



The Sports Leisure

TRAVELER

9,599 Active Members • 52,331 Members Since 1979

MAR./APR. | VOL. 39 | NO. 6 **2018**

Get the jump on Holiday Vacations at Spring Preview Day

Saturday, April 6 • KVIE Studios, 2030 W. El Camino Ave • 10:30am or 1:00pm

- RSVP Required, please **CALL** our office to confirm your space
- Complimentary transportation available, south area/Arden (10:30am show), Lincoln/Roseville/Antelope (1:00pm show)
- **No admission, please bring a “community donati on”** (see below)
- Information released on over a dozen new fall and holiday trips
- Advance Day Trip list from the May newsletter
- Every attendee receives a “goodie bag”

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★★★★★★★★★★

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- Space is limited, and we began taking reservations on March 1st, so don't delay, call today and reserve your seat. Limited to 175 per session. There is no admission charge.
- As is our tradition, we are collecting items to benefit others in our community at this event. Would you kindly consider bringing one or more of these items:
Healthy snack bars
Baby wipes
Gloves/socks for kids 2-16

Because the KVIE studios space is limited and Spring Preview is early this year, we are not serving lunch. We are concerned the weather might prevent outside dining and there isn't sufficient space indoors to accommodate us. Everyone will receive a Goodie Bag with treats on departure.

Featured Destinations

Tours, cruises, and destinations to be announced will include:

- A late January '19 cruise with **Australia & New Zealand** on the itinerary. Fly to the Land Down Under and enjoy your floating hotel.
- Our annual **Christmas Mystery Tour**
- **Christmas at the Davenport** – our holiday tour over Christmas will stay three nights at the historic Davenport Hotel in Spokane

- **A Midwest Christmas** (last year's mystery tour itinerary, packed with holiday entertainment)
- **A Victorian Christmas** – three nights in Victoria, Christmas lights at Butchart Gardens
- **Sounds of Music Christmas** – A New England itinerary including a stay at the Trapp Family Lodge (the family of Sounds of Music movie fame)
- Back by popular demand, three short trips – **Holidays at the Ritz in Half Moon Bay, An Apple Farm Christmas, Rose Parade Spectacular**
- For the 22nd consecutive year, **Thanksgiving in New York**
- Review of newer summer/fall trips, including **Newfoundland, Land of the Vikings; Death Valley and Nevada Ghost Towns**
- 2019 Preview – **Key West, Ice Magic** (Scott's Canadian Rockies winter adventure), **Bryce Canyon in Winter** (brand new), the **Colorful Carolina Coast**

Proud members of the



Just One Man's Opinion by Mark Hoffmann

A Tribute to our Friend George

This month, I'd like to honor one of our travelers. He has been with us for many, many years. He has a tie to **Sports Leisure Vacations** no traveler before or after him will ever have. His name is **George Cunningham**, and this is a tribute to him.

George is a 1940 graduate of Christian Brothers High School here in Sacramento. After leaving high school, he served his country in the Army Air Corp in WWII. He came home and became a civil servant, and spent his career serving the people of our fair city. His younger brother Robert went to "Brothers" and became a Jesuit priest, spending his life in service to God in the Philippines.

George was married, something I didn't know until I started researching this article. This part of the story amazed me. George's wife Rosalie, who passed in 2010, had been disabled and hospitalized decades ago (one estimate put it at 40-50 years). Remaining ever dedicated to his spouse, for better or worse, George visited her twice a day, **every day** he was home.

Another thing about George I learned recently from a staff member. George was an advocate for many travel club members. He helped his fellow SL Travelers with their issues (everything from the carpet cleaner to the chiropractor to filling out endless government forms) and explaining and

advocating for them. More than one member has related to me in the last few days how George helped **everyone**. George? Our quiet, unassuming George was an advocate for dozens, if not hundreds over the years. If you had a problem, George might be able to help. Word spread and more people asked the man who always sat in row 10. Who knew?

George and Rosalie had one son, Michael, who passed a number of years ago. This is where the unique tie to **Sports Leisure Vacations** comes in. In 1978, a year before the founding of **SLV** (originally known as **Sports Travel**), I went to a local travel agency, House of Travel (downtown on L St., just a short distance from where the Greyhound Terminal was located). I chose them because their ad in the Yellow Pages indicated they booked charter buses as one of their services.

When I arrived at the agency, I was directed to speak to a man who would not only charter that first coach, he would charter all my buses for that first year. A kind and gentle man who knew his stuff, he recommended a small bus company, **All Cal Tours**. The new company did a good job and we developed a successful relationship. All Cal became **All West**, and we are still working together decades later.

The man at House of Travel who helped me get started running buses to Giants baseball games was **Michael Cunningham**. It wasn't

until many years later, when I was at a dinner table with George while on tour, that he happened to mention he had a son named Michael who had worked as a travel agent for many years. Something in my brain clicked, and I remembered Michael's last name... indeed it was George's son who helped me get all of this started.

Michael died unexpectedly of a heart attack a little over a decade ago. Michael was single and had no heirs. George inherited his estate. It was about that time, according to Lorcan Barnes, the current

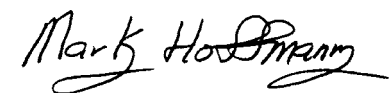
President at Christian Brothers, that George became interested in supporting his alma mater on a grand scale. Grand indeed. Today, if you walk around the campus, you will see the **George Cunningham Performing Arts Center**. Yes, that's **our** George. Lorcan relates how George's chest puffs out just a bit when he attends a performance there.

For the past decade, George has underwritten the cost of a student attending Christian Brothers, by providing the funds for a scholarship. He is the lead sponsor for the school's annual auction and wine tasting. Talk about paying it forward.

Sometime last spring, I noticed George was coming to the office frequently, often on consecutive days. When I inquired of my staff, they confessed that George was having some memory problems, and was coming to the office frequently because he was forgetting details he had already finalized for his day trips. It was early last fall that we noticed George hadn't been in for a while. Indeed, those who looked after George let us know they had helped him be admitted to an assisted living facility, where he could get memory care. A friend who visits regularly says it's getting harder for George to recognize his buddies and to recall things. Of all the people who have traveled with us over 38+ years, there has only been one George. Kind, caring, dedicated, loyal and **incredibly** well organized. That's how people describe George.

When this tribute is published, I plan to take copies and go to see George. I don't know if he will know who I am or what I bring. That matters not. **I know who he is. He is the Grandfather of Sports Leisure Vacations**, a title I have decided fits him very well. At 96, he has spent most of his life looking out for and caring for, people and places he loves. I am forever grateful that we got to be on George's list. And I have one thing to say to him... **"Thank you."**

And so it goes...



Mark Hoffmann, CTP
Owner/Founder



George Cunningham, longtime **SLV** Traveler, exclaims his joy at the dedication of the Performing Arts Center bearing his name at Christian Brothers High School.

Greetings Friends!

I first heard of **Voluntourism** in the weeks following Hurricane Katrina. They were begging people to visit New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, not only to provide cash-flow to struggling hotels and restaurants, but to roll up their sleeves and physically help out with clean-up and relief efforts as well. Our trade association answered the call with hundreds of Hospitality Industry representatives from across the continent descending upon affected areas over three designated weekends. We were joined by church groups, social clubs, college fraternities and sororities, and scores of individuals who weren't content simply watching this drama unfold on their televisions. We felt a need for action!

Since then, the Hospitality Industry has been freer and more honest about asking for help when needed, and also in leveraging our resources to support causes important to us and, we hope, important to our customers. For over a quarter century **Sports Leisure Vacations** has been a proud underwriter of programming on KVIE. We do this for two reasons: It's important to us and it's important to you. The latter is not an assumption, but something we know based on countless comments we've received over the years. We sincerely hope you're pleased and proud of all the organizations we support for we do it largely with your money, and trust you to tell us if you ever disagree with our choices.

I think everyone would agree food is one of the primary reasons we travel, and certainly meals are among the most enjoyable parts of any itinerary. More and more, whether you know it or not, you're actually enjoying **Cuisine for a Cause**. My favorite steak house in the country is the Texas Land & Cattle Company in San Antonio who offers



whole chocolate cakes as a dessert option. The cake is yummy and 100% of sales benefit the Children's Miracle Network. But be warned: They don't serve milk (but do turn a blind eye when I smuggle in my own bottle).

Another long-time traveler favorite (and number one on Mark's list) is the Anaheim White House Restaurant. Prepared in his kitchen and distributed through 62 locations, proprietor Bruno Serito serves up to 3500 meals to homeless and low income children throughout Orange and Los Angeles Counties **daily**. A terrible fire closed his restaurant and halted his income stream a year ago, but the free meals were never interrupted. Recently he served his 2 millionth meal. He hopes to reopen the restaurant this month... and we hope to be there again soon to support Bruno, his restaurant and his amazing cause!

Closer to home the Delancey Street Foundation operates a restaurant and café (also a moving company – not sure how that got in the mix) on the Embarcadero near AT&T Park. The entire staff from dishwashers to management is comprised of former drug addicts, gang members, alcoholics, homeless and school drop-outs. Through Delancey Street's various enterprises, the staff learns important social and professional skills. Many have even gone on to earn college degrees. Naysayers said they'd never make it almost 50 years ago when the program started. Today Delancey Street has expanded beyond San Francisco to LA, New York and both the Carolinas. The next time you go to The City, why not have lunch there?

The Bible says "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." At a risk of sounding too pious, I think this truth goes way beyond

the walls of any church. The companies we patronize both locally and out on the road say a great deal about us. Likewise for the charities and organizations we support. They are a reflection of who we are and what we stand for. They are a reflection of you, too. I sincerely hope you like the view!

"Your Tour Guy,"

Clayton

Clayton Whitehead, CTP
Vice President

Editor's Note: Even as this goes to press, Clayton is on a Voluntourism mission in the Middle East, working to restore a section of the Jordan Trail near Petra. And maybe, just maybe, a future **Sport Leisure** tour is in the works. Stay tuned!



Blueberry found himself a little short on funds during his recent visit to Yosemite. Thanks to BPS member Amy Lou Rath for helping him out... and taking our winning photo!



