



## Concert & A Holiday/Winter 2024 Preview Sunday, June 11, 2023

On Sunday afternoon, June 11th, we will roll out our tour schedule for late fall and winter. The 90 minute Preview Day presentation is combined with a concert, performed by **Mark Alan Cash**, the nephew of Johnny Cash. Mark's voice is very similar to his uncle's and he'll sing many of Johnny's hits. Later that evening, he will perform for the Lincoln Highway's annual conference in Folsom (not open to the public)

Your **\$10** admission includes both events. At this time, there are still tickets left for the 1:30pm/3:00pm Concert/Preview. If you would like to join us, reserve your tickets by calling the office. Payment is due when you make your reservation. There is also a grab-and-go option, where you can pick up the Preview Day information on new tours without attending the event. There is still a \$10 charge. All of the Preview Day information will be posted to our web site the following Wednesday morning (June 14) at 9am.

A few of the destinations on the Late Fall – Holiday/ Winter tour schedule which will be released at **Preview Day**. This is just a sample, as many ideas are still in development.

- **Thanksgiving in New York**
- **Gettysburg, Hershey & Bethlehem, PA – previously a Christmas Mystery Tour**
- **The 20th Christmas Mystery Tour**
- **A Whitefish (Idaho) Christmas Adventure, featuring Glacier Nat'l Park**
- **Christmas in Palm Springs** (our "on Christmas" destination, returning Christmas night)
- **Key West – January 2024**
- **Winter in Yellowstone**

Anyone not attending can find the Preview Day materials online two days later. A newsletter with the new trips will be released in June. We add this warning. Many trips tend to fill very quickly. If you aren't coming to Preview Day, make sure you go online **Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** to see the new tours.

### Palm Springs high on the "coming soon" Destinations List

Perhaps because it caters to mature travelers and we have one of two of them in our gang?

There are several theater groups in the area, and our thought is a 2-3 nights stay with one or two theater experiences and a little sightseeing during the day. The **Hotel Paseo** is

our previous home. It's a Marriott property, offers breakfast and has nice but not over the top accommodations (things tend to be pricey in Palm Springs). The trips would be November – March, when the weather is nice, not in the summer when the city bakes.

If you think you might be interested in the type of package described here, call and asked to be placed on the **Palm Springs Priority Notification List**. When the show schedules are announced in the summer, we will have to act fast to get the best available seating for the theaters. If your name is on the list, we can email/snail mail you information quickly. Does Palm Springs sounds like a destination you might be interested in?



"Hello, this is Simon. I'm looking for my Amtrak group. They can't have gone TOO far...what's that sign about the Donner Party..."

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## The Perfect Place

Plains, Georgia, population 558 as of 2020, is a small town about 150 miles south of Atlanta, just west of Americus. Plains is the hometown of **President James (Jimmy) Carter**, who served as our 39<sup>th</sup> president, from 1977-1980.



Just a few weeks ago, it was announced that President Carter, at the age of 98, had entered hospice care. By definition, it means you are in the last six months of your expected life, and that you would like medical care that will keep you comfortable, but not prolong your life. Ideally, pain and suffering is reduced to enhance your quality of life.

It made me sad to see a picture of our former president. He looked frail and mortal. Not at all like I remember the pictures of him building homes while volunteering for **Habitat for Humanity** in his post-presidential years.

Most former presidents remain active in the political world in a major way, profiting from the climb to the top by serving on boards and giving advice, perhaps helping to influence future presidential choices.

But Jimmy Carter went home to Plains. If you've ever been there, you know that the truly small town is a reflection of President Carter and his family. Remember his brother Billy (passed in 1988), who was sort of a constant embarrassment? He is remembered here. But it's Jimmy Carter's town. Was then, is now, and probably always will be.

President Carter wasn't the most popular, or by historical measures, the most effective man during his White House term. The Iran hostage battle closed his presidency, and the Iranians insulted him by releasing the hostages soon after Ronald Reagan was sworn in.

But as the years rolled by, we got to know the president as a man. How many

times did we see and hear him in overalls, touting the homes he and other volunteers were building? Many great men are known by their words. Jimmy Carter will be a man remembered for his deeds, no matter what you thought of him as a president. More than any man who came before or after him in the Oval Office, he left office but didn't stop being a leader. He never had to **tell** us what he had done after leaving the White House, because we could **see** it.

Now, as he embarks on the last lap of an honorable journey, his accomplishments will be spoken of by many. But unlike many presidents, people will talk of his **entire life**, not just those in the White House. President Carter will be remembered more as a good and decent man, who lived his life in a way you might want your children or grandchildren to emulate.

I had an opportunity to visit Plains five years ago on a tour with one of our groups. We stayed in Americus, because Plains isn't really big enough to support a sizeable hotel. There's a National Park site, dedicated to the president (his library is in Atlanta). It feels like the place Jimmy Carter would have come from. This fall, we will visit once more.

I'm not from the south, and unlike **Clayton**, I don't feel a particular connection with that part of the country. But Plains is different. It's special and unique, **because** it's the home of Jimmy Carter, a man I will forever admire. It will be nice to once again visit the town famous for a peanut statue, Billy Carter's Filling Station and a truly great man.

## The Games People Play

We have added some "recreational" equipment at the office. As an avid love of pinball since I was kid, for Christmas I bought myself a pinball machine. Well, actually, I took Tyler with me to Benecia to pick it out and we couldn't

decide on one so we had to get two. Oh wait. The story develops from here.

When we told the ladies what we had done, they immediately wanted to know what was in it for them, since they prefer video games. Not any video games, but old-time games like Pacman and Ms. Pacman. So I called the pinball man, asked if he still had the video game console I had seen in his store. He did. **DID** is the key word. He **doesn't** now. The video console lives in our kitchen. Now the boys and the girls are happy.

When I was a kid, the man at the pinball arcade on Arden Way threw myself and two friends out the door one day because we spilled popcorn on the floor. Never mind none of us had purchased popcorn, he threw us out nonetheless. He's long gone from the planet and there are pinball and video games in my office with no one to harass us about popcorn on the floor. Just sayin'...

They create too much noise during the day, but if you were to stop by at closing time one day... be careful, there are some game sharks in the building.

And so it goes,

**Mark Hoffmann, CTP**

**Owner/Founder (almost 44 years ago)**



May and Donnie take on the pinball challenge after hours

# Clayton Place... Bits and Pieces

## Hello Friends:

Back in 2017 my best friend Judy learned of a **total solar eclipse** that would be visible from parts of the West Coast. Salem, Oregon – the city where her sister and brother-in-law live – was in the path of totality. She was set on going. Since I couldn't think of a better excuse I went along for the ride. Now mind you, I have nothing against seeing an eclipse. It's just that I'm not much of a nature guy. I'd rather watch a movie or a Broadway show about an eclipse than drive 550 miles to see the real thing... or so I thought.



August 21 dawned bright and sunny. We were blessed that smoke from the incessant fires was blowing the other way for this one special day. About an hour before the Big Event folks started moving outdoors with lawn chairs and blankets, all donning a pair of the official eclipse-viewing glasses distributed by a local radio station as best I can recall. Slowly the sky started to change. I won't say "darken" because the conditions were not going to black, but rather to a golden amber that made everything glow with iridescence. I also noticed how quiet it had become. Complete and total silence. Not a bird chirped; not a dog barked; not a baby cried. Neighbors were rendered mute from shock, awe or both. All of humanity and nature was looking skyward to see what would happen next.

Eventually the skies went from brown to black as totality bathed the city. Street lights came on as they are programmed to do. Silence continued – we were all too stunned to speak for a few precious minutes. Then, ever so slowly, the amber glow – that mystical middle ground between dark and day – returned. As light increased, so did the volume of the city. Once again there was traffic, people, birds and dogs. The spell was broken, but not forgotten. It would never be forgotten.

So imagine my surprise and delight to learn last year that another total eclipse

would pass over North America on **April 8, 2024**. Since then I've been looking for a community or organization that is planning a celebration suitable for a tour group. I've found not one, but two options!

