



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 New York's REAL ID-compliant license, visit dmv.ny.gov.

Get Peace of Mind with Automatic Renewal

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

AAA Members Save More at Shell

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

Find Lower Gas Prices with Auto Club app

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

VISIT PORTUGAL AND ALL IT HAS TO OFFER



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

Turn to page 9 for more information.



Cold weather can be unkind to battery

Take steps to reduce chances it leaves you in bad spot

Cold 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.

Winter driving puts your skills to the test

Winter-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.
- 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.
- 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.

Charging EVs in cold requires preparation

Questions abound regarding the purchasing of an electric vehicle. One of the more common is how do colder temperatures affect charging and mileage range.

The driving capacities of all vehicles – no matter the source of power – suffer during the seasons when our weather patterns reach their coldest conditions. The U.S. Department of Energy found that fuel economy suffers by 15-24% in gas-powered vehicles and the ranges of EVs drop by roughly 39%.

Driving and charging an EV in colder weather has its nuances, according to the University of Michigan. Temperatures below 40 degrees can reduce charging power, but with preparation and planning, an EV will meet your needs year-round.

Here are tips to keep an EV running smoothly during the winter:

Charging may take longer – The vehicle controls the charging rate, not the charger. Lower temperatures result in an EV's software reducing its charging power to avoid stressing the battery. The Idaho National Laboratory found that at 32 degrees, an EV battery absorbed 36% less energy than when the battery was charged the same amount of time at 77 degrees. It's important to plan for longer charge times when temperatures drop.

Pay attention to overnight changes in your EV's range – Be aware of overnight low temperatures. Cold temperatures overnight can lower an EV's driving range by an average of 20%, according to the Norwegian Automobile Federation. Pay attention to the vehicle's console display. Some EVs can predict these range reductions during extreme temperatures.

Plan your charges – Expect to stop at public-charging stations to avoid finding yourself with a limited range. The Electrify America mobile app assists drivers to easily navigate to nearby ultrafast charging stations and see which chargers are available.

Park indoors when you can – Parking an EV in a garage with higher indoor temperatures can help the battery charge more quickly and hold that charge longer.

Understand your EV's cold-weather features – Some EVs have preconditioned features that allow drivers to program or manually warm the battery to more optimal temperatures. This process uses battery power to provide a warming effect, but it can make the battery more efficient while maximizing driving range.

By understanding your EV and its charging needs, particularly during colder weather, you'll be better prepared to rely on your EV, no matter when and where you are driving.



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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 reso-
lution 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 dif-
ferent 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 member-
ship 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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Priceless Protection
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to AAA benefits and services including
24/7 roadside assistance, exclusive sav-
ings at AAA Discounts & Rewards, AAA
Mobile solutions and more. Members
can add Junior Associates by calling
or visiting their local AAA office or, by
clicking on AAA.com/JuniorAssociate.
(All Associate Members must reside
at the Primary Member's address,
and proof of age may be required).

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

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INTERNET WEB SITE: www.AAA.com

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MEDIA RELATIONS: 412-365-7274

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Erie 6660 Peach St. Unit #2 814-866-0246	New Castle 40 East St. 724-658-8551	Sunbury 1001 Market Street. 570-286-4507
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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.

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AAA members save 55% and get free shipping on their 1st box, plus 15% off on-going for 51 weeks when signing up through AAA.com/hellofresh. Each week HelloFresh's chefs create amazing recipes for you that are easy to prepare. Their meals are interesting yet simple and ensure that your diet is balanced and varied. Plus, they deliver everything straight to your door, so you can skip the trip. Sign up today. **Use promo code TAW55 at checkout.**



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From healthy food and gym memberships, to paying for gas to get to the gym of your choice, staying active and fit doesn't have to be expensive! To help save you money, AAA offers members access to thousands of gyms and workout videos for just \$28 a month* with Active&Fit Direct. Plus, get 10% back after 12 months with the program. *See details. **Visit AAA.com/ActiveandFit.**



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*At participating locations.



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Lodging Discounts



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[AAA.com/MGMResorts](https://aaa.com/MGMResorts)



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or more

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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.

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.



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."

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- Azores
- Ponta Delgada
- Terra Nostra National Park
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- 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.

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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.



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Riu Bambu

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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.

