



The Sports Leisure TRAVELER

4,747 Active Members • 66,893 Members Since 1979

JAN.-FEB. | VOL. 47 | NO. 4 2026

Happenings at KVIE, Route 66 and more!

The Main Street of America is a film by John Paget. It is the official video of the Route 66 Centennial project (The Mother Road turns 100 this year). John is coming to Sacramento on **Tuesday, February 24th**. John has been making movies and taking pictures on **Route 66** for many years.

If you are registered for one or both of our trips, you have already received advance notice of this event. If you aren't a Route 66 traveler, but would like to attend the afternoon presentation, we have a limited number of seats available **for Travel Club Members**.

This is an afternoon presentation at the **California Automobile Museum, 2200 Front St., starting at 1pm**. Tickets are free, but capacity is limited. **You must have a reservation. Call our office to request your tickets.**

There is also an evening show for KVIE viewers. Tickets for that program are \$45 per person (same show as the afternoon). There is no member discount for the evening show.

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★★★★★★★★★★★★

Editor Mark Hoffmann
Executive Editor Clayton Whitehead
Writers & Photographers **SLV** Staff

The KVIE Speakers Series is something **Sports Leisure** sponsored in 2025. This year's series features **Richard Glazer**, award-winning pianist, narrator, documentary filmmaker and a leading authority on American Popular Song. He will appear on Thursday, April 30th at 7pm at the KVIE studios. Tickets are \$65 and are available on the KVIE web site.

In August, Sacramento's own **Dusty Baker** will be the featured speaker. There will be a meet-and-greet and everyone from our **Spring Training 2025 & 2026** groups will receive an invitation to attend as our guest. For other baseball fans, watch the April newsletter on details on how you can purchase tickets and attend, and/or place your name on the on line wait list for Dusty and/or the Test Kitchen ladies below at: <https://www.kvie.org/events/studioseries/>

Finally, in August, **Julia Collin Davison** and **Bridget Lancaster**, who are long-time test cooks and popular co-hosts of the PBS shows *America's Test Kitchen* (ATK) and *Cook's Country*, will be in town. Details on tickets will be available later.

Pictures from our holiday travels from top, clockwise: the retired USS Wisconsin is shining bright in Norfolk; The Rockettes doing their popular Dance of the Toy Soldiers at Radio City Music Hall; Santa comes to The Big Apple during the Thanksgiving Day Parade and the lower lobby of The Jefferson Hotel in Richmond sparkles with holiday décor.



Just One Man's Opinion by Mark Hoffmann

America's Mother Road, Route 66

When John Steinbeck penned ***The Grapes of Wrath*** in 1939, he wrote "66 is the mother road, the road of flight, the road of wandering" as he spoke of the Joad family's journey heading west. Dust Bowl migrants fleeing to California, looking for a new beginning took Route 66. The highway became a powerful symbol of American migration, freedom, and the burgeoning road trip culture, with countless people relying on it for survival and opportunity. Hundreds of thousands of displaced families traveled Route 66 to seek work and a better life in California.



Fast forward 100 years. **The Mother Road** has been replaced by **FIVE** interstate highways, with much of the old road running through small towns or just off the interstate. It's not only intact but just waiting to be explored by new generations of travelers.



Often people will ask me, "What's your favorite destination, your favorite trip after all these years?"

There are many favorites. I'm fond of Crazy Horse Mountain in the Black Hills, the Field of Dreams in Iowa, standing in Times Square in New York, Bryce Canyon Nat'l Park, Ketchikan, Alaska...if I keep writing the list will go on forever.

But if you want the name of a trip that is the favorite, then it has to be **Route 66**. My first trip on ***The Main Street of America*** came in 1997. Tour Director and old friend **Scott Farrell** flew to Chicago with me so we could scout the old highway and the things along it. I'm not sure what we hoped or expected to find. We had a hoard of guidebooks (remember, 1997, so no cell phones) and maps. Silly me, I thought it was going to be about old attractions by the side of the road.

Turned out the journey was about the people and their stories. It was about the

land, even the concrete itself. I quickly learned that the faster you travel Old 66, the less you get to know about it. You have to slow down. You have to **leave the interstate** and find yourself in another time and place.

You have to eat breakfast at Lou Mitchell's in Chicago, stand inside the Blue Whale in Catoosa, or trade laughs and stories with Angel Delgadillo in Seligman. You have to avoid stepping in burro poop in Oatman, hear the story of a lost love found at the Exotic World Museum site in the California desert and snap a selfie at the Wigwam Hotel (there are two on the route).

Route 66 is about a different time and place in these United States. I've been taking folks on the old highway for nearly three decades.

It's still my favorite journey. There are so many stories to be told, so many people to meet, and soooo much roadie food to "relish". Route 66, where Chicken Fried Steak is king!

This year, the old highway celebrates its 100th birthday. Seems appropriate that lines up with our country's 250th anniversary, because the highway really did signify the start of an era. If the Lincoln Highway, created 15 years earlier, whetted appetites for longer journeys, Route 66 made them possible.



We have a half dozen seats left on each of our two spring departures that cover the route from **Chicago to Oklahoma City**. The western side of the trip, **OKC to Santa Monica**, in October, is available for the first time on these pages. We split the journey in half to be able to take a more leisurely trip.

Much will be written and said about this historic highway in the next 12 months. It would be my pleasure for Tyler and I to host you on a journey over this piece of American history. We might even stop for ice cream once or twice...

Barry Manilow in Palm Springs

We had two groups in Palm Springs to experience Barry's Christmas Show in Palm Springs. The McCallum Theater there has some of the best acoustics in the country and

Mr. Manilow used them to his advantage. It was a terrific evening, all done for charity. The shows raised over \$500,000 for dozens of worthy Palm Springs area causes. This is the **seventh** time Mr. Manilow has hosted this event in the town he and his partner make their home in.

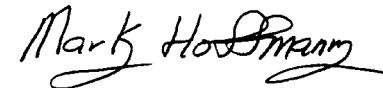
In the days after the show, it was announced he had been diagnosed with lung cancer. Because it was detected very early, Barry should be back performing in Las Vegas in a month or two. He's 82 years young. Amazing. See him in person if you get the chance.



Christmas Card Note: Our most notable card this Christmas came from Travel Club Member Elda Troup. Elda is **103** and still going strong. Her traveling days are behind her now, but she's still pushing ahead. 103. I can picture her smile as I write this...



And so it goes,



Mark Hoffmann, CTP

Owner/Founder (almost 47 years ago)

Friends We Have Lost

Peggy Beezley	Bob Murphy
Mary Brookshire	Lem Reed
Dick Chiolis	Myrna Rodriguez
Ruth Howard	Marcia Rogers
Hal Larson	Mary Lou Tucker
Ann Malveaux	Bill Witt
Larry Mullinx	

Proud members of the



Clayton Place...

Friends:

Most of you know 2025 was a difficult year for me. So it was nice to enjoy some lagniappe back in November. Lagniappe is the Cajun word for "a little something extra." Something unexpected. Something nice. REALLY nice!

For decades you've heard Mark and I expound on the virtues of the **National Tour Association**, the trade association for tour operators based in the US, Canada and Mexico. Both of us hold the association's Certified Tour Professional designation. (Now you know what CTP following our names means.) Mark is a two-time past president of the organization – the only one in our 75-year history – served on the board of directors for 14 years, and has many NTA awards and accolades to his name. Whereas Mark usually follows the leadership route, my involvement has always been in operations. I have been blessed to be a lead volunteer for most of the past 25 years overseeing the welcoming and orientation process for new members. I met most of my best industry friends when they were "newbies." I was often the first person they got to know in the association, and as they say, "you always remember your first." Speaking of firsts, I was honored to receive the association's very first Volunteer of the Year award back in 2007. But none of this prepared me for what happened in November.

The final luncheon of our annual meeting climaxed with the presentation of the **Bob Everidge Lifetime Achievement Award**. Bob was a past president and a great friend, a gentleman who exuded pure joy, a great passion for our industry and a sincere love of his fellow traveler. Normally this award goes to a past president. (Yes, Mark has one hanging on his wall.) It doesn't usually go to someone in the trenches . . . someone like me. I must confess, it felt really good to



be acknowledged by my peers. To know that I was seen. Appreciated. However this award is not rooted in NTA, but right here in Sacramento. If it weren't for all of you, I would not be a tour operator. I would not attend industry gatherings. I would not help the newbies or enjoy professional relationships and friendships that span four decades. I might still be working at McDonald's! So THANK YOU each and every one for making this wonderful career – this LIFE – possible.

