



Sports Leisure Vacations

The In-Between Newsletter

Vol. 48, No. 1 – June 2026

Our next full newsletter will be produced in August and will include your chance to RSVP for Vacation Preview Day. Save The Date: Sunday, September 27. In this special in-between publication please find a number of new tours and daycations, plus a special event at KVIE!

Returning to Someplace Special, by Mark Hoffmann

Those of you who know me even a little bit know I'm not a big international traveler. I can do Canada, but if you have to fly over an ocean, that hasn't really been my thing. My only visits to Europe were to Amsterdam twice (1991, 1993) and Prague (1991).

While my brain thought both were awesome places to visit, my body, specifically my stomach, didn't agree. Got sick on both trips and my stomach sent a message to my brain saying, "next time you plan this overseas thing, you are on your own, 'cause the stomach ain't comin' along."

So I discovered Route 66 and some of the amazing places right here in our own backyard. It would be hard to run out of wonderful places to visit in the US and Canada. But with age creeping up (71), I decided it was time to start a bucket list of places I wanted to see once more before my journey on the planet is over, or curtailed to the point that travel is difficult. I know many of you face the same challenge.

The first place on my list was Amsterdam. As soon as we arrived, I remembered why this is one of my favorite places. The inner city is sort of organized chaos, 18 hours a day. There are a **lot** of cyclists in Amsterdam. Heck, the streets are so narrow and with a lack of places to park, why would you want a car? Many bikes had attachments which would allow them to bring home groceries or transport a child, protected from the rain that is a regular reality. Cool.

Only one drawback. There are bike lanes, and pedestrian lanes and traffic lanes...and the possibility of getting run over is ever present. You definitely have to pay attention.

But within all that organized chaos is a city with a unique personality. There are nearly a dozen world class museums. Boat tours of the many canals provide you a way to see the sights without fighting the automobiles. English is spoken everywhere in The Netherlands, so communication is not an issue.

Something else that stuck with me. At one restaurant, I asked for change for a 10 Euro note in order to leave a gratuity with our meal, since there was no place on the check to leave a tip. When I told our server why I needed change and proceeded to leave a 4 Euro tip (about \$5 US) for a \$45 dinner, ***she was estatic!*** That sort of gratuity would have gotten me escorted to the door in a US restaurant, but because the tipping custom is a bit different there, the response was, to say the least, more enthusiastic. Made me feel truly appreciated.

We met with hotels, attractions and operators who package that part of the world. It's safe to say that a tour highlighting food and flowers (boy, they have beautiful flowers in Holland), will be forthcoming in the spring of 2027. Probably just two countries, **Belgium and Holland**, because there is so much to see and do.

Kudos to my trusty traveling companion **Tyler Gerald**s. Because of an ongoing medical condition, I have been advised not to travel alone any longer. Without Tyler, my traveling would be seriously curtailed. Getting to rediscover things with your best friend along is pretty special and I cannot thank him enough.

***And so it goes,
Mark Hoffmann, Owner***

Postscript: For many of you, *Sports Leisure Vacations* and KVIE are nearly synonymous. This little tour company which celebrated our 47th anniversary earlier this month has been a supporter and underwriter longer than any other organization in the station's history – over 35 years! We're mighty proud of that. Since we're spending your money, we hope it makes you proud, too! Sometimes our support comes with extra benefits, such as the opportunity listed below. Baseball fans unite! You don't want to miss this one . . .

Dusty Baker Live

KVIE Speakers Series, KVIE Studios

Wednesday, August 5 – 6:00 pm

For the second year, we are the Presenting Sponsor of the KVIE Speakers Series. Highlighting the series this is former Giants manager **Dusty Baker**. Dusty not only managed, but also played for 19 seasons. He absolutely is a potential Hall-of-Famer! Dusty is from Sacramento and recently opened a winery.

Before the General Admission speaking session with the public, there will be a VIP gathering to meet Dusty. The tickets are being sold by KVIE for \$150. We have a limited number of tickets at **\$40 per person** (with the entire \$40 going to charity). The VIP experience includes the opportunity to say hi, wine tasting and a signed copy of Dusty's new book, *Crossroads*. Space is very limited, so call today to be a part of this exclusive event.

