



TERRI PETRICK
AAA East Central
President

Image: Azamara

Cruise with AAA East Central President Terri Petrick

Sail with elegance on Baltic Capitals Voyage

SAILING THE BALTIC SEA is a wondrous time. The storied waterway hugs a host of countries in northern Europe. Beauty exudes from its surroundings and memories are made with each step, sight and sound.

It's where you'll find colorful countries that thrive on peace and joy. They tease your curiosities and warm your heart. Countries like Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Sweden are unique places that shorten bucket lists and exceed expectations. They're priceless stamps on a destination card that will have you screaming "Bingo!" before your passport is being scanned.

You'll visit the capitals of these amazing countries. History, architecture and culture envelop this fabulous part of the world – one that is destined to create a bottomless trove of memories.

These amazing countries rank among the finest worldwide and highlights a fantastic 11-night Baltic Capitals Voyage, departing August 11, 2024, aboard *Azamara Onward*. It's an incredible trip that boasts seven remarkable ports and late-night departures.

Even better, this exclusive cruise will be hosted by AAA East Central President Terri Petrick. The President's Cruise is a journey you don't want to miss. Memories are made, friendships are formed and good times are plentiful. It doesn't get any better.

The cost for AAA Members is \$4,499 per person double occupancy (flight not included). The price includes 11-night cruise accommodations in a Verandah Stateroom; most on-board meals and entertainment; government taxes and fees; select standard spirits, international beers and wines; shipboard gratuities; bottled water, soft drinks, specialty coffees and teas; self-service laundry; concierge services for personal guidance and reservations; complimentary AzAmazing Evening Event; and Azamara's White Night (everyone wears white this evening).

The world is a big place and the way to experience all it has to offer is to change the way you see it. Immerse yourself into cultures and locales at a more relaxed pace by exploring destinations by day and

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Special President's Trip Cruise Perks

- Premium Liquor/Beverage package for each person
- Unlimited Wifi for 1 device per cabin
- \$300 Shore Excursion Credit per cabin
- 1 night of Specialty Dining for the group

Image: Adobe Stock.

REAL ID Extended to May 7, 2025

The Department of Homeland Security extended the REAL ID deadline to May 7, 2025. The REAL ID Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for official purposes licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards. Beginning May 7, 2025, every state and territory resident will need to present a REAL ID compliant license/ID, or another acceptable form of ID for boarding commercial aircraft, accessing Federal facilities and entering nuclear plants. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) considers a current passport or military ID acceptable identification for boarding an aircraft. For more information on Ohio's REAL ID compliant license, visit bmvo.ohio.gov.

Get Peace of Mind with Automatic Renewal

AAA Auto Pay is the convenient way to pay your membership dues! There are no checks to write, no stamps to buy, no late payments and no risk of having your membership lapse. Choose AAA Auto Pay and your membership dues will be automatically charged to your credit card, debit card, or checking account each year. When you enroll using your credit or debit card, your account will be charged seven business days prior to the membership expiration date. Enroll by using your checking account and your account will be charged one day in advance of the expiration date. To learn more or enroll in AAA's Auto Pay Program, call 1-800-441-5008 or visit your local AAA branch office. To sign up online, log in to your membership account at AAA.com and select "Enroll" in the Bill.

AAA Members Save More at Shell

The Fuel Rewards® Program is all about one thing: providing real, immediate savings on something you use all the time — fuel. AAA Members get automatic Gold Status and save 30¢/gal on their first fill-up at Shell when they join the Fuel Rewards® program by 12/31/23 and make their first transaction within 30/days of joining. After that, save 5¢/gal every day on each individual fill-up of up to 20 gallons from participating Shell stations.

Find Lower Gas Prices with Auto Club app

Eager to find the lowest gas prices in your location? AAA's Auto Club app can help you save time and money by comparing prices of the nearest gas stations. The Auto Club app also goes beyond finding the lowest fuel prices. Members can use it to request roadside assistance, book travel reservations for flight, car rental, hotel, or cruise, and much more. To get the app, text APP10 to 86792 and you will receive a link to download it.

VISIT PORTUGAL AND ALL IT HAS TO OFFER



Visit Portugal & Its Islands featuring Sintra, Azores & Madeira Islands. Experience the best of Portugal as you explore its capital city, coastal villages, and remote islands. It's a trip destined to lessen your bucket list and create lasting memories.

Turn to page 9 for more information.

Belize shines among Caribbean jewels

Natural wonders and beauty define special location

A peaceful, green oasis sits between Mexico and Guatemala. It's rich in beauty and blessed with the magic of its Maya past. Its mountains are draped with waterfalls. Dense lowlands give way to rolling grasslands. Every breeze wafts the scent of tree ferns and orchids. Howler monkeys speak their own language from the jungle.

Also known as a diver's paradise, it has spectacular coral gardens, a bevy of marine life and crystal-blue waters.

Whale sharks emerge from the depths of the Caribbean Sea from March through June. They measure as long as 45 feet and feed by sucking on plankton and tiny fish. Divers swim in harmony with these gentle creatures that share attributes with other sharks except one: they have no teeth.