The Customers Always Write

Dear Mark and Clayton,

I was thrilled to see your gift to the Sacramento LGBT Community Center. Your donation helps us change lives for the better. You are helping us create a region where LGBTQ people thrive. On behalf of all of us at the Center, thank you again for your support and I hope you drop by sometime soon to say "hello" and see first-hand the difference you make in people's lives. Sincerely,

*Lanz Naagan, Development Coordinator
Sacramento LGBT Community Center*

Dear Supporters of the Cordova Community Food Locker,

Happy New Year from the Staff and Volunteers at the Cordova Community Food Locker! Your recent contribution of toiletries in support of our services to the homeless is so appreciated. Your generous donations help us to enhance our response to the needs in our community. Thank you for helping to make this possible. Wishing you a Happy New Year,

*Linda Condon, General Manager
Cordova Community Food Locker*

Ed. Note: To those of you who bring your unused toiletry items from your rooms, this is one of the places they go.

Hi Mark,

First I want to say I was sorry to hear about the passing of your mom. Then I want to commend you on writing such a wonderful piece about her life and your life with her growing up. I read it with a tear in my eye because your growing up story was somewhat similar to mine. I could really relate to the steak story. We grew up in public housing, "the projects" as it was called, single mom, four kids, but we also managed to get by. My mom is still alive, soon to be 88 years old and her memory is starting to go, but like your mother, was an amazing woman way back when. I know how proud your mom was of you, because I know how proud my mom is of me. Have a great day my friend.

Blair

Ed. Note: Our newsletter goes out to a number of travel industry folks. Blair owns Getaway Tours back east. We have served together in volunteer leadership and are good friends. I want to thank everyone who sent a card or a note or an email regarding the memorial column I wrote about my mother's passing. I've sat down twice already and read every word you all wrote. I'm sure I will visit them again. Your kindness made a difficult time easier. From my heart, thank you. – Mark

Hi Mark,

Wanted to say thanks again for the donation to the Sac State Athletics crab feed. They auctioned it off at the crab feed and the final bid was \$625 for it. Awesome!!!

Thanks, Cathy Marshall

Ed. Note: Cathy is the manager at the deli at Raley's in College Greens. She oversees the creation of all of the goodies we serve on the coach. She does an amazing job for us. So when she asked if we could support something important to her, we were on board immediately. If you ever need a party tray or munchies for a gang of visitors, give Cathy a call. Make sure you tell her you are a **Sports Leisure Traveler**.

Good Morning:

I was up very early and had the TV on. There was a program on I think it was channel 12. It was about **Longwood Gardens** in the Wilmington, Delaware area. I remembered visiting this on a mystery tour with you and **Chris**. We had stayed at the Dupont Hotel. The garden was all decorated for Christmas. I remember how nice it was when we saw it and I thought, gee, that would be a neat place to revisit at a different time of the year. I like to go places during different seasons and you see a whole new image. They also showed a town in PA that had a huge Christmas attraction around the Muppets that looked like fun also. Will be seeing you soon,

Brenda Hembree

Ed. Note: Brenda, Longwood Gardens is part of the trip to **Philadelphia** this spring. I

Things to Know Before You Go:

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

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

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

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

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

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

agree it's a beautiful spot. Thank you for your suggestions. Thanks also to all of you who send in destination ideas. Your ideas are of great value. Many of them make their way into itineraries. Thank you for taking the time to forward them to me (my email is below).

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

SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS

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

Or e-mail Mark or Clayton at:

marks1t@aol.com
clayton.whitehead@sportsleisure.com



It's All About The Ballparks

5, 8 or 11 Days • May 11-15, 5-12 or 5-15

Want to see some great ballparks and some great baseball? We have only a couple of seats left on each package. Take a look and give us a call.

8 Days • May 5-12 • Washington, DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh

A

- **5 Games:** Nationals/Phillies, Orioles/Royals, Giants/Phillies (2), Giants/Pirates.
- **Sightseeing:** Guided tour of new monuments/memorials in DC, tour Camden Yards, lunch at the Babe Ruth Museum, National Aquarium and Harbor Cruise w/Fort McHenry in Baltimore; Independence Historical Park and the US Mint in Philadelphia. Fly to Baltimore/DC, return flight from Pittsburgh.
- **Hotels:** Hampton Inn DC (2 nights – across from the park), Marriott Baltimore (2 nights – 2 blocks from the park), Hilton Garden Inn Philadelphia (2 nights – in the middle of the historic district) and Marriot Airport in Pittsburgh (overnight).
- **Meals:** 8; **Air:** Sac. – Balt. (for Washington, non-stop), Phil. – Pitts., Pitts. – Sac.

5 Days • May 11-15 • Pittsburgh, Cooperstown, Boston

M

- **2 Games:** Giants/Pirates, A's/Red Sox.
- **Sightseeing:** Full day in Cooperstown to visit the Hall of Fame, lunch at the historic Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, MA, tour of Fenway Park.
- **Hotels:** Marriott Airport Pittsburgh, Otesaga Hotel In Cooperstown (2 nights – classic hotel on the lake), Park Plaza Hotel Boston
- **Meals:** 8; **Air:** Sac. – Pitts., Pitts. – Albany, Bos. – Sac.

11 Days • May 5-15 • Washington, DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cooperstown, Boston

A

Includes everything in the two packages above, 6 games, 15 meals and air (Sac. – Balt. [for Washington, non-stop], Phil. – Pitts., Pitts. – Albany, Bos. – Sac.).

Limited space is available on all trips listed above.

8 Days: \$3480 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3990 single

5 Days: \$2490 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2960 single

11 Days: \$5280 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6285 single



A blast from our baseball tour past – In 2010, we were greeted at his museum by a baseball legend, Yogi Berra. What an incredible moment.

2018 Ballpark Express

For over 38 years, the BEST way to get to the ballpark in San Francisco has been with **Sports Leisure Vacations**. Our original **Ballpark Express**, allows you to travel to games in comfort without the challenges of traffic, tolls, gas, and parking! Refreshments are served on board the motorcoach on your way to and from the game. You'll enjoy Field Reserved seating (First Deck) for games at AT&T Park. At this time, we have no games scheduled to see the Oakland A's in Oakland. This may change depending on demand.

San Francisco Giants

Sun., Apr. 8	Giants vs. Dodgers	1:05pm	\$165
Wed., May 16	Giants vs. Reds	12:45pm	\$145*
Wed., June 6	Giants vs. D-Backs	12:45pm	\$145*
Sun., July 8	Giants vs. Cardinals	1:05pm	\$153
Wed., July 11	Giants vs. Cubs	12:45pm	\$174
Sun., July 15	Giants vs. Athletics	1:05pm	\$153
Tues., Aug. 7	Giants vs. Astros	12:45pm	\$153
Wed., Sept. 12	Giants vs. Braves	12:45pm	\$145*
Sun., Sept. 30	Giants vs. Dodgers	12:05pm	\$153

**Includes one-way transportation on the SF Bay Ferry from Vallejo to AT&T Park. Ferry schedule/availability subject to change.*

The Giants Emerald City Overnighter

M

2 Days • July 24-25

We considered making this a 2-night stay, but with Seattle hotel rooms running \$400 and up, we ultimately decided to turn it into a very full overnight trip.

1. Fly to Seattle, departing at 7:05am. Board the ferry to Bainbridge Island. It's a spectacular 35 minute ride across Puget Sound. There's time for lunch and browsing in the Norwegian village of Poulsbo, before the return ferry trip. Stay overnight in the **brand new Embassy Suites**, walking distance from the park. We will have you checked in by 4pm, allowing for a little down time. There is a hosted cocktail hour tonight, beginning at 5:30pm. **Giants vs. Mariners** tonight at 7:10pm. (L)

2. Visit Pike Place Market this morning about 9am, before it gets crowded; then go to the top of Seattle in the Space Needle, a leftover souvenir from the World's Fair in 1962. Return to your hotel to freshen up and check out before the game. Luggage and carry-on bags will be stored at the hotel. **Giants vs. Mariners** this afternoon at 1:10pm. Our return flight to Sacramento departs at 7:45pm. (FB)

The package includes 2 full breakfasts, roundtrip air and door-to-door service. 1200/1400 Gold Passport Points

\$1175 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1370 single

\$ave \$25 until April 13



Day Trips & Theatre Outings

Easter at Ironstone Vineyards

Sunday, April 1

Return to the Sierra Foothills with our festive daytrip to enjoy an Easter brunch buffet at the beautiful Ironstone Winery, just outside Murphys. Stroll through the blooming gardens or visit the history museum. You may even catch the area's children in a spirited Easter egg hunt on the lawns of the estate. Spring is the perfect time to enjoy the drive through the foothills and quaint gold rush towns. **\$145**

San Francisco Flower and Garden Show

Cow Palace in San Francisco

Thursday, April 5

Welcome Spring with a visit to the annual San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. After 10 years, the show is going back to the historic Cow Palace in San Francisco with the theme "Return to Paradise." Enjoy a day strolling through garden landscapes, sitting in on seminars and demonstrations by master gardeners, and a vast marketplace of unique items to inspire your own gardening adventures and outdoor pleasures. Lunch is on your own with a variety of onsite food booths available. **\$101**

Million Dollar Quartet

Fallon House Theater, Columbia

Saturday, April 14

This show recounts a night in 1956 when Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash participated in a star-studded jam session. If you love the music these songwriting legends produced, you can bet you'll be singing along! Lunch is included at the City Hotel prior to the 2pm matinee. **\$149**



www.facebook.com/sportsleisure



Enjoy seasonally inspired culinary delights at the iconic Napa site

Return to Copia

The Culinary Institute of America at

Copia in Napa

Tuesday, April 17 or Thursday, April 19

Enjoy a full day of culinary pleasures as we begin with a tour followed by a cooking demonstration with tastings. Considered the premier cooking school in the USA, Copia is part of the prestigious Culinary Institute of America (C.I.A.). Following the tour and class, enjoy an included lunch in the dining room which features seasonally inspired dishes. There will be time after lunch to browse the gift shop, along with the adjacent Oxbow Market before returning home. Truly a special day for anyone who enjoys cooking, eating, good food, and a fun day close to home. **\$177**

South Pacific

Nevada Theatre, Nevada City

Sunday, April 22

Our friends at Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra (CATS) bring us one of Rogers and Hammerstein's most beloved musicals.