NEW VACATIONS & GETAWAYS

Spectacular Sedona

Featuring a ride on the Verde Canyon Railroad through the amazing Arizona backcountry

5 Days • October 25-29, 2026

Activity Meter: 3

HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights at the Arabella Hotel - unpack once!
- Guided tour of the Copper Museum
- Trolley tour to the Chapel of the Holy Cross
- Scenic Verde Canyon Railroad
- Visit Montezuma Castle
- Two meals with entertainment
- 9 meals: 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip air to/from Phoenix
- Door-to-door airport Service
- 3350/3700 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly non-stop aboard Southwest Airlines to Phoenix and begin your Arizona adventure led by **Scott Angeletti**. Enjoy a hosted lunch before traveling into the heart of Sedona, where magnificent red rock formations create one of America's most spectacular landscapes. Settle in for a restful stay at our beautiful hotel home framed by the region's stunning red rocks.

Arabella Hotel - 4 nights (L)

2. This morning you'll discover Sedona aboard a narrated trolley tour featuring the famous **Chapel of the Holy Cross**, dramatically built into the surrounding red rocks. Then travel through breathtaking Oak Creek Canyon, one of Arizona's most scenic drives, with towering canyon walls, lush vegetation and stunning vistas around every turn. Continue to Flagstaff for a special private lunch accompanied by live entertainment. **(FB,L)**

3. Today begins with a fascinating visit to the **Copper Museum** where you'll discover why Arizona is known as the Copper State through remarkable exhibits and artifacts. Then it's time for the highlight of the tour – the legendary **Verde Canyon Railroad**. Sit back and relax as the train winds through a spectacular wilderness corridor featuring soaring red rock cliffs, brilliant blue skies, ancient sycamore trees and the beautiful Verde River. **(FB,L)**

4. Explore the enchanting village of **Tlaquepaque**, where cobblestone pathways, stone archways, colorful galleries and shady courtyards create the feeling of old Mexico. Next, visit **Montezuma Castle National Monument**, one of the best-preserved ancient cliff dwellings in North America, built by the Sinagua people over 800 years ago. This evening, celebrate your adventure with a scrumptious farewell dinner. **(FB,D)**

5. Enjoy one last morning in Arizona as we travel back toward Phoenix. Along the way, savor a special hosted lunch with entertainment in Mesa before boarding our late afternoon flight home to Sacramento, bringing unforgettable memories of Sedona's beauty and Southwestern charm. **(FB,L)**

\$3325 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3695 single

\$100 Early Payment Di\$count

Desert Wellness in Death Valley

Featuring Historic Furnace Creek Ranch

4 Days • November 3-6, 2026

Activity Meter: 3

HIGHLIGHTS

- Death Valley Historical Society
- Guided Death Valley Tour featuring Zabriskie Point and Badwater Basin
- Stargazing Evening under world-class dark skies
- Guided morning walks to start each day refreshed
- Wellness Day in Death Valley with optional activities for every comfort level
- Artesian Cellars Winery
- 7 meals: 3 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Las Vegas
- Door-to-Door Airport Transportation
- 2900/3350 Gold Passport Points

1. Sacramento, Las Vegas, Red Rock Canyon, Death Valley

Your morning flight to Las Vegas sets you up for a leisurely drive into Death Valley. We'll enjoy lunch on the way into the majestic Mojave Desert, along with a drive-through of Red Rock Canyon, a National Conservation Area. Your final destination for the day is Death Valley and the Furnace Creek Visitor Center for an introduction to the valley's dramatic landscapes and rich history. Settle in for **three memorable nights** at the iconic **Ranch at Death Valley (L)**

2. Death Valley

After a hearty breakfast buffet, take an optional morning walk before exploring Death Valley with an expert guide. Learn the legend of Death Valley Scotty as you visit Zabriskie Point, Dante's View, Badwater Basin, Artists Drive and the vibrant Artists Palette, with a lunch stop at Stovepipe Wells Resort before continuing through this unforgettable desert landscape. Return in time for a walk or swim. Dinner will be on your own tonight. (FBL)

3. Desert Serenity Day

Today is all about you, a wellness day to relax and recharge. Begin with a guided morning walk, then choose optional activities like horseback riding, golf at the Oasis Golf Course, a soothing spa treatment or simply enjoy the scenic grounds of the Ranch and Oasis. **Optional activities may involve an additional cost.** This evening, we gather for a farewell dinner and stargazing under Death Valley's brilliant night sky. (FB,D)

4. Artesian Cellars, Return Home

Depart the Ranch at Death Valley and enjoy a scenic drive across open desert landscapes on your way to Pahrump. Stop at Artesian Cellars for a relaxing lunch in their welcoming, modern tasting room with views of the surrounding valley. Continue along the easy drive east towards Las Vegas for your flight home to Sacramento (FB,L)

\$2895 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3315 single

\$75 Early Payment Di\$count

Up, Up and Away!

