



### GIVE THE GIFT OF AAA

**SEE PAGE 3** 

Travel | Insurance/Financial | Automotive | Member Savings

AAA.com

Vol. 70 No. 10

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA** 

**NOVEMBER//DECEMBER 2023** 



Image: eventh. Adobe Stock

### **Bucket list trip highlighted by multiple journeys**

# Alaska's unrivaled allure radiates on land and sea

URF AND TURF is synonymous with extravagant dining. It's succulent seafood combined with a tender filet served in a setting meant for royalty. It's a meal as memorable as it is delicious.

Now imagine that same scenario – but this time, it pertains to your next vacation. It's a trip that combines land and sea to create the ultimate travel experience. Wanderlust satisfied from all directions – whether it's on terra firma or blue waters.

Or in this case, both.

AAA is offering five packages that combine land and cruise tours of Alaska – aka *The Last Frontier, Land of the Midnight Sun* or *The Great Land.* It's a territory blessed with more nicknames than a famous celebrity. The trips range from 11 to 13 nights, with seven of those nights spent on Royal Caribbean's *Radiance of the Seas*.

The cost (per person double occupancy) of the trips varies. Grand Mountain Marvels (June 1-14) is \$3,369. Mountain Panorama Adventure (June 14-26) is \$2,990. Alaska Wilderness Spectacular (July 13-26) is \$3,260. Grand Mountain Marvels (August 9-22) is \$3,059. And Alaska Wilderness Spectacular (August 23-September 5) is \$2,970. Flights are not included. You can speak with a AAA Travel Advisor for pricing on flights.

Alaska ranks high on bucket lists among U.S. destinations. Its natural beauty creates a work of art from all directions. Snowcapped mountains rise from the landscapes. Varieties of wildlife roam unsettled lands dotted with lakes, streams and lush forests.



Image: Royal Caribbean

Fjords, glaciers and unique villages comprise locations that only can be explained by personal experiences. Your legs may move you, but your eyes will guide you to witness some of the most beautiful sights worldwide.

"To the lover of wilderness, Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world," once said renowned naturalist John Muir.

Alaska is a place of wonder. Our country's largest state has fewer than 700,000 citizens, making such a massive land seem intimately storytelling. A day in the wilderness provides a lifetime of satisfaction. And a lifetime of satisfaction delivers a day you'll never forget.

Visit a host of Alaska's hotspots via glass-domed Wilderness Express, riverboat, motor coach or just by taking a stroll. Hike rare terrains, raft down rough rivers or kayak in calmer waters.

Travel into the unspoiled wilderness of Denali National Park and Preserve. Keep alert for wildlife

### REAL ID Extended to May 7, 2025

The Department of Homeland Security extended the REAL ID deadline to May 7, 2025. The REAL ID Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for official purposes licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards. Beginning May 7, 2025, every

state and territory resident will need to present a REAL ID compliant license/ID, or another acceptable form of ID for boarding commercial aircraft, accessing Federal facilities and entering nuclear plants. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) considers a current passport or military ID acceptable identification for boarding an aircraft. For more information on Pennsylvania's REAL ID compliant license, visit dmv.pa.gov/REALID/Pages/default.aspx.

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Discover the natural beauty only found in the Canadian Rockies. Ice fields, rushing waterfalls, glacial peaks and towering summits are just a few of the wonders awaiting you in the Canadian Rockies. It's a wondrous destination sure to satisfy your wanderlust. TURN TO PAGE 9 FOR DETAILS.

# 1-800-FLOWERS



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

### From Where I Sit

### **AAA Membership ideal holiday gift** Surprise your friends or family with priceless present

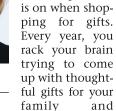
By Terri Petrick President, AAA East Central

he holidays have finally arrived! There's nothing quite like this time of the year, from the endless baked goods to the lights and decorations.

It's also the time of the year that, for me, three colors are top of mind: white, gold and platinum. Of course, there's plenty of white snow that begins to fall, as well as a golden star and platinum tinsel adorning our holiday trees. But that's not why I think of the colors. To me, they represent three of the most

practical anyone can buy: the three tiers of AAA Membership cards. The pressure

Terri Petrick



gifts

friends. That's where we can lend you a hand this season. AAA is truly a gift that keeps on giving.

AAA is famous for its 24-hour emergency roadside assistance, which alone is a great reason to buy it as a gift. You're checking an item off your holiday to-do list with the peace of mind that the recipient will be safe as they travel. Of course, no one wants to be in the position where they must use roadside assistance. But if they are, they'll be very grateful for your gift.

All year, and especially around the holidays, everyone would like to save some extra money. As you're already aware,



### The Gift Of AAA



Scan QR code for details or visit AAA.com/HolidavGift.

membership can save you money at a variety of stores, restaurants, electronics and more. In fact, AAA Members save an average of \$170 a year on everyday purchases. And that's just in addition to the money you save by using AAA's services!

Travel is thriving, and the recipient of your AAA gift membership will give you access to AAA's travel agency. This doesn't just come in the form of access to a trusted, experienced AAA Travel Advisor. travel services are

available digitally through a variety of platforms. Even the vaguest of travel ideas can be expanded on and booked when visiting us virtually or in person.

One of the most overlooked benefits of a AAA gift membership is access to the Auto Club App. This handy app, which can be found through the Apple Store or Google Play, is a AAA Member's best friend. It can be used to find the least expensive gas near you, access to member benefits on the go, call for roadside services digitally and much more. But of course, you won't be able to tell your gift recipient about the benefits of the app until you start using it vourself!

AAA Members have discounts available on insurance products, free identity-theft protection and other automotive and financial services. And if you are looking for one more reason to purchase a gift membership, we're running a special offer through the end of December. Scan the QR code or visit AAA.com/HolidayGift for more details.

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## Porch pirates primed to take packages Steps to protect you from thieves lurking neighborhoods

**By Robin Jones** 

yber Monday kicks off the busy season for more than just online retailers and delivery services. It also opens high season for porch pirates.

Of course, thieves who steal packages from homes operate year-round, but they're particularly active during the holidays. If you order gifts online, you risk becoming one of their victims. But there are ways to protect your purchases, including:

Have your packages delivered to a secure location – Many retailers allow you to opt for in-store pickup when you order online. You also can have packages sent to a UPS store or U.S. Postal Service (USPS) office, designated brick-and-mortar retailers, or to an Amazon Locker facility. Your apartment complex's leasing office also might accept packages.

Sign up for delivery alerts – Some retailers will send you an email or text when your package is dropped off, and most delivery services have apps that allow you to track packages. That way, you can make sure you are home to receive the package or you can ask a neighbor to collect it for you.

*Install a security camera* – A front-door camera alone might discourage



**BAD GIFT** – The holiday season brings more packages being left near the front doors of the homes of online shoppers. They can become a prize for porch pirates. *Image: C5Media. Adobe Stock.* 

package pirates. Even if it doesn't, it will record the theft and give you evidence to bolster any claim you make.

Place a lockbox at your doorstep – This large container can be bolted to your property. After placing a package inside, a delivery person can secure it

with a combination lock. If a package is stolen, you have a few avenues for resolution, including:

Contact the retailer who sold you the item – Many sellers will provide a replacement or refund if you call customer service and explain what Of course, thieves who steal packages from homes operate year-round, but they're particularly active during the holidays.

happened.

File a claim with the delivery service – If the retailer doesn't respond or attempt to resolve the issue, you can reach out to the outfit that delivered the package. FedEx, UPS, DHL and the USPS allow you to submit a claim for lost, damaged or delayed packages.

Call your credit card company – Most credit cards provide purchase protection, which reimburses you for items that are damaged or stolen, as long as you paid for the item entirely on the card and file the claim within a certain number of days of the purchase. Some high-value items aren't covered, though, and some credit card companies require you to file a police report or insurance claim first.

Talk to your insurance agent – A package stolen from your porch was on your property, so it is covered by your homeowners or rental insurance. However, your deductible applies if you file a claim, as do any limits on certain items.

# Tragedies up importance of Move Over law

### Not taking precaution leading to deaths of emergency responders

low down! And move over!

