

2026 DREAM BOOK

BEYOND BORDERS



Sports Leisure Vacations LLC

CREATING MEMORABLE TRAVEL EXPERIENCES SINCE 1979

What makes Sports Leisure different from the rest...

The landscape of travel companies is broad. There are travel advisors, who make a living booking your travel and making small commissions from the sale(s). Many are experts and well worth seeking out.

There are organizers of travel. The activities directors at senior living complexes, or at your church, or even the bridge club. These folks are often in charge of making decisions on where their group will travel and what the logistics of the journey will be.

Then there are the actual suppliers of travel. The hotels, cruise lines, airlines, attractions, bus and shuttle services, all the people who make up the individual components of your vacation, are all over the internet. This is where something has changed dramatically over the years. **Suppliers now sell directly to travelers**, something that was unheard of in days gone by. The internet makes it possible. It also puts mountains of information about your journey at your beck and call.

The point of all this verbiage is that you have a lot of choices when you travel. Do it yourself, have someone help you, buy into a trip someone has already organized. There are pluses and minuses to each choice. Here are a few of the things that make **Sports Leisure different**.

We have a weird name for a company that caters to mature travelers. I used to kid people on the road who asked about our name by telling them I was in charge of a group of female wrestlers that toured the country. Big, nasty women that would ruin their day...

Since our founding in 1979, we have always been a **little different**. We found listening to what travelers told us they wanted was an excellent approach to growing what was then known as **Sports Travel** (then **Sports Leisure Travel**, and finally, in 1998, **Sports Leisure Vacations**).

From the beginning, we felt bus travel could be better. **Smoking on board** was where we first decided to be different. Hard to believe, but on most buses 5 of 12 rows (20 seats) were in the smoking section in the 70's. We cut that to 2 rows (8 seats), and then, even before the law made smoking on buses illegal, we eliminated it entirely. **We were among the first in the industry to offer completely non-smoking tours.**

Advance Seat Selection. Travelers were driving across town to get on the bus, in order to sit with friends or just get the seat they wanted. That seemed dumb. Especially when all our reservations were taken on one phone. Why not let people pick their seats when they made their reservation? Again, way ahead of the competition (many of whom **still** rotate seats on trips all these years later).

Refreshments on board. Taken from a childhood experience on a Continental Trailways bus with **Gold Star service**. Ask me and I'll share the story sometime.

Door-to-door service (home pick-up). In conversations with travelers, they mentioned how hard it was to get someone to take them to the stop to catch the "airport bus" in the morning. Ditto on the return, getting someone to pick you up.



Max The Wonder Dog and office mascot, gets a little attention from Mark

Then one day, in a convention idea sharing session, a fellow tour operator related how he was picking up his Chicago-area passengers and taking them to the airport in a fleet of vans. I was sitting next to John from Mayflower Tours when he shared that tidbit, and immediately thought, **we should take people right to the airport, and back home again**. The door-to-door service was an immediate hit and remains to this day one of our most popular services.

In some cases, you can order off the menu. Born from the fact the guy who owns the place (me) is a really picky eater, and the reality we often travel with 25-30 people instead of 40-50 (another thing that makes us different, **smaller groups**). Often (but not always), restaurants will let us order what we like, instead of limiting us to 3-4 choices.

We are local. We support local organizations that are important to all of us, because we are part of the community. We **strongly** believe businesses who are supported by the community have a responsibility to return that support. Public television, the arts, support for those in the community in need (Mustard Seed School) and contributing to the program that puts decorations on the graves of fallen soldiers at Sacramento Valley Cemetery at Christmas are just a few of our causes.

We answer our phone. Real, live people answer during business hours. This might seem like a little thing, but if you do business with other travel companies, heck with **any** companies, you know most not only don't answer the phone, you can't even find their phone number. If they answer, it's a bot or a recording. Their message: Don't bother us.

A final thought. Thank you. For most of my adult life, I have had the privilege of taking nice people to wonderful places, all the while assisted by a great team. I have been incredibly blessed. Thanks to those reading this column, and to your friends and family who traveled with us over the years, AND for all the recommendations you make to your friends and family...there is a lot to say thank you for. Until our next adventure...

Mark

Mark Hoffmann, CTP,
Owner/Founder



Cover Photo: Rachel, Nevada, is rumored to be where the space aliens are headquartered. We visit Rachel on Ghost Towns of Old Nevada – Page 38.

A Happy Place

Do you have a happy place? I hope so. I've got a lot of them – places that stir my sense of beauty and wonder, that deeply touch my soul with their spirituality, that are hallowed by the actions and sacrifices of those who came before me. They might be local or far away. They might even be other-worldly as the character on the cover is keen to suggest.

I visited one of my happiest happy places just this past weekend in Michigan – Mackinac Island. It is a place of sublime natural beauty sporting an unconventional historic vibe you'd be hard-pressed to match. Motor vehicles are banned on the island, making horse-drawn carriages the main mode of transportation. There the revving of engines and the bass beat of overburdened sound systems are replaced by the gentle clip clop of horses' hooves. Beyond the island, the view is dominated in every direction by one of the Great Lakes – Huron – and if the sun is right you can see the waters of Lake Michigan just beyond to the west. On this particular visit I was treated to a heavenly sight – a glorious full moon. Though I've never been there and perhaps never will, the moon is definitely a happy place.

Earlier this year I visited another carless village – Wengen – located high in the Swiss Alps. There are no horses there, so the clip clop is replaced by bells – thousands of them – all worn by happy Swiss cows who graze the fields surrounding the village. Taken alone, one cow bell might be considered a rather jarring sound, but in concert they act as a symphony bathing the hillsides quite literally in the sound of music. This is another very happy place, indeed.

How can anyone not be happy when sitting in a theatre as the house lights begin to fade? You can literally feel the electric current of anticipation as it pulses through the audience. You might even hear a gasp when the curtain starts to rise. Could it be your own? Whether in New York, London, San Francisco or another of our fine regional stages, or right here supporting Sacramento's own impressive theatre scene, a live performance cannot help but make a person happy.



Getting windblown with Toni and Stephanie on the Great Lakes



The Alps really are ALL THAT!

That hits on another important aspect which is part of most happy places. Whether traveling close to home or on distant shores, watching a musical or play, or experiencing nearly any happy place of your choosing, you probably aren't doing it alone. I believe happy places are happiest when enjoyed in community.

Within these pages our Dream Team of travel planners and tour hosts have pushed *beyond borders* to offer you a world of happy places both near and far, such as taking a drive down *The Mother Road of America* on her 100th anniversary. You can visit Philadelphia, New York, and Revolutionary and Civil War sites in eastern Virginia in commemoration of our nation's semiquincentennial. Perhaps our first-ever trip to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is on your bucket list, or our highly-anticipated returns to New Zealand, London, Portugal and Iceland. You'll also find Canada in these pages, and a teaser for Mexico's Copper Canyon late in 2026. And of course there are so many of the happy places that make the United States the world's greatest destination. From the Pacific Northwest to National Parks in the southwest; from California getaways to New England vacations; from unpack-once trips in New Orleans and San Antonio to America's Last Frontier, Alaska. Happy Vacations to Happy Places with Happy People – that's Sports Leisure Vacations. We are so HAPPY to have you along for the ride!

“Your Tour Guy,”

Clayton

Clayton Whitehead, CTP
President



THE TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECEMBER 2025

2	A Palm Springs Christmas, Starring Barry Manilow	4
1	Putting on the Ritz	4

JANUARY 2026

4	New Zealand – Sweet As!	5
---	-------------------------------	---

FEBRUARY

4	Winter Magic in Canada.....	6
3	Welcome to Sunny Santa Barbara	7

MARCH

2	Oregon Chocolate Festival.....	8
2	Spring Training in Arizona.....	9
3	New Orleans...And All That Jazz.....	10
3	Alaska's Winter Wonders & the Northern Lights!	11

APRIL

3	Pathways of Patriots	12
3	Stars, Stripes and Carnegie Hall	13
3	San Antonio: Deep in the Heart.....	14
3	Pacific Petals & Safari Trails	20

MAY

2	Legends & Lakes Mystery Tour.....	15
3	Route 66, The Main Street of America	16-17
4	Blooms & Bridges in Royal London.....	18-19
2	On the Central Coast.....	20
3	Wonder Valley Ranch, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	21
3	Grand Canyon National Park and the Red Rock Village of Sedona.....	22
3	Zion & Bryce Canyon National Parks	23

JUNE

3	Newfoundland: Welcome to The Rock.....	24
3	Boston to the Shores of Old Cape Cod.....	25
4	A Baltic Odyssey	26-27
2	The Oregon Coast to the Redwoods.....	28
3	Paris and Seine River Cruise.....	39



JULY

3	Calgary Stampede and the Canadian Rockies.....	29
4	Iceland, Land of Fire and Ice	30
3	Ferries and Towns of Puget Sound	32
2	Historic Fort Bragg & Mendocino, Training by the Ocean.....	31

AUGUST

3	San Juan Islands Explorer.....	33
4	The Splendor of Portugal.....	34-35
3	Mainely Maine – Lobsters and Lighthouses.....	36
3	South Dakota's Black Hills.....	39

SEPTEMBER

3	A Few of Our Favorite Things: The Hollywood Bowl ...	39
3	Michigan & Mackinac.....	40

OCTOBER

3	Lake Placid & Cooperstown	37
3	Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta	40
3	Niagara Falls, Oktoberfest & Canadian Thanksgiving	40
4	Riding the Rails through Mexico's Copper Canyon	41
3	Ghost Towns & Aliens in Old Nevada	38

ON THE RADAR SCREEN

4	Return to Japan.....	41
4	The Emerald Isle is Calling.....	42
4	Arctic Adventure in Lapland.....	42

ODDS AND ENDS

Activity Meter.....	3
Mystery Tour.....	15
Tour Teasers.....	39
The Sports Leisure Difference.....	43



International Travel – The Great Unknown

At press time the political wheels are turning in our country and around the world regarding the processes a traveler must satisfy in order to visit a country other than their own. These requirements may come in the form of a Visa, ETA (Electronic Travel Authorization), or a number of others. Usually a fee is involved which could be anywhere from nominal to a few hundred dollars based on the destination(s).

Rest assured you are not in this alone! We are here to help by monitoring the ever-changing requirements and coaching you through the process when the time comes. Program prices in this publication DO NOT include any government-issued international travel fees.

Tyler's Tech Tips

A New Feature Just for You!

We're excited to introduce a brand-new section in our newsletter: **Tyler's Tech Tips**. It's designed to help you feel more confident and comfortable with the technology you use every day—whether at home, on the road, or while traveling with us.

Technology can sometimes feel overwhelming or complicated, but it doesn't have to be. Each issue, I'll share a simple, practical tip you can use right away. From keeping your smartphone safe and organized, to making the most of travel apps, to learning shortcuts that save you time, these tips are written with *you* in mind—clear, straightforward, and without any jargon.

Think of this as your personal guide to little “aha!” moments that make technology more useful and less intimidating. My goal is to give you small, easy wins that add up to more convenience, more confidence, and maybe even a little fun along the way. Stay tuned—your first Tech Tip is just around the corner. Together, we'll make sure technology works *for you!*

— Tyler

What are your old coins worth?

Maybe you have a bag or a box of old coins. Perhaps you inherited a collection when a relative passed. Maybe it's just one or two coins or bills of currency you'd like to know about. If your coins are pre-1964 (50¢, 25¢, 10¢) or pre-1940 (pennies and nickels), or recent coins that are part of mint-issued sets, they may have a premium value. Currency 1935 and before also fits into the “value” category.



But who/where can you take them to get an honest evaluation of their worth? Mark would be happy to give you a free appraisal. If you wish to sell your treasures, that is easy to arrange. Often Mark will offer to purchase them, or get you easily

to someone who is interested. You can bring your coins to the office, or for larger heavier collections, Mark can come to you. Just call the office to set up an appointment. Feel free to share this offer with family and friends.

ACTIVITY METER



As part of our commitment to help you select the perfect vacation, refer to the Activity Meter rating to better understand how it matches your fitness level, abilities, interests, and energy. It's important to note that more than one rating may apply to a tour. For example, some travelers will enjoy a visit to a national park by spending time in the visitors center and taking a seat with a view, while others prefer to walk a nature trail. Same destination and tour, but two different levels of activity.

The ratings can be found in the Table of Contents and on the itinerary page for each tour. Two numbers indicate the ability to do optional things which limit or increase the amount of physical activity required. This meter is only a guideline. With specific questions or requirements, call and speak to the tour planner.

Each level requires your ability to board and disembark a motorcoach without assistance.

1 Leisurely – A tour that can be enjoyed by all requiring a minimal amount of walking on city streets and generally level surfaces. There could be a few stairs. A theater daytrip is an example.

2 Moderate – A tour with some walking activities, standing/strolling at attractions and museums, and some stair climbing. A daytrip to the ballpark or a museum exhibition, and short regional trips are examples. A moderate trip could include air or rail transportation and navigating through airports/stations.

3 Active – A tour which includes longer walks and/or walks on uneven surfaces. Days could be longer including air travel days with layovers. Some of your time could be spent at destinations with high altitudes. This is the level for most of our long-distance domestic and Canadian tours, vacations featuring national parks, and the minimum level for an overseas international trip.

You should be able to walk 3-6 city blocks in a timely fashion a few times per day. You could find a flight of stairs without handrails, uneven nature trails and the like. Tours with a seaplane or jeep ride, and the ability to climb into the plane/jeep, along with longer rail journeys fall into this category.

4 Energetic – A tour with an emphasis on walking and other physical activities. Most overseas tours fit in this category, as well as many metropolitan domestic tours (New York and Washington, DC, especially). Expect long plane flights and walking longer distances at connections and/or customs. You might have to climb into a boat, carriage or train. You should not consider a tour on this level if you need wheelchair assistance at the airport or other places.

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



Happy Ho-Ho-Holidays!



Overview of downtown Palm Springs

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights at The Dunes Hotel in downtown Palm Springs
- Lunch at the top of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway – spectacular views to the Coachella Valley below
- Celebrity homes/sites tour
- San Andreas Fault Tour by Jeep (or you may skip this activity in favor of Christmas shopping in downtown Palm Springs)
- 6 meals
- Drive through Christmas Lights
- Tickets for the Barry Manilow concert – your choice of two locations/price points (as availability allows)
- Round trip non-stop flights to/from Palm Springs, home pick-up
- Gold Passport Points based on seating

“A Gift of Love VII” – A Palm Springs Christmas starring Barry Manilow

3 Days • December 15-17 & 16-18

Barry Manilow hosts his annual charity Christmas concerts, “A Gift of Love VII,” at the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, CA, from December 16 to 21 to benefit 25 Coachella Valley charities. Manilow performs without compensation (and even pays his band out of pocket) so that a significant portion of the ticket sales go directly to the designated charities. The concerts feature Manilow's hits and holiday classics. This is the seventh time the 82-year old vocalist has offered this holiday event as a charitable fundraiser to the community in which he and his husband are residents.

A wonderful way to celebrate the holidays, featuring a concert by one of America's most beloved vocalists and a host of popular attractions. Did we mention the weather in Palm Springs is generally just a bit warmer than here in the Central Valley in December?

**\$2330/\$2440 p.p./dbl.occ.,
\$2480/\$2590 single**

2



Photo by Matt Becker

Puttin' on The Ritz for Christmas

3 Days * December 7-9

(Second departure, limited space)

Each year, we take advantage of lower (?) rates in early December to stay a couple of nights at the posh Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Half Moon Bay. Enjoy a Champagne Sunday Brunch in San Mateo before arriving on the coast. There's a bit of time to explore the shops before check-in. Day 2 features free time to enjoy the resort and a visit to Filoli House and Garden for the twinkling Christmas Lights. As mentioned above, space is limited. (The November 29 departure is sold out.) 1900/2250 Gold Passport Points

\$1860 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2245 single

1





New Zealand – Sweet As!

It's your last chance for a vacation "down under" in paradise!
18 Days • January 21 – February 7

Time is running out to register for this sensational once-in-a-lifetime vacation including the best of New Zealand's North and South Islands. Remember, our winter is their summer, so the weather will be warm and wonderful. To the North explore Auckland, Waiheke Island, Rotorua, Napier, Lake Taupo and Wellington. To the South Christchurch, Franz Josef, Queenstown, Milford Sound and Twizel await your visit. 28 meals, a host of fine hotels, fun kiwi guides and many other surprises are included. Read the complete itinerary online at www.sportsleisure.com. We'll leave you with a few photos to whet your appetite for New Zealand – Sweet As!

