



6,690 Active Members • 54,470 Members Since 1979

OCTOBER | VOL. 42 | NO. 2 **2020**



Vacation Preview Day

Saturday, October 31 ONLY

Drive Up/Drive-Thru Event • 9:30am – 3pm

Rain or Shine • \$10 Charity Donation

Sports Leisure Vacations office

9812 Old Winery Place

- Get an advance copy of our 2021 Vacation Catalog, **TAKE 2**.
- Have a chance at a whirlwind of money in the CASH CUBE! Contestant drawings at 10,11,12,1,2 – Get in the cube and grab some CA\$H!
- Since it's Halloween, wear a costume if you like (staff will be in costume). We'll award prizes for Best Costume at 10:30,11:30, 12:30, 1:30... and declare a Best of Parking Lot (sort of like Best of Show) Grand Prize Winner at 2:30 and post it on the web! – Grand Prize is a \$500 Tour Certificate!
- Do I need a reservation? Yes! Those who previously made reservations for October 30 or 31 have been counted. You need not call again.
- You are welcome to stay in your vehicle and drive through, or get out and say hi. If you plan to visit, please know masks/shields are required.
- Why is there a \$10 charge? 100% of the admissions from our annual Preview Day are donated to local charities. With COVID-19, they are all in desperate need. This year, your \$10 will go to The Wreath Project, which puts Christmas wreaths on the graves of the fallen in the Sacramento Valley Military Cemetery near Vacaville; and The Mustard Seed School, part of the Loaves and Fishes Ministry.



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

Did I Ever Tell You About The Time...

If you work long enough in any industry, you will accumulate experiences/adventures and the stories that go with them. After 40+ years as a tour operator, indeed, I have memories of our adventures together. Of course, how those stories are told and retold relates to the title of this column. It's all Just One Man's Opinion...



When COVID-19 came in the spring, we all thought things would be "normal" by fall. Now that fall is here, we are thinking we will see "normal" by the spring. That too, might prove to be optimistic. More than one well-meaning friend or staff person said, "Why don't you just shut it down and retire?" Back in the spring, I actually thought about that possibility for a while.

Since then, I come to a realization. (Excuse this self-centered moment, if you will.) Retirement? From this job? Heck, some people would tell you I've been retired all along. "Wait a minute. You do WHAT for a living? You get to travel and go wonderful places, stay in excellent hotels, sample the best cuisine... Is that a REAL job?" So back to that realization regarding retirement. If I retired, what the heck would I do? Travel?

For this writer, retirement would have nothing to do with "normal." Normal for me has been traveling from place to place, making dreams big and small, come true. Occasionally my dreams, but mostly YOUR dreams, using YOUR money. Who knew chasing other people's dreams could be such a wonderful way to earn a living? Retire? I think I'd rather just keep spending time with my tour family...

★★★★★★

When I was growing up, we traveled **zero**. Mom had three kids to keep track of, and we didn't even have an automobile, let alone money to go to Disneyland. You don't miss what you've never experienced. But then,

I grew up and **Sports Leisure Vacations** came along. Baseball, Fort Bragg and Hearst Castle at first, then the sky was the limit. Certainly the **places** I've had the opportunity to visit would make an amazing list.

But that wouldn't be the best list. The best list would be made up of the names of people who were part of the journey. It's the people who are the glue who bring this all together, and keep it that way.

Many of you have noticed the ads in the newsletter regarding coin appraisals/purchases. A couple of weeks ago, **Ron** and **Liz Hartman** came in to have me look at a small collection. Ron and Liz were great friends with the late **Stan** and **Diana Gordon**, fellow **Sports Leisure Travelers**. Stan was a character, Diana was his warden, I mean wife. For 90 minutes, while I appraised Ron and Liz's coins on a Saturday morning in the office, we shared travel stories. We laughed, and laughed. So many great memories.

Liz is actually one of a small group of travelers we call "double legacies." Sounds like something from a frat or sorority house. A **Sports Leisure** legacy is someone who is a second generation traveler, or someone who joined our travel family through a friend or family member. In Liz's case, it's both. Her parents were a part of our first trip to **Hawaii**, all the way back in 1982. We visited all four major islands and had a terrific time. Liz's friends Stan and Diana were not only their buddies, but ours too. "Two Minute Gordon" was Stan's nickname... a moniker he brought with him from his days as a timer of boxing matches (rounds are 3 minutes... except this one time, hence the nickname).