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Palm Pleasure Snorkel Adventure - \$93.40 per person

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Day 5 At Sea

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Day 4 At Sea

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Day 6 Roseau, Dominica

Day 7 Castries, St. Lucia

Day 8 Basseterre, St Kitts & Nevis

Day 9 Disembark – San Juan, Puerto Rico

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Day 5 Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Day 6 At Sea

Day 7 At Sea

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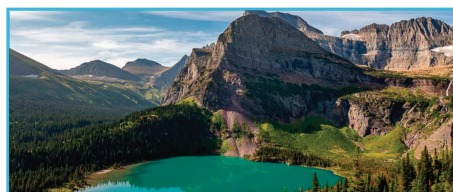
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Small-group escorted tours are the best! With up to only 14 guests per guide, you'll receive 1-on-1 attention. Small group travel allows you to maximize your precious time off. Instead of worrying about logistics, you can focus all your energy on having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

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GLACIER NATIONAL PARK MONTANA

\$3,789 Per person/double occupancy
JULY 7-13; JULY 14-20;
AUG. 4-10; AUG. 11-17; AUG. 25-31

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

UTAH MIGHTY FIVE UTAH

\$3,789 Per person/double occupancy
MAR. 31-APRIL 7; APRIL 14-21; SEPT. 8-15;
SEPT. 29-OCT. 5; OCT. 27-NOV. 3; NOV. 17-24

ARIZONA ADVENTURE ARIZONA • NEVADA

\$3,405 Per person/double occupancy
MAR. 31-APRIL 7; MAY 12-19;
SEPT. 22-29; OCT. 20-27

CANYONS OF ESCALANTE UTAH • NEVADA

\$3,115 Per person/double occupancy
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TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS NEW MEXICO • COLORADO • UTAH

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

GRAND CIRCLE EXPERIENCE NEVADA • UTAH • ARIZONA • COLORADO

\$4,755 Per person/double occupancy
MAY 13-24; JUNE 16-27; AUG 18-29
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

MAGNIFICENT ALASKA ALASKA

\$7,899 Per person/double occupancy
JUNE 16-26; JULY 21-31;
AUG. 4-14

RAILROADS OF THE OLD WEST COLORADO

\$3,119 Per person/double occupancy
JUNE 23-29

OREGON NORTH OREGON

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



Full itinerary & more information at
AAA.com/SmallGroups

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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



from
\$3,745.00
per person, double occupancy
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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:

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1/31/24

Save \$75

off per person
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from
\$4,195.00
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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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AAA.com/FeaturedVacations



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DEPARTURES

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Summer Sailings on Royal Caribbean's *Radiance of the Seas*®

GRAND MOUNTAIN MARVELS

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

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

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

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



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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:
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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



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AAA Member Choice
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DEPARTURES



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Secrets' world-renowned *Unlimited-Luxury*® experience includes 24-hour access to options including choice cuisine from six à 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.

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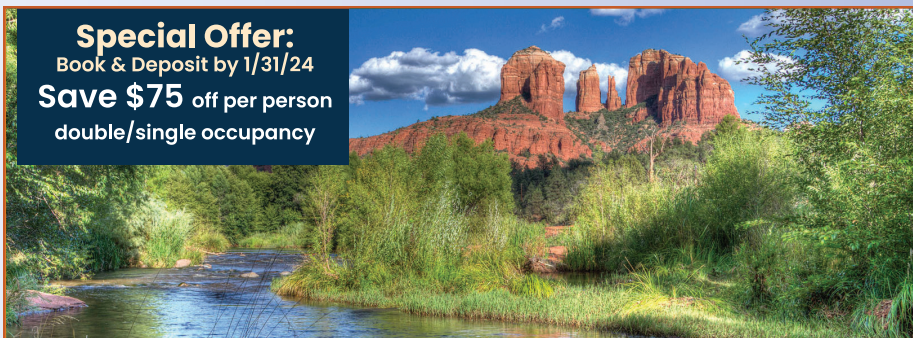




DEPARTURES

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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
- 13 meals (restaurants subject to change) to include Western Evening
- Attractions, admissions and touring as per itinerary
- Taxes and gratuities for included features
- 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 Buffalo, 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/FeaturedVacations](https://www.aaa.com/FeaturedVacations)



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 Buffalo, hotels, luggage handling (1 bag/person), sightseeing/admissions per itinerary and local guide. Additional airline baggage fees may apply.