Featuring the Cathedral City International Hot Air Balloon Festival and The Carpenters

Songbook at the McCallum Theatre

4 Days • November 19-22

Activity Meter: 2

*Join **Scott** for a cool getaway to Greater Palm Springs area and experience the colorful Cathedral City Hot Air Balloon Festival. Witness the magic of both the **morning Balloon Ascension** and the dazzling **evening Balloon Glow**, when dozens of illuminated balloons light up the desert sky. Enjoy convenient nonstop flights to Palm Springs and spend **three nights at the Hilton Palm Springs**, ideally located in the heart of downtown.*

HIGHLIGHTS

- Reserved seating for **The Carpenters Songbook** at the renowned McCallum Theatre
- A ride aboard the **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway**, the world's largest rotating tramcar, including lunch atop scenic Mount San Jacinto
- Discover the fascinating world of date cultivation with a guided visit to a historic **Date Farm**
- Explore the wonders of the desert at the renowned **Living Desert and Gardens**, home to native wildlife, beautiful botanical gardens, and engaging exhibits.
- A **Celebrity Home Tour** – See the desert homes of the stars – Palm Springs was a place they could escape to in the 50s and 60's
- Time to explore the popular **VillageFest Street Fair**, where Palm Canyon Drive comes alive with local artists, crafts and food vendors, and entertainment

Pricing will be available in early August. Place your reservations today to hold your space. You can confirm or cancel without penalty when pricing is announced.

Costa Rica “Pura Vida”

This popular Central American gem is yours to discover, leaving not a stone unturned!

12 Days • April 19-30, 2027

Activity Meter: 4 – This tour requires a valid passport

*Escape to paradise with a dream vacation to Costa Rica, offering lush rainforests teeming with wildlife to pristine beaches and mystical rainforests. Your Tour Planner and Director is **Laurin Johnson**, not a new name around here, but one you may not know. She's been with us for the past few years primarily as a weekend Daycations host. Now she's moving into long-distance tour planning in the place she loves most – Central and South America. She's fluent in Spanish and brings the experience of multiple personal vacations to Costa Rica to the table. Indeed, CR is the country she's visited most in her lifetime of exotic travel. You'll be in great hands with one of **Sports Leisure's** newest and best assets!*

1. Depart Sacramento, arriving at Costa Rica's capital San Jose. Overnight at the elegant **Hotel Delta by Marriott San Jose Aurola - 2 nights**

2. Travel to the breathtaking **Poás Volcano**, one of Costa Rica's most impressive natural wonders. Later, visit one of the country's largest coffee plantations to discover the fascinating journey from bean to cup. Explore Costa Rica's oldest operating wet mill, a National Heritage Site, surrounded by beautiful natural scenery and rich cultural history. **(B,L,D)**

3. Journey to the remote and spectacular Tortuguero region, accessible only by boat or plane. Settle into your hotel located just minutes from Tortuguero National Park. This afternoon, enjoy

a guided nature walk along the lodge's private trails, surrounded by tropical rainforest and abundant wildlife. **Aninga Hotel & Spa - 2 nights (B,L,D)**

4. Explore one of Costa Rica's most treasured natural areas. **Tortuguero National Park** protects the largest green sea turtle nesting beach in the Western Hemisphere and features an intricate network of canals, rivers and lagoons. Accessible only by boat, this remarkable ecosystem offers a rare glimpse into Costa Rica's colorful Caribbean culture, where small villages maintain traditional ways of life and bicycles remain the primary mode of transportation. **(B,L,D)**

