

# Dreamweaving

2024 DREAM BOOK



**Sports Leisure Vacations** LLC

CREATING MEMORABLE TRAVEL EXPERIENCES SINCE 1979

# A Lifetime of Dreams Coming True



Longtime **SLV** staff member Bob Veliky (L) celebrates his birthday with Mark at the office

**A career in the travel industry wasn't part of the plan.** I traveled zero as a kid, mostly because growing up in a 3-child, single parent family meant travel fell down the list, behind things like groceries and bus fare for mom to get to and from work. Disneyland was but a glimmer in our eyes, a travel dream, if you would. Landing on the moon was more likely for the Hoffmann family.

Then life happened. Working at a local park district (Mission Oaks) as a young man gave me the opportunity to be the organizer for trips to baseball games and for the summer Marine World excursion for the kids. When I suddenly had more time, the baseball trips for adults began, informally, in 1977-78.

One day a bus driver commented that the concept of refreshments on the bus and a higher level of service might appeal to the seniors who traveled to Reno/Tahoe casinos on daytrips during the week. (Remember when you had to go to Nevada to gamble?) He was right. Our service started in 1979 and was an instant hit, much to the chagrin of competitors like Greyhound and Amador Stage Lines. Heavy government regulations restricting start-ups like us were about to go away, and Congressman Robert Matsui (who insisted you call him "Bob") stepped into the breach to help a small company that was being treated unfairly. A call from the congressman personally told us we were on our way, free of strangling restrictions, in late 1981.

The rest, as they say, is history. Soon the concept of reserved seating on the bus was hatched. We were the first to offer non-smoking coaches and then the first to go completely non-smoking on all trips. Again, we were ahead of our time, that little company with the funny name. (We were originally Sports Travel, then Sports Leisure Travel, and finally **Sports Leisure Vacations**.) Out ahead in part because we encouraged feedback from our travelers and we listened.

Clients started asking about "far away" destinations like Yosemite, Hearst Castle and the "Skunk Train" from Fort Bragg. Our first overnight tour was to Lake County and we stayed at the Konocti Harbor Inn. A wonderful old home haunted by ghosts at the top of Clear Lake, Robin Hill Food and Spirits, was our first memorable lunch stop.

By 1982, we had made our first trip to Hawaii. Australia and New Zealand followed the next year. Our mailing list grew, as your parents and yes, even your grandparents discovered our services. They told us how we could improve, but more importantly, they told their friends. It was becoming obvious we had something really special. We weren't like the other tour companies, and the people we interacted with on the road were always saying what nice people traveled with us. And they were right.

Travel is not an industry known for high salaries, unless you happen to be an airline pilot or climb to the top of the corporate ladder. For many of us, including myself and I suspect many on the **Sports Leisure** team, we are here because we enjoy what we do. We trade a bank account for a lower salary now, with the advantage of not having to wait until later in life to travel and learn and see and do.

Many of those who travel with **Sports Leisure**, and lifelong friends, look at us with envy. While sometimes our jobs are "never a dull moment" (the plane isn't flying, it's pouring rain, the traffic isn't moving...just to mention a few), they are often filled with wonder and discovery. I have met people on the road who have changed the way I've looked at the journey. Just before this catalog went to press, we completed tours of **Route 66** and **A Pilgrimage to Plains**. Both of them gave us a chance to look at a slice of our country, perhaps in a different light. We met the most fascinating people, made new friends, had our eyes opened, even pet a burro or two...

For most of my adult life, at least formally since the age of 24, I have been a Dream Weaver. I get to be part of a team that creates the dreams, takes our travelers to experience them, and then does the same thing all over again. So when the title of this year's catalog was first floated in a staff meeting, I smiled. Because at **Sports Leisure** we truly are **Dream Weavers**. We are blessed with the most amazing clients, many who become personal friends, to share the journey with. The **Sports Leisure** team is the most amazing group of people to work with. It would be difficult to paint a better picture if you were Rembrandt himself.

So humbly, I say thank you. Thank you for your business, for your referrals and for your friendship. Your support allows us to contribute to regional arts groups, to public television, to local charities, all of whom make our community better.

This is a journey we only get to make once. What an incredible blessing to have so many awesome people to share it with – travelers on their own journey who truly appreciate a great effort. We have shared many places together. The next adventure, big or small, is just around the corner...

Mark Hoffmann, CTP,  
Owner/Founder



# Flexibility is the Name of the Game

Throughout 2023 our earnest request to you, our travelers, has been to “remember the F-word: flexibility.” More than a request, it’s been our mantra. And good advice it is as the travel industry – **Sports Leisure** included – tries to find its way in a world so very different than the one we knew only a few years ago.

As you can see in the pages of our Dream Book, in 2024 – like the year before it – we’re jetting, bussing, training and cruising all over the globe at levels that match or exceed 2019, but things are definitely different now. The world is not the same, so it stands to reason that the business of travel would not be the same. I don’t think different is necessarily better or worse. It’s just different.

A term I use often in reference to our industry is elasticity. In my mind this refers to the ability of a system to react to unexpected forces. For example, let’s say a flight gets cancelled. Over how many future flights will it take the airline to move those travelers to their desired destination? And of equal if not greater importance, how many hours or days will it take to do it? For any given traveler the ramifications could be at least inconvenient and at most catastrophic. Let’s say you were flying to Europe to catch a cruise ship. Arriving a day late could mean missing the boat. And in this case missing the boat quite possibly means missing part or all of your vacation!

Another example: You arrive at a hotel and discover someone neglected to enter part or all of the rooming list into their reservation system. Signed contracts and proof of prepayment count for very little if they don’t have enough rooms to meet your needs. This actually happened to me twice this fall, and on the same trip! I did my job. Someone on their end didn’t. But none of that mattered because both hotels lacked the number of rooms – the elasticity – required to accommodate the entire group. There was quite literally no room in the inns!

So what to do when you can’t have the flight you needed; if the hotel gave your bed to someone else for the night? When you travel with **Sports Leisure Vacations** you are not alone! Your tour director is trained and has the resources to navigate the situation, supported by a full staff of professionals at the office as well as the invaluable assistance of our many friends in travel who live in the region and are familiar with the lay of the land and the suppliers who work there. Often they know of the situation even before the tour director and travelers do, and they’re already working on solutions on our behalf. I’m happy to report that in the two cases mentioned above we did not sleep in the bus! We found alternate hotels that could accommodate our needs, and seemed happy to have the business. But it took time and patience. And above all, flexibility!

Sometimes people ask me why we do things the way we do: Why fly to the port a day or a few days before the cruise departs? Why allow so much time for airport connections? Why plan so much driving time between points A and B? (And especially, “Why leave Sacramento so many hours before the curtain?” I get that one all the time!) Why build in free time when the cost of travel is already so high? In many cases the answer is elasticity. If the industry won’t give us the wiggle room we feel we may need, we have to do it for ourselves in all situations where it is feasible. There is little we can do to combat flight cancellations and hotel error, but we can certainly put in the time necessary to make sure we don’t miss the boat, plane, train, reservation or curtain due to unforeseen circumstances like traffic, road construction, inadequate staffing or the like.



*Sporting his camouflage kilt, Clayton celebrates his birthday in his ancestral homeland of Scotland. What year? Well, it was rather large and ended in zero!*

Admittedly all this may sound a bit discouraging, but the alternative is simply staying home. I don’t think you’d be reading this if that was your intent. So just know this: The leadership and staff of **Sports Leisure Vacations** bring well over 300 years of travel experience to the table. On occasion we may not have any control over what’s happening, but chances are we’ve been there before and have more than a few ideas about righting the situation. With your commitment to flexibility, we’ll make it, and have a memorable time doing it.

We are extremely proud of our 2024 lineup of vacations, and hope you’ll find them dream-worthy as well. We’re offering a cruise through the Mekong Delta of Vietnam and Cambodia, and a tour focusing on the history and wine culture of the Czech Republic, and a three-week tour of the land down under, Australia – all **Sports Leisure** firsts. Do you love National Parks? We’ve got you covered with Yosemite, Zion, Bryce, the Grand Canyon and so many more. Want to stay in an 11th Century Irish castle? Not a problem! From Canada to the Galapagos Islands; Atlantic to Pacific; over the pond to Europe and back again, let us take you from California to the world.

As we approach our 45th anniversary, I humbly pause to thank you for your loyalty, patronage, friendship and trust. I thank you for your fortitude and patience, especially when things have gone a bit sideways. And most of all, I thank you for your flexibility. You mean the world to us... more than words can say.



“Your Tour Guy,”

*Clayton*

**Clayton Whitehead, CTP  
President**

**Postscript:** As *Dream Book* editor I would be remiss if I didn’t thank our staff for their many contributions in the areas of writing, photography and moral support, as well as the graphic expertise of **Liam Heckman** which you will witness on each and every page. To **Kellie Melby**, **Liam** and the entire staff of **Commerce Printing Services** I offer my heartfelt gratitude for jobs well done too numerous to count! Additional thanks goes out to my longtime friend and advisor **Christine Knight** of **Imagesetter**, even though we may never agree on the proper use of the ellipsis or ampersand.



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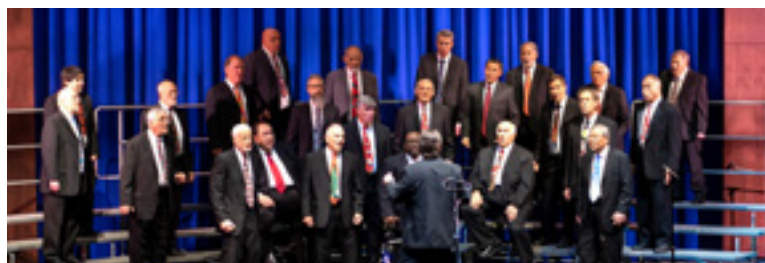
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# Special Member Offer to attend a Local Holiday Concert



## Hollywood Holidays

*Voices of California in Concert*

**Saturday, December 2, 2023 – 2 p.m.**

Richard Brunelle Performance Hall at Davis High School  
315 W. 14th Street, Davis, CA 95616

**Sports Leisure Vacations** travelers are cordially invited to attend Voices of California's 2023 **Hollywood Holidays Concert**. In thanks for the company's support over the years you may purchase two tickets of any value for the price of one until supplies are exhausted. Note: Student seating is limited to the General Admission section. To receive this special offer contact Patsy Miller at 530-621-1904 or [rlund@innercite.com](mailto:rlund@innercite.com) and use the code SLT. She will also collect your payment, either mailing tickets or holding them at Will Call as you prefer. Premium Seating, \$35.00 – General Admission, \$25.00 – Student Seating, \$12.50

## What are your old coins worth?

Millions of years ago, before he started **Sports Leisure**, Mark was a coin collector and even had a booth at the Roseville Auction Yard in his late teens. Now he's taken up collecting (and occasionally selling) coins and currency once again as a hobby. Here's where you come in.



Maybe you have a bag or a box of old coins. Perhaps you inherited a collection when a relative passed. Maybe it's just one or two coins or bills of currency you'd like to know about. If your coins are pre-1964 (50¢, 25¢, 10¢) or pre-1940

(pennies and nickels), or recent coins that are part of mint-issued sets, they may have a premium value. Currency 1935 and before also fits into the "value" category.

But who/where can you take them to get an honest evaluation of their worth? Mark would be happy to give you a free appraisal. If you wish to sell your treasures, that is easy to arrange. Often Mark will offer to purchase them, or get you easily to someone who is interested. You can bring your coins to the office, or for larger heavier collections, Mark can come to you. Just call the office to set up an appointment. Feel free to share this offer with family and friends.

## ACTIVITY METER



As part of our commitment to help you select the perfect vacation, refer to the Activity Meter rating to better understand how it matches your interests, energy and fitness level – 1 is the most leisurely while 5 represents what for many could be an overly-challenging adventure. It's important to note that more than one rating may apply to a tour. For example, some travelers will enjoy a visit to a national park by spending time in the visitors center and taking a seat with a view, whilst others prefer to hike a nature trail. Same destination and tour, but two different levels of activity.

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

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

- 1 Leisurely** – A tour that can be enjoyed by all requiring a minimal amount of walking on city streets and generally level surfaces. There could be a few stairs. A theater daytrip is an example.
- 2 Moderate** – A tour with some walking activities, standing/strolling at attractions and museums, and some stair climbing. A daytrip to the ballpark or a museum exhibition, and short regional trips are examples. A moderate trip could include air or rail transportation and navigating through airports/stations.
- 3 Active** – A tour which includes longer walks and/or walks on uneven surfaces. Days could be longer including air travel days with layovers. Some of your time could be spent at destinations with high altitudes. This is the level for most of our long-distance domestic and Canadian tours, vacations featuring national parks, and the minimum level for an overseas international trip. You should be able to walk 3-6 city blocks in a timely fashion a few times per day. You could find a flight of stairs without handrails, uneven nature trails and the like. Tours with a seaplane or jeep ride, and the ability to climb into the plane/jeep, along with longer rail journeys fall into this category.
- 4 Energetic** – A tour with an emphasis on walking and other physical activities. Most overseas tours fit in this category, as well as many metropolitan domestic tours (New York and Washington, DC, especially). Expect long plane flights and walking longer distances at connections and/or customs. You might have to climb into a boat, carriage or train. You should not consider a tour on this level if you need wheelchair assistance at the airport or other places.
- 5 Challenging** – Tours like these are designed with daily physical activities like hiking and other vigorous pursuits. They can be great travel experiences, but are not typical of most **Sports Leisure Vacations** trips.



