



Travel | Insurance/Financial | Automotive | Member Savings

Vol. 71 No. 2

# **WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

**FEBRUARY 2024** 



# Vacations Begin Here!™

# **Experience the world at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase**™

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HERE'S NEVER BEEN MORE WORLD TO SEE than at this year's annual Pittsburgh Travel Showcase. No passport is required. There's MORE Exhibitors, MORE Destinations, MORE Discounts, MORE Presentations and MORE AAA Advisors! It's a global extravaganza spanning all seven continents unlike any other!

The annual Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ returns to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on January 19, 20 and 21, and it's going to be bigger and better than ever! The region's only immersive travel show will bring more than 100,000-square feet of exclusive savings and exciting destination presentations. And this year, the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ will feature more than 30 new travel vendors and destinations, plus there will be more AAA Travel Advisors to personally help you plan and book your dream vacation on the spot!

Vacations Begin Here!™ At the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™! There is NO better place to plan your next trip than at the Showcase. Knowledgeable travel experts combined with great savings opportunities provide endless ideas to fulfill your travel dreams. It's too good to pass up!

Take advantage of convenient one-stop shopping under one roof and exclusive AAA savings! These Showcase-only savings await visitors who book their next trip onsite. Simply put, enter with an open mind and leave knowing you just closed a fantastic deal!

AAA Travel Advisors will be on-hand to do the work and research for you and make sure you're ready for your trip. Their knowledge comes from first-hand experiences, allowing them to informatively suggest a variety of options designed make your vacation wishes come true!

continued on pg 21

## **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.

### **New branch opening in McMurray**

AAA East Central expanded its footprint to better serve its members in Western Pennsylvania with the opening of a new branch office in McMurray. It opened January 2 and is located at 4000 Washington Road Unit 206. Members can contact the branch by calling 724-260-2168.

## 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.

### 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.

## **SAIL THE BALTIC ON PRESIDENT'S CRUISE**



Cruise the storied Baltic Sea with AAA East Central President Terri Petrick via Azamara Cruises. Visit Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Sweden, and enjoy special AAA Member perks. The trip begins August 11, 2024.

See page 9 for more information.

# **Upkeep helps drivers avoid breakdowns Components often overlooked can cause big problems**

AA has rescued drivers for more than a century, and there are no signs of stopping. It aids stranded members approximately 30 million times annually for a myriad of reasons. There is no telling what could lie ahead, but there are three most common reasons: dead battery, flat tires and overheating.

Remarkably, improved vehicle maintenance could avoid a quarter of these experiences, making it prudent to take care of your vehicle.

Battery issues are the leading cause for roadside breakdowns, particularly during the winter. Batteries lose as much as 35% of their efficiency when temperatures dip below freezing and as much as 60% when temperatures drop below zero.

Cleaning corrosion from the posts and cable connections, as well as washing all surfaces with battery-terminal cleaner or a solution of baking soda and water can keep your battery strong. Retightening all connections also lessens the odds your battery will lose juice.

Automotive batteries typically last between three and five years – less in hotter climate conditions. Don't forget to turn off your vehicle's lights once you've reached your destination. Keeping them on an extended period of time can reduce your battery's lifespan.



**THERE TO HELP** – Millions of members call AAA each year for roadside assistance. *Image: garry images. Adobe Stock.* 

Safeguard against a dead battery by having it tested annually once you've had it three years.

AAA Battery Service offers quick, accurate and convenient mobile-battery testing and replacement. State-of-theart 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. You

can purchase a new battery and have it installed onsite if one is needed.

Tire care also is essential. Motorists should have them checked frequently during winter months. Pressure begins to drop as temperatures fall. Typically, the rate at which pressure lessens is 1 PSI for every 10 degrees. Proper tire pressure levels can be found in your car's owner's manual or on a sticker located on the driver's side doorjamb.

AAA recommends replacing a tire when 4/32 inches of tread remains. This can be tested by placing a quarter upside down in the tread groove. The tire should be replaced if Washington's head is visible.

Coolant leaks become more common when temperatures plunge. Metal engine parts contract in cold weather and hose clamps loosen. Your vehicle's coolant never loses its antifreeze capability, but the additives that lubricate the water pump and protect internal-engine components from rust, scale and corrosion can become depleted.

It's wise to have your vehicle's cooling system flushed and filled when recommended by the manufacturer. Newer coolant formulations can last as long as five years or 150,000 miles.

