



Historic Highway Group Gathers at Sports Leisure Offices

We were most proud to host the California chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association at our office last week. Folsom Blvd., which passes one block from us, is part of the historic road. It was the first “highway” in the country that could take you from Times Square to San Francisco, and pre-dated Route 66 by 14 years. They dined at the Mills Winery, one of the oldest buildings along Folsom Blvd.



Cruisin’ The San Juan Islands

Sail among the islands in Puget Sound on your own private yacht. Wonderful small towns, great food, stay on land at night. Seats are available on the August 3 departure.

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



See You On the Radio

For years, I had heard seminar speakers say "make yourself an expert in the media." They explained getting yourself on radio, television (and now the 'net) and sharing what you know can be terrific exposure for your business. Having already had a run at sports talk radio in the 90's (KSAC, which was the old KROY, for those who have been in town that long), I knew there was some truth in what they said.



We were up against competition with much stronger signals, but we gave it our best shot for a couple of years. My late friend Richard Irwin got me on the air, and it was a great experience. One day the GM came in and said we were switching to a religious format in a month and the dream was over and once again **Sports Leisure** was my sole focus.

Forward to 2007, and I'm asking around, trying to get on the air somewhere. I run into my old friend Tom Romano, who was on the air for like 50 years (literally) before he retired. He said, "Why don't you just create your own show? Buy the time and bingo, you are on the air."

Great idea Tom, except I have no technical radio experience. But Tom did... a half century of it. Would he like to be my Ed McMahon? Run the technical side of the show, add a second voice, make it sound good? A couple of months later we were on the air on Sunday afternoon at 3pm. The ratings weren't stellar or horrible. We had an audience.

Then KFBK decided they would prefer all the live shows to be on Saturday, from a staffing standpoint. Would we consider moving over? Tom and I decided to give it a shot. The show is turned into a podcast each week after the broadcast, so folks can listen whenever they like. The number of people listening to the podcast each week was growing.

Then this week came the confirmation. The quarterly ratings. I hadn't even looked at them for several years, but thought it might be good to see how the show was doing on Saturday. Much to my surprise, our live audience has nearly tripled... **The Travel Guys is now the number one rated show on the station on the weekends.**

It takes about 6-8 hours each week to put together an hour of radio. Then there's the interviews and editing. Tom's experience is a lifesaver. He is so good, he could probably do this in his sleep. His "pay" is airline tickets to get his grandkids back and forth from Texas. It isn't a gig that will make you rich on any level. But it's fun.

From the beginning, the show's theme has been to make those listening **smarter travelers**. We wanted to share information what would help travelers navigate through the barriers put in their way by airlines, hotels, attractions and the like.

We share travel news, and have established connections with a host of industry experts, among them Consumer Advocate Chris Elliott, who's column used to run weekly in The Bee. Now he travels the world, writing about travel, and checking in with us once a month. The TSA guys from Sacramento International, Syd and Dale, are regulars on the program, sharing insights to help get travelers to "the other side." Charlie Leocha from Travelers United, a not-for-profit looking out for us in Washington, DC, is a regular. It's not just Mark and Tom babbling (although that does happen).

So follow the crowd and head over to KFBK, 1530 AM and 93.1 FM, Saturday at 11am for **The Travel Guys**, or to www.travelguysradio.com and listen to the most recent podcast. Thanks for listening. See you on the radio...

Pilgrimages to Plains

With the recent passing of President Jimmy Carter, those of us who have visited Plains, GA, his final resting place, could lament on the life of a man who lived a century. When folks ask me why I choose a career in travel, I mention my visits to Plains. Travel has given me the opportunity to discover places like

Plains, which is just one of the pages in a much larger book. Habitat for Humanity will never have a bigger champion. Who was to know, post-presidency, that President Carter would prove to be an example of how a leader should conduct him or herself. Rest in peace.

The Cost of Travel

The dollars it takes to see the planet, or even the next town over, continues to climb. Not only did we see a post-COVID round of inflation around the planet, but something has changed regarding the way people order travel in their lives. Travel has moved up several notches on most people's "life lists." Travel experiences rank much higher.

This has led to overcrowding in popular destinations. We have responded by moving to shoulder seasons, or as is the case with Scott's annual trips to Yellowstone and Alaska, even visiting in the off-season. That helps some with the costs.

More of you want to see the world instead of just the country or the continent. That is also fueling higher prices. Supply can't keep up with demand.

Or our side, we keep trying to figure out ways to make your travel dollars go farther, without compromising the quality of the special extras we are known for. We like staying in the nicest hotel or dining in the fanciest restaurant on occasion. But we refuse to pay ridiculous prices for a "name." We do our best to make your travel dollars buy as many quality experiences as possible.

★★★★★★★★

Check out the new tours and the international "teaser" destinations we are offering and let us know of your interest. The **Lake Placid-Cooperstown** fall color trip is going to be awesome. The 1980 Olympics, the **Miracle on Ice**, revived! See you there...

And so it goes,

Mark Hoffmann, CTP
Owner/Founder (almost 46 years ago)



Mary Elizabeth James Whitehead

“Toot” to the many who knew and loved her
September 26, 1931 – December 30, 2024

Friends:

It's my first day back in Sacramento since my entire world was rocked by the passing of my dear mother. Mark held up the publication of the newsletter until my return so this could be included. Now I sit in front of my keyboard not at all certain of what I'm supposed to say.

This wonderful woman loved me best and loved me longest. For over 61 years she's been the constant in my life. My solid rock. My lighthouse. My guiding star. My fierce

protector. My most benevolent supporter. My greatest fan.

I told Toot early on she wasn't going to get any grandchildren out of me, so I'd give her the world instead. And indeed I did. In the past three-plus decades she traveled extensively throughout the US and Canada, Central America, Europe and even a wee bit of Asia – some 25 countries in all. What she had no way of understanding at the time was that the adventures would include a fringe benefit – she would not be traveling alone.

We would do it together, and not just that, we would be surrounded by the most amazing group of people. If this sounds familiar, it's because I'm talking about YOU. Members of the **Sports Leisure Travel Club** welcomed us into their merry band of wayfarers resulting in countless memories and forever friendships. Your love over the years, and especially your support and understanding these past few months, meant the world to mom and me. I am forever grateful for those of you who took the time to write a note, make a call, say a prayer or just send a little positive energy our way.

On December 30, Toot made her final journey. As people of faith, we believe it is the greatest journey of all to a destination that is beyond description. That doesn't necessarily make it any easier for me, the one left behind, but it helps. In my mind's eye I see Toot in her youth, a high school senior to be exact, with so much of the road still before her. She's singing, dancing and laughing to the extent that her yearbook editor wrote, "Always jumping and in a whirl. Where'd you get that energy, girl?" That's how I want to remember my mother. I hope you will, too.

“Your Tour Guy,”

Clayton Whitehead, CTP
President

Friends We've Lost...

