



The Sports Leisure

# TRAVELER

9,359 Active Members • 48,335 Members Since 1979

JULY/AUGUST | VOL. 39 | NO. 8 **2018**

*Now accepting reservations by phone for...*

## 2018 Tour Preview Day

**Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> • 9am or 1:15pm**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel Northeast**

*(5321 Date Ave., off I-80 & Madison, same location as 2017)*

**FREE parking • Admission \$10 in advance**

- Get your exclusive advance copy of our 2019 tour catalog, featuring over two dozen new tours and cruises
- Participate in our "Traveler Talkback" session, where your input/opinions is/are seen immediately on the screen
- Breakout sessions featuring some of our newest tours/destinations: Tulips in Washington (state), San Antonio/Waco (featuring *Fixer Upper*), Irish Spring, American Portraits (New York State, West Point, Woodstock, FDR sites, C.I.A., Erie Canal), More of the Missions, A Mystery Tour Revisited, Lassen Nat'l Park, Solvang/Lompoc, the Corn Palace, Polar Bears in Canada, a Scandinavian Cruise, a 2020 New Zealand – Australia Cruise (2019 is sold out), Switzerland, Machu Picchu/Galapagos Islands, CA Presidential Libraries, Niagara Falls, 2 additional mystery tours (list as of 7/3/19)
- Exclusive Preview Day Di\$count coupons

### Reservations required, event sells out quickly

*Because we are collecting your \$10 admission when you reserve your space, we are only accepting reservations by phone, 9am-4:30pm, M-F*



*The Astoria Column, one of our stops on the Oregon Coast, Carousels and Covered Bridges tour. It was a rare 70 degree perfect day in Astoria. BELOW: Our gang learns about how carousel horses and other animals are made in Albany, home of a beautiful new carousel.*

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★★★★★★★★★★

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# Just One Man's Opinion by Mark Hoffmann

Remember Herb Cahn? He was a San Francisco Chronicle journalist whose daily column of local goings-on appeared in the paper for almost 60 years. Born in Sacramento in 1916, one of Herb's favorite styles of writing was his famous "three dot columns." In them, he offered a series of related and unrelated items, all separated by three dots. So here, as a tribute to a great Sacramentan...



**We fight for you.** All the time. One of our biggest battles in recent years has been **Resort Fees**. Added on to the room rate by major resorts (first in Hawaii), it's a way of adding \$20-40 to your daily room rate, while giving you a list of "benefits." Things like extra towels, use of the business center and the exercise room, a morning paper, etc. Of course, most of those things used to be **included** in the cost of your room. No more. Adding a fee on to the room rate is very advantageous for the hotel. They don't have to pay commissions on that part of the rate, or taxes (in most cases). Their room rate looks cheaper. The traveler gets had.

It's getting worse. Now, inner-city hotels are adding "Urban Destination Fees." I kid you not. There is no end to the creative names they come up with. So we fight. We refuse to stay with a hotel that has a "fee." Many will waive it. Some will not. In those cases, we move on. Resort fees = BS. No other way to put it...

A year ago November, **Sports Leisure** had a day trip to see and hear **Anthony Bourdain** at one of the San Francisco theaters. I decided to go as a passenger, along with about two dozen others. It was a most fascinating evening, with Mr. Bourdain talking about TV chefs, his own television career, his CNN show, his philosophies and much more. His was a complicated but exciting life.

Those for whom life is complicated often have demons which aren't always visible on

the outside to others. Such was the case with Anthony. I missed the **John Denver** concert we attended just weeks before he died, and I had to see **Peter & Paul**, after missing many opportunities to see them as a trio with **Mary**. I think there's a moral to this story. Something about putting off until tomorrow what you can do today. I shall always be grateful for that night in November, when we got a glimpse of a fascinating man. Rest in peace Anthony. You brought many of us great pleasure. Your stories made us think and rethink how we look at the world and its people. You were one of the world's greatest missionaries...

**Thanks** for all the "stuff"... to **Lyn, Lea, Joyce, Norma, Donna, David** and **Craig** for the articles, pictures and contributions from previous tours and suggestions for future ones. "Stuff" is valuable. Please keep sending it. I hesitate to make a name list, because I **know** I am leaving some folks out. I love what you sent even if you are not on the list above...

**Donnie Anderson** is working on a brand new series of day trips, focusing on the smaller communities around Sacramento. The first one, focusing on things in and around Vacaville, can be found on the day trip pages. Suggestions for future destinations, and unique things to learn about in those places, and actively solicited...



*At the Babe Ruth Museum in Baltimore on our recent Ballparks Tour, I had the rare opportunity to have both Super Bowl and World Series trophies to be photographed with. The story of how a local museum came to be in possession of BOTH treasures original pieces of hardware is one worth retelling on a future trip.*

On a recent **Travel Guys Radio Show** (Sundays at 3pm on KFBK, 93.1FM, 1530AM), one of our guests was **Justin Boogaard, Professional Grandson**. Justin has started a new ride-sharing company. He calls it **Go-Go Grandparent**. You **don't** have to have a computer or an app on your phone like Uber and Lyft. You call a toll free number to order your car. Find out more about their services at [www.gogograndparent.com](http://www.gogograndparent.com).

★★★★★★

Thank you for all of your comments on the new bus stops. If you go to [www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com), you can see a short video on how to get a ticket out of the parking machine at 18<sup>th</sup> & W/X Sts...

**Preview Day** reservations will roll in fast. **PLEASE** reserve your space early. The \$10 admission is donated to charity. It isn't refundable if you can't attend, but your ten spot still ends up in the coffers of a local group (Mustard Seed School at Loaves and Fishes, the Sacramento Valley Military Cemetery and our scholarship fund were recipients last year). It's always easier to get into the afternoon session...

Speaking of our scholarship fund... We offer a \$2,000 scholarship each year, awarded at Tour Preview Day, to a student that is currently enrolled in a 4-year school, or is starting college this fall. The way to submit an entry is easy. If you have a student who might be interested in this stipend, please send me an email at [Markslt@aol.com](mailto:Markslt@aol.com) and I will forward the simple criteria.

If you are really lucky in life, you will own your own business for 39 years and be supported by the best staff and the nicest customers. You'll spend your time making people's dreams come true and traveling to wonderful places. If you are **really** lucky. Thank you all...

And so it goes...

*Mark Hoffmann*

**Mark Hoffmann, CTP, President**





## Crazy for the Crown!

I'll confess to having Royal Fever and having it bad! I stayed up all night two months ago to watch the marriage of Meghan and Prince Harry, just as I did when Kate and Wills tied the knot. I love the new life the sons of Prince Charles and Lady Diana have breathed into the Royal Family. They seem so much more fun now; more accessible; more real. Though adored the world over, Diana's life was marked by a lack of acceptance by many of the Royals. Her life ended far too early, but her legacy is absolutely amazing. Her boys, now men, will carry the Royal Family well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, but they won't do it alone. They will have beautiful, independent and diverse women by their sides, women not unlike Diana. I think their mother would be proud. Very proud, indeed!

It was only a matter of time before the stage or screen claimed Diana's story for its own. Thankfully it is the former. And not just any stage, but California's own La Jolla



Playhouse, the theatre that produced such recent mega hits as Tony Award winning *Come From Away* and *Memphis*. Both were directed by Playhouse Artistic Director and Tony winner Christopher Ashley who is lending his talent to the world premier of *Diana*, a new musical on the adult life of the Princess of Wales.

According to the Playhouse website, "It's 1981 and the world is ready for a royal wedding – but is the 20-year-old bride ready for what comes after? Following her fairytale union, Princess Diana faces a distant husband, an unmovable monarchy and constant media scrutiny. But her unabashed honesty, modern perspective and gentle compassion galvanized a nation, even as they threaten the Royal Family's hold on England."

I can't say what tact this musical will take. Will it be happy or sad? A bit of both, I suspect – we know how the story ends, after all. But I can say this: We have tickets! Please check out **"The King and Di"** in the New Vacations section and join either our February or March departure.

So that's the Di part, but what about the King? We'll spend the better part of a day on Coronado Island (meaning "crown" in

Spanish) and visit the brightest diamond in that crown, the Hotel del Coronado. In addition to lunch we'll have a historic walking tour of the c. 1888 hotel and grounds, something that has not been allowed since the last century. Like the Royal Family, The Del is loosening up just a bit since becoming a part of Hilton's prestigious Curio Collection. (Kudos to our own Donnie Anderson for naming the tour!)

Maybe Royal Fever for you is more about living like a king or queen. If so, we've got that covered, too! Perhaps our most popular Irish tour ever was last year when we stayed each night in historic castles and manor houses dating as far back as the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. Alumni of that trip and others have asked for a similar experience. Your wish is my command!

**"Irish Spring"** in April 2019 covers more ground and moves at a faster pace than the 2017 edition, staying in five historic accommodations in both Ireland and Northern Ireland. Among them is a return to the amazing Lough Eske Castle in County Donegal pictured here. We'll also stay in the Contarf Castle Hotel in Dublin, Ballygally Castle Hotel near Belfast, Abbeyglenn Castle Hotel in Connemara and Dunboyne Castle Hotel in County Meath.

A special treat is a full day on Inishmore, reachable only by ferry, the largest of the Aran Islands. There we'll visit the Iron Age fortress Dun Aonghusa. To say this remote, rocky island is windswept is an understatement. I lost my favorite ball cap there on my last visit. Maybe we'll find it this time around? Whether this is a first trip to the Emerald Isle or a return visit, you'll find much to love on this never-before offered itinerary. Check it out in the New Vacations section. Just be sure to hang onto your cap!

**"Your Tour Guy,"**

*Clayton*

**Clayton Whitehead, CTP  
Vice President and  
Capless World Explorer**



Lough Eske, one of the five castles and manor houses you'll call home on **Irish Spring**



"a call" to move out of the South Hills Shopping Center pick up. The owners of the center evicted us (without even a 24-hour grace period). After searching the area, we could not find a location that met our criteria (room for the bus to maneuver, parking that isn't used by anyone anytime during the week, reasonably safe/secure. It is true those who board the bus in the north area have let us know for years they didn't like the southern "detour." The new stop near **Black Bear Diner** across from Arden Fair is working well. For those of you in the south area, it's a further drive, but so far it's proving to be a good spot if you don't want to park downtown. There is a video showing how to use the ticket machine at [www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com).

#### Hi Mark & Clayton,

I wanted to let you both know Lee passed away today. As of today he was 102 and a half! We saw him on Monday and it was clear that the end was near. My mom was able to say goodbye and she is at peace with his passing. He had a strong faith and we know he's in a better place now. Thank you for all the wonderful trips you took him on over the years. He loved to travel with you!

*Kim Maness*

**Ed. Note:** Farewell to our oldest Travel Club member. Lee was a most interesting guy. Never forget the conversation we had at his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Scott and Mark with birthday boy Lee Deverman at his 100th birthday party

Proud members of the



#### Hi Mark,

Just wanted you to know that was the best trip EVER! Seeing our niece Laura at the end of it was "icing on the cake". Thanks for making that happen. Casper got to Delaware! That was sheer luck. I had packed the gratuity in checked luggage – here it is with money added for charity (two charities?).

