



Sometimes, when you are out traveling, you feel like you are in another world. You lose track of time and place (and possibly your sanity). This is apparently is what happened on our recent Atlantic Canada tour. On Prince Edward Island, at the Anne of Green Gables Home/Museum, which is dedicated to the author, Lucy Montgomery, apparently some Sports Leisure Travelers took the "living history" concept just a bit further than most visitors.

The pictures seem to show these innocent(?) travelers being led astray by their leader, a strange little man named "Clayton" (top photo). After some of the female members of the group (middle photo, aren't they cute) took advantage of the chance to dress in period attire for a photo, the Clayton fellow decided to try on one of the outfits (way less cute). Well, the situation went downhill fast from there, as the photographic evidence plainly shows.

Male members of the group not only adorned themselves in Anne of Green Gables costumes (bottom photo – yes, those are all guys), they decided an instantaneous "concert" and modeling gig was appropriate.

Local authorities were contacted, and the men gave up the costumes and returned to their hotels without incident. They left the country a few days later, according to border officials who followed them closely from behind.

The long-term damage to those who witnessed the "event" has not been medically determined, but certainly none who were there will ever forget what they saw. Tragic.

You just never know what can happen on a Sports Leisure tour...



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

Just One Man's Opinion by Mark Hoffmann

Before our **Spring Preview Day**, one of my duties was to prepare a short slide show, reflecting the company's 45-year history.

I began to sort through decades of pictures. Today, most pictures are on our phones. Sounds like a great idea, everything all organized neatly so you can quickly flip through them.



Except, sitting there with all of those old photos of travelers from years gone by gave me a perspective you could never get from an I-phone. As I spread the photos out on a large table, attempting to select a precious few for the show, the memories came flooding back. The realization that this company has never been about the destinations, it's always been about **the people**.

I realized how many wonderful people have seen a piece of the world with us. When I saw their pictures, I remembered their stories. Time literally stopped as I got lost in what represented 45 years of travel.

The crazy outfits we wore, the things that were "must see" then and are gone now. It's entirely possible I echo the feelings of the rest of the gang here at **Sports Leisure Vacations** when I say we are really, really lucky.

To have the opportunity to go and see and learn with so many nice people for so long



Jennifer and Loren, two Newport, Oregon, friends, join Tyler and Mark to get the BIG picture

is indeed a privilege. Without you, I wouldn't know the joys of Route 66, have discovered the beauty of the Rockies or met so many fascinating people. Together, we paint the stories of our lives. Some of the brushes are a bit worn and we don't paint as fast or as clearly as we used to, but we still finish the pictures. Pretty amazing. For nearly three generations. Thank you.

★★★★★★★★

I'm sure **Clayton** will address this in his space, but it was beyond amazing to see all the stuff you brought to Preview Day. (For our spring event, we traditionally do not charge admission and just ask those attending to bring something to help the community. Two years ago, we financed an entire cargo container of needed items to be shipped to Ukraine, for years Loaves and Fishes have been a regular beneficiary.)

Sleeping bags, detergent and feminine hygiene items were what they told us they needed, and you came through like you always do. Grassroots community support. People helping someone else in need.

★★★★★★★★

The Travel Guys Radio Show has entered its 16th year. **Tom Romano** and I can be heard on Saturday mornings at 11am on KFBK AM/FM. The show features updated travel news, interviews and information to help you be a Smarter Traveler. From time to time we highlight our own trips, particularly after I return from the road. The purpose of the program is not necessarily to promote **Sports Leisure tours** as it is to show we

have the knowledge and the connections to make **your** vacations better, whether you are in an **SLV** group, traveling with another company (heaven forbid) or just on your own or with friends.

If you can't catch the show on Saturday, it becomes a podcast by Monday and you can hear it sans commercials, news and weather updates by going to **www.travelguysradio.com**. Check it out!

★★★★★★★★

Our least favorite traveling companion, COVID, is still around. After a long lull, a recent trip to Canada came home with several positives; and I caught it on a recent road trip.

We need to continue some of the good habits COVID got us into. Like washing/sanitizing our hands often and staying up to date on the vaccination. Only 22% of the public at large has a current shot. Make sure you are part of that 22%. Speaking only from personal experience, my COVID "experience" was reasonably mild. Doc said that likely had something to do with the fact I've had three vaccinations. Be a smarter traveler.

Note wearing a mask in airports, and/or on the coach is a personal choice. No one is going to give you any grief if you decide to protect yourself in this manner. Whatever makes you comfortable. **But please get vaccinated.**

And so it goes,

Mark Hoffmann, CTP
Owner/Founder (almost 45 years ago)



Visit the Hawaiian Vanilla Company for lunch and a tour on the Big Island next February

There's so much to share with you this month, so let me dive right in...

Sports Leisure Vacations celebrated its **45th Anniversary** and we hosted our **Spring Preview Day** last month on June 8. Nearly 400 travelers came to mark the occasion which included a great presentation on some upcoming holiday-themed tours and a sneak peek of our early 2025 travel plans. Phone volume was brisk in the days following and many tours are already at or very near capacity. In the pages that follow you'll find TWO New Vacations sections – one listing trips with available space, and the second naming tours that are already sold out. Please don't be discouraged! A recent survey revealed that on average 70% of those who are waitlisted will be called and offered a seat on the tour. Those odds are WAY BETTER than a company making it 45 years which, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, is only about 3%! Kudos to Mark, our founder, and all of YOU for making our longevity possible for so many wonderful, memorable years!



On behalf of our friends at **Loaves & Fishes**, we wish to extend a humble and heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who brought donations to the office and to Preview Day in support of Sacramento's unhoused and underserved communities. They measure donations in terms of bins. I'm not exactly sure of the dimensions, but each bin is nearly the size of a VW Bug, and we filled SIX of them! They usually don't do donation pick-ups on Saturdays, but they always come when I call because our members produce! Outside of official collection events, if you ever have something to donate and don't know where to take it, drop me a line. I'm connected with multiple inner-city missions and agencies.

Save the Date! So you missed Spring

Preview Day and now you're waitlisted for your dream vacation. Don't let that happen again! **Vacation Preview Day**, a much larger presentation accompanied by the release of our 2025 Dream Book, is scheduled for **Friday, October 25**. The location is in Midtown Sacramento at The Sophia, the home of the B Street Theater, located at the corner of Capitol Avenue and 27th Street. **DON'T CALL NOW**. We'll send out the formal invitation with details and solicit your RSVP in a future edition of *The Traveler*.

Gratuities are handled by different tour companies in countless ways. Let me take a moment to remind you of **Sports Leisure's** policies. We handle MOST gratuities on your behalf to include your airport transportation driver, the coach driver on out-of-town charters, local guides/docents/guest speakers, luggage handlers and waitstaff at included food/drink functions. Sometimes more as the situation arises. If you're ever in doubt, just ask your Tour Director.

Here are the gratuities we do not include in the cost of a tour: Hotel housekeepers, your Tour Director and the motorcoach driver on trips served by our local transportation provider LUX Bus America. The latter came about following much staff debate as well as traveler input. We ultimately decided to leave LUX driver gratuities to your discretion because of the personal relationships that develop between our other regular drivers and frequent travelers. AAA recommends a housekeeping gratuity of \$2-3 pp/day. Our trade association, NTA, suggests Tour Director gratuities average \$7-9 per pp/day. The American Bus Association recommends driver gratuities of \$4-5 pp/day. Gratuities are never expected and always appreciated – a sure sign of a job well done.

Teasers are the way we roll out new tour ideas and destinations, especially international. This gives us the opportunity to measure your interest before we invest a lot of time (aka MONEY) in developing an itinerary. Here are updates on some of the Teasers included in the 2024 Dream Book, along with a few new ideas:

Quebec – The trip is scheduled for

October 7-14, 2025. Check out the 2025 Dream Book for more information.

