



Sports Leisure Vacations

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Between Newsletter Update

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Just One Man's Opinion(s)

By Mark Hoffmann, Owner/Founder

By the time you see this, perhaps my comment will be out of date. But I'll take a shot anyway. Is this the coolest summer anyone around here can remember? Lots of days in the high 80's. Drove home the other day at 5pm with the **windows down**. Can't remember ever doing that in July before...

Tyler and I just returned from the **Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound** trip. This year, because of unusually low tides, it was almost "Towns with no Ferries." We did get in one ride, and spent time (and money) in the little towns around the sound. I have been doing that trip for many, many years and it's one of our best. The hotel/resort, overlooking the sound at the **Clearwater Resort**, is one of the best places we stay in all season. The view itself is worth the trip. We will be back in July of 2026 (in the catalog in September)...

As you read this, we are off scouting our Fall Mystery Tour. There are 8 spaces left. The itinerary highlights famous people in several fun, off-the-beaten-track destinations **during fall color season**. Why not join us?

Now you can make your payments online... In early July, we tested a system that will allow you to make tour payments online, 24/7. Of course, you can still call the office to do business, but if you just have a simple payment and don't need a human, there is a way to do that at www.sportsleisure.com.

Just one new extended tour this time, but it's really special... The **Hotel del Coronado** has reopened after an elaborate and expensive re-do. We have organized a trip for March. It isn't inexpensive, especially if you travel single and have no one to share the hotel cost with. Two nights at The Del, with all the trimmings. Heck, breakfast alone is \$58 each morning. Take a look and if your wallet will allow, we would love to have you join us. Preview Day and our annual catalog are just around the corner. **Thank you** for your support. - **Mark**

Tour Preview Day – Saturday, September 20

The Sophia, Home of the B St. Theatre, 2700 Capitol Ave., Downtown

\$10 admission (all donated to local charities)

10am - Noon & 12:30-2:30pm sessions

Free shuttle bus to both sessions

Paid, covered parking available behind the theatre

Registration now open!

You and your friends are invited to join us on Saturday, September 20th for our annual **Tour Preview Day**. Over the years, attendance at this event has become more and more essential, because it is the day our catalog of tours for the following year is released. Because it's a weekend, downtown traffic should be light. Of course, you are welcome to register for the free shuttle (see next page).

The catalog is mailed to all members and posted online at Noon on Monday, September 22nd. Those who attend Preview Day get a small but important jump on the new offerings. History tells up many new tours and cruises fill within the first couple of days.

About Preview Day: Clayton and Mark generally spend a bit of time taking you behind the scenes and talking a little about ***Sports Leisure*** and the company's history. With the help of staff, they will go over some of the "nuts and bolts basics" that make us a little different (and we'd like to think a ***little better*** than many other travel companies).

Each Tour Planner/Director gets a few minutes to talk about the tours they put together. Sometimes this is from the big stage, sometimes in "break out" sessions, where you pick which trips you'd like to know more about. Videos and past photos are used to help you get an understanding of the destinations, the things you'll see and do, where you will stay and how you will get there (and return). Most importantly, you'll get your copy of the new catalog. Reservations open by phone and in person on the Monday following the event.

Free Shuttle Service: Is available for both the morning and afternoon sessions, although in some cases the pick-up points are different for AM/PM presentations. **You must have a reservation for the bus.** Open seating on board.

Tour Preview Day Bus Schedule 2025

10am show – Show starts at 10am and ends at approx. 11:50am

Bus #1	Folsom	8:45am (Iron Point Rd. to Palladio Pkwy., beside Palladio Shopping Center, BUS STOPS ON WEST SIDE OF PARKING GARAGE ON PALLADIO PKWY.)
	SLV Office	9:05am (9812 Old Winery Place off Folsom near Bradshaw)
Bus #2	Rocklin/Roseville	8:30am (Winco Store, 10151 Fairway Dr. – park closer to Fairway Drive)
	Antelope	8:50am (Regular location – park away from Raley’s)
	Arden	9:20am (Regular location – park away from Black Bear Diner)

