



# OREGON

## September 22-27

### Join us on our annual Mill Tour!

Our 2024 Mill Tour brings us to the scenic and geographically diverse state of Oregon! Moody coastlines, rugged mountains, lush forests, vineyard-filled valleys, miles of sandy dunes, and breathtaking waterfalls make this destination a top choice. Add to that the rich timber history and status as the largest producer of softwood lumber in the country, Oregon is the perfect location for a Mill Tour!

### Trip Highlights

#### Industry

- Freres Engineered Wood's Veneer Plant & Mass Ply Plant
- Tallwood Design Institute's Emmerson Advanced Wood Products Laboratory at Oregon State University
- College of Forestry Science at Oregon State University
- Swanson Group Plywood Plant
- Timberlab Facility

#### Attractions

- Sweet Cheeks Winery
- Dune & Beach Ride on Giant Buggy
- Oregon Coast Scenery & Photo Op Stops
- Tillamook Creamery
- Free Time to explore coastal Seaside, OR
- Columbia River Gorge & Waterfall Tour

#### Cost:

\$2000 per person (double occupancy)

*(\$4000 per couple)*

\$2550 per person (single occupancy)

*Airfare not included. See page 10 for details.*

#### Contact:

Jodie Fleck, CMP

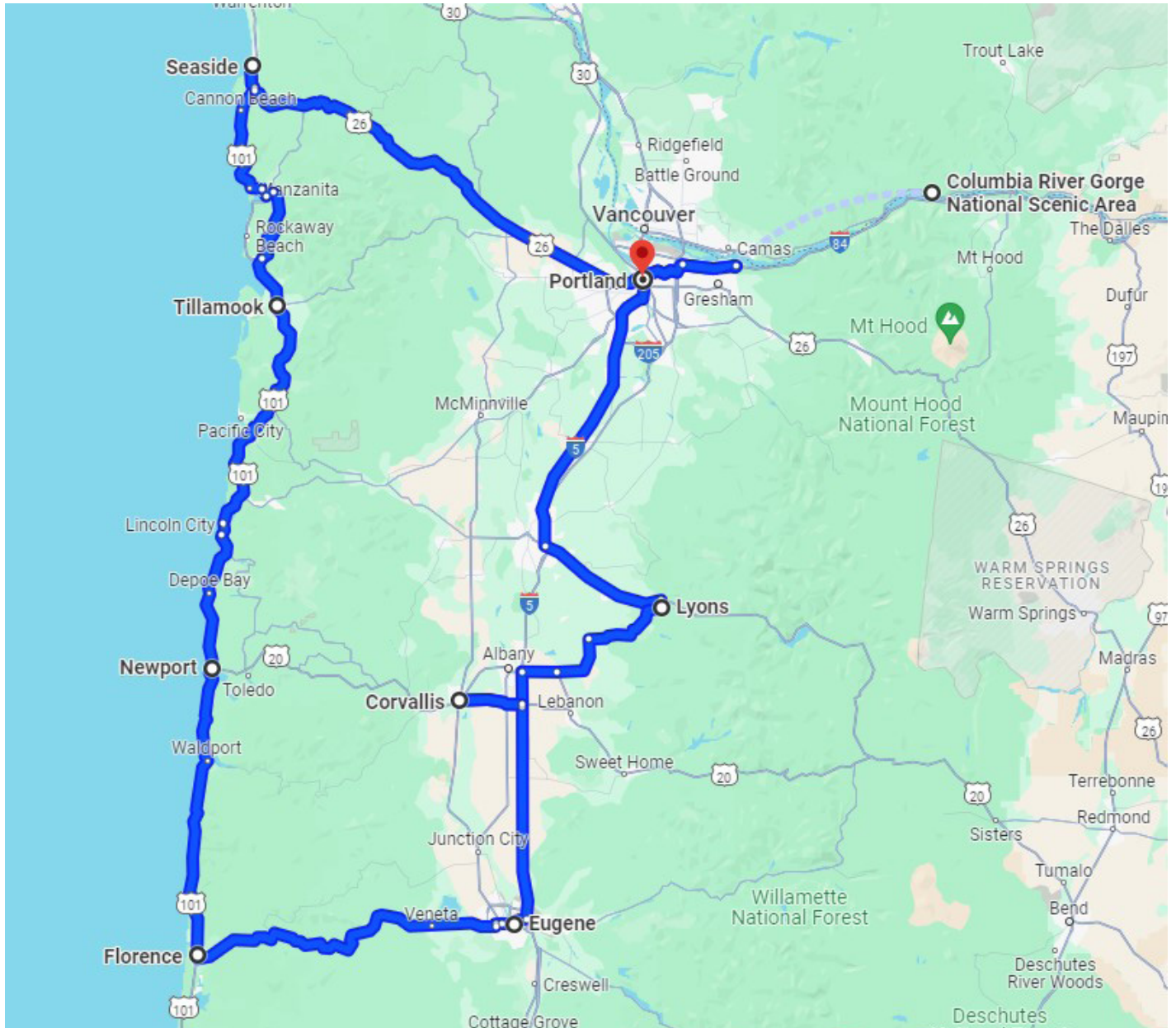
Tour Director

(763) 595-4058

[Jodie@bldconnection.org](mailto:Jodie@bldconnection.org)



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## Cities Visited along the Route:

- Portland, OR (start & end)
- Lyons, OR
- Corvallis, OR
- Eugene, OR (Overnight)
- Springfield, OR
- Florence, OR
- Newport, OR (Overnight)
- Tillamook, OR
- Seaside, OR (Overnight)
- Columbia River Gorge, OR

# Schedule at a Glance

## Sunday, September 22

- ❖ Major Arrivals into Portland, OR (Airport Code: PDX)
- ❖ Welcome Orientation & Dinner (6:00 PM - 7:30 PM)
- ❖ Stay at Hyatt Place Portland Airport Hotel

## Monday, September 23

- ❖ Drive to Lyons, OR
- ❖ Freres Engineered Wood Tour
- ❖ Drive to Corvallis, OR
- ❖ Group Box Lunch on Bus
- ❖ TallWood Design Institute Emmerson Lab & College of Forestry Science at Oregon State
- ❖ Drive to Eugene, OR
- ❖ Stay at Hyatt Place Oakway Center Hotel in Eugene
- ❖ Dinner & Evening on Own