Those who were part of our extended family who have finished their journey with us on earth. They are missed.

Jane Butler	Deb Viney
Jackie Ghiggia	Ruth Werner
Craig Petersen	Toot Whitehead

Proud members of the



The Barber Pole, or Once Over Lightly

Upgrades in the Sky

Increasingly, travelers are inquiring about and in many cases purchasing upgraded airline seats at an additional cost. **Please know that we receive no compensation when you buy upgraded tickets.** We only suggest it because we know getting random seats in the back of the plane doesn't work for everyone. To avoid that, whether you are traveling with a group or by yourself, the airlines want more money. (Selling upgraded coach seating has become big business for the airlines.)

When we fly United, Delta, Alaska or rarely, American, you can let us know when you reserve for the trip that you are interested in upgrading. Two options there. First Class, which can be confirmed quickly; or Economy/Comfort+ seating (closer to the front, more legroom), which can be confirmed once the group is ticketed, generally 30-40 days prior to departure. (The cost of First Class is often more reasonable than it has been in the past.)

Here's what you do: When you reserve for a trip, if you want upgraded seats, please let us know, and we will take it from there.

Tour Director Upgrades

To repeat something mentioned here before, we use the miles the company accumulates to upgrade our Tour Director whenever possible, to First Class or Economy+ seating. They are working and getting off the plane first allows them to direct the rest of the group. **This is never done at a cost to our travelers.** Also, please know in many cases our Tour Directors are road warriors who have earned status with airlines that gives them upgrades when available.

Southwest Update

In 2026, Southwest plans to offer reserved and extra legroom seats. Basically, it will work the same way as other carriers. You would request the upgraded seats at the time of reservation, and we would quote you a price. The seats would be confirmed later.

Right now, Southwest is still under the old system. The way you upgrade is go

to the counter at the gate and ask if there are upgrades (15 are sold for each flight) available. The cost varies, depending on the flight. **You do this at the airport until the new system is announced.**

★★★★★★★★

If this is all clear as mud, just ask when you make your reservation and we are happy to let you know the seating options/pricing.

★★★★★★★★

Real ID

It appears as though this long discussed security upgrade for state IDs nationwide is actually going to happen. First authorized by Congress over 15 years ago, it has been postponed a number of times. Doesn't look like there is going to be a postponement this time. Here is a link, for those of you reading this on line, you can click to: <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-licenses-identification-cards/real-id/>. Everyone else, just type "CA real id" into the search bar and you will have details immediately.

The current deadline is May 5, 2025. Important to know: When the Real ID law goes into effect, you will still be able to get through security with a valid passport if you do not have a Real ID.

★★★★★★★★

To Those Who Like More Space in the Back Part of the Coach

On longer trips (3 days or more) we do not sell the coach to capacity, like many of our competitors. We find that with 25-32 people, we have a lot more flexibility with restaurants, attraction admission times, things that make for a better tour experience.

As a result of that, there are often empty seats, even empty rows of seats, in the rear of the coach. If you request a seat in the rear area, you are likely to have two seats to yourself and more room to spread out. **LIKELY TO** are the key words here.

Here's the protocol: If you want to sit in the rear, **request that seating at the time you make your reservation.** That way, when you first board the coach, you are already assigned that seat. If you sit in a

seat closer to the front and wish to move back, please wait until the second boarding, when everyone who requested seats in the back is seated. That also tells you what might be available seating-wise. **Please sit in your assigned seats as indicated on the seating chart when initially boarding the coach.**

When requesting seats in the rear in hopes of having more room, keep in mind that on occasion we will contract a smaller coach, with fewer seats, because of availability or the roads we will be traveling on, and you may not always get a double seat to yourself.

Route 66's "Rabbit Man" Passes

Rich Henry (pictured below on our last visit in 2023) was the owner of the Rabbit Ranch, which was actually his home near Staunton, IL. Rich's daughter had a couple of rabbits in high school and there was a population explosion, as rabbits tend to create. Daughter went off to college, and Rich, a real estate title guy, took care of them. More "rabbit decorations" were added (old VW Rabbits) and Rich's place started to attract visitors.

His "ranch" was one of the treasures on the old highway, and now he is gone. Last time we were there, he forgot about our visit, but still came out with one of the rabbits and showed us around. Rich passed suddenly, and I'm really going to miss him. I hope you will join us on The Mother Road, old 66, next year, on its centennial birthday. I promise we will stop and see the Rabbit Ranch and honor Rich. R.I.P. old friend. – Mark



The Tour Calendar (Previously Announced)

For more complete information on any trip, visit our web site at www.sportsleisure.com, or call our office, M-F, 9am-3:30pm

Spring Training in Sunny Arizona

5 Days • March 6-10

2

5 Cactus League games featuring the Giants/A's, local attractions, dinner featuring a baseball speaker, 6 meals (daily breakfast and Rustler's Roost dinner). 5 nights Marriott Hotel, round trip non-stop flights on Southwest.

\$2860 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3340 single
2 seats available

Kentucky: Bluegrass, Bourbons and BOOMS!

6 Days • April 8-13

3

Discover the perfect blend of Kentucky's horse culture, historic Bluegrass charm, and one of the nation's most exciting events with this exclusive 6-day tour. You'll be a part of many of the festivities leading up to the Run for the Roses, the Kentucky Derby. Upon your return home, gather together for a Derby-watching party in Sacramento, complete with food and prizes! Perhaps our most unique tour offering ever!

★ Highlights ★

- Fly round trip to Louisville
- Upscale accommodations – 3 nights Lexington at the traditional **Campbell House**, 2 nights Louisville at the historic **Brown Hotel**
- Tours of Claiborne Farms, the Keeneland Racetrack and the Kentucky Horse Park
- Visit one of the world's largest antique shops, Bourbon Trail Tour with stops at two distilleries
- Hear the story of Cassius Clay, the king of boxing
- Witness Thunder Over Louisville – the huge annual fireworks display
- Louisville Slugger Museum
- 10 meals: 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- **Tour Bonus:** Kentucky Derby Watching Party/Luncheon **after you return to Sacramento.**

\$3875 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4245 single
4 seats available, catalog page 34

New York City, Broadway & The Bronx

6 Days • April 24-29

4

★ Highlights ★

- 5 nights at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square, New York's best address
- 2 included nights of theater (Select from two – **A Wonderful World: The Louis Armstrong Musical; Old Friends, music by Steven Sondheim, starring Bernadette Peters, a musical revue**) – you have a choice of one or both of those shows) and/or a show of your choice – an exclusive **SLV** feature;
- A night at Carnegie Hall with the New York Symphony Pops Orchestra's Anniversary show
- A Day Behind Broadway – meet Broadway actors/musicians/technicians to learn the inner workings. Talk hits and misses with Peter Filicia, a theater reviewer
- A Day in The Bronx – taste the real "Little Italy" and meet a couple of our shopkeeper friends, meet NYC's first responders with a stop at a police or fire station
- A Day in Downtown Manhattan – stroll Wall Street & the Financial District, 9/11 Memorial/Museum/Observation Deck (all 3 experiences included) – **transportation this day is by subway/ on foot**
- Free morning to visit Ellis and Liberty Islands (with a Tour Director escort) or explore on your own, optional tours of Grand Central Station & Carnegie Hall
- Roundtrip airfare to/from NYC (into LaGuardia, home non-stop from Newark)
- 6 meals: 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- Door-to-door airport service

If you've always longed to wake up in the city that never sleeps, allow us to use our many years of expertise to help you personalize your visit. Harness the city's energy for a true New York experience. Come with us, we'll show you how!