Check the coolant level in the overflow reservoir by opening the radiator cap. It should be filled to the "Full Hot" indicator line with a 50/50 mixture of antifreeze and water if it is low.

### **TAKE CHARGE**

Count on AAA to turn battery problems into solutions. 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.

# Road deicers cause billions of dollars in damage Majority of Americans at risk for costly, dangerous rust problems

ay now. Or pay later.

That might be the best way to describe the winter-driving season.

Slick roadways are the primary cause of thousands of car crashes annually. Road crews work before, during and after snowstorms to plow and deice roads. Salts and other chemicals are used to melt snow and ice and allow drivers to safely reach their destinations.

It's an invaluable process but it doesn't come without a price. Millions of Americans are confronted with expensive vehicle repairs from rust damage caused by chemicals used to the clear roadways.

A AAA survey found that drivers paid more than \$15 billion in rust repairs caused by deicing methods over a fiveyear period. AAA warns drivers to take actions to prevent dangerous rust-related damage to brake lines, fuel tanks, exhaust systems and other critical components.

AAA urges drivers, who experience any of the following vehicle malfunctions, to immediately move it from the road to a safe location and have it towed to a trusted repair facility.

- In-dash warning lights for brakes and other critical systems.
- A "spongey" or soft feeling when applying pressure to the brake pedal.
- An unusually loud exhaust sound or the smell of fumes in or around



**CLEARING THE WAY** – Rock salt is used to clear millions of miles of road throughout the U.S. It's an effective measure, but it could cause rust damage to vehicles. *Image: robsonphoto. Adobe Stock.* 

the vehicle

 The prominent smell of gasoline or diesel fuel when the vehicle is parked or running.

Many state and local transportation departments have shifted from using rock salt to liquid deicers to combat hazardous road conditions. The alternatives have proved to be more effective than traditional salt because they can be

applied before a snowstorm, have a lower freezing point and quickly melt ice and snow.

These same characteristics, however, can be even more damaging to vehicles since the chemicals remain in liquid form longer and are more likely to coat components and seep into cracks and crevices where corrosion can accelerate.

AAA recommends drivers take the

following preventative steps to reduce vehicle damage:

- Limit driving immediately before, during and after winter storms when salt and deicing solutions are being applied and are at their highest concentrations.
- Frequently wash your vehicle, paying attention to the undercarriage. This will loosen, dissolve and neutralize road salts.
- Use quality car-wash solution, not a household dish detergent that will strip wax from the vehicle.
- Repair body damage and touch up paint scratches and chips that expose bare metal that could lead to rust.
- Thoroughly wash and clean the vehicle before the start of winter and apply a coat of wax to protect the finish.
- And give the vehicle and undercarriage a methodical cleaning in the spring. Deposits left over from the winter can continue to cause corrosion year-round if they aren't properly removed.

The winter-driving season is a conundrum for all motorists. Unkempt roads are more likely to lead to crashes and treated ones could lead to other forms of damage at later dates.

Responsible driving and proper car care can eliminate headaches and keep motorists from paying now – or later.



# Western Pennsylvania

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# FREE JUNIOR **ASSOCIATES**

# Priceless Protection for Teens

If your teen has reached driving age, don't let them go it alone. AAA members can extend their AAA coverage for dependents age 16 to 18, with a free Junior Associate membership. They'll carry their very own AAA card, and are entitled to AAA benefits and services including 24/7 roadside assistance, exclusive savings 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.

# From Where I Sit

# Take advantage of AAA membership

# Make it your New Year's resolution to save big in '24

**By Terri Petrick** President, AAA East Central

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

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



Terri Petrick

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

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

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

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

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



Image: AAA.

### **Membership has its Privileges**



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

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

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

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

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

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

# AAA DIRECTORY

### INTERNET WEB SITE: www.AAA.com

**AAA MEMBER SERVICES • ADDRESS CHANGE** 

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# **AAA BRANCH OFFICE LOCATIONS**

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5900 Baum Blvd

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# Costs can spiral if preoccupied behind wheel Deep look into some lesser-known costs of distracted driving

By Robin Jones

y now, most of us are aware of the dangers of distracted driving. Drivers using their cell phones to perform tasks like texting or surfing the internet are two to eight times as likely to be involved in a crash, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

Even so, we regularly witness this risky behavior on our roads, and, if we're honest, some of us are guilty of it ourselves. A recent Traffic Safety Culture Index, a survey conducted by the AAA foundation, found that 97% of people consider texting or emailing behind the wheel as a serious or very serious threat to traffic safety, yet 41% admitted to viewing a text or email while driving in the past 30 days.