# Kaua'i, A Lesson in Hawaiian History & Culture

More than just tourist attractions, a chance to meet the people of Kaua'i

7 Days • February 20-26



A stunning sunset scene from the grounds of our hotel in Kaua'i

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 6 nights Kaua'i Shores Hotel at the Coconut Plantation – completely remodeled rooms at an oceanside hotel, breakfast included each morning, lots of shops and restaurants within an easy walk
- A Hawaiian history lesson at the Kaua'i Museum – Kaua'i is the oldest of the islands
- Visit the Poipu Culinary Market – sample tasty white pineapple and other locally grown coffee, spices and jam
- Ride a helicopter over the island and along the scenic Na Pali Coast (included, but you may opt out and receive a refund)
- Tour Lydgate Chocolate Farms – taste and buy a variety of award-winning chocolate products
- Cruise the famous Fern Grotto
- Fun Food & Beverage Tour - Rum tasting, Kaua'i Coffee, Auntie Liliko'i's, Kaua'i Cookie
- Waimea Canyon Tour "The Grand Canyon of the Pacific"
- Evening comedy entertainment, meet the "White Hawaiian"
- Motor tour of Na 'Aina Kai Botanical Gardens & Sculpture Park
- Viewing of Hanalei Bay (home of legendary Puff The Magic Dragon)
- Top notch local dining experiences – dinner at Wrangler Steakhouse in Wailua, brunch at Gaylord's, lunch in Princeville, welcome dinner at Duke's Canoe Club
- 11 meals: 5 full breakfasts, Sunday brunch, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- 4950/5700 Gold Passport Points

1. Depart Sacramento on Southwest at 8:45am, and after a stop with time for lunch in Honolulu, arrive in Lihue, Kaua'i at 3:20pm. Our welcome meal is at the beautiful Duke's Canoe Club, great food overlooking the Pacific. Check into your home for the next **six nights, the Kaua'i Shores Hotel at Coconut Plantation**. It's a classic property which has just undergone a complete renovation. Modern facilities at a reasonable rate. Your breakfast is included each morning (except Sunday, when you'll head to brunch). **(D)**

2. Begin your Kaua'i education with a visit to the Kaua'i Museum. You are on the oldest of the Hawaiian Islands. There is much history and culture and there is no one better to immerse you in it. Meet "Chucky Boy," who really is Mr. Kaua'i, and with the help of the amazing visuals in the museum, will give you the lay of the land and the people who live on it. After an included lunch, we'll enjoy a bit of a culinary tour, stopping for coffee and cookies (both made on the island), before ending up in Poipu at the weekly **Culinary Market**. You can sample things like white pineapple



You'll meet Chuckie Boy, an expert on the island, at the Kaua'i Museum





*A journey back in time – four of our old friends enjoying their time in the islands*

and other Hawaiian delicacies. Eat/drink your way around the friendly market, chat with the vendors, savor some new flavors! **(FB,L)**

**3.** The western coast of Kaua'i, known as the Na Pali Coast, is not accessible by road. So a helicopter ride is a great way to see the sheer cliffs. Your ride is scheduled for this morning. After lunch at leisure, we'll head to chocolate paradise, Lydgate Farms. They grow cocoa here, and you'll learn all about it on a tour, sample all types of chocolate and have the opportunity to purchase home-grown products if you like. Tonight, a buffet dinner and casual bit of entertainment. Eric Gilliom grew up as a Caucasian with Hawaiian roots. He has a little TV, film and Broadway experience. He's now a stand up entertainer who offers a humorous look at his family and upbringing. **(FB,D)**

**4.** On Kaua'i's east coast are the beautiful Na 'Aina Kai Botanical Gardens. They are so big you need one of their vehicles to see the grounds on a guided tour. Lunch is in Princeville at the upscale Westin Resort. Before we head back to Kapa'a, we'll visit Hanalei Bay (Peter, Paul and Mary pronounced it slightly different and Peter put a magical dragon in the water...) and stop for shave ice! **(FB,L)**

**5.** The morning is free to enjoy the shops at Coconut Plantation, adjacent to your hotel.

After lunch we head to Waimea Canyon, known as the Grand Canyon of the Pacific. On the return trip, an early dinner in Waimea at the Wrangler Steakhouse. Perhaps you'll want to pick up one of the red dirt shirts as a souvenir for yourself or a friend back home? **(FB,D)**

**6.** Our last full day is dominated by a set of traditional attractions. Take a short cruise on the Wailua River to the famous Fern Grotto. Sunday Brunch awaits at Gaylord's and



*The Kaua'i roosters are famous for... you'll find out...*

we'll indulge in another local product, rum, in a post-brunch tasting. Our tour day ends mid-afternoon to give you the opportunity to gather last minute souvenirs. **(BR)**

**7.** Hop over to Honolulu in late morning, and after a layover, catch your non-stop flight home, arriving late evening. Our fleet of cars is waiting to take you promptly to your home. **(FB)**

**\$4940 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5690 single** 3



*A view of the spectacular Na Pali Coast from your helicopter flightseeing adventure*





# The Colorful Carolina Coast

Meander the beautiful Southern Atlantic coastline from Norfolk to Jacksonville

10 Days • March 12-21



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit North Carolina's Outer Banks, Kitty Hawk, New Bern and the *USS North Carolina*
- See South Carolina's Myrtle Beach, Brookgreen Gardens, Charleston and Ft. Sumter
- Enjoy Georgia's first city, Savannah, and historic Jekyll Island
- 2-night stays oceanfront on Myrtle Beach and in the Historic Districts of Charleston and Savannah
- Overnights in Norfolk, the Outer Banks and New Bern
- 17 meals: 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 4 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- Roundtrip air to Norfolk/from Jacksonville
- 5200/6050 Gold Passport Points

1. Travel east to Norfolk, Virginia, your gateway to the colorful Carolina coast. **DoubleTree Hotel Norfolk Airport**

2. Drive along one of America's most unique and scenic geological features, the Outer Banks. Your stops include the birthplace of flight, Kitty Hawk National Monument, and the great Cape Hatteras Lighthouse with "Keeper James" in the lead sharing stories of his beautiful homeland both past and present. Tonight break bread with the church ladies of St. John United Methodist. **Breakwater Inn (FB,L,D)**

3. Two ferries through Pamlico Sound highlight this day of travel which includes lunch served on tiny Ocracoke Island, once the pirate Blackbeard's secret hideaway. Rest well in historic New Bern, Carolina's Royal Capital City and birthplace of Pepsi Cola. **DoubleTree Hotel (CB,L)**

4-5. Say hello to Wilmington, North Carolina's principal port, with a visit to the battleship *USS North Carolina* for a tour and lunch. Myrtle Beach awaits where your

home is an oceanfront condominium with a million dollar view. A lazy day on the beach, dinner and a live musical revue at one of the Strand's popular theatres are on tap for the second day. **Beach Cove Resort – 2 nights (FB,L,D)**

6. Brookgreen Gardens, the nation's largest outdoor sculpture display, is your host for a beautiful morning. Continue south to Charleston for a harbor cruise to Fort Sumter National Monument where the first shots of the Civil War were fired in 1861. You're hotel is on the city's most famous and fashionable street. **Meeting Street Inn – 2 nights (L)**

7. Begin the day with a city tour by horse and carriage. Following you'll have free time to join your Tour Director for a stroll to the Battery, take in a museum, shop the City Market or repose in your historic accommodations! **(CB,D)**

8. Next you're off to the shining city of Savannah. After lunch begin your exploration of the youngest colony's oldest city. **Hilton Garden Inn Historic District – 2 nights (CB,L)**

9. A morning trolley tour passes sites related to Savannah's rich past and present. You'll even hop out at a few. Later in the afternoon, feast to your heart's content at a traditional "Low Country Boil" dinner served with libations on Tybee Island, Savannah's beach. **(FB,D)**

10. Depart for Jekyll Island, hideaway of the rich and famous a century ago. Dine in the historic Millionaire's Village, then head to Jacksonville for your return flight to Sacramento. **(FB,L)**

**\$5190 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6050 single** 3





# Cruising the Panama Canal

Traverse the entire canal aboard Holland America's ms Zaandam

16 Days • March 15-30



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Pre-cruise overnight stay in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida with dinner and sightseeing
- See the Panama Canal, plus ports of call in Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala & Mexico
- Daily shipboard activities and optional shore excursions at every port of call
- 43 meals (not counting midnight buffets!)
- All transfers and port taxes included
- Roundtrip air to Ft. Lauderdale/from San Diego
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Fully escorted by **Sports Leisure** Tour Director
- Gold Passport Points based on cabin

We are proud to partner with **Holland America Line** for this adventure because of its commitment to service and because we know and believe in the quality of its ships, programs and shore excursions. The *ms Zaandam* is a midsize ship which carries passengers with style and grace – it's large enough to offer a host of exciting amenities, but more personal and intimate than the "floating cities" of other cruise lines. Sailing from east to west provides you the advantage of getting the long, cross-country flight out of the way first, leaving just a short hop home from San Diego at the end of the cruise.

Designed to carry fewer guests while offering greater space, the *ms Zaandam* is at once elegant and comfortable with a décor inspired by musical themes. While on board rejuvenate with a spa treatment in the serene Greenhouse Spa & Salon®, indulge in a tantalizing meal at a fine dining restaurant, enjoy daily shipboard activities and/or choose from a variety of optional shore excursions. Most of all, we invite you to simply relax. Is that what cruising is really all about?

2

Prices start at \$4445 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6225 single for outside cabins; \$4050 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5495 single for inside staterooms.

*This vacation requires a valid passport!*

DATE	PORT
March 15	Fly to Ft. Lauderdale (1 night)
March 16	Board the <i>ms Zaandam</i>
March 17-18	Days at Sea
March 19	Cartagena, Columbia
March 20	Traverse the Panama Canal
March 21	Day at Sea
March 22	Puntarenas (Puerto Caldera), Costa Rica
March 23	Corinto, Nicaragua
March 24	Puerta Quetzal, Guatemala
March 25	Huatulco, Mexico
March 26	Day at Sea
March 27	Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
March 28-29	Days at Sea
March 30	Arrive San Diego, return to Sacramento





# Zion & Bryce Canyon National Parks

Featuring two Broadway performances at Tuacahn outdoor amphitheater  
**6 Days • May 21-26**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Tram tour at Zion National Park
- Visit the Kolob section of Zion
- Rim tour at Bryce Canyon
- Two performances at Tuacahn Amphitheater
- 10 meals: 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Las Vegas
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 3550/4100 Gold Passport Points

**1.** Fly to Las Vegas where lunch is hosted before traveling to the town of Springdale, Utah where you will spend the next two nights. Your hotel has incredible red rock views. **Hotel De Novo (previously Majestic View Lodge) – 2 nights (L)**

**2.** Travel into Zion Canyon on a private tram tour viewing the park's towering red rock monoliths as you make your way along the

Virgin River that created these spectacular vistas. The afternoon is free for you to take a walk in the park, visit the shops in the town of Springdale or relax back at the hotel in their inviting outdoor pool. **(FB)**

**3.** Today will surely be a highlight of your travels. After leaving Zion we will make several stops for photos along the way before arriving at Bryce Canyon National Park. Drive along the rim of the canyon making stops at several overlooks to view the large collections of bazaar sandstone formations called "Hoodoos." This evening you will enjoy a country music dinner show next door to our hotel at Ebenezer's Barn and Grill. **Ruby's Inn (FB,L,D)**

**4.** Travel to St. George where lunch is served surrounded by spectacular scenery: volcanic rocks, lush green vegetation

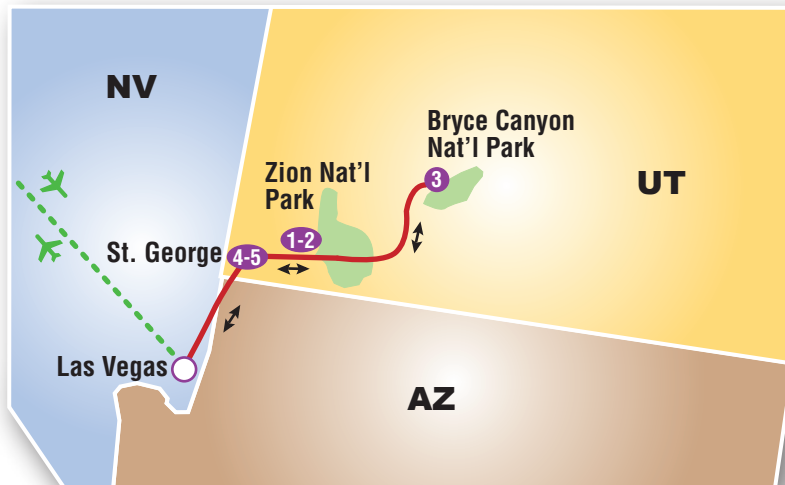
and towering mountains. Tonight, a special treat as we see a performance at the natural outdoor theater tucked in a red rock canyon at Tuacahn Amphitheater. Performers are first rate, all coming from places like New York City, Chicago, Las Vegas and Salt

Lake City. For your first evening under the stars you'll be treated to *Anastasia*. **The Advenire – 2 nights (FB,L)**

**5.** Travel back in time for a unique experience at the Dinosaur Discovery Site, home to exceptionally well-preserved dinosaur tracks. Lunch is hosted at a beautiful resort. Tonight we return to Tuacahn for the beloved Disney musical *Frozen*. **(FB,L)**

**6.** Return to Las Vegas for your afternoon flight home. **(FB)**

**\$3550 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4090 single** 3





# Grand Canyon National Park

Featuring a visit to Bearizona Wildlife Park

5 Days • May 13-17

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights in Flagstaff on this “unpack once” trip
- Guided tour along the rim of the Grand Canyon
- Tour Bearizona Wildlife Park
- Visit Lowell Observatory with private telescope viewing
- Museum of Northern Arizona
- 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Phoenix
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2950/3300 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly direct on Southwest Airlines to Phoenix. Lunch is hosted before arriving at your hotel nestled amongst the Ponderosa Pines in Arizona’s High Country. **Little America, Flagstaff – 4 nights (L)**

2. One of Northern Arizona’s top attractions, Bearizona is a 150 acre drive-through wildlife park that promises to give you a close encounter of the wild kind. Home to bighorn sheep, buffalo, and of course bears, plus many more animals all roaming free. Tonight it’s dinner and a show at a popular Flagstaff dining institution. **(FB,D)**

3. This morning enjoy a docent-led tour of the Museum of Northern Arizona before we go to the Grand Canyon to learn about the arts, culture and science of the Colorado Plateau. At Lowell Observatory your tour will include the Historic Clark Refractor dating back to 1896 and the telescope that discovered Pluto! Tonight we will head back

to Lowell for private stargazing using the new 24” Dyer Telescope and a laser-guided constellation tour. **(FB,L)**

4. Enter one of the world’s greatest natural wonders, Grand Canyon National Park, and take a private guided tour along the rim to Hermits Rest. Capture the colors of the canyon during your photo stops along the way. This afternoon visit the Bright Angel History Room telling the story of Fred Harvey and his Harvey Girls, shop at the historic Hopi House or take a stroll along “The Trail of Time,” an interpretive geological timeline along the rim offering

up breathtaking vistas. Before exiting the park’s east gate we will stop at The Desert View Watchtower. Constructed in 1932, it’s a replica of a prehistoric 70-foot Indian tower and commands a magnificent view of the Grand Canyon and the Painted Desert. During your visit don’t miss the interior walls of the tower featuring murals by Hopi artist Fred Kabotie. **(FB)**

5. Travel back to Phoenix this morning for a special musical lunch performance before flying home. **(FB,L)**

**\$2950 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3255 single** 2





## Springtime in Monterey

*Experience Cannery Row, 17 Mile Drive and Carmel-by-the-Sea*  
**4 Days • April 7-10**

**1.** Begin with a ride aboard our comfortable motorcoach bound for the coast. Enjoy a lavish brunch and the coastal drive down Highway 1, arriving in Monterey in the late afternoon. Your hotel offers a complimentary wine reception in the evenings. **Victorian Inn – 3 nights (BR)**

**2.** Embark on an agricultural education driving tour of the Salinas Valley this morning. Your local guide worked as a scientist for the University of California Cooperative Extension Service in Salinas

conducting research in vegetable and wine grape production. During the tour observe field harvesting, land preparation, irrigation and bountiful crops including lettuce, strawberries, celery, cauliflower and artichokes. Sample fresh berries and fried artichokes along the way. Lunch is hosted at a famous seafood restaurant with the late afternoon and evening at your leisure on Cannery Row. **(CB,L)**