Costa Rica – Scott Angeletti is taking the lead on this one and feels it is most likely for a departure early in 2026. Stay tuned for more details . . .

Switzerland – The trip is scheduled for July 7-16, 2025. Check out the 2025 Dream Book for more information and your chance to make reservations. There WILL be a pre-sale opportunity for those who placed their names on the Priority Notification List.

Tuscany – The trip is scheduled for September 30 – October 8 with an optional Rome extension through the 11th. Check out the 2025 Dream Book for more information.

Canadian Rockies – Two ideas were presented at Spring Preview Day and we asked for your help in selecting the itinerary we'd operate. The "winner" is discussed in this newsletter.

What else is on the radar screen? How about Africa, Estonia/Lithuania and New Zealand! Michael Downer is eager to put together a trip to Africa, also discussed further within these pages. Even as you read this I'm in the Baltic States on a personal vacation. If it looks good to me you know it will appear on our list of offerings in the next year or so! Finally, following our successful trip to Australia earlier this year, an all-New Zealand tour is now in development.

Well, that just about does it for this edition. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you on the road soon!

Clayton Whitehead, CTP

President

clayton@sportsleisure.com

Proud members of the



The Customers Always Write

Mark,

I want you to know how grateful I am be led on tour by your exceptional your guides. I'm sitting in the boarding area at LAS for my return from the Bryce Canyon/Zion Natl Park tour. Scott did an exceptional job, and Steve our driver did as well. None of this probably surprises you as we all have become accustomed to superior service from SLV.

However, when we got off the bus at the Las Vegas airport I left my iPhone in the seat pocket. It was not missed until I started towards security at which time I sought the advice/assistance of Scott who was still getting other travelers through check in. He immediately called Steve who was already home.

Had to leave a message describing my dilemma. By the time Steve listened to the message he was already about 20 minutes away. He RETURNED to the airport where Scott was waiting and delivered my phone. That, my friend is exceptional service and I wanted you to know.

*One Happy Camper/Traveler
Buck*

Dear Mark and Staff,

We want to thank you for the refund we received this morning. It is another example of the professionalism of your company which, we hope all of your clients appreciate. We also appreciate the time and effort you and Clayton took to resolve the problem and even with the problems, we did enjoy the Arkansas scenery and the museums we visited, especially the Federal Marshall's Museum.

With thanks, Sherry and Howard Hatch

Good Evening (or morning) Clayton,

I received the meal service refund check. Thank you, but in my opinion it was not necessary.

Please know that with all the issues that arose during the Arkansas trip, I considered it a wonderful success.

Many of my Eclipse chasing friends, including ones that were with a group that had very seasoned meteorologists advising

them, did not have the fantastic experience that those on your group witnessed.

When I share my trip experiences with friends and family the various meal services do not enter into the discussion. What I tell them is #1 the eclipse experience was wonderful. You chose the perfect location. The music was great, not too loud, not too country. The goat pen was a nice attraction as was the pond and all the games in the field. #2 the Crystal Bridges Museum was beautiful in every aspect. It even softened my opinion of the Waltons. And #3 it was Arkansas! So expectations were not otherwise terribly high.

There is not one thing that I can fault you or your team for on the trip. You and Sports Leisure Vacations provided a great experience and I thank you for allowing me to have clear skies during my 16th Total Solar Eclipse (15th with clear skies). My guess is that most, if not all, of the first time eclipse viewers reflect more on that wonderful day than anything else on the trip.

*Best Regards,
Jan Barcus*

Good morning.

I traveled with Sports Leisure Travel from June 17 through June 23, 2024. I was transported by Russ (I believe his name was), driving Limo #1, from the Costco near Sacramento Intl. Airport to my home in Rancho Murieta, a considerable distance.

Russ was prompt, interesting, courteous and an excellent driver. He very kindly watched until I closed my door at home. About 5 minutes after he left, I realized I'd left my purse in the limo. I had no way of contacting him and was frantic.

Approximately 45 minutes after he dropped me off, that blessed man returned to give me my purse! He saved me hours of time and aggravation, not to mention the complications and heartache of replacing a phone.

Thank you, so much, for hiring such an amazing man. And thanks to Mark and Clayton and the SLV team for providing such stellar transportation!

*With appreciation and respect,
Deborah (Deb) Viney*

Hello Mark and Clayton and all.

I cannot believe it has been over 4 years since my last trips with **SLV**. It seems far longer. Once freed of Covid, my own situation makes travel a thing of the past.

But as I watch programs those involving travel like the Antiques Road Trip and American Pickers, sights of country roads, charming towns, antique shops and yes excursions, they bring to mind similar experiences with **SLV**. Such joy to remember, be it Clayton's Carolina coasts, Tennessee, Texas, Oregon and CA Coasts, Presidential libraries, carousels, so many delightful excursion experiences.

So, I wanted to say travel with **SLV** is a gift that keeps on giving pleasure and joy.

And I thank you for this!!!

Phoebe Baker

Hello Phoebe:

Bless your heart and thank you for your kind words. You'll always be a part of the **Sports Leisure** family – and even more so when you watch great programs like "Antiques Roadshow" on PBS which we've long supported. Thanks for mentioning so many of the trips we've done together. Do take care, my friend, and let us know if we can ever do anything to assist you. Until then...

Clayton

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@sportsleisure.com

The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

Dear Sports Leisure Dog Lovers:

I have some very exciting news to share with you: The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is returning to New York City in February 2025!!! There will be daytime events at the Jacob Javits Center and the evening Group events will be returning to Madison Square Gardens. The announced dates are February 8 through 11th, 2025.

I really need your help! Now that WKC Dog Show has been officially announced for 2025 I want to seek Mark's agreement to let me plan a SLV trip for the Dog Show and I really need to know WHO WANTS TO GO?. I need to show Mark there are many of us who want to travel to NYC to attend the Dog

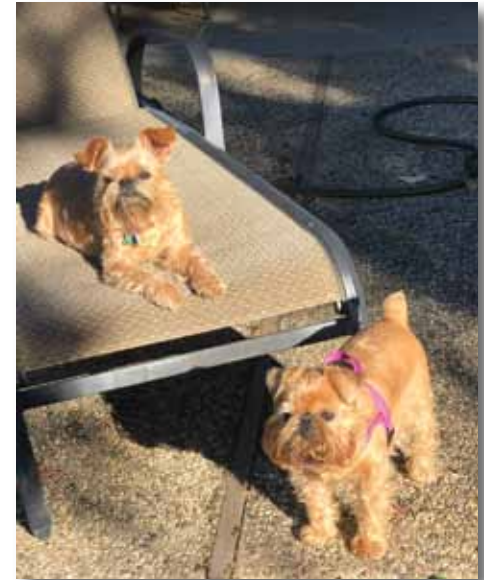
show to see the Agility finals, the Groups competition and of course the Best In Show events.

This is what you need to consider: The Dog Show is in February in New York City where the average temperature can be as high as 45 degrees and evenings as low as 30's and chance for rain or snow.

Sightseeing opportunities & Broadway Theater will be woven around the Dog Show schedules.

Estimated prices based on a 5 night/6day trip: DBL: \$5000 per person; SGL: \$5800.

Please send me your response to res@sportsleisure.com or may@sportsleisure.com by August 1st.



Why Are American Travelers Hiding Their Identity?

Keeping a low profile this summer could keep you safe. Here's what some travelers are doing.

By Christopher Elliott

Being Culturally Sensitive Isn't Always Easy

There have always been travelers who have downplayed their nationality. That trend has accelerated this summer with a divisive U.S. election looming and some unpopular foreign policy decisions made by the U.S. government. But there's something else driving it, and that is the American visitors themselves. Increasingly, it feels as if they forgot to pack their manners.