Set on a tropical island paradise during World War II, two parallel love stories are threatened by the dangers of prejudice and war. Lunch is included at Tofanelli's Restaurant in nearby Grass Valley prior to the 2pm matinee. **\$134**

Wayne Thiebaud in Davis

Manetti Shrem Museum of Art

Wednesday, April 25

Visit the stunning Manetti Shrem Museum at UC Davis for Wayne Thiebaud: 1958-1968. With more than 60 paintings, the exhibition is the first to explore this formative early period and emergence of Thiebaud as a mature artist with a singular style. Before our scheduled afternoon tour, enjoy included lunch at The Pheasant Club on our way to Davis. **\$110**

The Color Purple

Orpheum Theater, SF

Saturday, May 5 or Wednesday, May 9

Based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Color Purple* brings to the stage all the exhilaration and spirit of this prize winning story. This 2016 Tony Award winner for best Musical Revival tells the story of Celie and takes place mostly in rural Georgia. The story focuses on the life of African-American women in the southern United States in the 1930s, addressing numerous issues that affected their lives. Despite obstacles, Celie and her family still are able to find love and friendships all expressed through the spiritually rousing jazz, blues, gospel or ragtime music. Wednesday trips include a snack-sized box lunch, orchestra seating for the 2pm matinee, and dinner on your own at Pier 39 after the show. The Saturday trip includes lunch on your own in Union Square before the 2pm matinee. **Wednesday – \$159, Saturday – \$185**

Beach Blanket Babylon

Sunday, May 6

There's nothing quite like *Beach Blanket Babylon*. San Francisco's longest-running staged comedy show pokes fun at everyone – politicians, celebrities and other folks in



the public eye. The songs are hilarious, the dancing wonderful, and the hats are really, really big! Reserved seats are upstairs (no elevator) in this historic theatre in the center balcony. Enjoy an included lunch at Trattoria Pinocchio. **\$181**

A Midsummer Night's Dream

At the East Sonora Theatre
Saturday, May 19

The Sierra Repertory Theatre performs one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies. Two pairs of lovers and a rag-tag group of actors get lost in the woods. Meanwhile, the fairy kingdom is turned upside down by two quarreling leaders. Hold on to your heart – Cupid is armed and dangerous; and you'll be laughing as his arrows go astray. Lunch is included at the City Hotel prior to the 2pm matinee. **\$149**

"What's New" and "What's That" in San Francisco

Tuesday, June 7

Every tour to San Francisco has people asking "what's that building" or "what's that new construction going to be?" Undergoing a frenzy of growth, building, and redevelopment in the downtown area, be one of the first to learn and know "what's new and what's that" in San Francisco. With Craig Smith as local guide, see up close



Craig Smith tells the stories of San Francisco's landmarks

new and architectural attractions including the Salesforce Tower (tallest building in San Francisco), Chase Center for Warriors, South of Market Area known as SOMA, Dogpatch Neighborhood, Transbay Bus Terminal, China Basin, the contemporary silver monument of Venus de Milo (it is nine-stories tall at 92 feet in height), and the controversial Millennium Tower. Now referred to as the "Leaning Tower of SF," it is home to prominent residents including Joe Montana and appears to be sinking! Both fun and interesting, this new tour also includes lunch at Pompei's Grotto Restaurant mid-day. **\$132**

Frankie Avalon at The Gallo

Sunday, June 10

The teen heartthrob's career has spanned three generations in music, television and movies, including a string of golden hits such as "Venus", and "Why". Lunch is included prior to the matinee at the Canal Street Grill. **\$165**

The Humans

Orpheum Theater, San Francisco
Saturday, June 16

The Humans is the recipient of four 2016 Tony Awards including Best Play (Author, Stephen Karam), Best Featured Actress in a Play, Best Featured Actor in a Play. Stephen Karam's The Humans is an uproarious, hopeful, and heartbreaking play that takes place over the course of a family Thanksgiving dinner. Breaking with tradition, Erik Blake has brought his Pennsylvania family to celebrate and give thanks at his daughter's apartment in lower Manhattan. As darkness falls outside the ramshackle pre-war duplex, and eerie things start to go bump in the night, the Blake clan's deepest fears and greatest follies are laid bare. Our modern age of anxiety is keenly observed, with humor and compassion, in this new American classic. Don't miss this show as we only have this one date and there are no other matinees scheduled during its run in San Francisco. Our Saturday trip includes lunch on your own in the Union Square area, followed by the 2pm matinee. Return to Sacramento directly after the conclusion of this one-act show. **\$164**

Gardens of Golden Gate Park

Thursday, June 21

Welcome the first day of summer exploring and enjoying some of the many different gardens of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. With Craig Smith as guide, learn how a once vast area of sand dunes became the lush and green park it is today. Wear comfortable shoes for off-and-on stops including the Queen Wilhelmina Gardens, Dutch Windmills, AIDS Memorial Gardens, secluded Shakespeare Gardens, and serene and iconic Japanese Tea Gardens. Lunch is included mid-day at the Beach Chalet in the Park with majestic view of Ocean Beach and San Francisco Bay. A memorable way to celebrate the return of summer! **\$138**

School of Rock, The Musical

Orpheum Theater, San Francisco
Saturday, June 30, Wednesday July 11

Based on the cult status movie of the same name and with a rocking new musical score from Andrew Lloyd Webber, School of Rock follows slacker Dewey Finn, a wannabe rock star posing as a substitute teacher who turns a class of straight-A students into a ear-popping, riff-scorching, all-conquering rock band! As they prepare for the Battle of the Bands, can Dewey make them embrace the empowering message of rock? Our Wednesday trip include a snack sized box lunch, orchestra seating for the 2pm matinee and dinner on your own at Pier 39 after the show. The Saturday trip includes lunch on your own in Union Square area prior to the 2pm matinee and return to Sacramento after the show. **Wednesday – \$159, Saturday – \$185**

REMEMBER MEAL CHOICES

When you receive your itinerary/confirmation for a trip, check to see if a meal choice is needed and take a minute to make your selection by calling our office or returning your choice with your payment. Thank you.



The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

Several items of importance to Travel Club Members and their traveling friends.

TSA Pre-Check

Just a note to those of you who have purchased membership into this airport service. **It is not guaranteed.** Because the system must be random for security reasons, you are not guaranteed pre-check, even if you paid for it. **Mark** got "randomed" twice in a row recently. If you paid for it and don't get it on a regular basis, then we are happy to look into the issue for you.

Baggage Tag on Top of Bag Please

Our bellman friends have called something to our attention. It's a **lot** easier to tag bags with room numbers if the tags are easy to locate. A suggestion was shared: **please put your bag tag on the top of your bag**, the top would be the side away from the wheels. Questions? Ask our staff at the airport.

Another Baggage Note

When departing a hotel, remember that your **carry-on bag and personal items are your personal responsibility**. Please **do not** leave those items with your checked bag. If the bellman picks up your personal carry-ons, it changes the bag count and could result in someone's bag being left behind. If it doesn't have a green tag, then you should personally take it from coach-side at each hotel and return it coach-side on departure. If you have questions, your Tour Director can assist.

Belize, Exotic Wildlife and the Maya

10 Days • February 6-15, 2019

Join **Scott** and explore lush jungles with exotic plants and animals. Belize has more than 500 species of exotic birds. Cruise the Monkey River home to the protected manatee. Bioluminescence evening tour experience featured in the Oscar winning movie The Life of Pi. Swim, snorkel or glass bottom boat in the warm Caribbean Sea with the world's second longest coral reef! Visit the Mayan ruins of Xunantunich. Your travel is made easier since Belize's official language is English.

On Time is Important

Tour Directors are frequently asked on tour, "Do you ever leave someone behind?" The answer of course is **yes**. It's not something we like to do, but sometimes the needs of the many (those on the bus on time) outweigh the needs of a few (those who didn't respect the departure time). It doesn't happen often, but it does happen. In those instances, the traveler is responsible for catching up to the group. This can be expensive if you have to take a taxi a hundred miles.

Here's a little tip for always being on time. The departure time listed on your schedule **is the time the wheels start to roll on the motorcoach**. If you aren't on board, then you are late. If you are consistently late, you are a candidate for being left behind. So if you are always the last one on the bus, set the alarm on your phone to remind you 5-10 minutes before departure time.

When you travel with others (even if you are traveling with family or friends), you have certain personal responsibilities, particularly as it relates to others in the group.

Smells

Here's an interesting topic. Simply put, when you are traveling/interacting with a group of people (on a tour, on an airplane, in an airport shuttle bus, in a theater) you should, as a courtesy to others, try to limit the amount of fragrance you apply to your body. The smell you thought was heavenly, might not rise to that level to those around you. In addition, some folks have allergies which can be triggered by perfumes and colognes. As a courtesy to all, please limit the use of these items when traveling.

We appraise and/or buy old coins

Just about everyone has a jar of old coins sitting around. Turn those coin collections, big and small, into cash. **Mark** was a coin dealer in his previous life and is interested in expanding his collection. Call for an appointment to have your coins appraised and/or purchased. Call **916-361-2051** and ask for **Bob** or **Mark**. If you have a large collection and can't bring it to our office, **Mark** is willing to come to you. This offer is also extended to friends and family of **SLV** customers!

Gold Passport Points Program Rewards

Once you have traveled 20 days with Sports Leisure Vacations (as recorded on the yellow card you received), your membership status is bumped to Gold and you begin to receive points for all of your travels, on a basically one point per dollar spent basis. The chart below shows how you can redeem those points as a Gold member. Questions? Give us a call or drop us a note at www.sportsleisure.com.

Number of Points Required Travel Reward

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

Awards can be used on any trip created by **Sports Leisure Vacations**. They cannot be redeemed for independent travel. Awards are transferable, but points are not. Points stay in your account until used, provided you travel at least once every 24 months.

The awards scale may be revised in the future with advance notice.

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

The mission of Travel Club Gold is to give our very best members a reward for their loyalty and patronage.



