



# 2024 Tour Preview Day

Saturday, October 7, 2023 • Marriott Hotel • Sunrise at Hwy 50

Two – two hour shows: 9:00am & 12:00pm • Limited to 300 travelers each

\$10 admission charge (donated in full to local charities)

Reservations are now being accepted for **Tour Preview Day**. This is the day when our annual Tour Catalog is released. Because some tours fill very quickly, smart travelers try and get an advance copy at Preview Day. Reservations for the tours inside the catalog will be accepted:

1. Online as soon as Tour Preview Day concludes. Instructions given at Preview Day.
2. By phone **beginning Sunday, October 8th from 11am-2pm (you may also make reservations in person at our office during those special Sunday hours).**

**We will not be offering shuttle service to Preview Day this year. The number of people utilizing this service has fallen off and the Marriott has a well-known, easily accessible location.**

**No Contact Catalog Pick up:** If you prefer not to be in a room with other Travel Club Members for two hours, you can still get an advance copy of the catalog. When you call the office, just tell staff you prefer **the grab a catalog and go** option. We will have a staff member curbside, so you can get your copy and go. (The Grab and Go option still requires the \$10 donation.) Advance copies are also available at our office on Sunday, October 8th from 11am-2pm. (The \$10 donation is requested for Sunday pick-up.)



**At the event, you'll receive a copy of our new catalog, *Dream Weaving*. There will also be commentary on selected departures, as tour directors invite you into smaller break-out rooms to learn more about specific tours.**



You'll note there is a \$10 charge for attending. This is to cut down on the number of no-shows (people who reserve and then don't attend). It also allows us to build a small kitty to help a few local charities. One of them is always the Mustard Seed School, part of the Loaves and Fishes Ministry. All of the admission funds collected will be donated to charity.

Those not attending will receive a catalog by mail, a few days after Preview Day. You will also be able to access the catalog online, starting **Sunday, October 8th at 4pm** (if technology doesn't fail us).

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



Having announced our holiday tour schedule (and some trips for early 2024) just two months ago, there isn't much in the way of new trips in this edition of *The Traveler*. The most important part of this edition is your opportunity to weigh in on some of the ideas sent/contributed to us through evaluations and emails since this time last year. Add in some ideas from my staff and you have dozens of **Teasers**. More about those later. Hope to see you at Preview Day in on **October 7<sup>th</sup>**.



## Sending Aloha back to the Islands...

There is nothing in the world more tragic than when people lose their homes and their belongings, indeed their livelihoods, to a natural disaster. What has happened on the island of Maui defies all description. The fact it happened to Hawaiians, the kindest and most gentle people I've ever met, is extra sad.

Maui will be back. Some of the history is tragically gone, but the people of Hawaii will bond together, just like they did when Hurricane Iniki hit Kauai in 1991, and make a comeback. For now, visit the other islands, and when it's time, people will need to return to Maui to support the rebound of tourism. No doubt the bigger issue here is the changing climate and how it has started to dramatically impact the lives of humans. Nature is, I believe, offering up its last warnings. We need to make some changes. I'm glad I live in California, where such topics are at least open to discussion.

## The Travel Guys are Moving, New Day/Time

Starting Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, **The Travel Guys Radio Show**, heard for the last 14 years on **KFBK**, is moving. The station his making some staffing changes on the weekends, and it gives us an opportunity to

move to a more desirable time slot. Starting September 2, our show will air at **11am on SATURDAY mornings**. KFBK is found at 1530 on the AM dial, 93.5 FM. Many of you are long time listeners. Thank you.

Of course, if you already listen to the podcast of the show, this doesn't matter to you. (The podcast is the replay of the show, without news and commercials, and can be found at [www.travelguysradio.com](http://www.travelguysradio.com) every Monday. You can also sign up to have the link to the show sent to you each week.

If you haven't yet listened to **The Travel Guys**, it's hosted by yours truly and **Tom Romano**, longtime radio host in Sacramento. The goal of the show is to make you a smarter traveler. We frequently touch on items and destinations of interest to **Sports Leisure Travelers**, while updating things in the travel news world and giving you tips that will help make your travel experiences smoother and more memorable. "See" you on the radio, **Saturdays at 11am**.

## We Need Your Help in Building the Annual Catalog

A main feature of this edition of the newsletter is the **Teasers** section. Read through the brief descriptions, and (quickly if you could) let us know which ones tickle your fancy. **Most important of all, if there is a tour or destination on your list but not on ours, make sure you call it to our attention.** Respond by email if you would ([res@sportsleisure.com](mailto:res@sportsleisure.com)), or by phone if you prefer (M-F, 9am-3:30pm). Really appreciate your input. It helps us offer destinations you want to travel to (a pretty important item, when you think about it).

## TPD at the Marriott and Why No Shuttle Service

Tour Preview Day (front cover) will be at the Marriott in Rancho Cordova this year. Because of our area's sprawling population, it makes it difficult to route a bus to the Marriott. Last year's buses were barely half full and the Marriott has a pretty central location. Using the hotel for our event is expensive and since the admission fees

to go charity, not to expenses, **not** paying \$1,300 for a bus used by 30 only people seems to make sense.

The program will feature a Clayton and Mark Q&A, a short presentation from a local culinary guest, a word about a featured tour or two, and then we will break out into three different rooms/areas. There you can focus on the trips you are considering, listening to tour directors present and asking questions.

## Deluxe ABQ Balloon Package on 66 Tour

We have four seats left in our group of 24 (had to purchase balloon tickets, so now space is limited) to travel the western side of **Route 66** in October (see page 8). While there are lots of unique old highway attractions to see, and interesting people to meet, perhaps one of the best things on the itinerary has nothing to do with the old highway.

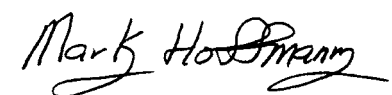
During our stay in Albuquerque, we will attend some parts of the **Balloon Fiesta**, specifically a night "glow" and a sunrise launch. Hundreds of balloons will be present, and weather permitting; it's a truly amazing experience. **Plus, we have seats in special club areas with food and reserved seating.** Scott taught me how to go first class.

In itself, probably not a reason to take a 9 day trip, but if you love highway history, and have never been to a gathering of hot air ballooners... for four of you, it's an opportunity for a great experience.

★★★★★★★★

I'm outa space. See you on the radio, at Preview Day or on the road. Thank you for your business and your support.

And so it goes,



**Mark Hoffmann, CTP**  
**Owner/Founder (almost 44 years ago)**

# Clayton Place... Bits and Pieces

## Friends:

I'm writing you today on this, the first full day of my 60<sup>th</sup> year, whilst sitting on a bench in the churchyard of St. Andrew's Cathedral. The sun is setting upon Inverness Castle across the River Ness. Between us the dark, swiftly-moving water is headed to the sea. It drains the famous loch located a few miles upstream. I'm keeping a keen eye on the water just in case Nessie decides to change her perspective on life and swim past. I understand a confirmed sighting (supported by photographic evidence) is worth a million. Not sure if the reward comes in pounds or dollars, but either way fear my chances are about the same as winning the lottery in the US. (I matched exactly zero numbers in last week's \$1.5 billion Mega Millions giveaway, evidence of my usual luck when it comes to such games of chance.)



