



The Sports Leisure TRAVELER

6,121 Active Members • 59,324 Members Since 1979

JAN./FEB. | VOL. 44 | NO. 3 2023

Sounds of Johnny Cash Coming Soon!

Mark Alan Cash in concert – exclusive Travel Club member concert

Save the Date – June 11 or 12

On January 13, 1968, **Johnny Cash** performed two concerts at Folsom Prison. His hit song, **Folsom Prison Blues**, reached number one on the country charts in 1955, so his name was well known inside the walls.

This June, the historic **Lincoln Highway** will hold their annual conference in Folsom. So **Sports Leisure Vacations** is bringing in Johnny's nephew, **Mark Alan Cash**, to sing for the attendees. Mark recently performed at the **National Tour Association's** annual gathering in Reno. Mark and Clayton were amazed he sounded so much like his famous uncle. They booked him for the **Lincoln**

Highway's opening night dinner. He will stay in town and play a concert for us!

The concert will be free to **Travel Club Members**. The date and details will be announced in the March newsletter. There is no list to get your name on. Just stand by for more details and get ready for an afternoon in **The Ring of Fire**.

New Snow Train Overnighter Added

Suddenly, there is more snow in the mountains than you've ever imagined. What better way to enjoy the winter scenery than from the comfort of the **California Zephyr**? Our first trip is full, so we've added a second. You can find details on the **Previously Announced Tours** pages. It's the very first trip. The Sierras are beautiful when they are covered with snow... let's go!

Friends We've Lost

Richard (Dick) McClellan
Wally Cuchine
Barbara Haviland
Don Goens
Edward Pelley
Sharon Smith-Hansgen

*The masthead photo captures our group aboard the **American Queen** last October. Would you like to join them? Call Michael Downer to book a place on our fall 2023 departure!*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Just One Man's Opinion	2
Clayton Place	3
Customers Always Write	4
Human Side.....	5
Daycations and Theatre Outings	6-8
The Barber Pole	8
New Vacations and Getaways	9-11
Teasers and Mystery Tours	12
The Tour Calendar.....	13-19
Tour Updates.....	Back Page

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

Moments on the Road That Stand Out

Working building tours the past month has led me to awesome discoveries which are bound to make your travels memorable. For example... The western half of **Route 66** in early October will include two nights in Albuquerque during the **Balloon Fiesta**. Not only



do you get to spend time in Santa Fe (part of the original alignment of Route 66), but you'll be able to be a part of a couple of balloon launches. Scott Angeletti tells me the **Special Shapes** event is cool, and we will get to see it!

Tyler was helping put the tour together and he got to talk to **Harley** at the **Sand Hills Curiosity Shop** in **Erick, Oklahoma**. If you talk to Tyler, ask him about Harley (who is absolutely one of the craziest characters I have ever met on the road). We'll meet Harley in person on the old highway, along with a bunch of other characters, on both the eastern and western sides of the road.

On the **Pilgrimage to Plains** in the fall, after leaving Jimmy Carter's hometown you'll spend a little time in Alabama, with the last night of the tour in Selma. There you'll meet **Joanne Bland**, a tour guide who has experienced the civil rights battle since she

was a little. She'll talk about what she's seen and what **she's been a part of**. You'll have the opportunity to walk over the Edmund Pettus Bridge, part of a tragic but historic day. She will bring living history at its best.

We scour the landscape looking for things like these to include in the itinerary, because I love meeting special people and being a part of awesome experiences (like hundreds of balloons in the air). They are examples of what our travels are about whenever possible, the opportunity to meet the people and, for a brief time, be a part of their lives. There are dozens of these experiences on these pages.

Once again this September, our travelers in South Dakota will have the opportunity to stand atop **Crazy Horse Mountain** on the carving, to get a view very few **ever** get. You and the mountain, for a brief time, are one.

I was reminded of the value of special travel moments when the **Christmas Mystery Tour** stopped in **Santa Claus, IN** recently. The community works every year to answer tens of thousands of letters to old Saint Nick which end up in their hands. **Tens of thousands. Every year.**

For a couple of hours, we helped answer the letters. Reading some of the kids' letters will change how you view the holiday, because not every child asks for toys or video games. Some ask Santa to fix their family, or bring them money so they can eat. Being a small part of that project was so special. Those moments are why travel

enhances our lives. Not only the lives of travelers, but the lives of those we touch on our journeys.

Clayton or I Would Like to Speak to Your Group

Through the years, I have found one of the best ways to promote our company is face-to-face. We used to do a lot of speaking engagements at senior centers and other gatherings.

Now, we'd like to restore some of that method of advertising/promotion. Perhaps you belong to a group which includes speakers as a part of their meetings/programs. Maybe you would consider inviting your favorite travel company? Or sending us the contact information and we'll follow up.

The program can be from 15-30 minutes, and can focus on travel, giving your groups some valuable travel tips, and talk about putting together **The Travel Guys Radio Show**, without talking too much about **Sports Leisure**. Less commercial.

If your group would like to know more about what we do, we can shift the focus a bit to some of our trips. Or, if you would rather have a program **not** focused on travel, I'd be happy to make a presentation on coins, and invite members of your group to get appraisals for their personal stash of old coinage. Perhaps they have some treasures?

Regardless of the subject, if you help us set up a speaking presentation for your group, **we will reward you with a \$200 travel certificate**. If more than one person makes the recommendation, you can share the bounty.

Drop me a note at marksit@aol.com and I'd be happy to follow up with you. **Clayton** is also available as a travel speaker.

And so it goes,

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



Santa's Sports Leisure elves hard at work answering letters sent to the Big Guy

Hello Traveling Friends!

At **Tour Preview Day** back in August we polled each person present to give us their dream destination. By far the majority of you named places off the North American continent. Mark published the list in order on page 5 of the November/December edition of *The Traveler*... then I got to work! The task was made easier because the National Tour Association met in November, giving Mark and me the opportunity to reconnect with many of our international tourism partners who can help us turn your dreams into realities in the coming months!

We are working on a land tour (not a cruise) to **Australia** for 2024. **Portugal and the Azores** are still very much on the radar screen. Sadly the tourism infrastructure on the islands took quite a beating due to the pandemic and their recovery has been slow. I continue to monitor the situation. I'm also gathering information on an all-Czechia (**Czech Republic** in English) land tour (not a river cruise) that would feature a multi-day visit to magnificent Prague and a leisurely survey of the country beyond the Capital City. Our planned tour to **Holland, Belgium and France** was lost to the pandemic in

2020, but I'm working to bring that one back, too, in '24 or '25. There's also a train trip around **Switzerland** that caught my eye.

Additionally I'm exploring an itinerary through the Baltic countries of **Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania** for 2024. I'll confess none of these countries were on your lists. But these less-explored destinations (I'd also put **Czechia** on this list) represent amazing value right now at a time when all travel, especially international, is seeing unprecedented price increases.

Canada also rated very high in the poll. Don't overlook summer tours to **Atlantic Canada** and **Victoria** in the 2023 Dream Book that still have availability. Brief descriptions and pricing are in these pages, and complete information is available online or by calling the office. Those who got shut out of **Riding the Rails through the Canadian Rockies** can rest assured **Scott Angeletti** is working on additional departures in '24. Former staffer **Ramona Goodge** loved **Mexico's Copper Canyon**. Our partner tour operator who manages the train and hotel space in the Canyon is back in business and eager for our return visit. Stay tuned for more information on these and other new international destinations in future publications and online.

There are two amazing destinations I've decided to roll out this year. One is **Scotland**, and you'll find the itinerary and pricing in these pages for our planned August departure. Those on our 2022 Ireland tour

got the first opportunity to book and half the seats are already taken. Don't delay if donning your family tartan this year is high on your list! The second is **Greece**. I don't have pricing yet, but the itinerary and dates are set. Send a note to res@sportsleisure.com or call the office to have your name added to the **Priority Notification List** and we'll get you complete information soon!

Heritage Paths of Ancient Greece – Athens and the Magical Isle of Santorini

October 11, 2023 – Fly to Athens, Greece

- 12 Arrive in Athens for two nights
- 13 Athens sightseeing
- 14 Mycenae – Epidauros – Nauplio – Olympia for the night
- 15 Olympia – Delphi for the night
- 16 Delphi – Meteora for the night
- 17 Return to Athens for the night
- 18 Ferry to Santorini for two nights
- 19 A free day on the isle of Santorini
- 20 Return to Athens from Santorini for the night
- 21 Return to the USA from Athens

"Your Tour Guy,"

Clayton Whitehead, CTP
President

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

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

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



The Customers Always Write

Supporting the Mustard Seed School – Part of the Loaves and Fishes Ministry

Hello Angela:

Back in 2021 when we were doing our annual fund-raiser for Mustard Seed, a client asked if she might buy school supplies and donate them. Of course I told her yes!