As we look ahead together into 2026, we celebrate a number of anniversaries such as the Semiquincentenary of the United States (that means our 250th birthday, but try saying it three times fast!) and the Centennial of "The Mother Road," Route 66. Whereas we experienced the usual flurry in sales immediately following Vacation Preview Day back in September, seats remain on most trips after our faithful team of fleet-winged tour planners swooped in and made adjustments. On others a waitlist is available. Here are a few favorites:

As your resident Southern Gentleman, you know I have to pitch our trips to the South and East Coast. Don't overlook **New Orleans...And All That Jazz** in March and the April Semiquincentenary trips **Pathways of Patriots** (visiting eastern Virginia) and **Stars, Stripes and Carnegie Hall**

(spotlighting Philadelphia and New York City). Equally patriotic is our June tour from **Boston to the Shores of Old Cape Cod**. And to see the place just about as far east as you can go, **Mainely Maine – Lobsters and Lighthouses** in August might just be your cup of chowder! (Yum!) I don't expect any of these vacations to be repeated in 2027, so now's the perfect time to see the USA with **Sports Leisure!**

In the West, we have the **Grand Canyon and Red Rock Village of Sedona** in May and **South Dakota, Home of American Legends** in August/September. We'll be returning to the **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta** in October and Mark has now put the finishing touches on **Route 66 West**, also in October. Looking for a no-fly trip close to home? Then check out **Wonder Valley Ranch** in May which includes visits to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

I look forward to seeing you on the road in 2026!

"Your Tour Guy,"

**Clayton Whitehead, CTP
President**



Clayton received his award from NTA President Catherine Prather (right) and Board Chair Monique van Dijk-Seppola. In his acceptance speech he told everyone that he was inspired to enter the travel industry by watching "The Love Boat" on television in the late 1970s whilst in junior high school.

The Customers Always Write

Mark / Clayton,

Family update, our mother Ruth Howard died in early October at the age of 98. She lived with her daughter Peggy Mutzig for 8 months. Her motto was "travel while you can". Her last trip with SLV through the Panama Canal in 2018. First trip Catalina Island in 2004. She started doing journals for all of her trips since she was ten!

Special Memories,

Katie Robinson

Hi Clayton

As a longtime member of Sports Leisure and Gold River Villagers, learned a lot more about how you and Mark started in the travel industry. Believe you were a hit with the ladies and should have some new travelers. A couple of the ladies at my table ears perked up then you mentioned the Pageant of the Masters so I encouraged them to be sure to go. After the luncheon other ladies were interested in the Pageant along with other trips. I did some PR work promoting your trips and also how traveling as a single works so well. Perhaps a commission is in order – just kidding. Thanks again for a great talk today.

Virginia Van Koll

Dear Mark & Clayton,

On behalf of Remember A Vet.net and the annual Wreath Project, we extend our gratitude for your extremely generous donation of **\$2,990** towards the 2025 campaign. You continue to amaze us every year with your generous support of this project and we couldn't appreciate you more!

As you may know, this project exists solely to ensure that each of the veterans resting at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery is honored with a bough every Christmas. Private contributions, such as yours, in addition to local fundraising events, provide the necessary funds to purchase these boughs as a way to express our gratitude to our veterans as well as their families. This December 38,000 boughs were placed by thousands of volunteers, recognizing each

and every one of the military members resting at SVNC.

Again, we thank you for your generosity and continued support of this very heartfelt community event! You're appreciated more than you know!

Sincerely,

The Stocking Family

Ed. Note: This is what happens when a bunch of **Sports Leisure Travelers** get together and throw \$10 each in the kitty (like at Tour Preview Day). Your small donations, put together, amount to \$\$\$ worth a lot to charities in and around our area. Read on for another Preview Day thank you...

Dear Sports Leisure Vacations,

As we enter our 37th school year at Mustard Seed School, the staff are reflecting on the mission of this holy place – to create a safe, structured, nurturing environment where kids can be kids. While the staff and campus look different than 37 years ago, the intention of those who started this work looks the same – brand new backpacks with new school supplies, new socks and underwear for every student, classrooms prepared with the whole child in mind, and every space a reflection of the children we serve.

Your donation goes directly to making our mission a reality. Mustard Seed was dreamed up by folks who knew we would need the support of our community to sustain this work – people just like you who care for a child you have never met. We thank you in our hearts every day. Thank you so much for making a difference in the lives of our unhoused students.

With joy and gratitude,

Stacy Johnson, Program Director

Folks,

Thank you for your generous gift to the Mukilteo Historical Society! MHS welcomes your support to advance historical documentation of the City of Mukilteo and its community. We are grateful every day for our volunteers who maintain our light station and gardens, staff our gift shop, provide tours, serve as documents, preserve our

archives of community history, and create exhibits to share with visitors who arrive from all over the world. Your generous donation will support our continued work on these efforts. Most of all, we appreciate you and your personal commitment to helping us maintain the Mukilteo lighthouse that has been a community icon since 1906.

Mukilteo Historical Society,

Jerry Arnold, President

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your generous \$200 donation. This letter serves as your receipt. As of September 12, we received the long-awaited building permit from the City of Bainbridge Island for the new Visitor Center! We are working closely with our contractor to move forward quickly.

Your donation is especially critical at this time, as construction costs have risen beyond original estimates. We are truly grateful for your support and your commitment to bringing your tour groups to the Memorial year after year. Your generosity brings us closer to opening a center that will educate, inspire, and protect the values of justice and inclusion for generations to come.

With Gratitude,

Ellen Sato Faust, Executive Director

Bainbridge Island Japanese American

Exclusion Memorial Association

Ed. Note: If you have been with us to Puget Sound in July in years past, you saw the temporary exhibits. Soon, they will have a proper Visitors Center. Our travelers have contributed for many years. It's an important story they tell, especially now.

Dear Mark,

Thank you for entering our \$100,000 Steam Up Sweepstakes with your generous donation of \$100.00. All 133 prizes have been awarded and winners notified. Your name wasn't among them, but please know this: your contribution was no less valuable. In fact, it was vital.

- Continued to page 5



The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

What Does Seating on Southwest Airlines Look Like Now?

Later this month, Southwest Airlines will abandon their “no reserved seats” system and go with reserved seating. Some like the idea, some do not. Since the airline didn’t ask us our opinion, what we think really doesn’t matter. A group called Elliott Management, an “activist investor,” decided the airline’s old system wasn’t making it enough money. The company bought Southwest stock in big numbers and threatened to invade the company’s Board of Directors if their higher profit ideas weren’t headed. Southwest gave in.

Like it or not, the things that made Southwest different will be gone at the end of the month. From now on, when you get on that Southwest plane, you will know exactly where you are seated. Those with disabilities boarding early will no longer be able to pick off the aisle seats in the front of the plane unless they have paid to sit there. Customers needing extra time will still board early, but will have assigned seats.

One thing travelers need to know. Airlines don’t make a lot of money when you are flying on their airplanes. They make money when you pay for a seat, check your bag and/or carry their credit card in your wallet. That’s their new business model.

Now the last holdout, Southwest, has given in and accepted the “goose your customers for everything” approach. So what does that mean?

The New Southwest

At the end of the month, Southwest makes its changes. If your flight is on Southwest, you will get a randomly assigned seat at the back of the plane. You cannot request window or aisle, it’s all random. If you don’t want to sit in the back, and you prefer an aisle or window, pay up a little and sit in the middle of the plane. Pay a little more, and you get extra leg room at the front of the

aircraft. (Just like on United, Delta, American Alaska, etc.)

Bags No Longer Fly Free

Bags used to fly free on Southwest, but no longer. It’s now \$35 each way for a bag, effectively raising the price of a trip including flights on Southwest by \$70. Note the comment above. An airline often makes more from the checked bag fee than it does from the ticket you purchased.

Upgrading Your Seat Within Economy Class, or to First Class

More people are opting for this option. (Note: We do not make any commissions from selling you airline tickets, so if you decide to upgrade on the plane, we are happy to help, but the airline does not compensate us for providing that service.)

How do you upgrade? There are two ways.

One might cost more. When we reserve seats on a flight, we generally get a discounted fare. The discount can be from \$20 to several hundred, depending on the destination. We get that discount **when we issue the tickets, generally 45-60 days prior to departure**. Here are the options:

Tell us you wish to upgrade when making your reservation, or anytime more than 70 days prior to departure. We will tell you at that time what the cost of the upgrade will be. When we ticket the group, we will get your upgraded ticket and inform you it has been done. You only pay the difference for the upgrade seat. **Under this option, there is a slight chance your desired seat might not be available. If that happens, the upgrade fee is refunded.**

Here’s the second option: Notify us of your desire to upgrade **and that you wish to do so immediately**. We will go into the system and see what the full fare is (without the group discount) for your ticket, add the difference and **issue your ticket immediately. Please note that tickets issued this way are NOT covered by Cancellation Protection.**

Once the ticket is issued, you own it. If you cannot travel, you can get a voucher from

the airline, good for a year from the date the ticket **was issued**.