Never use these five cringeworthy phrases when you ask for help

April 14, 2017 – Christopher Elliot

Was it something you said? Is that the reason a company is ignoring your otherwise reasonable request for assistance?

If you have to ask, the answer is probably “yes.”

But what did you say? I’ve been reading cases for what seems like decades now – I started my advocacy practice in 1998 – and I’ve noticed a few patterns. It’s the same words and phrases that, for a variety of reasons, suggest the case is a dud. A simple edit can turn that around, though.

“The stewardess was rude to me.”

This one keeps coming up in our cases, since we deal with so many travel problems. When the words “rude” and “stewardess” or “steward” appear in the same sentence, it’s a tip-off. Expectations are too high on passengers’ part, and invariably, *they* were the rude ones. By the way, they’re called flight attendants now. Welcome to the 21st century.

Instead, say this: “Your flight attendant didn’t meet your most basic customer service obligations.”

“I’ll never do business with you again.”

This one’s also a frequent offender. It’s understandable that you’d use it out of frustration, but as I’ve said many times before, it hurts your case. Why? Because who would do anything for you if you’ve already decided you’ll never do business with a company again? It’s an empty threat, too, because if the company offers a voucher or discount, you most certainly *will* do business with it again. So yes, I cringe when I see “I’ll never do business with you again,” because it just doesn’t convey the right sentiment.

Instead, say this: “I’m disappointed with the level of customer service I received.”

“I’m going to tell all my friends on social media about your product.”

This isn’t something you threaten. It’s something you do. So when you say you’ll tell all of your friends online about the less-than-stellar customer service experience, it comes off as a real empty threat.

“You’ll be hearing from my lawyer.”

Another empty, and cringeworthy, threat. If that were true, then they’d be holding a paper letter from your lawyer right now. This is a classic bluff — give me what I want or I’ll sue. And it backfires badly, always. Why? Because emails like that get sent to the legal department, where someone correctly assesses your odds of suing at zero. “I’ll sue” should never go into a complaint letter. Never, ever.

Instead, say this: “I would like to find a way of resolving this without the involvement of a third party.” That’s vague enough to not be perceived as a threat, but suggests that you would escalate this, if necessary.

“I demand a full refund! (Even though I used the product.)”

You see this one a lot when vacations go bad. People demand a do-over, even when most services have been provided. While asking for specific compensation is a good idea, asking for too much compensation isn’t. If you’ve used a product, you don’t ask for a full refund. It makes you look ignorant and guarantees the company will say “no.”

Instead, say this: “Please consider a partial refund or a voucher as recognition of the disappointing customer experience.”

Next time you run into trouble with a company, avoid these awkward phrases. It might increase the odds of a successful resolution, not to mention save you some embarrassment.



Rev. Ramona Goodge, M.A., receives her Ordination Stole. It's the culmination of 12 years of study and service. Ramona's role at Sports Leisure has also changed as of late. Kevin Murphy, our longtime General Manager, left us on good terms in early February. Ramona has stepped into some of Kevin's responsibilities. (Seems an appropriate job title might be Head Honcho in Charge of Organized Chaos, but who are we copywriters to judge.)

Remembering Our Friends

Our time on this earth is brief. The sands of time flow through the hour glass quickly. Ours is a travel family, and each member is an important piece of our travel canvas, sharing adventures and discoveries on life's journey. We pause here to remember those who have left us recently.

David Davenport Fran Stroud

Einer Christensen Joyce E. Hamilton

Godspeed



New Vacations & Getaways

The Dynamic Duo: Cher and Hamilton in Chicago

Two amazing shows, luxurious accommodations, sightseeing and amazing meals on this quick visit to The Windy City

4 Days • July 12-15 • Second Date Added, Limited space available

1. Fly to Chicago and arrive at the very epitome of class and refinement – the historic Palmer House Hotel. From this great address the entire city is at your fingertips. Tonight, begin a journey through some of Chicago's great culinary treasures at your welcome dinner. **Palmer House Hilton – 3 nights (D)**

2. A guided tour starts the day to acquaint you with the history and architecture of this great city, including a bird's eye view from atop one of her magnificent skyscrapers and lunch. In the evening, the CIBC Theatre – directly across the street from the hotel – plays host to a performance of the Broadway mega-hit **Hamilton**. The show – winner of a remarkable 11 Tony Awards – presents a modern version of our country's founding and early days through the eyes of Alexander Hamilton (Front Mezzanine seating). **(FB,L)**

3. Chicago is famous for her museums, and today you can select to spend a few hours (or the whole day) at your favorite! The Field Museum of Natural History, the Shedd Aquarium and the Art Institute of Chicago are all nearby... as is wonderful shopping and eats along State Street. Tonight you'll witness the pre-Broadway preview of a musical based on the life of none other than Cherilyn Sarkisian La Piere Bono Allman... or as her friends simply call her, Cher! The historic Oriental Theater plays host to **The Cher Show**, presenting a look into the life of this superstar from childhood through the present day. Of course her many chart-topping hits will be there to help tell the story. **(FB,D)**

4. Can it be over already? Well not before a short walk up the street to the famed Marshall Field's Department store for lunch in The Walnut Room. You'll want to sample

Mrs. Herring's Chicken Pot Pie, the specialty of the house. Delicious! An afternoon flight returns you home. **(FB,L)**

This tour includes door-to-door airport service, roundtrip air, motorcoach transportation, accommodations, 7 meals (3 FB,2L,2D), local touring, tickets to 2 shows and attractions as listed, and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 2600/2850 Gold Passport Points

\$2585 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2845 single
Save \$75 until April 13

A Play on the Lake, A Ride to the Sky

"Beehive" at the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival; the Tram at Squaw Valley

2 Days • August 19-20

Head to Lake Tahoe for a fun overnighter featuring the 1960's musical, *Beehive*. An exuberant jukebox celebration of women musicians from the 60's; *Beehive* transports audiences on a nostalgic musical journey. The outdoor venue at Sand Harbor is perfect for a summer night of music, laughter, and of course Aqua Net-glistening coiffures! Join your fellow **Sports Leisure** travelers for a late morning trip to Truckee. Check into the **Hampton Inn**, don your best 60's apparel (optional) before dinner at Moody's before enjoying the show. Imagine, this venue has one of the most stunning backdrops in the world, a Lake Tahoe sunset!

After breakfast at the hotel; depart for Olympic Valley. Squaw Valley is one of the largest ski areas in the United States, and was host site of the entire 1960 Winter Olympics. A tram ride to the summit provides an aerial view of the valley, plus takes you to High Camp for lunch. Visit the Olympic Museum before returning to Sacramento, mid-afternoon.

This tour includes accommodations, tickets to the play and the tram ride; three meals (1B,1L,1D) and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 900/1000 Gold Passport Points

\$870 p.p./dbl.occ., \$955 single
Save \$25 until April 13

Add door-to-door service for \$80 p.p

The Great Reno Balloon Races!

3 Days • September 6-8

1. A limousine picks you up from your home and delivers you to the **Sports Leisure Vacations**' office where you will board *SuperCoach III* for Reno. Depart Sacramento late morning with an arrival in Reno at 3pm. Your accommodations are located in the heart of "The Biggest Little City" and connected to the Eldorado and Circus Circus hotels. The evening is at your leisure. **Silver Legacy – 2 nights**

2. This morning is balloon mass ascension! You will have Cloud 9 VIP Club seating which includes heated indoor/outdoor seating on the field, a catered breakfast, \$10 credit to the merchandise booth, a special edition champagne glass and a hosted bar with champagne, bloody Mary's and mimosas. During the morning there will also be target competitions where pilots drop bean bags on targets, and shopping along Balloon Boulevard. Lunch will be hosted with the evening at your leisure. **(B,L)**

3. Back to the launch field this morning to capture some more spectacular photos and pick up that last minute souvenir. We head back to the Silver Legacy to check out and have lunch before departing to Sacramento where your limousine will deliver you home. This package includes door-to-door service, deluxe motorcoach transportation, all attractions listed above and the services of a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director. Balloon events may be cancelled due to inclement weather. 850/950 Gold Passport Points **(B)**

\$850 p.p./dbl.occ., \$945 single
Save \$25 until April 13

Christmas in Victoria

4 Days • December 1-4, 2018

★ Highlights ★

- Roundtrip air to/from Victoria
- 3 nights at an all-suite hotel
- Dinner and Christmas lights at Butchart Gardens
- High Tea at The Empress Hotel
- Guided sights, and plenty of free time
- 1900/2000 Gold Passport Points



Kick off the Christmas Season with a bit of British flair in beautiful Victoria, B.C. Twinkling lights replace hanging flower pots to illuminate the streets as you go store to store to find that perfect gift for a loved one... or yourself! All the highlights are included with plenty of free time to create your own experience. It's truly a very special time to visit the quaint, yet lively little city on the picturesque Inner Harbour.