Sadly she passed away shortly thereafter. However her daughter recently contacted me and said her mother had bought lots of stuff “for me.” She delivered it all to my office shortly thereafter.

It's all new and, despite the fact it's been sitting around for over a year, it was well-packaged and clean. There are 10 backpacks along with lots of paper, notebooks, rulers, crayons, etc.

Many thanks! God bless you, your team and your students.

Clayton

Hi Mark,

I had to chuckle this week as I was reading the current “Traveler”... I turned immediately to the ‘friends we have lost’ section... I am just like your travelers. Anyway, reading that list always brings up fond memories of shared good times. Thank you for doing that...

Looks like the “new normal” of travel has a new set of challenges. I hope that the next few months/next year get easier for the staff and travelers.

All good up here in Placerville. Keeping very busy with church activities and community projects... and 7 rescued goats!

All the best to you and the gang! Happy Thanksgiving!

Ramona

Ed. Note: Many of you remember **Ramona Goodge**, who was our General Manager before heading to the hills to be a minister. It was great to hear from her.

Mark –

Have you ever observed someone exiting a vehicle parked in a handicapped space and thought to yourself “they look

perfectly able-bodied; why do they have a handicapped placard?” I confess I have thought that more than once. However, since I now have issues with my back, I no longer silently judge (or misjudge) another's abilities.

On the surface, it appears I walk with a cane, which should not qualify me for wheelchair assistance. However, I cannot walk airport distances (depending on the airport) without pain or stand in line without pain, so wheelchair assistance allows me to maneuver the airport with less pain and in a timely manner. Since I have always been fiercely independent, I dislike having any kind of assistance and am always mindful of others whose need is much greater than mine.

I know your Barber Pole comments were meant to bring attention to shortages of wheelchair assistance and those gaming the system, but I just want to point out that we can't judge another until we have walked a mile in their painful shoes.

Sincerely, Caroline Poulton

Ed. Note: Thank you for sharing Caroline. You are absolutely right, it's difficult to judge other's needs for assistance (unless you overhear them discussing gaming the system personally). Here's the downside. When folks who don't really need assistance request a wheelchair or other help, like early boarding, it makes it **way more difficult** for people who truly need the help. Appreciate you weighing in.

Hi Mark –

I took my first post-Covid day trip to SF for *Ain't To Proud* yesterday. It has been 3 years for health and Covid stuff so I was afraid. Well I was so welcomed and embraced it felt really good. I saw so many old friends. They all remembered me and welcomed me. It was a terrific trip and Donnie was constantly checking in with us all and feeding us too. Now the memories are flooding back because I have not read the news letters in a long time because I was unable to make the trips. I am going to plan soon on other trips because you have good people working for

you and nice sympathetic people who take your trips.

Carol Barr

Dear Mark,

This afternoon I learned that Wally Cuchine passed away in mid-September. I wonder if you already knew that? I had no idea. It seems it was a normal day for Wally and he passed away suddenly at his computer after taking his morning walk. He didn't show up for lunch at the Senior Center that day and they sent someone to check on him. Another Nevada Legend gone too soon.

Sue Barton, Lake Tahoe Visitor's Authority

Ed. Note: If you ever made the trip across **Hwy 50** in Nevada, then you got to meet **Wally**. He lived in Eureka, Nevada, a tiny town along the road in the middle of nowhere. Wally's walking tour of the local cemetery was legendary. Wally would tell you all the gossip and stories about the people who “resided” there. It was arguably the most entertaining thing I've ever been a part of on tour.

Wally was one of a kind. He was kind and caring, always had a smile and a kind word for travelers, and was one of the greatest storytellers of all time. Just typing this brings a tear to my eye. Farewell Wally, thanks for making all of us laugh. I'm gonna miss you.



Our old friend Wally Cuchine holding court for one of our groups at the Eureka Opera House

Deciding What to Keep

When Mom was cleaning out her house over 23 years ago to sell it, I wasn't very sympathetic over her attachment to things. I would go over on weekends to help her and we would go through things, things for a yard sale, to donate, to throw away.

I would usually get upset over how long it was taking her to decide. For instance, we were going through kitchen cabinets and she spent 20 minutes looking at an iron kettle with a lid. Finally I said, "Mom, at this rate it is going to take us another two years." She told me that her mother used to make meals in that kettle and leave them at doorsteps of neighbors during the depression, Mom would deliver them, and then they would reappear back to her with an apron, or a wood carving, something in return for the meal. I realized that everything that my Mom was going through was really a reliving of her life.

If you are reading this and are under the age of 60, you probably won't *"get it."* You haven't lived long enough. Most of you have not had to move your parents into a nursing home, or empty their home. You haven't lived long enough to realize that the hours you spend picking out the right cabinets, or the perfect tile will not be what matters in the later years. It will be the handmade toothbrush holder, or a picture that you got on vacation.

So, if your parents are downsizing, and moving to smaller places, or selling a home, give your Mom and your Dad a break. Those things that you don't understand why they can't just pitch, and why you think you know what needs to be tossed or saved -- relax, give them a little time to make their decisions. They are saying goodbye to their past, and realizing that they are getting ready for their end of life, while you may have many years ahead.

Listen to their stories, because in 30 years, when you are going through those boxes and the memories return, it will be hard to get rid of those plastic champagne flutes that you and your late spouse used at a New Years party 30 years ago!

What Does Love Mean?

Remember **Art Linkletter**, who had a TV program where at the end of show, he asked kids questions. Kids, you know, "say the darnedest things..." These little treasures printed here were shared by a Travel Club Member.

The following question was posed to 4 to 8-year-olds... **"What is Love?"** Their answers were deeper and more profound than anyone could have imagined!

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore... So my grandfather does it for her, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

Rebecca – age 8

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs."

Chrissy – age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired."

Terri – age 4

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen." (Wow.)

Bobby – age 7

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

Tommy – age 6

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

Mary Ann – age 4

"I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones."

Lauren – age 4

And the winner was a 4-year-old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

Deep Down We Know

A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash.

At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win. All, that is, except one boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry.

They slowed down and looked back. They all turned around and went back. Every one of them. One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." All nine linked arms and walked across the finish line together. Everyone in the stadium stood, and the cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story. Why? Because deep down we know this one thing: What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What truly matters in this life is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course a little.

Helpful Relationship Information

Always make sure **SOMEONE** in the relationship has good credit. That's why it's called **SIGNIFICANT** other. **Sign-if-I-can't.**

The book on marriage says, "Treat your wife like you treated her on the first date." So after dinner, I dropped her off at her parent's house...

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:

marks1t@aol.com
clayton@sportsleisure.com



Daycations and Theatre Outings

Jay Leno

Gallo Center, Modesto

Saturday, February 25 – 4:00 pm

Acclaimed TV late night show host, admired stand-up comedian, bestselling children's book author, much-in-demand corporate speaker, TV and movie voice-over artist, pioneering car builder and mechanic, and philanthropist... Jay Leno is widely characterized as "the hardest working man in show business." His late night television domination included two decades as the host of the #1-rated "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." This will be Jay's second appearance at the Gallo Center. His two shows sold out then, and these two will as well. Lunch is included before the show.

\$215

SIX

Orpheum Theatre*

Wednesday, March 15 – 1:00 pm

The six wives of King Henry VIII (divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived) take the microphone to remix a five hundred year old story of historical heartbreak into an euphoric celebration of 21st Century girl power! This new musical is a global sensation... some even losing their heads over it! *SIX* won 23 awards in the 2021/22 Broadway season including the Tony Award for Best Original Score and the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical.

\$267

Elvis the Musical

East Sonora Theater

Thursday, March 23 – 2:00 pm

This official Elvis Presley bio-musical takes a closer look at the rock star and cultural icon whose impact shaped the history of music and culture. *Elvis The Musical* spans from his impoverished childhood in Tupelo, Mississippi to his triumphant 1968 "Comeback Special," and his ascent to be "The King." Featuring over 40 Elvis hits and iconic songs! Lunch is included prior to show. **\$157**

Fiddler on the Roof

Gallo Center, Modesto

Tuesday, March 28 – 7:00 pm

Audiences across North America are toasting a new production of *Fiddler on the Roof*! Rich with musical hits you know and love including "Tradition," "Sunrise, Sunset," "If I Were A Rich Man," and "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," *Fiddler on The Roof* is the heartwarming story of fathers and daughters, husbands and wives, and life, love and laughter. Featuring a talented cast, lavish orchestration, and stunning movement and dance from Israeli choreographer Hofesh Shechter based on the original staging by Jerome Robbins, *Fiddler on the Roof* will introduce a new generation to the uplifting celebration that raises its cup to life, l'chaim!

