



The Sports Leisure TRAVELER

8123 Active Members • 55,909 Members Since 1979

JANUARY/FEBRUARY | VOL. 43 | NO. 2 2022

Just One Man's Opinion

by Mark Hoffmann

COVID has brought a lot of challenges to travelers and those who take them places.

We couldn't travel to many places (still can't go to some), and even if we can we have to mask up, take our shots, bring our papers, take our tests, wait for results... Being a traveler takes



patience and time and some real effort. Armchair travelers are staying at home. And to be fair, so are a group of folks, some of them **SLV members**, who have medical situations which would put them at much higher risk.

You, as travelers, we as the people to take you there, have held up relatively well. We have waited, jumped in when there was an

opening (the virus let up), pulled back when there was not. Now, it appears one more jolt is upon us.

Because in part no one could travel the way they wanted to for two years (and counting), there is a lot of pent up demand. Lots of people are chomping at the bit to go someplace, and then someplace different, and then....you get the idea. In economics, when there is too much demand chasing too little supply, prices go up. Demand is exceeding supply. So the sellers (hotels, airlines, etc.) can raise prices.

That is exactly what is happening, particularly in the hotel world. \$100 a night increases are not uncommon, sometimes \$150. It's mind boggling.

Scott Angeletti, for many years, has put together and escorted a trip to the California Coast, to stay at a lovely little property with a spectacular view of the ocean. When Scott called to set up the trip for this year, he was offered a rate \$100 more than the previous year. "There must be a mistake," Scott thought. But there was no mistake. Indeed, the hotel was asking \$100 more a night. Surprised and shocked, Scott decided to pass and not offer the always-sold out tour this year, because the hotel increase alone would drive the price up \$225 per person, \$450 for single travelers.

Restaurant prices are up, because we have finally decided to pay living wages to people who used to make \$10-\$12 an hour. But that fairness has come at a cost on the menu, while at the same time restaurants are being pressured by higher food prices in the kitchen.

Even airfares are up, although not quite as much, on a percentage basis, as hotels and

restaurants. Motorcoach prices are jumping, too, because of much higher fuel costs.

In many cases, short-term, we have absorbed these costs. Fuel surcharges for buses, price increases for menus where the menu wasn't agreed to at the time the space was reserved, those are examples of situations this fall and winter where we have paid the increase out of pocket, rather than ask our travelers for last minute surcharges. As new tours are announced, these increases can be built in.

As I create pricing for new tours, I am floored by some of the increases. **New York City**, where we love to stay at the Marriott in Times Square, is getting \$80 a night more for rooms than they did in the spring of 2019. With a 5 night stay, it means about \$250 a person (double) more for the trip.

Those who signed up for their 2022 trips early saved some big dollars. (There are still a few scattered spaces left on previously announced 2022 tours, you can see them in the Tour Calendar in this newsletter). New travel is going to cost more, for now. Not just **Sports Leisure** travel, but travel of all types. It's very possible this supply/demand thing will correct itself in the next 6-12 months and prices will slip back or at least stabilize.

★★★★★★

A (Dated) Travel Update

Knowing anything written here will be 2-3 weeks old by the time you read it, I encourage you to visit www.sportsleisure.com or the **Sports Leisure Vacations** Facebook page for more current updates. It's a great place for between newsletter updates, especially with so much going on.

— Continued to page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Just One Man's Opinion	Cover, 2
The Barber Pole	2
Clayton Place	3
The Customers Always Write	4
The Human Side.....	5
Daycations & Theatre Outings	6-7
New Vacations and Getaways	8
The Tour Calendar.....	9-11
Tour Updates.....	Back Page

★★★★★★★★★★

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

The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

Information of Importance to Sports Leisure Travelers

Updated Business Hours

Seems like our hours change all the time. It's a combination of trying to meet the call demand without having people sitting around with nothing to do and everyone still making enough money to pay the rent. Whew. That was a mouthful. But that one sentence sums up a bit of the challenge for most businesses right now.

Sports Leisure Vacations is open M-F, 9am – 3:30pm. We will be closed on Monday, February 21st, Presidents Day. You may leave a message before or after business hours. I know some people will be disappointed "Alistair" is no longer greeting callers on the phone...ok, perhaps some will not. Our lobby is open to visitors. We ask that you wear a mask.

COVID Protocols as of January 20, 2022

The definition of fully vaccinated now means you have had the regular vaccine shot(s) **and the booster shot.** You should have these at least 14 days before you begin travel.

We have also gone back to hand sanitizing when boarding the coach and wearing masks while on board. It's not what we would all prefer, but it helps keep us safe. It's worth pointing out there have not been any reports of virus outbreaks within **SLV** groups. We have had two travelers report illness roughly two weeks after returning home. We notified other travelers in those groups. Our protocols seem to be working (along with a little luck, let's be honest).

If you have any questions regarding our COVID protocols, please contact us at the office **prior to your trip.** We are not in a position to discuss these protocols at

the bus or airport on the day of departure. Those conversations and the questions and concerns that may be connected with them, need to be addressed in advance.

Walkers – Need Advance Notice

This is a really small but important item for a few people. **If you are traveling with a walker, a scooter or other assistive walking device larger than a cane, you MUST NOTIFY US IN ADVANCE.** Cars are routed based on their size, the number of people being picked up, and anticipated luggage. If you are adding a large item like a walker, you must call and tell us in advance. If you do not, we cannot guarantee the vehicle which picks you up will have room for your device. **REALLY IMPORTANT!!!!**

Just One Man's Opinion (con't from page 1)

For right now, we are back to wearing masks on the bus. Our travelers and staff are more than willing to take whatever measures are needed to be just a bit safer.

