



# **PUT AAA** TO GOOD USE **SEE PAGE 3**

Vol. 31 No. 1

**BEAVER/LAWRENCE REGION** 

**JANUARY 2024** 

Travel | Insurance/Financial | Automotive

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continued on pg 21

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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.

## 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 Pennsylvania's REAL ID compliant license, visit dmv.pa.gov/ REALID/Pages/default.aspx.

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SAIL THE BALTIC ON PRESIDENT'S CRUISE



CUT OUT AND REDEEM THE DISCOUNT ADMISSION COUPON ON PAGE 15!





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See page 9 for more information.



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Note: Free Junior Associates are not available with the Monthly Dues Option.

# From Where I Sit

# Take advantage of AAA membership Make it your New Year's resolution to save big in '24

By Terri Petrick President, AAA East Central

he new year has arrived, giving us time to reset and reflect. Of course, I'm sure you've pledged a resolution or two. Maybe even some repeat resolutions from the past? We've all been there!

If you don't have any resolutions planned, I'll propose one. In 2024, don't let any of your AAA benefits go unused. After all, as the old saying goes, "Waste not, want not."



**Terri Petrick** 

If you resolve to use your AAA membership to its fullest potential throughout the year, you will find yourself saving time and money. I'm not referring only to when you're stranded at the roadside. If you think about it, AAA is like several different companies

acting as one to offer a multitude of services to its members. It is an insurance agency, travel agency, roadside assistance provider, discounts and rewards provider and more. All rolled into one!

Think about it this way. Thousands of vendors offer discounts to those bearing the AAA card, and members save an average of \$170 each year. That's more than enough to cover the cost of your annual membership

For example, did you know that AAA recently established a relationship with DIRECTV® to offer savings to our members? If you sign up by phone for a new account with the satellite television provider, you can get up to a \$400 Visa Reward Card.

Or, if you're looking to save money at the pump, did you know members save through the AAA Fuel Rewards Program at participating Shell stations? You can save 30 cents per gallon on your first fill-up and then 5 cents every day after that.



Image: AAA.

#### **Membership has its Privileges**



Scan QR code to discover what your AAA membership can do for you.

If your resolution is to take a dream vacation this year, a AAA Travel Advisor can be your most valuable resource. Personally, I will not be traveling anywhere without a AAA Travel Advisor watching my back.

I've heard too many stories of people who have reached their destinations only

to find they were ill-prepared because they forgot to sign up for an international driver's permit, a travel credit card, or some other snag. The bottom line: if you're going to invest your hard-earned money into a vacation, you want to have a professional guide you through the process.

These are just a few of the ways you can save money all year as a AAA member. But even a single tow can prove your membership to be a good financial decision. If you call an independent tow company, you can be stuck with a bill that includes charges like hookup fees, per-mile fees, vehicle size fees ... Before vou know it, one tow can amount to a couple-hundred dollars!

And if you know anyone who is curious about joining, we're running special offers in 2024. Information for new members can be found at AAA.com or by visiting a local AAA Branch Office.

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Thanks to **AAA Discounts** & Rewards, members enjoy real savings on the things they buy every day and just about everywhere. The more you use it, the more savings add up. When you're ready to buy, think AAA first. It's the membership that pays for itself.

Go to AAA.com/discounts and start saving today.



#### Save 55% off Your First Box. Plus 15% Off On-Going

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## Join AAA Spot Club and Save

AAA members receive 2 free days of airport parking when signing up for Spot Club. Save 10% minimum discount with additional exclusive offers throughout the year. The \$5.95 reservation fee waived on every transaction. Earn points towards free parking with every AAA.com/theparkingspot.

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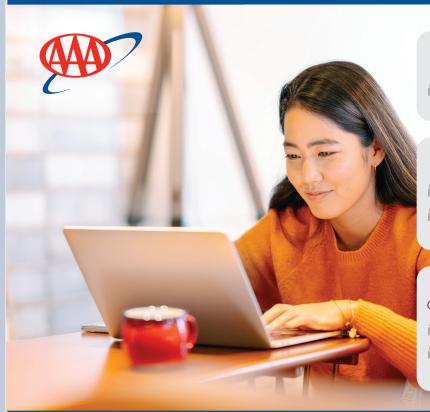
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# Don't assume other driver will stop after crash What motorists should do if they're victims of a hit-and-run

By Robin Jones

ou're driving on a busy highway when you notice a speeding car coming up quickly behind you. It's zigzagging between lanes, narrowly missing other cars. Before you can react, it catches up with you – and clips your car's rear end.

Momentarily stunned, you ask if your passengers are OK, and you start to pull to the side of the road. Then, you get a second shock: The perpetrator is racing away, clearly with no intention of stopping to exchange insurance information.

That's when you realize you're the victim of a hit-and-run driver. At this point, you know the normal post-crash procedures don't necessarily apply. But how can you make sure your insurance claim goes smoothly? Keep the following tips in mind:

DO pull over to a safe place and write down as much information about the other driver and the collision as you can remember. Some or all of the other driver's license plate would be great. But even the other car's make, model and color can help, along with the direction it was headed and any damage the car might have sustained.

DO take pictures of your car and



**CAN'T STAY** – A driver reacts after seeing the damage done to her vehicle after a hit-and-run accident. *Image: pathdoc. Adobe Stock.* 

the area in which the crash occurred if it is safe to do so. Time-stamped photos of the road and weather conditions, as well as traffic flow, can assist with your claim.

DO ask any witnesses to describe what they saw, and write down their testimony, names and contact information, so that your claims adjuster can contact them, if necessary.

DO call the police. If the damage is minor or no one is injured, the police might not come to the crash scene. However, your auto insurance policy might require you to notify the police of any hit-and-run accident. If that's the case, be sure to file a police report, whether at the scene,

by phone or at the police station.

DO report the collision accurately when you call your insurer. Intentionally misrepresenting facts about an accident could lead to a suspicion of fraud. Insurance companies are able to easily recognize whether a vehicle came into contact with another vehicle and whether it was in motion when it sustained damage.

In many cases, either the victim, a witness or a surveillance camera can supply enough information for the police to find the fleeing driver. If a hit-and-run driver is caught, he or she could face these serious penalties: fines up to \$10,000 and prison time, depending on the severity of the damage or injuries caused by the crash. Plus, the DMV could put points on the driver's license; the driver's insurer, if he or she has one, could cancel coverage; and anyone injured in the accident could sue.

DON'T play detective and chase the other car. You might be tempted to try to get the license-plate number for your claim, but that could result in unsafe driving and worsen the situation. Remember: As long as you have the appropriate coverage, your insurance company should assist in repairing your car.

# Annual new vehicle costs rise above \$12K Record prices, 90% increase in finance rates drive numbers

he yearly cost to drive a motor vehicle continues to rise.

AAA's Your Driving Costs

a data source for expenses associated with owning and operating a new vehicle – finds that the average cost of owning and operating a new vehicle in 2023 increased significantly. The annual expense of \$12,182 – or \$1,015 monthly – is a sharp increase from 2022, when the average cost topped at \$10,728 – \$894 monthly.

"It's important for car buyers to clearly understand the costs associated with owning a new vehicle," said Greg Brannon, AAA's director of automotive research. "Due to global supply-chain issues and constrained inventory of new vehicles, car prices rose dramatically in 2022. And while the situation continues to improve, the spillover effects are keeping prices high."

The overall average manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of new vehicles in 2023 increased to \$34,976 – an annual increase of \$1,575 from the previous year. It's important to note that MSRP does not always correspond to a consumer's actual purchase price and might vary depending on demand. A higher sticker price directly impacted finance costs, with vehicles boasting an average annual finance of \$1,253 – a 90% increase from the previous year.



**MONEYPIT** – The cost to own a new car in 2023 rose to above \$12,000. *Image: pavel\_shishkin. Adobe Stock.* 

The change in the annual cost of owning a new vehicle also is likely driven by:

- Depreciation, which is the difference between the car's value upon purchase and the value of the car when sold. According to 2023's YDC projections, new vehicles are expected to depreciate by an average of \$4,538 per year over five years of ownership up 22% from 2022.
- The jump in new-vehicle prices compared to used-vehicle values that have experienced a decline in the past year.

 Automakers have focused on producing more oversized, luxurious and expensive vehicles loaded with extra features that increase prices even more.

Compared to 2022, fuel ranked among one of the higher annual-cost categories. The average cost per mile in 2023 decreased roughly 2 cents per mile. Meanwhile, the cost of charging EVs increased by nearly 2 cents per kWh from 2022. It went from 13.9 cents per kWh to 15.8 cents. The increase is likely accounted for by higher-than-expected inflation, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

**Your Driving Costs Online Calculator** 



Or visit AAA.com/AutoRepair/DrivingCosts

Given their size, fuel economy and prices, it should come as no surprise that half-ton pickups have the highest average driving costs among all vehicle categories covered in the YDC study. Pickup trucks excel at hauling and towing, although many buyers don't use them for these purposes. Potential buyers should be aware that the unique capabilities of pickups come at a high cost of more than \$1 per mile.

