



The Sports Leisure TRAVELER

9,656 Active Members • 52,598 Members Since 1979

JANUARY/FEBRUARY | VOL. 40 | NO. 4 **2019**

Spring Preview Day Will Offer a Different Twist

Our annual **Spring/Holiday Preview Day** is slated for **Saturday, March 30th**. Like last year, it will be held at the KVIE Studios, 2030 West El Camino Avenue, just off I-5. There will be two sessions, one beginning at 10am and a second session beginning at 1pm. Seating is limited to 150 per session. There is no charge for admission at our spring event. We are collecting new socks and underwear for adults and children. A donation isn't mandatory, but appreciated.

Different... we are always looking for interesting and different ways to present to you. For this event, we are incorporating **Tastes & Sips** from some of our destinations. A couple you will try on arrival, a couple will be shared during the show and a couple will be sampled after the main presentation is done (replaces the traditional light lunch).

Transportation... Complimentary shuttle transportation is available from Lincoln, Citrus Heights, and Black Bear at Arden (PM show only); Arden and our old South Hills stop (AM show only).

Reservations required... Because space is limited, you must make a reservation. Call our office, M-F, 9am – 4:30pm.

New tours... Over a dozen new trips will be announced, including many of our holiday tours. In addition, we'll have more information on fall trips which were announced after our catalog was released last September.

Baseball Day & Extended Trips

The complete schedule of baseball day and extended tours, including two trips to A's games (Red Sox April 4th is the first) and 12 Giants contests, can be found on page 6.

40th Anniversary Update

We have designated two overnight trips to be **40th Anniversary Celebrations**. Because our first two destinations were baseball games in The City and the Park Tahoe Casino (now the Mont Bleu) at South Shore, we have picked trips which visit those destinations. The **Yankees – Giants Overnighter** on **April 26-27** is one; the **Lincoln Highway Overnighter** on **May 4-5** is the second. You can find details inside these pages. On both trips, you'll get a look at 40 years of **Sports Leisure** history.

Our official anniversary dates are **June 8-9**. We are planning an entertainment-based day in town and will announce details at the **Spring Preview Day** and in the next newsletter.

Masthead photo: Our group in front of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in the Spring of 2018

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Editor Mark Hoffmann
Executive Editor Ramona Goodge
Writers & Photographers: SLV Staff



Sports Leisure Vacations delivered donuts to the TSA employees at Sacramento Airport last week... they were very appreciative and gave us a personalized thank you note (we later added a slew of WalMart gift cards to assist those without a paycheck).



Just One Man's Opinion by Mark Hoffmann

Come From Aways is what you are called if you are a visitor to the province of Newfoundland, the island off the eastern coast of Canada, also known as "The Rock." Newfoundland has attained a bit of fame recently, as the musical **Come From Away**, can now be seen on four continents. Over 300 **Sports Leisure Travelers** saw it in January at the Golden Gate Theater in San Francisco.



Rumor has it **Come From Away**, might be a part of the 2019-2020 Broadway Series in Sacramento. If it is, make certain you see it. Those who have seen this 9/11 related story, which is really about 9/12 and beyond, are likely to see it again. It is one of the best pieces of musical theatre you will ever witness. It's still on Broadway, so if you are in New York, see it there (but get tickets in advance because it's still selling out, a year and a half after it opened).

When you see the show, it's likely you might come away saying, "I'd love to go



Sports Leisure Travelers had an opportunity for pictures with one of the world's most famous performers, Itzhak Perlman, prior to his show in Modesto.

there and meet some of those people." You will have that opportunity. **Ramona** is working on a tour to the island, which will visit the town of Gander, where the musical takes place (it's a true story, based on what happened to the 7,000 people on 38 jumbo jets which set down in Gander when the U.S. air space was closed).

If you are really lucky in life, you will choose a profession (or as in my case, it chooses you) which allows you be a part of things like great Broadway shows on tour, baseball games in ballparks around the country, or small towns in out of the way places. For nearly 40 years, I have had that kind of luck here at **Sports Leisure Vacations**.

This spring, we will celebrate our longevity, designating two small adventures as anniversary celebrations (**Giants – Yankees** overnighter in April – we started with baseball day trips; and the **Lincoln Highway** overnighter the following week – the Tahoe casinos were our second destination back in 1979). There will also be a daytime event on the weekend of **June 8-9**, which is our actual anniversary dates. On both trips, we will take a fun look back at our history. Since we have so many second generation travelers, it is entirely possible you might see someone you recognize in the old pictures.

While you are saving dates, consider March 30, our annual Spring Preview Day. We use the spring date to roll out a good part of our holiday tours for later in the year, along with introducing some of the late fall tours for this year. Because space for this event is limited to 300 people, please make your reservations early.

★★★★★★★

A Change is Coming

In the next month, we will make a pretty major change in our day trip/short extended tour operations. After over 20 years partnering together with **All West Coachlines**, we will be making a change. In recent months/years, All West had a number of ideas regarding upgrading **SuperCoach** and the other buses we used as back ups. Unfortunately, most of those ideas have not

come to fruition. So, we have decided to make a change.

Our new provider of local coaches will be **Lux Bus**. They will be formally introduced at our Spring Preview Day. In the meantime, they will begin providing service for us. The coaches will have wi-fi on board, an immediate and often requested improvement from our current bus(es). Within a few weeks of the switch-over, we will have a new **SuperCoach**, with the amenities you are used to (foot rests, seat back pockets, tray tables) at your seat.

While we truly hate leaving behind some parts of our relationship with All West (including the drivers we love), it is time to move forward. For many years, the **Sports Leisure** brand has been one which offered a better level of service. This change helps us maintain our brand and the level of service which has traditionally come with it.

Of course, we want to hear from you regarding the change. If you have comments, ideas or suggestions regarding our new bus company, please share. Your comments can be printed on these pages, or if you prefer to share in confidence, drop me a note.

The folks at Lux Bus are committed to making our new relationship work. We are pleased to welcome them to the **Sports Leisure** family.

★★★★★★★

Look forward to seeing many of you at Spring Preview or on the road in the months ahead. The times we share together are of great value. Thank you for the opportunity and for your continued patronage. This small local company appreciates you. Happy Valentine's Day to all.

And so it goes...

Mark Hoffmann

Mark Hoffmann, CTP, President

Proud members of the



Happy New Year Friends!

It seems as though it's been months since I've put pen to paper – make that fingers to keyboard – to bring you up to date on what's happening in my world and the world of **Sports Leisure Vacations**. Late last year Mark, Chris and I attended the annual gathering of the **National Tour Association**, the trade association for tour operators in North America. Whereas our domestic membership has been in decline for a number of years – how could anyone *not* want to do what we do? – our international membership is accelerating dramatically and in most unexpected ways! It was there in cold and snowy Milwaukee that I met Scholastica, a lady who does **safaris in Tanzania**, Parashu offering **treks through Nepal**, and Vishal who wants to share the **mysteries of India** with all of us. I think it may be a bit early to start Priority Notification Lists, but I would like to know if there is any interest. If any of these exotic destinations peak your curiosity, kindly let me know via e-mail. My address is below. I promise to let you know if we move forward with any of these trips.

Of course, we also spent time learning about equally wonderful – if a little less

exotic – destinations across our continent and the world, the fruits of which you'll find in these pages and in future publications. My Dutch friend Corné is working on a land tour of **France and Belgium** for us in 2020, Jeff is pitching a selection of train tours across Europe (might this be the way for us to sell **Scotland** at last?) and I'm thrilled to tell you VIA Rail is ready to welcome us on a **Canada Coast to Coast** adventure in August 2019 – details are in these pages. At press time it's too early to have a price, but you can add your name to the Priority Notification List to be contacted when we're ready to accept bookings.

As we push towards our 40th anniversary in June, we are grateful and extremely humbled by your support, patronage and friendship. It is a true pleasure and honor to bring you the world!

"Your Tour Guy,"



Clayton Whitehead, CTP
Vice President

clayton.whitehead@sportsleisure.com



Clayton was presented the Distinguished Service Award by KVIE Vice President Kevin Smith-Fagan

Clayton Whitehead Receives National Distinguished Service Award from PBS

Clayton is a 25-year veteran volunteer and past member of the Board of Directors for Sacramento's Public Television Station, KVIE. You probably see him on camera occasionally, but he spends more time working behind the scenes in the areas of training new volunteers (and occasionally new staff), special events, the Crest Theatre concert series and the annual Art Auction. His efforts have not gone unnoticed by KVIE; naming him their Rising Star in 1998 and Volunteer of the Year in 2003. In 2010 he was the station's nominee to the Sacramento Volunteer Center, winning their Lifetime Achievement Award, then won the station's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. KVIE surprised him again at the Major Donors Luncheon late last year by presenting him the Distinguished Service Award. Given annually by the National Friends of Public Broadcasting, this award recognizes a volunteer for "exemplary dedication and unselfish giving of time and energy" to their local station. Congratulations, Clayton!

A Memory of a Broadway Legend...



The legendary Carol Channing is framed by our own Patricia and Clayton following her performance at CSU Sacramento in the spring of 2007. Her appearance was a benefit for the school's music program. Support and funding for arts education was Carol's lifelong passion.

Featured Travel Experiences

On the Road with Ramona

Recently I was looking through some pictures from my last trip to the Okanagan and I thought to myself, what a great trip that was! I offered it as a mystery trip several years ago, and now this year I have re-introduced it as **The Lakes of the Okanagan**. Perhaps instead I should have called it **A Taste of Okanagan** because we certainly ate well and tasted some mighty fine, albeit different, wines. Imagine... a long lake (84 miles in length) stretching out between rolling hills and distant mountain peaks... and scattered about are some fabulous wineries and orchards. Because I love Mother Nature, my attention is focused

on the natural beauty of the region however the taste buds are tantalized as well. Our most interesting meal was a traditional Shuswap "clay-baked" salmon dinner. We even got our own hammers! Curious? I invite you to take a look at this trip if you missed it in the 2019 catalog (page 47). We will spend two nights in Kelowna, located in the heart of the Okanagan Valley visiting a woman-owned herb farm, drinking honey mead, and enjoying a fine meal at one of the local wineries overlooking the lake. Spend the last two nights of the trip nestled on the quiet shores of Little Shuswap Lake. Who knows,



we may even take the canoe out for a little spin! Won't you join me? For sure we will have a tasty, relaxing saunter through one of British Columbia's premier destinations.



On the Road with Jim

In July of 2017, my wife and I along with a few good friends spent almost a full month in South America. (Travel is always more fun with friends, right?) We leisurely traveled Peru, Equator, the Galapagos Islands and the Amazon Rainforest. For the past decade Nancy and I have made it our goal to take a major "bucket list" trip every other year. The genesis behind this objective is: travel while you can. So figuring our age and current good health, on our time-table it will take 20 years to complete just 10 bucket list trips.

We all travel for different reasons, but this also fulfilled a promise I made to one

of my favorite college professors, who trekked to Machu Picchu in the early 1980s. Professor Gybas said, "It was one of the most incredible travel experiences of his entire life." Considering he was married to a travel agent and was very well traveled I paid attention. He insisted Machu Picchu was far

beyond historical and beautiful, it was in his words, magical and fascinating. Virtually impossible to put into words. He was correct. In my professional speaking and consulting career I have traveled just under two million actual flight miles. I have been to the Middle East, Far East, Asia, Europe, but never South America. Now that I have been to Peru, I can hardly wait to return.

