



The Sports Leisure

TRAVELER

5,749 Active Members • 60,170 Members Since 1979

OCTOBER – DECEMBER | VOL. 46 | NO. 2 **2024**

You and your traveling friends are cordially invited to join us for

Tour Preview Day

Friday, October 25th • 10am & 12:30pm

At The Sofia (home of the B St. Theater) 2700 Capitol Avenue

Complimentary Shuttle Service

\$10 admission (100% donated to local charities)

Rollout of our 2025 catalog, discussion of 2025 tours and cruises

Registration starts Monday, October 28th



This much anticipated annual event is being held for the first time at The Sofia, the home of the B Street Theatre. Quite a beautiful venue, it offers you the opportunity to get the scoop on **Sports Leisure's** 2025 offerings in comfort.

You can follow the instructions on page 3, (or ask your GPS to take you to **The Sofia**), or make reservations to ride on our complimentary shuttle bus (schedules on page 3). **Parking in the Sutter Community Garage, around the corner at 2701 N St.** (\$4 per hour).

Insider's Tip: Coming to Tour Preview Day gets you prepared to make your reservations when they first become available, on Monday the 28th. We mail catalogs to all members, but they won't arrive until a few days **after** Preview Day. Some trips fill within hours. Serious **Sports Leisure** Travelers know the importance of attending Preview Day (or sending a representative).



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Just One Man's Opinion.....	2
Clayton Place.....	3
The Tour Calendar.....	4-5
Daycations and Theatre Outings.....	6-7
New Vacations and Getaways.....	8
Teasers.....	9
Tour Updates.....	Back Page

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Writers & Photographers..... **SLV** Staff

Just One Man's Opinion by Mark Hoffmann

As the summer winds down, it means it's time to start thinking about our annual tour catalog and Tour Preview Day. The catalog and the accompanying gathering are the way we roll out a majority of our products for the 2025 calendar year. There will be more later, but this is the largest group.



This year, for the first time, our host is The Sofia, the home of the B Street Theatre, located at 2700 Capitol Avenue. There are two sessions, with complimentary shuttle bus service and parking in the garage around the corner from the theater.

Between now and the press deadline of October 11th, we will be hard at work creating and refining the list of tours, cruises and vacation experiences we will offer -next year. A few have been announced previously, and there will be additions to the calendar in future newsletters, but this is the "big Kahuna," as they say in the islands.

We collect a \$10 admission fee, which we donate to charity. (We find by charging a small fee, the no-show rate drops dramatically, and it gives us a chance to support some deserving charitable groups. A few dollars from each of us makes a difference somewhere in our community.)

With 10am and 12:30pm start time, we will have everyone out of downtown before the afternoon rush hour. Hope you can join us.



This edition of **The Traveler** contains info on a couple of new extended tours, along with a few new day trip outings. We are also asking your opinion on a host of "teasers." Your response will tell us whether or not we should pursue these destinations, or hold them for later. (This "ask our travelers" model has served us well over the years.) Finally, the few tours from previous newsletters with space available, are listed for you to check out.



As mentioned on the front page, a reality of catalog time at **Sports Leisure** is how quickly many of the tours fill up. It's a wonderful "problem" for us, but it's never good to have loyal customers disappointed because they didn't get the trip(s) they wanted.

We've discussed a lot of potential solutions. Some involve technology (allowing you to make reservation on line). But a crush of reservations in the hours/days after Preview Day would still be a crush, whether received on line or by phone. The possibility of disappointment would not go away. Plus, the on line capability would be costly for something only needed 1-2 days a year.

We moved Tour Preview Day to a Friday this year. The venue is **The Sofia**, home of the **B Street Theater**. We are extremely proud to be presenting in this beautiful space and hope you can join us. We will be offering free shuttle buses from a variety of pick-up locations, or you can park in the same city block as the theatre downtown.

The program is a little under 2 hours and you will leave with your very own copy of our new catalog, plus knowledge about what's on its printed pages. Tour registration will open Monday morning at 9am, by phone or in person at our office. (This is the guaranteed way to get what you want, come in person to 9812 Old Winery Place, Suite 1 on Monday morning.)