**Arkansas** is the first option. Remember the streetlights I mentioned in Salem? Lesson learned: View a total eclipse in the country away from city lights if possible. We'll fly to Little Rock and see all the sights – Clinton Presidential Library, Central High School, State Capitol. On April 8 we'll head out of town to a winery and view the spectacle from there in the company of other tour groups from around the nation. After a few days in Little Rock we'll depart to the west visiting Hot Springs and Ft. Smith en route to Bentonville, known as the home of Walmart, but renowned for the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, among the newest and finest in the country. This small community in northwest Arkansas has become a bastion for collectors and creators of American art in any number of genres. It may have started as a dime store town, but oh what it has become! From here we continue west into Oklahoma, paying tribute to Will Rogers as we pass through his home town of Claremore, en route to Tulsa and our awaiting flight home.

**Texas** is the second option. The community of Grapevine, located smack dab between Dallas and Ft. Worth and home to DFW airport, is offering a full-day city-wide festival with multiple entertainment

stages and vintage train rides. Before and after the eclipse we will see the Metroplex from top to bottom visiting such iconic sites as JFK's grassy knoll and The Sixth Floor Museum in the old Texas School Book Depository in Dallas. The Ft. Worth Stockyards are as otherworldly as you can get. Though geographically close to the skyscrapers of Dallas, in Ft. Worth they have daily cattle drives and men still hitch their horses on posts outside saloons! Perhaps we keep the tour short and close to DFW. Perhaps we expand it to include other areas of this dynamic state that is even bigger than California... by over 5000 square miles!

Now it's time to cast your vote. Kindly write [res@sportsleisure.com](mailto:res@sportsleisure.com). In the subject line type just one word – ARKANSAS or TEXAS. In the e-mail be sure to give us your name and also anything/place you specifically want to see whether mentioned herein or not. In doing so you'll be putting your name on the **Priority Notification List** for this tour. When the tour takes shape and is ready to receive reservations, everyone will be notified regardless of which state you selected.

"Your Tour Guy,"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clayton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Clayton Whitehead, CTP  
President**



Mark and Clayton entertain Elda Troup (along with friend Penny Helfrich) at The Cheesecake Factory on the occasion of Elda's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! Way to go, Elda!

# The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

## Topics of interest to TRAVEL CLUB MEMBERS

### Paper Tickets – we have to beg/ pay for them/pick up at will call

Getting individual tickets for admission to theaters, ballparks, etc., has become a huge pain in the butt. With the transition to tickets on phones, every venue wants to go that route. Only problem is, not everyone has a cell phone which is a smart phone.

So in many cases, we have to pick up physical tickets at a Will Call window, pay to have them printed or jump through some other hoop(s) to get tickets. A few places are flexible, most are not. We are just sharing this information so you understand the delays in getting inside at some events.

### 40# limit on bags

Airlines place a 50# limit on checked bags. If you've ever filled a suitcase to that 50# limit and then tried to move it, you know it's a lot of weight. A number of years ago, **Sports Leisure** placed a **40# limit on checked bags**.

Why would we do that? Because a variety of people have to move your bag during a trip, and at least one of them is a member of our staff. In addition you have skycaps and bellmen and bus drivers who move your bag. The risk of injury is there all the time.

So we ask your help. We are going back to enforcing a 40# limit on checked bags on the outbound portion of your trip from Sacramento. We have purchased a scale to weigh your bags at the airport. Those bags

weighing over 40# will not be accepted for travel.

Here's a way to know if your bag is overweight. If your scale at home won't weigh your bag, get on the scale without the bag and note your weight. Now, pick up the bag and stand on the scale. Now you have the weight for you **and** your bag. Simply subtract your weight and you have the weight of the bag.

You are also allowed to bring a carry on bag. We allow those bags to be as large as a standard airline carry on, and they can weigh up to 25#. **Please know that we are serious about enforcing this limit.** If you have any questions or concerns about the 40# bag limit, please call the office.

# The Human Side *Learn, Laugh, Reflect*

### Educational Thoughts & Things of Lesser Importance

- I've found that growing up in the 60's was a lot more fun than BEING in my 60's.
- One way to find out if you are old is to fall down in front of a lot of people. If they laugh, you're still young. If they panic and start running to you, you're old.
- When I was a kid, my parents would always say, "Excuse my French," just after saying a swear word. I'll never forget my first day at school, when my teacher asked if any of us knew any French.
- Did you know on the Canary Islands there is not one canary? And on the

Virgin Isles? Same thing, not one canary there either...

- You drop something when you are younger, you just pick it up. When you're older and you drop something, you stare at it for a bit, contemplating if you actually need it anymore.
- I finally did it. Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles. No more forgetting why I walked to the kitchen.
- You never appreciate what you have until it's gone. Toilet paper is a good example.

### Things People Said

- "It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the

idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone." – *Andy Rooney*.

- "The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened. – *Mark Twain*.
- "First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up, then you forget to pull your zipper down." – *Leo Rosenberg*.
- "Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard there is nothing you can do about it." – *Golda Meir*.
- "Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get." – *Robert Orben*.



Talking Stick Field, one of the many great places to watch a ballgame in Arizona during Spring Training



# The Customers Always Write

## Suzanne L. writes:

Received the recent newsletter update by mail. I understand your going to an online publication. Everyone is doing that. But I'm one of those people who is old school and I like having a hard copy to hold in my hands. My brain just works better that way. I don't mind paying for the privilege, I just hope you continue to offer that option.

**Ed. Note:** The advantages of an e-mailed newsletter are many. They get to travelers the same day they are sent. Last minute changes can be made to copy right up until the moment they are sent. Tours can be added to the list or updated at the last minute. (Under the old system, the copy was finalized and sent to the printer, and then mailed 5-7 days later, then delivered to you.) We waited many years to make this change. The world has moved on, and we need to move with it. There is also a huge cost saving involved with e-mailing the newsletter. More efficient, costs less...perhaps you can see why we are moving this way.

By the way, your editor is also a "hold a copy in my hands" sort of guy. Slowly, over time, I've realized the online copy is easier to access anytime I want and the information is more up to date.

Right now, a printed copy is free. Starting in August, we will ask those wishing a hard

copy to pay \$10 a year to receive one. Keep in mind the mailed copies **will always be 3-5 days BEHIND** the online edition. Don't miss out on a trip because you are waiting to hold it in your hand.

## James L writes:

So now I have to pay \$10 for the privilege of buying things from your company? No thanks. Keep your crap and I'll buy my travel from someone who doesn't charge me to find out what they are offering.

**Ed. Note:** There are two sides to every story. Just to be clear, the online publication is still free. It's the printed copy that is soon coming with a price.

## Lucille L writes:

Can you explain breakfasts in hotels on the road. I notice you almost always include breakfast, except in some big cities. Wondering what the reason is behind that? Also, I notice in the itineraries, breakfast is something indicated by a **B**, which I assume means breakfast. Sometimes I see **FB**. Can you explain the difference?

**Ed. Note:** Lucille, you actually missed one. An included breakfast on tour is indicated in one of **three** ways:

**ECB** – Expanded Continental Breakfast – more than just the regular pastry, juice and coffee that designates a continental breakfast. An **ECB** will have more choices,

often offered as a buffet, but may be limited on protein/breakfast meats.

**B** – This indicates something bigger than an expanded continental, but may still offer a limited menu. Could be plated or a buffet.

**FB** – This is the one you see most. **FB** tells you there is a wide choice of menu, or a full buffet, with eggs, meats and possibly other entrée choices (pancakes, French toast, etc.).

As a policy, we include breakfast on tour at most hotels. You are very observant to note it isn't included in some of the bigger (and generally expensive) destinations.

Here's the reason. If we feel what the hotel is charging for breakfast doesn't represent **value** to you, the traveler, we do not include it. If the Marriott in Times Square needs to get \$45 for breakfast, we feel we should leave it up to you. Coffee and a bagel is going to be a **lot** less than \$45 and there are lots of choices right outside the front door. The breakfast buffet at that hotel, including tax and gratuity, is going to be around that \$45 price. You can still have it, you just have a choice. Again, it's all about **value**. When the price leaves value behind, and there are other options, we leave the decision up to you. When we can get breakfast as part of the room rate, or it can be added at a discounted rate, we are right there. Hope that explains things a little better, both the when breakfast is included and what the different designations mean.