12:30pm show – Show starts at 12:30pm and ends at approx. 2:20pm

Bus #1	Florin Area	11:10am (Southgate Plaza on Florin Rd. at Franklin – use Meadowgate Dr. entrance and park between the Spicy Dragon and the bus stop bench at Franklin & Meadowgate)
	Land Park	11:30am (Sprouts parking lot at Land Park & Sutterville Pick up on Land Park on northeast corner of lot)
Bus #2	Rocklin/Roseville	10:40am (Winco Store, 10151 Fairway Dr. park closer to Fairway Drive)
	Antelope	11:10am (Regular location – park away from Raley’s on Lichen Drive)
	Arden	11:30am (Regular location - park away from Black Bear Diner)

A Visit to The Del

Spend two nights in California's most celebrated and iconic historic accommodations, the Hotel del Coronado!

3 Days * March 16-18

The Hotel del Coronado, affectionately known as "The Del," is a historic beachfront hotel constructed in 1888. It is located in Coronado, just a stone's throw across the bay from San Diego. Renowned for its Victorian-era architecture and storied history, it's one of the last remaining 19th Century beach resorts still standing, among the largest wooden structures ever built and one of the first buildings in the world to be fully electrified. The hotel has hosted numerous presidents (starting with Benjamin Harrison – 13 in all), celebrities (Marilyn Monroe and many more), royalty (King Edward VIII), royal wanna-bes (Wallis Simpson – oh, just wait until you hear *that* story) and even a ghostly spirit (or two).

The Del recently completed an expansive, multi-year \$550 million renovation. This comprehensive restoration project included major enhancements to the iconic Victorian building, restoring historic landscapes and making upgrades to all 938 rooms. In March you are invited to add your name to the guestbook of welcomed patrons who have made The Del their choice for a respite from the drudgery of the modern world.

1. Take a morning flight to San Diego to visit the *USS Midway*. Built in 1945, it was then the world's largest ship, going on to serve the US Navy until 1992, making it the longest-serving aircraft carrier of the 20th Century. When you've worked up an appetite, head next door to the popular Fish Market Restaurant for a tasty lunch featuring the bounty of the sea. On to Coronado Island, just a short drive across the Coronado Bay Bridge, where our local friend, Nancy, has the inside scoop and all the latest Island gossip for you, including the tale of a man who would be king, and the woman who swept him off his feet right here at Coronado! Once at the hotel, check-in and relax in your beautifully restored room, take a walk through the gardens to the beach, or enjoy all the fun found on Orange Boulevard running through the heart of Coronado Village. **Hotel del Coronado – 2 nights (L)**

2. Your leisurely morning might include the lavish buffet breakfast in Sheerwater, served ocean-view no less. Or sleeping in – the choice is yours. In the afternoon climb aboard a private motorized trolley for a narrated driving tour of Coronado and San Diego, including the city's grandest gem, Balboa Park. Back at The Del don't miss an opportunity to dig deep into local history at the Ice House Museum. There you can also sign up for guided walking tours focusing on hotel history or haunted happenings! In the evening enjoy dinner as a group which just might include a toast to Ireland's favorite saint on this, his feast day! Sláinte! **(FB,D)**

3. Following breakfast it's time to say goodbye to The Del . . . until next time. Enjoy a last taste of San Diego's eternal spring on a bay cruise, then visit popular Seaport Village for some souvenirs and lunch before heading back to the airport. Your flight home departs in the mid-afternoon. 2450/2900 Gold Passport Points **(FB)**

\$2410 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2890 single, \$75 Early Payment Di\$count available

Previously Announced Tours

A Little Culture, A Little History, A Lot of Fun – A Mystery Tour 7 Days * October 7-13

As you read these words, Mark and Tyler are on a scouting trip, checking out some of the restaurants, hotels and attractions for this adventure. Why do they have to do that? **Because a Mystery Tour contains destinations we have never visited before**, and this trip is no exception. **At press time, we have 6 seats available.** Learn about famous folks, discover the quirky and unusual, travel on a historic highway (**not** Route 66) and dine on **local yummy things** (technical culinary term).