## Tuesday, September 24

- ❖ Drive to Springfield, OR
- ❖ Swanson Group Plywood Tour
- ❖ Drive to Sweet Cheeks Winery
- ❖ Tasting & Box Lunch @ Winery
- ❖ Drive to Florence
- ❖ Sandland Adventures Dune & Beach Buggy Ride
- ❖ Drive to Newport, OR
- ❖ Stay at Agate Beach Best Western Hotel in Newport
- ❖ Dinner & Evening on Own
- ❖ TBD - Optional trip to Nye Beach District in Newport for additional dining options

## Wednesday, September 25

- ❖ Drive North on Oregon Coast / Hwy 101
- ❖ Photo Op at Boiler Bay
- ❖ Drive to Tillamook, OR
- ❖ Tillamook Creamery Self-Guided Tour & Group Lunch
- ❖ Drive to Tolovana State Recreation Site
- ❖ Photo Op at Haystack Rock
- ❖ Drive to Seaside, OR
- ❖ Stay at Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Seaside
- ❖ Dinner & afternoon/evening on own

## Thursday, September 26

- ❖ Drive to Portland, OR
- ❖ Timberlab Tour
- ❖ Drive to Hyatt Place Portland Airport Hotel
- ❖ Store luggage at Hotel & Board Shuttles
- ❖ Columbia River Gorge Tour (Waterfalls & Points of Interest) with Group Farewell Lunch at Multnomah Falls Lodge
- ❖ Drive back to Portland, OR
- ❖ Stay at Hyatt Place Portland Airport Hotel
- ❖ Dinner & Evening on Own

## Friday, September 27

- ❖ End of Tour - Fly out or stay the weekend on own

**\*Agenda and details within brochure are subject to change throughout the planning process.**

**Most days we depart the hotel by 8 am and reach the next hotel by 5pm.**

# Itinerary Details

## Day 1 - Sunday, September 22, 2024

This is the day we all meet together and kick off the week!

Fly into Portland International Airport (Code PDX) and, after collecting your luggage, make your way to the courtesy hotel shuttle location outside. Once there, call the Hyatt Place Portland Airport/Cascade Station at (503) 288-2808 (then dial "0") to have them send over their complimentary shuttle. The hotel is only about five minutes from the airport so the wait should not be long. You may also choose to jump aboard the MAX light rail system at the airport and take it down to the Cascade Station stop (only 2 stops away). The Cascade Station stop is within walking distance of the Hyatt.