In Pennsylvania on a trip we stopped

for ice cream, and Diana and **LaVerne King** were the last two in line. They ordered banana splits. It wasn't the cost that got me, but the fact they were last and we had to wait for them to finish before we could leave. And they ordered banana splits. Do you know how long it takes to eat a banana split? (I do now.)

★★★★★★

Stories like those have been accumulating for four decades. Write a book, people say. Except these stories are more personal. Would they mean much to people who didn't know the story behind the story? Maybe not. So here's Plan B. Starting with our annual catalog, I plan to start sharing those stories. Of course, if the content doesn't interest you, they make excellent fish wrappers.

Miss all of you guys and gals. Perhaps we'll wave to each other at **Preview Day**, or maybe you'll be part of the online cooking class on October 26th. (Information can be found on page 5.) Or maybe I'll **see you on the radio**, Sundays at 3 on The Travel Guys.

And so it goes...

Mark Hoffmann, CTP
Owner/Founder



From the left are Ron, Liz, Diana and "Two Minute Gordon"

Technology!

If you're like me you say that word with a little angst (or maybe a lot!) in your voice. I remember as a student at the University of Georgia back in the 80's the School of Music owned a whopping ONE computer. We would go into the music library and stare at it in awe. Only composition students were allowed to use it. In addition to a traditional "typewriter" keyboard it was equipped with a miniature piano keyboard as well. You could "play" your composition into the computer and it would create and print the sheet music. It would even alert you if you had composed a discord. A couple years later as a graduate student at the same university not much had changed. I composed my graduate thesis on an IBM Selectric II typewriter with correction tape and changeable font balls – the height of technology in 1987! I was at my second post-college job before I had a computer sitting on my desk. My third position brought on a pager. My fourth (and current) job put my first cell phone in my pocket.



My how things have changed. Today we are surrounded by electronic technology to help us work, educate us, entertain us and everything in-between. Regardless of a person's age chances are he or she owns multiple devices. Remember when a camera required film and phones were connected to the wall? Remember when we used to visit a library or bookstore to select a good read? Remember carbon paper and mimeograph machines with their odiferous purple copies? Remember when we got our news from TV at noon, 6 or 11, and the daily paper? Remember when we bought things with cash or a check? Maybe right now, like me, you're thinking back on your first IBM Selectric II. I bet you have a big smile on your face. I know I do. (True confession: I still own that typewriter! Haven't used it for years, but I just can't let it go...)

I miss many things about the "good old days," but time marches on and we must march with it or be left behind. Past surveys show us that a huge majority of our Travel Club members have an e-mail address and use a computer at least occasionally. We are now giving those making new reservations the option of receiving documents by e-mail. Many of you have been receiving *The Traveler* electronically for years. Looking into the future we plan to reduce our printing

and postage budgets by putting more information online and less in the mailbox. This also supports worldwide efforts to create less waste and be more green. So what exactly does this mean for you? In future publications, beginning with our 2021 tour catalogue, you'll find shorter tour descriptions in print and references to our website for complete itineraries and further information.

So how exactly does a person find an itinerary on the website? It starts by going to www.sportsleisure.com. Right under our company name and logo you'll see VACATIONS. Click there and a drop box will appear with various categories such as "California" (for in-state trips), "Day Trips" and "USA." Rest assured "All Vacations" is also an option! Once you've selected a category you can scroll through all the tours – they are listed chronologically – or put in a month and year to limit your search. It's really easy (promise!) and you can't break a thing by looking around, so why not give it a go? Your next vacation may just be waiting for you in cyberspace!

Two things you cannot do on our website at present is complete a reservation or make a payment. Engines that drive these functions are expensive, plus we've never been able to find one program that meets all our needs. But you can initiate a booking online or make other inquiries using the CONTACT US link.

While our methods of communication move into to the future, you can count on our level of expertise, hospitality and service to stay firmly rooted in the good old days. It may be old-fashioned, but we like it that way. I trust that assurance gives you another reason to smile!

"Your Tour Guy,"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clayton".

Clayton Whitehead, CTP
Vice President





Rep. John Lewis, written shortly before his death

While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society.

Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.

When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.

Oxymorons

1. Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
2. Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
3. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know, of course...
4. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
5. Same reason "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing.
6. Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?
7. Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?
8. Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
9. If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?
10. Why is bra singular and panties plural?

11. Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?
12. Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
13. Christmas – What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

Difficult

The elderly woman handed her debit card to a bank teller and said, "I would like to withdraw \$500."