Clayton just walked in and presented me with a draft of the Table of Contents for the catalog. A brief look at destinations includes **the Canadian Rockies, New Mexico** (without the balloons), **Kings Canyon/Sequoia Nat'l Park/Wonder Valley Ranch, Niagara Falls & The Life of Lucy** and old favorites like **Cape Cod, Washington, DC, New York City** featuring Broadway & Carnegie Hall and many more... International destinations include **Switzerland** and **Tuscany**, plus **Montreal/Quebec City** in Canada. Again, this preliminary list has only about 1/2 the catalog destinations, and we are still adding to the list..

And so it goes,

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



Mather Toastmaster Jerry Pritchard gives Mark a remarkable Babe Ruth historic photo set that now hangs in The Great Room at the SLV office. Toastmasters meets at 6:30pm every Wednesday and guests are always welcome.



Should someone tell Mark that the flower is part of a mural and you can't smell it? Naw, maybe not..

Clayton Place... Bits and Bobs

Hello Friends:

Tributes should be simple to write. They are about people and/or things I know and love. So why is this so hard?

I don't know when I met **Dee and Bob Bellows**. I can only say I don't remember a world without them, nor would I want to. I believe our first trip together was the "Colorful Carolina Coast" sometime in the last century. I absolutely adored Bob from the start. He quickly became the father I never had. He was also my bourbon drinking buddy who taught me how to "drink like a man" at our regular monthly dinners in their home. Who knew bourbon *without* Coke could be so good?

Bob left us back in 2015. I called to express my condolences to Dee. She said, "Well, you're going to keep coming over every month, aren't you?" And so I did. Bourbon, good cooking, stories and love continued to flow freely in the Bellows home, and I was the grateful beneficiary.

By her 98th year Dee's health had started to falter. Mom was here this past December and we all spent New Year's Day together (the photo includes her niece Mary), but Dee was uncomfortable and clearly in a lot of pain. Our bourbon dinners had to be put on hold. I saw her only once before she passed away on May 6.



Dee left me much to remember her by. I will always carry her memory in my heart, and her amazing onion bread and pink gravy on my waistline. She gave me treasures from her extensive collection of Asian furniture and art, so I can see her stunning style and taste all around my house. I have countless photos chronicling our travels over the

decades that I can review with a smile and a tear. But I would trade it all for just one more night in her company, sharing stories over a glass of bourbon. Rest in peace, my dear friend. I trust you've reunited with Bob, perhaps lifting a glass with him right now. I hope so!



Now I'd like to invite you to join me in paying tribute to another great lady. Many of you have had the pleasure of meeting and traveling with my mother, "**Toot**" **Whitehead**. She has loved me completely, unconditionally and best for over six decades! So when I purchased a new home in May I wanted to share it with her as soon as possible. The photo shows us toasting the new *Clayton Place* on my front porch during her visit in August. Sadly, shortly after her return to Georgia, mom fell and broke her hip. Happy to report the surgery was successful. She's in a rigorous PT and OT regimen right now with a goal of returning home and being fully independent on or around September 20. If you'd like to send her a note or card, the address is P.O.Box 544, Bethlehem, GA 30620.

"Your Tour Guy,"

Clayton

Clayton Whitehead, CTP
President

Proud members of the



Two Ways to Attend Tour/Vacation Preview Day Friday, October 25 The Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave.

There are two ways to join us for **Tour/Vacation Preview Day**. Drive to the Sofia. There is a parking garage in the same block as the theater. Parking is \$4 per hour. Complimentary shuttle service is available from selected locations for both shows (see schedule below). Further clarification on pick-up locations will be given when you make your reservation.

10am Show Bus pick-ups

Folsom – 8:45am

Palladio Shopping Center

SLV office – 9:05am

9812 Old Winery Place
(off 50 near Bradshaw)

★★★★★★

Roseville/Rocklin – 8:30am

Winco Store, 10151 Fairway Dr.,
Roseville

Antelope – 8:50am

In front of Raley's on Lichen Dr.

Arden – 9:10am

Black Bear Diner parking lot

12:30pm Show Bus Pick-ups

Florin Area – 11:00am

Florin Road at South Land Park

Land Park Area – 11:20am

Land Park & Sutterville

★★★★★★

Roseville/Rocklin – 10:40am

Winco Store, 10151 Fairway Dr.,
Roseville

Antelope – 11:10am

In front of Raley's on Lichen Dr.