The pickup market has slowed over the past 12 months, with gas prices trending higher and financial costs climbing.

"The once popular pickup truck is now seeing a slight decline in demand as these vehicles have become increasingly expensive, rivaling the price of many luxury cars," said Brannon. "As interest rates continue to climb, this adds a layer of expense per month that consumers should consider when shopping for their next vehicle."

# Destin leading destination on panhandle Northwest Florida beach town chock full of entertainment

t's not easy to get a grip on Florida's panhandle when planning a trip to the Sunshine State. It often is overlooked – not by any fault of its own. Florida is synonymous with Walt Disney World, Space Coast, the keys and a myriad of beaches located on its east and west coasts.

Let's face it, Florida is a vacationer's utopia, making it easy to understand how some locations might not get the love they deserve.

But the panhandle shouldn't be ignored. It's comprised of a number of beach towns, including Pensacola, Navarre and Panama City – all destinations worth a visit. But Destin might be the crowning jewel of Florida's little area that could.

Destin is located on the southwest part of the panhandle on Florida's Emerald Coast, a name that originates from its beautiful, clear green water. The beaches are softer than a country club's fairways, and the atmosphere will have you wondering why it took so long to find this wonderful beach town.

Crab Island is Destin's hallmark attraction. It's only accessible by boat and encompasses approximately four acres. There are plenty of activities, but visitors are recommended to relax, and enjoy the atmosphere and natural beauty.

Enjoy tasty treats from mobile-



**PANHANDLE PLAYGROUND** – Steps lead down to a pristine beach in Destin. *Image: digidreamgrafix. Adobe Stock.* 

food boats and floating restaurants. Snorkel, paddleboard, kayak or just sit back and watch the dolphins and other marine life dancing through the Gulf of Mexico.

Destin Commons is a shopping district. More than 90 businesses line the quaint brick roads, giving it a town-like ambiance. It has 500,000-square feet of retail stores, bars and restaurants. It provides a

southern charm for a sun-bathing beach bum.

HarborWalk Village is a bustling hub of entertainment. Guests can take a cruise to dolphin watch, ride in a glass-bottomed boat, take a sunset cruise or board a pirate ship. Enjoy the freshest seafood on the panhandle after a day of wave-running, kayaking or snorkeling. Rise above the heavens while parasailing, ziplining and rock climbing. Book a helicopter ride to view Destin from new heights. It's enough to boost your adrenaline, while creating unforgettable experiences.

Soft, sugar-white sand awaits at nearby Henderson State Park, a one-mile beach that offers a stark contrast to the emerald-green water and brilliantly colored sunset. Dunes stretch as high as 30 feet in height.

Among nature parks in Destin, it's the last stretch of coastal-dune terrain and a prime spot for ecotourism. Sand pines, scrub oak and sea oats are scattered along the landscape. Wildlife includes rabbits and gopher tortoise on land; herons and sandpipers near shore; and dolphins and sea turtles in the gulf. Migrating monarch butterflies arrive during the fall. Hikers can follow a trail that peaks on a dune.

And don't forget about fishing. Destin is called the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village." Destin Fishing Fleet has more than 250 boats waiting to be chartered. It's one of the largest fleets in the U.S. Reserve a private-group charter or join a shared excursion. The experiences are customizable, choosing from four-hour trips to overnight adventures.

So get a grip on Florida's panhandle. It's destined to satisfy your wanderlust and leave you wondering what took you so long to discover it.

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**SERENITY NOW** – AmaWaterways ship *AmaSerena* exceeds expectations in all categories. *Image: AmaWaterways*.

# **AmaSerena** exceeds high standards on storied Rhine River

t's easy to equate massive ocean-liner ships with cruising. The Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean quickly come to mind. Vessels are the size of cities and carry the population to match.

Cruising, however, represents an evolving market that is growing on smaller waterways. The interest in river cruising has increased significantly the past two decades. And it's not difficult to learn why.

Ships sail on many of the world's most historic rivers. They glide peacefully on the Rhine, Danube, Seine and Moselle, to name a few. They visit myriad countries that have more stories to tell than Shakespeare. Learn about medieval times. Experience new cultures and witness indelible sights that will burnish your mind, strengthen your soul and meet any expectation.

AmaWaterways, meanwhile, plays a leading role in river cruising's climb in popularity. Its 26 ships sail throughout Europe and parts of Africa and Asia.

It's vessels have few peers and share wonderful characteristics.

They're luxurious but not gaudy. Cozy but not crowded. Peaceful but not quiet. And relaxing but never boring.

AmaSerena sits among its finest ships. Its stylish design quickly grabs your attention. Doors slide open upon arrival. The marble floor and gold hand railings sparkle. A glass-encased elevator adds to the ambiance. It's an intimate setting that personifies AmaWaterway's commitment to providing the best amenities.

Built in 2015, the 443-foot-long vessel offers 81 staterooms that can accommodate 162 passengers. Spacious rooms provide comfortable living quarters. A balcony enhances the openness. Pour a glass of wine, have a seat and absorb the changing landscapes of the Rhine River while sailing from Switzerland to the Netherlands.

AmaSerena has multiple places in which to dine. Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner while seated in its elegant dining room. Tables and booths uniquely populate an expansive hall that keeps guests from feeling crowded. Windows offer spectacular views of the water.



Image: AmaWaterways.

Delectable aromas waft from a kitchen comprised of fine-dining chefs.

Reserve a seat to experience the Chef's Table feast in a dining area located on the third floor. The room's sprawling windows offer spectacular views. Sit, mingle with fellow cruisers and enjoy a seven-course meal paired with a variety of wines.

Guests also can enjoy bistro meals in the lounge – the ship's main gathering place. It's a hotspot – the cool place to be. Comfy sofas, tables and a bar envelop an area designed specifically to be the ship's entertainment hub.

AmaSerena sits among its finest ships. Its stylish design quickly grabs your attention. Doors slide open upon arrival. The marble floor and gold hand railings sparkle. A glass-encased elevator adds to the ambiance. It's an intimate setting that personifies AmaWaterway's commitment to providing the best amenities.

The river never has seemed more enticing to cruisers. More are learning that traveling small doesn't mean settling for less.

It exceeds expectations.

Happy hour begins by early evening before dinner. This sacred time of day is highlighted by wine and a drink of the day. Libations flow and conversations spark. Comforting music strums from the hands of a piano player.

### **Champion Ship**

# 

Source: AmaWaterways

AmaSerena has a small library that serves as a sitting place. A workout facility allows guests to exercise, yoga classes are taught in the lounge each morning and spa services also are available.

A pool on the sundeck boasts a swim-up bar. Walk or jog on the outdoor track. Play chess on an oversized board topped by large pieces. Or have a seat and appreciate unrivaled scenery.

It's a remarkable lineup built on the shoulders of a remarkable staff. The ship's amiable captain converses with guests. His crew works diligently to keep the ship moving and docking safely and on schedule. The cruise and hotel managers are gems. Peerless greeters, chefs, servers, bartenders and house-keepers work congruently to guarantee guests have memorable trips for all the right reasons.

The river never has seemed more enticing to cruisers. More are learning that traveling small doesn't mean settling for less.



JANUARY 2024



# President's Cruise - Baltic Capitals Voyage



August 11-22, 2024 • 11 Nights • Azamara Onward \$4,499 per person double occupancy Balcony stateroom

## **ITINERARY**

Sunday, August 11 Copenhagen, Denmark Monday, August 12 Gdansk, Poland Gdansk, Poland Tuesday, August 13 Wednesday, August 14 Klaipeda, Lithuania Thursday, August 15 Riga, Lativa Friday, August 16 At Sea Saturday, August 17 Tallinn, Estonia Sunday, August 18 Kotka, Finland Monday, August 19 Helsinki, Finland Tuesday, August 20 Mariehamn, Finland Wednesday, August 21 Stockholm, Sweden

#### 2 NIGHT PRE-CRUISE OPTION TO INCLUDE: Price: \$859 per person double occupancy

- 2-night hotel accommodations
- Arrival transfers (depending on air schedule)
- Transfers hotel to ship

Thursday, August 22

- Sightseeing in Copenhagen
- 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch

#### **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 11-night cruise accommodations in a Verandah Stateroom
- Most onboard meals and entertainment
- Government taxes and fees
- Select standard spirits, international beers and wines
- Shipboard gratuities
- Bottled water, soft drinks, specialty coffees and teas
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- Special AAA President's Cruise perks
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  - Unlimited Wifi for 1 device per stateroom
- \$300 Shore Excursion Credit per stateroom
- 1 night of Specialty Dining









Full itinerary & more information at

**Return Home** 



Rates are per person (double occupancy), are subject to availability at time of booking and include accommodations/entertainment, most onboard meals, member perks and government taxes/fees of up to \$184.83. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Malta.

