



Response to 2024 Catalog Overwhelming...

A DOZEN NEW ADVENTURES ON THESE PAGES!

Wow. Amazing. Historical (at least for us). All those superlatives refer to your response after our **2024 Tour Catalog, Dream Weaving**, was announced. It was rolled out first before over 600 **Sports Leisure Travelers** at Tour Preview Day, Monday, November 6th at the Marriott Hotel; then to nearly 8,000 on our mailing list in the days after. (Over \$6,000 in admission fees were donated, in full, to three local charities. More details on **page 6**.)

The results were a huge portion of the available space was sold within the first 6 hours after the tours/cruises went on sale. One staff member related a call from a member a week after the catalog came out. She had five tours on her list and had to be wait listed for all five!

What a wonderful problem for a business to have, right? Customers literally lined up outside the office door the morning after Preview Day. In some ways yes, what a great problem to have. In some ways no, because we don't want our loyal travelers

going elsewhere.

Certainly, thank you for the overwhelming response to our new offerings. Apologies to those who waited more than a day to make their travel decisions or got their catalog in the mail 3-4 days after sales started. In many cases, you are the names on the wait lists. But take heart. Already, in just two months, we have cleared almost 100 names from those lists. Please put your name down, even if there isn't space when you first call.

There are a couple of reasons for that. The longer the wait list gets for a particular tour/cruise, the better chance of another departure for the same tour/cruise, in 2024 or future seasons. In **selected situations** with really popular trips, we try and contact those on the list from the previous year when the next year's trip is announced.

We have been scrambling for the past two months to try and create new adventures so you won't have to look elsewhere; and have even slowed promotions to attract new travelers, until supply can catch up with demand.

You pay us an incredible compliment with your eagerness to be a part of what we have created over the past 44 years.

What's Inside This Issue of *The Traveler*

A host of adventures for your approval, some of them old favorites and some brand new excursions. Old favorites include:

- The Laguna Pageant of the Masters
- Fall Foliage in New England, highlighting New Hampshire
- Branson & The Ozarks
- Santa Cruz
- The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Clayton has re-worked Ireland and the new itinerary is listed. Not quite as many castles, and importantly, not quite as high a price.

Donnie wants to offer an overnight trip to Lake Tahoe to see the annual outdoor theater production by the lake. We are talking early August, with accommodations in California near the casinos. The show is at sunset near the lake. There are two choices for the show and she would love to get some input from people who might be interested in attending. The options are **The Merry Wives of Windsor** (a Shakespearean comedy about a strange love story gone totally goofy) and **Always...Patsy Cline** (the touching true story of Patsy Cline's friendship with a fan, featuring her best hits). If you'd like to go, which would you like to see? Drop an email to Donnie@sportsleisure.com.

Scott has been taking people to **Alaska** to see the Northern Lights for many years. Now, at the urging of many of you, he has created a fall trip (September). RoseMarie has been working on two trips. One is on these pages, **Luxury in La Jolla**. Three nights at an Embassy Suites and lots of sights, even a Sunday Brunch Cruise. The second, featuring **Hollywood**, will be in the April newsletter. Donnie is announcing a trip to **Santa Cruz**.

Our **baseball** trips to Chicago and Seattle to watch the Giants have day-by-day itineraries (**page 10**). The Seattle trip offers a baseball or sightseeing itinerary, or perhaps even some of both if you wish. Again, 3 nights at an Embassy Suites Hotel (both groups). They are listed on both the baseball and new tours pages.

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The longer you do something, the harder it is to be surprised at day-to-day occurrences. Witness the fact that I have been running **Sports Leisure Vacations** since 1979, so fewer things cause me great shock. Most of us are like that. The longer we are around, the harder it is to knock our socks off with something.



But when we held our belated **Tour Preview Day** in November, and then you all literally cleared off the shelves in the few days that followed, I was truly amazed. It's always busy after Preview Day, but this reaction was off the charts. As you can see on these pages, we are working to create more travel opportunities.

COVID, RSV Update

As mentioned elsewhere on these pages, we haven't left COVID behind yet, and might not ever. RSV, the lovely respiratory illness many of us have had already this winter, is a clever partner to COVID, leaving some ill and not knowing which one they have. **Personally, I am a strong advocate of the vaccines/boosters.** Everyone makes their own decision in that area.

There are a few things we can all do for each other. If you come down with a cough while traveling, even if **you are sure** it's just allergies or something the rest of us need not be concerned about, as a courtesy you should cover your mouth while coughing,

especially on the coach or at meals or other close quarters. Those you are traveling with will definitely notice your "illness etiquette."

One last note. No one likes to cancel a dream trip at the last minute. But if you **know you are sick**, please consider the rest of the people in our group, on the plane, in the museum, etc. Staying home, as much as you don't want to do it, could keep a lot of other people healthy. Just food for thought.

Speaking of Your Health...

A few years ago, I became aware of a medical service that intrigued me, and I wanted to share my feelings about it with you. There might be someone out there who would find this of value.

Have you ever heard of a Concierge Physician? Instead of hundreds or thousands of patients, a concierge physician might have 50-100. Imagine if you had a medical issue and you could text your doctor and generally get a response within the hour? I do. Dr. Bob Nelson is his name. He is everything you hope your doctor will provide each time you contact him or her, or walk into their office.

Except I don't have to walk into an office. "Dr. Bob," as my staff calls him, comes to my office. If I need to have blood drawn, it's done right at my desk. If I need a test or have to visit a specialist, he will be there with me if he feels it's important for him to hear information first hand.

As many of you know, I have epilepsy. If I'm careful, it isn't much of an issue. If I'm not, it can bite me in the butt. Otherwise, I'm a reasonably healthy 68-year-old.

Bob Nelson has been a concierge physician for 19 years in Sacramento. His patient load is 50-60 people. While I didn't ask him, my guess is he knows each one of them by their first names, and probably knows off hand what their major health issues are. He went to school at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and George Washington University in DC. He isn't the only doctor offering this type of service.

Dr. Bob says, "I want to provide the kind of care to my patients I wished my parents had. The best part of it is I get to know my patients. They aren't just numbers and words on a chart, they are real people. I can translate medical Latin into English for them. With more open and regular communication, we are being proactive and can often identify potential problems before they impact your life."

I asked him what is the toughest part of his job, and not surprisingly, he said, "sharing negative information with a patient." That has to be the hardest part of any doctor's (or even dentist's) job. But at least you are hearing it from someone who knows you and can immediately help you deal with whatever you have to face, big or small.

The services of a concierge physician are not cheap. The cost ranges from \$300-\$3,000 a month, depending on your personal medical needs. I don't have any expensive habits, so why not put my medical care at the top of the list. It was one of the smartest decisions I ever made.

You can contact Dr. Bob, and/or his lovely wife Christi, who serves as his nurse and runs the office, at **916-838-3773**. His e-mail address is dr.nelson@cpofca.com.

On **The Travel Guys Radio Show**, we try to give our listeners information that will make them smarter travelers. I guess that's what I'm doing here, offering up an idea that might make your life a little better.

And so it goes,

Mark Hoffmann, CTP

Owner/Founder (almost 45 years ago)



Our regular Lux Bus driver, Simon, received the Driver of the Year Award from his company – congrats Simon!

All Aboard!

Here in **Sports Leisureland** we love trains and know you do, too! They offer a timeless experience – an old-fashioned way to see the world around us as we travel from point to point, not at 30,000 feet above planet earth, but at ground level. Dare I say this – ground level – is the way the world was meant to be seen!

Last week I taught a course for the fifth consecutive year at my collegiate fraternity's leadership training academy with over 50 chapter presidents in attendance. Sigma Tau Gamma was founded in 1920 in Warrensburg, Missouri. To this day most of our chapters exist on Midwestern campuses. Being from California always makes me a bit of a celebrity. Each year everyone wants me to tell them about Sacramento, and I usually begin by sharing our pivotal role in the creation of America's first transcontinental railroad. In pretty short order I am reminded that trains are not in the vernacular of today's youth. Most attendees drive to Indianapolis for the course. A few fly in. None come by train. It is clearly a mode of travel for the older and wiser!

Canada has a story similar to ours. For them it was not only an urgency to connect the East and West Coasts, but also a race between the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific, both of whom were faced with the seemingly insurmountable task of crossing the Rocky Mountains. One of our signature tours we offer every few years is **Canada Coast-to-Coast by Rail**. The title says it all. We travel from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Vancouver, British Columbia – nearly 6000 miles – on VIA Rail, Canada's National Railroad. VIA is more like a European rail experience than it is Amtrak, featuring comfortable cars, attentive service and wonderful meals. And of course unsurpassed sightseeing as we move through cities and towns, forests and farmlands, all taking us closer and closer to the big prize – the Rocky Mountains.

It takes two full days to traverse the eastern portion of that great country from the salty marshes and estuaries of the Maritime

Provinces, through Quebec and Ontario, to Toronto. There we overnight to catch our breaths, then we're off again for the 100-hour journey through the peaceful plains of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. After a service stop in Edmonton the mountain start coming into view. Another service stop in Jasper only whets our appetite for more. Then we're up and over, gently sitting down in the Pacific Northwest. You can read the full itinerary on page 23 of our 2024 Dream Book or online.

Looking for something a little shorter? Then check out **New England Fall Foliage Spectacular**, this year's installment in our annual autumn vacation series. Five day-trains provide a magnificent way to view New Hampshire's spectacular natural scenery including the famous Mount Washington Cog Railway and the Café Lafayette Dinner Train, safely the finest dining experience on rails in the US. Two lake cruises and two gondola rides top out our multi-modal itinerary across New Hampshire. We'll even have high tea at the celebrated Mt. Washington Hotel, historic elegance nestled in the grandeur of the White Mountains. Check out the full itinerary in these pages.

Ireland Reset

In the 2024 Dream Book I rolled out an idea that had been percolating on the minds of Dr. Gary Tierney, my close friend and Irish drive/guide extraordinaire, and me for the past couple of years: A tour around the Emerald Isle staying exclusively in castles and manor houses converted to hotels. Many of you expressed an interest, so Gary and I put the idea into operations. The result was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but one with a price tag not for the faint of heart!