A salmon bake on the beach is part of our visit to Coos Bay on the Oregon Coast journey

If you have a comment, suggestion or tour idea, we invite you to drop us a line. Due to space limitations, not all letters can be printed (others may be edited). Mail to:

## SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS

Attn: Mark/Clayton  
9812 Old Winery Place, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95827

## Or e-mail Mark or Clayton at:

markslt@aol.com  
clayton@sportsleisure.com

# Daycations and Theatre Outings

## Wild Flowers and Roses

Tuesday April 25<sup>th</sup>

Enjoy a beautiful spring day in the little valley that cradles Eleven Roses Ranch, an 1895 homestead near Clear Lake. You will be greeted by Anne who will share stories about her heritage and connection to the ranch. Take a wagon ride through the valley and enjoy a chuck wagon barbecue for lunch. There is time during the afternoon to take a walk or just sit and enjoy the beautiful setting. Return to Sacramento after a brief stop at Granzella's in Williams to pick up locally produced food items (olives!) or something from the gift shop. **\$156**

## Andrea Bocelli

Golden 1 Center

Friday May 12<sup>th</sup> -8:00pm

International musical sensation Andrea Bocelli returns to Sacramento this spring and we have tickets! Our seats will be in the lower bowl – exact location unconfirmed at press time. Come along and leave the driving, downtown navigation, and parking to us. Bocelli was born sight impaired, then became totally blind following a football injury at age 12. His star began to rise in 1994 upon winning a prestigious Italian music festival competition, and as they say the rest is history. His 27 studio albums have sold over 75 million copies worldwide. He even has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame! Thanks to PBS, and especially our own KVIE, for bringing this amazing performer to the American people over the years. As wonderful as his televised concerts are, nothing can top seeing him LIVE! **\$348**

## Bouquets to Arts

de young Museum

Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup>

Now in its 39<sup>th</sup> year, Bouquets to Arts is an annual floral celebration that lets you engage with the de Young's expansive collections in new ways. Over 100 leading floral designers return to the galleries this summer to showcase innovative botanical arrangements inspired by museum

masterworks. From striking sculptural creations throughout the galleries to a majestic hanging installation in Wilsey Court, inspiration waits around every corner. Lunch will be on your own. **\$137**

## Ansel Adams

de young Museum

Friday June 8<sup>th</sup>

America's most famous landscape photographer is coming home to the Bay Area. The de Young's upcoming exhibition **Ansel Adams In Our Time** is a closer look at the prolific artist with special emphasis on his environmental activism, local roots, and influences on the landscape photographers of today. The exhibition presents over 100 of Adams' works alongside pieces by 23 other contemporary landscape and environmental artists. Lunch is on your own. **\$137**

## Madame Butterfly

War Memorial Opera House

Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> -2:00pm

Puccini's heartbreaking tale of innocence, betrayal, and sacrifice returns in a bold and beautiful production conducted by musical director Eun Sun Kim and directed by Amon Miyamoto. You'll experience this classic through the eyes of Cio-Cio-San's son Trouble who is waiting for a father he's never met. Will he be welcomed with open arms, or will he feel the same disappointment his Mother does on his Father's long awaited return? When making your reservation please indicate your choice of Orchestra or Dress Circle seating. Boxed lunch is included on the way to the Theater.

**Orchestra \$227 Dress Circle \$243**

## Into the Woods

Curran Theater\*

Wednesday, June 21 1pm

Direct from Broadway, the critically acclaimed and much beloved production of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's Tony®-winning triumph is returning to San Francisco for exclusive short engagement featuring their **Broadway Stars. INTO THE**

**WOODS** features Montego Glover as The Witch, Stephanie J. Block as The Baker's Wife, Sebastian Arcelus as The Baker, and Gavin Creel as Cinderella's Prince/Wolf – all reprising their Broadway roles. **\$228**

\*All San Francisco theater matinee trips include a box lunch served en route, orchestra seating and a no host dinner stop after the show

## A Day in the Life of Charles Schulz

Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Enjoy the guided tour to relive a typical day in the life of Charles M. Schulz. Begin at the Warm Puppy Café for an orientation that includes a history of the Redwood Empire Ice Arena (Snoopy's Home Ice), and details of Schulz's daily routine. We will see where Schulz spent most of his workday – in his art and business studio recreated by the museum. The day includes lunch at Pub Republic and a stop for a sweet treat. **\$199**

## Floating Homes in Sausalito

Thursday July 6<sup>th</sup>

We will start a fun and interesting day in picturesque Sausalito, with a private tour of their iconic and colorful colony of houseboats. With no two the same, each has its own unique plan and interior designed to suit the individual homeowners. Residents of the community are our guides to answer any of your questions of why and what it is like to live on a home floating in the water. Following the tour enjoy some free time on your own in scenic Sausalito for lunch and browsing. **\$199**

## Les Miserables

Orpheum Theater

Wednesday, July 12 • 1pm

The Tony Award-winning musical that first ran on Broadway for 16 years is back with a fresh, young cast moving audiences to tears all over again! **\$218**

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# New Vacations & Getaways

## Summer in Oregon – Beer-Making Monks, Gardens, & A Parade of Celebrating Scandinavians

Featuring a tour of a Frank Lloyd Wright home

4 Days • August 8-11



A casual summer adventure in central Oregon, with a wide variety of activities and attractions. Beer-making Monks? Beer drinking Scandinavians? Sounds like fun to us... The package includes 7 meals, airfare, door-to-door service and all admissions.

1. Make the short flight to Portland, departing at 10:40am this morning. After lunch, make your way south to the town Mount Angel, home of **Mount Angel Abbey**. Meet the monks, learn about their mission and how they finance it. Hint: It has to do with hops. The monks will show you around and answer questions, then you'll have an opportunity to support their work with a visit to the lovely gift shop. **Check into the Oregon Garden Resort**, your home for **three nights**. The gardens are right on the grounds. (L)

2. The day begins with visit to the garden, laid out on 80 acres and featuring over 20 specialty gardens. The afternoon features a docent-led tour of the **Gordon House**, a **Frank Lloyd Wright** creation, the only one in Oregon. In between, enjoy lunch in Mount Angel and view a real Glockenspiel. (FB,L)

3. About 90 minutes away in Junction City, they honor their heritage every summer with the **Scandinavian Festival**. It all starts with a parade (like any good festival), and we'll be in attendance. Then there's time to explore the booths, enjoy the local entertainment, learn a little about the history, before making your way back to your home in Silverton. A farewell dinner is planned in town. (FB,D)

4. Let's visit Silver Falls State Park (where you can walk behind the waterfall, how cool is that) before heading back toward Portland. Lunch is included before arriving at the airport about 1:30pm for your 3:50pm flight home. (FB,L)

**You can make reservations now. Pricing will be available April 15. No obligation.**

## The Lake Tahoe Theater Festival

Featuring *A Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Sci-Fi Musical Comedy*

2 Days • August 8-9



The Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival features this musical comedy which has been delighting audiences all over the world for over 30 years. A nerdy florist finds his chance for success and romance with the help of a giant man-eating plant who demands to be fed. The same team that gave us the music for Disney's *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Little Mermaid* are behind this sci-fi **musical comedy**.

A midday motorcoach departure gets you to South Shore just in time to check into your hotel for the night, Harrah's Lake Tahoe. After a sit-down dinner at a local restaurant, head to Sand Harbor on the west side of the lake for the evening's performance of *Little Shop of Horrors* under the stars.

You'll have some free time the next morning to wander the nearby shops or try your luck in the casino. Lunch at The Loft features a live magic show.