5. Visit the Dähler family pineapple plantation, where you'll learn about pineapple cultivation while enjoying stunning views of surrounding volcanoes. Continue to La Fortuna, our next hotel home, where you are invited to relax in natural hot spring pools and enjoy spectacular views of the iconic **Arenal Volcano** from your private patio. **Arenal Springs Resort - 2 nights (B,L,D)**

6. Experience the rainforest from a new perspective. Walk among the treetops on hanging bridges that provide breathtaking views of the forest canopy and its unique ecosystem. Then board the **Sky Tram** for a gentle ascent through the mountains, offering panoramic views of the rainforest and Arenal Volcano. The remainder of the afternoon is yours to enjoy the resort's exceptional amenities. **(B,L)**

7. Travel to the beautiful Pacific Coast and Manuel Antonio. Your resort is ideally located just steps from the entrance to Manuel Antonio National Park and a short walk from the beach. Enjoy tropical gardens, swimming pools, ocean views and unforgettable sunsets. **Hotel San Bada – 2 nights (B,D)**

8. Discover Costa Rica's beautiful **Manuel Antonio National Park**, home to sloths, monkeys, iguanas, colorful birds and the rare squirrel monkey found only in this region. This afternoon, board the **Ocean King Catamaran** for an all-inclusive cruise featuring drinks, a light meal and a stop at picturesque Biesanz Beach, where you may choose to swim or snorkel. **(B,D)**

9. Cruise through the tranquil mangrove waterways on the **Damas Island Boat Tour**. Drift beneath lush green canopies while your guide points out exotic birds, reptiles, anteaters and playful white-faced monkeys. This peaceful eco-adventure offers exceptional opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography. Continue to the luxurious **Hotel Los Sueños Marriott - 2 nights (B,L)**

10. Complete your visit with a day of leisure at this coastal gem. One of the most stunning hotels in Playa Herradura, Los Suenos Marriott Ocean Resort is a beachfront haven in a breathtaking natural landscape. Surrounded by the rainforest canopies of Costa Rica's Green Coast, this luxury oasis sits amid a paradise of natural beauty. Refresh in the sparkling adults-only resort pool. Savor delectable fare at the distinctive restaurants and soothe your senses at the therapeutic spa. **(B)**

11. Bid farewell to the coast and travel back to San José. Check into the beautiful Marriott Hacienda Belén, where modern comfort blends seamlessly with the charm and elegance of a traditional Costa Rican hacienda. **Marriott Hotel Hacienda Belen (B)**

12. Transfer to the airport for your flight home, filled with the vibrant spirit of “Pura Vida”! **(B)**

Pricing will be available later this summer. Place your reservations today to hold your space. You can confirm or cancel without penalty when pricing is announced.

UPDATES ON TOURS & TEASERS

Thanksgiving in New York '26 - UPDATE

Our own *Clayton Whitehead*, a confirmed lifetime theatre geek, knows how to pick ‘em, and sometimes he hits the target right in the bullseye. We are thrilled to announce that this year’s featured show in our itinerary is none other than the 2026 Tony Award winner for Best Musical, *Schigidoon!* This fanciful romp through the classic years of musical theatre is actually a mashup of three beloved shows – *The Music Man*, *Oklahoma* and *Brigadoon*, with just a little *Sound of Music* added for good measure. If colorful, flowing costumes, stunning sets and big dance production numbers are your thing, and OF COURSE seeing the unlikely couple fall in love to live happily ever after, you’re going to enjoy each and every moment. Clayton had to go with his gut and buy the tickets months ago. We’re so glad his gut was right!

The second night of Broadway is our exclusive **Choose Your Own Show** night. That means just what it suggests – you pick the show, on or off-Broadway, musical or play, give us your choice and we’ll take care of the rest. We challenge you to name another tour company who does that! (Pretty sure the list will be VERY short.) Pair all this with a performance of the amazing Rockettes in the *Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular*, a chance to see the Macy*s Thanksgiving Day Parade, touring some of The Big Apple’s most iconic sites and amazing meals, and you’ll have a Thanksgiving to remember. **Only 4 seats remain so don’t delay!**

Obama’s Chicago ‘27 – UPDATE

Our teaser earlier this year produced an interest list of unprecedented length. As I type we are watching the grand opening activities of the **Obama Presidential Center** on television. The time has come!