\$234

Cherry Blossom Festival

Saturday, April 8

This will be the 56th year of the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival in San Francisco's Japantown. The festival is said to be the second largest of its kind outside of Washington DC! There will be much for you to explore and experience with food booths, cultural performances, martial arts, live bands and more! Plan to spend about four hours exploring the festival. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Bring a light jacket and hat for protection. Lunch is on your own at the festival. **\$91**

Day Out in San Francisco

Saturday, April 8

Over the years many have asked for an unstructured day in San Francisco – a day when you can do exactly what you wanted... whenever, wherever and however you choose. Your wish has just been granted! We will drive you from Sacramento to *The City by the Bay*, dropping you off at your choice of Westfield Mall or Pier 39. You'll be on your own for lunch, shopping and/or sightseeing for approximately four hours. Have a great day out in San Francisco! **\$91**

Easter at Ironstone

Sunday, April 9

Celebrate Easter at Ironstone Vineyards near Murphys overlooking its green vineyards and lush orchards. Following a bountiful Easter Sunday Brunch buffet there will be free time to stroll through Ironstone's beautiful buildings and gardens, explore the history museum and do a little shopping. You can even watch the children on the lawns engaged in a spirited Easter egg hunt! The drive to and from Murphys through the foothills and gold rush towns is equally relaxing and beautiful. **\$146**

Giants – A's Ballpark Express for 2023

Thanks to the Giants for making it possible for us to announce our regular season schedule of trips to the ballpark well in advance. Our seats for all games are in the lower level (see below). There are no games in Oakland at this time. Reason: Not enough interest and for the last several years, the ladies complain a LOT about the poor facilities at the park (and they are right).

***Thurs., Apr. 27 – Cardinals – \$145**

***Wed., May 17 – Phillies (NL Champions) – \$130**

****Sun., June 11 – Cubs – \$141**

****Wed., July 26 – Oakland A's – \$141**

****Sun., July 30 – Red Sox – \$160**

****Sun., Aug. 13 – Rangers**

(w/Mgr Bruce Boche) – \$141

****Sat., Sept. 30 & Sun., Oct. 1**

(overnight trip, including Hyatt Regency Hotel in SF, breakfast and 2 games) –

LA Dodgers \$635 p.p./dbl.occ., \$755 single

*Seats for these two games in section 127, lower level, under the overhang (shaded)

**Seats for these games in section 129, lower level, under the overhang (shaded)

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



Come From Away

*Golden Gate Theatre**

Wednesday, April 12 – 1:00 pm

Experience one of the most uplifting stories from one of the darkest days in history. Amid the terror and chaos of September 11, 2001, a small community opened its homes and hearts to 7000 stranded airline passengers... along with 11 dogs, 9 cats and 2 Bonobo chimpanzees, all arriving on one of 28 planes grounded there. The story of what happened in Gander, Newfoundland for five inspiring days 20+ years ago inspired the heartfelt Broadway hit *Come From Away*. Now this same musical is here to help us emerge from another dark time: The corona virus shutdown. **\$239**

Wildflowers and Roses

Tuesday, April 25

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

Andrea Bocelli LIVE at the Golden 1 Center

Friday, May 12 – 8:00 pm

International musical sensation Andrea Bocelli returns to Sacramento this spring and we have tickets! Our seats will be in the lower bowl – exact location unconfirmed at press time. Come along and leave the driving, downtown navigation and parking to us. Bocelli was born sight impaired, then became totally blind following a football injury at age 12. His star began to rise in 1994 upon winning a prestigious Italian music festival competition, and as they say the rest is history. His 27 studio albums have sold over 75 million copies worldwide. He even has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame! Thanks to PBS, and especially our own KVIE, for bringing this amazing

performer to the American people over the years. As wonderful as his televised concerts are, nothing can top seeing him LIVE! **\$348**

Riverdance

Gallo Center, Modesto

Tuesday, May 16 – 7:00 pm

This is *Riverdance* as you've never seen or heard it before – a powerful and stirring re-invention of this beloved favorite, celebrated the world-over for its Grammy award-winning score and the excitement, energy and dynamism of its Irish and International Dance. Twenty five years on, renowned composer Bill Whelan brings this mesmerizing soundtrack back to life, completely revitalized for the first time since the original orchestral recording. This 25th anniversary production features innovative and spectacular lighting, projection, staging and costume design, plus an all-new finale number that will blow you away. **\$210**

The Book of Mormon

*Orpheum Theatre**

Wednesday, May 24 – 1:00 pm

With music, lyrics and book by Trey Parker and Matt Stone (of "South Park" fame), and Robert Lopez, *The Book of Mormon* is a satirical, yet heartfelt look at the beliefs and practices of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The story focuses on Elder Price and Elder Cunningham, two young Mormon missionaries, as they attempt to preach the faith to the inhabitants of a remote Ugandan village who are distracted by the more pressing issues of AIDS, famine, genital mutilation, child molestation and oppression by a local warlord. The missionaries are forced to dig deep, determine what they really believe, then have the faith to make it happen. Winner of nine 2011 Tony Awards including Best Musical and a Grammy for Best Musical Theatre Album. Warning: Strong language is used that some may find offensive. **\$264**

Madame Butterfly

San Francisco Opera

Sunday, June 18 – 2:00 pm

Puccini's heartbreaking tale of innocence, betrayal and sacrifice returns in a bold and

beautiful production conducted by musical director Eun Sun Kim and directed by Amon Miyamoto. You'll experience this classic through the eyes of Cio-Cio-San's son Trouble who is waiting for a father he's never met. Will he be welcomed with open arms, or will he feel the same disappointment his Mother does on his Father's long awaited return? When making your reservation please indicate your choice of Orchestra or Dress Circle seating. **\$227 Orchestra, \$243 Dress Circle**

Les Miserables

*Orpheum Theatre**

Wednesday, July 12 – 1:00 pm

The Tony, Grammy and Academy Award winning musical that first hit the Broadway stage in 1987 is back with a fresh, young cast moving audiences to tears all over again. The story opens in France in 1815 as Jean Valjean, a man condemned to 19 years of hard labor for stealing a loaf of bread, finds only hatred and suspicion when he is released on parole. After meeting one man who believes in him, Valjean is inspired to break parole and begin a new life... closely pursued by the self-righteous police inspector Javert. The soaring musical score – perhaps the greatest ever pinned for the Broadway stage – at once fuels hope, despair, love, hatred, courage and ultimately redemption as Valjean transitions from prison to a new life, through the barricade of freedom and ultimately to his eternal home. *Les Miserables* is a story for the ages and never grows old! **\$218**

Aladdin

*Orpheum Theatre**

Thursday, August 3 – 1:00 pm

In the middle-eastern town of Agrabah, Princess Jasmine feels trapped by her father's desire to find her a royal groom. Meanwhile, the Sultan's right-hand man, Jafar, is plotting to take over the throne. When Jasmine sneaks out of the palace incognito, she forms an instant connection with Aladdin, a charming street urchin and reformed thief. After being discovered together, Aladdin is sentenced to death, but Jafar saves him by ordering him to fetch a

Continued on page 8

The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

Topics of interest to TRAVEL CLUB MEMBERS

If We Hear the Words “Atmospheric River” one more time...

It appears the long stretch of rain is finally taking a pause. Thankfully. Only two trips were lost to the storms, our Christmas journey to **Silverton/Mt. Angel, Oregon** and the final **Ramses The Great** trip to San Francisco (which has been rescheduled for the end of this month). The Oregon trip will return as a non-holiday tour in August (see the Teaser page).

We had two staff members with trees on their houses (Tyler and Jim), and one (Serina) who practically had to swim to work from Wilton. A little **too** much of a good thing? The good news is there is snow in the mountains. We have added an additional **Reno Snow Train** at the end of February if you'd like to see what the Donner Party saw.

COVID Update

So far, the newest variant hasn't caused a serious spike in infections. **Please** consider getting a current booster shot if you haven't

already. It not only helps protect you, but it helps our medical system stay intact. At this time, you still need a vaccination and a booster to travel. **If we get through the winter without an infection spike, that requirement will likely be dropped sometime this spring.**

If you have questions/comments on our COVID policy, Mark/Clayton are happy to speak to you about it. We continue to ask travelers for input on this issue, so we can try and keep people safe without too many rules and restrictions.

Getting on a “List” for Upcoming Trips

You see it in every newsletter/catalog we print (see page 00). There are always “teasers”, where we ask you to indicate your interest in a trip by calling or writing and asking to have your name added to a **Priority Information List**. When you do so, you are not registered for the tour. You are just guaranteed that when the information is available, you and others on the list will hear about it first.

