



# **Sports Leisure Vacations**

## **The In-Between Newsletter**

**Vol. 47, No. 3 \* December 2025**

*Your next full newsletter will arrive in mid-January. In the meantime, this publication will bring you up to date, plus announce a couple of new shorter regional tours and daytrips.*

**Best Quote in a long time:**

**“It was more fun being 20 in the 70’s than it is being 70 in the 20’s”**

### **Bits and Bobs**

What a wonderful Thanksgiving feast we enjoyed at the **Grand Island Mansion** near Courtland last week. Beautiful place, great food and a lot of nice *Sports Leisure* folks for company. Thanks to **Mariea** for setting up our adventure!

**Tour Preview Day** has come and gone. **Thank you** to the nearly 600 who came to The Sophia and B St. Theatre downtown, and helped support local arts facilities (we pay rent for the day). The phones rang off the hook, a record number of people lined up outside our door and lots of exciting vacations were sold. Dates to save for 2026: **Spring Preview Day – Saturday, April 4 at the KVIE Studios; 2027 Catalog Reveal/Tour Preview Day – Sunday, September 27 at The Sofia/B St. Theatre.** (Preview Days are not yet open for reservations at this time.)

International, off-the-continent packages continue to be very popular. Trips to New Zealand, Portugal, Costa Rica, The Baltics and London were spoken for quickly. We noticed, and at the recent **National Tour Association** convention we met with many representatives offering visits to overseas destinations. While we aren’t abandoning the United States, increasingly there is heavy demand for far-away places. Even our Canada (Newfoundland, Calgary Stampede) and Mexico tours (Baja Whales, Copper Canyon) are expanding to more exotic destinations.

Herein please find a few new close-to-home getaways and Daycations. You’ll also find an update on which previously announced trips still have space available. More information and complete itineraries can be found in our 2026 Dream Book and online at [www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com).

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of people who book trips they don't necessarily intend to take. (Book 3 trips when you are really only planning to take 2 of them.) As long as you abide by the deposit due dates and cancellation policies, we are fine. We know many of our trips fill quickly, so a little maneuvering can help **you** get the trips you want. We're definitely good with that!

But if you are a person who blocks space and doesn't pay deposits until we come after you...you aren't a desirable customer. If we have to hound you for payment, and then you cancel far after the deadline...you aren't a desirable customer. The great thing about technology is that it shows us who these travelers are, allowing us to address the issue with those involved. We can only maintain our extremely lenient payment and cancellation policies if everyone plays by the rules.

**If you have a special situation**, a medical or family circumstance perhaps, pick up the phone and give us a call. Generally, we can be flexible and work out something that benefits everyone. Often we have travelers on a waitlist, and we work hard to get them on the trip when there are openings, so it's a win/win for everyone!

## ***The Travel Guys Have a New Home***

Nothing lasts forever. After nearly 18 years on the air at KFBK a dispute over whether the show could continue to be broadcast live caused the station to decline to staff the show. We were the last live program on Saturdays, and our show required someone to be in the station. (Tom and Mark broadcast remotely from Rancho Cordova). KFBK didn't want that very minimal expense.

**This story has a happy ending!** The folks at **KHTK 1140 AM** seem thrilled to have us on the air at **11 am Saturday mornings**. It is an all-sports station (Sactown Sports is their nickname) when ***The Travel Guys*** aren't on the air. We invite you to be part of our audience in our new home.

The show is also available each week as a podcast (the unedited program with less commercials) at [www.travelguysradio.com](http://www.travelguysradio.com). You can also sign up to have it automatically delivered to your e-mail inbox. There is a *Sports Leisure* update each week at 33 minutes past the hour where we discuss recent and upcoming tour destinations with stories and tips to share. The theme of the program is to **make you a smarter traveler** the next time you hit the road, with a group or by yourself.