\$12,680 p.p./dbl.occ., \$14,995 single 4
12,700/15,000 Gold Passport Points
This vacation requires a valid passport





Winter Magic in Québec, Canada

Featuring Ottawa's Winterlude and Carnaval in Québec City

7 Days • February 5-11

Ottawa's Rideau Canal, the world's largest skating rink

1. Arrive in Canada's Capital City and settle into the elegant Lord Elgin Hotel, perfectly located just steps from the city's main attractions. As evening falls, take a magical stroll through Confederation Park and immerse yourself in Lumen Eira – a dazzling light-and-sound installation that transforms winter into a dreamscape of wonder. **Lord Elgin Hotel - 2 nights (D)**

2. Begin the day with a guided tour of Ottawa's iconic landmarks before stepping into the heart of the Winterlude Festival. Marvel at the glittering ice sculptures along Sparks Street (just a short walk from your hotel) or glide along the world's largest skating rink, the Rideau Canal, with skates available for rental. This evening, indulge in a Forest-to-Table Culinary Experience, where each dish is crafted with Canadian ingredients and flavors of the boreal forest. More than a meal, it's a journey into the ways our forests nourish body, mind and spirit. **(FB,D)**



Ottawa's Rideau Canal, the world's largest skating rink

3. Discover Canadian wildlife in their snowy habitat at Parc Omega before continuing to the legendary Fairmont Le Château Montebello, the world's largest log cabin, where you will choose your adventure: Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing through the pristine landscape. After dinner, unwind by the grand fireplace and soak up the lodge's warm rustic charm. **Le Château Montebello (FB,L,D)**

4. Following a morning tour of historic Montebello, head to a lively Sugar Shack for a festive, maple-sweetened lunch. Then, journey onward to enchanting Québec City, where you'll check into your elegant hotel nestled inside the old city walls. **Manoir Victoria Hotel - 3 nights (FB,L)**

5. Step into history with a guided walking tour of Québec City's cobblestone streets and centuries-old architecture. Pause for lunch at the iconic Château Frontenac before immersing yourself in the joyful spirit of Carnaval de Québec. Explore Bonhomme's Ice Palace where you'll marvel at spectacular sculptures of this world-famous winter festival. **(FB,L)**

6. Journey to breathtaking Montmorency Falls, taller than Niagara, where a cable car carries you to the brink of its icy cascade. Continue to the enchanting Hôtel de Glace (Ice Hotel) to sip a frosty cocktail and admire its shimmering artistry. Return to the warmth of Québec City before gathering for a festive farewell dinner celebrating new friendships and a week well-spent. **(FB,D)**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Attend the world-famous Carnaval de Québec
- Lumen Eira and Winterlude Festival in Ottawa
- Parc Omega and Montmorency Falls
- 13 meals: 6 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- Roundtrip air to Ottawa/from Quebec City
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 5400/6000 Gold Passport Points

7. Bid farewell to the snow-dusted streets and château charm of Québec, carrying home cherished memories of your winter wonderland adventure. **(FB)**

\$5360 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5945 single 4
This tour requires a valid passport



Sip frosty libations in the ice hotel - Hôtel de Glace



Welcome to Santa Barbara

A sunny sojourn to the premier city on the California Riviera

3 Days • February 17-19

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Santa Barbara's sights and sounds
- Take a drive into the Santa Ynez Valley for lunch and winetasting
- Solvang, a touch of Denmark in the Golden State
- Visit Santa Barbara Maritime Museum and Mission Santa Barbara
- 5 meals: 2 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Santa Barbara
- Door-to-door Airport Transportation
- 2050/2350 Gold Passport Points

1. Your coastal adventure begins with a convenient direct flight, touching down mid-morning in the heart of California's Riviera. From there, head to the Public Market for free time to eat and explore, then settle into two relaxing nights at your charming hotel. Located just steps from the ocean,

palm-lined views and tropical breezes will welcome you at every turn. Taste the bounty of the region at tonight's Welcome Dinner.

Harbor View Hotel – 2 nights (D)

2. Embark on a guided journey through the historic streets of Santa Barbara before heading into the rolling hills of Santa Ynez Valley. Savor a lunch and wine tasting at Vega Vineyards, a true farm-to-fork experience, then continue on for a stroll through the storybook town of Solvang, where Danish pastries and quaint boutiques await. Yes, we're talking about those irresistible Æbleskivers, melt-in-your-mouth Danish pancakes! (Ironically, their name means "apple slices," though they rarely contain apples today.) **(FB,L)**

3. On your final morning, dive into the city's seafaring past at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, where ocean exploration and adventure come to life. Enjoy a delicious lunch at a beloved local spot before heading the place where the city began, Mission Santa Barbara. Known as "The Queen of the Missions," to the community, founded in 1786, was the seat of Franciscan evangelism and symbol of Spanish rule in early California. Then you're off to the airport refreshed, sun-drenched and ready to go on your next adventure. **(FB,L)**

\$2035 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2310 single

3



Happy travelers at "The Queen of Missions" in Santa Barbara





Oregon Chocolate Festival

The Sweetest Weekend Ever

3 Days • March 6-8

You'll never go hungry on a Sports Leisure trip. OK, bring on the dessert!



Emma, Lady Chocolate and Mr. Golden Ticket are all smiles in Ashland, the sweetest spot on earth



This photo looks good enough to eat!

Indulge your love for chocolate by joining us as we celebrate all things chocolate at the 22nd Annual Oregon Chocolate Festival. You'll have tickets for the two-day **Chocolate Festival and Vendors Marketplace**, your opportunity to see and taste creations by chocolatiers from all over the West Coast, joined by winemakers, flavor artisans and more!

Your sweet weekend starts on Friday night with the elegant **Chocolate Makers Wine Dinner** showcasing a multi-course menu, each accompanied with a wine pairing. Your sweet weekend concludes with a **Chocolate Brunch** and a visit to **Harry and David Country Village**. This year we've chosen different accommodations, **The Ashland Springs Hotel**, located right on Main Street in downtown Ashland where dining and shopping options abound.

1. Our exclusive transportation service will pick you up at your home and whisk you away to the **Sports Leisure Vacations** office where you will board a deluxe motorcoach to begin your sweet journey north to Ashland, Oregon. There's a quick pit stop (pun intended!) in Corning at the Olive Pit before stopping for lunch in Redding. After checking into the Ashland Springs Hotel, get ready for the Chocolate Makers Wine Dinner which will be held in your hotel just a short walk from your room. If fancy wining and dining is not your thing, you may opt out and have dinner on your own at Lark's in the hotel or one of the many downtown restaurants nearby. **Ashland Springs Hotel – 2 nights (L,D)**

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights at the Ashland Springs Hotel
- Attend the Oregon Chocolate Festival Vendors Marketplace
- 4 meals: 1 lunch, 1 Chocolate brunch, 2 dinners including the exclusive Chocolate Makers Wine Dinner
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- Door-to-door service to/from the office
- 1500/1650 Gold Passport Points

2. Enjoy the morning at your leisure. Our motorcoach will shuttle you to the nearby Ashland Hills Hotel, home of the Chocolate Festival and Vendors Marketplace. Sample your way through the ever-expanding number of chocolatiers and vendors included in this annual event. This evening it's dinner and a performance at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre (*Adventures of Robinhood*). **(D)**

3. Nearby Medford is the home of Harry and David Country Village, renowned for their gift baskets, fresh fruit, flowers, plants, chocolate and other sweets. It's a quick ride this morning for a visit to their store and a chance to pick up some treats. Then you're away to the Ashland Hills Hotel for the Chocolate Brunch – a sweet end to a perfect weekend. Return to Sacramento in the early evening and your awaiting ride home. **(BR)**

\$1485 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1625 single

2



We got our start in 1978 taking folks to ballgames at Candlestick Park...



You just never know what retired superstars you will run into in Arizona

Spring Training in Arizona

5 Days • March 6-10

Join us for our annual visit to Arizona for pre-season baseball in the sunshine. We'll watch the Giants and (Sacramento) A's get ready for the regular season. The package includes 5 games to be announced, plus a baseball dinner with a special guest (former player, coach, broadcaster). Our accommodations are at the Marriott Phoenix Airport, a beautiful property we have stayed at for many years. In addition, we'll enjoy a variety of sightseeing as the baseball schedule allows. Because many people repeat this trip, year-after-year, we rotate attractions.

This year's list of possible sights includes:

- Butterfly Wonderland & The OdySea Aquarium – on the same day
- Guided Tour of the Arizona State Capitol/Museum
- Arizona History Museum (with artifacts such as Geronimo's rifle)
- A Guided City Tour of Greater Phoenix
- Tour of Chase Field – home of the Diamondbacks

Traditionally, we dine at **Rustler's Roost** one night, overlooking the valley; and because we are there on Sunday, Brunch at the famous **Phoenician Hotel** is included as is breakfast each morning (except

Sunday) at the Marriott (6 included meals). Round trip air on Southwest/American and door-to-door service is included.

You may make a reservation now. Pricing and game schedules will be available sometime in early November. **No payment is required at this time. 2024 prices were: \$2860 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3340 single.** We are hoping for no more than a 5-7% increase. You may cancel without penalty when the prices are announced.



See the Giants in action in Arizona



Giants Games at Oracle Park

Our schedule of day trips to Giants games at Oracle will be announced **January 5, 2026**. If you traveled with us on a baseball trip this year, you will automatically be sent the schedule (and it will be posted at www.sportsleisure.com). The schedule will also be included in the January newsletter.

The Athletics in Sacramento

Run a bus to see the A's play in West Sacramento? Here's the challenge. The cost of the bus is the same, whether we take you to West Sacramento or San Francisco. A trip to an A's game would cost about the same as a trip to see the Giants play in SF. We doubt fans would be interested in paying \$125-200 to go to a game locally in a minor league park.

Lake Placid & Cooperstown

7 Days • Oct. 4 – 10 • page 37

If you are looking to visit the **Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown**, check out this tour in the fall of 2026.





New Orleans...And All That Jazz

Rest well in downtown accommodations adjacent to the French Quarter
5 Days • March 9-13

St. Louis Cathedral on Jackson Square sits in the heart of the storied French Quarter

1. Welcome to New Orleans, a city renowned for its ability to make a party out of every situation. It has been said, "If the hurricane's too weak, just add rum." That pretty much sums it up! Upon arrival revel in the merriment offered at Mardi Gras World, the creation and storage facility for most of the city's elaborate costumes, tableaux and parade floats. Your welcome dinner is served at the Court of Two Sisters, hidden away under a blanket of blooming wisteria. Finally, rest well in conveniently-located accommodations overlooking the famed French Quarter. **Sheraton New Orleans – 4 nights (D)**

2. Take a driving tour focusing on the city beyond downtown including the beautiful Garden District and one of the area's unique above-ground cemeteries. In the evening learn the secrets of great Cajun

and Creole chefs with dinner at the New Orleans School of Cooking, followed by a horse-drawn carriage ride through the French Quarter. Is it haunted? You'll have to come see for yourself...if you dare! **(FB,D)**

3. A plate full of fresh, hot beignets start your morning at world famous Café du Monde. Next visit the National World War II Museum, a four-block complex covering literally every aspect of the War and the Greatest Generation it produced. Take a break from your exploration at lunchtime and head to the Stage Door Canteen where your meal is served up with a nostalgic musical review featuring a live Andrews Sisters-inspired performance by the Victory Belles. You'll also visit the museum's unique 4-D theatre for their acclaimed production "Beyond all Boundaries." **(CB,L)**



Folks are just dying to get to New Orleans in the springtime!



Linda makes a new friend on our Louisiana swamp cruise

HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
- Scenic New Orleans driving and French Quarter carriage tours
- Visit Mardi Gras World and the National World War II Museum
- A day in Plantation Country: Houmas House and a swamp cruise
- Learn the secrets of great Cajun chefs at the NOLA School of Cooking
- 8 meals include daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Round trip airfare to/from New Orleans
- 3500/3900 Gold Passport Points

4. An hour's drive outside the city places you in the heart of Plantation Country with visits to the breathtaking Houmas House, the grandest of the Mississippi River sugar estates, built in 1840. You'll also visit the Mississippi River Road Museum and have lunch at the estate. Next see 'gators up close and personal on a Cajun Pride Swamp Tour – how cool is that? **(FB,L)**

5. The morning opens with a true New Orleans tradition: Breakfast at Brennan's. Save room for the Bananas Foster, a dish invented here. Only in NOLA can you get dessert with breakfast! A short drive to the airport and your adventure comes to a close. **(FB)**

\$3460 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3890 single

3



Alaska's Winter Wonders & the Northern Lights!

Featuring Arctic Adventure, Wildlife and the Aurora Borealis

8 Days • March 13-20

To say Alaska's aurora borealis is awe-inspiring is an understatement

HIGHLIGHTS

- View the Aurora Borealis in the dark skies outside Fairbanks
- Ice Art Championship sculptures in Fairbanks
- Travel on the Alaska Railroad from Talkeetna to Denali
- Dogsled at Iditarod winner Dallas Seavey kennel
- Star Lady Aurora presentation
- Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- 7 meals: 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to Anchorage/from Fairbanks
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 5850/6600 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly into Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, where a hosted lunch awaits to kick off your adventure. Afterward, check into the elegant Captain Cook Hotel. Don't worry if you're not fully outfitted for the Alaskan winter – warm parkas and boots are provided for the duration of your stay at no extra cost. **Captain Cook Hotel – 2 nights (L)**



You'll be amazed by the masterpieces on display at the World Ice Art Championships

2. This morning take a scenic drive down the Turnagain Arm, one of the most scenic byways in the United States! This all-American Road will be a highlight today as we travel between the ocean and the towering Chugach Mountains. We will explore the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, a 200-acre rescue and rehabilitation center for Alaskan wildlife. Here we will meet moose, wood bison, musk ox and caribou herds, and other Alaskan animals that call the Portage Glacier Valley home. **(L)**

3. Travel to the charming town of Talkeetna, the inspiration for TV's "Northern Exposure," and the starting point for Denali climbers. At the homestead of Iditarod Champion Dallas Seavey, discover what it takes to compete in the "Last Great Race." Tour the kennel and experience an exhilarating dog sled ride through the Alaskan wilderness, pulled by champion sled dogs. Tonight, enjoy a fascinating Aurora Borealis presentation by the Star Lady. **Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge – 2 nights (L)**

4. Awaken to panoramic views of the Alaska Range and with luck, a glimpse of Denali, North America's tallest peak. Spend the day in Talkeetna with a local storyteller who will share insights about life in this unique mountain town. The afternoon is yours to explore, shop for local crafts or visit the historical museum. **(D)**

5. Board the Alaska Railroad for a magical winter train journey through snow-covered wilderness, disembarking near Denali National Park before continuing to Fairbanks by motorcoach. After settling into Pike's Waterfront Lodge, head to a secluded spot far from city lights to witness the Aurora Borealis dance across the sky. NOTE: The aurora is weather and solar flare



Who wants to go for a ride in a dog sled?

dependent – it takes clear skies and active solar activity combined to make for a great viewing experience. **Pike's Waterfront Lodge– 3 nights (L)**

6. Enjoy a leisurely morning. In the afternoon, explore the University of Alaska's Museum of the North for a fascinating look at Arctic culture, science, and art. Then marvel at the dazzling creations of the BP World Ice Art Championships, where enormous blocks of ice are sculpted into intricate masterpieces. Tonight, venture out once again in search of the Northern Lights. **(D)**

7. Another relaxed morning before visiting the legendary Trans-Alaska Pipeline and stopping in the whimsical town of North Pole, Alaska, where it's Christmas year-round. Shop for unique holiday treasures before enjoying a farewell dinner at a historic local restaurant. Tonight marks your final opportunity to view the aurora, with Fairbanks offering an impressive 90% chance of sightings over a three-night stay. **(D)**

8. Bid Alaska a fond farewell as you depart Fairbanks International Airport for home, carrying with you unforgettable photographs, stories and memories of your adventures in the Arctic.

\$5840 p.p/dbl.occ., \$6560 **3**





Pathways of Patriots

Trace the footsteps of American patriots from Colonial times to the present through the Commonwealth of Virginia in celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary
8 Days • April 12-19

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights Prince William County – Manassas National Battlefield, Ben Lomond Historic Site, Occoquan, Effingham Manor Winery
- Semper Fidelis! Quantico National Cemetery, Museum, Marine Base
- Richmond – Statehouse, American Civil War Museum, CSA White House
- 2 nights Colonial Williamsburg including visits to Jamestown and Yorktown
- 2 nights Norfolk – Virginia International Tattoo, NATOfest Parade of Nations
- 14 meals – Daily breakfast, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to Dulles/from Norfolk
- Door-to-door airport service
- 4400/4800 Gold Passport Points

1. A flight to Dulles International Airport is your gateway to Prince William County, close in miles, but a world away from our Nation's capitol. Dinner and a well-earned night's rest is on the menu for tonight. Rest well. You have so much to do and see over the next week in the Commonwealth of Virginia! **Holiday Inn Express Woodbridge – 2 nights (D)**

2. The first major battle of the Civil War (a victory for the South) happened in the sleepy town of Manassas, known to the Yanks as "Bull Run." Visit the National Battlefield and Ben Lomond, site of the make-shift field hospital. Next up is the Colonial era Potomac-side town of Occoquan where you'll be shown around by the mayor before a dinner that ends with a slice of Michelle Obama's favorite apple pie. **(B,D)**

3. Quantico is a word that immediately brings the long tradition of Marine Corps strength and valor to mind. Spend a few peaceful moments on the hallowed ground of Quantico National Cemetery followed by an opportunity to explore the National

Museum of the Marine Corps. Semper Fidelis! Onward to Richmond, capital of the Commonwealth. Who's ready to Kickback? **Drury Plaza Hotel Glen Allen (B,L)**

4. Visit the Thomas Jefferson-designed Statehouse (which also served as the capitol of the Confederacy), as well as the home of the Davis family during this turbulent time in American history, the Confederate White House. Fully explore the conflict from its Colonial roots through its bloody finish at the American Civil War Museum. Onward to Virginia's Colonial Capital, Williamsburg, where your hotel is located on-property adjacent to the Visitors Center and Historic District. **Woodlands Hotel at Colonial Williamsburg – 2 nights (FB,L)**

5. Discover England's first permanent settlement in the New World at Jamestowne National Park, largely an archeological site dating all the way back to 1607. At Yorktown Battlefield National Park you'll walk the same grounds where the Continental Army and their French allies battled against British forces in 1781. Their decisive victory effectively ended the Revolutionary War, assuring US independence. **(FB,L)**

5. Welcome to Colonial Williamsburg, a community frozen in time. Spend a full day exploring the lives, activities, homes and workplaces of commoners and elite; slave and free where it's always the late 18th century. Perhaps you'll choose to have lunch in a historic tavern on the Duke of Gloucester Street, a respite from a day spent in one of our country's foremost repositories of architecture and decorative arts. Norfolk is your destination at day's end, arriving just in time for the Virginia Arts Festival and NATOfest. **DoubleTree Hotel Norfolk Airport – 2 nights (FB)**

6. Enjoy reserved seating for NATOfest's Parade of Nations, featuring bands, dancers and pageantry from many of the countries that make up the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. An early dinner is followed by a performance of the Art Festival's signature event, the Virginia International Tattoo. The largest spectacle of music and might in the U.S. (but with an unmistakably Scottish drone), the Tattoo offers an astounding display of pipe and drum bands, military ensembles, drill teams and costumed dancers – over 1000 performers from eight countries! **(FB,D)**

7. A visit to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens at its springtime best and a farewell luncheon assure that you'll return home with wonderful memories of your time in the Old Dominion, Virginia! **(FB,L)**

\$4370 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4800 single 3



Virginia is the home of the U.S. Marine Corps





Stars, Stripes and Carnegie Hall

Explore the City of Brotherly Love and our country's first Capital City
7 Days • April 23-29

In celebration of our Semiquincentennial we're going to the heart of American history on this unforgettable East Coast adventure. From the cobblestone streets of Philadelphia to the never-sleeping excitement of New York City, each day offers a new chapter in the story of the United States, woven with Revolutionary tales and patriotic flavors.