The teller told her, "For withdrawals less than the \$5,000, please use the ATM."

The old woman asked, "Why?"

The irritated teller told her "Because those are the rules. Please leave if there is no other matter as there is a queue behind you." She then returned the card to the old woman.

The old woman remained silent then gave the card back to the teller and said "Well, then my dear, I want to withdraw all my money."

The teller was astonished when she checked the account and discovered it had a balance of \$3.5 million dollars. "My apologies ma'am, but our bank does not have that much money available at this branch. Could you make an appointment and come back tomorrow?"

The old woman then asked "How much can I withdraw today?"

The teller told her "Any amount up to \$300,000."

The old woman then told the teller that she wanted to withdraw \$300,000 from her account. The teller swiftly did the transaction and handed the money to the woman who put \$500 in her purse then asked the teller to deposit the balance of \$299,500 back into her account.

DON'T BE TOO DIFFICULT WITH OLDER PEOPLE—WE CAN DEAL WITH DIFFICULT, AIN'T OUR FIRST RODEO.

Friends We Have Lost...

Jesse Macias
Patrick Pelley

Eileen Buxton
Allie Huberty

Rep. John Lewis
Wayne Chandler

Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Jeanne Bickford

Jeanne Brickford treasured our national parks. From **May Wong**: I was pretty new with **SLV** when I first answered a call from Jeanne... she was inquiring about a **Yosemite** trip and told me emphatically, any trip going to Yosemite she and her husband Lee wanted to be booked on it no matter the date or the season.

From **Ramona**: I don't think they ever missed a national park trip I escorted... Jeanne loved her parks and she especially loved to travel with **Scott**.

Farewell friends. God Speed. May all your travels be on the wings of an angel.

Feelin' Lucky? Join us for **ZOOM BINGO!**

Don't worry, there's nothing *speedy* about our Bingo! games. Our gatherings are held on *Zoom!* on your computer. The occasionally entertaining and always funny looking **Chris Galloway** is your host, assisted by the lovely (?) **Vanna Hoffmann**. **Tyler Gerald** handles the technology required to make it all happen. Chris invents all kinds of goofy combinations to win and then we scratch and claw until someone emerges as the winner. Then it's on to the next game.

Are there prizes you ask?

Well, of course. Just last week, everyone on line playing with us got a new car... Now that I have your attention, yes there are prizes. Generally gift cards for local restaurants, shops and even Starbuck's.

How do I register to play?

Simply call or email the office and request **Bingo Cards**. We will send you 3 sets of 3 cards, 9 cards total. They are color coded and **Chris** lets you know which set we are using at the beginning of the session.

Dates and Times? How long does Bingo! last?

We play five games, which generally takes about an hour. Bingo games will be held on:

Thurs., Oct. 15 / Wed., Nov. 11 / Wed., Dec. 9
ALL GAMES START AT 11am

Happy Hour *Zoom!* Gathering

Grab your favorite beverage and join your host **Clayton Whitehead** for an hour of fun, conversation and prizes. There will be a prize for the **Best Cocktail Recipe, Most Eye Appealing Beverage, Cheapest Beer/Wine, Best Beverage w/o Alcohol** and more! There could even be guest appearance by... well, best we keep that part under our hats.

Zoom! Happy Hour • Thurs., Nov. 5 • 4-5pm

Home Scavenger Hunt

One more non-travel gathering for you to consider. This time, **Chris** and **Vanna** (who bears resemblance to Mark, which is really scary) will led you around the house, looking for treasures. The person who gets the most wins a prize. Maybe there's even a prize for the worst scavenger, or the person who found the most interesting item while scavenging.

Scavenger Hunt for Prizes • Thurs., Nov. 19 • 11am

Bingo!, the Happy Hour and the Scavenger Hunt are all FREE!
Call our office to register...



FREE Cooking Class with The Travel Guys & Paulette Bruce

On Sunday, October 25th, **The Travel Guys** will host **Paulette Bruce**, longtime Sacramento cooking instructor and foodie, as she offers a special version of her online cooking class.

The class will be simulcast on **Zoom!** and **KFBK** radio. You can sign up and join the presentation on your computer and even cook along with Paulette if you wish. Or, you can listen online, as Paulette creates delicious food with a Thanksgiving twist.

Paulette's Good Eats Cooking Classes are available online for \$29 a month, and this is an opportunity for those who might be interested in subscribing to her service to get a free preview of one of her classes.

