

2024 SPA Field Trip – Exploring Ohio Hopewell and World Heritage
June 13-16, 2024

Summary of Trip Activities as of March 15, 2024

We are working on a fun and exciting long weekend together learning about the Ohio Hopewell, who built many mounds and earthworks in Ohio. Participants will visit many of the most famous sites and hear directly from archaeologists who are experts on the Hopewell. There also will be chances to get to know other SPA members better as we carpool to the sites, enjoy a group dinner in an historic restaurant, and view the outdoor production *Tecumseh!* on Saturday evening. Some details are still being worked out, others may change, but the general outline of what we are doing should be as described.

We will rendezvous at the Hampton Inn in Wilmington, Ohio (201 Holiday Drive Wilmington, Ohio. 45177) at 7:30PM on the evening of Thursday June 13. We will have a brief orientation, socialize and make carpool plans for the next day so that everyone does not have to drive.

On Friday, we'll be up early, eating the complimentary breakfast at the hotel. Then, we will be heading to the famous Serpent Mounds in Peebles, Ohio for a morning tour led by Bill Kennedy, Ohio History Connection and Fort Ancient Site Manager. We will have lunch at Serpent Mounds and then continue our carpool to the Fort Ancient State Memorial in Orgeonia, Ohio. At Fort Ancient we will be met by Dr. Robert Riordan, Emeritus Professor, Wright State University and Research Curator of Archaeology, Dayton Museum of Natural History, who will tell us about work he and others have been doing at Fort Ancient.

Friday dinner will be a group dinner at the Golden Lamb in Lebanon, Ohio, which is not far from Fort Ancient. This historic property has been in operation since 1803 and has its own fascinating history, which we can learn about as we dine together. After dinner it will be about half an hour back to the Hampton Inn in Wilmington.

On Saturday, following our complimentary breakfast and checking out of the hotel, we will need to move our cars to the Best Western Adena Inn in Chillicothe, OH (ca. 50 minutes). We won't be able to check in that early, but we can leave our cars there, form our carpool, and head to the Hopewell Culture National Historic Park (HOCU) just minutes away. At HOCU we will be met by Dr. Bret Ruby, Chief of Resource Management for the park. We will view the movie at the Visitor's Center and have a tour of the Mound City earthworks led by Dr. Ruby, who also promises to talk with us about the inscription of eight important Hopewell sites, including several managed by HOCU, as World Heritage monuments in 2023. Although our afternoon activities are still being worked out, we are currently planning to carpool to the picnic shelter at the Hopewell Site for our boxed lunch and a chance to walk at least some of the trail through these very impressive earthworks. Later in the afternoon we hope to be able to view ongoing excavations at one of the other HOCU sites such as Hopeton, but plans for this are not yet finalized.

In the late afternoon we will return to the Best Western to check-in. Then, we will carpool to the Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheater for a behind the scenes tour of the theater. After the tour, dinner will be at your own expense. There is pub food available at the amphitheater or you may leave the grounds to find dinner elsewhere. You just need to be back for the 8:00 PM showing of the outdoor drama *Tecumseh!*, which has been shown since 1973 at in Chillicothe. This is a dramatization of the Shawnee

leader Tecumseh's life, first written in consultation with direct descendants of Tecumseh as well as with the Absentee Shawnee tribe with whom consultation is ongoing.

On Sunday, we will have the hotel's complimentary breakfast and check out. We will then drive to our last stop at the Newark Earthworks where we will view the Great Circle and Octagon earthworks. Dr. Brad Lepper, Curator of Archaeology, Ohio History Connections will meet us there and give us a tour. After our morning tour, we will have box lunches to share at the earthworks together. For those who want to head home immediately, these lunches can be taken with them.

We hope you can tell that the trip is going to give us a fascinating update on the Hopewell as well as allow us to see some really interesting sites together. The cost to the SPA of \$150 is a true bargain. Don't miss it. See the practical information about hotels and registration with the registration form, and register today!