For example, while assertiveness may be an important quality for Americans, it may be frowned upon in Asia. That doesn't necessarily mean Americans are rude. They're acting as they normally would instead of adapting to the culture of the country they're visiting.

I travel 365 days a year, almost exclusively outside the United States. I've seen other Americans act abrasively so often lately that it surprises me when they behave respectfully. There's a whole suite of Americanisms that rubs people the wrong way, from the volume (loud) to the way we dress (logoed T-shirts and sneakers). I love

being American, but sometimes I don't love being around Americans when I travel. And I'm not alone.

Mind Your Manners

Often, it's just a matter of brushing up on your etiquette. "I see Americans who are loud, rude, and entitled when I'm abroad," says Sergio Diaz, a talent agent who frequently travels internationally. "Many Americans think they are the center of the world and then act that way," he says. Diaz believes this behavior has gotten worse during an election year. He says he recoils when he sees MAGA caps and T-shirts because of the behavior it often brings with it.

American tourists do one more thing that immediately identifies them as U.S. tourists. They tip, even when it's not the local custom. And it's often done very publicly, with bills being parceled out to a bellman or server for the whole world to see.

FRIENDS WE'VE LOST...

We take a moment to remember members of our travel family who have passed recently. If you know of a name that should be on this list, please send us a note.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Gordon Adelman | Fred Dowdle |
| Ted Amick | Delores Johnson |
| Dee Bellows | Dan Wright |

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Daycations & Theatre Outings

Donny Osmond

Gallo Center, Modesto

Friday, August 16 – 7:30 pm

Last year Donny Osmond presented one of the fastest-selling, most popular shows of the Gallo Center's 23/24 season. Now we are delighted to announce the return engagement of this worldwide music legend! Donny has sold more than 100 million records, received 33 gold records and has performed for millions of fans around the globe during his illustrious six-decade-long musical career. Thankfully he shows no sign of stopping! Dinner is included prior to the show at Skewers. **\$253**

Floating Homes in Sausalito

Tuesday, August 27

A fun day begins in picturesque Sausalito with a private tour of four of the iconic and colorful houseboats docked there. With no two the same, each has its own unique plan and interior designed to suit the individual homeowners. Resident guides personalize and answer questions of what it is like to live on a home floating in the water. Following the tour, enjoy an included two-course lunch at the Spinnaker Restaurant. Popular with locals and visitors alike, its location provides breathtaking views of San Francisco. The afternoon is completed with some time to sightsee, shop or sit and savor a lovely day on the Bay. **\$214**

Wicked

Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, September 4 – 1:00 pm

Wicked is the untold true story of the Witches of Oz. Glinda and Elphaba were a part of the Land of Oz long before Dorothy dropped into the narrative. Where Glinda

***Wednesday and Thursday trips to Broadway in San Francisco performances include a box lunch served onboard the coach on the way, Orchestra seating and a no-host dinner stop either at Pier 39 or North Beach after the show.**

was bubbly, beautiful and exceptionally popular, Elphaba was smart, fiery and – oh yeah – born with emerald-green skin. Though so very different, these two women went from rivals to friends... until one was labelled “good” and the other “wicked.” This is their story. **\$213***

Celtic Thunder: Odyssey

Gallo Center, Modesto

Friday, September 20 – 7:30 pm

Odyssey, the new show from internationally acclaimed group Celtic Thunder, is a fascinating exploration of Irish music and culture, firmly grounded in the ensemble's impressive history. The rhythmic pulse of contemporary Irish music, and the innovative original arrangements that are emblematic of Celtic Thunder's unique sound. See this beloved musical group from PBS KVIE in their only performance in our region this season. We will enjoy dinner at Skewers prior to the show. **\$201**

Napa River Cruise

Tuesday, September 24

A cruise along the Napa River is like a voyage into the past. This trip begins at the historic Vallejo and Mare Island waterfronts and continues into a different world, one of vineyards, backwater homes and some of the largest contiguous marshes in the Bay Area. It was once the third busiest river (vying with the Petaluma River) in California, after the Sacramento and the San Joaquin. Come and learn why these salt marshes are among the very most productive plant communities on earth. You will also learn about sloughs, estuaries, riparian, mud flat, marshes and inter-tidal habitats as you take in the bird life and history of the Napa River. A boxed lunch will be served onboard. **\$204**

Epicurious (no longer a mystery)

Thursday, October 3

Those who were able to take this trip as a mystery will tell you they had a wonderful day. So much so that we decided to bring it back as a known destination for those

who may have missed it. First we head to Woodland and some of the great places it has to offer. We start our day with a visit to the Learning Garden followed by a wonderful brunch at the Savory Café, where owner Juan Barajas (known as Yolo's “food whisperer”) brings true meaning to “farm to fork” in his restaurant. Next you'll visit The HIVE Tasting Room where you will have a class on honey and tour the facility. The day finishes with a tasting at Matchbook Winery. Yum! **\$208**

Swan Lake

Curran Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, October 6 – 1:00 pm

The World Ballet Company brings one of humankind's most beloved stories to life in this limited San Francisco engagement. *Swan Lake* is a classic ballet that tells the story of Prince Siegfried's unflinching love for Princess Odette who has been transformed into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse. Featuring the timeless score by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, the Sunday matinee trip includes a boxed lunch served on the coach as you travel to San Francisco, and a no-host dinner stop at Pier 39 following the performance. **\$195**

LeAnn Rimes

Gallo Center, Modesto

Sunday, October 6 – 5:00 pm

LeAnn Rimes is a multi-platinum selling acclaimed singer and ASCAP award-winning songwriter has sold more than 48 million units globally. She's the recipient of 2 Grammy Awards, 12 Billboard Music Awards, 2 World Music Awards and 3 Academy of Country Music Awards. At just 14 years of age Rimes won “Best New Artist” making her the youngest solo artist to take home a Grammy Award, and at 15 she became the first country artist to win “Artist of the Year” at the Billboard Music Awards. We will have a late lunch/early dinner prior to the show. **\$219**



Fall in the Sierra

One of our favorite annual road trips!

Thursday, October 10

Travel along the American River and over the Sierra Nevada in hopes of sneaking a peek at some fall color on this day. Our "road trip" takes us up Highway 50 and then across Emigrant Trail to Highway 88 through Hope Valley. A traditional family-style Basque lunch featuring beef, salmon and chicken is included at Carson Valley Country Club before continuing onward. Leaving Carson Valley, we will make a quick stop at one of our favorite gift shoppes, "Especially for You." We will then travel up Highway 50 along the shoreline of Lake Tahoe, making the loop complete with a few final turns as we return to the **Sports Leisure** Office. (Be sure to bring your camera as we'll make a photo stop or two when possible!) **\$141**

Apple Hill and Old Placerville

Thursday, November 14

Enjoy a leisurely ride to Apple Hill and a BBQ lunch included at Abel's Acres. There will be plenty of time to browse the many arts and crafts stalls, shop for tasty treats (have you ever tried the Caramelos at High Hill Ranch?) or order a pie to bring home for the holidays or just because. We will visit three apple farms, and on our way home, make a stop in Old Town Placerville to do a little shopping as well. **\$129**

Kenny G Christmas

Gallo Center, Modesto

Wednesday, December 4 – 7:30 pm

Kenny G has a way with melody. This is a musician who has sold more than 75 million albums worldwide, owns the best-selling instrumental record of all time with 1992's 12-times-platinum *Breathless*, has the number one Christmas record of all time with 1994's 8-times platinum *Miracles*. At the heart of those achievements is Kenny's ability to convey deep emotional resonance with his saxophone, which is never more apparent than in his sparkling holiday show! **\$219**