Our first trip will be in late January/early February 2027 have a decidedly political theme. Yes, it will be cold! In addition to seeing the new Obama Presidential Center, the dates were chosen to correspond with the production of *Oh, Mary!*, the rather irreverent play that reimagines Mary Todd Lincoln as a severely neglected First Lady with secret dreams of leaving the White House to become a cabaret star. Set in the traumatic final days of the Civil War just weeks before her husband’s assassination, Mary, oblivious to the war and the political climate surrounding her,

focuses entirely on her own ambitions. She hires an acting coach to hone her talents, desperately yearning for the spotlight of the stage. The play won multiple Tony Awards in 2025. A city populated with world-class museums, the trip will also feature a day to visit your choice of the **Art Institute**, **Field Museum of Natural History** or the **Adler Aquarium**. We may even include a Cubs game at Wrigley Field!

Our second trip will be in a milder season next year (stay tuned for details) and will focus on Chicago's long history as our nation's architectural leader and trendsetter. You can thank Mrs. O'Leary's cow for starting the fire in 1871 that left most of the city a blank canvas for the world's greatest architects to build upon. Skyscrapers were born here! Frank Lloyd Wright's career also started here. Even our hotel, the **Radisson Blu Aqua**, is a modern architectural masterpiece. Designed by Jeanne Gang, the building's iconic wave-like balconies mimic the ripples of nearby Lake Michigan.

When details are set, those on the **Priority Notification List** will be contacted first in the order that they went upon the list. If this sounds interesting to you, contact us and ask to have your name added.

Paris & Seine River Cruise '27 – UPDATE

A Seine River cruise was teased last year, then hit a sandbar when Michael retired. Happy to say we're now back on course. Save The Date: **October 12-20, 2027** aboard the **MS Amadeus Diamond**. The cruise begins and ends in Paris and features stops in Conflans/Auvers-sur-Oise, Rouen, Le Havre, Caudebec-en-Caux and les Andelys as we move up and down the river. A special treat will be a full day in Normandy visiting D-Day landing sites including Omaha Beach, the US Cemetery at Colleville and the WWII Museum.

The cruise will open for reservations later this summer. We will reach out to those on the Priority Notification List with an itinerary and details at that time, then can begin confirming reservations and cabin selection. If this interests you it's not too late to add your name to the list by writing res@sportsleisure.com or calling the office.

DAYCATIONS & THEATRE OUTINGS

Little Shop of Horrors – The Movie

Special 40th Anniversary Screening at the Curran Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, August 16 – 7:30 pm

Celebrate the 40TH anniversary of *Little Shop of Horrors* with a screening hosted by the original Audrey, Ellen Greene. *Little Shop of Horrors* is the 1986 cult-classic sci-fi musical comedy directed by Frank Oz. Featuring nerdy florist Seymour, his love interest Audrey and Audrey II, the extraterrestrial human-eating plant, singing out a fabulous musical score by Alan Menken with

lyrics by Howard Ashman. Ellen Greene, the original Audrey of both the stage musical and film adaptation, will be joining the audience for a meet-and-greet session. This very special Sunday evening event will include a hosted early dinner in San Francisco before the show and orchestra seating at the Curran Theatre. **\$210**

Grand Ladies Tour (second departure)

San Francisco

Thursday, August 20

See some of San Francisco's most beautiful and historic Victorian Buildings. Your step on guide, Suzy Abbott, will meet you at Peace Plaza situated in the largest Japan town in the U.S. Your group will visit the elegant Queen Anne Hotel located in Pacific Heights. Here you will see authentic art and antiques as you tour the hotel and guests rooms. You will continue your trip back in time at The Haas-Lilienthal House which was designed by Peter R. Schmidt in 1886. As the only period home open to the public in San Francisco, the house beautifully exemplifies upper-middle class life in the Victorian era. Enjoy a wonderful San Francisco lunch at Max's Opera House, before ending your tour with a visit to The Reutlinger House, a faithfully restored 1886 Italianate Victorian in historic Alamo Square. A truly *Grand Tour*. **\$222 limited space**

*Expect historic homes to have stairs and no elevators!