1. Fly to Victoria by way of Seattle arriving in late afternoon. A waterfront lunch is in Sidney, a little seaside resort town full of boutique shopping, numerous new and used bookstores, and a charming English Sweets shop. You'll get an assortment of traditional goodies to take with you. After checking into your all-suite hotel, enjoy an included sunset cocktail and dinner atop the city with sweeping views of the harbor and surrounding Olympic Mountains. **Chateau Victoria – 3 nights (L,D)**

2. A narrated driving tour this morning gets you acquainted. Make note of the shops you want to visit! But first, warm up with a spot of tea, finger sandwiches and decadent petit fours at the famed Empress Hotel. It's a meal fit for a queen! Learn about early Christmas traditions brought by immigrants at the award-winning Royal B.C. Museum, and stroll the lavishly decorated replica streets of Old Town Victoria. The remainder of the



The Christmas lights at Butchart Gardens absolutely sparkle

evening is yours to dine and shop as you wish. **(FB,HT)**

3. The majestic Legislative Building is your first stop this morning. Look up, up, up at the tree as it reaches from the first floor into the rotunda. Swing by one evening to see the building lit up in red and green! The afternoon is yours to enjoy. Arrive at the world-renowned Butchart Gardens at dusk and enjoy a three-course dinner in the original family home. Afterwards, grab a hot drink and head out into the twinkling wonderland. The 12 Days of Christmas are cheekily represented with lighted displays. Bring your imagination and good cheer! And your camera! **(FB,D)**

4. Enjoy a leisurely morning before a short walking tour of historic Fort Street with lots of little nibbles, interesting stories and your last chance to find that perfect gift! Fly home from Victoria through Seattle with memories and goodies to share. **(FB,L)**

\$1860 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1990 single
Save \$50 until April 13

Key West, Miami and The Everglades

Featuring Key Largo & 4 nights in Key West
7 Days • January 26 – February 1, 2019
★ Highlights ★

- Visit Florida Everglades National Park, experience an air boat ride and meet an alligator or two up close
- History abounds in Key West – visit the Hemingway Home, The Aquarium, Truman's "Little White House," tour the island aboard the famous *Old Town Trolley*
- Lunch on private Sunset Key at Latitudes, a short ferry ride from Mallory Pier, a **Sports Leisure** exclusive
- A "Taste of Key West" food tour by trolley, where you sample lots of local culinary treats (including Key Lime Pie, Conch Fritters, Cuban Sandwiches)
- Day cruise on an authentic clipper ship (optional, included), Butterfly and Nature Conservatory
- Cabaret Dinner Show at *La Te Da*; lunch at famous Sloppy Joe's, a local landmark
- 4 nights in Key West at the Crowne Plaza La Concha, in the heart of town on Duval Street

- Overnight Ft. Lauderdale – Miami city tour featuring South Beach and Coral Gables; overnight in Key Largo
- Tour The Turtle Hospital in the Keys
- Roundtrip air to Ft. Lauderdale (United), return from Key West (Delta)
- 13 meals: 2 breakfasts, 4 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3900/4650 Gold Passport Points

Key West has become one of our most popular destinations with our annual tour selling out every year, months ahead of departure. It's a top flight experience, limited to just 25-30 travelers. Indeed, our 2017 departure has been full since early summer.

Key West is a pedestrian-friendly destination, and because of that, we walk to many attractions. For that reason, we **do not** recommend this tour for travelers with serious mobility issues.

1. Arrive in Ft. Lauderdale and enjoy dinner at a popular South American-style steakhouse. **Holiday Inn Express (D)**

2. A morning visit to the Everglades to ride an air boat and meet some alligators. City tour of Miami Beach and Coral Gables, ending the day in Key Largo. Great sunset views tonight before dinner at the popular Fish House. **Hampton Inn (B,D)**

3. Learn about marine wildlife at the Turtle Hospital in Marathon, stop for lunch, then travel on to Key West. **Crowne Plaza La Concha – 4 nights (B,L,D)**

4-6. Enjoy a wide variety of Key West dining and sightseeing experiences. See the highlights box for details. From the drag show at *La Te Da* to the amazing Butterfly Conservatory, you'll have time for sights (each morning) and time to explore on your own (each afternoon). **(3FB,L,2D)**

7. Depart Key West at 11am, connecting in Atlanta and arriving home about 9:30pm. **(FB)**

\$3995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4725 single
Save \$75 until April 13

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



The Tour Calendar *(Previously Announced)*

Route 66, The Main Street of America – Part I



The repeat of a classic Sports Leisure adventure – our 9th journey down the classic highway

Chicago to Oklahoma City

11 Days • April 13-23

★ Highlights ★

- Overnights in Chicago, Pontiac (IL), Springfield (IL), Springfield (MO), Tulsa, Oklahoma City, 2 nights in St. Louis and Miami (pronounced Mi-am-ah), (OK)
- Meet the people of Route 66 – special guides, speakers and guests; lots of quirky attractions
- Including airfare and door-to-door airport service if departing from Sacramento
- The services of **Sports Leisure** Tour Directors (**Chris** and **Mark**) and 26 meals
- 3550/4050 Gold Passport Points

2 seats remain at press time.

\$3545 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4035 single

Beautiful Bodega Bay, Tiburon and The Coast



Featuring the Sonoma and Marin Coastlines

3 Days • April 29 – May 1

★ Highlights ★

- Enjoy the hospitality of Bodega Bay Lodge & Spa, overlooking Dorian Beach
- Browse the eclectic shops of Tiburon
- Dine at the Occidental Union Hotel
- Korbel Champagne Cellars and Gardens
- Enjoy Tiburon's Shoreline Park and visit the Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum
- 4 meals: 2 full breakfasts, 1 brunch, 1 lunch
- Door-to-door service
- 1100/1300 Gold Passport Points

2 seats remain at press time.

\$1075 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1255 single

Springtime in Yosemite



Featuring the best of Mother Nature: waterfalls and spring flowers

3 Days • May 15-17

★ Highlights ★

- Visit Yosemite Falls, the Ansel Adams Gallery, and the Yosemite Museum

- 2 nights at the new Rush Creek Lodge
- Guided tour highlighting the history and points of interest throughout the valley
- 2 meals: 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door service
- 1450/1750 Gold Passport Points

Rush Creek Lodge, located just one mile from the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park on Highway 120, is the newest mountain resort in the Sierra in over 25 years. It features a contemporary, rustic sensibility inspired by the breathtaking nature surrounding its 20-acre wooded hillside setting. While not inside the park, its location provides serenity away from the crowds. If you have stayed in the park over the past few years you are aware its motel rooms have become a little tired. We are confident you are going to love these improved, upscale accommodations.

Springtime is the optimum season to view Yosemite's magnificent waterfalls and get a peek at its display of spring flowers. On your full day in the park, the morning will consist of a fully narrated Valley Floor Tour to discover the history, geology and people of Yosemite. The afternoon is your time to explore as you wish. Tour Director: **Ramona Goodge**

\$1430 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1735 single

Memorial Day in Washington, D.C.



Our nation's capital is yours to explore

6 Days • May 24-29

★ Highlights ★

- 5 nights at the Hilton Hotel Arlington
- Tour Washington, D.C. by day and night
- Visit Arlington National Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, the U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theatre and The Kennedy Center
- Explore the Smithsonian Institution and National Museums on the Mall
- See National Monuments including Lincoln, Jefferson, FDR, MLK, WWII, Vietnam, Korea and more
- Roundtrip airfare
- 9 meals: daily breakfast, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service

- 2800/3100 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Clayton Whitehead**,
2 seats remain at press time.
\$2780 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3060 single

The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe



Featuring luxurious accommodations in a mountain setting

2 Days • June 3-4

(Important note for "fence-sitters: We must return unsold rooms to the hotel in late March. Please consider registering now to avoid being disappointed.)

An overnight getaway featuring luxurious accommodations. Have you ever stayed in a Ritz Carlton Hotel? As **Scott Angeletti** (your Tour Director) can tell you, because he annually takes a group to the Ritz in Half Moon Bay and has been to Tahoe with a previous group, there is nothing like staying at The Ritz.

1. Travel Highway 80 through the Sierra, pausing in Truckee for a hosted brunch and free time to browse the shops, before arriving at your mountain retreat. To experience the luxury of a Ritz-Carlton is unlike any other accommodation. The AAA Five Diamond service and attention to detail is phenomenal. Enjoy an optional private art and architecture tour to learn about the unique design elements and highlights of the more distinctive works of art throughout the resort. Your accommodations include in-room fireplaces and floor-to-ceiling windows. **Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe (BR)**

2. Today travel along the Lake Tahoe shore on a guided tour with "Mr. Tahoe!" You will have so much fun learning about the lake hearing stories on the way to the west shore where lunch is hosted at Sunnyside before returning to Sacramento. **(L)**

\$585 p.p./dbl.occ., \$698 single

Add door-to-door service for \$80 p.p.



www.facebook.com/sportsleisure



Oregon's Coast, Carousels and Covered Bridges

Walk in the steps of Lewis & Clark, enjoy the coast, dine on a covered bridge

6 Days • June 24-29

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights Astoria (rooms overlook the Columbia River), 2 nights Newport (all rooms with a FULL view of the Pacific), overnight Eugene
- Lewis & Clark history, including stops at Cape Disappointment and Fort Clatsop, their two "mid-journey" coastal homes
- Long Beach, WA – America's longest beach and kite capital, hosted lunch at the Cranberry Research Foundation
- Ride carousels in Seaside and Albany, learn how the horses are made
- Tour the Tillamook Cheese Factory, visit Yaquina Head Lighthouse
- Marine Discovery Cruise on Newport Bay, one of the best educational cruises in the country
- Admission to The Oregon Aquarium
- Roundtrip air to/from Portland
- 12 meals, featuring fine dining at Clearwater, overlooking Newport Harbor; and lunch on a covered bridge
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2250/2550 Gold Passport Points
- 5 seats available at press time
- Tour Directors: **Mark** and **Chris**

\$2215 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2520 single

Crater Lake and the Umpqua National Scenic Byway

Featuring natural scenic wonder in Oregon

6 Days • July 3-8

Note: A great "outdoors" tour for those who prefer not to fly.

★ Highlights ★

- Visit Crater Lake National Park, one of the country's most unique and beautiful natural landmarks, with lunch at Crater Lake Lodge
- Up close animal encounters at Wildlife Safari

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

ACTIVITY METER



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Hellgate Jet Boat tour on the wild and scenic Rogue River
- Stay in the charming town of Ashland
- Optional (add'l cost) performance at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- 11 meals: 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 dinner

- Door-to-door service
- 2000/2250 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**

An all-coach tour which includes a national park and the wild and scenic Rogue River. It's southern Oregon at its best.

\$1880 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2230 single



Iceland, Land of Fire and Ice



A full exploration of the volcanic island

10 Days • July 14-23

Note: We urge caution when choosing a travel company/tour operator to host your Iceland visit. It is our experience many people are buying packages which promise one thing and deliver another. Iceland has become an expensive destination. **Sports Leisure's** package, listed here, has been vetted and the services are provided by a reputable local Iceland operator.

★ Highlights ★

- See mountains, beaches, fjords, volcanoes, hot springs, geysers and bountiful wildlife
- Visit historic sites, tiny villages and meet the real people of Iceland
- Visit and take in the waters at famous Blue Lagoon
- Fly to the Westman Islands for a tour by land and sea
- Cruise between icebergs at Jökulsárlón
- Walk behind the Seljalandsfoss Waterfall
- Roundtrip air to/from Reykjavik
- 16 meals: 9 full breakfasts and 7 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 7650/8800 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti, who has previously escorted Iceland groups**

In just a short time, Iceland has become an incredibly popular (and expensive as a result) destination. Honestly, more people want to visit than the country can accommodate, being a small island nation. One way to control visitors is to raise prices.