## Tyler's Tech Tip: How to pay online at [www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com)

1. Go to [www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com)
2. Look for the green rectangle button "Pay Online" and click it
3. **Please take time to read the Important Information section before continuing**
4. You will now enter your Booking ID # and click the "Open Payment Site" button
5. The next page is the first half of the payment form which requires the following:
  - a. How much would you like to pay
  - b. Which passenger(s) you are paying for
  - c. Accepting our terms and conditions
  - d. Please make sure your email is correct for confirmation
  - e. Click the "Proceed to Payment" button
6. The second half of the payment form is where you enter your card and billing details then click "Pay"
7. You should now receive an email with confirmation of your payment. If not, try:
  - a. Checking spam/junk mail
  - b. Calling the office to confirm payment went through

**A reminder:** For security reasons, we do not keep your credit card information on file. That is why you must enter the entire number and other info each time to make a payment. Paying online is *an option*. You can always mail in a check, call in payment information or pay in person at the office.

## Sold out Tours

***Get your name on the waitlist if you wish***

December 30 – Rose Parade

March 6 – Oregon Chocolate Festival

March 13 – Alaska Northern Lights

March 16 – A Visit to the Hotel del Coronado  
April 17 – Costa Rica  
April 28 – Columbia/Snake River Cruise  
May 3 & May 11 – On the Central Coast  
May 17 – London  
July – Iceland, Land of Fire & Ice  
August 2 – San Juan Explorer  
August 31 – Portugal

## **No Prices Yet Tours**

***Put your name on the list and get notified when the tour is available***

March 7 – Baseball Spring Training  
October 26 – Ghost Towns of Old Nevada (just before Halloween!)

## **Space Available Tours**

***Call/email for reservations - # of available seats in ( )***

January 24 – Key West (2)  
February 17 – Santa Barbara (9)  
February 21 – Baja Mexico – Wine, Whales & Wonders (2)  
March 7 – Baseball Spring Training in Arizona (7)  
March 9 – New Orleans (3)  
April 12 – Pathways of Patriots - America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tour (11)  
April 13 – Springtime in North San Diego (2)  
April 15 – Route 66 East (13)  
April 23 – Stars, Stripes & Carnegie Hall – America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday (7)  
April 27 – San Antonio (2)  
May 5 – Route 66 East (13)  
May 17 – Wonder Valley Ranch (5)  
May 18 – Grand Canyon Nat'l Park (20)  
May 26 – Zion & Bryce Canyon Nat'l Parks (1)  
May 30 – Legends and Lakes Mystery Tour (3)  
June 1 – Newfoundland (18)  
June 5 – Cape Cod (7)  
June 15 – Oregon Coast/CA Redwoods (13)  
June 25 – Baltic Odyssey (2)  
July 7 – Calgary Stampede & Canadian Rockies (7)

July 12 – Fort Bragg & Mendocino (7)  
July 19 – Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound (4)  
August 20 – Maine, Lobsters & Lighthouses (12)  
October 3 – Lake Placid & Cooperstown Fall Foliage (2)

## A Tour Teaser

### **Palm Springs Modernism – February 2027**

Celebrating Palm Springs unique architecture and the people who made it happen, helping it remain a part of the culture of the region. View many of the landmarks with a local humorist and cultural expert (daytime and after-dark tours), progressive dinner in three iconic Indian Canton homes, perhaps even a dinner at the Sinatra estate. If there is enough interest we will scout it this year and get it on the schedule in 2027. Call and place your name on the **Priority Notification List** and you will be notified if the trip moves into operations.

## Daycations and Theatre Outings

### **Christmas Dinner with Friends**

*Pampas Brazilian Steakhouse in Vacaville*

**Thursday, December 25 – 1:00 pm seating**

Looking for plans on Christmas Day in the company of friends where cooking is not included? We have you covered. Immerse yourself in the atmosphere of Pampas Brazilian Steakhouse, echoing the vibrant spirit and rich culinary traditions of Brazil. While this is a steakhouse, they offer many options for those who do not eat meat or are gluten free. Discover a dining experience like no other, where every dish tells a story of passion and heritage. You may be asking why we chose Vacaville. As most of you know, *Sports Leisure* has been using your donations to support the Wreath Project for many years, and we thought it might be nice for you to see the results firsthand. To this end we will make a short stop at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon to pay our respects after lunch. We plan to get back to Sacramento before dark. **\$222**