We've picked two new shows. Join us for both, or pick one and then add a show of your choice. Two nights of Broadway theater. **PLUS**, an evening at Carnegie Hall, listening to the Pops Orchestra honor a music legend.

\$4710 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5255 single

The Washington, DC Experience

6 Days • May 1-6

4

5 nights Hyatt Place National Mall, Arlington National Cemetery (Tomb of the Unknowns wreath laying), Army Museum, US Capitol Tour, free day to explore the Smithsonian Museums, Mount Vernon, Nat'l Monuments Tour (Lincoln, Washington, FDR, MLK, Vietnam, more), Kennedy Center performance. 10 meals, round trip air to/from National (the close in) Airport.

\$3510 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4120 single
1 seat available, catalog page 18

Niagara Falls & I Love Lucy

6 Days • May 18-23

3

Clayton escorts this most interesting combination of Canadian and American attractions, a result of a Mystery Tour which covered some of the same region in 2024. From rooms with a view of Niagara Falls, the life and times of American legend Lucille Ball, laughs at the National Comedy Center. A little different, a lot of fun!

- 2 nights Embassy Suites Fallsview, Canadian side – premium views of Niagara Falls from every room
- Sail to the base of Horseshoe Falls and visit picturesque Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Explore the birthplace of Lucille Ball, see her home, museum and gravesite
- Laugh at the National Comedy Center
- Guided "Shuffle Off to Buffalo" Tour
- Visit a historic lighthouse and take a spin on an old-fashioned carousel
- 11 meals : 5 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Round trip airfare -to/from Buffalo

\$3995 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4485 single
7 seats available, catalog page 13



Japan for the Culturally Curious

11 Days • May 21-31

4

Japan's rich cultural heritage offers incredible experience that will leave a lasting impression. Your itinerary takes you to some of the smaller, off the beaten path places, like Kanazawa, a city influenced by the presence of the Samurai and their lifestyle.

Tokyo (overnight), Kanazawa (2 nights), Yukai Resort Yamanaka Onsen (overnight), Takayama (2 nights), Kyoto (3 nights). 10 meals, round trip air, bilingual and **Sports Leisure** guides. Contact Tour Director/Planner Donie Anderson at our office for more info.

\$8895 p.p./dbl.occ., \$9310 single
catalog page 14, 11 seats available.

Alaska Cruise – Holland America's Westerdam

8 Days • May 25 – June 1

2

Itinerary/Ports of call: Depart from Seattle, cruise the scenic Stephens Passage (whales?), Juneau, cruise the Endicott Arm fjord, Sitka, Ketchikan. Contact Michael Downer for more details.

Cabins start at \$2320 p.p./dbl.occ., for inside staterooms, \$2620 p.p./dbl.occ., for outside staterooms. Single cabins start at \$3265 inside, \$3865 outside
2 cabins available, catalog page 37

From Boston to the Shores of Old Cape Cod

Visit Boston, Martha's Vineyard, Provincetown and Nantucket

8 Days • May 30 – June 6

3

★ Highlights ★

- 2 nights Boston, 2 nights Provincetown on the Cape, overnight Hyannis, 2 nights Nantucket
- 4 ferry rides Boston-Provincetown and Hyannis-Martha's Vineyard-Nantucket-Hyannis
- Guided tours of Boston, Provincetown, Cape Cod National Seashore, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard
- Ride the famous Swan Boats on Boston Common
- Visit the JFK Presidential Library, Old North Church, Paul Revere's home

- 15 meals: Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 6 dinners including a lobster feast
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Boston
\$4685 p.p./dbl.occ., \$ 5350 single
3 seats available, catalog page 19

Yosemite Valley is Calling

3 Days • June 4-6

2

We are so fortunate to live in the shadow of one amazingly beautiful places on the planet, Yosemite National Park. People come from around the world to see it. It's in our backyard! Stay in the valley and explore some of the most famous landmarks.

2 nights in the park at Yosemite Valley Lodge, valley tour including El Capitan, Bridal Veil Falls Half Dome, Yosemite Falls and Tunnel View. Brunch/lunch in the majestic dining room at the historic Ahwahnee Hotel. Free time for the NPS visitors center, 3 meals.

\$1690 p.p./dbl.occ., \$1965 single
3 seats available, catalog page 20

U.S. 50, The Lincoln Highway Across Nevada, America's Loneliest Road

5 Days • June 5-9

3

US 50 in Nevada is not only the legendary "Loneliest Road in America," it's also part of America's first cross-country road, the Lincoln Highway. Not to mention it's full of quirky towns and the interesting people who inhabit them. Ever visited a bordello ladies? Take this trip and the answer will be **YES!** Take I-80 out to Wells, then drop down to Ely to hook up with the Lincoln., then travel the legendary highway from Ely to Sacramento.



The "closed one day and never reopened" Rexall Drugs store in McGill takes you back to the 60's

Overnights in Wells, Ely, Eureka (Eureka, NEVADA) and Carson City. Ghost towns, a train ride in Ely, a bordello visit (BEFORE they open to the public), tour of the Carson City Mint. 13 meals.

\$1940 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2155 single
8 seats available, catalog page 15

San Juan Islands #2

5 Days • August 3-7

New departure, just added

3

For years, **Scott** has been escorting this popular trip to Puget Sound, which spends most of its time on the water. Spend most of three days on board your private yacht, cruising among the scenic islands. A stop at the Museum of Flight in Seattle is included before your return flight. Visit the little town of La Conner, the Roche Island Resort, partake of a Dungeness Crab lunch on board!

Fly to Seattle and travel north to Bellingham. Enjoy 3 days of cruising through the beautiful San Juan Islands. Stay in Friday Harbor (2 nights) and Bellingham (overnight once). Because this is a new added date, plenty of seats are available

\$3620 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3965 single
catalog page 22

Fall in Love with Victoria & Vancouver

Fall In Love With Victoria and Vancouver
Butchart Gardens in the Fall!