**Hyatt Place Portland Airport/Cascade Station**  
**9750 NE Cascades Pkwy, Portland, OR 97220**  
**(503) 288-2808 | Check in time: 3:00 pm**

**The Welcome Dinner & Orientation is at the Hyatt hotel from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm.** Dinner, drinks, badges, souvenir apparel, introductions, and a brief overview of information will be provided at the beginning of the dinner.



Everyone is encouraged to arrive at the hotel early enough to attend the Welcome Dinner. However, due to limited flights or possible flight delays, it is understood if you cannot make it on time. If this is the case, please notify the tour director of your late arrival. *We cannot hold the bus after 8:00 am on Monday morning if you are severely delayed.* The orientation information will be emailed to all participants about two weeks prior to the start of the trip as well so that everyone is informed.

### Coming in on Saturday?

Many tour participants each year choose to come in a day earlier. If you'd like to stay at the same Hyatt hotel on Saturday night, they are extending a rate of \$169 plus tax. The tour director will make this reservation for you on the Master Rooming List so that you can stay in the same room on Saturday & Sunday night, but you will need to provide a credit card to the hotel upon arrival to pay for your early arrival room.

If you're looking for ideas on what to do during your early arrival, check out page 9.

# Itinerary Details

## Day 2 - Monday, September 23, 2024

### Morning Activities

- Breakfast included at hotel
- Drive to Lyons, OR
- Freres Engineered Wood Veneer Plant Tour
- Freres Mass Ply Plant Tour



*Fun Note: Freres' Mass Ply Panels were awarded the "Coolest Thing Made in Oregon" award in 2023!*

Once we're on our way, the first stop of the tour will be at Freres Wood Engineered Wood in the town of Lyons, OR. The group will spend a couple hours at Freres, first touring their veneer plant and then traveling a short distance down the road to tour their Mass Ply Panel plant.

A family-owned business, Freres Engineered Wood has been in operation since 1922. Freres began its journey into the realm of engineered wood in the 1950s, introducing veneer production and later incorporating plywood manufacturing in the 1990s. Then, in 2017, the crowning achievement came with the unveiling of their groundbreaking Mass Ply Panels (MPP), a revolutionary addition to the world of mass timber products and referred to as "the wood of the future."



### Afternoon Activities

- Box Lunch on Bus
- Drive to Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR
- TallWood Design Institute's Emmerson Advanced Wood Products Laboratory Tour & the College of Forestry Tour
- Drive to Eugene, OR

After our tour at Freres, we'll board the bus and head over to Corvallis, OR to the Oregon State University. Guests will be served box lunches to eat during the drive.

Upon arrival, the group will spend about two hours touring locations on the Oregon State University campus, including the A.A. "Red" Emmerson Advanced Products Lab, which was created in 2019. Tallwood Design Institute (TDI) is a collaborative effort between the University of Oregon's College of Design and Oregon State University's College of Forestry and Engineering. The group will be viewing some of their different prototyping processes as well as their fabrication and structural testing bays.

While at the campus, the group will also visit the College of Forestry Department, which is internationally renowned for its excellence in education, research, and forest management. Here, we'll see their composite lab, conditioning chambers, structural lumber testing, mechanical testing room & more. We'll end the day by boarding the bus and traveling further south to Eugene, OR.

### End of Day Activities

- Stay at Hyatt Place Oakway Center Hotel in Eugene
- Dinner and Evening on Own

# Itinerary Details

## Day 3 - Tuesday, September 24, 2024

### Morning Activities

- Breakfast included at hotel
- Drive to Springfield, OR
- Swanson Group Plywood Plant Tour
- Drive to rural Eugene, OR
- Sweet Cheeks Winery & Lunch



On Tuesday morning, the group will travel to nearby Springfield for a behind-the-scenes tour of Swanson group, a plywood manufacturing facility. Swanson Group is one of the largest forest products and plywood panel producers on the west coast. The company started with just one mill location but at their peak, they employed over 1200 people. Swanson Group now operates 3 mills in Oregon and remains a multi-generational family-owned company.

Immediately following that informative tour, we'll head into the countryside to Sweet Cheeks Winery outside of Eugene, OR. At Sweet Cheeks, the group will enjoy a guided wine tasting (or other beverage of your choice) and a box lunch on their patio overlooking breathtaking views of rolling hills filled with grape-filled vines.