We've recalibrated the idea, and offer a revised itinerary in these pages. We gave up the manor house in Belfast (with a price of over \$1500 for the 2-night stay!) and tightened our belts in a few other places. The result is a much more reasonably-priced vacation, but one still featuring four singular historic properties you'll never forget, along with all the Irish must-sees including the Guinness Storehouse, Waterford Crystal Factory, Giants Causeway, Cliffs of Moher, **Titanic** Exhibition and so much more. We'll even visit Blarney Castle so you can achieve the gift of eloquence if you're brave enough to kiss the fabled stone.

45 Years and Counting...

For nearly half a century **Sports Leisure Vacations** has been bringing you America and the world. It's an honor and pleasure to be your hometown tour company; to support this community we love and call home. My sincere thanks to each and every one of you for making it all possible – for affording Mark, our staff and me the ability to live our dreams and have you along for the ride!

"Your Tour Guy,"

Clayton Whitehead, CTP
President



Here's Clayton and Gary dreaming of the Emerald Isle

The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

New Bus Stop – Daycation Parking Now Available in West Sacramento

We are thrilled to announce the addition of a new parking option for those of you who enjoy day tripping. Our local motorcoach partner, **LuxBus America**, has opened and striped a lot at the entrance of their new facility. Located at **1875 S. River Road in West Sacramento**, the lot has 12 spaces and is located between their building and the roadway. The lot is illuminated at night and under 24-hour camera surveillance. We feel this lot will be welcomed not only by our travelers who live west of the river, but also those in the south area who have been without a parking location in their neighborhood for the past number of years. **Smart Traveler Tip:** Those in the West Sacramento lot will be the last ones picked-up on San Francisco/west-bound trips and the first to be dropped off upon return to Sacramento! The new stop is effective March 31st.

Home Pick-up – It's FREE within these boundaries

Our Signature Door-to-Door Service is free in the greater Sacramento area. Those outside the no charge area can still get the service, but there is an "add on" charge, because you are further from the airport. Also please note that some "suburbs" of cities that are free have a surcharge. Auburn is an example. Auburn is free, but Lake of the Pines has an extra charge.

If you choose to extend your trip, we are happy to provide custom service on your return. There is an additional \$50 charge for custom return service on an extended trip, plus any outside free service area add-ons.

Why is that? Because when you return apart from the group you cannot share a car. The free pick-up prices are based on an average of 2.5 passengers per car. Even if there are two of you, and you pay a \$100 surcharge, the basic cost of the car is \$140. So those pick-ups for tour extensions really are a courtesy, because we take a loss on each one.

\$29.95 Travel Guys Lobster Dinner Special at Rudy's Hideaway

Hopefully, everyone reading this is familiar with **The Travel Guys Radio Show**. It's heard at 11am every Saturday morning on KFBK, 1530AM/93.1FM. Our own **Mark Hoffmann** is joined by **Tom Romano** for an hour of travel-related news and information. One of the advertisers on the program is **Rudy's Hideaway**, an iconic Sacramento-area restaurant.

Right now, **Rudy's is offering a Travel Guys special**. For just \$29.95, you get a complete lobster dinner. How the heck can you beat that? Rudy's is located at **12303 Folsom Blvd**, just west of Hazel Avenue. They are open for dinner every day starting at 4pm, and lunch M-F.

In order to get the special **6 oz. Lobster Dinner, you must ask for the Travel Guys special**. Rudy's has been a part of the **Sports Leisure** family for many years, in fact Rudy himself was a loyal Sports Leisure Traveler!

Seasoned Citizen Di\$counts

In most cases, all you have to do is ask. Please note this is a partial list, and all items listed may not be current. But considering how much restaurant food has gone up in recent times, getting a small di\$count might not be so bad.

Restaurants:

- Applebee's: 15% off with Golden Apple Card (60+)
- Arby's: 10% off (55 +)
- Burger King: 10% off (60+)
- Chick-Fil-A: 10% off or free small drink or coffee (55+)
- Chili's: 10% off (55+)
- Denny's: 10% off, 20% off for AARP members (55 +)
- Einstein's Bagels: 10% off baker's dozen of bagels (60+)
- Golden Corral: 10% off (60+)
- IHOP: 10% off (55+)
- Jack in the Box: up to 20% off (55+)
- KFC: free small drink w/any meal (55+)

- Krispy Kreme: 10% off (50+)
- McDonald's: discounts on coffee everyday (55+)
- Mrs. Fields: 10% off at participating locations (60+)
- Sonic: 10% off or free beverage (60+)
- Subway: 10% off (60+)
- Taco Bell: 5% off; free beverages for seniors (65+)
- TCBY: 10% off (55+)
- Wendy's: 10% off (55 +)
- Whataburger: 10% off (62+)

Canes and Walkers on Certain Tours

Tour Directors have asked me to remind those who travel with assistive devices (such as canes and walkers and the like) that on many tours these items are no problem. They help many of us get around easier and in some cases, are the difference between traveling and staying home.

But there are several destinations where assistive devices really don't work as well. In particular, **New York City, Cape Cod and Washington, DC**, are not places where folks with a cane or a walker can easily get around with the group. In NYC, we use the subways frequently, as an efficient way to move around. But not every subway station has an elevator, and frequently they are out of service. In NYC and Washington, it's often much quicker to just walk the 3-6 blocks to our destination. It's very difficult to keep track of those who fall way behind. Cape Cod has lots and lots of uneven surfaces, which pose a challenge, particularly for walkers.

If you use an assistive device, and attempt to register for one of these tours, you may be discouraged by what you are told by our staff. It's not that we don't want you to go. It's just that if you cannot climb the subway steps, walk the length of Capitol Mall in DC, or navigate the piers on the Cape, we can't, in good faith, accept your money. We also have to think of how your issues might impact



the quality of the experience for others on the trip. The reality is there are some destinations that are not for everyone.

Upgraded/Award Seating on Flights

We address this topic from time to time. If you are traveling with us on a trip which includes air flights, you can often upgrade your seats if you wish. All carriers except Southwest offer a First Class/Business cabin. We are happy to make your upgraded reservations in and quote you the price difference. In some cases, the cost of first class is closer to coach than it used to be.

Sometimes, that upgrade can be purchased immediately; in some cases we must wait until we ticket the group. Any restrictions can be explained when you make your inquiry.

Our air flights are booked as groups in standard economy. We know this is an issue for some travelers. For those of you with long legs, or who hate window or middle seats (haven't met the person who hates aisle seats yet), we strongly encourage you to consider an upgrade. With group ticketing, it is impossible to honor your aisle or window request, because it's all done randomly. The way to avoid that is to pay up. (FYI, Sports Leisure Vacations receives **no compensation** for sales of any upgraded seats on board the aircraft.)

If you have miles with the airline being used for your trip, you can often use your miles to purchase a standard or upgraded ticket. We are happy to assist with those arrangements, just give us a call.

Tour Director Seating on Flights

Just as we encourage you to upgrade your seating, we have done the same with our Tour Directors. They are permitted to use their miles/points to upgrade their accommodations on board the aircraft. Some of our staff have been traveling a long time, and have achieved status levels with hotels or airlines that allow them additional benefits. They are

allowed to utilize those benefits while working.

Why Must We Arrive So Early at the Airport?

Time is the most valuable possession while traveling. Once it's gone, you can't get it back. When we are gathering 6-12 vehicles, 20-30 people, their luggage and assistive devices, and trying to get them all checked in and on their way, it takes a little time. There are a lot of moving parts and we have to allow a little time in case something isn't as perfect as we had hoped on the morning of departure. We plan to have everyone at the airport 2 hours prior to flight time. Airlines suggest you arrive 1½-2 hours in advance of domestic flights, so we aren't far from what is standard.

When we are returning to Sacramento, we never know what we will encounter at the "away from home" airport, so we again allow that extra margin.

Departure Day Communications

The day of your trip has arrived and you are eagerly awaiting your car to pick you up. Here are some things to consider. What if your car is delayed for some reason? If you are outside, do we have your cell number to reach you? Is your phone turned on and is the volume up so you can hear it? Did you provide us your gate code? If you have any last minute issues on departure morning, we

provide you with the number for Baylight Transportation on your Final Tour Notes. Please remember to provide updated gate/access codes at least a week before departure.

COVID/RSV Update

COVID infections on tour have fallen off in the late fall/winter. They are still appearing from time to time, generally after we have returned home. If you test positive for COVID after a trip, please notify us, so we can notify those you traveled with. We do not share the names of those who notify us of a positive test; we simply let other travelers know someone has tested positive.

RSV, the Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection, is also around. Generally identifiable by the persistent cough lasting several weeks after the infection is no longer contagious, the only thing you can do is make sure you cover your mouth when coughing. Meds do the rest.

Currently there are no travel restrictions or vaccination requirements. **We strongly recommend you get the latest COVID booster and RSV shot. STRONGLY.** If you are sick, please don't travel. Your fellow travelers thank you.

OFFICE HOURS:

9:00am – 3:30pm MON. thru FRI.

Closed weekends and major holidays

CLOSED TUES. 12:00pm – 1:15pm



The Travel Guys Radio Show

NEW DAY! • NEW TIME!

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

Podcasts and show updates at
www.travelguysradio.com

Hosted by: *Tom Romano and Mark Hoffmann*

The Customers Always Write

Dear Mr. Hoffmann,

I went on the day trip, Thursday Jan. 4th to the New Clairvaux Abbey. It was one of the best day trips I have attended. I am not religious, but the history and architect was wonderful. Brother Luiz was delightful. Listening to the monks chant in that beautiful building was very moving. The wine tasting was also great. It was so good I bought a couple of bottles. I learned so much on this adventure. The added bonus was lunch at the Sierra Nevada Brewing. It was really good. I would do a return trip on this one. Thank you!

Sincerely, Christine

Dear Clayton & Mark,

On behalf of RememberAVet.net and the annual Wreath Project, we extend our gratitude for your extremely generous donation of \$2,203 toward the 2023 campaign.

As you may know, this project exists solely to ensure that each of the veterans resting at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery is honored with a bough every Christmas. This December 30,000 boughs were placed by thousands of volunteers, recognizing each and every one of the military members resting at SVNC. You're appreciated more than you know!

