

# *Get Your Kicks... On Sports Leisure Trips...*

2018 DREAM BOOK



## ***Sports Leisure Vacations***

LLC

CREATING MEMORABLE TRAVEL EXPERIENCES SINCE 1979



# Choosing the Right Tour is More than Just Picking an Awesome Destination...

Indeed, choosing the right tour vacation is important. We want you to participate in the tour(s) which match your interests, your physical abilities and of course, your wallet.

Finding a trip which matches your interests is the easy part. We offer travel for a wide variety of interests. Our company began by offering baseball trips and we still visit Spring Training in Arizona (page 8) every year. I'm known as the baseball (and ice cream) guy, **Clayton's** tours will often (although not always) include the South or a major city like Washington, D.C. or Chicago; and he loves to travel overseas. **Ramona's** nickname is "the tree-hugger," because many of her tours include the great outdoors.

**Scott** loves national parks, and out of the way places. **Kevin** tends to plan many of our rail adventures, **Michael** is the guy in charge of cruises, **Chris** is more of a "big city" boy, who loves fireworks and bright lights. Right away you can see why we have such a wide array of trips. Our tour planner/directors all approach the planet differently. Those brief descriptions don't really do justice to what each of them brings to the table.)

There is one thread which runs through all the trips in this catalog. **They are all designed with active, mature travelers in mind.** We generally don't try to cram too much into our tour days, because our travelers would rather we add a day to the itinerary (along with the associated costs) than offer a tour that doesn't give you a chance to breathe. Some destinations (New York City for example) are expensive, so it makes sense to do more and rest less while there.

An example of trips given that extra day this time around include **Santa Fe/Taos** (page 35) and **Ferries and Towns of Puget Sound** (page 24). You told us on your evaluations those trips would be better if extended an extra day, so that's exactly what we did.

Because our trips are designed for **active** mature travelers, it's entirely possible you won't be able to physically enjoy every trip you would like to be a part of. This is the most important part of picking your **Sports Leisure Vacation**. Our staff is here to assist you in that endeavor, to answer your questions and try to play "travel matchmaker." But ultimately the decisions are yours.

New this year is a rating for each tour. You can find the entire five description listing on the adjoining page. Some of our itineraries are more active from a pedestrian point of view. In New York, Washington, D.C. and Key West for example, we walk or take public transportation in an increasing number of situations, because it's fast and cost efficient. So if you cannot walk 3-5 city blocks at a moderate pace and deal with subways, stairs for example, you won't be able to enjoy the trip as much and may find yourself holding back others in the group. Remember, **active mature adults**.

Generally, the longer the trip, the more active it is, from a stamina point of view. If you are heading into the wild with **Ramona**, you may not have every convenience of home, and you may be in an isolated area, things to consider before putting your money down on a tour.

If you pick the wrong trip, what happens? Your participation can be limited. That's not great for you as a traveler, but it may be something you are willing to accept. Think of the impact your decision has on the rest of the group. If you lag behind ask yourself, "how is it impacting their vacation?"

Only you know what your travel budget will allow. **Sports Leisure** trips cost a bit more and include a bit more. Most of our travelers like that arrangement, which is why it has been our business philosophy for almost 40 years. We aren't trying to be the cheapest or the "five star" tour company. What we are trying to provide you with is a top quality tour product, with a lot of inclusions, at a fair price. Your ratings of your travels in your evaluations and on social media like our Facebook page, tell us if we are successful, and more importantly, what we can do to improve. Your input is extremely important to this customer-driven company.

One final thought. **Thank you.** For all the years of patronage, friendship, referrals to friends, kind words... and whatever I'm forgetting. If life is about the journey, I truly thank you all for the opportunity to share a little piece of the trip together.

**Mark Hoffmann, CTP**  
President

# You've Picked the Right Company. Now Pick the Right Vacation. Let Us Help!

Our staff of 17 brings an amazing 424 years of travel industry experience to the table, 215 of those years with **Sports Leisure Vacations**. Our operational model of tour planner/directors is different from nearly any other tour company you'll encounter. What's a tour planner/director? It means the staff member up front is most likely the person who conceptualized and planned your trip. They have a vested interest in the destination as well as the itinerary. And they know both better than just about anybody.

This knowledge means much more than a well-run tour. It's a resource we invite you to use to your full advantage. Sadly, it sometimes happens on the road that a traveler has, as we say in the office, written a check their body can't cash. Maybe it's the altitude or the amount of walking/sitting/standing the tour requires. Other times they can eat nothing on a limited menu or are counting on a certain hotel amenity that isn't there. Once you've arrived, it's often too late to make adjustments. So what's a traveler to do?

Research. We do it. You should, too. For those of you fully wired, you know Google is only a keystroke away. Others might visit the neighborhood library to obtain information on the destination you are considering. Call it doing your homework. Travel is expensive, not only referring to the bank account, but also in terms of time and the "cost" to your body. If you have respiratory problems you might want to avoid a tour that goes up or over the Rocky Mountains. If walking is the issue, New York City or a National Parks tour might not be right for you. If sitting too long brings discomfort, you better think twice about trips to the East Coast or off the continent.

Research – doing your homework – should help you formulate the questions. Who's got the answers? The tour planner! We love little more than talking about our itineraries. It's like showing you photos of our kids. They are our precious creations! Just remember that we're all on the road much of the time. It may take us a few days to get back to you, but I promise we will. If you're calling to share critical information – like allergies or medical concerns – just know we can help you best if we have the information as far in advance as possible. Ideally all special requests, to include simple things like bed types in hotels and seating on the airline, are placed at the point of reservation.

The Right Vacation at the Right Time. I bet you'll find what you're looking for in these pages. Let the dreaming begin!



**Clayton Whitehead, CTP**  
Vice President

## LEARN MORE!

Some tours are accompanied by a selection of websites that will help satisfy your appetite for more information on our destinations before you travel. Check them out and let us know what you discover. Remember, a wealth of knowledge is always available at [www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com) including company information, expanded tour itineraries, current publications and a link to the **Travel Guys Radio Show**.

## ACTIVITY METER



As part of our commitment to helping you select the right tour for your interests and physical abilities, check out the Activity Meter for each tour to get a feel for how it matches your interests, energy and fitness. It's important to note that more than one level may apply to a tour. For example, some will enjoy a visit to a national park by spending time in the visitor's center and taking a seat with a view. Others might prefer to hike on a nature trail. Same destination, same tour, two different levels of activity.

The letter abbreviations for each departure can be found in the Table of Contents listing for the tour. Where you see two letters, that indicates the ability to add activities or do optional things which increase the amount of physical activity (standing, walking, climbing stairs, etc.). The meter is a guideline. It is impossible to predict every situation on tour, since conditions may change before or during a trip which require itinerary adjustments.

**L Leisurely** – A tour that can be enjoyed by all. A minimal amount of required walking on city streets or generally level surfaces, with few stairs. A theater day trip might be an example.

**M Moderate** – A tour with some walking activities, and standing/strolling at attractions and museums and possibly some stair climbing. A day trip to the ballpark or a short regional trip (Monterey, CA Coast) might be examples. A moderate trip could include air transportation and navigating through airports.

**A Active** – A tour which includes longer walks (3-5 city blocks). Shorter walks could be on uneven surfaces. Days could be longer (including longer travel days with layovers). **Some of the trip could be at high altitudes.**

This would be the level for most of our longer distance domestic and Canadian tours, the minimum level for an overseas international tour. Tours which mention the ability to walk 3-5 city blocks **in a timely fashion** a couple of times a day fit into this category, as would most of our national park tours. You could find a flight of stairs without handrails. A tour with a seaplane or jeep ride, and the ability to climb into the plane/jeep, would be found in this category. Longer rail tours fit in this category.

**E Energetic** – A tour with an accent on opportunities for walking and other physical activities. Many overseas tours would fit in this category. Long plane flights, perhaps standing or walking longer distances. You might have to climb into a zodiac boat if you are with Ramona. If you need wheelchair assistance at the airport or other places, you should not consider a tour on this level.

**C Challenging** – Tours like these are designed with daily physical activities like hiking and other vigorous activities and can be great travel experiences, **but they are not typical of Sports Leisure Vacations trips.**



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### By Invitation Only

Occasionally we learn of exciting travel opportunities we are certain you will love, but they don't line up with the publication schedule of a newsletter. This is why we created **By Invitation Only**, an electronic notification service available to all active Travel Club members. The only requirement is that you have an e-mail address (or a friend who does)!

Register online by following the link on our website at [www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com). This places you on a short list of people notified of these time-sensitive and often limited-availability events. We don't send out invitations often, but when we do you can rest assured you're in for something special such as concerts by Tony Bennett and André Rieu, or the San Francisco showing of the Broadway smash *Hamilton*. Sign up today!

### Airfares and Foreign Currency Exchange

All tours including air travel are based on airfares as of September 1, 2017. Airfares for tours departing after August 1, 2017 are subject to change until confirmed by the airline. All international vacations in the catalogue are priced based on currency exchange rates in effect September 1, 2017. Changes of more than 5% may subject tour prices to an adjustment at 30 to 60 days prior to departure. You will be notified if there is a surcharge or refund.

### MAP & MEAL LEGEND

<b>6</b> One-Night Stay	National Park	Air
<b>2-3</b> Multiple-Night Stay	Mountain	Boat
Visit/Drive Through	Motorcoach	Train
<b>CB</b> – Continental Breakfast / <b>B</b> – Generally a limited buffet or menu		
<b>FB</b> – Full buffet or choice of menu / <b>BR</b> – Brunch, often buffet-style		
<b>L</b> – Lunch, often several menu options / <b>HT</b> or <b>AT</b> – High or Afternoon Tea		
<b>D</b> – Dinner, often several menu options		

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# Boston to Bar Harbor

*Celebrate the 4th of July in Boston and relax oceanside in Bar Harbor*  
**7 Days • July 2-8**



TOP: Stunning panoramic views atop Mt. Cadillac in Bar Harbor's Acadia National Park; BOTTOM: Helen and Michelle give two claws up at a traditional Lobster Bake

Celebrate America's Independence Day where it all began! Feel the power in the words of the Declaration of Independence as it's read from the balcony of the Old State House. American Revolutionary history unfolds at Minute Man National Historic Park and witchcraft is revealed in Salem. Spectacular coastal views, lumberjacks, lobsters, the JFK Museum, 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks in Boston – it's all here!

**1.** Land in Boston in the early evening. Dine at the oldest continually operated restaurant in the country, and local favorite, the Union Oyster House. Your conveniently located hotel is just north of the city in Woburn, allowing easy access to neighboring attractions. **Hilton Hotel – 3 nights (D)**

**2.** The story of America's independence comes alive in Lexington at Minute Man National Historic Park. Stand on the North Bridge in Concord where colonists first

fired on the British Army. At the historic Colonial Inn, try traditional Yankee Pot Roast or Chicken Pot Pie. The inn has entertained renowned authors such as Thoreau, Emerson, Hawthorne and Louisa May Alcott. In Salem gain a deeper understanding of how fear and fanaticism combined to create an environment of suspicion and mass hysteria, resulting in the infamous 1692 Witch Trials. Visit famous landmarks in the area with shopping time to gather all your magical potions! **(FB,L)**

**3.** Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Relive history while standing on original cobblestone streets as the Declaration of Independence is read aloud. You will swell with patriotic pride! Tour "Bean Town," Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Harvard Yard ending at Fanueil Hall and Quincy Marketplace. Try New England fare with a lobster roll or bacon-wrapped scallops for lunch. Afterwards, visit the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, a fantastic place dedicated to a beloved fallen American president. Tonight, after a casual dinner, fireworks light up the sky over Boston Harbor! **(FB,D)**

**4.** Travel north along Maine's pristine coast to Kennebunkport for a guided tour. Choose from one of the many restaurants at Dock Square for lunch before passing by the Bush Family Compound at Walker's Point. You'll know it by the line of black SUVs standing guard. Dine at your hotel this evening, an Italian dinner prepared by a classically trained chef. After dinner, you're already home to relax and fall asleep to the sound of the waterfalls just outside your window! **Hilton Garden Inn – Auburn Riverwatch (FB,D)**

**5.** Stop at the state capitol in Augusta before continuing north towards Bar Harbor.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Scenic tour of Acadia National Park
- Experience a traditional Maine Lobster Bake
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks over the Charles River
- Go in search of witches in Salem
- Tour Boston, MIT, & Harvard Yard
- Visit the JFK Presidential Library
- 12 meals: 2 breakfasts, 4 full breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners
- Roundtrip air to Boston/from Portland, ME
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3150/3450 Gold Passport Points

In scenic Camden browse waterfront cafés and shops and take in sweeping views of Penobscot Bay atop Mt. Battie in Camden State Park. During a guided tour at a lobster hatchery, learn all things "lobstah" upon arrival at Bar Harbor. After a traditional Maine Lobster Bake for dinner, kick back and relax on the balcony of your oceanview room. **Atlantic Oceanside Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**6.** Grab your camera for Acadia National Park, in order to capture its stone bridges, lakes, ponds and stunning coastline from the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Once a playground of the elite, hear stories of famous residents and visitors. In town, shop and grab a bite to eat before a sightseeing cruise on Frenchman Bay as the captain explains the local industry. After dinner, attend "The Olympics of the Forest," a lumberjack logging show full of brawn and laughter. **(B,D)**

**7.** Following the coast, travel south to Freeport, home of L.L. Bean. Made famous by its all-weather boots and stylish outerwear, you'll find the perfect gift for that outdoorsy person in your life... or yourself! Return to Boston for your flight home. **(B)**

**\$3150 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3415 single**



# Philadelphia Freedom!

Featuring the new Museum of the American Revolution

6 Days • May 19-24



TOP: Your chests swells with patriotism in Philadelphia; BOTTOM: Inside and out, Longwood Gardens is impressive

So where exactly is America's "Cradle of Liberty?" Some believe it's in Philadelphia. After all, it's here the Founding Fathers gathered at Independence Hall to write the Declaration of Independence and those who first called themselves "Americans" wrote the Constitution just 13 years later. It's the home of the Liberty Bell and the recently opened Museum of the American Revolution. Judge for yourself if Philadelphia owns this patriotic title during this tour focused on one of America's great cities.

We'll stay in Philadelphia all five nights at the **Embassy Suites Center City**, located at Logan Square, with a full, cooked-to order breakfast served each morning and cocktails available each evening. Numerous restaurants and museums are right outside your door. Unpack only once, as we explore. Visit Independence Hall, take snapshots of the famous Liberty Bell, and walk in the footsteps of William Penn and Benjamin Franklin. Visit the new Museum of the American Revolution, just opened in April 2017, along with the National Constitution Center. You'll also have a choice to visit either the Philadelphia Art Museum or the Franklin Institute during a free afternoon.

We'll explore the foodie scene of Philadelphia during a special guided tour to include the Italian Market and Chinatown with lunch at your leisure from the nearly 100 vendors at Reading Terminal Market. Don't be surprised by the colorful characters you meet along the way.

Outside of Philadelphia, we'll visit a few other sights – iconic Princeton, in nearby New Jersey, and beautiful Longwood Gardens, in Pennsylvania's Brandywine Valley. Explore Princeton University and enjoy lunch at the Nassau Club before discovering Grounds for Sculpture, an outdoor garden of flowers and art in Hamilton Township. West of Philadelphia stroll through Longwood Gardens; with over 1,000 acres of gardens and greenhouses, woodlands and meadows, the spring flowers should be gorgeous!

**\$2998 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3430 single**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 nights at the Embassy Suites Center City in the heart of Philadelphia at Logan Square
- History abounds: The Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Ben Franklin Ghost House and gravesite
- Discover the NEW Museum of the American Revolution and National Constitution Center
- Your choice of the Franklin Institute or Philadelphia Art Museum
- Explore beyond Philly: Princeton University in nearby New Jersey and Longwood Gardens at their springtime best
- Roundtrip air to Philadelphia
- 10 meals including a *Philly Foodie Tour* and visit to Reading Terminal Market
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3000/3450 Gold Passport Points

LEARN MORE!

[www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org)



# NYC – Behind Broadway and The Bronx

Two nights of Broadway theatre and a pops concert at Carnegie Hall

6 Days • April 29 – May 4

WE HAVE TICKETS TO  
DISNEY'S SMASH HIT FROZEN!



TOP: The stage at Carnegie Hall, one of America's most spectacular venues for musical performances; MIDDLE: Our 2017 group at Carnegie, waving from their Dress Circle seats; BOTTOM: Talk with NYC's first responders on our visit to Bronx police and fire stations

We will take you behind-the-scenes on Broadway and show you how it all works. Another day finds you in Little Italy, the real Little Italy, not some Manhattan substitute. For the first time, a short tour of High Line Park is featured, along with an optional in-depth tour on Ellis Island.

1. Depart the West Coast around 6am bound for New York City, arriving around 5pm (with a connection). A welcome to The Big Apple dinner is included tonight at Guy's American Grill, just a block from your hotel, which is located right on Times Square. Indeed, this is one of New York's premier locations/accommodations.

#### Marriott Marquis – 5 nights (D)

2. Your Behind Broadway experience will give you a feel for how the curtain goes up at dozens of theaters every night. Auditions, rehearsals, readings, financing, reviews; it's hard to make a hit. We'll take you behind-the-scenes to meet the performers and even a veteran Broadway reviewer, or "audience matchmaker," as Peter likes to refer to his talents. We get back to midtown in time for a great dinner at the Capital Grill, then walk a few blocks to Carnegie Hall for a concert honoring Broadway legends by the New York Symphony Pops orchestra. (This is a memorable 90 minutes of music in a one of the world's great music venues.) Dress circle seating for the concert. (L,D)

3. Off to The Bronx, and specifically Little Italy, part of New York's most colorful neighborhood. We stop in at a fire and police station, to meet some first responders up close and get some unique souvenirs. On Arthur Avenue, we enjoy lunch and meet some of the shopkeepers on a unique six-block walking tour. Tonight, your first night of theater. Your Tour Directors will be available to direct/escort you. (L)

4. We are headed downtown this morning, to learn the story of Wall Street, visit

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 nights at the **Marriott Marquis Times Square**, New York's best location
- 3 nights of entertainment – 2 Broadway shows (one we select and one **you** choose – an exclusive **SLV** feature); plus a concert at Carnegie Hall featuring the New York Symphony Pops Orchestra
- A Day Downtown – High Line Park, Wall Street, Federal Hall, the 9/11 Memorial/Museum/Observation Deck (all 3 experiences included)
- A Day in The Bronx – stop in at a police and a fire station and meet the first responders, lunch in The Bronx with a variety of stops in "Little Italy"
- Behind Broadway – visit a rehearsal hall and learn how a show comes together, meet a Broadway performer, dine with a theater reviewer (**Peter Filichia**) – fun and educational
- Tour of the headquarters of the United Nations
- Free day to visit Ellis and Liberty Islands, museums, shops, etc.
- Roundtrip air to/from NYC
- 7 meals: 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transfers
- 4000/4550 Gold Passport Points

the historic Trinity Church, see Federal Hall (where George Washington was inaugurated president), and enjoy a wonderful casual brunch in a historic restaurant. The afternoon is spent at Freedom Tower. Enjoy the view from the top, spend time in the 9/11 Museum, walk by the reflection ponds... there's time for it all. The evening is open and you can add another show if you wish. (L)

5. A day to choose your own itinerary. Many will want to go by subway with your Tour Director to Battery Park, then on to Liberty or Ellis Islands by ferry. Those folks will return to Times Square around noon. (There is an option on Ellis Island to do an in-depth hard hat tour. Please inquire at least 60 days prior to departure.) Depending on baseball schedules, an optional tour of Yankee Stadium may be available this afternoon. Visit The Met, shop at Macy's; allow us to help you build your day. Enjoy a classic Italian family-style dinner at Carmine's this evening, another night of Broadway theater. (D)

6. We depart on a non-stop flight to Sacramento in early evening from Newark, allowing us a partial day of sightseeing. Visit the headquarters of the United Nations this morning and enjoy lunch before checking out of your room. Arrive in Sacramento about 10pm. (L)

**\$3995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4530 single**



## Memorial Day in Washington, D.C.

*Our nation's capital is yours to explore from top to bottom*  
**6 Days • May 24-29**



TOP: Martha Washington is among the living history characters you could meet at Mount Vernon.  
 ABOVE: The White House is one the Capital City's most iconic sites.

**1.** Take a morning flight bound for Washington's Reagan National Airport. From this in-town airport, it's only a short drive to your hotel – a welcomed relief after a long day of travel! **Hilton Hotel Arlington – 5 nights**

**2.** Embark on a comprehensive city tour with our local guide extraordinaire, Sandra Sheksin. She will spin tales of Washington's dynamic past and present while orienting you to the Mall (important for later in the itinerary when you have free time for Smithsonian and National Museums). You'll see countless National Monuments, impressive governmental buildings both

historic and modern (your tax dollars at work!), and the expansive parks and public spaces that make Washington, D.C. the striking city it is. **(FB,L)**

**3.** Begin your exploration of the Smithsonian Institution and National Museums today with a full day on the Mall. Your coach will operate "shuttle style" to facilitate easy movement and breaks. "D.C. After Dark" features selected and beautifully illuminated monuments and the Kennedy Center after dinner. **(FB,D)**

**4.** A morning visit to Arlington National Cemetery includes a narrated tram tour with stops at the Tomb of the Unknowns for the Changing of the Guard ceremony and the home of General and Mrs. Robert E. Lee – no, that's *not* a mausoleum on the hill! In the afternoon, take a ride into the country to visit the estate of George and Martha Washington, Mount Vernon. Tonight, dinner at Filomena Ristorante in Georgetown is a **Sports Leisure** favorite and sure to please. **(FB,D)**

**5.** Memorial Day offers a host of opportunities along our National Mall. Start the day with a visit to Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House to relive President Lincoln's final days. A new interpretative center offers insight into this turbulent time in American history. From there your choices begin. Take your place along Constitution Avenue for the National Memorial Day Parade or

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 nights at the Hilton Hotel Arlington
- Tour Washington, D.C. by day and night
- Visit Arlington National Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, the U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theatre and Kennedy Center, and the White House\*
- Explore the Smithsonian Institution and National Museums on the Mall
- See National Monuments including Lincoln, Jefferson, FDR, MLK, WWII, Vietnam, Korea and more
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Washington National
- 9 meals: daily breakfast, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2800/3100 Gold Passport Points

use the time to continue your exploration of the Smithsonian Institution and National Museums. **(FB,D)**

**6.** A guided tour of the United States Capitol brings your vacation to a monumental end. **(FB)**

**\$2780 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3060 single**

*\*Those making reservations at least six months prior to the trip (before November 24) will be submitted for a thorough security screening to visit The White House. This will require your full name, country of citizenship, birthday, city of residence and Social Security number. Please be advised those making reservations after this date are less likely to receive clearance. Questions? Please contact our office.*



# 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Training in Arizona

4 nights in a luxurious Marriott Hotel, ballgames every day

5 Days • March 15-19



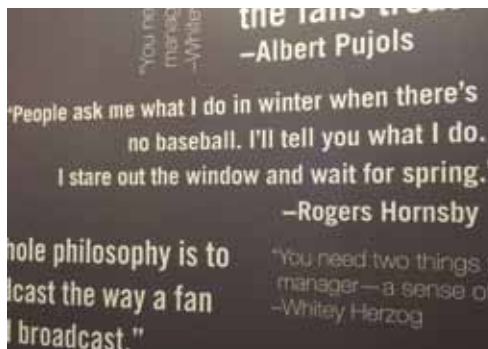
## HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights at the Phoenix Airport Marriott
- Tickets to 5 Cactus League games
- Lunch en suite or on the patio for one game
- Baseball Banquet, featuring a former or current player, coach, broadcaster or umpire
- A fabulous Sunday Brunch at the historic Wrigley Mansion
- 8 meals: including daily buffet breakfast
- Airfare, door-to-door service
- Gold Passport Points based on reg. date

Each spring the baseball fans in our midst make a pilgrimage to Arizona, where the "Boys of Summer" get ready for the season. For Giants and A's fans, it truly is "wait until next year," after somewhat lost seasons for both teams. But alas, hope springs eternal in the Cactus League, for no team has lost a regular season game and everyone has hopes of seeing a World Series played in their park in October. We'll catch a game every afternoon or evening, a total of 5 games in all. Generally, the Giants are the first priority and the A's second. The schedules for the Cactus League in Spring Training are not finalized and announced until sometime in November/December, and those registered will be sent the schedule just as soon as it is finalized.

The trip features Sunday Brunch at Wrigley Mansion and a dinner at Rustler's Roost (a **Sports Leisure** tradition). The centrally located **Marriott Hotel** we call home provides a great buffet breakfast each morning. Tickets for the games are almost always located in the shade. (You'll see how important this is once we get to Arizona.)

By registering early, you secure your space, guarantee your tickets and save a few



TOP: Two of our gang admire Tony Siegle's World Series ring... talk about Diamonds; ABOVE: Hall of Famer Rogers Hornsby's famous "winter" quote; RIGHT: Champion skaters are coming to San Jose

dollars. We only purchase a few tickets over the number of people reserved when they become available, so those who wait risk getting shut out.

Until November 1:  
\$2175 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2465 single  
After November 1:  
\$2275 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2565 single

## Come with us on a Baseball Adventure...

We must await the release of the 2018 game schedule to make our plans, but you are welcome to call and place your name on the **Baseball Adventure Priority List**. The trip is likely to be roughly a week in duration, with 4-5 games in a number of different parks. (Because of humid weather in the east/south, this tour is likely to depart in May.) Cities/parks under consideration include (but not exclusively) Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Atlanta, Boston and Philadelphia (based on requests from last year's travelers). Details after the schedule is released in October.

# U.S. Figure Skating Championships

Watch future Olympians in action

at the SAP Center in San Jose

5 Days • January 4-8

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights at the Embassy Suites Milpitas, includes breakfast each morning, cocktails if you are on site in the evening
- All event skating tickets, allowing you to see shows in the evening and the afternoon if you wish – choice of seating closer to the ice (better view, colder) or at the top of the lower concourse (warmer)
- Sightseeing tour of Silicon Valley, Sunday Brunch at the Hayes Mansion, guest skating speaker
- According to the tentative draft schedule, you will have the opportunity to see the following: Opening Ceremonies, Championship Pairs Short Program, Junior Free Dance, Junior Men's Free Skate, Championship Short Dance, Championship Ladies Short Program, Championship Pairs Free Skate, Championship Men's Free Skate, Championship Free Dance, and Championship Ladies Free Skate
- Just added – tickets to the Smucker's Skating Spectacular on Sunday night, where all the winners, the new members of the U.S. Olympic Team, will skate

\$2449 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2679 single



# The Odds and Ends Mystery

Featuring a little bit of this and a little bit of that

3 Days • May 1-3

Join **Scott** on this mystery tour that travels by motorcoach from Sacramento. This tour has some really unique attractions. Dining will surely be a treat and you have a wonderful hotel to stay in both nights (some might have already stayed here but we bet you won't mind staying here again). How about some clues as to our destination? What do actor Anthony Anderson, comedian Jamie Foxx and the lead singer for the rock group Aerosmith have in common, other than you can find their merchandise at the Ritz Carlton Bellagio in Las Vegas and even in a Smithsonian

Museum? We will have a social, learn about Shakespeare, and you might even find yourself in Guatemala. Since you are with Scott, of course there will be a tour included of a "natural" sort. This is an **Only 25** tour so sign up soon! The tour will include door-to-door service, 5 meals, several attractions you won't discover until you're there, and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 1350/1550 Gold Passport Points

**\$1325 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1510 single**

# It's All About The Water

A Mystery Tour that evolves around... water

6 Days • February 4-9

A title like this one sorta narrows down the options for where you might be going. For the more inquisitive in the audience, the water will **not** be frozen, so eliminate that thought right away. **It's All About the Water** could mean a lot of things. You could be **on** the water, or **looking** at the water, or **playing** in the water... it's a mystery!

