

Mystery Trip

“Take a Chance: Join us for a Mystery Trip” was the heading of the article in the Colony Crier. “A pre-planned trip for an undisclosed activity or to an unnamed destination”, it said. Other tantalizing statements were also included, such as, “you might need a jacket and perhaps some binoculars and a camera.” With such an intriguing invitation, it wasn't long before the sign-up sheet for this adventure was full, with overflow people on a waiting list. Bad weather caused a false start in early June, but on June 30th the skies were sunny and bright, with temperatures in the high 80's. What a great way to start out on a journey to our mystery destination! Speculation ran high on the bus. Even the driver was pretending to be clueless. As we proceeded down I-64 we passed several possible destinations which were soon eliminated. Jamestown? No. Busch Gardens? No. Yorktown? No.

The mystery deepened. We did encounter a slow-down at the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, no real surprise there. Shortly after we got through that bottleneck, we discovered that we were in Virginia Beach. The bus pulled into the parking lot of the Dockside Restaurant and Marina. We had arrived at our “unnamed destination”. The undisclosed activity” appeared to be dining in that restaurant. But was there more to come?



We were shown to a private dining room, and were able to take advantage of the “Sundown Specials” on their extensive menu. The food was plentiful and delicious, and the service was outstanding. By about 6:15, we had all finished eating. At that time, the rest of the “undisclosed activity” was revealed: a sunset dolphin-watching cruise on the *Bay Princess*, which was docked about 30 feet away.

The cruise got under way at about 6:30, and by 7:00 we had seen so many dolphins that people were beginning to lose count. They seemed to be everywhere! What beautiful animals they are! The captain then took us to Cape Henry, where we were able to see the lighthouse that marks the southern entrance to the Chesapeake Bay. The sun had gone behind some clouds by the time we returned to the dock, at about 8:00. The ride back to Patriots Colony was much quicker because there were no traffic tie-ups and we arrived at about 9:30. Everyone agreed that the Mystery Trip was an enjoyable success.



So, when is the next one? And where do we go, and what do we do? Ashley Rich, our wonderful Events Coordinator, would like to hear your suggestions.

——- *Dave Lester* ——-