### **Tina – The Tina Turner Musical**

*Gallo Center Theatre, Modesto*

**Saturday, January 24 – 1:00 pm**

An uplifting comeback story like no other, *Tina – The Tina Turner Musical* is the inspiring journey of a woman who broke barriers and became the undisputed Queen of Rock n' Roll. Set to the pulse-pounding soundtrack of her most beloved hits, this electrifying sensation will send you soaring to the rafters. One of the world's best-

selling artists of all time, Tina Turner won 12 Grammy Awards, and her live shows were seen by millions, with more concert tickets sold than any other solo performer in music history. Due to the early curtain time, a boxed lunch will be served on the way to the theater. **\$208**

### ***The Book of Mormon***

*Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco*

**Wednesday, January 28 – 1:00 pm**

This outrageous musical comedy follows the adventures of a mismatched pair of missionaries, sent halfway across the world to spread the Good News. With standing-room-only productions in London, on Broadway, and across North America, *The Book of Mormon* has truly become an international sensation supported by memorable, inspired melodies and rollicking dance sequences. Fair warning: There is explicit language. **\$196 (limited space)\***

### ***The Ten Tenors: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary World Tour***

*Gallo Center Theatre, Modesto*

**Wednesday, February 4 – 7:30 pm**

The Ten Tenors are the world's longest-running classical crossover act. The Australian musical ensemble has toured extensively nationally and internationally, with more than 2,000 concerts performed and millions of tickets sold. Their signature brand of music featuring 10-part harmonies, performing operatic arias to soulful ballads to chart-topping pop and rock songs, has been enjoyed by tens of millions of fans worldwide. The Ten Tenors have shared stages with such iconic artists as Rod Stewart, Andrea Bocelli, Alanis Morissette and Christina Aguilera. Dinner is included prior to the show. **\$220**

### ***Great American Crooners from Jazz at Lincoln Center***

*Gallo Center Theatre, Modesto*

**Saturday, February 7 – 7:30 pm**

*Great American Crooners* focuses on quintessential crooners such as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Bobby Darin, whose velvety voices and sentimental serenades made them superstars on stage and on screen. Featuring Robbie Lee and Shenel Johns, who have both graced Jazz at Lincoln Center's stage, and rising star male vocalist, Benny Benack III. Relive classics like "I've Got You Under My Skin," "Misty," "I Only Have Eyes for You" and "Moon River," and enjoy incredible true stories about these legends. Dinner is included prior to the show. **\$211 (limited space)**

## **A Whimsical Day in Santa Rosa**

**Thursday, February 26**

Did you know that Charles Schulz is Celebrating 75 Years of Humor? Join us for a fun-filled day, starting with a visit to the Jelly Belly Factory and Museum. If you haven't had a chance to check out the museum we think you'll find it to be a great addition. We will continue our day with a lunch stop in Petaluma. We will then head to the Charles Schulz Museum for a docent-led tour through the museum's current and permanent exhibits, learning about Schulz and his lovable cast of characters. We have a final stop at the Snoopy Café for hot cocoa on the trip home. **\$183**

## **Monty Python's Spamalot**

*Golden Gate Theatre, San Francisco*

**Wednesday, March 11 – 1:00 pm**

Monty Python fans - the news is enough to get yourself in a tizz about! The holy grail was searched for, found, racked up a whole lot of awards, became a Broadway favorite, and now, San Francisco, two decades later, the musical that so lovingly rips off "Monty Python And The Holy Grail" is putting pedal to the metal and coming to your doorstep – delivering the holy grail right to you – personally and as fantastic as ever! **\$213 (limited space)\***

