

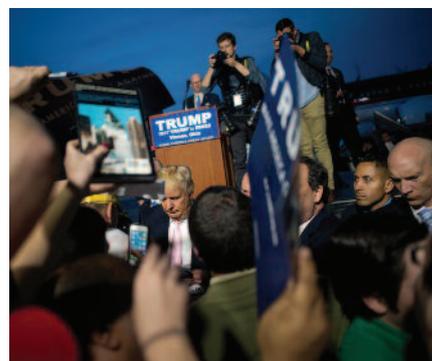
# POLITICALTOURS

Travel beyond the headlines

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## US Elections Tour

Dates: 7 nights

**28<sup>th</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### Michigan & Washington DC

We return to the States to cover our third US Presidential Election, and this time it is Michigan that's in the spotlight. Once thoroughly Democratic, Trump won it in 2016, and it is a crucial state for anyone hoping to win the White House. We then head to Washington DC for the final days of the campaign.

From as far out as 18 months before the presidential election Democratic hopefuls have been focusing on Michigan instead of neighbouring Ohio, the traditional bellwether state.

We will be looking at the get-out-the-vote campaign in downtown Detroit and looking at its amazing regeneration which is ongoing, visiting working class white voters in suburban Motown, as well as meeting core Republican groups across the state who voted for Trump last time.

Michigan with its auto sector and large black population (Detroit is the US's largest black city) used to be reliably blue. Trump changed history when he won here in 2016 with a majority of just 10,704 votes. But the narrow statewide margin of his victory disguises how widespread his support was. He won 75 out of 83 counties. So while the Dems did well in Michigan in the mid-terms, they know that they cannot afford to repeat Hillary Clinton's mistakes and ignore Michigan at their peril.

**Price: £4950.00**

Single Supplement: £750.00

*\*Please contact us for flight details that best suit the itinerary on Sunday 1 November, 2020 from Detroit, Michigan to Washington, DC. You need to book your own flight.*

Political Tours is a land only tour operator.

**Political Tours Limited** Bloxham Mill, Barford Road, Bloxham OX15 4FF, UK.

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*Like all our tours the itinerary is focused on current affairs. Events on the ground may change and the final schedule may be adjusted accordingly.*

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## Itinerary

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### **Day One: Wednesday 28th Oct** *Detroit*

Arrival in Detroit – Introduction to Michigan and its place on the US electoral map; why Michigan matters this time. *Overnight in Detroit*

### **Day Two: Thursday 29th Oct** *Detroit*

We start with Motown – the legendary auto city whose fortunes have supposedly followed those of the US. As manufacturing gave way to services, Motown hollowed out leaving behind enormous great factories and empty neighbourhoods. Trump was able to win here – promising to bring back jobs. We look at the regeneration of the city. We'll meet members of the state's black caucus as well. Democrat campaign managers say that if they manage to get a high black turnout Trump's campaign is lost.

### **Day Three: Friday 30th Oct** *Detroit and Western Michigan – Manufacturing and Farming*

The auto sector has seen a significant revival in Michigan in the last 5 years. While many jobs have gone overseas the three major auto manufacturers have reopened plants here. But it's hard to see how this will play out. Tariffs and the trade war with China are seen as a major problem by the big three, General Motors, Ford and Fiat Chrysler. We visit a factory and speak with autoworkers. How do they see it? We then head west to rural Michigan and meet with local farmers. The state is home to one of the biggest soya bean and pork producing areas in the country. But they too have been hit by tariffs. Traditionally conservative – will they vote for Trump this time around or stay at home?

### **Day Four: Saturday 31st Oct** *Detroit & Flint*

In 2016 Trump's narrow margin of victory disguised how widespread his support was. He won 75 out of 83 counties. Suburban educated women turned away from Trump in the mid-terms. But many white voters in the Detroit suburbs stuck with him. We look at Republican campaign managers' strategy across suburban white areas. Next we head to Flint. The scandal over the state's attempt to save money by diverting the city's water supplies creating an environmental catastrophe

is still playing out here – distrust in government is deep running and has affected the overall political climate across the state. Which way will that play in this election?

### **Day Five: Sunday 1st Nov** *To Washington & Virginia*

**Flight:** Detroit to Washington DC, \*see below. Upon arrival we head out to Virginia. The state is split between the Democrat leaning suburbs and more rural and white working class areas. Trump did well here in 2016 but the state elected a Democratic governor by a landslide in 2017. Campaign schedules depending we will attend local election rallies. *Overnight Washington DC*

### **Day Six: Monday 2nd Nov** *Looking back at the Campaign*

*Political Tours has access to an array of top speakers and political leaders - the program in DC will follow political developments and meetings will be adapted accordingly:*

Meetings will include a talk with a top Republican campaign strategist for a review of the election so far. Talk with a DC Shadow Representative to the US Congress and a Democrat; Washington DC is in a unique position of not having voting rights in Congress. At George Washington University; a former Washington bureau chief, anchor and correspondent discusses the role of the media in the Presidential election. We also get a briefing on the Electoral College and its importance to campaign strategy. Visit to one of the country's leading TV/Radio studios in DC, for their assessment of the election campaign: ABC, CNN, and NPR. Break followed by dinner. *Overnight Washington DC*

### **Day Seven: Tuesday 3rd Nov** *Polling Day*

Our first meeting is with a think tank regarded as the leading centre of expertise on campaign finance. Later we visit DC suburbs. Washington remains a city of stark contrasts with wealthy and poor areas – we look at the get-out-to-vote campaigns and see who is at the polling stations. We visit Anacostia, Ward 8, which is predominantly African-American. With a long night ahead there is a chance to have a rest at the hotel before dinner. It could also be an opportunity to see some of

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## Itinerary

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Washington's top political sights. At 6.30 p.m. we depart for a Election Night Watch Party with dinner. *Overnight Washington DC*

**Day Eight: Wednesday 4th Nov** *The Day After*  
We review the night results over breakfast. Followed by check out and farewells.

*Tour Ends*

**\*Flight needed on Sunday, 1st November**

**2020:**

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*"The highlight of the tour was the Trump rally, because it overturned all preconceptions about those who would vote for Trump. We should have realised then that his appeal was so wide." SR, US Elections 2016*

*"A sociological and political eye opener of a tour." VH, US Elections 2016*

*"The speakers were a particular feature of this tour, and clearly much thought and effort had been put into selecting and engaging people from a variety of backgrounds. I doubt if this could have been improved upon and it was a privilege to meet them all." CB, US Elections 2016*

*"Political Tours introduced me to some interesting people, including fellow travellers; it took me to places and to people I would have never accessed as an ordinary tourist." MS, Israel & Palestine*

*"The tours really take you beyond and behind the headlines, providing you with unexpectedly profound insights about the country." EL, Cuba*

*"The tour educated me to a part of the world and its recent history that I had read about but not understood. A great way to learn!" MH, Colombia*

*"Everyone promised on the programme showed up; and everyone, without exception, was fascinating. Some of what I heard reinforced my thinking, some of what I heard challenged my beliefs, and some things were completely new or left field." HG, Northern Ireland*