When I graduated college a friend gave me *Oh, The Places You'll Go*. I was familiar with the book, but had never read it. I didn't

come from a Dr. Seuss kind of home, being more drawn to A.A. Milne and Richard Scarry in my younger years. How extremely prophetic the book turned out to be! In the past 60 years I've visited, as I often tell people, "everywhere worth going." I say it as a joke, but it rings with truth. I never tire of visiting and revisiting places I love. Scotland is high on that list. I *truly* love it here. I feel richly blessed to have experienced this, the land of my heritage, so many times, along with countless other places "worth going."

Sometimes love isn't enough. This vacation has been wrought with challenges – some manmade, some acts of God, some pure and simple bad luck. I was going to write about them today, about the extreme pressures currently in place throughout the travel industry all around the globe, but that epistle must wait for a future newsletter. I can't be displeased with the world right here or right now. I'm in too happy and peaceful a place.

In these crazy times we're living in where so very much seems to be going wrong, I hope you have at least one happy and peaceful place, and are blessed to find yourself there often. Because you are reading this page, I must assume you count upon us to take you

to at least some of your special places... and help you find new ones.

Summer is a busy and exciting time for tour planners in Sports Leisureland as it's the season when we conceptualize and create the vacations we hope will claim a page in our 2024 catalogue of tours, *Dream Weaving*. You are invited once again this year to help us with the process. Please read all the Tour Teasers presented in the coming pages. If you see something that strikes your fancy send an e-mail to [res@sportsleisure.com](mailto:res@sportsleisure.com) and let us know. (Certainly you can also call in your wish list!) Those itineraries receiving enough "votes" will move into the planning stage, and you'll be rewarded by receiving advance notice including the dates, prices and complete itinerary. Oh, the places you'll go next year and beyond with **Sports Leisure Vacations**. It will be our pleasure and honor to take you there!

"Your Tour Guy,"

Clayton Whitehead, CTP  
President

## The Customers Always Write

### Sports Leisure Vacations Gang,

Thanks for the card, kind thoughts and prayers. Progress is slow – I broke my right leg in two places. I will be able to walk again but not for a few months.

Donna Barnikol

### Dear Mark,

Thank you for your generous donation to Washed Ashore (aka Artula Institute for Arts & Environmental Education) on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2023. Your generous contribution will help Washed Ashore continue its mission to build aesthetically powerful art to educate a global audience about pollution in our oceans and waterways and spark positive

change in consumer habits. Sincerely,

Kathleen Dougherty  
Executive Director

### Dear Community of Sports Leisure Vacations,

Thank you for your generous donation to Ukrainian Relief Fund. Your remarkable support allows us to continue to send aid to Ukraine. Your donation is greatly appreciated and a blessing for the people of Ukraine. Sincerely,

Second Slavic Baptist Church

### Mark,

I became a fan of Charlie Brown and Company after our trip to the Charles Schulz Museum. I found this baseball article in one of the Charles Schultz books. This is what life is about. Hope you enjoy.

Carol Carey

### Dear Mark

Thank you for providing the opportunity to see this fantastic performer (Donny Osmond). Never thought I was a particular fan, but I sure am now.

What a showman! He brought a little bit of Las Vegas to Modesto – Bravo.

Harlene Steindrager

# The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

## No Cell Phones/Videos on Speaker

This has become an increasing problem on the bus. Here's the rule. **If you wish to listen to videos on the bus, on your phone/ipad/etc. on the bus, you must have a head set/head phones.** If you receive a cell phone call on the bus, **please inform the caller you will return their call at your first opportunity, unless it is an emergency.**

Listening to videos or taking extended phone calls on the bus is rude to your fellow passengers. **Expect tour directors to start enforcing this immediately.** If you observe someone who is in violation of this common sense rule, just let the tour director know and they will handle it. Headphones.

## Special Air Seat and Hotel Room Requests: Hotel Rooms – One bed vs. Two

Some travelers will request specific bed types in their rooms. When they arrive and their request hasn't been fulfilled, they are often disappointed, even wondering if their request was passed on to the hotel. We wanted to take a few words and share some information.

**One Bedded Rooms (generally one king bed)** – Single travelers get priority for these rooms. They pay more for their trip because they don't have someone to share the cost of the hotel with. So they are given

priority for king rooms. On rare occasions, in older hotels, one bedded rooms could be a queen bed.

If a couple request a king room, they get second priority. In some cases, there are no king rooms left in our block (or the hotel inventory) after single travelers are accommodated. Drivers and tour directors are given whatever is left (king or double queen).

**Two Bedded Rooms (generally queens, but could be double beds)** – This is easy. These go to travelers who are sharing a room with another member of the group, paying the double occupancy rate. On occasion, single travelers will be given rooms with two beds, because there aren't enough single bedded rooms available.

## Airlines – Window vs. Aisle (and more)

**Southwest** – You can purchase a space available upgraded boarding number at the gate on the day of departure. A-List Southwest Travelers (36 flights a year) are given upgraded numbers automatically.

**United & Other Carriers with Reserved Seating** – Group seats are generally blocks together and are assigned by the airline at random. We don't know who is where until the day of departure.

How can you guarantee a window/aisle/extra leg room seat? Pay for it in advance of travel, generally no later than the final

payment date, the sooner the better. Economy Plus, business or first class is almost always available, but at a price. We do not add any mark-up to the airline's pricing for upgraded seats. The front of coach has a little more room and you know your assigned seat.

**Questions???** If any of this is clear as mud, don't be afraid to ask your tour director or give us a call at the office. The point here is to explain why your seemingly small requests are not always honored.

## 20 Passengers Use Wheelchairs To Board Early On Southwest, Then Walk Off The Plane On Arrival

*Credit: Gary Left (View From The Wing)*

If you need assistance contact your airline in advance and they'll arrange for a wheelchair. There's officially no cost for the service although in most U.S. airports the people pushing make much of their money on tips. It's never clear the right amount to tip. Some feel \$5 is appropriate, others tip \$20. There's no medical verification needed to request this. And some people ask for the service who don't, strictly speak, 'need it'.

When a flight has numerous passengers with wheelchair assistance on boarding, and then most of those passengers get off themselves and walk out of the terminal – walking right past the waiting wheelchairs on the jet bridge – it's known as a "miracle flight." There's one recent Southwest Airlines flight where 20 passengers used wheelchairs to board, and only 3 used them to get off. 17 passengers experienced an in flight miracle!

