

Welcome to the Spring 2018 IRD meeting in Columbia, SC. The spouse's outing consists of a historic tour of downtown Columbia and lunch at Laura's Tea Room in nearby Ridgeway, SC.

The first stop on the spouse tour will be the S.C. State House. The State House was called "one of the most notable buildings in the world" by Charles Wilson, a renowned South Carolina architect responsible for several creations listed in the United States National Register of Historic Places. Construction of the present building began in 1855. As you tour the magnificent State House, you will be impressed by its outstanding architecture, historical paintings and fascinating history. The columns on the porticos are each carved from a single piece of stone and are believed to be the largest monolithic columns used in a public building in the United States.

Stop and Smell the Flowers....

Your next stop will be the Governor's Mansion. The Governor's Garden is home to some the largest trees in the state (Magnolia and Crape Myrtle), complete with paths of unique crushed stone. Built in 1855 as a residence for officers of Arsenal Military Academy, the building was spared during the burning of Columbia in the War Between the States. The South Carolina Governor's Mansion became the official residence for state governors in 1868.

* Lunch will be at Laura's Tea Room and Gift Shop, a charming and elegant tea room overlooking historic Ridgeway and features vintage furniture, fragrant teas, beautiful tables, fine china and local art work. Our beautifully appointed tables seat two to four people, encouraging intimate conversations and reconnections with dear friends over tea. Escape to another time and place for a delightful tea experience at Laura's, where we honor the ceremony of high tea and strive to provide a comfortable and relaxing escape from the stress and noise of everyday life. *Note: There are 25 stairs to the 2nd level (18 + landing +7 stairs).

Date of Tour: Thursday, April 26th, 2018

<u>Itinerary:</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Spouse/Guest Breakfast:	7:30am – 8:40am	Palmetto I Room
Board Bus:	8:50am - Pick up at Marriott	Next to Front Desk / Hampton Street Exit
State House:	9:00am – 10:20am	
Governor Mansion:	10:30am – 11:30am	
Lunch-Laura's Tea Room:	12:00pm – 2:00pm	
Board Shuttle:	2:30pm	
Shuttle Return to Marriott:	3:00pm	Hampton Street Exit