Mark will be in Paulette's kitchen and **Tom Romano** will be in his home studio for this unique broadcast on radio and computer. Participating in the **Zoom!** broadcast is **FREE**, but space is limited. To register, call the **Sports Leisure** office, **9am-3pm, M-T-TH-F**. If you can't join us online, mark your calendar and tune your radio to 1530AM/93.1FM, at **3pm, Sun., Oct. 25**.

The Travel Guys. Might be hard to travel, but we are still cookin'...

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

The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

A variety of information of importance to Sports Leisure Travelers...

Catalog Preview: Closer to Home, A Sign of the Times

After 9/11, for 12-18 months, travelers tended to stay closer to home. We are seeing that same trend during COVID-19. Makes complete sense. So we are turning our focus to close-to-home destinations. Our **2021 Catalog**, which will debut October 30th, will have a decidedly close-to-home feel. The **Pacific Northwest Collection** will highlight a series of short excursions to the north. Most of them are offered in June and July, to try and steer clear of the fire season. We will offer only one trip off the continent next year, a week in **Tuscany**, with an accent on cooking. Imagine, Italians and cooking... sounds like a winning combination.

The Cash Cube at Preview Day

What could be more fun than coming to **Vacation Preview Day** and being the person chosen to get into the **CASH CUBE** and take home as much money as you can "catch?" There will be one **CASH CUBE** contestant per hour. See the front page of the newsletter for details. Plus good news, if you "catch" more cash than you can carry, Clayton has volunteered to give you a ride home!

What's Going and What's Not, An Update

As we work our way through the COVID-19 crisis, awaiting a vaccine or an instant test (or both) to make travelers safer, we are

starting to see some tours operate. No one knows what tomorrow brings, but if we keep moving forward, more trips will get on the road.

October

We have some day trips operating, but all longer trips have been cancelled.

November

Sedona is the one destination still on the board (to be fair, there were only three to start with). There will be day trips.

December

The Christmas Mystery Tour (2 departures-full), **Christmas at the Ritz** (full) and **Christmas at the Apple Farm** (space available, possibly no Hearst Castle) still scheduled in early December. There are a few seats on our **Christmas Tour to Reno/Virginia City** over the holiday.

January 2021

The **Eagles & Owls** Festival has been cancelled, so the trip will not operate until 2022. **Key West** at the end of January is sold out. Fingers crossed.

What Determines if a Trip Will Operate

We will continue the process we started this year. About three months before departure, we will assess each trip to determine if the number of participants is high enough to proceed. Then we set about reconfirming the itinerary. Our rule of thumb is if 80% of the attractions and other pieces of the itinerary are in place, the trip will operate. If the damage to the itinerary is greater, we will either cancel the trip; or provide replacement attractions and give

you the chance to cancel without charge.

Cancellation charges **are not waived within penalty periods unless the tour is cancelled. If you choose to cancel and the trip operates, you would pay cancellation penalties.** If this is confusing or you have any questions, the office is open **M-T-TH-F, 9am-3pm.**

Already Decided Not to Travel?

If you have signed up for a trip and have already decided not to travel, please, as a courtesy, cancel your tour with us. Recently, we have noticed a number of folks waiting until the very last free cancellation day to bail. While there's nothing **technically** wrong with that, it makes our job even more difficult.

If we see a trip with 26 and we contact folks and end up with 16 (this actually just happened with the **Bodega Bay** trip – exact numbers), the trip must be cancelled. Then all those hotels and restaurants we talked to have to be called and everyone is disappointed. If you have a solid reason for waiting until the last minute, by all means, take advantage of that flexibility. Please remember there is a **\$20** administrative fee on ANY cancellation made after you make your initial payment. This is, in part, to keep people from making 6 reservations and keeping 2 or 3. If you help us we can get back to making travel dreams come true a whole lot quicker.



I'm sure this is the SLV office? When do they open? I need to pay for my trip... and who is the guy in the window? He looks just like me. Maybe it's a holiday? When is that "Thanksgiving" thing, anyway?

Get Your Old Coins/Currency Appraised/Purchased

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

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



Here's a friendly reminder of our day trip safety and wellness policies at present: No tours will be sold above 25 to 30 people. Those traveling solo will be assigned a seat pair to themselves on the coach. Couples or those traveling with a friend will be seated together. Masks must be worn at all times when the group is gathered, even when outside, except while eating. Infrared temperatures will be taken at the start of the day. Hand sanitation is required every time you board the coach and supplies will be provided. In this ever-changing climate these protocols could require adjustment. Your Tour Director will advise you of any changes at the start of the trip. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Now that you've read "the fine print," let's get on to the fun stuff!

