



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 highlight 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

continued on pg 19



Image: Adobe Stock.

Learn More



Scan QR code for more details about the 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

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.

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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.

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Turn to page 9 for more information.



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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

The 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 dues.

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

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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

You'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

The 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](https://www.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

It'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.

AmaWaterways ship sits at top of class

AmaSerena exceeds high standards on storied Rhine River

It'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.

Its 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.

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.

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.



Image: AmaWaterways.

Champion Ship

Facts about *AmaSerena*:

Year built.....	2015
Length.....	443 feet
Width.....	38 feet
Staterooms	81
Passenger capacity	162

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 housekeepers 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.



DEPARTURES

Portugal & It's Islands

August 24 – September 6, 2024 • \$6,099 per person double occupancy

Experience the best of Portugal as you explore its capital city, coastal villages, and remote islands. Marvel at the geothermal wonders of the Furnas Valley and take in the beauty of the twin lakes of Sete Cidades. Tour the grand capital of Portugal, Lisbon. Get swept away by the melancholy sounds of Fado and visit the fairy-tale town of Sintra. Explore thermal pools, colorful botanical gardens and the lush green landscapes of Portugal's Natural Parks and thrill with a walk on a glass sidewalk. Relax and enjoy multi-night stays on the Azorean Island of St. Michael and sunny Madeira, the "Pearl of the Atlantic."

AAA Member Special Offer:

Book & deposit by 1/31/24 Member Level Discount per person double occupancy. Discount only applies to air-inclusive rate.

Save \$200
for AAA Classic

Save \$225
for AAA Plus

Save \$250
for AAA Premier

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Lisbon
- Belem
- Sintra
- Fado Dinner Show
- St. Michael Island
- Azores
- Ponta Delgada
- Terra Nostra National Park
- Choice on tour: Garden Guided Walk or Thermal Pool Experience
- Sete Cidades
- Madeira Island
- Espetada Dinner
- Folkloric Show
- Porto Moniz

Experience It! The Azores

The Azores, or Açores (Portuguese for goshawks), are commonly referred to as "the Hawaii of Europe." Find soaring mountains and rich valleys, lakes resting in ancient craters, and lush vegetation as far as the eye can see. The islands' hot springs, fumaroles and thermal fountains all originated from volcanic activity, and you can see traces of this energy still active on the different islands. A signature Azorean dish – cozido das Furnas – utilizes the heat of the volcanic earth to stew meat and vegetables. The nine islands sit more than 900 miles west of Portugal's mainland, resulting in a unique culture separate from the rest of the country.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip air (subject to availability at time of booking) from participating cities to/from Lisbon
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers
- Internal flights
- Chartered transportation
- 12-night hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling, one bag per person
- 19 meals (restaurants subject to change)
- Sightseeing and admissions as stated in itinerary
- Local English-speaking Tour Guide



Full itinerary &
more information at
AAA.com/FeaturedVacations



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

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DEPARTURES

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- Pay in full at time of booking and receive a Beach bag surprise (one per room)



AAA Member Benefit:
\$50 Pleasant Activities
voucher (per room)

from
\$2,330.00
per person, double occupancy

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 Brae River.



AAA Member Benefit:
\$50 Pleasant Activities
voucher (per room)

from
\$1,785.50
per person, double occupancy

PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Riu Bambu

package includes roundtrip airfare, all-inclusive resort 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.



AAA Member Benefit:
\$50 Pleasant Activities
voucher (per room)

from
\$1,944.00
per person, double occupancy

CANCUN, MEXICO

Barcelo Maya Beach

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

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.



AAA Member Benefit:
\$50 Pleasant Activities
voucher (per room)

from
\$3,636.50
per person, double occupancy

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 Aruba! 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
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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 Cleveland, accommodations, and roundtrip airport/hotel transfers. Additional airline baggage fees may apply.

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5 nights plus

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7 nights plus

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- Disney logo surprise package

For more information contact your AAA Travel Advisor or go to AAA.com/Disney

Photo credit: As to Disney artwork/properties ©Disney



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DEPARTURES

Celebrity and the many itinerary options to sail the Caribbean

CELEBRITY GROUP OFFERING:

\$100 ONBOARD CREDIT PER BALCONY STATEROOM • \$200 PER BALCONY STATEROOM CELEBRITY AIR CREDIT

Sail the W Caribbean with a Perfect Day at CocoCay on one of Celebrity's newest ships

Celebrity Beyond®

July 7-13 • from \$2,005 per person double occupancy



Enjoy a "Perfect Day at CocoCay" a private island experience. Cool off in the Caribbean's largest freshwater pool. Relax in the privacy of your Overwater cabana. Share a selfie from a hot air balloon soaring 450 feet above the island, and much, much more.