Just days after we got back, I talked with Mark and said, I'd love to take a **Sports Leisure** group to Peru. That trip is planned for **June 15-22**, eight days to see three Unesco World Heritage sites, and one of the Seven Wonders of World. Peru is a contrast in cultures, modern with sky scrapers and vibrant cities, then around the next corner

calling you back to the 15th Century where Inca Stonemasons built temples that are still standing today. On this trip we will see both parts of Peru along with it's captivating and dramatic landscapes including the Andes Mountains. Flying into Cusco was one of the most majestic flights I can ever remember. And then just a few days later we were on the Inca Rail train travelling through the scenic Urubrama River Valley to the town of Aguas Calientes or Machu Picchu Pueblo, where ironically I had one of the very best Italian dinners of my entire life. In fact all the food we had in Peru was far beyond what I had expected. Peruvians have a very high regard for food, and I was constantly impressed, so much so we took a cooking class in Cusco.

Peru is truly a destination that begs to be explored, and in that sense **it is an energetic trip** requiring some walking and stair climbing to navigate the 15th Century sites. Transportation will be by luxury bus, as you'd expect with **Sports Leisure**, along with top hotels. We will use excellent local tour guides who very much understand Americans and group travel. **If you have any altitude issues this may not be the trip for you.** If Peru is on your bucket list, I hope you will join me and I can show you the Peru that has inspired me so much.

The Customers Always Write

Ramona,

Thank you for being so entertaining (so funny!) and for presenting such an organized and variety rich tour (**Christmas at the Apple Farm**). As a former teacher, I really understand and appreciate the organization, effort and responsibility that you put in to making certain we all had a great trip. I was impressed! Thank you,
Christine Harknett

Dear Clayton,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful donation of \$1549.02 in toys, clothes, and other gifts for our 2018 *Families are Us Holiday Store!* The vulnerable children and families we serve are better off this year because of you. Our Holiday Store couldn't happen without your partnership. Sincerely,
Laura Heintz Psy. D, Chief Executive Officer Stanford Youth Solutions

Ed. Note: Prior to our staff Christmas luncheon, we wanted to help the kids at Stanford Youth Solutions (foster care). It's your dollars that make it possible for us to support the community in this way.

Dear Mark,

I am somewhat amiss for not writing to you sooner; but I want to let you know how much I appreciate the extra ordinary help given to me and my step-daughter on our trip to the Octoberfest & Niagara Falls trip, Oct 5-10, 2018.

Because I was not planning to visit any countries overseas, and thinking to save a few dollars, I opted to get only the "passport card" which allows you entry into Canada and Mexico. When we got to the airport and Michael asked for our passports, I handed him my new "passport card" and was told that it was no good for our trip.

Michael asked me if I read the small (tiny, teeny) print on the back? It said land and sea only, not plane flights. Michael and Chris worked with the Delta representative and rescheduled us to fly into Buffalo and

then we could go by land into Canada. Michael arranged for hotel accommodations and even car service to get us to Waterloo, Ontario, where the group was staying.

I want you to know how much we appreciated the work **Chris** and Michael did in assisting us. I had waited several years to take this trip and was devastated when told my "passport card" was no good. Perhaps others should be warned about the passport card. Sincerely,

Roena Callison

Ed. Note: I think you've explained it pretty well Roena. Passport Cards are **not valid for flying**. They are used mostly by people in border cities to commute (Blaine, Detroit, Windsor, Sault Ste. Marie, etc.)

Dear Mark,

As a SLV member who has enjoyed many trips with you, I must say how disappointed I was to read of your decision to eliminate the Roseville/Saugstad stop. While homelessness is a widespread problem I personally have never felt in any danger when being dropped off at night, basically due to your policy of the driver and tour director waiting until each and every traveler are safely in their car and on their way. I have not heard of any one citing a concern either.

The Antelope area, of which I am familiar with, in my opinion is no safer than Roseville. I understand this is a business decision, but must speak for myself, I do not drive at night much, and definitely not on the freeway. I would be curious to know how many of your Auburn, Lincoln and other Roseville travelers feel, knowing we all share the same demographics. Sincerely,

Barbara McCullough

Ed. Note: I guess it can be described as a "business decision." We desperately, because of new, strictly enforced driver time driving rules **and increased traffic**, needed to shave some time off the route. The Roseville stop is the least utilized stop. Two clients in recent months reported being harassed by homeless people **while waiting for the bus in the morning**. The Citrus Heights stop is in a well-lit shopping center,

with open businesses and continuous traffic. Saugstad Park in Roseville has none of those things. We knew it would be an inconvenience (or more) for some of our travelers. Our goal is to provide the safest, most convenient pick-up locations. I'm sorry if we have disappointed you.

Mark –

Was watching the show "Best Things I Ever Ate" on the cooking channel and the theme was decadent desserts. The first one was the frozen custard we had in St Louis on the Christmas Mystery trip. The chef who thought it was wonderful was Bobby Flay. He interviewed Ted Drewes, the owner. First time I had ever been to somewhere I saw on TV!

Judi Walker

Hello Michael,

We are back from our Alaska trip and it certainly surpassed our expectations! Thank you so much for helping us plan and execute our cruise vacation. Seeing Denali on a sunny day, sailing through Glacier Bay, numerous animal sightings, thrilling and educational excursions, and way too much food... all fabulous memories!

Holland America is a well-oiled machine and I would definitely sail with them, again. We all commented many times that your assistance and knowledge contributed to the success of the trip. I know we will be in touch in the future to plan another vacation adventure. Thanks again,

Bob and Margie Scofield

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:

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



A's – Giants Day Trips

Here is the list of day trips for the 2019 season. Because of requests by A's fans, we have added a couple of trips to the Oakland Coliseum. If there is enough interest, more A's games could be added to the schedule. Note that information on the Giants – Yankees Overnighter, which includes two games, is listed separately. Giants trips marked with an (*) include round trip travel by ferry from Vallejo to San Francisco. Others are round trip to the ballpark in SF. All trips include refreshments on board in both directions. Please note: We do not allow "carry-on" liquor on our trips. Limited quantities on complimentary beer/wine are offered upon departing the park/ferry dock on the return trip. Because we purchase tickets for games before the season starts, cancellation charges are different for baseball games. If you cancel within 60 days of the game date and:

1. Your seat cannot be filled, and
2. You didn't take cancellation protection (or it doesn't apply), or
3. You cannot find someone to take your spot on the trip;

There will be a \$35 charge for A's games and a \$75 charge for Giants games within 60 days of game date. No refunds within 14 days of departure.

San Francisco Giants

*Wed., May 15	vs. Toronto Blue Jays	12:45pm	\$144
Sun., June 9	vs. Los Angeles Dodgers	1:05pm	\$181
Sun., June 16	vs. Milwaukee Brewers	1:05pm	\$156
*Wed., June 26	vs. Colorado Rockies	12:45pm	\$168
Sun., July 7	vs. St. Louis Cardinals	1:05pm	\$156
Sun., July 21	vs. New York Mets	1:05pm	\$156
Wed., July 24	vs. Chicago Cubs	12:45pm	\$181
Wed., Aug. 7	vs. Washington Nationals	12:45pm	\$156
Wed., Aug. 14	vs. Oakland A's	12:45pm	\$156
Sun., Sept. 29	vs. Los Angeles Dodgers	12:05pm	\$181

Tickets for Giants games are located in section 128, on the lower level, rows 31-35, on the third base side, three sections past third base.

Oakland Athletics

Thurs., Apr. 4	vs. World Series Champions Boston Red Sox	12:37pm	\$101
Wed., May 29	vs. Anaheim Angels	12:37pm	\$101

Tickets for A's games are located in sections 209 (Red Sox – 2nd level just past first base) and 222 (Angels – second level, between home plate and third base).

The Yankees/Giants Overnighter

2 Days • April 26-27

The Bronx Bombers only come to San Francisco every six years, for one short series. If you are a Giants fan, this is your opportunity to watch your team, with its roots in New York City, play the Yankees, in your park in The City by The Bay.

The overnight package includes lower level seating to both the Friday night and Saturday afternoon games (Saturday game time is subject to change). Your accommodations are at the **Courtyard by Marriott San Francisco**. (Having just done a site inspection of this hotel on Thanksgiving weekend, I can tell you it's one of the nicer Courtyard properties I've ever been in.) The hotel is one of the closest to the stadium, a half mile flat walk to the entrance. You'll have the option of walking or taking the coach to/from the ballpark.

The schedule features a pre-game banquet on Friday at the **Pine Tar Grill**. (Besides getting a great dinner, you'll be surrounded by Giants memorabilia.)

On Saturday sleep late, grab a Starbucks downstairs, then join us for a pre-game brunch at 10am next door at the Red Dog Restaurant. Then it's off to the park for a second Giants/Yankees affair.

(Please note that lower deck tickets for the two games cost \$260 due to very high demand for the Yankees.) The package includes those "like gold" tickets, dinner and brunch, transportation and accommodations. Depart Sacramento midday on Friday, return Saturday evening. We will not have single game packages for the Giants/Yankees.

\$820 p.p/dbl.occ., \$950 single

All About The Ballparks, Southern Style

Florida, Houston and Atlanta – 4 seat available

9 Days/6 Games • May 26 – June 3

Each year, we offer an opportunity to visit some of America's baseball diamonds. This year's trip features four indoor games in Florida, visits to a couple of baseball landmarks, with pre/post Florida games in Houston and Atlanta. If you are worried about the summer heat in Florida, keep in mind both parks are indoors with air conditioning. 4800/5350 Gold Passport Points

\$4790 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5310 single

Game/Travel Schedule:

Sun., May 26	Travel to Houston
Mon., May 27	Cubs/Astros
Tues., May 28	Fly to Miami, Giants/Marlins
Wed., May 29	Giants/Marlins
Thurs., May 30	Giants/Marlins
Fri., May 31	Fly to Tampa, Minnesota Twins/Tampa Rays
Sat., June 1	Tampa sights
Sun., June 2	Fly to Atlanta, Detroit Tigers/Atlanta Braves
Sun., June 3	Fly home



Day Trips & Theatre Outings

A Chorus Line

At the East Sonora Theatre

Saturday, March 2

The Sierra Repertory Theatre group offers their version of a classic Broadway musical. Exploring the inner lives and poignant ambitions of professional Broadway gypsies, this show features one powerhouse number after another. Lunch is included at Firenze in Oakdale prior to the show. **\$141**

Cache Creek Casino

Sunday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) or

Tuesday, May 7

This trip will be a 4-hour stay and includes \$10 in slot play and a \$5 Food Coupon (Buffet not included). You must be a member of Cache Club Rewards Program to receive the bonus. You will each have an opportunity to sign up at the Cache Club service desk the day of the trip. You will need to show a California issued ID if you are new to Cache Creek. Do not forget to bring your Cache Creek players card if you have one. **\$49**

San Francisco Flower & Garden Show

At the historic Cow Palace

Thursday, March 21

Enjoy strolling through full-sized fresh garden landscapes, sit in on seminars and demonstrations by master gardeners, and browse a vast marketplace of unique items to inspire your own gardening adventures and outdoor pleasures. Whether you just love to look or are a do-it-yourself gardener, this creative and colorful show has something of interest and inspiration for everyone. Lunch is on your own from a variety of on-site food booths. **\$100**

Route 66: Music of the Road

At the Fallon House Theatre

Saturday, April 6

Enjoy the music of the road beginning with the 1950 sounds of Chicago and traveling the "Main Street of America" to the California coast with the surf music of the 1960's. This exciting musical revue features

34 of the greatest "Rock 'n Road" hits of the 20th century, including "King of the Road," "Little GTO," and "Fun, Fun, Fun." Lunch is included prior to the 2pm matinee at the City Hotel in Columbia. **\$149**

Beach Blanket Babylon

San Francisco

Sunday, April 7

Since 1974, Beach Blanket Babylon has been a household staple with its zany musical spoof of pop culture featuring extravagant costumes and outrageously huge hats. Now in its 45th year of sold-out shows at Club Fugazi, "BBB" is an internationally acclaimed institution. An early lunch is included prior to the 2pm matinee performance at nearby Pinocchio's Italian Restaurant. The Sunday matinee offers a new level of orchestra seating on the ground floor where the Club Fugazi recently created Front Cabaret seating. Please note: the show is 90 minutes long, with no intermission. Return to Sacramento following the show. **\$197**

It's a KVIE Mystery Daytrip

Tuesday, April 9

You are all aware of Sports Leisure's long support of Sacramento's Public Television Station, KVIE, because you're the ones who make it possible! KVIE is a dynamic community resource, consistently leading the network in membership, awards and locally-produced productions. It is something we as locals should be VERY proud of!