The resulting statistics are sobering: 3,166 people died in collisions involving distracted drivers in 2017, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

But aside from fatalities or injuries, drivers should consider the potential serious financial and insurance consequences of distracted driving. For example, if you cause a crash that



**STAY FOCUSED** – Texting and driving is a bad combination behind the wheel of a vehicle. *Image: SM3photos. Adobe Stock.* 

injures people or damages property, your insurer will cover damages up to the liability limits in your auto or umbrella policy. However, it's common nowadays for injured parties to seek compensation above and beyond those limits – and you'd have to pay

for those out of pocket. If the case goes before a jury, you could face punitive damages. In many states, insurance companies are prohibited by law from paying those damages.

Most states have outlawed texting behind the wheel, and several (including California) ban any use of handheld devices. Fines range from \$20 to about \$300, but that won't be the only penalty: A growing number of states impose points on drivers who violate laws regulating texting and the use of handheld devices. Having points on your license can cause your insurance premiums to rise. If you accumulate too many points, your license can be suspended.

To avoid such penalties, don't put yourself in that situation in the first place. Always put your phone out of reach and out of sight whenever you're driving. Enable your phone's "Do Not Disturb While Driving" setting, which silences text alerts and sends a preset message to anyone who texts you while you're in the car. Lastly, take advantage of any in-car systems that allow you to set navigation, play music and make calls via voice commands.

If you're a passenger in a vehicle where the driver starts to use the phone, speak up or offer to make the phone call or type the address into the navigation app so the driver can keep his or her eyes on the road where they belong.

# More than half of drivers threats on highways AAA survey finds speeding is a bad habit that is hard to break

report by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety identifies six types of drivers by analyzing risky driving behaviors.

Speeding, distracted driving and aggressive driving were the most common dangerous behaviors. The annual Traffic Safety Culture Index (TSCI) survey developed these six driver profiles by examining patterns of self-reported risky driving behaviors among a large group of drivers. Only four in 10 surveyed fell into the category of "safe drivers."

"Despite acknowledging the dangers, some drivers continue to engage in potentially deadly behaviors, particularly speeding," said Dr. David Yang, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety President and Executive Director. "Understanding the different types of risky driving behaviors and the characteristics of drivers who engage in them is crucial for developing targeted interventions to achieve safe mobility."

As daily driving patterns and traffic rebound from pandemic lows, traffic fatalities remain alarmingly high. Evidence points to fewer traffic stops, while fatal crashes, involving risky behaviors like impaired driving and speeding remain an epidemic on our roadways.

"This study highlights a near-term and important opportunity to concentrate on enforcement that makes an immediate safety impact," said Jake Nelson, AAA's director of traffic safety



Graphic: AAA.

advocacy. "Many risky drivers in this study were classified into profiles that involved speeding behavior. Focusing on speeding drivers will deter other risky driving behaviors like impaired driving and red-light running. This traffic safety measure will have the greatest impact on safety."

The new TSCI report reads that fewer drivers perceive speeding as dangerous, and speeding behaviors have the lowest perceived social disapproval of all examined unsafe behaviors.

It's worth noting that a motorist's need for speeding consistently fails to deliver shorter travel times. It would take driving 100 miles at 80 mph rather than 75 to shave five minutes off a trip.

The six profiles identified by the most recent TSCI are:

*Safe Drivers* (41.2%) – Few in this group reported engaging in any risky driving-related behaviors, and more women (57%) composed the Safe Drivers group.

Speeding Drivers (22.7%) – These drivers reported driving 15 mph above the speed limit on freeways and/or 10 mph above on residential streets but did not engage in most other dangerous behaviors.

Distracted and Aggressive Drivers (17.3%) – Reported distracted-driving behaviors (texting while driving), speeding and aggressive behaviors like red-light running and switching lanes

quickly.

Distracted Drivers (15.0%) – These drivers reported distracted-driving behaviors like reading text messages and texting while driving.

Most Dangerous Drivers (2.4%) –

Most Dangerous Drivers (2.4%) – While these drivers consisted of only a small percentage of the drivers, they pose a serious risk to themselves and other road users as they reported engaging in all risky driving-related behaviors.

Impaired Drivers (1.3%) – Most live in nonmetropolitan areas. Interestingly, drivers with a four-year college degree were less likely to report driving while impaired. At the same time, the most "overrepresented" group consisted of those with some college or an associate degree.