Most of our Christmas season tours operated without issue. COVID claimed our

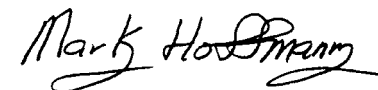
trip to New York to see the Westminster Dog Show in January, and there have been a few other cancellations. For those who are still a little skittish, I strongly recommend you keep an eye on your calendar.

Sports Leisure Vacations has a

cancellation policy with a little different twist than most other companies, and it can work in your favor if you are not 100% ready to travel. But it requires you to think ahead. Up until 60 days prior to departure, you can cancel any US tour without penalty (75 days for Canada).

Why this policy and those restrictions? Because that's generally when we have to start paying for performance and airline tickets, plus make non-refundable deposits and commitments to other components of the tour. If you cancel before we make those commitments, little is lost. **(Please note that once or twice a year there are tours where the cancellation penalty kicks in more than 60 days out...** generally because theater tickets have to be purchased on your behalf.)

And so it goes,



Mark Hoffmann, CTP
Owner/Founder (almost 43 years ago)



Hello Friends...

I have many bits and pieces to share with you in this wonderful New Year! So without further ado let's jump right in . . .

Travel Club and Gold Club Membership Updates:

Sports Leisure Vacations

is a membership organization. You don't have to be a member to travel

with us, but you do have to be an active (dues-paying) member to receive our annual catalogue and newsletters by mail and to participate in our various Member Reward Programs. For example, only members receive a discount on every tour they take.

One of our most popular Member Rewards is the **Day Tripper Card**. Travel on six *Daycations* and receive a \$10 bill – it's as simple as that!

Travel Club Gold is certainly our most valuable program, designed to identify and reward our most frequent travelers. A member reaches Gold Club status by traveling 20 days in any combination – 2 ten-day tours, 4 five-day tours, 20 *Daycations* – just do the math. After becoming Gold a member receives double member discounts, and accrues and can redeem Gold Passport Points for life!

The top level of Gold Club membership is called **Current Gold**, earned when a member remains active by traveling at least 8 days per year. Their reward is receiving every edition of *The Traveler* by first class mail, giving them a head start over the thousands who receive theirs by slower bulk mail.

Our database cannot keep up with all these counts! Therefore the burden of responsibility rests on our members for many of these programs. Travelers should always arrive for a departure with their Travel Club Membership, Day Tripper and (if still working towards the 20 days) Travel Club Gold Registration cards in hand. Once



Gold/Current Gold, our database manages your Gold Passport Points account. Multiple cards? Staple them together. It's not necessary that all signatures be on the same card. Think you are missing credits? Road staff cannot help you with this as we lack access to the database. Best to make an appointment to come into the office and sort it out.

In early 2020 we froze each member's membership level and status. No one expired. No one was demoted from Current Gold to Gold due to their inability to travel. We continued this through 2021 as well. Now, effective with the start of a new year and with the vast majority of our vacations scheduled to operate as planned, we are returning to our former system. Those with memberships expiring in 2022 will receive renewal notices. Only those Gold Club members traveling a minimum of 8 days this year will retain Current Gold status in 2023.

I realize this is a lot of information! Call me if anything isn't clear as mud.

Catching Zzzzz at Sacramento International Airport

For many years our travelers who live outside the greater Sacramento area have enjoyed a deal at the downtown Best Western where they could spend the night for a reduced rate and leave their car for free for the duration of the tour. That property ceased to be a hotel late last year. First I did some research to see how many people actually do this annually. The answer was surprisingly small – less than a dozen in 2018 and 2019 combined! Without volume, it's quite difficult to convince anyone to give us a deal. A Google search on "hotels near Sacramento airport" produces 134 hits! Their prices are all over the place. A couple things to look for beyond the overnight rate: Do they operate a shuttle? And how much do they charge for long-term parking? I've been checking rates and offers frequently over the past few months. The average room rate is around \$150 plus a parking fee around \$70/week regardless of how many days your car is actually there. Many offer a

"park and fly" rate which bundles the room and parking charges at a small savings. At the end of the day there's no one hotel I can recommend. Just go online and select the deal and/or the brand that seems best. You might elect to save the hotel parking fee and our door-to-door transportation fee by simply driving yourself to the airport and parking there. Or use their parking and shuttle to save our door-to-door fee. Be sure to let us know of your decision as far in advance as possible. Thanks!

The Mystery Tour Contest... remains a mystery

Mark and I have read all your entries many times, and moved a few into the semifinalist category. I've gotten to work on two of them. The very nature of mystery tours has me working in areas I don't know where I have few if any supplier friends. Add to that the holidays, staff shortages and severe winter weather. I'm afraid my progress has been slow. So if you can give us just one more newsletter cycle hopefully we'll have more to share next time!

Until next time, I remain...

"Your Tour Guy,"

A stylized, handwritten signature of Clayton Whitehead in black ink.

Clayton Whitehead, CTP

Vice President

clayton@sportsleisure.com

SAVE THE DATE

SPRING PREVIEW DAY Saturday, May 14

Details will be coming your
way in the March/April edition
of *The Traveler*.

The Customers Always Write

Dear Clayton,

The Niagara Falls trips was amazing! The hotel overlooking the falls, the excursions under and around it, the history surrounding it. Best of all was how easy your staff, and especially Chris, made it to get into Canada. He walked us through the whole process, and your staff giving us the instructions for getting the PCR test really expedited things. Thank you so much for a great and easy trip!