Belize has grown into a popular cruise destination during the past decade. Ships call in at Belize City – the country's largest town.

Christopher Columbus reached Belize in 1502, but the initial European settlers – British sailors – shipwrecked on the country years earlier. It's the only Central American country that has English as its official language.

A sandy secluded beach, palm trees and clear waters encompass Ambergris Caye – the real-life locale of reality show "Temptation Island". Sunbathers



THE BLUES – The Great Blue Hole in Belize is the largest sea hole in the world.

Image: nr_photos. Adobe Stock.

relish catching rays from a clear sky that is dotted with puffy clouds. Belize's largest offshore island is populated by luxury resorts and offers world-class diving at Hol Can Marina Reserve.

Jacques Cousteau first explored the Great Blue Hole in 1971 on nearby Lighthouse Reef Atoll. It's the largest sea hole in the world and is

recognizable from space. Submerged at the end of the Ice Age more than 10,000 years ago, the Great Blue Hole is 984 feet across and 354 feet deep. It's considered one of the best dive sites in the world.

Visitors can take a meandering, 37-mile drive from Belize City up the Western Highway to reach the Caves

Branch River. The waterway snakes through the Maya mountains. Guides hand out headlamps for a float through the limestone-cave system on an inner-tube. Crystalline formations like the cave, and majestic stalagmites and stalactites sparkle like icicles in the dark recess of the cave.

Nearly two-thirds of Belize is labeled as nature preserves. Guests can spot more than 540 species. The Mountain Pine Ridge – a 300-square-mile reserve – is home to the thousand-foot Hidden Valley Falls, exotic tapirs and five species of wildcats, including the jaguar.

The Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary sprawls more than 128,000 acres of tropical jungle. It's home to the world's first jaguar reserve. Hikers discover rare flora and fauna, a plethora of waterfalls and Victoria Peak – Belize's second-tallest mountain.

Belize served as an epicenter of the ancient Maya civilization. Caracol is the largest Maya destination and covers 65-square miles – an area twice the size of Belize City. The 155-foot-tall Caana – or Sky Palace – has been abandoned more than a thousand years. Yet it remains the highest manmade structure in the country.

Belize is a tropical paradise. Grandeur defines its nature and beauty its sandy shorelines. Travelers shouldn't hesitate to dive right in.

AAA educating consumers interested EVs

Electric Vehicles 101 is a guide to answering questions

AAA continues to be a leading source for drivers who consider purchasing an electric vehicle.

Its new Electric Vehicles 101 includes essential information on EVs like tips for first-time EV drivers, essential charging and vehicle background, and guidelines for those who are considering to purchase a used or new EV. AAA's goal is to assist consumers interested in going electric to be informed and educated on ownership before purchase to ensure a rewarding and confident experience.

"EVs could be a viable choice for many first-time buyers or multi-car households, but the key is to understand all the options available and if those match your needs," said Greg Brannon, AAA's director of automotive research. "AAA is an expert in EVs – and we're passionate about sharing that knowledge to help consumers make informed decisions about what best suits their lifestyle."

What is Electric Vehicles 101?

- Basic background of EVs
- Driving range and charging
- First-time driving EV point of view
- EV ownership cost comparison (new and used vs. battery and gas-powered)
- Repair and maintenance costs
- Supplemental AAA Car Buyer Resources
- Visit AAA.com/EV101 to learn more

In addition to the newly released EV



IT'S ELECTRIC – AAA Electric Vehicles 101 guide is available to assist consumers in purchasing an EV. Image: Erick. Adobe Stock.

101, AAA has other resources to help buyers navigate the car-buying decision, including:

- The 2023 AAA Your Driving Cost analysis revealed that EVs have the least expense associated with annual ownership costs in the categories of maintenance, repair and tire costs, fuel and license, registration and taxes.
- TripTik® Travel Planner provides public-charging information along

any route.

- AAA TourBook® Guides include which hotels offer public charging for guests.
- Cashback on EV charging with AAA-branded credit cards.
- Mobile EV battery charging is available in 24 cities.

Before embarking on a car-buying journey, AAA encourages consumers to do their homework and check our EV 101, as well as these resources:

"AAA is an expert in EVs – and we're passionate about sharing that knowledge to help consumers make informed decisions about what best suits their lifestyle."

Greg Brannon,
AAA's director of
automotive research

- Your Driving Cost Online Calculator helps consumers determine important comparison costs before purchase. Select the desired state, annual mileage and driving ratio representing your typical driving habits and vehicle year/make/model and trim.
- AAA Car Guide provides consumers with reviews and ratings of select vehicles with the most recent automotive technology, many of which are EVs. The Automobile Club of Southern California's Automotive Research Center tests and reviews vehicles annually.

To help educate the public, AAA conducts ongoing research on EVs, including consumer-sentiment surveys, testing to determine factors impacting electric-vehicle range, the true cost of electric-vehicle ownership, and a survey on consumers' experience with going electric.