It's a simple request, one that drivers should have no trouble following, particularly as the holiday season approaches. Too often, it's ignored, especially when it comes roadside-assistance workers.

An average of 24 emergency responders, including tow providers, are struck and killed by vehicles while working at the roadside each year – meaning someone is killed, on average, every other week.

In 2019, 44 emergency responders in the U.S. – including 14 tow-truck drivers – died after being hit as they were working by the roadside.

Startling data from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety finds that among drivers who do not comply with Move Over laws, 42% thought this behavior was somewhat or not dangerous to emergency-roadside workers. This demonstrates that drivers may not realize how risky it is for those working or stranded along highways near moving traffic.

To protect these individuals, AAA and other traffic-safety advocates worked tirelessly to get Move Over laws passed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Yet, the AAA Foundation finds that nearly a quarter of those surveyed (23%) are unaware of the Move Over law in the state in which they live.

Meanwhile, among those who are



**TAKE CAUTION** – A tow truck driver loads a disabled vehicle. Drivers approaching emergency-roadside workers should use caution and respect their state's Move Over law. *Image: Adobe Stock.* 

aware of their state's Move Over laws, 15% report not understanding the potential consequences for violating the

The cost of fines varies from state to state, but they can be expensive. Penalty points could be added, as well as a misdemeanor charge for failure to move over or slow down when approaching an emergency vehicle, tow truck, utility vehicle or road-maintenance vehicle with

flashing lights on the side of the road.

These tragic accidents extend beyond tow providers and emergency responders. More than 1,600 people have been struck and killed while outside a disabled vehicle since 2015.

Drivers are increasingly distracted while driving. Previous AAA Foundation research found that motorists are as much as four times as likely to crash if they are talking on a cell phone while driving and eight times as likely to be in a crash if texting.

AAA clubs have participated in educational initiatives regarding Move Over laws by creating public-service announcements and contacting state officials. AAA is committed to raising awareness of Move Over laws and the dangers associated with working at the roadside

These laws require drivers to move over one lane or slow down when approaching an incident where tow providers, police, firefighters or emergency-medical-service crews are working at the roadside. Many states also have expanded their laws to cover vehicles like utility and municipal fleets, as well as disabled vehicles.

To protect roadside workers, drivers with disabled vehicles and others, AAA offers these precautionary tips:

- Remain alert, avoid distractions and focus on the task of driving.
- Keep an eye out for situations where emergency vehicles, tow trucks, utility-service vehicles or disabled vehicles are stopped on the side of the road.
- When you see these situations, slow down and, if possible, move over one lane and away from the people and vehicles stopped on the side of the road.

Slow down! And move over! It could save a life.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

# 1920s Style for a 1920s Price

It was a warm summer afternoon and my wife and I were mingling with the best of them. The occasion was a 1920s-themed party, and everyone was dressed to the nines. Parked on the manse's circular driveway was a beautiful classic convertible. It was here that I got the idea for our new 1920s Retrograde Watch.

Never ones to miss an opportunity, we carefully steadied our glasses of bubbly and climbed into the car's long front seat. Among the many opulent features on display was a series of dashboard dials that accentuated the car's lavish aura. One of those dials inspired our 1920s Retrograde Watch, a genuinely unique timepiece that marries timeless style with modern technology.

With its remarkable retrograde hour and minute indicators, sunburst guilloche face and precision movement, this design is truly one of a kind. What does retrograde mean? Instead of displaying the hands rotating on an axis like most watches, the hands sweep in a semicircle, then return to their starting point and begin all

Retrograde watches by the big brands can set you back thousands; one recent offering from a big French fashion house is selling for more than \$150,000! But because we've designed the 1920s Retrograde Watch in-house, we can offer it to you for just \$99!

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### <u>Tips From a AAA Travel Advisor: Autumn Long</u>

# **Costa Rica stands out among destinations Resorts, beaches, sights make Caribbean location a winner**

fter working for US Airways, TSA and Southwest, I was looking for a career change after the pandemic. Travel is my passion,



AAA Travel Advisor: Autumn Long

so I accepted a position as a AAA Travel Advisor. What is my favorite destination? The three I's: Ireland, Ireland, Ireland.

But the most popular vacations I book daily are trips to warm destinations like Mexico, the Caribbean and Costa Rica! This

September, I was happy to return to Costa Rica with a coach full of travel professionals to do hotel site inspections. Seeing so many properties first-hand provided invaluable insights when recommending properties to our members.

We flew into Liberia airport and stayed at the Secrets Papagayo Resort – a stunning all-inclusive property with lush gardens on the gulf. The resort is large and hilly with a black-sand beach. It's a great getaway for clients who want an adults-only resort. It's a large spread-out property, not suitable if you have mobility issues. We also toured the nearby



**BEACH BUM** – Palm trees, nicely manicured landscaping and a pristine beach hug the blue waters of the Caribbean Sea in Costa Rica. *Image: Autumn Long. AAA* 

Planet Hollywood, which is an all-ages getaway with a party atmosphere.

Further north, we toured Dreams Las Mareas in popular Guanacaste near the tropical rainforest. Dreams caters to couples and families. Rooms are decorated with natural-wood tones to complement the natural landscape. It was easy to get around and the property had a white-sand beach.

My favorite resort experience was watching the loveable monkeys swinging

high in the Guanacaste trees. Nearby activities included whitewater rafting and hiking in the rainforest. Also in Guanacaste is the Westin Reserve Conchal, a golf and tennis resort with a lagoon-style pool. It's a quieter resort and they provide golf carts. The only downit provides be vendors on the beach, but the shoppers liked it! Next door is the upscale W Hotel Reserva Conchal, with its unique rooms, including the stunning Sunset Treehouse Room, with views of

the mangrove forest from your private balcony!

What was my favorite and most unexpected experience? Tamarindo. We toured the Tamarindo Diria – one of the most iconic beach resorts. This charming resort is on Costa Rica's most famous beach, so you can enjoy 1.8 miles of white sand just a few steps from your room.

My choice for romance, celebrations and honeymoons is the Casa Chameleon at Las Catalinas. The rooms are spacious with plunge pools and the food is out of this world. They also have a wine cellar.

We toured the Mistico Hanging Bridges and did a Jungle cruise, but my sightseeing highlight was seeing Arenal Volcano and the Hot Springs. Arenal Springs Resort and Spa is an active resort with an animal sanctuary, rock-climbing wall, and river for rafting and tubing, along with the hot springs. My overall favorite hot-spring experience was at the Tabacon Thermal Resort and Spa. The hotel was separate from the spring down the road. The property was huge with dozens of pools.

My tips for your trip are to bring B.D.P – Bug Spray, Dramamine and Patience. The road infrastructure is winding and some are gravel and rough. It takes longer than expected to get where you are going. And do a guided tour, so your guide can navigate the roads and point out the animals along the way!



### Hertz + AAA: Memorable Let's Go moments ahead.

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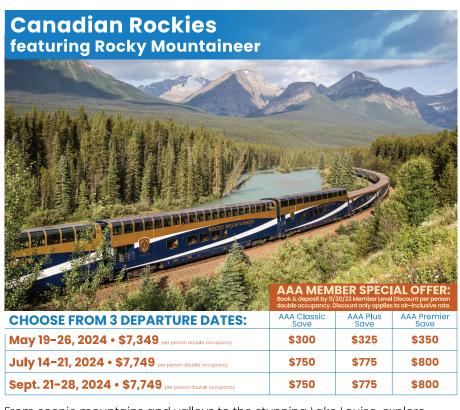
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# The many ways to experience Canada

on a guided tour with AAA Member Choice Vacations



From scenic mountains and valleys to the stunning Lake Louise, explore the best of Western Canada via the famous Rocky Mountaineer train. See beautiful Stanley Park and the famed Granville Island Public Market. Travel among the fields of Fraser Valley and the picturesque Fraser River. Admire the postcard-worthy landscapes as you journey alongside Kicking Horse River. Journey along the unforgettable Icefields Parkway and stop at Athabasca Glacier. Admire stunning Bow Falls in Banff. Set off on a mesmerizing voyage from Vancouver, British Columbia to Calgary, Alberta.