You're invited to a day of going behind-the-scenes to see the magic in the making. A few clues: This tour will not visit the station. You will be outside most of the day (though there will be shelter and restrooms when required) and you could get a little dirty. Comfortable, athletic/casual attire is suggested... that which you might wear for yoga or a day at the gym. There might be a

clue in there somewhere. This is a chance to let the kid in you shine through – yes, that's a clue, too. And who knows, you just might be discovered and find your way into a starring role!

Lunch and refreshments are included. Curious? Then call and sign up today. Strictly limited to 44 travelers of which 30 will be **actively participating**. **\$120**

San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival

Saturday, April 13

The Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival is one of California's most prominent celebrations of Asian traditions and the biggest on the West Coast. The festival is held in Japantown on Post Street. Come along with us and enjoy it's many food and craft booths, cultural performances, live bands and so much more! You will have ample time to discover all the Festival has to offer and have lunch on your own. **\$80**

A Day Out in San Francisco

Saturday, April 13

Take a ride to The City with us and enjoy a day of shopping, lunch or ??? The motorcoach will stop at Union Square and Pier 39/Fisherman's Wharf and give you time to explore The City as you please. **\$80**

M. Butterfly

CATS production in Nevada City

Sunday, April 14

A Tony Award-winner for Best Play in 1988, *M. Butterfly* is based on a true story that stunned the world. A French diplomat carried on a 20-year love affair with a Chinese opera diva spy with a secret. This is a drama of intrigue, espionage, deceit, misunderstandings and love told in a series of flashbacks. Please note: this is an R-rated show for mature audiences due to language, sexual content and brief nudity. It is suggested that you look up the synopsis of the story before attending the performance. Lunch is included prior to the matinee in Grass Valley. **\$146**

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



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Comes to Golden Gate Theater

Wednesday, April 24

Ronald Dahl's amazing tale is now San Francisco's golden ticket! It's the perfect recipe for a delectable treat: songs from the original film, including "Pure Imagination," "The Candy Man," and "I've Got a Golden Ticket," alongside a toe-tapping and ear-tickling new score from the songwriters of *Hairspray*. Willy Wonka is opening his marvelous and mysterious chocolate factory... to a lucky few. Join Charlie and four other golden ticket winners on a mesmerizing joyride through a world of pure imagination. Our Wednesday trips include light box lunch served onboard the coach on the way down to San Francisco, orchestra seating for the 2pm matinee and dinner on your own at Pier 39 following the show. **\$180**

Kimono Refashioned

Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

Thursday, April 25

On loan from the Kyoto Costume Institute of Japan, a unique exhibit of kimonos "refashioned" by designers from across the globe have transformed the traditional wear of Japan into stunning and glamorous fashion. Featuring over thirty-five garments, discover how the design, form, and decorative motifs of the kimono have inspired current designers in creation of *haute-couture* for the fashionable and the well-dressed lists. A private docent tour is included for the exhibit. In the afternoon, enjoy free time to explore permanent galleries of the museum and lunch on your own in the museum café. **\$109**

Music of the Knights

Celebrating Elton John, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Paul McCartney

Sunday April 28

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Sir Elton John and Sir Paul McCartney have much in common: they are all British-born, they all have an Academy Award, they all have multiple Grammy Awards, and they are all knights. They also happen to be three of the most successful songwriters of all time with careers that extend through decades.

Join Santa Rosa Symphony and *Music of the Knights* performers as they honor the enduring musical influence of these three legends. Relive the music of their lives with this crowd-pleasing celebration of music royalty. Lunch is included in Petaluma prior to the 3pm performance, and we've also included a lite dinner snack for the ride home. **\$181**

Wildflowers and Roses

At the beautiful Eleven Roses Ranch

Monday, April 22

In April there is an explosion of flowers in the little valley that is the 1895 homestead of Eleven Roses Ranch near Clear Lake. A wagon ride through the valley accompanies a chuckwagon BBQ. There is also time to walk around and take some pictures of the flowers and animals or just sit and enjoy the beautiful setting with your friends. Stop briefly at Granzella's in Williams before returning to Sacramento. **\$137**

Reubens and Monet

de Young and Legion of Honor Museums

Thursday, May 9

Exhibits of two renowned painters promise a memorable day of beauty and artistry in San Francisco. We'll begin at the Legion of Honor with *The Early Celebrity of Peter Paul Rubens*. A prodigious artist of the 17th century, Reubens rose to the first rank of Flemish painting that laid the groundwork for his fame and a style that would guide painters for generations to come. Several of the works in the exhibit have never left Europe before nor been shown on the West Coast. In the afternoon, travel to the de Young Museum for Monet: *The Late Years*. This final phase of Claude Monet's long career was spent close to home and inspired by his own garden at Giverny. Following the popular show *Monet: The Early Years* in 2017, expect to be equally impressed and mesmerized with works that include twenty paintings on loan from the Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris. The accompanying audio guides are included for your enjoyment. Lunch is on your own at either of the museum cafés. **\$131**

Petaluma River Excursion

Riding the MS Dolphin

Thursday, May 16

The Petaluma River has a rich history and beautiful scenery as it flows down to San Pablo Bay. Enjoy a two hour narrated cruise on the *ms Dolphin* as you travel past old steamship docks and learn the history of this quiet area. A boxed lunch will be served during the cruise. A brief stop at the Jelly Belly Factory is included as time allows. Limited to 35 people. **\$143**

Day Out in Lone

For the second in our "small town"

close-to-home-tours

Wednesday, May 29

Visit the city of Lone and its most famous landmark, The Preston Castle. Once a school of industry for wayward boys; today this sandstone citadel stands as a reminder of a different era. Construction began in 1890, building one of the most significant examples of Romanesque Revival architecture in the Mother Lode. Tour the Castle, have lunch at a local eatery and stop at Davis Ranch in Sloughhouse before returning to Sacramento. Please note that the tour includes narrow stairs so is not recommended for those with mobility concerns. **\$139**

A Day at the Races

Golden Gate Fields

Friday, May 31

The always popular trip to the race track includes a delicious multi-course buffet lunch and **finish line seating** in the enclosed Turf Club at Golden Gate Fields. Enjoy the races from your comfortable table overlooking the track, television monitors for a close-up view, and the betting windows conveniently near-by. Arrival is timed to get us to the track before the first race and depart for Sacramento after the last race of the day. **\$143**

OFFICE HOURS:

9:00am – 4:30pm MON. thru FRI.

Closed weekends & major holidays

CLOSED TUES. 12:00pm – 1:15pm



RAIN

A Beatles Tribute

Tuesday, June 4

The Gallo Center is excited to present *RAIN*, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of album *Abbey Road*. *RAIN* will bring all the great songs of that epic recording to life... plus more early Beatles favorites. This performance takes you back in time with the legendary foursome delivering a theatrical event that is almost as good as seeing the Beatles live! An early dinner is included at Canal Street Grille prior to the 7:30pm performance. **\$198**

June in Bloom

35th Bouquets to Art exhibit at the de Young Museum San Francisco

Thursday, June 6

For one week each year, this popular event takes over the de Young Museum with bouquets of fresh floral arrangements filling the galleries. Inspired by paintings and works of the permanent collection, floral designers from San Francisco and beyond create their own masterpieces that highlight and breathe life into the collection. Proceeds from the event benefit future exhibits, education programs, and museum conservation. The day is yours to enjoy and explore at your own pace with lunch on your own at the museum café. **\$103**

Napa River and Ospreys

Riding the MS Dolphin

Thursday, June 13

You've driven over it and alongside it so now it is time to cruise on it! Join Barbara aboard the *ms Dolphin* for a 3 hour cruise up the Napa River, returning to view osprey nests on Mare Island and the Carquinez Bridges from below. This is a great trip for nature lovers, and those who love to explore familiar areas in new ways. A boxed lunch will be served during the cruise. Limited to 35 people. **\$143**

Carmen

San Francisco Opera House

Sunday, June 23

Possibly the most famous and recognized opera in the world, *Carmen* returns in a bold production of love, lust, and murder. The

story of the ultimate femme fatale, lovesick soldier, dashing bullfighter, pulsating beat, haunting arias; the familiar score provides an always memorable experience. Your choice of seating is the side sections of the Orchestra or Dress Circle of the first balcony for the matinee. Be advised that Dress Circle requires use of steep stairs to reach with no availability of handrails. A stop is included at Fisherman's Wharf for no-host lunch prior to the 2pm matinee. **Orchestra – \$171 / Dress Circle – \$182**

Harry Potter

In concert with the SF Symphony

Sunday, August 11

The Harry Potter Film Concert Series returns to Davies Symphony Hall with **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban** in concert. The Film Concert series allows audiences around the world to experience each full film from one of the most beloved series in history, projected in High Definition onto the big screen, with a live symphony orchestra performing music from the film live to picture. Come with **Sports Leisure** and enjoy an afternoon with Harry Potter, other excited Muggle fans and the San Francisco Symphony at the beautiful Davies Symphony Hall. This trip includes a boxed snack lunch served onboard the coach on the way to San Francisco, 1pm concert with First Tier seating, (Elevator accessible) and dinner on your own at Pier 39 after the concert. **\$167**

Hamilton

Broadways' smash hit comes to the Orpheum Theatre

Lin-Manuel Miranda's story of Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the West Indies who became George Washington's right-hand man during the Revolutionary War and was the new nation's first Treasury Secretary is fascinating. Featuring an award-winning score that blends hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B, and Broadway; *Hamilton* is the story of America then, as told by America now. This is absolutely must-see theatre! Our original dates for this show have sold out and we have a long waitlist. We anticipate more seats to be offered to groups later in the Fall. The trip price will be at least **\$330**

Introducing Our New Tour Directors



My name is **Maureen Gagliardi**... I am a wife of 33 years (pictured above with my husband Joe), a mom of three adult grown sons and a grandmother of an adorable one year old granddaughter, Elena. I promise not to talk or show pictures of my family on our day trips... unless of course, you ask.