This overnight package includes roundtrip motorcoach transportation, resort accommodations, theatre and magic show tickets, three meals (2L,1D) and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 800/850 Gold Passport Points

**\$765 p.p./dbl.occ., \$850\_ single**  
**\$20 Early Payment Di\$count**

## The Great Reno Balloon & Virginia City Camel and Ostrich Races!

A weekend packed with high-rising fast-paced fun



3 Days • September 7-9

★ **Highlights** ★

- Attend the Great Reno Balloon Race with Cloud 9 VIP Club access
- Tickets to the Virginia City Camel & Ostrich Races
- Door-to-door service to/from the office
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- 4 meals: 1 breakfast, 3 lunches
- 1200/1300 Gold Passport Points

1. A chauffeured vehicle picks you up from your home and delivers you to the *Sports Leisure Vacations* office for a morning departure. Lunch is hosted in Reno at a popular restaurant on the Truckee River before checking into your hotel. Your accommodations are located in the heart of "The Biggest Little City" and connected to the Eldorado and Circus Circus hotels to triple your fun on this evening at your leisure.

### Silver Legacy Resort Casino – 2 nights (L)

2. This morning is a balloon mass ascension! You will have Cloud 9 VIP Club access which includes heated outdoor seating on the field, a catered breakfast and lunch, and a hosted bar with champagne, mimosas and Bloody Mary's. During the morning there will also be time to shop along Balloon Boulevard for unique gifts. There's an optional visit to the National Auto Museum before heading back to your hotel if you wish. (B,L)

3. Depart the Silver Legacy and travel to Virginia City for the 63rd annual Camel & Ostrich Races. Watch jockeys perched on their beasts maneuver the track while the audience cheers! Arrive back in Sacramento in the late afternoon where your driver awaits to take you home. (All events weather permitting.) (L)

**\$1190 p.p/dbl.occ., \$1285 single**  
**\$35 Early Payment Di\$count**

## Mammoth & Mono Lakes, Fall Colors in the Sierra

4 Days • October 3-6



★ **Highlights** ★

- Visit the high Sierra ghost town of Bodie
- Stay 3 nights in Mammoth Lakes at the Sierra Nevada Lodge
- All meals included (10)
- Sightseeing to include Mono Lake, Devil's Postpile Nat'l Monument, the June Lakes Scenic Loop Drive, Rainbow Falls
- All coach tour
- 1750/2000 Gold Passport Points

**High Altitude Warning: Hotel accommodations in Mammoth Lakes are at 7,900'. Much of the itinerary is at altitudes above 6,000'.**



Enjoy a coach ride through the high Sierra at what is traditionally high season for fall foliage, destination Mammoth Lakes. Mammoth is one of the country's premier Ski Resorts, starting in November. Before the snow arrives, the colors change in the high mountains, offering the visitor an often-spectacular landscape at a time when the number of mountain travelers is traditionally low. If you enjoy spectacular mountain scenery and natural history, please join us.

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 in early evening. A long but scenic and educational day of travel. Dinner, featuring local barbeque, is included at the lodge tonight. **(L,D)**

2-3. Two, day sightseeing trips highlight your stay. 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 journey to Convict

## ACTIVITY METER



As part of our commitment to helping you select the right tour for your interests and physical abilities, check out the Activity Meter for each tour to get a feel for how it matches your interests, energy and fitness. It's important to note that more than one level may apply to a tour. For example, some will enjoy a visit to a national park by spending time in the visitor's center and taking a seat with a view. Others might prefer to hike on a nature trail. Same destination, same tour, two different levels of activity.

The letter abbreviations for each departure can be found in the Table of Contents listing for the tour. Where you see two letters, that indicates the ability to add activities or do optional things which increase the amount of physical activity (standing, walking, climbing stairs, etc.). The meter is a guideline. It is impossible to predict every situation on tour, since conditions may change before or during a trip which require itinerary adjustments.

**L Leisurely** – A tour that can be enjoyed by all. A minimal amount of required walking on city streets or generally level surfaces, with few stairs. A theater day trip might be an example.

**M Moderate** – A tour with some walking activities, and standing/strolling at attractions and museums and possibly some stair climbing. A daytrip to the ballpark or a short regional trip (Monterey, CA Coast) might be examples. A moderate trip could include air transportation and navigating through airports.

**A Active** – A tour which includes longer walks (3-5 city blocks). Shorter walks could be on uneven surfaces. Days could be longer (including longer travel days with layovers). **Some of the trips could be at high altitudes.**

This would be the level for most of our longer distance domestic and Canadian tours, the minimum level for an overseas international tour. Tours which mention the ability to walk 3-5 city blocks **in a timely fashion** a couple of times a day fit into this category, as would most of our national park tours. You could find a flight of stairs without handrails. A tour with a seaplane or jeep ride, and the ability to climb into the plane/ jeep, would be found in this category. Longer rail tours fit in this category.

**E Energetic** – A tour with an accent on opportunities for walking and other physical activities. Many overseas tours would fit in this category. Long plane flights, perhaps standing or walking longer distances. You might have to climb into a boat, carriage or train. If you need wheelchair assistance at the airport or other places, you should not consider a tour on this level.

**C Challenging** – Tours like these are designed with daily physical activities like hiking and other vigorous activities and can be great travel experiences, **but they are not typical of Sports Leisure Vacations trips.**





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 and Devil's Postpile Nat'l Monumnet, then some free time to relax or browse the modest shops in town. **(2FB,2L,2D)**

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

**\$1720 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1980 single  
\$50 Early Payment Discount**

## Heritage Paths of Ancient Greece



*Spotlighting Athens and the magical isle of Santorini*

**11 Days • October 11-21, 2023**

### ★ Highlights ★

- Athens: Parthenon, Acropolis Museum, Panathenaic Stadium, Plaka foodie tour
- Mycenae: Lion's Gate, Cyclopean Walls, Royal Tombs
- Olympia: Birthplace of the Olympics
- Delphi: Sanctuary of Apollo Pythius, Treasury of the Athenians, Archeological Museum
- The rock monasteries of Meteora
- Battlefield of Thermopylae
- 2 days in paradise on the Isle of Santorini via high-speed catamaran
- English-speaking Greek guide and Sports Leisure Tour Director throughout
- 16 meals: Daily breakfast, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Athens
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 5800/6400 Gold Passport Points

1-2. Depart America aboard Lufthansa Airlines on a trans-Atlantic overnight flight. Transfer in Frankfurt and arrive in Athens in the early evening where you'll meet your driver and English-speaking local guide.

### Royal Olympic Hotel – 2 nights

3. Begin your exploration of Athens at the Acropolis, the architectural masterpiece of the ancient world. There you'll see the majestic Parthenon and the Acropolis Museum. Visit the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympic Games of modern times were held in 1896. Take a walk through Plaka, the oldest section of the city, to the Monastiraki Flea Market. This lively area of

shops, stalls and eateries is a dream-come-true for lovers of fun, food and fashion. Here you'll dive into mouth-watering Athenian markets where you can indulge yourselves with local treats including koulouri, donuts with honey, ice cream and kabobs. **(FB,L)**

4. Depart Athens by the coastal road of Attica towards Mycenae, the Homeric city of Atreides – the city "rich in gold" of the ancient poets. Visit the Lion's Gate, the Cyclopean Walls and the Royal Tombs. Leave for Epidaurus and visit the 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC theatre famous for its astonishing acoustics. **Amalia Hotel Olympia (FB,D)**

5. Olympia was one of the most sacred and glorious sanctuaries of the ancient world. Though only the foundations of many of its structures remain, it is still one of the most evocative of Greece's archaeological sites. Capturing all the spirit of the Olympic Games, this is the place where the Olympic flame is lit in commemoration of the Games that originated and were held here every four years for ten centuries. The Altis (or Sacred Precinct of Zeus) is a district dominated by the ruins of the 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC temple dedicated to the King of the Gods. Passing through a stone archway you enter the ancient stadium, once with a capacity of more than 45,000 spectators. The mind boggles at being able to line up on the track just as the finest athletes in the land did thousands of years ago. **Amalia Hotel Delphi (FB,D)**

6. At the Delphi archaeological site on the slopes of Mount Parnassus lie the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo Pythius. You will be astonished by the Treasury of the Athenians, the Theatre, the Stadium and the Museum with ancient statues on display including Antinoos, the famous athlete Aghias and the unique bronze Charioteer dated from 475 BC. Continue to Kalambaka for the night, passing through the fertile plains of Thessaly on the way. Grand Meteora Hotel Kalambaka **(FB,D)**