Bottom Line: Upgrade now and perhaps pay more. Upgrade later and pay less, but take a small chance the seat you want will not be available.



If all of this is just incredibly confusing, give us a call and we can explain. There have been a lot of questions about how the new Southwest will work. The simple answer is “pretty much the same as everyone else.” To us, not particularly good news. But let’s wait and see how the change-over works before passing judgement.

Customers Always Write

(con't from page 4)

Your contribution helps us tackle the immense challenge of keeping all three of our century-old steam locomotives in operation. Because of your deep commitment to preserving history, the iconic whistles of our locomotives will continue to echo through **Ely**. Your support ensures that the Nevada Northern Railway remains a living, breathing National Historic Landmark – one that educates, inspires, and moves people, literally and figuratively. On behalf of our volunteers, staff, Board of Directors, *DJ (Dirt Junior), Kennicat (Kenny) and Arty (R2D3)* thank you for supporting us.

The Nevada Northern Railway Foundation Inc. (Tax ID: 88-0203211) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. NO goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation, making it fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

With heartfelt thanks,

Mark S Bassett, President/CEO

If you have a comment, suggestion or tour idea, we invite you to drop us a line.

Or e-mail Mark or Clayton at:

marksbt@aol.com

clayton@sportsleisure.com

Visit us on the web at:
www.sportsleisure.com

Daycations & Theatre Outings

The Ten Tenors: 30th Anniversary World Tour

Gallo Center, Modesto

Wednesday, February 4 – 7:30 pm

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

A Whimsical Day

Santa Rosa

Thursday, February 26

Did you know that Charles Schulz is Celebrating 75 Years of Humor in 2026? Join us for a fun-filled day starting with a visit to the Jelly Belly Factory and Museum. If you haven't had a chance to visit the museum we think you'll find it to be a great addition. The day continues with an included lunch stop in Petaluma. At the Charles M. Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa you'll enjoy a docent-led tour through the museum's current and permanent exhibits, including a gallery of never-before-seen work celebrating the anniversary of this lovable cast of characters. Be sure to visit the Snoopy Café for hot cocoa before the trip home! **\$183 (limited space)**

Ladies of Laughter

Gallo Center, Modesto

Saturday, March 28 – 7:00 pm

Looking for a fun girl's night out? That's why the show is returning to the Center for a third straight year! Karen Rontowski will be one of three comics featured. Her fast-paced, quirky and charmingly optimistic comedy showcases endearing, self-effacing

and intelligent characters that catch you by surprise every time. The other comics are to be announced. This show includes winners and the best talent from the Ladies of Laughter national competition. Past participants include Amy Schumer and "Big Bang Theory" star Melissa Rauch, among many others who have gone on to national stardom in films, television and more! Dinner is included prior to the show. **\$203**

Easter Brunch at the Grand Island Mansion

Walnut Grove

Sunday, April 5

Join us for a scrumptious Easter Brunch at the Delta's historic Grand Island Mansion, a uniquely spectacular Italian Renaissance-style villa. The Mansion is one of the largest private estates in Northern California and embodies the finest features of classical architecture and European craftsmanship, nestled close to home in nearby Walnut Grove. Meal selections features the bounty of the Delta and are guaranteed to tantalize your tastebuds at this holy holiday feast! **\$230**

Exploring Sonoma

Thursday, April 16

Come along for a docent-guided tour of the Sonoma Mission of San Francisco Solano, the Chapel and Barracks. Here California became a state following the victorious Bear Flag Revolt in 1846 long before taking its place as the center of the wine universe. Enjoy lunch at Murphy's Irish Pub, located only a short walk from the Barracks. Following you'll have time to explore the shops and historic sites that line Sonoma Square. Sonoma is known for its rich history, relaxed wine country vibe and natural beauty. You'll experience it all on your day Exploring Sonoma. **\$160**

Proud members of the



Rashomon

Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra

Nevada Theatre, Grass Valley

Sunday, April 26 – 2:00 pm

Join us for a trip into the foothills to see CATS annual production. Now in their 32nd year, the 2026 show is *Rashomon* by Michael Kanin and Fay Kanin. *Rashomon*, the 1950 Akira Kurosawa film widely hailed as one of his finest, has been brought to the stage. The samurai... the wife... or the bandit? Uncover the truth behind the lies. Based on stories by Ryunosuke Akutagawa, *Rashomon* explores the notions of truth and justice. With this production Sonny Alfonso makes his directorial debut for CATS. Prior to the show we will have lunch at Cirino's, and we always aim to give you some time to explore Main Street in Grass Valley before the show. **\$180**

Wildflowers and Roses

Eleven Roses Ranch, Clearlake Oaks

Wednesday, April 29

Embark on a journey to the tiny community of Clearlake Oaks, located about 100 miles northwest of Sacramento, but seemingly a world away. Your visit features a narrated wagon tour through fields of wildflowers on the historic Eleven Roses Ranch where you'll be greeted with refreshments and storytelling. At midday enjoy a chuck wagon BBQ lunch and live music. Complimentary Lake County wines are offered as well. This is a one-of-a-kind day that will be remembered for a lifetime! **\$199**

The Three Musketeers

Fallon House Theatre, Columbia

Saturday, May 9 – 2:00 pm

Norman Allans exhilarating adaptation of *The Three Musketeers* returns home! Bursting with romance, rebellion and razor-sharp wit, this bold retelling of Alexandre Dumas' beloved tale is packed with high-stakes swordplay, heart and heroism. Join D'Artagnan and the legendary Musketeers – Athos, Porthos and Aramis – as they battle betrayal and fight for honor in a production where loyalty is tested, identities are



mistaken and every moment crackles with theatrical flair. We will enjoy lunch prior to the show. **\$168**

Mrs. Doubtfire – The Musical

Gallo Center, Modesto

Thursday, May 21 – 7:00 pm

Experience the heartwarming and hilarious journey of the world's most beloved nanny, Mrs. Doubtfire. As one of the Gallo's most anticipated theatrical productions of the year, *Mrs. Doubtfire – The Musical* showcases a talented cast and a captivating score that brings the story to life in a fresh and exciting way. Audiences can expect to be entertained by memorable songs and stunning choreography that pay homage to the original film while adding a new layer of theatrical brilliance. Dinner is included prior to the curtain. **\$252**

The Phantom of the Opera

Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, June 3 – 1:00 pm or

Thursday, June 18 – 1:00 pm

Witness the spectacle that is *The Phantom of the Opera* as we celebrate four decades of this musical extraordinaire! *The Phantom of the Opera* is widely considered to be one of the most magnificent musicals ever staged. Since 1986 it has played to over 160 million people in 205 cities, 58 territories and in 21 languages. Andrew Lloyd Webber's telling of the classic tale recounts the story of a mysterious masked figure who lurks beneath the Paris Opera House, terrorizing all who inhabit it – all except the soprano Christine Daae, his secret love. **\$204***

Beauty and the Beast

Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, July 22 – 1:00 pm

"Be Our Guest" at the first North American touring production of *Beauty and the Beast* in over 25 years. This romantic tale follows Belle, a spirited and intelligent young woman, who finds herself in an enchanted castle inhabited by a cursed prince trapped in the form of a beast. As they grow to understand each other, Belle discovers that real beauty lies within, while the beast discovers no price is too great for love.

\$194*

***Wednesday and Thursday matinees include a boxed lunch served on the coach on the way to San Francisco and**

Orchestra level seating. A no-host dinner stop is made at either Pier 39 or North Beach after the show before returning to Sacramento.

ACTIVITY METER

1

Leisurely: 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.

The Travel Guys

Radio Show

**Join us on our new
radio station home...**

Every SATURDAY 11am

KHTK, 1140AM

**Podcasts and show updates at
www.travelguysradio.com**

Hosted by: Tom Romano and Mark Hoffmann



Baseball & Tech Tip

Giants Baseball Day Trips for 2026

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

Thurs., Apr. 23	L.A. Dodgers	Sold Out
Wed., May 6	San Diego Padres	Sold Out
Wed., May 27	Arizona Diamondbacks	\$122 (4)
Sun., June 14	Chicago Cubs	\$218 (5)
Wed., July 29	Milwaukee Brewers	\$182 (2)
Wed., Aug. 12	Houston Astros	\$174 (17)
Wed., Aug. 26	Cincinnati Reds	\$174 (25)
Wed., Sept. 9	St. Louis Cardinals	\$148 (24)

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

Travel Guys Have a New Home...