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#### **JAMAICA**

#### Jewel Paradise Cove Adult Beach Resort & Spa, All-Inclusive

package includes roundtrip airfare, all-inclusive resort accommodations in a premier room, and roundtrip shared airport transfers

## **Pleasant Activities Add On:** Bamboo River Raft - \$70.58 per person Climb aboard a 30-foot, bamboo raft for an

authentic Jamaican experience. Upon arrival you will be greeted with a welcome fruit drink and given the chance to explore the "Rafter's Village". Before you begin the tour, you can take a stroll through "Miss Martha's Herb Garden", a presentation of Jamaican herbs famous for their medicinal and healing properties. Then sit back and relax in your personal raft as your captain skillfully navigates the Martha



#### PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

package includes roundtrip airfare, all-inclusive resor accommodations in a deluxe room, and roundtrip shared airport transfers

#### **Pleasant Activities Add On:**

Scape Park - \$129.00 per person

A natural theme park with numerous attractions ranging from adventurous and adrenaline-pumping activities to smooth and cultural experiences. Let your senses Scape while ziplining on a cliff, exploring ancient caverns, swimming in underground caves, jumping from water zip lines and riding in our splash hammocks! In addition to all these unique adventures you can also have the option to cruise along stunning beaches, snorkel in tropical waters or just relax in our exclusive beach club. Choose two different adventures and build your own Dual Pack, the perfect combination to make your vacation an unforgettable experience



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#### Barcelo Maya Beach

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#### **Pleasant Activities Add On:**

Isla Mujeres Catamaran - \$129.00 per person On this tour, you will sail from Cancun to Isla Mujeres, as you admire the beautiful view of the Caribbean Sea and snorkel among colorful fish. You will also tour the island and enjoy a delicious buffet

lunch at a beach club.

Horseback Riding – \$183 per person
In this unique experience in which our friendly guides will take you to a relaxed horseback ride through breathtaking landscapes. This tour will take you through the verdant Mayan jungle and to visit two fascinating cenotes (sinkholes); you will be able to refresh and swim in one of them. Afterwards you will taste artisanal bubble gum.



#### **ARUBA**

#### Divi Aruba All-Inclusive

package includes roundtrip airfare, all-inclusive resort accommodations in a garden view room, and roundtrip shared airport transfers

#### **Pleasant Activities Add On:**

Baby Beach Jeep Adventure - \$109.43 per person This exciting yet easy-does-it excursion allows you to experience both the land and sea charms of Arubal Highlights include Arikok Park, Ostrich Farms, Ayo Rock Formations, Donkey Sanctuary, Black Stone Beach, and swimming in Aruba's famous Baby Beach!

## **Palm Pleasure Snorkel Adventure**

- \$93.40 per person

Aruba's newest catamaran will sail you to the best three snorkel sites, including the Antilla Shipwreck!



Full itinerary & more information at AAA.com/PleasantHolidays

# Pleasant Holidays.

Before-discount rate is per person/double occupancy, subject to availability at time of booking based on a February 17, 2024 check-in date, and includes flights from Pittsburgh, accomodations, and roundtrip airport/hotel transfers. Additional airline baggage fees may apply.

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#### **6-NIGHT ITINERARY**

Day 1 Ft. Lauderdale, FL - Embarkation

Day 2 CocoCay

Day 3 At Sea

Day 4 Georgetown, Grand Cayman

Day 5 At Sea

Day 6 Bimini, Bahamas

Day 7 Disembark – Ft. Lauderdale, FL

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Per stateroom, double occupancy (balcony or higher category)

- 6-night cruise accommodations
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   Classic Beverage Package, Basic Wi-Fi package, Gratulties to shipboard personnel

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#### **8-NIGHT ITINERARY**

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Day 2 At Sea

Day 3 Labadee, Haiti

Day 4 At Sea

Day 5 St. Johns, Antigua

Day 6 Roseau, Dominica

Day 7 Castries, St. Lucia

Day 8 Basseterre, St Kitts & Nevis

Day 9 Disembark - San Juan, Puerto Rico

#### **AMAZING MEMBER PERKS!**

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- 8-night cruise accommodations
- All Included Package for two adults per stateroom
   Classic Beverage Package, Basic Wi-Fi
   package, Gratulties to shipboard personnel

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#### **7-NIGHT ITINERARY**

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Day 2 At Sea

Day 3 Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic

Day 4 Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

Day 5 Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Day 6 At Sea

Day 7 At Sea

Day 8 Disembark - Ft. Lauderdale, FL

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- 7-night cruise accommodations
- All Included Package for two adults per stateroom
   Classic Beverage Package, Basic Wi-Fi package, Gratuities to shipboard personnel

Rates are per person (double occupancy), are subject to availability at time of booking and include 7-night accommodations/entertainment, most onboard meals, member perks and government taxes/fees of \$151.09. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry. Malta

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Book by 4/1/24 for travel through 4/30/26

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- Dromoland Castle
- Ring of Kerry
- King John's Castle
- · Cliffs of Moher
- Sheepdog Demonstration
- Experience Glasnevin
- Irish National Stud
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- Jameson Experience Midleton

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#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

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- Loch Lomond • Loch Ness Cruise
- Blair Athol Distillery
- Scottish evening food and entertainment
- Edinburah

- Belfast
- Dublin
- Killarney
- · Blarney Castle Ring of Kerry
- · Cliffs of Moher Galway
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## ATTEND FREE INFOR

#### FRIDAY Exploration Theater

1pm Venture to the Beauty of North America and the Natio USA and Canada with AAA Member Choice Vacations

2pm Discover Ireland and Europe through CIE Tours

3pm Explore Vacations to Portugal, Italy, Greece and more with AAA Member Choice Vacations

4pm Tropical Costa Rica on a guided tour with AAA Memb

Vacations\* by Collette and hosted by The National Avi

## SATURDAY Exploration Theater

Ilam Experience the Magic of Ireland and the Splendor of t Kingdom with AAA Member Choice Vacations\* by Coll

12pm Vacation Your Way on Norwegian Cruise Line

1pm Safari's, Pyramids and Tented Camps, Experience Afric tour with AAA Member Choice Vacations\* by Collette

2pm Your Juneau Adventure Starts Here!

3pm Ciao, Italy! Discover the many choices and wonders of this beautiful country on a guided tour with AAA Member Choice Vacations\* by Collette

4pm AAA Member Choice Vacations® by Collette; a Rocky Mountaineer Adventure

#### **SUNDAY Exploration Theater**

11am Explore the Three I's; Italy, Ireland and Iceland and discover why they are the most popular destinations for a guided tour with AAA Member Choice Vacations\* by Collette

12pm Exploring Alaska with Princess Cruises

1pm Ciao, Italy! Discover the many choices and wonders of this beautiful country on a guided tour with AAA Member Choice Vacations\* by Collette

2pm Discover US River Cruising with Pleasant Holidays

# Waiting for updates from Marita/Ida

4pm Exploring Alaska with Princess Cruises

#### SUNDAY Discovery Theater

11am Unique Experiences abound in Daytona Beach Florida, Discover, explore and learn more

12pm Rocky Mountaineer Rail Journeys

1pm Experience the National Parks with AAA Travel on a Small Group

2pm Alaska and Anchorage by the Numbers

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#### SUNDAY Global Theater

11am Majestic Resorts; Discover the Majestic Way of Life

2pm Tour in Style with Insight Vacations

1pm National Parks & Beyond by Rail with Amtrak Vacations

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# DEPARTURES

# 1-877-422-2645 AAA.com/Travel

# adiance of the Seas®

# GRAND MOUNTAIN MARVELS "Southbound" Cruise Tour • June 1–14 from \$3,369.00 per person double occupancy



6 night Land Tour followed by 7 night Cruise: With two nights in Denali and a half-day cruise around Resurrection Bay, this 13-night holiday is filled with opportunities to see Alaskan wildlife by land and

#### ITINERARY:

- DAY 1 Fairbanks
- **DAY 2** Fairbanks/Denali
- Day 3 Denali
- Day 4 Denali/Talkeetna
- Day 5 Talkeetna/Anchorage
- Day 6 Anchorage/Seward
- Day 7 Seward/Radiance of the Seas®
- Day 8 Hubbard Glacier cruising
- Day 9 Juneau
- Day 10 Skagway
- Day 11 Icy Strait Point
- Day 12 Ketchikan
- Day 13 Inside Passage cruising Day 14 - Vancouver, British Columbia

# **MOUNTAIN PANORAMA** Alaska Adventure • June 14-26 from \$2,990.00 per person double occupancy



7 night Cruise followed by 5 night Land Tour: Enjoy frontier hospitality in the small mountain towns of Girdwood and Talkeetna, along with two nights in the wilderness on Denali, for a rich Alaskan experience.