Sincerely, Curtis & Susie Stocking

Dear Sports Leisure Vacations,

As the weather turns colder and the holidays approach, it's even more important that we are looking out for all of the children in our community who are experiencing homelessness. Because of your kindness, we can continue to offer a warm sit-down family meal for the holidays. We focus not only on food, clothing, and helping find shelter but also on the universal need for belonging and connection.

Your donation has become part of the care and love we hope that each child at Mustard Seed can feel when they walk through the door. Thank you for recognizing the guests of Mustard Seed as your wider circle of friends and neighbors. Its people

like you who strengthen the community we all belong to.

*With gratitude, Lucia Vega
Director, Mustard Seed*

Donation Receipt for you records:
Donation amount: \$2,203.00 donated on 11/14/2023.

Last Minute Day Trip Announcements

San Francisco Bay Flower and Garden Show

*Alameda County Fairgrounds,
Pleasanton*

Thursday, April 4

The San Francisco Bay Flower & Garden Show will take over the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The grounds will be in full bloom, both inside and out with spectacular display gardens, 75-plus free seminars with top garden and floral experts, hundreds of plants for sale, and more. For the first time in the Show's 39-year history the showcase gardens, filled with thousands of blooming flowers and exotic plants, will be installed outdoors in a natural setting modeled after the gardens at England's renowned Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows. Lunch will be on your own at your leisure. There will be a large variety of dining options at the fairgrounds. **\$128**

Pride in The Castro

San Francisco

Thursday, June 6

Come with us to the Castro district, San Francisco's LGBT neighborhood. (This tour was a Mystery Trip last year.) Your itinerary includes a 6 block walking tour, highlighting some of the history, the people (think Harvey Milk) and the culture of one of The City's cleanest areas. There's lunch at The Catch, then an ice cream or cookie treat, before you board the historic F street car for the ride to the Ferry Building. Once there, browse the shops for a minute or two, then board the ferry to Vallejo. **\$165**

Who's Leading MY Tour/Cruise?

A list of the Tour Directors for each of the trips on our schedule. IMPORTANT:

This list should be considered tentative. Lots of situations can cause changes, and often one change impacts other tours.

- Key West** – Mark/Tyler
- Yellowstone** – Scott
- Australia** – Clayton
- Kauai** – Mark/Tyler
- Ashland Chocolate** – Donnie
- Aurora Borealis** – Scott
- Spring Training** – Mark/Tyler
- Snow Train to Reno** – TBA
- Carolina Coast** – Clayton
- Panama Canal** – Michael
- Arkansas Eclipse** – Clayton & TBA
- Monterey** – Scott
- Washington DC & NYC** – Maureen
- Comedy, Dollars, Legends** – Clayton
- Niagara Falls & Ottawa** – Maureen
- Zion & Bryce Canyon** – Scott
- Luxury in La Jolla** – RoseMarie
- Cape Cod** – Maureen
- Yosemite** – Scott
- Atlantic Canada** – Clayton
- Giants/Cubs in Chicago** – Mark/Tyler
- Redwoods & Oregon Coast** – RoseMarie
- Canada Coast-to-Coast** – Clayton
- Fort Bragg** – Mark/Tyler
- Laguna Pageant** – Donnie
- Ferry & Towns of P.S.** – Mark/Tyler
- Vancouver/Victoria** – Donnie
- San Juan Islands** – Scott
- Mainely Maine** – Clayton
- Giants/Mariners Baseball** – Mark/Tyler
- Seattle Sights** – Mark/Tyler
- Autumn in Alaska** – Scott
- Czech Republic** – Clayton
- Galapagos Cruise** – Michael
- New England Fall** – TBA
- Rocky Mountains** – Scott
- Ireland** – Clayton
- Wasatch Fall Foliage** – Scott
- Albuquerque Balloons** – Scott
- Pieces of History Mystery** – Mark/Tyler
- Santa Cruz** – Donnie
- Viet Nam Cruise** – Michael
- American Queen Cruise** – RoseMarie
- Sedona** – Scott



2023 On The Road *Most Memorable Moments*

As contributed by our Tour Directors

The Bear Cub on Hurricane Ridge in Olympic Nat'l Park – We all kept wondering, “where is mamma bear?”

22 Sports Leisure Travelers singing “Purple People Eater” – As our bus pulled out of tiny Erick, Texas, hometown of Sheb Wooley, who performed the novelty song back in 1959. Erick is on Route 66.

Best Northern Lights Ever and Feeding the Reindeer – On the Northern Lights Tour in Alaska.

Two whales breaching next to the boat – On the way to Catalina Island.

Orcas following the boat in the San Juan Islands – Speaking of whales in the water.

The Great Belmont Blizzard on Nevada Ghost Towns – We had to make an immediate evacuation when snow, LOTS of snow, suddenly hit Belmont.

Ted Drewes Custard in St. Louis – Only one on the list which appeared in *two* itineraries, a Mississippi River Cruise and Route 66. The best frozen custard you will ever eat, in soft serve form, in lots and lots of flavors.

A Float Trip on the Colorado River – Scott says this was a lot of fun.

Selma & Tuskegee, Alabama & Ms. Jo Anne Bland – A lesson in American history, told by those who lived it. “The reason I travel is to learn. We learned a lot in Selma and Tuskegee. Miss Jo Anne made it eye opening”

Best Northern Lights Ever in Alaska

Breakfast at Jeannine’s and the Land Shark Tour in Santa Barbara – “The best breakfast place on any Sports Leisure tour... heck, on **any** tour.” The Land Shark scored a perfect 5.0 rating!

Face-to-Face with Crazy Horse, ON THE MOUNTAIN – One traveler called it “one of the travel highlights of my life. Unbelievable to stand on the mountain and look Crazy Horse in the eye.”

History of the Route in Springfield, Illinois – A look at how black travelers navigated the historic highway. VERY eye opening for white folks from California.

The Barry Manilow Christmas Concert in Palm Springs – “Worth every penny.” “At eighty years old, he can still sing.” “Thank you for making this possible. A dream come true.”



Ms. Jo Anne Bland told us about walking over the Edmund Pettus Bridge on an infamous day in Selma



A black bear cub wandering near made us wonder where mama bear might be



The Great Belmont Blizzard had us scrambling to leave town



Getting ready for adventure on the Colorado River

The Tour Calendar *(Previously Announced)*

Two exciting Canadian adventures and more international experiences from *Sports Leisure Vacations!*

Atlantic Canada – Best of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward & Breton Islands

9 Days • June 15-23

3

Fly to Halifax, Nova Scotia. 4 nights at the Westin Hotel – Peggy's Cove, UNESCO World Heritage Town of Lunenburg, Confederation Bridge, lobster dinner (13 included meals). 2 nights Charlottetown, Canada's birthplace. Visit the Anne of Green Gables Heritage Place. On Cape Breton Island (Inverary Resort 2 nights), see the Alexander Graham Bell Historic Site in Baddeck. Stay at Bras d'Or Lake and tour The Cabot Trail through the Cape Breton Highlands. Your final stop is Louisbourg, site of a 1744 settlement.

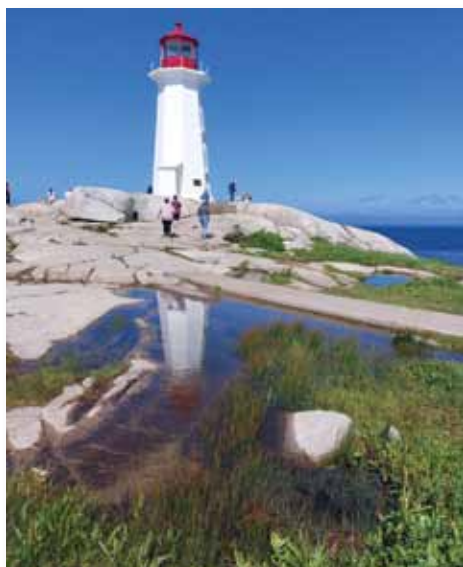
If you have always wanted to explore Eastern Canada, here is a terrific opportunity in a small group (maximum 22 travelers). While in Halifax, sights include a tour highlighting the cemetery which contains victims from the *Titanic* disaster. Of course there is a lobster dinner, it's the local delicacy.

The UNESCO World Heritage Town of Lunenburg is so picturesque, and famous for

its vast fleet of schooners. On a walking tour, you'll experience one of the most remarkably preserved colonial settlements in the New World. Learn about the native and local people before crossing the Confederation Bridge to Prince Edward Island, where you stay in Charlottetown for two nights.

Prince Edward National Park features white beaches, red cliffs, sand dunes and lush green fields. Visit the Anne of Green Gables Heritage Place, inspiration for the classic books.

Ferry back to Nova Scotia and proceed to Cape Breton Island, the Scotland of



Explore the tiny village of Peggy's Cove, it's the real deal



North America. The man who invented the telephone is just one of the great pieces of history you'll find on the island. Finally, there's a journey along the scenic Cabot Trail, which winds around the rocky splendor of Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

13 meals (at least one with lobster... yum), airfare, door-to-door service, step-on guides along the way. Truly a deluxe package.

\$5725 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6285 single

Canada Coast-to-Coast by Rail

9 Days • June 19-27

3

Fly to Halifax, Nova Scotia and make your way back to Vancouver by rail. Two nights Halifax (Westin), overnight Toronto (Fairmont). Via Rail's *The Ocean* takes you from Nova Scotia to Montreal. Then a local route from Montreal to Toronto, followed by 4 nights on *The Canadian*, across the prairies and through the Rockies.

While in Halifax, visit the impressive Citadel National Historic Site; and see Peggy's Cove, a picturesque little fishing village seemingly frozen in time. Board *The Ocean*, where your accommodations are in *Easterly Class*, an upgraded accommodation. Couples enjoy private sleeping quarters which feature upper/lower berths, while single travelers will occupy a roomette, a smaller area.

Your stop in Montreal is literally a connection, to a local Via Rail Train for the 5-hour trip. On arrival in Toronto you'll stay in the Fairmont Royal York, a magnificent Canadian Pacific Hotel.

After your overnight, it's back across the street to the train station for the mid-morning departure of *The Canadian*. We have indeed saved the best for last. Your remaining days in Canada find you surrounded by spectacular scenery as you pass the lakes and rivers of Ontario, the prairies of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and the tall mountain peaks of the Canadian Rockies in Alberta and British Columbia.

