



Spring Preview Day at KVIE

Saturday, June 8th • SLV's 45th Birthday
9:00 am – 11:15 am & 2:00 pm sessions

- ★ New tours for the second half of 2024 ★
- ★ New 2025 destinations will be announced ★

More details on new tours announced in the
January and April newsletters

Location: KVIE Studios • 2030 W El Camino Ave, 95833
just off I-5 at W El Camino (northbound) or
Garden Hwy (southbound).

Advance Registration Required – Call our office or
email res@sportsleisure.com

If you are joining us, please consider a donation of
**Gently Used Sleeping Bags, Women's Hygiene Items,
Laundry Soap.** Loaves and Fishes is our partner in
helping others in the community.

Photos, starting at the top: We had a visitor from the hills recently. Many
of you remember **Ramona Goodge**, who was our General Manager for
many years, is now a minister near Placerville; The Albuquerque Balloon
Fiesta is an annual **Sports Leisure** event. Last year we visited Plains,
hometown of **President Jimmy Carter**, and early this year, Clayton
escorted a group "down under." That's the
Sydney Opera House in the background.



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



Citizen Lobbyist

One of the parts of my travel career I least expected is the interaction with our government. **Sports Leisure** came into existence in the late-70's, a couple of years before bus, truck, airline and tour operator businesses were "deregulated" by the government. People who had licenses fought hard to keep others from getting them. Not very democratic, but it was the system until the early 1980's.



We had our share of struggles as local bus operators did their best to make sure we left the landscape quickly. But support from **Congressman Robert (Bob) Matsui's office**, spurred on by an editorial in a local *senior newspaper*, helped turn the tide. (Over 40 years later, the Matsui family still represents much of our city in Washington, DC.) The laws were changed in favor of free enterprise and off we went on a journey that was to last over 40 years (and running).

That experience taught me the importance of going to our capital city to help those who govern understand the challenges I face as a businessperson. Each year, the travel industry has a day when we, as **citizen lobbyists**, walk the halls of House and Senate office buildings, meeting with the staff of the people who represent us.

You might think it to be a futile exercise. After all, members of both political parties in DC are often seen on television, sharing a bit of buffoonery on the issue of the day. Do they really work for us? I will suggest the answer is yes. Not everyone in Washington is in search of daily publicity. When was the last time you heard Doris Matsui or Ami Bera spouting off about something they don't like, acting like a small child or worse? You can argue about their effectiveness and the ideas they support, but at least they don't embarrass us on a regular basis. They do their jobs.

So I trek to DC, along with a couple hundred other citizens from throughout the country, and we ask for what our industry needs. Our "asks" are generally bipartisan, so we don't have to play a lot of political games. If you need a passport to go overseas and the wait time is a ridiculous 4 months, they should be able to help. Last year we asked for exactly that. I renewed my passport a couple of weeks ago and got the new one in the mail in three weeks. The wait times have dropped dramatically. An example, perhaps, of public servants doing just that, serving the public, by stepping up and inquiring about how to get wait times lowered for their constituent travelers.

I've been in DC probably 15-20 times now, and I really enjoy the opportunity, if only for a day, to be part of our amazing (and sometimes frustrating) American system. Every citizen should invest a day, sometime in their lives, to seeing how it all works. It might give you a new perspective on our elected officials, all of whom are supported by staffs made up of people just like us.

Spring Preview Day

On the front page of this edition of **The Traveler**, you will find details on how to attend our **Spring Preview Day** on **Saturday, June 8th** at the **KVIE Studios**. Many new adventures will be announced that day. There is no admission charge to our spring event.

Those who don't attend will receive an updated newsletter by mail. For those of you who are new **Sports Leisure Travelers**, you should know that many of the new tours sell out very quickly, sometimes even before non-attendees get their copy 2-5 days later. We offer a "drive-through pick-up" at Preview Day if you don't have time or desire to attend the full session. The trips will be posted online Monday, June 10th at Noon. That gives the Preview Day attendees a two hour window to get in ahead of non-attendees.

Help others in the community with your Preview Day donation. We will be collecting these items at Preview Day, for

distribution to those in our community who need a hand:

- Laundry Soap
- Gently used Sleeping Bags
- Women's Hygiene Items

If you are joining us, bring one or more of the listed items with you. Loaves and Fishes will pick it all up at the end of the day. An easy way to make someone's day a little better.

New Trips on These Pages

We have made a small change in the way we announce new tours. Instead of bunching them for our spring and fall preview days, we are releasing them as air and other arrangements are finalized. Then, at our two annual gatherings, we will set aside time to give you more information on not only new trips, but on the ones that were announced in previous months.

Tour Pricing Update

No industry has been hit harder by the post-COVID inflation run than travel. Because a lot of what we do is "people-oriented," there are a lot of labor costs. As wages race to keep up with inflation, there is a lot of pressure on businesses to raise prices to maintain quality and a margin of profit.

Two years ago, extending into last year, we saw airfares rise, particularly to secondary cities. Hotel pricing took a huge jump, along with dining out. We are now seeing those price increases moderate. The one thing plaguing us right now is the price of motorcoaches. Bus costs have gone up 50% in the past year and are still rising. Where we used to pay \$1,400-\$1,600 a day, we are now regularly seeing pricing of \$2,200-\$2,400 a day. We do our best to balance quality and prices on a daily basis here at **SLV**.

And so it goes,

Mark Hoffmann, CTP
Owner/Founder (almost 45 years ago)

Clayton Place... Bits and Pieces

Friends:

Teasers? Priority Notification Lists? What exactly are they and why do we have them? Here are answers to your burning questions:

Planning a tour takes a lot of time, and that translates directly to money – not just staff salaries, but all the deposits we have to put down to confirm the space we wish to reserve



as well. Sometimes those deposits are non-refundable which increases our risk. So when we have an idea we're not completely sure about, we float it by you first in the form of a Teaser. If we get enough responses (we usually look for 20+) the trip idea will move into operations. If not, well, it was *still* a good idea. Maybe we'll try again later.

Not every tour that goes into operations works out. I got a HUGE interest list (what we call a Priority Notification List or PNL for short) for the **Azores** off the coast of Portugal. Then the pandemic happened. My ground operator over there is a small, family-run operation (mom, pop and son). Sadly they've not fully recovered, so I wait. And you wait, too.

Let me give updates for the Teasers in our 2024 Dream Book (page 33). **Portland Rose Festival** – insufficient interest. **Quebec** has been scheduled for October 7-14, 2025. **Costa Rica** has interest in the high teens. We need a few more people on the PNL. **Switzerland** has been scheduled for July 7-16, 2025. **Tuscany** has been scheduled for September 30-October 8, 2025. I'm also playing with the idea of an optional Rome add-on at the end. **It is too early to make reservations on any of these tours, but not too late to add your name to any PNL if interested.** Itineraries and further information will be included in our 2025 Dream Book.

Now for your dreaming pleasure, here are a couple of new Teasers to consider:

San Diego and La Jolla

November 7-10, 2024

A summer edition of *The Traveler* last year teased a trip called "San Diego Roar and Snore," pitching the idea of glamping at the Wild Animal Park. Many of you took notice and the trip moved into operations. What we've learned between then and now is (1) the park doesn't really have the capacity for tour groups and (2) the experience is perhaps a bit more "rustic" than we thought. So a new trip has been developed, one that visits the Zoo instead (where they have *real* bathrooms... with running water no less!) and other popular sites in San Diego and La Jolla including a foodie tour (with LOTS of samples), Seal Cove, the Museum of Contemporary Art and a champagne brunch cruise on the bay during Fleet Week. Includes air travel to/from San Diego and 3 nights at the Embassy Suites in La Jolla. NOTE: If you're on the PNL for Roar and Snore there's no need to contact us again. Your name will be transferred to this list.

Tournament of Roses Parade

December 30, 2024 – January 1, 2025

It's been a few years since we've attended the Rose Parade in Pasadena. Is anyone interested in a trip to experience this iconic

way of rolling in the New Year? You'll have reserved bleacher seating for the parade as it winds down Colorado Boulevard, visit one of the float construction sites and feast on a few nice meals. Due to our early "rise and shine" on January 1, we celebrate a New York New Year's at 9:00 pm Pacific Time on the 31st. Includes air travel to/from the LA area and accommodations.