1. Touch down in Philadelphia around 5 pm and settle into your hotel home, nestled in the historic district. Offering easy access to nearby landmarks and a wide array of dining options, take time to wander the storied streets, soaking in the Colonial architecture and the city's vibrant energy. Dinner is included – perhaps a classic Philly cheesesteak or upscale fare in Old City.
Hilton Garden Inn Center City – 3 nights (D)

2. With a local guide leading the way, experience Revolutionary revelations in your deep dive into Philadelphia's rich legacy, especially poignant during our country's 250th anniversary. Visit the National Constitution Center, Independence Hall and stand before the iconic Liberty Bell to name but a few of the singular, all-American sites you'll see today. **(FB,L)**



3. Begin with a visit to the American Revolution Museum, then to Christ Church and Burial Ground, final resting place of Benjamin Franklin and other revolutionary figures. Take a break at the bustling Reading Terminal Market where local flavors and artisanal treats await your selection for lunch. Afterwards learn about our first flag at the Betsy Ross Home. **(FB)**

4. Depart Philadelphia and head north (less than 100 miles) to the Big Apple. Your arrival begins a with hosted brunch at Fraunces Tavern – once a meeting place for George Washington and his officers. Savor the ambiance and cuisine in this storied Downtown landmark. Did you know New York City was our nation's first Capital City? When George had a hard day at the office, it was here – on Wall Street no less! We'll begin our exploration of the Big Apple's often-forgotten Colonial past right after brunch. Then we head Uptown to Times Square and our hotel home. **New York Marriott Marquis – 3 nights (FB,BR)**

5. Today we visit the site where the inauguration of our first president was held; then pop in on the Trinity and St. Paul's Churchyards to honor the early Americans who rest there. Touring will continue to a Brooklyn site where history declared: *The Declaration of Independence was signed in ink at Philadelphia and signed in blood at Brooklyn.* Have lunch in Brooklyn's trendy DUMBO before returning to Midtown where you can grab a quick rest before dinner and the Carnegie Hall Birthday Gala featuring the New York Pops Orchestra! **(D)**

6. Today is for Broadway. OK, so that's not Colonial-era, but how can we come here and not pay homage to musical theatre, THE all-American art form? Visit a rehearsal studio where actors, musicians and technicians will share their stories of training, pathways to the stage and maybe

HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 nights each – Philadelphia and New York
- Philadelphia: Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, National Constitution Center, American Revolution Museum, Christ Church, Betsy Ross Home
- New York: Fraunces Tavern, Liberty Hall, Trinity and St. Paul's Churches, Brooklyn's Revolutionary sites, Behind-the-scenes on Broadway, True Heros and Little Italy in the Bronx
- 2 performances: *Hamilton* and the NY Pops in Carnegie Hall
- 9 meals: 3 full breakfasts, 1 brunch, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to Philadelphia/from New York's LaGuardia
- Door-to-door Airport Transportation
- 5000/5800 Gold Passport Points

even some behind-the-curtain secrets. Before returning to the hotel we will visit the Museum of Broadway for a comprehensive look at the history of The Great White Way. This year *Hamilton* marks its 10th year on stage. We just can't resist this epic tale of Founding Father "A-dot-Ham"! If you've already seen the show tell us at the point of reservation and we will help find another performance more to your liking. **(D)**

7. On our way to LaGuardia, we'll stop and spend a few hours with our favorite True Heroes at a firehouse in the Bronx. Enjoy lunch in the *real* Little Italy. Meet the shop owners who produced the foods you enjoyed at lunch. If you like grab some to take home – our treat! **(L)**

\$4980 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5760 single

3





San Antonio: Deep in the Heart

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

5 Days • April 27 – May 1

It's always a thrill to visit The Alamo, the legendary and hallowed shrine in downtown San Antonio faith of her people

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. 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-cent Coke and 5-cent bag of popcorn?) and tour the factory. Later in the day visit the



Our 3-course fiesta luncheon served al fresco on the San Antonio river is always a favorite experience

Shrine of Texas Independence, Mission San Antonio de Valero, or what is more widely known as The Alamo. Next door, you'll see the IMAX film production that puts the famous battle into perspective and visit a new museum displaying a treasure trove of battle-related artifacts. If you've wrestled up an appetite, today's lunch is sure to please. Real Texas barbecue! Yeehaw! **(FB,L)**

3. 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. Next you'll experience the city's unique Riverwalk aboard a river taxi cruise on which a Mexican lunch fiesta will be served. The afternoon is free for personal exploration along the Riverwalk or historic Market Square. Tonight witness the sound and light spectacle known as “The Saga” projected on the façade of San Fernando Cathedral.
(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 humble home where Lyndon B. Johnson grew up, now a National Park site. Lunch is served in tiny Fredericksburg, a community with a decidedly German flair. There you'll have an opportunity to explore the National Museum of the Pacific War, a world-class museum located here in the hometown of Five Star Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander of the US Navy in the Pacific during WWII.
(FB,L)



San Fernando Cathedral, founded in 1731, is at the center of San Antonio history and the faith of her people



Pay tribute to the defenders of the Alamo, enshrined in the narthex of San Fernando Cathedral

HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights in the historic Drury Plaza Hotel located along the Riverwalk
- City tour features The Alamo and Mission San Jose
- “The Price of Freedom” at the IMAX Theater, “The Saga” at San Fernando Cathedral, Tower of the Americas at Hemisfair Park
- A day in the Texas Hill Country featuring the National Museum of the Pacific War and LBJ Boyhood Home
- 8 meals: 4 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, plus Kickback nightly!
- Roundtrip air to/from San Antonio
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2750/3150 Gold Passport Points

5. Time to say *adios*, but not before getting a bird's eye view of the city over lunch served high atop the Tower of the Americas at Hemisfair Park, site of the 1968 World's Fair. **(FB,L)**

\$2745 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3140 single

3



Legends & Lakes Mystery Tour

This adventure into the Great Unknown is worthy of a gold medal to be sure!

7 Days • May 30 – June 5



It's a mystery tour, so what can we include in these pages to tantalize your curiosity without saying too much? How about a few clues:

You can expect crystal blue waters here, just like Lake Tahoe. But it's not Lake Tahoe. Definitely NOT Lake Tahoe, because you can't get here in a motorcoach. It's way too far for that. A flying house would be faster, but we're not going to Kansas. We will definitely take a plane to get there! In other words, airfare is included...but maybe only one-way. We might take a flying house to come home. It could be said Dorothy has a true connection to this place. One way or another we promise to get you home because there's no place like it.

And the lakes here will have many legends attached to them. Kind of like in Clayton's hometown there is scenic Mud Lake which is inhabited by the mysterious Wog who ate early Georgia settlers. At least according to the legend. But not to worry – we're not going to Clayton's hometown or Georgia. Here the lakes are not muddy. Well, not all of them.

In one town we'll visit there is an enormous edifice built by a man from Maine who changed the city and the world forever. You could say he pioneered the industry. It's a place famous for flowers, but probably not the kind of flowers you are thinking of. And guess what? We're not going to Maine.

Royalty lived here. But we're not going to the UK, Spain, Sweden, Monaco, Luxembourg, Japan, Bhutan, Saudi Arabia or Oman – these, according to Google, being all the countries that still have functioning monarchies. (If you care

to believe everything you read on the computer, which we don't. And speaking of computers, how about Spell-Check that keeps changing things to what it thinks you mean rather than what you KNOW you mean? But we digress.) Anyway, this is all-American royalty at its stellar best. No passport is required for this vacation.

A famous aviator lived here. But don't even think about the *Spirit of St. Louis* because we're NOT going to Missouri... nor that state across the river. But there IS a river here and it's kind of big, except that it isn't. Maybe we should have put "river" in the title, but we didn't because we like alliteration. (We're not going to Amelia Earhart's hometown, either, because as already stated, WE'RE NOT GOING TO KANSAS!) Really, how many times must we say that!

We'll eat well! There are 13 meals: daily breakfast, 2 lunches and 5 dinners, plus lots of fun stuff to see and do, and the services of a fabulous *Sports Leisure Tour Director* who's an expert at keeping you guessing. What have you got to lose? Sign up already!

\$5605 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6385 single 2
5650/6400 Gold Passport Points



Our summer 2025 mystery tour visited Sioux Falls, South Dakota





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

The repeat of a classic Sports Leisure adventure – a trip down "The Main Street of America"

Eastern Half – Chicago to Oklahoma City – 10 Days • April 14-23 & May 5-14

HIGHLIGHTS

- Overnight Chicago; 2 nights Springfield, IL; 2 nights St. Louis; overnights in Springfield, MO; Miami, OK; Tulsa, OK; Oklahoma City, OK.
- Meet the people and hear the stories of a century of Route 66 – special guides, speakers and guests – lots of quirky attractions from days gone by
- Including: Home pick-up, airfare and 24 meals, many of them in classic restaurants - everything from roadside diners to fancy sit-downs in historic venues
- 4950/5850 Gold Passport Points

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, a wonderful combination of history, Americana and more road food than you can imagine.



Mickey Mantle grew up in Commerce, OK, a typical Route 66 town

1. Fly to Chicago: Depart from Sacramento at 5:55am this morning, arriving in Chicago just before noon. Your first "roadie" experience is a stop for a meal at **Del Rhea's Chicken Basket** (founded in 1946). Overnight and get a picture of the beginning of the Mother Road downtown at your "Magnificent Mile" hotel. **Hampton Inn Magnificent Mile (L)**

2. Chicago to Springfield: Our adventure begins in earnest with breakfast at a Chicago landmark: Lou Mitchell's (1923) breakfast counter. It's a longtime Windy City tradition.

Outside of Chicago, we get off the interstate and follow the old road. Wind through Joliet (your first old highway museum) to the small community of Odell (where we photograph a beautifully restored old service station), on to Pontiac for lunch. View the memorabilia in the **Route 66 Museum**, learn about the "walldogs" murals in town, and the man who inspired them, the late Bob Waldmire.

Mother Road attractions include an old jail, a giant robot, a sirup (that's the way they spell it) company and the home of the legendary "**Pig Hip**." Ernie Edwards was the owner. Ernie's favorite story was about the night a guy with a special chicken recipe stopped by the Pig Hip. It's quite a tale. **Lincoln Hotel by Doubletree, Springfield - 2 nights (FB,L)**

3. Springfield/Lincoln: Visit the critically-acclaimed **Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum**, before a lunch break at the famous Cozy Dog (1946), where it is said the corn dog was invented. The presidential museum is truly of the finest in the country. The **Ace Sign Company** in town is responsible for the original and restored versions of many signs along *The Mother Road*. At **Route History**, learn how different

traveling Route 66 was for people of color, and hear the story of the "sundown" towns. **(FB,L,D)**

4. Springfield to St. Louis: Our rural travels roll on through southern Illinois. Stop to spruce up the **Our Lady of the Highways** statue. At the **Rabbit Ranch**, hear the story of Henry and his many rabbits. Mother Jones (1930) was a legend in these parts and you'll get a picture of the **Cannonball Jail** (1869) and **Million Dollar Courthouse** in Carlinville. An afternoon stop in St. Louis gives you a chance to go to the top of the **Gateway Arch** (1965) and get views of the old highway from above. **Drury Hotel Maplewood – 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

5. St. Louis: Take a break today in and around St. Louis. Across the Mississippi River at **Cahokia Mounds** (600 AD), 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, back into Missouri. This afternoon, enjoy a special Route 66 treat, **Ted Drewes Frozen Custard**. Tonight, it's dinner on "**The Hill**," the neighborhood where Yogi Berra grew up! **(B,L)**

6. St. Louis to Springfield, MO: The **Meramec Caverns** (1933) 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.

What follows is a marvelous stretch of *The Mother Road*, through Cuba (what beautiful murals) to Devil's Elbow in Ozark Country. Lunch is at one of our favorite roadside retreats, the Missouri Hick BBQ in Cuba. A local guide tells us about the murals in town. There's also a stop at "**Uranus**," a unique roadside stop that isn't popular





Meet Melba, a Route 66 character if there ever was one (a famous tow truck can be seen in the background)

with everyone in town. Finish the day in Springfield, MO, where Route 66 was "born." We'll celebrate The Main Street of America tonight by dining at Steak 'n Shake! **Drury Inn (B,L,D)**

7. 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 wonderful old-time soda fountain that

affords us time for lunch. After passing through Joplin, tiny Riverton is along the 13-mile stretch of Route 66 which cuts through the corner of Kansas. **Cars on the Route** is a chance to meet some *really interesting* local characters.

Kansas 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 the tow truck in the Disney movie Cars named "Tow-Mater." In fact, this is the old truck that inspired the character! Tonight, dine in the historic Coleman Theater, a 1929 landmark the town has successfully saved. **Hampton Inn (B,L,D)**

8. Miami to Tulsa: First stop today is in Commerce, the hometown of **Mickey Mantle**, and indeed, stop for photos at his childhood home. The guys in the group will appreciate one special feature on the side of the garage. There's a park with giant cement Totem Poles, and then you'll arrive in Claremore to visit the **Will Rogers Memorial**, a tribute to America's famous humorist. Lunch is special, with treats 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. **Hilton Garden Inn (B,L)**

9. Tulsa to Oklahoma City: This was the home of **Black Wall Street** and something unforgettable happened here in 1921, just before The Mother Road was born. A guided tour this morning will bring history to life. Leaving 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)**

10. Oklahoma City and Home: Plan to depart for home on a flight about 3 pm today. One more wonderful stretch of Route 66 first however. Our expert Oklahoma guide takes us to **The Stockyards**, then tells the story of the Dust Bowl and how it changed the lives of those in its path and sent tens of thousands to the "promised land" in California. Departure time permitting, a visit to the **Cowboy Heritage Museum** is planned. **(FB)**

\$4925 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5820 single 3

**The western half of Route 66 will be offered in October of 2026*



Enjoy lunch at the **Rock Café**, an iconic Mother Road diner

Route 66, The Main Street of America – Part II

Oklahoma City to Santa Monica
8 Days • October 15-22, 2026

The second half of your journey down The Mother Road is very different from the Chicago/Oklahoma City half. The spaces are more wide open in the west. There are national parks and the small towns have a different personality.

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. The highlight of your Winslow stay, and perhaps your entire journey, is your two nights 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 98 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. See where General Patton prepared his troops for WWII. Taco Bell and McDonald's both got their start on or near The Mother Road and the story is told in San Bernardino.

Discover the heartbeat of our country. It's a true slice of America you will never, ever forget. You can reserve your space now. No deposit is due until pricing and the itinerary is announced.

