

Sports Leisure Vacations Between Newsletter Update

Vol. 46 / No. 5 / March 2025

About the KVIE Studio Series

This speaker series features public media celebrities and other distinguished individuals with a California connection. In a live interview format and studio setting, guests share career stories, discuss their current projects, and answer questions from a live audience. The first two events will take place at PBS KVIE's Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation Studio, while Pati Jinich will appear at the Crest Theater.

Studio Series – We are the Presenting Sponsor for the series

Our sponsorship includes a very limited number of tickets to each of the last three shows in the series. The tickets are being offered as a member benefit to our current **Gold** and **Gold + Travel Club** Members. Any leftover tickets will be available to our general Travel Club Membership. Tickets are **very** limited (we have 30 for each show) and we apologize in advance if tickets are not available for your selection. You can also purchase full price tickets from the KVIE web site.

How to Get Studio Series Tickets

Important Limit: Each member/household is **limited to two tickets to one event**. That can be one ticket to two shows, or two tickets to one show. **These are drive-only events, there is no shuttle bus service.**

To Get Tickets to any of the three shows in the Studio Series, call the Sports Leisure Vacations office between 9am – 3:30pm, M-F. You can also request tickets in person at our office, 9812 Old Winery Place, Suite 1, Sacramento, 95827 during the hours listed above. **We have 30 tickets to each show and expect them to be spoken for very quickly, probably within a day.**



Jack Gallagher, Stories From A Career in Comedy – May 18 – 3pm – KVIE Studios

Enjoy a discussion with comedian Jack Gallagher as he shares his experiences as a nationally recognized stand-up comic, his adventures on the road, his film and television roles, his extensive writing career, and the exciting new projects he's working on now. Jack is a three-time Emmy award winner for his work as the host of the PBS shows Money Moves, Off Limits, and Kids, Cash and Common Sense and was a TV host in Sacramento for many years. **\$10***

Kristi Yamaguchi, Pursuing Dreams – Aug. 14 – 7pm – KVIE Studios

Hear about Kristi Yamaguchi's incredible career as an Olympic Gold Medalist, bestselling children's book author, philanthropist, and advocate for early literacy. In 2008, she became champion of the sixth season of ABC's Dancing with the Stars. In 1996, she founded Always Dream, which is committed to impacting early literacy through fostering family and engagement and building a love of reading. **\$10***

Pati Jinich, Forging Cultural & Culinary Bonds – Sept. 3 – 7pm – Crest Theatre

Pati will discuss her career as a chef, author, TV host, and more. She has cooked at the White House for President Obama's Cinco de Mayo celebration. The Council of the Americas named Pati one of the "Top 5 Border Ambassadors" who have performed outstanding work bringing the United States and Mexico closer together in their Americas Quarterly (AQ) magazine. She is a regular contributor to publications like The Washington Post and The New York Times. Due to an overwhelming demand, the event has moved to the Crest Theatre in Sacramento. **\$10***

***Note:** The \$10 fee for the tickets will be donated in full to KVIE Channel 6. Ticket distribution will be finalized later.



Update on Tour Teasers from the Last Newsletter

In our last newsletter in January, we offered up 13 potential destinations for 2026 and asked you to express your interest. Here is a breakdown of those results, with the number of responses in ():

Cuba – 19, the current administration in Washington, DC, is not big on travel to Cuba. This one is on hold for now.

Costa Rica – 63. the biggest response. Scott is working on a trip for March of next year. We expect it to be announced at the **Spring Preview Day**.

USA River Cruising

Columbia/Snake River – 25

Great Lakes – 28

Upper Mississippi (north of St. Louis) – 21

Lower Mississippi (south of Memphis) – 23

On US river-cruising, the interest is pretty divided. But if you put all of the numbers in this group together, they total 97 responses. Michael is looking at Columbia/Snake River and Great Lakes as possibilities for next year. Like other forms of travel, river cruising has seen a serious price increase in the past 2-3 years.

Ice Magic (Canadian Rockies in Winter) – (9), not enough interest, so this one goes back on the shelf for now.

India – (11), not enough interest.

Portugal – (31), this destination is in the works for 2026. Watch the catalog in September.

Iceland (perhaps with Greenland) – (39), Scott is working on this for 2026.

Iceland for sure, perhaps with a Greenland option.

Galapagos Islands – (10), offered this destination in 2024, just checking on how many are still interested. Number is small, so it will be another year before we return.