The survey asked drivers about their perceived level of danger for various driving behaviors. The majority of drivers perceived unsafe-driving behaviors as very or extremely dangerous, and yet, as in past years, many admitted to doing these behaviors at least once in the previous 30 days.

With a steadfast commitment to examining traffic safety, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has conducted its annual TSCI survey for more than a decade. As traffic safety concerns have escalated, insights from the most recent TSCI shed light on public perceptions, attitudes and engagement in unsafe-driving behaviors, offering valuable guidance for developing effective countermeasures.

# Beaches, culture put Thailand atop bucket lists Splendor, architecture and intrigue bless East Asian nation

ucket list trips share many commonalities, but a more popular one might be distance. The farther the destination, the more likely it is to be on your list.

Europe, Australia, an African safari, China, Japan and Egypt quickly come to mind as once-in-a-lifetime visits. But they're just a snapshot. Here's an interesting one: Thailand.

Located in East Asia and boasting the appearance of a gerrymandered congressional district, Thailand rolls natural beauty into urban and historic hotspots. Beaches flourish, and cities rise. Culture reverberates, and adventure accentuates this multidimensional country.

Its history spans centuries and its culture is as exotic as it is friendly. Thailand embraces tourists with its white-sand beaches and bustling cities. Lush resorts populate its myriad shores to make your visit as relaxing as it is memorable.

It might not be easy to step away from Thailand's beautiful beaches that snuggle with the Andaman Sea or the Gulf of Thailand. Light breezes carry the scent of salt water, putting a stamp on its tropical climate. Long-tail boats sail on calm, blue waters through gorgeous terrain. Perhaps a beach chair, umbrella and cocktail might seem to be all you need, but there is so much more.

City-dwellers will find sanctuary in Bangkok, Thailand's capital city. It has more than 8.2 million residents



**ONE NIGHT IN BANGKOK** – Temples light up in the foreground a of setting sun in Thailand's capital city. *Image: sahachat. Adobe Stock.* 

and nearly as much to see and experience. See ancient temples, including Wat Arun. It's 270-feet high, is covered from top to bottom with mosaics and is named for Hindu god Aruna, God of Dawn. It's glorious to behold at dawn or sunset.

Wat Pho – Temple of the Reclining Buddha – is a temple complex that houses the most Buddha's in Thailand. Opulent statues, ornate pagodas and striking stonework spread throughout and tell the story of the local culture.

The Golden Palace once served as the residence of Thai kings, their royal courts and multiple branches of government. Witness fine art at the Bangkok Art & Culture Center. And don't forget to satisfy your appetite. More than 300,000 street vendors serve stir fries,

• ELECTRIC AVENUE

Pittsburgh Knights

ride alongs

Electric Vehicle display and test

fried rice, curries, grilled meat and fish skewers.

Escape the commotion of Bangkok with a stop in Chiang Mai. Absorb the beauty of mountainous landscapes and historic temples, such as Wat Phra Singh and Wat Chedi Luang. Visit the Chiang Mai Night Bazaar and leave time to visit the Elephant Nature Park.

Thailand's culture continues to permeate through the city of Ayutthaya. A UNESCO World Heritage-listed city, it's populated with monasteries, temples, statues and archaeological ruins. Visit Bang Pa-In Palace, Wat Lokaya, Wat Phra Si Sanphet and Wat Chaiwatthanaram.

Had enough culture? Thailand is teeming with national parks, including Mu Ko Similan, Khao Sok and Khao Lak-Lam Ru. Scuba divers flock to spend hours admiring coral reefs and marine life. Limestone cliffs, awe-inspiring waterfalls and a lush evergreen forest will take your breath away. And a myriad of ecosystems and diverse flora and fauna will keep naturalists animated for hours.

Phang Nga is a Thai province on the coast of the Andaman Sea. Tourists descend upon it to visit Mu Ko Surin National Park, one of the best diving sites in Thailand. Explore by hiking or snorkeling and visit Ao Phang-Nga National Park to explore its stunning caves, emerald-green waters and the picturesque James Bond Island.

# Don't be too quick to change car's air filter

aintaining our vehicles is the best way to keep them running smoothly. It's wise, however, to make sure a part *needs* to be replaced before replacing it.

That often is a conundrum with air filters. Service technicians and the EPA for years encouraged motorists to change the engine's air filter to ensure maximum fuel economy.

It worked well for carbureted vehicles, but a U.S. Department of Energy study found that air-filter condition has no significant impact on the fuel economy of modern, fuel-injected engines. A badly restricted air filter, however, will reduce the engine's maximum power output.