Itinerary in Brief for the Western Side (A more detailed, priced itinerary will be available December 1)

Day 1 – Fly to/arrive Oklahoma City, light sightseeing in the PM

Day 2 – Oklahoma City, OK to Amarillo, TX – 259 miles

Day 3– Amarillo, TX to Albuquerque, NM – 288 miles

Day 4 - Albuquerque, NM to Winslow, AZ (2 nights) – 266 miles

Day 5 – Petrified Forest National Park from Winslow and return – 112 miles

Day 6 – Winslow, AZ to Laughlin, NV – 238 miles

Day 7 – Laughlin, NV to San Bernardino – 237 miles

Day 8 – San Bernardino, CA to Santa Monica, CA and fly home – 75 mile





Blooms and Bridges in Royal London

Featuring a full day at the World-Renowned Chelsea Flower Show

9 Days • May 17-25

1-2. Away you go to London on a trans-Atlantic, overnight flight landing mid-morning where we meet our local guide. A peaceful day is planned starting with a ride on the London Eye. The massive observation wheel reaches 135-meters into the sky and provides stunning views of many iconic sites including the Houses of



Parliament, Big Ben, St. Paul's Cathedral and Buckingham Palace on the 30-minute adventure. On a nearby pier you'll take a ride on the River Thames cruising under the famous Tower and Westminster Bridges as you pass the Globe Theatre, the Tower of London and the futuristic City Hall. Your home away from home is the historic Strand Palace offering location, location, location, plus all the modern amenities you'd expect in a world-class hotel. A Welcome Dinner brings the day to a close. **Strand Palace Hotel – 7 nights (D)**

3. A daytrip to Kent features Sissinghurst Castle & Gardens, a lovely Arts & Crafts-style home set amidst the ruins of a centuries-old Elizabethan manor, and Great Dixter House & Gardens, constructed in 1450. Our springtime visit assures that both gardens will offer a wonderland of variety and color. **(FB,L)**

4. In Stratford-upon-Avon visit Shakespeare's Birthplace where the Bard was born in 1564 and later spent the first 5-years of his married life, also flanked by

HIGHLIGHTS

- 7-nights at the historic Strand Palace Hotel in Central London
- 2-nights of theatre in London's West End
- A ride on the London Eye and Thames River Cruise
- Kent – Sissinghurst Castle & Gardens, Dixter House & Gardens
- Stratford-upon-Avon – Shakespeare's Birthplace, Hidcote Manor Garden
- Hampton Court Palace and Windsor Castle
- A full day at the Chelsea Flower Show
- Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Kew and Wisley
- A day dedicated to exploring London at your leisure
- 15 meals: Daily English breakfast, 2 lunches, 1 high tea, 5 dinners
- 1 glass of wine or pint of beer included at each lunch and dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from London's Heathrow International Airport
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Services of a local guide and *Sports Leisure* Tour Director throughout
- 7850/9100 Gold Passport Points



lovely gardens. After lunch tour Hidcote Manor Garden, considered amongst the best in England for its prized rare shrubs and trees, and outstanding design features created by the great horticulturist Major Lawrence Johnston. **(FB,L)**

5. A short ride into suburban London begins with Hampton Court, the oldest Tudor Palace in England built in 1514 and “procured” by none other than King Henry VIII in 1529. Here you’ll learn of his storied reign, along with the fortunes (and misfortunes) of his famous wives as you walk through century upon century of development leading up to the era of the Georges. Royal inhabitation ended in 1737 when living here became a prize awarded those in the king or queen’s favor. We can thank Queen Victoria who opened it for public viewing in 1838. Kew Gardens, our afternoon feature, is a World Heritage Site and considered to hold one of the finest plant collections on earth. Tonight starts with dinner and ends with your first night of West End theatre (show to be announced soon)! **(FB,D)**

6. The time has come at last for London’s most prestigious annual event, the Chelsea Flower Show, showcasing the best in garden design, plants and horticulture. Shaped by the country’s deep-rooted traditions in garden and landscape design, the Chelsea Flower Show is contemporary in nature and serves as an important platform for introducing new plant varieties and garden trends not just in England, but all over Europe and beyond. Organized by the Royal Horticultural Society and held annually since 1913, it is considered the most famous and important flower and garden show in the world. **(FB,D)**



7. Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle on earth. Founded by William the Conqueror in the 11th Century, it has been the home of 40 monarchs, featuring most recently and prominently for its important role in royal weddings and funerals. Later visit Wisley, the Royal Horticultural Society’s flagship garden, famous for the imagination of its richly planted borders, luscious rose gardens and start-of-the-art new greenhouse. After dinner, take a seat for your second night of theatre in the West End. **(FB,D)**

8. Armed with your Visitor Oyster Card allowing full access to public transit – yes, we’re talking double-decker buses and “The Tube” – see the London sites and attractions that most interest you. Perhaps

a visit to Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London or a shopping spree at Harrod’s or Selfridges. You’ll certainly want to be at Harrod’s at midday for the grand tradition of afternoon tea in the Georgian Restaurant featuring a wonderful assortment of savory and sweet bites. A traditional pub dinner is an appropriate ending to our marvelous adventure in England’s Royal City of London. Maybe, just maybe, we’ll have more than one pint tonight and get a bit raucous! Who’s in? **(FB,HT,D)**

9. Return to California in the late morning from Heathrow International Airport. **(FB)**

\$7815 p.p./dbl.occ., \$9095 single **4**
This tour requires a valid passport





On the Central Coast

Featuring an oceanfront hotel on Avila Beach

5 Days • May 3-7

Stay in the charming town of Avila Beach

1. Gather at the **Sports Leisure Vacations** office and meet your fellow travelers before settling in for a comfortable ride bound for the sparkling shores of Avila Beach. Brunch is served along the way. While passing through the fertile Salinas Valley – nicknamed the “Salad Bowl of the World” – you’ll see endless fields as they stretch toward the horizon. Arrive at your oceanfront suite in the afternoon, located just a short walk from the sand and the rhythmic waves of the majestic Pacific Ocean. **Avila Lighthouse Suites – 4 nights (BR)**

2. Step back in time with a private tour of the historic Point San Luis Lighthouse Park. Stroll the grounds, explore the beautifully preserved lighthouse and take in sweeping

views of the rugged coast. A delicious lunch is included, making this a day of both rich history and coastal charm. **(CB,L)**

3. Morro Bay welcomes you with its iconic centerpiece – Morro Rock, the final and most dramatic of nine ancient volcanic peaks that begin in San Luis Obispo. Rising 576 feet above the harbor’s entrance, this striking landmark is a natural wonder. Your visit includes a delightful lunch cruise aboard the *Chablis*, a distinctive 50-foot, two-story riverboat that glides gracefully through the calm waters of Morro Bay Harbor. Step inside its elegantly appointed interior with panoramic windows or head up to the rooftop deck for sweeping views of the bay, the rock and the surrounding coastline. **(CB,L)**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Oceanfront accommodations for 4 nights at the Avila Lighthouse Suites
- Tour and lunch at the Point San Luis Lighthouse
- Morro Bay luncheon cruise
- Lunch in Pismo Beach and winetasting in the Edna Valley
- Yay, Boo, Hiss at the Oceano Melodrama
- 9 meals: 4 continental breakfasts, 1 brunch, 4 lunches
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation – no air!
- Door-to-door transportation
- 2400/2900 Gold Passport Points

4. Take a scenic drive to Pismo Beach for a hosted lunch. This afternoon, you may choose to enjoy optional wine tasting among the rolling vineyards of the Edna Valley. In the evening, prepare for an evening of laughter and drama at the Great American Melodrama in Oceano, where you’ll boo the villain, cheer the hero and help save the beautiful damsel in distress. Big fun! **(CB,L)**

5. Bid farewell to the ocean as you journey inland. Stop in Paso Robles for a final hosted lunch before visiting the famous Casa de Fruta, where you can browse fresh produce and treats to take home. Arrive back in the early evening with memories of the Central Coast’s beauty, flavors and stories. **(CB,L)**

\$2380 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2880 single

2



Springtime in North San Diego

Featuring the Carlsbad Flower Fields in bloom

5 Days • April 6-10

1. Depart Sacramento and head to sunny San Diego. Enjoy a welcome lunch at the historic 94th Aero Squadron, set inside a replica of a World War I French farmhouse. Then it’s off to the Carlsbad Flower Fields, where 55 acres of vibrant ranunculus await. Your visit includes a wagon tour through the blooms, a stroll through the Butterfly

Gardens and a peek at the dazzling-stained glass exhibit. Wrap up the day by checking into your beachside hotel. With the ocean just steps away, you’ll have plenty of time to dip your toes in the Pacific and soak up the coastal vibes. **Tamarack Beach Resort & Hotel, Carlsbad - 4 nights (L)**

HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights at the Tamarack Beach Resort & Hotel
- 55 acres of blooms and butterflies at the Carlsbad Flower Fields
- San Diego Safari Park with private deluxe safari tour
- Temecula wine country tour with tasting and lunch amongst the vineyards
- Visit Mission San Luis Rey, Miniature Engineering Craftsmanship Museum and Gemological Institute of America
- 2-hour whale and dolphin watching cruise
- 7 meals: 4 continental breakfasts (CB), 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from San Diego
- Door-to-door Airport Transportation
- 3300/3850 Gold Passport Points

2. Travel east where we are welcomed to Temecula by a lively host who shares local wine lore, Native American legends and the valley’s unique microclimate. The tour begins at Vail Headquarters, a National Historic Landmark featuring the Butterfield Overland Trail, vintage ranch artifacts, and rides in a Model-T and stagecoach. Next,



enjoy wine tasting and a buffet lunch at Frangipani Estate Winery, with serene views of Mount Palomar. Our visit ends with time to explore Old Town Temecula. (CB,L)

3. Today we discover more about North County as we venture to Oceanside. Our first stop will be Mission San Luis Rey, some 227 years old, known as “The King of Missions.” Next in Oceanside Harbor, we’ll hop aboard a thrilling whale and dolphin cruise. It’s prime time for gray whale sightings as they migrate from Baja, but keep your eyes open as you might also spot humpbacks, minke or playful dolphins riding the waves. (CB)

4. Leave Carlsbad behind and head to one of North County’s wildest highlights, the San

Diego Safari Park! Enjoy free time to explore the trails and exhibits, then hop aboard our private caravan for a deluxe safari across the African and Asian savannahs. It’s up-close, unforgettable and totally wild! After a day full of adventure, we’ll return to the hotel to relax and enjoy a festive farewell dinner with the group – great food, shared stories and a toast to an unforgettable journey! (CB,D)

5. Our final day sparkles – literally! See the world’s largest crystal during a dazzling tour of the Gemological Institute of America, where the world of diamonds, gems and jewelry comes to life. Next, we marvel at mini-masterpieces on display at the Miniature Engineering Craftsmanship Museum, where tiny tools and intricate



models showcase big talent. After lunch on your own at Seaport Village, head to the airport for our return flight to Sacramento. (CB)

\$3270 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3815 single **3**



Wonder Valley Ranch, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park

You’ll love the wild cat discovery center – Cat Haven

4 Days • May 17-20

1. Enjoy the ride to the **Sports Leisure** office this morning, then travel via LUX motorcoach to Wonder Valley Ranch, your gateway to fun. After departing Sacramento, your first stop is for lunch, then continue to Fresno where you take a left turn and head into the Sierra foothills. It’s spring so the hills should still be green from winter rains. Once known as a refuge for Hollywood stars in the 1950s, your resort-style hotel rooms at The Ranch offer classic accommodations for every guest, including complimentary Wi-Fi and in-room coffee service. There’s lots to do, as you’ll find out this afternoon as optional horseback riding or learning to shoot a bow and arrow is offered. Or perhaps you would prefer just relaxing by the lake. Whatever you choose, the springtime beauty of Wonder Valley awaits. **Wonder Valley Ranch – 3 nights (L,D)**

2. Today is a full day of discovery. With a knowledgeable step-on guide, experience the sights and sounds of two exceptional national parks. We will visit Grant Grove in Kings Canyon National Park, followed by lunch at scenic Hume Lake. Our adventure

continues into Sequoia National Park to see the famous General Sherman Tree. Of course, there will be plenty of scenic photo stops, and time for the Visitor Centers and gift shops. We will return to Wonder Valley for cocktail hour, dinner and a campfire under the stars. Truly a day of beauty and discovery. (FB,L,D)

3. After breakfast, depart for Project Survival’s Cat Haven, an innovative park dedicated to the preservation of wild cats. It specializes in education and is engaged in both captive and range-country cat conservation. Protecting cats in their native habitat makes their work especially important as increasing external forces encroach on their habitat and populations. This docent-led walking tour and private “Cat Chat” presentation will bring us up-close and personal with these beautiful cats as we learn about their journey, and the dedication and services that Cat Haven provides. We return to Wonder Valley in time for lunch. The afternoon is free for you to enjoy the many activities the Ranch has to offer. Our last evening will be filled

with food and fun. A farewell cocktail hour and dinner are followed by evening ranch activities and star gazing. (FB,L,D)

4. After breakfast there’s time for one last activity at the ranch before we depart. The first stop is at the Forestiere Underground Gardens in Fresno. These gardens are a unique and fascinating network of subterranean rooms, courtyards and passageways, hand-built by Baldassare Forestiere, a Sicilian immigrant over a period of 40 years from 1906 to 1946. Our last stop is Hilmar Cheese Factory where a tour and lunch await. You’ll arrive back in Sacramento in the late afternoon. (FB,L)

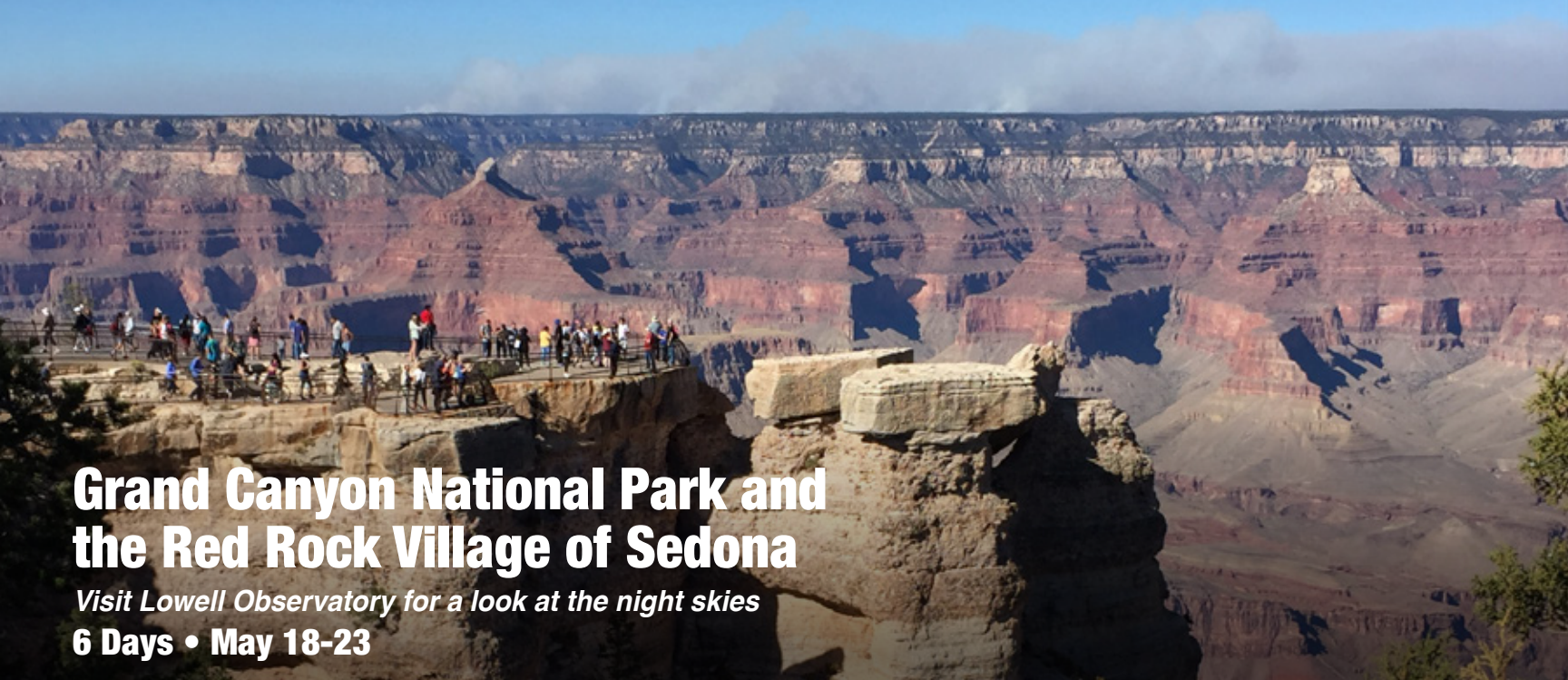
\$2445 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2720 single **3**

Please note: This tour includes many walking components with gravel roads and uneven surfaces that will not safely accommodate a walker. Please call the office with questions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- See the giant Sequoia trees in Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks
- 3 Nights at Wonder Valley Ranch, an all-inclusive resort in the Sierra foothills
- Loving the ranch life: Hayride, Campfire, Magic Show, Dog Show and hosted nightly cocktail hours
- Project Survival’s Cat Haven, an innovative park dedicated to the preservation of wild cats
- Lunch and tour of the Hilmar Cheese Factory
- Explore Forestiere Underground Gardens in Fresno
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation on this no-fly tour
- Door-to-door service to/from the *Sports Leisure* office
- 10 meals: 3 Full breakfast, 4 Lunches, 3 Dinners, plus 3 Hosted Cocktail Hours
- 2450/2750 Gold Passport Points





Grand Canyon National Park and the Red Rock Village of Sedona

Visit Lowell Observatory for a look at the night skies
6 Days • May 18-23

Gaze into one of the world's natural wonders

From the legendary Grand Canyon to the mystical red rocks of Sedona and the starlit skies of Flagstaff, Northern Arizona offers a landscape as varied as it is breathtaking. This journey blends iconic sights, authentic cultural experiences and the warm hospitality of the Southwest for an unforgettable adventure.