At KHTK 1140 AM are thrilled to have us on air at 11am Saturday. It is an all-sports station (Sactown Sports is their nickname) when The Travel Guys aren't on the air. I invite you to be part of our audience in our new home.

The show is also available each week as a podcast (the regular program less the commercial breaks), available at www.travelguysradio.com. There is a **Sports Leisure** update each week at :33 after the hour, and we frequently discuss recent and coming destinations. After all, we go there in person so we have stories and tips to share. The theme of the program is to make you a smarter traveler the next time you hit the road, with a group or by yourself! Lots of information to help all kinds of travelers.

The Travel Guys, Saturdays at 11am on 1140AM

Yankees – Giants Opening Day Weekend

2 Days • March 27-28

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

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

TYLER'S TECH TIP: Master the QR Code in Seconds

Whether you're checking a menu, joining a Wi-Fi network, or looking up product details, QR codes are everywhere in 2026. If you find yourself fumbling to open the right app, here is the quickest way to scan on any device:

The Universal Shortcut: For both iPhone and Android, just open your **Camera app**. Point it at the code – no need to snap a photo! A link or button will automatically pop up on your screen. Just tap it to open the link.

Android User Tip: As of late 2025/early 2026, many Android phones have a redesigned **Quick Settings scanner**. Swipe down from the top of your screen and tap the "QR Code" icon for a dedicated interface that's easier to use with one hand.

Scanning from a Photo: Did someone text you a QR code? Don't worry!

iPhone: Open the photo in your gallery and long-press (put your finger on the QR code and hold for a few seconds) the QR code; a menu will appear to open the link.

Android: Use the "Scan from photo" button in your dedicated QR scanner or open the image in **Google Lens**.

You can try it for yourself now!



www.sportsleisure.com



New Vacations & Getaways

Pageant of the Masters

This year's theme, "The Greatest of All Time," is sure to be a crowd-pleaser

3 Days • July 26-28

★ Highlights ★

- Loge seating for the Pageant of the Masters
- Tour Festival grounds and the Sergerstrom Center for the Arts
- Behind-the-scenes Festival of Arts talk
- Sawdust Festival
- 5 meals: 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner and a brunch cruise on Newport Bay
- Round trip airfare to/from Orange County
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2200/2400 Gold Passport Points

The Pageant of the Masters is unlike anything else in the world – a spectacular live theatrical show considered one of the most unique and distinctive artistic presentations in the world. Often described as “living pictures,” hundreds of dedicated volunteers give their time for months each summer creating elaborate costumes, contemporary paintings, sculptures and other set pieces, then take their place on stage, bringing art masterpieces to life. Whether you’re an art enthusiast or simply love a good show, this year’s theme – **The Greatest of All Time** – promises to be unforgettable.

1. A short flight brings you to sunny Southern California where your adventure begins in style. You’ll head directly to Newport Beach and board a City Cruises yacht for a 2-hour brunch cruise of Newport Bay. Relax and enjoy the delicious food, ocean breezes and views of waterfront homes and yachts of all sizes. Following the cruise you’ll head to The Sawdust Festival, a cornerstone of the Laguna Beach art scene. Here over 180 local artists exhibit and sell their original artwork directly to the public. This evening settle into your nearby hotel for the next two nights. **Hilton Orange County/**

Costa Mesa – 2 nights (BR)

2. Today you’ll discover the impressive Sergerstrom Center for the Arts. A tour of this state-of-the-art complex offers several performance venues to explore. Later this afternoon it’s off to the Pageant of the

Master’s Festival of Arts grounds. Begin with a docent-led tour of the juried artists and their beautiful and diverse artwork including paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics and mixed media. Dinner awaits at Terra, located right on the Festival grounds, an ideal prelude to the evening’s main event. After dinner it’s curtain time for the highly anticipated presentation, **The Greatest of All Time**.

Watch in awe from your reserved loge seat, the perfect location to view the pageant. **(FB,D)**

3. Return to the Pageant/Festival grounds this morning for an exclusive “insider talk” with a Pageant representative. Learn how this nearly all-volunteer production comes together – from casting and costuming to the intricate staging that makes each living picture so astonishingly real. Bring your questions – this is your chance to peek behind the curtain. An included lunch follows at **Sports Leisure** favorite Las Brisas before our late-afternoon flight back to Sacramento. **(FB,L)**

\$2160 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2390 single

South Dakota, Home of American Legends

Mt. Rushmore • Crazy Horse • Devils Tower Nat'l Mon. • Spearfish Canyon

4 Days • August 31 – September 5

Highlights include a exclusive ride to the top of **Crazy Horse Mountain**, to get views of the monument and the Black Hills others will never see. There is also a jeep ride to see the buffalo in Custer State Park. This is a tour where you really get to get up close and personal with the attractions and the culture of the Black Hills. Perhaps start a friendship with a local buffalo....

★ Highlights ★

- Round Trip Air Sacramento–Rapid City
- Door-to-Door Service
- Native American performance and private luncheon
- Mount Rushmore, Devils Tower Nat'l Mon., Mammoth Hot Springs
- Unique Crazy Horse Monument experience – ride by jeep to the top of the mountain, a VERY exclusive

adventure

- Gold Factory Tour, Deadwood Brothel Museum, Sundance Crook Museum
- Custer State Park Buffalo Jeep Safari and Chuckwagon Cookout
- Boot Hill/Deadwood tour; Tatanka, Story of the Bison; Spearfish Canyon
- 10 meals: 5 breakfast, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

1. Your early morning flight connects in Denver and arrives in Rapid City in time for a private lunch and **Native American performance** by Sequoia Crosswhite. Learn about the South Dakota Lakota ancestors and traditions through stories and music. A city tour follows, highlighting the sights and sounds of Rapid City. The **Club House Hotel & Suites** is your home for the next 3 nights. **(L)**

2. Today begins with a special treat as we board a **smaller coach for the scenic drive over Iron Mountain**, a route larger vehicle can't access. Along the way, the famous **tunnel views perfectly frame Mount Rushmore**, creating one unforgettable photo, moment after another – **a combination of experiences and viewpoints most tourists never get to enjoy together**.

After emerging from the tunnels, we arrive at **Mount Rushmore**, where your guide brings the monument's history and artistry to life. Next, the excitement continues at **Crazy Horse Memorial**, where you'll take an exclusive jeep ride to the top of the mountain, an experience reserved for only a select few visitors. Cap the day with dinner overlooking the monument, a breathtaking setting you won't forget. **(ECB,D)**

3. Begin with a tour of the **Black Hills Gold Factory**, where skilled artisans craft the region's unique tri-colored jewelry. Continue to the **Mammoth Site**, an active excavation dedicated to preserving Ice Age fossils. After a scattered lunch stop in Custer, travel to **Custer State Park**, home to hundreds of buffalo. Experience them up close on a narrated **Jeep tour**, followed by a **chuckwagon dinner**. **(ECB,D)**

4. Depart for Deadwood, the ultimate Old West town. You'll stay 2 nights at **Deadwood**



Lodge, an upscale hotel located in the heart of the Black Hills. Before check-in, enjoy a narrated tour of (in)famous **Boot Hill**, where shady (and not-so-shady) characters found their resting place. Free time downtown includes a unique guided tour at the **Brothel Museum. (ECB)**

5. Head into Wyoming to see the dramatic **Devils Tower National Monument**, a towering natural wonder sacred to Native peoples. After taking in the views, continue to **Sundance** for a **group lunch at a true local establishment**, the kind of place that gives you a real taste of small-town western hospitality. After lunch, enjoy a visit to the **Crook County Museum**, where engaging exhibits and lively stories bring the region's frontier history, including the tale of the Sundance Kid. **(FB,L)**

6. Begin your final day with a visit to **Tatanka**: Story of the Bison, created by Kevin Costner after filming *Dances with Wolves*. Learn about the Plains before white settlement and the cultural importance of the bison. Enjoy a farewell lunch at **Spearfish Lodge**, surrounded by the beauty of **Spearfish Canyon** and possibly a view of the resident mountain goats. Continue to the Rapid City airport for your return flight to Sacramento. **(FB,L)**

\$3960 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4355 single

Riding the Rails on the Canyon Spirit 2

Featuring exclusive Glass Dome Car service on the Canyon Spirit, Ride through the Red Rock Canyons to Moab, then the Wasatch Mountains to Salt Lake City

5 Days • September 21-25

1. Fly nonstop to Denver. Transfer to your hotel situated downtown just steps from Union Station. Lunch is hosted before checking into your hotel. **Asher Adams Hotel (L)**