*Hugs, J & C*

**Ed. Note:** I pledged a portion of my gratuities for the rest of the year to the high school baseball team in Commerce, OK, (Mickey Mantle's hometown). They can use a little help. So far, it's close to \$400. Should buy a few bats and balls. In addition, we left a contribution for the team when they took the field for us on our **Route 66 tour**.

#### Mark,

As always it was a pleasure seeing you at NTA! I believe my boss just did a radio talk with you. At least that's what he said. If so I hope it went well. I hope everything is going well in 2018 for you! Until we meet again. Take care,

*Corrine, Cumbres & Toltec Railroad*

**Ed. Note:** The Cumbres & Toltec is just one of the many **Sports Leisure** destinations featured time to time on **The Travel Guys**. If you don't catch the show live on Sunday at 3pm, subscribe to the podcast and listen anytime by entering your email at the top of the page at [www.travelguysradio.com](http://www.travelguysradio.com).

#### Mark,

I recently read about a company in Georgia that does day trips to small towns in their area, would this work here? What about a trip to Lone? Surely something happened there other than the Boys Home. A local guide would be good and lunch someplace local. What about Rocklin with the Granite Quarries, Loomis with the fruit farms and packing sheds, or Marysville with the Sutter Buttes? How about a trip to Richmond to the Rosie the Riveter Memorial and World War II Home Front Park? Looking forward to more good trips!

*Kathy Francis*

**Ed. Note:** As noted elsewhere, staff is working on a series of small towns around Sacramento to feature on tour.

Thanks to **Kathy** for the idea. We welcome contributions on any of the small towns within 100 miles of Sacramento as possible day trip destinations.

#### To Chris – Our tour guide to Japan,

I appreciate your attention to all of us on the trip to Japan, especially to an individual is very good. That is your job and especially to me when I needed it. I had a great time in Japan and you made it happen for me. Thank you for a nice time.

*Alfred S. Shimizu*

**P.S.** I didn't know jet lag until now. I slept for a day and half!!!!

#### Dear SLV,

On June 12, my husband and I took one of your adventures to Cache Creek Casino and we wanted to tell you how wonderful **Joey Querio** and **Greg** (the driver) were. Joey especially was great – she made everyone feel special. We just wanted to tell you they were amazing. Thank you for having them on our bus.

*Joe & Mollie Lashinsky*

#### Dear Mark & Chris,

Thank you! Thank you! This was such a wonderful trip – so well planned and covered so many aspects of NYC. As 1<sup>st</sup> time with **Sports Leisure** and visitor to NYC, you made me feel so comfortable. I was able to enjoy it all without any apprehensions – except our wind tunnel last night! I am looking forward to more **SLV** opportunities to explore. Thanks for taking such good care of us and doing it with such detail and humor!

*Pat Winkle*

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

#### SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS

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

#### Or e-mail Mark or Clayton at:

markslt@aol.com  
clayton.whitehead@sportsleisure.com



# Day Trips & Theatre Outings

## Les Misérables

Returns to The Orpheum

Saturday, August 11

The Tony Award-winning musical that first ran on Broadway for 16 years is back with a fresh, young cast moving audiences to tears all over again! The story of *Les Misérables* is one of love, courage and redemption. Trip includes lunch on your own at Fisherman's Wharf prior to the 2pm matinee (orchestra seating). **Saturday – \$195**

## Are We There Yet???

Ice Cream at the Nut Tree

Tuesday, August 21

Here's a day trip that's sure to make you feel like a kid again. Remember those summer road trips with the family?... "Are we there yet???"

Our first stop on this close to home trip is the **Center For Freedom & Flight Aviation** in Vacaville. A docent will guide us through this museum dedicated to honoring America's Aviation history. At the historic **Fenton's Creamery** we'll tour the creamery learning all about ice cream production. An included lunch follows in the restaurant with a small ice cream sundae for dessert. Look around the **Nut Tree Plaza** after lunch to see for yourself just how much it's changed since they reopened in 2009.

At the **Jelly Belly Factory**, you'll have time to shop for your favorite flavors... and don't forget about the bags of *belly flops*! Our last stop will be at a roadside favorite, Pedrick's Produce in Dixon. *Are we there yet???* **\$122**

## Magritte at MOMA

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

Tuesday, August 28

This major exhibit includes more than 70 works by master of Surrealism, Rene Magritte. **Rene Magritte: The Fifth Season**, explores the most important bodies of work from the 1940s through the 1960s illuminating his balance of conviction, reality, and fantasy. A private docent tour of the

exhibit is included. In the afternoon, enjoy free time to explore additional galleries and lunch on your own in one of the museum cafes. **\$124**

## Phantom of the Opera

Returns to The Orpheum

Saturday, September 8

Andrew Lloyd Webber's haunting love story focuses on a beautiful singer, and The Phantom, a musical genius, who terrorizes the Paris Opera House and demands that Christine be given lead roles. Trip includes lunch on your own at Fisherman's Wharf prior to the 2pm matinee (orchestra seating).

**Saturday – \$195**

## On Your Feet! The Musical

Golden Gate Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, September 19 or September 26; or Saturday, September 22

The inspiring true story about heart, heritage and two people who believed in their talent – and each other – to become an international sensation: Gloria and Emilio Estafan. The musical features a score built around the most iconic Cuban-fusion pop music of the past quarter-century. Wednesday trip includes a lite box lunch served on the way down to San Francisco, Orchestra Seating for the 2pm matinee followed by dinner on your own at Pier 39.

## Change of Scenery

For many years now on our Saturday trips we have offered the Union Square area for lunch. A change has been long overdue. For those that enjoy our Saturday trips to San Francisco for the Broadway shows, we have decided to switch the venue of lunch on your own to Fisherman's Wharf. The Wharf offers a variety of food and activity outlets (including favorites such as Scoma's, The Cannery, Bistro Boudin, Alioto's, Tarantino's, Castagnola's) with gorgeous scenery of the bay. Feel free to wander where you like – just be sure to be back at the established pick up time and location for transport to the performance.

Saturday trip includes lunch on your own at Fisherman's Wharf prior to the 2pm matinee.

**Wednesday, \$160; Saturday, \$185**

## It's A Mystery Show

Fabulous fun!

Saturday, September 22

It's time for another mystery day trip and we have just the show for you. Join us as we laugh along with Dixie humor. Fast talking, quick witted and just a smidge naughty, this show will have your head turning. Now we must warn you this show does have adult language and themes....but we are pretty sure you will want to be a part of the fun. An early lunch is included prior to the 3pm performance. **\$145**

## Floating Homes on the Bay

Sausalito Floating Homes and Marin Civic Center

Tuesday, September 25

**2<sup>nd</sup> date added!!** Begin with a private tour of several of the "Floating Homes" with residents who will share and answer questions about their unique way of living. With no two the same, each is customized for the families who choose to permanently live on the water. In the afternoon enjoy a private tour of the Marin Civic Center designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. With the majority of his homes and buildings located in the eastern U.S., this is a rare opportunity to experience the genius and creativity of America's most renowned architect. Free time is included mid-day in Sausalito for lunch and browsing on your own. **\$134**

## A Day at the Races

Golden Gate Fields, Berkeley

Thursday, September 27

Our always popular trip to the racetrack includes a delicious buffet lunch with seating in the enclosed Turf Club. Enjoy the races from a comfortable table overlooking the track, television monitors for a close-up view, and betting windows conveniently near-by. Our arrival is planned to get settled before post time of the first race and we depart after the last race of the day. **\$122**

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com)



## Cuisine & Culinary at Copia

*A playground for "foodies"*

**Tuesday, October 2**

A newly opened museum inspires a return to near-by Copia in celebration of autumn. Copia provides a variety of culinary experiences beginning with a tour of the museum, kitchens, and gardens; followed by a tasting and demonstration class with one of the master chefs. After the class, the included lunch in their restaurant features fresh and seasonally inspired dishes presented family-style. Enjoy time to browse the gift shop of cookbooks, cookware, foods, and wines; and Napa's famous Oxbow Market adjacent to the Copia. A truly special day for anyone who enjoys food, eating, and fun. **\$177**

## Fleet Day on the Bay

**Sunday, October 7**

Enjoy a special Sunday with scenic cruise and sumptuous champagne buffet aboard Hornblowers's *San Francisco Belle*. The two hour cruise is timed to be on the bay during the annual performance of the thrilling U.S. Navy's Blue Angels acrobatic air team. Always spectacular and a memorable day in honor and recognition of our military. Please be advised we cannot be responsible for any change in the Fleet Week schedule due to weather or other circumstances including the performance of the Blue Angels. **\$180**

## Cache Creek Casino

**Tuesday, October 9**

Join **Sports Leisure Vacations** on our casino trip to Cache Creek Casino. This trip will be a 4-hour stay and includes \$10 in slot play and a \$5 Food Coupon (Buffet not included). You must be a member of Cache Club Rewards Program to receive the bonus. You will each have an opportunity to sign up at the Cache Club service desk the day of the trip. Please note that while there are a number of food outlets at Cache Creek, some of them are not open 24/7. We do not schedule our trips to the casino based on restaurant schedules. Bring your lucky charm(s) and join us for a day of fun at Cache Creek. **\$49**

## Tosca

*San Francisco Opera House*

**Sunday, October 14**

San Francisco Opera presents Giacomo Puccini's most masterful tale of passion, corruption, and betrayal. With one of the most dramatic stories and scores in opera repertoire, the music and arias are thrilling and truly *grande opera* at its best. Your choice of seating is in side sections of either the Orchestra or the Dress Circle. Be advised that Dress Circle seating requires use of steep stairs with no availability of handrails. Stop at Fisherman's Wharf for lunch on your own prior to the 2pm matinee. **Orchestra – \$144; Dress Circle – \$163**

## Fall in the Sierra

*Featuring one of our favorite road trips*

**Tuesday, October 16**

Enjoy the beautiful fall scenery as we drive along picturesque Highway 88 through Hope Valley, looking for the shimmering aspens. Lunch is included at JT's Basque Restaurant, a Gardnerville landmark; then drive home along Highway 50 and the American River, passing through the Tahoe Basin, in hopes of sneaking a peak at some fall color along the way. **\$121**

## Waitress

*Hit musical arrives at the*

*Golden Gate Theatre*

**Wednesday, October 17 or**

**Saturday, October 20**

Based on a 2007 indie movie, this musical tells the story of a diner waitress and expert pie baker named Jenna who when presented with a chance to leave her suffocating small town existence behind, grabs it with both hands! Music is by 6-time Grammy nominee pop singer Sara Bareilles. (With other key creative spots filled solely by women). Our Wednesday trip includes a lite box lunch served on the way down to San Francisco, orchestra seating at the 2pm matinee and dinner on your own at Pier 39. Saturday trip includes lunch on your own at Fisherman's Wharf and orchestra seating for the 2pm matinee before returning to Sacramento after the show. **Wednesday – \$165; Saturday – \$180**