Look, don't get all crabby on us. As my good friend **Sandy** used to say, "Life is a beach." I know some of this sounds a bit fishy, but really, if you think about it, it could be fun. I mean, when have you **ever** had not one but **TWO** oceans, right outside your door (major clue alert).

Only two hotels are involved, a 3-night and a 2-night stay, so you have time to enjoy your surroundings. Don't worry, we won't have to **invent** cool things to do, because we have found a ton of neat stuff.

We've included all the important things, like roundtrip airfare, 11 meals (including a full breakfast every day) and the rescue boat. A rescue boat? (OK, that's a joke, not a real clue.) Tour Directors: **Chris** and **Mark**. 2950/3350 Gold Passport Points

**\$2940 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3335 single**

# Leafin' on a Jet Plane

A Mystery Tour that's all about the colors of fall

6 Days • October 14-19

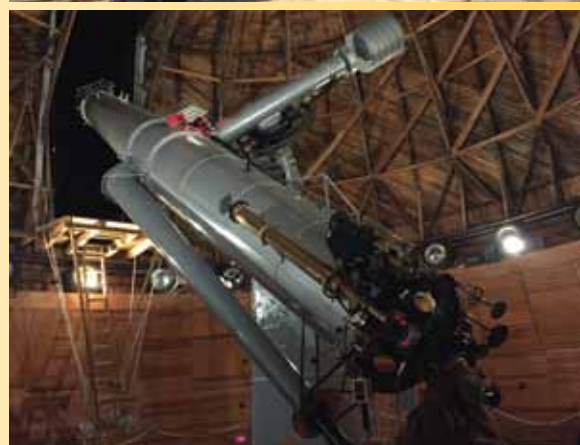
There are lots of great places to catch the changing of the colors each year. Fall foliage is one of nature's most spectacular shows and we think we've found a great place to see the leaves. New England? Too common and too easy to guess. Upper Michigan? Great guess, but we go to Mackinac Island most every year. No mystery there!

Here are some clues to help you: Let's all pray for world peace, then it's "down the hatch!" It's kinda chilly in here, maybe it's a **SIGN**. Whole Foods is selling their ice cream. Pretty hot in this tavern and

everything is brown, maybe gangsters hung out here? Hey, stop horsing around, because we can't track that sort of behavior. OK, by now, you all know where we are going... or maybe not.

The hotel pattern for this trip is 4 nights and one night, two hotels, BOTH Embassy Suites. We will include airfare and 12 meals. Tour Director: TBA. 2650/3000 Gold Passport Points

**\$2635 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2965 single**



TOP to BOTTOM: On a Mystery Tour, you might have lunch in an old German restaurant and pose for crazy pictures, you might learn something, like running a printing press, or visit someplace unusual, the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, or enjoy the view of the universe from a giant telescope outside Flagstaff

# Moab, Gateway to Arches National Park

Featuring 3 nights at the spectacular Red Cliffs Lodge on the banks of the Colorado River

5 Days • May 5-9

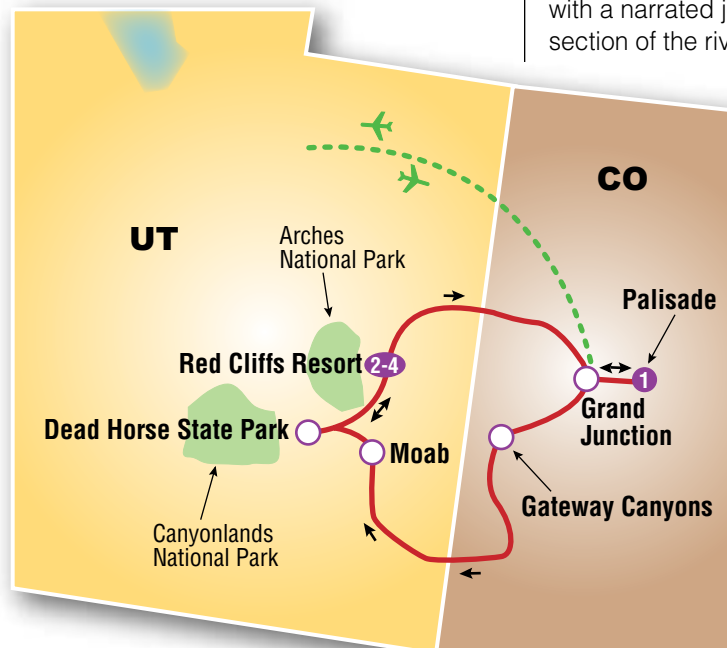


**1.** Fly to Grand Junction, Colorado and board your motorcoach for a short ride to the town of Palisade, in the heart of Colorado's wine country. Sleep well in your Victorian-style hotel. **Wine Country Inn (L)**

**2.** John Hendricks founded Discovery Communications, the broadcasting and film production company that owns Discovery Channel, TLC and Animal Planet. His outdoor recreational resort in Colorado, Gateway Canyons, hosts 60 of John's most prized and impeccably preserved automobiles, including the \$3.25 million, one-of-a-kind, 1954 Oldsmobile F-88 concept car. Enjoy a private tour of the

collection along with a hosted lunch. Your lodge in Moab sits on the banks of the Colorado River, just outside Arches National Park. Towering red cliffs surround your accommodations; watch them change colors with the setting sun. **Red Cliffs Lodge – 3 nights (FB,L)**

**3.** With over 2,000 naturally occurring arches (the greatest concentration in the world), Arches National Park is a photographer's dream. Explore the park during a guided tour, pausing at all the highlights. It's a day you won't soon forget! After lunch it's time for a different view of the scenic beauty – from the Colorado River with a narrated jet boat tour along a calm section of the river. **(FB,L)**



**4.** The mighty Colorado and Green Rivers divide Canyonlands National Park into three sections. Millions of years of erosion have formed a maze of canyon arches and spires that make it impossible to view by land. Soar through the park on a one hour charter flight today, over the Colorado River, past Island in the Sky and The Maze, a hideout of famous outlaws Butch Cassidy

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore majestic Arches National Park
- Visit Dead Horse State Park (the most amazing view in the Southwest!)
- Thrill on a jet boat tour on the Colorado River
- Experience flightseeing over Canyonlands National Park
- Discover Gateway Canyons
- Roundtrip air to/from Grand Junction, CO
- 9 meals: 4 full breakfasts, 5 lunches
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2600/2900 Gold Passport Points

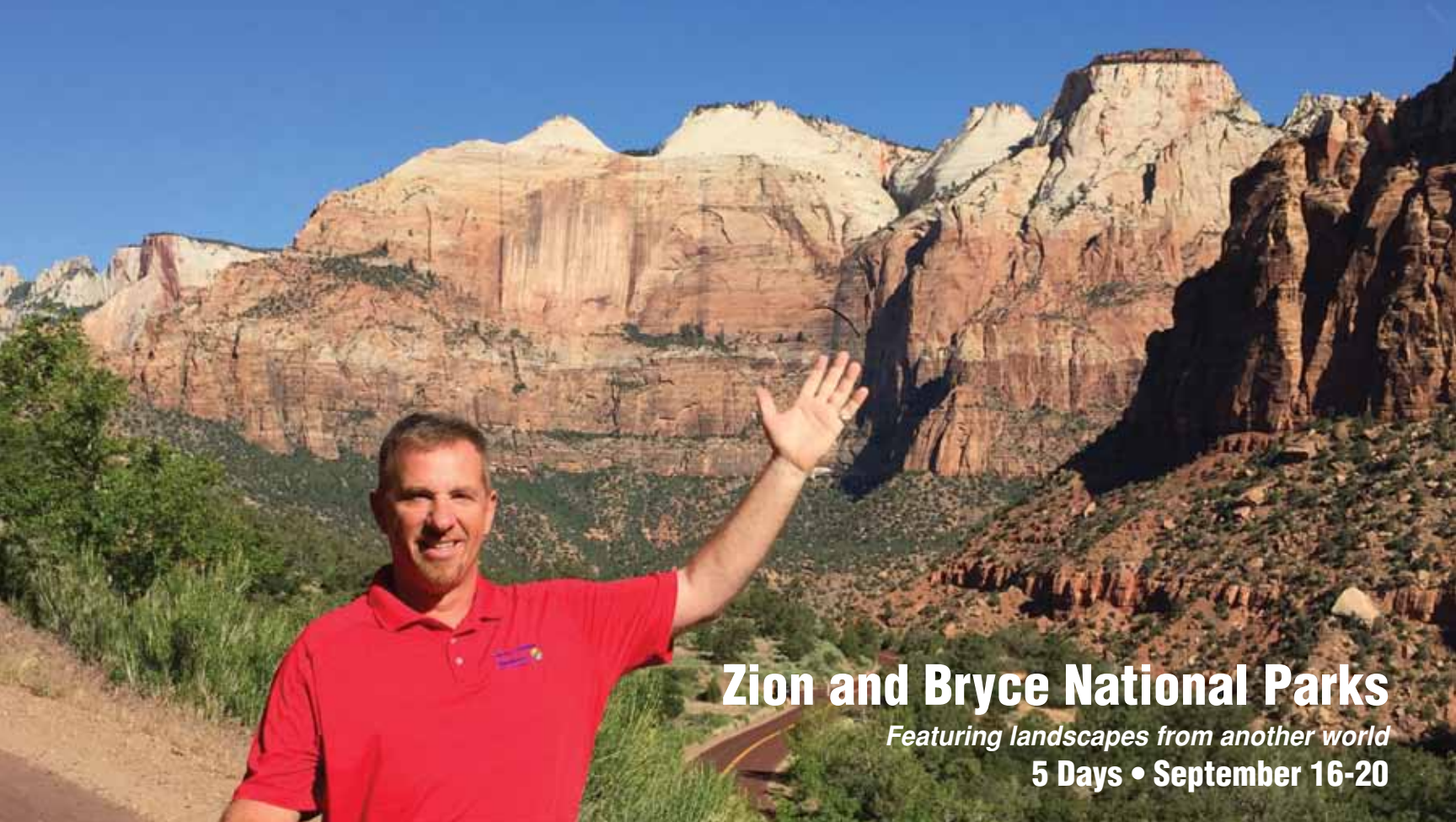
and the Sundance Kid. Near The Needles, fly over the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers, absorbing awesome breathtaking beauty. Later travel by coach to one of the best vistas in the west at Dead Horse Point State Park, where you will be 1,500 feet above the Colorado River. Enjoy lunch and some free time in Moab before heading back to resort. **(FB,L)**

**5.** No one ever wants to leave the Red Cliffs but it's your final day. Travel back to Grand Junction for a hosted lunch before your return flight home. **(FB,L)**

**\$2575 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2895 single**

LEARN MORE!

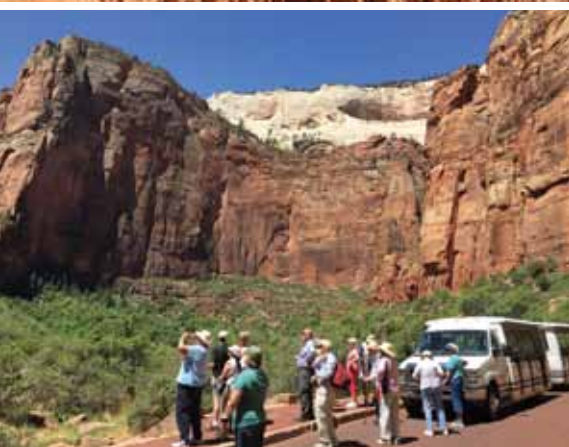
[www.redcliffslodge.com](http://www.redcliffslodge.com)  
[www.stateparks.utah.gov/parks/dead-horse/](http://www.stateparks.utah.gov/parks/dead-horse/)  
[www.nps.gov/arch/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/arch/index.htm)



# Zion and Bryce National Parks

*Featuring landscapes from another world*

**5 Days • September 16-20**



Join Scott in Zion National Park and enjoy beautiful canyon views during a relaxing tram ride

**1.** Fly to Las Vegas, where lunch is hosted, before traveling to the town of Springdale, Utah where you will overnight. Your hotel is well situated in the middle of town with incredible red rock views. **Holiday Inn Express – 2 nights (L)**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Tram tour at Zion National Park
- Rim tour of Bryce Canyon National Park
- Performance at Tuacahn Amphitheatre
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Las Vegas
- 8 included meals: 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2100/2350 Gold Passport Points

**2.** Start the day by viewing one of the best IMAX movies “Treasure of the Gods.” Travel into Zion Canyon on a private tram tour viewing the park’s towering red rock monoliths as you make your way along the Virgin River that created this beautiful canyon. The afternoon is free for you to take a walk in the park, visit the shops in the town of Springdale, or relax back at the hotel in the outdoor pool or hot tub which have fabulous red rock views. **(B)**

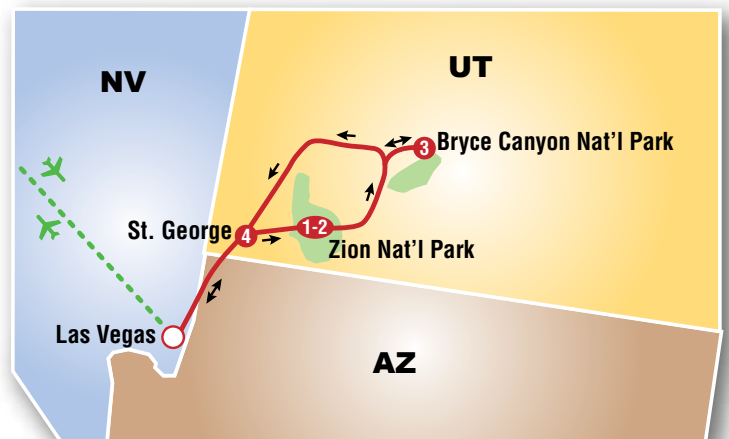
**3.** Bryce Canyon will surely be a highlight of your travels. We’ll make several stops for photos along the way before checking into our beautiful hotel with oversized rooms. At Bryce Canyon National Park drive along the rim of the canyon making stops at several overlooks viewing the large collections of bizarre sandstone

formations called “Hoodoos.” **Bryce Canyon Grand (FB,L)**

**4.** Travel to St. George where lunch is included at a private resort surrounded by spectacular scenery: volcanic rocks, lush green vegetation and towering mountains. Tonight, a special treat as we see a performance at an outdoor natural amphitheatre tucked in a red rock canyon at Tuacahn Amphitheatre. Past performances have included Broadway shows and concerts. Performers are first rate, all coming from places like New York City, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Salt Lake City. **Hilton Garden Inn – 2 nights (FB,L)**

**5.** Return to Las Vegas, with an included lunch, before your afternoon flight home. **(FB,L)**

**\$2060 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2345 single**



# National Treasures of the West

Featuring the Black Hills, Crazy Horse Memorial, Deadwood and Mount Rushmore

7 Days • September 23-29



1. After a midday arrival in Rapid City and a quick lunch, we are off to our destination hotel located in beautiful Spearfish Canyon. Our creek-side location provides dramatic views of steep canyon walls and aspen trees. **Spearfish Canyon Resort – 2 nights (L)**

2. Travel back to the wild days of the Black Hills with a visit to Deadwood. At *Tatanka: Story of the Bison*, learn from your Sioux

guide about the historic importance of buffalo and view a spectacular sculpture commissioned by actor Kevin Costner. In Deadwood there is time for lunch and browsing the shops, and maybe even libations at the historic main street saloons! **(FB,D)**

3. Dedicated to Native Americans, the Crazy Horse Memorial includes an arts and crafts center in addition to the museum and memorial. Here you have the unique opportunity to stand *on* a monumental carving project that is still a work in progress! Next enjoy a daytime visit to Mount Rushmore and walk along the base of the mountain. This evening return to Mount Rushmore for the very poignant lighting of the mountain. **Palmer Gulch Lodge (FB)**

4. Travel south to Hot Springs where, more than 26,000 years ago, Woolly Mammoths were stuck *in situ* in a sinkhole. A visitors center enables you to view firsthand this working paleontological site. Over the years, this has been one of the Black Hills' best kept secrets and is often a surprise to **Sports Leisure** travelers. This afternoon, board a jeep for a ride through the rolling hills of Custer State Park. Who knows what wildlife we'll see? After all, this is the land where buffalos roam, and deer and antelope play! **Alex Johnson Hotel – 3 nights (B,L)**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 days sightseeing in the Black Hills including Badlands National Park, Mammoth Dig Site, and both day and night visits to Mt. Rushmore
- Hillside viewing area for Custer State Park's Annual Buffalo Roundup
- Stand on top of the arm of the Crazy Horse Memorial
- Roundtrip air to/from Rapid City
- 9 meals: 2 breakfasts, 4 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3350/3800 Gold Passport Points

5. Drive through Badlands National Park, or *Mako Sico* as the Native Americans called this spectacular land of awesome wonder and nature in action; a land of soft clays and sandstones carved by wind and water. You are on your own for lunch in Wall, home of Wall Drug Store, famous for offering a free cup of ice water to weary travelers. Today, "Wall Drug" is a multi-complex of restaurants, museums, and shops. **(FB)**

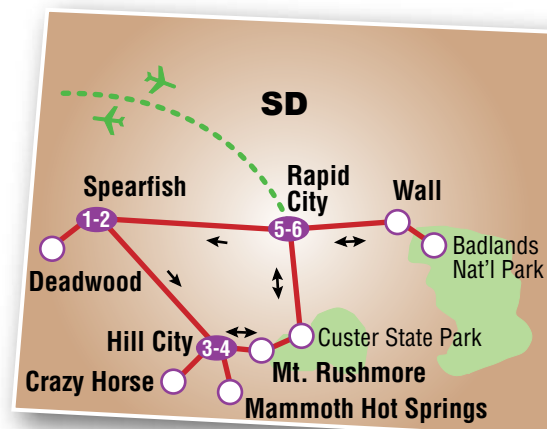
6. Everyone is up bright and early this morning for a trip to Custer State Park for its Annual Buffalo Roundup. Located out on the prairie, we will watch the sun come up over the hills as we anticipate the herd passing by. The park's personnel, along with additional cowhands, will drive nearly 1,300 buffalo into the nearby corrals. This afternoon, enjoy the quaint main street of Rapid City, lined with statues of our nation's presidents, or return to your room for a late afternoon rest. **(B)**

7. Depart Rapid City in late morning with an early evening arrival home. **(FB)**

**\$3345 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3770 single**

LEARN MORE!

[www.custerstatepark.info](http://www.custerstatepark.info)  
[www.crazyhorsememorial.org](http://www.crazyhorsememorial.org)  
[www.Visitrapidcity.com](http://www.Visitrapidcity.com)





# Olympia, the Sound and The Mountain

Experience the greatness of a small city, Puget Sound and Mt. Rainier  
4 Days • August 31 – September 3



Tucked alongside Budd Bay on Puget Sound, Washington's capital city is a sparkling gem in the Evergreen State. With a rich history, vibrant culture and a beautiful setting, Olympia is a great place to visit... The highlight of our stay will be Harbor Days, a festival celebrating the vintage tugboats of the Sound. Take a tour of these mighty little tugs, watch them race in the bay, and learn a little history along the way. Interspersed with the festival activities, experience the best of the region... in true **Sports Leisure** fashion "tour the farms, taste the bounty, and meet the locals."

**1.** Your Pacific Northwest adventure begins with an early morning flight to Seattle. Upon arrival, transfer to the Port of Tacoma to experience another form of travel. Step back in maritime history as you cruise the waters of the southern sound on the historic steamer, *Virginia V.* Affectionately called "Virginia Vee," this ship has been steaming around Puget Sound since 1922. Our four-hour cruise will take us under the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, and down past Steilacoom, Ketron Island, Anderson Island and into Budd Inlet. The festival kicks off this afternoon, and our waterfront hotel is minutes away from Percival Landing.  
**DoubleTree by Hilton – 3 nights (L,D)**

**2.** Mt. Rainier, dubbed "The Mountain" by the locals, dominates the skyline on a clear day. As a matter of fact, locals often say "The Mountain is out today." Ascending to 14,410 feet above sea level, this iconic glacier-topped mountain is legendary with mountain climbers and casual visitors. Passing by alpine meadows and streams filled with crystal clear glacial water, travel to Paradise. The Paradise Jackson Visitors Center hosts films and exhibits relevant to this mountain, which by the way is an active volcano; and the Paradise Inn offers Mt. Rainier as a breathtaking backdrop during lunch in the historic Inn Dining Room. Return to Olympia in the late afternoon, to enjoy festival activities and tour the tugs. **(FB,L)**

**3.** Start your morning with a trip to Lattin's Cider Mill, a small, family owned farm

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 3-night stay on the waterfront overlooking Budd Bay
- Lunch in the grand Paradise Inn Dining Room at Mt. Rainier National Park
- Cruise on the historic steamboat, *Virginia V*
- Enjoy the festivities of Olympia's Harbor Days
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Seattle
- 8 meals: 3 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2100/2350 Gold Passport Points

known for its apple cider and delicious apple fritters. In addition to their apple products, the mother-daughter owners have stocked the Farm Market with a variety of fruit syrups, honey, jams, and specialty meats and cheeses – including smoked salmon. This afternoon, the "world's largest vintage tugboat race" takes place in the deep channel of Budd Bay. Viewing of the race is from the water aboard one of the festival's host vessels. This evening, dinner features the best of the region and caps off our stay. **(FB,D)**

**4.** One last chance to taste the bounty of the region before returning to the airport for your afternoon flight home. **(FB,L)**

**\$2065 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2320 single**

LEARN MORE!

[www.harbordays.com](http://www.harbordays.com)  
[www.experienceolympia.com](http://www.experienceolympia.com)





## Springtime in Yosemite

*Featuring the best of Mother Nature: waterfalls and spring flowers*

**3 Days • May 15-17**

Springtime is the optimum season to view Yosemite's magnificent waterfalls and get a peek at its display of spring flowers. During our time in the park, visit the area around the newly restored Mariposa Grove (weather and conditions permitting). Closed since 2015, this area has undergone major reconstruction with new walkways and the removal of its concessions facilities. Galen Clark, the grove's protector, found healing within these trees and the restoration seeks to bring peace back to the grove as it was when first discovered.

With one full day in the park, the morning will consist of a fully narrated Valley Floor

Tour to discover the history, geology and people of Yosemite. The afternoon is your time to explore the valley as you wish. In the evening, return to your mountain resort for quiet reflection upon the day.

**Rush Creek Lodge**, located just one mile from the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park on Highway 120, is the newest mountain resort in the Sierra in over 25 years. It features a contemporary, rustic sensibility inspired by the breathtaking nature surrounding its 20-acre wooded hillside setting. While not inside the park, its location provides an opportunity to enjoy both the park and the serenity of the lodge



### HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights at the new Rush Creek Lodge
- Free time to visit Yosemite Falls, the Ansel Adams Gallery, and the Yosemite Museum
- Guided tour highlighting the history and points of interest throughout the valley
- Walk through the Big Trees of the restored Mariposa Grove
- 2 meals: 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- Door-to-door service
- 1450/1750 Gold Passport Points

in comfort and away from the crowds. If you have stayed in the park over the past few years you are aware its motel rooms have become a little tired. While we will be entering and exiting the park several times, we are confident you are going to love the improved accommodations.

**\$1430 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1735 single**

**LEARN MORE!**

[www.rushcreeklodge.com](http://www.rushcreeklodge.com)

## Puttin' on the Ritz at Lake Tahoe

*Featuring Ritz-Carlton luxury in a mountain setting*

**2 Days • June 3-4**

1. Deluxe motorcoach transportation begins at one of our convenient locations this morning. Pause in Truckee for a hosted brunch and time at your leisure to browse the quaint shops in the historic district before arriving at your mountain retreat. The Ritz-Carlton is situated mid-mountain at the Northstar Resort. From the time you arrive the tone is set for the luxury you will encounter here, with the Grand Lobby featuring a 55 foot-high granite fireplace and 25 foot-high windows providing views of the surrounding forest. Enjoy an optional private art and architecture tour and learn about the unique design elements and highlights of the more distinctive works of art on display throughout the resort. Your accommodations include in-room fireplaces, floor-to-ceiling windows, and private walk-out balconies with

extraordinary views of the mountains and Martis Valley. **Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe (BR)**

2. A late checkout allows you to further enjoy the resort and its services and amenities. Return home along the scenic west shore of Lake Tahoe, where lunch is hosted, arriving home in the late afternoon. **(L)**

This tour includes deluxe transportation, accommodations,

two meals, attractions as listed, and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 600/700 Gold Passport Points

**\$585 p.p./dbl.occ., \$698 single**

*Add door-to-door service for \$80 p.p.*



# Desert Beauty: Anza-Borrego and Joshua Tree National Park

*Springtime wildflowers, majestic landscapes, and splendid beauty*

**5 Days • March 19-23**

The desert is a place of silence, light and space with beauty in its arid landscape, and wildflowers tucked into its crevices. Spend enough time here and the desert will weave a spell upon you. Experience the beauty and grandeur for yourself in this springtime expedition.

**1.** A late morning flight delivers you to beautiful San Diego for lunch in Old Town. A short trip to Point Loma brings you to the



spot where the first European explorer, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, stepped ashore. Enjoy the view of the Pacific Ocean from this monumental site. This evening take in the sights and sounds of San Diego from your bayside rooms. **Embassy Suites (L)**

**2.** Travel from the seashore into the mountains to Julian, a small town known for apple pies. A quick lunch and you are off to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California's largest. Famous for its springtime display of wildflowers, this desert park has so much to offer: rock formations, dramatic mountains and vast arid landscapes punctuated by oases prolific with all types of flora and fauna. Traverse the park with a guide to learn more about this "desert beauty." Our late afternoon drive to Rancho Mirage, home to a "hot water" resort, provides insight into the agriculture and lives of the people of the Coachella Valley. **Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa – 3 nights (FB,L)**

**3.** Climb aboard a red jeep for a trek into slot canyons and through the open desert. With a local guide explaining the history, culture and legends of the Cahuilla people, the beauty of the desert comes alive with your driver's interpretation. And besides, the ride is just plain fun as the wind flies through your hair! This afternoon an aerial tram ride to the top of Mt. San Jacinto provides a spectacular view of the Coachella Valley, the San Andreas Fault and Salton Trough. **(D)**

**4.** Another "desert beauty" awaits you this morning. Two distinct desert ecosystems, the Mojave and the Colorado, come together in Joshua Tree National Park. Forests of trees and jumbles of massive rocks make this an enchanting place – a land sculpted by strong winds and torrents of rain. The surreal geologic features add to the wonders of this vast wilderness. A casual lunch at a local BBQ joint follows your park visit. This evening you have the option to stroll through Village Fest, a menagerie of crafts, art and music on Palm

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Anza-Borrego State Park, Joshua Tree Nat'l Park and the gardens of Sunnyland provide spectacular examples of desert beauty
- Experience the desert first hand with a jeep ride, tram ride and guided tour of the region
- Stay 3 nights at the Agua Caliente Resort
- Roundtrip airfare to San Diego/from Ontario
- 5 meals: 1 full breakfast, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2150/2400 Gold Passport Points

Canyon Road, in downtown Palm Springs. It's a fun evening out with the locals and visitors. **(L)**

**5.** Desert beauty comes in many forms. This morning, visit the famous gardens of Sunnyland. Inspired by the Annenberg's private collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, the gardens were artfully designed to reflect beauty and grace using over 70 species of native and arid-adapted plants. An afternoon flight from Ontario returns you home.