Idina Menzel in Concert

Gallo Center, Modesto

Saturday, September 19 – 7:30 pm

Idina Menzel is the Tony Award-winning, powerhouse multi-hyphenate singer, actress in film and TV, songwriter, major Broadway star and philanthropist. She rose to fame in the popular Broadway musical *Rent*, and her career took off when she won a Tony Award for her role as Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, in the original Broadway production of *Wicked*. Her voice can be heard as Elsa in Disney's Oscar winning *Frozen*, the second highest grossing animated film of all time. The film's song "Let It Go" voiced by Menzel became an instant international phenomenon, winning the Oscar Award for Best Original Song – where Menzel performed it at the ceremony – and the Grammy Award for Best Song Written for Visual Media. Dinner is included prior to the show. **\$303**

Mare Island Tour

Vallejo

Thursday, September 17

Join us for an exciting and informative guided look at Mare Island. From St. Peters Chapel, home of the largest collection of Tiffany stained-glass windows west of the Mississippi River. Here we will enjoy a short organ performance, then go on to America's first naval shipyard. The walking tour will include several historic sites on Mare Island. We will hop back on the bus for a guided drive around the rest of the island where we will see Old 84, the Navy's first prison, the Old Stables and the Marie Barracks. Along with this fascinating tour, lunch is included to round out the day. **\$164**

An Evening with Lily Tomlin

Gallo Center, Modesto

Saturday, October 10 – 7:30 pm

To say that she is a legend is one of great understatements of all time. Six Emmy awards, two Tony awards, a Drama Desk Award, two Peabody awards and more. “Laugh-In” on television. *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* on Broadway. Film? How about *9 to 5*, *All of Me*, *Nashville* and *Tea with Mussolini*? You name the media, she's been there, done that. You're invited to spend an intimate evening with this living legend of the entertainment world for a night of reminiscing and storytelling. Dinner is included prior to the show. **\$220**

Haggin Art Museum and Lunch on the Green

Stockton

Thursday, October 15

Come join us for a visit to the Haggin Museum. We have not visited in many years so this should be a great treat! The Haggin Museum's collection features fascinating works of art from late 19th and early 20th Century masters to “Golden Age” illustrator J.C. Leyendecker, while the history collection offers visitors a glimpse into the past of the Central Valley and beyond. Along with the permanent collection, they will also be hosting the 63rd Stockton Art League Juried Exhibition during our visit. After our docent-led tour, we will head to lunch at The Reserve at Spanos Park Golf Course. **\$142**

Oh, Mary!

Curran Theatre, San Francisco

Saturday, October 17 – 1:00 pm

Oh, Mary! is a darkly-comedic reimaging of Mary Todd Lincoln's life in the days leading up to the president's assassination, blending historical figures with campy, fictional humor. The play portrays Mary as a temperamental, alcoholic and discontented first lady, desperate to reclaim her past as a cabaret performer while trapped in an unhappy marriage with dear old Abe, who is secretly grappling with his own suppressed desires and the pressures of the Civil War. Winner of two 2025 Tony Awards, the trip includes a boxed lunch served onboard the motorcoach on the way to San Francisco, orchestra seating and a no-host dinner stop after the matinee. **\$244**

Sacred Stones of New Clairvaux (second departure)

New Clairvaux Abby and Vineyard, Vina

Tuesday, October 20

Spend a day in the largely undiscovered northern corner of the valley. We will head to lunch at the Sierra Nevada Taproom in Chico, then continue to witness the amazing Sacred Stones Project at the New Clairvaux Abbey in Vina. Trappist monks worship there in an amazing space incorporating materials from an 800-year-old monastery. It was imported from Spain to the US by none other than William Randolph Hearst, but the big names don't end there. The abbey was reconstructed on the Great Vina Ranch originally owned by Leland Stanford. So many layers of history are here to discover! You will have a guided tour of the abbey followed by a visit to the winery for a tour and tasting. Take in the peaceful view, enjoy the koi pond and visit

the gift shop where you may find that perfect treasure. On the way home we will make a quick stop at Granzella's Gourmet and Gifts in Williams. **\$170 limited space**

Apple Hill and Old Placerville

Thursday, October 29

Enjoy a leisurely ride to Apple Hill where we will make at least three stops at different farms along the way where you can sample the bounty of the season, and perhaps bag a few more for later. There will be plenty of time to browse the many arts and crafts stalls, shop for tasty treats (have you ever tried the Caramelos at High Hill Ranch?) or order a pie to enjoy onsite or bring home. How about both! We will enjoy lunch at one of our stops which is included. On our way home we will make a stop in Old Town Placerville to do a little shopping as well, maybe get a head start on your Christmas shopping. **\$140**

