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# PREMIUM AFRICAN AMERICAN MARITIME HISTORY

## *Travel Tour*

**APRIL 30-MAY 5, 2023**

\$3899. per person, double occupancy. Single supplement \$300. Land only price (airfare and other transportation to Providence is not included) includes all local transportation in executive class vehicles; 4-star, first class lodging at The Graduate Hotel Providence with breakfast included. Tour includes unique and private dining experiences for lunch and dinner, all admissions to museums, cultural activities, and tourist sites. The tour is non-refundable; therefore, we recommend that each traveler obtain private travel insurance. Only 30 spaces available on a first come, first serve basis. Reservations will not be held until payment is made in full. Bookings made before 01/10/2023 will receive a \$300 discount. This trip is designed to delight history lovers, curious travelers, and gourmet food lovers!

**TRAVEL TOUR COORDINATED BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:**



# INTRODUCTION



The study of our maritime heritage combines several disciplines including history, cultural studies and archaeology. Submerged archaeological resources (i.e., shipwrecks) preserve much of the material culture of the past that can give us a deeper understanding of past human experience. We believe that many African Americans will be fascinated by aspects of African American maritime history, even those of such dire results as the African slave trade.

However, the slave trade is not the only subject related to the African American maritime experience. African Americans were involved in virtually every aspect of antebellum maritime commerce from laborers to sailors to vessel ownership. The Underground Railroad also made use of ships to spirit slaves to freedom in the North and in Canada. Following the Civil War, African Americans sought economic freedom and freedom from repression as crew and stewards in the coastal packet and passenger trades. Thus far, there has been insufficient study or discovery of the material record of these endeavors.

This trip will acquaint travelers with the many ways African Americans were instrumental, beyond the Atlantic slave trade, in creating the 1st global economy. You will learn about the contributions of Africans and African Americans in the maritime economy which was the major mode of transportation and commerce during the colonial period and until after the Civil War. Freed and enslaved workers provided most of the workforce for maritime industries and many become wealthy entrepreneurs as a result. Participants will return home well informed with firsthand knowledge and exposure about the many aspects of African American history and culture that is rarely discussed.

Each day, we will be treated with very special private VIP lunch and dinner experiences that are sure to delight the most discriminating diner!

# ITINERARY

Below are the cities that will be visited on the tour and the highlights about each location

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023**  
**PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND**

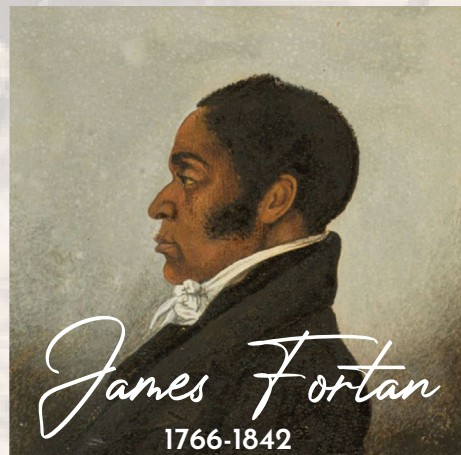
**DAY 1**

**ARRIVAL/ FREE DAY**  
**6 P.M. WELCOME DINNER**

Providence will be the base city for the trip. People of African heritage have lived in Rhode Island since the 17th century. The first Africans were brought to Rhode Island as part of the transatlantic maritime trade known as the Triangle Trade. Traders made rum in Rhode Island using sugar cane harvested in the Caribbean; the rum was then used to purchase African men, women, and children who were sold into slavery. Between 1700-1800, Rhode Island merchants sponsored approximately 1,000 slaving voyages, bringing over 100,000 Africans to America. While many were sold to plantation owners in the southern colonies, some were enslaved or retained as indentured servants in Rhode Island. By the 1770s Rhode Island had the greatest population of enslaved people per capita in New England.

The Royal Charter of 1663 was a document granted by King Charles II of England to the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Parliament's committee on foreign plantations granted a patent to "the incorporation of Providence Plantations in Narragansett Bay in New England." It united Providence, Portsmouth, and Newport, and protected them from encroachment by other colonies.

In Providence, we will visit the campus of Brown University, the Providence Museum, the Rhode Island Capital building and other points of interest to African American Maritime History.



James Forten was a free black man and lifelong New England resident who earned considerable wealth by making sails for vessels. Forten was also a steadfast foe of slavery in the United States.

**MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023**  
**BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND**

## **DAY 2**

Bristol is a town in the historic county seat of Bristol County, Rhode Island, United States. Bristol, a deep water seaport, is named after Bristol, England. Until 1854, Bristol was one of the five state capitals of Rhode Island. Major industries include boat building (and related marine industries), manufacturing, education, and tourism.

Charles II, King of England ordered the Council of Foreign Plantations to devise strategies for converting slaves and servants to Christianity. Between the years, 1709 - 1809 Rhode Island merchants sponsored nearly 1,000 slaving voyages to the coast of Africa and carried over 100,000 slaves to the New World. Before the American Revolution, Newport was the leading slave port and after would be Bristol. Rhode Island's slave traders transported more slaves than the other British North American colonies combined during the 18th century.