Over the past 20 plus years I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work in both the fields of Education and Travel. I love new adventures and look forward to meeting all of you in the upcoming months.



My name is **Rhonda Pappas**... I am so excited to be working with **Sports Leisure Vacations** as I enjoy both traveling and people. I've been a math teacher for 32 years and will be retiring in less than 100 days. It seems that I have come full circle as years ago I was a travel agent. In addition to camping and singing, I am also a proud member of the Sweet Adeline's Sacramento Valley Chorus.



The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

Skycaps at Airports...

...are becoming a dying breed. Most airports, including our own, no longer have skycaps or porters in the arrivals area. Sometimes we can get someone from departures to help us, sometimes we cannot. When we can't, it means each traveler, if able, handles their own bag to the bus. Many smaller airports have no skycaps anywhere, so we have to schlep our own bags into the terminal.

In all arrival situations, ALWAYS allow your Tour Director to get the bags off the baggage carousel. He/she has a bag count to verify. Once all the bags are accounted for, if you need assistance with getting your bag to the coach, your Tour Director will be happy to help.

We dislike having our travelers handle their own bags, but sometimes it cannot be avoided. This also applies to some smaller, often rural hotels. They don't have anyone to provide baggage service. **In all of these situations, if you have a disability which**

doesn't allow you to safely move your own bag, your Tour Director is happy to assist you.

Note about why you NEVER claim your own bag from the carousel upon arrival:

You grabbing your own bag throws off the count. When you arrive at your destination airport, make your way to baggage claim, using the facilities if needed. Relax and let your Tour Director do the work. It's his/her job.

Number One Irritation Among Travelers currently is... Not Using a Headset

As we learn more about our devices, specifically phones and tablets, we discover new ways to use them. Watching videos on the bus has become popular. When you are watching something on the web, one thing is important to remember... **use a headset.**

Not everyone wants to hear what you want to hear. Some might be resting, or in conversation. So when you are using a device that comes with sound on the bus, **please use a headset.**

Other good options include watching the video outside the coach, watching it in your room, or any other private place. Want to share it with someone else on the bus? Awesome, but please do it off the coach. If you are someone who doesn't abide by this policy, expect your Tour Director to ask you to silence your device as a courtesy to others. Unless, of course, **you are using a headset,** which solves the problem.

Taking a Walker or other Assistive Device on a Longer Trip?

Because we no longer use stretch limousines on our home pick-ups, luggage space is limited (especially in the sedans). Walkers and other assistive devices require special handling and space for all their components. It's critical we know you are bringing one of those so we can make certain we dispatch the right car. Please notify the office at least **four weeks** prior to departure (pick-up schedules are prepared in that time frame). If you don't notify us in advance, we can't guarantee there will be space in the car for your assistive device and no one wants that to happen.

Why Do We Have to Leave So Early?

Fair question. Short answer: You live on the west coast. It would be wonderful if we could take a flight at 10am and land on the other side of the country in time for dinner. Except when flying east, you lose an hour or two or three, so the timing doesn't work. In order to be on the eastern side of the country before 6pm, you must leave early.

Shorter trips, which fly along the west coast, leave early in the morning to take advantage of the "tour day." If we left in the middle of the day, we would often have to add another day to the tour to get to everything we want to see. To many, that's fine. Add another day. But to those on a travel budget, another day and the additional cost might be the difference between going/not going.

Likewise, when we return, we "make up time." Those hours we lost going east come back to us. We can leave later in the day from the east coast, and still arrive home at a reasonable time (we try to pick flights that get us back to Sacramento by 9-9:30pm at the latest).

Again, we are at the mercy of the airline schedules, which are subject to change. Should you ever have a question regarding flight schedules, before or after your trip, give **Mark** or **Michael** a call with your question(s). We are pretty transparent on things like this, and happy to explain.



Margaret Williams and Chef Regina Charboneau making biscuits on a Mississippi Queen shore excursion in December

And Then It Is Winter

It seems just yesterday I was young, just married and embarking on my new life. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise... How did I get here so fast?

I remember seeing older people through the years and thinking that I would never be that old and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But, here it is... my friends are retired and getting grey – or gone... we all move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me... but, I see the great change.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore, it's mandatory! 'Cause if I don't on my own free

Friends We've Lost

Perhaps the hardest part of having so many mature travelers as clients is having to say goodbye. We enrich each other's lives, share a laugh or a smile, marvel at discovering something wonderful together. We all have our personal journey. The opportunity to share it with others, making friends and memories along the way, is perhaps the best part of the journey. Farewell, friends.

Elana Anderson **Lois Gack**
Jean Sims **Oakley Gack**
Cliff Allenby **Lee LaChappelle**
Jean Farmer

Lois (97) and Oakley (96), passed within a few months of each other. They were two exceptional folks who had traveled with us since our very first years. Clayton and Oakley were buddies for many, many years. If you know of someone who was a traveler with us and should be mentioned here, call or drop a note to Donnie@sportsleisure.com.

Godspeed

will, I just fall asleep where I sit!

Now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did! Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet... let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it now!

Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life... so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember... and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

Things to Remember:

- Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you will ever be.
- The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.
- You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed.. It's called "pre-sleep".
- You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.
- You tend to use more 4 letter words... "what?"... "when?"... "what?"
- What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- Everybody whispers.
- You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet... 2 of which you will never wear.
- But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!
- It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived.

Just for Fun

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlor and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool...After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split.

The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?' No,' he replied, 'Arthritis.'

★★★★★★

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor for a physical. A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

At his next appointment, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?' Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that... I said, 'You've got a heart murmur, be careful.'

★★★★★★

An elderly couple... had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant... I recommend it very highly.' The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'what is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that's red and has thorns.' 'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

★★★★★★

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. 'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

New Vacations & Getaways

The Historic Lincoln Highway, Reno/Tahoe Routes

Overnight in Carson City, a featured 40th anniversary tour

2 Days • May 4-5

Travel to Reno, using much of the first transcontinental highway in the U.S., the Lincoln. First there was the Lincoln, then U.S. 40, now I-80. At one spot at Donner Pass, you can see all three.

Wind through the small towns along the route, enjoy lunch in Truckee and end the day in Carson City. The next morning, enjoy a visit to the Nevada State museum at the old Carson City Mint, before heading back home on the Hwy 50 route of the Lincoln Highway. Includes all (4) meals, accommodations at the Hampton Inn and the services of a SLV Tour Director. An experienced Lincoln Highway narrator will also accompany the group, to make the old road come to life. At dinner in Carson City, the program will revolve around the **SLV** old highway trips over the years, Route 66, Hwy 101, the Lincoln, the National Road and more.

\$540 p.p./dbl.occ., \$630 single
Save \$15 until March 8

Million Dollar Quartet at Lake Tahoe

Stay at the Lake Tahoe Resort

2 Days • July 23-24

Million Dollar Quartet is the smash-hit musical inspired by the famed recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for the first and only time. The evening show is presented by the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival Company with the stunning Lake Tahoe as a backdrop.

Stay overnight at the **Lake Tahoe Resort** on the South Shore which includes a full Breakfast Buffet for you to enjoy at your leisure in the morning.

The next day take a guided tour of the historic **Thunderbird Lodge** near Incline Village, the home of George Whittell, Jr., one of California's multi-millionaire families; an included lunch and a quick stop in Truckee



SLV travelers have explored many of the historic old highways over the years... small towns, local folks, good eats and treats can be found along the way

are scheduled before heading back to Sacramento.

The package includes deluxe motorcoach transportation, three meals (1FB, 1L, 1D), resort accommodations, all attractions and activities indicated; and the services of a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director. 600/700 Gold Passport Points for qualifies travelers.

\$570 p.p./dbl.occ., \$655 single
Save \$10 until March 8

Canada Coast-to-Coast

Our signature rail adventure from the Atlanta to the Pacific returns this summer!

11 Days • August 16-26

We received our space allocation from VIA Rail only a few days ago. The dates are firm, but now we have hotels, ground transportation, restaurants and attractions to reserve, so it's too early to price this exciting vacation just yet. There are already quite a few names on the **Priority Notification List**, but there's still room for you! We will let everyone on the list know when we're ready to start accepting reservations in a few weeks.

1. Fly to Halifax on Delta Airlines. Spend two nights in a Halifax hotel.

2. Sleep late (you'll need it after yesterday's long day of travel), then tour Nova Scotia's long day of travel), then tour Nova Scotia's Capital City in the afternoon followed by a fresh Atlantic lobster supper.

3. Tour peaceful Peggy's Cove before boarding VIA's *Ocean* midday as your rail adventure begins. You'll spend one night and have lunch, dinner and breakfast onboard.

4. Arrive Montreal at 10 a.m. and embark on a city tour to include the stunning Notre Dame Basilica and lunch. Spend one night in a Montreal hotel.

5. It only takes about five hours to train from Montreal to Toronto. Spend one night in a Toronto hotel. There may be a possibility of theatre or other nightlife – stay tuned!

6-9. *The Canadian* departs Toronto at 9:30 a.m. You'll spend four full days and nights riding the rails across the billowing plains and dramatic mountain ranges of central and western Canada. Three meals per day are included, along with exemplary sightseeing from any of the domed observation cars.

10. The train is scheduled to arrive in Vancouver at 8 a.m... which it seldom does. So we've built in an extra day to provide necessary flexibility. Hopefully there will be time for some touring and feasting on the bounty of the Pacific. Spend one night in a Vancouver hotel.

11. Air Canada now operates one non-stop per day between Vancouver and Sacramento, and we'll be on it departing around 10 a.m.

Prices available after March 15

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta



Featuring reserved upgraded seating in the Chasers Lounge and Gondola Club

5 Days • October 8-12

★ Highlights ★

- 3 balloon events: Balloon Glow, Special Shapes and Mass Ascension
- Upgraded seating in the Chasers Lounge and Gondola Club
- Ride the Sandia Peak Aerial Tram
- Tour the all new Turquoise Museum Mansion
- Rio Grande Arts and Crafts Festival
- Door to door airport transportation
- Roundtrip air to/from Albuquerque
- 8 Meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- 2500/2850 Gold Passport Points

Please Note: In our 2019 Dream Book this tour was advertised as 4 days. We have made several changes to the itinerary resulting in a superior 5 day tour! We have upgraded two balloon viewing events to the exclusive Gondola Club with an onsite chef, open bar and private flush toilet! This is a big deal at any festival event. And finally, we have added a visit to the all new Turquoise Museum housed in a mansion in downtown Albuquerque. This is the best Balloon Fiesta itinerary we have offered.

1. Arrive in Albuquerque and enjoy lunch and a group orientation before checking into your hotel. The Marriott is located across from WinRock Center, an outdoor dining and shopping mecca. **Albuquerque Marriott – 4 nights (L)**

2. The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta with over 600 balloons is the largest ballooning event and the most photographed event on earth. We have upgraded your experience this morning to the Chasers Club Lounge which offers private seating on the field. Travel on the famous Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway. Enjoy the view and lunch on top of the mountain at their new restaurant opening this coming spring. This afternoon set off on a guided city tour to include RR 66 and Old Town Albuquerque. **(B,L)**

3. This morning we are watching the balloons from another private venue on the other side of the balloon field, the Gondola

Club. Today is Special Shapes Day! This is a very popular ascension with approximately 100 special shape balloons. You might see Darth Vader and Yoda, a flying cow, maybe Smokey Bear just to name a few. Tour the Abruzzo Balloon Museum; before lunch at the RT 66 Diner and an afternoon visit to the Turquoise Museum. The Museum has

relocated; now housed in a mansion full of antiques. This is one of Albuquerque's newest top attractions, a must see! **(B,L)**

4. Today visit Old Town for shopping and lunch on your own. Tonight we re-group for the Fiesta's "Glowdeo" a static display of the Special Shape balloons. Dinner will be held in the private Gondola Club with live

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.