Happy Birthday to Golden Gate Park

Wednesday, October 28

One of the world's largest and most beautiful, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco just celebrated its 150th birthday. With local guide Craig Smith join the year-long commemoration as we tour, stop and learn how this vast area of sand dunes became the now verdant and horticultural diverse attraction it is today. Larger than New York's Central Park, its 1,017 acres include unique gardens, recreational areas, museums and renowned science venues. Lunch is included at the park's historic Beach Chalet Restaurant served *al fresco* style. **\$144**

Napa in November

Thursday, November 12

Known as a wine capital throughout the world, November is a perfect time to experience a day in Napa. In full glory of Fall, grapes have ripened and vineyards are ready for harvest. Enjoy a relaxing and scenic day as we drive through this scenic area of country roads and small communities with stops along the way in Napa and Yountville to do some shopping, sipping, browsing and have lunch on your own. **\$99 – 4 seats remaining at press time!**

Berkeley Is Beckoning

Wednesday, November 18

This close-to-home *Daycation* takes you to nearby Berkeley where you'll sample a tasty treat you've likely never tried before, tour the city with a local guide and have time for shopping and lunch on your own. Amtrak's *Capitol Corridor* train brings you back to Sacramento where the motorcoach will return you to your car. **\$115**

A Sierra Foothills Christmas

Friday, November 27

On the day after Thanksgiving, the quaint foothills communities formally begin the holiday season. There will likely be a bit of a chill in the air. Come with us to Jackson, Sutter Creek, Plymouth and Placerville, to browse the shops and perhaps enjoy a cup of holiday cheer. Learn a little about the history of the communities you will be visiting. There is no better way to begin the search for the perfect gift... perhaps it's one you give yourself! Lunch is on your own, refreshments and a surprise or two included. **\$119**

Christmas Shopping in San Francisco

Tuesday, December 8

Join our annual trip to downtown San Francisco to browse, shop or simply enjoy the festive window displays and store decorations at your own pace and interest. Lunch is at your leisure in Union Square with an optional shuttle to Pier 39 for the afternoon before returning to Sacramento. **\$99 – 7 seats remaining at press time!**

Christmas Lights in San Francisco

Wednesday, December 16

Our always popular trip to San Francisco welcomes the Christmas season with a narrated tour of *the city* dressed and decorated in celebration of the holidays. With visits and views of colorful Civic Center, Union Square, Nob Hill and the Embarcadero, the bright lights of the

stunning skyline, bridges and city will put you in the spirit of this festive time of year. A mid-afternoon arrival at Pier 39 provides a little free time to enjoy, browse and dine on your own before the evening tour. **\$104 – 7 seats remaining at press time!**

The Barber of Seville

San Francisco Opera

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Count Almaviva must pin all his hopes on the talents of the quick-witted Figaro if he is to win the beautiful Rosina from her lecherous guardian. Rossini's timeless lyric comedy returns in Emilio Sagi's buoyant and irresistible Spanish-themed production. Your choice of seating is in the side sections of the Orchestra or the Dress Circle. Be advised the latter requires the use of steep stairs with no handrails. A stop is included at Fisherman's Wharf for lunch on your own prior to the matinee performance. **Orchestra \$151, Dress Circle \$170**

San Francisco Theater

You can put your reservation in now. Prices and other details will be announced later. We won't collect any money until we are certain the show is going on! By holding your space now, you have no obligation. It does help us to order enough tickets to accommodate everyone who wants to go. Orchestra (main floor) seating for all shows unless specifically indicated.

The Band's Visit

Wednesday, April 28

Winner of 10 Tony Awards **\$190**

Mean Girls

Wednesday, July 28

A comedy written by Tina Fey. **\$215**

My Fair Lady

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Lerner & Lowe's classic was a Broadway revival hit! **\$205**



The Tour Calendar *(Previously Announced)*

Spectacular Sedona

Four nights at the Hilton Sedona Resort

5 Days • November 1-5, 2020



★ Highlights ★

- Brunch at the Wrigley Mansion
- Ride the Verde Valley Railroad
- Visit the town of Jerome
- Guided tour of the Copper Museum
- Lunch and entertainment in Flagstaff
- 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- 2500/2900 Gold Passport Points
- 25 passengers maximum, 6 available

\$2495 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2885 single

An Apple Farm Christmas

Featuring Hearst Castle decorated for the season



4 Days • Nov. 30 – Dec. 3, 2020

A holiday favorite for **Sports Leisure** travelers for many years, the Apple Farm is classic Christmas. Add the grandeur of the Hearst Castle and their decorations and you will be inspired to come home and “deck your halls.” This early December holiday trip includes three nights at the favored Apple Farm Inn and an “upstairs tour” of the Hearst Castle including Hearst’s private office and living quarters.