2. All aboard the *Canyon Spirit* for an unforgettable rail journey through the heart of the Rockies. Traveling exclusively by daylight ensures you won't miss a moment of the spectacular scenery. Settle into your first class dome car, where exceptional service begins moments after you take your seat. Enjoy spacious comfortable seating, engaging narration and attentive services from a dedicated car attendant. Meals and premium

alcoholic beverages are served right at your seat, and you're welcome to visit the lounge car at any time during your journey. Highlights today include crossing the Continental Divide, passing through the historic Moffat Tunnel, and winding through dramatic canyons framed by brilliant fall foliage as the aspens glow in shades of gold. **Glenwood Springs, Hotel TBA (B,L)**

3. Today's journey showcases the rugged beauty of Debeque and Ruby canyons, with sweeping views of the Colorado River along the way. Arrive late afternoon in the iconic desert town of Moab, surrounded by striking red-rock landscapes. **Moab, Hotel TBA (B)**

4. Depart Moab for Salt Lake City. Highlights include the towering rock formations of Castle Gate, the beauty of Price Canyon, and the historic Thistle Tunnel before entering the colorful Wasatch Mountains. Arrive in Salt Lake City and check into the elegant **Grand America Hotel (L)**

5. Enjoy a scenic day of fall "leaf peeping" in the stunning Wasatch Mountains, the dramatic backdrop to Salt Lake City. A hosted lunch is included before transferring to the airport for your early evening nonstop flight home to Sacramento. **(B,L)**

Please call for pricing.

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta 2

Featuring reserved upgraded seating in the Chasers Lounge and Gondola Club

5 Days • October 7-11

★ Highlights ★

- 4 balloon events: Balloon Glow, Special Shapes and Mass Ascension
- Upgraded seating in the Chasers Lounge & Gondola Club
- Ride the Sandia Peak Aerial Tram
- Rio Grande Arts and Crafts Festival
- Door to door airport transportation
- R/T air to/from Albuquerque
- 9 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- 3950/4500 Gold Passport Points

1. Arrive in Albuquerque and enjoy a hosted dinner before checking into your hotel. **Marriott Albuquerque – 4 nights (D)**

2. The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta with over 550 balloons is the largest

ballooning event and the most photographed event on earth. We have upgraded your experience this morning to the Chasers Club Lounge, which offers private seating on the field. Lunch is hosted at a famous Mexican restaurant before traveling on the famous Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway for stunning views of greater Albuquerque. **(B,L)**

3. This morning we are watching the balloons from another private venue on the other side of the balloon field, the Gondola Club. Today is Special Shapes Day! This is a very popular ascension with approximately 100 special shaped balloons. You might see Darth Vader and Yoda, a flying cow, maybe Smokey Bear just to name a few. After the balloon ascension lunch will be hosted at a Route 66 favorite restaurant. Finish the day with a visit to Old Town to browse the shops. **(B,L)**

4. Today we view the Mass Ascension of balloons from the Gondola Club. Then it's over to the Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Festival. 200 fine artists and craftspeople from throughout the U.S. come together each year for two weekends. Take a break from shopping and enjoy ongoing live entertainment, a food court and specialty food booths

Tonight we re-group for the Fiesta's "Glowdeo", a static display of balloons. Dinner will be held in the private Gondola Club with live entertainment and an open bar. Following dinner is the spectacular afterglow fireworks show! (Weather permitting, high winds could possibly cancel any events) **(B,D)**

5. Take a docent tour of the Abruzzo Balloon Museum and learn about hot air and gas balloons from the first flight in 1783 to the present before your departure for home. **(FB,L)**

\$3940 p.p/dbl.occ., \$4495 single

Oktoberfest, Canadian Thanksgiving and Niagara Falls 3

Festive celebrations and natural beauty, Canada-style

7 Days • October 9-15

★ Highlights ★

- 4 nights in Kitchener, Canada's Oktoberfest Capital

- 2 nights in Niagara Falls – all-suite accommodations with a view
- Experience Canadian Thanksgiving complete with all the trimmings
- Take a ride on the South Simcoe Railway
- Niagara River cruise to the falls
- Drive to Niagara Parkway to Niagara-on-the-Lake
- FLYOVER and Ice Wine tasting
- 13 meals: daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- Round trip airfare to/from Buffalo
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 5400/6100 Gold Passport Points

1. We are off to Buffalo this morning, your gateway to the Waterloo Region located about two hours to the west. There we'll settle in and get the party started with a welcome dinner. You'll love the hotel's downtown location, perfect for finding your way home after a visit to the beer garden. It IS Oktoberfest, after all! **Crowne Plaza**

Hotel, Kitchener – 4 nights (D)

2. The Mennonite faith is strong in this region as you'll learn on a tour of the countryside to view their well-kept homes and farms. Then visit Canada's largest year-round marketplace, St. Jacob's Farmers Market, filled with all kinds of tasty treats along with arts and crafts. Next, spend some time exploring downtown Kitchener's Willkommen Platz, the heartbeat of the community's German vibe and the site of many Oktoberfest activities. Prepare yourself for a night of dinner and dancing at a traditional German clubhouse. Who loves to polka? **(FB,D)**

3. Take a scenic ride through the Beeton Creek Valley aboard South Simcoe Railway's historic excursion train to catch all the colorful vistas before a luncheon featuring the flavors of the season. The evening is at leisure because you've got a big day tomorrow! Looking for fun? It's a perfect time to return to Willkommen Platz! **(FB,L)**

4. Happy Thanksgiving! No one in town sits out the Kitchener-Waterloo Thanksgiving Day Parade! It's a thoroughly entertaining event, and you'll take in all the sights and sounds from reserved seating. An afternoon visit to the Waterloo Region Museum features a special hands-on experience. As evening approaches, you'll feel stuffed as a turkey at

a traditional Canadian Thanksgiving feast! **(FB,D)**

5. Take a drive along the south shore of Lake Ontario with a stop for tea (lunch) at a beautiful garden centre located on the way. Next you're off to spectacular Niagara Falls which you'll see up close and personal immediately upon arrival with a cruise into the mist and spray. Your all-suite accommodations offer stunning falls views from every room. You may never want to leave your bed! **Embassy Suites Fallsview**

– 2 nights (FB,L,D)

6. Start the day at FLYOVER, a 4-D simulator where you'll feel like you are flying over, around and through the Falls. The experience is so real that you just might get wet! Next, head out on a guided tour along the Niagara Parkway to the oh-so-British village of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Along the way you'll see the famous Floral Clock and have a tasting of the region's famed Ice Wine. This evening dinner is served with a stunning view at the brink of the falls at Table Rock. **(FB,D)**

7. Following breakfast, return to the United States for a bit more sightseeing and lunch before your return flight from Buffalo, NY. **(FB,L)**

\$5360 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6070 single

Mexico's Copper Canyon

For those who love the unusual and seek adventure "From Ancient Ruins to Ocean Views – One Journey, Endless Wonders"

11 Days • October 11-21

4

★ Highlights ★

- Aerial Tram of Copper Canyon – Glide across the Barrancas del Cobre, descending nearly 4,500 ft for jaw-dropping views
- UNESCO World Heritage Site Paquimé – Explore the maze-like adobe ruins, ceremonial mounds, and ancient structures of this Mogollon culture city
- Posada Barrancas – Stay perched on the rim of the Copper Canyon with panoramic vistas from your room
- Walking Tour of Álamos – Stroll cobblestone streets in this colonial National Monument, rich with history and charm
- Rail Journey on "Chihuahua al Pacífico"

(El Chepe) – One of the world's most scenic train rides, winding through tunnels, bridges, and mountain passes

- Marine Excursion on the Sea of Cortez – Cruise the "Aquarium of the World," watching for dolphins, sea lions, pelicans, and turtles
- Pearl Farm in Guaymas – Learn the delicate art of cultivating Sea of Cortez pearls, from oyster to gem
- Sightseeing in Hermosillo, Álamos, El Fuerte, Copper Canyon, and Casa Grandes – Each destination offers its own blend of culture, history, and scenery
- Folkloric & Educational Programs – Engage with local traditions through music, dance, and artisan demonstrations
- Bilingual Tour Guide – Expert narration and assistance throughout your journey
- 25 meal: 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 8 dinners, featuring regional flavors
- Round trip Airfare to/from Phoenix
- Door-to-Door Airport Service
- 5000/5800 Gold Passport Points

1. Early afternoon flight to Phoenix, 1 night. Meet your fellow SPLV travelers and step on guide for trip orientation and welcome reception. Get a good night's sleep, our adventure starts bright and early in the morning. **Embassy Suites by Hilton Phoenix Tempe**

2. Your adventure begins bright and early as we journey south from Phoenix and Tucson, watching the scenery shift from Sonoran landscapes to the rugged charm of the Chihuahua Desert. After a lunch stop, we cross the border into Mexico – Bienvenido's!