### Afternoon Activities

- Drive to Florence, OR
- Sandland Adventures Dune & Beach Ride on Giant Buggy
- Drive to Newport, OR

After lunch and wine tasting we will be leaving the valley and heading west into the mountains. We'll arrive in the coastal town of Florence, OR where we'll check in for our buggy tour at Sandland Adventures. This hour-long ride will be 8 miles of dunes and 2 miles of ocean beach! This ride is safe and gentle, appropriate for all ages and physical activity levels, but sunglasses and proper clothing are encouraged to combat weather conditions and fluctuations.



### End of Day Activities

- Stay at Best Western Agate Beach Hotel in Newport
- Dinner and Evening on Own
- TBD – Optional evening trip to Nye Beach District in Newport for additional dining options. Best Western DOES have an onsite restaurant (and is beachside!) but otherwise it is remote and not near other restaurants.

# Itinerary Details

## Day 4 - Wednesday, September 25, 2024

### Morning Activities

- Breakfast included at hotel
- Drive towards Tillamook, OR with photo op stop at Boiler Bay
- Tillamook Creamery Self-Guided Tour & Lunch



Wednesday will be spent primarily taking in the sites along Highway 101 North and the beautiful Pacific Ocean. There will be plenty of stunning photo ops right from the bus, but we'll make sure to also stop along the way so that guests can disembark the bus for selfies and group photos. Our morning photo op stop will be at Boiler Bay before heading North to Tillamook, OR.

Once in Tillamook, we'll stop at the Tillamook Creamery. Upon arrival, guests can take a self-guided tour of the creamery, including the Farm Exhibit Hall which features the process for their exceptional cow care as well as a viewing gallery for a behind-the-scenes look at their dairy factory. There are also cheese samples available and a large gift shop to peruse. Guests will be given funds for onsite lunch, where they're able to purchase an entrée of their choice at the cafe, an ice cream treat, or utilize the funds in the gift shop.

### Afternoon Activities

- Drive to Cannon Beach, OR with photo op stop at Tolovana State Recreational Site
- Drive to Seaside, OR
- Free afternoon to explore Seaside



After lunch, we'll continue north on Highway 101 to our next photo op spot at Tolovana State Recreational Site. Here you'll have stunning views of Haystack Rock from the vast beach to get your frame-worthy picture.

We'll continue on the last few minutes to Seaside, a fun coastal town with lots of charm. You'll have the afternoon to explore all of the restaurants, bars, and shops along Broadway Street – all within walking distance from the hotel. Take a stroll along the boardwalk promenade for stunning views of the beach and ocean.

### Evening Activities

- Stay at Holiday Inn Express in Seaside (no restaurant onsite)
- Dinner and Evening on Own

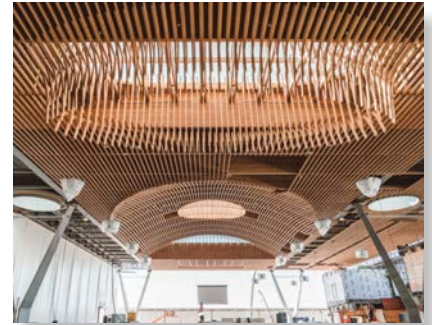


# Itinerary Details

## Day 5 - Thursday, September 26, 2024

### Morning Activities

- **Breakfast included at hotel**
- **Drive to Portland, OR**
- **Timberlab Tour**
- **Drive to Hyatt Place Portland Airport Hotel**



Thursday morning the group will leave the Oregon coast to circle back to Portland, OR, where we'll stop for one last industry tour. We'll visit Timberlab, a company created to advance the mainstream adoption of mass timber. Their aim is to reduce the impact on the natural environment, deliver projects with improved quality and safety outcomes, support rural economies, and create beautiful spaces by bringing the outside in. In 2020, Timberlab opened its first location in Portland, Oregon where it produces timber annually to build an estimated 800,000 sq. ft. of fabricated glulam components for projects throughout the United States. *Fun Note:* Timberlab played a big role in the PDX International Airport renovations and provided the Douglas Fir timber that is featured predominantly in the stunning glulam arches of the terminal. When you fly in and fly out, LOOK UP at the spectacular ceiling created by Timberlab!

### Afternoon Activities

- **Group Farewell Lunch at Multnomah Falls Lodge**
- **Columbia River Gorge Tour**

After the morning tour, we'll head back to the Hyatt Place Portland Airport (the hotel we started at on Sunday). Here, we'll unload our luggage into the hotel storage room, dismiss the coach bus and load up on smaller shuttle buses to explore the Columbia River Gorge!



