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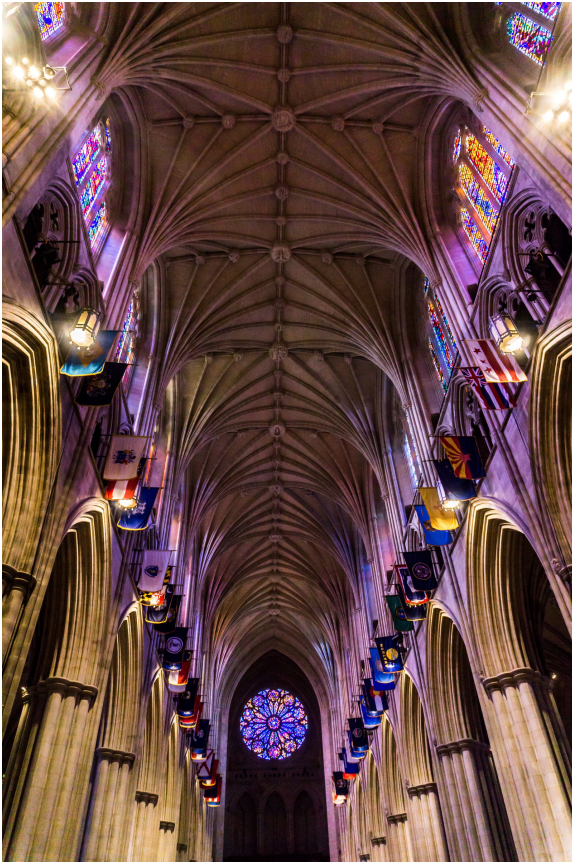
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SC600 Audio Wands Enhance Cathedral Experience

The Washington National Cathedral (WNC) hosts the national prayer service for incoming presidents, and state funerals for former presidents and renowned politicians. Most recently, the Cathedral held funeral services for U.S. Senator John McCain and former President George H. W. Bush. As one of the most popular cathedrals in Washington, D.C., and the second largest in the United States, WNC strives to be inclusive and inviting to Americans and tourists, from all faiths and backgrounds.

The Cathedral was erected under a charter passed by the United States Congress in 1893. Construction began in 1907 under the eye of the 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt. It was finished 83 years later in 1990 when President George H.W. Bush laid the final stone. Unfortunately in 2011, a rare (for Virginia) 5.8 earthquake caused an estimated \$32 million in damages to the Cathedral. Since then, the WNC has been raising money to repair the building, while still remaining open to the public.



Interior View of the Washington National Cathedral. Photo By Sharosh Rajasekher on Unsplash.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
THE TOUR-MATE FAMILY
TO YOURS.

WELCOME TO 2019.
LET'S ACCOMPLISH
GREAT THINGS
TOGETHER THIS YEAR!

WNC has been working with Tour-Mate since 2013 to provide group and self guided tours to its 418,000 annual visitors. Earlier this year, Tour-Mate's Creative Team updated the Cathedral's existing English tour and provided scriptwriting, production, and translation services to create a new Spanish tour. WNC upgraded to Tour-Mate's SC600 Audio Wand system to play both the English and Spanish tours. With 117 gargoyles and 215 stained glass windows, the audio tours complement rather than distract from the remarkable beauty that captivates visitors' attention. Guests hear different voices throughout the tour, including the voice of Dean Randolph Hollerith, and that of the stone mason who helped build the Cathedral and was present during the 2011 earthquake. Beyond its obvious religious significance, the WNC's audio tour also helps visitors appreciate the site for its historical and architectural richness.

To learn more about the Cathedral and its audio tour, please visit <https://cathedral.org/events/category/tours/audio-tour/>

All Aboard - New Audio Tours at USS Bowfin



The USS Bowfin. Photo Courtesy of the USS Bowfin.

Nicknamed the ‘Pearl Harbor Avenger,’ the USS Bowfin was officially launched one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Credited with sinking 44 ships during WWII, the Bowfin ranked 15th among 188 submarines in the US WWII fleet. It appropriately deserves being named after the aggressive and voracious fresh water fish - the bowfin. After serving in the Korean War, the submarine was officially decommissioned in December 1971, and returned to Pearl Harbor as a memorial. In 1986, the Bowfin was declared a National Historic Landmark. The Bowfin is now a part of the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum Association (PFSMA), providing visitors to Pearl Harbor with indoor and outdoor exhibits, as well as tours of the submarine itself.

In the middle of a major renovation of its museum collection and outdoor exhibit space, the PFSMA sought an interpretive partnership to improve their self-guided tours. The PFSMA desired copyright ownership of their content, easy-to-use audio devices, as well as content that was accessible and engaging for the diverse demography of its visitors.

In addition to offering user-friendly products, Tour-Mate transfers ownership of content for every tour created for a client. This approach to intellectual property is one of the many reasons why clients – such as the newly on board (no pun intended) USS Bowfin – choose Tour-Mate.

Our Creative Team will write and produce a total of 28 tours. With the Bowfin’s objective to be as accessible as possible, the tours will be offered in English, Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese Simplified. The audio tours will be produced as both adult and family versions.

The USS Bowfin’s new tours will be delivered on Tour-Mate’s SC600 Mini Audio Wands. Due to the renovations, the tours will be created in two phases. The first phase will focus on the Submarine and will be available in Spring 2019. Tour stops for the Submarine will be automatically triggered, enabling a smooth flow of visitors. The second phase will be ready in Spring 2020 and provide tours for the newly renovated museum and outdoor exhibit spaces.

