

# Great Day! Scheduled Tour Summaries

## OHIO'S PRESIDENTIAL TRAIL



BE PART OF HISTORY AS WE EXPLORE OHIO'S CONTRIBUTIONS WITH THIS TOUR SERIES. BOOK TWO OF THESE PRESIDENTIAL TOURS & THE THIRD IS HALF PRICE.

Ohio has been called, with good reason, the “Birthplace of United States Presidents” . . . and Great Day! Tours will be giving you the opportunity to learn more about these people and families during the coming year. Each President is a truly unique individual, as our passengers will discover, and Ohio has much to be proud of in its contribution to our Nation, as the State’s new Presidential Trail ties together its rich political past.

Various locations have been chronicled by groups like the Ohio History Center and currently totals fourteen, all with major interactions with U.S. Presidents. These designated locations include Birthplace Homes, Presidential Libraries and Memorials. This is your chance to learn more about

Ohio’s contributions to our country by these eight U.S. Presidents, matched only by the Commonwealth of Virginia which had the same number, although that claim is still in dispute, even in 2022, due to William Henry Harrison being claimed by both.

## OHIO'S PRESIDENTIAL TRAIL: RUTHERFORD B. HAYES & SPIEGEL GROVE TUES JULY 12, 2022

Departures, as applicable, from Willoughby-Mayfield, Beachwood, Independence, Middleburg Heights, North Olmsted, Elyria, Sandusky.

This tour takes us to the 31-room mansion and Presidential Library of Rutherford B. Hayes in Fremont. He held many elected posts, including serving as Ohio Governor, Congressman, a General in the Civil War and the 19th U.S. President, serving from 1877-1881. He and his wife, Lucy, had a family of eight children living here. His 25-acre estate also houses the Hayes Museum, parkland and was the burial site of President and Mrs. Hayes. After his passing, his family established the first Presidential Library. Since its opening over 100 years ago, it is now home to 90,000 books and manuscripts related to local history and the Gilded Age in which Hayes lived. This tour also includes a winetasting tour, tasty luncheon and a visit to a museum history center that honors the area’s history as a rail center, with a growing collection of the historical railroad memorabilia and artifacts.



**\$144 per person**

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## OHIO'S PRESIDENTIAL TRAIL: JAMES A. GARFIELD, WINETASTING IN LAKE COUNTY & LAVENDER GARDENS THUR JULY 28, 2022

Departures, as applicable, from North Olmsted, Middleburg Heights, Independence, Beachwood, Mayfield-Willoughby.



Did you know that the favorite “adult beverage” of American Presidents has been wine? This includes James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, Millard Fillmore, James K. Polk, John Quincy Adams, James Buchanan, Ulysses S. Grant, Herbert Hoover, Calvin Coolidge, William Howard Taft, and Richard Nixon, plus many of us “Non-Presidents”. Ohio has a long tradition of growing flavorful grapes, dating back to the early 1800s, which led to the production of quality wines. By 1859, the state had become the leading producer of wine, just one year after James A. Garfield, our 20<sup>th</sup> President, married his wife, Lucretia. By the late 1860s, German immigrants brought their traditions of winemaking to Northern Ohio with its climate and abundant water supply, ideal for growing grapes to produce wine. As production grew along the southern shore of Lake Erie, it was known as the **“Lake Erie Grape Belt.”**

James was born, in what is now Moreland Hills, in a log cabin with his mother and lived in poverty after the death of his father. While we are not really sure of his preferences in wines, we will be visiting the James A. Garfield home that he acquired in 1876 to accommodate his large, by then, family. During the 1880 Presidential Election, he conducted the first “front porch campaign” from his home, named “Lawnfield”. He needed more space and had 11 more rooms added to the structure. Following his assassination in 1881, his widow added the Memorial Library wing, setting the precedent for presidential libraries.



For something new, we will be visiting a **Lavender Farm** that grows distinctive and unique varieties of **lavender**, and also turns them into various products and oils. In

keeping with the tradition of our winetasting tours, today’s luncheon will keep “the flavor” of this new package at Ferrante Winery & Ristorante in Geneva. Of course, we’ve included a winetasting tour while we are here. We will be visiting two other wineries in the Lake County Wine Region, Debonné Vineyards and Grand River Cellars Winery.

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## OHIO'S PRESIDENTIAL TRAIL: WILLIAM MCKINLEY & THE FIRST LADIES MUSEUM

THUR AUGUST 25, 2022

Departures, as applicable, from North Olmsted, Middleburg Heights, Independence, Mayfield-Willoughby-Macedonia, Beachwood, Macedonia.



Born in Niles during January 1843, William McKinley went on to become our 25<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and was one of those men who heralded from the State of Ohio. He was known for having led the nation to victory in the Spanish-American War and having raised the protective tariffs to promote American industry. He served as President from 1897 until his assassination in 1901. Today we will be visiting a number of historic sites, both to honor William McKinley

as well as to recognize the contributions of the First Ladies who stood behind, and assisted, their husbands along the way and during their presidencies.

The McKinley National Memorial has a stated purpose that it is “dedicated to collecting and preserving the significant materials and records related to the life of William McKinley, his family and his career”. Contrasted to some of the sites included in our other visits along the Ohio Presidential Trail, The McKinley Presidential Library & Museum encompasses the Presidential Museum and an Historical Library that takes visitors on a tour that exemplifies Mr. McKinley’s interest in science, which is best shown at the Planetarium located at the museum.