#### ITINERARY:

- Vancouver, British Columbia Radiance of the Seas®
- DAY 2 Inside Passage cruising
- Day 3 Juneau
- Day 4 Icy Strait Point
- Day 5 Sitka
- Day 6 Skagway
- Day 7 Hubbard Glacier cruising
- Day 8 Seward/Alyeska (Girdwood)
- Day 9 Alyeska (Girdwood) Anchorage/ Denali
- Day 10 Denali
- Day 11 Denali/Talkeetna
- Day 12 Talkeetna/Anchorage
- Day 13 Anchorage

# ALASKA WILDERNESS SPECTACULAR "Southbound" Cruise Tour • July 13-26 from \$3,260.00 per person double occupancy



7 night Cruise: See more of Alaska

spectacular scenery in unrivaled comfort traveling the full length of the Alaska Railroad in the glassdomed railcars of The Wilderness Express.

#### **ITINERARY:**

- DAY 1 Fairbanks DAY 2 Fairbanks
- Day 3 Fairbanks/Denali
- Day 4 Denali
- Day 5 Talkeetna
- Day 6 Talkeetna/Anchorage
- Day 7 Anchorage/Seward
- Day 8 Hubbard Glacier cruising
- Day 9 Juneau
- Day 10 Skagway Day 11 Icy Strait Point
- Day 12 Ketchikan Day 13 - Inside Passage cruising
- Day 14 Vancouver, British Columbia



7 night Cruise followed by 6 night Land Tour: With two nights in Denali and a half-day cruise around Resurrection Bay, this 13-night holiday is filled with opportunities to see Alaskan wildlife by land and sea.

#### ITINERARY:

- DAY 1 Vancouver, British Columbia Radiance of the Seas®
- DAY 2 Inside Passage cruising DAY3 - Juneau
- DAY 4 Icy Strait Point
- DAY 5 Sitka
- DAY 6 Skagway
- DAY 7 Hubbard Glacier cruising
- DAY8 Seward
- DAY 9 Seward/Anchorage
- DAY 10 Anchorage/Talkeetna DAY 11 - Talkeetna/Denali
- DAY 12 Denali
- DAY 13 Denali/Fairbanks
- DAY 14 Fairbanks

# ALASKA WILDERNESS SPECTACULAR "Northbound" Cruise Tour • Aug. 23 – Sept. 5 from \$2,970.00 per person double occupancy



7 night Cruise followed by 6 night Land Tour: See more of Alaska's spectacular scenery in unrivaled comfort traveling the full length of the Alaska Railroad in the glass-domed railcars of The Wilderness Express.

#### ITINERARY:

- DAY 1 Vancouver, British Columbia Radiance of the Seas®
- DAY 2 Inside Passage cruising
- Day 3 Juneau Day 4 - Icy Strait Point
- Day 5 -- Sitka
- Day 6 Skagway
- Day 7 Hubbard Glacier cruising
- Day 8 Seward/Anchorage
- Day 9 Anchorage/Talkeetna
- Day 10 Talkeetna/Denali
- Day 11 Denali
- Day 12 Denali/Fairbanks
- Day 13 Fairbanks
- Day 14 Fairbanks

Special Offer: Book & Deposit by 2/2/4

Save \$100 off per person

double/single occupancy

Rates are per person (double occupancy), are subject to availability at time of booking and include Full itinerary & RoyalCaribbean accommodations/entertainment, most onboard meals, member perks and government taxes/fees of up to more information at \$284.63. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Bahamian registry AAA.com/FeaturedVacations





# Canadian Rockies Canadian Rockies featuring Rocky Mountaineer July 14-21, 2024

\$7,749 per person double occupancy **Additional Departure:** September 21-28, 2024

#### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- Vancouver 2-night stay
- Guided touring to include Stanley Park
   Rocky Mountaineer SilverLeaf excursions Vancouver to Kamloops; Kamloops to Lake
- Chateau Lake Louise overnight stay • Banff – 2-night stay
- Guided sightseeing; free time
   Icefields Parkway guided sightseeing
   Icefields Adventure Choice of Tour
- Calgary









# & Glacier National Park Aug. 4-10, 2024

**\$4,349** per person double occupancy

#### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- Calgary
- Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump
- Waterton Lakes National Park Glacier National Park
- Going-to-the-Sun Road Banff
- Athabasca Glacier
- Choice of Tour: Ice Explorer Glacier Tour or Columbia Icefield Skywalk
- Lake Louise



# **Canadian Rockies Maritimes** by train

**HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:** 

- British Columbia
- Vancouver VIA Rail – excursion and overnight accommodations

- Columbia Icefield Skywalk,
- Lake Louise Banff

# Aug. 25-Sept. 2, 2024 **\$7,599** per person double occupancy

- Alberta
- JasperMaligne Lake
- Athabasca Glacier
  Choice of Tour: Ice Explorer Glacier Tour or
- Calgary

# **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- Halifax
- Peggy's Cove
- Mahone Bay Lunenburg
- Cape Breton Island Cabot Trail
- Prince Edward Island

**Coastal Wonders** 

**\$4,949** per person double occupancy

Aug. 2-12, 2024

- Anne of Green Gables Museum
- Hopewell Rocks
- Fundy Trail
- · Grand Pré National Historic Site



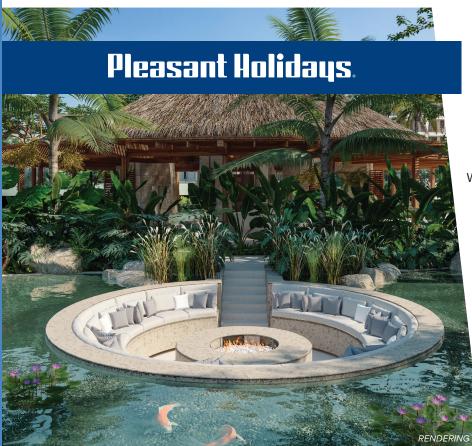


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JANUARY 2024 AAA MOTORIST PAGE

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# DEPARTURES



# NEW Secrets® Playa Blanca Costa Mujeres

# EXPERIENCE THE NEWEST ADULTS-ONLY SECRETS RESORT IN MEXICO

Word is out about the newest Secrets resorts in scenic Costa Mujeres, Mexico.

Secrets® Playa Blanca Costa Mujeres' accommodations feature
authentic hand-crafted art with a nostalgic feel and elegant furnishings
for a beachside escape.

Secrets' world-renowned *Unlimited-Luxury®* experience includes 24-hour access to options including choice cuisine from six á la carte restaurants, a buffet, a grill and a café. Indulge in a variety of drinks at eight different bars in this adults-only retreat. The *Unlimited-Luxury®* difference means the food, drinks, entertainment and more are available for one all-inclusive price.

**AAA MEMBER BENEFIT:** Members receive a \$50 per booking activity voucher valid toward a variety of select activities in Mexico.<sup>3</sup>





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'AAAA Member Benefit: Activity voucher does not apply to air/car only bookings.

Advance reservations through AAA Travel required to obtain Member Benefits & savings which may vary based on departure date. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Pleasant Holidays acts only as an agent for cruise & tour providers listed. CST# 1007939-10.

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Princess (Supplied)

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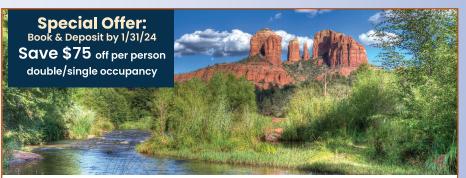
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# 11:1:1

# 1-877-422-2645 AAA.com/Travel



# Grand Canyon and Sedona Adventure

April 28-May 6, 2024 • \$3,999 per person double occupancy

Explore the unique landscapes of Arizona including Sedona, the Grand Canyon and Phoenix/Scottsdale

#### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- Sedona 3 nights, resort lodging
- "Old West" evening features activities, private reception and Cowboy cookout w/ entertainment or Sedona diné around
- Verde Canvon Rail Excursion
- Williams, Arizona Grand Canyon Railway Hotel, Western town on Route 66
- Grand Canyon Railway First-class travel from Williams, Arizona
- Grand Canyon National Park
  2 nights lodging within National Park
  Motorcoach tour of Southern Rim vantage
- points -Free time within the National Park
- Phoenix area- 2-nights, resort lodging
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Heard Museum
- Old Town Scottsdale

#### **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Roundtrip airfare from participating cities to/ from Phoenix, Arizona.
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers 8-night hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling, one bag per person Taxes and gratuities for included features

- 13 meals (restaurants subject to change) to include Western Evening
   Attractions, admissions and touring as per itinerary
   Soniory
- Services of a AAA Tour Manager upon arrival in Phoenix and local guides where noted

Before-discount rate is per person/double occupancy, subject to availability at time of booking and includes roundtrip flights from Pittsburgh, hotels, luggage handling (1 bag/person), sightseeing, admissions per itinerary and local guide. Additional airline baggage fees may apply.