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

- 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

### **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Roundtrip air (subject to availability at time of booking) from participating cities to Vancouver, BC, and from Calgary, AB
- Rocky Mountaineer two SilverLeaf rail excursions
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers

- Banff 2-night stay
- Guided sightseeing; free time
- Icefields Parkway guided sightseeing
- Icefields Adventure Choice of Tour
- Calgary
- 7-night hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling, one bag per person (under 50 pounds)
- 13 meals (restaurants subject to change)

Upgrade to Gold Leaf Train service for an additional charge

# Canadian Rockies by Train



From the lush green Pacific coast of Vancouver, board VIA Rail's *The Canadian* for a once-in-a-lifetime overnight train journey. Relax in the dome car and experience panoramic views of snow-capped mountains, glacial lakes, rushing rivers and the sheer unspoiled wilderness of Canada. Arrive in Jasper and see the dramatic Maligne Canyon and its picture-perfect lake. Journey along the unforgettable lcefields Parkway. Marvel at Athabasca. Discover the natural beauty of Moraine Lake and the powerful Bow Falls. Experience a day on a ranch in the Alberta plains, complete with a wagon ride in search of buffalo and a BBQ lunch in the great outdoors. End your journey in cosmopolitan Calgary. Discover the natural beauty only found in the Canadian Rockies.

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

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

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

- Alberta
- Jasper
- Maligne Lake

### PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip air (subject to availability at time of booking) from participating cities to Vancouver, BC, and from Calgary, AB
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers
- 7-night hotel accommodations; 1 overnight on VIA Rail
- Luggage handling, one bag per

- Athabasca Glacier
- Choice of Tour: Ice Explorer Glacier Tour or Columbia Icefield Skywalk,
- Lake Louise
- Banff
- Calgary

person (under 50 pounds)

- 13 meals (restaurants subject to change)
- Sightseeing and admissions as stated in itinerary
- Local 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 Pittsburgh, hotels, luggage handling (1 bag/person), sightseeing/admissions per itinerary and local guide. Additional airline baggage fees may apply.

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE; BOOK THROUGH YOUR TRUSTED AAA TRAVEL ADVISOR.



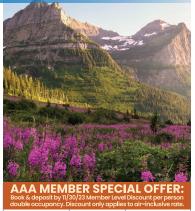
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### More guided tours with AAA Member Choice Vacations

### Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park

Ice fields, rushing waterfalls, glacial peaks, and towering summits are just a few of the wonders awaiting you in the Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park. Visit Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the world's oldest, best preserved buffalo jumps. Ride aboard a Jammer (open-air touring car) during a visit to Glacier National Park. Journey along the unforgettable Icefields Parkway. Stop at Athabasca Glacier and choose to ride across this mass of glacier ice or take a walk on the glass bottom platform at the Columbia Icefield Skywalk. Explore Bow Falls and Surprise Corner. Visit the incomparable Lake Louise. Get ready for an adventure that brings together the expanse of the prairies, the majesty of the Canadian Rockies, and Montana's Glacier National Park.



### **AAA Classic** AAA Plus

Aug. 4-10, 2024 • \$4,349 per person double occupancy

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

**AAA DEPARTURE DATE:** 

- Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump
- Waterton Lakes National Park
- Glacier National Park
- Going-to-the-Sun Road

### **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Roundtrip air (subject to availability at time of booking) from participating cities to/from Calgary, AB
   Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers
- Chartered transportation6-night hotel accommodations
- Local tour guide

- Athabasca Glacier
   Choice of Tour: Ice Explorer Glacier Tour or Columbia Icefield Skywalk
- · Luggage handling, one bag per person (under 50 pounds)
  • 10 meals (restaurants subject to
- Sightseeing and admissions (to include National Park fees) as stated in itinerary

### **Maritimes Coastal Wonders**

Explore the picture-perfect region known as Canada's Maritime Provinces. Venture along its rugged and pristine beauty, all while getting to know its Acadian, Mi'kmaq, and Gaelic cultures. From the nautical beauty of Peggy's Cove to the rugged splendor of the Cabot Trail, the Maritimes will enchant you. Choose how you explore Lunenburg – at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic or on a locally guided walking tour. Undertake a competition to cook the best mussels. Visit the Anne of Green Gables Museum and learn about potato farming. See the 4-story high Hopewell Rocks. Visit the Bay of Fundy where some of the world's highest tides are recorded. Don't miss the rugged beaches, picturesque fishing villages, and rich seafaring history of Canada's amazing Maritime Provinces.



\$150

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

### **AAA DEPARTURE DATE:**

Aug. 2-12, 2024 • \$4,949 per person double occupancy

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Halifax
- Peggy's CoveMahone Bay

- LunenburgCape Breton Island Cabot Trail
- **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Roundtrip air (subject to availability at time of booking) from participating cities to/from Hallfax, Nova Scotia
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers
  Chartered transportation
  In-night hotel accommodations
- Local tour guide

- Prince Edward Island
- Anne of Green Gables Museum
  Hopewell Rocks

- Fundy TrailGrand Pré National Historic Site
- Luggage handling, one bag per person (under 50 pounds)
  16 mealş (restaurants subject to
- change)
- Sightseeing and admissions as stated in itinerary





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

# Discover the Caribbean and Mexico

### Choose from 3 fabulous 7-nt. vacation packages.

### **PUNTA CANA**

**Iberostar Punta Cana** 

Package includes roundtrip airfare, all-inclusive esort accommodations in a premiur ınd roundtrip shared airport transfeı

All-Inclusive! Includes room, meals, drinks, and activities. Splendidly set on the long, sandy beach of Playa Bavaro along the southeast coast of the Dominican Republic this hotel includes several restaurants from gourmet to buffet to ethnic, a lounge bar, discotheque, and professional shows and dancing with a lively house orchestra! Accommodations include elegant rooms and junior suites with a balcony, TV, airconditioning, and many other amenities.



**Pleasant Activities Add On:** 

Adventure Boogies - \$60.00 per person
Drive through small villages in the Dominican
countryside and stop for a visit in an organic farm
where our guides will give valuable information on coconut oil, rum, coffee, chocolate, and tea chocolate world famous! We also stop at a cave with a natural spring of crystalline water for a rejuvenating bath. The adventure ends on the spectacular beach of Macao one of the most beautiful beaches in our country, where you can swim or just relax.

### **RUNAWAY BAY, JAMAICA**

**Bahia Principe Grand Jamaica** 

Package includes roundtrip airfare, all-inclusive resort accommodations in a superior junior suite, and roundtrip shared airport transfers

Feel the authentic vibes of the Jamaican culture. Come and explore the most authentic corners of Jamaica, and let yourself be surprised by its tasty cuisine, enchanting rhythms, and spectacular landscapes. A special place where adults and kids alike can enjoy exhilarating encounters with this unique culture. Plus, all Grand Bahia Principe notels are specially designed for children's maximum enjoyment, both within the facilities and with the activities available for them.



**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.

### **CANCUN**

**Riu Caribe** 

Package includes roundtrip airfare, all-inclusive resort accommodations in an ocean v and roundtrip shared airport transfers

Pay in full, at time of booking and receive a Tropical Sunrise

**Booking Offers:** 

Receive \$75 discount per person double occupancy. Book any 7-night or longer All-inclusive Caribbean or Mexico package including round trip air with deposited payment by Nov. 30, 2023 for travel Nov. 15, 2023-April 30, 2024.

The Rui Caribe's beachfront location provides the perfect relaxing all-inclusive 24-hour resort experience. 3.8 miles to the city center, it is the ideal base for exploring the beautiful Riviera Maya. All rooms are stylishly appointed with private balcony or terrace, air-conditioning, mini-bar, satellite flat screen TV, hair dryer and in-room safe. Relax in the sparkling pools or try your hand at volleyball, cycling, golf, table tennis, snorkeling, scuba diving or windsurfing.



**Pleasant Activities Add On:** Chichen Itza - \$139.00 per person

Discover one of the most majestic archaeological cities in Mayan culture; eat in a typical Mexican restaurant with delicious traditional food and take a dive into a freshwater sinkhole



Full itinerary & more information at AAA.com/PleasantHolidays Pleasant Holidays.