Mystery Tours are among our most popular trips! Many of you have been all over the place, so the idea of going somewhere you have never been, or going back to a great place and seeing entirely different stuff is a concept many ***Sports Leisure Travelers*** can buy into. For this trip, we have a host of entirely new destinations, sprinkled with a few we have visited before, including one destination that was part of a Mystery Tour 15 years ago. **Added bonus: It's the peak of fall color season at our destination.**

Mystery Tour Clues:

Any good Mystery Tour would have clues to offer as to its destination(s). This trip is no exception. See if you can figure out where we are going by the list below. Oh, and we should probably tell you, one of the clues in the list is totally made up and has nothing to do with your itinerary. Just in case you think AI can solve it for you....

- **Beware of falling things. Just sayin'.**
- **It's a long way into those woods. Must be beautiful with all those fall leaves.**
- **A mighty river once flowed through these parts, but no more.**
- **One city was made famous in a humorous song by a famous folk singer, while another could be described as "wonderful" by its most famous citizen. A president lived in one city.**
- **Mark's favorite treat can be found in abundance, like all over the place. We will probably have to stop more than once.**
- **A well-known paper company was headquartered in one of your destinations.**
- **Be careful, you could find yourself working (or sleeping) on the railroad if you're not careful.**

The package includes your airfare, door-to-door pick-up and A Little Culture, A Little History and a Lot of Fun. Promise. 4100/4500 Gold Passport Points.

\$4080 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4475 single

Puttin' on the Ritz for Christmas #2

Featuring a visit to Filoli House & Gardens, dressed in her holiday best

3 Days * December 7-9

1. Relish in the style and convenience of being picked up from your home and driven to the *Sports Leisure Vacations* office where you will board our comfortable motorcoach for the ride to the sea. Enjoy a Champagne Sunday Brunch in San Mateo before heading to the coast and the charming town of Half Moon Bay. You will have time to browse the shops before checking into your hotel which resembles a grand European country estate set on a rocky bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. **Ritz Carlton Resort Half Moon Bay – 2 nights (BR)**

2. Enjoy a free morning to experience the resort to the fullest. Amenities include a coastal trail, beach, gas fire pits overlooking the ocean, a fitness center, indoor pool, hot tub and sauna. Spa services are available for an additional cost. Lunch will be hosted at a wonderful Italian restaurant followed by a visit to Filoli Historic House and Gardens all decked out with twinkling lights and festive decorations for the season. **(L)**

3. A scrumptious lunch is served at a local seafood restaurant in Half Moon Bay before departing the coast and heading home to Sacramento. 1900/2250 Gold Passport Points **(L)**

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

An Appalachian Mountain Christmas

Featuring Biltmore House, Dollywood and Music City USA

7 Days • December 7-13

You can find the complete day-by-day itinerary on our web site at www.sportsleisure.com

Highlights

- 2 nights in Asheville on the grounds of Biltmore Estate
- Evening tour of Biltmore House by candlelight
- 1 night at Dollywood and a day in the park
- 3 nights in downtown Nashville just four blocks off Broadway
- Amy Grant and Vince Gill Christmas Concert at the Ryman
- *Opry Country Christmas* at the Grand Ole Opry House
- Tour the Country Music Hall of Fame, Studio B, Belle Meade and more
- 10 meals: 6 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Round trip airfare to Asheville/from Nashville
- Home pick-up and return
- 5000/6650 Gold Passport Points

\$4995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6610 single

A Palm Springs Christmas, Starring Barry Manilow

3 Days * December 15-17 & 16-18

You can find the complete day-by-day itinerary on our web site at www.sportsleisure.com

Every other year, Palm Springs resident **Barry Manilow** offers Christmas concerts at the McCallum Theatre. They are all benefits for the community, helping over a dozen local charities. Mr. Manilow even picks up the cost of his band, which joins him from Las Vegas. Barry will share Christmas favorites and tunes from his songbook. Gold Passport Points based on seating choice.