8 seats remain at press time.

\$7630 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8795 single

This tour requires a valid passport!

Planes and Trains of the Pacific Northwest



Discover rail and aviation history and industry in Oregon and Washington

4 Days • August 3-6

★ Highlights ★

- Ride the Oregon Pacific Railroad along the Willamette River and the Snoqualmie Valley Railroad near Seattle
- Travel from Vancouver to Tacoma on board Amtrak's *Cascade*
- Visit the Pearson Air Museum and

Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum, home of Howard Hughes' *Spruce Goose*

- History is brought to life at the Flying Heritage & Combat Armor Museum
- Watch wide body jets assembled before your eyes at Boeing's Future of Flight
- Roundtrip airfare to Portland/from Seattle
- 5 meals: 2 brunches, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2000/2200 Gold Passport Points

All aboard train fans on this trip around the Pacific Northwest at the height of the summer travel (translates...good weather) season. 3 train rides, plus a host of rail and aviation history.

\$1955 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2175 single

Save \$25 until April 13

A Port, A President and The Pageant of the Masters



Art comes to life at one of the world's most unique festivals

3 Days • August 5-7 (one seat available) or August 19-21 (17 seats available)

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights Newport Beach Marriott
- Tickets to the Pageant of the Masters (center seating, excellent location), as art comes to life with human tableaux on stage, a truly unique cultural arts event that is difficult to describe properly (see our video on the trip at www.youtube.com, enter "**Sports Leisure Vacations**" in the search bar)
- Pre-show dinner at Tivoli Garden, time to explore the Festival of the Arts show, featuring hundreds of original works, all for sale by the artist
- Exclusive Pageant "talk-back" the morning after the show, a behind-the-scenes look at the Pageant
- Cruise the Newport coast on a Hornblower Yacht Brunch Cruise
- Visit the Nixon Presidential Library
- 3 meals and roundtrip air included
- 1550/1750 Gold Passport Points

Please note: the Newport Beach Marriott is not on or near the beach. You will likely have a view of the distant beach from your room. Having said that, it is a beautiful place to stay and it has been our exclusive Pageant hotel for over a decade.

\$1525 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1730 single

The Sound of Music in Leavenworth



Take the Train to Washington's Little Bavaria

4 Days • August 6-9

Features a flight to Seattle, lunch on the waterfront, then an Amtrak ride from Seattle to Leavenworth. Stay 3 nights at the Bavarian Lodge, and when you get there you will find out why it's Chris' favorite. It just feels like Bavaria.

Visit Applets and Cotleys in nearby Cashmere and enjoy local sights. There's free time in Leavenworth, plus two evening outdoor shows (performed by largely local talent), *The Sound of Music* and *My Fair Lady*. Visit the Boeing Museum of Flight at the old Seattle airport before flying home.

The tour includes door-to-door airport service, roundtrip air, motorcoach service, passage aboard Amtrak's *Empire Builder*, accommodations, all attractions and shows listed, 7 meals (3FB,3L,1D), and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director: **Chris Galloway**, 1950/2200 Gold Passport Points.

\$1925 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2190 single

Newfoundland, Where the Sun Meets the Sea



Featuring breathtaking natural beauty

11 Days • August 10-20

★ Highlights ★

- Visit L'Anse Aux Meadows National Historic Site
 - Explore Gros Morne National Park
 - Stay 2-nights in the oceanfront capital of St. John's, NL
 - Experience scenic boat tours
 - 20 meals: 10 breakfasts, 1 box lunch, 9 dinners
 - Roundtrip airfare to Deer Lake/from St. John's, NL
 - Door-to-door airport service
 - Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**
 - 6400/6900 Gold Passport Points
1. Fly Delta Airlines to Toronto via Salt Lake City. **Hilton Garden Inn Toronto Airport**
 2. Fly this morning to Deer Lake, Newfoundland. Travel along the Northern Peninsula to your accommodations in Hawkes Bay. **Torrent River Inn (FB,D)**
 3. L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site is the first cultural discovery in the world



to receive recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hear of the Vikings who walked here over a thousand years ago before continuing on to your accommodations in St. Anthony for the night. Tonight is an evening of food and fun at the Great Viking Feast at Leifsbudir. **Haven Inn (FB,D)**

4. A morning whale watching tour (weather permitting) with a local biologist and wildlife expert will give you the opportunity to see whales, dolphins, sea birds and sea caves. At the Grenfell Interpretive Centre & House Museum, learn about the famous medical missionary, Sir Wilfred Grenfell, before traveling to Cow Head in Gros Morne National Park for a two-night stay. **Shallow Bay Motel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

5. Discover why Gros Morne National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is truly one of the highlights of your trip with a scenic boat tour on Bonne Bay. Be on the look-out for the bald eagles that frequent the deep waters of the fjord. Also visit the Tablelands; this mountain of flat-topped rock of a kind usually found only deep in the earth's mantle is an awe-inspiring sight. **(FB,BL,D)**

6. Travel through Central Newfoundland on to Gander where you will spend the night. This afternoon visit the North Atlantic Aviation Museum, which hosts a variety of artifacts and displays chronicling Gander's role in development of transatlantic aviation. Learn about its unique role in hosting our "Come From Away" during America's 9/11 tragedy (the story was made into a smash Broadway musical). **Sinbad's Hotel & Suites (FB,D)**

7. A scenic drive along the rocky coast of Notre Dame Bay leads to the beautiful outport of Twillingate where you will visit Long Point Lighthouse and the Prime Berth Fishery & Heritage Centre. Keep your eyes open for wildlife as you drive through Terra Nova National Park and on to Clarenville, your home for the next two nights. **St. Jude's Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

8. Today you will experience two quaint, historic towns. First, visit Bonavista, where John Cabot first arrived in North America in 1497. Learn about the hard life of the light keepers at Cape Bonavista Lighthouse Provincial Historic Site before continuing on to charming Trinity. Stroll the lanes

and explore the many historic buildings preserved from the 18th Century. **(FB,D)**

9. Continue on to the intriguing old seaport of St. John's, your home for the next two nights. North America's oldest city, and Newfoundland's capital, boasts a stunning location in the granite cliffs and slopes of the Avalon Peninsula. Enjoy a city tour featuring the Victorian architecture of the downtown area, the busy modern waterfront, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Confederation Building, and the panoramic view from Signal Hill. **Delta St. John's – 2 nights (FB,D)**

10. This morning, visit Bay Bulls for one of the highlights of your trip, a boat tour in the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve to search for puffins and other seabirds. Next is a visit to the most easterly point in North America, Cape Spear National Historic Site. The afternoon is yours to explore St. John's at your leisure. **(FB,D)**

11. Transfer to the St. John's International Airport for your return flight home with many fond memories of Newfoundland. **(FB)**

\$6390 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6885 single

Save \$100 until April 13

This tour requires a valid passport!

Great Cities of Canada

Ottawa, Quebec City and Montreal are yours to discover

7 Days • August 10-16

★ **Highlights** ★

- 2 nights Ottawa, Canada's Capital City
- Ottawa tour with the Changing of the Guard on Parliament Hill
- 3 nights Québec City
- Québec City tour, Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré and Montmorency Falls
- Overnight Montréal to see Notre-Dame and the Biodome
- Roundtrip air to Ottawa/from Montréal
- 12 meals: 6 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3600/3050 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Chris Galloway**

\$3591 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4041 single

Save \$40 until April 13

This tour requires a valid passport!

The Alaskan Explorer Cruise with Holland America

Seminars and workshops on board conducted by O Magazine

8 Days • August 10-18

★ **Highlights** ★

- Pre-cruise overnight stay in Tacoma at the Hotel Murano
- Visit the LeMay Auto Museum or Museum of Glass
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Seattle
- All meals included aboard ship, add'l lunch in Seattle
- Door-to-door airport service
- Gold Passport Points based on cabin location/price

The cruise will feature special appearances by contributors from *O, The Oprah Magazine* as well as thought leaders from The SuperSoul 100. A list of guest speakers, hosts and activities will be announced closer to departure.

Our cruise/tour package will include a pre-night stay in Tacoma at the Hotel Murano, host of museum-quality works of glass art. A choice of a visit to either LeMay – American's Car Museum or the popular Museum of Glass are included along with lunch on arrival day in Seattle. More information can be found on page 43 of the catalog.

Inside cabins start at:

\$2280 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3475 single

Outside cabins start at:

\$2670 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4220 single

This vacation requires a valid passport!

The Magnificent Mendocino Coast

Featuring Noyo Harbor, Ft. Bragg and the historic Skunk Train

4 Days • August 14-17

★ **Highlights** ★

Begin with a visit to the home and museum of early California artist, Grace Hudson, followed by an overnight stay in Ukiah. The next morning travel across the coastal range. The Mendocino Botanical Gardens offer beautiful display gardens and its trail to the ocean bluffs is spectacular.

At Point Cabrillo Lighthouse, the docents are prepared to share stories of the keepers and the surrounding community. In Fort

Bragg, the old mill site is being restored into Noyo Headlands Park with the Noyo Marine Center offering visitors educational talks and walks. After a couple of years of challenges, the historic *Skunk Train* now offers an abbreviated journey along Pudding Creek Estuary.