Let's be clear: there are certainly cases where someone might need assistance on boarding and not deplaning. But that's also highly unlikely to be the case for 17 passengers (85% of those needing wheelchair assistance) here.

**The reason this concerns me is that people asking for wheelchair assistance who do not need it prevents or delays people who do need assistance from getting it.**

## The Travel Guys Radio Show



**NEW DAY! • NEW TIME!**

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

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

*Hosted by: Tom Romano and Mark Hoffmann*

# About Our Gold Passport Rewards Program for our Gold Travelers

Since 1991, **Sports Leisure Vacations** has offered a reward program for our most frequent travelers. Travelers attain **Gold** status by traveling 20 days with us over an indefinite period of time. Once your yellow **Gold** registration card has 20 signatures on it (can be a total of 20 on more than one card), you will be a **Gold Member** forever.

## Gold Member Benefits

**Gold Member Benefits** include double Travel Club Member Di\$counts. So on day trips, your \$1 Di\$count will always be \$2; on overnighters \$2 becomes \$4; trips of 3 days or longer, your member Di\$count doubles from \$5 to \$10. **Forever.**

**Gold+ Members** (previously called Current Gold) is our highest level of frequent traveler. Every member, upon achieving **Gold** status, will receive **Gold+ Benefits** for one year. In order to remain **Gold+**, you must travel **8 days a year**. **Gold+ Members** receive the additional benefit of having their **Traveler** newsletters sent a day prior to other members. This is a significant benefit, as it gives you a jump start on new tours.

## Gold+ Members Benefits also include triple Di\$counts

*The mission of our Travel Club Gold Program is to give our frequent travelers a reward for their loyalty and patronage.*

## Gold Passport Points Program Rewards

Number of Points Required	Travel Reward
5,000 .....	\$50
7,000 .....	\$75
9,000 .....	\$100
11,000 .....	\$125
15,000 .....	\$175
20,000 .....	\$250
25,000 .....	\$325
30,000 .....	\$400
35,000 .....	\$500
40,000 .....	\$750
50,000 .....	\$1200
60,000 .....	\$1800
70,000 .....	\$2500
75,000 .....	\$3000

Awards can be used on any trip created by **Sports Leisure Vacations**. They cannot be redeemed for independent travel. Awards are transferable, but points are not. **Points stay in your account until used, provided you travel at least once every 36 months.** The awards scale may be revised in the future with advance notice.

To redeem points, simply advise us when making a tour payment by telephone or in person. It will be done instantaneously with no paperwork required. You may also redeem your points and take the award in the form of a Travel Certificate. The certificate can be issued in your name or in the name of another should you wish to give the gift of travel.



Our first meal stop on old Route 66 outside of Chicago



In rural Nevada, there are spaceships and a'le'inns everywhere



Key West brags of having the point furthest south in the continental 48 states

# Daycations & Theatre Outings

## Regional Theater and Entertainment

Limited space available on these trips

### Straight, No Chaser

Thursday, October 26

A Cappella music from a not-so-straight-laced group of guys at the Gallo Center, Modesto, including dinner at Skewers prior to the evening show. **\$205**

### The Graduate

Saturday, October 28

Set in California in the 60's, the story of Benjamin and Mrs. Robinson. Fallon House Theater in Columbia, lunch at Firenze before the matinee. **\$162**

### Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella

Thursday, November 16

An ages old story, now more popular than ever! East Sonora Theater, lunch including prior to the matinee at Firenze. **\$164**

## Safari West Santa Rosa (Limited Space)

October 3

Your time at Safari West includes an open-air tram ride out through the compound with a knowledgeable guide to see the animals up close and personal, followed by a walk through the aviaries and small animal compounds. A barbecue lunch is served on the grounds along with time to explore their everything-animal gift shop before returning to Sacramento. **\$178**

## Anthony Rapp's, Without You

Curran Theater, San Francisco

Saturday, October 21

Based on the NY Times Best Seller by the same name and backed by a 5 piece rock band, it's the story of Anthony Rapp (the author) and a musical theater actor who was a down on his luck, penniless young man when he auditioned for a new musical **RENT**. Anthony shares his unimaginable story during the early years of **RENT** of

unsurpassed joy and unspeakable loss. Our Sunday matinee will include box lunch, orchestra seating and no host dinner stop at Pier 39. **\$203**

## Sky, Tree's and Under the Sea

Academy of Science

Thursday November 9

Explore the secrets of one of the world's greenest museums during your visit. Examine rare specimen collections and explore the Aquarium, Planetarium, Rainforest and Natural History Museum. Enjoy lunch on your own at one of the Cafés the museum has to offer. **\$131**

## Apple Hill and Old Town Placerville

Tuesday, November 14

Enjoy a leisurely ride to Apple Hill and a casual lunch included at one of our stops. There will be plenty of time to browse the many arts and crafts stalls, shop for tasty treats (have you ever tried the Caramelos at High Hill Ranch?) or order a pie to bring home for the holidays or just because. We will visit two Apple farms and on our way home make a stop in Old Town Placerville to do a little shopping as well. Lunch is included. **\$124**

## Holiday Sweets and Goodies

Tuesday December 5

Travel throughout Stanislaus County visiting family businesses whose products make delightful holiday gifts. Start with a visit to the Sciabica Olive Oil Company for a talk and tasting of California Olive Oil. Following a **hot buffet lunch** at the Hilmar Cheese Company, you will have time to shop for locally grown and produced jams, jellies, nuts and candies. In the afternoon, enter acres of blooming flowers at the greenhouse of one of California's largest Poinsettia growers and see both traditional and new varieties of these holiday favorites. **\$141**

## The Lion King

Orpheum Theater, San Francisco

Wednesday, December 6

Winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical and features some of Broadway's most recognizable music crafted by Tony Award winning artists Elton John and Tim Rice. Our Sunday matinee will include orchestra seating and no host dinner stop at Pier 39. **\$235**

## Mamma Mia!

Golden Gate Theater, San Francisco

Saturday, December 9, matinee

A blast from theater past! The bittersweet yet hilarious story of a single mother Donna, struggling to cope with her daughter's upcoming wedding in the Greek Islands. Joining this mix comes 3 previous lovers from Donna's past who could be the father of the bride. Orchestra seating and no-host dinner stop. **\$212**

## Broadway Holiday

Transcendence Theater Company, Sonoma

Sunday, December 10

Join us in welcoming the holiday season with this intimate celebration! Filled with seasonal songs and good tidings, this festive indoor event is perfect for the entire family. Our trip will include hosted Brunch prior to 2pm Broadway Holiday show. **\$210**

## Johnny Mathis

Gallo Center, Modesto

Thursday December 21

Celebrating 67 years in the music industry, legendary holiday icon Johnny Mathis is returning to the Gallo Center to sing his greatest holiday hits and romantic ballads.