Diane Cummings

Hi Mark,

Just wanted to drop you this note to say THANK YOU for a great **Christmas Train** trip. Even with the snow leaving us stranded for a few extra days we had a great adventure. Please thank the office staff as well. Know they were working hard to support you and bring us home.

Jim and Judy

Mark Darlin'...

Thank u, thank u for a wonderful **Christmas Train** Wonderland Grand Exciting Adventure. I always felt safe with you and **Simon** (he's great). Happy New Year! With love and respect,

Donna Fritts

Ed. Note: So any letter that starts out "Mark Darlin'" is a pretty good bet to get published... just sayin'.

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

Dear Mark,

Just wanted to send you some best wishes. Please heal fast. Prayers for a speedy recovery. All the best to you, your family and staff. Keep the faith, keep the heart, keep the dream. Always,

Travis Johnson

Crazy Horse Memorial

Ed. Note: Our friends at Crazy Horse must have heard about the boss getting a hip replacement. We have been supporting Crazy Horse for a long time, with our special "up on the monument" visits. The funds we pay for that help finance the creation of the Crazy Horse Monument. I think it's amazing that a man attacked a mountain with a jackhammer 70-some-odd years ago, and today there is a Native American school, and all kinds of things where there was nothing before. One man and a dream.

Mark,

I want to thank you again for allowing my family to travel back home on the **Sports Leisure** coach from Reno on your Christmas trip. I'm afraid we might still be stranded in Reno if not for you. The Southwest flights to get us home via Southern California were canceled, as was the Greyhound the next day!

My grandson is autistic and anything out of routine or unexpected is very difficult for him. Your sense of humor and matter of fact demeanor had a calming effect and really helped allay his fears.

I am so grateful to be a member of the

Sports Leisure family. Sincerely,

Karla Honeycutt

Ed. Note: Thank you for the letter. We were quite the band of travelers by the time we got home, four days late. I'm just glad we could bring your gang along!

Dear Mark,

On this last day of 2021, we want to wish you a Happy New Year! We also look back fondly at the wonderful **SLV** trips we were able to take with you, **Clayton, Chris** and **Scott** (and also **Tyler**)! We were glad the COVID restrictions were lifted enough to allow us vaccinated people to be on the road again. Thank you so much for all you do and have done over the years to create the wonderful **SLV** family of incredible tour guides.

Your continued good health is important to the future of the company, and we heard you are facing some surgery for your hand and a hip replacement after Key West. We send you our love, prayers and best wish for successful outcomes. Here's to a great 2022, "on the road again." Fondly,

Dan and Sue Clark

P.S. – We are still enjoying the "personal" candy bars we made on the Mystery Tour at Hershey's. Yum!

Ed. Note: One of the Christmas Mystery Tours went to **Gettysburg** (they have a wonderful Christmas festival) and **Hershey, PA**. Part of the Hershey visit was a "make your own candy bar" adventure. Next year, we may bring this trip back. It was a LOT of fun!

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

SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS

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

Or e-mail Mark or Clayton at:

markslt@aol.com
clayton@sportsleisure.com



Get Your Old Coins/Currency Appraised/Purchased

Have a bag, box, suitcase, or collection of coins you would like to have appraised? Mark would be happy to give you an honest appraisal and if you wish, a purchase offer. Call 916-361-2051 for an appointment for a free appraisal and find out what your treasures are worth. If you have a large collection or an estate, Mark can come to you.

Two quick coin collecting tips: Do not EVER buy coins (or gold or silver bullion) advertised on television. They are often not good investments and even when they are, they can be purchased at a better price elsewhere. If you have coins of your own, never, ever clean them. No matter how dirty they are, leave them in their natural state to preserve their value.



Longevity

- The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54; the inventor of gymnastics died at the age of 57; the world bodybuilding champion died at the age of 41; the best footballer in the world, Maradona, died at the age of 60.
- James Fuller Fixx is credited with helping start America's fitness revolution by popularizing the sport of running died of a heart attack while jogging at 52 years of age. BUT...
- The KFC inventor died at 94; inventor of Nutella brand died at the age of 88; cigarette maker Winston died at the age of 102; the inventor of opium died at the age of 116 in an earthquake; and the Hennessy Liquor inventor died at 98.
- The rabbit is always jumping up and down but it lives for only 2 years and the turtle that doesn't exercise at all, lives 400 years.

Keep Your Fork

There was a woman who was diagnosed with cancer and was given a few months to live. She contacted her pastor to discuss her funeral. She told him which songs she wanted sung and what scriptures she would like read. She also told him that she wanted to be buried with her favorite Bible. "There's one more thing," the woman said.

"Yes," was the reply? "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand." "Why is that," asked the pastor? The woman explained. "When I was growing up I attended all our church socials. My favorite part was right after the main course. I'd stack my plates and utensils, but the person clearing the dishes would lean over and say, 'You can keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming." It wasn't Jello or pudding. You didn't need a fork for that. It was chocolate cake or cherry pie!

"So I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: 'Something better is coming. You can keep your fork too'."

Two Pilots

An Airbus 380 is on it's way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h at 30,000 feet, when suddenly a Eurofighter with Tempo Mach 2 appears. The pilot of the fighter jet slows down, flies alongside the Airbus and greets the pilot of the passenger plane by radio: "Airbus, boring flight isn't it? Now have a look here!"

He rolls his jet on its back, accelerates, breaks through the sound barrier, rises rapidly to a dizzying height to the Airbus and asks, "Well, how was that?" The Airbus pilot answers: "Very impressive, but now you look!"