## **Ladies of Laughter**

*Gallo Center Theatre, Modesto*

**Saturday, March 28 – 7:00 pm**

Looking for a fun girl's night out? That's why the show is returning to Modesto for a third straight year! Karen Rontowski will be one of three comics featured. Her fast-paced, quirky and charmingly optimistic comedy showcases endearing, self-effacing and intelligent characters that catch you by surprise every time. The other comics are to be announced. This show includes winners and the best talent from the Ladies of Laughter national competition. Past participants include Amy Schumer and "Big Bang Theory" star Melissa Rauch, among many others who have gone on to national stardom in films, television and more! Dinner is included prior to the show. **\$203**

**\*Wednesday San Francisco matinees include a box lunch served on the coach on the way to San Francisco, orchestra seating in the theatre, and no host dinner stop at either Pier 39 or North Beach following the performance.**

## Giants Baseball Daytrips for 2026

Here is the schedule of Giants baseball daytrips for 2026. See the season opening overnighiter against the Yankees also on these pages. All trips include your game ticket on the Club Level in either sections 224 or 229 (in the shade by game time). The Club Level seats offer a great view, semi-private concessions and restrooms, a Giants Museum and quite simply a much better experience. There are escalators/elevators to get to the seats. Refreshments on served on the coach each way. Gametimes are generally 12:45 pm on weekdays and 1:05 pm on Sundays. We arrive at the ballpark about 1 1/2 hours prior to the start of the game, which generally ensures that if there is a giveaway that day, you get it!

<b>Thursday, April 23</b>	<b>L.A. Dodgers</b>	<b>\$175</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 6</b>	<b>San Diego Padres</b>	<b>\$139</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 27</b>	<b>Arizona Diamondbacks</b>	<b>\$122</b>
<b>Sunday, June 14</b>	<b>Chicago Cubs</b>	<b>\$218</b>
<b>Wednesday, July 29</b>	<b>Milwaukee Brewers</b>	<b>\$182</b>
<b>Wednesday, August 12</b>	<b>Houston Astros</b>	<b>\$174</b>
<b>Wednesday, August 26</b>	<b>Cincinnati Reds</b>	<b>\$174</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 9</b>	<b>St. Louis Cardinals</b>	<b>\$148</b>

Note: Pricing varies because the Giants use dynamic pricing for their games. Prices reflect the popularity of the team they are playing, day of the week, etc.

## New Vacations & Getaways

### Eagles, Owls and Agriculture

*Unique birds of prey viewing and agricultural education experience*

**3 Days • February 13-15**

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. Then head 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 and live birds. **Carson Valley Inn – 2 nights (D)**



2. Today is a 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-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. This morning take a tour of the Carson Valley Museum in Gardnerville and the Courthouse Museum in Genoa before heading back over the mountains, stopping at Lake Tahoe's south shore for a hosted lunch before returning to Sacramento. **(L)**

**\$1095 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1250 single**

**\$30 Early Payment Di\$count when you pay in full before December 24**

### **Yankees vs. Giants – Opening Day Weekend Overnighter**

**2 Days • March 27-28**

That's right fans, the Giants open their 2026 season at Oracle Park against the **New York Yankees**. We will attend the Friday and Saturday games and overnight in *The City* at the Hyatt Regency Downtown SOMA. We have our popular Club Level seats in section 229 under the overhang in the shade. The package includes breakfast at the hotel on Saturday morning. **Even though this is only an overnight trip, it includes door-to-door service between your home and the motorcoach.**

**\$1055 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1185 single**

**\$30 Early Payment Di\$count when you pay in full by December 24**

## **Holiday Office Hours**

<b>December 24 - Christmas Eve</b>	<b>9 am – 1 pm</b>
<b>December 25 - Christmas Day</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>December 26 - Friday after Christmas</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>December 31 - New Year's Eve</b>	<b>9 am - 3:30 pm</b>
<b>January 1 - New Year's Day</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>January 2 - Friday after New Year's</b>	<b>9 am - 3:30 pm</b>

***The Sports Leisure Team wishes you and yours a happy  
and holy holiday season!***