In our most recent catalog, we had a handful of trips with printed itineraries,

but no dates or pricing. We invited you to formally register for the trip(s), await the pricing and date info, then decide if you wanted to travel. In that case, your space was held until you informed us of your decision. Slightly different from a **PNL**.

We also want to remind you those lists are **only for extended tours. We do not offer any sort of list for day trips (including theater).** For those, you must wait until the newsletter is released and call in for reservations.

Couple of Staff Updates

Serina Jordan and **Tyler Geraldts** have both recently been promoted. Serina has been Bob's accounting assistant for the past six years, and will still be lending him a hand. Her added responsibilities will be in the role of **Office Manager**, taking some of the administrative load off other office staff.

Tyler is working in the office, taking your phone calls and helping with a wide variety of work, including escorting some day trips. He had previously assisted Mark on the road and been the tour director for our baseball trips the past few years (roles he will continue).

Daycations and Theatre Outings (con't from page 8)

lamp from the Cave of Wonders. Where there's a lamp, there's a Genie, and once Aladdin unwittingly lets this one out anything can happen! Will Aladdin's new identity as “Prince Ali” help him win Jasmine's heart and thwart Jafar's evil plans? Will the Genie's wish for freedom ever come true? This exhilarating musical celebration soars (rather like a flying carpet) as only Disney can do it! **\$239**

Tina: The Musical

Golden Gate Theatre*

Wednesday, August 16 – 1:00 pm

From humble beginnings in Nutbush, Tennessee, to her transformation into the global Queen of Rock 'n' Roll, Tina Turner didn't just break the rules, she rewrote them. This new stage musical reveals the untold

story of a woman who dared to defy the bounds of her age, gender and race. One of the world's best-selling artists of all time, Tina Turner has won 12 Grammy Awards and her live shows have been seen by millions, with more concert tickets sold than any other solo performer in music history. *Tina: The Musical* brings her story and music to the stage in one unforgettable performance you'll never forget! **\$224**

Hadestown

Orpheum Theatre*

Wednesday, September 13 – 1:00 pm

Returning to San Francisco due to popular demand for a limited one-week engagement in 2023, join us to see *Hadestown* where a song can change your fate. Winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards including Best

Musical and the 2020 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album, this acclaimed show by celebrated singer-songwriter Anaïs Mitchell and innovative director Rachel Chavkin (*Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*) is a love story for today... and always. *Hadestown* intertwines two mythic tales – that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone – inviting you on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back. **\$294**

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



Scotland – From Edinburgh to the Highlands

Featuring the Orkney Isles and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

12 Days • August 7-18



★ Highlights ★

- Castles! Eilean Donan, Dunrobin and Urquhart
- Lochs! Lomond and Ness
- Isles! Skye and Orkney
- Orkney's Italian Chapel and Churchill Barriers
- Scotch distillery tour and tasting
- Culloden Battlefield and Highland Folk Museum
- Tour Edinburgh and the Palace of Holyroodhouse
- Reserved seating for the Edinburgh Royal Military Tattoo
- "Outlander" filming locations
- 15 meals: 10 breakfasts, 5 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Edinburgh
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 6950/8000 Gold Passport Points

1. Depart for Scotland on a transatlantic overnight flight.

2. Meet your colorful driver/guide for the week upon arrival in Edinburgh, then depart for the picturesque village of Luss perched on the "bonnie banks" of Loch Lomond for lunch. Pass through Inveraray, the seat of Clan Campbell, en route to Oban for the night. This evening there is a welcome dinner with entertainment for your first taste of true Scottish hospitality. **Oban Bay Hotel (D)**

3. Traverse the Connel Bridge through Appin to the haunting landscape of Glen Coe (scene of the terrible massacre of the MacDonald Clan). We'll stop in Fort William, a town dominated by Ben Nevis – the UK's tallest peak – then drive along the route of the Jacobite Steam Train to see the Glenfinnan Viaduct, made famous by the Harry Potter films. We will take a short ferry ride over the sea from Mallaig to Kyle of Lochalsh, gateway to the Isle of Skye. **Kyle Hotel – 2 nights (BFB,D)**

4. Spend a full day exploring the Isle of Skye, seeing such stunning sights as the

Cuillin Mountains, Sligachan River, Kilt Rock, Old Man of Storr, Uig, Portree and Flora MacDonald's grave to name but a few. **(FB,D)**

5. Begin with a visit to one Scotland's most photographed castles, Eilean Donan. Continuing on you'll travel through Plockton, Strathcarron, Achnasheen and Beaulieu as you wind your way northeast into the Highlands. A special treat today is a visit to a scotch distillery for a tour and tasting – yum! The day ends in Inverness, the capital of the Highlands. **Ardross Glencarin and Alban Abbey Hotels – 2 nights (FB)**

6. It's the midpoint of the tour. How about a day of rest? Explore Inverness at your own pace in the morning, while the afternoon includes an expedition to Urquhart Castle and a cruise on Loch Ness. Maybe you'll be lucky enough to spot the loch's famous inhabitant, Nessie! **(FB)**

7. From Inverness travel through the spectacular coastal scenery of the Moray and Cromarty Firths, truly some of Scotland's most remarkable landscapes. Spotting dolphins is easy, as well as seals and even orcas! Next is Gills Bay, terminal for Pentland Ferries, taking you to the mysterious and magical Orkney Isles. This naturally beautiful and photogenic land is waiting for you to soak it in and explore. Visit the Italian Chapel, a Catholic church built by Italian prisoners during WWII. You'll also see the famous Churchill Barriers – a series of causeways designed to protect the British naval fleet from enemy submarines. The village of Kirkwall is your final destination.

Albert and Ayre Hotels – 2 nights (FB,D)

8. Spend the whole day exploring the Orkneys. This is a land full of ancient history as you'll see when visiting prehistoric marvels such as the Maeshowe chambered cairn, the world-famous Neolithic village of Skara Brae and the brooding stone circles of Stenness and the Ring o'Brodgar. The day will finish with a visit to the beautiful St Magnus Cathedral. **(FB)**

9. You will have a leisurely morning in Kirkwall boasting numerous craft and gift shops to enjoy. Ferry back to the mainland

in the late morning. Your return to Inverness will feature the dramatic, varied and visually stunning coastline. On the way south you will have an opportunity to visit Dunrobin Castle, the seat of the Duke of Sutherland, and the beautiful gardens which were inspired by the Palace of Versailles. **Royal Highland Hotel (FB)**

10. Your journey south includes a stop at hallowed grounds indeed, the site of the defeat of the Jacobite forces in 1746 sealing England's rule over Scotland. Here you will take a guided walk through the Battlefield of Culloden and have time in the Visitor Centre. Next you'll visit Clava Cairns which inspired the "Outlander" television series. At the Highland Folk Museum, used as a filming location for "Outlander," you can have lunch and see the largest open-air museum in the UK. Continue past the stunning Cairngorm Mountains, part of Scotland's largest National Park, before reaching Pitlochry, a quaint and picturesque village to explore. Our accommodations are both singular and stunning. Welcome to Dalmahoy – Edinburgh's Country Estate. We've definitely saved the best for last! **Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club – 2 nights (FB,D)**

11. Start the morning with a city highlights tour ending at Holyroodhouse, the palace of Mary, Queen of Scots. Following you'll have time for lunch and exploration on the famed Royal Mile. Perhaps you'd like to visit iconic Edinburgh Castle at the top of the Mile or the National Museum of Scotland. Hike up Arthur's Seat if you're feeling adventurous. There is so much to see and do in Scotland's Capital City! The final highlight of the trip happens this evening – the Edinburgh Royal Military Tattoo! Featuring hundreds of performers from all over the world, this decidedly Scottish evening of music and dance is staged in the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. **(FB)**

12. Return to Edinburgh International Airport after breakfast for your return flight to America. **FB)**

\$6950 p.p./dbl.occ., \$7960 single

New England Fall Foliage Spectacular

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

7 Days • September 25 – October 1

A

★ Highlights ★

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

1. Fly to Burlington, arriving in the evening in Vermont’s largest city located on the banks of Lake Champlain. **DoubleTree Hotel**

2. Explore the Green Mountains, home to many maple tree farms and family-operated “sugar shacks.” You’ll visit one to learn the time-honored tradition of maple syrup production in New England. Speaking of sweet concoctions, a stop at the Ben & Jerry’s Factory most certainly ends with samples of their famous flavors! In Stowe you’ll ride the gondola to Vermont’s tallest peak – Mount Mansfield – to take in the view before visiting the Trapp Family Lodge for a history tour and a chance to visit the family cemetery, final resting place of Maria and the rest of her musically-gifted family.