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

AMAZING MEMBER PERKS!

Per stateroom, double occupancy (balcony or higher category)

- 6-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 6-night accommodations/entertainment, most onboard meals, member perks and government taxes/fees of \$165.24. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Malta

Sail from Ft. Lauderdale to San Juan on this 8-night voyage

Celebrity Summit®

Oct 4-12 • from \$1,125 per person double occupancy



Sail on this 8-night Caribbean cruise on the Celebrity Summit, starting in Ft. Lauderdale, but ending in San Juan. Visit 5 different ports in the beautiful Western and Southern Caribbean.

8-NIGHT ITINERARY

Day 1 Ft. Lauderdale, FL – Embarkation

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!

Per stateroom, double occupancy (balcony or higher category)

- 8-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 8-night accommodations/entertainment, most onboard meals, member perks and government taxes/fees of \$138.80. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Malta

Spend the holiday in the Dominican Republic, St. Thomas & St. Maarten on Celebrity's newest ship

Celebrity Ascent®

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The fourth ship in Celebrity's revolutionary Edge® Series, the Celebrity Ascent takes their innovative outward-facing design further than ever, creating an even closer connection between you, the sea, and every exciting place on the horizon. Soak up the sun, salt breezes, and stunning scenery in newly expanded open-air spaces. Savor fine dining that rivals anything you'd find on land. And discover even more ways to relax and renew.

7-NIGHT ITINERARY

Day 1 Ft. Lauderdale, FL – Embarkation

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

AMAZING MEMBER PERKS!

Per stateroom, double occupancy (balcony or higher category)

- 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

75% off 2nd guest
w/non-refundable deposit

50% off 2nd guest
w/refundable deposit

Bonus Savings up to \$200 per stateroom

Offer does not apply to cruisetours, Galapagos sailings, or the 3 group above. All groups sailing through 12/31/24, regardless of creation date, will maintain all three included amenities (Classic Drinks, Basic Wi-Fi, and Tips) as originally marketed. Effective 11/1/23, existing 2025 group sailings will convert to the new Celebrity All Included amenities: Classic Drinks & Basic Wi-Fi.



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more information at
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Celebrity **X** Cruises®



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inclusive of 7 nights
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7 DAYS FROM \$1,299* PP

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the iconic attractions of Venice including the winding canals and St. Mark's Square
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- Throw a coin in the famous Trevi Fountain and climb the historic Spanish Steps in Rome
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- Walking Tour and Gondola Tour in Venice
- Walking Tour of Florence
- 2-day Hop-on-Hop-off pass in Rome



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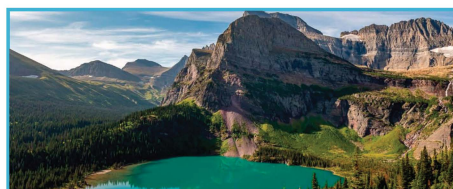
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Small-group escorted tours are the best! With up to only 14 guests per guide, you'll receive 1-on-1 attention. Small group travel allows you to maximize your precious time off. Instead of worrying about logistics, you can focus all your energy on having the experience of a lifetime.

Travel in a smaller but very comfortable Mercedes Sprinter (or similar) for more flexibility and access to places a bus can't go. See sights, hike trails and drive scenic roads large groups can't. Small group travel allows you more enrichment opportunities as you journey off the beaten path. Enhance your appreciation of natural wonders, make new discoveries and personal connections on these intimate, active adventures.



GLACIER NATIONAL PARK MONTANA

\$3,789 Per person/double occupancy
JULY 7-13; JULY 14-20;
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HIGHLIGHTS

Missoula, MT, National Bison Range, Flathead Lake, Big Fork, Two Medicine Lake, Running Eagle Falls, Appistaki Falls, Glacier National Park, St. Mary's, Going to the Sun Road, Whitefish, MT, Guided hiking and optional boating on Lake McDonald, Boating (float trip or whitewater rafting) on Middle Fork of Flathead River

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\$3,789 Per person/double occupancy
MAR. 31-APRIL 7; APRIL 14-21; SEPT. 8-15;
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SEPT. 22-29; OCT. 20-27

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MAY 5-12; OCT. 6-13

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\$2,925 Per person/double occupancy
MAY 11-19; SEPT. 14-22;
OCT. 19-27

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\$4,755 Per person/double occupancy
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SEPT. 15-26; OCT. 13-24