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Save \$200
for AAA Plus

Save \$250
for AAA Premier

Iceland: Land of Fire & Ice

July 24–August 2, 2024 • \$5,499 per person double occupancy

Explore the dramatic landscapes of Iceland on this guided adventure

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Reykjavík
- Golden Circle
- Thingvellir National Park
- Gullfoss
- Geysir
- Akranes
- Breidafjörður Bay Cruise
- Lava Exhibition Center
- Vík
- Skógar Museum
- Skógafoss
- Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon
- Vatnajökull National Park
- Seljalandsfoss
- Choice on tour: Blue Lagoon or Perlan Center

PRICE INCLUDES:

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

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



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Panama Canal Cruise

on the *Celebrity Summit*®

September 19–October 4, 2024 • from \$3,259 per person double occupancy



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

Sailing through the engineering masterpiece that connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean is a bucket-list event on its own, but along the way you'll also visit other exciting tropical destinations steeped in culture, history, and natural beauty. Explore the colorful colonial architecture of Cartagena and the thriving jungles of Costa Rica. Venture deep into the Panamanian rain forest, meet the locals, and learn the inner workings of the fascinating Panama Canal's locks. Take an Eco Cruise on Lake Gatun and explore island habitats created during the Canal's building.



15-NIGHT ITINERARY

Day 1	Los Angeles, CA – Embarkation	Day 9	At Sea
Day 2	At Sea	Day 10	Panama Canal Cruising
Day 3	At Sea	Day 11	Cartagena, Colombia
Day 4	Puerto Vallarta, Mexico	Day 12	At Sea
Day 5	At Sea	Day 13	At Sea
Day 6	Huatulco, Mexico	Day 14	George Town, Grand Cayman
Day 7	At Sea	Day 15	At Sea
Day 8	Puntarenas, Costa Rica	Day 16	Disembark – Ft. Lauderdale

Rates are per person (double occupancy), are subject to availability at time of booking and include 15-night accommodations/entertainment, most onboard meals, member perks and government taxes/fees of \$416.00 per person. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Malta.



Full itinerary & more information at
[AAA.com/FeaturedVacations](https://www.aaa.com/FeaturedVacations)

Celebrity **X** Cruises®



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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Las Vegas museums entertain and educate

Galleries offer informative settings throughout the town

Extravagant resorts, massive casinos and lights bright enough to take down a power grid have symbolized Las Vegas for decades. But there's much more to the City That Never Sleeps than the sounds of ringing slot machines and decadent neon signs.

Las Vegas is home to museums. They're educational and comical, unique and irresistible, and an ideal way to avoid the afternoon heat and gaming tables.

The galleries carry outrageous themes that range from pinball machines to monsters. There's a children's museum; a haunted one, too. And who could imagine a Las Vegas that didn't pay homage to the King of Rock and Roll?

The King's Ransom Museum can be found on Fremont Street at Binion's Gambling Hall & Hotel. A variety of Elvis' cherished possessions are on display, making it one of the biggest exclusive accumulations of his treasures outside Graceland.

Those interested in the history of the U.S.'s most ruthless gangsters should visit the Mob Museum. It chronicles the connection between the mafia and law authority by presenting shows and antiques. There's even a Wall of Shame that highlights a legendary group of criminals.

Sail back in time at the Titanic The



LIGHT ME UP – The Neon Boneyard Museum is home to many of the former signs that once lit up Las Vegas. *Image: jovannig. Adobe Stock.*

Artifact Exhibition Las Vegas. A 17-display exhibition hall brims with curios and diversions of the Titanic, a cruise ship that sank in the Atlantic Ocean more than a century ago. The museum includes shows, ancient pieces and reproductions of ship areas like the Grand Staircase, a first-class cabin, the Verandah Café and the boilers. Unfortunately, Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet will not be available to sign autographs.

The Pinball Hall of Fame is comprised of ... well ... pinball machines. More than 2,000 of them in working condition are available to be played to avoid going "full tilt" at the Texas Hold'em table.