The first stop will be the breathtaking Multnomah Falls. Before exploring, the group will share a Farewell lunch together in the restaurant at Multnomah Falls Lodge. The afternoon will also entail additional stops in the Gorge, such as Horsetail Falls, Latourell Falls, and Crown Point Vista House.

### Evening Activities

- **Return to Hyatt Place Portland Airport around 5:00 pm**
- **Guests may then collect their luggage and check in.**
- **Dinner and Evening on Own**
- **Arrange for shuttle service with hotel if flying out Friday**



# Itinerary Details

## Day 6 - Friday, September 27, 2024

- Breakfast at hotel
- Fly out or stay the weekend on own
- Hotel has 24-hour complimentary airport shuttle available
- Check-out time is 12:00 pm

### Thinking of extending your trip to keep exploring?

*Portland International Airport has several rental car companies available or consider using the MAX Red Line to get from airport hotels to downtown Portland & suburbs.*

Some ideas are:

- ▶ Cascade Station – located within walking distance of our starting and ending hotel, this shopping and dining area is a great location to purchase supplies, shop a little, or grab dinner and a drink.
- ▶ Portland Area
  - Downtown Portland Tours
  - Portland Farmers Market (Saturdays)
  - Chinatown
  - Shanghai Tunnels
  - Portland Aerial Tram
  - The Grotto
  - Much more...
- ▶ Washington Park
  - Portland Japanese Garden
  - International Rose Test Garden
  - Oregon Zoo
  - Bamboo Garden
  - Hoyt Arboretum
  - Redwood Observation Deck
  - World Forestry Center
- ▶ Full Day Columbia River Gorge Tour to Mt. Hood (we will only see some of the waterfalls on our tour and will not go as far as Cascade Locks)
- ▶ Full Day Coastal Tours (we will travel up the coast but will not have time to do a lot of photo ops and stops. If wanting to explore more of the coast, consider taking a tour.
- ▶ Full Day Willamette Valley Wine Country Tours
- ▶ Much more!



# What You Need to Know

## What's Included in the Tour Fee

- **Hotel Accommodations:** Sunday night through Thursday night. All hotels have onsite dining OR are easily walkable to offsite dining and attractions. If the hotel is more remote, there may be an option to take the bus into downtown for additional dinner options. (TBD)
- **Motorcoach Transportation:** Monday to Thursday for daytime planned itinerary. Bathroom available on bus.
- **Airport Transfer upon Arrival:** The Hyatt Place Portland Airport/Cascade Station hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport. Call (503) 288-2808 and then dial "0" upon arrival at the airport. For departure, simply arrange with the hotel the time you need to get to the airport.
- **Some Meals**
  - Breakfast is included every day from Monday - Friday at hotels
  - Lunch (or funds for lunch) is included every day from Monday - Thursday
  - Dinner is included on Sunday (Welcome Dinner)
- **Admission Fees** to all scheduled attractions and tours
- **Gratuities** for motorcoach bus driver and any other tour guides used during the trip
- **Beverages and snacks** aboard bus. Selection TBD based upon available stocking options.

## What's NOT Included in the Tour Fee

- **Airfare & Travel Insurance**
  - Please check with BLD Connection before purchasing your airline tickets to ensure the trip is confirmed with the minimum number of participants required to operate. (We hope to give the trip a thumbs up or thumbs down by **July 12** and will alert all registrants.)
  - Travel insurance - To protect your travel investment, we highly recommend the purchase of *travel insurance*, especially if purchasing tickets prior to the official trip "thumbs up" is given.
- **Pre tour or post tour hotel accommodations/meals if arriving early or staying later than the scheduled tour dates**
- **Evening transportation if venturing out:** The bus is not available for attendee use in the evening EXCEPT for a possible planned outing in Newport since the hotel is not located in downtown. (TBD)
- **Spending \$**
- **Some meals** (dinner is not included, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday)

*Note - It is advised to do some research for restaurants in the cities we'll be staying in and make reservations accordingly for the evenings you're on your own for dinner. However, there will still be several dinner options either onsite or within walking distance of the hotel if you wish to stay in except for Best Western Agate Beach in Newport. There is ONE restaurant onsite or a Walmart within walking distance. It is highly recommended to make reservations if you plan to stay at the hotel & eat dinner!*

# What You Need to Know

## Travel Day Details

The official first day of this tour begins at our evening Welcome Dinner at the hotel on Sunday, September 22nd @ 6:00 pm. You should plan to arrive in time to attend the Welcome Dinner if possible.