GRAND TETON & YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK UTAH • WYOMING • MONTANA

\$3,789 Per person/double occupancy
MAY 19-26; JUNE 9-16; JULY 14-21;
AUG. 11-18; SEPT. 29-OCT. 6; OCT. 13-20

BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA SOUTH DAKOTA

\$2,539 Per person/double occupancy
MAY 20-25; JUNE 3-8;
JULY 8-13; AUG. 26-31

YOSEMITE, SEQUOIA & THE CALIFORNIA COAST CALIFORNIA

\$4,369 Per person/double occupancy
JUNE 9-16; JULY 21-28

OREGON SOUTH OREGON

\$3,019 Per person/double occupancy
JUNE 9-16, 2024, AUG. 11-18

COLORADO NATIONAL PARKS COLORADO

\$3,115 Per person/double occupancy
JUNE 16-23; AUG. 4-11;
SEPT. 15-22

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\$7,899 Per person/double occupancy
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JUNE 23-29

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\$2,745 Per person/double occupancy
AUG. 5-11



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CIE Tours Ireland and Scotland

Special Offer:

Book & Deposit by
1/31/24

Save \$75

off per person
double/single occupancy



Irish Heritage (7 nights)

July 21 - 29 / August 25 - September 2 / September 8 - 16

HIGHLIGHTS:

- House of Waterford Crystal
- Dromoland Castle
- Ring of Kerry
- King John's Castle
- Cliffs of Moher
- Sheepdog Demonstration
- Experience Glasnevin
- Irish National Stud
- Medieval Castle Banquet
- Dromoland Castle Dinner
- The Merry Ploughboy Pub
- Jameson Experience Midleton

Ireland is the land of breathtaking landscapes, friendly people, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences. CIE Tours' vacations to Ireland help you experience the real Emerald Isle, whether you're raising a pint with new Irish friends at a lively pub, following in the footsteps of your ancestors among the rolling hills and picturesque castles, or enjoying the best of Irish culture through tastings and authentic experiences. You'll see Ireland in a whole new light.

Special Offer:

Book & Deposit by
1/31/24

Save \$75

off per person
double/single occupancy



Taste of Scotland & Ireland (11 nights)

June 13 - 24 / July 13 - 24 / September 14 - 25

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Glasgow
- Loch Lomond
- Loch Ness Cruise
- Blair Athol Distillery
- Scottish evening - food and entertainment
- Edinburgh
- Belfast
- Dublin
- Killarney
- Blarney Castle
- Ring of Kerry
- Cliffs of Moher
- Galway

Let Scotland's lochs and highlands enchant you. There's a reason a unicorn is the symbol of Scotland—it's a land of pure magic. Travel there with CIE Tours to discover every enchanting vista, from the heather-covered Highlands to the depths of Loch Ness. Explore the rich Scottish culture, beyond the traditions of tartan, whisky and bagpipes. Let us introduce you to the charms of Scotland.



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CIE TOURS
International

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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 sea.

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:

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/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



6 night Land Tour followed by 7 night Cruise: 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 – 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

GRAND MOUNTAIN MARVELS "Northbound"
Cruise Tour • Aug. 9-22
from \$3,059.00 per person double occupancy



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
DAY 3 – Juneau
DAY 4 – Icy Strait Point
DAY 5 – Sitka
DAY 6 – Skagway
DAY 7 – Hubbard Glacier cruising
DAY 8 – 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



Full itinerary &
more information at
AAA.com/FeaturedVacations



Royal Caribbean
INTERNATIONAL

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 \$284.63. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Bahamian registry

Special Offer:
Book & Deposit by 2/1/24
Save \$300 off per person
double/single occupancy



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 Louise
- Chateau Lake Louise – overnight stay
- Banff – 2-night stay
– Guided sightseeing; free time
- Icefields Parkway – guided sightseeing
- Icefields Adventure – Choice of Tour
- Calgary

Special Offer:
Book & Deposit by 2/4/24
Save \$300 off per person
double/single occupancy



Canadian Rockies & 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

Special Offer:
Book & Deposit by 2/15/24
Save \$600 off per person
double/single occupancy



Canadian Rockies
by train
Aug. 25-Sept. 2, 2024

\$7,599 per person double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- British Columbia
- Vancouver
- VIA Rail – excursion and overnight accommodations
- Alberta
- Jasper
- Maligne Lake
- Athabasca Glacier
- Choice of Tour: Ice Explorer Glacier Tour or Columbia Icefield Skywalk
- Lake Louise
- Banff
- Calgary