The jet pilot watches the Airbus, but nothing happens. It continues to fly stubbornly straight, with the same speed. After 15 minutes, the Airbus pilot radios, "Well, how was that?" Confused, the jet pilot asks, "What did you do?"

The Airbus pilot laughs and says, "I got up, stretched my legs, walked to the back of the aircraft to use the washroom, then got a cup of coffee and a chocolate fudge pastry.

The moral of the story is: This is called S.O.S.: Slower, Older, but Smarter.

Remember "Hollywood Squares," the Game Show?

Peter Marshall used to ask questions of celebrities and contestants had to decide if the answer was true or made up. At times, it was be hysterical. Here are a few of the best.

Q. Do female frogs croak?

A. **Paul Lynde:** If you hold their little heads under water long enough.

Q. If you're going to make a parachute jump, at least how high should you be?

A. **Charley Weaver:** Three days of steady drinking should do it.

Q. You've been having trouble going to sleep. Are you probably a man or a woman?

A. **Don Knotts:** That's what's been keeping me awake.

Q. According to Cosmopolitan, if you meet a stranger at a party and you think that he is attractive, is it okay to come out and ask him if he's married?

A. **Rose Marie:** No, wait until morning.

Q. What are 'Do It,' 'I Can Help,' and 'I Can't Get Enough'?

A. **George Gobel:** I don't know, but it's coming from the next apartment.

Q. Paul, why do Hell's Angels wear leather?

A. **Paul Lynde:** Because chiffon wrinkles too easily.

Q. Charley, you've just decided to grow strawberries. Are you going to get any during the first year?

A. **Charley Weaver:** Of course not, I'm too

busy growing strawberries.

Q. In bowling, what's a perfect score?

A. **Rose Marie:** Ralph, the pin boy.

Q. Back in the old days, when Great Grandpa put horseradish on his head, what was he trying to do?

A. **George Gobel:** Get it in his mouth.

Q. Jackie Gleason recently revealed that he firmly believes in them and has actually seen them on at least two occasions. What are they?

A. **Charley Weaver:** His feet.

Q. Paul, what is a good reason for pounding meat?

A. **Paul Lynde:** Loneliness! (The audience laughed so long and so hard it took up almost 15 minutes of the show!)

Q. According to Ann Landers, what are two things you should never do in bed?

A. **Paul Lynde:** Point and laugh.



Daycations & Theatre Outings

49-Mile Scenic San Francisco Drive

Wednesday, January 26

Leave the driving to us while rediscovering the history and sights in this beautiful "City by the Bay." Originally designed in 1938 for visitors to San Francisco's Golden Gate International Exposition, the *49er Drive* follows a route passing all the best known sights including City Hall and Civic Center, Chinatown, Russian and Nob Hills, Ocean Beach, Seal Rocks, Fisherman's Wharf, and the iconic Bay and Golden Gate Bridges. Craig Smith will serve as your informative guide for the day. Lunch is included with stunning ocean views (at no additional charge) at the Beach Chalet Restaurant in Golden Gate Park. **\$151**

Forest Trees and Under the Sea

California Academy of Science, San Francisco

Wednesday, February 9

Life-changing moments. World-changing science. Join us as we visit an aquarium, planetarium, rainforest and natural history museum all located under one amazing "living roof" in the heart of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Explore the amazing California Academy of Science at your own pace and enjoy lunch on your own at either of the museum's superb restaurants – Academy Café or Terrace Restaurant. **\$128**

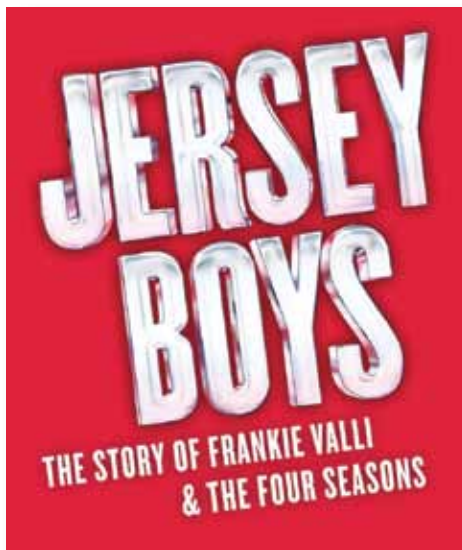
Dear San Francisco: A High-Flying Love Story

Club Fugazi, San Francisco

Saturday, February 12 – 2:00 pm

Coming to the theatre that was home to *Beach Blanket Babylon* for over three decades, Club Fugazi hosts a modern circus show on the stage, created expressly to pay homage to "The City by The Bay." Be one

of the first to see this new spectacle which includes French-inspired (think Cirque du Soleil) gravity-defying fetes, acrobatics, juggling and prose. A boxed lunch is served on the way with time afterwards to explore the shops and cafés of North Beach for an early dinner on your own. **\$195**



Jersey Boys

Gallo Center, Modesto

Tuesday, March 15 – 7:00 pm

They were just four guys from Jersey until they sang their very first note. They had a sound nobody had ever heard...and the public just couldn't get enough. But while their harmonies were perfect on stage, off stage it was a very different story – a story that has made them an international sensation all over again. Go behind the music and inside the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons in the Tony and Grammy Award-winning true-life musical phenomenon. From the streets of New Jersey to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, this is the musical that's just too good to be true. Dinner is included on the way to Modesto at the Canal Street Grille in Ripon. **\$210**

Dancing with the Stars: Live 2022 Tour!