Our first destination is the UNESCO-designated archaeological site of Paquimé, a once-thriving hub of the Mogollon culture. Wander among the maze-like adobe walls, ceremonial mounds, and striking structures like the House of the Cross, believed to have been both temple and observatory, and the House of the Serpent with its storied past.

Before reaching our hotel, we'll visit the artisans of Mata Ortiz, world-renowned for their intricate pottery – each piece a modern echo of ancient craftsmanship. This first day blends history, culture, and the spirit of the open road, setting the tone for the days to come. **Hotel Hacienda (FB,L,D)**



3. We journey to Chihuahua, proud capital of its state and a city deeply woven into the fabric of the Mexican Revolution. Stroll into the heart of the Centro Histórico, where every corner seems to whisper stories of the past. Admire the graceful Plaza de Armas, the elegant cathedral's twin towers, and the State Capitol Building, home to sweeping murals that vividly bring local history to life.

Courtyard by Marriott (FB, D)

4. The morning begins with an intimate look into the life of Mexico's most legendary revolutionary at the Historical Museum of the Mexican Revolution – once the home of Pancho Villa himself. After stepping through these storied rooms, we set off for Posada Barrancas, perched dramatically on the rim of the Copper Canyon. Pause for lunch en route, arriving in time to settle into our hotel, savor a hearty dinner, and breathe in the crisp mountain air as evening blankets the canyon rim. **Hotel Mirador – 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

5. This morning, immerse yourself in the artistry and traditions of the Tarahumara people during a fascinating discussion of their unique crafts and cultural heritage. Then, head to the canyon rim for a once-in-a-lifetime view before boarding the aerial tram. Glide across and descend nearly 4,500 feet into the canyon's core, surrounded by sweeping vistas that reveal the immensity of this natural wonder. The rest of the day is dedicated to exploring the seven interconnected gorges – collectively known as the Copper Canyon (Barrancas del Cobre) – and uncovering the geological forces that shaped them over millions of years. **(FB,L,D)**

6. Step aboard the legendary Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad and settle in for one of the world's great train journeys. We roll out from Posada Barrancas at nearly 7,500 feet, gradually descending into the sun-warmed foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains. The route threads through dozens of tunnels and soars over towering bridges, each bend revealing fresh, panoramic vistas. Arrive in El Fuerte. **Descent to El Fuerte (FB,L,D)**

7. Cultural Immersion in Navojoa, Charm of Álamos

This morning, we journey to the Mayo village of Navojoa for an intimate home

visit. Here, we're welcomed into the rhythms of daily life from ceremonial dances set to the heartbeat of traditional instruments, to the warmth of homemade tortillas fresh off the griddle (and yes, you can try your hand at making them). Later, our path winds through fertile Sierra Madre farmlands to the colonial gem of Álamos. Tonight, dinner is a vibrant celebration of music and dance that captures the spirit of the region. **La Mansión (FB,L,D)**

8. With cobblestone streets underfoot and a local guide by your side, the morning unfolds in Álamos, a designated National Monument. After lunch, we drive through the rich agricultural landscapes of Sonora toward San Carlos, where the desert meets the sea. Arriving in time for dinner, we settle in for an overnight stay. **Marinaterra Hotel & Spa – 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

9. Today begins on the water: a private cruise across the glittering Sea of Cortez. Keep your eyes open – conditions permitting, you might spot graceful dolphins, curious sea lions, pelicans in flight, or even a sea turtle gliding below. Back on land, we explore the Guaymas Pearl Farm to uncover the art and science behind pearl oyster cultivation, from delicate farming techniques to grading and quality selection. We wrap the day at Mirador, a sweeping viewpoint. **(FB,D)**

10. Our last day in Mexico begins with an early departure, tracing a path northward through Mexico's vibrant landscapes. En route, we pause in cosmopolitan Hermosillo, where the graceful colonial cathedral rises over the city and the Government Palace's multicolored murals vividly narrate the history of the Sonoran region.

From here, the open road leads us across the golden expanses of the Sonoran Desert, its wide skies and cactus-studded horizons marking the final stretch of our journey. We re-enter the United States through Nogales, Arizona, and by late afternoon arrive in Phoenix to check into our hotel. **Embassy Suites by Hilton Phoenix Tempe (FB, L)**

11. Savor a leisurely morning, making the most of the hotel's amenities and one last taste of vacation ease. Later, transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight back to Sacramento, bringing home memories of an

unforgettable journey.

\$4960 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5755 single

Travel Note: Exploring the Copper Canyon means embracing high elevations, some uneven walking surfaces, and long stretches on the road – ideal for adventurous spirits ready to savour the journey as much as the destination.

It's a wonderful trip, but please consider the 4 rating on the tour – A tour with an emphasis on walking and other physical activities. You might have to climb into a boat, carriage or train. You should not consider this trip if you need assistance at airports and other places along the trip.

Route 66, The Main Street of America – Part II

Oklahoma City to Santa Monica

8 Days • October 15-22, 2026

2

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.

★ Highlights ★

- Air to Oklahoma City, return from Burbank
- 19 meals: 8 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 3 dinners – many meals in "roadie" spots along the old road
- Door-to-door service – pick-up from your home
- All attractions as listed in the itinerary
- 4650/5150 Gold Passport Points

1. Sacramento to Oklahoma City by air – Depart Sacramento at 7am and arrive (via Houston) a little after 4pm. Enjoy complimentary cocktails at your hotel and dinner in historic Bricktown before retiring.

Embassy Suites (D)

2. Oklahoma City to Amarillo, 259 miles – With a couple of exceptions, Route 66 leaving Oklahoma City closely follows I-40. (Fact: It took **five** interstate highways to replace The Mother Road.) Photos opps galore fill the day. The 1930's Texaco Station in El Reno is worth a look, and we might stop at the 66 Monument. The first, and one of the best, small town museums on this side of the route is in Clinton and there's another in Elk City. Each locale is proud of their connection

to the historic road.

After lunch, the hometown of Roger Miller ("King of the Road") and Sheb Wholley ("Purple People Eaters") today plays host to one of the road's most interesting characters, **Harley Russell**. You will never forget this stop...promise. At the end of the day, tie up your horse in Amarillo with dinner at **The Big Texan. Hampton Inn (FB,L,D)**

3. Amarillo to Albuquerque via Santa Fe, 288 miles – See the old Cadillacs "rear ends up" as you head out of town. The legendary **Blue Swallow Motel** is worth a picture just after you pass the mid-point of the route in Adrian. See a few of the murals in Tucumcari, before taking the detour to **Santa Fe**. There is a choice here, the trolley tour around town or a visit to the Georgia O'Keefe Museum (you must make your choice in advance). The last leg of our longest day on the road brings you into Albuquerque about 6:30pm.

Hilton Garden Inn – 2 nights (ECB,L)

4. Albuquerque & Acoma Pueblo – The two night stay allows us an opportunity to tour Albuquerque this morning. New Mexico's largest city is full of Route 66 landmarks. Then it's time for an off-the-highway experience, with a visit to the Acoma Pueblo. Native American guides will walk you through and share the history of their home. This isn't some tourist attraction, this is the real deal. Dinner tonight at the Route 66 Diner. **(FB,L,D)**

5. Albuquerque to Winslow, 266 miles

– A lot of open road today, as you leave New Mexico and enter Arizona. In Gallup, learn the story of the unlikely World War II heroes, the Navajo Code Talkers. Cross the Continental Divide and finish the day "Standin' on a Corner in Winslow, Arizona," (like the lyric in the old Eagles song). Stay in some of the desert's most beautiful accommodations, a restored Harvey House Hotel from the highway's glory days. Dine tonight in the Turquoise Room. **La Posada – 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

6. The Petrified Forest & The Harvey

Girls, 112 miles – The feature today is Petrified Forest National Park. Millions of years of the planet's history is on display for you to view. Back at La Posada, ladies dressed as old-fashioned Harvey Girls will give you a tour of the property, sharing

stories of visitors from days gone by. **(FB,L)**

7. Winslow to Laughlin, 238 miles – First stop on The Mother Road this morning is another unique attraction, The Meteor Crater. Lunch is in Williams and a stretch of the old road brings us into Seligman, home of a Route 66 legend, **Angel Delgadillo**. Often called "The Father of The Mother Road," Angel's life is forever intertwined with Route 66. Have ice cream at the Sno-Cap Drive Inn and soak up some of the small town hospitality that makes old 66 such a great place. End the day in the gambler's mecca of Laughlin, on the Nevada side of the Colorado River. **TBA (FB,L)**

8. Laughlin to San Bernardino, 237 miles – The "Main Street of America" has many different looks, but none quite like the one you'll find in **Oatman**. The burros (friendly) roam the streets, and the people of the town are...well...friendly...and unique in their own right. We'll create our own souvenir before heading on to California!