1. Fly nonstop on Southwest Airlines to Phoenix, where a hosted lunch begins your Arizona escape. From the desert floor, ascend into the cool highlands of Flagstaff, surrounded by the largest contiguous ponderosa pine forest in the world. Your hotel is nestled among the pines, offering a peaceful retreat after your travels. **Little America, Flagstaff – 4 nights (L)**

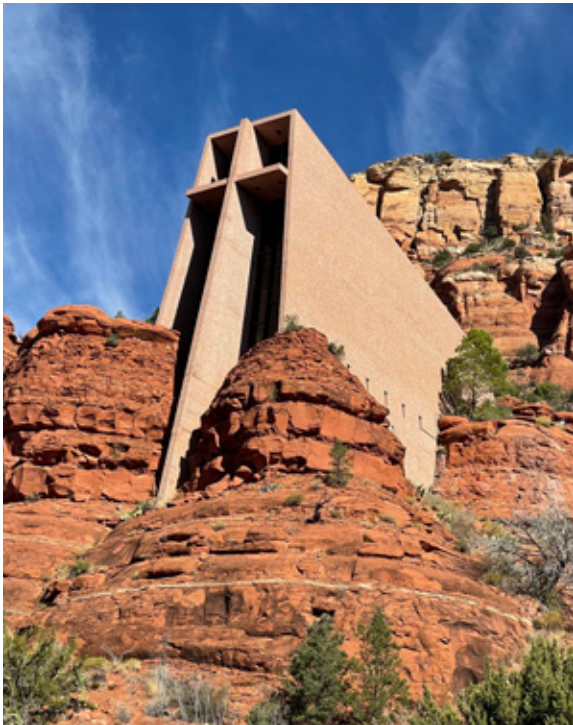
2. Get ready for a “close encounter of the wild kind” at Bearizona, a 150-acre drive-through wildlife park where bison, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, wolves, and, of course, black bears roam free. You’ll also stroll the walk-through section to meet

smaller native and exotic animals. This evening, enjoy dinner and live entertainment at one of Flagstaff’s most beloved dining institutions. **(FB,L,D)**

3. Today you’ll enter Grand Canyon National Park, one of the most awe-inspiring natural wonders on Earth. Your private guided tour will take you along the South Rim to Hermits Rest, stopping at scenic overlooks to capture the canyon’s shifting colors and dramatic vistas. Learn the fascinating story of Fred Harvey and the Harvey Girls in the Bright Angel History Room, browse the historic Hopi House, or walk the Trail of Time, a geologic timeline with stunning views. **(FB)**

4. Travel the spectacular Oak Creek Canyon, a winding ribbon of road flanked by red rock cliffs and lush forests, to the village of Sedona. You’ll be introduced to Sedona’s highlights on a trolley tour, including a stop at the famous Chapel of the Holy Cross, perched dramatically in the red rocks. After a hosted lunch, enjoy more local touring before returning to Flagstaff in the evening. **(FB,L)**

5. Begin with a docent-led tour of the Museum of Northern Arizona, where the art, culture and science of the Colorado Plateau come to life. Then explore the legendary Lowell Observatory, where Pluto was first discovered. View the Historic Clark Refractor (1896) and visit the brand-new Discovery Center. As night falls, return for a magical evening under the stars. Flagstaff was the world’s first International Dark Sky City, and tonight you’ll gaze at planets and distant galaxies through six telescopes at the observatory’s open-air viewing area. **(FB,L)**



Visit the Chapel of the Holy Cross in Sedona

HIGHLIGHTS

- All nights in Flagstaff – unpack once!
- Guided tour along the rim of the Grand Canyon
- Tour of Bearizona Wildlife Park
- Visit Lowell Observatory, with evening telescope viewing
- Tour of the Museum of Northern Arizona
- 11 meals: 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Phoenix
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 3400/3750 Gold Passport Points

6. Travel back to Phoenix for a special hosted lunch accompanied by a live musical performance before boarding your flight home. **(FB,L)**

\$3385 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3705 single

3



Lowell Observatory





Zion & Bryce Canyon National Parks

Featuring Broadway performances under the stars at Tuacahn Amphitheater
6 Days • May 26-31

Loving the view at Zion National Park

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tram tour at Zion National Park
 - Guided rim tour at Bryce Canyon
 - Two performances at Tuacahn Amphitheater
 - Roundtrip airfare to/from Las Vegas
 - 7 included meals: 2 continental breakfasts, 1 full breakfast, 4 lunches
 - Roundtrip airfare to/from Las Vegas
 - Door-to-door airport service
 - 3600/4350 Gold Passport Points
1. Fly to Las Vegas, lunch is hosted before journeying to the charming town of Springdale, Utah – your gateway to Zion National Park. Settle into your hotel which offers panoramic red rock views that seem to change color with the sun. **SpringHill Suites Springdale Zion – 2 nights (L)**

2. Step aboard a private tram for a scenic journey deep into Zion Canyon. Your guide shares the park’s history and secrets as you take in awe-inspiring vistas and marvel at the park’s towering monoliths carved by the Virgin River. The afternoon is yours to stroll through the park’s trails, explore Springdale’s inviting shops or unwind by the hotel’s outdoor pool. **(CB)**
3. Today’s journey brings you to the spellbinding landscape of Bryce Canyon National Park. With a local expert leading the way, you’ll stop at dramatic overlooks to marvel at the park’s signature “Hoodoos,” colorful sandstone spires sculpted by centuries of wind and water. This is a place where nature’s imagination runs wild. **Ruby’s Inn (CB,L)**

4. Travel to St. George, where a hosted lunch awaits amid a stunning canvas of volcanic rock and rugged peaks. This evening, immerse yourself in magic of Tuacahn Amphitheater, a world-class outdoor venue set in a natural red rock canyon. Past productions have included Broadway favorites performed by top-tier talent from New York, Chicago, and Las Vegas, each one enhanced by the beauty of the desert night. (Shows will be announced later in the year.) **Black Desert Resort – 2 nights (FB,L)**
5. Enjoy a morning of local sightseeing before gathering for another hosted lunch. As the sun dips below the cliffs, return to Tuacahn for your second unforgettable performance, where music, drama and the starlit sky create pure theatrical magic. **(L)**

6. Depart St. George for Las Vegas and your afternoon flight home, taking with you unforgettable memories of Utah’s red rock wonders.

\$3570 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4335 single 3



One of many breathtaking vistas at Zion National Park



View the awe-inspiring Hoodoos of Bryce Canyon National Park





Newfoundland: Welcome to The Rock

A comprehensive journey across Canada's easternmost

Atlantic province

11 Days • June 1-11

HIGHLIGHTS

- L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Gros Morne National Park (also a UNESCO Site)
- Gander and their unique 9/11 story
- Notre Dame Bay and Terra Nova National Park
- Long Point and Cape Bonavista Lighthouses
- Explore the Capital City of St. John's, cruise Bay Bulls and visit Cape Spear
- 19 meals: Daily breakfast, 1 box lunch, 9 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare – Sacramento/Toronto/Deer Lake, NL and St. John's, NL/Sacramento
- Pre-tour overnight enroute to Newfoundland in Toronto with dinner
- Door-to-door Airport Transportation
- Services of a Newfoundland guide and *Sports Leisure* Tour Director throughout
- 8200/9000 Gold Passport Points

1. Sacramento to Toronto – Your travels take you to Toronto today, arriving mid-afternoon. Enjoy dinner at Ruth's Chris and overnight at an airport hotel, before continuing your journey to Newfoundland tomorrow. **Westin Hotel Toronto Airport (D)**

2. Toronto to Deer Lake/Hawkes Bay – Air schedules are not yet set at catalog printing, but we anticipate a non-stop flight to Deer Lake, NL. Transfer for overnight accommodations along the Northern Peninsula in Hawkes Bay (2.5 hour drive from Deer Lake). **Sea Echo Motel (D)**

3. Hawkes Bay to St. Anthony – Travel to L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, the first cultural discovery in the world

to receive recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hear of the Vikings who walked the earth here over a thousand years ago before continuing on to St. Anthony for accommodations and dinner tonight. **Hotel North (B,D)**

4. St. Anthony to Cow Head – A morning whale watching tour (weather permitting) with a wildlife expert will give you the opportunity to see whales, dolphins, sea birds and sea caves. At the Grenfell Historic Properties, learn about the famous medical missionary, Sir Wilfred Grenfell, before traveling to Cow Head in Gros Morne National Park. **Shallow Bay Motel – 2 nights (B,D)**

5. Gros Morne Touring – Discover why Gros Morne National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is truly one of the highlights of your trip with a scenic boat tour on Bonne Bay. Be on the look-out for the bald eagles that frequent the deep waters of the fjord. Also visit the Tablelands, a mountain of flat-topped rock of a kind usually found only deep in the earth's mantle, is an awe-inspiring sight. Many say the scenery of Gros Morne is unequaled anywhere in Canada. **(B,BoxL,D)**

6. Cow Head to Gander – Travel on through central Newfoundland to Gander for a visit to the North Atlantic Aviation Museum. Hosting a variety of artifacts and displays chronicling Gander's role in development of transatlantic aviation, you'll also learn of the city's famous role in hosting "Come From Aways" during America's 9/11 tragedy. **Sinbads Hotel (B,D)**

7. Gander to Clarenville – A scenic drive along the rocky coast of Notre Dame Bay leads to the beautiful outpost of Twillingate where you will visit Long Point Lighthouse and the Prime Berth Fishery & Heritage Centre. Keep your eyes and camera at the ready, watching for wildlife as you drive through Terra Nova National Park and on to Clarenville. **Quality Hotel – 2 nights (B,D)**

8. Bonavista & Trinity Touring – Today you will experience two quaint, historic towns. First, visit Bonavista, where John Cabot arrived in North America in 1497. Learn about the hard life of the light keepers at Cape Bonavista Lighthouse Provincial Historic Site before continuing on to charming Trinity. Stroll the lanes and explore the many historic buildings preserved from the 18th Century. **(B,D)**

9. Clarenville to St. John's – Your next stop is the intriguing old seaport of St. John's, North America's oldest city. Newfoundland's capital boasts a stunning location in the granite cliffs and slopes of the Avalon Peninsula. Take a city tour featuring the Victorian architecture of the downtown area, the busy modern waterfront, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Confederation Building and the panoramic view from Signal Hill. **Delta Hotel – 2 nights (B,D)**

10. Bay Bulls and Cape Spear – This morning, visit Bay Bulls for one of the highlights of your trip, a boat tour in the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve to search for puffins and other seabirds. Next is a visit to the most easterly point in North America, Cape Spear National Historic Site. The afternoon is yours to explore St. John's at your leisure. **(FB,D)**

11. St. John's – Sacramento – Transfer to the St. John's International Airport where you will say farewell taking with you fond memories of your time on The Rock. **(FB)**

\$8195 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8965 single 3
This vacation requires a valid passport





Boston to the Shores of Old Cape Cod

Visit Boston, Martha's Vineyard, Provincetown and Nantucket

8 Days • June 5-12

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights each Boston, Provincetown on the Cape and Nantucket, overnight Hyannis
- 4 ferry rides Boston-Provincetown and Hyannis-Martha's Vineyard-Nantucket-Hyannis
- Guided tours of Boston, Provincetown, Cape Cod National Seashore, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard
- Ride the famous Swan Boats on Boston Common
- Whale watching cruise with onboard naturalist
- Tour the JFK Presidential Library
- Visit Boston Navy Shipyard – USS Constitution and Museum
- 14 meals: Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 5 dinners including a lobster feast
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Boston
- Door-to-door Airport Transportation
- 5300/6150 Gold Passport Points

1. Arrive in Boston in the early evening and transfer to your hotel. After check-in, take the opportunity to explore the historic neighborhood of this legendary downtown hotel. Dinner is at your leisure. Maybe you'll have one of their famous rolls in the hotel restaurant? **Omni Parker House – 2 nights**



2. Discover Boston's history with a local guide. Walk through Harvard Yard to the famous Old North Church, then from Paul Revere's home to the site of the (in) famous Tea Party with free time for lunch in Cambridge. Tour historic downtown by motorcoach and ride the iconic Swan Boats in service since 1877 in Boston Common. Dinner is included tonight at Dovetail Restaurant. **(FB,D)**

3. Have a morning visit to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library before boarding the high-speed ferry for a 90-minute afternoon cruise to Provincetown. Enjoy a one-hour dunes tour before checking in at your waterfront hotel. Dinner is included at Top Mast Restaurant. **Surfside Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

4. Tour by trolley to discover the rich history and unique flair of this "end of the road" community. Before lunch enjoy the variety of shops and galleries that make Provincetown so unique. Lunch is included at Mayflower Café followed by a walk to MacMillan Wharf to join a naturalist on a whale watching expedition. These waters are generally ripe with the gentle mammals as they feed and frolic in the blue Atlantic. **(B,L)**

5. On the southeast end of the Cape pass through small New England villages arriving in Hyannis. Take time for lunch and browsing before visiting a museum focusing on JFK's life and the mystique of Camelot. Tonight it's time for a LOBSTA DINNER! **Hyannis Harbor Hotel (B,D)**

6. Arrive on Martha's Vineyard by ferry for a narrated van tour, then continue to Nantucket on the inter-island ferry where you'll stay two-nights at the island's finest accommodations. A complimentary shuttle service is available from the hotel into the village every hour for your free-time pleasure. Dinner is included both nights. **Nantucket Inn – 2 nights (FB,D)**



7. One of the nation's oldest communities, Nantucket has a fascinating story to tell. Explore the island and learn of the history and importance of whaling, once the island's main industry. After the tour you are free in town for lunch. Visit the Whaling Museum and do a little window shopping. Just be sure to return to the inn in time for dinner! **(B,D)**

8. Depart Nantucket by morning ferry to Hyannis, then board the coach for a leisurely ride back to Boston's Navy Shipyard for a tour of the legendary *USS Constitution* and Museum before heading to Boston Logan Airport for your return flight to the West Coast. **(B,L)**

\$5275 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6140 single

3





A Baltic Odyssey

Visit the “Amber Coast” countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

12 Days • June 25 – July 6

HIGHLIGHTS

- Estonia – Tallin, Pärnu on the Baltic Sea, Lahemaa National Park, cider house tour/ tasting
- Latvia – Riga, Rundale Palace, Sigulda New Palace, Gauja National Park, organ concert in Domas Cathedral, magical Black Balsam, sea buckthorn and deer farms
- Lithuania – Vilnius, Klaipėda, Hill of Crosses, amber and smoked fish on the Curonian Spit, Trakai Castle, Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights, Old World bakery dinner with music/dancing
- 28 meals: Nearly EVERY meal is included
- Roundtrip airfare to Tallinn/from Vilnius
- Door-to-door Airport Transportation
- Services of a Baltic guide and *Sports Leisure* Tour Director throughout
- 7300/7850 Gold Passport Points

1-2. It takes a minute to reach Estonia’s Capital City, Tallinn, by air via Denver and Frankfurt, but the charm of this ancient, walled city will be apparent the moment you reach the Center City and meet our local guide. Take some time to stretch your legs and explore before our Welcome Dinner.

Palace Hotel by Radisson – 2 nights (D)

3. Fortified by a hearty breakfast, we’ll spend the morning at Lahemaa, the oldest and largest National Park in Estonia. Located on the Gulf of Finland, the park showcases and preserves a massive area of forests, bogs, lakes and waterways, along with the birds and animals who call it home. The afternoon includes time for more exploration in Old Town Tallinn, ending with a dinner you’re sure to remember – a medieval feast serving dishes from the past in an authentic 15th Century building. **(FB,L,D)**

4. As we leave Tallin, visit a family-operated cider house, sample their offerings and have a home-cooked lunch. Onward to Estonia’s fourth largest city, Pärnu, a seaside paradise famous for its wide, sandy beaches; clear, shallow water; a waterfront promenade stretching for miles and luxurious spa activities. You’ll have the afternoon free to do as much or little as you please from the convenient location of our beachfront hotel. The property houses the city’s oldest and most popular spa and wellness center, appropriately named because today is all about YOU. **Hedon Spa & Hotel (FB,L,D)**

5. Latvia is the most agricultural of the Baltic States, so it’s fitting that we spend our first day on a “recreational” deer farm, where the animals are bred and raised for their stature (specifically their racks), competing in contests all over Europe. Our farmer-host is the recipient of many national and international titles as he will be proud to show you. After lunch, let’s visit a castle . . . or two. Sigulda New Palace is an 19th Century manor built upon layers of history (earlier castles) dating back to the 11th Century. In the early 20th century, New Palace became a celebrated writers colony attracting the region’s premier intelligentsia and creative circles, and not a few celebrities. Onward to Latvia’s Capital City, Riga, with a visit to Gauja National Park enroute. **Radisson Blu Latvija – 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

6. Explore Riga from top to bottom including a city tour featuring the impressive civic and holy structures that define the city, including the large concentration of Art Nouveau architecture for which the city is famous. Enjoy an organ concert in Domas

Cathedral. Sample local treats at the Central Market. And have a presentation and tasting at the workshop where Black Balsam elixir is formulated and bottled, long renowned for its mystical qualities. Does it really contain a little black magic? After this experience you can be the judge. **(FB,D)**

7. At a sea buckthorn berry farm, you’ll learn the amazing antioxidant and probiotic qualities of the tiny, tart orange berry at one of the only places in the world commercially growing and producing juice and related products. Onward to Rundale Palace, an absolutely mind-blowing baroque palace built for the Duke of Courland. (We’re not sure exactly who this guy was, but OMG what a house!) The recently restored 18th Century mansion is THE singular architectural masterpiece in all of the Baltics



Clayton meets a Royal Visitor on his visit Rundale Palace – and feels a bit underdressed!





and absolutely not to be missed! Crossing into Lithuania, visit a rural family bakery to bake and sample bread in Old World style, meet the owners, and have dinner as locals perform traditional Lithuanian songs and dances. Romantic Boutique Hotel, Panevezys **(FB,L,D)**

8. The Hill of Crosses simply must be seen to be believed. Dating to a national uprising in the 1830s, the number of crosses are estimated at over 200,000 – and grows steadily each year – at this organic shrine to the power of God over adversity. In the waterfront community of Klaipėda you'll find a "youthful city" dedicated to jazz, good food and drink. For us, it's the jumping off point for tomorrow's amazing journey. **Victoria Hotel, Klaipėda – 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

9. The Curonian Spit is a narrow, sandy strip of land extending into the Baltic Sea which in its entirety is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Populated with small scrub and evergreen forests, dunes and fishing villages, it is famous for the profusion of amber on its beaches and a particular delicacy which is served up at nearly every restaurant and roadside stand – smoked fish. (It's an acquired taste!) Sample all the Spit has to offer (including the dubious fish) on a full day of exploration including an amber workshop and a cruise on the lagoon. **(FB,L,D)**

10. Continue into the heart of Lithuania's artistic/anti-art community in Kaunas, home of the FLUXUS Movement, then on to Trakai where a traditional Karaim lunch of Kibinai, Broth and Gira is served in the shadow of

the fairytale Trakai Castle which you'll visit. Your day continues in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius with a highlights tour upon arrival. **Courtyard by Marriott – 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

11. The morning begins with a poignant reminder of the country's Soviet past at the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights, located in the former KGB prison. From there the city tour continues featuring more impressive monuments and public buildings including Vilnius Cathedral (built on the ruins of an ancient pagan temple), the Franciscan St. Ann's Church (dating to 1500), the Gate of Dawn and the Jewish



Quarter. Our Farewell Dinner is served in the famous Neringa Restaurant, a historic landmark in the city, noted for its culinary expertise, top-class service and art moderne wall murals. **(FB,L,D)**

12. What a region! What a vacation! Surely it can't be time to go home, but indeed it is. Goodbye to all the Northern European sights, sounds and friends we've made along the way...especially the smoked fish! **(FB)**

\$7270 p.p/dbl.occ., \$7850 single **4**
This tour requires a valid passport



Lithuania's Hill of Crosses is a shrine that simply must be experienced.