**\$2105 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2380 single**

**LEARN MORE!**

[www.theabf.org](http://www.theabf.org)



# On the Central Coast

Featuring oceanfront accommodations in Avila Beach

4 Days • April 10-13



1. Meet your fellow travelers at the **Sports Leisure** office before traveling in comfort to Avila Beach. Pass through the Salinas Valley, known as the "Salad Bowl of the World," before settling into your oceanfront suite just steps away from the sand and surf of the majestic Pacific Ocean. **Avila Lighthouse Suites – 3 nights (L)**

2. Morro Bay is home to Morro Rock, the last of nine extinct volcanic peaks that begin in San Luis Obispo. The 576 foot landmark stands at the mouth of the harbor

and is home to nesting Peregrine Falcons. Lunch is hosted with free time scheduled for shopping. Not a shopper? No problem! You have the option to view otters and maybe spot a falcon down on the beach. Your Tour Director will lead the way! The afternoon is at your leisure to enjoy the picturesque town and coastline back in Avila Beach. **(B,L)**

3. Today drive along the coast past Shell Beach and Pismo Beach to Arroyo Grande, where lunch is hosted with dessert at Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream Lab. This evening,

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Wonderful oceanfront accommodations at Avila Lighthouse Suites
- Visit Morro Bay and Arroyo Grande
- Shop San Luis Obispo's Thursday Night Farmers Market
- 7 meals: 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches
- Door-to-door service
- 1500/1750 Gold Passport Points

experience the food and festivities in San Luis Obispo during its world-renowned weekly Thursday Night Farmers Market! In addition to fresh fruits and vegetables, booths sell prepared food galore, including tri-tip, chicken, and ribs. Live entertainment is also part of the market, from dancers, gymnasts, and local singer-songwriters to high school bands. **(B,L)**

4. As you turn toward home, enjoy a wonderful lunch hosted in Paso Robles and a stop at Casa de Fruta to pick up a few fresh foods for your home. Arrive in the early evening. **(B,L)**

**\$1460 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1750 single**

# Off on Another Mission

A continuation of our 2017 tour visits six more California Missions

3 Days • May 8-11



1. Travel back in time aboard *SuperCoach III* bound for Sonoma State Park where docents dressed in period clothing bring to life 1800's California history with a tour of Mission San Francisco de Solano and General Vallejo's home. Pause in Sonoma for a harvest fresh lunch utilizing locally gathered ingredients. The only mission founded as a hospital, discover the unique

history of Mission San Rafael Arcángel. In Santa Cruz, arrive at your oceanview accommodations to enjoy the evening at your leisure. **The Santa Cruz Dream Inn – 2 nights (L)**

2. The often overlooked Mission San Antonio de Padua is your first stop today. A casual lunch is served in the serenity of

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover six of California's historic missions
- 2 nights at The Dream Inn Santa Cruz
- Dinner waterside at The Crow's Nest
- Visit secluded and peaceful Mission San Antonio de Padua with a casual lunch
- 6 meals: 2 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door service
- 1200/1400 Gold Passport Points

the 87-acre ranch after your tour. Works by over 70 local artisans are featured in the fantastic gift shop! You will leave with a gift to remember your visit. Pause briefly at tiny Mission Soledad and learn of its hard scrabble history. Enjoy free time back at the hotel to simply relax or walk the pier before an included dinner this evening. **(FB,L,D)**

3. Explore Mission Santa Cruz this morning atop Mission Hill. A short film discusses the history of the Ohlone and Yokut Indians and their roles within the mission system before a docent-guided tour. Tour scenic Mission San Juan Bautista, situated on a historic plaza, before lunch at Pea Soup Andersen's. Save room for a decadent ice cream sundae at the Ghirardelli Outlet en route back to the **Sports Leisure** office where your door-to-door transportation awaits you. **(FB,L)**

**\$1185 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1365 single**



## Destination: Disneyland!

Featuring three full days to explore the Disneyland Resort and museums of Orange County  
4 Days • April 22-25

Disneyland continues to become more popular with each passing year. We've escorted two groups recently and everyone loves feeling like a kid again – as evidenced by people wearing mouse ears when they show up at the airport! The park will be 62 years young and, after extensive renovations to the area around the Rivers of America, sports an updated railroad and brand new *Fantasmic!* evening show. At Disney California Adventure you can take in the new Broadway-style show *Frozen* at the Hyperion Theatre and fly across the globe on the new "Soarin' Around the World." Additionally, we've timed our tour to include "Dapper Day," when visitors are encouraged to dress up in their finest vintage clothing. The people watching is a lot of fun but parasols and pocketbooks, boater hats and suspenders are optional, of course!

We offer two special experiences during each visit. First a special three hour walking tour of Disneyland called "A Walk in Walt's Footsteps," which includes a box lunch and a visit to the "Dream Suite," Walt and Lillian's private apartment overlooking New Orleans Square. Second, enjoy the early history of "Walt's Folly" during a presentation by author David Koenig at a special dinner at the Anaheim White House.

Due to feedback from our customers we have added a third day to visit the parks but

will offer optional attractions you can visit if you need a break from the "Disney Magic." Choose to visit the newly renovated Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library & Museum in addition to the Bowers Museum, featuring a new exhibit called *American Visionary: John F. Kennedy's Life & Times*. We'll even include a guided tour of the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles after lunch at the Tam O'Shanter, the original restaurant in the Lawry's Prime Rib Family. Mr. Disney ate here so often his employees referred to it at the Disney Studios' commissary!

We have worked to design the itinerary for different levels of activity. Our own private shuttle will run to/from the hotel so you can come and go as your needs dictate. Of course, you will get more value if you spend more time in the parks. You can choose a ticket that allows for admission to one park per day OR you can choose a "Park Hopper Pass," which allows you to go in between both parks as often as you would like each day. You can do your homework about the parks before you register for our tour by visiting [www.disneyland.com](http://www.disneyland.com).

"A Walk in Walt's Footsteps" tour is included in both packages. It is a three-hour walking tour. You must be able to stand at points during the tour. If you wish to skip this tour or have mobility issues which might make it difficult to enjoy the tour, you can opt out and receive a credit of \$109 off either

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay 3 nights at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel (very near the park)
- Admission for 3 days to Disneyland & Disney California Adventure
- Optional *A Walk in Walt's Footsteps* tour with included box lunch
- Optional visits to Richard Nixon Presidential Library & The Bowers Museum
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Southern California
- 3 meals: 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door airport service
- Deluxe motorcoach shuttle service
- 1900/2100 Gold Passport Points

package price. Please also note: all evening shows are STANDING ROOM only.

3 Day one park per day ONLY pass, with everything above:

**\$1830 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2030 single**

3 Day, two park per day flex pass (come and go in between Disneyland AND California Disney each day), with everything above:

**\$1875 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2075 single**

LEARN MORE!

[www.nixonlibrary.gov](http://www.nixonlibrary.gov)  
[www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org)



# A Port, A President and The Pageant of the Masters

Art comes to life at one of the world's most unique festivals

3 Days • August 5-7 or August 19-21



1. Depart on a morning flight to Southern California. Soon you'll be off on a champagne brunch cruise along Newport's glittering coast aboard a private Hornblower Yacht. Check-in at your luxurious hotel mid-afternoon for a restful afternoon and

evening. **Marriott Newport Beach Hotel & Spa – 2 nights (BR)**

2. This morning a short drive takes you to Yorba Linda and the impressive Richard Nixon Presidential Library & Museum.

Recently reopened following an extensive renovation, the galleries, gardens and Nixon's birth home are yours to explore. Return to the hotel for time to relax before touring the grounds of the *85<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Arts and Pageant of the Masters* in Laguna Beach. Dinner is included at Tivoli Terrace Restaurant. Presented in an outdoor theatre, reserved orchestra seating provides excellent viewing. Words fail to explain the pageant – you simply have to see it to believe it! **(D)**

3. Return to Laguna Beach to learn some behind-the-scenes secrets during a presentation with a speaker from the *Pageant of the Masters* followed by lunch. A mid-afternoon flight returns you home. **(L)**

Includes door-to-door airport service, roundtrip air, accommodations, 3 meals (1 brunch, 1 lunch, 1 dinner), attractions and admissions as noted in the itinerary, and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 1550/1750 Gold Passport Points

**\$1525 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1730 single**

# The Magnificent Mendocino Coast

Featuring Noyo Harbor, Ft. Bragg and the historic Skunk Train

4 Days • August 14-17



The beautiful Mendocino coast calls like a siren from the sea. With rugged coastlines, dashing waves and wind-blown trees this magnificent area has inspired and welcomed many over the years. As the days warm up in Sacramento, the coast is delightfully brisk. It is the perfect time for a stroll along the boardwalk at MacKerricher State Park or to browse the quaint shops of Mendocino.

Begin with a visit to the home and museum of early California artist, Grace Hudson, followed by an overnight stay in Ukiah. The next morning travel across the coastal range. The Mendocino Botanical Gardens, one of the finest on the West Coast, offers beautiful display gardens, and its trail to the ocean bluffs is spectacular. At Point Cabrillo Lighthouse, the docents are prepared to share stories of the keepers

and the surrounding community. In Fort Bragg, the old mill site is being restored into Noyo Headlands Park with the Noyo Marine Center offering visitors educational talks and walks. After a couple of years of challenges, the historic *Skunk Train* now offers an abbreviated journey along Pudding Creek Estuary. Step back in time as you travel over some of the first tracks laid down by the California Western Railroad in 1885. The train's whistle brings out the child in all; there's nothing like a train ride through the forest!

Our lodging for **two nights** will be overlooking Noyo Harbor at the familiar **Harbor Lite Lodge**. In the early morning, as you enjoy your first cup of coffee, watch as the fishing fleet heads out for the day. In the evenings, enjoy the fresh catch of the day as we dine at some of the area's oldest and finest establishments.

This tour includes door-to-door service, motorcoach transportation, accommodations, all attractions as listed above, 9 meals (3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners), and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 1450/1700 Gold Passport Points

**\$1440 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1670 single**

# Beautiful Bodega Bay, Tiburon and The Coast

Featuring the Sonoma and Marin Coastlines

3 Days • April 29 – May 1



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Relax in comfort and enjoy the hospitality of Bodega Bay Lodge & Spa, overlooking Dorian Beach
- Browse the eclectic shops of Tiburon
- Dine at the historic Occidental Union Hotel
- Visit Korbel Champagne Cellars and Gardens
- Enjoy the views from Tiburon's Shoreline Park and visit the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum
- 4 meals: 2 full breakfasts, 1 brunch, 1 lunch
- Door-to-door service
- 1100/1300 Gold Passport Points

There is something special about the Sonoma Coast: beaches that stretch for miles, remnants of rocks forming striking sea stacks, and ah... the sound of the ocean. As you walk along Bodega Head, listen for the barking of the sea lions; and as you relax in your room, the sound of the fog horn. This leisurely visit to the coast allows you time to sit back and enjoy springtime on the coast.

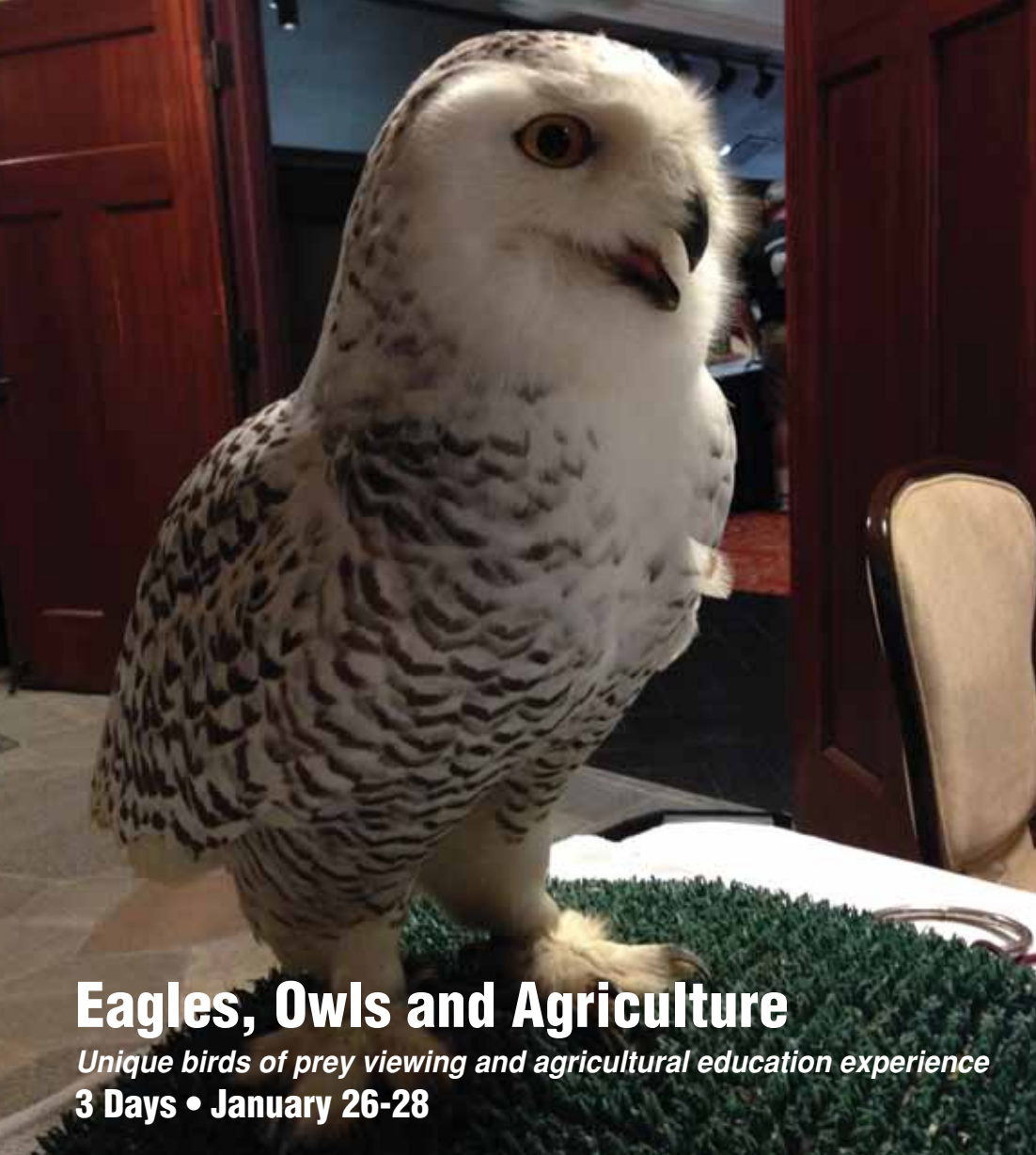
**1.** Travel through Sonoma County, arriving in the afternoon at Korbel Champagne Cellars. Learn about two enterprising families with pioneer spirits and old-world resourcefulness who envisioned greatness in the Russian River region. Stroll the beautiful gardens and sip some bubbly before continuing to one of the finest, four-diamond lodges in Northern California. Overlooking Dorian Beach, every room looks out over the gardens of the lodge towards the water. **Bodega Bay Lodge & Spa – 2 nights (BR)**

**2.** This morning travel to Bodega Head for a short walk along the bluffs to catch sight of the Pacific Ocean; who knows, you may even glimpse a whale passing by as it migrates north. A short drive from the coast brings you to Occidental, a gem of a community tucked into the redwoods, for an Italian meal served family-style. After a brief time to browse the shops return to the lodge. An afternoon of leisure awaits... a full service spa, along with a pool and hot tub, are available; or maybe a walk down to the beach is more your style! **(FB,L)**

**3.** Continue down scenic Highway 1, weaving along the coastline into Marin County past Tomales Bay, arriving in Tiburon for a scatter lunch and time to visit the shops. More than just a pretty waterfront town, Tiburon has a rich railroad and maritime history. A stop at the museum captures this history; plus there are fantastic views of San Francisco, the Golden Gate Bridge and Angel Island from Shoreline Park. Return to Sacramento in late afternoon. **(FB)**

**\$1075 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1255 single**





## Eagles, Owls and Agriculture

*Unique birds of prey viewing and agricultural education experience*  
**3 Days • January 26-28**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Private Ranch and Barn Owl tours
- Sunday brunch at Harrah's Lake Tahoe
- Tour Genoa and the Carson Valley Museum
- 3 meals: 1 brunch, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door service
- 900/1000 Gold Passport Points

**1.** Experience the beauty of the Sierra Nevada mountains in winter as you travel along Highway 50 to the south shore of beautiful Lake Tahoe. Pause for lunch before traveling east to Carson Valley and the town of Minden in Nevada. The annual *Eagles and Agriculture* gathering focuses on the influx of bald eagles and other birds of prey that come to the scenic Carson Valley each year during winter calving season. This remarkable interaction between nature and agriculture attracts photographers, birders and nature-lovers of all kinds who come to closely observe raptors and a variety of other birds. Tonight, dinner is hosted with guest presenters.  
**Carson Valley Inn – 2 nights (D)**

**2.** Today is special treat! Visit local ranches and observe their operations up close with

the men and women who run them. While learning about Carson Valley ranching and conservation, you have the opportunity to observe birds of prey from vantage points not available to the general public. This is a once in a year opportunity for eagle viewing and photography. The afternoon Owl Prowl Tour goes to historic area barns to view owls in their natural habitats. **(L)**

**3.** Time to head back over the mountains but not before visiting the town of Genoa with a private tour of the Carson Valley Museum. Stop again at Lake Tahoe's south shore where you will enjoy the popular Sunday Brunch at the Forest Buffet, high atop Harrah's Casino/Resort, before returning to Sacramento. **(BR)**

**\$875 p.p./dbl.occ., \$990 single**



## Take the Snow Train to Reno

*Ride Amtrak's California Zephyr through the Sierra Nevada*  
**2 Days • February 14-15 or February 28 – March 1**

Experience a High Sierra winter wonderland as Amtrak's *California Zephyr* climbs through the mountains, providing magnificent winter vistas. Your journey begins from one of our convenient pickups and the train departs from Roseville. Don't worry about your luggage – it will travel on board our motorcoach which will meet you in Reno!

Once on board the *California Zephyr*, enjoy relaxing views from your seat or from the domed observation car. A box lunch is included for you to take on the train so you won't miss the scenery! Your accommodations are at the **Silver Legacy Casino/Resort**. Enjoy a free morning at leisure on the second day before returning home by motorcoach.

The package includes one-way rail passage on Amtrak's *California Zephyr*, a boxed lunch, hotel accommodations, casino bonuses (subject to change), and return transportation by motorcoach. 275/300 Gold Passport Points

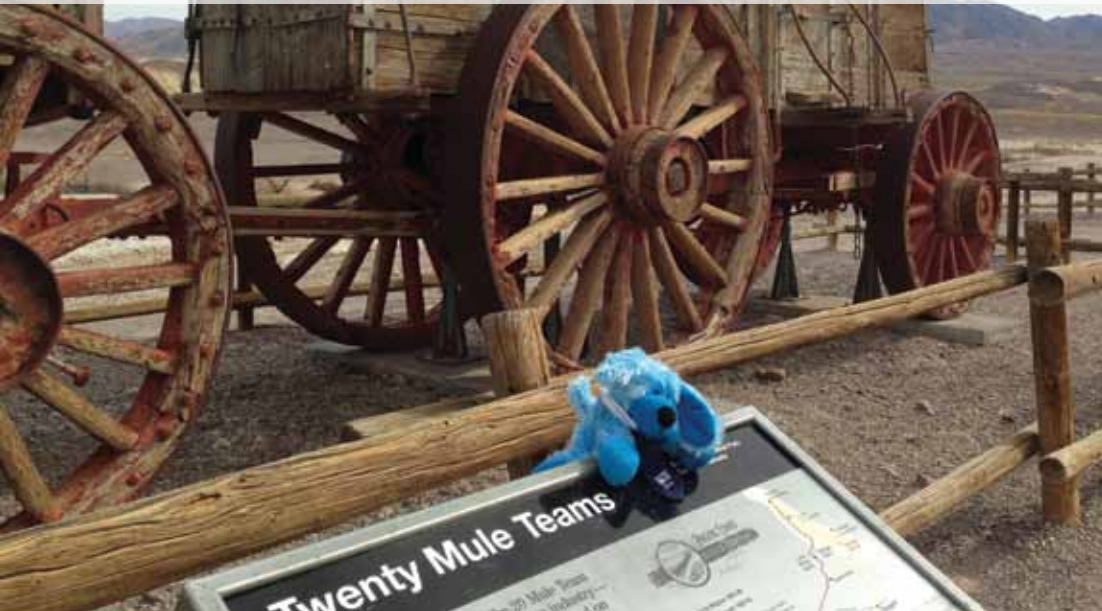
**\$269 p.p./dbl.occ., \$299 single**  
 Add door-to-door service for \$80 p.p.



# Death Valley and Nevada Ghost Towns

Two nights in Death Valley, be a part of an authentic ghost hunt

6 Days • November 7-12, 2018



For the first time, we offer this perfect combination of popular **Sports Leisure** destinations. You are sure to be surprised by the beauty, intrigued by the stories, and awed by the splendor that is Death Valley National Park and the Eastern Sierra Nevada. Death Valley... its name alone conjures up all sorts of images: lonely prospectors, teams of mules on boxes of borax, and early television westerns. Explore the deserted or nearly deserted towns along the way, finishing up with a ride on the Extraterrestrial Highway. Our Ghost Hunt takes you into the desert to the ghost town of Goodsprings, where you will be talking to the spirit world. Perhaps the most intriguing trip in the catalog...

1. Arrive in Las Vegas on a morning flight and head off towards **Death Valley National Park**. Pause for lunch in Pahrump, sort of the opposite of a ghost town. Pahrump didn't get its first paved road from Las Vegas until 1960, and as late as 1980 the population, now 36,000, was a scant 2,000 people.

The Amargosa Opera House is a great first introduction to the region. Hear the story of Marta and the Opera House. Frozen in time like a capsule from decades past, it is a gem of the desert. Arrive in Death Valley in late afternoon. **Furnace Creek Ranch – 2 nights (L,D)**

2. Despite a name that tends to scare people away, Death Valley is really the most incredible desert canvas. Today, you paint your own picture, as you visit unique valley "attractions" like the Devil's Golf Course, the Badwater Salt Flats (the lowest point in the U.S. at 282 feet below sea level), the Borax Works and Ubehebe Crater. (Scotty's Castle is closed due to flooding until 2021, but you will still hear the story of Death Valley Scotty and see the castle. **(FB,L)**)

3. Depart Death Valley this morning in search of ghosts and ghost towns. First stop is Rhyolite. Within the park boundaries, right next to Bullfrog, another ghost town. The train depot is still standing and there's a lot of history here. No people to speak of, just history. Pause for lunch in Beatty, and then continue on to Goldfield and Gold Point. These are entirely different stories. One town was the site of a world championship boxing match a hundred years ago.

## HIGHLIGHTS

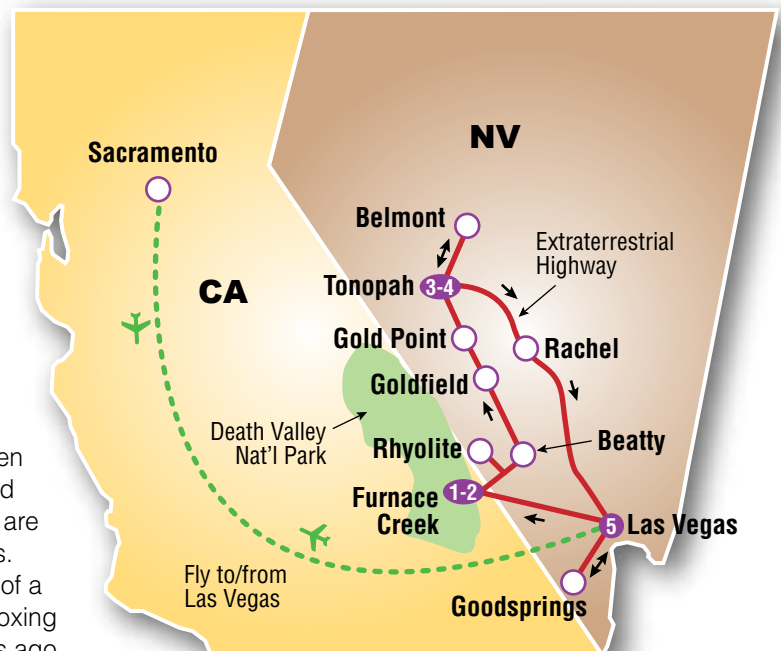
- 2 nights Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley
- 2 nights in the haunted Mizpah Hotel in Death Valley
- Overnight Golden Nugget Las Vegas
- The Goodsprings Ghost Hunt – Walk the ghost town and sit in the Pioneer Saloon, "speak" to the ghosts that inhabit the old mining town
- Belmont – A "semi-abandoned" ghost town to explore near Tonopah
- Ghost stories at the Mizpah; visits to the ghost towns of Goldfield, Gold Point, and Rhyolite, all with ghosts of their own
- Travel the Extraterrestrial Highway and stop at Little Ale-ee-Inn for refreshment and unique souvenirs
- Full day of Death Valley touring, featuring the Amargosa Opera House, Zabrinski Point, Badwater Salt Flats and the Devil's Golf Course
- Roundtrip air to Las Vegas
- Door-to-door airport service
- 14 meals: 5 full breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners
- 2400/2650 Gold Passport Points

The other is headed up by a man who once managed McDonald's restaurants and now has escaped to the desert. Characters, the desert is full of characters, and they are all part of our canvas. **Mizpah Hotel – 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

4. Your home in Tonopah is the Mizpah Hotel. Once the jewel of the desert, she fell into disrepair before her rebirth a half dozen years ago. Now the Mizpah has returned to being a haven for travelers, and also a home to a number of spirits. Tonight, you'll hear the stories of the ghosts of the Mizpah.

But first, a morning trip to a true ghost town, Belmont. Founded after a silver strike

– Continued on page 22





## We Have a Winner!

This year's Grand Prize winner in the annual **Blueberry Photographic Society** contest is Mary Vrablick. She took this photo at Hansen's Green Bluff Orchard in Colbert, WA on one of our Pacific Northwest adventures. Mary has won a \$500 Gift Certificate good for any **Sports Leisure** tour. Congratulations, Mary!