Arden – 11:30am

Black Bear Diner parking lot

First show begins
12:00am and ends 11:50pm

Second show begins
12:30pm and ends 2:20pm

The Tour Calendar *(Previously Announced)*

Spectacular Sedona

Featuring the Verde Canyon Railroad

5 days • October 27-31

3

★ Highlights ★

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Key West, Miami and The Everglades

4 seats available on this popular tour

6 Days • January 18-23

3

★ Highlights ★



- Tour Miami's Coral Gables, Coconut Grove and South Beach's art deco district
- Take an airboat ride through Everglades Safari Park; meet an alligator or two
- Overnight Key Largo; dinner at a renowned FL Keys seafood diner
- Meet the wildlife: visit a dolphin research center and a butterfly conservatory
- 3 nights in Key West – Crowne Plaza Duval Street (**best location in town**)
- Cabaret Dinner & Show at La Te Da; meet & greet with performer Randi Roberts – 1st night welcome dinner at Texas de Brazil
- Tour: Truman's Little White House, the Home of Ernest Hemingway, Key West by trolley with Louie – a true local treasure
- 11 meals: 2 breakfasts (limited menu or buffet), 3 full breakfasts (full buffet), 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Door-to-door transportation, roundtrip air – to Miami, return from Key West,
- 4300/4800 Gold Passport Points
\$4240 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4775 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

3

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

- 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

New Orleans... And All That Jazz

Rest well in downtown accommodations adjacent to the French Quarter

5 Days • March 9-13

3

★ 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

1. Welcome to New Orleans, a city renowned for its ability to make a party out of every situation. It has been said, "If the hurricane's too weak, just add rum." That pretty much sums it up! Rest well in conveniently-located accommodations overlooking the famed French Quarter. Your welcome dinner is served at the Court of Two Sisters, hidden away under a blanket of blooming wisteria. **Sheraton New Orleans – 4 nights (D)**

2. Take a driving tour focusing on the city beyond downtown including the beautiful Garden District and one of the area's unique above-ground cemeteries. In the evening learn the secrets of great Cajun and Creole chefs with dinner at the New Orleans School of Cooking, followed by a horse-drawn carriage ride through the French Quarter. Is it haunted? You'll have to come see for yourself ... if you dare! **(FB,D)**

3. An hour's drive outside the city places you in the heart of Plantation Country with

visits to the breathtaking Houmas House, the grandest of the Mississippi River sugar estates, built in 1840. You'll also visit the new Mississippi River Road Museum and see 'gators up close and personal on a Cajun Pride Swamp Tour. Lunch is served in the Dixie Café – how cool is that? **(FB,L)**

4. A plate full of fresh, hot beignets start your morning at world famous Café du Monde. Next visit the National World War II Museum, a four-block complex covering literally every aspect of the War and the Greatest Generation it produced. Take a break from your exploration at lunch time and head to the Stage Door Canteen where your meal is served up with a nostalgic musical review, *Bing and the Belles*. You'll also visit the museum's unique 4-D theatre for their acclaimed production "Beyond all Boundaries." **(CB,L)**

5. The morning opens with a true New Orleans tradition: Breakfast at Brennan's. Save room for the Bananas Foster, a dish invented here. Only in NOLA can you get dessert with breakfast! A short drive to the airport and your adventure comes to a close. **(FB)**

\$3430 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3810 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
\$2770 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3080 single



Daycations & Theatre Outings

Epicurious (no longer a mystery)

Thursday, October 3

This trip was an absolute hit as a mystery, and we are excited to do it again! This trip takes us to Yolo County and some of the great places it has to offer. We start our day with a visit to the Edible Learning Garden that they use as a great educational tool for youth and adults alike. This will be followed by a wonderful brunch at the Savory Cafe, where owner Juan Barajas, known as Yolo's food whisperer, brings true meaning to Farm to Fork in his restaurant. A visit to the "Hive" follows where we will have a tasting and a class on the variety of honey they distribute, after a tour of their facility. We will complete our day with a visit to the Matchbook Winery where we will learn about how they got their name, a little about the winery itself and finish the visit with wine tasting. For the epicurious indeed! **\$208**

Swan Lake

Curran Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, October 6 – 2:00 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**