Performing in an incredible variety of styles and categories, his sublime vocal approach to music eclipses passing fads and trends – from music composed for stage and screen to golden era jazz standards, contemporary pop hits in multiple languages to memorable Christmas classics, all of which has assured Johnny's reputation as one of the most enduring vocalists in music history. Dinner is included prior to the evening show. **\$257**



## Thank you from Mark and Shelbi Cash

After our Spring Preview Day, we received a delightful note from our entertainer, **Mark Alan Cash**, and his wife **Shelbi**.

### Dear Mark & Clayton:

We were so honored and humbled for the opportunity to come visit and meet all your family/friends and previous generations who helped keep feeding your business! Your people say so much about you and your team!

We would love to come back or see you guys out at the farm in Tennessee! We will always take care of you and your groups and make sure to give them the best experience "eva!" We look forward to the future!

*Mark & Shelbi Cash*

## Friends We've Lost...

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

**Sheryl Engel**                      **Brenda Fong**  
**June Dupzyk**                    **Michael Gee**  
**Andrea Failla**                   **Edward Pelley**  
**Wyndham Robertson**



*Hi there. Welcome to the lavender farm. Sure smells good around here...*

## The Lunch Bag

*(A true story of Robert Fulghum and his 7-year-old daughter Molly)*

It was Molly's job to hand her father his brown paper lunch bag each morning before he headed off to work. One morning, in addition to his usual lunch bag, Molly handed him a second paper bag. This one was worn and held together with duct tape, staples, and paper clips.

"Why two bags," Fulghum asked. "The other is something else," Molly answered. "What's in it,?" came his reply. "Just some stuff. Take it with you."

Not wanting to hold court over the matter, Fulghum stuffed both sacks into his briefcase, kissed Molly and rushed off. At midday, while hurriedly scarfing down his real lunch, he tore open Molly's bag and shook out the contents: two hair ribbons, three small stones, a plastic dinosaur, a pencil stub, a tiny sea shell, two animal crackers, a marble, a used lipstick, a small doll, two chocolate kisses, and 13 pennies.

Fulghum smiled, finished eating, and swept the desk clean – into the wastebasket – leftover lunch, Molly's junk and all.

That evening, Molly ran up behind him as he read the paper. "Where's my bag?"

"What bag?"

"You know, the one I gave you this morning."

"I left it at the office. Why?"

"I forgot to put this note in it," she said. "And, besides, those are my things in the sack, Daddy, the ones I really like – I thought you might like to play with them, but now I want them back. You didn't lose the bag, did you, Daddy?"

"Oh, no," he said, lying. "I just forgot to bring it home. I'll bring it tomorrow."

While Molly hugged her father's neck, he unfolded the note that had not made it into

the sack: "I love you Daddy."

Molly had given him her treasures. All that a 7-year-old held dear. Love in a paper sack, and he missed it – not only missed it, but had thrown it in the wastebasket. So back he went to the office. Just ahead of the night janitor, he picked up the wastebasket and poured the contents on his desk.

After washing the mustard off the dinosaurs and spraying the whole thing with breath-freshener to kill the smell of onions, he carefully smoothed out the wadded ball of brown paper, put the treasures inside and carried it home gingerly, like an injured kitten. The bag didn't look so good, but the stuff was all there and that's what counted.

After dinner, he asked Molly to tell him about the stuff in the sack. It took a long time to tell. Everything had a story or a memory or was attached to dreams and imaginary friends. Fairies had brought some of the things. He had given her the chocolate kisses, and she had kept them for when she needed them.

"Sometimes I think of all the times in this sweet life," Fulghum concludes the story, "when I must have missed the affection I was being given. A friend calls this 'standing knee deep in the river and dying of thirst'."

We should all remember that it's not the destination that counts in life? It's the journey.

The little girl smiles, the dinosaurs and chocolate kisses wrapped in old paper bags that we sometimes throw away too thoughtlessly each day, each a tiny treasure.

***The best teachers...  
are those who show you where to look,  
but don't tell you what to see.***

# The Tour Calendar *(Previously Announced)*

## Route 66 – Western Side

Oklahoma City to Santa Monica with the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

9 Days • October 9-17



### Western Side Route 66

**Day 1** – Fly to Oklahoma City

**Day 2** – Oklahoma City, OK to Amarillo

**Day 3** – Amarillo, TX to Albuquerque

**Day 4** – Santa Fe, Balloon Fiesta

**Day 5** – Albuquerque, NM to Winslow

**Day 6** – Petrified Forest National Park

**Day 7** – Winslow, AZ to Laughlin, NV

**Day 8** – Laughlin, NV to San Bernardino

**Day 9** – San Bernardino to Santa Monica

The second half of the journey down Route 66 is very different from the eastern side. The spaces are more wide open, there are national parks and the small towns 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. 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. There's Oatman and their famous burros in the streets, the Goffs Schoolhouse, and lunch at the place that invented the French Dip sandwich! Finish at the pier in Santa Monica.

**\$4775 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5295 single**

Proud members of the



## 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 about 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
- 3900/4500 Gold Passport Points

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

## 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 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**

## Catalina Island, Take Two – A different itinerary on California's Island

4 Days • November 3-6



### ★ 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  
**\$2495 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2910 single**

## Take the Thanksgiving Train to Reno

*Feast on a hearty holiday buffet brunch at the Nugget*

**2 Days • November 22-23**



Your journey over the mountains begins from one of our convenient pickups, then on to Roseville where you'll board Amtrak's *California Zephyr*. Experience a breathtaking ride through the High Sierra (with perhaps a bit of early season snow) as the train climbs in elevation, providing scenic vistas at every turn. Don't worry about your luggage – it will travel on board our motorcoach which will meet you in Reno!

Enjoy the view from your seat or the domed observation car. A box lunch is included for you to take along so you won't miss the scenery! Your accommodations are at the **Silver Legacy Casino/Resort**. Enjoy a free morning at leisure before an early Thanksgiving buffet at the Nugget Casino in Sparks to celebrate the day, returning to Sacramento in the late afternoon.

The package includes one-way rail passage on Amtrak's *California Zephyr*, a boxed lunch, buffet Thanksgiving meal, hotel accommodations, \$8 hotel food bonus (subject to change), return transportation by motorcoach and the services of a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director. 500/550 Gold Passport Points

**\$499 p.p./dbl.occ., \$549 single**

## Look What We're Doing...



## Gettysburg & Hershey – A Sweet Combination

*A small town, chocolate-coated Christmas (Market) holiday*



**6 Days • November 30 – December 5**

Gettysburg is the perfect village for the holidays. It's a small town with a historic twist. You arrive Thursday night, and the weekend brings the town's holiday festivities. There's a Christmas parade, gift bazaars put on by local organizations, holiday concerts and there's also that little Civil War battle from nearly 160 years ago.

You'll stay at the **Gettysburg Hotel**, located right on the town square. It's a historic property with the best location in town for **three nights**. Start your visit with a tour of the sites of the Battle of Gettysburg, the most deadly conflict of the Civil War. The National Park Service offers a Visitor Center which is worth a visit.