Holiday Sweets and Goodies

Friday, December 6

Travel to Stanislaus County visiting family businesses whose products make delightful holiday gifts. Start with the Sciabica Olive Oil Company for a talk and tasting of California Olive Oil. Following a hot buffet lunch at the Hilmar Cheese Company, you will have time to shop for locally grown and produced jams, jellies, nuts and candies. In the afternoon, enter acres of blooming flowers at the greenhouse of one of California's largest poinsettia growers and see both traditional and new varieties of these holiday favorites. Everyone will be presented one poinsettia and have the chance to purchase more. **\$154**

Hamilton

Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco

Wednesday, December 11 – 1:00 pm, OR

Thursday, January 2 – 1:00 pm

This incredibly popular musical is returning to San Francisco for a limited time after an amazing run in 2019 to March 2020 when the pandemic RUDELY interrupted everything in our lives! Based on the life of Alexander Hamilton, the explosive, critically acclaimed musical marries hip-hop and Broadway in previously unimaginable ways and lifts Hamilton higher in the pantheon of the Founding Fathers, while humanizing him in touching and inspiring ways. The motifs of revolution and fighting for one's rights, the power of people coming together in pursuit of a common cause, a celebration of freedom and democracy, and its messages of hope and perseverance resonate deeply with audiences. **\$233 (Wed.)/\$244 (Thur.)***

White Christmas

Woodland Opera House

Saturday, December 14 – 2:00 pm

A heartwarming journey filled with laughter, love and the timeless music of Irving Berlin. Follow the story of two war buddies who team up with a sister act to save a snowless Vermont inn. With friendship, romance and a sprinkle of holiday magic, *White Christmas* captures the true essence of the season. Lunch is included prior to the show at Kitchen428. **\$167**

San Francisco Christmas Lights

Sunday, December 15

Celebrate the season with a tour of San Francisco decorated and dressed in bright lights for the holidays. With Craig Smith as our local guide, visits and stops include Union Square, Civic Center, Nob Hill and the Embarcadero areas to enjoy the festive sparkling displays and sights that glow after sunset. We will begin our tour with dinner at Swiss Louis on Pier 39. **\$166**

The end of a page of baseball history, the final game in Oakland...

Texas Rangers vs. Oakland A's

Thursday, September 26 – \ \$139

Seats in lower level 111, in the shade

Many of us remember the glory years for the A's, back in the 70's, when Reggie Jackson, Joe Rudi, Sal Bando and Rollie Fingers led them to multiple championships. Now it's time for the last round-up in Oakland. The A's will stop over in Sacramento for a while, as their new stadium is built in Las Vegas. The Coliseum will only be inhabited by the ghost of baseball past.

The Texas Rangers, managed by Giants legend Bruce Boche, will be the opponents. Undoubtedly, it will be a day of memories. If you are a baseball fan from days gone by, this is one you shouldn't miss. There are about a dozen seats left at the writing.

Giants Trips Sold Out

Our remaining trips to see the Giants at Oracle Park are sold out. If you have an interest in seeing a Giants game, call our office and ask to be placed on the wait list for the Braves (8/15), White Sox (8/21) and/or Diamondbacks (9/5).



Tyler gets his glove autographed by the late, great Orlando Cepeda

The Tour Calendar *(Previously Announced)*

The Oregon Coast to the California Redwoods

Fly to Portland, travel the coast through the redwoods back home

7 Days • September 2-8

2

★ Highlights ★

- Depart from Sacramento by air to Portland, take the motorcoach back to Sacramento – door-to-door service to/ from your home
- A very berry experience – learn how the Marionberry was created, enjoy a special treat and shop for berry products
- See the *Spruce Goose*, Howard Hughes experimental aircraft
- Dine on the historic waterfront in Newport
- Cocktail cruise on Newport Harbor
- Behind-the-scenes tour at the Oregon Aquarium
- Ride the sand dunes in a giant (or smaller more adventurous) dune buggy
- The gardens at Shore Acres State Park
- Lunch, Cranberry Sweets, Misty Meadows Jam and Washed Ashore in Bandon
- Ride the Rogue River Jetboat
- Redwood National Park
- Guided drive through “The Avenue of the Giants” in Humboldt Redwoods Park

- 14 meals, 3000/3600 Gold Passport Points

\$2985 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3565 single

Mammoth & Mono Lakes,

Plus Bodie Ghost Town

4 Days • September 4-7

3

★ Highlights ★

- Visit the high Sierra ghost town of Bodie
- Stay 3 nights in Mammoth Lakes at the Outbound Mammoth Hotel
- 9 meals included (3FB,4L,2D)
- Sightseeing to include Mono Lake, Devil’s Postpile Nat’l Monument, the June Lakes Scenic Loop Drive, Rainbow Falls
- All coach tour
- 1800/2100 Gold Passport Points

NOTE: High Altitude Warning: Hotel accommodations in Mammoth Lakes are at 7,900’.

Enjoy a coach ride through the high Sierra while the weather is still warm, destination Mammoth Lakes. Mammoth is one of the country’s premier ski resorts, starting in November. Before the snow arrives, there is a small window for non-skiers to enjoy an often-spectacular landscape at a time when the number of mountain visitors is traditionally lower. Mountain scenery with a

bit of history sprinkled in.

1. From the **Sports Leisure** office (our departure point) to Mammoth is roughly a 5-hour journey. On the way to Mammoth, we’ll detour into the ghost town of Bodie. Bodie State Historic Park is a genuine California gold-mining ghost town. Visitors can walk down the deserted streets of a town that once had a population of nearly 10,000 people. The town is named for Waterman S. Body (William Bodey), who had discovered small amounts of gold in hills north of Mono Lake. People flocked to Bodie and transformed it from a town of a few dozen to a boomtown. Only a small part of the town survives. Interiors remain as they were left and stocked with goods. Designated as a National Historic Site and a State Historic Park in 1962, the remains of Bodie are being preserved in a state of “arrested decay”. Today this once thriving mining camp is visited by tourists, howling winds and an occasional ghost. Arrive in Mammoth at your lodge in early evening. A long but productive day of travel. **Outbound Mammoth Hotel – 3 nights (L,D)**

2-3. Two sightseeing trips highlight your days in Mammoth. The first includes a visit to Mono Lake. Mono Lake is an ancient saline lake located at the eastern edge of



Walking among the big trees on the Redwood Sky Walk at the Sequoia Park Zoo in Eureka...



...Or riding over the dunes in a big buggy near Florence



the Sierra Nevada in California. Home to trillions of brine shrimp, millions of birds, and world-famous tufa towers, its tributary streams also supply water to Los Angeles, nearly 350 miles to the south. It's one of the most unusual lakes in the world. Your visit includes a guided walk, a stop at the visitors center and lunch in nearby Lee Vining. On the return trip to Mammoth, detour onto the June Lakes Loop. Also a ski area in winter, it's a great place for an afternoon break.

The following day begins with a visit to Devil's Postpile National Monument. The landscape is a reflection of fire and ice. The eruption and uniform cooling of basalt lava created an impressive wall of columns. Later, a glacial event exposed the columns and polished the top of the formation revealing the pattern of hexagons that resulted from the lava cooling. Evidence of volcanic activity lives on today at the monument's soda spring.

