

New starting times for Montalto Tours

Montalto Tours – guided excursions to the landmark mountain that rises 410 feet above Monticello and



offers unparalleled views of the surrounding countryside – are being offered in the morning this year.

Montalto Tours were introduced last year and conducted at 1 and 3 p.m. daily. This year, the first of the two daily trips begins at 10 a.m., with the second starting at 1 p.m.

The twice-daily tours began April 1 and will continue through Oct. 31.

Montalto Tours are limited to a maximum of 24 people, who are transported to and from the summit of Thomas Jefferson’s “high mountain” on shuttle buses. The tours last approximately one hour.

In 2006 more than 1,500 people took Montalto Tours, which explore the history of the mountain and provide a unique perspective on Jefferson’s Virginia, including his main plantation and quarter farms and the area’s geography and topography.

Monticello guides lead participants to three interpretive stations on the 1,278-foot peak that offer panoramic views of Monticello to the north, Charlottesville and the University of Virginia with the Blue Ridge Mountains as a backdrop to the west, and the broad expanse to the east that features the homes of some

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Monticello

Montalto

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of Jefferson's notable neighbors. Each of the stations, which are five minutes' walk apart, offers some seating.

Jefferson purchased 574 acres on Montalto from Edward Carter in 1777. The property was sold in 1832, six years after Jefferson's death, by his daughter Martha Jefferson Randolph, and it had numerous owners over the years. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation purchased 330 acres on Montalto (known recently as Brown's Mountain) for \$15 million in 2004.

Tickets for Montalto Tours are \$13 for adults and \$7 for children ages 6 to 11. Reserved tickets for Montalto Tours can be purchased in advance through the Web site monticello.org. Same-day tickets are sold at Monticello's Ticket Office.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org