Then you leave most of the history behind and celebrate the holidays. Service clubs host small bazaars all over town, and we'll drop in at a couple to help you find that perfect present. A Christmas parade highlights one evening, a holiday concert another. Gettysburg is the perfect place to catch the holiday spirit!

At your next stop accommodations are at the luxurious **Hotel Hershey** for **two nights**. You'll feel like a queen (or king) as you enjoy the fine service.

During your time in Hershey you'll get to be a kid in a chocolate store as you make your own chocolate bar. There's also a guided tour of town. Koziar's Christmas Village has the feel of a holiday market, with lots of shops and seasonal refreshments. Add in Christmas lights and you have a great evening activity!

The package includes roundtrip air Sacramento/Harrisburg, 9 meals **(4FB,1BR,2L,2D)** and our signature door-to-door service. 3250/3650 Gold Passport Points

**\$3295 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3620 single**

## Puttin' on the Ritz for Christmas

*Only two seats available!*



**3 Days • December 10-12**

**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 continuation of your journey. Enjoy a Champagne Sunday Brunch in San Mateo before heading to the coast and the charming town of Half Moon Bay. You will have time to browse the shops before checking into your hotel which resembles a grand European country estate set on a rocky bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. **Ritz Carlton Resort Half Moon Bay – 2 nights (BR)**

**2.** Enjoy a free morning at the resort with amenities including 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 cost. Lunch will be hosted at a scrumptious Italian restaurant (*mangia, mangia!*) followed by a visit to Filoli Historic House and Garden all decked out for the holidays. **(L)**

**3.** Depart the coast. Lunch is hosted at a local seafood restaurant in Half Moon Bay before departing the coast and returning to Sacramento. 1700/2100 Gold Passport Points **(L)**

**\$1699 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2080 single**



*A Christmas concert at Gettysburg College*



# New Vacations & Getaways

With our Tour Preview Day and 2024 Catalog just around the corner, we have just a limited number of new offerings this time around, all trips that can't wait for the catalog. **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024** for one night.

## The Pageant of the Monsters

Stay on board the newly refurbished *Queen Mary*

**3 Days • October 29-31**



This sounds like fun! Fly to Long Beach and spend two nights on board the *Queen Mary*. She's been closed for a while, because she was in desperate need of repairs. But in May, 100 staterooms reopened and now you'll get to stay on board (she made her final voyage in 1967).

Plus, it's Halloween! We have two pre-holiday evening events planned. On arrival night (Sunday), attend **The Pageant of the Monsters**, a very special event held on the grounds of the Pageant of the **Masters**. The "Monsters" only happen every five years. The cast of the pageant are your "host" in this walk-around affair.

On the second night, the fun is right at the *Queen Mary*! A daytime carnival becomes more spooky at night...and the best part is you can walk home anytime you wish!

**Added Attractions:** We are hoping to start with Sunday Brunch on arrival, plus a tour of the *Queen Mary* before first day check-in and meeting the "monsters". Second day sights include the Aquarium of the Pacific and a guided tour of the Long Beach area, highlighting its history. Wednesday, before your return flight from Orange Country, enjoy lunch at Downtown Disney.

4 meals and airfare included. 1400/1600 Gold Passport Points.

**\$1380 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1555 single**

**The Travel Guys  
move to  
SATURDAYS at 11AM**

## Oregon Chocolate Festival

*The Sweetest Weekend Ever*

**3 Days • March 1-3, 2024**



★ **Highlights** ★

- Indulge in an elegant three course dinner with wine pairing
- Taste your way through the Oregon Chocolate Festival
- Explore the charming town of Ashland
- Optional performance by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- Chocolate Brunch on Monday
- Door to door service
- This is a no-fly trip, all travel by coach
- 6 meals: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- 1250/1400 Gold Passport points

The Oregon Chocolate Festival is turning 20 next year and we're going to help them celebrate by taking you on *the sweetest weekend ever!* Purveyors and makers of all things chocolate gather in Ashland for their annual Chocolate Festival weekend. While there is some serious competition going on between the artisans for the various "Best In" product categories, there is also some serious confection shopping to be done by you! Browse and sample to your chocolate-loving heart's delight at the various booths showcasing every kind of chocolate confection imaginable!

You can attend the very elegantly presented Chocolate Maker's Dinner on Friday night where the Chef will cleverly include something chocolate in each of the three courses he prepares. A carefully selected wine is paired with each course. If a fancy-schmancy three course dinner is not your thing, this year you can opt out of it and have dinner on your own. A Chocolate Brunch is new and included this year prior to our return home.

Ashland is home to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and though it is their off-season, they typically offer an (indoor) play or two. If you are interested in seeing a play on Saturday night, let us know and we will contact you when we have the show and pricing information.

**\$1215 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1380 single**

## Cruising the Panama Canal

*5 ports of call, inc. Costa Rica, and a canal transit*

**16 Days (inc. pre-cruise overnight) • March 15-30, 2024**



**Depart from Ft. Lauderdale, return to San Diego**

### Your Itinerary

Mar 15	Overnight Fort Lauderdale
Mar 16	Cruise Departs
Mar 17-18	Days At Sea
Mar 19	Cartagena, Colombia
Mar 20	Enter Panama Canal Cristobal – Cruising Only
Mar 21	Day At Sea
Mar 22	Puntarenas (Puerto Caldera), Costa Rica
Mar 23	Corinto, Nicaragua
Mar 24	Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
Mar 25	Huatulco, Mexico
Mar 26	Days At Sea
Mar 27	Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
Mar 28-29	Days At Sea
Mar 30	San Diego, California, US

Designed to carry fewer guests while offering greater space, *Zaandam* is elegant and comfortable. Her décor is inspired by music. While on board, rejuvenate with a spa treatment in the serene Greenhouse Spa & Salon®, indulge in a tantalizing meal at a fine dining restaurant, or choose from a variety of shore excursions. We will discuss those excursions, on board activities and even your pre-cruise overnight stay in Fort Lauderdale.

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

Prices include airfare to Fort Lauderdale and return from San Diego, pre-cruise overnight, dinner and sightseeing; the services of a **Sports Leisure Tour Director** throughout your trip and airport transfers.



## Sports Leisure Vacations Teasers 2024

As we work to create our 2024 tour schedule, we need your input. Below are some of our ideas, **35 of them to be exact!** If you find one or more you have solid interest in, drop us a note to [res@sportsleisure.com](mailto:res@sportsleisure.com) or call the office. We'll note your interest and do our best to notify you if the trip becomes a reality. You aren't committing to anything, just showing interest. By telling us what looks good to you from the list, and adding anything we forgot, you'll help us match up your requests with catalog reality!