**3.** Travel with a local guide from historic downtown and Cannery Row to the famous

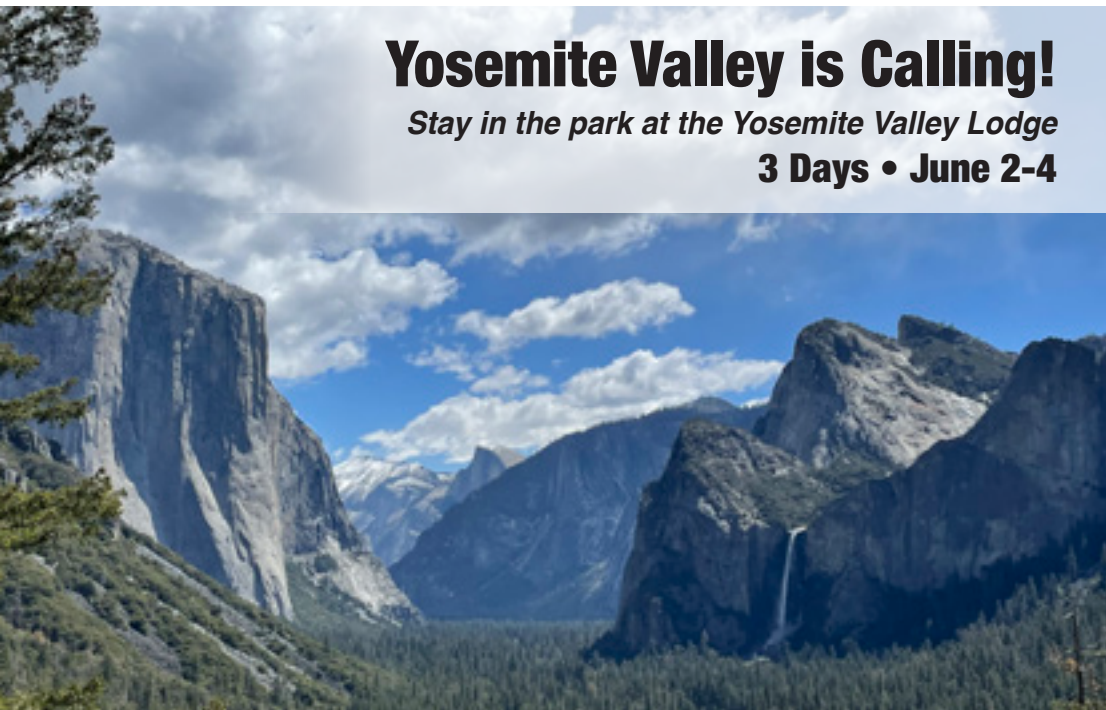
### HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour the famous 17 Mile Drive
- Agriculture tour of the Salinas Valley
- Gilroy Gardens' Circus Trees
- 7 meals: 3 continental breakfasts, 1 brunch and 3 lunches
- Door-to-door service to and from the **Sports Leisure** office
- Travel with ease on this all-motorcoach tour – no airports!
- 1900/2200 Gold Passport Points

17 Mile Drive through Pebble Beach to Carmel where lunch is served. In the afternoon enjoy some free time for shopping or wine tasting in this posh coastal community. **(CB,L)**

**4.** At Gilroy Gardens you will be amazed at your unique docent-guided tour of the gardens and their 19 Circus Trees. Intricate grafting techniques resulted in woven wonders made from threads of living wood. Straight tree trunks and branches were carefully bent rather than cut, and became complex and compound designs in shapes like hearts, lightning bolts, basket weaves and rings. Stop for a hosted lunch on the way back to Sacramento, returning about 5:00 pm. **(CB,L)**

**\$1880 p.p./dl.occ., \$2175 single** 



## Yosemite Valley is Calling!

*Stay in the park at the Yosemite Valley Lodge*  
**3 Days • June 2-4**

**1.** Travel via deluxe motorcoach to one of our county's most spectacular gems, Yosemite National Park. Celebrated by John Muir and President Teddy Roosevelt, and shared with the world largely through the photographs of Ansel Adams, the iconic images we hold in our minds of Half Dome

and El Capitan are as much a part of the American mosaic as baseball and apple pie. Stay two nights in the middle of it all where Lodge rooms all have balconies or patios as well as refrigerators. **Yosemite Valley Lodge – 2 nights (L)**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights at the Yosemite Valley Lodge
- Guided Valley Floor and Glacier Point tours
- Lunch at the storied Ahwahnee Hotel
- 4 meals: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches
- Door-to-door transportation
- 1600/2000 Gold Passport Points

**2.** Tour Yosemite National Park's valley floor, then travel to Glacier Point to capture awe-inspiring photos of Yosemite's famous waterfalls and the distant mountains of the High Sierra. Highlights include El Capitan, Bridal Veil Falls, Half Dome, Yosemite Falls and Tunnel View. **(FB)**

**3.** Enjoy some free time this morning, perhaps taking the short walk over to Yosemite Falls. Lunch is hosted in the Ahwahnee Hotel's majestic dining room known for its stunning architecture and interior design with lavish vaulted ceilings, beautiful chandeliers and inlaid wood. If these walls could talk! Travel back to Sacramento arriving in the late afternoon. **(FB,L)**

**\$1595 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1965 single** 

# CALIFORNIA TEASERS



Send an e-mail to [res@sportsleisure.com](mailto:res@sportsleisure.com) asking to be placed on the **Priority Notification List** for any or all of the following that strike your fancy. In doing so you are literally casting a vote for that tour idea. If interest is sufficient and we move forward in planning the trip, you will be among the first notified to register and take advantage of the Early Payment Di\$counts offered.

## The Hollywood Experience

*Including a live performance at the iconic Hollywood Bowl*

**3 Days • September 2024**

Fly to Los Angeles for a star-studded Tinseltown experience. Tour Hollywood and Beverly Hills, a movie studio and the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures (think Academy Awards). Accommodations will be at the Hilton Garden Inn located in Hollywood only a few blocks off the Walk of Fame, the Chinese Theatre and so much more. It's too early to set the dates as we await the release of the 2024 performance schedule at the famous Hollywood Bowl where you'll enjoy a stellar live performance under the stars.



## San Diego Roar and Snore, Glamping at its Best

*Featuring an overnight in the San Diego Wild Animal Park ("glamping") followed by two nights in a real hotel*

**4 Days • Autumn 2024**

Pack your "trunk" for a sleepover adventure at the Wild Animal Park! Glamping is "camping with comfort," where stunning nature meets modern luxury. It's a way to experience the untamed without having to sacrifice creature comforts. Time at the Park includes an after-hours look at the lives of wildlife, guided walks and s'mores 'round the campfire. The next day features a VIP open-air safari experience before heading into San Diego for some world-class sightseeing and meals in this stunning SoCal city by the bay... along with a real hotel!



## Santa Cruzin' at the Dream Inn

*Let's go to the beach!*

**3 Days • October 15-17, 2024**

After a few years' hiatus, we think it's about time to return to Santa Cruz and check into the iconic Dream Inn for two incredible nights. A favorite of Sports Leisure travelers for years and best loved for its relaxed vibe and oceanfront rooms, your stay here is just the place to be to reset and unwind. You're a 7-minute walk from dining on the Wharf and the Beach Boardwalk is only 11 minutes away. But who's counting? You're on Santa Cruz time!





## The Capital to the Big Apple

A fast-paced visit to two of our nation's most spectacular cities

7 Days • April 25 – May 1

1. An early morning departure will have you in DC by late afternoon in time for dinner and a good night's rest. **Hilton Hotel National Mall – 3 nights (D)**

2. Embark on a comprehensive city tour with an informative local guide who will spin tales of Washington's dynamic past and present while orienting you to the National Mall, ending with a visit to the hallowed halls of the United States Capitol. **(L)**

3. Return to the National Mall, home of the Smithsonian Institution and many of our National Museums, for an opportunity to explore to your heart's content. What is it you'll wish to discover? Dorothy's red ruby slippers? The gowns of the First Ladies? Priceless works of art? The Hope Diamond? A moon rock? The bones of a prehistoric whatchamacallitasaurus? They're all there, and so very much more in this, the largest museum collection in the world! After an early dinner head to the Kennedy Center for a performance of the Sensational Illusionists. The best-selling magic show in

the world returns to North America with a brand new line-up of tricksters, conjurers and illusionists. Guaranteed to astound, baffle and entertain, this magic spectacular has played to sell-out crowds the world over. **(D)**

4. All aboard for the Big Apple. We will travel by train and arrive at Pennsylvania Station in a mere four hours. Upon arrival we will have a highlights tour of NYC prior to reaching our Times Square hotel. The family-style Italian feast at Carmines, a Theatre District tradition, concludes the day. **Marriott Marquis – 3 nights (D)**

5. The day begins with the "Behind Broadway" experience, giving you a feel for how it all works – auditions, rehearsals, readings, financing reviews – you name it, you will learn about it. We will take you behind the scenes to meet performers and even a veteran Broadway reviewer; an "audience matchmaker" as our friend Peter Filichia likes to refer to his talents. We will take a break for lunch at an authentic

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Three nights each in Washington, DC and on Times Square
- Visit the US Capitol, Smithsonian Institution and National Museums
- Three nights of theatre: Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Broadway
- DC to NYC by train
- "Behind Broadway" experience – go behind the curtain and meet the people who make the show happen
- Ferry to Liberty and Ellis Islands
- See the *real* Little Italy in Da Bronx
- 7 meals: 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- Door-to-door service
- 4800/5500 Gold Passport Points

New York Jewish delicatessen, and return to the hotel mid-afternoon for a short break. Soon you're off to an early dinner and a performance by the New York Pops Orchestra at famed Carnegie Hall. **(L,D)**

6. Take the subway Downtown to Battery Park where you'll board the ferry bound for Liberty and Ellis Islands. So many inspiring American stories rise from these two islands! Some may elect to move at a faster pace, leaving time to explore other nearby sites such as the World Trade Center, South Street Seaport, Wall Street or Bowling Green. In the evening the curtain rises on a Broadway show. Our selection will be announced after the first of the year.

7. This morning we are off to "Da Bronx." Learn the story of how this neighborhood got its unique name – see the sights, meet the people and dine in a neighborhood Italian restaurant. After lunch visit pastry and pasta shops for dessert and a souvenir taste of the Bronx. Visit a NYPD Precinct and NYFD Company – meet the first-responders who keep the city safe. After a fun filled day we will make our way to the airport and return home to Sacramento in the evening. **(L)**

**\$4770 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5500 single** **4**



# 45 years ago *Sports Travel* started by taking fans to baseball games... and we are still doing it!



## Spring Training in Arizona

5 Days • March 7-11

Join us for our annual visit to Arizona for pre-season baseball in the sunshine. We'll watch Giants and A's players get ready for the regular season (and see a few who will end up River Cats). The package includes five games as listed below, plus a baseball dinner with a special guest (former player, coach, broadcaster).

### Thursday, March 7

Giants at LA Dodgers

### Tuesday, March 8

San Diego Padres at Giants

### Saturday, March 9

Giants at Oakland A's

### Sunday, March 10

Giants at Seattle Mariners

### Monday, March 11

Giants at Kansas City Royals

Our accommodations are at the **Marriott Phoenix Airport**, a beautiful property we have stayed at for many years. In addition, we'll enjoy a variety of sightseeing: Hall of Flame, Arizona History Museum (with artifacts such as Geronimo's rifle) and the Desert Botanical Garden.

Traditionally we dine at Rustler's Roost one night overlooking the valley. Breakfast is included each morning at your hotel. Fly roundtrip on Southwest Airlines. 2850/3250 Gold Passport Points.

**\$2835 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3235 single** 2

## Giants/Cubs Baseball at Wrigley Field

5 Days • June 16-20

If you are a fan of our National Pastime and you have never attended a game at Wrigley Field in Chicago, then you are missing a piece of your baseball journey. Chicago is such a great baseball/sports town. The Giants will be visiting and we'll catch three games at Wrigley Field. One day we'll head to the south side (Wrigley is north side) for a tour of the White Sox park. We'll have a lunch with a baseball speaker to hear about the history of Chicago Baseball.

Dine one night at Harry Carey's and have a lunch at Lou Mitchell's, a famous Route 66 landmark restaurant. The Billy Goat Tavern is a must stop and a Chicago baseball legend, and you'll want to get a photo of "Mr. Cub" at the Ernie Banks Memorial at Graceland Cemetery. There's a tour of the Windy City including a walking tour of the neighborhood around Wrigley, known as Wrigleyville, and time at the Chicago Sports Museum. Roundtrip non-stop flights on Southwest or United, hotel TBA.

**Call and make reservations now, no obligation – prices in December** 2

## Seattle – Giants/Mariners Baseball and/or Sights in the Emerald City

4 Days • August 25-28

Two different itineraries will be offered, sharing the same hotel and air flights. You can pick from an itinerary which includes three Giants/Seattle Mariners games and

sightseeing, or an itinerary that is without baseball at all. Both groups will stay at the **Embassy Suites Southside Seattle**, enjoying large rooms and complimentary breakfast each morning. The itineraries are dependent on game times which will be announced in November.

Here's a brief list of planned attractions:

City Tour of Seattle  
Snoqualmie Falls  
The Space Needle  
Pike Place Market  
Cruise through the Seattle Locks  
Chihuly Garden and Glass  
The Museum of Flight  
Giants/Mariners Triple-Header

As you can see, there's no shortage of things to see and do. We'll add in a lunch at Ivar's, another at the Salish Lodge and dinner at Anthony's. Those attending the baseball games will get to do many of the listed attractions. Call and place your name on the list, and please indicate if you are interested in baseball and sightseeing, or just the sightseeing itinerary.

**Call and make reservations now, no obligation – prices in December** 2

## Giants Games at Oracle Park

Our schedule of daytrips to Giants games at Oracle will be announced **January 2, 2024**. If you traveled with us on a baseball trip this year, you will automatically be sent the schedule (and it will be posted at [www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com)). Otherwise, give us a call or email after the first of the year and we'll get a schedule to you.