Next is a journey to Convict Lake. As you might guess, there's a story here. Nearby Crowley Lake also provides some photo opportunities. Back in town, there's a short visit to the ski resort area, then some free time to relax or browse the modest shops in town. **(2FB,2L,1D)**

4. The return trip home is direct, with just rest and lunch stops en route, arriving in late afternoon to your door-to-door service. **(FB,L)**

\$1795 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2080 single

Fall Foliage in the Wasatch Mountains

3

Featuring four nights in Park City, Utah

5 Days • September 29 – October 3

★ **Highlights** ★

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

1. Fly nonstop to Salt Lake City. Ride the gondola through the fall foliage at Snowbasin Resort, home to the 2002 Winter Olympics downhill skiing events. Lunch is hosted in Earl's Lodge framed entirely by

spruce logs, pure mountain luxury at the base of the mountain. This afternoon travel on a scenic mountain road to Park City for more spectacular fall colors! **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Park City – 4 nights (L)**

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

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

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

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

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

Thanksgiving in New York

It's the most wonderful time of the year for visiting The Big Apple!

6 Days • November 24-29

4

★ **Highlights** ★

- 5 nights at the Marriott Marquis Hotel on Times Square
- Tickets to two Broadway shows
- Radio City Music Hall Rockettes Christmas Spectacular
- Theatre talk with nationally-syndicated critic Peter Filichia
- Visit Liberty and Ellis Islands
- Experience the Museum of Broadway
- Tour the 9/11 Memorial Museum and take in the view at One World Observatory
- See the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
- 6 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
- 5400/6100 Gold Passport Points

1. As Thanksgiving ushers in the Christmas season, you'll be in the middle of it all as you check-in to New York's best address **located directly on Times Square. Marriott Marquis – 5 nights (D)**

2. Begin your exploration of The Big Apple at the Museum of Broadway, a spectacular repository of all things theatre from the age of Vaudeville to the Ziegfeld Follies to the present. Then head to Rockefeller Center for lunch with syndicated theatre critic Peter Filichia to learn what's hot and what's not on the Great White Way. While there check out the sites including the iconic Channel Gardens, Saks Fifth Avenue (and their stunning holiday window displays) and of course St. Patrick's Cathedral. An afternoon drive Uptown will encircle Central Park and include stops at Strawberry Fields and Lincoln Center. The evening is yours to explore. Monday is a great night to expand your theatrical horizons with an Off-Broadway show. **(L)**

3. Travel like a real New Yorker – by subway – Downtown for sightseeing focusing on the past and present of the World Trade Center. There you'll visit the 9/11 Memorial Museum and take in the breathtaking views from One



Weather permitting, see Lady Liberty on your Thanksgiving Dinner Cruise

World Observatory located high atop the 1776-foot-tall building dubbed “Freedom Tower.” Tonight is your first evening on Broadway, and you have tickets for the highly-anticipated revival of *Cabaret* with Eddie Redmayne as the emcee. He won the 2022 Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his London performances, and was nominated for the same award in this year’s Tonys. The setting is pre-WWII Berlin’s famed Kit Kat Klub where “life is beautiful. The girls are beautiful. Even the orchestra is beautiful.” (L)

4. Take a morning adventure to Liberty and Ellis Islands by subway and ferry. The afternoon is yours for personal exploration. How about a visit to the one of the city’s world-class museums or shopping on famed Fifth Avenue? The family-style Italian dinner at Carmine’s is a New York tradition, followed by a second night of Broadway theatre. *Water for Elephants* was nominated for 7 Tony Awards including Best New Musical. This novel-turned-movie-turned-musical is a historical story of love and intrigue, cruelty and vengeance, all set among the backdrop of a circus for three rings of excitement. (D)

***Is Cabaret or Water for Elephants not your thing? You can opt out of either show before August 2. Speak to Clayton for details.**

5. It’s the exciting Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade! Join the anxious throngs on the streets or watch on television in the comfort (and warmth!) of your room. The parade route is along 6th Avenue only one block from the hotel. In the afternoon, journey to Radio City Music Hall for the **Rockettes Christmas Spectacular**. A Thanksgiving dinner cruise follows aboard the elegant glass-roofed *Bateaux New York* featuring excellent food, live music and great sightseeing as the stars come out over the stunning skyline. (D)

6. Sleep late (or maybe hit the Black Friday sales?) as we have a direct evening flight back to the West Coast from Newark. Lunch is served at the exciting new Hudson Yards entertainment district which is adjacent to the High Line. If the weather’s good why not take a stroll before the long flight home? (L)

\$5375 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6095 single

An Appalachian Mountain Christmas

Featuring Biltmore House, Dollywood and Music City USA

7 Days • December 3-9

3

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights in Asheville on the grounds of Biltmore Estate
- Evening tour of Biltmore House by candlelight
- 1 night at Dollywood and a day in the park
- 3 nights in downtown Nashville, blocks off Broadway

- *We Need a Lot of Christmas* dinner show at Fiddle Dee Farms
- *Opry Country Christmas* at the Grand Ole Opry House
- Tour the Country Music Hall of Fame, Studio B, Belle Meade and more
- 11 meals: 6 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Round trip airfare to Asheville/from Nashville
- Home pick-up and return
- 5000/6650 Gold Passport Points

\$4995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6610 single

An Update on the Canadian Rockies and we ask who might be interested in a trip to Africa?

A Canadian Rockies Adventure

3

7 Days • July 28– August 03, 2025

At our recent Preview Day and in a newsletter earlier this year, we asked those interested which of three different **Canadian Rockies** itineraries you preferred. The one below was the winner, with over 60% of the vote. Travel has gotten more expensive in recent years, and the Canadian Rockies are no exception. There is a tremendous shortage of hotel rooms and so prices have gone up. After two years, we have found a partner we are comfortable with.

You cannot register for this tour now and we are not taking a Priority List.

The tour will be first announced in our annual catalog at the end of October and registration will open then.

★ Highlights ★

- Banff, Jasper and Yoho National Parks
- 3 nights Banff – Mount Royal Hotel
- 2 nights Jasper – Forest Park Resort
- Overnight Calgary – Delta Hotel or similar
- UNESCO World Heritage Site of Banff National Park
- Sulphur Mountain Gondola
- Lake Louise and Bow Valley Parkway
- Yoho National Park and Emerald Lake
- Peyto Lake and the Athabasca Falls
- Ice Explorer Ride on the Athabasca Glacier
- Canyon walk & Maligne Lake Cruise
- Fly round trip to/from Calgary, Alberta
- 10 meals: 6 breakfast, 4 dinners

Who wants to go to Africa?

Travel Agency Manager **Michael Downer** is working on plans for our next big African vacation and wants your help. A safari experience will be prominent on either itinerary. His question is what other types of experiences (if any) do you want?

Mostly Safari: Fly in and out of Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. Visit the Maasai Mara and the Samburu National Reserve where you’ll take daily game drives in search of the “Big Five”, leopard, elephant, rhino and African buffalo. With luck we might even catch the great wildebeest migration! This trip is all about nature; all about the animals!

Safari and More: Visit Cape Town, South Africa where the history of apartheid was written. It’s also the epicenter of the African wine industry where vineyards flourish and the vintages are legendary. History lives in Johannesburg, SA’s largest city, where you’ll follow in the footsteps of Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. On to Kruger Private Game Reserve measuring almost two million acres for a remote, yet upscale experience in the wild as you go in search of the Big Five.

Travel to Africa is not inexpensive, so figure \$7-10,000 as a reference point. If you are interested in one of the above, or just an **African Adventure** in general, please e-mail res@sportsleisure.com (or you can certainly call the office) and cast your vote, then watch future editions of *The Traveler* for updates. Thanks!



New Vacations & Getaways

New Tours with Space Available

Tours announced with space available, or tours announced since Preview Day

Civil Rights in the South

Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma,

Tuskegee, Atlanta

6 Days • October 12-17

3

1. Stay at the historic **Tutwiler Hotel** downtown. There will be a visit to the **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute** on arrival. The Civil Rights Institute is a large interpretive museum and research center that depicts the events and actions of the 1963 Birmingham campaign, its Children's Crusade, and the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. A early-evening welcome dinner will be included tonight.