6 days • September 12-17, 2025

3

★ Highlights ★

- Outstanding accommodations – 3 nights at the popular Chateau Victoria, 2 nights Blu Horizon Hotel – Vancouver
- The world famous Butchart Gardens with lunch onsite at the Blue Poppy
- Traditional High Tea at The Fairmont Empress Hotel, foodie tour of Victoria
- Travel by ferry to Vancouver
- Guided city tour of Vancouver, featuring Stanley Park (one of the most popular urban parks in North America)
- Dinner Cruise on Vancouver Harbor
- 7 meals: High Tea, 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- Roundtrip air – fly to Seattle/Victoria, Vancouver/Seattle

\$3685 p.p./dbl.occ., \$4070 single
9 seats available, catalog page 28



Get Your Name on Wait Lists



"Grandma, we are packed and ready to go on your next Sports Leisure trip!"



Add your name to the wait list and head to Albuquerque for the balloon Fiesta in October



Route 66 celebrates its centennial in 2026. Watch your June newsletter for details.

OFFICE HOURS:
9:00am – 3:30pm MONDAY thru FRIDAY
Closed weekends and major holidays
CLOSED TUESDAYS 12:00pm – 1:15pm

Response to trips announced at Tour Preview Day was very strong. The trips listed below are currently sold out. BUT... it's worth adding your name to the wait list if you want to go. In the past month, we have placed **162 travelers** from wait lists onto the tour they wanted.

- Mar. 7-9 Oregon Chocolate Festival in Ashland
- Mar. 9-13 New Orleans
- Apr. 6-9 Springtime in Monterey
- May 7-9 Redwoods & Wonder Valley Ranch, Kings Canyon
- May 12-14 Redwoods & Wonder Valley Ranch, Kings Canyon
- May 26-30 Grand Canyon & Lowell Observatory
- Apr. 15-20 New Mexico, Land of Enchantment
- Apr. 21-25 San Antonio
- May 4-8 Moab, Gateway to Arches Nat'l Park
- June 1-5 Shucked, A Mystery Tour
- July 7-16 Switzerland
- July 14-17 Fort Bragg
- July 20-24 Ferries & Towns of Puget Sound
- July 28 – Aug. 3 The Canadian Rockies
- Aug. 12-16 Oregon: Scandinavians, Gardens & Covered Bridges
- July 13-15 Pageant of the Masters
- Aug. 24-26 Pageant of the Masters
- Sept. 2-8 Michigan & Mackinac
- Sept. 23-28 Zion & Bryce Canyon Nat'l Parks
- Sept. 30 – Oct. 8/11 Tuscany & Florence/Rome
- Oct. 5-10 South Dakota's Black Hills
- Oct. 7-11 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
- Oct. 7-14 Bonjour, La Belle Quebec
- Nov. 9-23 Far East Discovery Cruise



The Grand Hotel is featured on all of our Mackinac island tours



Daycations & Theatre Outings

Tamara de Lempicka

de Young Museum, San Francisco

Thursday, February 6

With works that exuded cool elegance and transgressive sensuality, Tamara de Lempicka (1894–1980) helped define Art Deco. Her paintings captured the glamour and vitality of postwar Paris and the cosmopolitan sheen of Hollywood celebrity. This exhibition – the first major museum retrospective of Lempicka in the United States – explores the artist's distinctive style and unconventional life through four major chapters. The more than 100 artworks on display range from her post-Cubist work in 1920s Paris to her most famous nudes and portraits to the melancholic still life and interiors of her final days in the United States and Mexico. Including an in-depth look at the artist's drawings and studies, this exhibition reveals the creative process behind her iconic paintings. **\$126 (2 Spaces available)**

Pretty Woman The Musical

Gallo Theater, Modesto

Wednesday, March 5 – 7pm

Pretty Woman The Musical, based on one of Hollywood's most beloved romantic stories of all time, springs to life with a powerhouse creative team led by two-time Tony Award-winning director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell (*Hairspray*, *Kinky Boots*, *Legally Blonde*) *The Musical* features an original score by Grammy winner Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance *The Musical* will lift your spirits and light up your heart. Dinner is included prior to the show. **\$237**

Chicago The Musical

Golden Gate Theater, San Francisco

Saturday March 8 – 1pm matinee

In the Roaring Twenties, aspiring chorus girl Roxie Hart and fading vaudeville star Velma Kelly each face trial for murder. Both as cynical as they are sexy, the two women

compete for the services of shady lawyer Billy Flynn, who promises to make them media celebrities and win them acquittals.

\$231

Ladies Of Laughter

Gallo Theater, Modesto

Saturday, March 22 – 7pm

It's back! After a capacity audience laughed their faces off during this show last March, we knew *The Ladies of Laughter Funny & Fabulous Tour* just had to return. This perfect girls-night-out show includes winners and the best talent from its national competition. Poppy Chaplin was featured on Entertainment tonight. Maureen Langan is an international standup comedian and Stephanie Blum winner of the Pro division of Ladies of Laughter competition. Dinner is included prior to the show. **\$195**

Patti LuPone

Gallo Theater, Modesto

Thursday, April 3 – 7:30pm

Spend an evening with a true Broadway legend as three-time Tony Award winner Patti LuPone performs her concert *Songs From A Hat*, where she selects her most famous and personal favorite songs from slips of paper in her top hat. Unscripted and full of hits. Dinner is included prior to the show. **\$248**

SIX The Musical

Curran Theater, San Francisco

Wednesday, April 16 – 1pm matinee

This musical story is based on the lives of King Henry's six wives, but it is NOT your typical history lesson. *SIX* is a fresh musical with a decidedly Gen Z sensibility; colorful yet unabashedly opinionated about feminism and patriarchy. These six women are all members of a girl group and are competing against each other to be the new leader of the group. While it may seem like a crazy concept, *SIX*'s deeper message about how history is always written by, and about, men. This musical brings a big dose of "Herstory". Written by two 20something college students, Toby Marlow and Lucy

Moss. Lucy Moss is the youngest ever female director of a Broadway musical at the age of 26. **\$196**

Easter Champagne Brunch at Grand Island Mansion

Walnut Grove

Sunday, April 20 – 10:30am

Come join us for a beautiful Easter Brunch at the delta's historic **Grand Island Mansion** which is a uniquely spectacular Italian Renaissance style villa. The Mansion is one of the largest private estates in northern California and embodies the finest features of classical architecture and European craftsmanship. Nestled in Walnut Grove along the Delta. **\$224**



Grand Island Mansion

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Community Asian Theater of the Sierra (CATS), Nevada City

Sunday, April 27 – 2pm matinee

Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra (CATS) enters its 31st season in 2025 with a production of *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. This enchanting and magical story of gratitude is unveiled by mystical creatures, like a dragon, a goldfish, numerous animal puppets, and The Man of the Moon, taking the audience on a cultural epic journey of discovery and artistry in ancient China. The show promises to be a "feast for the senses" with lavish costumes and original music. Lunch is included at Cirino's Restaurant prior to the show and time permitting you can browse the shops on Main St. **\$172**

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

Mamma Mia!