Fall in Alaska – (11), we offered this last year and were checking to see how much interest there is in a repeat. Answer: not enough for now. Back on the shelf.

New Zealand – (30), this tour is announced in this newsletter.



A sample of tours Slated to be Announced at

Spring Preview Day – No advance “Teaser List” is available, you must wait for Spring Preview Day and the newsletter which follows to register. More tours will be added to the list in the weeks ahead.

Hearst Castle/Santa Barbara

Key West 2026

Thanksgiving in New York City

Palm Springs Christmas x 2-3 (Lily Tomlin, Barry Manilow)

Rose Parade in Pasadena

Asheville Christmas

Christmas Mystery Tour

Barry Manilow Christmas Concert in Palm Springs

Lily Tomlin re-opens the historic Plaza Theater in Palm Springs

Branson

Mexico’s Copper Canyon

Wine & Whales in Baja

Route 66’s 100th Anniversary – East (spring) and West (fall)

Costa Rica

Day Sightseeing & Theatre Trips

Easter Champagne Brunch at Grand Island Mansion

Walnut Grove

Sunday, April 20

Come join us for a beautiful Easter Brunch at the delta's historic **Grand Island Mansion**. The Mansion is one of the largest private estates in northern California and embodies the finest features of classical architecture and European craftsmanship in Walnut Grove. **\$224 Limited Space**

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.

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. Lunch on your own at the Museum Café. **\$155 Limited Space**

A Beautiful Noise #4: The Neil Diamond Tribute

Golden Gate Theater, San Francisco

Wednesday, June – 11- 1pm matinee

******Mezzanine Seating only for this performance. No Elevator access to Mezzanine Level-Only Grand Staircase******

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. **\$206**

Something Rotten!

Woodland Opera House

Saturday, June 21 – 2pm

The musical *Something Rotten!* is a comedic musical that tells the story of the Bottom brothers, Nick and Nigel, who are playwrights living in Elizabethan England. The plot is set in 1595, when the Bottom brothers are struggling to compete with the wild success of their contemporary William Shakespeare. Desperate to write a hit play, Nick consults a soothsayer who foretells that the future of theater will be "a musical." This leads the brothers on a hilarious journey as they attempt to create the world's first musical. Lunch is included prior to the show. **\$160**

Marine Mammal Center

Sausalito

Tuesday, June 24

Come and join us for a guided tour of the Marine Mammal Center, which is a private, non-profit U.S. organization that was established in 1975 for the purpose

of rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing marine mammals who are injured, sick or abandoned. It was founded in Sausalito, California, by Lloyd Smalley, Pat Arrigoni and Paul Maxwell. After our tour we will enjoy lunch at The Spinnaker restaurant which is the perfect spot with panoramic view of the bay. Followed with some time to browse Sausalito. **\$174**

Wayne Thiebaud and Legion of Honor's 100th Year

Legion of Honor San Francisco

Wednesday, July 2

Artist Wayne Thiebaud (American, 1920-2021) was a self-described art “thief” who openly appropriated and reinterpreted old and new European and American paintings. This is the first exhibition to highlight Thiebauds extensive reinterpretations of works by his artistic heroes. Works from the artists’ personal collection, including two recently gifted by Wayne Thiebaud, on view for the first time. **\$130**

Cartoons, Comics and Disney

A Day out in San Francisco

Thursday, July 10

Calling all comics fans! Offered for the very first time, we will visit the Cartoon Art Museum in SF. This museum is a treasure trove for art enthusiasts and comic lovers alike and is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of cartoon art.

Your day out in San Francisco starts at Walt Disney Family Museum on the Presidio. This interactive museum features the life and legacy of Walt Disney through permanent galleries including a model of the original Disneyland. Lunch at the Presidio Café follows and your day ends with a visit to the Cartoon Art Museum. **\$173**

& Juliet #2

Orpheum Theater, San Francisco

Wednesday, July 23 – 1pm matinee

& Juliet a musical that reimagines Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet by flipping the script as we discover what would happen if the sad ending of Romeo and Juliet never actually happened. What if Juliet decided NOT to die with Romeo and instead heads to France to heal her broken heart. With her besties at her side and a whole host of musical bangers to boot, Juliet rediscovers life and a second chance at love. **\$204**

**All Wednesday and Saturday Broadway matinee trips include: Box Lunch served onboard the coach going into San Francisco, Orchestra Seating, no host dinner stop after the show at either Pier 39 or North Beach area before returning to Sacramento.