## Awesome Apples and Tasty Treats

*A day at Apple Hill*

**Friday, October 19**

Enjoy a leisurely ride to Apple Hill and a casual BBQ chicken lunch at High Hill. There will be plenty of time to browse the many arts and craft stalls, shop for tasty treats and order a pie to bring home before making a brief stop on Main Street in Placerville. **\$111**

## Miss Saigon

*Returns to the Orpheum*

**Wednesday, October 31 or**

**Saturday, November 3**

Cameron Mackintosh's recently updated production is returning to the Orpheum Theater. This story set in the 70's towards the ending months of the Vietnam War, is of tragedy and forbidden love between an American G.I. and a young Vietnamese woman, Kim. Our Wednesday trip will include a lite box lunch served onboard the coach to San Francisco, orchestra seating for the 2pm matinee and dinner on your own at Pier 39. Saturday trip includes lunch on your own at Fisherman's Wharf prior to the 2pm matinee (orchestra seating) before returning to Sacramento after the show. **Wednesday – \$180 or Saturday – \$190**

## Away in a Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas

*At the historic Fallon Theatre*

**Saturday, November 17**

Inspired by the best seller "Growing Up Lutheran" this musical comedy celebrates the women who work in church kitchens. On the day of the Christmas pageant, anything that can go wrong probably will... and the ladies come to the rescue in this holiday installment of the CBL Series. Lunch is included prior to the matinee at the City Hotel. **\$148**

## Beach Blanket Babylon

*San Francisco's hilarious pop culture musical revue*

**Sunday, November 18 or**

**Sunday, December 2**

The longest running musical revue in live theater history comes alive with extravagant

costumes and headdresses stealing the show at this decades-old, campy performance. The 2pm Sunday matinee offers a new level of orchestra seating. Remember the seats located up in the Center Balcony section? **Sports Leisure is moving to the ground floor where the Club Fugazi recently created Front Center Orchestra seating.** An early lunch is included prior to the matinee at Pinocchio's Italian Restaurant. **Please note:** the show is 90 minutes long, with no intermission. **\$148**

## Holiday Sweets and Goodies

*Featuring holiday shopping*

**Tuesday, November 20**

A **Sports Leisure** favorite back for the 8th year, this trip finds you once again traveling down into the heart of the Valley for a visit to the source of our holiday goodies. In Modesto, participate in an olive oil tasting at Sciabica's, producers of cold pressed oils since 1936. A buffet lunch is included at the Hilmar Cheese Co-Op; a farmer owned and operated business. The shopping at Hilmar is fabulous. The final stop of the day finds you in greenhouses filled with blooming

### Check It Out...

Every once in awhile we receive comments after a trip from clients about the content of shows being different from what they expected. We recently took a group to see **The Humans**, a contemporary drama and winner of 4 Tony Awards. After the show, several travelers commented that they had expected a comedy or musical; not a drama about Alzheimer's, infidelity and disappointment. If you are going to invest \$150-\$200 per person in live theatre, we suggest that you do your research on the show synopsis, production notes, and reviews. Coming up on our schedule are four classic favorites: **Les Misérables**, **Phantom of the Opera**, **Miss Saigon** and **Tosca** – each with exciting new direction and casting. These will not be the same shows you saw previously and that is the beauty of live theatre...each production gives the cast and creative team the opportunity to re-interpret classic material.

poinsettias. There will be time for picking up sweets and goodies all along the way throughout the day. **\$131**

## Thanksgiving at the National Hotel in Jackson

**Thursday, November 22**

Looking for a way to avoid cooking, entertaining or just being by yourself on Thanksgiving? Why not join our gang headed to Jackson for an early dinner? This will be our 3rd year at the National Hotel and every year is better and better. The holiday buffet menu includes carved turkey and roast beef, poached salmon and all the traditional trimmings. Why dine alone or have a messy kitchen? You know you will have fun with SLV. The coach will return to Sacramento between 4 and 5pm. No Roseville/Antelope pickups due to the Hwy 50/16 departure. **\$135**

## The Ten Tenors: Home for the Holidays

*At the Gallo Center, Modesto*

**Tuesday, November 27**

Kick off the holiday season with the international singing sensation from Australia. These handsome rock stars will amaze and enthrall you with their unique selection of traditional and contemporary favorites. This is the perfect way to celebrate the spirit of the season. An early dinner is included prior to the 7:30pm performance. **\$172**

## A Bronx Tale

*At the Golden Gate Theatre*

**Saturday, December 8 or  
Wednesday, December 19**

*A Bronx Tale* takes place in the early 1960s and follows the story of a young man caught between the father he loves and the mob boss he'd love to be. The swinging music comes from the tremendous Oscar, Grammy, and Tony Award-winning composer Alan Menken, who has scored many of Disney's iconic classics, including *Beauty and The Beast*, *Tangled* and *Aladdin*. Tony nominee Glen Slater wrote the lyrics, and together they bring this tale to

life. Our Wednesday trip will include a lite box lunch served onboard the coach to San Francisco, orchestra seating for the 2pm matinee and dinner on your own at Pier 39. Saturday trip includes lunch on your own at Fisherman's Wharf prior to the 2pm matinee (orchestra seating); return after the show. **Wednesday – \$180 or Saturday – \$190**

## Come From Away

*At the Golden Gate Theatre*

**Wednesday, January 9 or  
Saturday January 19**

On September 11th, 2001, 38 planes with 6,579 passengers were stranded in a remote town in Newfoundland. The locals opened their hearts and homes, and hosted this international community of strangers for a week – spurring unexpected camaraderie in extraordinary circumstances. When the world stopped, their stories moved us all. This musical is set in the weeks following September 11<sup>th</sup> and reflects the true story of what transpired when planes landed unexpectedly in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, as part of Operation Yellow Ribbon. Wednesday trip will include a lite box lunch served onboard the coach to San Francisco, orchestra seating for the 2pm matinee and dinner on your own at Pier 39. Saturday trip includes lunch on your own at Fisherman's Wharf prior to the 2pm matinee (orchestra seating); return to Sacramento after the show. **Wednesday – \$180 or Saturday – \$190**



"Girls Just Wanna' have Fun!" Donna, May and Donnie (staff) ride into San Francisco for a day of outstanding live theater





What? A giant bear observing humans at the Denver Convention Center. Goodness, he's a big bear. Ramona? Scott? Where are you when we need you!

## True Groaners

You never appreciate what you have until it's gone. Toilet paper is a good example.

We can only blame ourselves for the crime and violence today. We removed all the phone booths and now Superman has no place to change.

A tomato family is walking down the road, and the baby tomato falls behind. Daddy tomato goes back and smacks him on the side of the head and says,

"ketchup."

What do you call a hippie's wife? Mississippi. Think about for a minute.

Three old guys are out walking. First one says, "Windy, isn't it?" Second one says, "No, it's Thursday!" Third one says, "So am I. Let's go get a beer..."

★★★★★★

## A fan's tribute to Anthony Bourdain

By Michael Steel

Monday, June 11, 2018

*(Michael Steel is managing director at Hamilton Place Strategies, a public affairs consulting firm. He was previously press secretary to John Boehner and Paul Ryan. The views expressed in this commentary are his own.)*

**(CNN)** The late Anthony Bourdain's television show on CNN wasn't really about food. It was about travel, exploration and a sort of restless, joyful hedonism in culinary conquest and conversation.

He became a guide and champion of

travel and experiencing the wider world, with shows that combined cuisine, history, culture, politics and everyday life around the world.

A Northeast native, he often visited places in America like a tourist, particularly when he ventured south to Houston, Charleston or Nashville, but he was truly in his element when he was abroad, and in areas that were obscure even to seasoned travelers.

Anthony Bourdain was a voice of the underdog.

Bourdain often injected his own opinions. His piece about London was really about his view of Brexit's utter folly, explored amid his consumption of fish 'n' chips. His more recent show in Istanbul was about the rise of repression and intolerance, discussed over a pide, or Turkish flatbread. In the pastas of a modern working-class Italian suburb, there was talk of the lingering echoes of the fascist past.

Bourdain seemed at his best when served a production curve ball. Take when monsoons trapped his crew in Manila during a visit to the Philippines. Instead of lamenting his inability to travel to nearby islands, he crashed the most bourgeois function imaginable – a boozy office Christmas party – and made it an entertaining window into Filipino culture.

I view Bourdain, in some ways, as a throwback to that era – a swashbuckling Victorian adventurer, like Sir Richard Burton or 'Chinese' Gordon, armed with a fork or chopsticks rather than a pistol or cutlass (and without the racism that those explorers fell prey to). I always pictured him steaming in a rickety boat up a river that no white man had ever seen.

We should honor his life and legacy in three ways: go somewhere you've never been, eat something you've never eaten and tell everyone you love that you love them, even if they don't seem to need it. (Reprinted from CNN.com).

## Remembering Friends We've Lost

Travel gives us the opportunity, during our short time on this earth, to meet new friends in new places. We travel together, and share our adventures, along with a piece of ourselves. Sometimes, the friendships made while traveling become some of our most precious. In that light, we wish a final farewell to our traveling friends. Their departures have been confirmed, in first class all the way to their favorite rainbow.

Lee Deverman  
Judy Donoghue  
Peggy Eaker  
Hazel Fuqua  
Paula Starr  
Herb Willstater

If you know of someone who should be mentioned here, please call or drop a note to [Donnie@sportsleisure.com](mailto:Donnie@sportsleisure.com).

*Godspeed*

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com)

# The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

Important topics of general interest to  
**Sports Leisure Travelers**

## TSA Pre-Check

A growing number of frequent travelers have paid the \$85 fee and gotten a TSA Pre-Check number to expedite their way through security at the airport. Good for you.

Recently, more than one of you have complained you are not getting **TSA Pre-Check**, even though you paid your fees, got your number and shared it with us. But no Pre-Check. Why?

We think we have found the reason.

**Mark** couldn't figure out why when he flew Alaska, he didn't get Pre-Check. Upon further investigation, we noticed he is Mark Alan Hoffmann on his ID, but to Alaska Airlines he is Mark A. Hoffmann. You see, the name on the **TSA Pre-Check** authorization has to match **exactly** the name on the ticket. So look at the notice you got from TSA, note how your name is presented, and then give **Michael** a call at our office and give him the update. Of course, you only need to do this if you are having problems.

Also kindly remember that the TSA Security Check is **random**. For that reason, even those with Pre-Check will occasionally **not** receive it. That's their way of keeping everyone a little off base for security reasons.

## Meal Choices... We Need a Response

**Sports Leisure Vacations** has a very different approach to group meals than many tour operators. We are big on choices. We try desperately to avoid situations where "everyone eats the same meal." Have you ever sat down at a banquet table, only to have a plate put in front of you which contains all items you don't care for? Some people will eat anything put in front of them. Some will not. Most people are appreciative of a choice.