Orpheum Theater, San Francisco

Thursday, May 1 – 1pm matinee

A mother. A daughter. 3 possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget!

Set on a Greek island paradise where the sun always shines, a tale of love, friendship, and identity is beautifully told through the timeless hits of ABBA. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the father she's never known brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited decades ago. What a wonderful way to celebrate the women in your life for Mother's Day! **\$217**

Safari West

Santa Rosa

Tuesday, May 27

Nestled in the Sonoma foothills between Calistoga and Santa Rosa lies a unique preserve for animals from around the world. Your time at Safari West begins with a special educational presentation where you'll learn about some of the residents. After the presentation you will have a 45-minute open-air tram ride through the compounds with one of the guides. Your tour concludes with a 45-minute guided walk through the aviaries and small animal compounds. We will enjoy a BBQ lunch on the grounds. **\$188**

Bouquets to Art and Paul McCartney Photographs (2 Exhibits)

de Young Museum, San Francisco

Thursday, June 5

Bouquets to Art: Now in its 41st year, Bouquets to Art is an annual exhibition you do not want to miss. It features floral displays throughout the museum. Leading Floral designers will transform the galleries. From Striking sculptural creations to extravagant floral fashion design. There will be inspiration in every corner for you to enjoy.

Paul McCartney: Featuring more than 250 personal photographs by Paul McCartney, along with video clips and archival materials, this exhibition offers a behind-the-scenes look at the meteoric rise of the world's most celebrated band. The images capture the period from December 1963 through February 1964 and the band's

journey to superstardom, from local venues in Liverpool to *The Ed Sullivan Show* and worldwide acclaim. Lunch is on your own at the Museum Café. **\$155**

Tribute To the Beach Boys

East Sonora Theater

Saturday June 14 – 2pm matinee

Surf's up! Get ready for an unforgettable experience celebrating the timeless sounds of The Beach Boys. Join us for a thrilling live show featuring all their classic hits alongside hidden gems from their incredible catalog. Jam out to the soundtrack of an Endless Summer brought to life on the East Sonora stage. Don't miss this chance to relive the magic of The Beach Boys! Lunch is included prior to the show. **\$167**

A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical

Golden Gate Theater, San Francisco

Wednesday, June 18 – 1pm matinee – added 2nd date

Created in collaboration with Neil Diamond himself, *A Beautiful Noise* is the uplifting true story of how a kid from Brooklyn became a chart-busting, show-stopping American rock icon. With 120 million albums sold, a catalogue of classics like, "America," "Forever in Blue Jeans," and "Sweet Caroline," an induction into the Songwriters and Rock and Roll Halls of Fame, a Grammy® Lifetime Achievement Award, and sold-out concerts around the world that made him bigger than Elvis, Neil Diamond's story was made to shine on Broadway-and

head out on the road across America. *A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical* is an inspiring, exhilarating, energy-filled musical memoir, that tells the untold true story of how America's greatest hitmaker became a star, set to the songs that defined his career. **\$206**

& Juliet

Orpheum Theater, San Francisco

Wednesday, July 9 – 1pm matinee

What Is the Story Of *& Juliet*?

& Juliet rips up the rule book as we discover what would happen if the sad ending of Romeo and Juliet never actually happened the way it was written by W Shakespeare in which Romeo kills himself after he learns that Juliet had kill herself to avoid a forced marriage to Count Paris; unbeknownst to Romeo, Juliet was given a sleeping potion! Juliet does not kill herself at Romeo's demise. Come with us to see the show and find out the rest of the story! **\$204**

★★★★★★★★

*Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday matinees include Box lunch served onboard the coach, Orchestra seating, no host dinner following the show at either Pier 39 or North Beach location.

★★★★★★★★

Look What We're Doing...



The Travel Guys

Radio Show

Highest Rated KFBK Show on Saturdays!

Every SATURDAY 11am
KFBK, 1530AM, 93.1FM

Podcasts and show updates at
www.travelguysradio.com

Hosted by: Tom Romano and Mark Hoffmann



Giants Baseball in San Francisco – 2025

When **Sports Travel**, as we were known then, first came into existence in 1978, it was trips to Giants and A's games that got us started. That first year was kind of "unofficial," as we quickly learned there were a lot of rules we had to follow. Yikes! We followed them, and the next year we were back, and every year since. **Sports Travel** became **Sports Leisure Travel**, and finally, in 1998, **Sports Leisure Vacations**. (Now you know the rest of the story.)

In 2025, we offer you the opportunity to follow the Giants in San Francisco. The Giants use dynamic pricing, which means the more popular the opponent, the higher the price of the tickets.

Club vs. Main Level

This year, we have moved upstairs to the **Club Level** for some games. While it is slightly more expensive up there, the concession and **rest room lines are shorter**, it's considerably cleaner on the concourse and the view is terrific. There are escalators and elevators to get upstairs.

While the upstairs tickets are only slightly higher than downstairs, ticket prices set by the Giants have taken a big step HIGHER in 2025. We haven't changed our pricing, it's the ticket prices that have gone up.

For some games, we are in our previous location, downstairs, up under the overhang and out of the sun. The seating section and up/down stairs is indicated on the list below ("L" indicates lower level, "C" is Club Level upstairs).

Sat., Apr. 26 – Texas Rangers – sec. 127L – \$165

(Brandon Crawford Day)

Sun., May 18 – Sacramento Athletics – sec. 224C – \$199

Sun., June 22 – Boston Red Sox – sec. 224C – \$233

Thurs., June 26 – Florida Marlins – sec. 224C – \$170

Sun., July 13 – Los Angeles Dodgers – sec. 105L – \$214

Sun., July 27 – New York Mets – sec. 224C – \$199

Wed., Aug. 13 – San Diego Padres – sec. 224C – \$170

Sun., Sept. 14 – Los Angeles Dodgers – sec. 224C – \$241

Sat., Sept. 27 – Colorado Rockies – sec. 224C – \$197

(Fan Appreciation Day – many prizes given away)

All day games. Coach leaves Sacramento 8-9am and returns directly after the game. Complimentary refreshments are served on the coach both directions. Travel Club Members receive \$1 off listed prices, Gold Members receive \$2 off.

Pick-up locations are the same as previous years. Antelope (Raley's), Arden (Black Bear), West Sacramento (Lux bus year). Schedules will be sent with your invoice.