Our lodging for **two nights** will be overlooking Noyo Harbor at the familiar **Harbor Lite Lodge**. This tour includes door-to-door service, accommodations, transportation by coach, all attractions as listed above, 9 meals (3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners), Tour Director: **Ramona Goodge**, 1450/1700 Gold Passport Points
\$1440 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1670 single

The International Selkirk Loop



Featuring a breathtaking drive through the Selkirk Mountains

7 Days • August 20-26

★ Highlights ★

- Multiple-night stays in waterview rooms: 2 nights in Bonners Ferry, ID and 3 nights in Nelson, BC
- Visit restored SS *Moyie* and step back to the era of the sternwheelers
- Learn about the culture of the Doukhobors at Castlegar
- Enjoy a night of contemporary luxury at the Davenport Towers, and a decadent Sunday Brunch at the Davenport Hotel
- Roundtrip air to/from Spokane
- 11 meals: 5 full breakfasts, 1 brunch, 5 lunches
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3300/3750 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Ramona Goodge**

The Selkirk Loop is a 280-mile international scenic drive encircling the Selkirk Mountains of eastern Washington, northern Idaho and southeastern British Columbia. The entire loop follows alongside a river or lakeshore, with vast views of the valleys and mountains

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Sundays, 3-4pm

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www.travelguysradio.com

one minute, intimate water scenes or dense forest the next. The Selkirk Mountain Range, with peaks towering over 11,500 feet, are just one of the many ranges comprising the Rocky Mountains.

\$3270 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3745 single

Save \$40 until April 13

This vacation requires a valid passport!

Olympia, the Sound and The Mountain



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

4 Days • August 31 – September 3

★ Highlights ★

- 3-night stay overlooking Budd Bay
- Lunch in the grand Paradise Inn Dining Room at Mt. Rainier National Park
- Cruise aboard the historic steamboat, *Virginia V*
- Enjoy Olympia's Harbor Days
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Seattle
- 8 meals: 3 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2100/2350 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Ramona Goodge**

7 spaces remain at press time.

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

Zion and Bryce National Parks



Featuring landscapes from another world

5 Days • September 16-20

★ Highlights ★

- Tram tour at Zion National Park, ride beneath the towering monoliths
- Rim tour of Bryce Canyon National Park, among the spires and towers of the eroding cliffs – orange, red, yellow, an amazing rainbow of color
- Performance at Tuacahn Amphitheatre
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Las Vegas
- 8 included meals: 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2100/2350 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**

Visit two of Utah's spectacular National Parks on this scenic getaway. Even the travel between the two parks is beautiful. Enjoy first-rate theater near St. George and best of all, it's only a short one-plane ride

away. Discover two of Utah's most popular parks after the summer crowds are gone.

\$2060 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2345 single

Rails Around Colorado



Three scenic train rides during fall foliage

7 Days • September 22-28

★ Highlights ★

- Three scenic trains: Royal Gorge, Cumbres & Toltec, Durango & Silverton (note this trip is offered at the height of the fall color season in the Rockies)
- Royal Gorge Bridge and Park
- Great Sand Dunes National Park
- Explore the San Juan Mountains by Jeep
- Fly above Telluride on a gondola ride
- 11 meals: 3 breakfasts, 3 full breakfasts, 5 lunches
- Roundtrip airfare to Denver/from Durango
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3600/4000 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**

Join Scott as he takes you in a circle around the state of Colorado, pausing to ride the scenic trains which dot the landscape. Of particular interest is the Cumbres and Toltec, considered by many to be the most scenic rail ride in the country. Unless you give that title to the Durango-Silverton (also featured). If you're a train buff, this is your trip.

\$3590 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3995 single

Catalina Island Getaway



4 Days • September 30 – October 3

Our annual escape to the island "26 miles across the sea" features **3 nights** at the **Pavilion Lodge**, in the heart of Avalon, right on the harbor and within walking distance of countless shops and restaurants. Begin with a short flight to Southern California. Enjoy a tour and spectacular Sunday Brunch aboard the *Queen Mary*, moored in Long Beach Harbor. Travel aboard the high-speed *Catalina Express* ferry to the island. At your hotel, enjoy a wine reception each night and a continental breakfast each morning.

The itinerary includes several NEW adventures on the island as well as plenty of free time to enjoy additional activities or time to relax on your own. Included in the package



is the new *Twilight in the Casino* tour which showcases the ballroom, big band dancing and wine and cheese on the balcony! We'll also experience the new *Evening Avalon Scenic* tour aboard a new state-of-the-art electric bus. Finally, catch a glimpse of the underwater world surrounding the island on board a semi-submersible vehicle. A final night dinner is just steps from your hotel. A mid-morning return to the mainland by ferry allows you time for lunch in Long Beach at Parker's Lighthouse prior to your late afternoon flight home.

The tour includes door-to-door service, roundtrip airfare, deluxe motorcoach transportation, accommodations and three tours on Catalina Island, 6 meals (3B,1BR,1L,1D), and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 1750/2100 Gold Passport Points

\$1745 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2080 single

Moab, Gateway to Arches National Park

A

3 nights at the spectacular Red Cliffs Lodge on the banks of the Colorado River
5 Days • October 1-5

Our May departure sold out within days of the catalog's release, the second year in a row that has occurred. To allow more people to experience these amazing parks, we have added a second departure. Like our May visit, this trip is planned for the "shoulder season," when the parks should be less crowded and the weather still good, which makes for a better park experience.

★ Highlights ★

- Explore majestic Arches National Park
- Visit Dead Horse State Park (the most amazing view in the Southwest!)
- Thrill to a jet boat tour on the Colorado River
- Experience flightseeing over Canyonlands National Park
- Discover Gateway Canyons
- Roundtrip air to/from Grand Junction, CO
- 9 meals: 4 full breakfasts, 5 lunches
- Door-to-door airport service
- 2600/2900 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**

\$2575 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2895 single
Save \$40 until April 13



While perched in an elevated viewing stand, watch as the bears and eagles dine on salmon below

Wildlife Viewing in British Columbia

E

Featuring Knights Inlet Lodge and Grizzly Bears

6 Days • October 4-9

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights at the Knight Inlet remote floating wilderness lodge in a comfortable room with private washroom and shower
- 2 full days of guided wildlife viewing, including watching Grizzly Bears from nearby viewing platforms
- Evening interpretive programs
- Marine wildlife viewing excursions as weather allows
- Seaplane to/from Campbell River
- Roundtrip air to/from Vancouver
- 12 meals: 1 breakfast, 4 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 6150/7150 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Ramona Goodge**

One of our best tour experiences. Enjoy an awesome visit to the true wilderness with all the comforts you need. (Except perhaps the Internet for a few days.) It provides a glimpse into the life of some of our continent's most iconic animals... Grizzly

Bears and Bald Eagles, and it's just an absolutely fantastic good time! Glendale Cove in Knight Inlet is home to one of the largest concentrations of Grizzly Bears in British Columbia. During the fall salmon run, bears are observed from viewing platforms filling up on fresh salmon. Bring your cameras and binoculars! We are the only tour operator with premier fall viewing season access!

The Knight Inlet Lodge is a **remote floating lodge in the wilderness**, accessible only by seaplane or boat; and many activities include climbing into marine vessels or walking on uneven surfaces. For these reasons, **you must be in stable physical condition, with good mobility**. We **do not** recommend this tour for travelers with moderate to serious mobility

issues. **Space is limited, with only 4 rooms available for single occupancy.**

\$6150 p.p./dbl.occ., \$7120 single
Save \$50 until April 13

This vacation requires a valid passport!

New England Fall Foliage Spectacular

M

Leaf peeping in Vermont, New Hampshire, Portland and Boston

8 Days • October 6-13

The fall colors of New England are one of the United States most legendary "attractions" around the world. People come from far and wide to be Leaf Peepers. You are invited to join our excursion featuring the spectacular resort at Basin Harbor, truly a cut above as an accommodation; and a wide range of local attractions.

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights at the Basin Harbor Resort and in Portland, Maine
- 1 night each: Manchester, Quechee and Loon Mountain
- Canterbury Shakers, Saint Gaudens, Rock of Ages, the Shelburne Museum
- Mount Washington Cog Railway and the Café Lafayette Dinner Train



- Loon Mountain Aerial Tram and Norlands Living History Center
- Roundtrip airfare to Manchester/from Boston
- 14 meals: 7 full breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners including a real Maine "lobstah suppah"
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 3900/4500 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Clayton Whitehead**
\$3890 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4480 single
Save \$40 until April 13

New Mexico, Land of Enchantment



Carlsbad Caverns National Park and the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
7 Days • October 9-15

★ Highlights ★

- Private lounge access to the Albuquerque Int'l Balloon Fiesta: Balloon Glow, Special Shapes and Mass Ascensions
- Go deep into Carlsbad Caverns Nat'l Park on a guided visit, visit the underground world that will amaze you
- Explore the unique landscape of White Sands National Monument
- Roundtrip air to Albuquerque/from El Paso
- 13 meals: 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- 3000/3400 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**

By request, we bring back our week-long tour of the state of New Mexico. From Carlsbad and the magnificent mountains in the south (visit the tiny hamlet of Sacramento, New Mexico... in the Sacramento Mountains, of course); to the balloons floating through the sky in the north, this is a great adventure.

\$2955 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3385 single

Leafin' on a Jet Plane



A Mystery Tour that's all about fall colors
6 Days • October 14-19

Find out why every mystery tour **Sports Leisure** offers is a sellout. We've found an area that traditionally has great fall colors (although with the changing climate leaf-changing times each year are becoming very difficult to predict). There are lots of great

places to catch the changing of the colors each year. New England? Too common and too easy to guess. Upper Michigan? Great guess, but we go to Mackinac Island most every year. No mystery there!

Here are some clues to help you: Let's all pray for world peace, then it's "down the hatch!" It's kinda chilly in here, maybe it's a SIGN. Whole Foods is selling their ice cream. Pretty hot in this tavern and everything is brown, maybe gangsters hung out here? Hey, stop horsing around, because we can't track that sort of behavior. OK, by now, you all know where we are going... or maybe not.

The hotel pattern for this trip is 4 nights and one night, two hotels, BOTH Embassy Suites. We will include airfare and 12 meals. Tour Directors: **Chris** and **Mark**. 2650/3000 Gold Passport Points

\$2635 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2965 single

Sedona and Grand Canyon National Park



Featuring a visit to Bearizona Wildlife Park
5 Days • October 21-25

- 2 nights at the Hilton Sedona Resort
- Lunch at the Enchantment Resort
- Trolley tour to the Chapel of The Holy Cross
- Lunch at the historic El Tovar Hotel
- Guided tour along the rim of the Grand Canyon
- 9 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 4 lunches
- Tour Director: **Scott Angeletti**
- 2200/2550 Gold Passport Points

\$2190 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2520 single
Save \$40 until April 13

Route 66 West – Oklahoma City to Santa Monica



The second half of our "Main Street of America" Tour

10 Days • October 23 – November 1
4 seats available at press time

The western side of The Mother Road (a favorite Route 66 moniker) is more about wide open spaces and the people and places between them. It's a journey to and through places you wouldn't normally visit, absolutely one of life's great USA travel

adventures. Fly to Oklahoma City, fly home from Burbank. Take 10 days to cover 1,350 miles, an average of 135 miles a day.