Highlights

- Two nights at the Dunes Hotel in downtown Palm Springs, a historic property with a modern, new look
- Christmas Lights at night
- Lunch at the top of Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, (which transports riders to the pristine wilderness of the Mt. San Jacinto State Park),
- Dinner and show - Barry Manilow at the beautiful McCallum Theatre
- Learn about the Palm Springs Windmills (tour)
- Tour the San Andreas fault on a narrated journey by jeep
- 6 meals – 2 full breakfasts, 2 lunches & 2 dinners
- Round trip non-stop flights on Southwest Airlines, plus our signature door-to-door service

Center Orchestra Concert Seats - \$2440 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2590 single**

Rear Orchestra Seating - \$2330 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2480 single**

****All good seats, because it's a smaller theatre. Some a few rows closer to the stage than others.**

New Zealand – Sweet As!*

**A versatile phrase used to convey a positive sentiment in New Zealand slang*

18 Days * January 21 – February 7, 2026

You can find the complete day-by-day itinerary on our web site at www.sportsleisure.com

Highlights

- Visit the North Island destinations of Auckland, Waiheke Island, Rotorua, Napier, Lake Taupo, and Wellington
- Visit the South Island destinations of Christchurch, Franz Josef, Queenstown, Milford Sound and Twizel AND so many more places in-between!
- Services of local drivers and guides, plus a *Sports Leisure* Tour Director throughout
28 meals: 15 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, 9 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare: San Francisco/Auckland and Christchurch/San Francisco (motorcoach transportation between Sacramento and San Francisco) and Door-to-door transportation
- 12,700/15,000 Gold Passport Points

\$12,680 p.p./dbl.occ., \$14,995 single

Mexico's Whales, Wine and Wonders

Explore unspoiled nature and all the rich flavors offered by our neighbors to the south

8 Days * February 21-28

The central Baja California region is a pristine destination of undeveloped splendor. Uninhabited islands, a combination of mountains and deserts, and a lively sea come together in a mixture of incredible natural beauty. The grand beauty of visiting gray whales is complemented by subtle, flavorful notes in the region's award-winning wineries. Come join us on this wonderful small group adventure!

Highlights

- Experience two close-up encounters with Pacific gray whales
- Marvel in the desert rock formations, boulders and caves in Cataviña
- Visit Mexico's premier wine country, the Guadalupe Valley
- Explore the charming shops, cafes, and taquerías in Ensenada
- Shop the bustling Mercado Hidalgo in Tijuana
- Fully escorted and narrated by a *Sports Leisure* Tour Director and bilingual local guide
- 16 meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Roundtrip airfare to/from San Diego
- 4200/4700 Gold Passport Points

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

This tour requires a valid passport

Mexican Visa Entry Fee included

Daycations & Theatre Outings

Les Misérables

Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco

Thursday, September 25 – 1:00 pm

Cameron Mackintosh presents the acclaimed production of Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg's Tony Award-winning musical phenomenon, *Les Misérables*. This brilliant new staging has taken the world by storm, and we're thrilled that it's finally making its way to Northern California! Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, *Les Misérables* tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption – a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. **\$200***

Shucked

Curran Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, October 1 – 1:00 pm

Shucked is the Tony Award-winning musical comedy that's all about (you guessed it!) CORN! Featuring a book by Tony Award-winner Robert Horn (*Tootsie*), a score by the Grammy Award-winning song team of Brandy Clark and Shane McAnally (Kacey Musgraves' "Follow Your Arrow") and directed by Tony Award-winner Jack O'Brien (*Hairspray*), this corn-fed, corn-bred all-American story is sure to satisfy your appetite for great musical theatre. Join the good people of Corn Cob County and the challenges they face when their crops begin to die, counterbalanced by the budding love story between Beau and his sweetheart, Maizy. It's a farm-to-fable musical for the ages! **\$203***