## Behind-the-Scenes...

Introducing the **Sports Leisure Vacations** staff in order of years with the company

Mark Hoffmann  
Bob Veliky  
Clayton Whitehead  
Patricia Hansen  
Kevin Murphy  
Joey Querio

Ramona Goodge  
Scott Angeletti  
Donnie Anderson  
Chris Galloway  
Michael Downer  
May Wong

Jim Pelly  
Serina Jordan  
Caitlin Rogers  
Starr Hurley

## Travel Club Gold

**Travel Club Gold** is our bonus rewards program and the most valuable benefits of membership in the **Sports Leisure Travel Club**. A member is elevated to Gold status upon completion of 20 days on the road. That can be twenty 1-day trips, four 5-day trips or whatever – just do the math. Keep track of your days by having the Tour Director sign your Travel Club Gold Registration Card on every trip.

**Gold Passport Points** are accrued depending on the dollars you spend at a ratio of roughly one-to-one. Your points are kept and automatically tabulated within our database. You'll find your points balance is printed on the second page of every Trip Invoice. Points can be "cashed out" at a number of levels awarding from \$50 to \$3000 in travel credit! Plus Gold members may double the member discount on every reservation.

There is an additional benefit for those who remain frequent travelers, defined as traveling at least 8 days per year. Our bimonthly newsletter, *The Traveler*, will be sent by first-class mail giving you the best chance to get the tours and seats you want!

Proud Members of



## Death Valley and Nevada Ghost Towns (Continued from page 22)

in 1865, it's mostly deserted now. From 1867-1905 it was the county seat. The old courthouse is still standing, awaiting an angel to fund its restoration. **(FB,L,D)**

**5.** Another adventure awaits on the journey back to Las Vegas. Nevada State Highway 375 stretches for 98 miles, and except for a couple of ranches, the town of Rachel is the only settlement along what is known as the Extraterrestrial Highway. It's the home of the Ale-ee-Inn (read that slowly twice and you'll get it...), and we will stop for refreshments.

Tonight, come with us to Goodsprings, for an authentic Ghost Hunt. Each person will have a ghost meter, so you can communicate directly with the spirit world. Hear the story of Clark Gable, and how he burned a hole in the bar of the Pioneer Saloon waiting for word on his wife, Carole

Lombard. Alas, her plane had crashed in the nearby mountains. Ms. Lombard's ghost is known to speak to people from time to time. It's fun and educational. Believe it or don't, the point is, you have a lot more information on which to base your beliefs!

**Golden Nugget (FB,L,D)**

**6.** This morning, there is an optional (included) visit to the Mob Museum. Learn the story of how Las Vegas started, and the mobsters who ran the town. (Many people say the mob bosses were more compassionate and a bigger part of the community than the corporate owners who run the casino/hotels today.) Your flight back to Sacramento departs in mid-afternoon. **(FB)**

**\$2355 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2645 single**



# Oregon Chocolate Festival in Ashland

*The return of The Sweetest Weekend Ever!*

**3 Days • March 9-11**



Who loves chocolate? **Sports Leisure** travelers that's for sure! This will be the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the **Oregon Chocolate Festival** and you're invited! Stay two nights at the Plaza Inn and Suites, just a short walking distance from downtown Ashland. The Oregon Shakespeare Festival will offer a few plays to choose from and we will help you get tickets (additional cost). You'll be notified when the schedule is announced soon.

**1.** Meet at the **Sports Leisure** office and begin your journey north, pausing in Redding to stretch your legs and for lunch at CR Gibbs American Grill. The town of Ashland has a cozy feel, full of quaint shops and eateries. Freshen up at your hotel before heading to the Ashland Springs Hotel for the kick-off event of your chocolate weekend, the ever elegant Chocolate

Maker's Dinner. **The Plaza Inn and Suites – 2 nights (L,D)**

**2.** No need to rush this morning! Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and perhaps take a morning walk around town before our shuttle service to the Chocolate Festival Vendor Showcase begins. Chocolatiers from all over Oregon and the West Coast come with their homemade specialties. Dinner tonight is included at Larks Restaurant in Medford. After dinner, it's curtain time for those who choose to see a play at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Everyone else can enjoy chocolaty nirvana back in their rooms. **(B,D)**

**3.** Another leisurely morning with breakfast at your hotel. Another quick ride to Medford will bring you to Harry and David's Country

Store with ample time for shopping. Didn't have a chance to taste the chocolate beer or wine? Was there something you've decided you wanted to give as a gift? You'll have one last chance to visit the festival today before heading home. A late lunch in Redding awaits before arriving in Sacramento. **(B,L)**

This tour includes door-to-door service, roundtrip deluxe motorcoach service, accommodations, all meals and attractions as listed in the itinerary, and the services of a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director. 950/1100 Gold Passport Points

**\$950 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1070 single**

## The Travel Guys *Radio Show*

*Making you a  
smarter traveler...*

**Every Sunday 3-4pm**

**KFBK, 1530, 93.1FM**



**“You have a face for radio!”**

It's a common joke around the **Sports Leisure Vacations** office. Truth is, Mark, Clayton and other staff members can be heard (but not seen) weekly on KFBK. All we ask is for 60 minutes of your time. In exchange Mark and co-host Tom Romano will give you a fast-paced, information-filled hour designed with only one goal in mind: **To make you a smarter traveler.**

**The Travel Guys Radio Show** is presented live every Sunday afternoon from 3 to 4 p.m. at 530 AM or 93.1 FM. You can also listen at [www.kfbk.com](http://www.kfbk.com) or on the iHeartRadio app. Visit [www.travelguysradio.com](http://www.travelguysradio.com) for the list of topics to be covered in the next program, special guests, weblinks to related sites and even podcasts of past shows. Through the Contact link, you can pose your travel questions to our panel of experts. Yours might even be answered on the air!





## Ferries and Towns of Puget Sound

Ride ferries, explore unique small towns, enjoy a room with a view  
4 Days • July 8-11



TOP: A Puget Sound ferry on its way to Whidbey Island, the Mukilteo Lighthouse in the foreground;  
MIDDLE: Our costumed guide gives us the Port Townsend story; BOTTOM: Clearwater Resort in Suquamish

1. Fly non-stop to Seattle, arriving at 9am. Enjoy a lavish Sunday Brunch buffet, with dozens of selections from carved meats to desserts at Salty's on Alki, featuring spectacular views of downtown Seattle. The afternoon ferry ride to Bremerton is the longest (50 minutes) and one of the most scenic on the sound. Suquamish is the home of the late Chief Seattle, the Native American who convinced his people to accept the coming of white settlers. Visit the museum and the Chief's grave.

Your lodging for **three nights** is at the beautiful **Clearwater Casino Resort**, overlooking the waters of Puget Sound. Dinner is at your leisure and there are several choices on property. There are sidewalks, places to sit outside, a fire ring in the evening; it's really one of the most wonderful accommodations in our entire catalog. Based on feedback from last year's group, we added a day to allow more leisure time at Clearwater. (BR)

2. Just down the road from our waterfront home is Poulsbo. Founded by Scandinavian immigrants in the 1880's, today it's a popular tourist destination. We've arranged a short guided walking tour, along with a visit to Sluy's, the town's legendary bakery, where you can pick out a FREE treat!

Next stop is Port Townsend. Once a bustling port town, the bay was named by explorer George Vancouver, its historic district is now a national landmark. It's laced with old Victorian homes and buildings from long ago. A great place for lunch and browsing the shops. After lunch, a guided tour by coach shows you "up" town and "down" town Port Townsend. Dinner is in Poulsbo tonight. (FB,D)

3. Off to Sequim this morning for a visit to the Purple Haze Lavender Farm. Let us treat you to some lavender ice cream, it's amazing! Our second stop after lunch is in the village of Port Gamble.

## HIGHLIGHTS

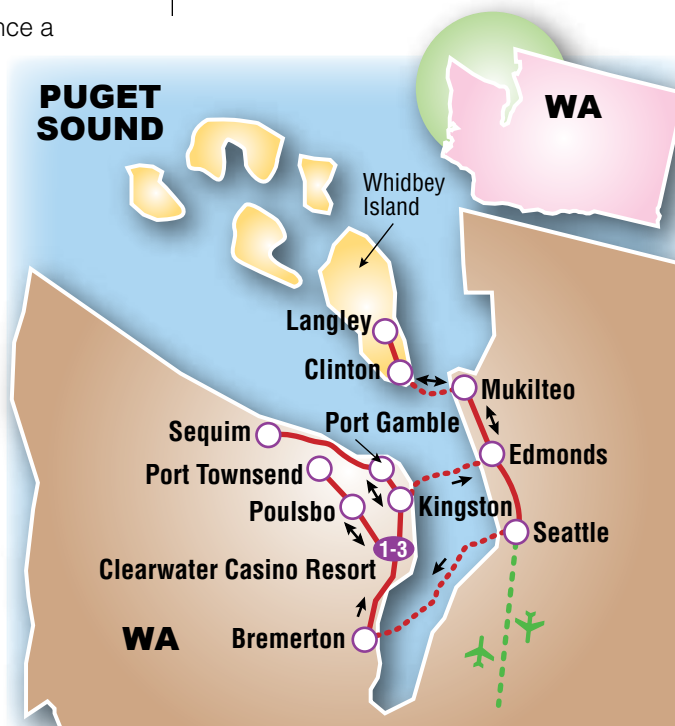
- 4 ferry rides on Puget Sound, including the longest route, Seattle to Bremerton
- Visit the villages of Poulsbo, Port Townsend, Sequim, Port Gamble, Mukilteo and Langley as you make your way around the sound
- Guided tours: Poulsbo, learn about the town's Norwegian heritage; Port Townsend, this was once a bawdy port on the sound
- 3 nights Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish – gaming for those who enjoy it, beautiful views for those who don't – the hotel and casino are in separate buildings
- Visit the Mukilteo Lighthouse Park
- Roundtrip air to Seattle
- 7 meals, including Sunday Brunch in Seattle
- Door-to-door airport service
- 1900/2100 Gold Passport Points

This old mill town has been restored and has many places to shop or relive a piece of history. Once again, the village is a National Historical Landmark. (FB,L)

4. More small towns to explore and it's back on the ferry boats to get there. Board the ferry in Kingston, headed for the Seattle side of the sound. Our destination is Edmonds, and Mukilteo is just 30 minutes away. There you'll find the Mukilteo Light and a striking waterfront park. Lunch is at Ivar's, a northwest tradition.

After lunch, board the ferry again for the shortest ride, the 12-minute crossing to Clinton on Whidbey Island. Our last destination is Langley, a great little spot with lots of interesting shops. Take the ferry back to Mukilteo and then head on to SeaTac Airport for your 6pm return flight. (FB,L)

**\$1885 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2080 single**





# Oregon's Coast, Carousels and Covered Bridges

*Walk in the steps of Lewis & Clark, enjoy the spectacular coast, dine on a covered bridge*  
**6 Days • June 24-29**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights Astoria, 2 nights Newport (4 nights on the water), overnight Eugene
- Lewis & Clark history, including stops at Cape Disappointment and Fort Clatsop, their two "mid-journey" coastal homes
- Long Beach, WA – America's longest beach and kite capital, hosted lunch at the Cranberry Research Foundation
- Ride carousels in Seaside and Albany, learn how the horses are made
- Tour the Tillamook Cheese Factory, visit Yaquina Head Lighthouse
- Marine Discovery Cruise on Newport Bay, one of the best educational cruises in the country
- Admission to The Oregon Aquarium
- Roundtrip air to Portland
- 12 meals, featuring fine dining at Clearwater, overlooking Newport Harbor and lunch on a covered bridge
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2250/2550 Gold Passport Points

**1.** An early morning flight will have you in Portland in time to pick up some fresh berries and other treats at the Vancouver Farmer's Market. Pick up something for lunch and for snacking along the way as you travel along the Columbia River to the Pacific Coast. Your home for two nights is the city named for John Jacob Astor, Astoria. A stop at the small Hanthorn Cannery Museum acquaints you with some of the industry of the town. This was a hard-scrabble fishing port, home of the first U.S. Post Office west of the Rockies. Stop at the Astoria Column before check in. **Best Western Astoria – 2 nights (D)**

**2.** Over 200 years ago, the Lewis & Clark Party were among the first to map

and explore this area. They came down the Columbia River to the coast on the Washington side, to a spot named by a sea-born explorer only 15 years prior. Unable to find the mouth of the Columbia, he named it Cape Disappointment. When Lewis and Clark arrived, they quickly decided to camp on the other side of the river, further south. In nearly Long Beach, learn a little about cranberries, oysters and kites! Lunch has a cranberry theme at the Cranberry Research Foundation. **(B,L)**

**3.** Journey south to Fort Clatsop, a woodsy inlet with a reproduction of Lewis & Clark's infamous winter residence back in 1805. Continue down to Seaside for lunch at a local pub; then ride the carousel or spend some time browsing the little shops. Ice cream is always a bit hit in Seaside. Afternoon stops provide more "foodie fun" with time at the Blue Heron or maybe the Tillamook Smoke Shop for some jerky. Your hotel, located on the bluffs in Newport, will greet you with a salad and chowder buffet for a light dinner. **Elizabeth Street Inn – 2 nights (B,L,D)**

**4.** No trip to the coast is complete without a visit to a lighthouse, and Yaquina Head, north of Newport, is the perfect stop! Later, experience the life of the sea with a 2-hour cruise on the *Discovery* and a visit to the Oregon Aquarium. It is a full but balanced day so that you can enjoy the beautiful town of Newport and your lovely room at the inn. The afternoon lighthouse and Nye Beach shopping stops are optional. Dinner on the waterfront tonight. **(B,D)**

**5.** From Newport, drive inland to Eugene this morning. Lane County is home to 20

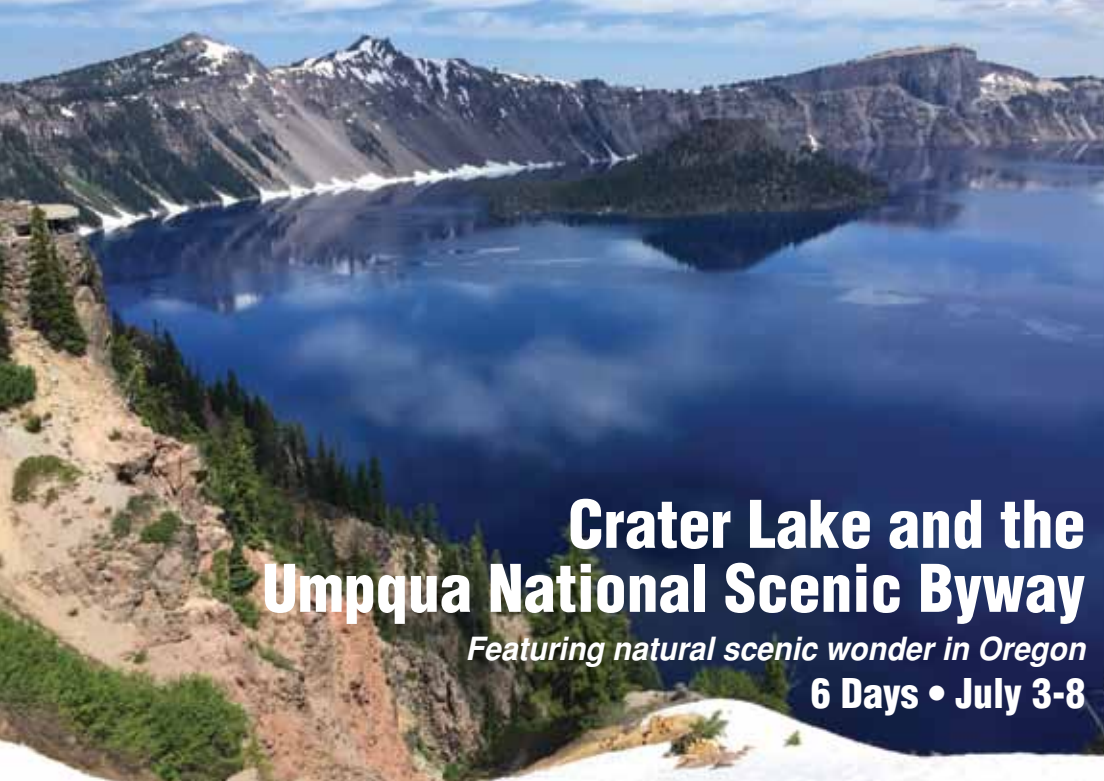
*Learn about the creatures of Newport Bay on your Marine Discovery Cruise*

covered bridges. Your tour includes stops for photos and lunch is served al fresco on one of them! **Hilton Eugene (B,L)**

**6.** For the past few years, we have been making an occasional stop in Albany to visit a museum workshop where carousel horses are created. Now, the carousel itself is open for all to enjoy. Remembering the headline in the tour name, we will of course stop for a ride and a museum visit. Time permitting, we'll visit a local fruit stand for some edible souvenirs on our way to the airport. **(FB,L)**

**\$2215 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2520 single**





# Crater Lake and the Umpqua National Scenic Byway

Featuring natural scenic wonder in Oregon  
6 Days • July 3-8



**1.** Meet at the **Sports Leisure** office and board your motorcoach for the trip north. Pause for lunch in Redding and arrive in Klamath Falls in the late afternoon. **Shilo Inn (L)**

**2.** A remnant of a fiery volcanic past, Crater Lake is one of the deepest and bluest lakes in America, with surrounding sheer cliffs almost 2,000 feet high! Traveling around the rim of this ancient volcano will acquaint you with its geological history. After lunch at historic Crater Lake Lodge, travel the Rogue-Umpqua National Scenic Byway. Your accommodations are located on the banks of the South Umpqua River. Today is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and you will be able to view fireworks from the comfort of your hotel. **Holiday Inn Express Roseburg (B,L)**

**3.** Wildlife Safari is a 600-acre drive-through park and village where you can have close encounters with animals from all over the world. Drive along a 4.5-mile route to view over 500 animals from Africa, Asia and the Americas in their natural habitats, roaming freely as they do in the wild. Your hotel for the next two nights is located along the banks of the Rogue River. **Riverside Inn Grants Pass – 2 nights (B,D)**

**4.** There are few adventures as exciting as a jet boat ride through Hellgate Canyon! During your

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Crater Lake National Park with lunch at Crater Lake Lodge
- Up close animal encounters at Wildlife Safari
- Hellgate Jet Boat tour
- Stay in the charming town of Ashland
- Optional (add'l cost) performance at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- 11 meals: 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door service
- 2000/2250 Gold Passport Points

36 mile trip, pause down river at the OK Corral for an all-you-can-eat country lunch presented on an open-air deck. Your guide will educate you on many geological and historical points of interest. The canyon also served as a filming location for John Wayne and Katherine Hepburn's popular movie "Rooster Cogburn." **(B,L)**

**5.** Explore the beautiful town of Ashland, set in a unique geographic location – nestled at the base of the convergence of the Siskiyou and Cascade mountain ranges. Browse art galleries and enjoy a thriving restaurant scene with many food artisans and award-winning wineries and breweries. Tonight there is an optional (extra cost) performance at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. A schedule of available shows will be announced later. Your hotel tonight is located in the heart of Ashland and features a wine and cheese reception this evening in addition to late night snacks like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches! **Plaza Inn & Suites at Ashland Creek (B,L)**

**6.** Say farewell to Oregon and head back to California. Stop for a hosted lunch before arriving home in the evening. **(B,L)**

**\$1880 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2230 single**



This year's lucky **Sports Leisure** group enjoyed snow-capped mountains in July, as well as a jet boat ride and free roaming animals at Wildlife Safari

# Skamania Lodge and The Columbia River Gorge

Getaway to a beautiful retreat, nestled near the Columbia and the Cascade Mountains

4 Days • May 29 – June 1

OUR 39<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY TOUR



Just an hour's drive from Portland, situated in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, is a majestic lodge. Skamania, which opened in 1993 just seven years after Congress created the national scenic area, is a four-story Cascadian-style lodge. Some of the timbers used in the construction are over 100 years old. The rooms are beautiful, the views breathtaking and the setting serene. Come with us and discover this magical place in springtime, at the beginning of the season, when things are fresh and renewed.

**1.** Fly to Portland this morning, then enjoy the scenic drive out to the lodge. Stop at Multnomah Falls, where the water drops over 600 feet in two sections. Pause for lunch at the elegant and historic Columbia Gorge Hotel. The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center will provide you the opportunity to learn more about our destination and the natural beauty which surrounds us.

Arrive at the lodge in late afternoon. You are just outside the small town of Stevenson, on the Washington side of the gorge. Join us tonight for a welcome dinner, to learn more about the lodge, our schedule of events and the activities available to you in your free time. **Skamania Lodge – 3 nights (L,D)**

**2.** About an hour from Skamania is the Maryhill Museum of Art. It houses an eclectic permanent collection and hosts traveling exhibitions. The museum, located literally in the middle of nowhere, opened in 1940 and expanded in 2012. Nearby is a concrete replica of Stonehenge, which

honors the dead of WWI, and it's well worth a visit. Stop for a private tasting at Maryhill Winery. **(FB,L)**

**3.** Today is free to enjoy Skamania and its many opportunities. There is a leisurely guided walk (1-1/4 miles, reasonably flat) around the property, and the more adventurous in our group might wish to take advantage of the special \$99 discounted zipline tour. A guided art walk includes the lodge's many "in residence" pieces. There is a history talk which includes the flora and fauna of the region.

No trip to the gorge would be complete without an opportunity to get out on the river. This afternoon, partake in a sightseeing adventure on the Columbia. The cruise is narrated and includes the spectacular Bonneville Dam.

Of course, you can take one of the longer hikes or just sit in a big chair on the veranda and enjoy your surroundings. In such a beautiful spot, it's easy to become one with nature. **(FB,D)**

**4.** Depart our retreat this morning. At the Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum join our guided tour or wander on your own. Enjoy a midday respite in town and take a moment to browse the colorful shops. On the way to the airport, stop once more to discover a waterfall. It's been a glorious four days on the Columbia River! **(FB,L)**

**\$1685 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1895 single**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 nights at Skamania Lodge, just off the Columbia River Gorge at the foot of the Cascades, lots of onsite activities, or just relax and enjoy the view
- See towering Multnomah Falls and other waterfalls in the gorge
- Visit the Maryhill Museum of Art and the Stonehenge Memorial
- Private tasting at Maryhill Winery
- Guided Art Tour at the lodge (they have quite a collection on the walls)
- Optional zipline (additional charge) and guided nature walks
- Roundtrip air to/from Portland
- 8 meals: 3 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners (Including a special anniversary dinner celebration)
- Door-to-door airport service
- 1700/1900 Gold Passport Points



# Planes and Trains of the Pacific Northwest

Discover rail and aviation history and industry in Oregon & Washington

4 Days • August 3-6



**1.** Fly to Portland, where lunch and a visit to the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum are waiting for you. Back in 1992, the Disney Corporation was looking for a new home for the *Spruce Goose*. The Evergreen Museum submitted the winning bid and thus began a long process, initially by barge, to move the disassembled airplane from its former home in Long Beach to the wilds of McMinnville, Oregon! Reassembled in a special building to showcase its sheer size, the *Spruce Goose* has a wingspan roughly the length of a football field! View other historic aircraft during a private tour before heading north to Vancouver, Washington and your comfortable accommodations for the night. **Hilton Hotel Vancouver (L)**

**2.** You have a choice to make this morning: right outside your door discover a colorful cornucopia of delicious foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, at Vancouver's Farmers Market. Another option is a short visit to the Pearson Air Museum, located adjacent to the oldest, continuously used airfield in the country. Brunch is served nearby inside the historic Grant House at Ft. Vancouver, part the fort's historic Officers Row. On to Portland for a visit to the Oregon Pacific Railroad Museum and a ride on the museum's train along the Willamette River. Amtrak's *Cascade* departs at 2:50pm. Cross the mighty Columbia and past the shadows of Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Rainier and arrive in time for dinner in Tacoma. Your

hotel this evening showcases glass artists from all over the Pacific Northwest. It's like staying inside museum! **Hotel Murano (BR,D)**

**3.** Travel north for a second brunch, this time at Salty's on Alki Beach, providing unsurpassed views of Downtown Seattle from across the water. Your next rail adventure takes place in Upper Snoqualmie Valley as you travel by steam engine and enjoy a visit to the local railway museum. In the afternoon, another choice: check into your hotel early or pay a visit to the Flying Heritage & Combat Armor Museum. What's the significance of this private collection? Every aircraft inside has not only been meticulously restored but it is in full operational condition! **Hilton Garden Inn Seattle North/Everett (BR)**

**4.** Arise early this morning for a visit to Boeing's Future of Flight. In addition to the flight center's museum and interactive exhibits, the star of the show is its Widebody Jet Manufacturing Tour, where visitors observe large aircraft like 747s, 767s, and 787s being assembled right before their eyes! Please note: the factory tour is a *walking* tour that involves a walk of approximately one half mile without access to seating or restrooms. Travel next to Seattle for lunch prior to visiting the Boeing Museum of Flight and returning home in the early evening. **(L)**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride the Oregon Pacific Railroad along the Willamette River and the Snoqualmie Valley Railroad near Seattle
- Travel from Vancouver to Tacoma on board Amtrak's *Cascade*
- Visit the Pearson Air Museum and Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum, home of Howard Hughes' *Spruce Goose*
- Discover aviation history brought to life at the Flying Heritage & Combat Armor Museum
- Watch widebody jets assembled before your eyes at Boeing's Future of Flight Center
- Roundtrip airfare to Portland/from Seattle
- 5 meals: 2 brunches, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2000/2200 Gold Passport Points

**Please note:** This tour has been planned to compliment our annual tour to Leavenworth, Washington for performances at Leavenworth's Summer Theater Festival. The final day of this tour will be the first day of the Leavenworth tour. Details for the this tour will be announced in the Fall of 2017 and includes travel on board Amtrak's *Empire Builder* from Seattle to Leavenworth. Passengers registered for our Planes and Trains of the Pacific Northwest tour will be provided the option of adding the Leavenworth tour when reservations are available.

**\$1955 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2175 single**

# Rails Around Colorado

Three scenic train rides during fall foliage

7 Days • September 22-28



View the beautiful Colorado fall foliage by train, jeep and gondola

1. Fly to Denver and enjoy a hosted lunch en route to your hotel. **Best Western Cañon City – 2 nights (L)**

2. Climb aboard the train for a scenic journey through spectacular Royal Gorge. Since 1879, these tracks have followed the winding, tumbling Arkansas River deep within the soaring, 1,000-foot granite cliffs of Colorado's Royal Gorge. Your First Class passage includes enclosed, glass-domed cars offering the most spectacular views of this breathtaking scenery. Hanging high above the river, Royal Gorge Bridge is America's highest suspension bridge. Reborn after a disastrous fire in 2013, the bridge and its attractions are back. Walk across the bridge or try the new aerial gondolas that glide 2,200 feet across the gorge and 1,200 feet above the Arkansas River! **(B)**

3. Visit Great Sand Dunes National Park this morning. The tallest dunes in North America are the centerpieces in a diverse landscape of grasslands, wetlands, forests, lakes and tundra. Arrive at your hotel in Alamosa in the late afternoon. **Hampton Inn (B,L)**

4. Crossing back and forth across the Colorado and the New Mexico border, the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad is truly a memorable experience. You will sense the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains as you travel along the narrow gauge tracks through tunnels, above deep gorges, and over Cumbres Pass. Because of limited space, only the first 10 people who register for the tour will ride in the First Class Parlor Car. The train's journey ends in Chama, New Mexico, where you will continue by motorcoach to Durango in Colorado.