Dracula, A Comedy of Terrors

East Sonora Theater

Saturday, October 31 – 2:00 pm

We cannot think of a better way to spend Halloween than enjoying a *Comedy of Terrors*. Bram Stoker's classic vampire tale gets a hilarious makeover in this lightning-fast farce! With just five actors playing dozens of roles, this laugh-out-loud romp stakes its claim as a gothic comedy for the ages. Expect quick changes, ridiculous accents, high-camp thrills, and a biting sense of humor that will leave you howling. Transylvania, *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors* is perfect for fans of comedy, mystery and the delightfully absurd. We will enjoy lunch prior to the show. Good travelers just might get a treat on the way home! (Only tricks for bad travelers!) **\$176**

Christmas Eve Holiday Feast with Friends

Skates on the Bay, Berkeley

Thursday, December 24

Join your *Sports Leisure* friends for a scrumptious 4-course lunch on Christmas Eve including fellowship and holiday surprises to make the day special. Originally opened in 1984, Skates on the Bay is a beautiful and historic waterfront gathering place with unsurpassed views of San Francisco Bay. The itinerary is intentionally planned with an early meal so that we'll return to Sacramento before dark allowing time to attend family gatherings or evening church services. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up early. **\$252**

THE TOUR CALENDAR (Previously Announced)

Mexico's Copper Canyon

From Ancient Ruins to Ocean Views — One Journey, Endless Wonders

11 Days • October 11-21

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 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 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 Meals – 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 8 dinners, featuring regional flavors
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Phoenix, Door-to-door airport service
- 5000/5800 Gold Passport Points

\$4960 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5755 single – 2 seats available

This tour requires a valid passport

Thanksgiving in New York

It’s the most wonderful time of the year for visiting The Big Apple!

6 Days • November 22-27

HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 nights at the Marriott Marquis Hotel on Times Square
- See two Broadway shows
- Radio City Music Hall Rockettes *Christmas Spectacular*
- Theatre talk with nationally-syndicated critic Peter Filichia
- Visit Liberty and Ellis Islands
- Experience the Museum of Broadway
- Tour the 9/11 Memorial Museum and take in the view at One World Observatory
- See the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade

- 6 memorable meals featuring a spectacular Thanksgiving dinner cruise aboard the *Bateaux New York*
 - Roundtrip airfare to LaGuardia/from Newark
 - Home pick-up and return
 - 6050/6750 Gold Passport Points
- \$6025 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6730 single - 4 seats available**

A Festival of Lights – Thanksgiving at The Mission Inn

Over 10 million lights decorate the grounds – and you are there!

3 Days • November 25-27

For over three decades, **The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa’s Festival of Lights** has captivated the hearts of the SoCal Inland Empire community and is a cherished holiday tradition, earning the title of “Best Public Lights Display” by USA Today. Celebrated annually from late November through early January, the event features over 10 million twinkling lights and festive decorations.

The Main Street Pedestrian Mall transforms into a cheerful Christmas Bazaar filled with food and music while locals sell festive creations. Watch the skaters on the downtown rink. Browse the shops for the perfect holiday gift. The Festival is completely and totally stunning!

Of course, we will have a grand Thanksgiving dinner and you’ll have time to enjoy the Inn and the grounds. There’s even a historic guided tour of the hotel, shopping at a small, local holiday market and a surprise attraction to be announced. What an amazing holiday trip this will be! Reserve early as this experience might go quickly. Package includes round trip air (Ontario), motorcoach transportation, accommodations, 5 meals (2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, Thanksgiving dinner), attraction admissions and the services of a *Sports Leisure* Tour Director.

\$2290 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2580 single - 7 seats available

A Cowboy Country Christmas

Holiday shenanigans deep in the heart of Texas

5 Days • December 1-5

This was our Christmas Mystery Tour destination in 2024. It was one of the highest rated Mystery Tours ever, so we are bringing it back as a known destination. **Grapevine, Texas** is where you are headed. It’s one of the most historical towns in Lone Star State, nestled between Dallas, DFW Airport and Fort Worth. Easy to get to, and lots of simple, traditional Christmas fun at a fair price!

HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights at the Embassy Suites Hotel, complimentary cocktails nightly
 - ICE! – The unique **indoor** Christmas exhibit that is a bit chilly
 - Big Band Swing Concert
 - Texas Star Dinner Theater – a holiday-themed **Murder Mystery** (hopefully the victim isn't one of us!)
 - Reserved bleacher seats for the **Parade of Lights**
 - Time to browse the shops on historic Main Street
 - Tour Fort Worth – experience the **live cattle drive** and have lunch in town
 - Wine Tasting at award-winning Messina Hof Winery
 - 11 meals (4 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners, 1 high tea)
 - Roundtrip air to/from DFW, Door-to-door service
 - 3000/3400 Gold Passport Points
- \$2990 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3395 single - 9 seats available**

Puttin' on the Ritz for Christmas

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

3 Days • December 13-15

1. Relish in the style and convenience of being picked up at your home and driven to the **Sports Leisure Vacation** office where you will board our comfortable motorcoach for the drive to the coast. Savor a Champagne Sunday Brunch in Foster City before continuing on to 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. During your free morning at the resort you're invited to sample the amenities including a coastal trail, beach, gas fire pits overlooking the ocean, a fitness center, indoor pool, hot tub and sauna. A wide variety of spa services are available for an additional cost. Lunch will be hosted, followed in the evening with a visit to Filoli House & Garden all decked out with twinkling lights and festive decorations for the holidays. **(L)**

3. Lunch hosted at a popular seafood restaurant in Half Moon Bay before departing the coast for the return ride to Sacramento. 2000/2400 Gold Passport Points **(L)**

\$1970 p.p/dbl.occ., \$2370 single - 5 seats available

Miami to Key West

Featuring 'Gators in the Everglades and Key Largo

6 Days • January 23-28

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour Miami's Coral Gables, Coconut Grove and South Beach's art deco district
- Take an airboat ride through Everglades Safari Park, perhaps meet an alligator or two
- Overnight Key Largo – dinner at a funky but famous FL Keys seafood diner
- Meet the wildlife: visit a dolphin research center and a butterfly conservatory
- 3 nights in Key West – Marriott La Concha (**best location in town**)
- Cabaret Dinner & Show at La Te Da – meet & greet with performer Randi Roberts
- Truman's Little White House, Hemingway's home, Key West by trolley with Louie, a true local treasure
- The Key West Cooking Show – a demonstration complete with a meal
- 11 meals: 2 breakfasts (limited menu or buffet), 3 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Roundtrip air to Miami/from Key West and door-to-door airport transportation
- 4700/5500 Gold Passport Points

\$4690 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5495 single - 6 seats available

Volcanoes, Orchids & White Pineapple

A Hawaiian Adventure

7 Days • February 21-27

Many have been to Hawaii once, twice or multiple times, but never visited the town of Hilo. It's the gateway to an active volcano and because of the huge amount of rain which falls annually, thousands of orchids of nearly every color of the rainbow are produced on the Hilo side of the island. Then it's on to Kauai to learn about and taste a white pineapple. Tyler tried to grow them in Sacramento, but to no avail. It's definitely a Hawaiian thing. Join us for our "slightly off-the-beaten-track" adventure!

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights Hilo on the Big Island – stay at the Grand Naniloa Hotel
 - All day tour to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, along with Akatsuka Orchids where you'll learn how these delicate flowers are grown
 - Visit the famous Hilo Farmer's Market – over 200 vendors some days, and Lili'uokalani Gardens, located near charming Coconut Island
 - Interisland flights from Hilo/Honolulu/Lihue, Kauai
 - 4 nights at the Kauai Shores Hotel in Kapa'a – right next to the beach
 - 3 sightseeing adventures on the Garden Isle:
 - north to the Botanical Gardens and Princeville for lunch (where Puff the Magic Dragon lives)
 - southwest to Poipu (and the market where the white pineapples, the sweetest fruit on the planet, are found) and Waimea Canyon
 - locally to Lydgate Farms (where they grow amazing chocolate) and the Fern Grotto Cruise
- The package includes 14 meals (6 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners), roundtrip air to Hilo/from Kauai, inter-island flights in Hawaii and door-to-door airport service. 5850/6600 Gold Passport Points

\$5845 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6565 single - 2 seats available