Some Enchanted Evening - The Songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein

East Sonora Theater

Saturday, August 16 – 2pm

More than those of any composer or lyricist writing for the stage, the songs of Rodgers & Hammerstein have become an integral part of our everyday lives. We sing them in the shower; we dance to them in ballrooms; we hear them on the radio and in clubs and, yes, in elevators and supermarkets, too. This stunning collection of Rodgers & Hammerstein compositions places five performers in a theatrical setting: first “backstage,” where the songs are sung as personal interplay, and then “onstage,” where the songs are presented to an audience. Lunch is included prior to the show. **\$159**

Fleet Week in San Francisco on the Water

Featuring the Blue Angels

Sunday, October 12

The highlight of Fleet Week in San Francisco is always the Air Show, this year featuring the U.S. Navy’s elite Blue Angels. You’ve got the best seat in the house onboard a City Cruises vessel as it maneuvers around SF Bay. From the deck of the cruise ship, you get a front row seat to witness the thrilling aerobatics and precision flying of these elite pilots. The 2½ hour cruise gives you ample time to enjoy an included lunch, the air show and the scenic beauty of the SF bay. **\$234**

Extended Tours/Cruises Update

Japan for the Culturally Curious

11 Days * May 21-31

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 Donnie Anderson at our office for more info.

\$8895 p.p./dbl.occ., \$9310 single, 2 seats available.

Alaska Cruise - Holland America's Westerdam

8 Days * May 25-June 1

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, \$2620p.p./dbl.occ., for outside staterooms. Single cabins start at \$3265 inside, \$3865 outside.

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

5 Days * June 5-9

Travel the legendary highway from Ely to Sacramento. 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, 4 seats available.

San Juan Islands #2

5 Days * August 3-7 * New departure

Fly to Seattle and travel north to Bellingham. Enjoy 3 days of cruising through the beautiful San Juan Islands on a private yacht. Stay in Friday Harbor (2 nights) and Bellingham (overnight). Visit the villages of La Conner and Roche Harbor. One of our most popular trips. 9 meals and round-trip air.

\$3620 p.p./dbl.occ., \$3965 single, 4 seats available.

Oregon: Scandinavians, Gardens & Covered Bridges

5 Days * August 12-16

2 nights Oregon Garden Resort/Silverton, 2 nights The Graduate Hotel Eugene. Tour of Cottage Grove's Covered Bridges, ending with lunch on one of them. Food, entertainment and festivities at Junction City's Scandinavian Festival. Tour the Oregon Gardens and Eugene (2 different tours). Round trip air, Portland/Eugene, 8 meals.

\$2650 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2990 single, one seat available.

A Train, A Paddle wheeler, Two Mountains & The Columbia River

Featuring the Hood River Railroad, the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler and three nights on the shores of the Columbia River

4 Days * June 22-25

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, one dinner
- * 0000/0000 Gold Passport Points

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 the property. **BW Hood River Inn - 3 nights (L)**
2. 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)**
3. 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)**

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 the early evening. **(FB, L)**
\$2485 p.p./dbl.occ., \$2780 single

Stories of Santa Fe & Taos

5 Days * September 4-8

Highlights

- * 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

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 tell where they happened.

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

Enjoy New’s England’s famous fall foliage in two picturesque villages

Lake Placid to Cooperstown

7 Days * September 22-28

Late September generally brings some of our country's most fabled fall color. The maple trees in New England and upstate New York provide the background for this artist's 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 American 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.

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. You 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. **Lunch option is available at this attraction.**
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,L)**
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)**

\$4660 p.p./dbl.occ., \$5375 single

Maui by Air, Land & Sea

6 Days * November 4-9

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-Island 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
- * 0000/0000 Gold Passport Points

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

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

New Tours

The Great Reno Balloon & Virginia City Camel and Ostrich Races! 3 Days * September 4-6

1. A limousine picks you up from your home and delivers you to the *Sports Leisure Vacation* office. Lunch is hosted in Reno at a popular restaurant on the Truckee River before checking into your hotel. Your accommodations are located in the heart of “The Biggest Little City” and connected to the Eldorado and Circus Circus hotels. Your evening is at your leisure. **Silver Legacy – 2 nights (L)**
2. This morning, witness a spectacular display of colorful balloons filling the sky! You will have Cloud 9 VIP Club seating which includes heated outdoor seating on the field, a catered breakfast and a hosted bar with champagne, mimosas and bloody Mary’s are included. There will also be time to shop along Balloon Boulevard for some gifts. Lunch is hosted and there will be optional local touring before heading back to your hotel in the afternoon. **(B,L)**
3. Check out of the Silver Legacy and travel to Virginia City for the annual Camel & Ostrich Races. Watch jockeys race camels, ostriches, and even zebras in a lively and humorous competition. Arrive back in Sacramento late afternoon where your limousine will deliver you home. This package includes door-to-door service, deluxe motorcoach transportation, and all attractions listed above. Balloon events may be canceled due to bad weather. **(L)**