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**

Rowlands Freedom Center and Vacaville Museum Holiday Traditions

Thursday, November 21

Enjoy a day mixed with history and holiday traditions. We will start our morning of with a visit to the Rowlands freedom museum The Rowland Freedom Center hosts a variety of different vehicles and exhibits. Nearly all their planes fly and are rotated regularly to give visitors a brand-new experience every time they visit. We will enjoy lunch nearby at Fenton's Creamery and have time to browse the shops at the Nut tree before heading to the Vacaville Museum to see the "Traditions – A Celebration of the Holidays" exhibit. **\$149**

Christmas Shopping in Napa

Monday, December 2

"Like grapes on the vine, Napa Valley gets better with time." There will be plenty of time for browsing, exploration, and shopping. Sit back, leave the driving to us, and enjoy a leisurely day of shopping and lunch with a view. We will make stops in St Helena and Oxbow Market, and shopping in Napa. We

will enjoy a group lunch at Downtown Joes which is included. **\$147**

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 shows! **\$219**

Holiday Sweets and Goodies

Friday, December 6

Travel throughout the Stanislaus County visiting family businesses whose products make delightful holiday gifts. Start with a visit to 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 leave with a Poinsettia and have the chance to purchase more. **\$154**

The Golden Girls Live! The Christmas Episodes

Curran Theater, San Francisco

Sunday, December 8 – 2:00 pm

Hold on to your cheesecake! San Francisco's most eagerly-awaited holiday tradition – *The Golden Girls Live: The Christmas Episodes* – is making a grand move from the intimate setting of the Victoria Theatre to the historic Curran Theater. Now in its 19th year, *The Golden Girls Live: The Christmas Episodes* takes four drag legends



and casts them in two parody Christmas episodes of the uproarious TV show “The Golden Girls.” Directed by Drollinger, this drag send-up and heartfelt tribute to the characters the entire world has come to know and love features the return of Coco Peru (Dorothy), Matthew Martin (Blanche), D’Arcy Drollinger (Rose), and Holotta Tymes (Sophia). The cast also features Manuel Caneri, Michael Phillis and Tom Shaw on the piano. **\$191**

Hamilton

Orpheum Theater, San Francisco

Wednesday, December 11 – 1:00 pm

This incredibly popular musical is returning to San Francisco for a limited time. Based on the life of Alexander Hamilton, the explosively popular, critically acclaimed musical married hip-hop and Broadway in previously unimaginable ways and lifted 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 to fight for a common cause, a celebration of freedom and democracy, and its messages of hope and perseverance resonate deeply with audiences. **\$233****

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

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’s *White Christmas*. Follow the story of two war buddies who team up with a sister act to save a struggling Vermont inn when it forgot to snow at Christmastime. 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 local guide, visits and stops include Union Square, Civic Center, Nob Hill and Embarcadero areas to enjoy the festive sparkling displays and sights that glow after sunset. We will begin our visit with dinner at Swiss Louis on Pier 39. **\$166**

Some Like it Hot

Orpheum Theater, San Francisco

Wednesday, January 8 – 1:00 pm

Set in Chicago when Prohibition has everyone thirsty for a little excitement, *Some Like it Hot* is the “glorious, big, high-

stepping” story of two musicians forced to flee the Windy City after witnessing a mob hit. With gangsters hot on their heels, they catch a cross-country train for the life-chasing, life-changing trip of a lifetime. And what a trip it is! With its irresistible combination of heart and laughs, song and dance, *Some Like it Hot* won more theatre awards than any show in 2023, including 4 Tony Awards (Best Actor, Best Costumes, Best Orchestrations, and Best Choreography). **\$225****

Garrison Keillor Tonight

Gallo Center, Modesto

Sunday, January 19 – 5:00 pm

Garrison Keillor Tonight is an evening of stand-up, storytelling, audience participation, song and poetry. One man, one microphone. There are sung sonnets, limericks and musical jokes, and the thread that runs through it is the beauty of growing old. Despite the inconvenience, old age brings the contentment of LESS IS MORE. **\$201**

Back To the Future – The Musical

Wednesday, February 19 – 1:00 pm

Great Scott! The multi-award-winning *Back to the Future – The Musical* is changing Broadway musical theatre history. When Marty McFly finds himself transported back to 1955 in a time machine built by the eccentric scientist Doc Brown, he accidentally changes the course of history. Now he’s in a race against time to fix the present, escape the past and send himself back to the future before it’s too late. Experience this high-voltage comedy as the iconic story is adapted for the stage by the movie’s creators Bob Gale (“Back to the Future” trilogy) and Robert Zemeckis (“Forrest Gump”) and is directed by Tony Award-winning John Rando. **\$219****