Full itinerary & more information at AAA.com/Featured Vacations

# **2024 No-fly Motorcoach Cruises**



#### PITTSBURGH TO BALTIMORE MD DEPARTURES

April 12-20, 2024	Southeast Coast	Vision of the Seas®	from \$1,315
July 25-Aug 3, 2024	Bermuda	Vision of the Seas®	from \$1,409

#### PITTSBURGH TO NJ AND NY DEPARTURES

These departures also include 1-night pre-cruise hotel stay, hotel breakfast and brief New York City motorcoach tour.

June 19-29, 2024	Eastern Caribbean	. Liberty of the Seas <sup>®</sup>	.from \$1,759
Aug 21-27, 2024	Bermuda	. Carnival Venezia™	.from \$1,525
Sept 6-14, 2024	Canada	. Carnival Venezia™	.from \$1,305
Nov 23-Dec 6, 2024	Southern Caribbean	. Carnival Venezia™	from \$1,615

Rates are per person (double occupancy), are subject to availability at time of booking and include roundtrip motorcoach transportation from the Pittsburgh area, cruise accommodations, most onboard meals/entertainment and taxes/fees/port expenses of up to \$532.14 per person.









Full itineraries & pick-up locations at AAA.com/FeaturedVacations

# NO-FLY, NO-DRIVE AAA MOTORCOACH VACATIONS

# WASHINGTON D.C. IN BLOOM

March 22-24, 2023 • \$835 Guided touring of D.C. to include monuments and memorials

- 2 nights at Gaylord ResortNational Harbor
- National Mall
- Dinner in Old Town Alexandria
- · Brunch cruise on the Potomac



#### **WASHINGTON D.C. IN BLOOM**

April 5-7, 2024 • \$785 Guided touring of D.C. to include monuments and memorials

• 2 nights at Gaylord Resort

- National Harbor
- National Mall
- Dinner in Old Town Alexandria
- Brunch cruise on the Potomac



#### **LANCASTER AND** SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE - DANIEL

April 23-24, 2024 • \$489

- Kitchen Kettle Village
- Hershey Farm Restaurant and Inn
   Daniel Sight and Sound Theatre
- Amish farmlands tour





#### **NEW YORK CITY EXPLORER AND FLEET WEEK**

May 24-27, 2024 • \$1,399

- 3-night lodging at Lincoln Harbor, NJ
- Steps away from Ferry to NYC, on-site dining
   NY Waterway roundtrip ferry service from Lincoln Harbor to/from 39th Street NYC with connecting motorcoach service to midtown
- Intrepid Museum admission and self-guided tour
- Guided New York City Highlights tour of Manhattan
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum - One World Observatory
- Dinner in Manhattan



#### **HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL AND MACKINAC ISLAND**

- Village; Tulip Immersion Garden; Evening perfromances

- Dow Gardens
- Frankenmuth
- May 5-10, 2024 \$1,815 · Holland Tulip Festival – guided tour; Nelis' Dutch Mackinac Island - 2- nights lodging Carriage tour - Grand Hotel - luncheon buffet



## **NIAGARA FALLS GETAWAY**

June 5-7, 2024 • \$765

- 2-night stay in Niagara Falls
- Guided tour of Niagara Falls and surrounding scenic points
  • Dinner at Skylon Tower
- Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Welland Shipping Canal
- Winery Tour and Tasting
   Dinner at Table Rock House Restaurant



#### **NH - MOUNTAINS, MOOSE AND MEADOWS**

June 9-14, 2024 • \$1,675

- 3-night stay at resort in NH's White Mountains
- Evening wildlife presentation
- · Fields of Lupines for photo opportunities Cog Railway to the top of Mount Washington
- Horse- Drawn Wagon Ride through a Christmas tree farm
- Omni Mount Washington Hotel - Self-guided tour and luncheon
- White Mountains touring
- Local "Moose Tour on Moose" Tour
- Fadden's General Store
- Niagara Falls, NY



Complete itineraries & pick-up sites at AAA.com/FeaturedVacations

INCLUSIONS: Roundtrip motorcoach transportation from the Pittsburgh area, accommodations (for multiday tours, based on double occupancy), sightseeing/admissions per itinerary, taxes/gratuities for included features, baggage handling (1 bag/person for multiday tours), meals as indicated and the services of a AAA Tour Manager.

## Tips From a AAA Travel Advisor: Ebonee Hiner

# Utah's Mighty Five live up to their billing Natural wonders, adventure abound on this epic journey

'm an outdoorsy type of person, so it's no surprise that Utah and the state's MIGHTY FIVE moved to first place on my travel list after



AAA Travel Advisor: Ebonee Hiner

my trip this past November. I've been a travel advisor for six years, and this adventure took my breath away!

As soon as we arrived in Salt Lake City, our 12-passenger van and driver guide took us to Antelope Island, 90 minutes from

town. We visited the Great Salt Lake, the largest of its namesake, and saw bison roaming in their natural habitat. Later, we toured Salt Lake City, including the Utah Capitol building, and world-famous Mormon Tabernacle.

Day 2, we drove four hours to Canyonlands National Park in south-eastern Utah. It's known for its dramatic desert landscape carved by the Colorado River. We saw Mesa Arch, one of the West's most photographed landforms, and Grand Point View Trail – named because when you look over the cliff, the rocks look like a dead horse. Another notable area was the Needles, the remote Canyons of the Maze.

Day 3, we discovered the mighty



**BREATHTAKING** – The Mesa Arch offers a gateway to the beautiful Canyonlands. *Image: Ebonee Hiner. AAA*.

Arches National Park, a red-rock wonderland of eroded sandstone. The landscape has contrasting colors, landforms and textures unlike any other, with 2,000 natural-stone arches, soaring pinnacles, massive rock fins and giant balanced rocks. I chose a sixmile, round-trip hike to Delicate Arch. It was steep and took about 90 minutes uphill. My travel tip is to get there early enough to see the sunrise.

Day 4, we drove by the Moab Petroglyphs from the Native American

Anasazi tribe, towering 60-70 feet off the road. All of this on our way to Goblin Valley State Park, where we saw thousands of hoodoos, referred to locally as goblins, which are formations of mushroom-shaped rock pinnacles, some as tall as several yards.

We ended the day at Capitol Reef, so named by the early settlers who thought the domes on the rock formations looked like the Capitol building in D.C. I hiked the 1.2-mile trail to Hickman Natural Bridge – a 125-foot-

tall formation that spans 133 feet! Our group indulged and spent the night at the Capitol Reef Resort, one of the Top 20 Resorts in Utah honored by Travel + Leisure in 2023. You can stay in a luxurious stand-alone cabin, relax in a teepee or go glamping in their Conestoga Wagon rooms onsite.

Day 5, we drove Highway 12 – a 123-mile scenic byway designated an All-American Road to Bryce Canyon – known for its crimson hoodoos or spire-shaped rocks. At Bryce, our tour guide gave us two options for a longer or shorter hike. I took the challenge and hiked two hours on the Queens Garden trail to the Navajo Trail loop, a 32-story hike, 7,000 feet in elevation.

Every day kept getting better and Day 6 was no exception. Zion National Park is distinguished by the canyon's steep red cliffs. Some trails were closed due to falling rocks. Our tour guide told us which ones were open. Zion has a shuttle system, so you start at the visitors center and the shuttle goes to all eight trails. We did the Narrows on the last stop. Then after a one-hour hike, we got back on the shuttle to the next trail.

My travel tips are pack good hiking shoes that are already broken-in, layer your clothes. It was cold in the mornings, and warm in the afternoon. And have your camera ready. Everything is SO PHOTOGENIC! And it's OK to do the easier hikes!

# Scotland's islands more than window dressing Natural beauty, history come to life on country's army of isles

t could be called the "Land of 1,000 Islands" and it wouldn't be a stretch. That's Scotland, the United Kingdom country that has more than 790 offshore islands – nearly 100 inhabited.

Island hopping isn't a cliché in Scotland; it's a sport. But these aren't your typical isles. They're home to rocky, weather-beaten coasts, white beaches, rugged mountains, heather-clad moorland and tranquil inland lochs.

Most of these islands share unique personalities. They have stories to tell anyone who's willing to stop by and listen

Whisky is synonymous with the Isle of Islay. Coveted by connoisseurs for its peaty, smoky flavor, it's a rare treat. The island houses nine distilleries, including Lagavulin and Ardbeg, which translates from the Gaelic term for a "dark and mysterious place."