While on board the train, you will enjoy VIA Rail's famed *Silver and Blue Service*. All your meals are included in the dining car and you



Take in a 360° view from the dome in the Park Car

will have access to the Park Cars with their popular sightseeing domes. VIA Rail's staff will be on hand during every mile of your journey to assist you.

Your adventure comes to an end with a morning arrival in Vancouver and your mid-day flight home. 19 meals, home pick-up included.

\$7040 p.p./dbl.occ., \$7485 single

The Czech Republic – Vineyards, Castles & Countrysides

4

Featuring exclusive experiences in Prague, Cesky Krumlov and South Moravia

12 Days • September 6-17

★ Highlights ★

- Castles! Prague, Karlstejn, Hluboka, Mikulov, Lednice & more
- Czech Republic's largest Wine Harvest Celebration
- Unique Czech crystal-making experience
- Horse drawn carriage rides through Karlstejn & Lednice Castle grounds
- River rafting experience around Castle Cesky Krumlov
- Salon Vin – Tasting top 50 Reds & Whites at Castle Valtice Wine Cellars
- Electric cycling through scenic Czech Wine Country
- Guided tour through Macocha Abyss, the lowest point in Central Europe

- Valtice Cellar Underground Tour to include dinner & local folk music
- 15 meals: 10 breakfasts, 5 dinners
- Roundtrip airfare to Prague/from Vienna
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Fully escorted by Czech guide and **Sports Leisure** Tour Director

Why would you go to Europe, spend 11 days, and only visit one country? Excellent question. Let's see. Maybe it's the castles. Castles have always fascinated us North Americans, because we don't have many here. In the Czech Republic, **they are all over!** Let's visit a few, including Lednice, a registered UNESCO World Heritage Site (a horse-drawn carriage ride is a highlight).

The country is known for its wines, just like California is. You just happen to be there during harvest season. There **could be** some grape juice sampling. Just sayin' it's a possibility.

The Czechs are also known for their crystal, and you'll learn more. Prague's hallowed Jewish Quarter will take you on a historical journey that may make you a bit uncomfortable, but it will allow you to learn what happened here. A visit to Wenceslas Square is a must. There's lunch at the famous Dancing House, and a tour of the National Theater, Prague's cherished jewel.

You can find the complete day-by-day itinerary on our web site, at

www.sportsleisure.com. Or call our office and we'll send you a copy. **Warning: Space on this trip is VERY limited. Act quickly if you would like to go.** 8000/8700 Gold Passport Points

\$7980 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8700 single

Cruising The Galapagos Islands

8 Days • September 10-17

4

★ Highlights ★

- 5-day cruise aboard the *MV Galapagos Legend*
- 2 nights in Ecuador's capital of Quito with touring
- 1 night in Guayaquil with touring
- Visit the Galapagos Islands of Santiago, Isabela, Fernandina and Santa Cruz
- Pristine nature – Darwin's tortoises, finches, iguanas...and so much more!
- Excellent cruise staff includes English-speaking Naturalist Guides
- Included shore and snorkeling excursions twice daily during cruise
- 16 meals: Daily breakfast, 5 lunches, 4 dinners
- All transfers and port taxes included
- Roundtrip air to Quito/from Guayaquil; interisland air to/from Baltra
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Fully escorted by **Sports Leisure** Tour Director

See Mother Nature quite literally frozen in time in a place unlike any other on earth. This fascinating journey into the natural wonders of the Galapagos Islands reveals a destination little changed since Charles Darwin made his first historic visit in 1835, and indeed for millennia before that. Your cruise is designed to focus on the nature of the islands, from their breathtaking geography to the species that call them home. With the leadership of your Naturalist Guides, you'll be sure not to miss a thing.

Pricing starts at \$6990 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8550 single for an outside cabin including air, Quito and Guayaquil accommodations and cruise.

This vacation requires a valid passport!

See the back page for Early Payment Discounts

46 years ago, Sports Travel started by taking fans to baseball games... and we are still doing it!

Spring Training in Arizona

5 Days • March 7-11

We'll watch the Giants and A's get ready for the regular season (and watch a few who will end up River Cats). The package includes 5 games as listed below, plus a baseball dinner with a special guest (former player, coach, broadcaster).

Our accommodations are at the Marriott Phoenix Airport, a beautiful property we have stayed at for many years. In addition, we'll enjoy a variety of sightseeing at the Hall of Flame, Arizona History Museum (with artifacts such as Geronimo's rifle) and the desert botanical garden.

Traditionally, we dine at Rustler's Roost one night, overlooking the valley; and because we are there on Sunday, brunch is included as is breakfast each morning (except Sunday) at your hotel. Fly roundtrip on Southwest Airlines. 2850/3235 Gold Passport Points.

\$2835 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3235 single
4 seats available

Spring Training Game Schedule

Thurs., Mar. 7 – LA Dodgers at Giants
Fri., Mar. 8 – Giants at San Diego Padres
Sat., Mar. 9 – Oakland A's at Giants
Sun., Mar. 10 – Giants at Seattle Mariners
Mon., Mar. 11 – Giants at Kansas City Royals

The Giants & The Cubs at Wrigley Field

4 Days • June 16-19

We are accepting reservations for the trip to the Windy City to see the Giants take on the Cubs. Games are Monday and Tuesday evenings at 7pm, and a day game finale at 1:20pm. Tickets will be in section 126.

We will fly in on Sunday and enjoy dinner at Harry Carey's Restaurant near O'Hare Airport. Monday and Tuesday we'll spend the days touring Chicago, the evenings watching baseball. Guided sightseeing

features downtown and Wrigleyville, the neighborhood around the legendary ballpark. Tours of White Sox Park and Wrigley Field are on the agenda.

We'll make a stop at the Chicago Sports Museum, and dine at local landmarks like the **Billy Goat Tavern** (there's a fascinating baseball story here), **Harry Carey's Steakhouse** and **Lou Mitchell's** (a Route 66 landmark).

Accommodations are upscale, the Sheraton Suites O'Hare overnight on arrival, and two nights at the St. Clair Hotel (just off the Magnificent Mile near downtown). We are limiting the group to a maximum of 18 travelers.

The package includes non-stop roundtrip air to/from Chicago on United Airlines, home pick-up, 6 meals, accommodations, tickets and attractions as listed.

\$2990 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3200 single
4 seats available

Seattle – A Giants Road Trip and/or Sights in the Emerald City

4 Days • August 23-26

3

★ **Highlights** ★

- 3 nights at the Embassy Suites Seatac, breakfast and cocktails included daily
- Roundtrip air on Alaska Airlines (subject to change)
- 7/6 meals (sightseers/baseball), including a private Sunday Brunch at the Salish Lodge for all
- Museum of Flight, Seattle Chocolate Factory Tour, Chihuly Garden & Glass,



So, would you like to hold a bat used by Aaron Judge? Or one used by "The Babe" himself?

The Space Needle, Seattle City Tour, Tour of West Seattle, Locks Cruise

- Home pick up, all coach gratuities on tour

A unique itinerary unlike any we have offered in the Pacific Northwest. Depart on a Friday morning and enjoy sights in Seattle throughout the weekend and into Monday. **Or for baseball fans**, catch the Giants playing the Seattle Mariners 3 times on Friday evening, plus Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Baseball fans will be a part of much of the sightseeing adventures and sightseers **could** add a baseball game to their itinerary (based on availability).

1. A 7am Alaska Airlines flight takes you non-stop to Seattle, arriving at 9am. The

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

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



Museum of Flight fills the morning. It is the largest independent, non-profit air and space museum in the world! With over 175 aircraft and spacecraft, tens of thousands of artifacts and more, a host of aviation history and the industry's future, are packed into this museum.

After lunch at Anthony's in Des Moines, enjoy a tour of Seattle Chocolate, with time to pick up "take home" items.

Sightseers have the evening free at the Embassy Suites (check in at 4pm). The hotel offers oversized rooms, has a restaurant, offers complimentary cocktails each evening and there are other dining choices within a short walk. Baseball fans will ride our coach to the park, 15 minutes away, for the 7:10pm game and return to the hotel after the game.

Embassy Suites Seatac – 3 nights (L)

2. There is an optional 8:30am departure this morning for those wishing to have time at famous Pike Place Market. A second departure is scheduled an hour later for non-market goers. The **Chihuly (Sculpture) Garden & Glass (Museum)** is one of the city's top attractions. Your early arrival allows you to see the highlights before the crowds arrive.

Baseball fans will peel off at noon and attend the Giants-Mariners game starting at 1:10pm. Non-baseball fans will have an included lunch at Ivar's Salmon House and then take a ride to the top of the Space Needle for panoramic views of Seattle and Puget Sound (weather permitting). Both

groups return to the hotel approximately 5pm. **(FB – all, L – non-baseball only)**

3. Head into the Cascades Mountains just east of town this morning for a private Sunday Brunch at the Salish Lodge, served in a room with a view. There's also a side trip to view Snoqualmie Falls. Returning to town, our baseball fans have a 1pm date at the ballpark. Our sightseers head for West Seattle, for a look at tour featuring beaches and some of the trendy shopping spots on the sound.

Our group gathers together tonight for dinner at **Sharp's Roasthouse**, famous for their barbeque and salmon. **(BR,D)**

4. After breakfast, our guide will take us through downtown Seattle and give us an overview of the city's colorful history. Did you know it had an underground? There was/is an entire city beneath where you walk today. At noon, board the boat for Argosy Cruises' trip through the Seattle locks. It's described as "over 120 years of history in 120 minutes." Because it falls over the lunch hour, a box lunch will be offered on board.