★★★★★★★★

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

★★★★★★★★



New Vacations & Getaways

Springtime In Monterey

Featuring a boat tour of the Elkhorn Slough

4 Days • April 6-9

★ Highlights ★

1

- Tour the Winchester Mystery House and gardens
- Moss Landing estuary catamaran cruise of the Elkhorn Slough
- 17 mile drive with lunch in Carmel by the Sea
- 7 meals: 3 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 3 lunches
- Travel in comfort on *SuperCoach III*
- Door-to-door transportation to/from the **Sports Leisure** office
- Tour Director Scott Angeletti
- 2050/2350 Gold Passport Points

1. Begin with a comfortable ride aboard *SuperCoach III* bound for the coast. A lavish brunch is hosted en-route to the Winchester Mystery House. Tour the Mansion and visit their Victorian Gardens boasting over 10,000 box hedges and hundreds of varieties of trees and plants. You arrive in Monterey in the late afternoon. **Victorian Inn – 3 nights (BR)**

2. Tour historic downtown Monterey and Cannery Row. Travel the famous 17 Mile Drive along the ocean through Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach, stopping at the Lodge

at Pebble Beach and their visitors center. Then we make our way to the quaint and charming town of Carmel by the Sea. **(B,L)**

3. Moss Landing is today's destination. View playful sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions and hundreds of bird species as you explore the Elkhorn Slough, one of California's most spectacular wetlands, aboard an open-air catamaran boat. Lunch is hosted at a popular seafood restaurant before visiting the Martinelli's store in Watsonville to sample their premium juices. **(B,L)**

4. Stop for a hosted lunch on the way back to Sacramento, arriving in the late afternoon. **(B,L)**

**\$2040 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2325 single
\$60 EPD until October 23**

New Mexico: Land of Enchantment

Featuring Spaceport America and Carlsbad Caverns

6 Days • April 15-20

★ Highlights ★

3

- Carlsbad Caverns
- White Sands National Monument
- Virgin Galactic Spaceport America
- Los Alamos (Oppenheimer, Manhattan Project)

- 10 meals: 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Roundtrip airfare to Albuquerque/from El Paso
- Door-to-door airport transportation
- Tour Director Scott Angeletti
- 3400/3850 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly to Albuquerque and enjoy a hosted lunch before checking into your hotel which is steps away from the shops and restaurants of Old Town. **Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town – 2 nights (L)**

2. Travel to Los Alamos, home to the secret laboratory where the world's first atomic weapon was designed and built. Visit the Bradbury Science Museum where exhibits trace the WWII Manhattan Project. Lunch on your own and some free time in Santa Fe before heading back to Albuquerque. **(B)**

3. Spaceport America offers visitors an insider's view of the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport. Once inside Spaceport America's secured area, gaze upon the iconic design of the Terminal Hangar Facility, see launch sites and gain an understanding of the inner workings of a complex specifically designed and built for space travel, commerce and exploration. **Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces (B,L)**

4. White Sands National Monument is one of the world's great natural wonders. Explore the breathtaking wavelike dunes of snow-white gypsum that stretch for 275 square miles. Learn how animals have adapted to live in this hot desert climate. Lunch is hosted at a historic lodge set high in a Ponderosa Pine forest (think Lake Tahoe) before arriving in the town of Carlsbad. **Hampton Inn – 2 nights (B,L)**

5. Carlsbad Caverns is often called the 8th Wonder of the World. Descend (by elevator) 830 feet and view the gigantic subterranean chambers and fantastic cave formations. Gather for a group dinner and toast your New Mexico adventure. **(B,D)**

6. Travel to El Paso, Texas, for lunch hosted at a famous Mexican restaurant and your return flight to Sacramento. **(B,L)**

**\$3360 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3810 single
\$100 EPD until October 23**



One of the Monterey Peninsula's many sandy beaches

At **Sports Leisure Vacations** we have always listened to our Travel Club members. As we build the annual catalog, we'd like to get your opinion on a few destination ideas. If you see a "bucket List" destination on these pages, please send an e-mail to res@sportsleisure.com (or give us a call) asking to be placed on the **Priority Notification List**.