The Laphroaig distillery offers "Water to Whisky Experience," a 4.5-hour tour that includes visiting the water source and tasting from a selection of casks. The Gaelic term for whisky is "Uisge Beatha" or "water of life."

The Isle of Lewis is home to Lews Castle that presides over Stornoway. It's the largest island in the Outer Hebrides. The Standing Stones of Calanais date



**OLD COUNTRY** – Skara Brae is a 5,000-year-old village on the Scottish island of Orkney. *Image: Vincentco64. Adobe Stock.* 

5,000 years and centerpiece the ritual landscape. Winds rage around this northern headland, making it the windiest spot in the U.K.

Majestic cliffs and sea stacks populate Orkney's coastline, including the striking Old Man of Hoy. Skara Brae is a 5,000-year-old village and the best-pre-

served Neolithic site in Western Europe. Skara Brae thrived as a community well before the building of Stonehenge or the Egyptian pyramids. Stone walls, passageways and stone furnishings – including beds and dressers – remain intact.

Skara Brae is part of the Heart of

Orkney World Heritage Site. It's joined by Maeshowe, a chambered tomb, the Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar. Guests can explore the Viking Cathedral that dominates the skyline of Kirkwall, Orkney's ancient capital.

Scotland meets Scandinavia and the North Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean in Shetland. Partially submerged ancient hills formed archipelago's series of islands. Thousands of sea caves, open sandy bays and sheltered sea lochs are onsite. Words from the Old Norse language are preserved not only in placenames but also in Shetland dialect that is used daily. Shetland ponies can be seen throughout the islands – grazing by roadside or on the heathery hills.

Cuillin – the isle of Skye – is famous for its breathtaking scenery. Dramatic sea cliffs and towering slopes define its personality. Named "Cloud Island" in Old Norse, it's the largest of the Inner Hebrides and the most popular island with visitors. Mealt waterfall cascades 180 feet, highlighting gorgeous scenery. Neist Point Lighthouse stands watch over the island's western tip near Glendale.

Scotland might better be named "Scotlands". It's a country blessed with history and an island waiting to tell a story.

# Let roads lead you to paradise in California State Highway 1, others take you on wondrous journeys

ew states in the U.S. have as many personalities as California.
Wine country, national parks, major-metropolitan cities, enormous redwood forests and small towns comprise much of a state built for sunshine and raining with stars. This vast state is waiting to be explored.

Perhaps the best way to see California is by vehicle. Road trips are synonymous with the Golden State. Miles of roads hug the Pacific shoreline and other locations. Unique destinations are waiting to be discovered.

State Highway 1 – aka Pacific Coast Highway – is arguably one of the world's most famous roadways. It's made countless appearances on the big and small screens. It covers nearly 700 miles from Mendocino County in the north to Orange County in the south.

Ocean waves crash into rocky beaches. Winding roads uncover stunning sights, forests provide lush settings and territories are waiting to be uncovered.

The Big Sur Highway is the road's most iconic stretch. It runs 72 miles between San Luis Obispo and Pebble Beach. Traveling this wondrous path will take you past some of the state's most epic scenery and destinations like Morro Bay, Hearst Castle, McWay Falls, the Bixby Creek Bridge and Big Sur.

Highway 1 leads to the 17-Mile Drive, a private-toll road that has entertained visitors for more than a century. Circle



**PRETTY PICTURE** – A colorful ocean sunset lights up the sky while taking a ride on Pacific Coast Highway near San Francisco. *Image: Tunatura. Adobe Stock.* 

through Pebble Beach and Pacific Grove. Absorb the stunning landscapes and homes, as well as the famous Lone Cypress – a Monterey cypress tree that has been trademarked.

Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex is a short detour away on the Oceano and Nipomo Loop, south of San Luis Obispo. Towering, shifting sand dunes populate the area. And the Monarch Butterfly Grove is one of the largest colonies in the U.S.

Highway 1 traces the magnificent coastline and sites like Point Reyes National Seashore just north of San Francisco. It's celebrated lighthouse and Fort Ross State Historic Park – a former 19th-century Russian outpost – highlight the location.

Orange County offers a trip through the heart of California's surf culture along Pacific Coast Highway. Huntington Beach – aka Surf City USA – Newport Beach and Balboa Island join hands with romantic Laguna Beach and Dana Point. Experience the epitome of the SoCal beach lifestyle along the famous roadway.

In search of tranquility on a southern California beach? Try Highway 75. Better known as Silver Strand Highway, it runs nine miles down the isthmus of Coronado to Imperial Beach in San Diego County. Take advantage of the upscale beach town of Coronado and witness the amazing San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge.

And don't forget L.A. Take a road trip through Los Angeles on Sunset Boulevard. It runs 22 miles across the city, from downtown to the Pacific Palisades and Pacific Coast Highway. Visit the hipster districts like Echo Park and Silver Lake, the legendary Sunset Strip and ritzy Beverly Hills and Bel-Air.

Highway 2 runs north of Los Angeles and offers travelers the opportunity to enjoy the Angeles Crest Scenic Byway. It meanders along the spine of the San Gabriel Mountains, splitting the Mojave Desert and L.A. Basin.

A drive through the Avenue of the Giants is a 31-mile trip through a cathedral of towering coastal redwoods in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. The world's tallest trees reside there. Many are more than 2,000 years old.

Don't hesitate to hit the highway in California. It's a golden opportunity you don't want to pass up.

# Time stands still during trip to Barbados Caribbean isle hits on all cylinders in every tropical category

arbados might have you wondering if you found paradise. The climate is tropical and the surroundings are magical. This might be nirvana.

The pear-shaped island lies about 300 miles off the coast of Venezuela. It shares British Colonial traditions and mixes them perfectly with its modern appeal.

The island is small, but it makes the most out of each parcel. It's 21 miles long and 14 miles wide – or just big enough.

It's encircled by coral reefs that are teeming with marine life. Crystal-blue waters soothe your senses and calm your soul. Are you sure this isn't paradise?

Bridgetown is the hub of Barbados. The capital city, once known as the "London of the West Indies," is a UNESCO World Heritage site. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the British Colonial Garrison ranked among the largest in the Colonies.

Bridgetown often is the first landfall for ships that are making the Atlantic crossing. It remains a popular port. Carnival, Princess, Royal Caribbean and Celebrity are among the cruise lines that call.

Beach bums can savor more than 70 miles of pristine shoreline sand, ranging from mild to wild. The west coast stretches from Bridgetown to Holetown. It's powdery-white beaches are populated



**PICTURE PERFECT** – Puffy clouds populate a blue sky over the beautiful, pristine beaches of Barbados. *Image: Richard Semik. Adobe Stock.* 

by luxury resorts and earned it the nickname "Platinum Coast".

Tranquility reigns on the south coast. Crane Beach steals the spotlight. Ranked among the best beaches in the world, its alluring backdrop of cliffs and smiling crescent of pink sand make it a perfect romantic getaway.

East Coast Road overlooks the robust northeast coast and is one of the island's most scenic drives. Surfers are drawn to Bathsheba Beach. It's cradled by hills, with enormous, mushroom-shaped boulders rising from the sea. The "Soup Bowl", where Atlantic rollers batter the shore, can be seen spectacularly from the cliffs.

Andromeda Botanic Gardens cascades off an elfin hillside that is strewn with large coral-rock formations. Peaceful trails meander through gentle gullies that are filled with an array of orchids, ginger lilies, heliconia and palms. Green Monkeys chatter from the trees

The island earned its name because of its extravagant tropical foliage. In 1536, Portuguese explorer Pedro Campos called it Los Barbados – "the bearded ones" – after witnessing the long-hanging aerial roots of the island's bearded fig trees.

Barbados maintains a certain sense of decorum. Topless sunbathing and wearing camouflage clothing is illegal.

The lush green hills are sparked by remnants of old sugar plantations and mills. Tour restored Bajan Great Houses like St. Nicholas Abbey. Completed in 1660, it's one of the few remaining authentic Jacobean homes in the world.

Locals first distilled Barbados' famous Mount Gay rum in 1703. Learn about the oldest brand of rum and the essential ingredient in Planter's Punch by taking a tour-and-tasting session at the Mount Gay Distillery.

Journey deep into the ground at Harrison's Cave, where you'll find hundreds of icicle-shaped stalactites and stalagmites creating an underground cathedral. The crystalized-limestone cavern was discovered in 1795 and highlights include a subterranean waterfall that plunges 25 feet into a deep emerald pool.

Perfection isn't easy to achieve, but Barbados comes pretty, darn close.

and witness France or Italy saying hello and welcoming you.

No destination is out of reach at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™! Engulf yourself in one of the Destination Theaters and absorb the experience. Experts don't only tell you about the destinations, they tap into their own travel experience and give you an insider's look at your next cruise, all-inclusive resort, train excursion, safari, group tour or a host of other options that you're waiting to check off your Bucket List.