The Oregon Coast to the Redwoods

Featuring rides on Oregon's Rogue River and coastal sand dunes

7 Days • June 15-21



1. Our signature home pick-up gets you to the airport in plenty of time for your early flight to Portland. On the way to the coast, stop at McMinnville to see the famous *Spruce Goose* experimental aircraft. Look into the cockpit of this giant flying boat, built to circumvent German U-boats during WWII. The plane made only one short flight, but is big part of aviation history. Your accommodations in Newport are right on the beach! **Hallmark Hotel – 2 nights (L)**

2. The Oregon Aquarium offers a great experience to “meet” some of the local marine wildlife. We have a better idea. It's the behind-the-scenes tour where you'll get up close and personal with the critters. There's time for lunch and browsing on the waterfront, then a free afternoon to enjoy the view and/or walk on the beach. A cocktail cruise on the bay is followed by dinner at Clearwater, the best dining Newport has to offer. **(B,D)**

3. Just an hour south of Newport on the coast is Florence. It's a wonderful little town with great shops and restaurants – a perfect place for lunch. Just a bit further south are the sand dunes. Board a big buggy this morning and for a gentle ride over the dunes, or a smaller buggy for a

more adventurous ride at the hands of your skilled driver. Arrive in Coos Bay in late afternoon. **Edgewater Resort – 2 nights (B)**

4. Spend the day exploring some wonderful off-the-beaten-track attractions with a local guide in and around Bandon, just to the south. Like to shop? Cranberry Sweets and Misty Meadows will offer you lots of Oregon-made treats. Jams, jellies, candy – there's all sorts of yummy stuff to choose from. At Washed Ashore, you'll hear the story of a small company that is trying to help clean up the ocean, one piece of trash at a time. What an inspiring mission! Shore Acres State Park is a highlight. There's a story here along with a fantastic view. Please enjoy both. Back in Coos Bay, enjoy dinner featuring the salmon the area is famous for (alternate entrées available). **(FB,D)**

5. Travel further south along the Oregon coast this morning, destination Gold Beach. There you'll board one of the mailboats for a ride up the Rogue River. There's a lunch stop along the way and lots of great scenery. Overnight in Gold Beach and enjoy dinner at The Landing North. **Best Western, Gold Beach (FB,L,D)**



Enjoying the calm waters of Yaquina Bay near Newport

HIGHLIGHTS

- Evergreen Aviation Museum – See the original Spruce Goose, Howard Hughes' giant flying boat
- Behind-the-scenes visit to the Oregon Aquarium
- Educational cruise on Newport Harbor
- 2 nights at the Hallmark Hotel, Newport - every room with an ocean view; 2 nights at The Edgewater Resort in Coos Bay; overnights in Gold River and Eureka
- Ride the sand dunes in a giant dune buggy... or take a more adventurous ride in a smaller buggy
- Stroll the gardens and enjoy the ocean views at Shore Acres State Park
- Local stops in Bandon – Washed Ashore, Misty Meadows Jams and Cranberry Sweets
- Ride a Rogue River Mailboat
- Redwoods National Park Visitor's Center and a guided drive on the “Avenue of the Giants” in California's Humboldt State Park
- 14 meals: 3 breakfasts, 3 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Fly to Portland, return to Sacramento by coach, door-to-door service
- 3950/4500 Gold Passport Points

6. A morning drive brings us to Redwoods National Park. A stop at the Visitors Center gives you the opportunity to learn about these magnificent trees. In Eureka this afternoon, take a walk high above the ground among the giant redwoods. **Red Lion Inn – Eureka (FB,L,D)**

7. Just south of Eureka this morning you'll meet Justin Legge. That's his legal name, but to us he's *Mr. Tree*. For years, Justin has been taking our groups into the redwoods to teach them about some of nature's grandest creations, the Coastal Redwoods. The groves are Justin's “church,” and he will take you into the forest for a few moments of “worship” this morning. Leave the trees and the coast behind as we make our way home on Highways 101, 20 and I-5. Stop for lunch in Willits, arriving in Sacramento at about 5 pm. **(B,L)**

\$3925 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4495 single 2



Washed Ashore takes ocean trash and turns it into art





Calgary Stampede and the Canadian Rockies

Experience the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth and the majesty of the Rocky Mountains

7 Days • July 7-13

Emerald Lake, one of many turquoise-tinted lakes in the Canadian Rockies

1. Touch down in Calgary, your gateway to the Canadian Rockies, and watch prairie flatlands rise into jagged peaks as you drive away from the city. Welcome to Banff National Park where the adventure begins!
Banff Caribou Lodge – 4 nights (D)

2. Postcards come to life as the Bow River guides us to shimmering Lake Louise where every photo could be a magazine cover. Stroll along the lakeshore, explore and have lunch at the storybook Château Lake Louise, then cross into British Columbia for the wonders of Yoho National Park: The Spiral Tunnels, Emerald Lake and the churning Kicking Horse River as it flows under the Natural Bridge. **(FB,L)**

3. Snap the Banff Springs Hotel like royalty once did. See Bow Falls, walk to the otherworldly Hoodoos and cruise the “Lake of the Spirits,” Lake Minnewanka, aboard the *Alberta Explorer*. Tonight, ascend Sulphur Mountain by gondola for sky-high dining - dinner served at 7,500 feet. Here the sunset might just ruin you for all others!
(FB,D)

4. Journey the jaw-dropping Icefields Parkway, quite literally the highway to the ice, where glaciers cling to mountaintops like icing on a cake. Stand before Crowfoot Glacier, gaze at neon-blue Peyto Lake, and ride the colossal Ice Explorer onto the Athabasca Glacier, a frozen giant beneath your feet. Wildlife sightings are the encore.
(FB)

5. Return to Calgary into the electric buzz of Stampede Park. Feast at a Western buffet, then feel the adrenaline of Chuckwagon Races as hooves and wheels blur into thunder and lightning. Later the Grandstand Show explodes in music, acrobatics and a finale of fireworks lighting the prairie sky.
Delta Hotel by Marriott – 2 nights (FB,D)

6. See the grit and glory of the World’s Richest Rodeo, six action-packed events including the untamed thrill of bull riding filling your day with fun and excitement. Visit the vibrant Elbow River Camp and savor your final dinner, swapping stories of mountains, glaciers, galloping hooves and rodeo royalty.
(FB,D)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Lake Louise, the most photographed lake in the world
- Yoho National Park and the dramatic Natural Bridge
- Sulphur Mountain Gondola with panoramic mountain views
- Lunch at Château Lake Louise
- Lake Minnewanka Cruise aboard the *Alberta Explorer*
- Icefields Parkway and Athabasca Glacier Tour
- Reserved seating for the Calgary Stampede Grandstand Show, Chuckwagon Races and Rodeo
- 11 meals: 6 full breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Calgary
- Door-to-door airport service
- 7000/8550 Gold Passport Points

7. Take one last deep breath of crisp Canadian air before your flight home with your time in the Rockies and at the Stampede forever etched in memory. **(FB)**

\$6995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8550 single 3
This tour requires a valid passport



The exciting chuck wagon races at the Calgary Stampede



Iceland, Land of Fire and Ice

This little island in the North Atlantic is big on adventure!

9 Days • July 23-31



Seljalandsfoss plunges 200 feet, with a rare walking path leading behind the cascade

HIGHLIGHTS

- See mountains, glaciers, black sand beaches, volcanoes and geysers
- Visit and take in the waters at famous Blue Lagoon
- Cruise between icebergs at Jökulsárlón
- Walk behind the Seljalandsfoss Waterfall
- 16 meals: 7 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 7 dinners
- Roundtrip air to/from Reykjavik
- Door-to-door airport transportation

1-2. Fly overnight to Iceland and begin your adventure at the legendary Blue Lagoon, a geothermal pool set in a dramatic lava field. Relax in the warm, mineral-rich waters before continuing to Reykjavik for a guided city tour showcasing its colorful buildings, charming harbor and iconic landmarks.

Fosshotel Reykjavik – 3 nights (L)

3. Visit Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring, where boiling water gushes from the earth at an astonishing rate – enough to heat entire towns. This afternoon, stop at a local horse farm to meet the sturdy, sure-footed Icelandic

Horse. Then see two remarkable waterfalls: Barnafoss, rushing through a narrow, twisting gorge, and Hraunfossar, a series of delicate cascades streaming through ancient lava rock. **(FB,L,D)**

4. Today's classic route includes three of Iceland's most celebrated natural and historic treasures. At Þingvellir National Park (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), stand at the rift between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates and learn about Iceland's first parliament, founded here in 930 AD. Continue to Gullfoss, a spectacular two-tiered waterfall, and the Geysir Geothermal Area, where the Strokkur geyser erupts in a dramatic display every few minutes. **(FB,D)**

5. No two waterfalls in Iceland are alike—and today you'll discover two of the most unforgettable. Seljalandsfoss plunges 200 feet, with a rare walking path leading behind the cascade for a magical, misty view. Skógafoss is one of Iceland's largest and most powerful, with a drop so perfect it looks like something out of a legend. **Hotel TBA (FB,D)**

6. Travel along the edge of Vatnajökull, Europe's largest glacier, to Jökulsárlón, a mesmerizing lagoon filled with floating icebergs. An amphibian boat tour will take you among these icy giants before you stroll along Diamond Beach, where crystal-like chunks of glacier wash ashore on black volcanic sand. Continue to Skaftafell National Park for views of glaciers, mountains and volcanic landscapes – an absolute dream for photographers. **Hotel Kea Katla - 2 nights (FB,D)**

7. Step onto the hauntingly beautiful Reynisfjara Beach, famed for its black lava sand, basalt columns, and towering sea stacks. Then visit Fjarðargljúfur, a spectacular canyon with sheer cliffs and sweeping views of the surrounding countryside. **(FB,D)**

8. Today is pure Icelandic adventure. Climb aboard a Superjeep and head off-road into Þórsmörk, a remote valley framed by glaciers and volcanic ridges. For those who wish, take an optional hike to Gígjökull Glacier to witness firsthand the dramatic changes caused by the 2010 eruption of Eyjafjallajökull. **Hotel Loa (FB,D)**

9. Return to Reykjavik for your flight home, your heart, mind and camera filled with images of waterfalls, glaciers, geysers and the endless beauty of Iceland. **(FB)**

Pricing on this trip will be available soon. We encourage you to register without obligation in order to secure your space.

4

This tour requires a valid passport



Traditional sod-sided and topped homes are common in rural Iceland





Historic Fort Bragg & Mendocino, Training by the Ocean

Ride the old Skunk Train, enjoy North Coast hospitality

4 Days • July 13-16

HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 nights at the Harbor Lite Lodge overlooking Noyo Harbor
- See the Redwoods aboard the Skunk Train to nearby Pudding Creek
- Visit the Mendocino Botanical Garden on a guided walk (or explore on your own)
- Walking/coach tour of the murals of historic Downtown Fort Bragg
- Mendocino drive-through, with stops at the Ford House Visitors Center, Mendocino Jams and the arch
- A morning in Ft. Bragg – visit the Marine Science Center, a chocolate store and a sea glass museum
- 8 meals: 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners – your chance to sample some local seafood if you wish
- Door-to-door service
- 2050/2350 Gold Passport Points



Ft. Bragg has reinvented itself, in a funky sort of way. We enjoyed our visits the past two summers, expanding our stay by a day last year and adding a formal visit to Mendocino for this year's trip. There is so much history in the area, and because of its remote location, not everyone makes it up this way. The train still runs a short route into the Redwoods. Come with us on a fun vacation to the coast! It's the perfect, affordable way to enjoy California's remarkable coastline.

1. From Sacramento we make our way up I-5 to Williams, then west on Route 20 into Lake County, travel on to Willits for lunch with the Lumberjacks, arriving on the coast in mid-afternoon. The city of Fort Bragg, yes, the whole city, is a California Historic Landmark. A logging and mill town for a century, today it's mostly a tourist destination. In the afternoon, check out the village of Mendocino, just south of Fort Bragg. It offers spectacular views of the water, picture options galore and a Visitors Center where you can learn a little about the area. Dinner at a popular local restaurant, with options including locally-caught seafood, brings the day to a close. **Harbor Lite Lodge – 3 nights (L,D)**

2. After breakfast at a wonderful local restaurant (a two-minute ride from the hotel), our first stop on a busy Fort Bragg day is at the Mendocino Botanical Gardens. A docent leads us on a guided walk through the gardens, telling us the story of the couple who founded the site in 1961. Break for lunch at your leisure downtown, then board the Skunk Train for the short ride to Pudding Creek in early afternoon. Back at your hotel, enjoy the view and a little down time. **(B,D)**

3. Our "morning in Ft. Bragg" experience starts the day. Downtown has a Marine Science Center where you can learn a bit about what's in the water. On the next block is Mendocino Chocolate. Samples and a treat-to-go are included. The Sea Glass Museum gives you an interesting look at what washes up on local beaches. A short walking tour of some of the town's many murals is offered after lunch, along with some free time in town. **(B,D)**

4. Our lunch stop on the return is the Blue Wing Saloon, part of the historic Tallman Hotel, in Upper Lake. Our return arrival to Sacramento is slated for 3-4 pm, with our fleet of cars waiting at the *Sports Leisure* office to deliver you to your home. **(B,L)**

\$2020 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2310 single

2



A shared moment on the beach



Ferries and Towns of Puget Sound

One of our longest running and most popular tours - 4 nights with a view of peaceful Puget Sound, ride the ferryboats, visit small towns and Olympic National Park

5 Days • July 20-24



The view of the Sound from your room at the Clearwater Resort

1. Fly non-stop to Seattle. Enjoy brunch at Anthony's (with a view) near the airport. The afternoon ferry ride to Bainbridge Island is the second longest (35 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 Chief's grave site and hear the incredible story of a man wise beyond his time. Your lodging for the entire tour is at the beautiful Clearwater Resort overlooking the waters of Puget Sound. For a welcome dinner this evening, we've arranged a lovely private light buffet on the patio. Walk along the sound, sit outside



Ride the Washington State Ferries across the Sound

near the fire ring in the evening, it's really one of the most wonderful accommodations in our entire catalogue. Our tour days are of reasonable length, so you'll have ample time to enjoy this beautiful resort. There are dining choices on property. (Note: The hotel is completely separate from the casino which is a 3-minute walk away.) **Clearwater Casino Resort – 4 nights (BR,D)**

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 after lunch! There's also time to explore the quaint shops at your leisure. Port Gamble is another colorful little spot in the Pacific Northwest. The old mill town has been restored and is a National Historical Landmark. Our visit includes a casual outdoor dinner and tour of the local museum, said to be haunted. We'll get the details from a "ghost's point of view..." **(FB,D)**

3. More ferry rides today! Cross from Kingston to Edmunds to reach the Mukilteo Lighthouse. It's open just for us! After lunch at Ivar's on the water there are two possible ferry routes back, which will be determined by tidal conditions that day. **(FB,L)**

4. Off to visit Olympia National Park, featuring a stop at Hurricane Ridge and spectacular mountain vistas. Back down at sea level, we'll make two stops in quaint Sequim lunch at a popular diner downtown, then visit a lavender farm. Take some home if you wish or sample their other products.



Visit the lighthouse in Mukilteo

HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 ferry rides on Puget Sound, including Seattle/Bainbridge Island
- Visit the villages of Poulsbo, Sequim and Port Gamble as you make your way around the Sound
- Guided tours: Poulsbo, learn about the town's Norwegian heritage; Olympic National Park
- Hear the story of the lighthouse at Mukilteo, enjoy lunch at Ivar's
- 4-nights at the Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish – gaming for those who enjoy it, beautiful views for everyone
- Visit the grave of Chief Seattle and the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial – local landmarks which help tell the story of the Sound
- 11 meals: Sunday brunch (plated), 4 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Seattle
- Door-to-door Airport Transportation
- 3000/3400 Gold Passport Points

Ever eat ice cream laced with lavender? It's yummy! Dinner is in Poulsbo at a popular local eatery. **(FB,L,D)**

5. We have an important stop in Bainbridge before returning to Seattle. There is a small memorial here, honoring some of the first Japanese-Americans to be taken away to internment camps from Bainbridge Island. Their story is poignant. It's slightly different from the internment camp sites around the country as this is an exclusion memorial. We'll catch the ferry across the sound, have lunch, then head to the airport for our late afternoon flight home. **(FB,L)**

\$2975 p.p/dbl.occ., \$3390 single **3**





San Juan Explorer

Featuring three days cruising the San Juan Island aboard the Salish Express
5 Days • August 2-6

HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay 2 nights on Friday Harbor
- Cruise the Salish Sea for 3 days aboard a private vessel
- Visit the quaint towns of Mukilteo and La Conner
- Guided tour of San Juan Island
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Seattle
- Door-to-door Airport Transportation
- 9 meals: 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- 3900/4500 Gold Passport Points

The San Juan Islands are a maritime paradise where emerald islands rise from deep blue waters, charming harbor towns welcome visitors and wildlife thrives in abundance. This five-day escape blends scenic cruising, charming coastal towns and authentic Northwest flavors, with three unforgettable days aboard the Salish Express.