By doing so you are literally casting a vote for that tour idea. If interest is sufficient and we move forward in planning the trip, you will be among the first notified to register and take advantage of the Early Payment Discounts offered. Placing your name on the list does not obligate you in any way, nor does it mean a reservation will automatically be made, you are just adding your name to the list of, "Yes, offer this trip!". Thank you in advance for your show of interest!

Skagit Valley Tulip Festival 3 Days • Early April 2025

This trip has been a favorite for years. Row upon row, acre upon acre, tulips everywhere. Of course, there's this Mother Nature thing. Predicting when the tulips will be in bloom is a roll of the dice, but we'll consult the tulip Gods before making our reservations. Fly to Seattle, travel north about two hours and you're there! Flowers and small town attractions dominate the itinerary.

Japan for the Culturally Curious

10-11 Days • May 2025

Of course, we're going to include a few of the "usual places" the tens of thousands of visitors go to Japan to see. But we're not like the tens of thousands of those visitors, now are we? We're going to explore places in Japan that wouldn't be on a typical itinerary, like the city of Kanazawa, located near the western coast of the Japan Sea, it's rooted in traditional culture and the arts, designated as a UNESCO city of Art and Culture, influenced by the presence of the Samurai and their lifestyle. Here we will take part in the local Gold Leaf crafts, and delicious Wagashi (a traditional sweet) making.

From Kanazawa, we'll move into Yamanaka Onsen, a 1300-year-old traditional village, famous for its high-quality, health-improving onsen (Japanese hot spring) water. Then we head to the mountainous city of Takayama, nestled in the Japanese Alpine region, home to numerous high-quality sake breweries and Edo-period architecture. There we'll learn about washi paper making, pottery and of course, Sake tasting. We'll spend two nights in Kyoto which will include a day tour of the city including the iconic Nishiki market, Gion (Geisha District) and beautiful Kinkaku (Golden Pavilion) temple.

Historic US 50 Across Nevada – The Lonliest Road In America

5 Days • June 2025

Ride the California Zephyr to Elko, then make your way down to Ely, where you meet up with US 50. This is also the Lincoln Highway, the first cross country road in America. We'll overnight in Elko, Ely, Eureka and Carson City as we make our way back home with Simon on our Lux coach. The old highway has so many historic spots. Ladies, have you ever toured a bordello? These towns and their buildings have more than a few ghosts and spirits. This is the real deal, a step back one hundred years in time.

Portland Rose Parade

3 Days • June 7-9

They have a big rose parade in Pasadena each year before the Rose Bowl. But

everyone knows roses don't bloom in December! Come to Portland for the real deal. A floral parade **with indoor seating in case of rain!** See the floats, attend the big rose show, all sorts of flower related events in Portland.

Switzerland – Your Alpine Village among the Clouds

10 Days • July 7-16, 2025

Seasoned **Sports Leisure** travelers will remember this tour from decades past. It is quite simply THE BEST Swiss tour we've ever done and are thrilled our good luck now makes it possible to offer it once more! Fly to Zurich, then travel via an overnight in Bern to the Lauterbrunnen Valley. There you say goodbye to the motorcoach for a week. You don't need it! Your home for the next six nights is the tiny mountainside village of Wengen, only reachable by cog railway and cable car.

This sets the tone for a full week of travel using your Berner Oberland Pass including trains, gondolas, cable cars, funiculars and boats that will transport us throughout the region highlighting one spectacular vista after another. The climax of your visit will be a trip to the "Top of Europe," the mountain known as Jungfrauoch, with a rail station located at 11,300 feet above sea level – the highest on the continent! Spend a day exploring Lucerne on the return to Zurich where you'll overnight to reposition for the flight home.

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.



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.

EARLY PAYMENT DISCOUNT COUPON

Early Payment Discounts listed here expire on **Wednesday, October 23, 2024** 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.

Apr. – Springtime In Monterey – **Save \$60**

Apr. – New Mexico: Land of Enchantment – **Save \$100**



While in Key West, enjoy lunch at famous Sloppy Joe restaurant on Duval Street. Limited space still available for the January 2025 departure!

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.