7. The UNESCO World Heritage site of Meteora is home to more than 20 rock monasteries, either perched precariously atop towering sandstone cliffs or built into naturally formed caves. Continue with a visit to the Mushroom and National History Museum (not kidding), followed by truffle

hunting expedition in the nearby forest. Lunch features a mushroom product tasting with a truffle spaghetti as the main course. On the return to Athens you will have the opportunity to stop at the historic Battlefield of Thermopylae to see the Sacred Hill where Leonidas and the 300 Spartans died in the famous battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC. The story was brought to modern audiences in the movies "300" and "300: Rise of an Empire." **Royal Olympic Hotel (FB,L)**

8. Early up and out for the 5-hour high speed catamaran ferry to magical Santorini. On a guided island tour visit the traditional village of Pyrgos and stop at the Monastery of Profitis Elias, the highest spot on the island. Drive south after Megalochori to the famous black beaches of Perivolos and Perissa. Continue to Santo Wines for a tasting. Drive to the traditional settlement of Oia, beloved by artists, newlyweds and tourists as the ideal Santorinian village to watch the sunset. **Majestic Hotel Santorini – 2 nights (FB)**

9. Today you depart aboard a private catamaran and sail along the island's magnificent coast. The first stop is at the Red Beach in Akrotiri, a beautiful beach strewn with red rocks and dark pebbles, then on to White Beach – accessible only by boat – and Mesa Pigadia for a swim and snorkel in the crystal blue waters. Sail past Indian Rock, the Venetian Lighthouse of Akrotiri and Aspronisi Island. Sail around the Volcano Coast and stop at its hot springs for a natural spa in the thermal mixed volcanic mud waters. Make one last stop at a scheduled private bay for a plunge in the majestic waters followed with a delicious Greek barbecue and unlimited local wine. **(FB,L)**

10. A midday ferry returns you from your island paradise to the mainland where a special Farewell Dinner awaits and a final night in the mystical, magical country of Greece. **Royal Olympic Hotel (FB,D)**

11. Return to Athens International Airport for an early afternoon return to the United States via Munich. To our new friends in Greece we say *na pas sto kalo* until we meet again. **(FB)**

**\$5775 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6380 single**  
*This tour requires a valid passport!*

## Branson and the Ozark Mountains

Featuring 5 nights at the Hilton Hotel and live music in Branson

6 days • October 14-19

### ★ Highlights ★

- 6 days at the same hotel – unpack once!
- 5 musical performances including the spectacular *Queen Esther*
- Local touring with a focus on Ozark Mountain history and nature
- Visit College of the Ozarks – “Hard Work U”
- 9 meals: 1 brunch, 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Round trip airfare to/from Springfield
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 4250/4550 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly to Springfield Missouri, then motorcoach to Branson where a late lunch is hosted. Enjoy five nights located in the heart of historic downtown Branson at the shopping and dining area called Branson Landing. **Hilton Convention Center Hotel – 5 nights (L)**

2. Get the lay of the land with a scenic tour of the local area and a Sunday Champagne brunch at the spectacular Chateau on the Lake. The late afternoon will be at your leisure to visit Branson Landing. Don't miss the \$7.5 million water and fire feature with fountains that shoot 120-foot geysers all choreographed to lights and music! This

evening it's the **Clay Cooper Show** which features an incredible cast of dancers, singers and musicians. (BR)

3. Tour the **College of the Ozarks**, known locally as “Hard Work U,” where no student pays tuition. Rather, they work on the school farm and elsewhere on campus to earn their education. Enjoy a **Sports Leisure Vacations private and exclusive afternoon tea with Dee Dee Lennon** and her brother Bill Lennon. Diane (Dee Dee) is well remembered as the lead singer of the Lennon Sisters, “America's Sweethearts of Song.” Dee Dee will discuss her life as a performer with stories of Lawrence Welk, Bob Hope and more. There will be plenty of time for Q & A after the talk. Tonight, Steve Presley join by four generations of his family perform country classics to Gospel with zany antics from Herkimer and Cecil guaranteed to have you rolling in the aisle at **Presley's Jubilee**. (FB,D)

4. Today is a nature day. Step aboard an open air tram and explore the beauty of **Dogwood Canyon** on a Wildlife Tram Tour. You'll wind through the canyon floor, past towering bluffs and waterfalls. Cross the border into Arkansas and view Bison, Elk and longhorn cattle. At the **Top of the Rock, Ozark Heritage Preserve**, experience the Lost Canyon by golf cart! A paved trail highlights stunning rock formations and waterfalls. And to cap off our time at Top of

the Rock you will visit the **Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum**. (FB,L)

5. Another exclusive **Sports Leisure Vacations** treat is in store today! A **private performance by the Carthcart Trio** (Bill and Gail Lennon and Mike Cathcart). Mike is the son of legendary trumpeter/singer Dick Cathcart and Peggy Lennon of the famed Lennon Sisters. At the **Titanic Museum** your guided tour lets you experience life on board just as it was on her maiden voyage 100 years ago. Walk the hallways and grand staircase while surrounded by more than 400 rare artifacts. This evening visit **Site and Sound Theatre**, a million watts of lights, sixty-thousand watts of sound, and a massive stage over twenty thousand square feet in size. See the performance of *Queen Esther*. Set in opulent yet perilous Persian Empire, *Queen Esther* is a captivating tale of beauty and bravery. (FB,D)

6. Depart Branson for Springfield. At **Fantastic Caverns**, America's Ride-Thru Cave, a natural adventure awaits. Jeep-drawn trams tour the path left behind by an ancient underground river while you view up close beautiful cave formations. (FB)

**\$4250 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4520 single**  
**\$120 Early Payment Discount**

## Spectacular Sedona

Featuring four nights at the Hilton Sedona Resort

5 Days • October 29 – November 2

### ★ Highlights ★

- Ride the Verde Canyon Railroad
- Guided tour of the Copper Museum
- Trolley tour including the Chapel of the Holy Cross
- 4x4 tour into the red rock backcountry
- Two meals with entertainment
- 9 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Phoenix
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 3250/3650 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly direct on Southwest Airlines to Phoenix. Enjoy a hosted lunch before traveling to Sedona and your hotel boasting beautiful indoor and outdoor public spaces.

**Hilton Sedona Resort – 4 nights (L)**

2. This morning take a trolley tour around greater Sedona to include the Chapel of



Top of the Rock tour, by golf cart – Branson



Just hangin' out on the Red Rocks –Sedona

the Holy Cross. Travel scenic Oak Creek Canyon for a spectacular drive along the river with towering red rock views. Tour the 13,000 square foot mansion of the Riordan brothers, a prominent Arizona family who played a significant role in the development of Flagstaff. The day ends with dinner and special 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, and view the White Sycamore trees as you explore and shop. Travel into the back country on dirt roads to some spectacular vistas on a 4x4 Jeep tour. If a Jeep ride is not your thing you can opt out at time of reservation and get an \$85 credit and instead spend extra time in the Uptown shops or Tlaquepaque village. 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. Visit the Musical Instrument Museum, home to 8,000 instruments from 200 countries! Galleries are divided into regions of the world where you'll see the instruments and listen to them on your own personal headphones. We will take a late afternoon flight home to Sacramento. **(FB,L)**

**\$3220 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3635 single  
\$100 Early Payment Di\$count**

## The Coast Starlight to San Simeon, Hearst Castle & Santa Barbara

5 Days • October 30 – November 3

**A**

### ★ Highlights ★

- Ride the Coast Starlight from Sacramento to San Luis Obispo
- 2 nights Cambria at the Cambria Lodge
- 2 tours of magnificent **Hearst Castle**, including the coveted Evening Tour with special guests
- Spend a day in Solvang, just in time for Christmas shopping – the Danish Capital of America
- 2 nights Santa Barbara – Harbor View Inn
- Day sightseeing in Santa Barbara, including the Mission, a fun-filled Land & Sea Tour and more
- Lunch under the wing of Air Force One at the **Reagan Library**, plus a guided docent tour of the museum
- 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners

**1.** All aboard Amtrak's **Coast Starlight** train at 6:45am this morning, bound for San Luis Obispo, arriving at 3:30pm (scheduled arrival). Our rooms are 40 minutes away in San Simeon, at the **Cambria Pines Lodge (two nights)**. Enjoy dinner at your leisure in the lodge restaurant. **(CB,L)**

**2.** It's a Hearst Castle sort of day. William Randolph Hearst little "cottage" on the hill was built starting in 1919, finished in 1947. Your first visit is in the morning, on a tour to visit the kitchens and the cottages on property. In the evening, we'll return to another guided

tour, this time by a costumed docent, of the main rooms of the mansion. The afternoon features a tour of the Piedras Blancas Light Station, along scenic Highway 1. **(FB,D)**

**3.** Depart San Simeon this morning, bound for the Danish Village of Solvang. Your visit includes a guided trolley tour of town, a taste of a fun Danish snack and time to roam the many shops in town. It's already November, so not too early to be thinking about stocking stuffers...