1. Fly into Seattle Washington, where a hearty lunch welcomes you to the Pacific Northwest before settling into your hotel. **Silver Cloud Hotel - Mukilteo Waterfront (L)**



Cruising the San Juans aboard the Salish Express

2. Step aboard your private vessel and sit down to a decadent cracked Dungeness crab luncheon (non-seafood options available). Soon we are cruising the sparkling waters of the Salish Sea, the body of water that includes the San Juan Islands and all of Puget Sound. Your captain will choose the day's route based on wildlife sightings – keep your camera ready for seals, porpoises, bald eagles and perhaps even orca whales. The day concludes at Friday Harbor, a picturesque port town on San Juan Island. **Friday Harbor Suites – 2 nights (FB,L)**

3. Once again, our route is guided by the latest wildlife reports, so each day on the water offers something new. Keep watch for marine life as we cruise to La Conner, a colorful waterfront community filled with art galleries, boutique shops, cafés and a charming boardwalk. Stroll at your leisure before returning to Friday Harbor for a hosted dinner. **(FB,D)**

4. This morning, a motorcoach tour takes you around San Juan Island, stopping at historic sites, scenic overlooks and the exclusive Roche Harbor Resort, where luxury meets coastal charm. Back on

board the boat, enjoy a hosted lunch as we navigate narrow passages and drift past uninhabited islands before returning to the mainland. **Silver Cloud Hotel -Mukilteo Waterfront (FB,L)**

5. Enjoy lunch before your return flight home, carrying memories of island sunsets, charming harbors and days well spent on the open water. **(FB,L)**

\$3895 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4485 single **3**



Screaming for ice cream in La Conner





The Splendor of Portugal

An experience-filled sojourn in this popular Iberian wonderland

13 Days • August 31 - September 12

1-2. Board your overnight flight to Portugal, where adventure, culture, and timeless charm await. Upon arrival in Porto, one of Portugal's most enchanting cities, where you'll be warmly greeted and transferred to your hotel. In the evening, gather with fellow travelers for a memorable welcome dinner featuring authentic Portuguese flavors.

Eurostars Aliados - 3 nights (D)

3. This morning, set out on a guided walking tour of Porto's cobblestone streets, uncovering centuries of history and vibrant

culture. Admire architectural treasures and hidden gems before savoring a traditional lunch at a local restaurant. Later, visit a filigree museum to explore the intricate art of Portuguese jewelry-making. Try your hand at this delicate craft during a private workshop, gaining insight into the skill of master artisans. **(FB,L)**

4. Journey into the scenic Douro Valley for a private tour of the renowned Pacheca Vineyard. Learn about the vineyard's heritage and winemaking traditions, followed by a delightful picnic lunch among the vines. Continue with a private Rabelo boat cruise along the Douro River, where terraced vineyards and breathtaking landscapes unfold around every bend. **(FB,L)**

5. Travel south, stopping in Aveiro, a city of canals and colorful houses. Glide through the waterways on a traditional moliceiro boat, sampling the local sweet ovos moles paired with sparkling wine. Lunch is served at Clube de Vela, overlooking the marina.

Pousada Serra da Estrela - 2 nights (FB,L)

6. Explore the medieval village of Castelo Novo, with its cobbled streets, castle ruins, and sweeping views. At a local farm, take part in a hands-on cheese-making workshop, learning the traditions behind Portugal's celebrated artisanal cheeses.

HIGHLIGHTS

- All nights spent in deluxe 4 and 5-star hotels
- Private boat trip on the Douro River
- Special private hands-on culinary and wine experiences
- See the fairy-tale architecture of Pena Palace
- Visit Evora, Sortelha, Lagos and Lisbon
- 19 meals: 11 full breakfasts, 6 lunches, 2 dinners
- Roundtrip air to Porto/from Lisbon
- Door-to-door Airport Transportation





Enjoy a hearty Shepherd's Lunch of farm-fresh dishes, paired with cheeses you helped craft. In the afternoon, visit the storybook village of Sortelha, where ancient stone walls and dramatic landscapes transport you back in time. **(FB,L)**

7. Visit João Portugal Ramos Vineyard for an exclusive tasting, followed by a private cooking class where you'll prepare regional dishes alongside expert chefs. Later, enjoy free time in Évora, a UNESCO World Heritage city filled with stunning architecture, lively squares, and inviting cafés. **M'AR De AR Aqueduto - 2 nights (FB,L)**

8. Take a scenic train ride through the Alentejo countryside, arriving for an olive oil tasting that highlights one of Portugal's most prized ingredients. Continue with a private walking tour of Évora, visiting landmarks such as the Roman Temple and the hauntingly beautiful Chapel of Bones. **(FB,L)**

9. Head to Portugal's Algarve coast and the seaside town of Lagos. The afternoon is yours to relax, stroll the beaches or enjoy the hotel's relaxing amenities. Vila Galé Lagos **(B)**

10. Travel north to Lisbon and embark on a private guided walking tour through its most iconic neighborhoods. Wander Alfama's winding alleys and soak up the bohemian energy of Bairro Alto, with panoramic viewpoints along the way including vistas over the Tagus River, offering plenty of photo opportunities to capture the beauty of Lisbon. Pause to taste Lisbon's famous pastéis de nata. Tonight, enjoy a lovely dinner at Trindade Cervejaria. **Lisboa Pessoa Hotel - 3 nights (FB)**

11. Spend the day exploring Portugal's dramatic coastline and romantic palaces.

Visit the fairy-tale Pena Palace in Sintra before continuing to the coastal gem of Cascais, where charming streets, seaside cafés, and vibrant atmosphere invite you to linger. End the day at Roca Cape, the westernmost point of continental Europe. **(FB)**

12. A free morning allows you to enjoy Lisbon at your own pace – wander through boutiques, visit museums or relax at a café. In the evening, board a private yacht for a sunset cruise along the Tagus River. Savor a Portuguese BBQ dinner on deck as the skyline glows in the fading light, creating the perfect finale to your journey. **(FB,D)**

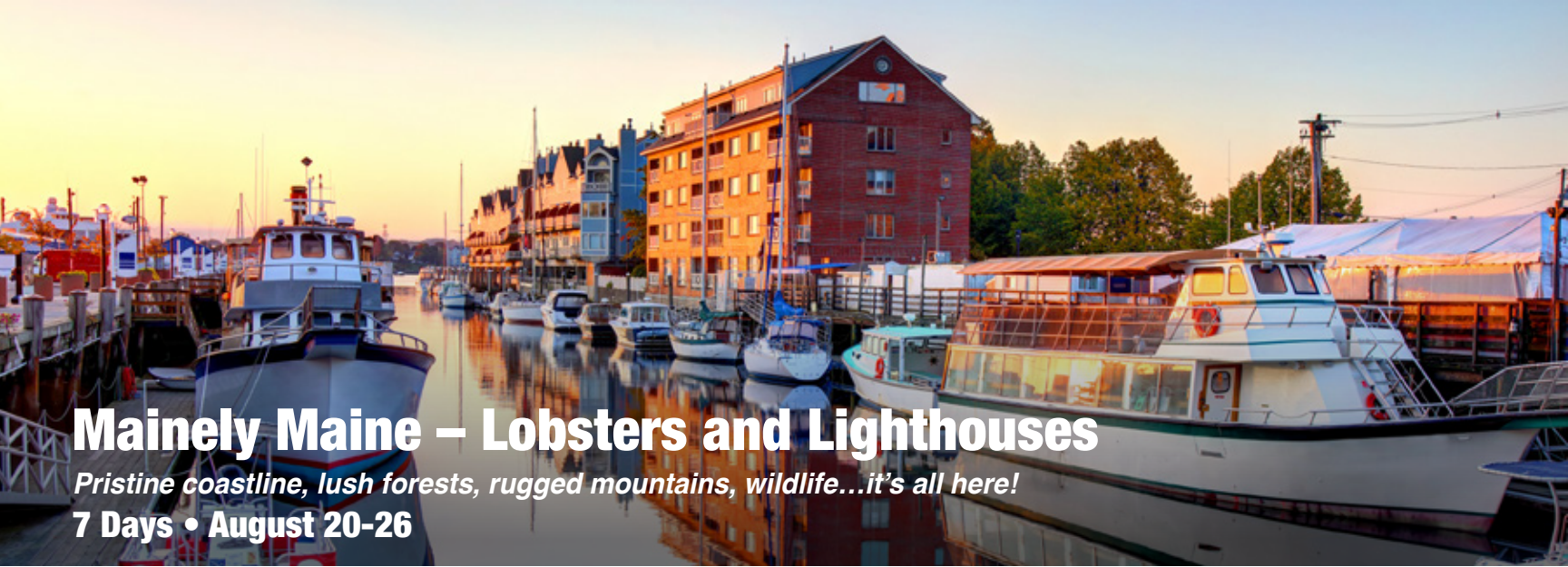
13. Bid farewell to Portugal, carrying home memories of unforgettable landscapes, flavors and friendships.

Pricing on this trip will be available soon. We encourage you to register without obligation in order to secure your space.

4

This tour requires a valid passport





Mainely Maine – Lobsters and Lighthouses

Pristine coastline, lush forests, rugged mountains, wildlife...it's all here!

7 Days • August 20-26

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights in Portland's Old Port and Bar Harbor
- Overnights in Bethel and Bath
- Guided tours of Portland, Kennebunkport and Acadia National Park
- Take a scenic boat trip to learn about the lobster industry plus an aquaculture/wildlife cruise
- Join a moose-viewing expedition in the western mountains
- Attend a performance of the "Great Maine Lumberjack Show"
- Abbe and Maine Maritime Museums, Maine Cabin Masters Headquarters
- 13 meals: breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 5 dinners including TWO lobsterbakes!
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Portland, ME
- Door-to-door airport service
- 5250/6150 Gold Passport Points

1. Arrive into Portland and head to the historic waterfront for dinner and your hotel accommodations bedecked with your very own moose and lobster hats – a style statement like none other. You're now an honorary Mainer! **Hyatt Place Portland Old Port – 2 nights (D)**

2. Drive through Portland's historic neighborhoods with stops at the Portland Head and Nubble Lighthouses. Heading upcoast through Ogunquit make a midday stop for a real culinary treat – a lobsterbake luncheon! In the charming village of Kennebunkport you'll see the Bush Family compound at Walker's Point and visit the Franciscan Monastery. The evening is at your leisure along the waterfront in Portland's Old Port. **(B,L)**

3. Visit the Maine Wildlife Park, a 200-acre slice of nature which is home to moose, black bears, mountain lions, porcupines, coyotes, owls, eagles and more, a rehabilitation center for rescued animals unable to survive on their own in the wild. Continue to the mountain village

of Bethel for a stop at the Maine Balsam Fir Factory. The fragrant wood is used in a wide array of items. Make your own balsam souvenir bag! After checking into your mountainside resort, join a guided moose-viewing expedition in Grafton Notch State Park. Dinner is included at your resort with s'mores for dessert prepared by a crackling campfire. **Sunday River Resort Hotel (B,D)**

4. Near Bangor, visit the Cabin Masters Homestead Headquarters, ground zero for the popular "Maine Cabin Masters" TV series. Now it's time to head "downeast." Upon arrival in Bar Harbor you'll settle into your hotel, then head out to dinner - a traditional Maine lobsterbake (because just one lobster meal isn't nearly enough)! Bring your appetite as the lid is raised on the colorful feast! Save some room for fun because after dinner you have a seat at the Great Maine Lumberjack Show. Nicknamed the "Olympics of the Forest," watch lumberjacks and loggers battle it out to see who will be named Champion Splitter, just as they have for over a century in these parts. **Atlantic Oceanside Resort – 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

5. Wake up beside the calm and stillness of Frenchman's Bay, then head to Acadia National Park with a local guide for a comprehensive 3-hour tour of this, our first national park east of the Mississippi. Climb to the top of Cadillac Mountain for sweeping coastal views, hear the roar of crashing waves at Thunder Hole and revel in the quiet beauty of the inland scenery. After some free time for exploring the village of Bar Harbor, explore the Abbe Museum's extensive collection of historical and cultural artifacts covering the four Native American tribes in the region. Later in the afternoon take a cruise aboard the *Lulu* for a scenic journey on the bay while learning more about local sea life and the all-important lobster industry. **(FB,D)**

6. Camden Hills State Park is nestled beside Penobscot Bay and offers breathtaking views of the rugged, lighthouse-jeweled landscape. Here on the "midcoast" explore Camden Village at midday followed by an aquaculture cruise to learn about the state's oyster industry and see the sizable local seal population. Nesting pairs of Bald Eagles also call this section of coastline home. Continue on to Bath, a charming hamlet located alongside the Kennebec River for a farewell dinner and a restful night's sleep. **Hampton Inn – Bath (FB,D)**

7. Shipbuilding is big business here and dates from the 1600s to present day. The Maine Maritime Museum's hands-on exhibits and shipbuilding demonstrations are explained during your visit. L.L. Bean's flagship sporting goods store is located in nearby Freeport Village. There is also an outlet store for bargain hunters! After lunch on your own make the short drive to the Portland International Jetport for your return flight, happy in knowing you have experienced the very best of Maine! **(B)**

\$5220 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6135 single

3





Lake Placid & Cooperstown

Our featured New England Fall Foliage Tour

7 Days • October 4-10

Early autumn brings some of our country's most famed fall colors, especially in New England. The maple trees in upstate New York provide the background for this artist's palate of orange, yellow and red. We've chosen two classic hotels (truly outstanding accommodations) for our extended stays in Lake Placid and Cooperstown, and the itinerary features a wide variety of attractions.

This tour was originally scheduled for the fall of 2025, but operational issues at one of the hotels caused it to be postponed for a year. Both Lake Placid and Cooperstown are more than sports destinations. Spend time exploring the backroads and villages that should offer some spectacular fall color. The package includes all sightseeing as listed, 15 meals (6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners), roundtrip airfare (Sacramento/Albany, NY) and home pick-up. 4900/5600 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly to Albany via Chicago, departing at 7 am; arriving at 5:30 pm (current schedule). Enjoy dinner before retiring for the evening. **Hampton Inn Downtown (D)**

2. It's a roughly 3-hour drive to Lake Placid. Along the way is Lake George, home of historic Fort William Henry. A morning tour fills you in on the story of events that here happened 250 years ago that changed our nation and world forever. Originally built in 1755, this legendary British fort was featured in "The Last of the Mohicans." They say there is no better way to see the autumn leaves than from the lake. All aboard the *Lac du Saint Sacrement* steamboat for a scenic luncheon cruise. Then it's on to Lake Placid, where a private reception welcomes you. You will be joined by a former Olympic

athlete who will lead a Q&A session and perhaps have a medal or two to show off. A visit to the dining room for dinner is a true experience! **Grand Adirondack Hotel – 3 nights (ECB,L,D)**

3. An included buffet breakfast starts the day right. Your guide will take you to the summit of Whiteface Mountain where skiing events were held during the 1980 Olympics. The views are breathtaking from the top. From there head to the Ski Jumping Complex where today's Olympic hopefuls train year-round in hopes of going for the gold. Sail up the SkyRide Gondola to the base of the ski jumps, then take the glass elevator to the observation deck to experience more jaw-dropping views of the Adirondacks and town. The day's final stop is at the Olympic Center where the "Miracle on Ice" occurred in 1980 (as well as Eric Heiden's record-breaking 5 gold medals on the speed skating track). We just might have something planned which could bring some extra goosebumps to the memories of that night in February 1980 when the miracle occurred. The rest of the afternoon and evening is at your leisure. There are many restaurants, shops and even a movie theater within a short walk of the hotel. **(FB,L)**

4. Come with us to The Wild Center about 45 minutes away at Tupper Lake. Celebrating and showing us how to protect the Adirondacks rare ecosystem is their mission. From their "Wild Walk" with the river otters to the aquariums filled with native New York fish, there is always something new to see and explore. We gather together for dinner this evening before saying goodbye to Lake Placid. **(FB,D)**

5. Once again we're off through the magnificent Adirondacks on the way to Cooperstown. Our featured stop today is Great Camp Sagamore built in 1897. Once owned by Alfred Vanderbilt, this was a getaway for the country's richest families. Your visit offers a historic tour of the buildings and grounds, hidden away on the shore of a remote lake, along with lunch. Continue on to Cooperstown, arriving about 4:30 pm. Your home is **The Otesaga for 2 nights**, a classic lakeside accommodation. Daily breakfast and dinner are included during your stay.

6. There are two "tracks" today. Those wishing to honor America's Pastime will want to head to the Hall of Fame. In addition to browsing the museum, we offer a private program where you will see and learn about artifacts not on display. The amount of time you spend here is yours to decide. Optionally, the Fenimore Art Museum is world-class, featuring landscape paintings, Native American artifacts, folk art and more in a 1930s neo-Georgian mansion. Nearby is the carousel, featuring 25 meticulously hand-carved animals and iconic symbols representing the state's agricultural and natural resources. (A hybrid itinerary is also possible, with short visits to both the Hall of Fame and the Fenimore.) Your hotel is right on the lake, so you might like to "reserve" part of the afternoon for the hotel's back porch. The shops in town are worth a look if browsing is your thing. **(FB,D)**

7. Return to Albany where there's time to visit the New York State Museum and Capitol before heading to the airport. Fly home from Albany at 4:30 pm, with an 8:45 pm arrival in Sacramento. **(FB,L)**

\$4895 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5580 single **3**





Ghost Towns & Aliens in Old Nevada

Featuring Goodsprings, Rhyolite, Gold Point, Goldfield, Tonopah, Manhattan, Belmont and the Extraterrestrial Highway

5 Days • October 26-30

Hunt for ghosts at the Pioneer Saloon in Good Springs

Ghosts. Some believe in spirits and some do not. Some might floating be somewhere in the middle. On this adventure, you'll have the chance to decide for yourself! Explore not only the old buildings, communities and legends they left behind, but make an attempt to talk to the "previous residents" themselves on an authentic Ghost Hunt!