Lea Salonga: Stage, Screen & Everything in Between

Gallo Theatre, Modesto

Sunday, October 5 – 2:00 pm

Musical theatre royalty and official Disney legend Lea Salonga is bringing her acclaimed *Stage, Screen & Everything In Between* tour to North America in 2025 with this stop at the Gallo Center! Musical theatre fans will experience musical classics from Lea's iconic roles including songs from *Miss Saigon*, *Les Misérables*, *Aladdin* and *Mulan*, new-found favorites from the critically acclaimed Broadway and West End hit *Old Friends*, Broadway blockbusters, pop classics, and much more from her celebrated career and beyond. We will have lunch prior to the show. **\$236**

American Idol Winners in Concert

Gallo Theatre, Modesto

Thursday, October 16 – 7:30 pm

Three past *American Idol* winners – each one an electrifying entertainer – are on their way to the Gallo Center stage to perform LIVE for you! You'll get to experience alternative and indie rocker David Cook (Winner, Season 7), folksy singer-songwriter Maddie Poppe (Winner, Season 16), and talented country music singer Noah Thompson (Winner, Season 20). If you liked them on the television show, you're going to love this! We will enjoy dinner prior to the show. **\$216**

Fall in the Sierra #2

Thursday, October 16

A second departure of our annual autumn excursion has been added by popular demand! Travel along the American River and over the Sierra Nevada in hopes of sneaking a peak at some fall colors while enjoying stunning vistas on this popular expedition. Our "road trip" takes us across the Mormon Emigrant Trail to Highway 88, through Hope Valley, and then into Gardnerville, Nevada where a traditional family-style lunch is served at the Carson Valley Country Club. Leaving to the north, we'll make a quick stop at two of our favorite gift shoppes, Especially for You and the Chocolate Shoppe by Sweet Images, before passing the crystal blue waters of Lake Tahoe and crossing Echo Summit along US 50 on our return to Sacramento. **\$154**

Apple Hill and Placerville

Thursday, October 23

Enjoy a leisurely ride to Apple Hill where we will visit three different apple farms. There will be plenty of time to browse the many arts and crafts stalls, shop for tasty treats (have you ever tried the Caramelo's at High Hill Ranch?) or order a pie to bring home for the holidays . . . or just because. We will enjoy lunch before making a stop on our way home in Old Town Placerville to do a little shopping as well. **\$131**

SUFFS The Musical

Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, October 29 – 1:00 pm

The musical *Suffs* gives you a sneak peek into the lives of the women who rewrote the history books. It's the early 1910's and a group of suffragists have taken to the street ready to transform the country through protests against public opinion, the president and even each other. Their names? Just call them "The Suffs" for short! This captivating story will take you on a journey of women working against the divides - racial, generational and class - with both victories and failures right up until the passing of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. It's a fight that is still far from over even in 2025 and beyond. **\$214***

Richard Thomas in *Mark Twain Tonight!*

Gallo Theatre, Modesto

Tuesday, November 18 – 7:00 pm

Emmy Award-winning actor Richard Thomas brings American icon Mark Twain, the nation's one true comic genius, to life in *Mark Twain Tonight!* Written and originally performed for over 60 years by the late Hal Holbrook, the production has been cheered by millions who have witnessed the legendary one-man show, bursting with Twain's uproariously funny and pungently wise humor. Beloved to generations as John-Boy Walton, Richard Thomas is the first and only actor authorized to perform the play since the original. We will enjoy dinner prior to the show. **\$215**

Jim Brickman & Friends: The Gift of Christmas

Gallo Theatre, Modesto

Thursday, November 20 – 7:30 pm

Jim Brickman, the multiple Grammy-nominated songwriter and piano sensation, is back this festive season with *Jim Brickman & Friends: The Gift of Christmas*, a magical evening celebrating music, love and family. Brickman will warm the hearts of all as sounds of faith and love make spirits bright, bringing family and friends together for anything but a silent night. Special guest artists will join Brickman in giving you a joyous concert experience that blends holiday favorites with his own hit songs such as, "The Gift," "Sending You a Little Christmas," "Angel Eyes," and "If You Believe." We will enjoy dinner prior to the show. **\$215** (Limited space)