## OFFICE HOURS:

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

So that has always been our approach. A number of our meals on tour are "order off the menu" with few restrictions. When we can't give you that many choices, we try to get restaurants to allow a "limited menu," with 3-6 options. Often, a restaurant will require us to inform them of the number of travelers requesting each entrée in advance. That's where life tends to get interesting.

We mail you a notice, either with your itinerary (1-2 day trips) or with the Final Tour Notes (3 days or longer), asking you to notify us of your choices by a deadline date. Increasingly, we ask you to make that choice by email, because it makes life easier for your tour company (phone volume) and **creates a written record of your request**, should there be any question later.

Our challenge? Some travelers don't respond with their selection. Sometimes it's only one or two, but often it's more. Tracking you down by phone to get your selection is very time consuming for us. We don't mind providing that extra level of service on occasion. The problem is, staff reports it's pretty much **the same people over and over who don't respond**.

**So we have started a new list in the office, effective July 1.** The first time you don't respond with your meal choice or other requested information, we will call you. The second time it happens, we will call you

again. But on that second call, you will be notified you have "two strikes." If you fail to call again, we will not try to contact you. If a meal choice is involved, your selection will be made randomly and cannot be changed. If critical travel information is missing, you may find you cannot

depart with the group.

There is a certain amount of responsibility involved with travel. You have to be at the airport when the plane flies, check into your hotel on the night you have a reservation, show up at the restaurant at the time you requested. We hope you will look at this the same way. **Please help us provide you with a great travel experience by responding with your meal choices when requested in a timely fashion.**



On our 39th anniversary trip, we made a stop at one of America's great waterfalls, Multnomah, less than an hour from downtown Portland. The Pacific Northwest at its best.



Our gang getting educated by a park ranger. Skamania Lodge stands in the background.



The other option is to give up the range of choices we have traditionally allowed. It seems a shame to make that compromise, don't you think?

### Seat Belts on the Bus

A new state law, which took effect July 1, requires commercial buses in the state of California to have seat belts and their passengers to wear them – or face fines. Naturally, this has led to questions from our travelers.

All buses manufactured **after July 2016** in use on California roads must have seat belts. Our main California carrier, All West Coach Lines, has buses which fit into both categories. So you may ride on a bus with seat belts and you may not, ditto for buses in other states.

The main reason for the belts is to prevent major injury in **roll over accidents**, where the bus actually rolls over. Studies show seat belts help in this type of accident. In all other accidents (with the exception of the first two rows of the bus), the seat belts are not as critical, because the seat in front of you serves as a barrier, preventing you from being thrown far from your seat in most cases.

Additionally, it has proven to be difficult to get people to actually use the belts on a bus. So, our legislature was provided an

“incentive.” In California, if you are on a bus with seat belts, and you are not using yours, you can be fined \$20-\$50. (Yes, the passengers can be fined.) We **strongly** encourage you to use the belts where provided. Eventually, all coaches will have them.

### Speaking of Safety...

Effective immediately, we ask that passengers seated in the first row of the coach **not place anything taller than the holder itself in the cup holder**. Beverage bottles left in that partial holder tend to fly out and could strike the driver (happened twice on a recent tour). Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

### Important Information Regarding Cancellation Protection & A.D.A.

You receive this form in the mail with your confirmation each time you reserve a tour longer than two days. It contains details on our cancellation policies and some A.D.A. notifications. **This form must be returned, signed, to our office prior to the tour or you cannot travel.**

Many of our long time travelers have gotten into the habit of not signing and returning this form. We can no longer allow you to travel if you have not completed the form and returned a signed copy to us.

Bottom line: You can't officially join as extended tour without it. Fair notice is given. If we don't receive the form from you and time permits, we will give you a reminder call. Which leads us right to the next topic...

### Your Room Requests King, Two Queens, etc...

In answer to a couple of email inquiries from travelers, we want to explain how this works. When you register for a tour, if you have a traveling companion, and you don't instruct us otherwise, we will automatically request a room with two beds (queen or full size generally). If you are traveling alone, we request a room with one bed (king or queen).

**Things to keep in mind...** What we have indicated above is what we **request** on your behalf. If you are a couple wishing a king bed or have other requests (adjoining rooms), we forward those directly to the hotel. When a hotel has more king room requests than they have available king rooms, they put travelers in two bedded rooms.

So you might **request** a king and get a queen (some hotels do not have king beds), or get a room with two beds when you asked for, or only need, one. **This is not uncommon.** In most instances, you can't be moved, because if the hotel could have fulfilled your request, they would have. Also, in our experience, adjoining room requests are the most difficult for a hotel to fulfill. If you make that request, and your rooms are the same floor, that may have been the hotel's best shot. If you have a medical reason for needing adjoining rooms, those requests are given priority.

### The Gallo Center Shows

Each summer, we get a notice from the **Gallo Center** in Modesto, listing all the shows they will present for the next 12 months. We go through and select 6-10 of them to attend. How do we decide which ones to offer you? Experience and instinct play a part. Show times are another BIG factor. We only offer a show starting at 8pm in the evening if it's a “can't miss.” We pass on shows we would offer if only they were matinees.

## The Travel Guys *Radio Show*

***Making you a  
smarter  
traveler...***

**Every Sunday 3-4pm**

**KFBK, 1530, 93.1FM**



**Tom Romano and Mark Hoffmann**

# New Vacations & Getaways

## An Evening of Virtuosity with Itzhak Perlman

January 12 -13, 2019

M

Here is an opportunity to attend a performance by the world's reigning virtuoso of the violin, partake of a private dinner served on the stage of the Foster Family Theatre; and enjoy a special appearance by Itzhak Perlman for a meet and greet. The dinner is limited to 100 people. Recognizing that it is January, and an evening performance, we have decided to make this an overnighter so that the lateness of the event and weather do not become a factor. Package includes private on-stage dinner at the Gallo Center, orchestra seating for the 8pm performance, overnight accommodations at the SpringHill Suites by Marriott, breakfast and a visit to the Hilmar Cheese Company for some local goodies before returning to Sacramento early Sunday afternoon. 600/675 Gold Passport Points

**\$590 p.p/dbl.occ., \$655 single**

## The King and Di

Featuring *Diana*, the new musical based on the life of the Princess of Wales

4 Days \* February 24-27 OR March 24-27

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights at the Embassy Suites in downtown San Diego
- See *Diana*, a new musical on the life of Lady Diana
- A royal tour of Coronado Island and The Del
- Experience San Diego aboard an Old Town Trolley
- 6 meals: Daily Breakfast, 1 Brunch 2 Lunches, 1 Dinner
- Roundtrip air to/from San Diego
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Tour Director: **Clayton Whitehead**
- Gold Passport Points: 1350/1550

1. A morning flight to San Diego arrives in time for the Sunday Brunch cruise on San Diego Bay aboard the Flagship Line. Let the champagne pour! In the afternoon visit Balboa Park for a concert on the historic open-air Spreckles Organ. Your

downtown accommodations are convenient to Seaport Village and features the popular Manager's Reception each evening at 5:30 p.m. **Embassy Suites San Diego Bay-Downtown – 3 nights (BR)**

2. You'll be treated like a King (or Queen) on a full day's excursion to Coronado starting with a guided island tour. Literally meaning "crown," the island is best known for the famous Hotel del Coronado built in 1888. Simply called "The Del" by those in the know, you'll take a guided tour of the historic building and grounds including an alfresco lunch served oceanfront. Be sure to check out the crown chandeliers designed by none other than frequent guest Frank Baum, author of *The Wizard of Oz*. **(FB,L)**

3. Here's your chance to see San Diego your way. Start the day with a private, non-stop city tour aboard Old Town Trolleys. Once you know the lay of the land you can retrace your steps using one of their popular hop-on/hop-off trolleys. Maybe you'll wish to further explore Balboa Park or visit the San Diego Zoo. The choice is yours... just be back home in time for the drive to La Jolla for dinner and the world-premier of *Diana*!

From the La Jolla Playhouse website: It's 1981 and the world is ready for a royal wedding – but is the 20-year-old bride ready for what comes after? Following her fairy-tale union, Princess Diana faces a distant husband, an unmovable monarchy and constant media scrutiny. But her unabashed honesty, modern perspective and gentle compassion galvanize a nation, even as they threaten the royal family's hold on England. **(FB,D)**

4. Have a relaxing morning before your mid-day return flight. **(FB)**

**\$1315 p.p/dbl.occ.,  
\$1550 single  
Save \$40 until August 15**

## Winter at the Majestic Ahwahnee

Featuring an overnight stay in Yosemite National Park

2 Days • February 24 -25

This trip is a **Sports Leisure Vacations' favorite!** And the focus is all about the Ahwahnee Hotel...recently re-named *The Majestic Yosemite Hotel*. For this writer, and many others, it will always be *The Ahwahnee*. Enjoy brunch in the grand dining room, have a docent-guided historic tour of the public areas, and spend one night in what is considered the Grand Dame of National Park hotels.

1. Travel through the Central Valley to Yosemite National Park and to the historic Ahwahnee Hotel, built in 1926. Sunday Brunch is presented in the Ahwahnee Dining Room, with its 34 foot high ceilings and floor to ceiling windows. A guided tour of the public areas deepens your appreciation for the architecture and interior design of this grand structure. Pause for a cup of tea in the Grand Lounge while awaiting check-in at 5pm. The evening is yours to enjoy the historic surroundings. **Ahwahnee Hotel (BR)**

2. Exploring the valley during the winter is very different than during other times of the year; perhaps you will wake up to a fresh



Yosemite National Park is a magical place when dusted with snow



dusting of snow. Learn more about winter in Yosemite and enjoy the spectacular views as you explore from one end of the valley to the other from the comfort of a heated coach with a local guide this morning. There is time for lunch on your own in the valley; then enjoy a brief stop at the Hilmar Cheese Company before returning home.