Image: Adobe Stock.



Image: Adobe Stock.

night. It results in a richer and more fulfilling small-cruise experience.

Time is your best friend when traveling to new and exciting destinations. Another advantage is sailing on a smaller ship, perfectly sized to cruise across oceans and scenic waterways, and dock at off-the-beaten-path locations, as well as world-renowned ones.

Begin your trip in Denmark. Its capital, Copenhagen, is known as the “City of Spires.” Its medieval core is punctuated by the steeples of churches and towers of palaces.

Spend two days in Gdansk, Poland. It’s a port city on the Baltic more than 1,000 years in age. It teams with Gdynia and Sopot to create the fantastic metropolitan area of Trojmiasto – also known as the “Tricity.”

Day 2 in Gdansk allows you to explore the town. Choose an optional shore excursion to absorb all it has to offer. Perhaps a walking tour. Maybe a private-vehicle one. Or something in between. Lively older buildings mesh perfectly with newer architecture to create a day of wonderful sightseeing.

Explore the cobblestoned Old Town in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Its German heritage speaks to you through half-timbered architecture, beginning at Theatre Square

– a renowned location. Go cycling to the Dunes, join a walking tour to Juodkrante Village or, for those cold war history buffs, visit a Soviet nuclear-weapon site.

Riga is Latvia’s capital. It’s set on the Baltic Sea at the mouth of the River Daugava. A cultural center, it’s home to museums and concert halls. Wooden buildings, art nouveau and its medieval Old Town rank it among the most interesting of its kind in Europe.

A traveler’s paradise can be found in Estonia – Tallinn, to be exact. Little has changed in the capital city over numerous centuries. Its medieval influences can be recognized in its architecture and art. Visit St. Olav’s Church – once the tallest building in the world – before having a seat at a charming café in the town square, the heart of the city for 800 years.

Finland offers a trifecta of exploration and enjoyment. Visit three cities in three days and leave with a plethora of unforgettable times.

Kotka is tucked away on the world’s largest archipelago and delivers an exceptional island lifestyle. Kotka is blessed with architecturally stunning museums, award-winning parks and other attractions sure to grab your attention. Take an archipelago cruise, hike to Tsar’s fishing lodge or take part in a beer-tasting tour.

Helsinki – Finland’s capital city – blends traditional and modern architecture and design with nature and a few quirky touches that include a church built inside an enormous chunk of granite. A scenic drive reveals the rock-hewn Temppeliaukio Church, Sibelius Park and other iconic landmarks. Drive to the medieval town of Parvoo or stroll the many cobblestoned roads.

Mariehamn, meanwhile is synonymous with scenic harbors, dense greenery, wooded houses and wide streets that make it the ideal place to explore by foot. Finnish, Russian and Swedish history intertwine to take you back centuries.

Your trip concludes in Stockholm, a cosmopolitan city that boasts modern Scandinavian architecture, trendy restaurants and fairytale palaces that are guarded by a Board of Beauty. Take a canal cruise. Chill out in the town’s Ice Bar in Old Town – a unique establishment constructed out of ice, including furniture and glasses. Visit the Nobel Museum, as well as a bevy of palaces, museums and unusual attractions.

Don’t hesitate to reserve your place on the President’s Cruise. It a sail you can’t ignore, and it certainly will change the way you see the world.

Experience Copenhagen

Take advantage of a two-night, prepackaged trip to Copenhagen for an exclusive day of touring the city and surroundings prior to embarking on your cruise.

2-night pre-cruise option (August 9-11)
\$859/per person, double occupancy

Hotel: NH Collection Copenhagen

Day 1: Arrive in Copenhagen and transfer to your hotel in a prime location for a two-night stay. Enjoy a free afternoon in evening to explore this ancient city on your own. Copenhagen has a rich history as a major city on the edge of the Baltic. It grew from a little fishing town to the capital of Denmark. It has survived fire, plague, invasion and just about everything in between. Perhaps visit the world-famous Tivoli gardens, then enjoy dinner at one of the local restaurants.

Day 2: Breakfast is included at our hotel this morning. Today, we drive to Kronborg Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Known as the setting of Shakespeare’s Hamlet, the castle is located in Elsinore with views across to Sweden facing the sound. Once the home of kings and queens, a fortified castle with bastions and cannon batteries that controlled the water in the narrowest point between Sweden and Denmark, the castle’s history is fascinating. We return to Copenhagen to enjoy an included lunch at the local Skipperkroen Restaurant. We then embark on a Classic Canal cruise. Hear how Copenhagen became the fantastic city it is today. Learn about the city’s founding father, the best place to get Danish Smorrebrod “butter bread,” a traditional open-faced sandwich in the cuisines of Denmark, and why the Danes are called the happiest people in the world. Our tour ends in Nyhavn, a 17th-century waterfront that is now an entertainment district. Here we enjoy some free time and we can walk back to our hotel.

Day 3: Copenhagen (Ship departs: 6 p.m. August 11). Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel. This afternoon, transfer to the Azamara Onward for the beginning of our Baltic Adventure.