Should one of these trips strike your fancy, please send an e-mail to res@sportsleisure.com asking to be placed on the **Priority Notification List**. If interest is sufficient you will be among the first notified to register and take advantage of the Early Payment Di\$counts offered. A final important fact regarding the PNL: Placing your name on the list does not obligate you in any way, nor does it mean a reservation will automatically be made. You must always call in to confirm your seat on the tour.

Thank you in advance for your show of interest and support!

"Your Tour Guy,"

Clayton Whitehead, CTP
President



Feeling a bit loopy at Switzerland's Jungfrauoch on our last tour in 2019. Look at the altitude!

The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

Receiving Your Newsletter

There are two ways to get this newsletter. You can read it online. We will send you a link in e-mail and you read it on our website. For those who want a copy they can hold in their hands, the second option is a paid mail subscription. For \$10 a year, we will mail four editions (and the annual catalog) to your home.

The printed edition is a color photo copy, and is sent out the day before newsletter goes live at www.sportsleisure.com If you are interested in paying for a printed copy, give the office a call and we can set it up for you. Otherwise, you will receive a copy by e-mail.

New West Sacramento Stop

We added a pick up at the Lux Bus Yard, at **1875 South River Road in West Sacramento**. The location is about ½ mile south of US 50, along the Sacramento River.



Here's the place you're looking for in West Sacramento. Park between the building/fence and road in the marked spaces.

For San Francisco (westbound) trips, it is the last stop out of town and the first stop on the return. You park in lined spots **outside** the bus yard. This is because large vehicles are moving around inside and we don't want your car or truck to get squished.

If you live in West Sacramento, Davis or downtown, it would be an easy stop to use. Even for many in the Land Park or other south Sacramento neighborhoods, it would be a good choice. **Call our office and we will send you driving directions.**

Lifetime Travel Club Special Offer

First made last year, this is an opportunity to obtain a permanent **Travel Club Membership**. You'll never pay member dues again. **Until June 30, a Lifetime Travel Club Membership is \$20** (a one-year renewal is \$10). This never-to-be-offered again deal is available to any TC Member.

Simply call the office and tell the staff member you would like the Lifetime Travel Club Deal. It can be done in 2 minutes by phone, or you can send us a check with a note to apply it to a Lifetime TC Membership.

I Have TSA Pre-Check, But It's Not Printed on My Boarding Pass

This is a frequent complaint at the airport. The words "TSA PRE" should be printed in the upper left-hand corner of your boarding pass always check before you head to TSA). But many times, it isn't. This is fixable.

Check with a skycap or counter agent to get a new boarding pass, or ask your Tour Director, if you are still downstairs near the ticket counter.

Why does this happen? No one knows. Southwest staff tell us it happens all the time, not just to members of our groups. Sometimes the husband has it and the wife doesn't. It's a great idea to have your pre-check number somewhere on your person, so you can get it on your boarding pass. If you are traveling with **Sports Leisure**, generally the Tour Director has a list with that information on it.

Route 66 Will be Turning 100 in 2026

The Mother Road, The Main Street of America, that ribbon of pavement from Chicago to Los Angeles, will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2026. Already centennial groups in all eight states are meeting to plan events to celebrate the old road. You can be certain we will have a trip on the highway. No doubt the publicity will focus on many of our friends along 66, bringing them a new set of customers, hoping to capture a bit of the history along the road.

Proud members of the



A Test

You are driving in your car on a wild, stormy night.

You see a bus stop where three people wait for a bus:

1. An elderly lady who looks as if she is about to die.
2. An old friend who once saved your life.
3. The perfect man (*or*) woman you have been dreaming about.

Your small car can only hold one passenger. To which one would you offer a ride? This is a moral/ethical dilemma that was used as part of a job application.

Think before you continue reading. You could pick up the elderly lady, because she is going to die, and thus you should save her first; or you could take the old friend because he once saved your life, and this would be the perfect chance to repay him. However, you may never be able to find your perfect dream lover again.

The candidate who was hired (*out of 200 applicants*) had no trouble coming up with his answer. WHAT DID HE SAY?

He answered: "I would give the car keys to my old friend and let him take the lady to the hospital. I would stay behind and wait for the bus with the person of my dreams."

Never forget to "Think Outside of the Box."

Living Love

If you ever loved an animal, there are three days in your life you will always remember...

The first is a day, blessed with happiness, when you bring home your young new friend. You may have spent weeks deciding on a breed. You may have asked numerous opinions of many friends, or done long research in finding a breeder.

Or, perhaps in a fleeting moment, you may have just chosen that silly looking mutt in a shelter – simply because something in its eyes reached your heart. But when you bring that chosen pet home, and watch it explore, and claim its special place in your hall or front room – and when you feel it brush against you for the first time – it instills a feeling of pure love you will carry with you through the many years to come.

The second day will occur eight or nine or ten years later. For a surprising instant, you will look at your longtime friend and see age where you once saw youth. You will see slow deliberate steps where you once saw energy. And you may feel a growing fear deep within yourself, which bodes of a coming emptiness. Then the third day finally arrives.

On this day, if your friend and God have not decided for you, you will be faced with making a decision of your own – on behalf of your lifelong friend. But whichever way your

friend eventually leaves you, you will feel as alone as a single star on a dark night. If you are wise, you will let the tears flow as freely and as often as they must.

But in the passing of your friend, you may find that a soul – a bit smaller in size than your own – seems to walk with you, at times, during the lonely days to come. At moments when you least expect anything out of the ordinary to happen, you may feel something brush against your leg – very very lightly. And looking down at the place where your dear, perhaps dearest, friend used to lay – you will remember those three significant days.

But there will be, I assure you, a fourth day when – along with the memory of your pet, and piercing through the heaviness in your heart – there will come a realization that belongs only to you. It will be as unique and strong as our relationship with each animal we have loved, and lost. It is the legacy our pets leave us when they go. And it is a gift we may keep with us as long as we live.

OFFICE HOURS:

9:00am – 3:30pm MON. thru FRI.

Closed weekends and major holidays

CLOSED TUES. 12:00pm – 1:15pm

The Customers Always Write

Dear Clayton:

I was on your **Carolina Coast** tour and I wanted to give a commendation to the female driver from your chauffeuring service. What a competent group you have contracted with! If you have an opportunity to share that insight with her manager, that would be ideal.

It was a great tour and I felt you and your mother's input made the tour more meaningful and relevant. I have a new respect and interest in learning more and more about those 5 original colonies. If we

have done some reading of narrative fiction, nonfiction, that we feel might be helpful to continue our interest in the states we visited.

Hope you find time to unplug and enjoy your week. Please give your mom my deep appreciation for her participation! Best regards,

Gene Kluck

Dear Sports Leisure:

I was on one other trip with Scott and knew what a great tour guide he is, so I knew this would be a great trip too. He is so

kind, and beyond that, a great planner who handles problems with ease. My bag did not get brought down for our return trip from Old Faithful, and he got it handled. I know this was not the only problem he had to handle. Even the last trip I went on with him, Reno Ballon Festival, the balloons did not go up, yet he handled that as well as one could with other fun events, already planned. Just wanted to sing his praises. Thank you, Scott. It was a great trip.

Marcia Rogers

The Tour Calendar *(Previously Announced)*

The Giants & The Cubs at Wrigley Field

4 Days • June 16-19

Still limited space for our trip to Chicago and Wrigley Field. Games are Monday and Tuesday evenings at 7pm, and a day game finale at 1:20pm. Tickets will be in section 126, an excellent, lower level location.

We will fly in on Sunday and enjoy dinner at Harry Carey's near O'Hare Airport. Monday and Tuesday we'll spend the days touring Chicago, the evenings watching baseball. Guided sights feature downtown and Wrigleyville, the neighborhood around the legendary ballpark. A tour of Wrigley Field in on the agenda (the White Sox do not offer tours of their park).

We'll make a stop at the Chicago Sports Museum, and dine at local landmarks like the **Billy Goat Tavern** (there's a fascinating baseball story here) **Harry Carey's Steakhouse** and **Lou Mitchell's** (a Route 66 landmark).