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.



Moderate – A tour with some walking activities, and standing/strolling at attractions and museums and possibly some stair climbing. A day trip 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; and some high altitudes.



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 trip 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.



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 zodiac boat if you are with Ramona. If you need wheelchair assistance at the airport or other places, you should not consider a tour on this level.



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.**



entertainment and an open bar. Following dinner is the spectacular afterglow fireworks show! (Weather permitting, high winds could possibly cancel any event.) **(B,D)**

5. After a leisurely morning attend the Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Festival; 200 fine artists and craftspeople from throughout the U.S. come together each year for two weekends. Take a break from shopping and enjoy ongoing live entertainment, a food court and specialty food booths. The Festival takes place outside the Sandia Casino. Not a shopper? Then head inside the Casino for lunch and game play before heading to the airport for our flight home. **(B)**

\$2465 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2825 single
Save \$75 until March 8

Old Man River

A leisurely ramble along the Great River Road from St. Paul to St. Louis

8 Days • October 11-18

★ **Highlights** ★

- Visit and sleep in five states!
- 2 nights in Dubuque and Mark Twain's Hannibal
- Overnights in Egan, La Crosse and Rock Island
- Tour Minnesota's Mill City and Watkins Company Museums
- See Iowa's Effigy Mounds, Pike's Peak and Field of Dreams
- Visit Illinois' John Deere Pavilion and Nauvoo



Visit a **Sports Leisure Vacations** favorite, the Field of Dreams... Mark calls Dyersville "Darn close of heaven"

- Explore Missouri's Hannibal and Gateway Arch Complex
- 16 meals – Daily breakfast, 7 lunches (including a luncheon cruise aboard the *Celebration Belle*), 2 dinners
- Door-to-door service
- Roundtrip airfare to Minneapolis/St. Paul/ from St. Louis
- 3100/3400 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly non-stop to Minneapolis/St. Paul arriving around noon. After lunch visit the only waterfall on the Mississippi and the Mill City Museum intertwining the area's agriculture and industry with the lifeblood of them both – the Mississippi River. **Hilton Garden Inn – Eagan (L)**

2. Begin a slow, southerly drive with stops in Red Wing (famous for shoes and pottery) and Winona (home of The Watkins Company, maker of spices and extracts since 1868). We'll cross the river for a night in La Crosse, Wisconsin. **Gundersen Hotel (FB,L)**

3. Most consider Iowa to be a flat, rather boring state. Prepare to be surprised as our next few day of travel have us mostly on the west side of the river among soaring limestone bluffs, the country's largest number of ancient ceremonial and burial mounds (many preserved within Effigy Mounds National Monument) and even a place called Pike's Peak! There will be a chance to slip your toes into the Mississippi River mud while searching for sea shells. Sea shells in Iowa? You bet! Our destination

is Iowa's oldest city, Dubuque, and a fabulously restored historic hotel named for its founder. **Hotel Julien – 2 nights (FB,L)**

4. Dubuque is the home of New Mellary Abbey, a Trappist monastery. We'll meet some of the brothers and learn of their unique industry – a product nearly everyone will eventually need, but hopefully no time soon! Then on to a favorite *Sports Leisure* stop, the Field of Dreams near Dyersville. Anyone for a game of catch? Tonight, the Dubuque Historical Society is our host for a progressive dinner through three historic downtown buildings. **(FB,L,D)**

5. Continue around Iowa's "big bend" past Lock and Dam numbers 12 and 13 towards the Quad Cities. Moline was the city John Deere called home. We'll explore his life, legacy and yes, his green farm equipment upon arrival, and spend the night on Rock Island in the heart of the city's trendy arts, entertainment and dining district. **Holiday Inn (FB,L)**

6. No trip along the Mississippi would be complete without a cruise on the Mississippi, right? Board the *Celebration Belle* mid-morning for a 4-hour luncheon cruise to Muscatine, the Melon Capital of Iowa. We'll hop across the river for a short drive on the Illinois side to visit Nauvoo, one of the key sites on the Mormon western migration and still sacred to their faith today. In the evening arrive in Mark Twain's boyhood hometown of Hannibal, Missouri. **Best Western on the River – 2 nights (FB,L)**

7. Explore the real childhood of Samuel Clemens to discover the inspirations for the fictional lives of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer in this quaint riverside town that the unsinkable Mollie Brown also called home. A farewell dinner (which simply **MUST** include catfish) will end the day in style. **(FB,D)**

8. It's the last day, but the fun isn't over yet! In St. Louis visit the newly reengineered Gateway Arch and the new Museum at the Gateway Arch, our National Monument to Thomas Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase and Western Expansion in these United States. Fly out of St. Louis Lambert International Airport in the early evening. **(FB,L)**

\$3090 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3395 single
Save \$100 until March 8

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

A

Featuring the 50th anniversary celebration of the Moon Walk at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville

7 Days • October 21-27

A trip to Jimmy Carter's hometown has long been on Mark's bucket list. The former president has spent most of his life as a humanitarian and philanthropist. Here is your opportunity to visit his hometown of Plains, his Presidential Library in Atlanta and the Little White House in Warm Springs, GA. A side trip to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama will allow you to participate in the 50th anniversary celebration of the Moon Walk.

Day 1 – Fly to Atlanta, hotel TBA (D)

Day 2 – Carter Library, travel to Pine Mountain, GA, 2 nights Calloway Gardens Lodge (FB,D)

Day 3 – Calloway Gardens and The Little White House (FB,D)

Day 4 – Travel To Americus, GA, en route visit the infamous Andersonville Prison (Civil War), 2 nights Historic Windsor Hotel (FB,L,D)

Day 5 – A visit to Plains, inc. a guided tour, lunch and stops at some "presidential" landmarks (B,L)

Day 6 – Travel to Huntsville, stop at the

Freedom Riders Nat'l Monument in Anniston, hotel TBA (B,L)

Day 7 – U.S. Space & Rocket Center, fly home (FB)

Package includes 13 meals, r/t air, services of an SLV Tour Director (Mark), home pick-up. **Prices** will be available February 15th. **Call and place your name on the Priority Notification List** now and we will be in touch around the 15th.

Spectacular Sedona

A

Featuring 4 nights "Uptown" at the Orchards Inn

5 Days • November 3-7

★ Highlights ★

- Visit the historical mining town of Jerome
 - Guided tour of the Copper Museum
 - Museum of Northern Arizona
 - Lunch at the Enchantment Resort
 - 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
 - Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**
 - 2500/2950 Gold Passport Points
1. Fly direct on Southwest Airlines to Phoenix. Enjoy lunch before arriving at the red rocks of Sedona. Your accommodations are located in the heart of uptown – step out your door to shop and dine on Main Street, or go out on your patio for scenic views of the red rocks. **Orchards Inn – 4 nights (L)**
 2. A local historian takes us to the historic

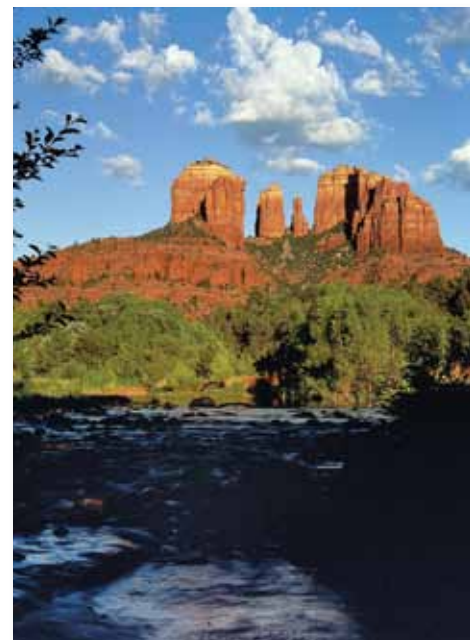
copper mining town of Jerome. Once known as the wickedest town in the west; today it is a bustling artistic community. At the Copper Museum learn why Arizona is nicknamed the Copper State. Your tour combines history and stunning artifacts. (FB)

3. Head north up scenic Oak Creek Canyon hoping to catch some fall colors making for a spectacular drive along the river with towering red rock views. In Flagstaff visit the Museum of Northern Arizona which tells the story of the Colorado Plateau's geology and native people. Enjoy an entertaining lunch as your waiters and waitresses serenade you while you dine. Get back to Sedona late afternoon. (FB,L)

4. Today is a free day to enjoy as you like. You may choose to browse the shops in uptown or the Mexican-style Village of Tlaquepaque. Or for an additional cost, choose to take a Trolley tour to the Chapel of the Holy Cross, an off road jeep tour into the wilderness or maybe a guided hike. A letter describing the options and pricing will be sent closer to departure. We will all meet tonight for dinner. (FB,D)

5. Gaze through floor to ceiling windows at dramatic red sandstone cliffs while enjoying lunch at the Enchantment Resort before traveling back to Phoenix this afternoon for your flight home. (FB,L)

\$2495 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2930 single
\$ave \$75 until March 8



The red rocks of Sedona are a stunning sight...

Does Your Group Need a Program Speaker?

Clayton Whitehead and Mark Hoffmann of **Sports Leisure Vacations** are available to present a 20-60 minute program for your community group. Both are experienced speakers. We can even provide a door prize if appropriate. Potential topics include:

- **All About Sports Leisure Vacations** – How is a tour produced, start to finish? From just an idea, to a memorable vacation, how does it happen? What has made this small local company successful among much larger companies? How have **SLV's** innovative services made the company a leader in the tour industry?
- **Tips to Make You a Smarter Traveler** – Patterned after a popular segment of **The Travel Guys Radio Show**, this program gives you great ideas on how to avoid the pitfalls and capitalize on the opportunities offered in the world of travel. From time shares to oversold airlines, Mark or Clayton will make your group (and your friends) smarter travelers.
- **Selling Your Coin Collection** – Almost everyone has a random box or bag of old coins. Some have entire collections they created themselves or were created and left to them by a loved one. Should you sell your collection to a coin dealer, a private collector, a gold and silver dealer, at a coin show? What's a fair price? How would you know if the offer you received is a fair one? Contact Mark at marksit@aol.com.

To arrange a talk for your group, because our speakers both travel extensively, contact us as far in advance as possible. **Call May at the Sports Leisure office, M-TH, 9am-3pm.** She will get your date on our calendar.



The Tour Calendar *(Previously Announced)*

Take the Snow Train to Reno

Ride Amtrak's California Zephyr through the Sierra Nevada

2 Days • February 26-27 or March 11-12

Once on board the *California Zephyr*, enjoy relaxing views from your seat or from the domed observation car. A box lunch is included for you to take on the train so you won't miss the scenery! Your accommodations are at the **Silver Legacy Casino/Resort**. Enjoy a free morning at leisure on the second day before returning home by motorcoach.