Before-discount rate is per person/double occupancy, subject to availability at time of booking based on a April 13, 2024 check-in date, and includes flights from Pittsburgh, accomodations, and roundtrip airport/ hotel transfers. Additional airline baggage fees may apply.

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# 471 3

### 2024 SMALL GROUP ACTIVE ADVENTURE TOURS

Book & Deposit by 12/31 and SAVE \$50 per person double occupancy! NEW BOOKINGS ONLY

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.



### **NORTHERN LIGHTS OF ALASKA**

ALAKSA

\$3,419

FEB. 26-MAR. 2

**HIGHLIGHTS** 

Fairbanks, 3 Aurora viewing excursions, Snowmobile tour, Dog sledding adventure, Snowshoe or cross-country ski adventure, Aurora Ice Museum, Ice Fishing, North Pole



### **RAILROADS OF THE OLD WEST**

COLORADO

\$3,119

JUNE 23-29; SEPT. 22-28

**HIGHLIGHTS**5 Rail excursions, CO- Georgetown Loop Railroad, NM- Silverton Durango Railroad, CO
- Cumbres and Toltec Railroad, CO - Royal Gorge Route Railroad, CO - Pikes Peak Railroad, Lebanon Silver Mine, Jeep Tour of Corkscrew Pass, Royal Gorge Bridge and Park

### **ARIZONA ADVENTURE**

ARIZONA • NEVADA

\$3,405

MAR. 31-APR. 7; MAY 12-19; SEPT. 22-29; OCT. 20-27

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Las Vegas, Route 66, Grand Canyon National Park, Cameron Trading Post, Wupatki National Monument, Sunset Crater National Monument, Petrified Forest National Park, Oak Creek Canyon, Sedona – hiking and Pink Jeep Tour, Tuzigoot National Monument, Jerome – historic mining town, Prescott, Granite Dells of Prescott optional hiking or kayaking on Reservoir,
Seligman, Oatman – historic mining town

### UTAH **MIGHTY FIVE**

UTAH

\$4,755

MAR. 31-APRIL 7; APRIL 14-21; SEPT. 8-15; SEPT. 29-OCT. 5; OCT. 27-NOV. 3: NOV. 17-24

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Salt Lake City, Canyonlands National Park, Arches National Park, Colorado River, Goblin Valley State Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Canyons of Escalante, Scenic Highway 12, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park

### **CANYONS OF ESCALANTE**

UTAH • NEVADA

\$3,115

MAY 5-12: OCT, 6-13

**HIGHLIGHTS** 

Extensive guided hikes in Utah's natural sites, Kodachrome Basin State Park, Grosvenor Arch, Round Valley Draw, Willis Creek Slot Canyon, Bull Valley Slot Canyon, Escalante Canyon, Arches and Natural Bridges, Phillips Arch, Bowington Arch, 100 Hands -Native American pictograph (\*dependent on timing), Hole in the Rock Road, Calf Creek Falls, Big Horn Canyon

### TRAIL OF THE **ANCIENTS**

NEW MEXICO • COLORADO • UTAH

\$2,925

MAY 11-19; SEPT. 14-22;

OCT. 19-27

**HIGHLIGHTS** 

Acoma Pueblo, El Morro National Monument, Canyon De Chelly, Back Country Tour of Monument Valley, Valley of the Gods, Natural Bridges National Monument, Hovenweep National Monument, Mesa Verde National Park, Aztec National Monument, Chaco Canyon National Monument, Santa Fe , Tent Rocks National Monument, Bandelier National Monument

### **GRAND CIRCLE EXPERIENCE**

NEVADA • UTAH • ARIZONA • COLORADO

\$4,755

MAY 13-24; JUNE 16-27; AUG 18-29 SEPT. 15-26; OCT. 13-24

**HIGHLIGHTS** 

Las Vegas, Zion National Park, Grand Canyon – North Rim (not available in April), Lake Powell, Colorado River float trip, Antelope Canyon, Monument Valley, Four Corners National Monument, Mesa Verde National Park, Durango and Silverton Railroad, Arches National Park Canyonlands National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park

### **GRAND TETON & YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**

UTAH • WYOMING • MONTANA

\$3,789

**MAY 19-26; JUNE 9-16;** JULY 14-21; AUG. 11-18;

SEPT. 29-OCT. 6; OCT. 13-20

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Historic Jackson, Grand Teton National Park, Jenny Lake Boat Tour, Jackson Lake hike. Yellowstone National Park, Yellowstone Lake, Hayden Valley, Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, Mammoth Hot Springs, West Thumb Geyser Basin, Old Faithful, Island Park, Salt Lake City

### **BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

SOUTH DAKOTA

\$2,539

MAY 20-25; JUNE 3-8; **JULY 8-13; AUG. 26-31** 

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Rapid City, Keystone – 5-night stay, Badlands National Park, Wall Drug Store, Black Hills, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Black Hills Central Railroad, Crazy Horse Monument, Devil's Tower National Monument, Deadwood, Wind Cave National Park, Custer State Park Jeep tour

### **YOSEMITE, SEQUOIA & THE CALIFORNIA COAST**

CALIFORNIA

\$4,369

JUNE 9-16; JULY 21-28

**HIGHLIGHTS** 

Yosemite National Park, Sequoia National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, California Coast, Pacific Coast Highway, Cypress Cove, Point Lobos State Park, Monterey, Pfeiffer -Big Sur State Park, San Francisco – lodging at Fisherman's Wharf, Dinner cruise and Alcatraz tour

### **OREGON** SOUTH

OREGON

\$3,019

JUNE 9-16, 2024, AUG. 11-18, 2024

**HIGHLIGHTS** 

Newport Beach, Silentz Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Yaquina Lighthouse and Marine Gardens, Sea Life Cruise, Heceta Lighthouse, Sea Lion Caves, Gold Beach, Rogue River – jet boat ride with lunch, Redwoods of the Pacific Northwest, Crater Lake National Park, Newberry Volcano National Monument, Columbia River Gorge, Multnomah Falls

### **COLORADO NATIONAL PARKS**

COLORADO

\$3,115

JUNE 16-23: AUG. 4-11:

### **SEPT. 15-22 HIGHLIGHTS**

Colorado Springs, Garden of the Gods, Pikes Peak Cog Railway, Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, Great Sand Dunes National Park, Chimney Rock National Monument, Durango, Mesa Verde National Park, Million Dollar Highway, Gunnison National Park, Colorado National Monument, Grand Junction, Glenwood Springs, Rocky Mountain National Park

### **MAGNIFICENT ALASKA**

ALAKSA

\$7,879

JUNE 16-26; JULY 21-31; AUG. 18-28

### HIGHLIGHTS

Anchorage – narrated tour, Turnagain Arm in Cook Inlet scenic drive, Katmai National Park or Lake Clark (based on weather), Boat cruise to Kachemak Bay State Park, Seward, Kenai Fjords National Park nature cruise, Gold Star Dome Train Seward to Anchorage, Matanuska Glacier, Alaska Wilderness Adventure via Jet Boat, Denali National Park – Flight seeing tour to Mount Denali; Denali Tundra Wilderness Tour

### **GLACIER NATIONAL PARK**

MONTANA

\$3.789

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 raftina) on Middle Fork of Flathead River

### **OREGON NORTH**

OREGON \$2,745

AUG. 5-11

Please note: An optional connection to an 8/11 Oregon South Tour is available. Please inquire at the time of booking if interested.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Portland, Columbia River Gorge, Multnomah Falls, Mt. Hood Scenic Byway, Astoria, Mount St. Helen's National Volcanic Monument, Lewis and Clark National Historic Park, Cannon Beach, Tillamook, Cape Meares Lighthouse and Wildlife Refuge





Full itinerary & more information at AAA.com/SmallGroups

Before-discount rate is per person/double occupancy, subject to availability at time of booking and includes hotels, luggage handling (1 bag/person), sightseeing/admissions per itinerary and local guide. Prices are land only, ask about air add-on.