Accommodations are upscale, the Sheraton Suites O'Hare overnight on arrival, and two nights at the St. Clair Hotel (just off the Magnificent Mile near downtown). We are limiting the group to a maximum of 18 travelers.

The package includes non-stop round trip to Chicago on United Airlines, home pick-up, 6 included meals, accommodations, tickets and attractions as listed.

\$2990 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3200 single

Seattle, Sights and/or Baseball in the Emerald City

4 Days • August 23-26

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights at the Embassy Suites Seatac, breakfast and cocktails included daily
- Round trip air on Alaska Airlines (subject to change)
- 8 meals including a private Sunday Brunch at the Salish Lodge
- Museum of Flight, Seattle Chocolate Factory Tour, Chihuly Garden & Glass, The Space Needle, Seattle City Tour, tour of West Seattle, Ballard Locks cruise

A unique itinerary unlike any we have offered in the Pacific Northwest. Depart on a Friday morning and enjoy sights in Seattle throughout the weekend and into Monday. **Or for baseball fans**, catch the Giants playing the Seattle Mariners 3 times on Friday evening, plus Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Sightseers *could* add a baseball game to their itinerary (based on availability).

The Tour Package includes airfare (currently Alaska Airlines), baggage fees for one bag per person, 3 nights hotel, all transportation, 7 meals and attractions as described, gratuities for non-Sports Leisure driver/guides, home pick-up in the greater Sacramento area.

\$2420 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2660 single

The Czech Republic – Vineyards, Castles & Countrysides

Featuring 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

Why would you go to Europe, spend 11 days, and only visit one country? Excellent

question. Let's see. Maybe it's the castles. Castles have always fascinated us North Americans, because we don't have many here. In the Czech Republic, **they are all over!** Let's visit a few, including Lednice, a registered UNESCO World Heritage Site (a horse-drawn carriage ride is a highlight).

The country is known for its wines, just like California is. You just happen to be there during harvest season. There **could be** some grape juice sampling. Just sayin' it's a possibility.

The Czechs are also known for their crystal, and you'll learn more. Prague's hallowed Jewish Quarter will take you on a historical journey that may make you a bit uncomfortable, but it will allow you to learn what happened here. A visit to Wenceslas Square is a must. There's lunch at the famous Dancing House, and a tour of the National Theater, Prague's cherished jewel.

You can find the complete day-by-day itinerary on our web site, at **www.sportsleisure.com**. Or call our office and we'll send you a copy.

\$4980 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8700 single

Castles and Manor Houses of Ireland

Sleep well on this spectacular vacation around the Emerald Isle

12 Days • September 28 – October 9

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights each and touring in Dublin, Belfast, Donegal, Cashel & Kildare
 - Guinness Storehouse & Waterford Crystal Factory
 - Titanic Belfast Exhibition & The Giants Causeway
 - Cliffs of Moher, Blarney Castle & Russborough House
 - Visit a working sheep farm
 - 18 meals: 10 full Irish breakfasts, 8 dinners
 - Roundtrip air to/from Dublin
 - Door-to-door airport transportation
 - Fully escorted by Irish driver/guide and **Sports Leisure** Tour Director
- 10,000/12,400 Gold Passport Points
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. OK, so you didn't like the black pudding. This morning try Scruffins – a cross between a scone and muffin – before heading 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 overlook the immaculately landscaped Stormont Estate. **Stormont Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

5. Visit the City Centre with a local guide and 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*. Tonight we'll have a pub crawl downtown and see if we can stir up any trouble of our own! **(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 James 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 Sliah Liag 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, museum and crystal boutique. We might even visit Blarney Castle where you can kiss the fabled 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 tranquillity – 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)**

\$9995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$12,390 single

Fall Foliage in the Wasatch Mountains

Featuring four nights in Park City, Utah

5 Days • September 29 – October 3

★ **Highlights** ★

- Snowbasin Resort gondola
- Robert Redford's Sundance Resort
- Utah Olympic Park
- Mount Nebo Scenic Byway
- 8 meals: 4 breakfasts and 4 lunches
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Salt Lake City
- Door to door airport transportation
- 3000/3300 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly nonstop to Salt Lake City. Ride the gondola through the fall foliage at Snowbasin Resort, home to the 2002 winter Olympics downhill skiing events. Lunch is hosted in Earl's Lodge framed entirely by spruce logs, pure mountain luxury at the base of the mountain. This afternoon travel on a scenic mountain road to Park City for more spectacular fall colors! **Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Park City – 4 nights (L)**

2. A special treat today is a visit to Robert Redford's Sundance Resort. We travel down scenic Provo Canyon, stopping at Bridal Veil Falls, a 600 foot multi-tiered waterfall. Enjoy lunch in a private room with beautiful Native American art from Robert's private collection. After lunch ride their open air ski lift for amazing panoramic views of the Resort and surrounding mountains. **(FB,L)**

3. Enjoy a guided tour of the Utah Olympic Park where we'll take our bus to the tip top of the Nordic ski jump. Our guide will share information and stories from the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. You will also visit the top of the bobsled and skeleton track, with time after the tour to visit their museum. In the afternoon visit a nearby town with a special lunch and attraction. **(FB,L)**

4. Today travel the Mount Nebo Scenic Byway, a mountain road graced with colorful oak, juniper and aspen trees. We will stop at several scenic overlooks for photos and short walks including Devils Kitchen with its red rock cliffs and spires, and spectacular views of Mount Nebo reaching to a height of 12,000 feet. **(FB,L)**

5. Return to Salt Lake City for your flight back to Sacramento. **(FB)**

\$2975 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3295 single

Spectacular Sedona

Featuring the Verde Canyon Railroad

5 days • October 27-31

- 4 nights at the Wilde Resort
 - Guided tour of the Copper Museum
 - Trolley tour to the Chapel of the Holy Cross
 - Ride the Verde Canyon Railroad
 - 4x4 tour into the red rock backcountry (optional)
 - Two meals with entertainment
 - 9 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Continued on page 10**

Daycations & Theatre Outings

The Drowsy Chaperone

East Sonora Theatre

Sunday, May 12 – 2:00 pm

When a die-hard theatre fan plays his favorite cast album, the characters come to life in this hilarious Tony Award-winning musical farce brought to you by the Sierra Repertory Theatre. Hailed by New York Magazine as “The Perfect Broadway Musical,” *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a loving send-up of the Golden Age musical, featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another. An early lunch is served at *Sports Leisure*-favorite Firenze in Oakdale before the show. **\$179**

Epicurious? A Mystery Daycation for the Foodie in Us All!

Thursday, May 30

Sample on the bounty of our region with a mystery *daycation* dedicated to much of what makes Northern California such a flavorful place to live. Hints? There is a Wisper in the Air – can you hear it? All is a'Buzz, Buzz, Buzz. Snacks? You bet! Lunch? Oh, yeah! We guarantee your tummy will be pleased. Away from the city, but not too far from home, all your senses are in for an extremely pleasant surprise. **\$194**

Three in One at the de Young

Bouquets to Art, Fashioning San Francisco & Irving Penn at the de Young Museum, San Francisco

Wednesday, June 5

Experience three exciting exhibits in one! You will be able to visit the stunning “Bouquets to Art” exhibit, an all-time favorite celebrating 40 years in 2024. Also included is admission to the “Fashioning San Francisco” exhibit, exploring the history of San Francisco through fashion. Focusing on one of the most iconic collections of the 20th and 21st Century women’s clothing in the United States, this exhibition includes 100 highlights, along with local loans of high fashion and haute couture. This is the first major presentation of the de Young’s

costume collection in over 35 years. You can also visit the exhibition of photography by Irving Penn, widely recognized as one of the greatest photographers of the 20th Century. Vogue’s longest-standing contributor, Penn revolutionized fashion photography in the 1950s. **\$134**

Pride in the Castro

Thursday, June 6

A 6-block guided walking tour of The Castro, The City’s LGBT district is featured. Hear the story of the culture of one of SF’s cleanest neighborhoods. An opportunity to get a greater understanding of LGBT culture (maybe your ability to communicate with a gay or lesbian family member would be enhanced). Lunch at The Catch, an ice cream treat, a ride on the historic F Line street car to the ferry Building, then a ferry ride to Vallejo round out the day. **\$165**

Company

Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, June 12 – 1:00 pm*

Winner of five Tony Awards including Best Revival of a Musical, *Company* “strikes like a lightning bolt.” It’s brilliantly conceived and funny. Helmed by three-time Tony Award-winning director Marianne Elliott (*War Horse, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Angels in America*), this new production of Stephen Sondheim and George Furth’s groundbreaking musical comedy is boldly sophisticated, deeply insightful and downright hilarious. It’s Bobbie’s 35th birthday party, and all her friends keep asking, “Why isn’t she married?”