The Ground Zero theater is the primary attraction at the National Atomic Testing Museum. The hall takes guests through the historical backdrop of nuclear testing in Nevada from 1951 to present day. The theater allows guests to

encounter a reenacted bomb test, strolling them through the course of events from the bomb's creation to showing them how to survive a nuclear blast.

Discovery Children's Museum is considered one of the best galleries in Las Vegas. It offers a range of exhibits and programs to encourage kids from all backgrounds to participate in exciting and engaging experiences.

Signs that once lit up the town are on display at Neon Museum and Boneyard. It houses the greatest exhibit of neon signage in the nation. Stroll through the Neon Boneyard in the evening to encounter Las Vegas' most famous signs.

The Las Vegas Natural History Museum focuses on dinosaurs and marine life. Guests also can experience an Egyptian demonstration, focusing on the life of Tutankhamun – aka King Tut.

Antagonistic spirits are rumored to be wandering through Zak Bagans' the Haunted Museum. Hoover Dam Museum features a terrifying collection of screen-used props, including a cactus that is mind-boggling, and Tom Devlin's Monster Museum is a terrifying screen-used prop from films.

Museums are as much a part of Las Vegas as gaming tables, with an obvious difference: visitors can find entertainment without losing their shirts.

Stormy conditions can cause problems

Vital steps to follow should rain cancel your flight

By Samantha Brown
Host of "Samantha Brown's Places to Love"

There's nothing like these major storms to make us think, "What would I do if?" And since storms that shut down air space and lay waste to entire regions can happen any time of the year, here's my checklist to consider when the next big storm comes around:



Samantha Brown

Always try to get out ahead of the storm – With an impending weather event, airlines will waive any fees associated with changing your trip. For instance, American Airlines once announced three days before a recent threatening storm that it would rebook people for free. Only for the dates affected, of course, but take them up on it. I know a lot of people, once they're on vacation, don't want to cut things short. But trust me, just cut your vacation short and get out. Don't be the family that's stranded somewhere unfamiliar.

Follow your airline on social media – I can't stress enough how important it is when you travel to have Instagram or X (formerly Twitter) for updates and alerts, as well as getting answers to your



RAIN DROPS – Travelers should have a contingency plan should their flights be canceled because of stormy conditions. *Image: Nick Starichenko. Adobe Stock.*

direct questions. Airlines have pulled a lot of their customer service from their phone banks to social media but not everyone is on social media. You could receive a much faster response than if you call. This is more important if you're already at the airport and your flight is canceled. It's sometimes possible to get rebooked via social media more quickly

than if you wait in line with the 150 other people whose flights are canceled or called the airlines' toll-free number.

Use Gethuman.com – It's a handy website to visit when plugging in those toll-free contact numbers into your phone. Enter the company and it will tell you what number to keep pressing to get a representative.

There's nothing worse than seeing your cell phone battery drop as you navigate through 10 minutes of prompts.

Book an airport hotel as a safety net – If you chance it and choose to stay put, make a hotel reservation as a safety net in case flights get canceled. At the very least have the nearby hotel numbers ready to go, so you can call immediately if you need to. And be sure to note their local number, not the 1-800 number. If you make your flight, then congratulations. Many hotels will likely waive the 24-hour cancellation fee since they will have about 200 other people interested. Plan C: If it's safe and makes sense to drive, stay out of what will be a storm zone, then book a car rental. There's no cancellation fee and that could be your last chance out of the area.

Always stay calm – As stressful as this situation can be, it won't be better if everyone is venting their frustrations. No one sits hoping for a major storm to impact vacations or work days, and you're all on the same side, even if it doesn't feel like it. If you need to, walk away for a bit to just breathe before pushing forward.

Know when to stay put – All that said, sometimes the safest option is to stay exactly where you are and wait out a storm. If you've weighed out all your plans and backup plans for getting home and things still seem unsafe, stay put.

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 *Trojmiasto* – also known as the “Tricity.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Helsinki – Finland’s capital city – blends traditional and modern architecture and design with nature and a few quirky touches that include a church built inside an enormous chunk of granite. A scenic drive reveals the rock-hewn Tempelisaari 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.



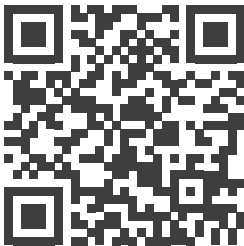
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