Our return flight departs just before 6pm, arriving in Sacramento just after 8pm. **(FB,L)**

The Tour Package includes airfare (currently Alaska Airlines), baggage fees for one bag per person, 3 nights hotel, all transportation, 6/7 meals (depends on if you are a sightseer or baseball fan) and attractions as described, gratuities for non-Sports Leisure driver/guides, home pick-up in the greater Sacramento area. Baseball

package also includes 3 game tickets. ****Baseball tickets are in sections 241 (Fri.) and 137 (Sat. & Sun.)**

Baseball Package with some sights (no Space Needle or West Seattle):

\$2670 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2940 single

Sightseeing Package:

\$2420 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2660 single

\$75 EPD for either package

(discount limited to 20 travelers)

See the back page for Early Payment Discounts

Giants Day Trip Baseball Schedule for 2024

(with ticket location, trip price and game time – times subject to change)

April 24 Mets – Lower Box 128 – \$116 – 12:45pm
 June 1 Yankees – Club Level 229 – \$208 – 7:05pm
 June 2 Yankees – Lower Box 126 – \$190 – 1:05pm
 June 29 – Dodgers – Lower Box 128 – \$226 – 4:15pm
 June 30 Dodgers – Lower Box 127 – \$180 – 1:05pm
 Aug. 15 – Atlanta – Lower Box 127 – \$141 – 12:45pm
 Sept. 5 – Arizona – Club Level 229 – \$109 – 12:45pm

The times listed are the **game times**. Note that all are day games, **except June 1 and June 29**. The Giants prices are based on demand. The lower deck seats are a section or two closer to home plate than in the last few years (and the prices reflect that). Seats are in the shade.

Note seats for two games, **June 1 and Sept. 5**, are located on the Club Level. This is one level above where we usually sit. This is a bit of an experiment. Access to the Club Level is limited to those who hold tickets. The crowds are smaller, the rest room lines (for the ladies) shorter, the facilities are cleaner and the food stand lines are also shorter. Elevators or ramps will take you up there. Tyler and Mark checked out these seats and thought them worthy of a try. Ultimately, your opinion will determine if we return to that area next season.



One of our travelers getting a picture of the grave site of Babe Ruth



Daycations & Theatre Outings

Botticelli Drawings

de Young Museum

Thursday, February 8

Botticelli Drawings is the first exhibition ever dedicated to the drawings of Renaissance artist Sandro Botticelli. Featuring rarely seen newly attributed works, the exhibition provides insight into the design practice of an artist whose name is synonymous with Italian Renaissance. Botticelli's drawings offer an intimate look into the making of some of his most memorable masterpieces. Lunch is on your own at the café. **\$118**

A Weekend with Pablo Picasso, A Play

Gallo Center, Modesto

Sunday, February 25 – 5:00 pm

In this one-man tour-de-force based on Picasso's writings, writer/performer Herbert Sigüenza (*Culture Clash*) takes on the role of the legendary artist, inviting the audience into Picasso's private studio for an intimate and revealing weekend as he prepares to deliver six new works to a buyer on Monday morning. The production will feature large scale video projections of the art being created in the piece as well as historic images and text, serving to completely immerse audiences in a full, audio-visual experience of Picasso's life and art. We will have lunch prior to the show. **\$196**

Chicago

Gallo Center, Modesto

Tuesday, February 27 – 7:00 pm

After 25 years, *Chicago* is still the one musical with everything that makes Broadway shimmy-shake: a universal tale of fame, fortune, and all that jazz, with one show stopping song after another and the most astonishing dancing you've ever seen. No wonder *Chicago* has been honored with 6 Tony Awards, 2 Olivier Awards, a Grammy, and thousands of standing ovations. Dinner is included prior to the performance. **\$233**

SPACE LIMITED

The Pirates of Penzance

Gallo Center, Modesto

Thursday, March 7 – 7:00 pm

Set sail with this classic comedy. On the coast of Cornwall, a band of tenderhearted pirates celebrates the coming of age of Frederic, who was mistakenly apprenticed to the pirates until his 21st birthday. Now, Frederic has vowed to devote his life to the extermination of piracy – until a ludicrous leap year snag threatens to keep him apprenticed to the pirates for life! Throw in a bevy of beauties, a brash Pirate King, the delightfully stuffy Major-General Stanley and you've got what The New York Times calls "An endearing production with high musical standards and spirited performances." Dinner is included prior to the curtain. **\$216**

Trailblazing Woman of Country Tribute

Gallo Center, Modesto

Sunday, March 10 – 5:00 pm

Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton revolutionized country music and blazed a trail for future generations of female artists. With their chart-topping hits and record-breaking sales, Patsy, Loretta and Dolly wove threads of contemporary womanhood throughout the tapestry of country music, resulting in unprecedented commercial success and earning each a place in the Country Music Hall of Fame. Trailblazing Women of Country is an entertaining and inspiring show featuring soloists **Miko Marks**, CMT's 2022 "Next Woman of Country," and Nashville-based singer **Kristina Train**, supported by a 5-member all-female band. Lunch is included prior to the show. **\$196**

Wine, Roses and Champagne – a Perfect Easter Combination!

Wine and Roses, Lodi

Sunday, March 31

You've asked for a more "grown up" Easter experience and we've found it. Nestled in the rolling plains of Lodi's bountiful wine country, join us for a champagne brunch

served at Wine and Roses in their Garden Ballroom. There you'll delight in a buffet featuring a wide variety of delectable treats from savory to sweet including salads, main dishes, a carving station, fruits, pastries and scrumptious desserts, all complimented by champagne as well as local wines. **\$193**

The Final Furlong at Golden Gate Fields

Saturday, April 13

Join us for a final visit to Golden Gate Fields before it's shuttered forever this summer. With finish line seating at the Turf Club you will not miss a beat. Refresh yourself with a champagne welcome and dine to your heart's content at the multi-station buffet, both included at the Club. There will be comfortable tables overlooking the track, television monitors for close-up viewing and betting windows conveniently located nearby. We will arrive prior to the first race and depart for Sacramento after the last race of the day. **\$239**

My Fair Lady

Gallo Center, Modesto

Tuesday, April 16 – 7:00 pm

Boasting such classic songs as "I Could Have Danced All Night," "The Rain in Spain," "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" and "On the Street Where You Live," *My Fair Lady* tells the story of Eliza Doolittle, a young Cockney flower seller, and Henry Higgins, a linguistics professor who is determined to transform her into his idea of a "proper lady." Don't miss your opportunity to see this favorite musical re-imagined, yet beautiful and timeless as ever. Dinner is included before the show. **\$223**

Hairspray

*Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco**

Wednesday, April 17 – 1:00 pm

You Can't Stop the Beat! *Hairspray*, Broadway's Tony Award-winning musical comedy phenomenon is back on tour! Join 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad in 1960s Baltimore as she sets out to dance her way onto TV's most popular show. Can a girl with



big dreams (and even bigger hair) change the world? Featuring the beloved score of hit songs including “Welcome to the ‘60s,” “Good Morning Baltimore” and “You Can’t Stop the Beat,” **\$197**

Snow Falling on Cedars

Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra, Nevada City

Sunday, April 28 – 2:00 pm

Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra (CATS) celebrates its 30th year with the return of *Snow Falling on Cedars*, based on the best-selling novel by David Guterson, at the Nevada Theatre in Nevada City. *Snow Falling on Cedars* takes place among a community of Japanese strawberry farmers on San Piedro Island, north of Puget Sound in the Washington. The story explores the notions of love and loss as they relate to racism, responsibility and injustice as each character is both directly and indirectly affected by what happens during World War II. Lunch is included before the performance. **\$178**

Treasure Island and The Golden Gate International Exposition

Tuesday, April 30

Join Craig Smith, our San Francisco step-on guide extraordinaire, as he takes us around Treasure Island on a quest for what makes the place so unique. You'll see the Western History of the US Navy mural, a new history exhibit on the 1939 World's Fair and the documentary made by KTVU for the 50th anniversary of the Fair. Next we'll take a ferry over to *The City*, reboard the motorcoach and enjoy lunch at Max's Opera House. After dining the tour will continue to see the WWII-era Rincon Center/Annex murals portraying the history of California by Anton Refregier. **\$158**

Come From Away

Gallo Center, Modesto

Saturday, May 4 – 2:00 pm

Come From Away is a favorite across North America and the world, and for good reason! This stirring and inspiring musical takes you into the heart of the remarkable small town in Newfoundland that opened

their homes to 7,000 stranded travelers on 9/11. Celebrate the best of humankind and indeed the best in all of us during a memorable afternoon of theatre at its best. Lunch is included before the show. **\$222**

Funny Girl

*Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco**

Wednesday, May 8 – 1:00 pm

The sensational Broadway revival dazzles with celebrated classic songs including “Don't Rain On My Parade,” “I'm the Greatest Star” and “People.” This bittersweet comedy is the story of the indomitable Fanny Brice, a girl from the Lower East Side who dreamed of a life on the stage. Everyone told her she'd never be a star, but then something funny happened – she became one of the most beloved performers in history, shining brighter than the brightest lights of Broadway. **\$203**

The Drowsy Chaperone

East Sonora Theater

Sunday, May 12 – 2:00 pm

When a die-hard theatre fan known only as The Man in the Chair plays his favorite cast album, the characters come to life before his very eyes in this hilarious Tony Award-winning musical farce. Hailed by New York Magazine as “The Perfect Broadway Musical,” *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a loving tribute to Golden Age musicals, the jazz era and the “Roaring 20s,” featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another. Lunch is served at Firenze in Oakdale prior to the afternoon performance. **\$179**

Company

*Orpheum Theater, San Francisco**

Wednesday, June 12 – 1:00 pm

Winner of five Tony Awards including Best Revival of a Musical, *Company* “strikes like a lightning bolt. This new production of Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's groundbreaking musical comedy is boldly sophisticated, deeply insightful and downright hilarious. It's Bobbie's 35th birthday party, and all her friends keep asking, Why isn't she married? Why can't she find the right man and isn't it time to settle down and start a family? As Bobbie

searches for answers, she discovers why being single, being married, and being alive in the 21st-century could drive a person crazy. **\$182**

Mrs. Doubtfire

*Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco**

Wednesday, July 17 – 1:00 pm

Everyone's favorite Scottish nanny is headed to San Francisco! Rob McClure will reprise his Tony-nominated Broadway performance on tour alongside co-star (and real life wife) Maggie Lakis in this internationally acclaimed hit musical critics call “wonderful, heart-warming, and laugh-out-loud funny.” Based on the beloved film and directed by four-time Tony Award winner Jerry Zaks, *Mrs. Doubtfire* tells the hysterical and heartfelt story of an out-of-work actor who will do anything for his kids. **\$204**

Girl from the North Country

*Golden Gate Theatre, San Francisco**

Wednesday, August 7 – 1:00 pm

Girl from the North Country is the Tony Award-winning new musical that the *Chicago Tribune* declares is “a Broadway revelation!” *Girl from the North Country* reimagines 20 legendary songs of Bob Dylan (who grew up in Minnesota) as they've never been heard before, including “Forever Young,” “All Along The Watchtower,” “Hurricane,” “Slow Train Coming” and “Like A Rolling Stone.” It's 1934 in Duluth, Minnesota and we meet a group of wayward travelers whose lives intersect in a guesthouse filled with music, life and hope. **\$187**

***Wednesday San Francisco theatre trips include a box lunch served on board the coach en route, orchestra seating, and a no-host dinner stop after the show at either Pier 39 or North Beach. (Location will be specified at the time of billing.)**

Look What We're Doing...