\$1345 p.p./dbl.occ., \$ 1450 single; \$40 Early Payment Discount until June 10

New Zealand – Sweet As!*

***A versatile phrase used to convey a positive sentiment in New Zealand slang**

18 Days * January 21 – February 7, 2026

Highlights

- * Visit the North Island destinations of Auckland, Waiheke Island, Rotorua, Napier, Lake Taupo, and Wellington
- * Visit the South Island destinations of Christchurch, Franz Josef, Queenstown, Milford Sound and Twizel AND so many more places in-between!
- * Services of local drivers and guides, plus a *Sports Leisure* Tour Director throughout
- * 28 meals: 15 full breakfasts, 4 lunches, 9 dinners
- * Roundtrip airfare: San Francisco/Auckland and Christchurch/San Francisco (motorcoach transportation between Sacramento and San Francisco)
- * Door-to-door transportation

1-3. Your overnight flight out of San Francisco actually takes three days by the calendar as you'll cross the International Date Line en route, landing just after 5 a.m. (yawn!) in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city. Following an orientation tour of the city and lunch, your hotel awaits! But don't nap too long – dinner is served at Orbit 360, a revolving restaurant spiraling high above the city offering fantastic views from the top of the Sky Tower. **The Grand by SkyCity – 2 nights (L,D)**

4. New Zealand is famous for its wines, and no place shines brighter than Waiheke. The island is located a 40-minute ferry ride from the city center, but a world apart playing home to award-winning wineries, lush vineyards, olive groves and inviting beaches. Visit multiple wineries, taste their vintages and have lunch in this popular playground for NZ's rich and famous. **(FB,L)**

5. Hamilton Gardens takes you on an amazing trip through time as you wander through 18 enclosed themed gardens spanning over 4000 years of botanical and world history. Rated one of NZ's top three attractions by Trip Advisor! Do we have any Hobbit fans? Much of the movie trilogy was filmed right here in Hobbiton, which you'll explore on a 2-hour guided tour. The day ends in Rotorua. **Pullman Rotorua – 2 nights (FB,L)**

6. New Zealanders are called "kiwis," but the word also refers to the beloved flightless bird indigenous to these islands. Learn more at the National Kiwi

Hatchery. Other treasured island creatures are sheep and the dogs specially trained to herd them. You'll see both in action at the Agrodome Farm Show. Long before the arrival of the English, Polynesians ruled these islands. Known as Māori, you'll have a chance to meet their descendants and sample their food and culture at the Tamaki Māori Village where Matariki (your dinner feast) is served. **(FB,D)**

7. See the spectacular Huki Falls on your way to Napier City, famous for its vast assortment of Art Deco buildings which you'll discover on a neighborhood walking tour. Your hotel is located on the city's scenic Marine Parade which you'll want to explore both before and after dinner! **Scenic Hotel Te Pania (FB,D)**
8. At the Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre you'll see a captive breeding site focused on reestablishing native bird populations across New Zealand including not just the kiwi, but also brown and blue ducks, orange-fronted parakeets, shore plovers and more. Located at the southern tip of the North Island, the Capital City of Wellington is known as "The Windy City." Why? Well, let's just say you better hold onto your hats! **Sofitel Wellington – 2 nights (FB)**
9. This morning you'll see "The Beehive" and Parliament buildings on a city highlights tour, followed by a guided walkabout of NZ's national museum for history and culture, Te Papa. Next visit the Cable Car Museum, then enjoy the view with a ride on one of their vintage cars. The afternoon and evening are left for personal exploration. **(FB)**
10. Say goodbye to Te Ika-a-Maui (North Island) and hello to Te Waipounamu (South Island) on a short one-hour flight from Wellington to Christchurch. Known to many as Quake City, a disastrous seismic event struck them on February 22, 2011, nearly destroying the community. Today visitors witness their impressive rebirth whilst remembering their storied past. On a guided city tour you'll visit the Quake City interactive exhibit, the Cardboard Cathedral and kick back on a restful punting cruise upon the Avon River. **Crowne Plaza Hotel (FB,D)**
11. All aboard! Take the TranzAlpine, NZ's finest inland rail journey, across the Canterbury Plains, through the Waimakariri River Valley and cross the "Southern Alps" at Arthur's Pass. The 5-hour scenic journey ends in Greymouth

where you'll travel south along the rugged coast to Franz Josef and NZ's premier 5-star eco-resort. **Te Waonui Forest Retreat (FB,D)**