This package includes motor coach transportation, accommodations, 1 brunch, all tours and attractions as listed above and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 750/950 Gold Passport Points

**\$730 p.p./dbl.occ., \$920 single**

**Save \$15 until August 15**

## Alaska's Aurora Borealis

*Featuring small group travel*

*with unique winter attractions*

**7 Days • March 8-14**

★ **Highlights** ★

- Small group; 27 people maximum
- View the Aurora Borealis in the dark sky's outside of Fairbanks
- Tour of the BP Ice Art Championship sculptures
- Stay at the spectacular Alyeska Resort, charming Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge and Pikes Waterfront Lodge
- Travel on the Alaska Railroad from Talkeetna to Healy
- Dogsled at Dallas Seavey Kennel, winner of the 2012, 2014, 2015 & 2016 Iditarod
- Exclusive winter cruise in Prince William Sound
- See all the big land mammals at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Star Lady Aurora presentation
- Door to door airport transportation
- R/T air to Anchorage and from Fairbanks
- 9 Meals: 4 full breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
- Gold Passport Points 4550/5100

We start the tour with lunch in Anchorage then a scenic drive down the Turnagain Arm, one of the most scenic byways in America! This all- American Road will be a highlight today as we travel between the ocean and the towering Chugach Mountains before we check into our overnight accommodations. The Alyeska Resort is a beautiful property; amenities include several restaurants, sundry and gift shop, mountain sports store (winter

## 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.



**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.



**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.



**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.



**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.



**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.**

gear), fitness center, spa and an indoor saltwater pool & whirlpool. They also have an Aerial Tram with fine dining at the top of the mountain. **Alyeska Resort – 2 nights (L)**

**2.** This morning we will explore the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, a 200-acre rescue and rehabilitation center for Alaskan wildlife. Here we will meet the moose, wood

bison, musk ox herd, caribou herd, and other Alaskan animals that call the Portage Glacier Valley home. The afternoon takes us on an adventure in Prince William Sound's Blackstone Bay. Our journey takes us close to shore admiring the sheer cliff walls and tumbling waterfalls in route to the Blackstone tidewater glaciers. You will soon be sitting



face to face with an expansive wall of ice. **(B,L)**

**3.** Visit the homestead of Dallas Seavey, the 2012, 14, 15, & 16 Iditarod Champion to learn what it takes to train and race in the Last Great Race, the Iditarod. Tour the kennel, and go for a wilderness ride on a real dog sled with Iditarod Champion sled dogs! Lunch will be hosted before we travel to the town of Talkeetna, a quaint "mountain climbing" town, featured on several TV shows for good food and fun personalities. Enjoy the Star Lady Aurora presentation this evening. She will share with you her knowledge of constellations, aurora activity, and the Alaskan night sky before we head outside on the lodge deck to look for the Northern Lights! **Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge – 2 nights (B,L)**

**4.** Today wake up and look out your window and hopefully view the majestic Alaska Range and North America's highest mountain Denali! Breakfast is at the famous Talkeetna Roadhouse followed by a tour of the town and an optional (extra cost) flight seeing tour. **(B)**

**5.** After breakfast this morning journey on the Alaskan Railroad. We will depart the train near Denali National Park and continue by bus to Fairbanks. After checking into our hotel enjoy a hosted dinner followed by aurora viewing this evening. The remote location will allow us to get away from the city lights of Fairbanks to enjoy the aurora and photograph this spectacular show! NOTE: The aurora is weather and solar flare dependent - it takes clear skies and active solar activity combined to make for a great viewing experience. **Pikes Waterfront Lodge – 2 nights (B,D)**

**6.** Sleep in this morning. This afternoon stop at the Trans Alaska Pipeline. Get ready to be amazed at the BP World Ice Art Championships. Single and multi blocks of ice are sculpted into exquisite master pieces, the detail will astound you! Dinner is hosted before heading back to the Ice Park to see the sculptures all lit up! **(D)**

**7.** You will not soon forget the magic you experienced in the Great North. It is time to take our photos and memories back home to share with our families and loved ones. Depart Fairbanks International Airport for

Sacramento.

Please note: You must be prepared for cold weather (0 to 25 degrees Fahrenheit is typical) throughout this tour. Winter jackets, snow pants and boots may be rented for extra cost.

**\$4550 p.p/dbl.occ., \$5085 single**  
**Save \$125 until August 15**

## Fixin' Up Texas

*Three nights on San Antonio's Riverwalk plus Chip and Jo's Waco*

**6 Days \* April 2-7**

### ★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights in the historic Drury Plaza Hotel located along the Riverwalk
- City tour features The Alamo and Mission San Jose
- IMAX Theater, Tower of the Americas, SAS Shoes Factory Tour
- 2 nights at Courtyard by Marriott, Waco
- Waco City tour featuring famous "Fixer Uppers," Magnolia Market, The Silos and other sites from the show
- Texas State Capitol at Austin and Ft. Worth Stockyards
- 10 meals: Daily breakfast, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip air to San Antonio/From Dallas
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Tour Director: **Clayton Whitehead**
- Gold Passport Points: 2450/2850

**1.** Deep in the heart of the Lone Star State is a city that is part American, part Mexican and definitely all Texan, San Antonio. Start

with a bird's eye view of the city over lunch served high atop the Tower of the Americas and strapping in for the 4D film, "Skies Over Texas." Your historic hotel is located on the famed Riverwalk and features a complimentary Kickback each evening including adult beverages and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Think of it as three bonus dinners!

### Drury Plaza Hotel – 3 nights (L)

**2.** Joined by a local guide, take a driving tour of San Antonio and along the *El Camino Real* to San Jose, one of the historic Franciscan missions that first brought the Spanish into the area. Later in the day, visit the most famous of these missions, San Antonio de Valero, or what we know today as The Alamo. Next door, you'll see the IMAX film production that puts the famous battle into perspective. **(FB)**

**3.** The Drury Plaza is on the city's unique Riverwalk which you'll explore aboard a narrated riverbarge cruise complete with your very own Mexican lunch fiesta. Then you're off to the home of San Antonio's beloved shoes, SAS, to visit the old-timey General Store (anyone for a 10-cent Coke and 5-cent bag of popcorn?) and tour the factory. **(FB,L)**

**4.** Visit Austin, the seat of Texas state government, for lunch and a tour of their beautiful State Capitol. Continue north to Waco, hometown of the HGTV mega-hit "Fixer Upper." **Courtyard by Marriott – 2 nights (FB,L)**

**5.** Waco has become an extremely



*The Alamo in downtown San Antonio is an iconic inclusion on our Texas adventure*



popular destination of late because of Chip and Joanna Gaines. Thanks to their many commercial and residential “fixer uppers,” the city has never looked better. With a local guide, explore all Waco has to offer including stops at Magnolia Market, The Silos, Baylor University and even the home of the famous soft drink born here, Dr. Pepper. **(FB,D)**

6. A final journey to the north brings you to Ft. Worth's famous Stockyards. You'll see the morning Cattle Drive before a lunch where you'll feast on the meal that made Texas famous: Steak! Onward to the airport and your mid-afternoon return flight. **(FB,L)**

**\$2410 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2825 single**  
**Save \$75 until August 15**

## On the Central Coast

*Featuring oceanfront accommodations in Avila Beach*

**4 Days • April 8-11**

### ★ Highlights ★

- San Luis Lighthouse tour
- Visit Morro Bay
- Enjoy seaside dining with live entertainment in Pismo Beach
- Tour the Covell's Clydesdale Ranch
- 8 meals: 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door service
- 1600/1900 Gold Passport Points

1. Meet your fellow travelers at the **Sports Leisure** office before traveling in comfort to Avila Beach. Pass through the Salinas Valley, known as the “Salad Bowl of the World.” Pause for optional wine tasting at a beautiful sculpture garden before settling into your oceanfront suite just steps away from the sand and surf of the majestic Pacific Ocean.

### Avila Lighthouse Suites – 3 nights (L)

2. Travel back in time in a classic trolley to the historic Point San Luis Lighthouse Park. Enjoy dramatic vistas where whales are frequently seen. Experience a rich history on the grounds and in the lighthouse during your tour which includes lunch. The afternoon is at your leisure to enjoy the picturesque town and coastline back in Avila Beach. **(B,L)**

3. Morro Bay is home to Morro Rock, the last of nine extinct volcanic peaks that begin in San Luis Obispo. The 576 foot landmark stands at the mouth of the harbor

and is home to nesting Peregrine Falcons. Lunch is hosted with free time scheduled for shopping. Not a shopper? No problem! You have the option to view otters and maybe spot a falcon down on the beach. Your Tour Director will lead the way! Tonight we gather for a special seaside dinner ocean in Pismo Beach, listen to a live band play smooth jazz while watching the sun set over the Pacific.

**(B,L,D)**

4. Visit the Covell's Clydesdale Ranch this morning. Get a history lesson, learning about a celebration that took place in the 1800's. Learn about the pristine Monterey Pine Forest and of course see herds of beautiful Clydesdales Horses living like wild horses in meadows overlooking the Pacific. Turn toward home and enjoy a wonderful lunch hosted in Paso Robles and a stop at Casa de Fruita to pick up a few fresh foods. Arrive in the early evening. **(B,L)**

**\$1570 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1855 single**  
**Save \$40 until August 15**

## Irish Spring

*The second in our series of Irish vacations featuring historic castle and manor house accommodations*

**9 Days • April 23 – May 1**

### ★ Highlights ★

- All accommodations in 4 and 5-star historic castles and manor houses
- 2 nights in Contarf/Dublin and Clifden
- Overnights in Larne/Antrim Coast, Donegal and Dunboyne
- Guided tours of Dublin, Belfast, Derry and Inishmore
- See the **Book of Kells**; visit St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Guinness Storehouse
- Tour Titanic Belfast, Giants Causeway, Walls of Derry and Westport House
- Ferry to Inishmore and prehistoric Dun Aonghusa
- The Cliffs of Moher, The Burren and Connemara
- Services of an Irish guide and driver throughout, plus an experienced **Sports Leisure** Tour Director
- 14 meals: Daily full Irish breakfast and dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Dublin
- Door-to-door airport service
- 5500/6350 Gold Passport Points

1-2. An overnight flight brings you to Dublin where you'll embark on an easy (promise!) panoramic tour with our Irish guide, followed by free time for lunch and personal exploration in the city centre. At mid-afternoon head to the northern suburb of Clontarf. A centuries-old estate, it was here that the Battle of Clontarf was fought and won against the invading Vikings on Good Friday in the year 1014. George Frideric Handel was a guest here in the early 1700s as was Abraham Stoker (author of *Dracula*) in the late 1800s. Was his story inspired by the spirits who some say still inhabit the castle? Here's your chance to find out... if you dare! **Contarf Castle Hotel – 2 nights (In-flight meals,D)**

3. Return to Dublin City for a more comprehensive tour led by a local guide with stops at Trinity College (including an opportunity to see the famed **Book of Kells**) and the hallowed St. Patrick's Cathedral. If all this touring is causing you to work up a thirst, we've got you covered with a visit to the Guinness Storehouse where you'll learn the fabled history of Ireland's national drink, then have an opportunity to tip a pint or two. Dinner is a special treat! Served in the tiny fishing village of Howth, the Abbey Tavern serves up traditional Irish fare complete with live music and dancing! **(FB,D)**

4. Onward to Belfast, capital of Northern Ireland. Part of the United Kingdom, this is the Protestant region of the Emerald Isle. The Belfast Shipyard is famous as the birthplace of the ill-fated **HMS Titanic**. A visit to a modern museum, opened on the centennial of the tragedy, and a city tour will set the stage. Continue on to the Antrim Coast and the village of Aldergrove where dinner and your 17<sup>th</sup> century accommodations await.