The package includes one-way rail passage on Amtrak's *California Zephyr*, a boxed lunch, hotel accommodations, casino bonuses (subject to change), and return transportation by motorcoach. 300/350 Gold Passport Points

\$285 p.p./dbl.occ., \$335 single

Add door-to-door service for \$107 p.p.

Cirque du Soleil's Volta

Under the Big Top in San Jose

2 Days • March 15-16

Volta literally means an abrupt change of direction, and that's what you're going to get in Cirque du Soleil's newest production. Expect a modern twist on Cirque's well-loved formula of acrobats, clowns, music and lighting in *Volta* with the introduction of BMX bicycle stunts, bungee jumping, chandelier swinging and a modern, electronic musical score. The production loosely tells the story of Waz, ridiculed and bullied all his life

REMEMBER MEAL CHOICES

When you receive your itinerary/final tour notes for a trip, check to see if a meal choice is needed and take a minute to make your selection by emailing res@sportsleisure.com or returning your choice with your payment. If we do not hear from you 7 days prior to your departure, a selection will randomly be made for you. Thank you!

because he was born with a head of blue feathers rather than hair.

Your accommodations are at the beautiful **Biltmore Hotel** in Santa Clara. The tour also includes deluxe motorcoach transportation, 2 meals (FB,D), show ticket and a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director. 600/650 Gold Passport Points

\$575 p.p./dbl.occ., \$645 single

Add door-to-door service for \$107 p.p.

Desert Beauty: Anza-Borrego and Joshua Tree National Park

Springtime wildflowers, majestic landscapes, and splendid beauty

5 Days • March 18-22

★ Highlights ★

- Anza-Borrego State Park, Joshua Tree National Park and the gardens of the Living Desert provide spectacular examples of desert beauty
- Experience the desert first hand with a jeep ride, tram ride and guided tour of the region
- Stay 3 nights at the Agua Caliente Resort
- Door-to-door airport service
- Roundtrip air to San Diego/from Ontario
- 5 meals: 1 full breakfast, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Tour Director: **Ramona Goodge**
- 2350/2600 Gold Passport Points

\$2335 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2585 single

LAST CHANCE! LIMITED SEAT(S) AVAILABLE

The Trips In this box have only 1 or 2 spaces remaining. Because of those limitations, we are including the trip names, their catalog pages and a very brief description. You can find the day-by-day itineraries at www.sportsleisure.com.

Winter at the Majestic Ahwahnee

2 Days • February 24-25

Featuring an overnight stay in Yosemite National Park. Focus of this stay is all about the iconic hotel. Includes brunch, tour of the historic hotel, and guided Valley Floor tour. Two seats available/1 King bed.

\$730 p.p./dbl.occ., \$920 single

Spring Training in Arizona

5 Days • Mar. 7-11

Catch the Giants and A's in 5 games in the desert. Sunday Brunch at the Wrigley Mansion, baseball talks/speakers. Cancellations have opened up 3 seats in our group of 25.

\$2395 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2760 single

Switzerland and Northern Italy

10 Days • September 27 – October 6

Travel to the Alps, visiting Zurich/Lucerne to Venice. Interlaken, Mt. Pilatus, Italy's Great Lakes, Doges Palace. One seat available.

\$4985 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5380 single



The beauty of the desert comes in many shapes, textures and colors

Irish Spring

The second in our series featuring historic castles and manor houses

9 Days • April 23 – May 1

★ Highlights ★

- All accommodations in 4 and 5-star historic castles and manor houses
- 2 nights in Contarf/Dublin and Clifden
- Overnights in Larne/Antrim Coast, Donegal and Dunboyne
- Guided tours of Dublin (*Book of Kells*, Guinness Storehouse), Belfast and Derry
- Ferry to Inishmore and prehistoric Dun Aonghusa
- Services of an Irish guide and driver throughout, plus an experienced **Sports Leisure** Tour Director
- 14 meals: Daily full Irish breakfast, dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Dublin
- Door-to-door transportation
- Tour Director: **Clayton Whitehead**
- 5500/6350 Gold Passport Points

Space available for double occupancy only

\$5475 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6350 single

This vacation requires a valid passport!

NYC – Behind Broadway and The Bronx

Two nights of Broadway theatre and a Pops concert at Carnegie Hall

6 Days • April 25-30

★ Highlights ★

- 5 nights at the **Marriott Marquis Times Square**, New York's best location
- 3 nights of entertainment – 2 Broadway shows (one we select and one **you** choose – an exclusive **SLV** feature); plus

E

a concert at Carnegie Hall (premium dress circle seating) featuring the New York Symphony Pops Orchestra, honoring Tony, Emmy and Grammy award winner Cyndi Lauper

- A Day Downtown – Wall Street, Federal Hall, the 9/11 Memorial/Museum/Observation Deck (all 3 experiences included)
- A Day in The Village – Greenwich Village – Stonewall Nat'l Monument, Eataly, Chelsea Market, The High Line Garden, even a fun marshmallow store
- A Day in The Bronx – stop in at a police and a fire station and meet the first responders, lunch in The Bronx with a variety of stops in "Little Italy"
- A Day Behind Broadway – visit a rehearsal hall and learn how a show comes together, meet a Broadway performer, meet a theater reviewer (Peter Filichia)
- Free day to visit Ellis and Liberty Islands, museums, shops, etc.
- Roundtrip airfare to/from NYC
- 6 meals: 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- Tour Director: **Chris Galloway**
- 4150/4750 Gold Passport Points

Not a cookie-cutter trip to The Big Apple, but a diverse itinerary with an opportunity to discover some of the city's incredible neighborhoods on authentic excursions featuring food and the chance to meet a local or two!

\$4150 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4745 single

A



Visit Grand Central Station and catch the subway downtown on a walking tour of NYC

The Yankees/Giants Overnighter

2 Days • April 26-27

The Bronx Bombers only come to San Francisco every six years, for one short series. If you are a Giants fan, this is your opportunity to watch your team, with its roots in New York City, play the Yankees, in your park in The City by The Bay.

Depart Sacramento midday on Friday, return Saturday evening. We will not have single game packages for the Giants/Yankees. More details on the trip can be found on page 6 with the rest of the baseball trip listings.

\$820 p.p./dbl.occ., \$950 single

A

Missions III: The Last Stops Along el Camino Real

Visit the famed Mission Inn

3 Days • May 1-3

M A

History unfolds along the *el Camino Real* in sunny Southern California. Visit three missions and the only surviving Asistencia, Mission San Antonio de Pala with **Sports Leisure** Tour Director **Chris Galloway**.

1. Arrive in Orange County and travel down the coast to Mission San Luis Rey, the King of the Missions. Tour and explore the museum focusing on the Luiseno culture and their contributions. Visit the only surviving Asistencia in the Mission System, Mission San Antonio de Pala founded to serve the local tribes. Arrive at your hotel in time for complimentary cocktails and nibbles. Dinner is on your own at the hotel or one of the many nearby restaurants. **Embassy Suites – Downey – 2 nights (L)**

2. Mission San Fernando Rey, still an active church, had many troubles yet persevered over the centuries. Its story will inspire! Lunch is at a long-time favorite, The Tam O' Shanter known for its prime rib. Mission San Gabriel, the midpoint between San Diego and Carmel, is your next stop. What a gift shop! Dinner is at the Anaheim White House, a local institution with a charitable heart. Over the years they have fed over two million needy children! **(FB,L,D)**

3. The Mission Inn was built in 1903, intending to draw tourists, something it still does today! After an architectural tour enjoy lunch in a beautiful Spanish setting.



The missions had olives and so shall we!
But not just any olives: Graber Olives! Stop
for a tour, tasting and shopping. Logan's
Candies makes us a sweet souvenir to take
home before an early evening flight home.
1500/1700 Gold Passport Points (FB,L)

\$1475 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1665 single

Moab, Gateway to Arches National Park

A

*Featuring four nights at the spectacular
Red Cliffs Lodge on the banks of the
Colorado River*

5 Days • May 4-8

★ Highlights ★

- Explore majestic Arches National Park
- Visit Dead Horse State Park (the most amazing view in the Southwest!)
- Thrilling jet boat tour on the Colorado River
- Experience flightseeing over Canyonlands National Park
- 4x4 jeep tour through the red rocks of Moab
- 8 meals: 4 full breakfasts, 4 lunches
- Door-to-door airport service
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Salt Lake City
- Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**
- 2650/3000 Gold Passport Points

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

Catalina Island Dreamin'

"26 miles across the sea"

4 Days • May 5-8

A

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights at the Pavilion Lodge in the heart of Avalon
- Sunday Brunch at the elegant *Queen Mary*, moored in Long Beach Harbor
- Be whisked away to Avalon on the high-speed *Catalina Express*
- *Twilight in the Casino* tour features wine and cheese on the balcony
- An *Evening Avalon* scenic tour aboard an electric bus
- 6 meals: 3 full breakfasts, 1 brunch, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door service
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Long Beach
- 2000/2350 Gold Passport Points

\$1970 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2350 single



Hear and feel the roar of the mighty Niagara Falls... from your room and from sightseeing boat

Niagara, Falling For You

Falls view from EVERY room

5 Days • May 14-18

A

★ Highlights ★

- 4 nights at the Embassy Suites Fallsview – daily breakfast and evening cocktails included – every room offers a view of Niagara Falls
- Journey Behind The Falls, and ride to the bottom of the falls on a Hornblower cruise, IMAX Theater Show, Daredevil Museum
- Sample "ice wine" and enjoy the shops in Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Visit the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens & Butterfly Conservatory
- See ships navigate the Welland Canal off Lake Ontario
- Be in the audience for a comedic performance of "Oh Canada eh?"
- 8 meals: 4 full breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door service
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Buffalo
- 2650/2950 Gold Passport Points

A traditional **eastern** vacation spot comes to the **Sports Leisure** calendar. Join us and discover the falls from above, behind and below; by day and by night. Visit a quaint village and even laugh your Canadian moose ears right off! Plus, enjoy rooms with a view!

\$2620 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2930 single

This vacation requires a valid passport!

Making Our Way Around Monterey Bay

*Featuring two nights at the
Dream Inn Santa Cruz*

3 Days • May 19-21

M

★ Highlights ★

- Brunch at the Dolce Hayes Mansion
- Boat tour of the Elkhorn Slough
- Visit the Shakespeare Society of America
- Tour the American Hat Makers factory
- Taste juice at Martinelli's
- 5 meals: 2 full breakfasts, 1 brunch, 2 lunches
- Door-to-door airport service
- Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**
- 1300/1550 Gold Passport Points

\$1280 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1515 single

Memorial Day in Washington, DC

*Our nation's capital is yours to explore from
top to bottom*

6 Days • May 23-28

E

★ Highlights ★

- 5 nights at the Hilton Hotel Arlington
- Tour Washington, DC by day and night
- Visit Arlington National Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, the U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theatre and Kennedy Center
- Explore the Smithsonian Institution and National Museums on the Mall
- See National Monuments including Lincoln, Jefferson, FDR, MLK, WWII, Vietnam, Korea and more



- 9 meals: Daily breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Washington National
- Door-to-door airport service
- Tour Director: **Clayton Whitehead**
- 2900/3200 Gold Passport Points

\$2875 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3185 single

*Those making reservations at least three months prior to the trip (before February 23) will be submitted for a thorough security screening to visit The White House. This will require your full name, citizenship, birthday, city of residence and Social Security number. Please be advised those making reservations after this date are less likely to receive clearance. Questions? Please contact tour planner/escort Clayton Whitehead.