# DEPARTURE

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### **Quebec Winter Carnival**

February 2-6, 2024 • \$2,985 per person double occupancy

Attend one of the world's largest and most festive Winter Carnivals in Quebec City

### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- Montreal overnight stay
- Old Quebec City- 3-night stay; city tour
- Winter Carnival Carnival Parade, Ice Hotel, free time at the Festival
- Ste. Anne de Beaupre Shrine
- Albert Filles Copper Art Studio
- Montmorency Falls
- Traditional Quebecois meal

### **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Roundtrip air (subject to availability at time of booking) to Montreal and from **Ouebec**
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers
- Chartered transportation
- 4-night hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling, one bag per person
- 7 meals (restaurants subject to change)
- Sightseeing per itinerary
- Taxes and gratuities on included features

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

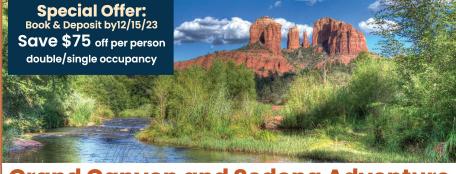




**AAA.com/FeaturedVacations** 

- Services of a AAA Tour Manager and local guide where noted

Full itinerary & more information at



### **Grand Canyon and Sedona Adventure** April 28-May 6, 2024 • \$3,799 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 or Pink Jeep
- Williams, Arizona Grand Canyon Railway Hotel, Western town on Route 66
- Grand Canyon Railway First-class travel from Williams, Arizona
- Grand Canyon National Park
- Motorcoach tour of Southern Rim vantage
- Free time within the National Park • Grand Canyon Visitor's Center, IMAX Theater
- Phoenix area-2-nights, resort lodging
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Old Town Scottsdale

### **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Roundtrip airfare from participating cities to/from Phoenix, Arizona.
  Roundtrip airport/notel transfers
  7-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

Western Spirit Museum or Heard Museum

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







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

### Sail the sunny Mediterranean to Italy, France & Spain on the NEW Celebrity Ascent®

September 2-14, 2024 • from \$3,370 per person double occupancy



### **AMAZING MEMBER PERKS!**

Per stateroom, double occupo (balcony or higher category)

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

The fourth ship in Celebrity's revolutionary Edge® Series, 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.

### **12-NIGHT ITINERARY**

- Day 1 Barcelona, Spain Embarkation
- Day 2 At Sea
- Day 3 Seville, (Cadiz) Spain
- Day 4 Gibraltar, United Kingdom
- Day 5 Malaga, Spain
- Day 6 At Sea
- Day 7 Nice (Villefranche), France
- Day 8 Florence/Pisa (La Spezia), Italy
- Day 9 Depart Florence/Pisa
- Day 10 Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy Day 11 Santa Margherita, Italy
- Day 12 At Sea
- Day 13 Disembark in Barcelona for your return trip home.

Rates are per person (double occupancy), are subject to availability at time of booking and include 12-night accommodations/entertainment, most onboard meals, member perks and government taxes/fees of \$135.97. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Malta.





Full itinerary & more information at **AAA.com/FeaturedVacations** 



### **Panama Canal Cruise**

on the *Celebrity* Summit®

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

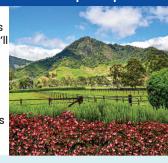


### **AMAZING MEMBER PERKS!**

Per stateroom, double occupe (balcony or higher category)

- 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 8 Puntarenas, Costa Rica

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 Caym
Day 7	At Sea	Day 15	At Sea

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** 



Day 16 Disembark - Ft. Lauderdale

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# DEPARTURE

# ropical Costa Rica

hosted by Dr. Pilar Fish of the National Aviary

NATIONAL AVIARY

PITTSBURGH, PA

October 24 - November 5, 2024 • 12 nights • \$4,299 per person double occupancy

### **Experience It! Monteverde Cloud Forest**

Only four places in the world boast an ecosystem so unique that it produces a cloud forest, and Costa Rica is one of them. Situated high on a mountain, the Monteverde Cloud Forest is created by the forest's dry air combining with the humid, hot air of the rainforest. The result is a blanket of clouds that covers the forest, mimicking constant rainfall. This extremely wet environment has bred a diverse world of exotic flora and fauna. One of the cloud golden beak and a green-hooded head, tail feathers of gray, black, and white, and a vibrant scarlet breast. Highly elusive, quetzal sightings are rare, but absolutely unforgettable when attained.

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Rescate Wildlife Rescue Center, Tortuguero Jungle experience boat ride, Bird watching excursion, San Jose, Coffee Plantation, Arenal Volcano, Cano Negro Refuge, Lake Arenal Cruise, Farm Tour and Lunch, Monteverde Cloud Forest, Guanacaste

### **PACKAGE INCLUDES**

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













Before-discount rate is per person/double occupancy, subject to availability at time of booking and includes flights from Pittsburgh, roundtrip airport/hotel transfers, hotels, luggage handling (1 bag/person), sightseeing/admissions per itinerary and local guide. Additional airline baggage fees may apply. Passports and Visas are required for this tour at your own expense.



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- Skógafoss
- Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon
- Vatnajökull National Park
- Seljalandsfoss
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- Chartered transportation
- 8-night hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling, one bag per person • 15 meals (restaurants subject to change)
- · Sightseeing and admissions as stated in
- 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 Pittsburgh, hotels, luggage handling (1 bag/person), sightseeing/admissions per itinerary and local guide. Additional airline baggage fees may apply.









Full itinerary & more information at AAA.com/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
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- Camp Steam Train Ride
- Napa Valley Winery visit
- Lake Tahoe Boyden Cavern
- Monterey Peninsula
   Carmel by the Sea
- 17-Mile Drive
- Cannery Row
- Silicon Valley Apple Visitor's Center

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  Roundtrip airport and hotel transfers

  Chartered land transportation
- Rail excursions per itinerary9-night hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling, one bag per person
- restaurants subject to change)

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  Gratuities for included meals
- Services of a AAA Tour Manger and local tour director

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









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# DEPARTURES

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Best Western Plus Atlantic Beach Resort Located mid-beach within a 5-minute drive of Collins Avenue Shopping Area and Ocean Drive. This beach hotel is 0.4 mi from Fontainebleau and 7.6 mi from Port Miami. Inside this beautiful, environmentally friendly hotel, guests will enjoy spacious, 100% non-smoking guest rooms, complete with cable satellite television, an in-room refrigerator and free wireless high-speed internet access Most rooms offer ocean views. Other amenities at this Miami Beach hotel include a full-service restaurant, the Pool Bar and Grill, a sparkling outdoor swimming pool and fully equipped exercise facility.



### **Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort**

Offering 2 outdoor pools and spa center, this beachfront family-friendly resort is directly connected to the Ocean Walk Shoppes. The resort has 2 outdoor pools and a hot tub and fitness center, and guests can enjoy a meal at one of the on-site restaurants or a drink at a bar. For your comfort, you will find free toiletries and a hairdryer. Cabana suites offers a separate seating area and 2 televisions. Daytona International Speedway is 5 miles from Hilton Daytona Beach Resort, while Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Museum is 6.2 miles from the property.



### **PANAMA CITY**

### **Holiday Inn Club Vacations Panama City Beach Resort**

The Emerald Coast of Florida is named for the Gulf's beautiful green-blue waters, and Panama City Beach is its crown jewel. Panama City Beach Resort is your beachy home away from home with picture-perfect waterfront views from every villa. This beach resort offers spacious one- and two-bedroom villas, each complete with living room space, a full-sized kitchen and in-unit washer and dryer. The beach resort also has an outdoor pool, hot tub, activity center, barbecue grill, fire pit and fitness center.



### **KEY WEST**

### Kimpton Lighthouse Hotel

Kimpton Lighthouse Hotel is located in the heart of iconic Key West, opposite the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum and the Keeper's Quarters Museum. Guests can enjoy an outdoor heated pool, complimentary continental breakfast, and on-site bar. Isabel's Poolside Bar serves island favorites and specialty drinks. Free WiFi and a flat-screen cable TV are included in all accommodations along with a private bathroom in each guestroom. Duval Street is a 5-minute walk from the hotel, and the Southernmost Point is a 7-minute walk away.