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Durango (B,L)**

5. The route to Silverton aboard the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad is an unforgettable journey along the spectacular Animas River. The route boasts some of Colorado's most striking canyon scenery. Free time is planned in Silverton, a former silver mining camp now a designated National Historic Landmark District. Continue by motorcoach to Telluride, a historical town tucked into a box canyon surrounded on three sides by 14,000-foot peaks. The town's colorful Victorian-era homes, clapboard storefronts, boutiques, art galleries, gourmet restaurants and historic buildings are a delight to explore. **The Hotel Telluride – 2 nights (FB,L)**

6. Today there is an optional 4x4 Jeep tour into the mountains. Afterwards enjoy a hosted lunch and some free time to visit the shops in town or take the gondola that climbs 1,790 vertical feet before reaching Station St. Sophia at 10,540 feet. It's a quiet 13-minute ride



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Three scenic trains: Royal Gorge, Cumbres & Toltec, Durango & Silverton
- Royal Gorge Bridge and Park
- Great Sand Dunes National Park
- Explore the San Juan Mountains by Jeep
- Fly high above Telluride on a gondola ride
- 11 meals: 3 breakfasts, 3 full breakfasts, 5 lunches
- Roundtrip airfare to Denver/from Durango
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3600/4000 Gold Passport Points

from town with breathtaking scenery and 360 degree panoramic views from high atop the mountain. **(FB,L)**

7. Depart this fall foliage mountain paradise for Durango and fly home this afternoon. **(FB)**

**\$3590 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3995 single**



# Take the *Sunset Limited* to New Orleans... And All That Jazz

*A perfect combo of riding the rails and letting the good times roll!*

**7 Days • March 9-15**



New Orleans is famous for so many things: A Streetcar Named Desire, above-ground cemeteries and of course 'gators (Edi was not harmed in the taking of this photograph!)

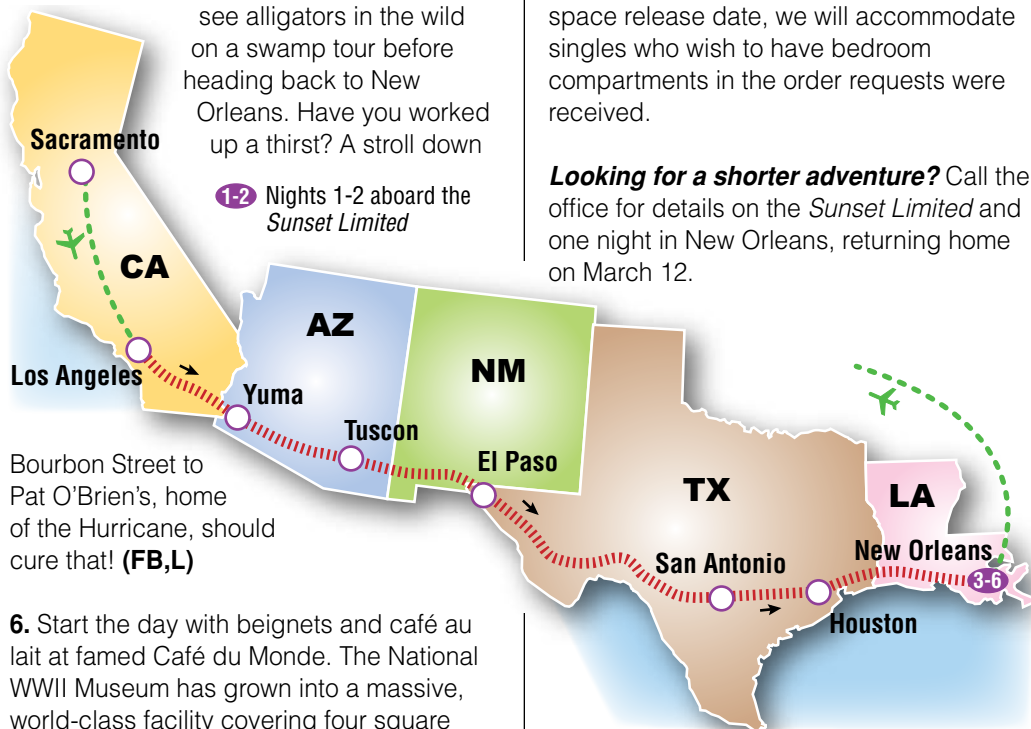
**1.** Fly to Los Angeles on a mid-afternoon flight and enjoy dinner before Train #2, the *Sunset Limited*, departs Union Station at 10pm headed east. **On board the *Sunset Limited* – 2 nights (D)**

**2.** All meals are included on board in the dining car. Your accommodations are either a full bedroom, complete with a bathroom and shower, or a roomette, a smaller accommodation with shared facilities. Throughout the day pass through Arizona, New Mexico and into West Texas. **(FB,L,D)**

**3.** Across Texas, into Louisiana and finally arrival in New Orleans at 9:30pm. Your accommodations are in the heart of the city and on the edge of the famed French Quarter. **Sheraton Hotel – 4 nights (FB,L,D)**

**4.** A full breakfast buffet awaits you this morning at your hotel before a driving tour of the city to include the French Quarter, downtown, the Garden District and one of its mysterious above-ground cemeteries. Tonight, learn the secrets of classic Creole cuisine with a dinner class at the New Orleans School of Cooking. **(FB,D)**

**5.** Take an excursion to Houma, located deep in the bayous of Cajun Country. Visit historic Ardoyne, a rare Gothic Victorian plantation, where you're greeted by descendants of the original owners. Lunch is served nearby at Twelve Oaks Plantation. Explore the Greenwood Gator Farm, then see alligators in the wild on a swamp tour before heading back to New Orleans. Have you worked up a thirst? A stroll down



Bourbon Street to Pat O'Brien's, home of the Hurricane, should cure that! **(FB,L)**

**6.** Start the day with beignets and café au lait at famed Café du Monde. The National WWII Museum has grown into a massive, world-class facility covering four square

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights aboard the *Sunset Limited* across the American Southwest
- 4 nights at the Sheraton Hotel, right on Canal Street at the edge of the French Quarter
- Experience the National World War II Museum including a luncheon show at BB's Canteen
- Driving tour of the city outside the Quarter
- Enjoy a daytrip to Houma to tour a gator farm and plantation
- Fantastic dining experiences including beignets at Café du Monde, breakfast at Brennan's and a dinner class at the New Orleans School of Cooking
- Roundtrip air to Los Angeles/from New Orleans
- 14 meals: 1 breakfast, 5 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- Gold Passport Points based on compartment

blocks. Take a midday break at BB's Stage Door Canteen for lunch and nostalgic entertainment! **(B,L)**

**7.** Breakfast at Brennan's is a true New Orleans tradition. Where else will you get a dessert of flaming Bananas Foster following the morning meal? Return to your home state in the early afternoon. **(FB)**

### Roomette:

**\$3070 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3415 single**

**Bedroom: \$3695 p.p./dbl.occ.**

**Please note:** Due to restrictive Amtrak policies, we encourage you to sign up for this tour no later than December 1 as any extra compartments will need to be released near that time. Because of the limited number of bedrooms, single travelers will initially be restricted to roomettes. If bedrooms are available on our space release date, we will accommodate singles who wish to have bedroom compartments in the order requests were received.

**Looking for a shorter adventure?** Call the office for details on the *Sunset Limited* and one night in New Orleans, returning home on March 12.

# Christmas Markets on the Mighty Mississippi

Cruise aboard the grandest paddlewheeler ever, the *American Queen*  
9 Days • December 9-17, 2018



Visit Graceland all decked out for the season.

Yes, the cruise is in December 2018. Quite frankly, this once-per-year itinerary from Memphis to New Orleans is so popular you have to book your cabin over a year in advance to get one at all! The *American Queen*, the grandest of all riverboats ever to ply the waters of the mighty Mississippi, “gets it” as evidenced by all the inclusions. Non-alcoholic beverages and snacks are available and complimentary all day long. Beer and wine are included with dinner and two dining choices are now offered, one casual, the other fancy. Regardless of the dining option you select, you’ll enjoy classic Southern cooking along with heart-healthy selections.

Onboard, an all-American staff assures no language barriers. Portside, a dedicated fleet of *Steamcoaches* follows the *Queen* so your complimentary shore excursions are handled by a familiar crew. Upgraded, small-group excursions are available at most ports for an enhanced experience. (Optional, additional cost.) Your onboard *Riverlorian* will have all the details during daily talks. Need to check-in with home? Internet access is available and free.

When the stars rise, it’s time for the onboard entertainers to shine. You can count on showboat-style spectacles nightly, followed by dancing. By day and by night, the dress code is “casual elegance.” Wear what you like when you like. No formalwear is required.

**1.** Fly to Memphis where your adventure begins. Graceland is a dazzling sight all decked out for the season, both inside and out. And you can be sure real Memphis barbecue is on the menu for dinner. Tonight you’ll sleep with the ducks! **The Peabody Hotel (D)**

**2.** After breakfast, take a tour of the city famous as the Birthplace of the Blues, followed by free time on Beale Street for lunch and maybe a little mischief. Embarkation is in the late afternoon. Don’t forget to check *The Steamboatin’ Times* daily for the list of activities. **(FB,D)**

**3-7.** Every port along the Lower Mississippi is rich in history and beauty, and complimentary sightseeing tours introduce you to each and include selected attractions. On this particular sailing you’ll also enjoy the addition of holiday decorations, strolling carolers, and markets offering locally-produced arts and crafts. **(Daily FB,L,D)**

**8.** Nottoway Plantation is the largest and most glorious of Mississippi River mansions dating to 1859. Tonight’s Farewell Dinner is a grand affair served in the plantation, followed by a Holiday Ball back aboard the *Queen*. **(FB,L,D)**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- 7-night Christmas-themed cruise aboard the *American Queen*
- Ports of Call: Greenville, Vicksburg, Natchez, St. Francisville, Baton Rouge and Nottoway Plantation
- All basic shore excursions included
- Showboat-style entertainment and dancing nightly; daily talks by a *Riverlorian*
- Overnight with attractions and meals in Memphis
- Roundtrip airfare to Memphis/from New Orleans
- 22 meals: 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 8 dinners
- Beer and wine included with onboard dinners; all-day complimentary bottled water, sodas, coffee and snacks
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Gold Passport Points based on cabin category

**9.** A morning disembarkation welcomes you to New Orleans. The air schedule will dictate activities and/or meals to be offered.

**Prices based on cabin category, starting at...**

**Inside:**  
\$3245 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4395 single

**Outside:**  
\$4930 p.p./dbl.occ., \$7305 single

**Recommended onboard gratuity is \$17.50 p.p./day**  
**VERY limited number of single staterooms**



# Route 66, The Main Street of America – Part I

*The repeat of a classic Sports Leisure adventure –  
our 9th journey down the classic highway*  
**Chicago to Oklahoma City – 11 Days • April 13-23**



A journey down **Route 66** is like cutting yourself a slice of All-American Pie. You'll discover people and places you didn't know existed – like the murals that line the walls of Pontiac, IL and Cuba, MO; Ted Drewes Frozen Custard in St. Louis and the magnificent Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum in Springfield, IL. Meet published Route 66 authors and experts, roadies and characters. If you love "off-the-beaten-track," you've found your trip!

**1. FRIDAY – Chicago:** Depart from your home airport this morning, arriving in Chicago in early afternoon. Your first "roadie" experience is a stop for a meal at Del Rhea's Chicken Basket on the edge of town. **Hilton Palmer House (D)**

**2. SATURDAY – Chicago to Pontiac:** Once in town, we'll stop at the official beginning of the old highway at Adams and Michigan streets for photos. Then our adventure begins in earnest with breakfast at a Chicago landmark: Lou Mitchell's funky breakfast counter (serving for 90 years).

Outside of Chicago, we get off the interstate and follow the old road, joined by Route 66 author John Weiss. Wind through Joliet to the small community of Odell (where we photograph a beautifully restored service station), on to Dwight for lunch. View the memorabilia in the Route 66 Museum and the "walldog" murals in Pontiac. See the traveling "homes" of Route 66 legend Bob Waldmire. Tonight you are special guests in Pontiac, with an evening reception and Route 66-style entertainment. **Best Western Pontiac (FB,L,D)**

**3. SUNDAY – Pontiac to Springfield, IL:** John Weiss has made restoring Route 66 sites his life's work. Today, John will show us

an old jail, a giant robot and other unique attractions. Lincoln is the only city named for the future president before he held office. Learn the story. Stop in Broadwell to salute a 66 legend, the late Ernie Edwards of the Pig Hip Restaurant. **Hilton Springfield (B,L)**

**4. MONDAY – Springfield to St. Louis:** See the critically-acclaimed **Lincoln Presidential Museum**, then our rural Illinois travels roll on. We stop to spruce up an old roadside statue before dining at the Cozy Dog, another highway landmark. Stop at the Rabbit Ranch and get a postcard autographed by... a rabbit! **Drury Plaza Hotel – 2 nights (FB,L)**

**5. TUESDAY – St. Louis:** Take a break today in St. Louis. There's free time to visit the Arch if you wish in the afternoon. At Cahokia Mounds, learn about a civilization in the Missouri River Valley from long ago; then walk over the Mississippi on the Chain of Rocks Bridge, once the route of old 66. This afternoon, head for a special Route 66 treat, Ted Drewes Frozen Custard. **(B,L)**

**6. WEDNESDAY – St. Louis to Springfield, MO:** The **Meramec Caverns** were opened to tourists in the 1930's, just about the time Route 66 made traveling to them easier. In the late 1860's, Jesse James used them as a natural hideout. The smooth path allows nearly all to explore. Then a must stop at a classic-example-of-an-era-gone-by-attraction, the Jesse James Museum. James was from rural Missouri.

What follows is a marvelous stretch of **The Mother Road**, through Cuba (what beautiful murals) to Devil's Elbow into Ozark Country. Lunch is at one of our favorite roadside retreats, the Missouri Hick BBQ

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Overnights in Chicago, Pontiac (IL), Springfield (IL), Springfield (MO), Tulsa, Oklahoma City, 2 nights in St. Louis, 2 nights in Miami (pronounced Mi-am-ah)
- Meet the people of Route 66 – special guides, speakers and guests; lots of quirky attractions
- Including airfare and door-to-door airport service if departing from Sacramento
- Featuring the services of a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director and 26 meals
- For our frequent travelers, 3550/4050 Gold Passport Points

in Cuba. Finish the day in Springfield, MO, where Route 66 was "born." We'll celebrate The Main Street of America tonight. **Best Western Rail Haven (B,L,D)**

**7. THURSDAY – Springfield to Miami:** On the way to Carthage is a most interesting spot, Red Oak. This collection of buildings is practically a town... isn't it? Who did this and why? The nearby town square in Carthage is a true jewel, sporting a majestic courthouse, an interesting Civil War Museum (one of the first battles was right in this area) and a wonderful old-time soda fountain that affords us time for lunch.

Roll on through Joplin and into Kansas. The state is home to the shortest stretch of the old highway, just over 13 miles. In Galena, meet "Tow-Tator," who bears an incredible likeness to a tow truck in the Disney movie *Cars* named "Tow-Mater." In fact, this is the old truck that inspired the character! After a stop at the Galena Museum, we'll leave the old highway and head to Miami. **Hampton Inn – 2 nights (B,L,D)**

**8. FRIDAY – Mickey Mantle & The Coleman Theater:** Back to the highway this

morning... Tiny Riverton is along the 13-mile stretch of Route 66 which cuts through the corner of Kansas. Scott Nelson's small store is a perfect place to stop and build our picnic lunches for later in the day, or find that special **Mother Road** souvenir you have been looking for.

Passing into Oklahoma, we come to Commerce, the hometown of Mickey Mantle. Lunch is picnic-style at the ball field. Miami is the home of the **Coleman Theatre**, a small town's successful attempt to save a 1929 landmark. Tonight, dine and enjoy a movie at the Coleman. **(B,L,D)**

**9. SATURDAY – Will Rogers Country to Tulsa:** In Foyil, find some most interesting cement totem poles. Visit the **Will Rogers Memorial**, a tribute to America's famous humorist. Lunch is special, a treat not afforded just any traveler, as you'll see. There's even a picture stop at the legendary Blue Whale on the way to Tulsa. **Marriott Hotel (B,L)**

**10. SUNDAY – Tulsa to Oklahoma City:** Passing Tulsa, we come to Stroud and stop for lunch at the **Rock Café**. **There's a great story here!** Just up the road in Arcadia is the **Round Barn**. Built in 1898, the barn is

being restored to its original grandeur. At "Pops," you can choose your own afternoon refreshment! **Embassy Suites (FB,L,D)**

**11. MONDAY – Oklahoma City and Home:** Plan to depart for home on a flight after 3pm today. One more wonderful stretch of Route 66 first however. Our expert Oklahoma guide tells the story of the Dust Bowl, how it changed the lives of those in its path and sent tens of thousands to the "promised land" in California. **(FB,L)**

**\$3545 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4035 single**

## Route 66 – Western Side

**Oklahoma City to Santa Monica**

**9 Days • October 24 – November 1, 2018**

The second half of your journey down **The Mother Road** is very different from the eastern side. The spaces are more wide open in the west. There are national parks and the little towns are further apart and have a different personality. **For the first time**, the western half of the trip features **two 2-night stays, in Albuquerque and Winslow**.

In Albuquerque, having extra time allows us to drive down the length of the longest Route 66 Main Street in the country, and take a side trip to Santa Fe (which was on the original route of the old highway). In Winslow, you'll want your picture "Standin' on a Corner in Winslow, Arizona," (like the lyric in the old Eagles song), and we'll head out to Petrified Forest National Park, one of the most fascinating places in the country. Of course, the highlight of your Winslow stay, and perhaps your entire trip, is your time at La Posada, a restored Harvey House Hotel from the highway's glory days.

See the old Cadillacs "rear ends up" in Texas and eat at the famous **Big Texan** in

Amarillo. Meet legendary **Angel Delgadillo**, the retired barber in Seligman, Arizona, who is the man most responsible for the preservation of the old highway. He's 91 now and still going strong.

Finish at the pier in Santa Monica, but not before a plethora of SoCal "attractions" make their way into your Mother Road memories. You'll have a chance to sleep in a tepee if you so desire; and see where General Patton prepared his troops for WWII.

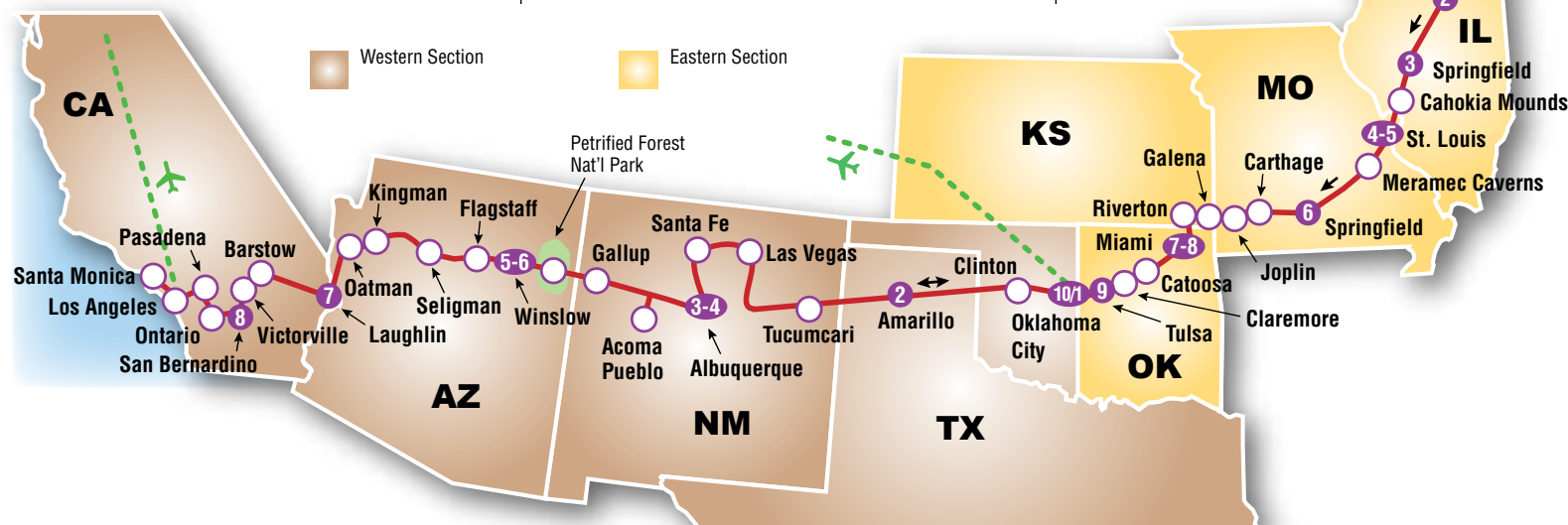
Whether you choose only this half of the journey, or combine it with the eastern side, you will discover the heartbeat of our country. It's the opportunity to learn how other people in other places live and what they think. It's a slice of America you will never, ever forget.

**Prices available November 1.  
Place your name on the  
Priority Notification List**

### Itinerary in Brief for the Western Side

*(A more detailed itinerary will be available December 1)*

- Day 1** Fly to/arrive Oklahoma City, light sightseeing in the afternoon
- Day 2** Oklahoma City, OK to Amarillo, TX – 259 miles
- Day 3** Amarillo, TX to Albuquerque, NM (2 nights) – 288 miles
- Day 4** Exploring the Mother Road in and around Albuquerque/Santa Fe
- Day 5** Albuquerque, NM to Winslow, AZ (2 nights) – 266 miles
- Day 6** Petrified Forest National Park from Winslow and return – 112 miles
- Day 7** Winslow, AZ to Laughlin, NV – 238 miles
- Day 8** Laughlin, NV to San Bernardino – 237 miles
- Day 9** San Bernardino, CA to Santa Monica, CA and fly home – 75 miles



# San Antonio: Deep in the Heart

An “unpack-once” tour featuring the best little city in Texas

5 Days • April 3-7



*Visit The Alamo, iconic Shrine of Texas Liberty; The famous Riverwalk is easily accessed from the door of the Drury Plaza Hotel*

**1.** Deep in the heart of the Lone Star State is a city that is part American, part Mexican and definitely all Texan – San Antonio! Your historic hotel is located beside the famed Riverwalk and features a complimentary Kickback each evening including adult beverages and heavy hors d'oeuvres.

**Drury Plaza Hotel – 4 nights**

**2.** Joined by a local guide, take a driving tour of San Antonio and along the *El Camino Real* to San Jose, one of the historic Franciscan missions that first brought the

Spanish into the area. Later in the day, visit the most famous of these missions, San Antonio de Valero, or what we know today as The Alamo. Next door, you'll see the IMAX film production that puts the famous battle into perspective. If you've wrestled up an appetite, tonight's steak dinner is sure to please. You know what they say: Everything's bigger in Texas! **(FB,D)**

**3.** The Drury Plaza is conveniently located right on the city's unique Riverwalk which you'll explore aboard a river taxi cruise. Onboard, a Mexican lunch fiesta will be served. Then you're off to the home of San Antonio's beloved shoes, SAS, where you'll visit the old-timey General Store (anyone for a 10¢ Coke and 5¢ bag of popcorn?) and tour the factory. Back in town, the Institute of Texan Cultures, a combination gallery and living history museum, tells the story of this great state past, present and future. **(FB,L)**

**4.** With luck, the blue bonnets will be in bloom as you head into the Texas Hill Country. There you'll visit the LBJ Ranch and tour the Texas White House. You'll also

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights in the historic Drury Plaza Hotel located along the Riverwalk
- City tour features The Alamo and Mission San Jose
- Institute of Texan Cultures, IMAX Theater, Tower of the Americas
- Daytrip into the Texas Hill Country
- National Museum of the Pacific War and LBJ Ranch
- Roundtrip air to/from San Antonio
- 7 meals: daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 1850/2050 Gold Passport Points

have an opportunity to explore the National Museum of the Pacific War, a world-class museum located in tiny Fredericksburg, the hometown of Five Star Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. **(FB,L)**

**5.** Time to say adios, but not before getting a bird's eye view of the city high atop the Tower of the Americas and strapping in for the 4D film, “Skies Over Texas.” An early afternoon departure gets you home before the stars come out. **(FB)**

**\$1810 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2015 single**

LEARN MORE!

[www.thealamo.com](http://www.thealamo.com)

[www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com](http://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com)



## Stories of Santa Fe and Taos Vol. II

*The views, the food, the people... a city truly unlike any other.*

**5 Days • May 28 – June 1**

**MORE FREE TIME**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 nights City Center in Santa Fe
- Visits to Santuario de Chimayo and Taos Pueblo
- A free day to enjoy as you please with included transportation to/from famed Canyon Road
- Shopping in Madrid, New Mexico
- Roundtrip air to/from Albuquerque
- 8 meals: 4 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2150/2400 Gold Passport Points

Being the oldest capital city in the country, Santa Fe has it all: A long and storied history, breathtaking scenery, fine Southwestern cuisine, and tons of shopping opportunities! Stay downtown at a beautiful, conveniently located hotel only two blocks from all the museums, shops and restaurants of the plaza. It's the perfect balance between city and nature with a splash of decadence. Indulge yourself!