The theaters include videos and vendors who will have you dripping with fervor to book your next vacation. Wanderlust is alive and kicking at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™, and AAA Travel will be sure that it's satisfied

At the Travel Showcase™, the canals of Venice and Amsterdam will seem like they are only a gondolier away. The midnight sun of Iceland is lighting the path to fjords, lagoons and waterfalls. Fields of purple Alaskan lupine and unique, friendly villages help make this island a rising star among destination hotspots.

Barcelona, Budapest, London, Dublin, Berlin, Rome, Paris, Copenhagen, Lucerne, Strasbourg ... The list goes on and on and on, and the Travel Showcase™ is here to make sure each and every adjective will be available to describe these wonderful places down to the very last detail.

Don't forget about Asia, Africa, Australia and Antarctica. These places alone are premier Bucket List destinations, and we haven't even gotten out of the A's! Questions abound; the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ has the answers.

Indulge your imagination. You're on the high seas or a famous river. A luxury cruise on the Mediterranean will have you witnessing first-hand the Ancient Greek Ruins. A river cruise will put you on the Rhine, Danube or Nile. And not all top destinations are outside of the United States of America. How does Hawaii sound? How about Alaska? Maybe California?

Whet your palate on a trip through Wine Country in Northern California. Tour by train, bus or rented vehicle. Also at the Travel Showcase<sup>™</sup>, learn about what America's national parks have to offer. Utah is home to Moab and Arches National Park. It's a red-rock wonderland that sits in the foreground of the snowcapped Rockies. Geysers let off steam by the hour in Yellowstone. The sightings of elk, bison, bears, moose and a bevy of other animals enhance the experience. Mount Rushmore is a majestic stone portrait of history in South Dakota. See the northern lights at Montana's Glacier National Park or Denali National Park and Reserve in Alaska, where you'll witness the highest point in North America.

Train excursions barrel through the Rocky Mountains. The scenery lights up your senses. A desolate barn may rest in the untouched snow of an abandoned field. Mountains rest in the background and a calm lake snuggles with the front door. The hilltops reflect off the water.

How's that for variety? It's a time to recharge your curiosity to travel to all of these destinations, and many more! The Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ will guide you in the right direction.

Plan a destination wedding. Imagine tying the knot while standing barefoot in the soft sand of the Caribbean or Hawaii. Or how about under the bright lights of Las Vegas? Or a cruise ship – the moon dotting the sky while you exchange vows on the top deck?

Group tours could take you through the dashing surroundings of the Canadian Rockies by motorcoach. There's even a motorcoach onsite for you to examine, sit in and dream about riding through the parts

of the world that you never imagined would be possible.

For cruisers, Regent, Azamara and Silversea rank among the finest lines in the world. Journese by Pleasant Holidays unlocks a treasure chest of opulence that will take you to all corners of the globe, and vendors will be on hand to tell you about your options.

The impressive roster of vendors at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ includes AAA Member Choice Vacations, AmaWaterways, Amtrak Vacations/Railbookers, Anderson Madison County-East Central Indiana, Carnival Cruise Line Cayman Islands, Celebrity Cruises, CIE Tours, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, Holland America Line, Jamaica Tourist Board, MSC Cruises USA; National Aviary, Norwegian Cruise Line, Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands, Pleasant Holidays, Princess Cruises, Red Roof, Rocky Mountaineer, Sandals and Beaches Resorts, The Florida Keys & Key West, The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau, The National Comedy Center, Travel Resorts of America, TTC Tour Brands, Viking, Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, Virgin Voyages, Visit Anchorage, Visit Clearfield County, VisitErie, Hurtigruten, Azamara, Royal Caribbean International, Regent Seven Seas, Integrity Construction & Windows, Iberostar Hotels & Resorts, Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, Sight and Sound Theatres, Visit Hershey Harrisburg, LadyLedLuxury, Visit Tampa Bay, Visit Potter-Tioga, Majestic Resorts, Athens County, Convention & Visitors Bureau—Athens, Ohio, SoIN Tourism, Chautaugua-Allegheny Region, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Resort Sales by Spinnaker Inc., Palace Resorts, Nemacolin, Explora Journeys, RushMyPassport, New York State Tourism Industry Association, Camp Bow Wow, Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau, The Hertz Corporation, Allianz Travel, Karisma Hotels & Resorts, Visit Hagerstown

#### **GET SHOWCASE TICKETS!**

To purchase admission tickets, visit PittsburghTravelShowcase.com. Tickets also will be available at the door. Save \$2 with the special AAA discount coupon on page 15.

#### **VALUABLE PRIZES**

Don't forget to register for great giveaways upon entering the Showcase. No purchase is necessary to win. Rules and restrictions will be available at the registration area. The prizes include:

- 2. \$1,000 AAA Travel Gift Certificate
- 3. 2 Delta Air Lines Tickets to any city in Florida from Pit Surg

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ATTON: burchase in soar Just be 18 or older to
win. Enter in
on at the missingh Travel Showcase<sup>th</sup> or mail a plain
3" x 5" postcard (with hand-printed first & last name, complete address
and telephone number) to Pittsburgh Travel Showcase<sup>th</sup> Drawing, AAA
East Central, 5900 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh PA 15206, to be received
by Winners need not be present. Drawing will be held

. Winners will be notified by mail. No substitutions. Limit one entry per household. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Sponsor owns all entries and has no liability for lost, delayed, incomplete or misdirected entries. All prizes will be awarded. Noncompliance with rules or fraud will result in disqualification. Decision of sponsor is final. Winners list can be obtained at above address through

Taxes on prize are responsibility of winner.

- One complete package as advertised for 2 adults sharing room. No cash value..
- Certificate can not be reissued. There is no cash value. Reservations are subject to availability and must be submitted at least 45 days in advance. Valid towards a prepaid package or cruise.
- 3) For travel in 2024. Coach class. Must reserve 45 days in advance.

& Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lindblad Expeditions, Corning Museum of Glass.

Pack your bags and put in that PTO. Choose your destination and allow AAA Travel to take it from there.

# Italy is work of art waiting to be admired Style, splendor put it among world's top destinations

taly lights up our senses. It's charming, romanticizing and stunning. Few places blend art, passion, food and sights better.

Italy feasts on our ambitions and turns them into reality. It meshes the sunny splendors of the "Bel Paese" (beautiful country) with architecture, culture and history. It's unparalleled zest for good living includes an unbridled obsession for delectable dishes and fine wine.

Simply put, there are as many ways to experience Italy as there are coins in the Trevi Fountain.

Tuscany is a region blessed by brilliance of nature and man. Olive groves and vineyards meander up rolling green slopes. Hill towns emanate a special glow under the evening sun, setting on a quiet hillside.

Italian Renaissance flourishes in Florence. Piazza Signoria housed Michelangelo's David for centuries. Today, it rests safely in the Accademia Gallery. Witness the towering belvedere from Piazza Signoria and Boboli Gardens. They offer sights that will soothe your senses and tell a story about one of the world's most unique countries.

The treasures of the Medici and other masterpieces like Botticelli's Birth of Venus and Leonardo da Vinci's Adoration of the Magi sit in Uffizi Gallery, a museum in the Historic Centre of Florence.

The town of Sorrento sits atop some



**THAT'S AMALFI** – Bright houses settle into a hillside in Positano on Italy's Amalfi Coast. *Image: GISTEL. Adobe Stock.* 

of the Mediterranean's most breathtaking cliffs and crowns Italy's Amalfi Coast – royalty among shorelines in the Old Country. Absorb the stunning panoramas. Salerno is home to the Path of Gods and is a three-hour trek along a trail overlooking the Amalfi Coast, offering a magnificent view over Conca dei Marini.

The Isle of Capri is a ferry ride across the Bay of Naples. A celebrated retreat

since the Roman times, it's famous for the Blue Grotto – a sea cave, where the sunlight imparts an otherworldly blue glow to the water. The villa of Swedish doctor Axel Munthe offers wonderful views of the Bay of Naples and Vesuvius.

Amalfi drips in beauty throughout every morsel, but no place better than Positano. Sun-bleached homes come in subtle shades of pink, peach and ochre. They rise like dominoes on steeply terraced streets.

Venice, meanwhile, is the Adriatic's "Bride of the Sea." Ride a vaporetto through canals to Byzantine Basilica, Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Square. Climb to St. Mark's Campanile – a bell-tower of St. Mark's Basilica – to spot the location where Galileo demonstrated his telescope in 1609. Lord Byron immortalized the "Bridge of Sighs" and connected the Doge's prisons with the Inquisitor's chambers. It's believed that sighs of the condemned prisoners inspired the name.

And cliché intended: All roads lead to Rome. The Baths of Caracalla mark the beginning of the Appian Way that boasts monuments like the Circus of Maxentius. The Arch of Titus watches over the Forum and offers sweeping views of the ruins on Palatine Hill.