There may be more flight options on Saturday, so if you choose to arrive a day early, the hotel room, transportation, meals, etc. are your responsibility to pay for. The Hyatt Place Portland Airport Hotel (our starting hotel on Sunday) is offering a rate of \$169.00 plus tax for Saturday night. If arriving on Saturday, BLD will make the reservation for you so that the hotel keeps you in the same hotel room both nights. You will need to present your credit card onsite to pay for Saturday's room once you arrive. Also, please make sure to doublecheck that you don't get charged for Sunday night, which should be billed to the master account, not your card. (The hotels sometimes neglect to split the charges accurately.)

The tour officially ends after our Farewell Waterfall & Gorge Tour on Thursday evening, September 26th. Although your hotel room IS included on Thursday evening (and most people will be departing on Friday or into the weekend), you may also choose to fly out Thursday evening if you wish to arrive home sooner. We plan to arrive back to the hotel around 5:00/5:30 pm so flights on Thursday evening should be 7:30 pm or later.

## Activity Level

We invite and welcome people at all fitness or mobility levels to enjoy our tours. The majority of BLD Mill Tours are classified at an Activity Level 1-3 (see below). The activity fluctuates throughout the trip, whereas some days may involve more walking than others. While these tours are designed to accommodate everyone, attendees are always welcome to sit out of the portion of the tour that may involve more movement than desired. No planned tour or activity is classified as strenuous or mandatory.

- **ACTIVITY LEVEL #1:** You're a leisurely traveler. You like to discover the energy of a new place, but typically take it easy. You can handle at least one flight of stairs, board a coach, and walk for 15-30 minutes at a time with little difficulty.
- **ACTIVITY LEVEL #2:** You like a balanced approach to travel. You feel confident walking at least 30-45 minutes at a time over a variety of terrains – from cobblestones streets to easy straightaways to a couple hills, flights of stairs, or catwalks. You're comfortable walking a few city blocks at a time but need some time to unwind and relax.
- **ACTIVITY LEVEL #3:** You're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.

# Cancellation & Registration

## Deposit & Cancellation Policy

A deposit of **\$500 per person** is required at the time of booking to secure your spot. Full payment is required by **July 31, 2024**. You may also choose to pay the full fee up-front with your registration paperwork.

If *BLD* needs to cancel the trip at any point, you will be refunded your entire tour fee payment. (Not including airfare or additional trip fees you may have already incurred on your own. To protect your investment, we recommend that you purchase travel insurance.)

If *you* decide to cancel, the following fees apply when we receive notice of your cancellation:

- Cancellation through July 31 = 100% of *deposit* is forfeited. Any additional fees previously paid will be refunded or remaining balances waived.
- Cancellation after July 31 = 100% of the *entire trip fee* is forfeited. If you have not yet paid the balance, you will be invoiced for it.

## Registration Details

Once registration dates open, forms and deposit payment should be emailed to: **Jodie Fleck at [jodie@bldconnection.org](mailto:jodie@bldconnection.org)**. Spots are limited and reservations will be honored on a first come, first served basis as they are received. You will receive a confirmation back within 48 business hours.

## Registration Timeline

- **Monday, June 3** - Registration will open to those on the Mill Tour Interest List only. Watch for an email announcement! (You get a two-day head-start so don't delay!)
- **Wednesday, June 5** - Registration will open to all others. Watch for an email announcement or check for forms online at [www.bldconnection.org/events/mill-tours](http://www.bldconnection.org/events/mill-tours)
- **Friday, July 12** - Registration Deadline by Noon (note - spots may fill before this date!)
- **Friday, July 12** - Official trip status announcement made based upon required minimum attendance being met. An email will go out with the status of this tour. If it's a "go", flights can be purchased. Feel free to purchase tickets earlier if you plan to go to the area either way or you purchase flight insurance. If minimum is hit before July 12th, you'll be notified even earlier.
- **Wednesday, July 31** - Final fee balances are due. Last day to cancel. (Deposit forfeited)
- **August & September** - Ongoing communication to tour participants, including collection of additional tour attendee details. Watch for emails!

**COST: \$2000 per person (double occupancy/sharing hotel room)  
\$2550 per person (single occupancy/own hotel room)**

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