So, when should air filters be replaced? Visible dirt on the filter's surface is not a good indicator. Air filters do a better job of trapping contaminants once they have been in operation long enough to gain a light coating of dust and dirt.

To test an air filter, remove it from its housing and hold it in front of a bright light. It can be returned to service if the light passes easily through more than half the filter.

The light test works well with pleated paper filters. Some cars, however, have extended-life engine air filters with dense fabric filtering agents that are highly effective, but don't allow light to pass through them. Unless a filter of this type is visibly caked with dirt, replace it at the mileage intervals specified by the vehicle manufacturer.

Some vehicles, primarily pickup trucks, have an engine air filter-service indicator on the filter housing. This indicator measures the air pressure drop across the filter when the engine is running. The pressure drop increases as the filter becomes more restricted.

It's recommended to check the indicator at each oil change and replace the filter when the indicator reads to do so.

Drivers can change an air filter on their own or have it done by a professional technician. AAA has more than 7,000 Approved Auto Repair shops from which to choose.

Members can find a nearby shop by visiting AAA.com/AutoRepair to find a nearby AAA Approved Auto Repair facility.



features for kids

Sports Mascots

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Abe Lincoln

www.pittautoshow.com

# **Extend your family on AmaWaterways cruise**Smaller ships' cozy settings spark invaluable friendships on river

iver cruising's amiable environment ranks high among the primary reasons to choose sailing intimate waterways. Cruises often begin with handshakes and conclude with hugs.

Ships' limited capacities make it nearly impossible not to meld friendships. The setting sparks cordial greetings and interesting conversations. Journeys create extended families that result in memories destined to last a lifetime.

Laugh, tease and toast. Share stories or make new ones. Backgrounds differ but add color to discussions. Commonalities initiate unforgettable times.

Embarkation opens a sea of unlimited opportunities to meet others. AmaWaterways' vessels – including *AmaSerena* – build bridges to an unknown future that is destined to result in everlasting relationships.

It doesn't take long to familiarize with the surroundings. The lounge is a melting pot. Guests meet for happy hour. Bartenders pour cocktails, the cruise manager makes a speech and a pianist plays relaxing music that enhances the ambiance.

Soon enough, guests begin chatting with fellow cruisers. Subjects vary, depending on interests, but rarely is anyone at a loss for words. Topics range from sports, families or hometowns – and that barely scratches the surface. Not even politics can ruin a conversation.

Tourism bonds people, and river



**MEETING PLACE** – The intimacy of AmaWaterways ships sparks an environment meant to create lasting friendships. *Image: AmaWaterways*.

cruising unifies individuals in a way few travel options can. Ages vary from baby boomers to millennials. Couples celebrating golden anniversaries converse with newlyweds. It's a generation gap that closes quickly and opens doorways to new beginnings.

Cruisers relish dining for more than satisfying their appetites. They share tables and anecdotes with fresh faces. Wine glasses rarely are empty. Self-deprecating

tales spark laughter and strengthen connections. In no time, photos are taken and shared on social media.

Each night concludes in the lounge. Entertainment varies but never bores and AmaWaterways thrives in keeping the party alive. Dancing is nearly a nightly ritual on *AmaSerena*. Karaoke allows guests to unleash their vocal cords. A DJ and cover band ignite the dance floor. Others flock to the bar or tables for a nightcap. Last call

Tourism bonds people, and river cruising unifies individuals in a way few travel options can. Ages vary from baby boomers to millennials. Couples celebrating golden anniversaries converse with newlyweds. It's a generation gap that closes quickly and opens doorways to new beginnings.

finalizes a fantastic day and has travelers eagerly awaiting the next one.

Excursions expound comradery. Touring towns and medieval castles uncovers common interests. Extra time likely means shopping, having lunch or finding a local establishment. An afternoon libation leaves an indelible mark. Good luck ordering a vodka and soda in a German brewery.

Whoever said river cruising is dull never has been on one. It couldn't be more false. Sailing cozy waterways highlights cultures and brings people together.

Vessels are transporters to an alternate universe. They allow cruisers to escape their daily grinds, find tranquility and make a few new friends along the way.

By week's end, the "Cheers" theme song perfectly sums up the trip because ...

Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name.

Admit it. You sang that previous sentence.

# Mysteries of Greenland make it enticing Planet's largest island sparkles near the top of the world

he world's coldest places rarely seem like attractive locations to vacation. Intriguing? Well that's another story.