Tutwiler Hampton Hotel – 2 nights (D)

2. Attend the services at the 16th Street Baptist Church from 10:45am-12:00pm. Lunch and a City Civil Rights Landmarks Tour in the afternoon, including the Gaston Hotel and Kelly Ingram Park. Many of the sites are part of the Civil Rights National Monument, designated by President Barrack Obama, in the historic downtown. **(ECB,L,D)**

3. Travel to Selma this morning to meet Ms. JoAnne Bland. She has a story to tell. Starting with walking over a bridge on an infamous day in 1965, she has fought a long battle for voting and civil rights. Meet her and hear her tale and the history of Selma, told in a non-nonsense fashion.

You will have the opportunity to walk over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The National Voting Rights Museum and Institute is part of your visit and Ms. Bland will show



JoAnne Bland will share her amazing personal story

you around town, pointing out her latest project, Foot Soldiers Park. Drive an hour to Montgomery at day's end. **Embassy Suites Hotel – 2 nights (ECB,D)**

4. A highlight of your morning in Montgomery is a visit to the Rosa Parks Museum. In the main wing, witness Rosa Parks' arrest and see a historic 1955 Montgomery city bus. The Cleveland Avenue Time Machine takes visitors back in time to the 1800s and the onset of Jim Crow segregation. Guests will "meet" Dred Scott, Homer Plessy, and Harriett Tubman, heroes who fought against the oppressive system.

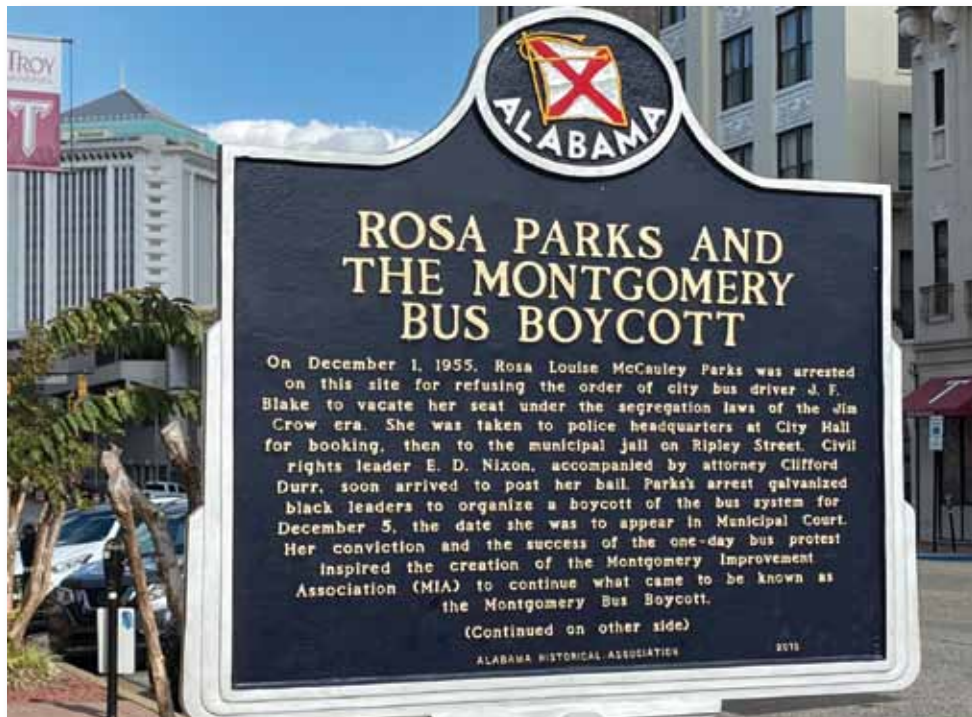
This afternoon make the 40-minute drive to Tuskegee. Moton Field is your destination, where the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site is located. It's a fascinating story of a group of brave men and women who thought that just maybe, if they enlisted and served their country at the highest level, they would return home to something better than they left. Their history is well worth revisiting. **(FB,L)**

5. This morning is dedicated to the Legacy Sites in Montgomery. **The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration** is a facility that displays the history of slavery and racism in America. Your ticket also includes entry to the National Memorial and Freedom Monument. **(FB,L)**

Travel into Georgia, to Atlanta. A late afternoon visit to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library is offered (optional). Dinner at Mary Macs this evening, an iconic 1945-era Atlanta eatery. Accommodations at the **Country Inn & Suites**, just outside downtown. **(FB,L,D)**

6. Atlanta City Tour this morning, featuring the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site (tour), 1996 Olympic Park, plus the Sweet Auburn and West End Historic Districts. Other sites as time allows. Lunch at the Municipal Market before heading to the airport. Your non-stop Delta flight departs at 5pm, arriving in Sacramento about 7:30pm local time. **(ECB)**

The package includes pick-up at your home, roundtrip airfare (Sacramento/Dallas/Birmingham outbound, Atlanta/Sacramento



The Rosa Parks Museum is one of your highlighted stops in Montgomery



return), fees for one checked bag on the return, 12 meals (5 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners), hotel accommodations and the services of a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director.

\$3165 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3650 single.

Christmas Lights and Music in the Ozark Mountains

2

Everything you need to get into the holiday spirit is here on this unpack-once vacation

5 Days • December 3-7

1. Fly to Springfield, Missouri, the gateway to the Ozarks. Enjoy four nights located in the heart of historic downtown adjacent to the shopping and dining area called Branson Landing. Don't miss the \$7.5 million water and fire feature with fountains that shoot 120-foot geysers all choreographed to lights and music! **Hilton Convention Center Hotel – 4 nights (D)**

2. Tour the College of the Ozarks, known locally as "Hard Work U," where no student pays tuition. Rather, they work on the school farm and elsewhere on campus to earn their education. Following your tour, have a wonderful lunch in their beautiful Keeter Center dining room where the students will be your servers. This evening The **Hughes Brothers** transport you to a Christmas wonderland filled with vocal harmonies, dance, inspiring instrumentals and light-hearted humor. This is the most moving Christmas show you have ever witnessed. **(B,L)**

3. **The Clay Cooper Ozark Mountain Christmas Celebration** is fun and festive, featuring an incredible cast of dancers, singers and musicians. Next you'll celebrate at **Silver Dollar City's "An Old Time Christmas"** which boasts over 6.5 million lights and an 8-story-tall Christmas tree. Watch Broadway-style holiday productions like *Coming Home for Christmas* accompanied by live music. Enjoy traditional homestyle meals and treats. With 60 unique shops, you will find gifts for everyone on your Christmas list. See why The Travel Channel calls Silver Dollar City "The Most Illuminated Park On Earth!" **(B)**

4. The morning is at your leisure to explore Branson Landing across the street

from your hotel. Lunch will be hosted at the beautiful Chateau on the Lake which will be spectacularly decorated including an incredible gingerbread village. The **Site and Sound Theatre** has a million watts of lights, sixty-thousand watts of sound and a massive stage over twenty thousand square feet in size. See a performance of **The Miracle of Christmas** where you'll travel back to Bethlehem as the original Christmas story unfolds. Journey alongside Mary and Joseph, a flock of surprised shepherds, and the three wise men along with their camels! Finish up the night with the two-mile LED drive-thru display known as **Let There Be Lights!** **(B,L)**

5. Depart Branson for Springfield and your flight home to Sacramento. 3900/3350 Gold Passport Points **(B)**

\$2895 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3330 single

Christmas with The Presidents

2

Including the Nixon and Reagan Libraries, special Christmas events

3 Days • December 10-12

Presidential Libraries/Museum are always popular. This trip includes visits to **TWO** presidential sites, along with special holiday events and Christmas lights. Stay two nights at the **Embassy Suites Hotel** in Arcadia.