Please view the day-by-day itinerary on line, or call our office for a copy.

The trip includes airfare to OKC/from Burbank to Sacramento (fares from other cities are available), door-to-door service in Sacramento and where available, 23 meals as listed (7FB,2B,8L,6D), the services of a **Sports Leisure Tour Director** (perhaps even two), all admissions and gratuities when dining/entering as a group (including your airport chauffeur). Gratuities for your All West Driver and Tour Director are not included. 3900/4450 Gold Passport Points

\$3885 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4410 single

Death Valley and Nevada Ghost Towns



Join Ramona and Mark – two nights in Death Valley, be a part of an authentic ghost hunt

6 Days • November 7-12, 2018

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights Furnace Creek Ranch Death Valley
- 2 nights in the haunted Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah
- Overnight Golden Nugget Las Vegas
- Be a part of the Goodsprings Ghost Hunt – Walk the ghost town and sit in the Pioneer Saloon, "speak" to the ghosts that inhabit the old mining town
- Visit Belmont – A "semi-abandoned" ghost town to explore near Tonopah
- Ghost stories at the Mizpah; visits to the ghost towns of Goldfield, Gold Point, and Rhyolite, all with ghosts of their own
- Travel the Extraterrestrial Highway and stop at Little Ale-ee-Inn for refreshments
- Full day of Death Valley touring, featuring the Amargosa Opera House, Zabrinski Point, Badwater Salt Flats and the Devil's Golf Course
- Roundtrip air to/from Las Vegas
- Door-to-door airport service
- 14 meals: 5 full breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners
- 2400/2650 Gold Passport Points

\$2355 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2645 single
Save \$20 until April 13



Some one once asked... Where did the Mystery Tours Go?

Couple of years ago, while on a regular tour with an announced destination, a traveler asked me where a recent **Mystery Tour** had gone. After I shared with her, she said, "You should print that in the newsletter. If I knew the types of places the Mystery Tours went, I'd be more likely to take one." An excellent idea. So here, for the second time, is a recap of recent Mystery Tours. Interestingly enough, the itineraries were so popular, **all three are going to be repeated** as known destinations within the next year...

Haida Gwaii Summer 2019

Haida Gwaii is an archipelago off the northwestern coast of British Columbia. Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and the Haida Heritage Site includes remote islands, temperate rainforests, and centuries-old totem poles still standing in the Haida Nation village known as SgangGwaay Llnagaay. The Haida are a welcoming people and invite you to come enjoy the beauty of their lands, the arts and cultures of their people, and an exciting new floating lodge on the west coast. This will be an "energetic" adventure with Ramona exploring more of the wilds of British Columbia by helicopter, zodiacs and maybe even kayaks.

Circle British Columbia by Ferry and Train Summer 2019

Join Ramona as she makes a classic journey into the heart of British Columbia. Ride a ferry through the famed Inside Passage, follow the Skeena River aboard VIA Rail and spend the night in Jasper National Park. Along the way, interact with some of Ramona's northern friends; enjoy some fine BC cuisine; absolutely marvel at the spectacular scenery of this Super Natural Canadian Province.

An American Portrait

**6 Days • Operated in October of 2017,
returns in May of 2019**

We thought this was one of the strongest Mystery Tour itineraries ever, and it rated as the 3rd highest ranked Mystery Tour in our history.

We flew to Rochester, NY. We took a short cruise on the historic Erie Canal, we visit Corning Glass, where some of our gang got to make something while the rest of us were shopping like crazy (this writer bought his last set of dishes at the Corning Factory 35 years ago, so it was nice to get back and get some new ones). We toured the campus of Cornell University, an Ivy League school; and had ice cream in a parlor that defined Ithaca (it's been there for 70 years).

We drove half a day to Bethel Woods, New York. For it was in that spot, 49 years ago, that one of the world's most famous music festivals was held, **Woodstock**. Our next stop was the West Point Academy for a tour. Some in the group pointed out how interesting it was to have those two attractions, back-to-back, on the same day.

West Point is along the Hudson River, so we spent a day-and-a-half visiting Franklin Roosevelt's Presidential Library, and Val-Kill, the only National Historic Site dedicated to a First Lady. We ate, and ate, and ate... we walked out on a bridge over the Hudson, and we ate some more. The food was really excellent on this trip. Flew home from Albany, New York.

A Priority Notification List is now available. Call or email and add your name to it and we will contact you in late summer when the tour is available for registration.

Our Annual Christmas Mystery Tour

**5 Days • December of 2017, returning as
"A Midwest Christmas" in Dec. of 2018**

This tour was advertised as going to a mystery destination we had already visited, but not at Christmas. The itinerary was 80% different from the spring version. We went to... Mark's hometown of **Omaha**.

Here's the deal. People in the Midwest

know how to do Christmas. It's all about entertainment and poinsettias, and international Christmas Trees. The local, traditional performance of **A Christmas Carol** was updated and really, really good. The symphony hosted an afternoon of Christmas music (we had great seats and next year they will be even better).

We toured Boys Town, and had Sunday Brunch in a beautiful museum. A harpist serenaded us at one lunch. At one dinner, we were treated to "Christmas Around the World" in music. We had old time root beer floats and enjoyed treats at a Lithuanian Bakery. Best of all, 4 nights in the same hotel (we used a Hilton Garden Inn, this year's group will be at the new Embassy Suites). **Call and ask to have your name placed on the Priority Notification List for Midwest Christmas.** It will be 5 days, **Chris Galloway** will be the Tour Director. More info at the **Spring/Holiday Preview Day on April 7.**

It's All About The Water

**6 Days • February 2018, will return as
"It's All About The (Florida) Water" in
February of 2018**

Chris just returned from this one a few short weeks ago. They spent three nights in the Tampa area, on Clearwater Beach at a magnificent Marriott Hotel. Then the group headed for Captiva Island, off the coast near Ft. Myers, for two nights at the Tween Waters Resort. So named because it has water on both sides of the property.

What did they do? They toured historic Ybor (e-bor) Square, visited the Ringling Brothers Greatest Show on Earth Museum. Witness crab races. Yes, you read that right. Crab races. They dined and toured at the Edison-Ford Estate, named for the two famous Americans who used to frequent the place. They saw Big Cats (like in tigers) who have been rescued; and stopped at a sponge factory to learn about one of our most interesting sea creatures. And the crab races. Did I mention those? **A Priority Notification List is available if you would like to place your name on it.**



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Early Registration Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Friday, April 13, 2018**; or may be withdrawn when 50% of the available space has been reserved. To receive the discount, you must pay in full within ten days of registration. If you accept this option, the monies paid, including the cost of Cancellation Protection, are returned to you in full if you cancel more than 60 days prior to departure for US and Canadian tours or 75 days prior for International tours, regardless of the reason for cancellation. Within the time limits noted above, restrictions on refunds apply. See the **Special Vacation Notes & Information** brochure for complete details.

Jul. – Dynamic Duo: Cher & Hamilton in Chicago – **Save \$75**

Jul. – The Giants Emerald City Overnighter – **Save \$25**

Aug. – Planes and Trains of the Pacific Northwest – **Save \$25**

Aug. – Newfoundland, Where Sun Meets Sea – **Save \$100**

Aug. – Great Cities of Canada – **Save 40**

Aug. – Play on the Lake – **Save \$25**

Aug. – The International Selkirk Loop – **Save \$40**

Sept. – Great Reno Balloon Races – **Save \$25**

Oct. – Moab, Gateway to Arches National Park – **Save \$40**

Oct. – New England Fall Foliage Sampler – **Save \$40**

Oct. – Wildlife Viewing in British Columbia – **Save \$50**

Oct. – Sedona and Grand Canyon – **Save \$40**

Nov. – Death Valley and Nevada Ghost Towns – **Save \$20**

Jan. – Key West, Miami and The Everglades – **Save \$75**

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VALUABLE COUPON

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

Valid only when used with the adjacent coupon on the tours listed. Your savings depend on the double-occupancy price of the tour. **Save \$10** on tours priced from **\$451–\$800**, **Save \$20** on tours priced from **\$801–\$2250**, **Save \$30** on tours priced from **\$2251–\$3500**, **Save \$40** on tours priced at \$3501 or more. The regular cost of this protection is **\$15–\$295**, depending on the tour price. 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. Within 60/75 days of departure (see adjoining coupon), coverage is limited to verified medical emergencies. Please refer to the **Special Vacation Notes & Information** brochure for details, or call our office.

TOUR UPDATE...

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

Sold-Out Tours (waiting lists available)

Spring Training in Arizona
Odds and Ends Mystery Tour
Japan, Land of the Rising Sun
Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound
National Treasures of the West

San Antonio
NYC: Behind Broadway & The Bronx
Oregon's Coast, Carousels & Bridges
Stories of Santa Fe & Taos
Pure Michigan

Limited Space (10 or fewer seats)

On The Central Coast (2)
Beautiful Bodega Bay (2)
Philadelphia Freedom(1)
Moab (May Departure) (1)
Off on Another Mission (3)
Bloomin' Victoria (1)
Great Cities of Canada (6)
Rails Around Colorado (9)
Iceland (8)
Rails Around CO (6)

Olympia, the Sound & The Mountain (7)
Oktoberfest & Canadian Thanksgiving (10)
Dynamic Duo: Cher/Hamilton – Jun dep, (1)
Memorial Day in Washington DC (2)
Sound of Music in Leavenworth (6)
All About Ballparks – 11 days (9)
Skamania Lodge & The Columbia River (4)
Laguna Pageant Masters – Aug. 5-7 (1)
Route 66 (OKC – Santa Monica) (4)
Boston to Bar Harbor (2)