Why can’t she find the right man and isn’t it time to settle down and start a family?” As Bobbie searches for answers, she discovers why being single, being married and being alive in the 21st Century could drive a person crazy. *Company* features Sondheim’s award-winning songs “You Could Drive a Person Crazy,” “The Ladies Who Lunch,” “Side by Side by Side” and the iconic “Being Alive.” **\$182**

Sweet Smells of Summer

Thursday, June 13

Start your morning at the family-owned Newcastle Lavender Farm nestled in the beautiful foothills of Northern California. The farm provides a serene location to harvest your own lavender or buy pre-harvested bundles, crafts and other lavender products – be aware that bees love lavender and will be present at this farm! From there it’s a short drive to High Hand Nursery in Loomis (not to be confused with High Hill) where you will go on a guided tour of the nursery and have lunch in their beautiful atrium Café. We will enjoy a family-style lunch that will include a vegetarian option as well. After the meal you’ll have time to explore the many exhibits and shops featuring art, olive oil, metal works and much more. You will be on a farm and walking tour. We suggest you wear comfortable closed-toe shoes. **\$158**

The Cher Show

Curran Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, June 19 – 1:00 pm*

What would the world of popular culture be like without Cher? Cher is forever and for six straight decades has been one unstoppable force letting nothing and no one stand in her way. *The Cher Show* is the Tony Award-winning musical of her story. It takes three women to play her, the kid starting out, the glam pop star and the ICON. *The Cher Show* includes 35 smash hits, six decades of stardom, two rock star husbands, a Grammy, an Oscar, an Emmy and many glamorous, Tony Award-winning Bob Mackie gowns. **\$188**



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sportsleisure. We post pictures of recent trips and sometimes trips that are currently on the road... so you may see a fellow *Sports Leisure* traveler while they are actually on vacation. How awesome is that?



Route 66

Fallon House Theatre, Columbia

Sunday, June 23 – 2:00 pm

Beginning with the sounds of Chicago in the 1950s and traveling along the “Main Street of America” to the California coast with the surf music of the 1960s, this exciting musical revue features 34 of the greatest “Rock n’ Road” hits of the 20th Century. Songs include “Dead Man’s Curve,” “King of the Road,” “Little Old Lady from Pasadena,” “Beep Beep,” “Six Days on the Road,” “Little GTO,” “Fun, Fun, Fun” and many more. Get your kicks with this smash coast-to-coast hit musical revue! Enjoy included lunch prior to the show. **\$169**

Roll with the Baker

Thursday, June 27

Expect festivity and fun with a day at Boudin Bakery & Bistro at Fisherman’s Wharf in San Francisco. Renowned for their sourdough bread, your dough rolling session with one of the expert bakers will provide an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and receive hands-on experience to use at home in your own kitchen. Lunch will conclude our baking experience and tour. We will spend a little time at the Ferry Building until boarding the ferry to Vallejo where our motorcoach awaits for the ride home. **\$197**

Japanese Prints in Transition

Legion Of Honor, San Francisco

Tuesday, July 2

Japanese Prints in Transition features selections from the Achenbach Foundation offering graphic arts that haven’t been displayed for many decades. The exhibition documents the late 19th Century shift from delicately colored ukiyo-e (floating world) wood cutouts of actors, courtesans and scenic views to brightly colored images of Western architecture, technology, Victorian fashions and customs. **\$119**

Mrs. Doubtfire

Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, July 17 – 1:00 pm*

A new musical comedy about the things we do to stay together. Everyone’s favorite Scottish nanny is headed to San Francisco!

Rob McClure will reprise his Tony-nominated Broadway performance on tour alongside co-star (and real wife!) Maggie Lakis in this internationally acclaimed hit musical critics call “wonderful, heart-warming, and laugh-out-loud funny” (*Manchester Evening News*) and “a feel-good, family-friendly comedy that delivers” (*The Hollywood Reporter*). Based on the beloved film and directed by four-time Tony Award winner Jerry Zaks, *Mrs. Doubtfire* tells the hysterical and heartfelt story of an out-of-work actor who will do anything for his kids. It’s “the lovable, big-hearted musical comedy we need right now,” raves the *Chicago Tribune*. **\$204**

Rosie the Riveter Museum and Red Oak Victory Ship

Thursday, July 18

Travel to Richmond and visit the Rosie the Riveter Museum which explores the efforts and sacrifices of American civilians on the WWII home front. Find out how diverse neighbors lived, worked and interacted during this pivotal time in US and world history. Many faces, many stories and many truths weave a complex tapestry of experiences from this period of opportunity and loss. We will also visit the *SS Red Oak Victory*, a Boulder victory-class cargo ship used in the Second World War. She has been preserved to serve as a museum ship and is managed by the Richmond Library of History and located near the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park. Please note this ship is NOT ADA compliant due to its age. There are many stairs and narrow passageways. This trip is considered ACTIVE due to the walking and stairs. Lunch is also included on this trip. **\$159**

Taylor Rodriguez as Elvis: The Ultimate Tribute

East Sonora Theatre

Sunday, July 28 – 2:00 pm

From the moment he takes the stage, Taylor Rodriguez captivates the audience with his deeply rooted passion for entertaining. His unique vocal style and charismatic stage presence ensures the audience will enjoy a memorable experience. He was crowned the Ultimate *Elvis* Tribute Artist Champion

by *Elvis Presley* Enterprises (EPE) in 2019! Lunch is included at Firenze in Oakdale before the show. **\$177**

Girl from the North Country

Golden Gate Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, August 7 – 1:00 pm*

Girl from the North Country is the Tony Award-winning new musical that the *Chicago Tribune* declares is “a Broadway revelation!” Written and directed by celebrated playwright Conor McPherson and featuring Tony Award-winning orchestrations by Simon Hale, *Girl from the North Country* reimagines 20 legendary songs of Bob Dylan (who grew up in Duluth, Minnesota) as they’ve never been heard before, including “Forever Young,” “All Along The Watchtower,” “Hurricane,” “Slow Train Coming,” and “Like A Rolling Stone.” Set in Duluth in 1934, we meet a group of wayward travelers whose lives intersect in a guesthouse filled with music, life and hope. Experience this “profoundly beautiful” production (*The New York Times*) brought to vivid life by an extraordinary company of actors and musicians. **\$187**

Wicked

Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, September 11 – 1:00 pm*

Wicked is the untold true story about the Witches of Oz – Glinda and Elphaba were a part of the Land of Oz long before Dorothy arrived in the narrative. Where Glinda was bubbly, beautiful and exceptionally popular, Elphaba was smart, fiery and (oh yeah) born with emerald-green skin. And she had a very special talent. Even while so very different, these two women went from rivals to friends... until one was labelled “Good” and the other “Wicked.” This is their story. **\$213**

***Weekday San Francisco theatre trips include a box lunch served on board the coach, orchestra seating and a no host dinner stop after the show at either Pier 39 or North Beach. Location will be specified in the Final Tour Notes at the time of billing.**

Giants Day Trip Baseball Schedule for 2024

We have added two additional Giants games to our schedule to accommodate demand, July 28 and August 21.