Killington Mountain Lodge (FB,D)

3. Presidential history runs deep in these hills as you’ll learn in Plymouth Notch, birthplace of Calvin Coolidge, on a visit to his birth home and village frozen in time. After a shopping stop at the original Vermont Country Store in Weston you’ll “meet” another president. Though Abraham Lincoln never lived in Vermont, his son Robert built his home here in 1905 – Hildene – which today is a repository of memorabilia and artifacts paying tribute to his martyred father.

Hampton Inn, Bennington (FB,D)

4. Welcome to the Hudson River Valley! It starts at Lake Tear of the Clouds on the southwest slope of Mount Marcy, New York’s

ACTIVITY METER



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



tallest mountain, and meanders 315 miles to New York Harbor. Huguenot Street in New Paltz was laid out in 1678 and is considered the oldest intact street in America. Lined with historic homes and the original cemetery and church, this is truly a step back in time. Even a bit older is your second scenic stop today, Kingston, New York's original state capital established in 1658 when the colony was Dutch. A late afternoon cruise on the Hudson brings your day to a peaceful end. **Hyatt Place Hotel, Poughkeepsie— 2 nights (B,D)**

5. Hyde Park is synonymous with the Roosevelt's and you'll spend the bulk of the day traveling in their footsteps. Begin at the Roosevelt (as in FDR) Home, Library and family cemetery. Next you'll visit Val-Kill, the private retreat of First Lady Eleanor. Lunch is served at the world-renowned Culinary Institute of America at midday. In the afternoon visit the Vanderbilt Mansion, the breathtakingly opulent home of "The Commodore" Cornelius Vanderbilt. **(B,L)**

6. Walkway Over the Hudson is a mile and a quarter long "linear park" boasting scenic views of the Catskills from a historic train bridge over the river dating to 1889 – when opened the longest bridge in the world. Three presidents down – one to go. The last is George Washington whom you'll "meet" at the Hasbrouck House which served as his home and headquarters during the final 16 months of the Revolutionary War. In the afternoon visit Old Dutch Church, c. 1685, and the nearby cemetery made famous by the writings of Hudson River Valley resident Washington Irving. Best known by its fictional title as Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, it is the final resting place of William Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie and beauty heiress Elizabeth Arden. Tonight revel at The GREAT Jack-o-Lantern Blaze, a lighted display of more than 7000 illuminated pumpkins. **Holiday Inn Express, Ft. Montgomery (B,D)**

7. The United States Military Academy was established in 1802 on a high bluff overlooking the Hudson in the village of West Point. You'll tour the grounds,

see the Cadet Chapel and learn the fascinating past, present and future of this great institution of higher education. The school counts U.S. Grant and Dwight D. Eisenhower as graduates. (Presidents five and six at no additional cost!) From there it's a surprisingly short drive to the metropolis of New York City and your awaiting return flight out of LaGuardia International Airport. **(B)**

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

Reservations open, awaiting pricing

The tours below were still missing a few details at press time. They are open for reservations. Prices and final details will be released in the next 30 days. Reserve your space and select your seats now. There is no obligation or deposit due until the prices are sent to you, and you can cancel at that time if you wish.

The Sounds of Music in Leavenworth

4 Days • July 18-21 (second departure July 25-28 if needed)

Our annual excursion to a small Bavarian Village in the heart of Washington's Cascade Mountains will win your heart. Fly r/t Seattle, enjoy Sunday Brunch, and then travel by coach into the mountains. Stay 3 nights at the **Bavarian Lodge**, the town's finest accommodations (great location). Local sightseeing, plus an evening of outdoor theater featuring **The Sound of Music**, in a Bavarian-setting, this is really magical. (Outdoor theater is weather permitting. (This tour previously traveled by Amtrak Seattle/Leavenworth, but we are now traveling by coach as the train now leaves too late in the afternoon.)

Register now, prices available Feb. 15

The Laguna Pageant of the Masters

3 Days • July 7-9 or August 20-22

Another longtime favorite attended by hundreds of **Sports Leisure Travelers**. Fly r/t Long Beach, stay two nights, and attend the **Pageant of the Masters** in Laguna Beach. Staged in an outdoor theater every summer, the pageant is accompanied by **The Festival of the Arts**. You'll have tickets

for the show, where living persons portray classic works of art. A bit hard to describe, but truly a unique cultural arts experience. Accommodations are still being finalized.

Register now, prices available Feb. 15

South Dakota, Land of American Treasures

7 Days • September 2-8

This tour has a twist this year. It flies into Denver and back from Rapid City. The reason for this is airfares to Rapid City are so high, we can add an extra day to the tour and see and do more, without raising the price significantly. So lunch and a little time in Cheyenne has been added to a stellar itinerary. Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial (including a ride to the top of the mountain), Tanaka (the story of the buffalo), Deadwood, Devil's Tower, Custer State Park, every day is filled with adventures. **5 nights in the Black Hills at the SAME hotel.**

Register now, prices available Feb. 15

Mammoth & Mono Lakes, Fall Colors in the Sierra

4 Days • October 3-6

Fall colors in the high Sierra can be spectacular. This tour takes you to **Mammoth Lakes**, for a three night stay at the **Sierra Nevada Resort**, offering mountain views and on-site dining. During your stay, you'll make a day trip to Mono Lake, to learn the story of this ancient natural monument. Visit the Devil's Postpile and travel the loop around the scenic June Lakes. Traveling to and from Mammoth on Hwy 395 give you more opportunities to enjoy the scenery.

Register now, prices available Feb. 15

All tours listed here include our signature, round trip, door-to-door service.

Look What We're Doing...



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

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



Teasers – Want to Go?

If you are interested in any of the destinations below, call and ask to place your name on the **Priority List**. You will be notified and have the opportunity to register if the tour is offered. There are also updates on **Teasers** from the previous newsletter.

“Tonight’s The Night” – Rod Stewart in Sparks July 29-30 (Sat.-Sun.) overnighter

The rock ‘n rollers from the 70’s and 80’s are getting a little older... This would be an overnight trip to Reno/Sparks, staying at The Nugget. You could do this trip with or without the concert. Tickets to the show are roughly \$140 (with ticket fees), so the overnighter with a Saturday night hotel stay, would be roughly \$450-\$500 per person.

Return to Newfoundland – Summer 2024

We visited the home of **Come From Away** in the summer of 2022. Is there enough interest for a return trip in '24? This tour will cover the entire province and even slips over to Labrador for a night. The 2022 price was \$7,700 for double occupancy, so it won't be inexpensive.

Scandinavian Days, Beer with the Monks, Oregon Gardens

4 Days • August 8-11

The Oregon Gardens Resort **WAS** to be where our Christmas trip went. That was before the great floods. We didn't make it for Christmas, but we have found a way to offer the trip again, just without the Christmas aspect.

Scandinavian Days is a fun-filled cultural celebration in Junction City. We'll spend part of the day there, tour the covered bridges in Lane County, and see the performing Glockenspiel in Mt. Angel. That little town is home to the Mount Angel Abbey. The Monks there make beer as a way of supporting their mission. The Oregon Gardens will be spectacular in the summer and we'll stay **three nights** at the Garden Resort.

UPDATE ON PREVIOUS TEASERS

The Carlsbad Flower Fields

This tour idea came along too late to make it happen this year. Look for this opportunity in our catalog for 2024.

San Simon, Solvang, Santa Barbara

This tour will happen in October of this year and will be announced in the March newsletter.

Newport, Block Island &

This tour will be scheduled for June 2024.

Laguna Pageant of the Masters

See the “New Tours” section for the dates for this year.

Leavenworth & The Sound of Music

See the “New Tours” section for the dates for this year.

South Dakota, America's Treasures

See the “new Tours” section for information on this tour.

The Tugboat Races

A couple of things make this trip unsettled for 2023. We are likely to make this a part of the Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound tour in 2024.

Fall Foliage 2023

Vermont & The Hudson River Valley

See the “New Tours” section for information on this tour.

Santa Barbara, The American Riviera

This tour has changed to include Solvang and Santa Barbara and will be announced in the March newsletter.

MYSTERY TOURS

Comedy, Dollars & Legends, A Mystery Tour 7 Days • May 6-12

Jim Pelley has created an adventure all about legends. Well, not **all** about legends, but certainly they are highlighted. For example, wouldn't you consider the buffalo a legendary creature? And I don't know about you, but I always loved Luci. Ok, maybe that's a little corny. Some things on this tour are worth exactly one dollar. Others are truly Kodak moments, and there are lots and lots of those on this trip. Just don't fall over, because it's a long ways down. I know, it's only a brief moment, but still. 9 meals, airfare and door-to-door service, all included. 3500/3900 Gold Passport Points.

