

NAM '07 Host City Richmond, Va. is a Tourist's Delight

Richmond, Virginia, home to the 2007 convention of the National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM), is in the heart of a region rich in fun and educational attractions that appeal to all age groups and interests. Among the attractions in the city or within easy driving distance are:

- ◆ Historic Jamestown, which will be celebrating the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first permanent English settlement in North America, thirteen years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.
- ◆ Two of the nation's best amusement parks, the scenic and family friendly Busch Gardens and the roller coaster-packed Paramount's King's Dominion.
- ◆ Numerous Civil War battlefields, war re-enactments, the White House of the Confederacy and the national Civil War Visitors Center.
- ◆ Colonial Williamsburg, where visitors relive the days leading up to the American Revolution with the help of expert craftsmen, re-enactors and guides in this reconstructed colonial city.
- ◆ Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, a home rich in historical, architectural and scientific importance. "Nowhere else in the country is there such a collection of historical, recreational and entertainment attractions," said Arthur Zohab, NAM '07 General Chairman. "Richmond would be a great place to spend a vacation even without the convention. There is more to do and see than there is time."



The 44th annual NAM convention will be held July 25-29, 2007 at the Richmond Marriott Hotel in downtown Richmond. The convention will be sponsored by NAM and hosted by St. Anthony Maronite Church, Glen Allen, Va., and its pastor, Monsignor George M. Sebaali. It will be the first NAM convention in the eastern United States in three years. The attractions in the city include:

- ◆ The White House of the Confederacy, where Jefferson Davis lived for most of the Civil War;
- ◆ St. John's Church, where a re-enactment of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech occurs each summer Sunday on the spot where Henry made his impassioned plea;

- ◆ The Edgar Allan Poe Museum, which highlights Poe's time living in Richmond;
- ◆ The Virginia State Capitol, which was designed by Thomas Jefferson;



- ◆ The Civil War Visitor's Center at the old Tredegar Iron Works, where nearly half of the Confederacy's artillery was cast;
- ◆ White water rafting in what is known as the "best urban whitewater" in the United States.

Richmond is also known for its abundance of restaurants, ranging in cuisine from traditional Southern cooking to Brazilian, Cuban and, of course, Lebanese. Many other attractions, such as Williamsburg, Jamestown, the amusement parks, outlet shopping and Monticello, are less than an hour's easy drive, either on interstate highways or scenic country roads. A collection of historic plantations along the James River is another way to spend an enjoyable day. For those interested in roaming a little farther, Washington, D.C., Mount Vernon and Virginia Beach are less than two hours away by car. There also is an excellent train service to Washington from Richmond.

More information about Richmond-area attractions is available at these Web sites:

Visiting the Richmond Region:

<http://visit.richmond.com>

A list of Richmond attractions at Trip Advisor:

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g60893-Activities-Richmond_Virginia.html



The official state tourism site: <http://www.virginia.org>

Commonwealth of Virginia site: <http://www.virginia.gov/cmsportal2>

For more information about Richmond, visit the Wikipedia entry on the Web at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Richmond_Virginia

For more information on the Maronite Convention of 2007 and all of NAM's programs and events visit WWW.NAMNEWS.ORG or call (914) 964-3070 or email at NAM@NAMNEWS.org.

For more information from the host parish contact Monsignor George M. Sebaali at St. Anthony Church, 4611 Sadler Road, Glen Allen, VA. 23060. He also may be reached by telephone at 804-270-7234, by fax at 804-273-9914, or by e-mail at gmsebaali@aol.com, or visit the church's website at www.StAnthonyMaroniteChurch.Org.