Find us on
Facebook



New Vacations & Getaways

Take the Snow Train to Reno

2

Ride the train through the snowy Sierras
2 Days • March 17-18

Your journey over the mountains begins from one of our convenient pickups and Amtrak's *California Zephyr* train departs from Roseville. Experience a High Sierra winter wonderland as the train climbs through the mountains, providing magnificent and (hopefully snowy) vistas. Your luggage will travel on board our motorcoach which will meet you in Reno.

Relax and enjoy the views on the train from your reserved seat or move to the domed observation car with larger viewing windows. A boxed lunch is included for you to enjoy while on the train so you won't miss any of the views experienced train travelers say is one of the most beautiful in all of North America. Your overnight 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, and return transportation by motorcoach. Accessible seats are available on the train and must be reserved in advance. 350/400 Gold Passport Points

\$335 p.p./dbl.occ., \$375 single

Luxury in La Jolla

2

Featuring a champagne brunch cruise on San Diego Bay

3 Days • May 18-20

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights Embassy Suites La Jolla
- Tours of La Jolla and San Diego
- 5 meals: 2 full breakfasts, 1 brunch, 2 lunches
- Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institute
- Roundtrip airfare (Southwest), door-to-door service

1. After a short mid-morning flight to San Diego a festive lunch awaits where you'll dine amid the sights and sounds of Old Town. Could be a good day for a margarita! Discover La Jolla and some of San Diego's

affluent neighborhoods. Nancy, our local guide, will share highlights of history, interspersed with more than a little bit of gossip! Then it's time to check in for the managers reception and complimentary cocktails. Evening free to enjoy the hotel or browse the UTC Mall nearby. **Embassy Suites La Jolla – 2 nights (L)**

2. Our Sunday will feature time on the bay. Enjoy a 2-hour narrated champagne brunch aboard Flagship Cruises. This afternoon is set aside for you! A walk on the beach or maybe join your tour director for an art walk with visits to a couple of galleries or museums in the village! A scheduled shuttle service will be provided to La Jolla Village. **(FB, BR)**

3. After a full breakfast, our day of marine life awaits us. First is a visit to Seal Cove, then our marine life adventure will take us to the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. You'll have the opportunity to discover marine life, featured in more than 60 habitats found all over the world. Lunch will be provided at your leisure at the Splash Café by the French Gourmet. Our flight departs San Diego at 5pm. **(FB, L)** 1700/1950 Gold Passport Points

\$1690 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1920 single

The Pageant of the Masters

2

Watch art come to life in a most extraordinary way

3 Days • July 14-16

★ Highlights ★

- Reserved loge seating for the Pageant of the Masters
- Docent-guided tour of the Festival of the Arts
- Exclusive behind-the-scenes presentation about the Pageant
- Docent-led tour of the Nixon Library and Museum
- 5 Meals: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Southern California
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 1800/2000 Gold Passport Points

The Pageant of the Masters is the Festival of Arts' crown jewel and arguably one of the most unique productions in the entire world. An outdoor amphitheater, professional orchestra, original score, live narration, intricate sets and hundreds of dedicated volunteers will present this year's Pageant: "*A la Mode: The Art of Fashion*." Difficult to describe – you have to see it to believe it!

1. Upon arrival in Southern California, head to Anaheim for lunch at the Jazz Kitchen Coastal Grill and Patio in Downtown Disney. There will be time for wandering the shops "downtown" before heading to the hotel, wonderfully located only five minutes from upscale shopping and a wide variety of restaurants. **Hilton Hotel Orange County/ Costa Mesa – 2 nights (L)**

2. It's always a plus when the itinerary can include a visit to a Presidential Library/ Museum. Located in Yorba Linda on land that President Nixon's family once owned, his library was dedicated in July 1990. The facility has a full scale, exact replica of President Nixon's Oval Office that guests can enter and interact within. A guided tour will offer insight on his life and his presidency.

Late in the afternoon Laguna Beach awaits. It's time to immerse yourself in the Festival of the Arts with a docent-led tour followed by dinner on the Festival grounds at Terra Restaurant. A bit later in the evening comes **The Pageant of the Masters** under the stars, where art comes to life. We have reserved loge seating in the open air theater. **(FB, D)**

3. Return to the Festival of the Arts grounds this morning to meet a representative from the Pageant and learn more about the behind-the-scenes aspect of this amazing production. Lunch is included nearby before a late afternoon return flight to Sacramento. **(FB, L)**

\$1795 pp./dbl.occ., \$1995 single

Proud members of the



Seattle, Sights in the Emerald City

4 Days • August 23-26

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights at the Embassy Suites Seatac, breakfast and cocktails included daily
- Roundtrip air on Alaska Airlines (subject to change)
- 7 meals including a private Sunday Brunch at the Salish Lodge
- Museum of Flight, Seattle Chocolate Factory Tour, Chihuly Garden & Glass, The Space Needle, Seattle City Tour, Tour of West Seattle, Ballard Locks Cruise
- 2450/2700 Gold Passport Points

A unique itinerary unlike any we have offered in the Pacific Northwest. Depart on a Friday morning and enjoy sights in Seattle throughout the weekend and into Monday. **Or for baseball fans**, catch the Giants playing the Seattle Mariners 3 times on Friday evening, plus Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Sightseers *could* add a baseball game to their itinerary (based on availability).

1. A 7am Alaska Airlines flight takes you non-stop to Seattle, arriving at 9am. The Museum of Flight fills the morning. It is the largest independent, non-profit air and space museum in the world! With over 175 aircraft and spacecraft, tens of thousands of artifacts and more, a host of aviation history and the industry's future, are packed into this museum.

After lunch at Anthony's in Des Moines, enjoy a tour of Seattle Chocolate, with time to pick up "take home" items. Sightseers have the evening free at the Embassy Suites (check in at 4pm). The hotel offers oversized rooms, has a restaurant, offers complimentary cocktails each evening and there are other dining choices within a short walk. **Embassy Suites Seatac – 3 nights (L)**

2. There is an optional 8:30am departure this morning for those wishing to have time at famous Pike Place Market. A second departure is scheduled an hour later for non-market goers. The Chihuly (Sculpture) Garden & Glass (Museum) is one of the city's top attractions. Your early arrival allows you to see the highlights before the crowds arrive. Lunch is included at Ivar's Salmon House

3

and then take a ride to the top of the Space Needle for panoramic views of Seattle and Puget Sound (weather permitting). Return to the hotel approximately 5pm. **(FB,L)**

3. Head into the Cascades Mountains just east of town this morning for a private Sunday Brunch at the Salish Lodge, served in a room with a view. There's also a side trip to view Snoqualmie Falls. Returning to town, head for West Seattle, for a look at tour featuring beaches and some of the trendy shopping spots on the sound, including a stop at Garvan Woodland Gardens. Dinner is at Sharp's Roasthouse, famous for their barbeque and salmon. **(BR,D)**

4. After breakfast, our step-on guide will take us through downtown Seattle and give us an overview of the city's colorful history. Did you know it had an underground? At noon, board the boat for Argosy Cruises' trip through the Seattle locks. It's described as "over 120 years of history in 120 minutes." Because it falls over the lunch hour, a box lunch will be offered on board. Our return flight departs just before 6pm, arriving in Sacramento just after 8pm. **(FB,L)**

The Tour Package includes airfare (currently Alaska Airlines), baggage fees for one bag per person, 3 nights hotel, all transportation, 7 meals and attractions as described, gratuities for non-**Sports Leisure** driver/guides, home pick-up in the greater Sacramento area.

\$2420 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2660 single

Autumn in Alaska

Featuring the Kenai Peninsula & the Alaska Railroad

7 days • September 5-11

1. Fly into Anchorage via Seattle; lunch is hosted before checking into your lodge style hotel set on the shore of Lake Spenard next to Lake Hood. **The Lakefront Anchorage (L)**

2. Travel the scenic road to Hatcher Pass. Nestled within the majestic Hatcher Pass mountains lies Independence Mine State Historical Park, a historical gold mining town that dates back to the early 1900s and tells the rich history of the Alaskan gold rush era. View the many well-preserved buildings that were once used by miners and their families. Check into your amazing accommodations:

private cabins that have large sun decks with seating and stunning mountain views.

Alaska Glacier Lodge – 2 nights (B,L)

3. One of the many epic adventures you will have on this tour is the Knik Glacier helicopter tour. Take to the sky on a one-hour tour. Spend 30 minutes flying with a landing on the Knik Glacier, then exit your helicopter and spend 30 mins on the glacier! In the afternoon we will explore the Matanuska River Valley. **(B,L)**

4. This morning take a scenic drive down the Turnagain Arm, one of the most scenic byways in America! This all-American road will be a highlight today as we travel between the ocean and the towering Chugach Mountains. We will explore the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, a 200-acre rescue and rehabilitation center for Alaskan wildlife. Here we will meet moose, wood bison, musk ox, caribou, and other Alaskan animals. Stunning views are in store at the top of Mt Alyeska on the Alyeska Aerial Tram. Here you will have amazing views that include six hanging glaciers. **Alyeska Resort (B,L)**

5. Venture on an unforgettable cruise into Kenai Fjords National Park. Visit an active tidewater glacier and discover the abundant wildlife. A salmon and prime rib lunch is included. The on-board National Park Ranger will provide information on the area's ecology, history and geology. Overnight at the water's edge on Seward harbor. **Hotel 360 (B,L)**

6. Explore the community of Seward which will include a visit to the Alaska SeaLife Center, Alaska's only marine mammal rehabilitation facility and wildlife rescue center. Visit the home of the Seavey Iditarod racing team. Take a 2 mile wilderness dog sled ride on a wheeled sled and kennel tour. Go behind the scenes of the Seavy family training facility and learn about the Iditarod, the most demanding race on earth. Meet the dogs, then mush for two miles through the scenic rainforest. Upon return to the kennel you can play with the dogs, cuddle adorable puppies, try on the parkas worn on the Iditarod and check out the race gear. Ride the iconic Alaska Railroad from Seward to Anchorage. GoldStar Service provides dinner served in the dining car,

3



complimentary nonalcoholic beverages, two adult beverages, and tree line viewing in glass dome cars as well as access to an open air viewing platform. This evening check into the **Lakefront Anchorage. (B,D)**

7. Transfer to the Anchorage International Airport for your flight home. **(B)**

Note: Both the Knik Glacier Helicopter flight and Glacier Boat cruise into Kenai Fjords National Park are amazing attractions, but if they are not your thing for whatever reason you may opt out and receive a credit at time of reservation. Glacier flight \$300 and the boat cruise which includes a salmon and prime rib lunch \$200. 4100/4750 Gold Passport Points

\$4075 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4750 single

New England Fall Foliage Spectacular 3

Our annual expedition focuses on the trains of New Hampshire this year – all aboard!