12. The drive to Queenstown will take most of the day and spotlight South Island's pristine, remote nature. Glacier-carved. Underdeveloped. Small population. A UNESCO World Heritage Site compared to the Grand Canyon and Great Barrier Reef simultaneously, the south of South Island is a feast for all the senses. **The Rees Hotel – 3 nights (FB,D)**
13. The drive to Milford Sound is nearly as spectacular as the 2-hour cruise on the famed fjord. Home to towering cliffs and peaks (including Mitre Peak that rises more than a kilometer straight out of the sea), rain forests and waterfalls, Milford Sound lives up to its reputation as the "eighth natural wonder of the world"! Though the drive was stunning, you'll see the return to Queenstown from a bird's eye perspective aboard a half-hour flightseeing adventure! **(FB,L)**
14. Need more time on the water? Your wish is our command! Board the *TSS Earnslaw* for a cruise from Queenstown Bay to Walter Peak and return. The afternoon is left to explore Queenstown or take a well-earned siesta. In the evening ride a gondola to Bob's Peak for dinner at the Stratosfare Restaurant boasting great food and sensational views. **(FB,D)**
15. Depart via the Kawarau Gorge, Cromwell, Lake Tekapo and Canterbury where you'll visit the Dark Sky Experience. This indoor multi-media attraction charts the history of the world through scientific research and Māori tradition, resulting in a "big bang" of awe and inspiration. Onward to Twizel. **Distinction Mackenzie Country Hotel – 2 nights (FB,D)**
16. Unlike famed explorer Sir Edmund Hillary, we'll begin our exploration of this amazing area by motorcoach – no ice hooks required! Mt. Cook Village is our midday destination where you can visit the Alpine Center, a museum dedicated to all things Hillary. After stocking up on provisions, continue to the Tasman Valley where we'll take a 1.5 km alpine walk to board the *Glacier Explorer*. The 2.5-hour narrated cruise will take you alongside the Tasman Glacier Ice Wall where icebergs are periodically seen calving into the lake. This is nature at its most pristine best! **(FB)**
17. It's a sizable jaunt back to Christchurch, but the scenery is guaranteed to keep you spellbound. Tonight's Farewell Dinner is an unexpected treat. The Curator's

House is located within the picturesque Botanic Gardens. The chef hails from Barcelona, so you can expect a night of authentic Spanish dishes made only with the freshest NZ ingredients. Olé! **Crowne Plaza Hotel (FB,D)**

18. The time has come to say goodbye via a late afternoon departure out of Christchurch. Transfer in Auckland for the trans-Pacific return flight to San Francisco. Whereas you won't get that lost day back, you will be landing (by the clock) 9 hours before you took off! **(FB)**

Price will be available April 15. You can reserve your space now. If the price doesn't suit you, just call and cancel your reservations. We estimate the price, including air, will be \$11,000 - \$12,000. A valid passport is required for this trip.

Wait List Only

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 three months, we have placed **287 travelers** from wait lists onto the tour they wanted.

Apr. 6-9	Springtime in Monterey
Apr. 8-13	Kentucky: Bluegrass, Bourbon & Booms
May 1-6	Washington, DC
May 7-9	Redwoods & Wonder Valley Ranch, Kings Canyon
May 12-14	Redwoods & Wonder Valley Ranch, Kings Canyon
Apr. 15-20	New Mexico, Land of Enchantment
Apr. 21-25	San Antonio
May 4-8	Moab, Gateway to Arches Nat'l Park
May 18-23	Niagara Falls & I Love Lucy
May 30 – Jun. 6	Cape Cod
Jun. 1-5	Shucked, A Mystery Tour
Jun. 4-6	Yosemite National Park
Jul. 6-10	Explore the San Juan Islands
Jul. 28 – Aug. 3	The Canadian Rockies
Jul. 13-15	Pageant of the Masters
Aug. 24-26	Pageant of the Masters
Sept. 12-17	Fall in Love with Victoria & Vancouver
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. 7-14	Bonjour, La Belle Quebec
Nov. 9-23	Far East Discovery Cruise