Gallo Center, Modesto

Sunday, March 27 – 2:00 pm

America's favorite dance show is coming to Modesto and we've got tickets! Come see Brandon Armstrong, Alan

Bersten, Artem Chigvintsev, Sasah Farber, Daniella Karagach, Pasha Pashkov, Gleb Savchenko, Emma Slater, Britt Stewart and more perform time-honored dances like the Cha Cha, Foxtrot, Swing, Salsa, Tango... and everything in-between. Your favorite dancers from the show will take the stage in this theatrical spectacular you won't want to miss. Dinner is included at the Canal Street Grille on your return following the matinee performance. **\$228**

Swan Lake

Russian Ballet at the Marin Center, San Rafael

Wednesday, April 6 – 7:30 pm

After a successful 2019 US tour, the Russian Ballet Theatre returns to San Rafael with a must-see production of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's timeless classic! Choreographer Nadezhda Kalinina lovingly retouches the oldest St. Petersburg version of the ballet, creating a production which will undoubtedly leave you flushed with emotion. RBT's dancers bring her choreography to life along with exquisite new hand-painted sets and 150 hand-sewn costumes. The international mood of the evening is set with a full dinner served at Le Chateau Basque prior to the evening performance. With prime orchestra seating, this trip is strictly limited to only 30 travelers! **\$249**

An Evening with Michael Bolton

Gallo Center, Modesto

Thursday, April 7 – 7:30 pm

From "When a Man Loves a Woman" to "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You" and so many more, Michael Bolton's songs of love and tenderness have created the soundtrack of our lives. Join the Grammy Award-winner for an evening of timeless hits and a musical journey through pop, rock, soul and standards. Dinner is included on the way to Modesto at the Canal Street Grille in Ripon. **\$208**

Proud members of the



Joy Luck Club

CATS at the Nevada Theatre, Nevada City

Sunday, April 24 – 2:00 pm

The Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra (CATS) reprises one of their most beloved shows. Based on the best-selling book by Amy Tan, follow the lives and stories of four mothers and their daughters as they navigate changing cultures and roles for women in a modern world. An early lunch at Toffanelli's in Grass Valley is included prior to the matinee performance. **\$153**

Views from the Top

Tuesday, April 26

San Francisco is recognized for its undulating landscape of countless hills, 75 of which actually have names! With these differing elevations and vistas, San Francisco is truly a city offering a diversity of *views from the top*. With Craig Smith as guide, enjoy a stunning day of sights including a ride on Sky Star Wheel soaring nearly 15 stories over Golden Gate Park. Lunch is included at the Beach Chalet in the park with its beautiful view of the bay and Pacific Ocean. **\$165**



Where the Wild Things Are

Safari West

Wednesday, May 4

Nestled in the Sonoma foothills between Calistoga and Santa Rose lies a unique preserve for animals from around the world. Your time at Safari West includes an open-air tram ride out through the compound with a knowledgeable guide to see the animals up close and personal, followed by a walk through the aviaries and small animal compounds. A barbeque lunch is served on the grounds along with time to explore their

LAST CHANCE! LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE!

Harry Potter and The Cursed Child

Curran Theatre, San Francisco and included dinner

Sunday, March 13 – \$415

everything-animal gift shop before returning to Sacramento. **\$171**

Oh So Cheesy!

Petaluma and Sonoma County

Thursday, May 19

Join us on a visit to the Achadinha Cheese Company and Farm, a family operation led by Jim and Donna Pacheco and their four children. This family tradition of cheese-making began three generations ago in Achadinha, Portugal, then Vallejo and now Petaluma. Tour the farm and meet "the girls" (both cow and goat milk are used). See how their award-winning artisanal cheeses are made and have a chance to meet the rest of their animal family – beef cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, chickens, dogs, cats and ducks! Lunch is included at Pub Republic before a stop at the Petaluma Creamery for a sweet finish. **\$162**

The Presidio & Walt Disney Museum

Thursday, May 26

Once a military post under Spain, Mexico and the United States, the historic Presidio became an American military base and now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. With Craig Smith as guide, learn the history and ongoing transformations which include the popular Walt Disney Family Museum. Occupying one of the former Army barracks on the Main Parade Ground, the Disney Museum was created by his daughter to present the story of this creative genius and his legacy that continues to entertain and captivate people of all ages throughout the world. Lunch is included mid-day at the Presidio Golf Course Café. **\$161**

Friends We've Lost...

We pause for a moment to remember our fellow travelers, who have left us and are now traveling in a different universe. Farewell and Godspeed. Thank you for your love and your friendship. You will be missed.

**Mary Kennedy
June Wanish
Chuck Schepel
Charlotte Luallin
Theresa Davis**



New Vacations & Getaways

The Sound of Music in Leavenworth

Take the train to Washington State's Little Bavaria

4 Days • July 19-22

A

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights at the cozy Bavarian Lodge
- 2 nights of theater under the stars
- Train ride through the Cascade Mountains
- Unique shopping opportunities
- 7 meals: 3 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Seattle
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2050/2350 Gold Passport Points

One of our most popular getaways is back! It has a little bit of everything: Live theatre, stunning outdoor views, a train through beautiful country and the Old World charm of Bavaria without a passport!