Full itinerary & more information at AAA.com/PleasantHolidays

### Pleasant Holidays.

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Embark on a cherished journey from Louisville to Pittsburgh or Pittsburgh to Louisville to explore the legacies long revered in the steamboating community.

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Day 3 Madison, IN

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Day 6 Point Pleasant, WV

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Day 8 Scenic River Cruising

Day 9 Pittsburgh, PA

### Pittsburgh to Louisville July 6-14, 2024

Day 1 Pittsburgh - Overnight Hotel Stay

Day 2 Pittsburgh, PA

Day 3 Wheeling, WV

Day 4 Marietta, OH

Day 5 Huntington, WV

Day 6 Augusta, KY

Day 7 Cincinnati, OH

Day 8 Madison, IN

Day 9 Louisville, KY

Before-discount rate is per person double occupancy, subject to availability at time of booking. This rate includes cruise and government fees. Cruise rates are capacity controlled. Rates, terms, conditions, availability and itinerary are subject to change without notice.





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# 

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- Holiday Lights Display drive- through
- Dinner at The Castle Tarrytown • Phillipsburg Manor
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- New York City overnight stay at historic Algonquin Hotel, NYC Hop-on/Hop-off sightseeing pass



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- Nightly Movies in the TheatreHiking & Meditation Trails
- Historical Tours & Presentations
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### CHRISTMAS ON THE POTOMAC

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- Gadsby's Tavern
- Mount Vernon Candlelight Tour
- Old Town Alexandria





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

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### PITTSBURGH TO NJ AND NY DEPARTURES

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

Mar 2-15, 2024	Southern Caribbean	. Carnival Venezia™	.from \$1,689
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Aug 21-27, 2024	Bermuda	. Carnival Venezia™	.from \$1,525
Sept 6-14, 2024	Canada	. Carnival Venezia™	. from \$1,305
Nov 23-Dec 6, 2024	Southern Caribbean	. Carnival Venezia™	. from \$1,615









Ships' registry: CCL — Bahamas

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Unique Cruise Destinations NEED CONTENT NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023 AAA MOTORIST PAGE

# Winter chill can put battery in a bind AAA replacements reliable, ease your concerns

t shouldn't be assumed the 2023 winter season will be similar to last season's. It's likely snow and colder temperatures could be on the horizon. Frigid wind-chills and icy conditions add to the wear and tear on vehicles, particularly batteries.

It's an ideal time to have your car's battery tested to be assured it's ready for the upcoming winter season. Batteries are delicate and could lose charge with the first wave of chilly conditions. Cold and damp weather can take a toll on an electrical system overburdened by defrosts, windshield wipers and lights. It's never too early to be prepared.

Lead-acid batteries' lifespans depend on a variety of factors, but only 30% of new ones will last three years. Batteries must work under temperature extremes and withstand constant shocks and vibrations.

It might seem as if batteries that are used less often should have better lifespans, but that isn't always the case. Batteries could drain more quickly if the car is driven 20 minutes or fewer, causing the battery never to fully charge. Batteries that are deeply discharged or rest idly for long periods of time are more vulnerable to sulfation, a buildup of lead-sulphate crystals, the primary cause of premature-battery failure

New cars require a steady flow of



**HOLDS A CHARGE** – AAA batteries have 36-month, free-replacement nationwide warranties. *Image: AAA*.

electricity to control multiple onboard computers and powertrain features, such as stop-start technology, heated seats, wireless hotspots and video displays that keep the vehicle running smoothly. Reduced hours of daylight result in more use of headlights and heating – all of which take tolls on the battery's power reserve.

The battery should be replaced to help prevent a future roadside

emergency if you notice a dimming of interior lights or a clicking noise when turning over the transmission. Have a trained technician clean the battery cables and check that the electrical system is charging correctly.

AAA Battery Service offers fast, accurate and convenient mobile-battery testing and replacement. State-of-theart diagnostic equipment will confirm whether the battery will hold a charge,

or if the problem lies deeper in the electrical system.

This service is included in your AAA membership. If necessary, and with your approval, a new, high-quality AAA battery will be installed immediately and onsite.

AAA Battery Service vehicles carry batteries compatible with 90% of all cars, SUVs and light trucks. And each AAA-branded battery is covered by an unprecedented nationwide 36-month, free-replacement warranty.

Our Instant Quote battery-price calculator on AAA.com will provide you member and nonmember pricing for your vehicle's battery, reflecting your exclusive AAA discount. Every battery AAA replaces – more than 2 million since 2021 – is safely recycled to protect the environment.

### 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. 7-days a week. To verify AAA Battery Service availability in your area, call our toll-free number: 1-800-222-4357.







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### Alaska by Land & Sea

on the Denali Natural History Tour and stare in awe at Denali – the highest peak in North America, rising 20,310 feet.

Witness the Chena River by boat, stop by Talkeetna – considered one of Alaska's "funkiest" small towns – to visit a main street inundated with roadhouse restaurants, cafes, brew pubs and shops.

Visit the acclaimed Anchorage Museum before taking a brief tour of Alaska's largest city. See the Chugach Mountains. Discover Seward – one of the state's oldest communities – or hike a trail that approaches a glacier. You can hear the ice crackling.

These places barely scratch the surface of Alaska's dense personality. It's one so deep, it cuts into the core of the earth.

Alyeska offers a rich variety of marine species. Stroll through the forest and along mountain trails abloom with wildflowers in Girdwood and enjoy water views of the Turnagain Arm and Cook Inlet. Dig deeper into the 49th state's history and heritage in Fairbanks.

Alaska's story is a chapter-filled masterpiece. Each one enlightens your curiosities and leaves you yearning to absorb its mystical traits.

That's why cruising it by sea is considered just as satisfying as trekking it by land. Seven nights on *Radiance of the Seas* will enhance Alaska's mysteries from different perspectives.

Your cruise embarks from Vancouver or Seward, depending on your itinerary. *Radiance of the Seas* is a floating resort that boasts myriad activities. Gaze at glaciers while unwinding in one the Solarium's whirlpools. Entertain yourself in its Casino Royale, see a Broadway show or visit a nightclub.



Image: dbvirago. Adobe Stock.

Enjoy first-class dishes from its main dining rooms or signature restaurants. Take advantage of their eclectic menus that are sure to satisfy your tastebuds.

Sail to Alaskan destinations that will enhance your trip. See cities and small towns, glaciers and waterways, including Inside Passage. It stretches more than 500 miles from the Puget Sound into the Gulf of Alaska. Shaped by glaciers, the landscapes are comprised of mountains, crisp blue icebergs, deep fjords and more than 1,000 islands.

Few cruise ships visit Sitka, but it's a stop well worth taking. The picturesque town has a rich-Russian heritage and a host of historical attractions.

Ketchikan is labeled the "Salmon Capital of the World". Culture-hungry

cruisers can witness the largest collection of standing totem poles globally. See humpback whales off the coast during the summer.

Mountains coated with vibrant green landscapes surround Juneau. It's home to the Alaska State Museum. Hike up Mount Roberts for panoramic views across the city or hop on the Mount Roberts Tramway and ride to its apex.

Witness Hubbard Glacier – the largest tidewater glacier in North America. It calves throughout the summer and towers over passing cruise ships.

Miners once flocked to Skagway. Its historic district houses 100 buildings from the gold-rush era, making it a fascinating stop.

Ice Strait Point is a tourist destination

### Alaska by Land & Sea

continued from page 1



Scan QR code to learn details about the trip or visit AAA.com/AlaskaTour



Image: Southwest Adventure Tours.

just outside the small village of Hoonah on Chichagof Island – home to the largest bear population in the world. Watch for whales and other wildlife. Take a vehicle expedition, brave the world's largest ziprider or just absorb the surroundings.

Haines, meanwhile, is simply breathtaking. The sun peeks above beautiful mountains that rest above thick forests. Kayak in its calm lakes, spot the American Bald Eagle, as well as other species, fish or visit its art galleries.

Alaska moves our minds in ways we didn't believe were possible. It nearly sits on top of the world, reminding us that it has few peers and even fewer blemishes.