# California's Redwoods and the Oregon Coast: Berry Nice

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

7 Days • June 17-23

At Washed Ashore in Brandon they take garbage from the ocean and turn it into amazing pieces of art like this one



The giant trees tower above us at Humboldt Redwoods State Park

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Fly to Portland on Southwest Airlines, return to Sacramento by coach
- First day – A Very Berry Experience – learn how the Marionberry was created in Oregon with milkshakes for all
- Behind-the-scenes visit to the Oregon Aquarium
- Cocktails n' Crabbin' Cruise on Newport Harbor
- 2 nights Newport at the **Elizabeth Street Suites**, every room with a full view of the ocean; 2 nights at **The Mill Hotel/Casino** in Coos Bay; overnight **Gold Beach** and Garberville
- 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 shops in Bandon – Washed Ashore, Misty Meadows Jams and Cranberry Sweets
- Ride a Rogue River Mailboat
- Redwoods National Park; guided drive on the "Avenue of the Giants" in California Redwoods State Park
- 14 meals – 3 breakfasts, 3 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Door-to-door service
- 2950/3450 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly to Portland, then make your way back down the most spectacular coast in the country by motorcoach, stopping for adventure all along the way. Your first stop is Smith's Berry Barn where you'll sample some berry treats and learn about Oregon's very own berry! In McMinnville you'll see the famous *Spruce Goose* experimental aircraft. On to the coast and Newport where complimentary salmon chowder is served at the hotel and every room has a full view

of the ocean. A shuttle is available for those wishing to go into town. **Elizabeth Inn Suites – 2 nights (L)**

2. The Oregon Aquarium offers a great opportunity to "meet" some of the local marine wildlife. We have a better idea. It's the behind-the-scenes tour where you'll get up close and personal with the critters. There's time for lunch and browsing on the waterfront, then a free afternoon to enjoy the view, perhaps take a walk on the beach. A cocktail cruise on the bay is followed by dinner at Clearwater, the best 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, the perfect place for lunch. Just a bit further south are the sand dunes. You can board a big buggy and wander over the dunes, or a smaller buggy (still with a driver) for a more adventurous ride. We might catch a herd of elk grazing in the afternoon shadows of Dean Creek before arriving in Coos Bay. **The Mill Hotel/Casino – 2 nights (B)**

4. Spend the day exploring some wonderful off-the-beaten-track attractions 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, a salmon bake has been arranged in your honor (alternate entrée available). **(FB,D)**

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

6. A morning drive brings you back to California and Redwoods National Park. A stop at the Visitors Center gives you the opportunity to learn about these magnificent trees. After lunch in Eureka, we are joined by a step-on guide as we make our way through Humboldt Redwoods State Park. **Best Western Garberville (FB,L,D)**

7. Leave the trees and the coast behind as we make our way home on Highways 101 and 20, and I-5. Stop at Granzella's in Williams for a late lunch, arriving in Sacramento about 5pm. It's a Sunday, so no worries with the traffic. **(B,L)**

\$2920 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3445 single 2





# Historic Fort Bragg, Training By The Ocean

Ride the old Skunk Train, enjoy North Coast Hospitality

3 Days • July 9-11



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Two nights at the Harbor Lite Lodge overlooking Noyo Harbor
- Ride the Skunk Train to Pudding Creek, view the Redwoods
- Explore the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens
- Walking/coach tour of historic downtown Fort Bragg
- Learn more about the giant trees at Mendocino Burlwood
- 6 meals: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door service
- 1450/1600 Gold Passport Points

Fort Bragg used to hold a spot on our calendar every year, sometimes twice. We would drive up, see *The Footlighters* (an old-time locally produced melodrama), visit the gardens and ride the train back to Willits. Alas, ten years ago a tunnel on the train route gave way, dumping thousands of tons of rock onto the track. Restoring the full route has and will continue to cost a tremendous amount of dollars, so the train today runs a short 3-mile route along Pudding Creek. The *Footlighters* have gone to melodrama heaven, but there are still plenty of reasons to visit the North Coast. There is so much history in the area, and because of its remote location, not everyone makes it up this way. Native Americans lived here (and still do), and the Union Lumber Company practically was the town for decades.

**1.** From Sacramento we make our way up I-5 to Williams, then west on Route 20 into Lake County where we'll stop for lunch at the Blue Wing Saloon, part of the historic Tallman Hotel. Travel on through Willits, arriving in Fort Bragg in the mid-afternoon. Your accommodations for **two nights** are at the **Harbor Lite Lodge**, overlooking Noyo Harbor below. Before dinner, a short walking/driving tour is offered. The city of Fort Bragg, yes, the *whole* city, is a California Historic Landmark. Learn of its logging history when the Skunk Trains were introduced and see the only two power poles made of redwood remaining from the old mill days (there's a cool story there!). The beautiful First Baptist Church also represents a great piece of local history and is a magnificent photo stop. Dinner is served at a popular local restaurant with options including locally-caught seafood. **(L,D)**

**2.** After breakfast, our first stop on a busy Fort Bragg day is at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. A docent leads us on a guided walk through the gardens, telling us the story of the couple who founded the site in 1961. Break for lunch at your leisure downtown, then board the famous Skunk Train for the short ride to Pudding Creek in early afternoon. Then we'll teach you a little about how table tops and the like are made from redwood burls. Back at your hotel, enjoy the view and a little down time. Dinner is included again this evening. **(B,D)**

**3.** Before the ride back to the valley, let's take a few minutes and walk the .6 mile accessible boardwalk loop trail at MacKerricher State Park. The park was at one time part of the Mendocino Indian Reservation as well as a part of the Union Lumber Company. It is located three miles north of Fort Bragg on Highway 1, near the town of Cleone. Our lunch stop is in Willits with the return to Sacramento slated for 4-5 pm. Our fleet of cars will be waiting at the *Sports Leisure* office to return you to your home. **(B,L)**

**\$1420 p.p./dbloc., \$1590 single** **2**



*The old Skunk Train steams along Pudding Creek near Ft. Bragg*



# From Boston to the Shores of Old Cape Cod

Visit Boston, Martha's Vineyard, Provincetown and Nantucket

8 Days • May 31 – June 7



## HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights Boston, 2 nights Provincetown on the Cape, overnight Hyannis, 2 nights Nantucket
- 4 ferry rides Boston-Provincetown and Hyannis-Martha's Vineyard-Nantucket-Hyannis
- Guided tours of Boston, Provincetown, Cape Cod National Seashore, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard
- Ride the famous Swan Boats on Boston Common
- Tour the JFK Presidential Library
- 14 meals: Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 5 dinners including a lobster feast
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Boston
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 4750/5200 Gold Passport Points

1. Arrive in Boston about 5:30 pm and transfer to your hotel. Dinner is at your leisure. **Hyatt Regency Boston – 2 nights**

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

3. Board a high-speed ferry for a 90-minute morning cruise to Provincetown. After lunch we will visit Provincetown Museum and the Pilgrim's Monument. Your waterfront hotel is down a charming country lane, walkable to the center of town. **Surfside Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

4. Tour by trolley to discover the rich history and unique flair of this "end of the road"

community. In a special SUV climb the sand dunes for amazing views of the Atlantic Ocean! After lunch, spend the afternoon in town or relax and enjoy the waterfront bay view at your hotel. **(B,L)**

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

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

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

8. Depart Nantucket by ferry this morning. Presidential Libraries are always popular and today's itinerary features a visit to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. Your return flight is from Boston. **(B,L)**

\$4740 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5185 single **3**



Our gang having a break at the famous Cheers bar in Boston





# Ferries and Towns of Puget Sound

One of our longest running and most popular tours - Ride the ferry boats around the sound, walk the streets of small towns, enjoy a room with a terrific view, visit a national park

5 Days • July 21-25



1. Fly non-stop to Seattle. Enjoy brunch at Anthony's (with a view) near the airport. The afternoon ferry ride to Bainbridge Island is the second longest (35 minutes) and one of the most scenic on the sound. Suquamish is the home of the late Chief Seattle, the Native American who convinced his people to accept the coming of white settlers. Visit the museum and the Chief's grave, and hear his incredible story.

Your lodging for **four nights** is at the beautiful **Clearwater Casino Resort**, overlooking the waters of Puget Sound. For a Welcome Dinner we've arranged a lovely private buffet on the patio. Walk along the sound, sit outside near the fire ring in the evening, it's really one of the most wonderful accommodations in our entire catalog. The tour days are of reasonable length, so you'll have time to enjoy this beautiful resort. There are dining choices on property. (Note: The lodge building is completely separate from the casino – a 3 minute walk.) **(BR,D)**

2. Just down the road from our waterfront home is Poulsbo. Founded by Scandinavian immigrants in the 1880's, today it's a popular tourist destination. We've arranged a short guided walking tour, along with a visit to Sluy's, the town's legendary bakery, where you can pick out a **FREE** treat after lunch! Port Gamble is another colorful little



Part of the view from your porch/balcony at the Clearwater Resort

spot in the Pacific Northwest. The old mill town has been restored and is a National Historical Landmark. Our visit includes a casual outdoor dinner and tour of the local museum, said to be haunted. We'll get the details from a "ghost's point of view..." **(FB,D)**

3. More ferry rides today! Travel to the waterfront village of Port Townsend and board the boat for the ride across the sound to Whidbey Island and back. Off the ferry, explore the shops of Port Townsend, pick a spot for lunch and enjoy a local treat and a bit of (bawdy) history involving sailors and local "ladies." Dinner is in Poulsbo with a decidedly local twist, as the Sons of Norway Hall hosts us for Norwegian-style dining and perhaps entertainment. **(FB,D)**

4. Off to visit Olympia National Park this morning featuring a stop at Hurricane Ridge and spectacular mountain views. Back down at sea level, we'll have two stops in quaint Sequim for lavender and lunch. Eat at a popular diner downtown and then visit a lavender farm. Take some home if you wish and be sure to sample their other products. Ever eat ice cream laced with lavender? It's yummy! **(FB,L)**

5. Travel south to Bremerton for the longest scenic ferry trip across the sound. First, an important stop. There is a small memorial here honoring some of the first Japanese-Americans to be taken away to internment camps from Bainbridge Island. Their story is important and it's slightly different from the internment camp sites. This is an *exclusion* memorial. We'll have lunch before we catch the ferry across the sound, then head to the airport and our late afternoon flight home. **(FB,L)**

\$2805 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3190 single **2**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 ferry rides on Puget Sound, including Seattle/Bainbridge Island
- Visit the villages of Poulsbo, Sequim, Port Gamble and Port Townsend as you make your way around the sound
- Guided tours: Poulsbo, learn about the town's Norwegian heritage; Olympic National Park
- 4 nights Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish – gaming for those who enjoy it; beautiful views for those who don't
- Visit the grave of Chief Seattle, the Suquamish Tribal Museum and the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial – local landmarks which tell the history of the region
- 10 meals: Sunday Brunch (plated), 4 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Seattle
- 2850/3200 Gold Passport Points



Visit the grave of Chief Seattle/Sealth and hear his story





# San Juan Islands Explorer Cruise

Featuring a full day excursion on the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway  
**6 Days • August 3-8**

**1.** Arrive in Seattle and head north to Bellingham. Lunch is hosted before arriving at your hotel for the next two nights. **Four Points by Sheraton Bellingham – 2 nights (L)**

**2.** Drive the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway as it winds through farmland, small communities and towering evergreens to the mountain's majestic snowcapped peak. Walking trails and photo opportunities abound. **(FB,L)**

**3.** Board your private motor yacht with lunch served as you set sail through Puget Sound and begin your first day of exploration in the San Juan Islands. Our captain will determine the best routing based on current wildlife reports. The day ends in the picturesque village of Friday Harbor. **Friday Harbor Suites – 2 nights (FB,L)**

**4.** Be on the lookout for wildlife in the air, on the land and in the sea as you cruise the waters of Puget Sound.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Three days of cruising on a private yacht
- 2 nights in Friday Harbor
- Travel the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway
- Visit the quaint town of La Conner and posh Roche Harbor
- Guided tour of San Juan Island
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Seattle
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 11 meals: 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 dinner
- 3800/4300 Gold Passport Points

Perhaps you'll see a pod of resident orca whales as you make your way to La Conner, a vibrant artist enclave. Stroll along the waterfront boardwalk and down the main street lined with unique boutiques and shops. Return to Friday Harbor in time for a scrumptious dinner. **(FB,D)**

**5.** Tour San Juan Island by coach stopping at numerous historical and scenic spots. Get a glimpse of the posh life at the exclusive Roche Harbor Resort. There is big money here! Whimsical and elaborate art installations are on display at the San Juan Sculpture Park, the largest in the Pacific Northwest. Enjoy some free time in town before boarding your yacht. A decadent cracked Dungeness crab lunch is served onboard (non-seafood options available) while you set sail traversing narrow passages past uninhabited islands on your return to the mainland. **Four Points by Sheraton Bellingham (FB,L)**

**6.** Enjoy a restful morning. You've earned it! Lunch is included before your flight home from Seattle. **(FB,L)**

**\$3790 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4255 single** 2



# Mainely Maine

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

7 Days • August 22-28



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

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

3. Tour the Equestrian Center at Pineland Farms before lunch on your own at their market featuring fresh local ingredients. Continue to the mountain village of Bethel for a stop at the Maine Balsam Fir Factory. The fragrant wood is used in a wide array of items. Make your own balsam souvenir bag! After checking into your mountainside resort, join a guided moose-viewing expedition in Grafton Notch State Park. Dinner is included at your resort with s'mores for dessert prepared by a crackling campfire. **Sunday River Resort Hotel (B,D)**

4. Near the Capital City of Augusta, visit the Cabin Masters Homestead Headquarters, ground zero for the popular "Maine Cabin Masters" TV series. Now it's time to head "downeast." Upon arrival in Bar Harbor explore the Abbe Museum's extensive collection of historical and cultural artifacts of the four Native American tribes in the

region. Tonight's dinner is a traditional Maine lobsterbake (because one lobster meal just isn't enough)! Bring your appetite and camera to capture the moment as the lid is raised revealing a colorful feast!