1. Fly to Seattle where lunch is included on the waterfront. Shop for a few goodies unique to the Pacific Northwest at Pike Place Market. Tour the city and board Amtrak's *Empire Builder* for a ride through the majestic Cascade Mountains. A deluxe boxed dinner provided onboard. At the heart of the state you'll find Leavenworth, Washington's own

Little Bavaria. Your accommodations are located just across from the center of the village with a full breakfast included each day. **Bavarian Lodge – 3 nights (L,D)**

2. Surrounded by orchards, the community of Cashmere is the home of Liberty Orchards, makers of "Aplets and Cotlets" fruit and nut confections. Enjoy complimentary samples, time for shopping and tour the factory. The history of the region comes alive on a guided tour of the Cashmere Pioneer Village and Museum. Back in Leavenworth, enjoy lunch at your leisure and an optional walking tour of historic downtown. A hearty German dinner sets the mood tonight's performance of the popular musical *The Sound of Music*. Performed outdoors with the mountains of the Wenatchee Forest in the background, you'll feel like you're in the hills of Switzerland with the Family Von Trapp! **(FB,D)**

3. Travel alongside the mighty Columbia River to the Rocky Reach Dam, generating renewable energy since the 1960s. The new Discovery Center is yours to explore prior to lunch in a lovely mountain setting. Stop at a family-owned produce stand for a chance to buy locally grown valley fresh fruits and veggies! This evening, enjoy another night of theater under the stars (show TBA). **(FB,L)**

4. Bid farewell to Leavenworth and begin your journey westward with lunch in the small town of Snohomish. One-of-a-kind finds can be had at one of the many eclectic antique shops in town. Your flight from Seattle returns you home in the early evening. **(FB,L)**

\$2025 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2310 single

Mamma Mia! (Here we go again!) at Lake Tahoe

Presented by the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival

2 Days • August 4-5

M

After having to cancel the show last summer, the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival will try again to bring this popular musical to you this year. Here we go again! A midday motorcoach departure gets you to South Shore just in time to check into your hotel for the night, the popular **Lake Tahoe Resort**. Then head to the west side of the lake to Sand Harbor where a boxed dinner is served *al fresco* before a rollicking performance of *Mamma Mia!* Sing along with hits like "Dancing Queen," "Super Trouper" and of course "Mamma Mia!" You may even find yourself dancing in the aisles. Don't worry – at this show it's not just encouraged, it's expected!

After an included breakfast at the hotel on Day 2, you'll have some free time to wander the nearby shops or perhaps get a few pulls in at a machine in one of the casinos. Lunch and a live Magic Show are on tap at The Loft before heading back to Sacramento. No matter how many times a person visits Lake Tahoe it just never gets old – don't you agree?

This overnight package includes roundtrip deluxe motorcoach transportation, resort accommodations, three meals (1FB, 1L, 1D), theatre and magic show tickets, and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 750/850 Gold Passport Points

\$720 p.p./dbl.occ., \$825 single

Proud members of the



The Tour Calendar *(Previously Announced)*

All vacations listed in this section were announced in past publications and have limited space available. Don't worry if you've signed up for a tour you don't see listed – it's probably sold out. Dates don't jibe? We're likely advertising a second departure in this section. For day-by-day itineraries and complete details please refer to our 2022 Dream Book *Having the Time of your Life* or our website: www.sportsleisure.com.

Desert Beauty



Visit Anza-Borrego and Joshua Tree National Park

5 Days • February 28 – March 4

★ 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 1 night waterside in San Diego; 3 nights at the Agua Caliente Resort in Palm Springs
- 6 meals: 1 full breakfast, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to San Diego/from Ontario
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2750/3150 Gold Passport Points

\$2720 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3130 single

Take the Snow Train to Reno



Ride the California Zephyr through the Sierra Nevada

2 Days • March 1-2

★ Highlights ★

- Ride the rails through the Sierra Nevada
- Overnight at the Silver Legacy Casino/Resort
- Return to Sacramento by motorcoach
- 350/400 Gold Passport Points

\$335 p.p./dbl.occ., \$370 single

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

Spring Training



The Cactus League in Arizona with the Giants and A's, great dining, guest speakers

5 Days • March 10-14

If you are thinking about coming to Spring Training with us, now is the time to make your reservations. Tickets for the games will go on sale in November. In order to get the coveted *shaded* seats we need to get in early. Those who wait take a chance they will be shut out!

★ Highlights ★

- 5 Spring Training Games, each featuring the Giants or A's (or in one case, both)
- 7 meals, including daily breakfast, Sunday Brunch at the Wrigley Mansion and dinner at Rustler's Roost
- 4 nights Marriott Phoenix Airport – centrally located to all the ballparks
- Baseball Banquet one evening, featuring a player, coach or official from the Giants or the A's as a speaker
- Round trip airfare to/from Phoenix
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2600/3000 Gold Passport Points

\$2595 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2960 single

Nebraska: Honestly, it's not for everyone!

It's Sandhill Cranes, Prairie Chickens and the Kool-Aid Man

5 Days • March 21-25



★ Highlights ★

- Evening and morning viewing of cranes at Rowe Sanctuary
- Visit the Crane Trust Foundation
- Drive through the countryside with the local "Crane Guy"
- Check out the Kool-Aid exhibit at the Hastings Museum
- Spend the morning in Red Cloud, home to author Willa Cather
- Early morning "Chicken Dance" experience
- 10 meals: 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip air to Omaha/from Denver
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2600/2850 Gold Passport Points

\$2575 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2850

Fixin' Up Texas

Three presidents, two Fixer Uppers and one million bats!