**Important: If there is a destination YOU would like to see on the schedule,** or a trip you would like to see repeated, **PLEASE** send a note or call and we will add that to our wish list. – Mark

## Kauai – The Land, History, Culture & People

7 Days • Early March 2024

We spent 5 days combing *The Garden Isle*, in search of adventures and experiences we hadn't found in our **40 years** of Kauai visits. We renewed friendships, made some new ones, met the character who knows *everything* about the island (and will share it with us), tasted some locally grown chocolate and talked of helping to restore historic paintings as a way of giving something back. Is there enough to do on this small island to spend a week? The answer is **YES**. Come with us and hang loose brotha...



*One of Kauai's most famous residents waits to welcome you... only problem is their wake up call comes at 5am!*

## The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival

3 Days • April 2024

Northern Washington is known for its tulips and there is no better place than the Skagit Valley, north of Seattle. See the amazing floral blooms and be a part of the annual tulip festival!

## Niagara Falls & The Ottawa Tulip Festival

7 Days • May 2024

Combine the **Sports Leisure** Niagara experience (rooms with a view of the falls) with a visit to Canada's capital city! With our new non-stop flight to Toronto, getting there is easy. 3 nights in Niagara, 3 nights Ottawa. See the falls from every viewpoint before becoming part of the bloom season in Canada.

## Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona

4 Days • May-June 2024

Perhaps America's most famous national park, The Grand Canyon is just that. Grand.

## The Hollywood Experience

3 Days • Spring or fall 2024

Lights, Camera, Action. Feel like you're in a Hollywood movie on a one-of-a-kind tour of Hollywood and Beverly Hills. Go behind the scenes and experience movie making and living like a movie star as you partake in VIP tours at two top film studios and explore some of the area's landmarks and celebrity homes. Who knows you may be an extra in the next Hollywood blockbuster! Could include a performance at the Hollywood Bowl.

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

One night glamping, 2 nights in a hotel

4 Days • Spring 2024

Featuring an overnight in the San Diego Wild Animal Park ("glamping") and two nights in a **real** hotel. Pack your "trunk" for

a sleepover adventure at the Wild Animal Park! Your adventure includes activities, an after-hours look at the lives of "wild"life, guided walks, s'mores around the campfire. The next day we will include a VIP open air safari experience. Then comes a day or two of sights in the San Diego area.

Note: Glamping is camping with comfort, where stunning nature meets modern luxury. It's a way to experience the untamed – without having to sacrifice creature comforts. **RoseMarie** contributed this idea. Listen to her talk about it at Tour Preview Day.

## Tonopah, Laughlin & Las Vegas

6 Days • April 2024

This will be a no-fly, all motorcoach trip through the desert. Staying one night in Tonopah at the infamous Mizpah Hotel (Mark says there are lots of ghosts there, including the elevator operator), one night in Las Vegas, two nights at the Golden Nugget in Laughlin along the Colorado River and one night at the beautiful Tachi Palace Casino Resort near Bakersfield. It's a road trip!

## Lexington to Louisville, Pre-Derby Fireworks

*Pedigree horses, awesome fireworks*

6 Days • April 17-23

A new idea. Fly to Lexington, a beautiful small town in Kentucky, Blue Grass Country. It's where Derby horses are largely born and raised. Kentucky Horse Park and other attractions will tell you the story and let you meet the animals up close. Then to Louisville, where you'll tour and have lunch at Churchill Downs (it will host the Derby two weeks after your visit). We'll also have great seats to view **Thunder Over Louisville**, one of the country's largest fireworks displays. The show kicks off the two week long Derby Festival. Horses and Fireworks and Churchill Downs **before** The Derby.

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



## Three Giants Baseball Road Trips

### Spring Training in Arizona

5 Days • Early to Mid-March

Watch the Giants (more) and the A's (less) get ready for the regular season. 5 games, baseball banquet w/guest speaker, dinner at Rustler's Roost. Tentative Game Schedule: Giants at KC Royals, Giants at Dodgers, Cinn. Reds at Giants, A's at Chicago Cubs, Giants at A's. Pretty solid line-up, maximum 20 travelers.

### Giants & Cubs in Chicago, possible side trip to Birmingham

6 Days • June 15-20

Next year, the Giants and Cardinals will play a special game at Rickwood Field in Birmingham, where Willie Mays played center field. It's a small park and we have no hope of getting tickets to the game. **BUT**... the park is a museum and we thought we might make a side trip to Birmingham **before** we went to Chicago for three games between the Giants and Cubs at Wrigley Field. So, if you call or email to express interest in this trip, tell us which choice you prefer:

Wrigley Field for 3 games between the Giants and Cubs (and a bit of Chicago sightseeing) **ONLY**.

3 games at Wrigley **AND** a side trip to Birmingham for a baseball history lesson.

If there is enough interest, one of those choices will become reality.

### Seattle, The Emerald City – With or Without Baseball – Giants vs. Mariners

3 Days • August 23-25

The Mariners have a beautiful ballpark downtown. Spend two nights, see three games, and get just a bit of Seattle sightseeing into your itinerary. Like a visit to the Space Needle, time to explore Pike Place Market, the Chihuly Museum of Glass and Sunday Brunch. Oh, and tickets to all three Giants/Mariners games. This package would also be available without the baseball tickets, and with alternate activities. When you indicate interest, please tell us baseball or no baseball.



*Last summer, our baseball travels took us to the site of Ebbets Field, home of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Here, our gang snaps a picture of where home plate used to be at the ballpark*

### Moab, the Gateway to Arches Nat'l Park

May 5-9 • 5 Days

Stay 4 nights at Scott's favorite hotel in the southwest, the Red Cliffs Resort. Visit Arches Nat'l park by jeep to areas seldom seen by tourists. Scenic flight over Canyonlands Nat'l Park, Jet boat on the Colorado River. Hummer tour in the backcountry.

### Zion & Bryce National Park

*Featuring two performances at Tuacahn outdoor amphitheater*

3rd week in May • 6 Days

Two of the best parks in southern Utah. Zion (think a red rock Yosemite) and Bryce with its bizarre rock formations called hoodoos. To put this tour over the top you will see **two** Broadway performances in the red rock outdoor amphitheater Tuacahn in St George.

### Atlantic Canada

9-10 Days • June 2024

We have rescheduled this tour for next year and will be trying to go earlier in the season to avoid wildfires. Explore Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, some of the world's most beautiful natural areas. Again, our new non-stop to Toronto will make air travel much easier on this itinerary. From Peggy's Cove to the UNESCO World Heritage Town of Lunenburg, you'll see it all. Cross the Confederation Bridge, the world's longest.

### Yosemite National Park

3 Days • June 2024

Scott is working on a 2-night package. We are looking at accommodations inside and outside the park, as demand is high. Explore Yosemite Valley by tram and take time to enjoy the waterfalls. Side trip to Hetch Hetchy reservoir. If you've never been to Yosemite, it's something you should experience.