He was a much-revered President and, upon his passing, schoolchildren from across the United States donated money to build the McKinley National Memorial in Canton. The memorial and tomb were begun in 1905 and the construction took over two million bricks to complete, topped with two domes. The larger dome is quite impressive, measuring 75 feet across and 95 feet in height.

This is the only tour that we are offering along the Ohio Presidential Trail where we will be served a nice luncheon at the site, enjoying a specially prepared catered meal before we depart on the afternoon’s itinerary.

We will be visiting the First Ladies National Historic Site, located in the Saxton McKinley House, home of President McKinley’s widow, Ida Saxton-McKinley. The first part of the

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Victorian-style home was constructed in 1841. The exhibits and video will highlight the prominence that the First Ladies had gained over the time, including their role in dealing with the public and its importance to their President-husbands, possibly best demonstrated by Eleanor Roosevelt. You will be hearing about Ida's contributions during his time in office.

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AK TO FU OR REFERENCE THESE PLACES: Other trails include the [Ohio Buckeye Candy Trail](#), [Ohio Ice Cream Trail](#) and [Ohio Antique Trail](#).

But none have the historical importance of the Presidential Trail.

Ohio, as you no doubt recall from elementary school, claims eight U.S. presidents – more than any state except Virginia, which also claims eight. (Point of contention: Ohio and Virginia both claim William Henry Harrison, who was born in Virginia but spent his adult life in Ohio.) Steve George, a senior advisor at the Ohio History Connection, has long believed Ohio should better integrate and promote its presidential sites. The new Ohio Presidential Trail is a start, he said.

The task is complicated by the fact that the sites are owned and operated by different entities, including the federal government, state government, community groups and others.

George and his colleagues are working on a series of brochures that will highlight specific Ohio presidents, but also promote other presidential sites throughout the state. Visitors to the James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, for example, may not realize that Rutherford B. Hayes' elegant estate is just two hours away in Fremont.

"It's a very popular itinerary, visiting presidential sites," said George. "By studying U.S. presidents, you learn a lot about American history writ large."

Stops on the new Ohio Presidential Trail include:

*The "partners' desk" used by William McKinley at the White House, displayed inside the William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum in Canton. (Thomas Ondrey/The Plain Dealer)*

#### **William McKinley Presidential Library & Museum and McKinley Memorial, Canton**

Unfortunately, both McKinley's birthplace home in Niles and the house where he lived in Canton are long gone. In Canton, you can visit the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, home to the largest collection of McKinley artifacts in the world, including the nightshirt he wore when he was shot in Buffalo. Next to the museum is the stately McKinley Memorial, a 96-foot-high domed mausoleum, dedicated in 1907. It is the final resting place for McKinley and his wife, Ida Saxton McKinley.

#### **Warren G. Harding Home & Memorial**

The Harding Home in Marion was inhabited by Warren and Florence Harding from 1891 through 1921, when they moved to the White House. It's been open to the public since 1926 and includes thousands of original family artifacts. NOTE: The Harding Home is currently closed for renovations, expected to reopen in 2020, along with a new Harding Presidential Center.

Nearby: The Harding Memorial, dedicated in 1931, the burial site of the president and first lady.

*Painting of President Hayes and daughter Fanny in the home of President Rutherford B. Hayes in Fremont. (Thomas Ondrey/The Plain Dealer)*

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### [Ulysses S. Grant Birthplace, Point Pleasant](#)

Eighteenth President Ulysses S. Grant was born and lived his first year in this one-room cottage, steps from the Ohio River in Clermont County, before moving about 25 miles away to Georgetown.

### [Ulysses S. Grant Boyhood Home and Schoolhouse, Georgetown](#)

Grant lived in Georgetown longer than anywhere else in his life. Visitors can tour his two-story boyhood home, which includes original family furnishings. Nearby is the two-room schoolhouse where Grant received his early education.

*An animatronic Charlie Taft, the youngest son of 27th President William Howard Taft, talks about his famous family at the William Howard Taft National Historic Site in Cincinnati. (Susan Glaser, The Plain Dealer)*

### [William Howard Taft National Historic Site, Cincinnati](#)

The William Howard Taft National Historic Site includes the home where Taft was born and spent his first 18 years. The two-story brick house, in Cincinnati's wealthy Mount Auburn neighborhood, has been restored to the way it looked in 1865, the year the Civil War ended, when Taft was 8. Five restored rooms on the first floor of the home are shown by guided tour. Rooms on the second floor contain exhibits and artifacts that shed light on Taft's years of public service.

*The tomb of ninth president William Henry Harrison sits on a bluff overlooking the Ohio River in North Bend, Ohio. (Susan Glaser, The Plain Dealer)*

### [William Henry Harrison Tomb, North Bend](#)

The Harrison Tomb, 60 feet tall and made out of limestone, rises from a bluff overlooking the Ohio River, and contains the remains of ninth President William Henry Harrison, his wife, son and several family members. His grandson, 23rd President Benjamin Harrison, who was born and raised in North Bend, is buried in Indianapolis. A historical marker at the corner of Symmes and Washington avenues marks the site of Benjamin Harrison's boyhood home. Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#),  
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