(with ticket location, trip price and game time – times subject to change)

- Sat., June 1 – NY Yankees – Club Level 229 – \$208 – 7:05pm
- Sun., June 2 – NY Yankees – Lower Box 126 – \$190 – 1:05pm (3 available)
- Sat., June 29 – LA Dodgers – Lower Box 128 – \$226 – 4:15pm
- Sun., June 30 – LA Dodgers – Lower Box 127 – \$180 – 1:05pm (sold out)
- Sun., July 28 – Colorado Rockies – Lower Box 128 – \$143 – 1:05pm (new trip)
- Thurs., August 15 – Atlanta Braves – Lower Box 127 – \$141 – 12:45pm (sold out)
- Wed., August 21 – Chicago White Sox – Lower Box 125 – \$137 – 12:45pm (new trip)
- Thurs., September 5 – Arizona – Club Level 229 – \$109 – 12:45pm (3 available)

The times listed are the **game times**. Note that all are day games, **except June 1 and June 29**. The Giants prices are based on demand. The lower deck seats are a section or two closer to home plate than in the last few years (and the prices reflect that). Seats are in the shade.

Note seats for two games, **June 1 and Sept. 5**, are located on the Club Level. This is one level above where we usually sit. Access to the Club Level is limited to those who hold tickets. The crowds are smaller, the rest room lines (for the ladies) shorter, the facilities are cleaner and the food stand lines are also shorter. Plus a visit the team's Hall of Fame is included with your ticket. Tyler and Mark checked out these seats and thought them worthy of a try. Ultimately, your opinion will determine if we return to that area next season.

Extended Baseball Trips for 2024

More information on these tours can be found on the Tour Calendar page, or call our office.

The Giants & The Cubs at Wrigley Field

4 Days • June 16-19

\$2990 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3200 single • 4 seats available

Seattle – A Giants Road Trip

4 Days • August 23-26

\$2670 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2940 single • 3 seats available

Final home game in Oakland!

Texas Rangers vs. Oakland A's

Sunday, September 26 - \$139

Seats is Sect. 111, lower level, shaded

Attend the final game at the Coliseum, when a page in the book of baseball history will be closed forever. Early reservations recommended.

Tour Calendar (con't from page 7)

- Tour Director: Scott Angeletti
 - 3250/3850 Gold Passport Points
1. Fly direct on Southwest Airlines to Phoenix. Enjoy a hosted lunch before traveling to spectacular Sedona. **The Wilde Resort – 4 nights (L)**
 2. This morning take a Trolley tour around greater Sedona to include the Chapel of the Holy Cross. Travel scenic Oak Creek Canyon for a spectacular drive along the river with towering red rock views on your way to Flagstaff. Tonight enjoy a special evening with dinner and entertainment. **(FB,D)**
 3. At the Copper Museum learn why Arizona is nicknamed the Copper State, during your tour that combines history and stunning artifacts. Board the Verde Canyon Railroad and gaze at the brilliant blue skies, red rock cliffs and Sycamore trees along the Verde River. **(FB,L)**
 4. In the Mexican village Tlaquepaque; wander through courtyards, under stone arches, viewing the White Sycamore trees. This afternoon you will have an optional jeep tour (extra cost) Wild \$152.00 or Mild \$95.00, price is inclusive of tax and gratuity for the drivers. Travel into the back country on dirt roads to some spectacular vista, with several stops for photos. Tonight we gather for a wonderful farewell dinner. **(FB,D)**
 5. Travel back to Phoenix this morning. Pause for a special lunch in Mesa with entertainment before we take a late afternoon flight home to Sacramento. **(FB,L)**
- \$3220 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3805 single**

The Travel Guys Radio Show

NEW DAY! • NEW TIME!

Every **SATURDAY 11am**
KFBK, 1530AM, 93.1FM

Podcasts and show updates at
www.travelguysradio.com

Hosted by: Tom Romano and Mark Hoffmann



New Vacations & Getaways

The Oregon Coast to the California Redwoods

Fly to Portland, travel the coast through the redwoods back home

7 Days • September 2-8

2

★ Highlights ★

- Depart from Sacramento by air to Portland, take the motorcoach back to Sacramento – door-to-door service to/ from your home
- A very berry experience – learn how the Marionberry was created, enjoy a special treat and shop for berry products
- See the *Spruce Goose*, Howard Hughes experimental aircraft
- Dine on the historic waterfront in Newport
- Cocktail cruise on Newport Harbor
- Behind-the-scenes tour at the Oregon Aquarium
- Ride the sand dunes in a giant (or smaller more adventurous) dune buggy
- The gardens at Shore Acres State Park
- Lunch, Cranberry Sweets, Misty Meadows Jam and Washed Ashore in Bandon
- Ride the Rogue River Jetboat
- Redwood National Park
- Guided drive through “The Avenue of the Giants” in Humboldt Redwoods Park
- 14 meals, 3000/3600 Gold Passport Points

1. As the schedule stands now, it will be a very early flight to Portland this morning. On arrival, we head to a nice brunch. Driving through farm country, this is where they grow lots of berries. A stop at Smith’s Berry Farm gets you a quick lesson in the history of the Marionberry and a berry milk shake.

Speaking of history, at the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum, you’ll find the famous *Spruce Goose*, Howard Hughes experimental aircraft. We’ll arrive on the coast to your oceanfront accommodations in late afternoon. A casual early dinner is included. **Elizabeth Street Oceanfront Suites – 2 nights (BR,D)**

2. The Oregon Aquarium offers a great experience to “meet” some of the local marine wildlife. The behind-the-scenes tour gets you up close with the critters. There’s

time for lunch and browsing the Made in Oregon store on the waterfront, then a free afternoon to walk on/enjoy the view of the beach. This evening, dinner in one of Mark’s favorite restaurants, Clearwater on the bay. The desserts are yummy... **(B,D)**

3. Just an hour down the coast is the lovely city of Florence, but before lunch there, let’s ride on the sand dunes! Take the more gentle big buggy, or the adventurous smaller buggy, both are lots of fun! Then there’s free time in Florence for lunch, shopping and ice cream.

Stop at an Elk Reserve near Reedsport for photos (if the wildlife cooperates), arriving in Coos Bay in mid-afternoon. **The Mill Hotel/ Casino Coos Bay – 2 nights (B)**

4. Part of the day is in Coos Bay, learning about this historic seaport. Your tour features a stop at Shore Acres State Park. There’s both a great story **and** a great view here. The other half of the day is in nearby Bandon (35-minute drive), where you’ll find places to buy locally-made edibles at Cranberry Sweets and Misty Meadows Jam. (Remember there’s no TSA because you are returning home by motorcoach. Tonight, dinner features a demonstration of the baked-pit-salmon. Be sure to attend the “unveiling” of one of your dinner entrees. **(FB,D)**

5. On down the Oregon Coast this morning, in time to experience the Rogue River Mailboat. Since 1895, the mail has been delivered up the Rogue River by boat, because back then, not all river communities had roads to them! Today, you’ll board one of these boats and head up the river. Spend the night in Gold Beach. **Jot’s Resort (FB,L,D)**

6. More great scenery today, as we say goodbye to Oregon and hello to California. Redwood National Park is our focus (coastal redwoods), with a stop at the Visitors Center. In Eureka, you’ll also view some examples of Giant Sequoia Redwoods and maybe even have a chance to “see the forest from above the trees” and stroll through a Victorian village. **Red Lion Inn (B,L)**

7. Our last sightseeing stop is this

morning in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Here you can walk among the tall trees with your guide, whom we affectionately refer to as “Mr. Tree.” Justin **loves** the redwoods and he’ll share his love with you. After a stop for lunch, arrive at the **Sports Leisure** office approximately 4-5pm. **(FB,L)**

**\$2985 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3565 single
\$75 EPD until April 30**

Mammoth & Mono Lakes, Plus Bodie Ghost Town

4 Days • September 4-7

3

★ Highlights ★

- Visit the high Sierra ghost town of Bodie
- Stay 3 nights in Mammoth Lakes at the Outbound Mammoth Hotel
- 9 meals included (3FB,4L,2D)
- Sightseeing to include Mono Lake, Devil’s Postpile Nat’l Monument, the June Lakes Scenic Loop Drive, Rainbow Falls
- All coach tour
- 1800/2100 Gold Passport Points

NOTE: High Altitude Warning: Hotel accommodations in Mammoth Lakes are at 7,900’.

Enjoy a coach ride through the high Sierra while the weather is still warm, destination Mammoth Lakes. Mammoth is one of the country’s premier ski resorts, starting in November. Before the snow arrives, there is a small window for non-skiers to enjoy an often-spectacular landscape at a time when the number of mountain visitors is traditionally lower. Mountain scenery with a bit of history sprinkled in.