If you want to learn more about visiting the USS Bowfin and stay updated on the construction and tour process, please visit <https://www.bowfin.org>

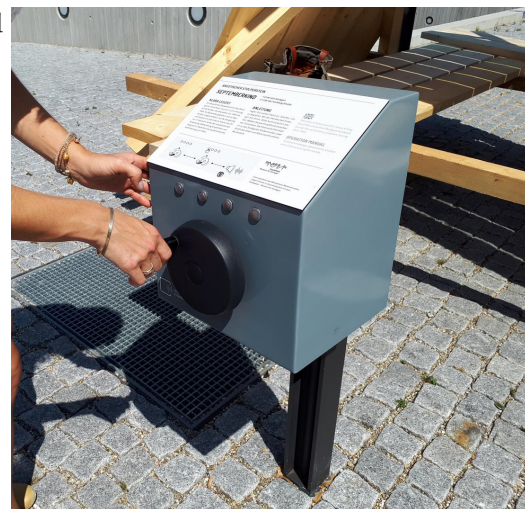


The USS Bowfin Crew Upon Return Home from Patrol 9, 4 July 1945. Photo Courtesy of the USS Bowfin.

Stumbling Stones Gain an Interactive, Accessible Face Lift

Imagine this - you are visiting Berlin, sightseeing along Hermannstraße, and stumble across one of over 69,000 brass plates installed on the cobble stone streets of Europe. Stumbling Stones, or 'Stolpersteine,' are 10x10 cm commemorative brass plaques placed on streets and sidewalks across European cities and towns. Usually they begin with the phrase 'here lived,' engraved with the names and life dates of victims of the Nazi regime. These plaques are often located in areas where the individual named last chose to live or work before being deported to the concentration camps during the Holocaust.

The Stumbling Stones memorial project began with artist Gunter Demnig and has been active for over 20 years. Media artist and film director Juergen Czwenk uses Tour-Mate's Eco-Boxes as a weatherproof audio version of the Stumbling Stones, providing interpretation and education about victims of the Nazi regime.



The EB-100 being used as an Acoustic Stumbling Stone. Photo Courtesy of Juergen Czwenk.

The first installation of the Akustischer Stolperstein, or Acoustic Stumbling Stone, is in Stuttgart, Germany and commemorates Klara Leucht, who was murdered in 1941 under the National Socialist regime. Located in front of the City Museum of Stuttgart, the Eco-Box plays recorded excerpts of private letters and official documents, along with pieces of music and sound effects. Guided Museum tours end at the Acoustic Stumbling Stone, and as of August 2018, it has become a permanent installation and addition to the Museum's collection.

Tour-Mate's EB-100s provide the Stolperstein an audio platform. Each Eco-Box can play up to four audio messages, allowing for the possibility to include audio in different languages. Additionally, Eco-Boxes provide an effective alternative for the visually impaired who may not notice, or be able to read the Stumbling Stones. The Eco-Box is weather resistant and requires no AC power. The audio messages are instead powered by the user turning a hand crank. The Stumbling Stones and Acoustic Stumbling Stones provide an opportunity for those in the 21st century to relate to personal Holocaust histories, and learn about the effects the Holocaust had on individual lives; lives that deserve to be remembered.

Visit the following link to see Tour-Mate's EB-100 in action in Stuttgart: <https://bit.ly/2MWopqG>

To find where you may stumble upon one of the Stolpersteine, please visit:
<http://www.historic.place/themes/stolpersteine/index.html>



Juergen Czwenk with relative of Klara Leucht, beside the EB-100, Acoustic Stumbling Stone. Photo Courtesy of Juergen Czwenk.

Floating Museum Meets Historical Interpretation



Aerial View of the USS Texas. Photo Courtesy of Rebekah Novak.

Just outside of Houston in La Porte, Texas is the first U.S. battleship to be designated as a floating museum and to be declared a U.S. National Historic Landmark. Commissioned in 1914, the 573 ft USS Texas (BB-35) is the last remaining battleship to have participated in both the First and Second World Wars.

While the USS Texas is the first and oldest U.S. battleship to become a permanent floating museum, seven other battleships followed suit. The USS Texas displays exhibits and artifacts intended to recreate what life was like while the ship was operational. Keeping with the contemporary aesthetic, and due to its historical status, there is a limited amount of signage available to visitors.

As a result, the USS Texas needed an interpretive solution for its visitors. Tour-Mate was selected to create and produce Adult and Family audio tours in both English and Spanish. The tours will be delivered on the SC600 Mini Audio Wand system.



Exterior View of the USS Texas. Photo Courtesy of Rebekah Novak.

The Family tours also include an interactive Junior Ranger program, designed by our Creative Team, to foster engagement with children visiting the battleship. To further reconstruct the history of the USS Texas, both audio tours include a number of character actors, real archival recordings, and sound effects.

To learn more about the USS Texas and its tours, please visit: https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/battleship-texas/programs-events/park_programs

Meet Our Team 🙌



ROSIE

Rosie joined the Tour-Mate team in late November 2018. She originally hails from Cairo, Egypt but has fit comfortably into her position as Director of Office Morale. She is always happy to share a snack with staff or to provide a head or belly to be scratched.

Where & How to Find Us 🔍

FIND US NEXT AT

- Virginia Association of Museums Conference
Lynchburg, VA; March 23-26, 2019
- Texas Association of Museums Conference
El Paso, TX; April 2-5, 2019
- American Alliance of Museums Conference
New Orleans, LA; May 19-22, 2019

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