6 Days • April 7-12



★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights Austin, 1 night College Station
- LBJ Library, State Capitol, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Congress Bridge Bats
- George H.W. Bush Library, Texas A&M University
- 2 nights in Downtown Waco on the Brazos River
- Famous "Fixer Uppers," Magnolia Market, The Silos and other show sites
- George W. Bush Presidential Center
- 10 meals: Daily breakfast, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip air to Austin/From Dallas
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Gold Passport Points: 2900/3350

\$2885 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3310 single

Springtime in Monterey #2

Stay at the luxurious Clement Intercontinental on Cannery Row



3 Days • April 10-12

★ Highlights ★

- Tour the magnificent Filoli House and Garden
- 2 nights on Cannery Row at The Clement Intercontinental
- Take a ride on famous 17 Mile Drive
- Visit Monterey Bay Aquarium
- 3 lunches incl. the Inn at Spanish Bay
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- Door-to-door service to/from the office
- 1300/1500 Gold Passport Points

\$1260 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1485 single

Pathways of Patriots



Trace the footsteps of American patriots from Colonial times to the present through the Commonwealth of Virginia

7 Days • April 25 – May 1

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights Prince William County – Manassas National Battlefield, Ben Lomond Historic Site, Occoquan, Effingham Manor Winery



- Semper Fidelis! Quantico National Cemetery, Museum, Marine Base
 - Richmond – Statehouse, American Civil War Museum, CSA White House
 - Colonial Williamsburg
 - 2 nights Norfolk – Virginia International Tattoo, NATOfest Parade of Nations
 - 12 meals: daily breakfast, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
 - Roundtrip airfare to Dulles/from Norfolk
 - Door-to-door airport service
 - 3450/3850 Gold Passport Points
- \$3445 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3840 single**

Relax on Catalina Island

Enjoy three nights in the heart of Avalon

4 Days • May 15-18 or October 16-19

★ **Highlights** ★

- 3 nights at the Pavilion Lodge
- Champagne Sunday Brunch along Long Beach's Shoreline Village,
- Be whisked away across "26 miles across the sea" on the high-speed *Catalina Express*
- Tour the historic Casino's grand Avalon Ballroom and theater
- Explore the island with a scenic guided tour and special "undersea" experience
- 3 meals: 1 brunch, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Southern California
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2000/2300 Gold Passport Points

\$1975 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2300 single

Chicago to St. Louis, Ride the Rails In-between

Celebrating 43 years on the road (and tracks) with Sports Leisure Vacations

7 Days • May 18-24

★ **Highlights** ★

- 3 nights each in downtown Chicago and St. Louis
- Tickets to the new pop musical *Six*
- Architectural cruise on the Chicago River; visit one of the city's world-class museums
- Go to the top of the Gateway Arch
- St. Louis City Tour – featuring lunch on The Hill (home to Yogi Berra), Route 66 (treats at Ted Drewes Frozen Yogurt) and the riverfront, Budweiser Brewery Tour
- Lunch and shopping in historic St.

Charles – see where the journey of Lewis & Clark began

- 12 meals: Daily breakfast, 5 lunches, 1 dinner
 - Roundtrip air to Chicago/from St Louis; Amtrak in-between
 - Door-to-door airport transportation
 - 3300/3850 Gold Passport Points
- \$3290 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3840 single**

Memorial Day in Washington, DC and Biden Country

Our Capital City experience is followed by a visit to Wilmington, Delaware

8 Days • May 26 – June 2

★ **Highlights** ★

- 5 nights at the Hilton Hotel Arlington
- Tour Washington, DC by day and night
- Visit Arlington National Cemetery, the US 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
- Visit Mt. Vernon or the new National Museum of the US Army
- Tour sites in and around Wilmington in the heart of Biden Country
- 13 meals: Daily breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to Washington National/ from Philadelphia
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 3250/3550 Gold Passport Points

\$3225 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3535 single

Secrets of Santa Fe

Featuring majestic scenery, Los Alamos and Bandelier National Monument

5 Days • June 4-8

★ **Highlights** ★

- 4 nights in a beautiful hotel 2 blocks from the Central Plaza
- Savor authentic Southwest cuisine
- Guided tour of the Palace of the Governors & visit the one-of-a-kind State Capitol Building
- Visit Los Alamos where the atomic bomb was created
- Tour Bandelier National Monument with a

naturalist guide

- Immerse yourself in the art of famed Canyon Road
 - 8 meals: 4 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
 - Roundtrip airfare to/from Albuquerque
 - Door-to-door airport transportation
 - 2300/2600 Gold Passport Points
- \$2285 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2580 single**

Roll On Mighty Columbia

One of our country's grandest waterways – a river that helped shape the nation

4 Days • June 12-15

★ **Highlights** ★

- 3 nights at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn – all rooms with a view of the Columbia
 - Visit the Vancouver Farmer's Market and Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center
 - Daily/early evening excursions along/on the river, featuring the Maryhill Museum & Winery and a ride aboard the Mount Hood Railroad into the Hood River Valley
 - 7 meals: 3 full breakfasts, Sunday Brunch at the historic Columbia Gorge Hotel, 2 lunches, 1 dinner cruise on the Columbia
 - Roundtrip airfare to/from Portland
 - Door-to-door airport transportation
 - 1900/2150 Gold Passport Points
- \$1885 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2105 single**

Newfoundland – Welcome to The Rock!