\$3490 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3885 single

Follow Crab Louie to the Waters, A Mystery Tour 5 Days • June 18-22

Scott Angeletti is your leader on this mystery tour that will be fun and cultural. We offer a few clues: Start at Louie's Place, that little shack down by the river. Very soon, meet people who are all about discovery. They will show you the waters. You will be entertained for sure, in ways you never imagined.

Learning? Certainly. In fact, learn about a different lifestyle. The water people will show you. Most importantly, you'll soar above it all (soaring has two meanings on this tour). The mission is quite clear, fun will be had by all! The package includes door-to-door service, airfare and 7 meals. 2200/2500 Gold Passport Points.

\$2165 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2485 single

OFFICE HOURS:
9:00am – 3:30pm Monday thru FRI.
Closed weekends & major holidays
CLOSED TUES. 12:00pm – 1:15pm



The Tour Calendar (Previously Announced)

Take the Snow Train to Reno

Ride the California Zephyr through the Sierra Nevada

2 Days • February 28 – March 1

Your journey over the mountains begins from one of our convenient pickups and Amtrak's *California Zephyr* departs from Roseville. Experience a High Sierra winter wonderland as the train climbs through the mountains, providing magnificent and (hopefully snowy) vistas. Don't worry about your luggage – it will travel on board our motorcoach which will meet you in Reno!

Enjoy relaxing views on the train from your seat or the domed observation car. A boxed lunch is included for you to take along so you won't miss the scenery. Your accommodations are at the **Silver Legacy Casino/Resort**. Enjoy a morning at leisure 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. 400/400 Gold Passport Points

\$365 p.p./dbl.occ., \$395 single

All Aboard the Coast Starlight

An Amtrak journey from Seattle to The City of Angels

4 Days • March 6-9

★ Highlights ★

- Ride the *Coast Starlight* from Seattle to Los Angeles, travel by air to Seattle and from Burbank
- Visit Chihuly Garden and Glass and the Space Needle
- Guided tour of Union Station
- 9 meals: 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- Roundtrip air to Seattle/from Burbank
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2850/3000 Gold Passport Points

\$2810 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3000 single



Spring Training

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

5 Days • March 9-13

For years you've thought about making the pilgrimage to Spring Training, the Cactus League. For a baseball fan, the spring games are special. Every team is undefeated. You watch as the Giants, A's and other teams start to put together the players which will begin the season only a few weeks later. You'll eat Sunday Brunch at the Wrigley Mansion, enjoy the view and the grub at Rustler's Roost, and learn a little at our Baseball Roundtable.

Our baseball banquet features a guest speaker with stories to bring a smile to any fan. The parks are small and our seats generally in the shade (amazing how important that little detail is). Our group will number a maximum of 20. 4 seats are available as we go to press.

Game Schedule

March 9: Milwaukee Brewers vs. Giants at Scottsdale

March 10: Giants vs. Colo. Rockies at Talking Stick

March 11: A's vs. Cleveland Guardians at Goodyear

March 12: A's at Giants at Scottsdale

March 13: Giants at San Diego Padres at Peoria

We have a convenient location between the parks, just north of the airport. Enjoy a great breakfast every morning (except Sunday, when we go to brunch at the Wrigley Mansion) at the beautifully refurbished Marriott Hotel.

The package includes 6 meals, roundtrip air to/from Phoenix, 5 nights at the Marriott, game tickets in premium (and generally shaded) locations, the services of a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director and 2750/3100 Gold Passport Points.

\$2740 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3095 single



San Antonio: Deep in the Heart

An "unpack-once" tour featuring the best little city in Texas

5 Days • April 16-20

★ Highlights ★

- 4 nights in the historic Drury Plaza Hotel located along the Riverwalk
- City tour features The Alamo and Mission San Jose
- Institute of Texan Cultures, IMAX Theater, Tower of the Americas
- Daytrip into the Texas Hill Country
- National Museum of the Pacific War and LBJ Ranch
- 8 meals: Daily breakfast, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip air to/from San Antonio
- Door-to-door airport transportation

Deep in the heart of the Lone Star State is a city that is part American, part Mexican and definitely all Texan, San Antonio. Explore the city and nearby Hill Country on this unpack-once tour featuring historic accommodations on the Riverwalk. See the Alamo, the LBJ Ranch and take a luncheon cruise on the river. This is San Antonio at its best. Four seats remaining at press time. 2500/2850 Gold Passport Points.

\$2450 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2825 single

New Mexico: Land of Enchantment

Featuring Spaceport America and Carlsbad Caverns

6 Days • April 19-24

★ Highlights ★

- Carlsbad Caverns and White Sands National Monument
- Spaceport America
- Sandia Tramway and Old Town Albuquerque
- 11 Meals: 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to Albuquerque/from El Paso
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 3250/3600 Gold Passport Points

1. Lunch is served following your flight to Albuquerque. Your hotel is located only



steps away from the festive shops and eateries of Old Town. **Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town – 2 nights (L)**

2. Enjoy the breathtaking views from the famous Sandia Peak Tramway in the morning. The longest aerial tram in America, you'll reach a dizzying height of 10,378 feet above sea level. After lunch "get your kicks" on a guided city tour spotlighting sites of interest around town, including many located along storied Route 66. **(B,L)**

3. Spaceport America offers visitors an insider's view of the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport. Gaze upon the iconic design of the Terminal Hangar Facility, see launch sites and gain an understanding of the inner workings of a complex specifically designed and built for space travel, commerce and exploration. Continue on to Las Cruces arriving in the late afternoon. **Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces (B,L)**

4. White Sands National Monument is one of the world's most awe-inspiring spectacles. Explore the breathtaking wavelike dunes of snow-white gypsum that stretch for 275 square miles. Beautiful, but harsh, you'll learn how animals have adapted to live in this hot desert climate. Lunch is hosted at a historic lodge set high in a Ponderosa Pine forest (think Lake Tahoe) before arriving in the town of Carlsbad. **Hampton Inn – 2 nights (B,L)**



Kristen Bell and the NY Pops entertain our group at Carnegie Hall

5. Carlsbad Caverns is often called the 8th Wonder of the World. Descend (thankfully by elevator) 830 feet below ground and view the gigantic subterranean chambers and fantastic cave formations. Gather over dinner to recount your favorite memories of New Mexico: Land of Enchantment. **(B,D)**

6. Travel to El Paso, Texas, for lunch hosted at a famous Mexican restaurant and your return flight to Sacramento. **(B,L)**
\$3205 p.p./occ., \$3585 single

NYC – Behind Broadway and The Bronx

Exclusively for those who long to wake up in the city that never sleeps

6 Days • April 29 – May 4

★ **Highlights** ★

- 5 nights at the Marriott Marquis Times Square, in the heart of the city
- 2 included nights of theater (One we select – one of your choice – an exclusive **SLV** feature); a night at Carnegie Hall with the New York Symphony Pops Orchestra
- A Day Behind Broadway – meet Broadway actors/musicians to learn the inner workings; talk hits and misses with Peter Filicia, a theater renowned reviewer
- A Day in The Bronx – taste the real "Little Italy", meet the FDNY and NYPD with stops at a working fire station and police



precinct.

- A Day in Downtown Manhattan – stroll Wall Street & the Financial District, 9/11 Memorial/Museum/Observation Deck (all 3 experiences included)
- Free day to visit Ellis and Liberty Islands; optional visit to Grand Central Station
- Roundtrip airfare to/from NYC
- 6 meals: 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 4500/5050 Gold Passport Points
\$4490 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5020 single

Ghost Towns & Aliens in Old Nevada

A

Featuring Goodsprings, Rhyolite, Gold Point, Goldfield, Tonopah, Manhattan, Belmont and the Extraterrestrial Highway

6 Days • May 1-5

★ **Highlights** ★

- 2 nights at the Golden Nugget Downtown Las Vegas; 2 nights at the Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah
- Begin with the Goodsprings Ghost Hunt – hear the heartbreaking story of Carol Lombard and Clark Gable, learn how to use an EMF (Electronic Magnetic Field) meter to detect the "presence" of ghosts
- Visit genuine ghost towns – 6 in all – from Las Vegas to Tonopah
- Visit the legendary "Clown Motel" in Tonopah and see the courthouse under restoration in ghostly Belmont
- Travel the Extraterrestrial Highway – home of the secret Area 51, where countless UFO sightings have been recorded
- 10 Included meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Las Vegas
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2200/2400 Gold Passport Points

Ghosts. Some believe in ghostly spirits and some do not. Still others might be somewhere in the middle. On this adventure you'll have the chance to decide for yourself! Explore not only the old buildings and legends they left behind, but make an attempt to talk to the "previous residents" themselves on an authentic Ghost Hunt! 4 seats available.