**1.** Fly to Albuquerque. Lunch is at The Standard Diner, a gas station turned hip eatery featured on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. Walk off lunch in Old Town Albuquerque browsing the many shops. The San Felipe de Neri Parish, dating back to the city's beginnings in the early 1700's, is a haven for quiet reflection. A short hour drive puts you in Santa Fe by late afternoon. Check into your hotel and join your tour director for a causal two block stroll to the central plaza. Nightly complimentary cocktails and nibbles await your arrival. Dinner is on your own at one of the many excellent nearby restaurants. **Drury Plaza Hotel – 3 nights (L)**

**2.** This morning a trolley tour will acquaint you with the town. Afterwards, learn the history of Santa Fe during a guided tour of the Palace of the Governors. Beautiful

Native American-made jewelry and pottery are displayed by the artisans just outside the door and are available for purchase. Enjoy free time in the plaza or an included optional visit to the Georgia O' Keefe Museum. What a fascinating lady! Tonight, dinner is at a local institution, La Casa Sena. **(FB,D)**

**3.** Today, with our local guide, travel along the mountaintops on the high road to Taos with a stop at El Santuario de Chimayo, a peaceful shrine of healing nestled in the hills. Your next stop is at Centinela Traditional Art where each work is a personal expression of the artist. Hear the history of their craft and see the old looms in action. In Taos, enjoy an included lunch before time to walk the plaza. Join a guided tour of the Taos Pueblo, the only living Native American Community designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and experience a culture dating back over 1,000 years. All new scenery awaits you along the low road through the valleys back to Santa Fe. **(FB,L)**

**4.** This day is for you to spend as you choose. Santa Fe, with its maze of alleyways and interior courtyards, lends itself perfectly to self-exploration. Take your time and peruse one or more of the award-winning art museums, many unique boutiques or just find a spot in the central plaza to sit and take it all in. You're sure to meet a character or two. It's not called "The City Different" for nothing! Transportation will be provided to Canyon Road, a street lined with art galleries. Find that perfect treasure or just browse. It's a feast for the eyes! Come together tonight over complimentary cocktails at the hotel to regale others with your adventures! **(FB)**

**5.** This morning we'll wind our way along the Turquoise Trail, aptly named for the



dozens of mines producing the signature stone of the Southwest. In the artist enclave of Madrid, you'll have time to splurge on one last little bauble for yourself at a store specializing in all things turquoise. Lunch is at the base of the Sandia Peak tram before soaring 7,200 feet up and over breathtaking mountains. Back in Albuquerque stop at the Pueblo Indian Cultural Center for a guided tour before your flight home. **(FB,L)**

**\$2110 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2375 single**

**LEARN MORE!**

[www.palaceofthegovernors.org](http://www.palaceofthegovernors.org)  
[www.indianpueblo.org](http://www.indianpueblo.org)



# New Mexico, Land of Enchantment

Featuring Carlsbad Caverns National Park and the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

7 Days • October 9-15, 2018



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Private lounge access to the Albuquerque Int'l Balloon Fiesta: Balloon Glow, Special Shapes and Mass Ascensions
- Go deep into Carlsbad Caverns National Park
- Explore the unique landscape of White Sands National Monument
- Roundtrip air to Albuquerque/from El Paso
- 13 meals: 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3000/3400 Gold Passport Points

**1.** Arrive in Albuquerque and enjoy a late lunch before checking into your hotel. Gather for a group orientation and enjoy the hotel's nightly "Kickback," a social hour which includes complimentary hot food, soda, wine, and beer. **Drury Inn & Suites – 3 nights (L)**

**2.** The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, with over 600 balloons, is the largest ballooning event and the most photographed event on earth. We have upgraded your experience to the Chasers Club Lounge, offering private seating right on the field! After the balloon ascension, enjoy a guided tour of Albuquerque with lunch hosted at the Route 66 Diner. A special presentation is in store at the Turquoise Museum, which houses the world's largest collection of turquoise from

60 mines around the world. Here you will learn all there is to know about this gem and ornamental stone. **(B,L)**

**3.** This morning is the Mass Ascensions, a launch of all the participating balloons (weather permitting, high winds could possibly cancel any events). Enjoy a special tour at the Abruzzo Balloon Museum. Back at the hotel rest up before tonight's "Glowdeo," a static display of the Special Shape balloons. The spectacular afterglow fireworks follows dinner this evening. **(B,D)**

**4.** One more Mass Ascension this morning and a hosted lunch before traveling south to your beautiful accommodations in Las Cruces. **Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces. (B,L)**

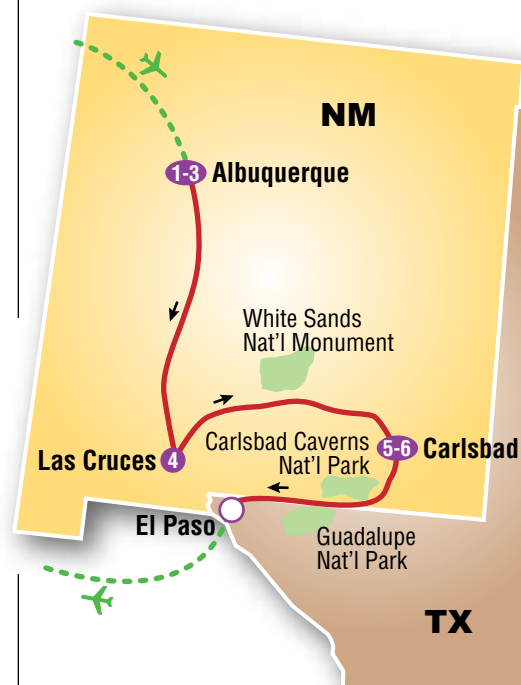
**5.** White Sands National Monument is one of the world's great natural wonders. Explore the breathtaking wavelike dunes of snow-white gypsum that stretch for 275 square miles. Learn how the animals have adapted in this harsh desert climate. Lunch is hosted at a historic lodge set high in a Ponderosa Pine forest (think Lake Tahoe) before arriving in the town of Carlsbad. **Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott – 2 nights (B,L)**

**6.** Carlsbad Caverns is often called the eighth wonder of the world. Descend (by elevator) 830 feet and view the gigantic

subterranean chambers and fantastic cave formations. We will come together for a final group dinner tonight. **(B,D)**

**7.** Visit Guadalupe National Park before arriving in El Paso Texas to a hosted Mexican lunch at a popular El Paso landmark. Your afternoon flight returns you home in the evening. **(B,L)**

**\$2955 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3385 single**



# New England Fall Foliage Spectacular

*Leaf peeping in Vermont, New Hampshire, Portland and Boston*

**8 Days • October 6-13, 2018**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights at the Basin Harbor Resort and in Portland, Maine
- 1 night each: Manchester, Quechee and Loon Mountain
- Canterbury Shakers, Saint Gaudens, Rock of Ages and the Shelburne Museum
- Mount Washington Cog Railway and the *Café Lafayette Dinner Train*
- Loon Mountain Aerial Tram and Norlands Living History Center
- Roundtrip airfare to Manchester/from Boston
- 14 meals: 7 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners including a real Maine "lobstah suppah"
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 3900/4500 Gold Passport Points

**1.** Fly to Manchester and rest well for your Fall Foliage Spectacular begins in earnest tomorrow! **Courtyard by Marriott**

**2.** Take the scenic route to Canterbury Shaker Village to explore the settlement of the pious religious group who called it home for over a century. Hanover is next, home of prestigious Ivy League Dartmouth College. Nearby is the Saint Gaudens National Historic Site, preserving the home and studio of America's foremost sculptor. Dinner at your historic inn is preceded by a reception of Vermont-made wine, beer and "nibbles." **Quechee Inn at Marshland Farm (FB,D)**

**3.** See the largest granite quarry in the world, the Rock of Ages, where your guide will share his passion for all things granite. Next you'll visit Montpelier, the nation's smallest state capital, for lunch, but save

room for dessert! Sugar on Snow is heated maple syrup drizzled over shaved ice. It is heavenly, and Morse Farm still serves it up the old-fashioned way – with sour pickles! Onward to Lake Champlain. **Basin Harbor Resort – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**4.** Just up the shoreline from Basin Harbor is "New England's Smithsonian," the Shelburne Museum. The afternoon is at your leisure to explore your lakeside paradise, followed by a special 6-course dinner including wine pairings for a memorable farewell to Basin Harbor. **(FB,D)**

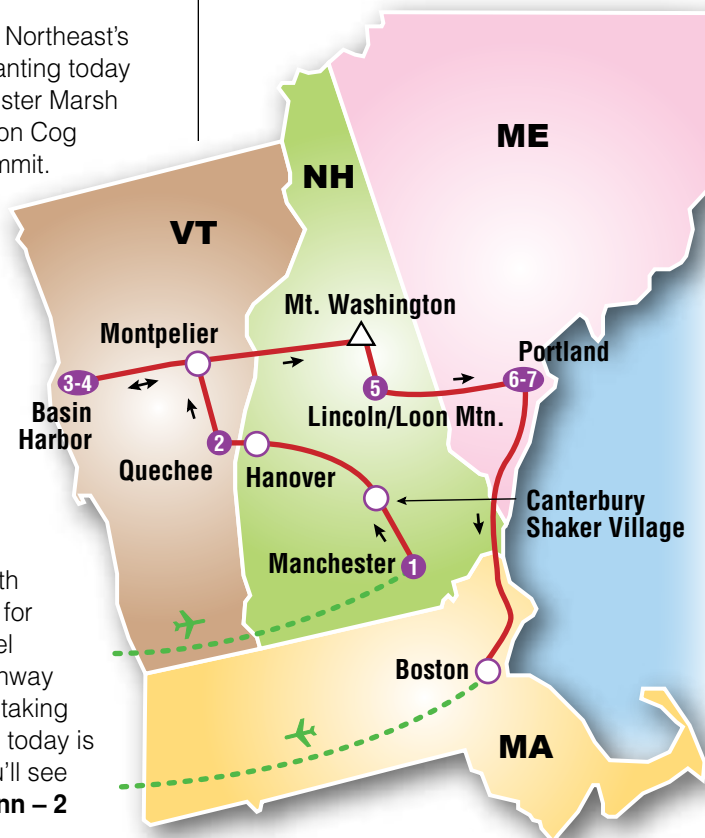
**5.** The thrill of ascending the Northeast's highest peak is just as enchanting today as it was in 1869 when Sylvester Marsh opened the Mount Washington Cog Railway to the 6,289-foot summit. From there you'll have spectacular panoramic views spanning the mountains and valleys of New England. In Lincoln, the *Café Lafayette Dinner Train* awaits your arrival with a two-hour culinary experience you'll long remember. **Loon Mountain Resort (FB,D)**

**6.** Ascend Loon Mountain with an aerial tram ride to the top for spectacular views, then travel the famed Kancamagus Highway for its rich history and breathtaking beauty. Your final destination today is beautiful Portland, which you'll see with a local guide. **Holiday Inn – 2 nights (FB)**

**7.** Spend your last full day exploring the countryside around Portland with stops at Ricker Hills Apple Orchard and Norlands Living History Center, the latter an 1800s working living-history farm. Your farewell meal is none other than a traditional Maine "lobstah suppah." **(FB,L,D)**

**8.** Depart for Boston where you'll follow the footsteps of history and have lunch ("chowdah" anyone?) before heading to the airport and your return flight home. **(FB,L)**

**\$3890 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4480 single**





## Pure Michigan: Mackinac and the UP – Isn't it Grand?

Explore the magnificent Keweenaw Peninsula and Mackinac Island

8 Days • September 6-13



Perhaps one of the best-ever combinations of "someplace I've never been" and "someplace I've always wanted to go" **Sports Leisure Vacations** has ever offered. Come discover the history and scenery of The Great Lakes. You'll see three of them – Superior, Michigan and Huron – plus stay on picturesque Mackinac Island. It is without a doubt one of the best adventures of 2018!

1. Fly away to Green Bay, Wisconsin. Home of the football powerhouse Packers, you'll

be amazed with this community – small in size, but huge in spirit.

### Hampton Inn Downtown (D)

2. Start the day with a tour of hallowed Lambeau Field and the Packers Hall of Fame before heading north to the UP – Michigan's Upper Peninsula. History and scenery abound, along with the opportunity to meet some of the hardy people who call the UP home. In fact, the residents of the region are called "yoopers" (u-pers) and you'll enjoy honorary status for the next few days. A luncheon of local favorites, pasties, is served high atop the ski run at Iron Mountain. Then there's a brief stop at scenic Bond Falls before making the final push into Houghton. **Country Inn & Suites – 2 nights (B,L)**

3. Unknown to most people outside the region, the **Keweenaw Peninsula** was where most of the country's copper once came out of the ground. The scenery is memorable, lighthouses abound, the people and their stories fascinating – their unique history is all around you. Here people braved extreme weather and hazardous conditions to bring copper out of the ground. Magnificent churches, many over a century old, dot the landscape, giving the miners and their families a sense of community. Today, you meet Father Basil, one of the monks who runs the Jampot Bakery. We'll stop in for treats and enjoy the waterfall next door. The

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights at Mackinac's famous Grand Hotel, tours by horse and carriage
- 2 nights in Houghton, gateway to the Keweenaw Peninsula, the country's Copper Capital
- 2 nights Marquette on the shores of Lake Superior
- 1 night Green Bay – Go Packers!
- Keweenaw Nat'l Historic Park tour – Meet the monks at Jampot Bakery, hear the stories of George Gipp (remember "win one for the Gipper?") and the Copper Kings
- Shipwreck cruise on Lake Superior by glass bottom boat
- Tour the Music House, filled with one-of-a-kind musical instruments
- 18 meals: daily breakfast, 5 lunches, 6 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to Green Bay/from Traverse City
- Door-to-door airport service
- 4000/4600 Gold Passport Points



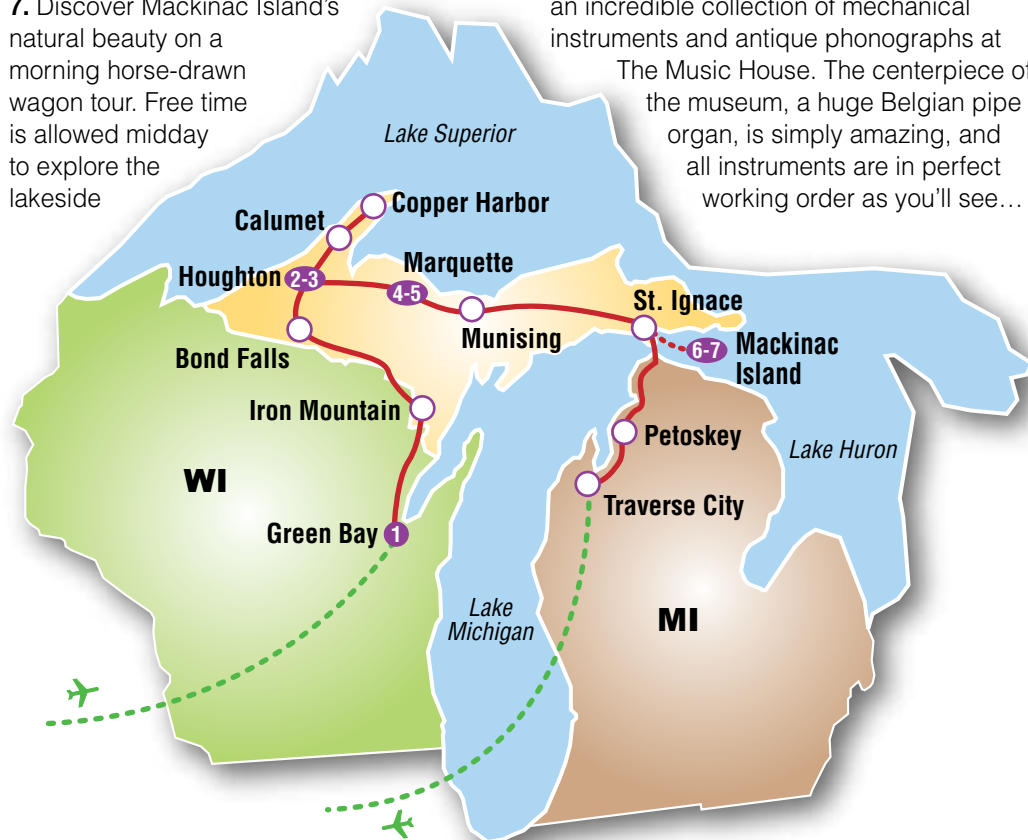
entire day is a history lesson, told by the people who live here. Awesome. (B,L,D)

4. Time to travel. Our motorcoach leaves the Keweenaw and heads east to Marquette along the shores of Lake Superior. On the way meet Sister Maria at the Shrine of Bishop Baraga. This wonderful lady is working to start a new order in a most remote destination. We must pause at “Da Yoopers Tourist Trap,” because after all, we are tourists. It’s an “attraction” unlike any other. Your accommodations are the best in town, right down by the lake, affording every traveler a great view of the water (and the sunrise). **Hampton Inn – 2 nights (B,L,D)**

5. Just an hour from Marquette is the small lakeside village of Munising. We’ve included a most interesting lake cruise to see **shipwrecks** through the glass bottom of the boat! A fascinating adventure. Tonight, dine in the UP’s finest steak house. (B,D)

6. Push east this afternoon, through to St. Ignace where you’ll board the ferry for the 20-minute ride to Mackinac Island. Prepare to fall in love at first sight with its historic buildings, quaint shops and “no motor vehicles allowed” policy. It’s a short horse-drawn carriage ride to the top of the hill and Mackinac’s iconic landmark – the Grand Hotel. Built in 1887, the Grand is prepared to satisfy your every desire this evening starting with a formal dinner and ending with live music and dancing. Best of all, you get to do it all over again tomorrow! **Grand Hotel – 2 nights (B,L,D)**

7. Discover Mackinac Island’s natural beauty on a morning horse-drawn wagon tour. Free time is allowed midday to explore the lakeside



village. Don’t forget to buy some fudge – an island staple – for the trip home. Before long you’ll be ready for a little pick-me-up, so return to the Grand to explore and relax. The filming location of *Somewhere in Time*, don’t miss the historical exhibits (yes, there IS a framed portrait of Jane Seymour), art gallery, horse stables, Cupola Bar and have a sit on the front porch which, at 660 feet long, is the biggest in the world! (FB,D)

8. Take the ferry back to the mainland and travel along the scenic east shore of Lake Michigan on the LP (Lower Peninsula) with lunch served in the quaint community of Petoskey. In nearby Acme, you’ll discover an incredible collection of mechanical instruments and antique phonographs at The Music House. The centerpiece of the museum, a huge Belgian pipe organ, is simply amazing, and all instruments are in perfect working order as you’ll see...



TOP LEFT: Horse and buggy is the way you will tour Mackinac Island; MIDDLE LEFT: While on the island, stay at the Grand Hotel; LOWER LEFT: One of our gang meets Father Basil at the Jampot Bakery, ABOVE TOP: Pasties are the local favorite, even when the floor is the only available seat; MIDDLE: Enjoy lots of outdoor stops; BOTTOM: The Hampton Inn in Marquette on the waterfront has won awards every year it’s been open

and hear! The short drive to Traverse City is where your return flight awaits. (FB,L)

**\$3975 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4570 single**

# The New Colorful Coast

*St. Augustine, Savannah, Charleston and so much in-between!*

**7 Days • March 23-29**



**1.** Fly to Jacksonville, Florida, arriving in the early evening. Rest well. You have a big week ahead! **Courtyard by Marriott Jacksonville – 2 nights**

**2.** St. Augustine is the oldest city in North America, founded in 1565 but first explored by Ponce de León as early as 1513. A trolley tour will acquaint you with the area's unique Spanish history, including a guided visit to the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Castillo de San Marcos. Perhaps you'll discover Ponce de León's illusive Fountain of Youth! **(FB,L)**

**3.** Midway along the Georgia coast is St. Simons Island, England's southernmost outpost in the New World. Rich in history and natural beauty, you'll visit the lighthouse and explore the village before heading north. Savannah has been welcoming visitors with style and grace since 1733, and guess what? You're next! A well-located hotel encourages personal exploration. Just be careful after dark in America's most haunted city! **DoubleTree Hotel Historic District – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**4.** A trolley tour spotlights Savannah's intricate system of 24 beautifully landscaped squares teeming with dogwood and azalea. Here you'll find history and beauty in excess... plus a healthy dose of gossip just to keep things lively, delivered by local "characters" you'll meet along the way. Expect no less from the city that gave us the cotton gin, Paula Deen and The Lady

Chablis! In the afternoon, visit Savannah's beach, Tybee Island, for beachcombing and a Low Country Boil for dinner, ending with Toot's famous prune cake of course! **(FB,D)**

**5.** Outside Charleston on the Ashley River stands Middleton Place. The plantation was established in 1741 and today offers visitors a rare glimpse into a time now "gone with the wind." After lunch on the grounds, you'll tour the family's second home (the first having been torched by Sherman's troops), then have time for the spectacular gardens said to be the first in America to feature camellias. Continuing on to Charleston, be prepared for your amazement to only grow as you enter this place known throughout the South as "The Holy City." Your elegant accommodations are guaranteed to set the tone. **Meeting Street Inn – 2 nights (FB,L)**

**6.** See Charleston in historic style by horse and carriage, ending at the old City Market for shopping and lunch. Check out the Sweetgrass baskets for the perfect souvenir! An afternoon harbor cruise includes a chance to visit Ft. Sumter where the first shots of the Civil War were fired in 1861. Your farewell dinner will end the day – and your tour – in style. **(B,D)**

**7.** Your flight home departs from Charleston International Airport after lunch. **(B,L)**

**\$3395 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3840 single**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- St. Augustine, North America's oldest city
- Georgia's first city, Savannah, and historic St. Simons Island
- Charleston by land and sea
- All 2-night hotel stays – historic district accommodations in Savannah and Charleston
- 12 meals: 6 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Roundtrip air to Jacksonville/from Charleston
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3400/3850 Gold Passport Point



# Key West, Miami and The Everglades

Featuring Key Largo and 4 nights in Key West

7 Days • January 26 – February 1, 2019



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Florida Everglades National Park, experience an air boat ride and meet an alligator or two up close
- History abounds in Key West – visit the Hemingway Home, The Aquarium, Truman's "Little White House," tour the island aboard the famous *Old Town Trolley*
- Lunch on private Sunset Key at Latitudes, a short ferry ride from Mallory Pier in Key West, a **Sports Leisure** exclusive
- A "Taste of Key West" food tour by trolley, where you sample lots of local culinary treats (including Key Lime Pie, Conch Fritters, and Cuban Sandwiches)
- Day cruise on an authentic clipper ship (optional, included), Butterfly and Nature Conservatory
- Cabaret Dinner Show at *La Te Da*; lunch at famous Sloppy Joe's, a local landmark
- 4 nights in Key West at the Crowne Plaza La Concha, in the heart of town on Duval Street
- Overnight Ft. Lauderdale – Miami city tour featuring South Beach and Coral Gables; overnight in Key Largo
- Tour The Turtle Hospital in the Keys
- Roundtrip air to Ft. Lauderdale (United), return from Key West (Delta)
- 13 meals: 2 breakfasts, 4 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 4200/4900 Gold Passport Points

Key West has become one of our most popular destinations with our annual tour selling out every year, months ahead of departure. It's a top flight experience, limited to just 25-30 travelers. Here is your chance to get in early on the 2019 departure. All we are asking with your reservation is a \$250 deposit. Next spring, we will bill you and give you the opportunity



to take advantage of any **Early Payment Di\$counts**.

Key West is a pedestrian-friendly destination, and because of that we walk to many attractions. For this reason, we **do not** recommend this tour for travelers with serious mobility issues.

**1.** Arrive in Ft. Lauderdale and enjoy dinner at a popular South American-style steakhouse. **Holiday Inn Express (D)**

**2.** A morning visit to the Everglades to ride an air boat and meet some alligators. City tour of Miami Beach and Coral Gables, ending the day in Key Largo. Great sunset views tonight before dinner at the popular Fish House. **Hampton Inn (B,D)**

**3.** Learn about marine wildlife at the Turtle Hospital in Marathon, stop for lunch, then travel on to Key West. **Crowne Plaza La Concha – 4 nights (B,L,D)**

**4-6.** Enjoy a wide variety of Key West dining and sightseeing experiences. See the highlights box for details. From the drag



TOP: A Key West sunset; ABOVE LEFT: Our trolley driver deluxe, Louie; ABOVE RIGHT: Our ladies outside La Te Da

show at *La Te Da* to the amazing Butterfly Conservatory, you'll have time for sights (each morning) and time to explore on your own (each afternoon). **(3FB,L,2D)**

**7.** Depart Key West at 11am, connecting in Atlanta, arriving home about 9:30pm. **(FB)**

**\$4195 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4885 single**



# Alaska's Aurora Borealis

Featuring small group travel with unique winter attractions

7 Days • March 16-22



Once again our Aurora Borealis tour is nearly sold out. This will be the third consecutive year we have offered this magical trip. When the tour sells out we will start a waitlist. If you are unable to join us in 2018, the waitlist automatically becomes the **Priority Notification List** for 2019. Those on this list will have the first opportunity to register for the next tour.

Highlights of our small group tour (limited to only 22 passengers) will include stays at the spectacular **Alyeska Resort** in Girdwood, the charming **Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge**, and **Pike's Waterfront Lodge** in Fairbanks. Enjoy remote Aurora viewing away from the lights of the city and experience a dog sled ride at Dallas Seavey's kennel, 4 time winner of Alaska's Iditarod. Ride the scenic

Alaska Railroad and discover the true winter wonderland that surrounds you. Cruise past glaciers on Prince William Sound and meet all of Alaska's big land mammals at the Alaska Wildlife Conservatory.

This tour includes door-to-door airport service, roundtrip airfare, accommodations, 13 meals, several attractions, a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director and 4800/5200 Gold Passport Points. Please note: You must be prepared for cold weather (0 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit is typical) throughout this tour. Winter jackets, snow pants and boots may be rented for extra cost.

**\$4790 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5195 single**



## Ice Magic Festival in the Canadian Rockies

Featuring Lake Louise and Banff National Park

6 Days • January 18-23

This tour was announced in the August/September edition of our newsletter, *The Traveler*, and quickly sold out in one week. Like many of our tours, the number of participants may be limited due to space limitations or to provide an intimate experience for our travelers. We intend to offer this tour again in 2019 but if you are able to join us in 2018, please consider placing your name on the waitlist. If we are unable to accommodate you, your name will be placed on the **Priority Notification List** for 2019.

**\$2885 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3105 single**

**2018  
SOLD OUT!**



# O Magazine Presents the Alaskan Explorer Cruise

Featuring Life-changing seminars and workshops

8 Days • August 10-18



To celebrate Oprah's Year of Adventure, Holland America Line and *O, The Oprah Magazine* have partnered on an exciting initiative to pair the life-changing wonder of travel with the soulful, inspiring content found in every issue of the magazine. This cruise is specifically themed to invite guests to open their minds, change their perspectives and uncover their potential.

The cruise will feature special appearances by contributors from *O, The Oprah Magazine* as well as thought leaders from The SuperSoul 100. A list of guest speakers and hosts will be announced closer to departure. In addition, you will experience

the transformative power of travel, enriched and enhanced by activities such as morning meditation, healthy eating guidance and travel-friendly fashion advice.

Hosting only 2,100 guests, Holland America Line's first Signature-class cruise ship, *ms Eurodam* has delighted all since her maiden voyage, and recently received many exciting updates, including new lounge, dining and entertainment venues, and completely refreshed suites.

Live music has always been the heart and soul of evenings aboard Holland America Line, and *Eurodam* features the full Music Walk experience – with three exciting venues. Lincoln Center Stage, featuring world-class musicians performing chamber music, and Billboard Onboard, rocking the house with 50 years of chart-topping hits, join the already popular B.B. King's Blues Club, which brings the best of Memphis blues to sea, and completes our new "Music Walk" experience.

Enjoy onboard cooking shows and hands-on workshops in partnership with America's Test Kitchen. The Greenhouse Spa & Salon offers spa treatments, a thermal pool and lounge and a variety of salon services. Holland America Line's graceful, mid-sized ships are known for their generous amount of personal space. All staterooms feature luxurious, quilted pillow top mattresses, fine linens and towels, massage showerheads and Elemis Aromapure bath products.