**Atlantic Oceanside Resort – 2 nights (B,L,D)**

5. Wake up beside the calm and stillness of Frenchman's Bay, then set sail aboard a lobster boat for a glimpse into the commercial lobster industry. It's not as easy as it may seem! Back in Bar Harbor enjoy some time exploring the village on your own before touring Acadia National Park with a local guide. Climb to the top of Cadillac Mountain for sweeping coastal views, hear the roar of crashing waves at Thunder Hole and revel in the quiet beauty of the inland scenery. This evening after dinner, attend "The Olympics of the Forest," the Great Maine Lumberjack Show chunk full of skill, brawn and laughter. **(B,D)**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay 2 nights in Portland's Old Port and Bar Harbor
- Overnights in Bethel and Bath
- Guided tours of Portland, Kennebunkport and Acadia National Park
- Take a ride on a real lobster boat plus an aquaculture/wildlife cruise
- Join a moose-viewing expedition in the western mountains
- Abbe and Maine Maritime Museums, Maine Cabin Masters Headquarters
- 13 meals: breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 5 dinners (including two lobsterbakes)
- Door-to-door airport service
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Portland, ME
- 4200/4750 Gold Passport Points

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

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

**\$4165 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4730 single** 3



# Tulips of Ottawa & Niagara Falls

Roaring Niagara and Tulips in Ottawa, both at their springtime best

7 Days • May 14-20



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience Niagara Falls from above and below, by day and night
- Visit quaint Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Cruise the Thousand Islands
- Kingston, Canada's first Capital City
- Explore the best of Ottawa during the Canadian Tulip Festival
- 10 meals: 5 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners including Oh Canada Eh? Dinner Theatre
- Roundtrip air to Buffalo/from Ottawa
- Door-to-door airport service
- 4500/5000 Gold Passport Points



**1.** Arrive in Buffalo in the late afternoon and have dinner before crossing the border into Canada. Your hotel features stunning fallsview rooms. Upon arrival you must simply have a seat and take in the breathtaking vista before you. Best of all, you can do it all over again tomorrow!  
**Hilton Niagara Fallsview Hotel – 2 nights (D)**

**2.** Discover the village of Niagara-on-the-Lake in the morning, located where the Niagara River empties into Lake Ontario. Browse the quaint shops, have lunch at your leisure and savor the flavor of the region's famed ice wine! Back at the falls don your slicker and take the plunge aboard the Hornblower cruise to the base of the falls. There you'll witness the sheer magnitude of the world's most powerful falls, as 85,000 cubic feet of water per second crashes roundabout you. After drying out a bit, dinner is served with a view at the popular Table Rock House Restaurant. **(FB,D)**

**3.** It's a travel day "over the river and through the woods" of Ontario including scenic Prince Edward County, a historically British Loyalist island enclave. Take the ferry at Glenora back to the mainland and continue onward to Kingston, the first capital of Canada. Your hotel is located downtown so you can enjoy the pulse of this vibrant lakefront community in the evening.  
**Kingston Market Square Hotel (FB,L)**

**4.** At the town of Gananoque embark on a scenic St. Lawrence River cruise through

the area known as the Thousand Islands. (There are actually 1864...and yes, the famous salad dressing originated here!) Equally shared by Ontario and New York State, the islands have been a vacation wonderland since the 19th Century. Onwards to Ottawa, Canada's colorful Capital City. **Lord Elgin Hotel – 3 nights (B,D)**

**5.** Its Tulip Time in Ottawa! Discover the rich culture, history and most beautiful gardens on a guided city tour including a cruise on the scenic Rideau Canal during the annual Canadian Tulip Festival. Tonight's dinner is an experience like none other. Great food and side-splitting frivolity are standard fare at the Oh Canada Eh? Dinner Theatre. **(FB,D)**

**6.** Ottawa is actually half of a twin city. Across the river is Gatineau, Quebec – home to the Canadian Museum of History Museum which you'll explore today. Think our Smithsonian Institution, but everything's conveniently located under one roof. The afternoon and evening are free for continued Tulip Festival activities or your personal exploration. There's even a casino if you're feeling lucky! **(FB)**

**7.** After a leisurely morning you'll be away to the airport for the return flight to California. **(FB)**

**\$4480 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4990 single** **3**  
*This vacation requires a valid passport!*





# Jasper National Park and the Canadian Rockies (A Fairmont Experience)

*A breathtaking journey through the majestic Canadian Rockies*  
**7 Days • May ???**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- All Fairmont (former Canadian Pacific) Hotels including 4 nights at the stunning Jasper Park Lodge
- Overnights in Edmonton and Calgary with museums
- Visit Maligne Lake, Columbia Icefields, Jasper (town and National Park)
- Take the Icefields Parkway to Lake Louise and Banff
- Lunches on Maligne Lake cruise and high atop the Calgary Tower
- 10 meals: 4 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- Roundtrip air to Edmonton/from Calgary
- Door-to-door airport transportation

There are a few destinations that rise above the rest. They are exceptional because of the magnificent natural surroundings and quality accommodations. They are destinations that stimulate your heart and your mind, the types of places that stand out in your memory forever.

**1.** A morning flight departs from Sacramento to Edmonton. Your accommodation for the night is the former Canadian Pacific Hotel, now a Fairmont, in the heart of Edmonton. There may be time to explore the West Edmonton Mall, one of the world's largest.  
**Hotel MacDonald**

**2.** Tour the city this morning featuring a stop at Alberta's legislature building and time at the provincial Museum of Alberta. It's a four-hour ride from the plains into the Rockies. The last hour is a scenic marvel. Keep your eyes peeled because wildlife is abundant in this area. Bighorn sheep, deer, moose, elk and the occasional bear live here. Arrive

at Jasper Park Lodge in the late afternoon. Savor your first evening in this magnificent setting. The Lodge is exquisite. In the main Lodge building you'll find choices of eateries, shops and public areas. Your breakfast and dinner are included each day. Wildlife roams freely about the grounds, particularly in the early morning and in the late evenings. The lodge is a short drive from town, and a shuttle service is available for minimal charge. **Jasper Park Lodge – 4 nights (D)**

**3-5.** Take the short coach ride to beautiful Maligne Lake for a luncheon cruise among towering mountains, decorated with glaciers and icefields. Visit the Columbia Icefields where you'll board a snow coach for a ride (and walk) on a glacier. Ample free time is allowed to soak in the beauty and hospitality offered at the Lodge so you can shop, walk around the lake and the town, golf or even take a nature excursion (some activities offered at an additional cost). Perhaps a good book on the veranda is your idea of the perfect afternoon. **(3FB,L,3D)**

**6.** Leave your mountain paradise and travel south along the Icefields Parkway. Around each turn is yet another breathtaking vista to behold. Stop at the iconic Chateau Lake Louise for the most photographed view in Canada. Onward to Banff in the afternoon with time for lunch and shopping. Ease out of the mountains into Calgary. Once again, your accommodations are in the historic Canadian Pacific (Fairmont) Hotel. **The Palliser (FB)**

**7.** No stop in Calgary would be complete without a visit to one of the many museums. A wonderful meal with a view high above

the city in the Calgary Tower ends your visit. Your return flight to Sacramento departs in the afternoon. **(L)**

**3**

### Interested? We Need Your Input

Hotel accommodations in the Canadian Rockies have become ridiculously high in the late spring/summer/fall, averaging \$450-\$700 a night. Add in higher Canadian travel-related taxes and you have a **very** expensive trip. Check out some of our competitors' pricing and you will see everyone is paying "up" for the spectacular beauty the Canadian Rockies offer. We think there are two possibilities.

**1.** Pay the freight and stay in the really nice hotels. It's a "once-in-a-lifetime" trip for most people and those Fairmont Hotels (and a few others) are soooooo nice. Let's bite the bullet and go for it.

**2.** Create a trip that "fudges a bit on the edges." Stay in a hotel in Calgary/Canmore instead of Banff and drive a little into the parks on a couple of days. In Jasper, skip the Fairmont and get something a little more moderate. Steal a day in the parks at the end and stay in Edmonton. Still the Canadian Rockies, but **way less expensive**.

If one of those ideas works for you, call the office or send an email to [res@sportsleisure.com](mailto:res@sportsleisure.com) and let us know your choice. We will report to all that respond. It's too early to tell if this trip will be in 2023, but it's still a possibility.





# Atlantic Canada's Enchanting Islands

Experience the best of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

9 Days • June 15-23

1. Traverse the continent by air, arriving in Halifax around midnight. It's a Long Way from California to Nova Scotia! **Cambridge Suites Hotel – 3 nights**

2. Begin your day with breakfast or sleep in. Your afternoon guided Halifax tour starts with a bistro lunch, then spotlights historic and scenic sites located throughout the city including the chilling *Titanic* cemetery. Explore the waterfront on your own tonight in search of the perfect meal. Lobster, anyone? **(B,L)**

3. Discover the rustic charm of the renowned fishing village of Peggy's Cove where you will enjoy breakfast overlooking one of the most photographed lighthouses in the world. Travel the South Shore and on to the UNESCO World Heritage Town of Lunenburg, famous for her vast fleet of Grand Banks fishing schooners. Take



a walking tour to fully experience one of the most remarkably preserved colonial settlements in the New World, and visit the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic to explore the town's seafaring heritage. **(B)**

4. Learn about the Mi'kmaq people at Millbrook Cultural & Heritage Centre before crossing Confederation Bridge, the world's longest continuous multi-span bridge, to Prince Edward Island. After check-in at your Charlottetown accommodations, prepare for a theatre performance by local entertainers at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. **Rodd Charlottetown – 2 nights (B)**

5. Charlottetown is Canada's birthplace. Learn more on a morning walking tour of the city. In the afternoon visit the scenic North Shore of the island. Drive by red cliffs, white beaches, gently sloping sand dunes and the green fields of Prince Edward Island National Park. You'll also visit Anne of Green Gables Heritage Place, the alluring inspiration of Lucy Maud Montgomery's classic books. Experience true Maritime hospitality this evening at a traditional hall-style lobster supper. **(B,D)**

6. Ferry over the Northumberland Strait back to Nova Scotia and proceed to Cape Breton Island, the Scotland of North America, via the Canso Causeway. Visit Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site in Baddeck to learn of the many accomplishments of this genius who made his home on the island before continuing on to Bras d'Or Lake, home for the next few nights. **Inverary Resort – 2 nights (B,D)**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay 4 nights in Halifax: City tour, Peggy's Cove, Lunenburg
- 2 nights Charlottetown: Anne of Green Gables, PEI National Park, performance at the Confederation Centre for the Arts
- 2 nights Baddeck: Bras d'Or Lake, Alexander Graham Bell, Cape Breton Highlands National Park
- Millbrook Cultural & Heritage Centre, The Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site
- 13 meals: breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 3 dinners (including hall-style lobster supper)
- Door-to-door airport service
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Halifax
- 5750/6300 Gold Passport Points

7. Experience one of the most stunningly picturesque drives in North America as you tour the Cabot Trail which winds around the rocky splendor of Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Multiple overlooks offer unforgettable vistas of Cape Breton's rugged coastline, one of which will serve host to a picnic lunch. **(B,L,D)**

8. The Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, the c.1744 reconstruction of the original French town and fortifications, is the largest of its kind in North America. Your tour continues along the shore of Bras d'Or Lake to the mainland and back to Halifax for one final night in the Maritimes. **Cambridge Suites Hotel (B)**

9. Return to the West Coast via a midday flight. **(B)**

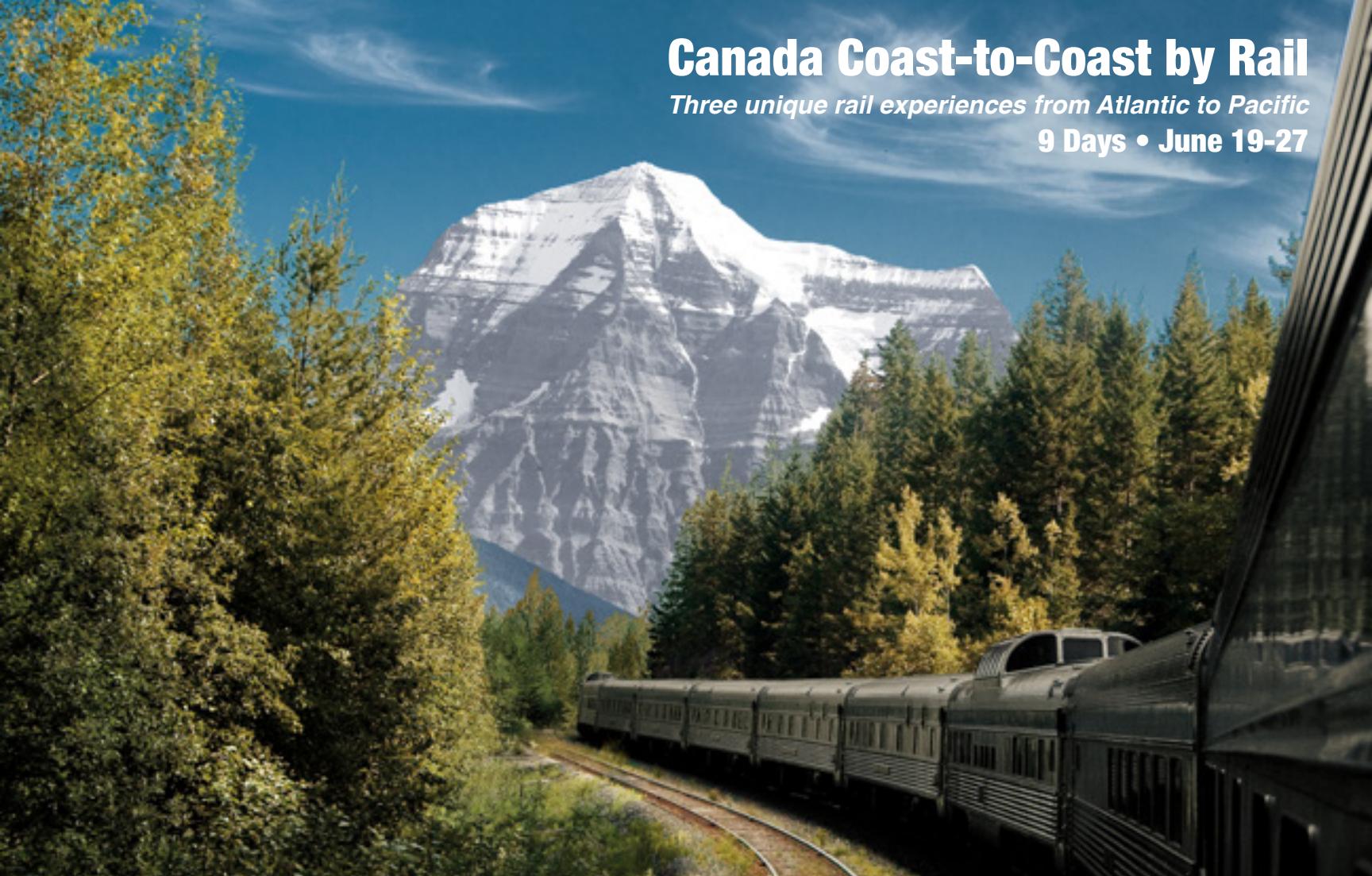
**\$5725 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6285 single** 3  
This vacation requires a valid passport!