Afternoon attractions include the Goofs Schoolhouse, where General Patton prepared his troops for WWII, the twice-abandoned town of Amboy, a ranch with trees made of bottles and the story of a retirement home for strippers that was a site of a memorable **Sports Leisure** moment. Taco Bell and McDonald's both got their start on or near The Mother Road and their stories are told in San Bernardino. **Hilton Garden Inn – San Bernardino (FB,L)**

9. San Bernardino to Santa Monica

(75 miles)/Sacramento – There are two different Wigwam Motels on the route, and this morning we'll stop for a photo opp at one. Los Angeles is mostly freeways, but there are still pieces of Route 66 and we'll find a few. Lunch is at Philippe's, said to be the place the French Dip sandwich was invented. Yum! **(FB,L,D)**

Finally, it's on through Hollywood to the coast, with time at the pier in Santa Monica, where the nearly 2,500 mile route comes to an end. Our return flight leaves from the nearby Burbank airport in late afternoon **(FB,L)**

\$4625 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5115 single

Ghost Towns & Aliens in Old Nevada

3

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

5 Days • October 26-30, 2026

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

★ Highlights ★

- Fly round trip to/from Las Vegas, home pick-up inc.
- 2 nights at the Golden Nugget downtown, two nights at the historic (and haunted) 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
- Las Vegas attractions include a chance to see **The Wizard of Oz** on a giant screen inside the Sphere, and only in Las Vegas – the Mob and the Neon Museums (two **very** different places)
- Visit genuine ghost towns, 6 of them, 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
- 2350/2550 Gold Passport Points

Your flight arrives in Las Vegas early afternoon. After a great buffet lunch at The Excalibur on The Strip, we'll check into our accommodations. 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 9:30pm. **(D)**

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 and 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)**

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 them 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 no other around the turn of the last century. Today, it's a sleepy, dusty town in the middle of nowhere. **(FB,L,D)**

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)**

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 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)**

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 early evening. **(FB,L)**

\$2310 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2520 single



Perhaps you'll meet some of the "guests" of the Clown Motel?



Go Ghost Hunting in Goodsprings – hear the Clark Gable story

Branson Teaser

Would you like to go to Branson with Scott this Fall or Christmas? Call and put your name on the **Priority Notification List.**

Fall in Branson, Missouri blends natural beauty of the Ozark Mountains with live entertainment, and classic American charm into one unforgettable getaway. Visit Silver Dollar City Craft Festival. Step aboard an open air tram and explore the beauty of Dogwood Canyon on a Wildlife Tram Tour. At the Top of the Rock, Ozark Heritage Preserve, experience the Lost Canyon by golf cart! A paved trail highlights stunning rock formations and waterfalls. Several shows and a Private afternoon tea with Dee Dee Lennon. Diane (Dee Dee) is well remembered as the lead singer of the Lennon Sisters "America's Sweethearts of Song." And a private performance by the Cathcart Trio (Bill and Gail Lennon and Mike Cathcart). Mike is the son of legendary trumpeter/singer Dick Cathcart and Peggy Lennon of the famed Lennon Sisters.

Or how about visiting for Christmas?

A Christmas trip to Branson, Missouri is like stepping into a real-life holiday postcard, making it the perfect destination for a magical holiday experience. During the season, Branson transforms into a festive wonderland with millions of twinkling lights, beautifully decorated streets, and an unmatched lineup of Christmas shows.

Visitors can enjoy holiday-themed attractions like Silver Dollar City's "An Old Time Christmas" which boasts over 6.5 million lights and an 8-story Christmas tree. Watch Broadway-style holiday productions like *Coming Home For Christmas*. See why The Travel Channel calls Silver Dollar City "The Most Illuminated Park On Earth!"

The Site and Sound theatre has a million watts of lights, sixty-thousand watts of sound, and a massive stage over twenty thousand square feet in size. Let There Be Lights! a two-mile LED drive thru lights display that we will travel with our motor coach. Champagne brunch at the spectacular Chateau on the Lake all decorated for the holidays including its famous gingerbread house competition.

So which will it be, fall or Christmas season? The answer will be revealed at Holiday Preview Day on April 4, 2026.

The Tour Calendar (Previously Announced)

If you are reading the newsletter online, just click on the links in the copy below. If you are reading the printed newsletter, you would have to enter the information from the link in your computer to get to the online info page. **Or you could just pick up your Sports Leisure 2026 catalog, Beyond Borders, and all the info on the tour will be right there. OR call the office and we will send you the page(s) in question.**

Wine, Whales & Wonders of Baja Mexico

8 Days • February 21-28

4

Because of last minute cancellations, there are 3 seats available on this trip. Fly to/from Phoenix and make your way into Mexico for a wide variety of activities. Even if the web site page says sold out, there are 3 openings. Here is the link to the entire itinerary: <https://www.sportsleisure.com/vacations/whales-wine-wonders-baja-mexico>, or go to www.sportsleisure.com and click on vacations.

\$4200 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4685 single

Spring Training in Arizona

Watch the Boys of Summer get ready for the season

2

5 Days • March 7-11

★ Highlights ★

- 5 Giants games (D-Backs, Cubs, Angels, Indians and Royals) – all seats shaded (VERY important for Spring Training)
- 4 nights at the Marriott Phoenix North
- Daily breakfast and 2 dinners – including our traditional Rustler's Roost night out
- Door-to-door service from your home to the airport
- Speakers Night in Phoenix – a former player/coach/manager speaks to us over dinner
- Added attractions – The Arizona Renaissance Festival, the Arizona Capitol Museum, the Japanese Friendship Garden and the Museum of Musical Instruments
- 7 Seats available, registration deadline March 6.

\$3150 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3680 single

New Orleans... And All That Jazz

3

Downtown accommodations adjacent to the French Quarter

5 Days • March 9-13

Another last-minute opportunity. All the excitement of New Orleans with a man (Clayton) who knows it inside and out. 4 nights at the Sheraton, NOLA School of Cooking, Mardi Gras World, a day at the Plantation House, 8 meals, airfare, home pick-up (you know, and all that jazz). The day-by-day itinerary can be found here: <https://www.sportsleisure.com/vacations/new-orleans-and-all-jazz-0>

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

Alaska's Winter Wonders & Northern Lights

3

Featuring wildlife, arctic adventure and the Aurora Borealis

8 Days • March 13-20

Calling last minutes adventurers: There are two openings on this trip, again due to a late cancellation and no one on the wait list. You'll see the Ice Art Championships in Fairbanks, travel on the Alaska Railroad and even go dog sledding. The complete itinerary can be found here: <https://www.sportsleisure.com/vacations/alaskas-winter-wonders-northern-lights>, or you can give our office a call.

\$5840 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6560 single

Pathways of Patriots

Trace footsteps from Colonial Times to the present in celebration of our nation's 250th birthday

3

8 Days • April 12-19

One seat remaining. From Richmond, to Colonial Williamsburg to Norfolk (sounds just a bit like the Christmas Mystery Tour, except at a different time of year), it's one giant American History lesson. The Virginia International Tattoo, Yorktown, Jamestown, the American Civil War Museum, it's all there. 14 meals, airfare and home pick-up included. <https://www.sportsleisure.com/vacations/pathways-patriots>

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

Springtime in North San Diego

3

Featuring the Carlsbad Flower Fields in bloom

5 Days • April 6-10

An extended stay on the coast during flower season. And not too far from home!

★ Highlights ★

- 4 nights at the
- 55 acres of blooms and butterflies at the Carlsbad Flower Fields
- San Diego Safari Park with private tour
- Temecula Wine Country Tour with tasting and lunch among the vineyards
- Visit" Mission San Luis Rey
- Two hour whale/dolphin watching cruise
- 7 meals, airfare, door-to-door service
- 3300/3850 Gold Passport Points

Find the complete itinerary here: <https://www.sportsleisure.com/vacations/springtime-north-san-diego>

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

Route 66, The Main Street of America, Part I

3

Chicago to Oklahoma City

10 Days • April 14-23 or May 5-14

The ultimate road trip. 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 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.