1. Arrive in Ontario about 11am this morning (9:45am departure from SMF). First stop is the **Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum**. Learn first-hand fascinating stories between Queen Elizabeth II and President Nixon as we experience a VIP State Visit Welcome, followed by lunch and guided tour of

the festively decorated museum. There's time to visit the famous gardens and access to the special exhibit: **The Ancient World: Unlocking the Middle East**. It examines 20th century history and the Cold War through the prisms of ancient Israel, Persia and Egypt.

Arrive at the Embassy Suites Arcadia in time for the managers reception and complimentary cocktails. Dine at your leisure. **(L)**

2. Today is filled with holiday magic in Los Angeles. This morning you have a visit to the Los Angeles Arboretum. Lunch is on your own before we depart early afternoon for an afternoon and evening of holiday fun and festivities. We will see the magic of Christmas at the awe-inspiring Cathedral of Our Ladies of Angels, Forest Lawn Museum followed by a historic Christmas dinner at The Tam O'Shanter. Accompanied by Dickens carolers and classic holiday fare, you'll be surrounded by cozy charm in this beloved establishment. Our next holiday stop is the LA Zoo Lights, a magical adventure through illuminated landscapes and whimsical displays. (Please note zoo animals are not part of the display.) **(FB,D)**

3. Our next presidential stop is in Simi Valley where the **Ronald Regan Presidential Library** is located. Experience the annual tradition of holiday décor and special exhibit of Christmas Trees from Around the World. A docent guided tour (or explore on your own) is followed by a special VIP White House lunch. Your return flight from Burbank arrives in Sacramento at 6:20pm. **(FB,L)**

\$1605 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1775 single

\$50 EPD until August 1

Old Coins Needing An Appraisal?

If you have inherited a collection of old coins, or maybe just a box of coins left behind by a relative, and need to know what they are worth, Mark can help. Before he started **Sports Leisure**, he had a coin business. Now, he has started collecting/buying again. He would be happy to let you know what your treasures are worth. Are they just "spendables" (worth only face value, now and later), or something of greater value?

If you have items that are silver or gold, they are worth having appraised. Never clean your coins, always keep any original packaging they came in (such as from the Mint). Call the **Sports Leisure** office for an appointment. If you have more than you can carry, Mark can come to you. Feel free to refer this service to friends.





Ever wonder what the inside of a cacao plant looks like? Yes, that's the start of chocolate, as you'll see on your visit to Lydgate Farms

A Two-Island Hawaiian Adventure: The Big Island of Hawaii & Kauai

9 Days • February 6-14

3

★ Highlights ★

- 4 nights at the **King Kamehameha Hotel in Kailua-Kona** on the Big Island, located in Kona Town, walking distance to shops and restaurants
- 4 nights at the **Kauai Shores Hotel**, next door to the Coconut Plantation Marketplace
- Lots of included sights/dining: **Big Island** - Arrival night Luau (preferred seating), visit a SeaHorse Farm and a Macadamia Nut Factory, Lunch and tour at Hawaiian Vanilla, guided historical tour of Kailua-Kona
- **Kauai** – Na' Aina Kai Botanical Gardens (motorized tour), lunch in Princeville at



Meet seahorses up close and personal on the Big Island

the Westin, Hanalei Bay (home of Puff, The Magic Dragon), Waimea Canyon, Kauai Historical Museum, Lydgate Chocolate Farms Tour/Tasting

- All air included – Sacramento/Honolulu/Kona, Kona/Kauai, Kauai/Sacramento – one way on Southwest, one way on Hawaiian Air (non-stop return from Kauai); plus door-to-door airport transportation
- 14 meals, including daily breakfast and upgraded Luau on arrival night
- 5950/6850 Gold Passport Points (Please note we have not returned to Maui since the fire, as many of the attractions we included in our itineraries have not reopened. Hopefully someday.)

Hawaii's outside islands offer wonderful visitor experiences, and we've created an itinerary full of unique and different activities, while keeping traditions like a luau and the opportunities to meet local farmers and crafts people.

\$5935 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6850 single

San Antonio: Deep in the Heart

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

5 Days • April 21-25

3

★ Highlights ★

- 4 nights in the historic Drury Plaza Hotel located along the Riverwalk
- City tour features The Alamo and Mission San Jose
- "The Price of Freedom" at the IMAX Theater, "The Saga" at San Fernando Cathedral, Tower of the Americas at Hemisfair Park
- A day in the Texas Hill Country featuring the National Museum of the Pacific War and LBJ Boyhood Home
- 8 meals: Daily breakfast, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip air to/from San Antonio
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- 2800/3100 Gold Passport Points

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. Your historic hotel is located beside the famed Riverwalk and features a complimentary Kickback each evening including adult

beverages and heavy hors d'oeuvres. **Drury Plaza Hotel – 4 nights**

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 and visit a new museum displaying a treasure trove of battle-related artifacts. If you've wrestled up an appetite, tonight's dinner is sure to please. You know what they say: Everything's bigger in Texas! **(FB,D)**

3. Experience the city's unique Riverwalk aboard a river taxi cruise on which a Mexican lunch fiesta will be served. Then you're off to the home of San Antonio's beloved shoes, SAS, where you'll visit the old-timey General Store (anyone for a 10-cent Coke and 5-cent bag of popcorn?) and tour the factory. The afternoon is free for personal exploration along the Riverwalk or historic Market Square. Tonight witness the sound and light spectacle known as "The Saga" projected on the façade of San Fernando Cathedral. **(FB,L)**

4. With luck, the blue bonnets will be in bloom as you head into the Texas Hill Country. There you'll visit the humble home where Lyndon B. Johnson grew up. Mid-day you'll arrive at Arch Ray, a cornerstone of the Texas wine industry. Unique among wineries, they also brew and distil onsite, so there will be lots to see and sample before a tasty lunch is served. You'll also have an opportunity to explore the National Museum of the Pacific War, a world-class museum located in tiny Fredericksburg, the hometown of Five Star Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz before returning to San Antonio. **(FB,L)**

5. Time to say *adios*, but not before getting 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" at Hemisfair Park, site of the 1968 World's Fair. **(FB,L)**

\$2,700 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3080 single
\$75 EPD Until August 1



We present limited descriptions here (the complete write-ups can be found on our website www.sportsleisure.com).

We strongly encourage you to call and place your name on the wait list. A recent check confirmed that over 70% of those who put their name on a wait list get called and offered an opportunity to get on the trip before departure.

A Visit to La Jolla, Featuring Fleet Week in San Diego

4 Days • November 7-10

★ Highlights ★

- 3 nights at the Legacy Hotel Resort
- Seaport Village
- San Diego Zoo, includes guided bus tour & Sky-fari Tram
- Guided historical/culinary tour of San Diego
- A Day in La Jolla – Seal Cove, Museum of Contemporary Art, time for browsing the shops
- Narrated Champagne Brunch Cruise on Fleet Day, plus free time to enjoy the sights and sounds
- 7 meals: 3 full breakfasts, one brunch, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- 2250/2500 Gold Passport Points

\$2250 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2480 single

23rd Annual Christmas Mystery Tour

5 Days • December 10-14

Each year, we borrow Santa's sleigh before Christmas and head off on an adventure to a destination filled with Christmas cheer. This year is no exception. Here are a few "clues" to help you figure out **exactly** where you are headed.

First of all, it's pretty clear by the names of these places around here that people like to "celebrate" just a bit. It isn't Woodstock, but there is certainly "love" in the air as soon as you arrive. Entertainment fills much of your itinerary, with 4 different programs featured, at least as long as the carpenters

and woodworkers finish the theater in time. Chocolate and The North Pole and history and building your own snowman in a most unique way, all part of the fun. And then there's the snipe hunt... just kidding. No snipe hunts this trip.