### Ballygally Castle Hotel (FB,D)

5. Drive along the Giant's Causeway, a World Heritage Site, to Derry, the only fully fortified city in the British Isles. Explore the Walls of Derry with a local guide, then head back to the Republic of Ireland and County Donegal. Your destination was featured on our last Irish castles tour, and was just too good to pass by! Prepare yourself for a night in the lap of luxury in this, the ancestral home of Clan O'Donnell whose origins date to the 1400s. **Lough Eske Castle Hotel (FB,D)**



# Teasers & Teaser Updates

## All Aboard! **California Zephyr and the Southwest Chief**

*Featuring 2 classic trains, and 2 nights in Chicago*

**Mid to late Spring 2019**

Travel in first class accommodations on the California Zephyr from Sacramento to America's Windy City, Chicago. From the comfort of your train you will see breathtakingly beautiful mountain wilderness areas as you cross the Sierra Nevadas and the Rockies through the Continental Divide, and Glenwood Canyon. On board, you will experience the luxury and relaxation of classic train travel while witnessing some of the very best American cultural and geographic icons. Travel the same route of American Pioneers did in 1869 when the first transcontinental railroad was completed at Promontory, Utah, bringing thousands of pioneers west in search of their fortunes. Experienced travelers say the California Zephyr is one of the most beautiful train trips in all of north America.

While in Chicago we will visit the Pullman Car Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry. On the 5th Day of the tour

we board the Famous Southwest Chief and make our way back west to Los Angeles travelling through eight states, crossing the mighty Mississippi river, past rolling wheat fields, ranches, missions and pueblos. The train travels into narrow canyons barely a few feet wider than the train itself. This is a rare chance to witness spectacular landscapes not visible from the interstate.

## **Gems of Southeast Europe Cruise**

**14 Days • August 8-21, 2019**

Join Scott on an epic 7 day small ship river cruise to Eastern Europe with AmaWaterways; with two night pre cruise hotel in Budapest, Hungary and four nights post cruise: two nights in Brasova (Dracula's birth place) and two nights in Bucharest, Romania's capital.

From Budapest to Giurgiu, touch history in Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania, as you sail along the lower Danube. Medieval towns, Roman ruins and the Iron Gate showcase the best of Eastern Europe. Visit Belogradchik, Bulgaria's natural wonder, and Serbia's Novi Sad. Taste history from centuries-old vineyards

in Ilok, and visit two of Romania's legendary castles, Bran and Pele.

Your cruise ship, the *AmaCerto*, carries 162-passengers. The vessel incorporates the most advanced design offering spacious staterooms featuring our exclusive twin balconies, multiple dining venues, heated pool, Internet/WiFi access and more.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included each day as well as wine beer and soft drinks. You will enjoy an **extensive lineup of included tours**. In many cases, you will have a choice of excursions, such as standard tours, bike tours, hikes and Special Interest Tours. You will have a included large variety of activities so that you can choose how you want to explore.

Call now and put your name on the **Priority Notification List**. You will receive pricing and a full itinerary in the coming weeks if we have enough interest.



Find us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/sportsleisure](http://www.facebook.com/sportsleisure)

# New Vacations & Getaways – continued from p15

**6.** Welcome to County Sligo where you'll visit the final resting place of the famed poet W.B. Yeats and tour the magnificent Westport House, a 300+ year old manor originally the home of the Pirate Queen of Connacht. Into Connemara where your next castle awaits near the town of Clifden. **Abbeyglen Castle Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**

**7.** Take the morning ferry to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands situated just beyond Galway Bay. The other-worldliness of this remote, wind-swept island is apparent the moment you arrive. Even the residents (whom only speak Gaelic) seem to be from another time and place. Your island tour will include a visit to Dun Aonghusa, a magnificent stone fortification dating to

between 1100 and 1500 BC. **(FB,D)**

**8.** Visit Galway City for a walkabout, then continue to County Clare, through the Burren to the Cliffs of Moher. Extending about 10 miles, the Cliffs of Moher rise to a height of 400 feet above the icy Atlantic below. Awe-inspiring and sometimes a little frightening (especially in foggy weather when you're never quite sure where the land ends), the cliffs are a must-see on any Irish vacation. A final castle and a grand Farewell Dinner await your arrival in County Meath. **Dunboyne Castle Hotel (FB,D)**

**9.** Our suburban location puts us close to the airport and our return flight. Dublin is among a small number of international airports offering US Customs onsite, so there

will be no delays during our connection upon landing in America, thus bringing your Irish Spring to a peaceful end. **(FB, In-flight meals)**

**\$5475 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6350 single**

**Save \$300 until August 15**

*This vacation requires a valid passport*

Learn more about our awesome accommodations!

[www.clontarfcastle.ie](http://www.clontarfcastle.ie)

[www.hastingshotels.com/ballygally-castle/](http://www.hastingshotels.com/ballygally-castle/)

[www.lougheskecastlehotel.com](http://www.lougheskecastlehotel.com)

[www.abbeyglen.ie](http://www.abbeyglen.ie)

[www.dunboynecastlehotel.com](http://www.dunboynecastlehotel.com)





# The Tour Calendar *(Previously Announced)*

## Postcards from Puget Sound

4 Days • September 8-11

### ★ Highlights ★

- Visit charming seaside communities
- Enjoy excellent Pacific Northwest cuisine
- Seaplane flight over the San Juan Islands
- 8 meals: 1 breakfast, 2 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Round trip airfare to Seattle
- 2250/2750 Gold Passport Points

Take in the stunning natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest by land, air, and sea! Idyllic coastal towns, artist enclaves, boutique shopping and upscale cuisine showcase the best of the San Juan Island.

1. Fly to Seattle and travel to Mukilteo. Lunch is at Ivar's, famous for clam chowder! Visit the historic lighthouse before boarding the Washington State Ferry headed for Whidbey Island. Langley is your first stop to shop, with an included gift card, for all things chocolate at a boutique dedicated to its aromatic qualities. We will treat you to chocolate truffles at Sweet Mona's. **Best Western – Oak Harbor. (L)**

2. Depart with a local guide and learn of Eby's Landing, the end of the Oregon Trail. Visit Admiralty Head Lighthouse on the grounds of Fort Casey, dating back to the Civil War. Stop in LaConner for an included lunch with time to stroll the main street shops. In Anacortes, the historic Majestic Inn is your home for the next two nights. Get an overview of the town's history at a local museum prior to check-in. A farm-to-table dinner at the 5th Street Bistro, located in your hotel, is yours to enjoy at leisure. **The Majestic Inn – 2 nights (B,L,D)**

3. Sail through the San Juan Island's picturesque scenery to Friday Harbor. Upon arrival, tour the island. Have you ever heard of the Pig War? This was a real skirmish (sort of) between American and British forces. Visit an alpaca farm, taste lavender-infused vanilla ice cream and take a seaplane to go flightseeing over the island archipelago. Lunch is in Roche Harbor at Madrona Grill. If you thought the morning sail was

**A**

beautiful, just wait until you see it at sunset. Breathtaking! **(FB,L)**

4. In Everett, WA, home of Boeing, learn about the company's storied past and latest groundbreaking technology during the Future of Flight tour. At the assembly plant for the 787 Dreamliner, see the assembly process for yourself! Snohomish, WA, is your lunch stop with time to browse the eclectic antique shops before an early evening flight. **(FB,L)**

12 seats remain at press time.  
\$2440 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2735 single

## New England Fall Foliage Spectacular

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



Thin air high atop Mt. Washington in New Hampshire

- 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**  
4 seats remain at press time.  
\$3890 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4480 single

## 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.

4 seats remain  
at press time.  
\$2955 p.p./dbl.occ.,  
\$3385 single

**M**

## Leafin' on a Jet Plane

M

*A Mystery Tour that's all about fall colors*

**6 Days • October 14-19**

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

**4 seats remain at press time.**  
**\$2635 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2965 single**

## Sedona and Grand Canyon National Park

A

*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

**4 seats remain at press time.**  
**\$2190 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2520 single**

## Route 66 West – Oklahoma City to Santa Monica

*The second half of our*

*"Main Street of America" Tour*

A

**10 Days • October 23 – November 1**

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. 3900/4450 Gold Passport Points

**1 seat remains at press time.**  
**\$3885 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4410 single**

## Death Valley and Nevada Ghost Towns

A

*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



*Blueberry reads up on the twenty mule teams and borax. How many mules in the team?*

- 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
- Tour Directors: **Ramona** and **Mark**
- 2400/2650 Gold Passport Points

**10 seats remain at press time.**  
**\$2355 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2645 single**

## Thanksgiving in New York

*New itinerary! New experiences!*

*Isn't it time to visit again?*

A

**6 Days • November 18-23**

★ **Highlights** ★

- 5 nights at the Marriott Marquis Hotel on Times Square
  - Tickets to two Broadway shows including one of your choosing
  - Radio City Music Hall Rockettes *Christmas Spectacular*
  - Theatre talk with nationally-syndicated critic Peter Filichia
  - Visit Liberty and Ellis Islands
  - Experience Disney's *Behind the Magic*
  - Tour the 9/11 Memorial Museum and take in the view at One World Observatory
  - See the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
  - 5 memorable meals featuring a spectacular Thanksgiving dinner cruise aboard the *Bateaux New York*
  - Round trip airfare to/from New York's LaGuardia Airport
  - Home pick-up and return
  - 4000/4600 Gold Passport Points
- \$3995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4570 single**

## 17th Annual Christmas Mystery Tour

M A

**5 Days • November 29 – December 3**

This trip completely sold out from Preview Day responses. Because the trip doesn't depart for 5 months, we encourage you to put your name on the wait list if you would like to go. There undoubtedly will be some cancellations.

**\$2215 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2480 single**



## An Apple Farm Christmas

*Featuring Hearst Castle all decked out for Christmas*

M

**4 Days • December 4-7**

This trip completely sold out within weeks of Preview Day. Because the trip doesn't depart for 5 months, we encourage you to put your name on the wait list if you would like to go in the event of cancellations.

**\$1165 p.p./dbl occ., \$1360 single**

## A Midwest Christmas Celebration

M

**5 Days • December 6-10**

### ★ Highlights ★

- 4 nights Embassy Suites Hotel; nightly complimentary cocktails
- An evening of Renaissance Period Christmas festivities
- Outstanding holiday theatre and symphony performances
- Genuine Midwest hospitality and comfort food
- 12 Meals: 4 full breakfasts, 1 brunch, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Round trip airfare to Omaha, NE
- 2350/2600 Gold Passport Points

Revel in the Christmas spirit in Omaha, the crossroads of America! Come celebrate Christmas across a spectrum of history, culture and spirituality. There is something for everyone to enjoy!

**1.** Arrive in Omaha in time for an early dinner. What's for dinner? Midwestern Omaha beef, of course! Drive through holiday lights on the way to your downtown hotel, conveniently located across the street from the historic Old Market full of boutique shops and restaurants. **Embassy Suites Omaha Old Market – 4 nights (D)**

**2.** At the Durham Museum located in a beautifully renovated Art Deco train station, pause in the main hall for a picture in front of the soaring lighted tree then peruse exhibits featuring the history of this major rail hub. As a harpist plays on, lunch is served in elegance at the Joslyn Castle, before a tour of the mansion. At Father Flanagan's Boy's Town, established as a safe place for wayward boys, it now serves children in need nationwide. Tour the grounds and hear the heartwarming, inspirational story.