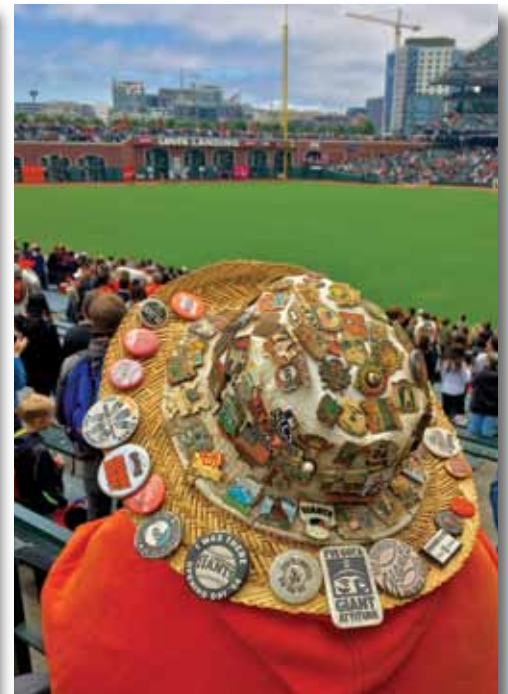
Special Offer: Reserve now and pay for 3 games when invoices are sent around February 1 and receive your choice of a free gift. Reserve and pay for 6 games February 1 and pick two Sports Leisure gifts:

- Clear tote bag (for entering ballparks, theaters, etc.)
- Stadium Seat Cushion
- Stadium Blanket

Gifts may either be picked up at the **Sports Leisure** office, or, **if you contact us, we can put your gifts on the bus for your first game.**



Giants Baseball in San Francisco 2025



Looks like she's seen her share of ball games!

New Vacations & Getaways

Oregon: 2 Mountains and 2 Rivers

Mt. Hood & Mt. St. Helens, the Willamette & Columbia Rivers

4 Days • June 22-25

2

Enjoy a variety of sightseeing experiences as you explore Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Hood and the mighty Columbia River, north and east of Portland.

★ Highlights ★

- Lunch cruise on the Portland Spirit on arrival
- Full day guided excursion to Mt. St. Helens
- Ride the century-old, short line railroad to snow-capped views of Mount Hood
- Evening dining at the historical Columbia Gorge Hotel
- Explore the quaint town of Hood River, visit Packer Orchards and Multnomah Falls
- 3 nights at the Best Western Plus Hood River Inn – rooms with a view of the river
- Round trip air to/from Portland and our signature door-to-door service
- 7 meals, 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- 2500/2800 Gold Passport Points



Multnomah Falls near Hood River

1. Depart Sacramento this morning on your one hour hop to Portland on Alaska Airlines. The Portland Spirit is awaiting your arrival, docked in downtown Portland. Enjoy Northwest cuisine, live piano music and friendly service on a 2-hour Willamette River lunch cruise. Heading by coach up the Columbia River, first stop is at Multnomah Falls, Oregon's tallest at over 600 feet!

Your hotel is the finest in the area, with rooms sporting a view of the Columbia River and the grounds are worthy of a morning or evening walk. There is a restaurant on property. **BW Hood River Inn – 3 nights (L)**

2. Mount Hood is part of The Cascade Mountains, volcanic chain stretching from the Canadian border to Mt. Lassen in northern California. See the mountain today from your seat on board the Mt. Hood Railroad on an excursion through the Hood River Valley. Leaving the valley floor you will cross and ride along 3 miles of the lower main fork of the Hood River while navigating a 3% grade that takes you on one of only five switchbacks remaining in the United States. Tonight's dinner is a special treat. The venue is the historic Columbia Gorge Hotel. Time permitting, you might wish to walk around the grounds after dining, as it's one of the

most beautiful spots on the river. **(FB,D)**

3. Breakfast at your leisure is included each morning. Join us for a guided trip up the mountain, to the Timberline Lodge, for great views and lunch. Along the way, we'll stop at Packer Orchards, so you can get some of the berry goodness produced right here in the valley. A brief tour will acquaint you with Hood River, full of quaint shops and eateries, and if you wish, take some time to browse. Return mid-afternoon and enjoy some free time at your hotel on the river. **(FB,L)**

4. Today, we cross the river into Washington, on our way to Mt. St. Helens. The mountain last erupted in 1980, and is the most likely of the Cascade Mountain to erupt in our lifetimes. Our guide will tell the story of the mountain, what caused it to erupt and why it could happen again. Hear the legend of Harry Truman, not the president, but the man who lived (and died) on the mountain. Our flight back to Sacramento departs in early evening. **(FB,L)**

\$2485 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2780 single

**See the back page for
Early Payment Discounts**



Enjoy dinner at the historic Columbia Gorge Hotel



Peter and the Starcatcher! at Lake Tahoe

Presented by the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival

2 Days • August 13-14

2

1. A midday motorcoach departure, with a box lunch for your journey gets you to South Lake Tahoe just in time to check into your hotel for the night, **Harrah's Lake Tahoe Resort**. An included dinner at the Zephyr Cove Restaurant precedes the evening performance of **Peter and the Starcatcher**. In this playful prequel to **Peter Pan** you're taken on a heartwarming ride through ambition, yearning and the magic of friendship, where you will discover the boy who never grew up before he took flight. (L,D)

2. The next morning you'll have a little time before you travel to Zephyr Cove where you'll board the **MS Dixie II** for a cruise aboard this authentic paddle wheeler. A light lunch is included onboard as you cruise on the largest freshwater lake in the Sierra Nevadas. No matter how many times a person visits Lake Tahoe it just never gets old – don't you agree? Depart for Sacramento in the early afternoon. (L)

This overnight package includes roundtrip deluxe motorcoach transportation, resort accommodations, three meals (1BL,1L,1D), theatre tickets, cruise and the services of a **Sports Leisure Vacations** Tour Director. 900/1000 Gold Passport Points

\$895 p.p./dbl.occ., \$995 single
\$25 EPD until until Feb. 15

Stories of Santa Fe & Taos

5 Days • September 4-8

★ Highlights ★

3

- 4 nights at the Hilton Santa Fe – central location in the historic district
- Visit El Santurio de Chimayo and Taos Pueblo
- Guided trolley tour of Santa Fe
- Walking sightseeing in old town – Loretto Chapel, Georgia O'Keefe Museum, New Mexico History Museum, The Palace of the Governors
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center – Albuquerque
- 8 meals: 4 full breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner

- Round trip Southwest flights – Sacramento/Burbank(connect)/Albuquerque and reverse
- Door-to-door service
- 2900/3400 Gold Passport Points

In the high country of New Mexico are some of our country's most unique historical places. They celebrate our multi-national heritage and the people who lived on this land long before we did. Santa Fe is the **third oldest city in the country, founded in 1610**. Taos is a relative newcomer, having been founded officially in 1795. It was however, inhabited long before that, with the first mission dating back to 1615. **Most historians and anthropologists seem to agree that the Taos Pueblo is the oldest continuously inhabited community in North America.**

Your accommodations in Santa Fe are upscale and in the historic district. Step-on guides will bring the communities you visit to life. There are many stories here. Come with us and hear them told where they happened.