# Canada Coast-to-Coast by Rail

Three unique rail experiences from Atlantic to Pacific

9 Days • June 19-27



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Deluxe sleeper car accommodations aboard VIA Rail
- Halifax: 2 nights at the Westin Nova Scotian, city tour and Peggy's Cove
- Overnight at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel
- 19 meals: Daily breakfast, 6 lunches, 5 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to Halifax/from Vancouver
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 7050/7500 Gold Passport Points



**1.** Fly to Halifax, Nova Scotia, arriving in the late evening. Your accommodations are in the historic Canadian Pacific hotel adjoining the train station. **Westin Nova Scotian Hotel – 2 nights**

**2.** Enjoy a late start to catch-up with your new time zone, then embark on a guided sightseeing tour of this modern Capital City with small town hospitality. Visit the waterfront, historic downtown and tour the impressive Citadel National Historic Site with a bistro lunch served along the way. **(FB,L)**

**3.** Explore Peggy's Cove, a quaint fishing village frozen in time, before meeting your first train, VIA Rail's *Ocean*. Onboard you'll enjoy the service and hospitality of *Easterly Class*. Couples will enjoy private sleeping quarters which feature upper/lower berths while single travelers will occupy a roomette, a smaller accommodation. The Dining Car serves a menu featuring local fare. **The Ocean (FB,L,D)**

**4.** *Bienvenue à Montréal*, but alas not for long. A quick connection has you aboard Train 65 on a 5-hour ride bound for Toronto. Your accommodations there are in another historic Canadian Pacific hotel, one of the grandest of them all! **Fairmont Royal York (FB)**

**5-8.** Cross the street to the station and meet your final train, VIA Rail's Train #1, *The Canadian*, scheduled for a mid-morning departure. Yes, we've saved the best for last! Your remaining days in Canada will be spent surrounded by the spectacular scenery of the western and central provinces as you pass the lakes and rivers of Ontario, the prairies of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and the tall mountain peaks of the Canadian Rockies in Alberta and British Columbia en route to Vancouver. While onboard the train you will enjoy VIA Rail's famed *Silver and Blue Service*. All meals are included in the Dining Car and you will have access to the Park Cars and you will have access to the Park Cars with their popular sightseeing domes. VIA Rail's onboard service staff will be on hand during every mile of the journey to prepare your room and assist with meal reservations. **The Canadian – 4 nights (4FB,4L,4D)**

**9.** Your long journey across Canada from coast-to-coast comes to an end today with a morning arrival in Vancouver, British Columbia. A motorcoach takes you to the airport before a mid-day flight home. **(FB)**

**\$7040 p.p./dbl.occ., \$7485 single** **3**  
*This vacation requires a valid passport!*





# Vibrant Vancouver & Victoria

*The best of British Columbia's two most beloved cities*

**5 Days • July 21–25**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Vancouver City Tour
- See the sights on Granville Island
- Sunset Dinner Cruise on Vancouver Harbor
- Travel by ferry to Victoria
- Experience High Tea at the Empress Hotel
- Explore fabulous Butchart Gardens with lunch at The Blue Poppy
- 4 meals: 2 lunches, 1 dinner, plus High Tea
- Roundtrip air to Vancouver/from Victoria
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 3250/3700 Gold Passport Points

**1.** Fly into Vancouver direct from Sacramento. Late lunch is followed by a city tour to acquaint you with the history and beauty of this fabulous waterfront city. **Hotel TBA – 2 nights (L)**

**2.** Spend the day on Granville Island. Famous for its indoor Public Market, you'll have time to check out the fascinating and colorful selection of food and produce, along with handcrafted products and unique gifts. Lunch is on your own there. Later this evening we will embark on a Sunset Dinner Cruise on the harbor to take in the city lights. **(D)**

**3.** Take a mid-morning ferry to Victoria, BC's charming Capital City located on Vancouver Island. A guided tour of the Parliament

Building is followed by an unrivaled local tradition: High Tea at the Empress Hotel. After tea the Royal BC Museum welcomes you with three permanent installations as well as special traveling exhibitions. Your all-suite hotel is located in the heart of downtown with museums, shops and the bustling waterfront within easy walking distance. **Chateau Victoria Hotel & Suites – 2 nights (HT)**

**4.** No trip to Victoria is complete without a day at world-famous Butchart Gardens. Lunch is served onsite at their Blue Poppy Restaurant. Take your time strolling through the magnificent and colorful blooms, and see how many of the five unique garden environments you can visit. Don't forget to leave time for their amazing gift shop, by far the best in town! **(L)**

**5.** This morning is your chance to take one last stroll along the waterfront, find that last-minute gift, perhaps even a treat for yourself (Rogers', the superb local chocolate confectioner, is not to be missed!), or simply relax in your comfortable hotel suite. Head to the airport at midday for the return flight home.

**\$3250 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3680 single <sup>3</sup>**  
*This vacation requires a valid passport!*





# Fall Foliage in the Rocky Mountains

Featuring Rocky Mountain National Park and Colorado Springs

6 Days • September 22-27

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided tour of Rocky Mountain National Park
- Ride the Georgetown Loop Railroad
- Tour the US Olympic & Paralympic Museum
- Garden of the Gods
- 10 meals: 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Denver
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 3650/4250 Gold Passport Points

**1.** Fly nonstop to Denver where lunch is hosted before traveling to Colorado Springs for a docent guided tour of the US Olympic & Paralympic Museum. The Museum opened in 2020 and boasts 12 galleries filled with great artifacts and interactive exhibits, making it one of the best new things to do in Colorado. Your hotel is conveniently located downtown. **Hilton Garden Inn – 2 nights (L)**

**2.** Garden of the Gods is a beautiful area of red sandstone. Stop first at the Visitors Center for the iconic photo op of the park with Pikes Peaks in the background. Then tour the park to see fanciful formations like Steamboat Rock and Balance Rock. Next you're off to nearby Manitou Springs for lunch at a historic property followed by some free time in the quaint little town. **(FB,L)**

**3.** Board the Georgetown Loop Railroad's Fall Foliage Train, one of Colorado's most authentic living museums and historically immersive experiences. Travel back in time while riding the narrow gauge rails and discover the Colorado Rockies as they were in the 1880s. The route will take you through scenic mountains, stunning foliage with changing leaves, all the way to Grand Lake. **Gateway Inn (FB,L)**

**4.** Today we enter Rocky Mountain National Park. Your local guide will share hidden stories of the Native Americans and pioneer settlers scratching out a living in the short summers of the high Rockies. Travel through the Kawuneeche Valley, the headwaters of the Colorado River and enjoy the views of the majestic Never Summer Mountains. Cross the continental divide and stop at the highest National Park Alpine Visitors Center (11,879 feet above sea level) offering up hundred-mile views! We end in Estes Park. Your accommodations are at The Lodge at the Stanley Hotel located adjacent to the main building and opened in 1910. The Lodge couples a boutique and historic experience under one roof, featuring updated historic-style accommodations. Dinner will be hosted in the historic hotel. **The Lodge at the Stanley Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**5.** The Stanley Hotel is famous for a number of reasons: First for its historical place in the history of Estes Park, and second for its connection to Stephen King and the movie "The Shining." Today take a guided history tour of the hotel, visit the town's museum and have some free time to explore on your own in this quaint mountain town. **(FB)**

**6.** Travel from Estes Park across the Peak-to-Peak Scenic Byway toward Boulder and to the Denver Airport for your return flight. **(FB,L)**

\$3635 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4250 single **3**



# Czech Republic – Vineyards, Castles & Countryside

With Exclusive Experiences in Prague, Cesky Krumlov and South Moravia

12 Days • September 6-17



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Castles! Prague, Karlstejn, Hluboka, Mikulov, Lednice & more
- Czech Republic's largest Wine Harvest Celebration
- Unique Czech crystal-making experience
- Horse drawn carriage rides through Karlstejn & Lednice Castle grounds
- River rafting experience around Castle Cesky Krumlov
- Salon Vin – Tasting top 50 Reds & Whites at Castle Valtice Wine Cellars
- Electric cycling through scenic Czech Wine Country
- Guided tour through Macocha Abyss, the lowest point in Central Europe
- Valtice Cellar Underground Tour to include dinner & local folk music
- 15 meals: 10 breakfasts, 5 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to Prague/from Vienna
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Fully escorted by Czech guide and **Sports Leisure** Tour Director

**1 -2.** Depart for Prague on a transatlantic overnight flight. Meet your guide and driver for the journey who will escort you to your luxury 5-star hotel in Central Prague. On a casual guided walking tour you will see the famous Astronomical Clock (the oldest functioning in the world), walk Charles Bridge, climb one of the towers for a unique view of the stunning surroundings and visit Lennon Wall before returning to the hotel. Savor your Welcome Dinner with an emphasis on authentic Czech cuisine and local, award-winning Czech wines. **Andaz Prague – 3 nights (D)**

**3.** Travel to Strahov Monastery where you will have an exclusive tour through Strahov Library. At Prague Castle (the largest castle complex in the world) you'll walk through the Castle Gates, tour stunning St. Vitus Cathedral, visit the Presidential Palace and explore the Golden Lane. Meander through Valdstejn's baroque style gardens and enjoy a guided tour through Mala Strana (lesser town) before retiring to the hotel for an evening of leisure. **(FB,L)**

**4.** A guided tour through Prague's hallowed Jewish Quarter includes visits to the Jewish Cemetery and Synagogue, Municipal House, Powder Tower and Wenceslas Square on the way to the famous Dancing House where lunch is served. In the afternoon take a one-of-a-kind tour of Prague's cherished jewel, their National Theater/Opera House. **(FB,L)**

**5.** We can't enjoy wine without a proper glass, and Czech Republic is world renowned for their crystal. We'll start our journey with a guided crystal experience and each guest will receive a custom wine glass to use throughout the trip and bring home as a keepsake. A horse-drawn carriage ride down well preserved cobblestone streets leads you to Karlstejn Castle (the former center of the Holy Roman Empire where the crown jewels were once stored). You'll have a private tour of this imposing castle to experience breathtaking views and learn its epic history. After lunch you're onward to Cesky Krumlov. **Hotel Růže (Rose) – 2 nights (FB,L)**



6. Start the morning with a trip to one of the most beautiful castles in Czech Republic, Castle Hluboka! After lunch, return to Cesky Krumlov where you'll take a tour of the city, castle wall and gardens to some of the very best viewing points that this picturesque town has to offer. The evening brings a peaceful river rafting experience down the Vltava River and around Castle Cesky Krumlov. **(FB,L)**

7. We're off to wine country, a day filled with noteworthy stops along the way. The Schwarzenbergs were considered to be of high nobility and one of Czech Republic's most powerful families. Their mausoleum rests in the center of a beautiful park in Trebon. Znojmo provides awe-inspiring scenery and sightseeing in one of Czech Republic's most prominent wine towns. Next we're off to Vrbice where we'll explore the village and sample local craft wines. Vrbice's hillside is truly unique as it is scattered with private wine cellars that are said to have been the inspiration for "The Shire" in J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit."

**Hotel Volarik – 5 nights (FB,D)**

8. The day begins with a leisurely bike ride (electric bikes provided) through scenic Czech wine country stopping at several stunning sites built by the Lichtenstein family. After the ride, travel to one of the most recognized and influential vineyards in the country. It is here where you will have an exclusive vineyard experience to include integration with their very own creamery (cheese making) and Kvevri (the world's oldest known method of wine making) while "hanging" with the locals to include their resident llama, Leonardo, and donkey, Romeo. **(FB,L)**



9. Today is Palava's Wine Harvest Celebration under Mikulov Castle! We will have an event planned in the morning before joining in the public festival where there will be music, local food and scores of amazing wines to sample throughout the day. Your hotel is within walking distance so that you can take a break as needed. In the evening, you will meet the Czech Godfather and Godmother of wine for a guided culinary and wine tasting experience. Almost all of the country's top vintners were schooled and mentored by this wine power couple. Now it's your turn! **(FB,D)**

10. Spend the day at stunning Lednice Castle, a registered UNESCO World Heritage site. Start by exploring the castle gardens before embarking on a private guided tour of the interior. Once complete, travel via horse-drawn carriages to Januv Hrad where you will enjoy castle views over a picnic complimented by local wine. After lunch head out via boat towards Chateau Lednice's Minaret. The evening will be spent touring Valtice's largest connected underground wine cellars, enjoying authentic Czech cuisine, sipping world-class wines and listening/dancing to live Czech folk music **(FB,L,D)**

11. We're off to visit the Macocha Abyss! This is the lowest point in all of Central Europe and has a considerable amount of folklore surrounding it. Upon arrival, take a cable car to the cave where you'll enjoy a guided walking tour of artistically lit stalactites and stalagmites from the bottom of the abyss. Next you're off on an underground boat tour that will dock at several viewing areas for more displays of nature's beauty. After lunch you'll attend a private event at Salon Vin under Castle Valtice wherein they house the top 50 white and top 50 red wines in the country. You'll spend the next couple of hours meandering from wine to wine, learning about and tasting the very best wines that Czech Republic. **(FB,L)**

12. Your US-bound flight departs from the international airport in Vienna, Austria. **(FB)**

4

**Pricing on this trip will be available soon.**

**We encourage you to register without obligation in order to secure your space.**

*A valid US Passport is required for this trip!*



# Cruising the Galapagos Islands

Ecuador's famed islands are a natural wonder lost in time

**8 Days • September 10-17**



## HIGHLIGHTS

- 5-day cruise aboard the *MV Galapagos Legend*
- 2 nights in Ecuador's capital of Quito with touring
- 1 night in Guayaquil with touring
- Visit the Galapagos Islands of Santiago, Isabela, Fernandina and Santa Cruz
- Pristine nature – Darwin's tortoises, finches, iguanas...and so much more!
- Excellent cruise staff includes English-speaking Naturalist Guides
- Included shore and snorkeling excursions twice daily during cruise
- 16 meals: Daily breakfast, 5 lunches, 4 dinners
- All transfers and port taxes included
- Roundtrip air to Quito/from Guayaquil; interisland air to/from Baltra
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Fully escorted by **Sports Leisure** Tour Director
- 7000/8550 Gold Passport Point

See Mother Nature quite literally frozen in time in a place unlike any other on earth. This fascinating journey into the natural wonders of the Galapagos Islands reveals a destination little changed since Charles Darwin made his first historic visit in 1835, and indeed for millennia before that. Your cruise is designed to focus on the nature of the islands, from their breathtaking geography to the species that call them home. With the leadership of your Naturalist Guides, you'll be sure not to miss a thing.

**1-2.** Begin in Ecuador's Capital City of Quito. On a guided tour feel what it is like to stand in the middle of the world at the Equator Monument, visit the Mitad del Mundo, a bull fighting ring and the magnificent gilded Spanish Colonial church. **Hotel TBA – 2 nights (FB,L)**

**3-6.** Board the *MV Galapagos Legend*, an intimate 55-cabin vessel, bound for

DATE	PORT
September 10	Fly to Quito (2 nights)
September 11	Local touring, Quito
September 12	Fly to Baltra, board the <i>MV Galapagos Legend</i> (4 nights)
September 13	Cruise Egas Port (Santiago Island) and Rabida Island
September 14	Cruise Urbina Bay and Tanguis Cove (Isabela Island)
September 15	Cruise Punta Espinosa (Fernandina Island) and Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela Island)
September 16	Cruise Santa Cruz Island, fly to Guayaquil (1 night)
September 17	Return to the US

Santiago, Isabela, Fernandina and Santa Cruz Islands over five days. Onboard amenities include a pool and sundeck, spa with two Jacuzzi's and Panorama Lounge assuring comfortable sightseeing both inside and out. All cabins are outside with windows or portholes in a number of categories, each featuring floor-level beds (no berths), private baths, telephones and televisions. During the cruise you'll visit exotic locales to see countless birds and animals on twice-daily Naturalist Guide-led shore and snorkeling excursions. ***MV Galapagos Legend* – 4 nights (4FB,4L,4D)**

**7-8.** The tour culminates with a city tour and overnight stay in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Return to the UA on the morning of Day 8. **Hotel TBA (2FB)**

4

**Pricing starts at \$6990 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8550 single for an outside cabin including air, Quito and Guayaquil accommodations and cruise.**

*This vacation requires a valid passport!*





# Riches of the Mekong Delta

See the wonders of Cambodia and Vietnam aboard a magical 8-day cruise

**12 Days • October 31 – November 11**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 nights to explore Siem Reap's temples including Angkor Wat
- 7-nights aboard the *AMADara* on the Mekong River through Cambodia and Vietnam
- Excellent cruise staff includes English-speaking guides
- Included shore excursions and all onboard meals
- All transfers and port taxes included
- Roundtrip air to Siem Reap/from Ho Chi Minh City
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Fully escorted by **Sports Leisure** Tour Director
- Gold Passport Points based on cabin

DATE	PORT
October 31	Depart for Asia
November 1	Arrive Siem Reap (3 nights)
November 2	Local touring, Angkor Thom, Ta Prohm and Banteay Srei
November 3	Local touring, Angkor Wat
November 4	Board the <i>AMADara</i> at Kampong Cham (7 nights)
November 5	Angkor Ban
November 6-7	Phnom Penh
November 8	Cross into Vietnam
November 9	Tan Chau
November 10	Sa Dec and Cai Be
November 11	Arrive Ho Chi Minh, return to the US

**1-3.** We are proud to partner with AmaWaterways for this transformative land and water journey into the very soul of Asia. Start your adventure in Siem Reap, Cambodia, the gateway of the ancient Khmer Empire. Spend two days touring the region's temples at Angkor Thom, Ta Prohm, Banteay Srei and most notably Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before embarking your Mekong cruise in Kampong Cham. **Hotel TBA – 3 nights**

**4.** Dating to the 12th Century, Angkor Wat is considered the largest religious structure in the world, serving those who follow both Hindu and Buddhist paths. It was first seen by Western eyes in 1586 by a Portuguese friar who wrote, "It is of such extraordinary construction that it is not possible to describe it with a pen. It is like no other building in the world." His words hold true to this very day. Angkor Wat is, quite simply, indescribable!