By April, parks and gardens are overflowing with flowers. Villa Borghese, once a cardinal's private estate, is an oasis of formal gardens, lakes and winding pathways in the middle of the city.

Savor la dolce vita on the Via Veneto or linger over cappuccino in one of Piazza Navona's outdoor cafés. Piazza de Spagna gives way to the Spanish Steps, perhaps the most romantic rendezvous in the world.

Italy's attributes create a peerless masterpiece that is best experienced in person.

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# **Speeding won't make up for lost lives No positive outcomes result from excessive speeding**

e all have found ourselves racing to beat the clock. Whether it's to get to work, the ballfield or some other event, it often leads to a similar reaction: speeding.

Psychologically, the only option is driving above the speed limit. The speed-limit sign reads 55 mph, but you're convinced 80 is your only option. Then, crash! So much for reaching your destination on time.

This a scenario that happens too often on our roadways, and drivers don't have to reach speeds near the one previously mentioned to do significant damage to a vehicle; or worse, the driver and/or passengers suffered serious or fatal injuries.

It's a misnomer that speeding results in drivers reducing the amount of time it takes to reach their destinations. A motorist would have to travel 100 miles to save approximately five minutes by traveling 5 mph faster than the marked speed limit.

Small increases to impact speeds higher than 50 mph can have significant effects on crash outcomes. AAA, IIHS and Humanetics crash testing found slightly higher impact speeds were enough to dramatically increase the driver's risk of severe injury or death.

Researchers learned that more structural damage to the vehicle and greater forces on the dummy's entire body amplified as crash speeds increased during tests.



**FLY BY** – A car is caught on a radar camera speeding on a highway. Driving above the speed limit not only can cost you money, it also can cost lives. *Image: evgris. Adobe Stock.* 

At 40 mph, there was some intrusion into the driver's space. But at 50 mph impact speed, there was noticeable damage to the driver's-side door opening, the dashboard and foot area. At 56 mph, the vehicle's interior was significantly compromised, with the dummy registering severe neck injuries and a likelihood of leg fractures.

Speeds of 50 and 56 mph might seem like you're moving slowly, but that's hardly the case. The steering wheel's

upward movement caused the test dummy's skull to punch through the deployed airbag and smash into the steering wheel at those speeds, resulting in a high risk of facial fractures and severe brain injury.

Crashing at higher speeds also can impact a vehicle's safety technology. Airbags are unable to deploy in time to protect the driver and/or passenger and improved structural designs are rendered useless.

Rising speed limits have cost nearly 37,000 lives the past quarter century. AAA and IIHS urge policymakers to factor in this danger from higher speeds when considering speed-limit changes.

Drivers often travel faster than posted speed limits, but they also go faster when officials increase limits to match those original travel speeds. Presently, 41 states allow speeds of 70 mph or higher on roadways, including eight states with maximum speeds of 80 mph or more on certain roads.

AAA and IIHS stringently believe the safety of road users should be considered when establishing speed limits. AAA recommends:

- States use engineering and traffic surveys when setting maximum speed limits and adopt limits that will degrade safety.
- Speed limits should not be raised only to manipulate traffic volume on a particular roadway.
- Policymakers also should consider infrastructure changes based on road type to calm traffic flow appropriately, so that posted speed limits are followed.

Facts prove speeding doesn't enhance your hopes of reaching your destination any sooner. The odds of a crash greatly increase, as well as the impact it could have on your vehicle or life.

Don't speed! It could cost you your life, or a large chunk of change from your bank account.

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# Winter driving puts your skills to test 10 ways to keep you safe on dangerous highways

inter-driving season is most challenging to our nerves, vehicles and skills. The scenario is too familiar. Temperatures drop, snow falls and ice forms. It's a losing trifecta.

Slippery roads cause many of us to shudder behind the wheel. Our familiar commutes just became a treacherous nightmare.

Snow and ice, meanwhile, aren't the only culprits. Fewer hours of daylight obscure our vision and the sun's glare reflecting off the snow can have a blinding effect.

Rapidly changing weather conditions make it essential drivers remain alert and vigilant. Here are 10 winter-driving tips to help make the experience safer and less stressful:

- Monitor weather and travel conditions. Know the difference between
   a Winter Storm Watch and Winter
   Weather Advisory, and how they could impact your plans. Allow for extra time to travel, wait for conditions to improve or stay home if possible.
- Think cautiously if you must drive in wintry conditions. Make sure your fuel tank is full. Clear all snow from the hood, roof, windows and lights of your vehicle. Clear windows of fog before driving. Make sure the windshield-wiper fluid is full and wipers are in good condition. Turn



**SNOW DOWN** – Drivers should take extra precaution when driving during a winter storm. *Image: fotoyou. Adobe Stock.* 

- on the headlights when you turn on your windshield wipers.
- Increase your following distance.
   Focus as far ahead as possible. Avoid hard braking. It could keep you from sliding into another vehicle or barrier.
- Not all vehicles respond similarly to icy, slippery roads. Familiarize yourself with the vehicle's braking system, tire tractions and
- all-wheel-drive systems. Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions.
- Don't panic if your vehicle becomes trapped in a storm or snowbank. Avoid overexertion and exposure and stay in the vehicle. Run the motor sparingly and keep fresh air in the vehicle. Stay moving and don't fall asleep. Stay alert for traffic and

first-responders.

- Try to avoid secondary roads and drive with caution. Measure your speed to road and weather conditions. Avoid passing other vehicles when road conditions are at their worst. Bridges, ramps and overpasses freeze first.
- Plan your route and make sure someone knows which way you will be traveling, your destination and expected arrival time, especially when driving long distances. Report a safe arrival.
- Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows. Remain at least 200 feet behind them.
- Carry a winter-survival kit in the trunk or storage area of your vehicle. Fully charge your cell phone; and always keep a road map, flashlight, first-aid kit, blanket and shovel in your vehicle.
- And most importantly, drive slowly. Take your time. The posted speed limits are meant for dry pavement.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit AAA.com for information on all things automotive including tips on buying, operating and maintaining a vehicle.

# Cold weather can be unkind to battery Take steps to reduce chances it leaves you in bad spot

old weather affects your battery more than any engine component. Batteries are filled with fluid, most of which is water. They are susceptible to freezing if a battery is not fully charged.

Cold also thickens engine oil, forcing the battery to work harder when starting the car. Your vehicle's battery loses approximately 35% of its efficiency when the temperature dips below freezing and nearly as much as 60% of its efficiency when the temperature falls below zero.

Slow cranking is a common sign your battery might be getting weak but diagnosing battery problems can be tricky. Your battery terminals could be calcified, or a parasitic draw, often from a mobile device, is draining its power. Unplug your phone and charger when you don't need them.

AAA Battery Service offers fast, accurate and convenient mobile-battery testing and replacement. State-of-the-art diagnostic equipment will confirm whether your battery will hold a charge, or if the problem lies deeper in the electrical system. The service is included with your AAA membership.

If a new battery is needed, you can purchase one and have it installed on the spot. AAA Battery Service vehicles carry batteries compatible with 90% of cars, SUVs and light trucks on the road. And each AAA-branded battery is covered by



**STONE COLD** – AAA Battery Service quickly will have you on your way if your battery loses charge. *Image: AAA*.

a nationwide 36-month, free-replacement warranty.

Our Instant Quote battery-price calculator on AAA.com will give you member and nonmember pricing for your vehicle's battery, reflecting your exclusive AAA discount. In addition, every battery that AAA replaces is safely recycled to protect the environment.

AAA also recommends you take these special precautions with your vehicle's battery this winter:

- Have the starting and charging systems tested every year.
- On frigid days, shut off the heater fans, radio and other devices before cranking the engine.
- Inspect the battery cables, posts and fasteners. Cable corrosion prevents power from flowing freely from the battery, reducing the power available to start the car. Clean the battery terminals with a wire brush or battery-cleaner spray.

- Avoid short trips. It can take as long as 30 minutes for a car battery to fully charge. Short trips can diminish the amount of reserve capacity.
- Preventative measures such as garaging your vehicles or using a battery charger like the AAA Battery Tender – can help extend a battery's lifespan.

Winter also means fewer hours of daylight and increased use of lights, wipers and heating, all of which extract a heavy toll on your battery. The more electrical devices in the car – such as electronic fuel-injection systems, power windows and infotainment systems – the more power the battery should have.

Your best defense against failure is a fully charged battery and adequate cold-cranking amps – 500-700 – depending on the type of engine in your vehicle.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

If your battery is failing you, give yourself the added peace of mind by calling the AAA Battery Service for a no-cost evaluation. AAA Battery Service is available from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week. To verify AAA Battery Service availability in your area, call our toll-free number: 1-800-222-4357.



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