It's an hour to Santa Barbara and you have beautiful accommodations near the harbor. Dinner tonight on Stearn's Wharf. **(FB,D)**

**4.** Santa Barbara is not only one of California's prettiest cities, it's also one of the most historical. On a guided tour this morning, you'll visit many of the city's most popular attractions, including the Museum of Natural History. A late lunch is included at the Bluewater Grill. Later in the afternoon, enjoy a tour of land and sea in your amphibious vehicle! **(FB,L)**

**5.** The only Southwest non-stop from Santa Barbara leaves too early in the day for us, so we have time for a little history this morning. First, in Santa Barbara, there is a stop at The Mission. Probably the prettiest building in the chain founded by Father Junipero Serra, it represents early California history.

Just an hour away is the **Ronald Reagan Presidential Library**. Your stop includes a guided docent tour, and a catered luncheon under the wing of Air Force One. Your return flight from Burbank departs at 6:05pm, arriving in Sacramento at 7:20pm.

**Make reservations now.**

**Prices available May 15, no obligation.**



The Mission in Santa Barbara is perhaps the most magnificent of all



# The Tour Calendar *(Previously Announced)*

## Catalina Island Dreaming

4 Days • May 14-17

★ Highlights ★



- 3 nights at Pavilion Lodge right on the harbor
- High-speed ferry to Avalon
- Private guided tour of the Avalon Casino
- Glass-bottom boat, Island and Under-the-Sea tours
- Nightly wine and cheese reception
- 6 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- RT airfare to/from Southern California
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2050/2400 Gold Passport Points
- 4 seats available

**\$2040 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2360 single**

## Baseball's Fields of Dreams



*Featuring the Negro League Museum in KC, the Field of Dreams in Iowa, the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown and more...*

9 Days • May 26 – June 3

★ Highlights ★

- The Negro Leagues Museum
- The Field of Dreams Movie Site near Dyersville, Iowa
- Cooperstown, home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame; stay at the elegant Otesaga Hotel – special Curator's Program at the Hall
- Yogi Berra Museum at Montclair State University in New Jersey
- Tour sites of Ebbets Field, the Polo Grounds, Yankee Stadium – visit the final resting place of Babe Ruth
- 12 meals: 3 expanded continental breakfasts, 3 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare (Sacramento – Kansas City, Chicago – Albany, New York/Newark – Sacramento)
- Door-to-door airport service
- Gold Passport Points 5900/7000

The baseball trip of a lifetime. It makes stops in Kansas City, Dyersville (Iowa), Chicago, Cooperstown and New York City. You'll explore the Negro Leagues Museum in Kansas City, home of the legendary KC Monarchs, the "Yankees" of the Negro

Leagues in the 1900's. Walk among the early-season corn stalks at the Field of Dreams outside of Dyersville and explore 150 years of baseball history at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Along the way, we'll see a couple ballgames (Kansas City and Wrigley Field in Chicago) and visit famous landmarks like the sites of the Polo Grounds and Ebbets Field in NYC and Brooklyn. Pay your respects at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in New Jersey, final resting place of George Herman "Babe" Ruth, Yogi Berra, Billy Martin, James Cagney and other legends. One room available (1 or 2 persons).

**\$5885 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6960 single**

## Crater Lake and Lava Beds – Mother Nature's History Lesson

*Featuring the Tule Lake WWII Internment Camp*



4 Days • June 11-14

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights Klamath Lake
- Crater Lake National Park – Take a guided tour around the lake and enjoy lunch at the Rim Village Café
- Ranger program at Lava Beds National Monument; guided talk at Tule Lake National Monument – a WWII Relocation/Internment Camp
- 8 meals: 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door service
- 1800/2100 Gold Passport Points

The Cascade Mountain Range is full of volcanic activity, some fairly recent (Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Lassen). On this adventure visit Crater Lake National Park and Lava Beds National Monument, learning the natural history lessons they represent. Stay in downtown Klamath Falls for 3 nights. Japanese Internment Camps are an important reminder of World War II in our country. We must remember Japanese Americans suffered disproportionately during the war. You'll learn their story at Tule Lake National Monument.

**\$1780 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2095 single**

## Victoria, Canada's Royal Garden City

*The best of Canada's Garden City*

5 Days • June 20-24

★ Highlights ★



- High Tea at the Empress Hotel
- Experience Victoria on a double-decker bus tour and seaplane flight
- Visit famed Butchart Gardens to enjoy the blooms and lunch
- Spend a day exploring and tasting your way through the Cowichan Valley
- 5 meals: 1 high tea, 4 lunches
- Roundtrip air to/from Victoria, British Columbia
- Door-to-door airport service
- Gold Passport Points TBA

**\$2695 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3190 single**

*This tour requires a valid passport!*

## The Sounds of Music in Leavenworth



*Visit a Bavarian Village in the Cascades and enjoy outdoor theater*

4 Days • July 18-21

Our popular 4-day excursion into the mountains outside Seattle, to enjoy, literally, The Sounds of Music. Indeed, the classic show will be performed in an outdoor theater, to give it the feeling of being right in Bavaria.

Fly to Seattle, arriving in time for lunch the first day at Anthony's, one of our favorite waterfront restaurants on the sound south of the airport. Then your coach takes you over the mountains to Leavenworth, a scenic 2-1/2 hour drive.

Stay for three nights at the Bavarian Lodge, a great location, right in the heart of the village. Your buffet breakfast is included each morning. We'll fill the days with sightseeing and the nights with theater.

One day, we'll take you to the nearby town of Cashmere, where you'll visit the small factory where Applets & Cotlets candy is made. You'll also stop at a small pioneer museum in town. The afternoon is free in Leavenworth. A second day of sights features Rocky Reach Dam and a look at how it works.



Two evenings are filled with theater, The Sound of Music and Cinderella. The hills will indeed be alive with the sounds of music. Your return flight is from Seattle, arriving home a little after 6pm.

The package includes airfare, lodging, all attractions, theater tickets and 7 meals **(3FB,3L,1D)**. 2200/2450 Gold Passport Points.

**\$2180 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2435 single**

## The Pageant of the Masters



*An artistic extravaganza like none other in Southern California*

**3 Days • July 9-11 OR August 20-22**

### ★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights at the Hilton Orange County/ Costa Mesa
- Excellently located reserved loge seating for The Pageant of the Masters
- Behind-the-scenes presentation about the Pageant
- Champagne brunch cruise on beautiful Newport Harbor
- Docent guided tour at Sherman Library
- 3 meals: 1 brunch, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Southern California
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 1700/1950 Gold Passport Points

A two-hour performance accompanied by a full orchestra, The Pageant of the Masters is one of the most unique and entertaining shows in the world. Words simply cannot describe it. Like watching a magic show you will be both amazed and entertained as famous works of art become realized, quite literally coming to life before your very eyes. Difficult to describe, yet amazing to behold – you have to see it to believe it!

