, larger "Spirit of Washington" ship at Pier 4, 6th and Water Streets, S.W., is a four-deck 600-passenger vessel providing daily lunch, dinner, weekend brunch and moonlight cruises along the Potomac River.

The Smithsonian Institution has announced plans to establish a major, permanent exhibition entitled "Science in American Life." It will be installed at the National Museum of American History.

Visitors to the Washington area have a wide choice of overnight accommodations in every style and price range. For specific information on weekend packages, contact the Washington Convention & Visitors Association, 1212 New York Ave. N.W. Washington D.C. 20005 for a special "Washington Weekends" brochure.

To get your upcoming trip listed, send information to: Going Places, *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624.

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