Just don't wait too long, as this tour is an annual sell-out. The package includes 11 meals, airfare, door-to-door service and 4 nights in the same hotel. The holiday season is a great time to make your Mystery Tour debut because you know there will be holiday décor and entertainment. What's not to like?

\$2860 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3115 single

Winter in Yellowstone National Park

Featuring stays at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel in Yellowstone Nat'l Park

6 Days • February 22-27

You're invited to join our select group for a trip to the winter wonderland that is Yellowstone National Park. This vacation is limited to 19 people and includes roundtrip airfare, deluxe transportation, airport transfers, accommodations, all attractions and meals listed in the itinerary, and the services of **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director Scott Angeletti.

\$5075 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5950 single

Mexico's Whales, Wine and Wonders

Be a part of our first-ever road trip along the Pacific coast of Baja California

8 Days • February 22 – March 1

The central Baja California region is a pristine destination of undeveloped splendor. Uninhabited islands, a combination of mountains and deserts, and a lively sea come together in a mixture of incredible natural beauty. The grand beauty of visiting gray whales is complemented by subtle, flavorful notes in the region's award-winning wineries. Come join us on this wonderful small group adventure!

★ Highlights ★

- Experience two close-up encounters with Pacific gray whales
- Marvel in the desert rock formations, boulders and caves in Cataviña
- Visit Mexico's premier wine country, the Guadalupe Valley
- Explore the charming shops, cafes, and taquerías in Ensenada
- Shop the bustling Mercado Hidalgo in Tijuana
- Fully escorted and narrated by a **Sports Leisure** Tour Director and bilingual local guide



Yellowstone National Park – where the buffalo roam unbothered in winter

- 16 meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Roundtrip airfare to/from San Diego
- 3850/4250 Gold Passport Points

\$3820 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4230 single
\$125 EPD until July 3

Mexican Visa Entry Fee included
This tour requires a valid passport!

Alaska's Aurora Borealis

A small group travel with winter attractions that are truly out-of-this-world

8 Days • March 18-25

★ **Highlights** ★

- Small group: 24 people maximum
- View the Aurora Borealis in the dark sky's outside of Fairbanks
- BP Ice Art Championship sculptures in Fairbanks
- Travel on the Alaska Railroad from Talkeetna to Denali
- Dogsled at Iditarod winner Dallas Seavey's kennel
- Star Lady Aurora presentation
- Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- 7 Meals: 5 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Roundtrip air into Anchorage/from Fairbanks
- 5550/6400 Gold Passport Points

\$5550 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6395 single

New Orleans... And All That Jazz

Rest well in downtown accommodations adjacent to the French Quarter

5 Days • March 9-13

★ **Highlights** ★

- 4 nights at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
- Scenic New Orleans driving and French Quarter carriage tours
- A day in Plantation Country: Houmas House and a swamp cruise
- Visit the National World War II Museum and Stage Door Canteen
- Learn the secrets of great Cajun chefs at the NOLA School of Cooking
- 8 meals include daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Round trip airfare to/from New Orleans 3450/3850 Gold Passport Points

\$3430 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3810 single

The Colorful Carolina Coast

Meander the beautiful Southern Atlantic coastline from Norfolk to Jacksonville

10 Days • March 18-27

★ **Highlights** ★

- Visit North Carolina's Outer Banks, Kitty Hawk, New Bern and the *USS North Carolina*

- See South Carolina's Myrtle Beach, Brookgreen Gardens, Charleston and Ft. Sumter
- Enjoy Georgia's first city, Savannah, and historic Jekyll Island
- 2-night stays oceanfront on Myrtle Beach and in the Historic Districts of Charleston and Savannah
- Overnights in Norfolk, the Outer Banks and New Bern
- 17 meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service
- Roundtrip air to Norfolk/from Jacksonville

Approximate price
\$5300 p.p./dbl.occ., \$6200 single.

Cruising the Islands of Tahiti

**8 Days • May 28 – June 5 • 7 Day Cruise,
plus overnight pre-cruise in Papeete**

Your ship holds only 300 passengers, so it's intimate, the food amazing, entertainment and culture is all around you! Imagine the conversation when your friends ask you where you are traveling next, and your answer is "**Tahiti!**"

A Beyond Ordinary Paradise

The Islands of French Polynesia invite you to discover their own distinct magic. Hop ashore to the enchanted landscapes of the Marquesas or explore the origins of Polynesian culture in Raiatea. Revel at a feast during our Destination Discovery Event complete with fire dancers in Bora Bora. Or simply unwind on deck, enjoying paradise with a Mai Tai in hand.

Welcome to a new era of island exploration with the luxurious all-suite, 312-guest *Star Breeze Windstar* has been sailing these waters for 36 years, and no other cruise line knows the islands like we do. **Each traveler receives a \$100 onboard credit.**

On board the ship, all cabins are outside staterooms, with a view. The price below includes all taxes and fees, plus your round trip coach ride to/from SFO. We will fly non-stop between Papeete and San Francisco. Because the connection on United on the return is so poor (and expensive), we have opted for the coach ride home.

\$7550 p.p./dbl.occ., \$9950 single



See Alaska's Northern Lights





9812 Old Winery Place, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95827

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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. You must pay in full within ten days of registration and purchase the protection at the time you pay for your tour.

TOUR UPDATE...

Daycations are not included in these lists.

Sold-Out Tours

Seattle Sights & Baseball	Pieces of History Mystery
Autumn in Alaska	Fall Foliage in the Rockies
Galapagos Islands	New England Fall Foliage
Czech Republic	Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
Castles of Ireland	Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound

Limited Space

Extended trips with ten or fewer seats available

Mammoth & Mono Lakes (6)	Christmas in the Ozarks (9)
Colorful Carolina Coast (2)	Fall in the Wasatch Mountains (9)
Civil Rights in The South (5)	Hawaii – Two Island Adventure (5)
Thanksgiving in NYC (10)	OR Coast & CA Redwoods (4)
Appalachian Christmas (5)	

EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT COUPON

Early Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Thursday, August 1** and may be withdrawn or reduced when 50% of the available space has been reserved. To receive the discount you must pay in full within ten days of registration.

Dec. – Christmas with the Presidents – **Save \$50**

Apr. – San Antonio, Deep in the Heart of – **Save \$75**

ACTIVITY METER

The ratings can be found in the tour description in the newsletter. Match that number with this chart and you'll have an idea of the level of activity on the trip. This meter is only a guideline. With specific questions or requirements, call the office and speak to the tour planner. Each level requires your ability to board and disembark a motorcoach without assistance.

1 Leisurely: A tour that can be enjoyed by all requiring a minimal amount of walking on city streets and generally level surfaces. There could be a few stairs. A theater daytrip is an example.

2 Moderate: A tour with some walking activities, standing/strolling at attractions and museums, and some stair climbing. A daytrip to the ballpark or a museum exhibition, and short regional trips are examples. A moderate trip could include air or rail transportation and navigating through airports/stations.

3 Active: A tour which includes longer walks and/or walks on uneven surfaces. This is the level for most of our long-distance domestic and Canadian tours, vacations featuring national parks, and the minimum level for an overseas international trip. You should be able to walk 3-6 city blocks in a timely fashion a few times per day. You could find a flight of stairs without handrails, uneven nature trails and the like. Tours with a seaplane or jeep ride, and the ability to climb into the plane/jeep, along with longer rail journeys fall into this category.

4 Energetic: A tour with an emphasis on walking and other physical activities. Most overseas tours fit in this category, as well as many metropolitan domestic tours (New York and Washington, DC, especially). Expect long plane flights and walking longer distances at connections and/or customs. You should not consider a tour on this level if you need wheelchair assistance at the airport or other places.