Our tour will include a pre-night stay in Tacoma at the Hotel Murano, host of

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Pre-cruise overnight stay in Tacoma at the Hotel Murano
- Visit the LeMay Auto Museum or Museum of Glass
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Seattle
- All meals included aboard ship, add'l lunch in Seattle
- Door-to-door airport service
- Gold Passport Points based on cabin

museum-quality works of glass art. A choice of a visit to either LeMay – American's Car Museum or the popular Museum of Glass are included along with lunch on arrival day in Seattle.

### Inside cabins start at:

**\$2280 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3475 single**

### Outside cabins start at:

**\$2670 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4220 single**

*This vacation requires a valid passport!*



## CRUISE ITINERARY

Date	Port
August 11	Seattle, WA
August 12	At Sea
August 13	Juneau, AK
August 14	Glacier Bay
August 15	Sitka, AK
August 16	Ketchikan, AK
August 17	Victoria, BC, Canada
August 18	Seattle, WA



# Tulip Time in Holland and Belgium

Featuring Amsterdam and a 7-night river cruise aboard the AmaPrima  
11 Days • April 26 – May 6

**NEW  
DATES!**



All-outside cabins are offered on three levels to suit your budget and taste, and most boast a private balcony. Ample public spaces provide room for sightseeing, onboard entertainment and relaxing, as well as the pursuit of fitness with a walking track, heated pool and fitness room.

Fly from the U.S. via Washington Dulles (one stop!) on an overnight flight to Holland's principal city, Amsterdam. You'll stay two nights – one before the cruise and one after – in nearby Haarlem at the **Hotel Carlton Square**. Explore the area from top to bottom with visits to the Anne Frank House, the famed Rijksmuseum, Volendam and the Alida Hoeve cheese farm. Four meals are included in the land package featuring a luncheon cruise aboard one of the Amsterdam's popular canal boats.

On the afternoon of Day 3, board the stunning *AmaPrima* for an 8-day celebration of spring cruising the waterways, rivers and canals of Holland and Belgium. Will there be tulips? Oh, yes! AmaWaterways is no ordinary cruise line. On board you'll find included options far outweigh costly add-ons. Three meals per day? Included. Wine, beer and soft drinks at lunch, the cocktail hour and dinner? Included. Onboard Wi-Fi? Included. A choice of shore excursions at each port of call? Included. Bicycles (for personal exploration as well as guided tours)? Included. Think about all these things you usually pay extra for, and you'll see the incredible value of cruising with AmaWaterways!

An attentive staff hails from around the globe, but English is the primary language used. Dining in the Main Restaurant is an unpretentious, yet elegant affair. Between meals, tapas are offered so you're sure to never feel hungry. For an even more memorable culinary experience, make a reservation at the Chef's Table, a nightly dinner event limited to just 28 where you'll witness the chef at work and sample favorite dishes complete with wine pairings... all at no additional cost. And of course your **Sports Leisure Tour Director** will be there to guide you each step of the way.

If this sounds like the trip of your dreams, call the office and speak to **Michael Downer** for a cruise catalogue and more information.

**Cabins (inclusive of Amsterdam package) start at :**

**\$5325 p.p./dbl. occ., \$6995 single**

*This vacation requires a valid passport!*

## CRUISE ITINERARY

28 April 2018	Amsterdam/Embarkation
29 April 2018	Hoorn
30 April 2018	Delta/Middelburg
1 May 2018	Antwerp
2 May 2018	Ghent (Visit Bruges)
3 May 2018	Rotterdam/Schoonhoven (Visit Gouda and/or The Hague)
4 May 2018	Keukenhof Gardens/ Amsterdam
5 May 2018	Amsterdam/Disembarkation



**1** First Night In Flight To Amsterdam

**3-8** Nights Aboard the Ama Prima

# The Path Between the Seas

Cruise the Panama Canal Aboard Holland America's *ms Westerdam*  
17 Days • February 3-19



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Pre-cruise overnight stay at the Holiday Inn Express in Plantation
- Bon Voyage Dinner at Texas de Brazil Restaurant in Fort Lauderdale
- All meals included on board the *m/v Westerdam*
- Prices include all transfers, port taxes
- Roundtrip air to Ft. Lauderdale/from San Diego
- Door-to-door airport service
- Fully escorted by a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director
- Gold Passport Points based on cabin

Sail from Florida to California on one of Holland America's best-known ships, the *ms Westerdam*. Spend one night in Fort Lauderdale before boarding the ship. Sailing from east to west provides you the advantage of getting the long, cross-country flight out of the way first, leaving just a short hop home from San Diego at the end of the cruise.

We continue to partner with **Holland America Line** for this adventure because of its commitment to service and because we know and believe in the quality of its ships, programs and shore excursions. The *ms Westerdam* is a midsize ship which carries

Date	Port
04 Feb 2018	Fort Lauderdale, Florida, US
05 Feb 2018	Half Moon Cay, Bahamas
06 Feb 2018	At Sea
07 Feb 2018	At Sea
08 Feb 2018	Cartagena, Colombia
08 Feb 2018	Enter Panama Canal Cristobal
09 Feb 2018	Cruising Panama Canal
09 Feb 2018	Exit Panama Canal Balboa
10 Feb 2018	At Sea
11 Feb 2018	Puerto Caldera (Puntarenas), Costa Rica
12 Feb 2018	Corinto, Nicaragua
13 Feb 2018	Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
14 Feb 2018	At Sea
15 Feb 2018	Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico
16 Feb 2018	At Sea
17 Feb 2018	Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
18 Feb 2018	At Sea
19 Feb 2018	San Diego, California, US

passengers with style and grace – it's large enough to offer a host of exciting amenities but more personal and intimate than the "floating cities" of other cruise lines.

**Inside cabins start at:**  
**\$4095 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5610 single**

**Outside cabins start at:**  
**\$4370 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6090 single**

*This vacation requires a valid passport!*

## Passage to South America

Holland America's *ms Zaandam*  
17 Days • March 2-18

South America has always held a special allure for explorers. Some came for gold, some for glory, and many more for adventure, but no one has ever truly succeeded in taming this vast and varied continent. On Holland America's *ms Zaandam* you can experience these legendary lands in elegant comfort. Begin in Argentina with two days to explore Buenos Aires while staying aboard ship. Then visit Uruguay, the Falkland Islands, Cape Horn, Glacier Alley and finally Chile. We are happy to arrange shore excursions for all ports of call.

Designed to carry less than 1,500 guests while providing more space for maximum comfort, the *ms Zaandam* is a prize in the mid-size ship category. Enjoy onboard cooking shows and hands-on workshops in partnership with America's Test Kitchen. The Greenhouse Spa & Salon offers spa treatments, a thermal pool and lounge and

salon services. For a full listing of shore excursions available please visit [www.hollandamerica.com](http://www.hollandamerica.com).

The tour includes door-to-door airport service, roundtrip air to Buenos Aires/from Santiago, all meals onboard ship, and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations**

Tour Director. Gold Passport Points based on cabin.

**Cabins start at:**  
**\$5065 p.p./dbl. occ., \$6350 single (inside)**  
**\$5230 p.p./dbl. occ., \$6650 single (outside)**

*This vacation requires a valid passport!*

DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
0	Buenos Aires, Argentina	March 3	—
1	Buenos Aires, Argentina	—	March 4 / 6PM
2	Montevideo, Uruguay	March 5 / 8AM	March 5 / 6PM
3	AT SEA	March 6	—
4	AT SEA	March 7	—
5	Stanley/Falkland Is/Islas Malvinas	March 8 / 8AM	March 8 / 6PM
6	Strait of Magellan	March 9	—
7	Punta Arenas, Chile/Cockburn Channel/Beagle Channel/Glacier Alley	March 10 / 6AM	March 10 / 6PM
8	Ushuaia, Argentina	March 11 / 1PM	March 11 / 9PM
9	Scenic Cruising Cape Horn	March 12	—
10	Canal Sarmiento	March 13	—
11	Chilean Fjords	March 14	—
12	Puerto Montt, Chile	March 15 / 8AM	March 15 / 5PM
13	AT SEA	March 16	—
14	Valparaiso (Santiago), Chile	March 17 / 7AM	—





# Iceland, Land of Fire and Ice

*A full exploration of the volcanic island*

**10 Days • July 14-23**

**1-2.** Arrive in Iceland after an overnight flight. After a welcome breakfast, visit the Blue Lagoon, one of Iceland's most popular attractions – a natural geothermal pool in the middle of a large and dramatic lava field. Pause for a refreshing swim before continuing Iceland's capital city, Reykjavik. **Hotel Reykjavík Centrum – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**3.** This morning a short flight to the Westman Islands provides spectacular views. After arriving, cruise around the islands by boat. See colorful ocean caves and thousands of seabirds. Then explore the island by bus and see half-buried houses from the infamous 1973 volcanic eruption. The fascinating landscape teems with diverse bird and animal life, including one of the island's biggest puffin colonies. **(FB)**

**4.** Visit famous Þingvellir National Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Two of the island's spectacular waterfalls, Barnafoss and Hraunfossar, are nearby along with Deildatunguher, the most powerful hot spring in Iceland. **Icelandair Hotel Hamar (FB,D)**

**5.** Our first morning stop will be at Grábrók, a volcanic crater. As it is possible to ascend Mt. Grábrók, here is a great opportunity for an easy and enjoyable hike. Afterwards, journey towards northern Iceland and to Akureyri, the second largest city on the island. **Hotel KEA- 2 nights (FB,D)**

**6.** Enjoy a day of sightseeing on the way to Lake Mývatn. Discover the beautiful Goðafoss Waterfall, pseudo craters, and walk in the Dimmuborgir Lava Field. In the afternoon, enjoy a soak in the Myvat Nature Baths before returning to your hotel. **(FB,D)**

**7.** Travel through the uninhabited highlands and moonlike surroundings to Egilsstaðir, the biggest town on the east side of the island. With some luck we might spot an Arctic fox or see reindeer on the way. Continuing from Egilsstaðir, admire the dramatic fjord landscapes. Overnight in the small fishing village of Djúpvogur. **Hótel Framtíð (FB,D)**

**8.** Jökulsárlón is a glacial lagoon at the mouth of the Vatnajökull Glacier. Icebergs, the size of a football field, break off from the glacier and spill into the lagoon. During a boat tour, we'll sail between the floating icebergs. Our next stop is Skaftafell National Park which offers a short hike to Svartifoss Waterfall, one of the most popular sites in the park. **Hótel Klaustur (FB,D)**

- ## HIGHLIGHTS
- See mountains, beaches, fjords, volcanoes, hot springs, geysers and bountiful wildlife
  - Visit historic sites, tiny villages and meet the real people of Iceland
  - Visit and take in the waters at famous Blue Lagoon
  - Fly to the Westman Islands for a tour by land and sea
  - Cruise between icebergs at Jökulsárlón
  - Walk behind the Seljalandsfoss Waterfall
  - Roundtrip air to/from Reykjavik
  - 16 meals: 9 full breakfasts and 7 dinners
  - Door-to-door airport transportation
  - 7650/8800 Gold Passport Points

**9.** Travel along the southern part of the Vatnajökull Glacier and spend time at Europe's largest national park, which contains Iceland's highest mountains and Europe's largest glacier. The black lava beach of Reynisfjara near Vik is simply beautiful and is followed by a visit to Skogafoss Waterfall, one of the most impressive in the country. At the Eyjafjallajökull Information Center learn the challenges of living next to both a glacier and an active volcano. Our last stop of the day is the impressive Seljalandsfoss Waterfall where you can walk behind the falls! **Hótel Selfoss. (FB,D)**

**10.** Return to Reykjavík this morning. Shop for a last minute souvenir and enjoy lunch before your journey home. **(FB)**

**\$7630 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8795 single**  
This tour requires a valid passport!





Rabbit, Tom Kitten and Jemima Puddleduck at this lovely cottage estate. **(FB,D)**

# Scottish Tales and the Beatles Trail

*The best of Scotland, the English Lakes and the Fab Four's Liverpool*  
**12 Days • August 9-20**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 nights Edinburgh, Scotland's Capital City
- 2 nights each Inverness, Lake District National Park, Manchester
- Overnight on the shores of Loch Lomond
- Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh Castle, Royal Yacht *Britannia*
- Dalwhinnie Distillery, Urquhart Castle, Isle of Skye, Inveraray Castle
- Gretna Green, Beatrix Potter's Hill Top, The Beatles Story
- Manchester's Cathedral and Chetham's Library
- Roundtrip air to Edinburgh/From Manchester
- 20 meals: daily breakfast and dinner
- Door-to-door airport service
- Gold Passport Points based on price

**1-2.** Fly to Edinburgh and begin your exploration of Scotland's principal city, a largely unsung treasure among European capitals, but a treasure nonetheless!  
**The Principal Edinburgh – 3 nights (D)**

**3.** Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse anchor opposite ends of The Royal Mile, and you'll visit both! Return to the castle in the evening for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the most fabulous of all Scottish musical spectacles featuring performers from all over the world and literally hundreds of bagpipes. Our exclusive "Jacobite Experience" includes a pre-show dinner with libations and the Toast to the Haggis. **(FB,D)**

**4.** Explore the Royal Yacht *Britannia* which served the Royal Family over 44 years of distinguished service. In the evening, Prestonfield House plays host to the Taste of Scotland Show featuring a mix of traditional music, dance and dishes. **(FB,D)**

**5.** The route north into the Highlands takes you to Dalwhinnie Distillery for a tour and wee dram, then to Urquhart Castle. Among the largest ever built, the 16<sup>th</sup>-century castle today exists largely in ruins on the shores of Loch Ness. **Kingsmills Hotel Inverness – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**6.** Rich in history and natural beauty, spend the day exploring the Isle of Skye, the home of Clans MacDonald and MacLeod. Skye played a big role in the Jacobite Rebellion and Scotland's dramatic, though failed attempt to regain its independence from England and place Bonnie Prince Charlie on the throne. **(FB,D)**

**7.** Inveraray has been home to the Duke and Duchess of Argyll since the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The present castle dates to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century and is famous for its collections of armor, decorative arts and French tapestries. Will you take the high or low road to Loch Lomond? Either way, a wonderful night awaits.  
**Cameron House Hotel (FB,D)**

**8.** The border town of Gretna Green was famous for secret marriages of underage English youth. There you'll say goodbye to Scotland (and perhaps tie the knot?) as Lake District National Park welcomes you to England.  
**Macdonald Leeming House – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**9.** Today you'll explore the Lake District by land and water, and visit Hill Top, the home of Beatrix Potter. England's beloved author and artist breathed life into Peter

**10.** Travel to Manchester via Liverpool, hometown of the "Fab Four." The Beatles Story offers up the world's largest collection of memorabilia focused on the lives, times, culture and music of The Beatles. **Crown Plaza Manchester – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**11.** It's Sunday, your well-earned day of rest. Perhaps you'd like to attend services at Manchester Cathedral. In the afternoon a walking tour includes a stop at Chetham's Library, the oldest in the English-speaking world. **(FB,D)**

**12.** Return to America on a morning flight with happy memories of a grand visit to the United Kingdom. **(FB)**

**Prices available in early October 2017.**  
**Call and place your name on the Priority Notification List today!**  
*This tour requires a valid passport!*



# Japan: Land of the Rising Sun

Featuring the best of the traditional and modern

12 Days • May 12-23



**1-2.** Depart for Osaka. Cross the International Date Line arriving a day later than you departed. Clear customs and immigration and meet your local English-speaking guide. Enjoy a two-night stay to rest up, with an included dinner. **Plaza Hotel Osaka – 2 nights (D)**

**3.** Breakfast is included daily, with familiar and international options. Begin your immersion into Japan with a tour of Osaka Castle. At Kuchu-Teien Observatory, Osaka's vastness stretches out before you, affording 360 degree views! Dinner is famed Kobe Beef, Teppanyaki style, where the chef puts on a show! **(FB,L,D)**

**4.** Catch the "Bullet Train" to Himeji for a walking tour and a visit to Himeji Castle, which dominates the hilltop. After lunch continue by high speed train to Hiroshima. Dinner is at your leisure at the hotel or a nearby eatery. **Hotel New Hiroden – Hiroshima (FB,L)**

**5.** Take a ferry to the floating "Torii," the iconic red Shinto Gate of Itsukushima Shinto Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Try your

hand at Japanese calligraphy and visit Peace Memorial Park and the A-Bomb Dome Museum. Train to Kyoto, Japan's Cultural Capital. Dinner tonight is Korean BBQ! **Hearton Hotel Kyoto – 3 nights (FB,D)**

**6.** Visit Nara, a center for culture, history and art. The impressive Todai-ji Buddhist Temple has Sika deer roaming about the grounds. Local sightseeing follows before returning to Kyoto. Both lunch and dinner are open today. Options are many and shared by your guide. **(FB)**

**7.** Kyoto is a wonderfully eclectic mix of modernity and classical. Visit Nijo Castle, Kinkaku-ji (the Golden Pavilion), and the Heian Shinto Shrine. After a sushi lunch, enjoy a performance of highly stylized dance performed by geishas. Dinner is Yakitori, assorted skewered grilled meats. **(FB,L,D)**

**8.** Zip over to Nagoya then slow down on a scenic train ride. Visit Takayama, a quaint picturesque mountain town, and a Gassho-Zukiri Farmhouse, a thatched roof structure dating back 200 years. Dinner is highlighted by locally raised Hida beef. **Best Western Hotel Takayama. (FB,D)**

**9.** Walk Takayama's historic streets to a morning market. After lunch on your own, train to Odawara and continue to Hakone, an upscale mountain region. Stay in a luxurious traditional

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a full and comprehensive, yet relaxed itinerary
- Dine on local fare with access to familiar tastes as well
- Stay in thoughtfully chosen and well-positioned hotels
- Roundtrip airfare to Osaka/return from Tokyo
- 21 meals: daily breakfast, 4 lunches, 7 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- Services of an English-speaking local guide and **Sports Leisure** Tour Director
- 7850/8600 Gold Passport Points

Ryokan-style hotel. Unwind in the hot springs before a Kaiseki dinner at your hotel. Each course is a visual and culinary work of art. **Aura Tachibana Ryokan – Hakone (FB,D)**

**10.** See Hakone National Park from all angles! Take a tranquil cruise on Lake Ashi and a cable car ride up Mt. Komagatake. Lunch is en route to Kamakura, a seaside town with many famous shrines and temples. Arrive in Tokyo for a two-night stay. **Grand Prince Hotel New Takawana Tokyo – 2 nights (FB,L)**

**11.** Today is all Tokyo! Visit the Tsukiji Market, Meiji Shrine, Imperial Palace, Asakusa Kannon Temple and enjoy a Sumida River Cruise. Learn about tea ceremonies, kimono traditional dress and samurai sword play. Come together for dinner over Shabu Shabu – soup with fresh meats and vegetables. **(FB,D)**

**12.** Time to say sayonara! Depart from Tokyo's Narita Airport bound for home. **(FB)**

**\$7850 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8575 single**  
*This tour requires a valid passport!*



# A Scandinavian Holiday

Featuring Stockholm, Helsinki, Oslo, Lapland and a 6-day cruise through the fjords of Norway  
17 Days • July 15-31



Discover scenic wonder in the northern countries of Scandinavia. This land and sea package features visits to the capital cities of Stockholm, Helsinki and Oslo. Stay two nights in Lapland, above the Arctic Circle, in Finland before boarding a Hurtigruten cruise from Kirkenes all along the Norwegian coast south to Bergen. Travel aboard the world-famous Flam Railway in the heart of Norway.

Encompassing 14 islands and 50 bridges, Stockholm is both a historic and modern city located on an extensive archipelago of the Baltic Sea. Tour Gamla Stan, the old town, and see Storkyrkan Cathedral from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. The city is also home to a colorful cornucopia of museums. In 1628 the Swedish warship *Vasa* sank shortly after she was launched. Lost to history, the ship was discovered in 1961 almost fully intact and is now housed in its own museum. Not far away, both the Nobel Museum and the ABBA Museum, dedicated to Sweden's most popular band, are also worthy of visits.

Across the Gulf of Bothnia, Finland's capital city Helsinki is regularly lauded as one of the world's most liveable cities and home to unique architecture. Originally part of Sweden and then Russia, Finland finally gained independence in 1917 but the influences of both mother countries are

still present and can be seen throughout Helsinki. Visit the National Museum and the Fortress of Suomenlinna, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the far north we'll spend two nights in Lapland, a region north of the Arctic Circle and home to a hardy people who still herd reindeer.

At the far northeastern corner of Norway, we'll board our ship in Kirkenes for a 5 night cruise in and out of the island and fjords along the coastline. A cruise on the Hurtigruten line is a unique voyage. Don't look for formal nights or masquerades. This is a ship for both tourists and locals who ferry between towns. In all, we will stop at 34 ports in 6 days. And because this is the land of the Midnight Sun, you can see them all in sunshine! The atmosphere onboard is more casual compared to most ships, but all staterooms offer picture windows and cozy accommodations. Optional shore excursions are offered.

Once in Bergen, we'll travel to the interior of Norway and experience a ride on the scenic Flåm Railway. Named one of the most beautiful train journeys in the world, it runs from the end of Aurlandsfjord, a tributary of the Sognefjord, up to the high mountains at Myrdal Station. The journey displays the very best aspects of Western Norway's stunning scenery. Finish the tour in Oslo,

Day 1	Overnight flight
Day 2	Arrive Stockholm – 2 nights
Day 3	Stockholm
Day 4	Fly to Helsinki – 1 night
Day 5	Fly to Ivalo, drive to Inari – 2 nights
Day 6	Explore Lapland
Day 7	Drive to Kirkenes, board Hurtigruten ship
Day 8	Mehamn to Tromsø
Day 9	Tromsø to Stamsund
Day 10	Bodø – Rørvik
Day 11	Trondheim – Ålesund
Day 12	Arrive Bergen – 1 night
Day 13	Sognefjord – 1 night
Day 14	Flåm – Geilo – 1 night
Day 15	Geilo – Oslo 2 nights
Day 16	Oslo
Day 17	Fly home



The tour will include air to Stockholm, Helsinki, Lapland and from Oslo, rail from Bergen to Oslo, select meals, deluxe motorcoach transportation, accommodations, and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. Gold Passport Points based on cabin.

**Prices available in early October 2017.**  
**Call and place your name on the Priority Notification List today!**  
*This tour requires a valid passport!*

# Bloomin' Victoria

Featuring the very best of Canada's Garden City

5 Days • June 15-19



The city's namesake, Queen Victoria, stands on the grounds of B.C.'s Legislative Building

**1.** Fly to Victoria this morning by way of Seattle. Lunch is in Sidney, a lovely seaside town. Swing by Lolly Gobble, an English Sweets Shop full of old timey and unique candies. You'll get a little treat to take with you! Explore the main street shops before traveling to your hotel in nearby Victoria. Located a short walk from the Inner Harbour, all the best the city has to offer is at your doorstep. **Chateau Victoria – 4 nights (L)**

**2.** Learn about the history and booming future of British Columbia's capital city while traveling aboard a classic double-decker bus. At famed Butchart Gardens, in bloom for over 100 years, lunch is served in the original family home. Take your time strolling through the magnificent blooms, but don't skip the magnificent gift shop; Hands down, it is one of the best in town! Pick up seeds for your own garden or that perfect gift for a friend back home. **(L)**

**3.** Canadian government is organized differently than ours. Gain a better understanding during a docent-guided tour of the iconic British Columbia Legislative Building. Afternoon Tea at The Empress Hotel is a must when in Victoria! In the stately Library Room, you'll sip the very same tea blend the Queen of England herself enjoys, along with assorted finger sandwiches and sweets! In the afternoon, a visit to the Royal B.C. Museum, consistently voted as one of the absolute best in North America, is included. Renowned for its First Nations exhibit and collection of totem poles, it's not to be missed. Afterwards, take off right from the Inner Harbour and soar high above the city with sweeping views of the Olympic Mountains during a seaplane flightseeing tour. **(HT)**

**4.** Slip out of the city and into the Cowichan Valley, full of quaint towns, artisan crafts and abundant produce. In charming Chemainus a guide will point out the city's

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy High Tea at the Empress Hotel
- Experience Victoria on a double-decker bus tour and seaplane flight
- Visit famed Butchart Gardens to enjoy the blooms and lunch
- Spend a day exploring and tasting your way through the Cowichan Valley
- 5 meals: 1 high tea, 4 lunches
- Roundtrip air to/from Victoria, B.C.
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2300/2550 Gold Passport Points

many impressive murals before some free time to explore. Lunch is included. Next stop is Duncan to learn about the Cowichan First Nations people. World-famous for their knitting, see and feel the artistry while learning how patterns are transferred from baskets to sweaters. The vast collection of totem poles in town tell their story. Before returning to the city, stop at a ciderie for a tour and tasting of all sorts of products and beverages made from apples. **(L)**

**5.** Take the morning to make one final stroll along the waterfront, find that perfect last minute gift, or just relax in your hotel suite. Enjoy an included lunch before catching your late-afternoon flight home. **(L)**

**\$2285 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2540 single**

*This tour requires a valid passport!*



# Great Cities of Canada

Ottawa, Quebec City and Montreal are yours to discover

7 Days • August 10-16



1. Away to Ottawa, Canada's understated Capital City. Our historic accommodations are well-located in the heart of downtown and the shadow of Parliament Hill. **Lord Elgin Hotel – 2 nights (D)**

2. Take a comprehensive tour around Ottawa including a chance to see the impressive Changing of the Guard ceremony on Parliament Hill. After an included lunch, the Canadian Museum of History offers you an interesting look at milestones in the country's 150-plus years of confederation. After dark don't miss *Northern Lights*, a spectacular sound and light show broadcast on Parliament's striking façade. **(FB,L)**

3. Explore the Canadian countryside as you train across *la belle province*, arriving

in Québec City in the late afternoon. You're just in time for dinner and entertainment at a real sugar shack, *Erablière le Chemin du Roy* – a traditional Québécois experience! Your hotel is inside the ancient city walls.