All About The Ballparks, Southern Style

Florida, Houston and Atlanta

9 Days/6 Games • May 26 – June 3

Each year, we offer an opportunity to visit some of America's baseball diamonds. This year's trip features four indoor games in Florida, visits to a couple of baseball landmarks, with pre/post Florida games in Houston and Atlanta. More Info on this trip can be found on the baseball page 6.

GAME / TRAVEL SCHEDULE:

Sun., May 26	Travel to Houston
Mon., May 27	Cubs/Astros
Tues., May 28	Fly to Miami, Giants/Marlins
Wed., May 29	Giants/Marlins
Thurs., May 30	Giants/Marlins
Fri., May 31	Fly to Tampa, Minn. Twins/Tampa Rays
Sat., June 1	Tampa sights
Sun., June 2	Fly to Atlanta, Detroit Tigers/Atl. Braves
Sun., June 3	Fly home

4800/5350 Gold Passport Points

\$4790 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5310 single

Proud members of the



An American Portrait

History comes alive – everything from West Point to Woodstock

7 Days • May 29 – June 4

★ Highlights ★

- Rochester – visit The Strong Museum (America's Museum of Play), the Eastman Museum (of Eastman-Kodak fame)
 - Cruise the Erie Canal
 - Tour the homes of Harriett Tubman and William Seward, who were close friends
 - National Women's Hall of Fame, Women's Rights Historic Park, It's a Wonderful Life Museum in Bedford... we mean Seneca Falls
 - Visit Bethel Woods, the site of Woodstock, on the 50th anniversary of the event
 - Tour West Point Academy
 - Visit the Presidential Library of Franklin Roosevelt; see Val Kill, Eleanor's residence
 - Walk over the Hudson River
 - Wonderful dining, 14 meals: 1 breakfast, 5 full breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
 - Door-to-door service, airfare included
 - 3200/3550 Gold Passport Points
- \$3155 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3550 single**

All the Best of Victoria, BC!

Exciting new attractions, long-time favorites and an extra day to explore

5 Days • June 2-6

★ Highlights ★

- Enjoy 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 airfare to/from Victoria, BC
- Door-to-door airport service
- Tour Director: **Chris Galloway**
- 2500/2800 Gold Passport Points

A once sleepy city by the sea, Victoria has blossomed into an international cosmopolitan destination yet has retained its unique charm. Iconic attractions sit alongside trendy shops and modern bistro pubs, while flowerpots hang from the street lamps.

\$2485 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2765 single

This vacation requires a valid passport!

Machu Picchu and Peru

The Sacred Valley

8 Days • June 15-22

★ Highlights ★

- Fully escorted experience with local guides and **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director
- Lima City Tour with visit to the Larco Archeology Museum
- 2 nights in Cusco
- Roundtrip flight: Lima to/from Cusco
- Tour the Pisac Ruins and Awanakancha Museum
- Spend a full day in the Sacred Valley with Moray and Maras
- Roundtrip on the *Vistadome* train: Ollantaytambo/Machu Picchu
- 8 meals: 5 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners



Watch the water splash over the statue at the Japanese Garden... one of many themed gardens at Butchart



- Roundtrip airfare to/from Lima
- 6350/7000 Gold Passport Points
\$6310 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6980 single
This vacation requires a valid passport!

The Lakes of Okanagan

*A farm-to-fork BC experience
with Ramona*



5 Days • June 21-25

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights at Quaaout Lodge, on the shores of Shuswap Lake
- 2 nights in Kelowna, the heart of the Okanagan Valley
- Visit a local woman-owned herb farm; and taste the honey mead
- Sip the wine and savor a fantastic meal at a local winery
- Paddle a canoe on Little Shuswap Lake
- Enjoy the views of lakes in every direction
- 7 meals: 2 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door service
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Kelowna
- 3000/3300 Gold Passport Points

The Okanagan Valley is home to vast lakes stretching over 100 miles through the region. Vineyards and small farms roll down the hillsides to the lake shores; and the best fresh ingredients from the local farms, pastures and lakes are available for your meals. Travel through the region, tasting the bounty of the land, and maybe even try your hand at paddling on one of the many lakes. The scenery is beautiful and the peace of the valley is soothing. Step back and relax in the Okanagan.

\$2975 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3275 single

This vacation requires a valid passport!

Oregon's Coast, Carousels and Covered Bridges

*Walk in the steps of Lewis and Clark,
enjoy the spectacular coast, dine on a
covered bridge*

6 Days • June 23-28



★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights Astoria, 2 nights Newport (4 nights on the water), overnight Eugene
- Lewis and Clark history, including stops at Cape Disappointment and Fort Clatsop, their two "mid-journey" coastal homes

- Ride carousels in Seaside and Albany, learn how the horses are made
- Visit Yaquina Head Lighthouse, do a little shopping at Blue Heron Cheese
- Marine Discovery Cruise on Newport Bay, the best educational cruise in the country
- Admission to The Oregon Aquarium
- Roundtrip air to/from Portland
- 12 meals, featuring fine dining at Clearwater, overlooking Newport Harbor and lunch on a covered bridge
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2350/2650 Gold Passport Points
\$2335 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2650 single

Ferries and Towns of Puget Sound

*Ride ferries, explore unique small towns,
enjoy a room with a view*

5 Days • July 7-11

- 4 ferry rides on Puget Sound, including the longest routes, Seattle/Bremerton and Seattle/Bainbridge Island
- Visit the villages of Poulsbo, Port Townsend, Sequim, Port Gamble, Mukilteo and Langley as you make your way around the sound
- Guided tours: Poulsbo, learn about the town's Norwegian heritage; Port Townsend, this was once a bawdy port on the sound
- 4 nights Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish – gaming for those who enjoy it, beautiful views for those who don't

- the hotel and casino are in separate buildings
- Visit the Mukilteo Lighthouse Park, the birthplace of Chief Seattle and Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial – local landmarks you might otherwise miss
- 9 meals: 4 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- Roundtrip airfare to Seattle
- 2350/2650 Gold Passport Points
\$2310 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2605 single

Laguna Beach and The Pageant of the Masters



*One of our annual favorite summer
getaways to Southern California*

3 Days • August 4-6 or August 25-27

Presented in an outdoor theatre in Laguna Beach, *The Pageant of the Masters* uses live people to re-create well-known pieces of sculpture and art. The staging, the costuming, and the effects created by make-up and lighting make it surrealistic and words fail to describe the pageant to others. You have to see it to believe it!

Also featured: Sunday Brunch at Sherman Library & Gardens, 2 nights at the Marriott Newport, Mission San Juan Capistrano, tour at the Pageant of the Masters, exclusive post-event talk.

\$1525 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1750 single



The Sacagawea statue and a local ranger tell stories of bravery and fortitude at the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park





Join Scott, SLV's very own bear lover, as he journeys to the Kenai Peninsula to see the wildlife

Alaska's Kenai Peninsula

Featuring bear viewing in Lake Clark Nat'l Park, ride the Alaska Railroad

7 Days • August 30 – September 5

★ Highlights ★

- Lake Clark National Park bear viewing aboard private pontoon boat
- Kenai Fjord's National Park catamaran tour with park service ranger
- Scenic flight tour to Lake Clark National Park
- Enjoy GoldStar service on the Alaska Railroad
- 11 meals: 5 breakfasts, 1 full breakfast, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door transportation
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Anchorage
- Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**
- 6000/6800 Gold Passport Point

\$5995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6780 single

Olympia Harbor Days and Mount Rainier

Experience the greatness of a small city, southern Puget Sound, and Mt. Rainier

4 Days • August 30 – September 2

★ Highlights ★

- 3 night stay on the waterfront overlooking Budd Bay
- Lunch in the grand Paradise Inn Dining Room at Mt. Rainier National Park
- Cruise southern Puget Sound on the historic steamboat, *Virginia V*
- Enjoy the festivities of Olympia's Harbor Days, including a tugboat race

- 8 meals: 3 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door to door service
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Seattle
- Tour Director: **Ramona Goodge**
- 2100/2350 Gold Passport Points

First offered last year, this trip was so much fun we decided we just had to do it again! Tucked alongside Budd Bay on Puget Sound, Washington's capital city is a sparkling gem in the Emerald State. With a rich history, vibrant culture and a beautiful setting on the Sound, Olympia is a great place to visit! The highlight of our stay will be the Harbor Days Fest, celebrating the vintage tugboats of the Sound. Interspersed

with the festival activities, experience the best of the region from a local farmer's market, local artisans, and a sidetrip to Mount Rainier.

1. Your Pacific Northwest adventure begins with an early morning flight to Seattle. Upon arrival, transfer to the Port of Tacoma to experience another form of travel. Step back in maritime history as you cruise the waters of the southern sound on the historic steamer, *Virginia V*. Affectionately called "Virginia Vee", this ship has been steaming around the Puget Sound since 1922. Our four hour cruise will take us under the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, and down past Stellacoom, Ketron Island, Anderson Island and into Budd Inlet. The festival kicks off this afternoon, and our waterfront hotel is minutes away from Percival Landing.

DoubleTree by Hilton – 3 nights (L,D)

2. Mt. Rainier, dubbed "the mountain" by the locals, dominates the skyline on a clear day. As a matter of fact, locals often say "the mountain is out today". Ascending to 14,410 feet above sea level, this iconic glacier-topped mountain is legendary with mountain climbers and casual visitors. Passing by alpine meadows, and streams filled with crystal clear glacial water, travel to Paradise. The Jackson Visitors Center hosts films and exhibits relevant to this mountain, which by the way is an active volcano; and the Paradise Inn offers travelers a view of Mt. Rainier as a breathtaking backdrop



Sports Leisure travelers board the *Virginia V* in Tacoma with Mt. Rainier as a backdrop



during lunch in the historic Inn Dining Room. Return to Olympia late afternoon, and stroll along the waterfront. (FB,L)

3. A free morning to visit the Farmers' Market with a variety of fruit syrups, honey, jams; and specialty meat and cheeses – including smoked salmon; walk along the waterfront looking at the variety of vessels in the harbor, maybe even tour a tug. This afternoon, the “world's largest vintage tugboat race” takes place in the deep channel of Budd Bay. Viewing of the race is from the water aboard one of the festival's host vessels. (Editors note: This is a local event, hosted by the Kiwanis. There may be 10 tugs, or 4... and they don't go very fast, but your cheers help.) This evening, a dinner featuring the best of the region caps off our stay. (FB,D)

4. Another leisurely morning with a quick lunch before returning to the airport for your afternoon flight home. (FB, L)

\$2065 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2320 single

Things to Know Before You Go:

Airfare: On all trips where air travel is indicated, airfares are included in the listed prices.

Home Pick-up: Our exclusive home pick-up is included on all trips listed here of three days or longer. **Coastal Breeze Limousine** and its partners provide transportation to/from the airport, Sacramento's Amtrak station or the **Sports Leisure Vacations** office.

Meals: Please refer to the day-by-day itinerary for a break down of the included breakfasts, brunches, lunches and dinners.

***Early Registration/Payment Discounts:** Trips with this note after the price indicate there is a discount available for Early Registration and Payment. Please refer to the back page of the newsletter for more details on Early Registration/Payment Discounts.

The Fine Print: Our **Special Tour & Vacation Notes** brochure contains the answers to many often-asked questions. A copy is sent with your reservations.