\$2190 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2395 single

Moab, Gateway to Arches National Park

A

Featuring 4 nights at the spectacular Red Cliffs Lodge

6 Days • May 5-9

★ Highlights ★

- Explore majestic Arches National Park
- Visit Dead Horse State Park (the most amazing view in the Southwest!)
- Jet boat tour on the Colorado River
- Experience flightseeing over Canyonlands National Park
- 4x4 Hummer tour
- Roundtrip air to Moab and from Denver
- 8 meals: 4 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3400/3950 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly to Moab, enjoy a hosted lunch and then board your motorcoach for a scenic drive along the Colorado River to your amazing accommodations. **Red Cliffs Lodge – 4 nights (D)**

2. Tour Arches National Park with a local guide stopping for a walk at several famous arches and viewpoints. After lunch, board a jet boat for a one-hour cruise down the Colorado River. View arches and rock climbers scaling the sheer cliff at what they call Wall Street. **(FB,L)**

3. Soar above Canyonlands National Park on a one-hour flight over the Colorado River. Pass over the Island in the Sky and The

Maze districts. Near The Needles, fly over the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers, absorbing breathtaking beauty. **(FB,D)**

4. Today, enjoy some free time in town. In the afternoon travel in a Hummer 4x4 vehicle to get on top of the red rock in the backcountry. **(FB,L)**

5. Travel by coach to one of the best vistas in the west at Dead Horse Point State Park where you will be 1,500 feet above the Colorado River. **(FB)**

\$3380 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3905 single

Catalina Island Dreaming

4 Days • May 14-17

★ Highlights ★

A

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

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

Baseball's Fields of Dreams

M

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

9 Days • May 26 – June 3

★ Highlights ★

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

Join Mark & Tyler for the baseball trip of a lifetime. It makes stops in Kansas City, Dyersville (Iowa), Chicago, Cooperstown and New York City. You'll explore the Negro Leagues Museum in Kansas City, home of the legendary KC Monarchs, the "Yankees" of the Negro Leagues in the 1900's. Walk among the early-season corn stalks at the Field of Dreams outside of Dyersville and explore 150 years of baseball history at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Along the way, we'll see a couple ballgames (Kansas City and Wrigley Field in Chicago) and visit famous landmarks like the sites of the Polo Grounds and Ebbets Field in NYC and Brooklyn. Pay your respects at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in New Jersey, final resting place of George Herman "Babe" Ruth, Yogi Berra, Billy Martin, James Cagney and other legends. 5 seats.

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



Taking in the breathtaking view at Arches National Park

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



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

Featuring the Tule Lake WWII Internment Camp

4 Days • June 11-14

★ Highlights ★

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

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

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



Somehow gardens are just prettier in Canada - Jan and Judy agree!

A Train, A Paddlewheeler, Two Mountains and The Columbia River

Featuring the Hood River Railroad, the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler and three nights on the shores of the Columbia River

4 Days • June 12-15

★ Highlights ★

- Full-day guided excursion to Mt. St. Helens
- Ride a century-old short line railroad with snow-capped views of Mt. Hood
- Explore Hood River; visit Packer Orchards and Multnomah Falls
- 3 nights at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn – rooms with a view of the river
- Lunch cruise on the Columbia River prior to departure; lunch at the historic Columbia Gorge Hotel
- 7 meals: 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Portland
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2250/2550 Gold Passport Points

\$2250 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2545 single

Victoria, Canada's Royal Garden City

The very best of Canada's Garden City

5 Days • June 20-24

★ Highlights ★

- High Tea at the Empress Hotel
- Experience Victoria on a double-decker bus tour and seaplane flight

- Visit famed Butchart Gardens to enjoy the blooms and lunch
- Spend a day exploring and tasting your way through the Cowichan Valley
- 5 meals: 1 high tea, 4 lunches
- Roundtrip air to/from Victoria, British Columbia
- Door-to-door airport service
- Gold Passport Points TBA

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

This tour requires a valid passport!

California's Redwoods and the Oregon Coast – Berry Nice

Featuring rides on Oregon's Rogue River and coastal sand dunes

7 Days • June 24-30

★ Highlights ★

- Depart from Sacramento by coach, return by air (independent train return also available)
- Drive through "The Avenue of the Giants" near Eureka
- Redwood National Park – more of the majestic giant trees
- Overnight Garberville (Best Western Plus), Gold Beach (Jot's Resort), 2 nights Coos Bay (The Mill), 2 nights Newport (Elizabeth Oceanfront Suites)
- Scenic drive along the Oregon Coast
- Ride the Rogue River Mail Boat
- Flavorful local stops – Misty Meadows Jams, Cranberry Sweets
- Washed Ashore – Saving the ocean one piece of junk at a time
- Shore Acres State Park – Awesome ocean views
- Ride the sand dunes in a giant dune buggy... or take a more adventurous ride in a smaller buggy
- Cocktail cruise on Newport Harbor
- A very berry experience – learn how the marionberry was created, have a berry milkshake, perhaps even pick your own
- Door-to-door service
- 2700/3150 Gold Passport Points
- 2 seats available

\$2660 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3145 single

See the back page for Early Payment Discounts



The tranquil hamlet of Peggy's Cove is a favorite spot in Atlantic Canada

An Atlantic Canada Sampler

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and
Prince Edward Island

14 Days • July 4-17

★ Highlights ★

- Nova Scotia: Halifax, Peggy's Cove, Annapolis Valley, Bras d'Or Lake, Cabot Trail, Fortress of Louisbourg
- New Brunswick: Bay of Fundy, St. John, Reversing Falls, St. Andrews-by-the-Sea
- Prince Edward Island: Charlottetown, Anne of Green Gables
- 23 meals: Daily breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Halifax
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 6400/7300 Gold Passport Points

The small provinces of Atlantic Canada offer the traveler a wonderful experience. Many small communities, with unique customs and traditions, to show you what life is like in remote areas on the other side of the continent.

\$6335 p.p./dbl.occ., \$7270 single

\$125 Early Registration Discount

This tour requires a valid passport!

Proud members of the



Niagara Falling for You!

Every room overlooks the Falls

5 Days • September 4-8

★ Highlights ★

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

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

This tour requires a valid passport!

Cruising the Rhine River from Holland to Switzerland

10 Days • September 9-18

★ Highlights ★

- 8-day cruise aboard a Scenic "Space-Ship" Riverliner
- Overnight in Amsterdam with local touring
- Holland: Rijksmuseum, Volendam, Edam
- Germany: Cologne, Koblenz, Mannheim,

Baden Baden

- France: Strasbourg & the Alsace region
- Included "Freechoice" tour options at every port
- Gourmet meals and all beverages complimentary
- All shipboard gratuities included
- English-speaking staff and local guides
- Complimentary WiFi
- 22 meals: 8 breakfast, 7 lunches, 7 dinners
- Roundtrip air to Amsterdam/Zurich
- Door-to-door airport service

This tour requires a valid passport!

Prices based on cabin selection.

Call the office and ask for Michael.

Pure Michigan: Mackinac and the UP – Isn't it Grand?

Explore the magnificent Keweenaw Peninsula and Mackinac Island

9 Days • September 15-23

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights at Mackinac's famous Grand Hotel, tour by horse and carriage
- 2 nights Houghton, Keweenaw National Historic Park
- 2 nights Marquette on the shores of Lake Superior
- 1 night Green Bay – Go Packers!
- Shipwreck cruise on Lake Superior by glass bottom boat
- 18 meals: Daily breakfast, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to Milwaukee/from Grand Rapids
- Door-to-door transportation
- 5000/5950 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly away to Milwaukee and continue on to Green Bay, home of the Packers. This community is small in size, but huge in spirit. Try your luck tonight at the casino located adjacent to our hotel where numerous dinner choices await to use your bonus vouchers.

Radisson Hotel at Oneida Casino

2. Start the day with a tour of hallowed Lambeau Field before heading north to Houghton on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The residents of the region are called "yoopers" (say U-pers) and you'll enjoy honorary status for the next few days.