**5-11.** To cruise along the Mekong through Cambodia and Vietnam is to be transported

back in time to another era, where the rhythms of the countryside move at a slower pace and allow a fascinating glimpse into a traditional way of life. Visit rural villages, colorful markets and a monastery where you will receive a special Buddhist blessing by monks. Delve into the peaks and valleys of Cambodia's history in the Royal Palace and National Museums of its beautiful capital, Phnom Penh. Witness skilled artisans who create exquisite handicrafts and delicacies, and be treated to authentic experiences, including rides via oxcart, tut tut and trishaw. As you will witness, the Mekong nourishes a vibrant world along its shores.

**AMADara – 7 nights**

**12.** Disembark at My Tho and transfer to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, for your return flight to the United States.

**3**

**Pricing on this trip will be available soon. We encourage you to register without obligation in order to secure your space. This vacation requires a valid passport!**





# New England Fall Foliage Spectacular

Our annual expedition focuses on the trains of New Hampshire this year – all aboard!

7 Days • September 22-28

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour New Hampshire from top to bottom
- Ride 5 vintage railroads: Lafayette Dinner Train, Hobo Scenic Railroad, Conway Scenic Railroad, Mt. Washington Cog Railway, Lake Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad
- Tram rides on Loon and Cannon Mountains
- Lake cruises on Squam and Winnepesaukee
- Tour the historic Mt. Washington Hotel
- 13 meals: Daily breakfast, 1 boxed lunch, 6 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Roundtrip air to/from Boston

1. The spectacular begins with a flight to Boston, dinner and an overnight in Bedford, Massachusetts. **Hampton Inn (D)**

2. At Saw Mill State Historic Site you'll see how logging used to be done at this 200-plus year old working mill. A taste of Hollywood is next with a cruise upon Squam Lake, better known to classic movie lovers as "Golden Pond" which was filmed here. Listen to the loons! A scrumptious dinner is served with a scenic view aboard the **Lafayette Dinner Train. Mountain Club on Loon – 2 nights (B,D)**

3. Take a gondola ride in the crisp morning air to the mountaintop above your hotel for a stellar view of the valley below. At Flume Gorge Visitors Center in Franconia Notch State Park learn about the history of the White Mountains and have your photo taken with a (stuffed) moose! After lunch make a sweet stop at Chutters, famous for having the world's longest candy counter. An afternoon ride aboard the **Hobo Scenic Railroad** is sure to put you in the spirit of autumn. Dinner is followed by a trip into the wild to call and hopefully see a moose (not stuffed)! **(FB,D)**

4. The ride along NH Route 112, the Kancamagus Highway, a designated American Scenic Byway, is sure to please. From outstanding natural vistas to waterfalls to covered bridges, "The Kanc" has it all. The **Conway Scenic Railroad** offers more spectacular scenery as it meanders to Crawford Notch at midday where a boxed lunch is served for your convenience. Back aboard the coach, the incredible sightseeing only continues... all the way to the front door of the renowned Mount Washington Hotel built in 1902 where you'll have a guided tour and toast the grand dame. **Grand Summit at Attitash (FB,L,D)**

5. Mount Washington is a force of nature, famed for its weather extremes. The highest wind speed ever recorded on earth was here – 231 miles per hour! Let's pray for a slightly calmer day as we ascend the mountain to the 6288 foot summit aboard the **Mt. Washington Cog Railway**. More wonderful views are had on the Cannon Mountain Tramway. The 4000-foot ascent is made in just under ten minutes in a

giant gondola that holds 80 passengers. On a clear day you can see all the way to Canada from the top! Continue to Meredith, NH for the night. **The Inn at Mills Falls (FB,D)**

6. Take a narrated cruise aboard the *M/S Mount Washington* on Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire's largest lake, followed by a ride on the **Lake Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad**, a train hauling goods and passengers through the hinterlands since the mid-1800s. Return to Bedford where the adventure began for a Farewell Dinner and a peaceful night's rest. **Hampton Inn (FB,D)**

7. Hopefully there will be time for a bit more fall fun before your return flight from Boston. **(B)**

3

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





# Castles and Manor Houses of Ireland

Sleep well on this 5-star vacation around the Emerald Isle

12 Days • September 28-October 9



**1-2.** Depart the US via a transatlantic overnight flight to Dublin, arriving mid-morning on Day 2. Your driver/guide Dr. Gary Tierney will greet you with *céad míle fáilte* and escort you on a panoramic tour of Dublin before heading to your first accommodation at historic Clontarf Castle whose daunting tower dates to 1172. Dinner is served before a well-earned night's sleep. **Clontarf Castle Hotel – 2 nights (D)**

**3.** Start this and every morning with a full Irish breakfast (you must try the black pudding...it's an acquired taste). Spend the balance of the day exploring Dublin City more fully including a stop by the famous Guinness Storehouse for a pint or two. **(FB)**

**4.** It's time to head north to Belfast, taking the scenic route via Carlingford Lough and the Mountains of Mourne. This is the geography that inspired CS Lewis to create Narnia. Your accommodations just outside Belfast have the motto "Built for a Bishop - Fit for a King." True enough. The 1876 residence-turned-hotel was once the home of the Lord Bishop of Down. It was also Northern Ireland's first property to receive a 5-star rating! **Hastings Culloden Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**



**5.** OK, so you didn't like the black pudding. This morning try Scruffins – a cross between a scone and muffin – before heading into the city with a local guide hear the stories of Belfast through the ages, from its rich literary tradition to the more recent history of *The Troubles*. You'll also visit the Titanic Belfast Exhibition. Built on the site where the legendary ship was constructed, it tells the full story of the first and final voyage of the *HMS Titanic*. **(FB)**

**6.** Travel the Causeway Coast of County Antrim. If you've watched the series "Game of Thrones" you'll be familiar with the landscape as many scenes were filmed here. Have a stop at The Giants Causeway to experience this legendary World Heritage Site, and then continue on to a local sheep farm where you'll meet Farmer Jamease and his faithful collie Jess. On to County Donegal where your next castle awaits! **Lough Eske Castle Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**7.** Explore County Donegal including Sliabh Liab Cliffs, amongst the highest in Europe. You'll want plenty of time at Lough Eske. It's quite simply amazing. A wee dram and a nap by the peat fire in the parlour is highly recommended. **(FB,D)**

**8.** Turning south through Mayo and Galway, you'll see the Blue Stack Mountains while on the journey to County Sligo, stopping at the Megalithic Cemetery at Carrowmore along the way. Palatial accommodations are yours in County Tipperary in the 1732 palace built for the Archbishop of the Church of Ireland. **Cashel Palace Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**9.** Visit the Rock of Cashel and nearby Waterford for a tour of the famous factory,

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 nights each and touring in Dublin, Belfast, Donegal, Cashel & Kildare
- Guinness Storehouse & Waterford Crystal Factory
- Titanic Belfast Exhibition & The Giants Causeway
- Visit a working sheep farm
- 18 meals: 11 full Irish breakfasts, 7 dinners
- Roundtrip air to/from Dublin
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Fully escorted by Irish driver/guide and **Sports Leisure** Tour Director

museum and crystal boutique. We might even visit Blarney Castle where you can kiss the famed stone (if you *really* want to). **(FB,D)**

**10.** Head into the region known as West Wicklow to visit Russborough House, the stately manor built in the mid-18th Century for the 1st Earl of Milltown to showcase his stunning art collection. Its classical design, architectural detail and exquisite decoration mark this Palladian jewel as the most beautiful Georgian house in Ireland. Your final castle is just a wee bit older. Kilkea dates to 1180, built as the medieval stronghold of the FitzGerald's, the Earls of Kildare. **Kilkea Castle Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**11.** Traverse the Wicklow Mountains to the 6th Century monastic site of Glendalough established by St. Kevin. He was searching for a remote location where he could pray in tranquility – also because it's said he was so good looking that he didn't want to be a temptation to the women of the area! A Farewell Dinner awaits your return to Kilkea. **(FB,D)**

**12.** Gary and all of Ireland bid you *slán abhaile* as you return to Dublin International Airport for the return flight. **(FB)**

3

**Pricing on this trip will be available soon. We encourage you to register without obligation in order to secure your space. A valid US Passport is required for this trip!**



# Cruisin' Aboard the *American Queen*

An autumn cruise on the grandest paddlewheeler ever built!

10 Days • November 10-19



## HIGHLIGHTS

- 7-night Salute to America-themed cruise aboard the
- Ports of Call: Memphis, New Madrid, Cape Girardeau, Paducah, Dover and Clarksville
- All basic shore excursions included
- Showboat-style entertainment and dancing nightly; daily talks by Riverlorian
- Beer and wine included with onboard dinners; all-day bottled water, sodas, coffee and snacks are complimentary
- Overnights with attractions in Memphis and Bon Aqua/Nashville
- 23 meals: 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Round trip airfare to Memphis/from Nashville
- Gold Passport Points based on cabin category

Though over a year away, this itinerary from Memphis to Clarksville is so popular you have to book your cabin a year out to get one at all! The *American Queen* - the grandest of all riverboats ever to ply the waters of our nation's mighty rivers - "gets it" as evidenced by all the inclusions. Beverages and snacks are available and complimentary all day long. Fine wines are included with dinner, and two dining choices are offered, one casual, the other classy. Regardless of the dining option you select, you'll enjoy flavorful Southern cooking along with heart-healthy selections.

Onboard, an all-American staff assures no language barriers. Portside, a dedicated fleet of *Steamcoaches* follows the *Queen* so your complimentary shore excursions are handled by a familiar crew. Upgraded,

small-group excursions are available at most ports for an enhanced experience. (Optional, additional cost.) Your onboard Riverlorian will have all the details during daily talks. Need to check-in with home? Internet access is available and free.

When the stars rise, it's time for the onboard entertainers to shine. You can count on Showboat-style spectacles nightly, followed by dancing. By day and by night, the dress code is "casual elegance." Wear what you like when you like. No formalwear is required.

**1.** Fly to Memphis where your adventure begins. Maybe you'll wish to kick up your heels at a blues bar on historic Beale Street tonight. **Hotel TBA**

**2.** After breakfast, take in some of the significant historic sites and popular attractions the city has to offer. Embarkation is in the late afternoon. It's Veterans Day, so you can expect a patriotic theme onboard throughout the week. Don't forget to check *The Steamboatin' Times* daily for the list of activities. **(FB,D)**

**3-8.** Every port along the way is rich in history and beauty, and complimentary sightseeing tours introduce you to each and include selected attractions. Meanwhile daily activities onboard are available to fill your days without ever touching land. **(Daily FB,L,D)**

**9.** Disembarkation is in Clarksville, Tennessee. On you go to the tiny hamlet of Bon Aqua near Nashville, home of Johnny

Cash's Hideaway Farm. There you'll meet his nephew, Mark Alan Cash, for some great music and remembrances. **Hotel TBA (FB,L)**

**10.** Off to Nashville International Airport, but not before a stop at the Country Music Hall of Fame for a deep dive into this uniquely American musical form. Will the circle be unbroken? No way! **(FB)**

2

**Pricing on this trip will be available soon. We encourage you to register without obligation in order to secure your space. Recommended onboard gratuity is \$19.50 p.p./day**





At **Sports Leisure Vacations** we have always listened to our Travel Club members. If you see a “bucket List” destination on these pages, please feel free send an e-mail to [res@sportsleisure.com](mailto:res@sportsleisure.com) asking to be placed on the **Priority Notification List**. In doing so you are literally casting a vote for that tour idea. If interest is sufficient and we move forward in planning the trip, you will be among the first notified to register and take advantage of the Early Payment Discounts offered. Placing your name on the list does not obligate you in any way, nor does it mean a reservation will automatically be made. Thank you in advance for your show of interest and support!

## **Portland Rose Festival** **June 7-9, 2024**

It's been a few years since we've offered this exciting everything-roses event. Fly to Portland for a weekend filled with activities including visits to the festival rose show and International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park. Friday night includes dinner and a performance of Clyde's at Portland Center Stage. Set in a restaurant operated by ex-cons, this delicious comedy by two-time Pulitzer Prize winning writer Lynn Nottage was a Best Play nominee at the 2022 Tony Awards. Saturday dawns with the Grand Floral Parade which you'll view from indoor seating – no worries if it should rain. A dinner cruise upon the Willamette River rounds out the day.

## **La Belle Quebec**

**7 Days • September 2024**

Quebec's geography, history and culture have shaped its bold and unique identity. Experience the “Walled City” of Quebec City, a romantic place filled with history and European charm. Step back in time as you wander down cobblestone streets, admire 400-year-old buildings and dine in quaint cafes. Visit Notre-Dame de Quebec Basilica Cathedral, explore the Quartier Petit Champlain, take a sunset cruise on the St. Lawrence and dine at the beautiful Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac. Continue on to Montreal with its deep French roots and cosmopolitan atmosphere. Quebec's largest city is set on an island in the Saint Lawrence River and named after Mt. Royal, the triple-peaked hill at its heart. Experience French culture and cuisine as you explore Old Montreal, Notre-Dame Basilica and see the spectacular Aura light show. Stroll through Montreal's Botanical Gardens and visit St. Joseph's Oratory on Mount Royal.