This holiday vacation includes door-to-door service, roundtrip motorcoach transportation, accommodations, 7 meals

(3FB,4L), all tours and attractions listed, and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 1450/1650 Gold Passport Points, 30 passengers, 6 available

\$1405 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1615 single

The California Christmas Mystery Tour

5 Days • December 3-7, 2020



It is perhaps our most sought after reservation of the year and this year was no exception. We actually added a second departure on December 2nd, and it quickly filled. Currently, both departures are sold out. You can call and place your name on the wait list. The package includes 9 meals, one way airfare, train, boat and coach transportation, plus the services of a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director (or two). 2200/2450 Gold Passport Points

\$2160 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2450 single

All Aboard the Christmas Train

A close-to-home holiday expedition to The Silver State!

3 Days • December 24-26



1. Start your holiday like all good vacations should – by sleeping in! The *California Zephyr* leaves the Amtrak Station at half past 11, arriving in Reno at 4 p.m. Whether there’s snow or not the trip through the

Sierra Nevada, complimented by a gourmet boxed lunch, is always stunning. Tonight enjoy the gaming action, dining options and other exciting opportunities offered in The Row, the new interconnected entertainment venue in downtown Reno bringing the Silver Legacy, Eldorado and Circus Circus together under one roof. Let’s pray “midnight mass” at the nearby cathedral begins well before midnight (optional)! **Silver Legacy – 2 nights (L)**

2. Merry Christmas! Visit nearby Virginia City where a guided tour and holiday cheer await prompting you to revisit a time when Silver was king. In Virginia City bars and historic sites are often one in the same – not completely a bad thing, and we think former resident Mark Twain would agree! Head back to Reno for a traditional gift exchange and Christmas dinner. **(FB,D)**

3. Our fun and funky gift exchange assures lots of laughs whether you end up with a keeper or white elephant! A midday feast and the scenic drive home via Lake Tahoe’s south shore is the perfect way to end our holiday expedition. **(FB,L)**

Tour includes home pick-up and return, Amtrak ticket (one way), deluxe motorcoach service, accommodations, activities as indicated, 5 meals (2FB,2L,1D) and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 1000/1150 Gold Passport Points

\$984 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1108 single

Key West, Miami and The Everglades

A SLV favorite; a winter tradition

6 Days • January 23-28, 2021

This trip quickly sold out. We Invite you to place your name on the wait list. The tour doesn’t depart until January, so there will be some movement no doubt.

\$3725 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4250 single



Proud members of the





Tonopah and Laughlin with Just a Glimmer of Vegas

An "all coach" trip through the desert, with 3 nights on the Colorado River



6 Days • February 28 – March 5, 2021

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights next to the Colorado River with river view accommodations
- Optional side trips to Oatman, AZ and Lake Havasu
- 1 night Tonopah, home of the Mizpah Hotel; and 1 night at Tachi Palace
- Door-to-door service
- 6 meals: 1 brunch, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- 25 passengers, 9 available
- 1750/1950 Gold Passport Points

For many years we have stayed in Las Vegas but now travelers' comments ask for more time in Laughlin, and less in Vegas... We will still stop on "The Strip" for several hours to satisfy your curiosity, and then continue to your hotel on the Colorado River for 3 nights.

\$1705 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1945 single

Save \$25 until November 2

Alaska's Aurora Borealis

Featuring small group travel with unique winter attractions

7 Days • March 6-12, 2021



★ Highlights ★

- Small group; 20 maximum, 1 available
- View the Aurora Borealis in the dark skies outside of Fairbanks

- Tour of the BP Ice Art Championship sculptures
 - Travel on the Alaska Railroad from Talkeetna to Healy
 - Dogsled at Dallas Seavey kennel, winner of the 2012, 2014, 2015 & 2016 Iditarod
 - Star Lady Aurora presentation
 - Door-to-door airport transportation
 - R/T air to Anchorage and from Fairbanks
 - 8 meals: 1 breakfast, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
 - 4350/4650 Gold Passport Points
- Please note: You must be prepared for cold weather (0 to 25 degrees Fahrenheit is typical) throughout this tour. See the complete day-by-day itinerary online, or refer to the May newsletter.