Country Inn & Suites – 2 nights (FB,L)

3. The Keweenaw Peninsula was where



most of the country's copper was once mined. The scenery is memorable in this place where pristine nature, tiny villages and lighthouses abound. The entire day is a history lesson told by the people who live here and the legacy of those who came before. **(B,L,D)**

4. Leave the Keweenaw and head east along the shores of Lake Superior to the Shrine of Bishop Baraga and Da Yoopers Tourist Trap, because after all, we *are* tourists. A scrumptious Italian feast awaits you tonight! **Fairfield Inn by Marriott – 2 nights (B,D)**

5. Just an hour from Marquette is the small lakeside community of Munising from which you'll cruise Lake Superior to see shipwrecks on a glass-bottom boat! Along the way, Lakenenland Sculpture Park is a must-see stop. **(B,D)**

6. Push east to St. Ignace to catch the ferry for the 20-minute ride to Mackinac Island. Prepare to fall in love at first sight with its historic buildings, quaint shops and "no motor vehicles allowed" policy. It's a short horse-drawn carriage ride to Mackinac's iconic landmark – Grand Hotel. Built in 1887, the lavishly-decorated Grand is prepared to satisfy your every desire this evening starting with a formal dinner and ending with live music and dancing. Best of

all, you get to do it all over again tomorrow! **Grand Hotel – 2 nights (B,L,D)**

7. Discover Mackinac's natural beauty on a morning horse-drawn wagon tour. The filming location of *Somewhere in Time*, don't miss the Grand's historical exhibits (yes, there IS a framed portrait of Jane Seymour), art gallery, horse stables, Cupola Bar and have a sit on the front porch which, at 660 feet long, is the longest in the world! **(FB,D)**

8. Take the ferry back to the mainland and travel along the scenic east shore of Lake Michigan on the LP (Lower Peninsula) with lunch served in the quaint community of Petoskey. In nearby Acme you'll discover an incredible collection of mechanical instruments and antique phonographs at The Music House. The centerpiece of the museum, a huge Belgian pipe organ, is simply amazing, and all instruments are in perfect working order as you'll see...and hear! Continue on for an evening arrival in Grand Rapids. **DoubleTree by Hilton (FB,L)**

9. Grand Rapids has so much to see and do such as the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum and the stunning Meijer Gardens. Return to Sacramento on a late afternoon flight. **(FB,L)**

\$4995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5910 single

Cruisin' Aboard the American Queen



An Upper Mississippi cruise on the grandest paddlewheeler ever built!

9 Days • September 24 – October 2

★ Highlights ★

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

Though early a year away, this popular cruise on the Upper Mississippi from St. Louis to the Twin Cities is so popular you have to book your cabin early to get one at all! The *American Queen* – the grandest of all riverboats ever to ply the waters of our nation's mighty rivers – "gets it" as evidenced by all the inclusions. Non-alcoholic beverages and snacks are available and complimentary all day long. Beer and wine is included with dinner, and two dining choices are offered: one casual, the other fancy. Regardless of the dining option you select, you'll enjoy classic Southern cooking along with heart-healthy selections.

Onboard, an all-American staff assures no language barriers. Portside, a dedicated fleet of *Steamcoaches* follows the *Queen* so your complimentary shore excursions are handled by a familiar crew. Upgraded, small-group excursions are available at most ports for an enhanced experience. (Optional, additional cost.) Your onboard Riverlorian will have all the details during daily talks. Need to check-in with home? Internet access is available and free.



All smiles at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island

When the stars rise, it's time for the onboard entertainers to shine. You can count on Showboat-style spectacles nightly, followed by dancing. By day and by night, the dress code is "casual elegance." Wear what you like when you like. No formalwear is required.

Price depends on cabin selection, packages start at:

OUTSIDE:

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

INSIDE:

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

Catalina Island, Take Two

A different itinerary on California's Island

4 Days • October 6-9

★ **Highlights** ★

- 3 nights Atwater Hotel in the heart of Avalon
- Avalon High Speed Ferry with Commodore Level Seating
- Private Guided Tour of El Rancho Escondido & Wine Tasting
- Movie Night at the Casino
- Spa Day (massage) or Adventure Day (zip line), your choice
- Interior Island Adventure Tour
- 4 meals: 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Southern California
- 2500/3000 Gold Passport Points

1. Arrive in Southern California in time for an early lunch complete with views of the *Queen Mary* and Long Beach Harbor. Then we board the high speed ferry to Catalina "26 miles across the sea." Arrive and relax, you are now officially on island time.

Originally opened in 1920, Hotel Atwater was the first hotel built under the direction of William Wrigley Jr. after he purchased the Catalina Island Company more than a century ago. He named the hotel in honor of Helen Atwater Wrigley, wife of his son Philip.

Completely renovated in 2019, this historic hotel stays true to the Wrigley family legacy with nostalgic elements like two splits of sparkling wine on arrival day – a tribute to the bubbly Helen enjoyed every evening before bed. It's a cut above. **Atwater Hotel – 3 nights (L)**

2. A scenic tour of the island interior gets you acclimated for a day of adventure. In the afternoon we will have a private guided tour of El Rancho Escondido with wine tasting and a light lunch. This evening we will go to the iconic Casino and take in a movie. **(L)**

3. Perhaps you'd like a day to explore Avalon on your own. There are lots of options (cost not included) and we will help you make your choice(s). This evening we dine at Steve's Steakhouse **(D)**

4. After a leisurely morning it's all aboard the ferry to return to the mainland. Arrive into Long Beach and make your way next door to San Pedro. An upscale lunch at marina-side restaurant is waiting for you. **(L)**

\$2490 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2910 single

Route 66 – Western Side

Oklahoma City to Santa Monica, featuring the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

9 Days • October 9-17

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

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

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

Finish at the pier in Santa Monica.

Western Side Route 66

Day 1 – Fly to/arrive Oklahoma City

Day 2 – Oklahoma City, OK to Amarillo, TX

Day 3 – Amarillo, TX to Albuquerque, NM (2 nights)

Day 4 – Santa Fe, Balloon Fiesta

Day 5 – Albuquerque, NM to Winslow, AZ (2 nights)

Day 6 – Petrified Forest National Park from Winslow

Day 7 – Winslow, AZ to Laughlin, NV

Day 8 – Laughlin, NV to San Bernardino

Day 9 – San Bernardino to Santa Monica, fly home

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

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

7 Days • October 22-28

★ **Highlights** ★

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

Ed. Note: Several years ago, I led a group of travelers to Plains, Georgia. It had always been on my bucket list, because it was the hometown of a man I greatly admired, President Jimmy Carter. My reasons for going had nothing to do with politics, but rather a desire to learn more about President Carter and his family (remember Billy, who was a constant embarrassment?). The journey also features a short stay in Alabama, where you'll honor a great American with a visit to the museum by her name, Rosa Parks; and honor the Air men of Tuskegee. A bit off the main list for some travelers perhaps, but a true opportunity for an American history lesson many Californians might otherwise overlook.

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





The Travel Guys

Radio Show

- *Tips to make you a smarter traveler*
- *Updates for Sports Leisure Travelers*

Every Sunday 3-4pm on KFBK, 1530AM, 93.1FM

Podcasts and show updates at www.travelguysradio.com

Hosted by: Tom Romano and Mark Hoffmann

EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT COUPON

Early Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Friday, February 17, 2023**, and may be withdrawn or reduced when 50% of the available space has been reserved. To receive the discount you must pay in full within ten days of registration.

May – Comedy, Dollars & Legends – **Save \$150**

June – Follow Crab Louis to the Waters – **Save \$75**

July – Atlantic Canada Sampler – **Save \$100**

August – Scotland – Edinburgh to the Highlands – **Save \$200**

September – Pure Michigan – **Save \$100**

September – New England Fall Foliage – **Save \$100**

Give the Gift of Travel

Gift Certificates can be purchased from our office, in person or over the phone, in any amount.

OFFICE HOURS:

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

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

VALUABLE COUPON

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

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

TOUR UPDATE...

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

Sold-Out Tours

New Orleans	Washington, DC
Monterey	San Juan Explorer
Utah	Alaska Aurora Borealis
Route 66 (East)	Ferries/Towns Puget Sound
Niagara (May)	Canadian Rockies by Rail
Niagara (Sept)	Fall Colors of the West Mystery

Limited Space

Victoria (9)	New York City (April) (9)
Hawaii (3)	Nevada Ghost Towns (3)
Coast Starlight (2)	Moab/Arches NP (8)
Spring Training (4)	Catalina Island (May) (4)
Crater Lake (4)	Fields of Dreams (5)
Columbia River (4)	Ferries/Towns Cape Cod (4)
Pure Michigan (9)	Colorful Carolina Coast (2/1 room)
San Antonio (4)	Pilgrimage to Plains (7)
New Mexico (8)	CA Redwoods/OR Coast (2)
Atlantic Canada (9)	New England Fall Foliage (10)
Route 66 (West) (9)	

Cruises with limited cabin availability:

Scandinavia	Mississippi River	Rhine River
-------------	-------------------	-------------