In Bristol, we will visit the De Wolf Linden House Mansion and the Bristol Historical Society and have a relaxing waterfront lunch.

**TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND**

## **DAY 3**

In 1703, Rhode Island General Assembly adopted an early "Negro Code" to restrict activities of free and enslaved Negroes and Indians stating, "If any negroes or Indians either freemen, servants, or slaves, do walk in the street of the town of Newport, or any other town in this Colony, after nine of the clock of night, without certificate from their masters, or some English person of said family with, or some lawful excuse for the same, that it shall be lawful for any person to take them up and deliver them to a Constable." Enslaved Africans outnumber indentured white servants in Newport 10:1.

Several of Newport's most important civic structures, Old Colony House, Redwood Library, Brick Market and Touro Synagogue were built with the participation of enslaved and free African skilled labor.

In 1705, a Negro burying section of the Common Burying Ground was established. It was later known to the African American community as "God's Little Acre."

Although the total number of individuals buried in God's Little Acre is unknown, there were at one time approximately 275 professionally carved slate headstones - a sizeable collection that is unrivaled elsewhere in the country and quite unusual. The abundance of professionally carved headstones at the site, for both freed and enslaved Africans, is reflective of Newport's colonial heritage and its African community.

God's Little Acre is home to numerous individuals whose lives shaped colonial Newport. During the 18th century, Newport was among the five leading commercial centers in North America. By 1769 the city operated up to 600 ships - a third of which were engaged in foreign trade - at over 150 wharves. Historical records reveal that Newport's maritime trade economy was largely dependent upon the skilled work of enslaved people. Enslaved Africans were often brought to Newport at a young age to apprentice, training for 5-10 years to master a skill, such as rope making, shipbuilding, furniture making, and stone masonry.

Among the vibrant individuals buried in God's Little Acre is Pompe Stevens, an African craftsman. At least two headstones, Cuffe Gibbs (1728-1768) and Pompey Lyndon (1763c-1765), documented in God's Little Acre are attributed to Pompe Stevens, an African craftsman. The Gibbs headstone is inscribed "This stone was cut by Pompe Stevens in memory of his brother Cuffe Gibbs." Pompe's work may be among the first signed African artwork in the United States. Pompe was enslaved to William Stevens, son of John Stevens - founder of the John Stevens Shop of stone carvers, which is still in operation today.

In Newport, we will visit God's Little Acre cemetery, the Newport seaport and museum and other points of interest

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023**  
**NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

## **DAY 4**

By the 1820s, the growing whaling industry attracted workers from all different backgrounds, including free and escaped African Americans, Pequot and Wampanoag natives, Cape Verdeans, Pacific Islanders, and Europeans. The job opportunities and diversity within the city fostered a civil rights movement and opportunities for people of all backgrounds.

In 1830, New Bedford's population totaled 7,592 residents: by 1834, the number of black seamen in the city nearly quadrupled. By 1837, the population and economy had grown so much that New Bedford officially became a city. Its 16,000 residents included 1,047 African Americans, 400 of whom were fugitive slaves.

Black men owned property, paid taxes, and could vote. Black families lived among white ones in some neighborhoods, and black children attended schools with white children, although they were seated separately. In 1833, African Americans created the New Bedford Union Society, an antislavery group. The following year local black and white abolitionists created the New Bedford Anti-Slavery Society.

By 1853, New Bedford housed 1,008 African American inhabitants; 700 of them were escaped slaves. By 1855, the city had 20,389 residents.

Dressed as a mariner and carrying another seaman's protection papers, Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey boarded a train in Baltimore, Maryland in September 1838. As a slave, this escape attempt was a federal crime.

Frederick and Anna Johnson landed in Newport the next morning. There, they met Quakers William C. Taber and Joseph Ricketson of New Bedford, Massachusetts. With their help, the couple boarded a stagecoach and traveled north to New Bedford. They arrived on September 17 and were welcomed by African American abolitionists Nathan and Polly Johnson.

While in their home at 21 Seventh Street, Nathan Johnson encouraged Frederick to adopt the surname, Douglass. As Frederick Douglass, the escaped slave would earn his first wages, start a family, and become an internationally renowned speaker and abolitionist.

Shortly after arriving in New Bedford, Douglass headed toward the wharves, but stopped short after spotting a pile of coal outside a Union Street home. At 174 Union Street, he met Mrs. Ephraim Peabody and asked if he could put the coal away for her. She consented, and paid Douglass two silver half-dollars for his work. This was his first paid job.

Douglass also worked as a laborer on the wharves for Rodney French and George Howland. There, he had wanted to work as a caulker, making the ships watertight. However, he encountered resistance from white caulkers.

In New Bedford, we will visit historical sites such as the home of Frederick and Anna Doug-

**THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2022**

## **DAY 5**

Today will consist of visits to the campus of Brown University, The Providence Museum, and the Rhode Island Capital.

**FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2022**

## **DAY 6**

Free Day and Departures



To reserve and secure your participation in this special excursion, s  
Send an email to [klong@amaritimehistory.org](mailto:klong@amaritimehistory.org) to  
receive an invoice. Space available on a first come, first  
served basis only!