1. Soon after arrival in Southern California you'll board a Hornblower vessel for a champagne brunch cruise on beautiful Newport Bay. With great views of spectacular homes and recreation on the waterfront, this is a festive and fun way to begin your holiday in Orange County. Following brunch we'll have time to enjoy the beautiful outdoor setting at Roger's Gardens before checking into our hotel for two nights, the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa. Less than five minutes by ride share is The South Coast

Plaza which offers indoor shopping and award winning restaurants. **Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa – 2 nights (BR)**

2. Today we explore and enjoy the popular Sherman Library and Gardens with a docent guided tour of the gardens. Later in the afternoon Laguna Beach awaits. It's time to be immersed in the Festival of Arts with a tour followed by dinner on the grounds of the Festival at Terra Laguna Beach and the evening performance of The Pageant of the Masters under the stars. We have reserved loge seating in the outdoor amphitheater. This year's theme is "Art Colony: In the Company of Artists." **(D)**

3. Return to the Laguna Festival of Arts Theater this morning to meet a representative from the Pageant to learn more about this amazing production, an annual labor of love for so many artists, performers and volunteers in the region. A scattered lunch is included in town before an afternoon return flight to Sacramento. **(L)**

**\$ 1699 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1910 single**

## South Dakota's American Treasures

**7 Days • September 2-8**



### ★ Highlights ★

- Round trip air – Sacramento/Denver & Rapid City/Denver/Sacramento
- Door-to-door service, home pick-up
- The Mammoth Site – Hot Springs, SD
- Overnight in Lusk, WY; 4 nights at Deadwood Lodge in the Black Hills
- Boot Hill/Deadwood Tour
- Custer State Park – Buffalo experience by jeep
- The Brothel Museum
- Unique Crazy Horse Monument experience – ride by jeep to the top of the mountain, a VERY exclusive adventure
- Mount Rushmore Nat'l Memorial at night
- Devil's Tower Nat'l Monument
- Tatanka, The Story of The Bison
- 13 meals: 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 2 dinners

1. Take the 8:45am-ish flight to Denver. Then board your motorcoach, embarking on a scenic adventure to The Black Hills. Pause for lunch, then resume your journey north, with a rest stop in Cheyenne, Wyoming's

Capitol (photo stop). Arrive in Lusk about 6:30pm. A light dinner is included just after arrival. Best Western Pioneer **(L,D)**

2. Continue north, with a mid-morning stop at The Mammoth Site. This active dig site is dedicated to the preservation of Ice Age fossils. Your final destination for the day is Deadwood, the ultimate old west town. You'll stay 5 nights at the Lodge at Deadwood, an upscale hotel located in the heart of the Black Hills. Before check-in, enjoy a narrated tour of (in)famous Boot Hill, Where a number of shady (and not so shady) characters found their final resting place. **(ECB,L)**

3. You have a breakfast voucher, allowing you to choose from the menu each morning. Today's feature adventure is a visit to Custer State Park. Named after Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer, it's the home to hundreds of buffalo. You'll get to see them "up close and personal" as you travel through the park on a narrated jeep tour. Tasting of local wines and a visit to The Brothel Museum round out the afternoon. Deadwoods' houses of prostitution operated (illegally) until 1980, when federal agents closed them for good. **(FB,L)**

4. Two signature attractions fill the day. First, you are headed for the Crazy Horse Memorial. Your visit there includes an opportunity only offered to a select few, the opportunity to ride to the top of the mountain! Indeed, this exclusive addition is only for **Sports Leisure Travelers**. Dinner at Crazy Horse is included, then you'll stop at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial to see the carvings lit up at night! **(FB,D)**

5. Off to Devil's Tower Nat'l Monument in eastern Wyoming. The Tower is a geologic feature that protrudes out of the prairie surrounding the Black Hills. This is a sacred place to Native Americans, and you'll learn why it's called "Devil's Tower." Visit a museum in Sundance to learn some local color. Sundance? Home of the famous Sundance Kid? Hear the story of Harry Longabaugh (The Sundance Kid) and how he met Butch Cassidy. Speaking of local color, how about some huckleberry ice cream before heading back to Deadwood! **(FB,L)**

6. In Lead, SD (pronounced leed), you'll find the Sanford Underground Research Facility.

Boring name, but a fascinating place. From 1876 to 2001, Homestake Gold Mine mined more than 40 million ounces of gold before closing in 2002. From the creation of the deepest gold mine in Northern Hemisphere, to Nobel Prize-winning science, to secrets of the universe still being uncovered at the Sanford Underground Research Facility. This might be the place you most remember from your journey.

At Tananka, you'll learn the Story of the Bison. Kevin Costner, inspired by his time with the Lakota people while filming *Dances with Wolves*, invites you to experience the history of the plains before white settlers arrived. Wrap up your adventure with a dinner and country music show in a fun, local venue. **(FB,D)**

7. Your return flight to Denver/Sacramento departs at 4:45pm this afternoon. Before heading home, let's learn a little about the largest community in the region, Rapid City. A guided tour includes lunch before making your way to the airport at 2:30 or so. Founded by a group of gold miners in 1876, Rapid City, nicknamed "The City of Presidents," has grown to be the second largest town in the state. **(FB,L)**

**\$3365 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3820 single**

## Niagara Falling for You!

*Every room overlooks the Falls*

**5 Days • September 4-8**



### ★ Highlights ★

- 4 nights Embassy Suites Fallsview – premium views of Niagara Falls – daily breakfast
- Take a Journey Behind the Falls & sail to the base of Horseshoe Falls
- Ride in the Whirlpool Aero Cars
- Stroll the boutiques of Niagara-on-the-Lake; visit the Niagara Botanical Gardens & Butterfly Conservatory
- Sample "ice wine," an uniquely Niagara Region product
- 7 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Buffalo
- 3100/34500 Gold Passport Points

**\$3085 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3430 single**

*This tour requires a valid passport!*

## Cruising the Rhine River from Holland to Switzerland

**10 Days • September 9-18**



### ★ Highlights ★

- 8-day cruise aboard a Scenic "Space-Ship" Riverliner
- Overnight in Amsterdam with local touring
- Holland: Rijksmuseum, Volendam, Edam
- Germany: Cologne, Koblenz, Mannheim, Baden Baden
- France: Strasbourg & the Alsace region
- Included "Freechoice" tour options at every port
- Gourmet meals and all beverages complimentary
- All shipboard gratuities included
- English-speaking staff and local guides
- Complimentary WiFi
- 22 meals: 8 breakfast, 7 lunches, 7 dinners
- Roundtrip air to Amsterdam/Zurich
- Door-to-door airport service

*This tour requires a valid passport!*

**Prices based on cabin selection.**

*Call the office and ask for Michael.*

## Cruisin' Aboard the American Queen



*An Upper Mississippi cruise on the grandest paddlewheeler ever built!*

**9 Days • September 24 – October 2**

### ★ Highlights ★

- 7-night cruise on the *American Queen*

- Ports of Call: St Louis, Hannibal, Bettendorf/Quad Cities, Dubuque, La Crosse, Red Wing
- All basic shore excursions included
- Showboat-style entertainment and dancing nightly; daily talks by The Riverlorian
- Beer and wine included with onboard dinners; all-day bottled water, sodas, coffee and snacks are complimentary
- Overnight with attractions and meals in St. Louis
- 22 meals: 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 8 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Roundtrip airfare to St. Louis/from Minneapolis
- Gold Passport Points based on cabin category

Though early a year away, this popular cruise on the Upper Mississippi from St. Louis to the Twin Cities is so popular you have to book your cabin early 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. Non-alcoholic beverages and snacks are available and complimentary all day long. Beer and wine is included with dinner, and two dining choices are offered: one casual, the other fancy. Regardless of the dining option you select, enjoy classic Southern cooking along with heart-healthy selections.

Onboard, an all-American staff assures



Mark, Clayton on the *American Queen*



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.