1. From the **Sports Leisure** office (our departure point) to Mammoth is roughly a 5-hour journey. On the way to Mammoth, we’ll detour into the ghost town of Bodie. Bodie State Historic Park is a genuine California gold-mining ghost town. Visitors can walk down the deserted streets of a town that once had a population of nearly 10,000 people. The town is named for Waterman S. Body (William Bodey), who had discovered small amounts of gold in hills north of Mono Lake. People flocked to Bodie and transformed it from a town of a few dozen to a boomtown. Only a small

part of the town survives. Interiors remain as they were left and stocked with goods. Designated as a National Historic Site and a State Historic Park in 1962, the remains of Bodie are being preserved in a state of “arrested decay”. Today this once thriving mining camp is visited by tourists, howling winds and an occasional ghost. Arrive in Mammoth at your lodge in early evening. A long but productive day of travel. **Outbound Mammoth Hotel – 3 nights (L,D)**

2-3. Two sightseeing trips highlight your days in Mammoth. The first includes a visit to Mono Lake. Mono Lake is an ancient saline lake located at the eastern edge of the Sierra Nevada in California. Home to trillions of brine shrimp, millions of birds, and world-famous tufa towers, its tributary streams also supply water to Los Angeles, nearly 350 miles to the south. It’s one of the most unusual lakes in the world. Your visit includes a guided walk, a stop at the visitors center and lunch in nearby Lee Vining. On the return trip to Mammoth, detour onto the June Lakes Loop. Also a ski area in winter, it’s a great place for an afternoon break.

The following day begins with a visit to Devil’s Postpile National Monument. The landscape is a reflection of fire and ice. The eruption and uniform cooling of basalt lava created an impressive wall of columns. Later, a glacial event exposed the columns and polished the top of the formation revealing the pattern of hexagons that resulted from the lava cooling. Evidence of volcanic activity lives on today at the monument’s soda spring.

Next is a journey to Convict Lake. As you might guess, there’s a story here. Nearby Crowley Lake also provides some photo opportunities. Back in town, there’s a short visit to the ski resort area, then some free time to relax or browse the modest shops in town. **(2FB,2L,1D)**

4. The return trip home is direct, with just rest and lunch stops en route, arriving in late afternoon to your door-to-door service. **(FB,L)**

**\$1795 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2080 single
\$50 EPD until April 30**

**See the back page for
Early Payment Discounts**

Location Hollywood: Lights, Camera, Action!

*Featuring a night at the iconic
Hollywood Bowl*

2

4 Days • September 19-22

★ Highlights ★

- Stay 3 nights within walking distance of the Hollywood Bowl and Walk of Fame
- A night at the Hollywood Bowl for *The Sound of Music Experience* with live music by the LA Philharmonic, plus private pre-show picnic
- Walking and driving tour of the glitz, glamor and filming locations in Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Malibu with an entertaining local guide
- Visit the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Warner Brothers Studio, Getty Villa in Malibu, Hollywood Bowl Museum and LA Original Farmers Market
- Join a studio audience for the taping of a TV talk or game show
- 6 meals including Sunday Brunch at the Smokehouse – George Clooney’s favorite restaurant
- Roundtrip air to/from Burbank
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2450/2800 Gold Passport Points

1. After a short flight to Burbank, enjoy breakfast at a star-studded local eatery. Countless TV shows, movies and music videos have been filmed here. Next you’re off to Malibu with a local guide. You may recognize the Getty Villa on the cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean from one of the many movies filmed there. Take a guided walking tour of the museum with free to time experience the famous gardens. Cruise down Pacific Coast Highway to Malibu, but keep an eye on the ocean. This is where the *Creature From the Black Lagoon* emerged from the water and the Speedo-clad “Baywatch” cast protected the beaches of LA. Beach-front tables on the sand await you for a late lunch at Paradise Cove where many famous beach scenes were filmed. Onward to Hollywood where your hotel is located a short walk from many famous landmarks. **Hilton Garden Inn Hollywood – 3 nights (FB,L)**

2. With a local guide take in the famous sights in and around Hollywood and Beverly Hills, both walking and driving. Lunch is

served at a famous eatery with plenty of opportunities for photos and (hopefully) movie star sightings. Today also features your chance to join a live studio audience for a taping of a television talk or game show. Due to the unpredictable nature of TV shows and taping schedules, we only receive our location assignment 30-60 days in advance. **(FB,L)**

3. The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures is dedicated to the art of movie-making with exhibits on animation, the making of *The Godfather* and *Casablanca*, and the huge display of sets, costumes and props. We have made special arrangements for you to participate in “The Oscar Experience” in which you’ll accept your award before an appreciative crowd. (You can even take a video home to prove it!) Time for lunch! Gordon Ramsey and Alton Brown are known to shop for ingredients and even film their cooking shows at LA’s Original Farmers Market. Today you can, too. This evening will be both memorable and entertaining as you join the audience to behold one of the most popular events (always a sell-out) held annually at the Hollywood Bowl. *The Sound of Music Experience* incorporates the beloved film with live accompaniment by the LA Philharmonic Orchestra. The evening begins with a light pre-show snack picnic and a chance to visit the Hollywood Bowl Museum. From your seats (in the front section, no less) you’ll enjoy a great view of the audience costume contest before the evening’s featured spectacular. You are welcome to bring snacks and beverages, or purchase dinner at the venue. Your hotel’s great location makes it possible to move to and from the Bowl on foot, thus avoiding any of LA’s famous traffic jams! **(FB)**

4. Today you’re having brunch at a certified “Hollywood Hangout.” Adam Sandler is a regular and George Clooney even named his production company after The Smokehouse. Experience the sights and sounds of a working movie studio on a guided walking and tram tour of Warner Brothers Studio. There will be time to visit some of the famous sets and exhibits, and even to grab a bite at the Central Perk Café, famous from the TV show “Friends.” Time to leave Tinsel Town for Burbank Airport and



an early evening flight home. (BR)

\$2450 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2755 single

\$75 EPD until April 30

Vancouver to San Diego Cruise

A repositioning cruise at the end of the Alaska season

7 Days • September 24-30

2

Here's a trip for those who love cruising on the ocean, or a great opportunity for someone who has never been on a cruise to see what it's like! It comes at a great price, **but**, as you can see below, it doesn't offer any exotic ports of call. Just a peaceful cruise on Holland America Line's splendid **Zaandam**.

Our option date on this space is April 27th, so if this cruise interests you call today to reserve your space!

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 – Fly to Vancouver, afternoon city tour, dinner, overnight

Day 2 – Board the ship in the early afternoon, sail at 4:00 pm

Day 3 – Day at sea

Day 4 – Day at sea

Day 5 – San Francisco, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Day 6 – Day at sea

Day 7 – Arrive San Diego 7:00 am, disembark and fly home

The package includes our door-to-door airport transportation; an overnight in Vancouver with sightseeing, dinner and breakfast; roundtrip air (Air Canada to Vancouver, Southwest back from San Diego); and the services of a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director. Note prices quoted are for the lowest-priced outdoor cabins.

\$2280 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2620 single

\$60 EPD until April 30

Gold Passport Points 2300/2650

This tour requires a valid passport.

Proud members of the



Thanksgiving in New York

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

6 Days • November 24-29

4

★ Highlights ★

- 5 nights at the Marriott Marquis Hotel on Times Square
- Tickets to two Broadway shows
- Radio City Music Hall Rockettes Christmas Spectacular
- Theatre talk with nationally-syndicated critic Peter Filichia
- Visit Liberty and Ellis Islands
- Experience the Museum of Broadway
- Tour the 911 Memorial Museum and take in the view at One World Observatory
- See the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
- 6 memorable meals featuring a spectacular Thanksgiving dinner cruise aboard the Bateaux New York
- Round trip airfare to/from New York's LaGuardia Airport
- Home pick-up and return

1. As Thanksgiving ushers in the Christmas season, you'll be in the middle of it all as you check-in to New York's best address located directly on Times Square.