★ 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

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 (600AD), 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 into 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 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 a 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 3pm 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

Route 66 West departs in October and can be found in the New tours section

Stars, Stripes & Carnegie Hall

Explore the City of Brotherly Love and America's first Capital City

7 Days • April 23-29

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights in the heart of each city – 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
- 10 meals: 3 full breakfasts, 1 brunch, 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- Round trip airfare to Philadelphia/from New York's LaGuardia, Door-to-door Airport
- Transportation, 5000/5800 Gold Passport Points

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 yours to discover – perhaps a classic Philly cheesesteak or upscale fare in Old City. **Hilton Garden Inn Center City – 3 nights**

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,L)**

4. Depart Philadelphia and head north (less than 100 miles) to the Big Apple. Your arrival begins with a 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! **(L,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 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

Wonder Valley Ranch – Sequoia & Kings Canyon Nat'l Park

Featuring the Wild Cat DiscoveryCenter & Giant Redwoods

4 Days • May 17-20

3

★ Highlights ★

- See the Giant Sequoia trees
- 3 nights at Wonder Valley Ranch, an all-inclusive resort in the Sierra foothills
- Loving the ranch life: Hayride, campfire, magic show, hosted nightly cocktails
- Project Survival's Cat Haven, an innovative park dedicated to the preservation of wild cats
- Lunch and tour at the Hilmar Cheese Factory
- Explore Forestiere Underground Gardens
- 10 meals, door-to-door service
- 2450/2750 Gold Passport Points

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

Grand Canyon Nat'l Park & Sedona's Red Rocks

3

Including a visit to Lowell Observatory

6 Days • May 18-23

3

★ Highlights ★

- All nights in Flagstaff – only unpack once
- Guided tour on the rim of the Grand Canyon
- Visit Lowell observatory, with evening telescope viewing
- Museum of Northern Nevada
- 11 meals, airfare, door-to-door airport transportation
- 3400/3750 Gold Passport Points

Great tours of the grandest canyon of all and a visit to Sedona, home of the red rocks. An outstanding combination of attractions!

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



Zion & Bryce Canyon Nat'l Parks

3

One of our most popular trips every year

6 Days • May 26-31

There is only one room available on this tour. Round trip air to/from Las Vegas and **TWO** performances at the Tuacahn Amphitheater. It can be single or double occupancy. For more information call the office, see page 23 in the catalog, or click here: <https://www.sportsleisure.com/vacations/zion-bryce-national-parks>.

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

Boston to the Shores of Old Cape Cod

Visit Boston, Martha's Vineyard,
Provincetown and Nantucket

3

8 Days • June 5-12

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights each Boston, Provincetown, Nantucket; overnight Hyannis
- Ride the ferry to Provincetown and the famous Swan Boats on Boston Common
- Guided tours of Boston, Provincetown, Cape Cod National Seashore, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard
- Whale Watching Cruise with a naturalist
- Tour the JFK Presidential Library, visit the USS Constitution and Museum
- 14 meals, including a lobster feast, round trip air to/from Boston, home pick-up
- 5300/6150 Gold Passport Points

One of our most popular annual tours, you have a chance to see Boston and explore the region. The two-night stays mean less moving around and more time to enjoy the legendary Cape.

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

From the Oregon Coast to the California Redwoods

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

2

7 Days • June 15-21

Fly to Portland, then make your way back down the most Spectacular coast in the country, stopping for adventure along the way. From the beautiful coastal redwoods to the scenic Rogue River to the dunes and sparkling ocean beaches, it's a great adventure, at a leisurely pace, featuring 2-2 night hotel stays.

★ 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 Newport at the **Hallmark Hotel** every room with an ocean view; 2 nights at **The Edgewater Resort** in Coos Bay; overnight **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 Nat'l Park visitor's center stop
- Guided drive on the “**Avenue of the Giants**” in California's Humboldt State Park
- 14 meals: 3 breakfasts, 3 full breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners
- Door-to-door service
- 2950/4500 Gold Passport Points

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 in 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 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 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

and a great 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 (still with a driver) for a more adventurous ride. 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 story. Shore Acres State Park is a highlight. There's a story here and a great view. Please enjoy both. Back in Coos Bay, enjoy dinner, featuring the salmon the area is known for (alternate entrees available). **(FB,D)**

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

6. A morning drive brings us to **Redwods 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. 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 Hwys 101, 20 and I-5. Stop for lunch in Willits, arriving in Sacramento about



5pm. (B,L)

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

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, Lahemma 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, Klaipeda, 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
- Round trip 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

Don't miss your chance to explore the never-before-offered Baltic States of northern Europe, a fairytale land of turreted castles, walled cities with cobble streets, sandy beaches sprinkled with amber, world-class wine and culinary delicacies (which you may or may not find to include smoked fish). Review the complete itinerary at <https://www.sportsleisure.com/search?search=baltic>.

\$7270 p.p./dbl.occ., \$7850 single

This tour requires a valid passport

The Calgary Stampede & The Canadian Rockies

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

7 Days • July 7-13

★ Highlights ★

- Reserved seating for the Calgary Stampede Grandstand Show, plus the Chuckwagon Races and Rodeo
- Lake Louise, the most photographed lake in the world

- Yoho National Park and the dramatic Natural Bridge
- Ride the Sulphur Mountain Gondola and enjoy panoramic views of the Rockies
- Lunch at Chateau Lake Louise
- Lake Minnewanka Cruise aboard the **Alberta Explorer**

- Icefields Parkway and Athabasca Glacier Tour

- 11 meals: 6 full breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners

- Round trip air to/from Calgary, door-to-door service

- 7000/8550 Gold Passport Points

4 nights in Banff in the Rockies and 2 nights in Calgary for the Stampede festivities highlight this package. Less changing hotels and more sightseeing. Find the full itinerary on **page 29** of the annual catalog.

\$6995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8550 single

Historic Fort Bragg & Mendocino, Training By The Ocean

Ride the old Skunk Train, enjoy North Coast Hospitality in a cool little town by the ocean

4 Days • July 13-16

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights at the Harbor Lite Lodge, overlooking Noyo Harbor
- Ride the **Skunk Train** to nearby Pudding Creek, view the Redwoods
- 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
- 2050/23500 Gold Passport Points

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

Ferries and Towns of Puget Sound

4 nights in a room with a view of peaceful Puget Sound, ride the ferry boats, visit small towns and Olympic National Park

5 Days • July 20-24

- 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 peninsula
- Guided tours: Poulsbo, learn about the town's Norwegian heritage; Olympic National Park
- Learn the story of the lighthouse at Mukilteo, enjoy lunch at Ivar's
- 4 nights 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, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- Round trip airfare to Seattle

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

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
- Scenic lobster learning 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!
- Round trip airfare to/from Portland, ME
- Door-to-door airport service
- 5250/6150 Gold Passport Points

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

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EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT COUPON

Early Payment Discounts listed here expire on **February 12, 2026**, or may be reduced or withdrawn when 50% of the available space has been reserved. To receive the discount, you must pay in full within ten days of registration.

July – Pageant of the Masters – \$ave \$60

August – South Dakota – \$ave \$120

Sept. – Canyon Spirit – \$ave \$165

Oct. – ABQ Balloon Fiesta – \$ave \$120

Oct. – Oktoberfest... Niagara Falls – \$ave \$175

Oct. – Copper Canyon – \$ave \$120

Oct. – Route 66 II (West) – \$ave \$135

Oct. – Ghost Towns of NV – \$ave \$65

What are your old coins worth?

Maybe you have a bag or 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.



TOUR UPDATE...

Multi-Day Tours with Limited Space Available

The tours below have 10 or fewer spaces available, # in ()

Feb. 21 – Whales, Wine & Wonders of Mexico (3)

Mar. 7 – Spring Training in Arizona (3)

Mar. 9 – New Orleans (7)

Mar. 13 – Alaska's Northern Lights (2)

Apr. 13 – Springtime in North San Diego (6)

Apr. 14 – Route 66 East (9)

Apr. 23 – Stars, Stripes & Carnegie Hall (7)

May 5 – Route 66 East (7)

May 17 – Wonder Valley Ranch (4)

May 26 – Zion & Bryce Canyon Nat'l Parks (2)

June 5 – Boston & Cape Cod (5)

June 25 – Baltic Odyssey (3)

July 7 – Canadian Rockies & Calgary Stampede (5)

July 19 – Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound (2)

Sold Out – Wait List Available

Get your name on the wait list if you wish

Feb. 17 – Santa Barbara

Mar. 6 – Oregon Chocolate Festival

Mar. 16 – A Visit to the Hotel del Coronado

Apr. 12 – Pathways of Patriots

Apr. 17 – Costa Rica

Apr. 28 – Columbia/Snake River Cruise

May 3 or May 11 – On the Central Coast

May 17 – London

May 30 – Legends and Lakes Mystery Tour

July – Iceland, Land of Fire & Ice

Aug. 2 – San Juan Explorer

Aug. 31 – Portugal

Oct. 3 – Lake Placid & Cooperstown