\$4345 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4610 single

Desert Beauty: Anza-Borrego and Joshua Tree National Park

Springtime wildflowers, majestic landscapes, and splendid beauty



5 Days • March 15-19, 2021

★ Highlights ★

- Anza-Borrego State Park, Joshua Tree National Park and the gardens of the Living Desert provide spectacular examples of desert beauty
- Experience the desert first hand with a jeep ride, tram ride and guided tour of the region
- Stay 3 nights at the Agua Caliente Resort

- Door-to-door airport service
- Roundtrip airfare to San Diego/from Ontario
- 5 meals: 1 full breakfast, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- 2500/2900 Gold Passport Points
- 25 passengers maximum, 10 available

The desert is a place of silence, light and space with beauty in its arid landscape, and wildflowers tucked into its crevices. Spend enough time here and the desert will weave a spell upon you. Experience the beauty and grandeur for yourself in this springtime expedition.

1. A late-morning flight delivers you to San Diego for lunch in the beautiful Old Town. After lunch, enjoy the view of the Pacific Ocean from Point Cabrillo, a monumental site commemorating the first European explorer. **Embassy Suites Waterfront Hotel (L)**

2. Travel from the seashore into the mountains to Julian, a small mining town known for apple pies. A quick lunch and you are off to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California's largest. Famous for its springtime display of wildflowers, this desert park has so much to offer: dramatic mountains and vast arid landscapes punctuated by oases prolific with all types of flora and fauna. Our late afternoon drive to Rancho Mirage, home to a "hot water" resort, provides insight into the agriculture of the Coachella Valley. **Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa – 3 nights (FB,L)**

3. Climb into one of the famous "red jeeps" for a trek into slot canyons and an open air ride through the desert landscape. With a local guide explaining the history, culture and legends of the Cahuilla people, the beauty of the desert comes alive with your driver's interpretation. This afternoon ascend two-and-one-half miles through multiple life zones aboard the world's largest rotating tramcar to witness the diversity of the desert and amazing views of the Coachella Valley.

4. Two distinct desert ecosystems, the Mojave and the Colorado, come together in Joshua Tree National Park. Forests of trees and jumbles of massive rocks make this an enchanting place – a land sculpted by strong winds and torrents of rain. The surreal geologic features add to the mystique of

this vast wilderness. This evening you have the option to stroll through Village Fest, a menagerie of crafts, art and music on Palm Canyon Road, in downtown Palm Springs.

(L,D)

5. Desert beauty comes in many forms. This morning, go behind-the-scenes for a private tour at The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, providing insight to the survival of life in many deserts around the world. An afternoon flight from Ontario returns you home with a greater appreciation of the desert and all her beauty.

\$2490 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2880 single
Save \$25 until November 2

Nebraska: Cranes, Chickens and Kool-Aid

Featuring Willa Cather's prairie lands

5 Days • March 22-26, 2021

E

- Evening and morning viewing of cranes at Rowe Sanctuary
- Visit the Crane Trust Foundation headquarters
- Drive through the countryside with local "crane guy"
- Walk through the Kool-Aid exhibit at the Hastings Museum
- Spend the morning in Red Cloud, home to author Willa Cather
- Early morning "chicken dance" experience
- 10 meals: 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door service
- R/T air to Kearney/from North Platte
- 2350/2600 Gold Passport Points

\$2335 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2580 single
Save \$40 until November 2

The Colorful Carolina Coast

Meander the beautiful Southern Atlantic coastline from Norfolk to Jacksonville

10 Days • March 23 – April 1, 2021

A

★ **Highlights** ★

- Visit North Carolina's Outer Banks, Kitty Hawk, New Bern and the *USS North Carolina*
- See South Carolina's Myrtle Beach, Brookgreen Gardens, Charleston and Ft. Sumter
- Enjoy Georgia's first city, Savannah, and historic Jekyll Island

- 2-night stays oceanfront on Myrtle Beach and in Charleston and Savannah's Historic Districts
- Overnights in Norfolk, the Outer Banks and New Bern
- 17 meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service

- Round trip air to Norfolk/from Jacksonville
- 4300/4850 Gold Passport Points
\$4260 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4820 single
Save \$40 until November 2

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



The new visitors center at Pebble Beach has modern displays in their museum.



Who said it's impossible to travel while complying with face masks/shields? Look at this band of marauders in Santa Cruz...