Home to unparalleled natural beauty and friendly folks

14 Days • June 23 – July 6

★ **Highlights** ★

- A comprehensive Newfoundland tour, with a wee taste of both Nova Scotia and Labrador
- Multiple ferries and cruises – these are the Atlantic Provinces after all
- 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Multiple days in spectacular Gros Morne National Park
- Celebrate Canada Day and July 4th
- 27 meals: 13 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 10 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare SFO/ Halifax and St John's/SFO
- Door-to-door airport transportation



- 7700/8600 Gold Passport Points
\$7700 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8590 single
Only 6 seats/3 rooms remain – must travel double occupancy.
This tour requires a valid passport!

Oregon – From the Coast to Lewis & Clark to Covered Bridges

Coastal Oregon calls you with natural beauty, history and million-dollar sunsets

6 Days • June 26 – July 1

★ Highlights ★

- Overnight Astoria, 3 nights with ocean views in Newport, overnight in Eugene
- Vancouver Farmer's Market, Astoria Column
- Visit Yaquina Head Lighthouse, shopping at Blue Heron Cheese Company
- Marine Discovery Cruise on Newport Bay, the best educational cruise in the country
- The Oregon Aquarium, Albany Carousel talk and ride
- 11 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Portland
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2300/2750 Gold Passport Points
\$2270 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2745 single

The Pageant of the Masters

An artistic extravaganza like none other in Southern California

3 Days – July 17-19 or August 28-30

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights – Newport Beach Hotel & Spa
- Excellently located reserved loge seating for *The Pageant of the Masters*
- Behind-the-scenes presentation about the Pageant
- Champagne brunch cruise on beautiful Newport Harbor
- Visit the popular 19th Century vacation destination Balboa
- 3 meals: 1 brunch, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Southern California
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 1900/2150 Gold Passport Points
\$1855 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2140 single

Michigan & Mackinac

Stay three nights in GRAND style on North America's favorite island

7 Days • September 18-24

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights – Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island
- Overnight stays in Grand Rapids, Traverse City and the Bavarian village of Frankenmuth
- Visit the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum and The Music House
- See Mackinac Island by carriage tour; visit the butterfly conservatory and historic Fort Mackinac
- Scenic tour of Frankenmuth and Bronner's Christmas Wonderland
- History abounds at The Henry Ford Museum's Greenfield Village
- 15 meals: Daily breakfast, 3 lunches, 6 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to Grand Rapids/from Detroit
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 4350/5100 Gold Passport Points
\$4335 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5095 single

Bonjour, La Belle Quebec! #2

French countryside, historic Quebec City and cosmopolitan Montreal...it's all here!

8 Days • September 20-27

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights in a French Bed & Breakfast with home cooked meals
- Brilliant fall colors in the beautiful

Charlevoix Region

- 2 nights in 4-star accommodations in Quebec City
- Visit Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Basilica & Montmorency Falls
- Tour Montreal, including Notre Dame Basilica
- 15 meals: 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Montreal
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 4700/5450 Gold Passport Points
\$4675 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5430 single
This vacation requires a valid passport!

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Featuring deluxe access to the Chasers Lounge and Gondola Club

5 Days • October 4-8

★ Highlights ★

- Balloon Glow, Special Shapes, Mass Ascension – 3 spectacular balloon events
- Upgraded seating in the Chasers Lounge and Gondola Club
- Ride the Sandia Peak Aerial Tram
- Tour the Turquoise Museum
- Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Festival
- 8 Meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Albuquerque
- 2900/3250 Gold Passport Points
\$2870 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3250 single





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Early Registration Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Friday, March 2, 2022**; or may be withdrawn when 50% of the available space has been reserved. To receive the discount you must pay in full with ten days of registration. If you accept this option the monies paid (less a \$20 administrative fee), including the cost of Cancellation Protection, are returned to you if you cancel more than 60 days prior to departure for US and Canadian tours, or 75 days prior for International tours, regardless of the reason for cancellation. Inside the time limits noted above restrictions on refunds apply. See the **Special Vacation Notes & Information** brochure for complete details.

May & Oct. – Relax on Catalina Island – **Save \$40**

May – Memorial Day in Washington, DC – **Save \$50**

August – Mamma Mia! – **Save \$20**

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VALUABLE COUPON

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

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

TOUR UPDATE...

Two lists of multi-day vacations which are sold out or have only a limited amount of space remaining (10 or fewer seats, number in parenthesis). Waiting Lists are available for sold out tours. Daycations are not included in these lists.

Sold-Out Tours

Key West	Moab/Red Rocks to Rockies
South Dakota	Springtime in Monterey #1 & 2
Skagit Valley Tulip Festival	Ferries/Towns of Puget Sound
Alaska Aurora Borealis	Canada Coast to Coast by Rail
Colorful Carolina Coast	Cruising the St. Lawrence River
Springtime in Yosemite	Winter in Yellowstone
Reno Balloon Festival	Take the Snow Train to Reno-Feb.
Bonjour Quebec #1 (Oct.)	NYC/Behing B'way & The Bronx
San Juan Explorer Cruise	Fall for Niagara Falls-May & Sept.
Oregon Chocolate Festival	Ferries/Islands/Towns of Cape Cod #1 & 2

Limited Space

Santa Fe (7)	Leavenworth #1 (1)
Desert Beauty (7)	Pathways of Patriots (3)
New Orleans #1 (3)	Reno Balloon Festival (3)
New Orleans #2 (1)	Springtime in Monterey #2 (4)
Spring Training (9)	Chicago to St. Louis by Rail (8)
Fixin' Up Texas (7)	Roll on Mighty Columbia (4)
Newfoundland (6)	Pageant of the Masters-July (6)
Oregon Coast (2)	Pageant of the Masters-Aug. (3)
Nebraska (3)	Michigan & Mackinac (6)
Kauai & Maui (1)	