1. Arrive in Albuquerque at 12:45pm, after a change of planes in Burbank. Lunch is at El Patio, a longtime local favorite. Visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, the gateway to the 19 pueblos of New Mexico. Here, you'll get an introduction to some of what you will see on your travels. Arrive in Santa Fe in early evening. **Santa Fe Hilton – 4 nights (L)**



Maureen will lead you into the pueblos and all over Santa Fe

2. Breakfast (buffet) is included each morning at your hotel. Begin your Santa Fe touring this morning with a narrated ride on the Loretto Line Trolley. The 8-mile loop tour gives you an overview of the historic sites and their unique architecture. Later, a walking tour takes you from the New Mexico History Museum to the Palace of Governors. There is also a visit to the State Capitol Building and dinner on the plaza tonight. (FB,D)

3. An hour's drive from Santa Fe is Bandelier Nat'l Monument. It protects part of what is the ancestral and traditional lands of at least 23 tribal nations. Most of the pueblo structures date to two eras, dating between AD 1150 and 1600. Enjoy a guided visit and lunch before returning to Santa Fe. For those who are interested, a walking visit featuring stops at a few of the many galleries is slated for this afternoon. The Georgia O'Keefe Museum near your hotel is a must stop. (FB,L)

4. From Santa Fe, travel along the mountaintops on the high road to Taos, with a stop at El Santuario de Chimayo, a peaceful shrine of healing nestled in the hills. At Centinela Traditional Art, see the old looms in action and hear the history of the craft.

In Taos, lunch is included, along with time to walk the plaza. Join a guided tour of the Taos Pueblo, the only living Native American Community designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (FB,D)

5. The road back to Albuquerque winds through the small town of Madrid (MA-drid) and is known as the Turquoise Trail, named for the dozens of mines in the area producing the signature stone of the Southwest. Stop and visit some of the artisans and perhaps find one last memento. Lunch on the fly at the airport, as your return flight departs at 2:10pm.

\$2875 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3370 single

Lake Placid to Cooperstown

3

Fall Colors with a 1980s Olympics and Baseball Hall of Fame twist

7 Days • September 22-28

Late September generally brings some of our country's most fabled fall colors. The

maple trees in New England and upstate New York provide the background for this beautiful palate of orange, yellow and red.

We've chosen classic hotels for our extended stays in Lake Placid and Cooperstown, and the itinerary features a wide variety of attractions.

Even casual sports fans will remember the Winter Olympic Games of 1980, held in Lake Placid. There is the tale of a hockey team of brash young Americans that beat a team of mostly professional Russians in a game still referred to as "The Miracle on Ice." You'll relive that moment in the building where it occurred. Of course, Cooperstown is home to the Baseball Hall of Fame. There is no more sacred palace to baseball fans.

Both Lake Placid and Cooperstown are more than sports destinations. Spend a day exploring the backroads that (could) offer some spectacular fall color. Visit The Wild Center, a salute to the Adirondacks.

Take a look at the itinerary in brief below. We can only accommodate 30 travelers and expect interest to be high, as this is the first time these two destinations have ever been offered on the same itinerary.

1. Fly to Albany via Chicago, departing at 7am, arriving at 5:30pm (current schedule). Enjoy dinner before retiring for the evening.

Hampton Inn Downtown (D)

2. It's a roughly 3-hour drive north to Lake Placid. Along the way is Lake George, home of historic Fort William Henry. A morning tour fills you in on the story of events that happened **250 years ago**. Originally built in 1755, this legendary British fort was featured in "The Last of the Mohicans."

They say there is no better way to see the autumn leaves than from the lake. All aboard the Saint Sacrement Steamboat for the scenic luncheon cruise. After a short break in town after your cruise, it's on to Lake Placid, arriving late afternoon. Your accommodations are the finest, at the **Grand Adirondack Hotel** for 3 nights. A welcome reception is scheduled and a buffet dinner is included this evening.

(ECB,L,D)

Arrive at your accommodations in Lake Placid in mid-afternoon. A private reception welcomes you, outdoors with a view if the weather permits. You will be joined by a

former Olympic athlete, who will lead a Q & A session and perhaps have a medal or two to show off. A visit to the dining room for dinner is a true experience at the Grand. Please join us tonight for a beautiful buffet dinner. **Grand Adirondack Hotel – 3 nights (ECB,L,D)**

3. An included buffet breakfast starts the day right. Your guide takes you to the summit of Whiteface Mountain where skiing events were held during the 1980 Olympics. Your guests will experience breathtaking views from the top.

From Whiteface Mountain, head to the Ski Jumping Complex, where today's Olympic hopefuls train year-round in hopes of going for the gold. Ride up the SkyRide Gondola to the base of the ski jumps, then take the glass elevator to the observation deck to experience more jaw-dropping views of the Adirondacks and town.

Finally for the day, head to the Olympic Center where the Miracle on Ice occurred in 1980 (as well as Eric Heiden's record breaking (5) gold medals on the speed skating track). We just might have something planned which could bring some *extra goosebumps* to the memories of the night in February, 1980 when the **Miracle on Ice** occurred.

The rest of the afternoon/evening is at your leisure. Many restaurants are within a short walk of your hotel, or you can dine in. **(FB)**

4. Come with us to **The Wild Center**, about 45 minutes away at Tupper Lake. Celebrating and showing us how to protect the Adirondacks rare ecosystem is their mission. From Wild Walk to the river otters to the aquariums filled with native New York fish, there is always something new to see and explore.

Back in Lake Placid, there's time this afternoon to explore the many shops, take a walk along the lake or just relax. We gather together for dinner this evening. **(FB,D)**

5. Once again, off through the magnificent Adirondacks, on the way to Cooperstown. Our featured stop today is Great Camp Sagamore, built in 1897. Once owned by Alfred Vanderbilt, was a getaway for the country's richest families. Your visit offers a historic tour of the buildings and grounds,

on the shore of a remote lake. Lunch is included, post tour.

Continue on to Cooperstown, arriving about 4:30pm. Your home is **The Otesaga for two nights**, another classic lakeside accommodation. Breakfast and dinner are included during your stay.

6. There are two "tracks" today. For those who wish to honor America's Pastime, you want to head to the Hall of Fame. In addition to browsing the museum, we offer a private program where you will see and learn about artifacts not on display. The amount of time you spend here is flexible.

For those not as interested in baseball, the Fenimore Art Museum is world-class, featuring landscape paintings, Native American artifacts, folk art & more in a 1930s neo-Georgian mansion. Nearby is the carousel, which features 25 meticulously hand-carved animals and iconic symbols, which represent the state's agricultural and natural resources. (A hybrid itinerary is also possible, with a short visit to The HoF, then on to the other museums.)