Sports Leisure online: You are invited to visit our website at www.sportsleisure.com for more information on any tour listed here, or call our office and we will be happy to send you a detailed itinerary.

“Meet Me at the Fair...” –

A Mystery Tour

6 Days • September 21-26



A line from the old show, **Meet Me in St. Louis**, “meet me at the fair...” fits this trip perfectly. Actually, we are attending two different fairs/festivals on this itinerary. One is a bit upscale, the other more for “common folks.” In between, there's a visit to an island. Sort of a poor man's island, in the shadow of others far more famous.

Famous you say? Oh, many of the people you see would **like** to be famous, they just haven't made it yet. With prayers and providence, perhaps someday it will all come true, surely it will. If not, we'll gather up all our marbles and break with tradition. All wonderful clues to where you are going...

Airfare, 10 meals and 3200/3700 Gold Passport Points.

\$3170 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3675 single

Dream In' of Santa Cruz

And enjoy an afternoon of the Follies Show



3 Days • September 10-12

It can't get much better than two nights in your ocean view room at the “Only Hotel on the Beach”... the **Dream Inn** in Santa Cruz. This iconic hotel has always been a **Sports Leisure** favorite and their colorful retro-chic style, modern service, and amenities are sure to delight you.

The Santa Cruz Follies has been entertaining us for over sixty years. This year the cast (all over 50 years of age) will present “Fascinatin' Rhythms, from Broadway to Hollywood”. On our way to the beach we'll stop for an included lunch at **Porter's Restaurant at the Poppy Ridge Golf Club** in Livermore. Dinner in the hotel ballroom with a million dollar view and lunch at a local restaurant are also included.

We'll get a tour of Santa Cruz with a local guide, head to Bear Mountain and **Roaring Camp Railroad** for a train ride into the redwoods, have time for shopping in nearby Capitola, and perhaps feel like a kid again riding the carousel on the Beach Boardwalk.

This tour includes door-to-door service, motorcoach transportation, accommodations, 2 lunches and 1 dinner, the Follies Show and the services of a

Sports Leisure Tour Director. 1250/1400 Gold Passport Points

\$1220 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1390 single

Rails Around Colorado



Three scenic train rides during fall foliage

7 Days • September 21-27

★ **Highlights** ★

- 3 scenic trains: Royal Gorge, Cumbres & Toltec, Durango & Silverton
 - Royal Gorge Bridge and Park
 - Explore the San Juan Mountains by jeep
 - Fly high above Telluride on a gondola ride
 - Historic guided walking tour of Telluride
 - 11 meals: 3 breakfasts, 3 full breakfasts, 5 lunches
 - Door-to-door airport service
 - Roundtrip airfare to Denver/from Durango
 - Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**
 - 3800/4300 Gold Passport Points
- \$3770 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4280 single**

Lake Powell Splendor

No words can describe its beauty



5 Days • October 3-7

★ **Highlights** ★

- Narrated Lake Powell boat tour
 - Guided walking tour of the famous Antelope Canyon
 - Enjoy 3 nights in a lakeview room
 - Awesome helicopter flight over Lake Powell
 - 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches
 - Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**
 - 2750/3150 Gold Passport Points
- \$2735 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3120 single**

Memphis and Nashville

Celebrate the many musical styles of Tennessee

7 Days • October 15 -21



★ **Highlights** ★

- 2 nights at The Guesthouse at Graceland
- Tour Elvis' iconic estate including his car and plane collection
- Visit the National Civil Rights Museum
- Tour RCA Studio B and Music Row
- Visit the Country Music Hall of Fame and the new Johnny Cash & Patsy Cline Museums
- Behind-the-scenes tour of the The Grand Ole Opry and attend a show



- Spend a leisurely Southern Sunday in charming Franklin, TN
- 14 meals featuring a wide range of regional flavors: 6 full breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
- Air fare included to Memphis/from Nashville
- Door-to-door airport service
- Tour Director: **Chris Galloway**
- 3700/4200 Gold Passport Points

Begin your time in Tennessee with two nights in Memphis... Go walking along Beale Street; dine at the Beauty Shop Restaurant, featuring flavors of the Southeast and Far East in this beauty parlor-turned-eatery known for its stylish fusion cuisine; and en route to Nashville, visit the Brownsville schoolhouse once attended by Tina Turner. In Nashville, "Music City USA" the lights are bright, the tunes are thumping and the talent is legendary! Dust off your boots and stroll along Broadway where the music is sure to get your toes tappin'. There will be a guided tour of Music Row; visits to the two hottest new attractions, the Patsy Cline and Johnny Cash Museums; a Nashville Hot Chicken lunch; and even Goo Goo Clusters! Top of your trip with a visit to the Grand Ole Opry for a live radio broadcast; a special presentation at the historic Ryman

We appraise and/or buy old coins

Just about everyone has a jar of old coins sitting around. Turn those coin collections, big and small, into cash. Mark was a coin dealer in his previous life and is interested in expanding his collection. Call for an appointment to have your coins appraised and/or purchased. Find out what your treasures are worth! **916-361-2051** and ask for **Bob** or **Mark**.



Auditorium, and one last taste of Southern food with an updated twist at the gorgeous Hermitage Hotel.

\$3655 pp/dbl, \$4165 single

Key West, Miami & The Everglades

Key Largo & 4 nights in Key West

7 Days • January 25-31, 2020

★ Highlights ★

- Visit Florida Everglades National Park, experience an air boat ride and meet an alligator or two up close
- History abounds in Key West – visit the Hemingway Home, The Aquarium, Truman's "Little White House," tour the island aboard the famous *Old Town Trolley*
- Lunch on private Sunset Key at Latitudes, a short ferry ride from Mallory Pier in Key West, a **Sports Leisure** exclusive
- A "Taste of Key West" food tour by trolley, where you sample lots of local culinary treats (including Key Lime Pie, Conch Fritters, and Cuban Sandwiches)
- Day cruise on an authentic clipper ship (optional, included), Butterfly and Nature Conservatory
- Cabaret Dinner Show at *La Te Da*; lunch at famous Sloppy Joe's, a local landmark
- 4 nights in Key West at the Crowne Plaza La Concha, in the heart of town on Duval Street
- Overnight Ft. Lauderdale – Miami city tour featuring South Beach and Coral Gables; overnight in Key Largo
- Enjoy a tour at The Sea Turtle Hospital in the Florida Keys
- Roundtrip airfare to Ft. Lauderdale (United), return from Key West (Delta)
- 13 meals: 2 breakfasts, 4 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service

Annually this is one of our most popular tours. Limited to 27 travelers, it is an early sellout. Pricing for this tour will be available in the **March 2019** newsletter. You can place your name on the priority list now, and we will notify you in advance and give you a chance to register. **We expect 2020 pricing to be ROUGHLY:**

\$4500 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5100 single

Put your name on the **Priority Notification List** now and we will contact you March 15 when prices are available

The World Down Under

Australia, Tasmania & New Zealand aboard the ms Noordam

21 Days • February 21 – March 12, 2020

★ Highlights ★

- 3-night pre-cruise program in Sydney including daily breakfast and lunch
- Visit Ku-ring-gai, Blue Mountains and Featherdale Wildlife Parks
- Tour Sydney sites including the famous Opera House
- All meals included on board the *ms Noordam*
- Prices include all transfers and port taxes
- Roundtrip airfare to Sydney/from Auckland
- Door-to-door transportation
- Fully escorted by a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director
- Gold Passport Points

Prices to be announced March 15

Place your name on the

Priority Notification List now

This vacation requires a valid passport!

DATE	PORT OF CALL
Feb. 26	Sydney, Australia
Feb. 27	At Sea
Feb. 28	Melbourne
Feb. 29	At Sea
Mar. 1	Port Arthur
Mar. 2	Hobart, Tasmania
Mar. 3	At Sea
Mar. 4	At Sea
Mar. 5	Milford Sound/Fiordland Nat'l Park, New Zealand
Mar. 6	Port Chalmers (Dunedin)
Mar. 7	Akaroa (Christchurch)
Mar. 8	Wellington
Mar. 9	Gisborne
Mar. 10	Tauranga (Rotorua)
Mar. 11	Bay of Plenty/Coromandel Peninsula
Mar. 12	Fly Home

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





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EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT COUPON

Early Registration Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Friday, March 8, 2019**; or may be withdrawn when 50% of the available space has been reserved. To receive the discount, you must pay in full within ten days of registration. If you accept this option, the monies paid, including the cost of Cancellation Protection, are returned to you in full if you cancel more than 60 days prior to departure for US and Canadian tours or 75 days prior for International tours, regardless of the reason for cancellation. Within the time limits noted above, restrictions on refunds apply. See the **Special Vacation Notes & Information** brochure for complete details.

May – Historic Lincoln Hwy, Reno/Tahoe – **Save \$15**

June – The Lakes of Okanagan – **Save \$50**

June – Machu Picchu and Lima, Peru – **Save \$100**

July – Million Dollar Quartet/Lake Tahoe – **Save \$10**

Aug. – Olympia and Mount Rainier – **Save \$50**

Aug. – Alaska's Kenai Peninsula – **Save \$100**

Sept. – Dreamin' of Santa Cruz – **Save \$25**

Oct. – Albuquerque Balloon Festival – **Save \$75**

Nov. – Spectacular Sedona – **Save \$75**

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.

Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/sportsleisure

TOUR UPDATE...

A brief list of tours which are sold out, or have only a limited amount of space (10 or fewer seats, number in parenthesis).

Sold-Out Tours (waiting lists available)

Cruise Canada and New England
Belugas, Blooms and Polar Bears
Memphis and Nashville (Oct. 15)
New Orleans and Mississippi Coast
On the Central Coast (Apr. 1 & Apr. 8)
Pure Michigan: Mackinac and the UP
Ferries, Islands & Towns of Old Cape Cod
King and Di (Feb. 24, Mar. 17, Mar. 24)
Wild & Woolly – Mystery Tours Revisited
Lassen Volcanic National Park
Sensational Santa Fe

Tonopah and Laughlin
Bodega Bay
Fixin' up Texas
Delightfully Danish!
Hugh Jackman
Gems of SE Europe
South Dakota Icons
Circle British Columbia
Colorful Carolina Coast
Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
Cruise the Jewels of the Baltic

Limited Space (10 or fewer seats)

Spring Training in Arizona (4)
Snow Train to Reno (Feb – 5; Mar – 2)
Missions III: Along el Camino Real (7)
Making Our Way Around Monterey Bay (8)
Catalina Island Dreamin' – Oct (2)
Ferries and Towns of Puget Sound (4)
Memphis and Nashville – Oct. 8 (4)
Alps of Switzerland & Northern Italy (1)
All about the Ballparks, Southern Style (4)
Laguna Pageant of Masters – Aug. 4 (7)
Memorial Day in Washington DC (9)

Alaska's Aurora Borealis (3)
Meet Me at the Fair (5)
Cirque Soleil "Volta" (8)
NYC – Behind Broadway (4)
Moab & Arches (6)
Niagara Falls (3)
Irish Spring (10)
An American Portrait (7)
Lake Powell Splendor (9)
Rails Around Colorado (6)
Winter at the Ahwahnee (2)

OFFICE HOURS:

9:00am – 4:30pm MON. thru FRI.
Closed weekends and major holidays
CLOSED TUES. 12:00pm – 1:15pm