Marriott Marquis – 5 nights (D)

2. Begin your exploration of The Big Apple at the Museum of Broadway, a spectacular repository of all things theatre from the age of Vaudeville to the Ziegfeld Follies to the present. Then head to Rockefeller Center for lunch with syndicated theatre critic Peter Filichia to learn what's hot and what's not on the Great White Way. While there check out the sites including the iconic Channel Gardens, Saks Fifth Avenue (and their stunning holiday window displays) and of course St. Patrick's Cathedral. An afternoon drive Uptown will encircle Central Park and include stops at Strawberry Fields and Lincoln Center. The evening is yours to explore. Monday is a great night to expand your theatrical horizons with an Off-Broadway show. (L)

3. Travel like a real New Yorker – by subway – Downtown for sightseeing focusing on the past and present of the World Trade Center. There you'll visit the 9/11 Memorial Museum and take in the breathtaking views from One World Observatory located high atop the 1776-foot-tall building dubbed "Freedom

Tower." Tonight is your first night of Broadway. It's a bit early to purchase tickets (as we await Tony Award nominations on April 30), but definitely on our radar screen is the revival of *Cabaret* starring Eddie Redmayne (who won the 2022 Olivier Award for the same role), the new musical adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (starring Broadway powerhouse Jeremy Jordan) and *Water for Elephants*, the powerful book/movie turned both musical AND circus for three rings of entertainment. Our selections will be announced later in the spring. (L)

4. Take a morning adventure to Liberty and Ellis Islands by subway and ferry. The afternoon is yours for personal exploration. How about a visit to the one of the city's world-class museums or shopping on Fifth Avenue? The family-style Italian dinner at Carmine's is a New York tradition, followed by a second night of Broadway theatre. (D)

5. It's the exciting Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade! Join the anxious throngs on the streets or watch on television in the comfort (and warmth!) of your room. The parade route is along 6th Avenue only one block from the hotel. In the afternoon, journey to Radio City Music Hall for the *Rockettes Christmas Spectacular*. A Thanksgiving dinner cruise follows aboard the elegant glass-roofed *Bateaux New York* featuring excellent food, live music and great sightseeing as the stars come out over the stunning skyline. (D)

6. Sleep late (or maybe hit the Black Friday sales?) as we have a direct evening flight home from Newark Airport. Lunch is served at Sardi's, famous for their star caricatures lining the walls from ceiling to floor, and a chance to walk a portion of the popular High Line (weather permitting) before leaving The Big Apple... until next time! (L)

Pricing on this trip will be available soon.

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

An Appalachian Mountain Christmas

Featuring Biltmore House, Dollywood and Music City USA

7 Days • December 3-9

3

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights in Asheville on the grounds of Biltmore Estate



- Evening tour of Biltmore House by candlelight
- 1 night at Dollywood and a day in the park
- 3 nights in downtown Nashville just four blocks off Broadway
- *We Need a Lot of Christmas* dinner show at Fiddle Dee Farms
- *Opry Country Christmas* at the Grand Ole Opry House
- Tour the Country Music Hall of Fame, Studio B, Belle Meade and more
- 11 meals: 6 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Round trip airfare to Asheville/from Nashville
- Home pick-up and return
- 5000/6650 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly away to the Appalachian Mountains for a trip guaranteed to put you in the Christmas spirit! This is absolutely Asheville's best address, and we do believe the Vanderbilts would agree. **Inn at Biltmore Estate – 2 nights**

2. Explore the Biltmore Estate on a docent-led Legacy of the Land tour including entry to a special Chihuly Art Exhibition in for the season. Time is allowed midday in Antler Village for shopping, lunch on your own and personal exploration. Your ultimate Biltmore experience begins as the sun starts to set. Following dinner in the Stable Loft Café, tour the grand mansion (led by your personal audio guide) with the halls illuminated by twinkling candlelight and decked with holiday finery. **(FB,D)**

3. You're off to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee – the home of Dollywood. You'll have the better part of the day and into the night to explore the popular theme park illuminated by millions of twinkling lights. Imagined and owned by beloved local Dolly Parton, the park focuses on keeping the music, crafts and traditions of the Great Smoky Mountains alive and well. The rides are only a bonus for those wishing to imbibe! Rest well tonight in new accommodations conveniently located on the park grounds. **HeartSong Lodge (FB,L)**

4. It's a little over 200 miles across the heartland of Tennessee to reach the Capital City of Nashville, better known as Music City USA. The vibrant downtown is at your

doorstep, so get out and explore. Who's been to a *real* honky-tonk before? It's Friday night and the joints will be jumping! Before heading out visit the complimentary Kickback with libations and generous snackage offered in our hotel. **Drury Plaza Downtown Nashville – 3 nights (FB,L)**

5. Joined by our singing local guide, explore the many faces of Nashville from Capital City to Music City USA. You'll visit the Country Music Hall of Fame and historic Studio B located along storied Music Row before heading off to Fiddle Dee Farms for the holiday musical dinner theater spectacular *We Need a Lot of Christmas*. **(FB,D)**

6. Take a drive outside town to visit Belle Meade Historic Site and Winery, the focal point of which is a stunning c. 1853 Greek Revival mansion decorated for the season in period style. In the afternoon visit the Opryland Resort Hotel for over-the-top holiday displays throughout their complex of enclosed atriums and a flatboat cruise on the Delta River. Yes, one atrium is large enough to hold its very own river! Tonight take in the *Opry Country Christmas Show* at the famed Grand Ole Opry House. **(FB,L)**

7. Before a late afternoon flight back to the West Coast, learn more about the state you've been visiting at the Tennessee State Museum. Grab a bite of lunch at the Nashville Farmers Market, but save room for dessert served up at the Goo Goo Chocolate Company. It's a sweet experience that will have you smackin' your mouth double time! **(FB)**

\$4995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6610 single
\$150 EPD until April 30

Christmas at the Castle

Visit Cambria, Hearst Castle, Solvang and Santa Barbara at their yuletide best

5 Days • December 4-8

3

★ **Highlights** ★

- Ride Amtrak from Sacramento to SLO
- Overnight at the Cambria Pines Lodge, home of the Christmas Markets & Holiday Lights Spectacular
- Tour Hearst Castle all dressed up for the holidays
- Overnight at the Hotel Corque and attend *Julefest* in Solvang

- 2 nights at the Harbor View Inn in Santa Barbara
- Guided tour of Santa Barbara and the Reagan Library
- 10 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners including lunch served under the wing of *Air Force One*
- Door-to-door transportation
- Gold Passport Points TBA

1. All aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* train for an early morning departure from Sacramento bound for San Luis Obispo, arriving in the afternoon. A box breakfast will be provided for your train journey. Your home for the night is the **Cambria Pines Lodge**, host of the Christmas Markets & Holiday Lights Spectacular featuring over two million Christmas lights! **(B,D)**

2. Journey to nearby San Simeon and the estate of William Randolph Hearst. Hearst Castle is now a museum and a California State Park. Christmas has arrived at the Castle and your Grand Rooms Tour will be awash in holiday décor. After lunch, we make our way on motorcoach to the Danish village of Solvang. Famously known as the "best small town for Christmas" in California, this evening enjoy the many yuletide activities offered during their annual *Julefest*. Your overnight accommodation is at the **Hotel Corque** in the heart of the village. **(B,L)**

3. Get a head start on your holiday shopping with free time this morning to explore the village shops. You won't leave town without a sampling of a popular Danish snack. Hmmmm, we wonder what it could be? After lunch in Solvang we make our way by motorcoach to our final southern California destination, the oceanside town of Santa Barbara. Your hotel has recently been renovated and is only a block from the beach. **Harbor View Inn – 2 nights (L,D)**

4. Your day starts with an included breakfast at Janine's, just a block from the hotel. A docent-guided tour of the city is offered by coach in the morning, followed by an afternoon free for shopping and personal exploration. **(B,L)**

5. Travel to Simi Valley where the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library is located. Your stop includes a docent-guided tour of the museum and a buffet lunch under the wings of the president's *Air Force One*. Your return



flight from Burbank departs in the evening and arrives Sacramento around 7:30 pm.