Your hotel is right on the lake, so you might like to "reserve" part of the afternoon for the hotel's back porch. **(FB,D)**

7. Fly home this afternoon from Albany at 4:30pm, with an 8:45pm arrival in Sacramento. In Albany, there's time to visit the New York State Museum and the Capitol. It features a variety of exhibits about the history and culture of the state. **(FB,L)** 4700/5400 Gold Passport Points

\$4660 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5375 single
\$135 EPD until Feb. 15



At the Baseball Hall of Fame, you'll see a special presentation of artifacts not on display in the museum

**See the back page for
Early Payment Discounts**

Maui by Air, Land & Sea

6 Days • November 4-9

3

In August of 2023, a savage wildfire swept across the island of Maui, with the historic town of Lahaina directly in its path. Over a hundred people lost their lives and nearly 2,200 buildings were destroyed. It was a devastating time for the residents, many of whom lost their homes. Visitors stayed away in big numbers at first, but now are returning.

The classic Royal Lahaina Resort at Kaanapali will be our home for five nights. The hotel, as an incentive, has graciously offered to upgrade our rooms to partial ocean view without charge, and to offer full ocean view and ocean front at a discount. Breakfast is included daily and one night you'll enjoy the luau.

A wide variety of activities are included, one being a helicopter trip that takes you cross island to the tiny community of Hana. Normally, this visit is by two hour (each direction) bus ride. We have a MUCH better idea, a luxurious helicopter that takes you on a scenic cross-islands flight, with a short stop in Hana. See below for a list of included and available options.

★ Highlights ★

- 5 nights Royal Lahaina Resort, partial ocean view rooms
- 11 meals, including daily buffet breakfast and upgraded seating to the Myths of Maui Luau (5 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners)
- To Maui on United, return on Hawaiian Air, door-to-door airport service from your home
- Helicopter flight over the island of Maui to Hana

- Guided Tour of Lahaina – see the devastation and the rebuilding
- Lunch and tour at O'o Farms – a true fork to fork experience; visit the Surfing Goat Dairy
- Whale Watching Cruise
- Free time to shop using the free trolley in Kaanapali
- 5150/5850 Gold Passport Points

1. Fly to Maui, one stop via San Francisco, departing at 6am and arriving at 12:50pm (local time). Stop for a late lunch at the Hali'imaile General Store, a local favorite. Originally a store for workers in the pineapple fields, today it's a restaurant serving Hawaiian specialties.

Around the western corner of the island is the Kaanapali Coast. Home to many traditional resorts, it is the home of the Royal Lahaina. It was Maui's first resort, opening back in 1962. Two years ago, it underwent a complete facelift and has been restored to her original glory! Arrive in time to explore the resort. If you are hungry for dinner, there are choices on site. Royal Lahaina Resort – five nights (L)

2. Those who have been to Maui before, remember Lahaina. It was a wonderful combination of history, culture and tacky tourism. It was. The wildfire devastated the village. Slowly, it is coming back. The famous banyon tree was wounded but still stands, every day a little stronger. Our guide will tell the story and we'll stop for a light lunch together before returning to the resort for a little down time before the luau tonight.

The Myths of Maui Luau is an enchanting event that brings to life the rich cultural heritage of the island. An evening amidst

the swaying palm trees and mesmerizing ocean views, find yourself imbued in an incredible experience of Hawaiian cuisine, storytelling, song and dance. We have the V.I.P. admission package, which includes an "avoid the line entrance," preferential seating and access to the buffet, along with a fresh flower lei for each guest. Enjoy a traditional luau dinner and show on the grounds of a historic Hawaiian Hotel. (FB,L,D)

3. Many who have been to Maui in the past have likely visited Hana. A remote community on the east side of the island, it is known for its slow pace and historic Hawaiian charm. Instead of the scenic (but terribly winding) road to Hana, we'll take you there by **helicopter!** It promises to be a highlight of your travels. (FB,L)

4. The main attraction today is a visit to O'o Farms. It's a "farm-to-fork" experience, offering you an in-depth look at a regenerative farm on the slopes of Maui, followed by a gourmet lunch showcasing seasonal, recently harvested ingredients. (You'll taste some things you never even knew existed!) Just down the road is the Surfing Goat Dairy. What could that be all about? Let's stop and find out... The evening is free at the hotel. (FB,L)

5. The humpback whales from Alaska spend their winters in the warm Hawaiian waters. That gives us the perfect opportunity to go in search of an up close experience today. Bring your phones/cameras, because you might get the shot of a lifetime!

This afternoon, explore the resorts on the coast by trolley. It will take you to the Whaler's Village shops, or any of the resorts, every 30 minutes, for free. Mark and Tyler will lead an excursion after lunch! Tonight, a farewell dinner with entertainment at one of the resorts on the coast. (FB,D)

6. Depart the hotel after breakfast this morning, headed for the airport and your 1:10pm departure, non-stop on Hawaiian back to Sacramento, arriving at 8:20pm.

En route to the airport, detour to the popular Iao Valley. This valley is rich in cultural and spiritual values and is the site of a battle in 1790 between the forces of Kamehameha I and the Maui army. (FB)

\$5140 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5820 single



The sun sets over Kaanapali Beach at the Royal Lahaina on Maui



Teasers – Want to Go?

Things that are on the Drawing Board for '26...

We call this section "teasers." It's your chance to show interest in a destination(s) we are considering.

Call or email us (res@sportsleisure.com) at let us know if you are interested in traveling to the destinations below. Do any of them make your bucket list? Sound interesting? Or just a place or places you'd like to return to?

If you put your name on the list and the tour comes to fruition later this year, you'll receive advance notice and have an opportunity to register early. That's our thanks to you for lending your opinion and helping us decide which of these destinations "rise to the top."

If you show interest, feel free to let us know what city/attraction/cultural interest draws you to the destination (if any – maybe you just think it sounds like a fun place to visit). Where no date or length is mentioned, it's because we are first finding out if the idea sounds interesting to enough Travel Club Members to proceed.

Cuba • 7-9 Days • January

Costa Rica • February

US River/Lakes cruises

Columbia & Snake Rivers

Great Lakes

Upper Mississippi, north of St. Louis

Lower Mississippi, south of Memphis

Ice Magic, Lake Louise – Canadian Rockies in the winter

India, Beginning of April

Portugal, May – June, 12-14 days

Iceland / Greenland • Summer

Galapagos Islands • September

Fall in Alaska with Glacier train

New Zealand – January 21 – February 7, 2026

TOP RIGHT:

Our October Mystery Tour went to St L. Joseph, MO, the eastern terminus of The Pony Express.

Tyler decided a "historic re-enactment" would be perfect to bring history alive



BOTTOM RIGHT:

The Texas Tenors provided entertainment in Grapevine, TX, on our Christmas Mystery Tour



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 **Saturday, February 15, 2025** 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.

June – 2 Mountain & 2 Rivers – **\$75**

August – Peter & The Starcatcher – **\$25**

September – Santa Fe & Taos – **\$100**

September – Lake Placid & Cooperstown – **\$135**

November – Return to Maui – **\$150**



Mount Hood in the distance, part of Oregon: 2 Mountains and 2 Rivers, a June departure on page 11

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.