## **Costa Rica – Pura Vida**

**7-10 Days • Spring 2025**

Costa Rica's motto is “*pura vida*” – pure life. Greet a local or ask how they are doing, this will likely be the reply. Want to know what it means? You're invited to explore this beautiful Central American country which is small in size, but packed to the brim with extraordinary geography, animals and people all living the pure life.

Famous for its national parks, here you'll find rain forests, volcanoes, beaches, rivers and a biodiversity of wildlife unsurpassed anywhere on the planet. Nature aside, the capital of San José is hip and glamorous boasting history, culture, fine arts and a vibrant foodie and craft beer scene eager to serve you. Are you ready to sample the pure life? Here's your chance!

## **Switzerland – Your Alpine Village among the Clouds**

**9 Days • June 2025**

Seasoned **Sports Leisure** travelers will remember this tour from decades past. It is quite simply THE BEST Swiss tour we've ever done and are thrilled our good luck now makes it possible to offer it once more! Fly to Zurich, then travel through Bern to the Lauterbrunnen Valley. There you say goodbye to the motorcoach for a week. You don't need it! Your home for the next six nights is the tiny mountainside village of Wengen, only reachable by cog railway and cable car. This sets the tone for a full week of travel using your Berner Oberland Pass including trains, gondolas, cable cars, funiculars and boats that will transport us throughout the region highlighting one spectacular vista after another. The climax of your visit will be a trip to the “Top of Europe,” the mountain known as Jungfrauoch, with a rail station located at 11,300 feet above sea level – the highest on the continent! Spend a day exploring Lucerne on the return to Zurich for the flight home.

## **A Culinary Journey to Tuscany**

**9 Days • Autumn 2025**

You are invited to quite literally eat and drink your way through Tuscany. This adventure spends a full week at a boutique hotel located in Radda in the heart of the Chianti Region near Florence, our air gateway. Though there will be a few chef-led classes focusing on subjects like organic cooking and pasta making, this vacation is more about the culture of Tuscany as seen through the lens of its food and wine. Go on a hunt for truffles, learn about the process behind making some of the world's best olive oils and cheeses, break bread with a local farm family, and of course there will be wineries to visit and wines to savor! Sightseeing includes walking tours of Florence (and a chance to feast your eyes upon Michelangelo's *David*) and Siena, a cruise on Lake Trasimeno to Island Maggiore, and a visit to San Gimignano for a taste of their saffron and pine nut gelato – so flavorful and unique that it's been trademarked.

# MYSTERY TOURS

## Comedy, Dollars & Legends – A Mystery Tour

6 Days • May 4-9

This trip is all about legends. Well, not ALL about legends, but certainly many are highlighted. For example, wouldn't you consider a buffalo to be a legendary creature? And I don't know about you, but I always loved Lucille. Even when she picked a fine time to leave me. OK, maybe that's a little corny.

Some things on this tour are worth exactly one dollar and not a penny more. Others are worth a thousand words, and there are lots and lots of them along the way. Just don't fall over, because it's a long way down. Yes, it's only a brief moment, but still

Horses running everywhere, but getting nowhere. Can you hear the thunder? Yet there's not a cloud in the sky. Must be the lake effect.

The package includes airfare, door-to-door service and 10 meals. 3700/4150 Gold Passport Points.

**\$3695 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4140 single** **3**

## Pieces of History Mystery

5 Days • October 8-12

One of the primary reasons people travel is to learn. Learning in the abstract is fine, but learning **by being there** tends to be a lot more memorable. By actually visiting the places where history happened, you can often get a better picture of the event(s). This Mystery Tour will do just that, **take you** to the places where cool moments in history happened. Here are some clues as to what you can expect...

I'm standing on the shore, but it doesn't seem to be an ocean in front of me. One downside to this itinerary is you might feel like you've been taken for a ride, because that's what happened in the past. The constitution was written here. (Philadelphia? Nope.) Well maybe we should say A constitution was written here.



Many historians recall the Lincoln-Douglas debates. Where were those held again? How interesting. Maybe we should go there. Is it a town named Lincoln? There are a lot of those. Heck, there's even a Lincoln Highway. We'll show you the way it was and the way it is...there's another clue...

People traveled by train to get to our destination, but where are the tracks? Oh, wait, they took the express route. That's how they got here so fast. It's all becoming very clear, don't you think? One of our destinations is known as the birthplace of the...probably should make that a surprise!

They argued so much a brawl broke out. You wouldn't think that lawmakers would conduct themselves like that, but they did.

What do they eat around here? Oh, I see. Well, I can't give that clue or everyone will figure it out. Let's just say their favorite food has lots and lots of varieties and even a World Championship. A lot of people get "sauce." (Did you guess Memphis? Sorry, not right.)

Just writing these words and looking over the list of activities gets this writer tingly all over. Mystery Tours are a blast. If you've never experienced one, here's your chance to take the plunge. The package includes airfare, door-to-door service and 10 meals. 2650/3000 Gold Passport Points.

**\$2610 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2970 single** **2**



# The Sports Leisure Difference...

Answers to these frequently asked questions will tell you more about our company and help you enjoy your vacation to the fullest!

## What does travel in the time of COVID-19 look like to you?

COVID is still with us, and at the time of this publication infections are on the rise again.

### A new booster vaccine is available and we strongly urge you to consider getting it.

Vaccinated travelers have a lower chance of catching COVID. We reserve the right to reinstate a vaccination requirement and anything else we feel is essential for the health and well being of our travelers, staff and suppliers. If our policies change we will make every effort to notify you through printed and electronic publications and announcements, on our website and in the Final Tour Notes mailed out shortly before each extended tour departure.

## Can I find you on the web?

You bet! At [www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com) you'll find all our recent publications, plus information on upcoming tours, events and more.

## I hear you refer to customers as "members." Do I have to join a club to travel with you?

Absolutely not, though most travelers do elect to join the **Sports Leisure Travel Club**. Only through club membership will you receive the annual catalog, our bimonthly newsletter *The Traveler* and invitations to our special events. Additionally, only members can participate in Travel Club Gold and Day Tripper rebates, our bonus rewards programs. A complimentary membership is extended to new and potential travelers upon request. After that, it's only \$10 per person, per year.



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

Outside 70 days before departure (sometimes longer on international vacations) all tour payments are refunded less a \$20 per person administrative fee upon cancellation. Within 70 days before departure refund provisions vary based on the tour and the reason for cancellation. Please refer to our *Special Vacation Notes and Information* brochure for details.

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

If you have mild dietary restrictions (vegetarian, lactose and/or gluten intolerant), it is important for you to advise us at the time of registration. As you can certainly understand it is quite difficult for your Tour Director to accommodate those who wait until they are actually traveling to share their special needs. **If you have severe or multiple dietary restrictions you may find this type of travel is not for you.**

## Can I make other special requests?

You are invited to make special requests of the airline and hotel(s) serving your vacation at the point of reservation. The more notice we have the better our ability to accommodate you. Requests might include specific airline seating, an upgrade or the need for wheelchair assistance at airports;

and at hotels a king bed or handicap-accessible room. Handicap-accessible rooms are limited. We ask you to make this request only if your condition demands it. There could be another traveler who needs the room more than you. **Some special requests, like airline seating, may only be available at additional cost.**

Please note we automatically request a non-smoking room for everyone in the group and a room with two beds for those traveling double occupancy unless we are told otherwise.

## Can you explain "door-to-door service"?

Quite simply this means we will pick you up and return you to your home on all vacations of three days or longer. This service may involve a sedan, SUV, limousine or other chauffeured vehicle.

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



A \$100 per person credit is available for travelers to whom this service isn't available or for those who wish to opt out and meet us at the point of departure (usually the airport, train station or office). Another option for those who live in outlying areas is to overnight at a hotel located near the departure point.

On *Daycations* and overnights motorcoaches depart from convenient neighborhood pick-up points in the greater Sacramento area. Door-to-door service is available for a fee on day and overnight trips. Call the office for details.

### What can I expect from the motorcoaches you charter?

Whether locally or at fly-away destinations, we seek only the best equipment and drivers available with three things in mind: Your pleasure, your comfort and above all your safety. Onboard amenities usually include plush seating, audio and video systems, wifi, electrical outlets, climate control and a restroom. Additionally, your Tour Director is never far away with water and other refreshments.

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

We do not rotate motorcoach seats as many companies do. You are free to select the seating of your choice at the point of reservation. Single travelers are sometimes required to take available single seats to leave remaining pairs for those traveling with a friend or spouse. It's important to note many of our extended tours have limited capacity, allowing you to spread out in the rear of the coach if desired.

### What about airport security restrictions?

They seem to change all the time. The Transportation Security Administration requires that you provide us your date of birth and full name as it appears on your government-issued photo identification for



all vacations involving air travel. Complete passport information is additionally required in advance for international travel. Up-to-date security information can be found on the internet at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov), including details on how you can qualify for TSA Pre-Check. Our staff stays current on the latest regulations in order to provide you timely and accurate assistance.

### Have passport rules changed?

Passports are required for all travel outside the U.S. including Canada and Mexico. If you are of foreign citizenship, we highly recommend you check with your country's embassy and follow its instructions to make certain your travel will be legal and seamless. U.S. citizens in need of a passport can pick up an application at any post office or find it online. **Please allow a minimum of three months for processing. Your passport must be valid for at least six months past the scheduled ending date of your international tour.**

### Do I need to worry about airline baggage charges?

As each airline has different policies regarding luggage and associated charges, you may expect rules and restrictions (number of bags allowed, weight, etc.) to vary from trip to trip. You have this **Sports**

**Leisure** promise: You will never pay to check your first bag on any flight on a U.S. airline.

Each checked bag has a strict weight limit of 40 or 50 pounds (we ask that you limit to 40#, airlines are at 50#). Bags weighing more will incur additional fees or be rejected. This policy applies throughout the tour. Many "wheelie" bags and oversized carry-ons that fit in airline overhead bins cannot be accommodated within the cabin of the motorcoach. In such cases you will be asked to check them coachside with your Tour Director. They will be tagged and available coachside at each overnight stop.

### Are my payments protected when I pay for my vacation in advance?

Your deposits and final payments are held in escrow until the tour returns in full accordance with the State of California Seller of Travel Law (#2011549-40).

### Can a friend from another city sign up for a Sports Leisure vacation, or join me for a meal or activity at one of our destinations?

Yes! We can arrange travel for friends or relatives to meet our groups from any city in the world. (We currently have over 1,000 Travel Club members who live outside the





Sacramento area.) If you have someone who would like to travel with you, have them call us toll free at 1-800-951-5556. With advance notice, we are also happy to welcome your friends or relatives who may live along the tour route and wish to join us for a meal or attraction.

**Can I extend my vacation to visit friends or relatives?**

The answer is almost always yes, particularly if you register and make your request at least 70 days prior to departure. Many travelers take advantage of this opportunity to visit friends or relatives, or explore a destination in greater detail on their own. There could be additional charges for flight deviations, but generally they are small. Local airport transportation can be provided for an additional \$50 per household. Please note unique air schedules are not covered by Cancellation Protection on domestic trips.

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

Walking and some step-climbing are necessary to participate in the normal activities on our vacations. While we can do almost everything for you on a **Sports Leisure** vacation, **the Tour Director cannot provide sustained attention to individual clients.** Please be advised that we visit many cultural sites on tour, not all of which meet A.D.A. requirements due to their historic status and/or physical layout. Let us assure you that people with mobility restrictions are welcome on our vacations. Many of our travelers are over 70, 80 or even 90, something we keep in mind when planning our itineraries. The Tour Planner for each departure knows the itinerary well and would be happy to consult with you personally should you have questions regarding the amount of walking, elevations,

etc., on a particular trip. Additionally, each trip is rated with an activity level to identify energy and fitness levels.

**What if I become ill and cannot travel? Do you offer cancellation protection or travel insurance?**

One or both are available on every departure. Either must be purchased at the time you make your initial tour payment. We strongly recommend you consider this optional protection. Please refer to the *Special Vacation Notes and Information* brochure for details. This coverage may not be available to those who have cancelled more than two tours in a 12-month period or who make their reservation less than one month prior to the departure date.

**How does your company deal with "chronic complainers?"**

One or two can ruin a trip for all. **Sports Leisure Vacations** reserves the right not to accept or retain anyone whose lack of personal hygiene or poor general behavior, in the opinion of the Tour Director, impedes the operation of the tour and/or affects the rights of other travelers. A refund of unused tour services is the limit of our liability if a person is required to leave the tour for the reasons stated above. Said passenger(s) will be responsible for any additional costs to return to the city of origin.

We want to learn, discover and have fun together. Our groups are often complimented on their positive attitude by tourism professionals and others who encounter us on the road. Life is too short for making yourself and those around you miserable due to small challenges that are bound to occur. Travel is by nature an inexact science.

**And that's the Sports Leisure Difference...**





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## EARLY REGISTRATION/PAYMENT DISCOUNTS

Early Registration Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Friday, December 1st, 2023**; or may be withdrawn when 50% of the available space has been reserved. To receive the discount you must pay in full with ten days of registration. If you accept this option the monies paid (less a \$20 administrative fee), including the cost of Cancellation Protection, are returned to you if you cancel more than 70 days prior to departure regardless of the reason for cancellation. Inside the time limits noted above restrictions on refunds apply. See the Special Vacation Notes & Information brochure for complete details.

March – Spring Training in Arizona - **Save \$75**

April – Monterey - **Save \$50**

April – The Capital to The Big Apple - **Save \$150**

May – Comedy, Legends, Dollars - **Save \$120**

May – Ottawa Tulips & Niagara Falls - **Save 125**

May – Grand Canyon - **Save \$100**

May – Zion & Bryce Canyon - **Save \$100**

May – Cape Cod - **Save \$150**

June – Yosemite Nat'l Park - **Save \$50**

June – Atlantic Canada - **Save \$175**

June – CA Redwoods & Oregon Coast - **Save \$100**

June – Canada Coast-to-Coast by Rail- **Save 200**

July – Fort Bragg- **Save 40**

July – Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound - **Save \$75**

July – Victoria & Vancouver - **Save \$100**

August – San Juan Explorer - **Save \$100**

August – Mainly Maine - **Save 125**

September – Cruising the Galapagos Islands - **Save \$200**

September – Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park - **Save 100**

October – Pieces of History Mystery - **Save \$75**

## The Sports Leisure Dream Team

Donnie Anderson

Scott Angeletti

Donna Carey

Michael Downer

Maureen Gagliardi

Tyler Gerald

Mariea Hammersley

Patricia Hansen

Mark Hoffmann

RoseMarie Holt

Laurin Johnson

Serina Jordan

Sara Turner

Bob Veliky

Clayton Whitehead

May Wong

## Sacramento's Travel Radio Show is heard every Saturday at 11am

## The Travel Guys Radio Show

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

Every Saturday at 11am  
KFBK, 1530AM, 93.1FM

Podcasts and show updates at  
[www.travelguysradio.com](http://www.travelguysradio.com)



Hosted by: Tom Romano and Mark Hoffmann

Visit us online at: [www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com)