### Ashland's Shakespeare Festival

3-4 Days • June 2024

The schedule of shows won't be announced until this season has finished. It's not only Shakespeare, but non-Shakespearean productions are featured. Visit famous Harry and David's and see a bit of southern Oregon. All coach trip.

### Mount St. Helens, Before & After The Blast

3 Days • Late June 2024

The wonder of St. Helens and the beauty of the mountain, before and after the eruption of May 18, 1980. It's been over 40 years and the mountain has come back. Hear the story of Harry Truman, the legendary old guy who ran the lodge at Spirit Lake (and refused to leave).

Experience the history and descriptions of the eruption. Learn from a local guide what it was like to live in the park before and after the eruption. Explore the Cascade Range of Washington and all the unique small towns. Possible hotel: Hilton Vancouver, Washington.

## The Sounds of Music in Leavenworth

4 Days • July 2024

IF the **Sound of Music** returns to the outdoor theater in Leavenworth, would you like to be there? This historic Bavarian-style village in The Cascades is a delight. We'll add side attractions and even include a stop at Applets and Cotlets, a famous small-town candy company. Fly to/from Seattle, 3 nights in Leavenworth.

## The San Juan Explorer

6 Days • August 2024

Each year, Scott takes a group to the northern Puget Sound area, where they stay in a hotel and explore the picturesque San Juan Island by boat during the day. Visit La Conner and Roche Harbor and travel the scenic Mt. Baker highway, stay two nights at the Rosario Resort.

## Mainly Maine – Lobsters & Lighthouses

7 Days • August 2024

Back after a year's absence, this very popular package explores the state of Maine. There's a lobster cruise and a lobster dinner and a lobster in every bed...just kidding. From Acadia National Park to the Maine Lighthouse Museum, the itinerary is filled with chances to meet the folks who live here, from Bangor to Bar Harbor.

## National Parks of The Canadian Rockies

6-7 Days • Summer 2024

From Banff to Lake Louise and Jasper, travel the Ice Fields Parkway through Alberta. Visit Banff, Yoho and Jasper National Parks, ride a giant snow coach on the Columbia Ice Fields and discover the beauty of the Canadian Rockies. Start in the northernmost cowboy town on the continent, Calgary.

## Riding the Rocky Mountaineer through the Canadian Rockies

6 Days • Summer 2024

Our Rockies tour this year just returned with rave reviews. Fly to Vancouver BC. Two days on the Rocky Mountaineer dome car Gold Leaf service. 3 nights in Banff,

visit Lake Moraine and the Valley of the Ten Peaks. Lunch and free time at the Chateau Lake Louise. Banff Gondola and the Ice explorer tour which takes you onto the Athabasca Glacier. Fly home from Calgary.

(Price this year was \$6290s/\$6980dbl.)

## Rails Across Canada

8 Days • Summer/Fall 2024

We will either do the Rockies as listed above by train, or take the train all the way across Canada., from Vancouver to Nova Scotia. There will be two stopovers along the way. Amazing scenery from the comfort of your rail car. Take **The Canadian** from Vancouver to Toronto, an intercity train to Montreal, then **The Ocean** from Montreal to Halifax. Sleeping accommodations are included.

## Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound

4 nights with views of *The Sound*

5 Days • July 21-25

A longtime favorite. Fly to Seattle and cross the sound by ferry to spend 4 nights at the **Clearwater Resort**. There's a casino within walking distance and every room has a full on view of Puget Sound. Explore Norwegian Poulsbo (the world's best ice cream) and return for dinner at the Sons of Norway Hall; dine in Port Gamble and go in search of ghosts in the town's house museum; visit Port Townsend and explore the shops, ride the ferry to/from Whidbey Island, head into Olympic National Park (this year we ran into a bear... ok, a cub, but still...). Plus, Sunday Brunch.

## Red Rocks to the Rockies on the Rocky Mountaineer Train

4 Days • September

The Canadian Rocky Mountaineer brought some trains down to the US in 2022. They are running a train from Moab, Utah to Denver, with an overnight in Glenwood Springs.

Fly to Moab and spend 1 night. Day 2 board the train, 1 night Glenwood Springs and ride the rails to Denver, then overnight before flying home the next afternoon.

## Rocky Mountain National Park & Colorado Springs

September • 6 Days

Fly to Denver, travel to Estes Park and the famous Stanley Hotel for two nights. Guided tour of Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, travel to Colorado Springs, tour the Air Force Academy, the new US Olympic & Paralympic Museum, Garden of the Gods and Manitou Springs.

## The Czech Republic by Rail

11 Days • Fall 2024

Prague is one of the most remarkable cities in Europe. But because it was behind the Iron Curtain for decades, many westerners have never visited the city, or the countryside. Prague Castle is simply remarkable. Cesky Krumlov is a 13<sup>th</sup>-century Medieval town (also with a castle), Brno has modernist buildings and...you guessed it, a castle. Much of your travels will be by rail. This itinerary is still being developed, but will likely be offered next fall.

## "Dream' Inn of Santa Cruz"

3 Days • September – October 2024

After a few year hiatus, it's time to return to Santa Cruz and check into the iconic Dream Inn. A favorite of **Sports Leisure** travelers for years and best loved for it's relaxed vibe and oceanfront rooms, your stay here is just the place you want to be to reset and unwind. You're a 7 minute walk from dining on the Santa Cruz Wharf and the Beach Boardwalk is only 11 minutes away. Ride the carousel and tour the coast.

## Ireland

11 Days • Fall 2024

Join Clayton for a trip to his homeland! More details will be available later this fall.

## Galapagos Islands Cruise

Fall 2024

An often requested destination, we have only made this journey once. The Galapagos Islands are truly one of the most treasured natural places on the planet. If this is on your bucket list, be sure to show your interest.

## Mekong Delta Cruise – Vietnam/Cambodia

Fall 2024

One more “outside the box” idea for next year. From Ho Chi Minh City you explore this remarkable body of water and immerse yourself in the Vietnamese culture. Ever been to a floating market? Explore this magic land, and the waters which bring life and commerce to the people of the country. Michael is putting this together. Sound interesting?

## All Aboard Amtrak’s Southwest Chief

4 Days • October 2024

Take in the grandeur of the American West on an adventure between Chicago and Los Angeles. It’ll take you across the mighty Mississippi through eight states – passing wheat fields and ranches, missions and pueblos, mountains and deserts. As you carve through curving canyon passages only a few feet wider than the train itself, you’ll see spectacular landscapes and vistas not visible from interstate highways. Onboard the Southwest Chief you’ll enjoy Superliner Sleeping (2 nights) and Dining Car accommodations and awe-inspiring views from the Sightseer Lounge. We’ll fly into Chicago, overnight, then travel onboard the train for two nights arriving in Los Angeles flying back to Sacramento.