New & Rescheduled Tours for 2021

The Second Time Around...

Listed on this page are some of the tours which have been rescheduled for next season. Despite the fact they have only been listed informally here, many of these tours have limited space. Why? Many of those scheduled for 2020 took advantage of the option to reschedule for next year. **Check out the SLV website for details in the coming weeks.**

Get Your Kicks on California '66

Mark's old highway tours are always popular. Fly to Las Vegas and beginning in Needles, trace the Mother Road to the Santa Monica Pier. Lots of old time attractions, plus your exclusive opportunity to stay in a tee-pee!

4 Days • March 24-27

Skagit Valley Tulip Festival

Celebrate the beauty of Spring in the lush Pacific Northwest

3 Days • April 15-17, 2021

Moab, Gateway to Arches National Park

4 nights at the spectacular Red Cliffs Lodge on the banks of the Colorado River

5 Days • May 2-6, 2021

Springtime in Yosemite

Giant Sequoias, waterfalls and spring flowers

3 Days • May 11-13, 2021

Back to the Islands – Maui & Kauai

4 nights on each island, featuring the Royal Lahaina on Maui and the Sheraton on Kauai. The best off-the-beaten-track attractions – Farm-to-Fork Lunch in the Maui Hills, Slack Key Guitar Concert & Sunset Dinner, Lahaina, Kauai Foodie Tour & Russian History Lesson, Steelgrass Chocolate, Gaylord Plantation Brunch, so much more.

9 Days • May 16-24

Niagara Falls, Naturally Awesome!

Your room overlooks The Falls

5 Days • May 17-21, 2021

Walla Walla & Pendleton

Lewis & Clark, Oregon's Cowboy country, the Columbia River

5 Days • June 1-5, 2021

Falling for Boise

Shoshone Falls in the Snake River Canyon

4 Days • June 1-4, 2021

Roll On Mighty Columbia, Roll On

For the folks who had been on the Columbia Gorge Hotel list, this trip has replaced it. Stay 3 nights on the banks of the Columbia River, in a room with a view, in Hood River.

4 Days • June 6-9, 2021

Highway 101, The Oregon Coast, Berry Nice

Leave Sacramento on the coach and pick up 101 near Ukiah. Redwoods Nat'l Park, the Avenue of the Giants, cocktail cruise on Newport Harbor, the Spruce Goose, and the spectacular Oregon Coast.

6 Days • June 20-25

The Sound of Music in Leavenworth

Take the Train to Washington's Little Bavaria

4 Days • July 13-16, 2021

Laguna Beach and The Pageant of the Masters

Southern California's Premiere Event

3 Days • July 18-20 OR August 22-24

Cruising the St. Lawrence River

Relax as the Canadian Empress weaves through the islands

9 Days • August 15-23, 2021

Maine – Lobsters and Lighthouses

From pristine coastlines, lush forests, rugged mountains and wildlife, it's all here!

7 Days • August 18-24, 2021

Newfoundland

Featuring rugged coastlines, quiet beauty and friendly folks

10 Days • August 30 – September 8, 2021

New England Fall Foliage Spectacular

Our annual expedition takes a new turn this year – to Lake Placid!

8 Days • October 3-9, 2021

The Travel Guys

Radio Show

- Making you a smarter traveler with tips you can use on the road
- Weekly Travel News, with updates on stories you won't hear elsewhere

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



Tom Romano and Mark Hoffmann





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We mourn for the more than Two Hundred Thousand dead Americans, killed by COVID-19 due in part to inaction and the politicizing of science and healthcare. May they all rest in peace, and may their families find some future comfort after the grief.

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www.sportsleisure.com

Temporary Office Hours:
9:00am – 3:00pm Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri
Closed Wednesdays, weekends and major holidays

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) remaining. Day trips are not listed.

Sold-Out Tours (waiting lists available)

Key West Christmas Mystery Tour
New Orleans Christmas Puttin' on the Ritz
Texas

Limited Space (10 or fewer seats)

Sedona (6) Skagit Valley (4)
Apple Far Christmas (6) NYC (Spring) (1)
Christmas Train to Reno (9) Moab (6)
Tonopah/Laughlin/Vegas (9) Niagara Falls (1)
Alaska's Aurora Borealis (1) Ferries/Towns Puget Sound (4)
Desert Beauty (10) Maine (3)
Carolina Coast (9) Capitol Reef (8)
Central Coast (8) Quebec (2)