Rest this afternoon before attending the Madrigal Christmas Feaste, a 16<sup>th</sup> century inspired dinner theatre show. Raise a glass of wassail to the season! **(FB,L,D)**

**3.** On a guided city tour, follow Omaha's timeline from Lewis & Clark's expedition, to Warren Buffet's billions right into present day as a major center for the finance, construction and insurance industries. At the Joslyn Art Museum (yep, the same Joslyn's as the castle) enjoy a casual lunch before time to explore the galleries along with a special exhibit "American Quilts" on loan from renowned Shelbourne Museum. Shop the boutiques of the Old Market this afternoon before a lively Greek dinner at St. Nicholas Church. Your evening entertainment is *A Christmas Carol*, put on by the Omaha Community Playhouse for over 40 years. It's a top-notch production sure to knock the bah-humbug out of the biggest Scrooge! **(FB,L,D)**

**4.** Sunday brunch is served in the General Crook Home on the grounds of Fort Omaha following a tour of the lovingly restored property. The Omaha Symphony really knows how to celebrate the season with a Christmas Spectacular full of rousing music, dancing and comedy. An Omaha tradition not to be missed! Before turning in, join a musical historian playing music from around the world on unique and curious instruments. **(FB,BR,D)**

**5.** Save a little room at breakfast for tortes and pastries at a Lithuanian bakery. Walk it off in the Lauritzen Gardens greenhouses where a huge poinsettia tree makes the perfect backdrop for next year's Christmas card. Got a gardener in your life? Don't skip the gift shop! After a cultural presentation and buffet lunch at The Polish House, head for the airport to catch your early evening flight home. **(FB,L)**

**\$2350 p.p./dbl occ.,  
\$2585 single  
Save \$50 until August 15**

## Puttin' on the Ritz for Christmas

A

*Featuring Sunday brunch at the Hayes Mansion and a Christmas visit to Filoli*

**3 Days • December 9-11**

A wonderful short holiday getaway featuring some of the most luxurious accommodations found on a Sports Leisure tour.

The first day features the lavish award-winning Champagne Sunday Brunch at the popular Dolce Hayes Mansion near San Jose and a special Christmas visit to the Filoli Mansion before heading to the coast and the charming town of Half Moon Bay. Check into the **Ritz Carlton Resort at Half Moon Bay**, which resembles a grand European country estate set on a rocky bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Enjoy free mornings at the resort; with lunch hosted at a popular restaurant on Main Street in Half Moon Bay followed by a holiday craft class where you will create a terrarium.

This package includes door-to-door service, deluxe motorcoach transportation, all attractions listed above, and 3 meals (1BR,2L). 1400/1600 Gold Passport Points

**\$1355 p.p./dbl occ., \$1585 single**



SLV travelers enjoy the luxury of the Ritz Carlton



## Christmas at The Davenport



Stay in Spokane's landmark hotel

4 Days • December 23-26

1<sup>st</sup> Day – Sun., Dec. 23

Arrive in Spokane in early afternoon. Enjoy lunch at the Spokane Club, a private facility that is the city's finest. A stop at Bing Crosby's home gives you the opportunity to see a huge collection of memorabilia. Sing along to *White Christmas* while you are there. Check into the Davenport in the heart of downtown Spokane. (L)

2<sup>nd</sup> Day – Mon., Dec. 24

Travel east past Coeur d'Alene to the Cataldo Mission. The oldest building in Idaho, it was built by Native Americans and Jesuit Missionaries in 1853. Learn the story of the "black robes," and in the Visitors Center, see **Sacred Encounters**, a world class \$3 million dollar exhibit. It tells the story of the missionaries' arrival in the Northwest. There is also a stop at Beauty Bay on the lake, where hundreds of bald eagles pause to dine on salmon during their annual migration.

Back in Coeur d'Alene, there's time for lunch and a chance to browse the shops. Dinner tonight at the Roberts Mansion, a Victorian Queen Anne style home restored to its original charm. There is a tour of the home before dinner. We will offer a Christmas Eve mass this evening with transportation by coach or taxi. (FB,L,D)

3<sup>rd</sup> Day – Tues., Dec. 25 – Christmas

After breakfast this morning, enjoy a tour of your landmark hotel. We have two gift exchanges today, a real one where you bring the gifts (\$20 max. value); and the White Elephant exchange where **WE** bring the gifts and you steal them from each other. Loads of fun! Dine together on a Christmas feast in the hotel, and in the late afternoon (it gets dark around 4:00pm in Spokane this time of the year) and early evening, see some of the holiday lights the city is famous for. (FB,D)

4<sup>th</sup> Day – Wed., Dec. 26

Enjoy breakfast at your leisure this morning. There could be an attraction added before departure. Our return flight departs about 1pm, arriving in Sacramento at 3pm. (FB)

The price includes airfare, 7 meals and all attractions and admissions as listed. As noted, this is a preliminary itinerary. More will be added, some changes may be made.

**\$1665 p.p./dbl occ., \$1870 single**

## The 130<sup>th</sup> Annual Tournament of Roses Parade and A Salute to Vienna



3 Days • December 30 – January 1

★ Highlights ★

- Champagne Sunday Brunch aboard the *RMS Queen Mary*
- A Salute to Vienna performed at the Walt Disney Music Hall
- New Year's Eve dinner buffet and hosted toast
- Reserved parade seating, commemorative souvenir pin and program – pre-parade viewing of the building of the floats
- 5 Meals: 2 full breakfast, 1 brunch, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Round trip airfare to Southern California
- 1750/1900 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly to Los Angeles and begin with a decadent Champagne Sunday Brunch aboard the famed *RMS Queen Mary*. Hear of her elegant past and contribution to the

allied forces during WWII on a guided tour. At the Walt Disney Concert Hall, dancers twirl in beautiful ball gowns as the symphony plays Strauss waltzes and singers perform lively operettas during *A Salute to Vienna*, a worldwide New Year's tradition! Check into your hotel for the next two nights. **Hilton LAX – 2 nights (BR)**

2. Visit the Float Construction Barns in Pasadena this morning where the spectacular floats take shape. It's a frantic time as flowers, seeds and greenery are attached in the final hours. This afternoon rest up and prepare for the evening festivities. Your hotel is a hub of activity! Enjoy a New Year's Eve Buffet and raise a toast to the ball drop in NY's Times Square. (FB,D)

3. Stand and salute as an Air Force flyover sets the day into motion! The beautifully decorated floats are sure to capture your imagination, and the beat of the marching bands will have your toes tapping! Enjoy it all from your reserved seating. You'll receive an official Rose Parade seat cushion, program and souvenir pin. At the parade's conclusion lunch is served at the Tam O'Shanter, known for their prime rib and Yorkshire pudding before an early evening flight home. (FB,L)

**10 seats remain at press time.**

**\$1725 p.p./dbl occ., \$1895 single**



Floral fantasies and marching bands astound SLV travelers, as they view the parade from reserved seating





## Kauai & Maui, A Whale of a Good Time in Paradise

8 Days \* January 10-17

**A**

This trip visits the islands at the height of whale season (and the hotel prices reflect it). We will only take **23** on this special adventure and there are only **3 seats remaining** at press time.

Perfect for a first time visitor yet designed with the most seasoned Hawaii traveler in mind, you're sure to experience new sights, attractions and dining you may have missed on your own. While we do include some of the tried and true Hawaiian staples, they are presented from a different perspective. Learn about the whales, meet the people, taste the food. Come see Hawaii through fresh eyes!

### ★ Highlights ★

- 7 nights ocean view accommodations
- Tasty, fun and imaginative Island Cuisine
- Whale watching cruise at the height of the season
- Flightseeing over Kauai's lush tropical jungles and the Napali coast
- Exciting live theater and musical performances
- 14 meals: 6 full breakfasts, 1 brunch, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Round trip airfare to Lihue/from Kahului, plus interisland hop
- 5000/5850 Gold Passport Points
- Tour Directors: **Chris** and **Mark**

**Kauai** – This is your first stop, with **3 nights** at the oceanside **Courtyard by Marriott**. There's a foodie tour covering the southern half of the island, where you get to meet the locals and try the treats. Go flightseeing over the entire island (possible whale viewings here) and learn about how chocolate is grown on the tour of Steelgrass Chocolate at Lydgate Farms. There's a visit to scenic Princeville and a lovely Sunday Brunch included. Breakfast and ocean view rooms are part of the package at the Courtyard.

**Maui** – A short inter-island flight brings you to Maui, where you enjoy **four nights** oceanside at the legendary **Royal Lahaina Resort**. Your premium rooms have a beautiful view. During your stay, you'll visit the "kids" at the Surfing Goat Dairy Farm,

enjoy lunch at the Hali'imaile General Store and partake in an authentic farm-to-fork luncheon in the Maui hill country.

The whales love the channel between Maui and Lanai at this time of the year. The babies have been born and the mothers are teaching them important survival skills. Take a cruise to witness this interaction.

Entertainment is a big part of your Maui stay. See U'lalena, bringing the culture and history of Hawaii to the stage. At the Napili Kai Resort, enjoy a sunset dinner and entertainment on the Slack Key Guitar.

**\$4975 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5840 single**

## Ice Magic Festival in the Canadian Rockies

**A E**

*Featuring three nights at the Chateau Lake Louise and Banff National Park*

6 Days • January 17-22

**1.** Fly to Calgary via Seattle, arriving early afternoon. Lunch is hosted before traveling into the Rockies and Canada's first national park, Banff. In 1883, three railway workers discovered a natural hot spring, and from there the park was born. Nowadays, Banff N.P. is one of the world's premiere destinations with unparalleled majestic mountain scenery. Your accommodations are at the iconic **Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise – 3 nights (L)**

**2-3.** Over the next two days experience Lake Louise at its winter finest during the Ice Magic Festival. Watch in amazement as internationally renowned professional ice carvers have 34 hours to work sculpting towering one-of-a-kind works of art from imposing blocks of solid ice on the shores of Lake Louise. With each ice block weighing a daunting 300lbs, this exceptional art form involves grueling physical labor in a delicate balancing act with precision artistry. Other attractions include an old-fashioned horse drawn sleigh ride along the Lake

Louise shore. Travel through the forest with a dog sled team, an incredible ride one you will not forget any time soon. **(2FB)**

**4.** Depart Lake Louise for the town of Banff. A guided tour of the village includes a gondola ride. Sit back and relax in a 4 passenger, glass enclosed gondola. Marvel at the unsurpassed view of Banff, the Bow Valley and a 360-degree view of six scenic mountain ranges from (7486ft) above sea level. You will feel like you're on top of the world, when you are standing on the spacious main level observation deck.