1. Your flight arrives in Las Vegas in the early afternoon. Check into your hotel, then join us for a great pizza/pasta dinner at Grimaldi's. Later, visit the Neon Museum, where old Vegas signs live on. Then we are joined by our guide who will narrate the history of "The Strip" and point out some of Las Vegas' most haunted spots. Return to the hotel about 9:30 pm. **Golden Nugget – 2 nights (D)**

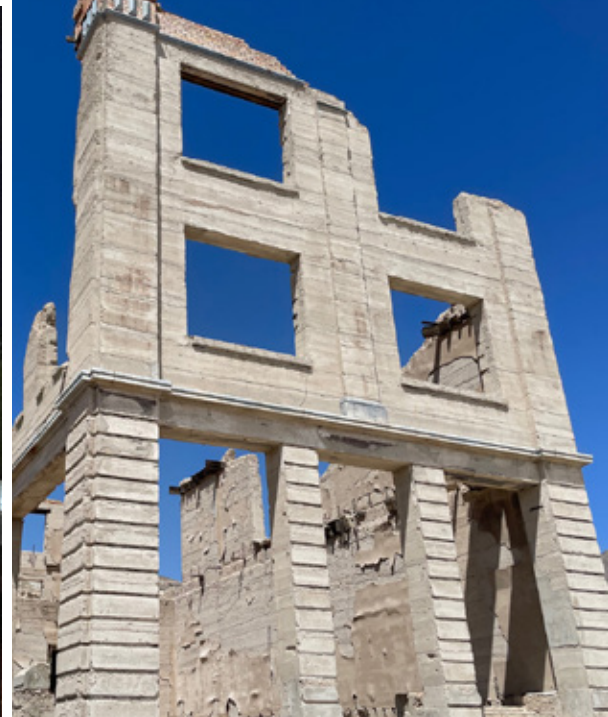
HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights at the Golden Nugget Downtown Las Vegas, 2 nights at the Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah
- Begin with the Goodsprings Ghost Hunt – hear the heartbreaking story of Carol Lombard and Clark Gable, learn how to use an EMF (Electronic Magnetic Field) meter to detect the "presence" of ghosts
- Visit genuine ghost towns, 6 in all, from Las Vegas to Tonopah
- Visit the legendary "Clown Motel" and see the courthouse under restoration in ghostly Belmont
- Travel the Extraterrestrial Highway – home of the secret Area 51 – where countless UFO sightings have been recorded
- 11 meals: Daily full breakfast, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Las Vegas, home pick-up included

2. The morning brings a colorful look at Vegas history with a visit to The Mob Museum. Take the afternoon off before heading to Goodsprings this evening for an authentic Ghost Hunt. After a couple of minutes of instruction, chances are good you'll be talking to the spirit world. The Pioneer Saloon is the place where Clark Gable waited for word on his wife, Carole Lombard. Alas, Gable burned holes in the bar with his cigar as his love died in the mountains in a plane crash. We'll enjoy a casual meal at the old saloon and explore town after dark, ghost meters in hand. **(FB,D)**

3. Rhyolite, Gold Point and Goldfield are on the itinerary today, as you journey north from Las Vegas to central Nevada. From a house made of glass to a former McDonald's franchise operator turned ghost town owner, you'll see the sights and meet the characters that make these places legendary. Goldfield is just south of Tonopah and has a colorful history. Learn about the world championship title fight, which took an astounding 42 rounds, held there in 1906. Yes, Goldfield was a boom town like none other around the turn of the last century. Today, it's a sleepy, dusty town in the middle of nowhere. Arrive in Tonopah in late afternoon. Tonight, dine in the Jack Dempsey Room and listen to stories about the ghosts who roam the **Mizpah Hotel - 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

4. Established In 1865 following a silver strike, Belmont is one of Nevada's most spectacular ghost towns. Level streets, a few residents in town to keep things in order, it's a great place to explore. Our guide lives in town and is helping to restore



Rhyolite's remaining buildings are preserved by the dry desert climate

the old courthouse. A fascinating look at a ghost town on a comeback. There's also a side trip to Manhattan. Back in Tonopah, explore the "famous" Clown Motel. **(FB,L,D)**

5. The drive back to Las Vegas is on the Extraterrestrial Highway. This area was "off limits" to the public for many years. Heck, the government didn't even want to admit its existence. Travel through the tiny town of Rachel, and perhaps meet some of the residents. You've gone from ghosts to outer space in just 24 hours! Our return flight from Las Vegas departs in the early evening. **(FB,L)**

Pricing on this trip will be available soon. We encourage you to register without obligation in order to secure your space.

3



The Clown Motel in Tonopah is definitely haunted, as is the Mizpah across the street





At *Sports Leisure Vacations* we have always listened to our Travel Club members. **If you see a “Bucket List” destination on these pages, please send an e-mail to res@sportsleisure.com asking to be placed on the Priority Notification List.** In doing so you are literally casting a vote for that tour idea. If interest is sufficient and we move forward in planning the trip, you will be among the first notified to register. Placing your name on the list does not obligate you in any way, nor does it mean a reservation will automatically be made.

Paris and Seine River Cruise

June 1-11, 2026

Michael is eagerly planning his next cruising adventure, and you're invited to come along. Who's up for two nights in The City of Light, followed by a 7-night cruise on the Seine River across France? Cruises typically start and end in Paris, traveling through picturesque Normandy with stops in towns like Vernon, Le Havre, Conflans and Rouen. Offboard sightseeing often includes Monet's Giverny, Château Gaillard and the Beaches of Normandy.



A Few of Our Favorite Things: The Hollywood Bowl

September 18-21, 2026

“Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens...” Here are a few of OUR favorite things in Southern California, culminating with a beloved movie that's sure to make you smile. Picture yourself singing under the stars at the Hollywood Bowl's legendary Sound of Music Sing-Along, surrounded by joyful fans and timeless melodies. Add in a visit to the dazzling new Geffen wing at LACMA, a stroll through the glamour of Hollywood and Beverly Hills, and a refined high tea nestled in the serene Huntington Library and Gardens. To top it all off, indulge in the RMS Queen Mary's spectacular champagne brunch, where ocean views meet culinary elegance. It's a one-of-a-kind itinerary filled with music, culture and classic LA charm – truly a few of our favorite things.



Photo by Mcarey10419



Coleen, Donna, Sally, Lisa and Clayton are living it up in GRAND style on Mackinac Island



South Dakota's Black Hills

August 31 – September 5

Embark on a journey through the majestic landscapes and vibrant history of the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. From awe-inspiring landmarks like Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial to the sweeping vistas of Badlands National Park and Devil's Tower, each day delivers unforgettable experiences. We'll enjoy such activities such as a private Native American performance, gold factory tour, buffalo jeep safari and a chuckwagon cookout. Historic towns like Deadwood offer glimpses into the Old West, while hands-on visits to museums, the Mammoth Site, and the story-rich Tatanka exhibit bring the region's heritage to life. Join us for a truly remarkable blend of culture, adventure and natural wonder.

Michigan & Mackinac

September 2026

Mackinac Island is a place like none other. Forever frozen in the Victorian Era, the no-motor-vehicles-allowed policy means things move at a gentle pace, with the melodic clip-clop of horse hooves replacing the sound of revving engines heard on the mainland. You'll stay two nights at Grand Hotel. Built in 1887, it boasts the world's longest front porch populated with hundreds of rocking chairs offering stunning views of Lake Huron.

On the mainland before and after Mackinac, visit the Gerald Ford Presidential Library, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, take a sailboat cruise on Lake Michigan and experience Michigan's little Bavaria, Frankenmuth, for one of their scrumptious all-you-can-eat German dinners.





Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

October 7-11, 2026

Our popular annual visit to Albuquerque for the world's largest gathering of balloons and balloon enthusiasts is back in 2026! Here you'll find all the excitement the Fiesta has to offer which you'll enjoy all the more with all the special amenities offered at the private Chasers Club Lounge and Gondola Club. Manned balloons first took flight in 1783. Learn more with a visit to the Abruzzo Balloon Museum. Get a bird's eye view of the area from high atop Sandia Peak which you'll reach via aerial tramway. Shop for the perfect souvenir at the Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Festival. Let your dreams take flight in October on this spectacular trip!



Niagara Falls, Oktoberfest & Canadian Thanksgiving

October 9-15, 2026

Niagara Falls! Need we say more? But there's SO MUCH more on this colorful seasonal itinerary. The Waterloo Region, located about 70 miles west of Toronto, was settled largely by German immigrants. You'll celebrate Oktoberfest in their midst with traditional music, dancing and maybe a mug of beer (or two)! This gives way to Thanksgiving, observed annually in Canada on the second Monday of October. You can expect reserved seating at the parade followed by a traditional turkey dinner. (Does that sound familiar?) Then away to Niagara Falls which you'll see from both the Canadian and US sides for the popular river cruise into the mist, ice wine tasting and a visit to oh-so-British Niagara-on-the-Lake.



Riding the Rails through Mexico's Copper Canyon

October 11-21, 2026

It's quite a journey to and from Copper Canyon in Mexico's north central state of Chihuahua, but rest assured there's so much to see and do along the way! In the Capital City of Chihuahua, explore stately public and holy buildings surrounding Plaza de Armas. It's peaceful now, but its history is deeply woven into the fabric of the Mexican Revolution as you'll learn with a visit to famous/infamous Pancho Villa's home, now a museum dedicated to this moment in time.

Your next stop is the Copper Canyon where you'll learn of the Tarahumara people who have lived here for time in memoriam. Via aerial tram descend nearly 4500 feet to the



canyon's core. Certainly the highlight of any trip is a ride aboard the Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad, taking you from 7500 feet above sea level, through the Sierra Madre, and into the lowlands at El Fuerte.

It's time to leave the Canyon, but the adventures continue. In the Mayo village of Navojua meet locals in an intimate home visit. In Álamos, a designated National Monument, you'll be entertained by a vibrant presentation of music and dance. Take a cruise on the Sea of Cortez to watch for sealife. Explore the history and beauty of Hermosillo, the capital of Sonora. NOTE: Exploring Copper Canyon means embracing high elevations, rugged terrain and long stretches on the road – ideal for adventurous spirits ready to savor the journey as much as the destination.



Return to Japan

Fall 2026 or 2027

We made our first trip to Japan in 2025 and we're already eager to return. Why? We were recently introduced to an itinerary featuring Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Osaka, with all travel between cities by Bullet Train (or Shinkansen in the native tongue). Known for their speed – 200 mph at full throttle – safety and punctuality, it's the fast and fun way to travel. All train excursions will be by day with all nights spent in quality hotels. All aboard!

The Emerald Isle is Calling

Fall 2026 or March 2027

In the history of *Sports Leisure Vacations*, Ireland is the European country we've visited the most often. Indeed, the Emerald Isle holds a special place in the hearts of many. Maybe it's the land of your kith and kin. Maybe it's because you have an insatiable appetite for corned beef and cabbage, or could it be a thirst for Guinness? (Remember their motto, "Guinness is good for you!" They couldn't say it if it wasn't true, right?) Or maybe it's just because Ireland is so much fun! As we discuss our options with Gary, our Irish driver/guide extraordinaire, we'd like to ask you to weigh in. Would you prefer an autumn tour (major advantages: fewer tourists and pleasant temperatures) OR a visit built around the biggest event on the Irish calendar – St. Patrick's Day? It can be a bit cool in March, but the party is nonstop. Why not have a wee dram of Jameson, think it over and get back to us?

Arctic Adventure in Lapland

Summer 2027

Over the years we've only explored extreme northern Europe in the context of big ship cruising. Now we're considering a land tour to Sweden, Finland and Norway – an area known collectively as Lapland. Get ready to discover the true Arctic with experiences like a trip to Santa Claus' village in Finland and a King Crab safari in Norway. Enjoy a gondola ride overlooking mountains and fjords while trying to spot the Northern Lights. Immerse yourself in the culture with a traditional sauna experience and a visit to a local husky farm. Treat yourself to the local cuisine and sample a native beverage while bundled up in an ice bar. Visit the Three-Country Cairn, the meeting point of Finland, Sweden and Norway. While an Arctic adventure can be had any time of year, there's nothing quite like summertime in Lapland!



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! At www.sportsleisure.com you'll find all our recent publications, plus information on upcoming tours, company information and more. New this year: Pay online. Work in progress: Online reservations.

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 belong to the *Sports Leisure Travel Club*. Only through membership will you receive the annual catalog, newsletters and invitations to special events. Members are invited to take part in our bonus rewards programs, Travel Club Gold and Day Trippers. A complimentary membership is extended to new and potential travelers upon request. After that, it's only \$10 per person, per year. Lifetime memberships are also available.

Are there any fees for cancellation after I make a payment?

Outside 70 days before departure (100 days on international vacations) all tour payments are refunded in their entirety. If Cancellation Protection was purchased, 50% of the price will be refunded. The premium for Travel Insurance, offered on most international trips, is 100% non-refundable after purchase. Inside 70 days before departure refund provisions vary based on the tour and the reason for cancellation. Please refer to our *Special Vacation Notes and Information* brochure for details.

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

If you have mild dietary restrictions (vegetarian, lactose and/or gluten intolerant), it is important for you to advise us at the time of registration. 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 or multiple dietary restrictions you may find this type of travel is not for you.**

Can I make 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, an upgrade or the need for wheelchair assistance at airports; and at hotels a king bed or handicap-accessible room. 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. **Some special requests, like airline seating or a room with a view, may require additional cost.**

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.



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 sedan, SUV, limousine or other chauffeured vehicle.

Provided by Baylight Transportation Services in the Sacramento metropolitan area, door-to-door service is included within these boundaries: Davis on the west, Elk Grove on the south, Auburn (95603) and Shingle Springs on the east, Woodland to the north. Service is available for an additional charge for travelers living in Galt, Stockton, Yuba City/Marysville, Grass Valley, Winters, Vacaville, Fairfield, Placerville, Lake of the Pines/Auburn (95602) and Colfax.





A \$100 per person credit is available for travelers to whom this service isn't available or for those who wish to opt out and meet us at the point of departure (usually the airport, train station or office). Another option for those who live in outlying areas is to overnight at a hotel located near the departure point. On *Daycations* and overnights motorcoaches depart from convenient neighborhood pick-up points in the greater Sacramento area. Door-to-door service is available for a fee on day and overnight trips. Call the office for details.

What can I expect from the motorcoaches you charter?

Whether locally or at fly-away destinations, we seek only the best equipment and drivers available with three things in mind: Your pleasure, your comfort and above all your safety

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

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 pairs for those traveling with a friend or spouse. It's important to note many of our extended tours have limited capacity, allowing you to spread out in the rear of the coach if desired.

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 it appears on your government-issued photo identification for all vacations involving air travel. Real ID is preferred in all US airports. 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, including details on how you can qualify for TSA Pre-Check.

Have passport rules changed?

Passports are required for all travel outside the U.S. including Canada and Mexico. US citizens in need of a passport can pick up an application at any post office or find it online. **Your passport must be valid for at least six months past the scheduled ending 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.

Each checked bag has a strict weight limit of 40 pounds. Bags weighing more could incur additional fees and/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 held in escrow until the tour returns in full accordance with the State of California Seller of Travel Law (#2011549-40).



Can a friend from another city sign up for a Sports Leisure vacation, or join me for a meal or activity 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 someone 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 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 70 days prior to departure. Many travelers take advantage of this opportunity to visit friends or relatives, or explore a destination in greater detail on their own. There could be additional charges for flight deviations, but generally they are small. Local airport transportation can be provided for an additional \$100 per household. Please note unique air schedules are not covered by Cancellation Protection on domestic trips.



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

Walking and some step-climbing are necessary to participate in the normal activities on 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 and/or physical layout.

Let us assure you that people with mobility restrictions are welcome on our vacations. Many of our travelers are over 70, 80 or even 90, something we keep in mind when planning our itineraries. 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. Additionally, each trip is rated with an activity level to identify energy and fitness levels.

What if I become ill and cannot travel? Do you offer Cancellation Protection or Travel Insurance?

One or 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 those 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 others who encounter us on the road. Life is too short for making yourself and those around you miserable due to small challenges that are bound to occur. Travel is by nature an inexact science.

And that's the Sports Leisure Difference...





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EARLY REGISTRATION/PAYMENT DISCOUNTS

Early Registration/Payment Discounts list here expire on **Friday, October 17, 2025**; or may be withdrawn when 50% of the available space has been reserved. Tours without pricing will have their **E.P.D.** announced when the tour price is available.

- Feb. – Winter in Quebec – **Save \$150**
- Feb. – Santa Barbara – **Save \$60**
- Mar. – New Orleans – **Save \$100**
- Mar. – Alaska's Wonders & Northern Lights – **Save \$170**
- Mar. – Oregon Chocolate Festival in Ashland – **Save \$40**
- Apr. – Springtime in North San Diego – **Save \$100**
- Apr. – Pathways of Patriots – **Save \$150**
- Apr. & May - Route 66 East – Chicago to OKC – **Save \$150**
- Apr. – San Antonio – **Save \$80**
- Apr. – Stars, Stripes & Carnegie Hall – **Save \$150**
- May – Lakes & Legends – **Save \$170**
- May – London/Chelsea Flower Show – **Save \$225**
- May – On The Central Coast – **Save \$50**
- May – Wonder Valley, Sequoia, Kings Canyon – **Save \$75**
- May – Grand Canyon NP & Lowell Observatory – **Save \$75**
- May – Zion & Bryce Canyon National Parks – **Save \$75**
- June – Newfoundland – **Save \$240**
- June - From Boston to the Shores of Old Cape Cod – **Save \$150**
- June – Oregon Coast & CA Redwoods – **Save \$120**
- June – Baltic States – **Save \$225**
- July – Calgary Stampede & Canadian Rockies – **Save \$175**
- July – Fort Bragg – **Save \$60**
- July – Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound – **Save \$90**
- Aug. – Mainely Maine – **Save \$150**
- Aug. – San Juan Explorer – **Save \$125**
- Sept. – Lake Placid & Cooperstown – **Save \$150**

The Sports Leisure Dream Team

Donnie Anderson	Mark Hoffmann
Scott Angeletti	RoseMarie Holt
Donna Carey	Laurin Johnson
Michael Downer	Serina Jordan
Maureen Gagliardi	Sara Turner
Tyler Gerald	Bob Veliky
Mariea Hammersley	Clayton Whitehead
Patricia Hansen	May Wong

Sacramento's Travel Radio Show has a new home!

The Travel Guys *Radio Show*

- *Weekly travel news from across the country and around the world*
- *Tips to make you a smarter traveler*
- *Updates for Sports Leisure Travelers*

Every Saturday at 11am
KHTK – 1140AM

Podcasts and show updates at
www.travelguysradio.com



Hosted by: Tom Romano and Mark Hoffmann

Visit us online at: www.sportsleisure.com