Visit AAA.com/AlaskaTour to learn more about these trips.

# AAA to provide roadside services through Apple Members can receive assistance via satellite on iPhone 15, 14

sers of the newly announced Apple iPhone 15 and iPhone 14 now can get access to Roadside Assistance via satellite by utilizing AAA services.

AAA is one of North America's largest and most-trusted membership organizations. It responds to more than 30 million calls for roadside assistance annually and serves more than 63 million members. By working with Apple, AAA will be able to reach people who may otherwise be unable to receive help.

"Safety is at the core of who AAA is as an organization, and we're taking that commitment to the next level by offering AAA services to iPhone users who would have previously been unreachable," said Marshall Doney, president and CEO, AAA. "Now, thanks to iPhone's satellite capabilities, iPhone users with Roadside Assistance via satellite can get help when they need it most but can't reach us via traditional connections."

iPhone users who request roadside assistance can be connected via satellite with AAA after answering a few questions to capture important details. Users will receive clear guidance on how to stay connected to a satellite. It will allow them to message with a AAA agent and receive important information about the status of their request.



**APPLE SKY** – AAA Members soon will have access to roadside assistance via satellite through iPhone 15 and iPhone 14 phones. This will better assist members broken down in areas that don't have connectivity. *Image: Joshua Resnick. Adobe Stock.* 

"We know firsthand how stressful it is to be stranded with a breakdown, especially if you find yourself in a remote location or without cell service," said Doney. "Your options are limited – walk to a service point or area with cellular connectivity or Wi-Fi, which can be miles away, or attempt to flag another motorist down. Apple's satellite infrastructure is an innovative solution that is already providing critical emergency support to iPhone users, and AAA is proud to offer Roadside Assistance via satellite in partnership with Apple."

"Safety is at the core of who AAA is as an organization, and we're taking that commitment to the next level by offering AAA services to iPhone users who would have previously been unreachable. Now, thanks to iPhone's satellite capabilities, iPhone users with Roadside Assistance via satellite can get help when they need it most but can't reach us via traditional connections."

Marshall Doney, AAA president and CEO

Roadside Assistance via satellite will be available on all iPhone 15 and iPhone 14 users in the U.S., regardless of whether they are a AAA Member. Once the questionnaire is received, AAA Members will be verified and service will be provided. Nonmembers will be responsible for payment upon completion of the

Roadside Assistance via satellite is built on the groundbreaking technology that powers Emergency SOS by satellite, launched by Apple in 2022. It allows iPhone 14 and iPhone 15 users to access emergency services via satellite when cellular coverage or Wi-Fi is unavailable.



Give a full year of peace-of-mind on the road with a AAA Gift Membership.

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<sup>&</sup>quot;The AAA Full Picture Quote<sup>™</sup> provides driver and vehicle information, coverage limits, applicable discounts and premium for the specific quote. While the AAA Full Picture Quote<sup>™</sup> may present options, the insured is responsible for selecting the proper coverage and deductible to fit the insured's circumstances.

# 'A Christmas Story' house raises spirits

### Setting of the classic film brings to life Ralphie and his family

he cult-hit film "A Christmas Story" holds a special place in the hearts of millions of fans who eagerly await Christmas Eve to watch their favorite holiday movie.

The tradition dates nearly three decades and it grows each year. Unforgettable characters and storylines make it one of the best holiday movies of all-time.

Ralphie is determined to get a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas – even if he'll shoot his eye out. The Old Man curses "the way other artists might work in oils or clay." And poor Randy is bundled up so tightly for school that he can't put down his arms.

It truly is an original. It's unknown the last time Mother Parker had eaten a warm meal. The Old Man comes to life once his "major award" arrives. And Scut Farkus – "what a rotten name" – is a villain unlike any other, staring devilishly with his "yellow eyes."

The hidden gem, however, is the Parker home. The coaldust-spewing domicile is intimate and old-fashioned. Spigots are built into the walls of the kitchen sink. The radio plays "Little Orphan Annie" and the family makes fond memories inside this humble house.



**STORY TIME** – Fans can visit the house from the classic holiday hit "A Christmas Story" in Cleveland. *Image: A Christmas Story House & Museum.* 

Fans can learn more about the home by visiting it. The "A Christmas Story House & Museum" is located in Cleveland and is open year-round, seven days a week for public tours and overnight stays are an option.

The Bumpus House, too, is open

for overnight stays. Located to the left of the A Christmas Story House, it's the fictional home of Ralphie's unruly neighbors and their smelly hound dogs. It has a pair of accommodations: The "Hound Dog Haven" that can accommodate four guests

and the "Stolen Turkey" suite that can house as many six guests.

The museum features original props, costumes and memorabilia from the film, as well as hundreds of rare behind-the-scenes photos. Among the props and costumes are the toys from the Higbee's window, Randy's snowsuit, the chalkboard in Miss Shields' classroom and the family car.

And don't forget about the "major award." The legendary leg lamp sits in the front window, illuminating "electric ..."

Purchase mementos at the museum gift shop. Take home your electric leg lamp or Ralphie's bunny suit. Figurines, decoder pins and replicas of the Parker tree star also are available – and so is the Red Ryder BB gun.

A visit is a step back in time – to a simpler place. It offers fans an up-close viewing and an opportunity to learn more about the film. It also should inject a burst of holiday spirit – no matter the time of the year.

Spend a long weekend or just make a day of it. "A Christmas Story House & Museum" is well worth the trip.

And remember never to put your tongue on a flag pole during the winter season.

# Adventure awaits at Canadian Rockies Parks, mountains, lakes and more offer walk on wild side

here aren't enough adjectives to describe the beauty of the Canadian Rockies. Magnificent, splendid and glorious may quickly come to mind, but they barely scratch the surface.

Words paint a picture in our minds, but nothing tells a true story better than witnessing it with our own eyes. Natural wonders have been spurring our senses from the beginning of time.

Snow-covered mountains, winding canyons and fascinating rock formations are among the many treasures waiting to be discovered. Meadows carpeted with wildflowers and supernatural glacial lakes put a bow on this gift of travel.

Banff National Park is 80 miles west of Calgary. Its spectacular views have lured Hollywood icons and British Royalty, but the brightest stars are the local elk who wander the streets. Gushing Bow Falls sits adjacently to the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. Inspired by a Scottish castle, it took an army of stone-carvers and masons nearly two decades to complete.

The Banff Gondola sends passengers on an eight-minute ride to the summit of Sulphur Mountain. Marvel at 360-degree views of Banff, the Bow Valley and six scenic mountain ranges



**MASTERPIECE** – The Canadian Rockies reflect off Moraine Lake in western Canada. *Image: Horticulture. Adobe Stock.* 

that ascend 7,486 feet above sea level.

Snow domes and Victoria Glacier surround Lake Louise, 36 miles west of Banff. The water's mysterious bluegreen color is the result of fine, glacial "rock flour" particles suspended in the water.

Moraine Lake sits 10 minutes from Lake Louise. The invaluable location once graced the Canadian \$20 bill.

Lofty peaks, including the third-highest mountain in the Rockies, arise from this crystalline waterway.

Appreciate stunning scenery while traveling Bow Valley Parkway. The 35-mile excursion should include a stop at Johnson Canyon. Seven waterfalls are hidden inside secluded rock walls and accessible by a walking trail. Bighorn sheep and mountain goats

frequent the limestone cliffs near Upper Falls. Cross the Continental Divide into Yoho National Park to visit Takakkaw Falls – a cascade higher than Niagara Falls.

Icefields Parkway – called "20 Switzerlands in one" – links Lake Louise to Jasper. The 143-mile parkway offers a constant changing of the mountains, waterfalls, icefields and more than 600 glaciers – the most among other roads on the continent.

Columbia Icefield feeds six major glaciers. That is where you can board an Ice Explorer – an all-terrain vehicle with tires five feet in diameter – for a trek across the Rockies' biggest icefield and the Athabasca Glacier. The four-mile-long tongue of the ice is the greatest ice mass outside the Arctic Circle.