7 Days • September 22-28

★ Highlights ★

- Tour New Hampshire from top to bottom
- Ride 5 vintage railroads: Lafayette Dinner Train, Hobo Scenic Railroad, Conway Scenic Railroad, Mt. Washington Cog Railway, Lake Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad
- Tram rides on Loon and Cannon Mountains
- Lake cruises on Squam and Winnepesaukee
- High Tea at the historic Mt. Washington Hotel
- 13 meals: Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 1 high tea, 4 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Roundtrip air to/from Boston
- 4400/5000 Gold Passport Points

1. This year's spectacular begins with a flight to Boston, then a drive to Manchester, NH (one hour) for the night. **Hilton Garden Inn**

2. Take a narrated cruise aboard the *M/S Mount Washington* on Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire's largest lake, followed by a ride on the **Lake Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad**, a train hauling goods and passengers through the hinterlands since the mid-1800s. Continue on to Meredith for dinner at locally-famous Hart's Turkey Farm

(where every day is Thanksgiving) and the night. **Inn at Mill Falls (FB,D)**

3. High in the Ossipee Mountains near Moultonborough you'll find the historic Lucknow Estate. Known as Castle in the Clouds, the arts and crafts mansion is a treasure chest of early 20th Century décor and technology. A taste of Hollywood is next up with a cruise upon Squam Lake, better known to classic movie lovers as "Golden Pond" which was filmed here. Listen to the loons! Lincoln is your next stop. **The Mountain Club on Loon – 3 nights (FB,L)**

4. Take a gondola ride in the crisp morning air to the mountaintop above your hotel for a stellar view of the valley below. At Flume Gorge Visitors Center in Franconia Notch State Park learn about the history of the White Mountains and have your photo taken with a (stuffed) moose! After lunch in the tranquil village of Woodstock, visit Fadden's, a true New England old-fashioned general store. An afternoon ride aboard the **Hobo Scenic Railroad** is sure to put you in the spirit of autumn. Dinner is followed by a trip into the wild to call and hopefully see a real live moose! **(FB,D)**

5. The ride along NH Route 112, the Kancamagus Highway, a designated American Scenic Byway, is sure to please. From outstanding natural vistas to waterfalls to covered bridges, "The Kanc" has it all. The **Conway Scenic Railroad** offers more spectacular scenery as it meanders to Crawford Notch at midday where a boxed lunch is provided to ward off those hunger pangs during your midday ride. At rail's end the incredible sightseeing only continues with a ride high above the treetops aboard the Franconia Notch Aerial Tram to the 4080' summit of Cannon Mountain. **(FB,L,D)**

6. Mount Washington is a force of nature, famed for its weather extremes. The highest wind speed ever recorded on earth was here – 231 miles per hour! Let's pray for a slightly calmer day as we ascend the mountain to the 6288 foot summit aboard the **Mt. Washington Cog Railway**. More wonderful pleasures are had upon your arrival at the stunning Mount Washington Hotel. Built in 1902, it's been a playground for the rich and famous for over a century. High Tea is served as your midday meal in

these beautiful and historic surrounds. Back in Lincoln, a scrumptious 5-course farewell dinner is served with a natural view aboard the **Café Lafayette Dinner Train**. Return to Manchester for your final night. **Hilton Garden Inn (FB,HT,D)**

7. Hopefully there will be time for a bit more fall fun before your return flight from Boston. **(FB)**

\$4390 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4970 single

Castles and Manor Houses of Ireland 3

Sleep well on this spectacular vacation around the Emerald Isle

12 Days • September 28 – October 9

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights each and touring in Dublin, Belfast, Donegal, Cashel & Kildare
- Guinness Storehouse & Waterford Crystal Factory
- *Titanic* Belfast Exhibition & The Giants Causeway
- Cliffs of Moher, Blarney Castle & Russborough House
- Visit a working sheep farm
- 18 meals: 10 full Irish breakfasts, 8 dinners
- Roundtrip air to/from Dublin
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Fully escorted by Irish driver/guide and **Sports Leisure** Tour Director
- 10,000/12,400 Gold Passport Points



Getting "blown away" on the spectacular coast of Ireland

1-2. Depart the US via a transatlantic overnight flight to Dublin, arriving mid-morning on Day 2. Your driver/guide Dr. Gary Tierney will greet you with *céad míle fáilte* and escort you on a panoramic tour of Dublin before heading to your first accommodation at historic Clontarf Castle whose daunting tower dates to 1172. Dinner is served before a well-earned night's sleep.

Clontarf Castle Hotel – 2 nights (D)

3. Start this and every morning with a full Irish breakfast (you must try the black pudding... it's an acquired taste). Spend the balance of the day exploring Dublin City more fully including a stop by the famous Guinness Storehouse for a pint or two. **(FB)**

4. OK, so you didn't like the black pudding. Try Scruffins – a cross between a scone and muffin – before heading north to Belfast, taking the scenic route via Carlingford Lough and the Mountains of Mourne. This is the geography that inspired CS Lewis to create Narnia. Your accommodations just outside Belfast overlook the immaculately landscaped Stormont Estate. **Stormont Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

5. Visit the City Centre with a local guide hear the stories of Belfast through the ages, from its rich literary tradition to the more recent history of *The Troubles*. You'll also visit the *Titanic* Belfast Exhibition. Built on the site where the legendary ship was constructed, it tells the full story of the first and final voyage of the *HMS Titanic*. Tonight we'll have a pub crawl downtown and see if we can stir up any trouble of our own! **(FB)**

6. Travel the Causeway Coast of County Antrim. If you've watched the series "Game of Thrones" you'll be familiar with the landscape as many scenes were filmed here. Have a stop at The Giants Causeway to experience this legendary World Heritage Site, and then continue on to a local sheep farm where you'll meet Farmer James and his faithful collie Jess. On to County Donegal where your next castle awaits! **Lough Eske Castle Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

7. Explore County Donegal including Slíabh Liab Cliffs, amongst the highest in Europe. You'll want plenty of time at Lough Eske. It's quite simply amazing. A wee dram and a nap by the peat fire in the parlour is highly recommended. **(FB,D)**

8. Turning south through Mayo and Galway, you'll see the Blue Stack Mountains while on the journey to County Sligo, stopping at the Megalithic Cemetery at Carrowmore along the way. Palatial accommodations are yours in County Tipperary in the 1732 palace built for the Archbishop of the Church of Ireland.

Cashel Palace Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)

9. Visit the Rock of Cashel and nearby Waterford for a tour of the famous factory, museum and crystal boutique. We might even visit Blarney Castle where you can kiss the fabled stone (if you *really* want to). **(FB,D)**

10. Head into the region known as West Wicklow to visit Russborough House, the stately manor built in the mid-18th Century for the 1st Earl of Milltown to showcase his stunning art collection. Its classical design, architectural detail and exquisite decoration mark this Palladian jewel as the most beautiful Georgian house in Ireland. Your final castle is just a wee bit older. Kilkea dates to 1180, built as the medieval stronghold of the FitzGerald's, the Earls of Kildare. **Kilkea Castle Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

11. Traverse the Wicklow Mountains to the 6th Century monastic site of Glendalough established by St. Kevin. He was searching for a remote location where he could pray in tranquillity – also because it's said he was so good looking that he didn't want to be a temptation to the women of the area! A Farewell Dinner awaits your return to Kilkea. **(FB,D)**

12. Gary and all of Ireland bid you *slán abhaile* as you return to Dublin International Airport for the return flight. **(FB)**

\$9995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$12,390 single

Fall Foliage in the Wasatch Mountains

3

Featuring four nights in Park City, Utah

5 Days • September 29 – October 3

★ **Highlights** ★

- Snowbasin Resort gondola
- Robert Redford's Sundance Resort
- Utah Olympic Park
- Mount Nebo Scenic Byway
- 8 meals: 4 breakfasts and 4 lunches
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Salt Lake City
- Door to door airport transportation
- 3000/3300 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly nonstop to Salt Lake City. Ride the gondola through the fall foliage at Snowbasin Resort, home to the 2002 winter Olympics downhill skiing events. Lunch is hosted in Earl's Lodge framed entirely by spruce logs, pure mountain luxury at the base of the mountain. This afternoon travel on a scenic mountain road to Park City for more spectacular fall colors! **Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Park City – 4 nights (L)**

2. A special treat today is a visit to Robert Redford's Sundance Resort. We travel down scenic Provo Canyon, stopping at Bridal Veil Falls, a 600 ft multi-tiered waterfall. Enjoy lunch in a private room with beautiful Native American art from Robert's private collection. After lunch ride their open air ski lift for amazing panoramic views of the Resort and surrounding mountains. **(FB,L)**

3. Enjoy a guided tour of the Utah Olympic Park where we'll take our bus to the tip top of the Nordic ski jump. Our guide will share information and stories from the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. You will also visit the top of the bobsled and skeleton track, with time after the tour to visit their museum. In the afternoon visit a nearby town with a special lunch and attraction. **(FB,L)**