**Hôtel Manoir Victoria – 3 nights (FB,D)**

4. Explore the walled city of Québec both over and under the hill, conveniently connected by funicular, with a local guide. Your morning city tour ends with lunch served at the famed *Château Frontenac*, featuring a fresh array of locally-sourced ingredients inside one of the most visually stunning buildings on the continent. **(FB,L)**

5. The Cathedral of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré and majestic Montmorency Falls sit along the St. Lawrence only a short distance from Québec. Visit the holy shrine,

then travel to the top of the falls by cable car for breathtaking views. You'll also visit the

Copper Art Studio showcasing the work of artist Albert Gilles, whose masterpieces are the doors and altar ornaments you saw at Ste. Anne. At the Cidrerie Verger Bilodeau on Isle d'Orléans, you'll sample the deliciously sweet apple ice wine. **(FB,L)**

6. A scenic drive along the St. Lawrence River takes you to Québec's most populous and cosmopolitan city, Montréal. Holy sites,



## HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights Ottawa, Canada's Capital City
- Ottawa tour with the Changing of the Guard on Parliament Hill
- 3 nights Québec City
- Québec City tour, Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré and Montmorency Falls
- Overnight Montréal to see Notre-Dame and the Biodome
- Roundtrip air to Ottawa/from Montréal
- 12 meals: 6 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3150/3500 Gold Passport Points

Olympic venues, history and culture – all with a decidedly French flair – are yours to discover on an afternoon sightseeing tour. The interior of Notre-Dame Basilica is breathtaking. Your farewell dinner at Vieux-Port Steakhouse offers up a final taste of *gastronomie canadienne-française*. **L'hôtel Le Germain Montréal (FB,D)**

7. Montréal hosted the Summer Olympic Games in 1976. The venue constructed to house the cycling events is now the Biodome. To call it a mere greenhouse or even a zoo would be an understatement! The Biodome leads you through four distinct ecosystems complete with animals and marine life – the perfect place to end a perfect Canadian adventure. **(FB)**

**\$3135 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3460 single**  
*This tour requires a valid passport!*

# The International Selkirk Loop

Featuring a breathtaking drive through the Selkirk Mountains

7 Days • August 20-26



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Multiple-night stays in waterview rooms: 2 nights in Bonners Ferry, ID and 3 nights in Nelson, BC
- Visit restored *SS Moyie* and step back to the era of the sternwheelers
- Learn about the culture of the Doukhobors at Castlegar
- Enjoy a night of contemporary luxury at the Davenport Towers, and a decadent Sunday Brunch at the historic Davenport Hotel
- Roundtrip air to/from Spokane
- 11 meals: 5 full breakfasts, 1 brunch, 5 lunches
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3300/3750 Gold Passport Points

The Selkirk Loop is a 280-mile international scenic drive encircling the Selkirk Mountains of eastern Washington, northern Idaho and southeastern British Columbia. The entire loop follows alongside a river or lakeshore, with vast views of the valleys and mountains one minute, intimate water scenes or dense forest the next. The Selkirk Mountain Range, with peaks towering over 11,500 feet, are just one of the many ranges comprising the Rocky Mountains.

**1.** Arrive in Spokane and travel along the Spokane River to Post Falls, Idaho before turning north to Bonners Ferry, a small community tucked away in the picturesque Kootenai Valley. **Best Western Kootenai River Inn – 2 nights (L)**

**2.** The Selkirks come into view today as you travel across the border to British Columbia. Spend the day in Creston Valley, learning about the area's rich agricultural history and taking a walk through the wetlands. Return

to Bonners Ferry for a sunset drive to the nature preserve. **(FB,L)**

**3.** Visit with talented and unique artisans as you travel along the shore of Kootenay Lake. Tour a very clever bottle house and stop at an artisan village in Crawford Bay before arriving in Nelson. Your hotel is located on the shore of Kootenay Lake's West Arm, with a great waterfront parkway along the shoreline for quiet walks and contemplation. **Prestige Lakeside Resort – 3 nights (FB,L)**

**4.** In the picturesque community of Kaslo, on Kootenay Lake surrounded by the Selkirks, step aboard the beautifully restored, now stationary, *SS Moyie* for a tour of the region's golden history. **(FB,L)**

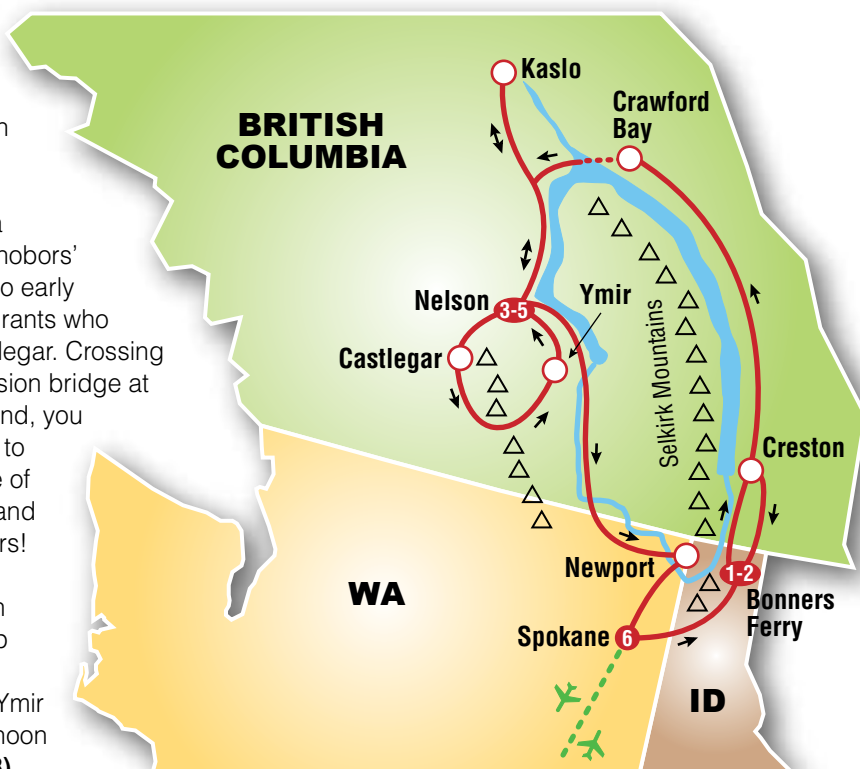
**5.** Today visit a restored Doukhobors' village, home to early Russian immigrants who settled in Castlegar. Crossing over a suspension bridge at Zuerberg Island, you can even walk to the confluence of the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers! Your journey back to Nelson includes a stop in the unique community of Ymir for some afternoon hospitality. **(FB)**

**6.** Continue along the southwestern portion of the Selkirk Loop, crossing back into Washington, taking time for lunch in Newport. Your final destination is the river city of Spokane and one of the finest addresses in town. Your tower rooms await you in all their contemporary elegance. **Davenport Towers (FB,L)**

**7.** Enjoy a fabulous champagne brunch served at the beautiful historic Davenport Hotel located just across the street. Following brunch, check-in at Spokane Airport for your return flight home. **(BR)**

**\$3270 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3745 single**

*This vacation requires a valid passport!*



# Wildlife Viewing in British Columbia

Featuring Knights Inlet Lodge and Grizzly Bears

6 Days • October 4-9, 2018



Our third year in the offering, this has quickly become a **Sports Leisure** favorite! It is an awesome wilderness experience with all the comforts. It provides a glimpse into the life of some of our continent's most iconic animals... Grizzly Bears and Bald Eagles, and it's just an absolutely fantastic good time! Glendale Cove in Knight Inlet is home to one of the largest concentrations of Grizzly Bears in British Columbia. With ample seafood and other food sources, these grizzlies are magnificent! During the fall salmon run, bears are observed from viewing platforms filling up on fresh salmon. Bring your cameras and binoculars for spectacular viewing! This is truly an incredible opportunity and a must on your bucket list if you are a nature enthusiast.

*This is a **Sports Leisure Vacations exclusive*** as we are the only tour operator with premier fall viewing season access!

**1.** Arrive in Vancouver mid-morning in time to catch the ferry for an afternoon crossing of Georgia Strait. Arrive in Campbell River in the early evening and settle into your room. **Comfort Inn Campbell River**

**2-4.** A morning seaplane flight delivers you deep into Knight Inlet for two and half days of immersion into the lives of the wildlife. Naturalists are on hand to answer all your questions, to direct your viewing experiences, and to provide evening interpretive programs. Activities *may include (weather permitting)* excursions into Johnstone Strait for marine wildlife viewing, Bald Eagle and other birdlife viewing, and, of course, daily excursions by either boat or foot to watch the grizzlies. Daily schedules are arranged with optimum wildlife viewing in mind. Check out **Knight Inlet Lodge** on

Facebook for weekly photos and updates. You will want to be there!

Accommodations include modest, yet comfortable rooms featuring queen-sized beds with private washrooms and showers. The dining room features fresh, local ingredients prepared in West Coast cuisine, included fine wines and decadent desserts. (The lodge will try to accommodate most dietary preferences, however, this is a *remote* lodge with limited storage. Please advise our staff at the time of reservation if you have dietary restrictions as this destination may not be able to accommodate you.) **Knight Inlet Lodge – 3 nights (1B,2FB,3L,3D)**

**5.** Say goodbye to the lodge and wilderness as the seaplane arrives to return you to Vancouver Island. Spend the final evening in Nanaimo, the "Harbour City." For the adventurous, go out and walk this picturesque harbor-side town in search of the perfect Nanaimo Bar (a local sweet, not an adult beverage establishment)! **Coast Bastion Hotel (FB,L)**

**6.** The morning ferry returns you to the mainland. Stop in seaside Steveston and enjoy lunch on your own prior to a late afternoon flight home. **(FB)**

The Knight Inlet Lodge is a **remote floating** lodge **in the wilderness**, accessible only by seaplane or boat; and many activities include climbing into marine vessels or walking on uneven surfaces. For these reasons, **you must be in stable physical condition, with good mobility. We do not** recommend this tour for travelers with moderate to serious mobility issues. If you

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 nights at the Knight Inlet remote floating wilderness lodge in a comfortable room with private washroom and shower
- 2 full days of guided wildlife viewing, including watching Grizzly Bears from nearby viewing platforms
- Evening interpretive programs
- Marine wildlife viewing excursions as weather allows
- Seaplane to/from Campbell River
- Roundtrip air to/from Vancouver
- 12 meals: 1 breakfast, 4 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 6150/7150 Gold Passport Points

have questions or concerns, talk with our staff before booking. **Space is limited, with only 4 rooms available for single occupancy.**

**\$6150 p.p./dbl.occ., \$7120 single**

*This vacation requires a valid passport!*





# Oktoberfest, Canadian Thanksgiving and Niagara Falls

*Festive celebrations of Canada with natural beauty*

**6 Days • October 5-10, 2018**

**1.** We are off to Toronto this morning! With our local guide, ascend the CN Tower to dine and view the world from 1200 feet. Both the view and the food are spectacular! The Waterloo Region, about an hour west of the city, is home to a large German population and your home for the next three nights. Check into your hotel and rest up for the many festivities to come. **Radisson Hotel, Kitchener Waterloo – 3 nights (D)**

**2.** Canada's largest year-round market, the St. Jacobs Farmers' Market – filled with fresh local produce and various types of arts and crafts – is our first stop. With fall colors at their peak, travel along the scenic shores of Georgian Bay to the Blue Mountain Region. We'll be following the Apple Pie Trail, stopping for an included lunch and little tastings along the way. Return to your hotel to freshen up for a night of revelry with German food, beer, music and dancing at a local Festhalle. Raise your stein high! Prost! **(FB,L,D)**

**3.** Happy Canadian Thanksgiving! After a lazy morning explore the nearby Mennonite Countryside. Our guide will explain the culture of the community, and being Sunday, you're sure to see horse-drawn buggies headed to church. Thanksgiving lunch features locally sourced farm fresh ingredients. Walk off your meal while exploring the Waterloo Region Museum, with a focus on the local history of the late 1800s. Discover the stories of the pioneers who settled here. Return to your hotel and enjoy dinner at your leisure. **(FB,L)**

**4.** No one in town sits out the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade! It's a charming and thoroughly entertaining event. From reserved seating, take in all the sights and sounds. After the parade, travel to the Niagara Peninsula. Stop for lunch at a winery specializing in ice wine. Picked while frozen, the grapes produce only one drop of liquid when crushed, resulting in a deliciously sweet wine. Arrive at your hotel in time for the nightly Manager's Reception at your hotel, with complimentary cocktails and snacks, before dinner "on the edge" at Element on the Falls. Views of the falls from your room are included! **Embassy Suites Niagara Falls – 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

**5.** Begin the day with *Journey Behind the Falls*, standing, quite literally, behind the waterfall. Feel the immense power of 6 million cubic feet of water per minute cascading down right in front of you! Take some time to explore Clifton Hill and grab a bite to eat before boarding a vessel to sail right out to the base of the falls. Don't worry, ponchos will be provided... but you'll still get wet! Tonight laugh it up over dinner at *Oh Canada... eh?* **(FB,D)**

**6.** A final day brings an optional visit to the Niagara Botanical Gardens or choose to remain at your hotel sipping coffee while enjoying the view

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Dine high above Toronto at CN Tower
- Join the fun at a German Festhalle to celebrate Oktoberfest
- Enjoy a Thanksgiving feast featuring local farm fresh ingredients
- Sample ice wine during a winery tour
- Take a cruise to the base of Niagara Falls
- Roundtrip airfare to Toronto/from Buffalo
- 12 meals: 5 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2900/3250 Gold Passport Points

from your room just a little longer. Cross the international border into New York and fly home from Buffalo. **(FB)**

**\$2880 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3230 single**  
*This tour requires a valid passport!*



# TOUR TEASERS...

At **Sports Leisure Vacations** we have always listened to our Travel Club Members. If you see a destination listed on this page which is on your bucket list (or should be), please call our office or send a quick email asking to be placed on the **Priority Notification List** for the trip(s) of your choice. If we put the tour together, you will be among the first notified to register and be able to take advantage of any **Early Payment Di\$counts** offered. Placing your name on the list does not obligate you in any way but please only sign up for tours in which you would truly like to participate. Thank you in advance for your show of interest!

## This is Jeopardy... in Hollywood!

**3 Days • Spring 2018**

We sold out two trips to Southern California in 2016 to watch television tapings as part of a *live studio audience*. Should we go back again? Travel to Hollywood and stay at the iconic Century City Intercontinental Hotel. Walk in the footsteps of the stars on

a guided tour of Hollywood and during a special visit to Sony Pictures Studio. Dine with local talent at the studio cafeteria before a taping of the popular game show *Jeopardy!* Since the taping schedule will not be confirmed until October at the earliest, dates for the tour will be announced at that time.

## Our Annual Ballparks Tour

**6-7 Days • May or early June 2018**

Each year, the baseball fans in our crowd celebrate America's Pastime with a trip to watch baseball in some of our favorite ball parks. The 2018 MLB schedule was announced while this catalog was at the printer. Please see the special Tour Preview Day handout/catalog insert for the dates, prices and destinations for our next trip. It's limited to 25-30 travelers, so early reservations are strongly advised!

## Machu Picchu

**10 Days • Summer 2018**

This summer, **Sports Leisure's** Jim Pelley journeyed to South America to experience Machu Picchu. Now he wants to share his experiences with you! Travel to Peru and savor its exquisite food, its art and discover its countless natural and manmade wonders. Explore Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley full of world famous archaeological monuments and hear the stories of ancient cultures. Seductive, striking and natural, Peru is one of the world's premier destinations. See firsthand the fine engineering by Inca stonemasons and learn about Peru's fascinating history as we explore its captivating landscapes, squares, valleys and towns.

## The Great Oregon Theatre Roadtrip!

**5 Days • Summer 2018**

Oregon isn't just home to beautiful mountain and ocean scenery; it's home to several theatre companies... some well-known, others not so much. This tour idea comes from one of our customers who has done it himself! Travel by motorcoach to Ashland to attend the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. We'll see two performances and take a behind-the-scenes peek behind the curtain during a special

guided tour. Farther north, discover the Oregon Festival of American Music at The Shedd Institute for the Arts in Eugene. The festival highlights that most American form of performing art, the musical. We'll end the roadtrip in Portland for a performance at Portland Center Stage. We'll fly home from Portland to avoid the long trip back. Theater schedules are still TBA.

## Mexico's Copper Canyon by Rail

**8 Days • Fall 2018**

Copper Canyon is one of the largest and most impressive canyon systems in the entire world, with vertical rock walls thousands of feet high and waterfalls that drop dramatically from the rim. Larger and deeper than our own Grand Canyon, this majestic yet difficult landscape is home to the Tarahuma people who have lived here for centuries. Today, travelers use the railroad by day to pass between the towns and small cities in the region, experiencing 86 tunnels and 38 trestles while aboard *El Chepe*. Each night features hotel/motel accommodations for sleeping. Visit artisans, meet Mennonite farmers, and gaze at the grandeur of the sweeping canyon.

## Colorful Carolina Coast

**10 Days • March 2019**

**Clayton's** 10-day signature trip from Norfolk, VA to Jacksonville, FL ran for 20 consecutive years, the last being 2015. Over 500 **Sports Leisure** travelers are CCC veterans, many more than once. (LaVerne King an amazing 5 times!) Would you like us to bring it back? Drive the Outer Banks island chain, see Kitty Hawk and the Hatteras Lighthouse, ferry across Pamlico Sound and visit NC's Colonial Capital of New Bern before spending 2-nights oceanfront on Myrtle Beach. Charleston and Savannah are next, both for 2-nights each with historic district accommodations, and all the beauty and culture each city affords.

## The Alps of Switzerland and Northern Italy

**10 Days • Summer 2019**

Begin in Lucerne where a visit to Mt. Pilatus offers a lake cruise, gondola, cable car and a ride on the world's steepest cog railway. Onward to Interlaken and visits to Trummelbach Falls, Kleine Scheidegg and "The Top of the World" on snowy Jungfrauoch. Northern Italy is a place of art, history and legend. Cruise Lake Como, explore Verona and walk the ancient streets of Padua. Your last full day is spent in Venice, the romantic city of bridges, canals and gondolas. Flights into Zurich and out of Venice.



Covered Bridges and carousel horses are part of our trip to Oregon, page 25



# The Sports Leisure Difference...

Answers to these frequently asked questions will tell you more about our company and help you enjoy your vacation to the fullest!

## Can I find you on the web?

You bet! [www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com). There you'll find all our recent publications, valuable information on upcoming events and more. While online, consider joining our online notification service, *By Invitation Only*. There we'll inform you of time-dated opportunities that present themselves between regular newsletter cycles.

## I hear you refer to customers as "members." Do I have to join a club to travel with you?

Absolutely not, though most travelers do elect to join the *Sports Leisure Travel Club*. Only through club membership will you receive the annual catalog, our bimonthly newsletter *The Traveler*, and invitations to our special events. Additionally, only members can participate in Travel Club Gold, our bonus rewards program. A complimentary membership is extended to new and potential travelers upon request. After that, it's only \$10 per person, per year. A lifetime membership is available for \$30 or \$50 for a couple.

## I have dietary restrictions. Is this going to be a problem?

If you have mild dietary restrictions or are a vegetarian, it is important you notify our office at the time of registration. It's your responsibility to read your Tour Reservation Confirmation carefully and make certain your restrictions have been noted. As you can certainly understand, it is quite difficult for your Tour Director to accommodate those who wait until they are actually traveling to share their special needs. If you have severe dietary restrictions, you may find this type of travel is not for you.

## Can I make other special requests?

You are invited to make special requests of the airline and hotel(s) serving your vacation at the point of reservation. The more notice we have, the better our ability to accommodate you. Requests might include specific airline seating, the need for wheelchair assistance at airports; and at hotels, a smoking room, king bed and/or handicap-accessible room. Please note: we automatically request a non-smoking room for everyone in the group and a room with two beds for those traveling double occupancy unless you tell us otherwise. As handicap-accessible rooms are limited, we ask you to make this request only if your condition demands it. There could be another traveler who needs the room more than you.

## I live in Nevada. What does your company offer me?

We welcome our growing number of Nevada travelers with open arms! Most of you live in residential communities in the Reno/Sparks area. We're also proud to have been selected as the official travel provider for the Retired Public Employees of Nevada who live state-wide. Our fly-away tours are priced to include air and door-to-door service for those living in the Sacramento, Reno/Sparks, Carson City and Las Vegas metropolitan areas. Those living a distance from the airports in Sacramento, Reno or Las Vegas should consult with our office to determine the options best for you, some of which may add to the advertised tour price. At present, motorcoach tours depart only from the Sacramento area.

## Can you explain "door-to-door service"?

Quite simply this means we will pick you up and return you to your home on all vacations of three days or longer. This service may involve a limousine, sedan, SUV or other special vehicle.

Provided by Coastal Breeze Limousine in the Sacramento metropolitan area, door-to-door service is included within these boundaries: Davis on the west, Galt on the south, Auburn and Placerville on the east, Woodland to the north. Service is available for an additional charge

for travelers living in Stockton, Yuba City/ Marysville, Grass Valley, Winters, Vacaville, Fairfield, Pollock Pines and Colfax.

Nevada door-to-door service is provided by Bell Limousine to anyone living in the Reno/Sparks metropolitan area and south to Carson City, as well as travelers living in the Las Vegas metropolitan area.

A \$75 per person credit is available for travelers to whom this service isn't available, or for those who wish to opt out of this service and meet us at the point of departure.

Another option for those who live in outlying areas is to overnight in Sacramento. We have negotiated a special reduced rate of \$99 per night plus tax at the Best Western PLUS Sutter House located downtown at 1100 H Street. You can leave your car in the lot while on vacation and enjoy door-to-door service to and from the hotel. Call (916) 441-1314 or 1-800-830-1314 and ask for Doris Gray (extension 311) to make a reservation. We are happy to make recommendations for our Nevada travelers in need of similar services.

On overnight and daytrips, motorcoaches depart from convenient neighborhood pick-up points throughout the greater Sacramento and Roseville areas. Door-to-door service is available for a fee on daytrips and overnights. Call the office for details.

## What can I expect from the motorcoaches you charter?

If you haven't been on a bus since school days, you'll find modern motorcoaches to be a vastly different experience. Whether locally or in fly-away destinations on our continent and beyond, we seek only the best equipment and drivers available with three things in mind: Your pleasure, your comfort and above all your safety. Onboard amenities usually include plush seating, audio and video systems, wifi, electrical outlets, climate control and a restroom. Additionally, your Tour Director is never far away with a bottle of water and other refreshments. Of course, our exclusive *SuperCoach III* is used on many daytrips and overnights, as well as selected long-distance trips unless it is unavailable due to maintenance or highway size restrictions.

## You have assigned seating on your tours. What's that about?

By the vote of our membership, we do not rotate motorcoach seats as many companies do. You are free to select the seating of your choice at the point of reservation. Single travelers are sometimes required to take available single seats



to leave remaining seat pairs for those traveling with a friend or spouse.

### **What about airport security restrictions? They seem to change all the time.**

The Transportation Security Administration requires that you provide us your date of birth and full name as is appears on your government-issued identification for all vacations involving air travel. Complete passport information is additionally required in advance for international travel. Up-to-date security information can be found on the internet at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov), including details on how you can qualify for TSA Pre-Check. Our staff stays current on the latest regulations in order to provide you timely and accurate assistance.

### **Have passport rules changed?**

Passports are required for all travel outside the U.S., including Canada and Mexico. If you are of foreign citizenship, we highly recommend you check with your country's embassy and follow its instructions to make certain your travel will be legal and seamless. U.S. citizens in need of a passport can pick up an application at any post office or find it online. Please allow 8-10 weeks for processing. Your passport must be valid for at least six months past the end date of your international tour.

### **Do I need to worry about airline baggage charges?**

As each airline has different policies regarding luggage and associated charges, you may expect rules and restrictions (number of bags allowed, weight, etc.) to vary from trip to trip. You have this *Sports Leisure* promise: You will never pay to check your first bag on any flight on a U.S. airline. Should you wish to bring a second checked bag, please be prepared to pay your Tour Director at check-in. Second bag charges are not limited to airline fees and may include other handlers such as hotel bellmen. The Tour Planner can advise you of additional charges by calling the office in advance of your departure. You might also find the airline's website helpful.

Each checked bag has a strict weight limit of 40 or 50 pounds (depending on the trip). Bags weighing more will incur additional fees or be rejected. This policy applies throughout the tour. Many "wheelie" bags and oversized carry-ons that fit in airline overhead bins cannot be accommodated within the cabin of the motorcoach. In such cases, you will be asked to check them coachside with your Tour Director. They will be tagged and available coachside at each overnight stop.

### **Are my payments protected when I pay for my vacation in advance?**

Your deposits and final payments are protected in accordance with the State of California Seller of Travel Law (#2011549-40). In addition, *Sports Leisure Vacations* is a member of the Northeast California Better Business Bureau with an A+ rating.

### **Can a friend from another city sign up for a Sports Leisure vacation, or join me for a meal or visit at one of our destinations?**

Yes! We can arrange travel for friends or relatives to meet our groups from any city in the world. (We currently have over 1,000 Travel Club members who live outside the Sacramento area.) If you have friends or relatives who would like to travel with you, have them call us toll free at 1-800-951-5556. With advance notice, we are also happy to welcome your friends or relatives who may live along the tour route and may wish to join us for a meal or attraction.

### **Can I extend my vacation to visit friends or relatives?**

The answer is almost always yes, particularly if you register and make your request at least 60 days prior to departure. There could be additional charges for flight deviations, but generally they are small. Many travelers take advantage of this service to visit friends or relatives, or explore a destination in greater detail on their own.

### **I have some trouble walking long distances. Will I be able to participate and enjoy the trip?**

In order to get full value from a travel experience, it is important to be in good mental and physical health. Walking and some step-climbing are necessary to participate in the normal activities of our vacations. While we can do almost everything for you on a *Sports Leisure* vacation, the Tour Director cannot provide sustained attention to individual clients. Please be advised that we visit many cultural sites on tour, not all of which meet A.D.A. requirements due to their historic status.

Let us assure you that people with mobility restrictions are welcome on our vacations. Many of our travelers are over 70 (or even 80 or 90), something we keep in mind when planning our itineraries. In our office, the Tour Planner for each departure knows

the itinerary well and would be happy to consult with you personally should you have questions regarding the amount of walking, elevations, etc., on a particular trip.

### **What if I become ill and cannot travel? Do you offer cancellation protection or travel insurance?**

Both are available on every departure. Either must be purchased at the time you make your initial tour payment. We strongly recommend you consider this optional protection. Please refer to the *Special Vacation Notes and Information* brochure for details. This coverage may not be available to travelers who have cancelled more than two tours in a 12-month period or who make their reservation less than one month prior to the departure date.

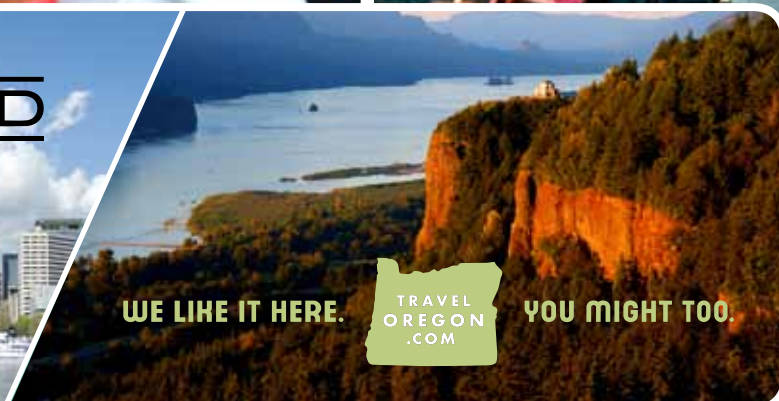
### **How does your company deal with "chronic complainers?"**

One or two can ruin a trip for all. *Sports Leisure Vacations* reserves the right not to accept or retain anyone whose lack of personal hygiene or poor general behavior, in the opinion of the Tour Director, impedes the operation of the tour and/or affects the rights of other travelers. A refund of unused tour services is the limit of our liability if a person is required to leave the tour for the reasons stated above. Said passenger(s) will be responsible for any additional costs to return to the city of origin.

We want to learn, discover and have fun together. Our groups are often complimented on their positive attitude by tourism professionals and other travelers who encounter us on the road. Life is too short for making yourself and others around you miserable due to small challenges that are bound to occur. Travel is by nature an inexact science. Problem travelers will kindly be asked to find another company with whom to travel.

### **And that's the Sports Leisure Difference...**





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