Special Offer:
Book & Deposit by 2/2/4
Save \$100 off per person
double/single occupancy



Maritimes
Coastal Wonders
Aug. 2-12, 2024

\$4,949 per person double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Halifax
- Peggy's Cove
- Mahone Bay
- Lunenburg
- Cape Breton Island
- Cabot Trail
- Prince Edward Island
- Anne of Green Gables Museum
- Hopewell Rocks
- Fundy Trail
- Grand Pré National Historic Site



Full itinerary &
more information at
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AAA Member Choice
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DEPARTURES



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FEATURED VACATIONS are AAA East Central’s specially priced, unique departures; therefore, tour operators, cruise lines and other travel providers often exclude them from additional discounts or specials they offer. Featured Vacations include services provided by third-party tour destination service companies; consult with a AAA Travel Advisor for details.



DEPARTURES

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Special Offer:
Book & Deposit by 1/31/24
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double/single occupancy

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 dine around
- Verde Canyon 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
- 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 Cleveland, hotels, luggage handling (1 bag/person), sightseeing/admissions per itinerary and local guide. Additional airline baggage fees may apply.



Full itinerary & more information at
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Northern California Railways and National Parks

May 6-15, 2024 • \$6,269 per person double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- San Francisco - 3-night stay; guided sightseeing
- 4 National Parks - Presidio, Yosemite, Sequoia, Kings Canyon and Muir Woods National Monument
- 4 Rail Excursions - Napa Valley Wine Train, Amtrak California Zephyr, Yosemite Sugar Pine Railroad, Roaring Camp Steam Train Ride
- Sausalito
- Napa Valley - Winery visit
- Lake Tahoe
- Boyden Cavern
- Monterey Peninsula - Carmel by the Sea - 17-Mile Drive
- Cannery Row
- Santa Cruz
- Silicon Valley - Apple Visitor's Center

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip air to/from San Francisco from participating cities
- Roundtrip airport and hotel transfers
- Chartered land transportation
- Rail excursions per itinerary
- 9-night hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling, one bag per person
- 16-meals (to include rail luncheons, restaurants subject to change)
- Attractions and admissions as stated in the itinerary
- Gratuities for included meals
- Services of a AAA Tour Manager and local tour director

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



Full itinerary & more information at
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2024 No-fly Motorcoach Cruises



CLEVELAND TO BALTIMORE MD DEPARTURES

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

CLEVELAND TO NJ/NY DEPARTURES

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

June 19-29, 2024Eastern Caribbean..... *Liberty of the Seas*® from \$1,759
Aug 21-27, 2024Bermuda *Carnival Venezia*..... from \$1,525
Sept 6-14, 2024Canada *Carnival Venezia*..... from \$1,305
Nov 23-Dec 6, 2024Southern 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 Cleveland area, cruise accommodations, most onboard meals/entertainment and taxes/fees/port expenses of up to \$532.14 per person.



Ships' registry:
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No-fly, no-drive AAA MOTORCOACH VACATIONS

CLEVELAND DEPARTURES

DC SPRINGTIME

April 18-21 • \$1029.00

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Illuminated Monuments tour
- Full day guided DC sightseeing
- Half day Arlington Cemetery tour
- Flight 93 Memorial



DANIEL IN LANCASTER PA

June 7-9, 2024 • \$779

HIGHLIGHTS:

- "Daniel" performance at Sight & Sound Theater
- "The Full Monty" performance at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater
- Kreider Farms Tour
- Julius Sturgis Pretzel tour

INCLUSIONS: Roundtrip motorcoach transportation from the Cleveland or Massillon 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



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HUDSON VALLEY HOLIDAY & NEW YORK CITY

July 8-13, 2024 • \$1,739

HIGHLIGHTS:

- West Point
- Hudson River Cruise
- Vanderbilt Mansion
- FDR Home & Museum
- Walkway over Hudson
- Manhattan City tour
- Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island
- 911 Museum
- Kykuit Mansion



FRENCH TOAST: MONTREAL/QUEBEC CITY

August 19-24, 2024 • \$2179

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sunset Dinner cruise at Thousand Islands
- Kingston Market Square
- Montreal City guided tour
- Quebec City guided tour
- Boldt Castle tour



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

I'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 southeastern 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 six-mile, 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!

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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.

Cruise with style

continued from page 1



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 Trójmiasto – 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 Klaipėda, 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’s 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 Smørrebrød “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.

Italy is work of art waiting to be admired

Style, splendor put it among world’s top destinations

Italy 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 of the Mediterranean’s most breathtaking



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

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 belltower 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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