**Banff Park Lodge – 2 nights (FB)**

**5.** During our last day in this winter wonderland you will have a free day to visit local museums, shop or perhaps take a dip in the hot Springs. We will gather tonight for a hosted dinner at a favorite eatery. **(FB,D)**

**6.** After breakfast travel back to Calgary for an afternoon flight that returns you to Sacramento early evening. **(FB)**

This tour package includes door-to-door service, roundtrip air, deluxe motor coach service, all attractions and tours listed above, 7 meals: 5 full breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner and the services of a **Sports Leisure** tour director. 2900/3450 Gold Passport Points

**Note: You must be prepared for cold weather 0-30 degrees. Average daytime high is 22 degrees.**

**9 seats remain at press time.**

**\$2890 p.p./dbl occ., \$3420 single**

**Save \$75 until August 15**

*This vacation requires a valid passport*



*The majestic Canadian Rockies provide a stunning backdrop as incredible ice carvings are created right in front of you*



## The World Down Under

Australia, Tasmania & New Zealand  
aboard the ms Noordam



20 Days • January 23 – February 11

### ★ Highlights ★

- 3-night pre-cruise program in Sydney including daily breakfast and lunch
- Visit Ku-ring-gai Chase, Blue Mountains and Featherdale Wildlife parks
- Tour Sydney sites including the famous Opera House
- All meals included on board the ms Noordam
- Prices include all transfers and port taxes
- Roundtrip air to Sydney/from Auckland
- Door-to-door airport service
- Cruise Director: **Clayton Whitehead**
- Gold Passport Points based on cabin

You'll have a 3-night pre-cruise stay in Sydney to discover the sights and sounds of one of the world's most vibrant cities. Then board your ship.

DATE	PORT
Jan. 28	Sydney, Australia
Jan. 29	Eden
Jan. 30	At sea
Jan. 31	Melbourne
Feb. 1	At sea
Feb. 2	Hobart, Tasmania
Feb. 3	At sea
Feb. 4	At sea
Feb. 5	Milford Sound, New Zealand
Feb. 6	Port Chalmers (Dunedin)
Feb. 7	Akaroa (Christchurch)
Feb. 8	Wellington
Feb. 9	Napier
Feb. 10	Tauranga (Rotorua)
Feb. 11	Auckland

1 seat remains at press time.

Inside cabins start at:

\$6467 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8278 single

Outside cabins start at:

\$6633 p.p./dbl.occ., \$8454 single

*This vacation requires a valid passport!*

## Key West, Miami and The Everglades



Featuring Key Largo & 4 nights in Key West

7 Days • January 26 – February 1

### ★ Highlights ★

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. We encourage you to put your name on the wait list if you would like to go, as departure date is a long ways off.

*We **do not** recommend this tour for travelers with serious mobility issues.*

2 seats remain at press time.

\$4195 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4885 single

## Florida, All About the Water



6 Days • February 3-8, 2019

### ★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights all-suite Marriott hotel; 2 nights 'Tween Waters, a quirky fun island resort
- Meet the furry residents at The Big Cat Rescue
- See the local wildlife on two nature cruises
- Visit the Ringling Circus Museum
- Learn of Florida's Gulf Coast ecology
- 11 Meals: 5 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Round trip airfare to Tampa/from Ft. Myers

- 3350/3650 Gold Passport Points

After a successful mystery tour in February, this trip is back as a known destination. Florida's Gulf Coast has a laid-back vibe, beautiful scenery and powdery white sand. Influenced by Southern culture, time moves a little slower here allowing a chance for relaxation and exploration. There's lots to see, do and taste while taking it easy.

1. On arrival, travel the causeway across Tampa Bay to Clearwater Beach, onto Sand Key to your all-suite waterfront accommodations. A fine steak and seafood dinner is served waterside at your hotel.

### Marriott Suites on Sand Key – 3 nights (D)

2. Have your cameras ready, and keep your fingers out of the enclosures at the Big Cat Rescue! Meet the lions, tigers, cheetahs and more that call the sanctuary home. After, you'll have a chance to give alligator a try at lunch. It is Florida, after all! In Tarpon Springs, a thriving Greek community, take a cruise out to a small key in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico to hunt for seashells. The dolphin love to hitch a ride in the boat's wake and play in the waves! Back at the hotel, watch as the sky changes brilliant shades of orange and pink at sunset while you relax on your patio. **(FB,L)**

3. With a local guide, we go back in time to Ybor City, a Cuban enclave that was once the cigar capitol of the world. After lunch, visit a cigar manufacturer where you can pick up a Cuban-style stogie for yourself or a friend. En route back to your hotel, make a



*The betting is hot and heavy as the crab races are underway at the 'Tween Waters Resort on Captiva Island*

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com)





stop at Ron Jon's for fun T-shirts and beach gear, an East Coast institution known by every surfer dude! **(FB,L)**

**4.** Head to Sarasota and The Ringling Museum. Does that name sound familiar? It should! Mr. Ringling ran the circus in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Take a guided tour of the circus museum and see his private train car. Enjoy free time to explore the lovely grounds or take in the amazing to-scale model of the traveling circus. Lunch is at the museum restaurant before continuing to the Edison-Ford Winter Estates in Ft. Myers. Henry Ford utilized Thomas Edison's invention, the light bulb, on his automobiles and the two shared a great friendship. On Sanibel Island, your hotel is situated between two bodies of water, hence the name. **Tween Waters Resort – 2 nights (FB,L)**

**5.** The tranquil waters of Tarpon Bay host all kinds of wildlife, even the elusive manatee. You might just see them playing off the docks at your hotel. Aboard a pontoon cruise, your naturalist guide will point out the

## 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](http://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.

many different birds and bring the ecology of the bay to life. Stop for lunch at an island favorite before visiting the Bailey-Mathews National Shell Museum. The afternoon is yours to spend as you wish. Relax on the beach, by the pool or take an optional excursion to the Sanibel Historical Village for a glimpse of island life 100 years ago. Tonight, place your bets and cheer loudly during the crab races. You read that right, crab races. It's truly one of the silliest, yet most fun events! Dinner is served at the upscale hotel restaurant. **(FB,L,D)**

**6.** Enjoy a leisurely morning before flying from Ft. Myers in the early afternoon. **(FB)**

**\$3030 p.p./dbl occ., \$3625 single**  
**Save \$50 until August 15**

## Bryce Canyon Winter Festival



*Featuring Ice Castles at the Homestead Resort*

**6 days • February 13-18, 2019**

**1.** Fly direct on Southwest Airlines to Salt Lake City. Travel through the Wasatch Mountains to the town of Midway. Your resort features a unique attraction the one-of-a-kind Homestead Crater. Take a soak in this geothermal spring, hidden within a 55-foot tall, beehive-shaped limestone rock. Tonight, also on property is the Ice Castles featuring ice-carved tunnels, frozen thrones, and towers that reach astonishing heights. LED lights frozen inside 25 million pounds of ice twinkle adding a magical ambiance to the already awe-inspiring structures.

### Homestead Resort (L)

**2.** Travel south into the beautiful red rock canyonlands of southern Utah. Learn about the first man to raft the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon at the John Wesley Powell Museum. **Holiday Inn Express, Green River (B,L)**

**3.** We make our way to Bryce Canyon National Park today on one of the most scenic roads in the state! First stop is Goblin Valley with its landscape covered with bizarre sandstone formations. Pass through Capitol Reef National Park, over Boulder Mountain and travel scenic Hwy 12 en-route to Bryce. A day you will not soon forget.

**Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel – 3 nights (B,L)**

**4-5.** The next two days will be spent at the Bryce Canyon Winter Festival. There will be many options to choose from including park ranger walks along the rim of Bryce Canyon to photograph the amazing contrast of the white snow covering the colorful sandstone formations called Hoodoo's. Maybe you would like to try snow shoeing? How about a geology talk or night time star gazing with a ranger? Outdoor activities will be dependent on weather and snowfall. There will also be indoor clinics and demos, photography workshops, family search classes, line dancing at Ebenezer's Barn and Grill and watercolor classes to name just a few. When the schedule comes out you will get to choose your activities. **(2B)**

**6.** Today we head to Las Vegas for our flight home stopping in St. George for a hosted lunch along the way. **(B,L)**

This tour package includes door-to-door service, roundtrip air, deluxe motor coach service, all attractions and tours listed above, 9 meals: 5 breakfasts, and 4 lunches; and the services of a **Sports Leisure** tour director. 1900/2150 Gold Passport Points

**\$1885 p.p./dbl occ., \$ 2140 single**  
**Save \$50 until August 15**

## New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast

*Southern hospitality, heritage and cuisine are calling you to the coast!*

**6 Days • March 10-15**

This trip completely sold out within weeks of Preview Day. Because the trip doesn't depart for 8 months, we encourage you to put your name on the wait list if you would like to go in the event of cancellations.

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

## The Colorful Carolina Coast

*Meander the beautiful Southern Atlantic coastline from Norfolk to Jacksonville*

**10 Days • March 19-28**

This trip completely sold out within weeks of Preview Day. Because the trip doesn't depart for 8 months, we encourage you to put your name on the wait list if you would like to go in the event of cancellations.

**\$4260 p.p./dbl occ., \$4850 single**





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### EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT COUPON

Early Registration Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Wednesday, August 15, 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.

**Dec.** – A Midwest Christmas Celebration – **Save \$50**

**Jan.** – Ice Magic in Canadian Rockies – **Save \$75**

**Feb.** – Bryce Canyon Winter Festival – **Save \$50**

**Feb.** – Florida, It's all about Water – **Save \$50**

**Feb.** – The King and Di – **Save \$40**

**Feb.** – Winter at Ahwahnee – **Save \$15**

**Mar.** – Alaska's Aurora Borealis – **Save \$125**

**Apr.** – Fixin' Up Texas – **Save \$75**

**Apr.** – On the Central Coast – **Save \$40**

**Apr.** – Irish Spring – **Save \$300**

### OFFICE HOURS:

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

**Visit us anytime on the web at:**  
**[www.sportsleisure.com](http://www.sportsleisure.com)**

### VALUABLE COUPON

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

Valid only when used with the adjacent coupon on the tours listed. Your savings depend on the double-occupancy price of the tour. **Save \$10** on tours priced from **\$451-\$800**, **Save \$20** on tours priced from **\$801-\$2250**, **Save \$30** on tours priced from **\$2251-\$3500**, **Save \$40** on tours priced at \$3501 or more. 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)

Rails around Colorado	Catalina Island
National Treasures of the West	Christmas in Victoria
Oktoberfest, Canadian Thanksgiving	Apple Farm Christmas
17th Annual Christmas Mystery	Colorful Carolina Coast
New Orleans and Mississippi Coast	

#### Limited Space (10 or fewer seats)

Zion and Bryce (1)	Moab (4)
NE Fall Foliage (4)	New Mexico (4)
Leafin' on Jet Plane (4)	Sedona (4)
Rt. 66 – West (1)	Death Valley (10)
Rose Parade (10)	Kauai & Maui (3)
Ice Magic (9)	Key West (2)
Australia & New Zealand Cruise (1)	