4. Today travel the Mount Nebo Scenic Byway, a mountain road graced with colorful oak, juniper and aspen trees. We will stop at several scenic overlooks for photos and short walks including Devils Kitchen with its red rock cliffs and spires, and spectacular views of Mount Nebo reaching to a height of 12,000 feet. **(FB,L)**

5. Return to Salt Lake City for your flight back to Sacramento. **(FB)**

\$2975 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3295 single

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

2

Featuring reserved and upgraded seating in the Chasers Lounge and Gondola Club

5 Days • October 8-12

★ **Highlights** ★

- 3 balloon events: Balloon Glow, Special Shapes and Mass Ascension
- Upgraded seating in the Chasers Lounge and Gondola Club
- Ride the Sandia Peak Aerial Tram
- Turquoise and Abruzzo Balloon Museums



- Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Festival
- 8 Meals: 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Roundtrip air to/from Albuquerque
- Door to door airport transportation
- 3600/4000 Gold Passport Points

1. Arrive in Albuquerque and enjoy a hosted dinner before checking into your hotel. **Marriott Albuquerque – 4 nights (D)**

2. Travel on the famous Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway for stunning views of greater Albuquerque. Tour the Turquoise Museum which is housed in a mansion full of antiques, one of Albuquerque's new top attractions – a must-see! Lunch is hosted at a favorite restaurant along the famed Route 66. Finish the day with a visit to Old Town to browse the shops. **(FB,L)**

3. The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta with over 600 balloons is the largest ballooning event and the most photographed event on earth. We have upgraded your experience this morning to the Chasers Club Lounge, offering private seating on the field. After the balloon ascension lunch will be hosted at a famous Mexican restaurant before taking a docent-guided tour of the Abruzzo Balloon Museum to learn about hot air and gas balloons from their first flight in 1783 to the present. **(FB,L)**

4. This morning we are watching the balloons from another private venue on the other side of the field, the Gondola Club. Today is Special Shapes Day! This is a very popular ascension with approximately 100 special shaped balloons. You might see Darth Vader and Yoda, a flying cow, maybe Smokey Bear just to name a few. Tonight we re-group for the Fiesta's "Glowdeo," a static display of the Special Shape balloons. Dinner will be held in the private Gondola Club with live entertainment and an open bar. Following dinner is the spectacular afterglow fireworks show! (Weather permitting – high winds could possibly cancel any event) **(FB,D)**

5. After a sleep-in morning, visit the Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Festival featuring 200 fine artists and craftspeople from throughout the US who come together each year for the Fiesta. Take a break from shopping and enjoy ongoing live entertainment and a food court featuring specialty food booths before

heading to the airport for our flight home. **(FB)**

\$3565 p.p/dbl.occ., \$3980 single

Branson and the Ozark Mountains

3

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

6 Days • October 14-19

★ Highlights ★

- Live music by the Hughes Brothers and Clay Cooper
- Explosive comedy from Yakov Smirnoff
- Tour College of the Ozarks, Top of the Rock and the *Titanic* Museum
- Nature abounds at Dogwood Canyon, Lost Canyon and Fantastic Caverns
- Silver Dollar City's Craft Days and Pumpkins in the City
- 11 meals: Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- Roundtrip air to/from Springfield
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 4450/4800 Gold Passport Points

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

2. Today is a nature day. Explore the beauty of Dogwood Canyon on a Wildlife Tram Tour. You'll wind through the canyon floor, past towering bluffs and waterfalls. Cross the border into Arkansas and view Bison, Elk and longhorn cattle. The **Hughes Brothers Show** boasts crisp harmonies, impressive instruments and multi-layered musical arrangements. From pop to rock, country and even Broadway, these singers, comedians and instrumentalists make for a great evening. **(FB,L,D)**

3. Tour the College of the Ozarks, known locally as "Hard Work U," where no student pays tuition. Rather they work on the school farm and elsewhere on campus to earn their education. Following your tour, have a wonderful lunch in their beautiful dining room at Keeter Center where the students will be your waiters and waitresses. At the Top of the Rock Ozark Heritage Preserve you'll experience the Lost Canyon by golf cart! A paved trail highlights stunning rock formations and waterfalls. And to cap off our time at Top of the Rock you will visit the Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum. This evening it's the **Clay Cooper Show** which features an incredible cast of dancers, singers and musicians. **(FB,L)**

4. At the *Titanic* Museum your guided tour lets you experience life on board just



A novel idea: Lost Canyon Nature Trail by golf cart, outside Branson

as it was on her maiden voyage more than a century ago. Walk the hallways and grand staircase while surrounded by more than 400 rare artifacts. Tonight famed Russian comedian **Yakov Smirnoff** delivers explosive laughter, heart filled moments and just plain fun. **(FB,D)**

5. The morning will be at your leisure to visit the Branson Landing across the street from your hotel. Don't miss the \$7.5 million water and fire feature with fountains that shoot 120-foot geysers all choreographed to lights and music! Tonight embraces autumn at Silver Dollar City's Harvest Festival featuring Craft Days and Pumpkins in the City with thousands of illuminated pumpkins. Watch chuck wagon cooking demonstrations and meet craftsmen from across the nation. **(FB,D)**

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

\$4405 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4780 single

Santa Cruzin' at the Dream Inn

2

Relax and rewind at the beach

3 Days • October 15-17

The Dream Inn has been a favorite destination for **Sports Leisure** travelers for years and is best loved for its relaxed vibe and oceanfront rooms. This is just the place you want to be to reset, relax and unwind. Sightseeing and dining on the Santa Cruz Wharf and the Beach Boardwalk are just minutes away. Close your eyes and picture yourself on the balcony of your hotel listening to the ocean waves...

1. Your getaway to Santa Cruz begins with our door-to-door pick up at your home. Your driver will take you to the **Sports Leisure** office where we will meet prior to our motorcoach departure. After lunch en route, we arrive at one of the best addresses on the West Coast where your ocean-view accommodations await. **Dream Inn – 2 nights (L)**

2. This morning we will meet our local guide Geoff for a guided tour of Santa Cruz,

followed by a visit to nearby Capitola with time for shopping and lunch on your own. Dinner this evening will be at The Crows Nest. **(D)**

3. As we make our way back to Sacramento you'll see why the Central Valley is called "The Salad Bowl of California." We'll stop for lunch along the way arriving back at the office in the early evening. 1450/1700 Gold Passport Points **(L)**

\$1425 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1665 single

Spectacular Sedona

2

Featuring the Verde Canyon Railroad

5 days • October 27-31

★ **Highlights** ★

- 4 nights at the Wilde Resort
- Guided tour of the Copper Museum
- Trolley tour to the Chapel of the Holy Cross
- Ride the Verde Canyon Railroad
- 4x4 tour into the red rock backcountry (optional)
- Two meals with entertainment
- 9 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Tour Director: Scott Angeletti
- 3250/3850 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly direct on Southwest Airlines to Phoenix. Enjoy a hosted lunch before traveling to spectacular Sedona.. **The Wilde Resort – 4 nights (L)**

2. This morning take a Trolley tour around greater Sedona to include the Chapel of the Holy Cross. Travel scenic Oak Creek Canyon for a spectacular drive along the river with towering red rock views on your way to Flagstaff. Tonight enjoy a special evening with dinner and entertainment. **(FB,D)**

3. At the Copper Museum learn why Arizona is nicknamed the Copper State, during your tour that combines history and stunning artifacts. Board the Verde Canyon Railroad and gaze at the brilliant blue skies, red rock cliffs and Sycamore trees along the Verde River. **(FB,L)**

4. In the Mexican village Tlaquepaque; wander through courtyards, under stone arches, viewing the White Sycamore trees. This afternoon you will have an optional jeep tour (extra cost) Wild \$152.00 or Mild \$95.00, price is inclusive of tax and gratuity for the drivers. Travel into the back country on dirt roads to some spectacular vista, with several stops for photos. Tonight we gather for a wonderful farewell dinner. **(FB,D)**

5. Travel back to Phoenix this morning. Pause for a special lunch in Mesa with entertainment before we take a late afternoon flight home to Sacramento. **(FB,L)**

\$ 3220 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3805 single



Riding the Verde Canyon Train near Sedona





9812 Old Winery Place, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95827

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT COUPON

Early Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Friday, February 16** 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 – Luxury in La Jolla – **Save \$50**

July – Pageant of the Masters – **Save \$50**

Aug. – Seattle (Giants/Emerald City) – **Save \$75**

Sept. – Autumn in Alaska – **Save \$125**

Sept. – New England Fall Foliage – **Save \$125**

Sept. – Castles and Manor Houses of Ireland – **Save \$300**

Sept. – Fall Foliage in the West – **Save \$100**

Oct. – Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta – **Save \$100**

Oct. – Branson & The Ozarks – **Save \$125**

Oct. – Santa Cruzin' at the Dream Inn – **Save \$40**

Oct. – Spectacular Sedona – **Save \$100**

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

Kauai	Springtime in Monterey
Ft. Bragg	Colorful Carolina Coast
Australia	Alaska's Aurora Borealis
Mainely Maine	Pieces of History Mystery
Grand Canyon	Oregon Chocolate Festival
Yosemite Valley	Comedy, Dollars & Legends
Arkansas Eclipse	Tulips Ottawa & Niagara Falls
Boston to Cape Cod	Fall in the Rocky Mountains
Zion & Bryce Canyon	Ferries/Towns of Puget Sound
Vancouver & Victoria	CA Redwoods & Oregon Coast
Winter in Yellowstone	San Juan Islands Explorer Cruise

Limited Space

Trip with 10 or fewer seats available

Chicago Baseball (5)	New England Fall Foliage (6)
Seattle Baseball (6)	Czech Republic (2)
Seattle Sights (8)	Galapagos Island Cruise (2)

FRIENDS WE'VE LOST...

Everyone on this list was a valued part of our travel family. We will miss them all. Two of our longtime baseball travelers are on this list. They'll be watching games filled with Hall of Famers in heaven, where there are only great seats and no rain outs. If you know of someone who should be listed here, please drop us a note. markslt@aol.com.

Yvonne Deverman	Lloyd Johns	Susan Niebert
June Dwyer	Mary Kroger	Judi Wilson
Jean Harden	Vivienne Kuhn	William Yee

OFFICE HOURS:

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