**Price depends on cabin selection, packages start at:**

**OUTSIDE:**

**\$5590 p.p./dbl.occ., \$9090 single**

**INSIDE:**

**\$3790 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5687 single**

## New England Fall Foliage Spectacular

*Featuring Vermont, the Hudson River Valley and four US presidents!*



**7 Days • September 25 – October 1**

★ **Highlights** ★

- Visit a real Vermont "sugar shack," Mt. Mansfield and the Trapp Family Lodge
- Calvin Coolidge birthplace and Robert Todd Lincoln's Hildene
- Hyde Park – homes of FDR, Eleanor and Commodore Vanderbilt
- Traverse the Hudson River Valley to West Point
- 11 meals: daily breakfast, lunch at the CIA, 4 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare into Burlington/out of New York LaGuardia
- Door to door airport service
- 4700/5350 Gold Passport Points

**\$ 4675 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5350 single**

## Catalina Island, Take Two

*A different itinerary on California's Island*

**4 Days • October 6-9**

★ **Highlights** ★



- 3 nights Atwater Hotel in the heart of Avalon
- Avalon High Speed Ferry with

- Commodore Level Seating
  - Private Guided Tour of El Rancho Escondido & Wine Tasting
  - Movie Night at the Casino
  - Spa Day (massage) or Adventure Day (zip line), your choice
  - Interior Island Adventure Tour
  - 4 meals: 3 lunches, 1 dinner
  - Door-to-door airport transportation
  - Roundtrip airfare to/from Southern California
  - 2500/3000 Gold Passport Points
- \$2490 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2910 single**

## Route 66 – Western Side

*Oklahoma City to Santa Monica, featuring the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta*

**9 Days • October 9-17**



The second half of your journey down **The Mother Road** is very different from the eastern side. The spaces are more wide open in the west. There are national parks and the small towns are further apart and have a different personality.

In Winslow, you'll want your picture "Standin' on a Corner in Winslow, Arizona," (like the lyric in the old Eagles song), and we'll head out to Petrified Forest National Park, one of the most fascinating places in the country. Of course, the highlight of your Winslow stay, is your two nights at La Posada, a restored Harvey House Hotel from the highway's glory days.

See the old Cadillacs "rear ends up" in Texas and eat at the famous **Big Texan** in Amarillo. Meet legendary **Angel Delgadillo**, the retired barber in Seligman, Arizona, who is the man most responsible for the preservation of the old highway. He's 95 now and still going strong. Finish at the pier in Santa Monica.

### Western Side Route 66

- Day 1** Fly to/arrive Oklahoma City
- Day 2** Oklahoma City, OK to Amarillo, TX
- Day 3** Amarillo, TX to Albuquerque, NM (2 nights)
- Day 4** Santa Fe, Balloon Fiesta
- Day 5** Albuquerque, NM to Winslow, AZ (2 nights)
- Day 6** Petrified Forest National Park from Winslow

- Day 7** Winslow, AZ to Laughlin, NV
- Day 8** Laughlin, NV to San Bernardino
- Day 9** San Bernardino to Santa Monica, fly home

## A Pilgrimage to Plains, In Honor of President & Mrs. Jimmy Carter

*Featuring a side trip to Alabama for a Salute to Civil Rights*

**7 Days • October 22-28**



★ **Highlights** ★

- An up close look at America's 39th president, featuring his presidential library in Atlanta and his hometown of Plains
- Visit FDR's Little White House
- 2 nights at Calloway Gardens – a year round resort with over 2,500 acres of flowers and foliage
- 2 nights in Americus at the beautiful Windsor Hotel
- Step back in time to the Civil War days at Andersonville, a POW camp at the end of the war
- Spend a day in Plains, exploring President Carter's hometown
- Learn the story of the Tuskegee Airmen
- Rosa Parks Museum, National Memorial for Peace & Justice – Montgomery
- 14 meals, r/t air, services of an **SLV** Tour Director, home pick-up

Ed. Note: President Carter has entered the home stretch of his journey of life, as he receives hospice care at his home. Forget politics for a minute, this is a good man. When his journey ends, I suspect we will see huge response from the American people. It would be an honor to take you to the president's hometown. There are 8 seats left.

**\$3890 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4470 single**



Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sportsleisure](http://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?



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*Hosted by: Tom Romano and Mark Hoffmann*

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## Daycations and Theatre Outings *(con't from page 6)*

### **Julia Morgan North Star House and North Star Mine** Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup>

Join us as we discover the interesting history of Grass Valley. We will tour The North Star House, which is a 10,000 square-foot home designed in 1905 by the renowned architect **Julia Morgan**. Julia Morgan is best known for her work on Hearst Castle. Morgan was also California's first licensed female architect. We will also visit the North Star Mine, one of the richest gold mines in California history. North Star encompassed over 700 acres of land and contained two main mine shafts, many operational buildings, stamp mills, and was a very active mine property from 1851-1956. Enjoy lunch at Cirino's Restaurant and shopping in town. **\$154**

### **Aladdin**

*Orpheum Theater*

**Thursday, August 3 • 1pm**

Where there's a lamp, there's a Genie! Along with a love story and a bit of magic. **\$239**

### **Tina: The Musical**

*Golden Gate Theater*

**Wednesday, August 2 • 1pm OR**

**Saturday, August 19 • 1pm**

From humble beginnings in Nutbush, Tennessee, to her transformation into the global Queen of Rock 'n' Roll, Tina Turner didn't just break the rules, she rewrote them. This new stage musical reveals the untold story of a woman who dared to defy the bounds of her age, gender and race.

One of the world's best-selling artists of all time, Tina Turner has won 12 Grammy Awards and her live shows have been seen by millions, with more concert tickets sold than any other solo performer in music history. Aug. 2 – **\$224**; Aug. 19 – **\$249**

### **Misery**

*East Sonora Theater*

**Saturday, August 26**

Successful romance novelist Paul Sheldon, who is rescued from a car crash by his "number one fan," Annie Wilkes, and wakes up captive in her secluded home. While Paul is convalescing, Annie reads his

latest book and becomes enraged when she discovers the author has killed off her favorite character, Misery Chastain. Enjoy a pre-show lunch at Firenze. **\$158**

### **Hadestown**

*Orpheum Theater*

**Wednesday, September 13 • 1pm**

Returning to San Francisco due to popular demand for a limited one-week engagement in 2023, join us to see *Hadestown* where a song can change your fate. Winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards including Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater album. *Hadestown* intertwines two mythic tales – that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone – inviting you on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back. **\$294**

\*All San Francisco theater matinee trips include a box lunch served en route, orchestra seating and a no host dinner stop after the show







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### EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT COUPON

Early Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Friday, April 28, 2023**, 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.

**Aug.** – Summer in Oregon – **\$60**

**Aug.** – Lake Tahoe Theater & Magic Overnighter – **\$20**

**Sept.** – The Great Reno Balloon & Virginia City Camel and Ostrich Races – **Save \$35**

**Oct.** – Mammoth & Mono Lakes, Fall in the Sierra – **Save \$50**

**Oct.** – Heritage Paths of Ancient Greece – **Save \$125**

**Oct.** – Branson & The Ozark Mountains – **Save \$120**

**Nov.** – Spectacular Sedona – **\$100**

**Nov.** – Amtrak to SLO, Hearst Castle, Solvang, Santa Barbara – **Save \$60**

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com)

### Coins, Currency, Gold & Silver Appraised and/or Purchased

If you have a collection of coins, proof sets/special issues from the Mint or just a small bag or box of coins of unknown value, call Mark. He will appraise your treasures and if you wish, make an offer to purchase them. There is no charge for his appraisal services. Feel free to refer your friends. Call the office and ask for Mark to set up an appointment.

### OFFICE HOURS:

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

### 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

Catalina	Fall Colors of the West Mystery
Niagara	Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound
Cape Cod	Utah – Zion & Lake Powell
Washington, DC	New York – Broadway to The Bronx
San Juan Explorer	California Redwoods/Oregon Coast
Crab Louie Mystery Tour	Columbia River – Mountains, Train.
Canadian Rockies By Rail	Paddlewheel

#### Limited Space

Trip with 10 or fewer seats available

Route 66 East (2)	Route 66 West (6)
Crater Lake (4)	Pilgrimage to Plains (7)
Niagara (Sept.) (2)	Cruising the Rhine River (3)
Fields of Dreams (3)	New England Fall Foliage (6)
Nevada's Ghost Towns (2)	Cruisin' on Board the <i>American Queen</i> (6)