Witness spectacular scenery, including the Athabasca Falls, on the road to Jasper. Canada's largest mountain park is home to Mount Robson, the tallest peak in the Canadian Rockies. Considered the backbone of the world, it allows visitors to make a thrilling ascent up Whistler Mountain aboard the Jasper Aerial Tramway.

Regality rarely comes easy, but a visit to the Canadian Rockies is a trip meant for a king and queen.

# Get Ready for Winter

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Call your local AAA Office or the Member Service Center:

# Holidays don't mix with drinking and driving Intoxicated drivers are 40 times more likely to get in crash

aving a drink with friends and family to celebrate the holiday season is a commonality among many Americans. Raise a glass and toast to good times and more to come.

'Tis the season to being more responsible – especially behind the wheel.

Alcohol-related car fatalities spike during the final six weeks of the year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that drunk-driving crashes nearly triple from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day.

Drunk drivers comprise approximately one-third of all motor-vehicle deaths. On average, alcohol-related car deaths occur every 45 minutes. The numbers are disheartening, but what makes it more tragic is that these deaths and injuries are preventable. It requires drivers to make responsible decisions for it to become reality.

"A DUI conviction can weigh heavily on your pocketbook," said Theresa Podguski, AAA East Central director of legislative affairs. "But getting in your car after a night of drinking could cost you more than just money. It can result in lives lost."

A driver's blood-alcohol content (BAC) depends on many factors. How much and how quickly did a person drink? What is the person's body



**DON'T MIX** – Drinking and driving is a recipe for disaster. It's wise to pass the keys if you've had too much to drink. *Image: Brian Jackson. Adobe Stock.* 

weight and gender? Research indicates that alcohol's effect on females tends to be stronger and last longer than it does on males.

The risk of getting into a car crash rapidly increases after a BAC of .05 – one or two drinks. A person with a .08 BAC – the legal limit in all 50 states – is

40 times more likely to be killed in a crash than a sober driver.

Drivers who feel they have had too much to drink should call a friend, a rideshare or cab service. Simply put, don't drive. Never ride in a vehicle that is being driven by a person who is drunk. Time is the only cure for "A DUI conviction can weigh heavily on your pocketbook. But getting in your car after a night of drinking could cost you more than just money. It can result in lives lost."

Theresa Podguski, AAA East Central director of legislative affairs.

intoxication. Coffee and cold showers are myths.

Those hosting parties should make certain guests leave with sober drivers. Take a person's keys if they seem to have had too much to drink. Safety never should be taken for granted, even if the person being protected is unruly and doesn't want to stay.

AAA works year-round in educating motorists about driving practices that will help keep them safe and reduce drug- and alcohol-related crashes. Together, we can make everyone safer and keep alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers off the road.

Common sense saves lives, lessens injuries and/or avoids a lifetime of regret.

'Tis the season, indeed.

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# Sun always shining on Mexico hotspot Cancun blessed with flawless beaches and attractions

tioning. It might as well come with the label "resort town."

This is Cancun – a Mexican town best described as a beach with an island in the center. Once a place where Mayan emperors visited for rest and relaxation, it now is a destination where millions of travelers visit annu-

ally in search of the same results.

t's a city synonymous with vaca-

The cosmopolitan-resort town is perched on the limestone shelf of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and is one the most popular vacation spots in the world. Cancun breathes life into those eager to escape their daily grinds. Blue skies mesh with puffy clouds and a radiant sun to create the perfect getaway cocktail.

Luxury hotels populate the Hotel Zone, a seahorse-shaped oasis connected by a pair of causeways and flanked by the tranquil Nichupte Lagoon and the restless Caribbean Sea. Peoplewatchers stroll the palm-fringed promenade that hugs the pure shoreline.

Cancun boasts 12 miles of beach that snuggle with turquoise waters and white sand. All are open to the public and make for a perfect walk. Guests can hike along the northern shore by the calming waters of Bahia de Mujeres or follow the Caribbean Sea on the eastern shore. Sand shares the appearance of talcum powder and doesn't



**YES YOU CAN** – Luxurious resorts line the coast, waiting to entertain guests in Cancun. *Image: jdross75. Adobe Stock.* 

burn feet thanks to its limestone composition that doesn't absorb heat.

Cancun established its reputation as a resort town on the shoulders of Playa Ballenas, a magnificent whitesand beach. Boogie-boarders flock to Las Perlas, and Playa Tortugas is a popular public beach and a departure point to sleepy Isla Mujeres of Island of Women.

One of the most idyllic spots in the Caribbean, Cancun is home to a turtle sanctuary, the remains of a notorious pirate's lair and the Cave of the Sleeping Sharks. Vicious Tiger sharks lay motionless 65-feet below the surface, a phenomenon caused by the cave's oxygen-rich water, which serves

as a narcotic on the soporific sharks.

Schools of dazzling blue neons hover around Cancun's clear waters among the rocks and piers. The otherworldly Underwater Museum features more than 500 life-sized figures in two locations.

Bargain for authentic Mexican handicrafts, silver and Maya-inspired art and designer clothing. Most openair markets are located in El Centro, the downtown area. Mercados on Tulum Avenue is an ideal place to hone your bargaining skills.

Cancun's nightlife ranks among the best in the Caribbean. Visit a multitude of nightclubs, pubs and other establishments. See a show; perhaps Cirque du Soleil-style acrobats, celebrity impersonators or costumed dancers. The options seem endless.

Step away from the hustle and bustle and visit nearby Mayan archeological sites, including El Ray that is located not far from the resort area. Chichen-Itza is about 120 miles southwest of the city and covers six-square miles. It's dominated by the Kulkulkan step pyramid, which functions as a giant solar calendar. During equinox, sunlight sends an image of a serpent undulating down the temple walls.

Beaches, resorts and good times are associated with Cancun. It's a trifecta that never disappoints.

# Ice dams can lead to significant issues AAA breaks down what they are, how they damage homes

cicles hanging from the roof might make a perfect setting for a painting – a winter wonderland, no doubt. But what if they are ice dams? Well, that's another story.

Ice dams form when warm air from inside your home melts snow on your roof. It refreezes at the eaves, creating a dam. As melting and freezing continue, water pools behind the dam and could eventually leak into your home, resulting in costly water damage.

Ice dams are a battle you don't want to fight. Protect your roof and your wallet by taking the necessary steps to prevent ice dams from forming.

Ice dams are a headache for homeowners. They look unsightly and can cause serious damage to your roof and house structure. Without proper insulation, warm air from inside the house leaks into the attic and melts snow on the roof.

This melted snow refreezes at the colder eaves – creating an ice dam – which forces its way under the shingles and finds holes in the roof decking. Suddenly, you have water dripping into your attic. You can avoid this nightmare by making sure your house is properly insulated. It could save you trouble and money in the future.

AAA recommends these steps:

• Increase attic ventilation through



**WINTER PROBLEM** – Ice dams form in a gutter, potentially causing serious damage to the home. *Image: soupstock. Adobe Stock.* 

the use of soffit and ridge vents to help circulate air through the attic, ensuring a consistent temperature.

- Examine your insulation to make sure it's not blocking the vents and check its depth.
- Prevent heat from escaping into
- your attic by ensuring all attic ducts are sealed and properly insulated, and any exhaust fans lead outdoors, not to the attic.
- Consult a professional if your attic is a living space, you need vents installed or insulation added.

It's important to take steps to prevent ice dams from forming in the first place. One of the best ways is to make sure your attic insulation is adequate and properly installed.

Keeping the bottom couple of feet of roof and gutters clear of snow can help minimize ice dam formation, but it's not a foolproof solution. If you do find yourself with major ice dams, do not attempt to remove them yourself or get up on your roof. Instead, call for a professional with experience in removing ice dams safely and effectively – just be sure to ask about their methods first, as chipping or sawing away at the ice can cause damage to shingles. Prevention is key when it comes to avoiding costly repairs down

Don't let ice dams lead to winter blues. If you notice water damage or leaks coming into your home, acting quickly is key. Contact your insurance provider as soon as possible and review your plan's coverage for ice dam damage. While many policies have this protection, there could be exclusions, so it's important to double-check. With a little bit of research, you can keep winter worries at bay. Visit the U.S. Department of Energy for more information about how much insulation you need.

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