(B,L)

Prices available April 12th

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

Puttin' on the Ritz for Christmas

2

Featuring a Christmas visit to Filoli

3 Days • December 8-10

1. We pick you up from your home and deliver you to the **Sports Leisure Vacations** office where you will board our comfortable motorcoach for the ride to the sea. Enjoy a Champagne Sunday Brunch in San Mateo before heading to the coast and the charming town of Half Moon Bay. You will have time to browse the shops before checking into your hotel which resembles a grand European country estate set on a rocky bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Ritz Carlton Resort Half Moon Bay (BR)

2. Enjoy a free morning at the resort; amenities include a coastal trail, beach, gas fire pits overlooking the ocean, a fitness center, indoor pool, hot tub and sauna. Spa services are available for additional costs. Lunch will be hosted at a wonderful Italian restaurant followed by a visit to Filoli's Mansion and formal gardens all decked out with lights for the holidays. **(L)**

3. Depart the coast; lunch is hosted at a local seafood restaurant in Half Moon Bay before heading home to Sacramento. **(L)** 1700/2150 Gold Passport Points.

\$1680 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2150 single

\$60 EPD until April 30

Key West, Miami and The Everglades

Register early for this extremely popular tour

3

6 Days • January 18-23

★ Highlights ★

- Tour Miami's Coral Gables, Coconut Grove and South Beach's Art Deco District
- Take an airboat ride through Everglades Safari Park; meet an alligator or two
- Overnight Key Largo; dinner at a renowned FL Keys seafood diner
- Meet the wildlife: visit a dolphin research

center and a butterfly conservatory

- 3 nights in Key West – La Concha on Duval Street (**best location in town**)
- Cabaret Dinner & Show at La Te Da; meet & greet with performer Randi Roberts – 1st night welcome dinner at Texas de Brazil
- Tour: Truman's Little White House, the Home of Ernest Hemingway, Key West by trolley with Louie – a true local treasure
- 11 meals: 2 breakfasts (limited menu or buffet), 3 full breakfasts (full buffet), 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door transportation, roundtrip air – to Miami, return from Key West
- 4250/4800 Gold Passport Points

1. Arrive in Miami in time for dinner at a Brazilian Steakhouse. Come hungry! Gauchos arrive tableside with various cuts of juicy grilled meats. Tell them how you like it, they carve and you eat! Delicious! Lots of food and even more fun. There's also an incredible salad bar for those not as carnivorous. From presentation to service, everything about the meal is an experience.

Hilton Garden Inn – Miami at Dolphin Mall (D)

2. Tour exclusive Coral Gables and Coconut Grove neighborhoods with a local guide and learn how some daring, enterprising women turned this swampy backwater into a truly international city. Cruise down Ocean Drive in South Beach, America's largest historic Art Deco District.

After lunch on your own at the mall, it's off to the Everglades. Board an airboat to learn about the residents and the unique ecology of the region. Those alligators are real! Mother Nature serves up magnificent sunsets in Key Largo. Dinner features fresh local seafood (landlubber options available) at a funky island hotspot! **Hampton Inn – Key Largo (B,D)**

3. Travel the Overseas Highway, a ribbon of road stretching over 100 miles into the ocean. As the sun dances on the water, you've never seen so many shades of blue! At a dolphin research center, learn about their mission and watch as scientists work with local dolphins in an effort to promote conservation. Each dolphin has its own distinct personality. Can you spot the class clown? Remember Flipper, the "TV" show?

This was Flipper's home and some of the dolphins you see are his grandchildren!

After a dockside lunch, your first stop down the road is the Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory, arguably one of the best in the country.

Check into your perfectly situated hotel on Duval Street, the heart of town. **La Concha Hotel – 3 nights (B,L)**

4. A trolley tour of the island gives you the history and sordid stories of the Conch Republic's residents, past and present. Lunch is at famous Sloppy Joe's Bar, home to the namesake sandwich. Grab a drink and listen to live music or take the afternoon to shop in Mallory Square. Tonight we gather for a lovely dinner served al fresco at La Te Da, followed by a lively female-impersonation performance, starring Randi Roberts. Stick around after the show to meet the performer. Ask all your burning questions, and be prepared for an honest answer! **(FB,L,D)**

5. Harry S. Truman was a huge fan of the island and visited frequently during his presidency, conducting official business under the palm trees at the Little White House. After touring the house, taste the best of Key West! Board a trolley and stop for all the island's classics: Key Lime Pie (TWICE!), Cuban Sandwiches and Conch Chowder. While sipping a cold beer, wine or tropical fruit juice on a topsail schooner traverse the southern coast as our captain shares local history and ecology of the area. Join your Tour Director for a walk to the nightly Key West tradition, the Sunset Celebration. Every night, the island turns out to grab a cocktail, toast the sunset and watch one of the many street buskers perform daredevil acts. Only in Key West! **(FB,L)**

6. At Ernest Hemingway's home hear about the author who was as known for his work as his antics. How many toes does that cat have? Six?! You counted correctly! These famous kitties spend the day lounging and posing for tourists. It's a rough life! With tropical memories and perhaps a new book in hand, board your flight, arriving into Sacramento by evening. **(FB)**

\$4240 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4775 single

\$150 EPD until April 30



You have some coins or you have inherited a collection you'd like to sell/get appraised...

In a previous life, Mark bought and sold coins. He's gone back to that as a hobby. He'd be happy to give you an honest appraisal, and if you wish, a purchase offer that is fair. Call him at **916-361-2051** to make an appointment. If you have more than you can move, Mark can come to your home.

Generally, all dimes, quarters and half dollars minted 1964 and before have a value. Half dollars from 1965-70 also are worth more than 50 cents. For pennies and nickels, generally coins before 1940 have value. All silver dollars minted 1935 or before are worth having appraised. Many of the items the mint has issued from 1936-present have value. Proof sets, mint sets, various commemorative coins, some are worth only a few dollars, but some much more. There is no charge for appraisals for Travel Club Members and their referrals.



EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT COUPON

Early Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Tuesday, April 30** and may be withdrawn or reduced when 50% of the available space has been reserved. To receive the discount you must pay in full within ten days of registration.

Sept. – Oregon Coast & CA Redwoods – **Save \$75**

Sept. – Mammoth Lakes & Bodie – **Save \$50**

Sept. – Hollywood: Lights, Camera, Action – **Save \$75**

Sept. – Vancouver to San Diego Cruise – **Save \$50**

Nov. – Thanksgiving in New York – **TBA**

Dec. – An Appalachian Mountain Christmas – **Save \$50**

Dec. – Christmas at the Castle – **Save \$75**

Dec. – Puttin' on the Ritz for Christmas – **Save \$60**

Jan. – Key West, Miami & The Everglades – **Save \$150**

VALUABLE COUPON

Save \$10–\$40 per person on Cancellation Protection

Valid only when used with the adjacent coupon on the tours listed. **Your savings depend on the double-occupancy price of the tour. Save \$10** on tours priced from \$451-\$800, **Save \$20** on tours priced from \$801-\$2250, **Save \$30** on tours priced from \$2251-\$3500, **Save \$40** on tours priced at \$3501 or more. To receive the above discounts, you must pay in full within ten days of registration and purchase the protection at the time you pay for your tour.

TOUR UPDATE...

Below are lists of tours which are sold out (waiting lists available) or only have a limited amount of space remaining (available number of seats in parenthesis). Daycations are not included in these lists.

Sold-Out Tours

Zion & Bryce
Mainly Maine
Grand Canyon
Yosemite Valley
Laguna Pageant
San Juan Islands
Autumn in Alaska
Galapagos Islands
Boston to Cape Cod

Vancouver & Victoria
Ottawa & Niagara Falls
Pieces of History Mystery
New England Fall Foliage
Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
Comedy, Dollars & Legends
Fall Foliage in the Rocky Mtns
CA Redwoods & Oregon Coast
Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound

Limited Space

Trip with 10 or fewer seats available

Atlantic Canada (2) Seattle Sightseeing (2)
Wrigley Field (7) Czech Republic (6)
Seattle Baseball (4) Castles of Ireland (6)

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

FRIENDS WE'VE LOST...

Those who were part of our extended family who have finished their journey with us on earth. They are missed.

Noel Hinde

Gary Hoig

JoAnne Quincy

Candace Smallwood

OFFICE HOURS:

9:00am – 3:30pm MON. thru FRI.
Closed weekends and major holidays
CLOSED TUES. 12:00pm – 1:15pm