## A Walk with Walt (Disney)

3 Days • Fall 2024

An adult visit to Disneyland. Remember when you went there as a kid? Relive those memories. Take a guided tour through the park, enjoy a dining experience and see things ordinary guests never view. Could include a culinary experience at **Knott’s Berry Farm**.

## Grandparent/Grandchild Getaway

1, 2 or 3 Days • Sometime in 2024

One day or overnight let **SLV** take the pressure off planning a family getaway. We will plan family friendly activities to give you and your grandchild quality time together.

Itineraries can vary from 1-day getaways to 2–3-day itineraries. Examples:

Family fun in San Diego with VIP tours of Legoland, San Diego Wild Animal Park and other attractions. Disneyland with a few “characters” Train ride adventure, a pre-Holiday Christmas Experience, soft adventure with rafting and a campfire or glamping adventure with s’mores. Generally, children 8 and older are welcome on these trips, but the age depends on the itinerary and the length of the trip.

## Switzerland & Austria

10-12 Days • 2024 or 2025

This could be an all-land journey, or a tour by train in Switzerland and by land in Austria. From Geneva in the southwest, to Lucerne and Zurich, Switzerland is one of the most visited countries on earth. Vienna, Austria is renowned for its cultural arts.

## Update on Teasers from the Previous Newsletter

### Barry Manilow in Palm Springs

December 11-13 & 12-14

We got tickets! Two trips were announced in mid-August and those who showed interest were given the chance to register. If there is still any space, the tour(s) are listed in the New Tours section.

### Over The River & Through the Woods to Christmas Day Dinner

May is still working on this one. Look for an announcement at Tour Preview Day.

### Winter in Whitefish/ Glacier Park

January 2024 (?)

This has been a huge challenge for Scott to create. Still on hold for now...

### Ashland Chocolate Festival

February 2024

See the New Tours section of this newsletter.

### Colorful Carolina Coast

10 Days • March 12-21, 2024

See the Tour Catalog in October for details on this trip.

### Springtime in Monterey

4 Days • April 7-10

See the Tour Catalog in October for details on this trip.

### Comedy, Dollars & Legends – A Mystery Tour

6 Days • May 4-9



Let's go back to San Diego and have lunch at the Hotel Del...

# Time to Renew *Your Travel Club Membership*

Like many organizations and businesses, we suspended membership renewals of all types. Now, it's time to resume our membership program. Your dues help offset the costs of getting tour materials to you, maintaining our website and online reservations systems.

**Benefits of Membership:** All members receive our newsletter, **The Traveler**, by e-mail, sent out 5x annually, and a mailed copy of our annual tour catalog. (There is a paid option for the newsletter, if you wish to receive it by mail. Details available in October.) Members receive discounts of **\$1-\$5 per tour**, based on the length of the trip. Members also receive advance notice of travel opportunities that arise between newsletter mailings. Frequent Travelers (Gold and Gold+ Members) receive additional benefits.

There are two types of memberships, **annual** and **lifetime**. The options are laid out below. If you renew now, your membership will be valid until **January 1, 2025**; unless you select the **Lifetime Membership** option.

If you are already a **Lifetime Member**, nothing on this page applies to you. As a current Lifetime Member of the Travel Club, you never pay dues again. Please enclose your check, or call our office and renew by credit card. Your new card should arrive by mail in 2-3 weeks.

- Yes, please renew my Sports Leisure Travel Club Membership.** Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Check one option below.) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Annual Membership renewal, valid until 1/1/25, \$10 per person.** Current Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ (if known)
- Special one time offer. Lifetime Membership, \$20 per person.**

**Sports Leisure Vacations • 9812 Old Winery Place, Suite 1 • Sacramento, CA 95827 • (916) 361-2051 • Toll-Free (800) 951-5556**



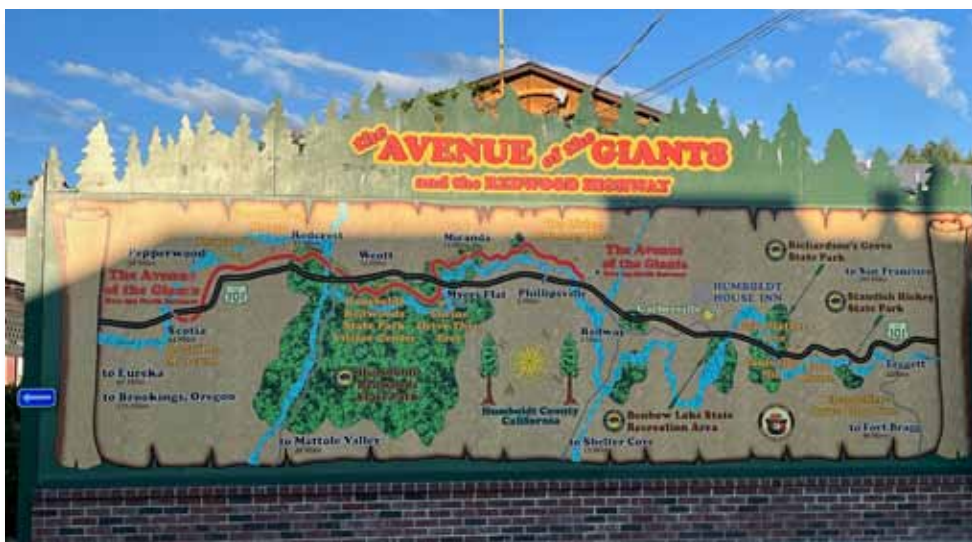
*Tyler and his dad at the Field of Dreams*



*That's our gang on the Rogue River Jet Boat*



*Giants mascot Lou Seal looks for his seat*



*A terrific wall mural of the drive through the redwoods*

## Giants - Dodgers Overnighter

2 Days • September 30 – October 1 L

Stay at the Hyatt Regency downtown and see the last two games of the regular season. Will the Giants have a shot at the playoffs? Seats for these two games are lower deck, section 127. The package also includes breakfast at the Hyatt. 650/800 Gold Passport Points.

**\$635 p.p./dbl.occ., \$755 single**



9812 Old Winery Place, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95827

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### EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT COUPON

Early Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Friday, September 15, 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.

**Oct.** – Pageant of the Monsters – **Save \$40**

**Feb.** – Oregon Chocolate Festival – **Save \$35**

**Mar.** – Panama Canal Cruise – **Save \$125**

### TOUR PREVIEW DAY

**Saturday, October 7th**

See details on the front cover  
of this newsletter.

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.



### 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

Scotland	Arkansas – Eclipse
Key West	Fall Colors of the West Mystery
Australia	American Queen Cruise
Branson	Paths of Ancient Greece
NY Thanksgiving	San Simeon/Santa Barbara

#### Limited Space

Trip with 10 or fewer seats available	
Catalina (7)	Giants – Dodgers Overnighter (9)
Sedona (5)	Puttin' on the Ritz for Christmas (2)
Route 66 West (4)	Pilgrimage to Plains (4)

### OFFICE HOURS:

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