Christmas Shopping in Napa Valley

Wednesday, December 3

"Like grapes on the vine, Napa Valley gets better with time." There will be plenty of time for browsing, exploration and shopping on this leisurely expedition. Sit back, leave the driving to us, and enjoy the day of shopping, food and the festival atmosphere that Napa has to offer. We will make stops at the Oxbow Public Market and in St. Helena as well. Lunch is included at popular Downtown Joe's, a *Sports Leisure* favorite! **\$152**

A Christmas Carol

Fallon Theatre, Columbia

Saturday, December 13 – 2:00 pm

This audience-favorite adaptation of Charles Dickens' time-honored tale comes to the Fallon House Theatre this holiday season! It's Christmas Eve, and the greedy Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by a succession of divine spirits who force him to confront his regrettable youth, his icy present devoid of kindness, and what his future holds if he doesn't change his miserly ways. Bring the whole family for this heartwarming holiday classic. Lunch is included prior to the show. **\$140**

The Golden Girls Live: The Christmas Episodes

Curran Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, December 14 – 1:30 pm

Returning for its 20th year of holiday hilarity, *The Golden Girls Live: The Christmas Episodes* celebrates its own "golden" anniversary in true Miami style. Take four drag legends, cast them in two parody holiday episodes of the iconic sitcom *The Golden Girls*, and you get what the San Francisco Chronicle calls "the true meaning of Christmas." As the beloved TV show celebrates its 40th anniversary, this lovingly irreverent tribute delivers razor-sharp wit, festive flair, endless nostalgia - and, of course, plenty of cheesecake. Whether you're a lifelong fan or a Golden Girls newbie, this only-in-San Francisco tradition promises big laughs, heartwarming moments and a fabulous dose of holiday spirit. **\$195***

Cirque du Soleil's *ECHO*

Oracle Park, San Francisco

Saturday, January 3 – 12:00 pm

ECHO has gone through quite a journey during its conception from a seedling of an idea to a fully realized production – a story of connection, intention, and the incredible bond between humans and the animal kingdom. Interestingly, *ECHO* is not the original name of the production. It was originally known as *Under the Same Sky*, but evolved in title and stance to better reflect the new post-pandemic world we all now inhabit. The Saturday matinee trip will include a box lunch served on the motorcoach down to San Francisco, the performance of *ECHO* under Cirque's iconic Big Top at Oracle Park, and a stop for a sweet treat before returning to Sacramento. **\$245**

***All Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday Broadway in San Francisco matinee trips include a box lunch served onboard the coach enroute, Orchestra seating and a no-host dinner stop after the show at either Pier 39 or North Beach before returning to Sacramento.**

Limited Space Available

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

- Oct. – A Little Culture, A Little History Mystery (8)
- Dec. 7-9 – Puttin' on The Ritz (9)
- Dec. – Appalachian Mountain Christmas (8)
- Dec. 15 – Barry Manilow I (9)
- Dec. 16 – Barry Manilow II (10)
- Feb. – Whales, Wine & Wonders of Baja (1)

Sold Out – Wait List Available

If you see something you like, give us a shout and add your name to the waitlist.

- Sept. – Stories of Santa Fe & Taos
- Sept. – Michigan & Mackinac
- Sept. – Reno Balloon Festival
- Sept. – Victoria & Vancouver
- Sept. – Zion & Bryce N.P.
- Oct. – Tuscany, Florence & Rome
- Oct. – Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
- Oct. – La Belle Quebec
- Oct. – South Dakota
- Oct. – Branson – Ozark Mountains, Music & Culture
- Oct. – Black Hills
- Oct. – Bonjour Quebec
- Oct. – Albuquerque Balloons
- Nov. – Maui by Air, Land & Sea
- Nov. – Thanksgiving in New York
- Nov. 30 – Puttin' on The Ritz I
- Dec. – Lily Tomlin in Palm Springs
- Dec. – Cambria Christmas Lights & Market
- Dec. – A Christmas Mystery Tour
- Dec. – Tournament of Roses Parade
- Jan. – Miami to Key West

Sports Leisure Vacations

Office Hours:

9 am – 3:30 pm PT – Monday through Friday

Closed weekends and major holidays

Call us at (916) 361-2051 and toll free (800) 951-5556

www.sportsleisure.com