Greenland ranks among the most intriguing. The world's largest island doesn't boast all-inclusive resorts and don't expect to absorb much of a suntan. You will experience an eye-opening trip few travelers make.

The island is covered by more than 80% ice, snow and glaciers. Nothing is green about it. You might want to call it "Iceland," but that name already has been taken.

Greenland is a mystery waiting to be solved. Its rugged terrain and majestic scenery define its characteristics, making it one of the more fascinating places on the planet.

It passes through the Artic Circle while nearly sitting on top of the world. Humans have inhabited it for more than 4,500 years and today it's home to fewer than 60,000 citizens.

The Midnight Sun shines bright in Greenland, with the sun never setting from May 25 to July 25. And Winter Solstice welcomes more than 20 hours of darkness.

Viking Erik the Red named it in the 10th century, believing that using the word "green" would attract Nordics to emigrate to the island. Perhaps the first marketing scam – ever?

Greenland becomes more intriguing with each fact. Its unvarnished beauty



**SUN-SATION** – A sailboat sits in the foreground of an iceberg during the Midnight Sun season. *Image: Marc Pelissier. Adobe Stock.* 

makes it enticing for naturalists and travelers who can't resist a challenge.

A series of expeditions comprise a schedule of things-to-do while visiting Greenland. Capital city Nuuk is the starting point. Built on a peninsula, it's as close to a metropolitan area you will find.

Boat or plane is the best way to explore the island. Its waterways make it easier to travel, considering there are no

roads outside city limits.

Northeast Greenland National Park is the largest in the world, covering more than 375,000-square miles. It's a refuge for polar bears, walruses, caribou, seals and other arctic wildlife. It also is uninhabited. Visitors must acquire a permit from the Ministry of Nature & Environment to reserve a spot on an expedition cruise that features mountains, glaciers, fjords and icebergs.

Ilulissat Icefjord is an initial place travelers should visit. The area features thousands of icebergs. They vary in size, providing a natural beauty few places can match. The area also features the Sermeq Kujalleq – the fastest glacier in the world.

Kayakers shouldn't skip Blue River. The clear waterway shares the appearance of a vein dissecting a frozen desert of ice. It's found on the Petermann Glacier, which feeds the river with its melting snow, changing its shape annually.

Hikers can take advantage of Greenland's unspoiled nature. Its rocky surface provides clear pathways and Arctic greenery during the summer months. Discover plants, flowers, dramatic rocks, icebergs and glaciers and hardly any people.

For those who don't prefer hiking, a cruise is another exciting way to explore the island. Cruises offer varying itineraries and allow up-close views of marine animals like whales and seals, as well as stunning sights of Greenland's sprawling landscape.

The Northern Lights appear from early autumn through April. They irradiate a sky that is nearly free of light pollution, making it one of the best places in the world to witness this phenomenon.

There's irony in Greenland's thick ice, considering it's a diamond in the rough.



TBD Need content





# President's Cruise - Baltic Capitals Voyage

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

## **ITINERARY**

Copenhagen, Denmark
Gdansk, Poland
Gdansk, Poland
Klaipeda, Lithuania
Riga, Lativa
At Sea
Tallinn, Estonia
Kotka, Finland
Helsinki, Finland
Mariehamn, Finland
Stockholm, Sweden
Return Home

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

- 2-night hotel
- accommodations
- Arrival transfers (depending on air schedule)
- Transfers hotel to ship
- Sightseeing in Copenhagen
- 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch



#### PRICE INCLUDES:

- 11-night cruise accommodations in a Verandah Stateroom
- Most onboard meals and entertainment
- Government taxes and fees
- Select standard spirits, international beers and wines
- Shipboard gratuities
- Bottled water, soft drinks, specialty coffees and teas
- Self-service laundry
- Concierge services for personal guidance and reservations
- Complimentary AzAmazing Evening Event
- Azamara's White Night (Everyone wears white this evening)
- Special AAA President's Cruise perks
- Upgrade to Premium Beverage package
- Unlimited Wifi for 1 device per stateroom
- \$300 Shore Excursion Credit per stateroom
- 1 night of Specialty Dining









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

Pleasant Holidays Mexico/Caribbean Need content Pleasant Holidays
Europe
Need content



Pleasant Holidays (supplied)

**Princess** (supplied)



## ICON OF THE SEAS<sup>SM</sup>

7 NIGHT WESTERN / EASTERN CARIBBEAN & PERFECT DAY February - December 2024

STARTING FROM **\$1,699\*** USD PER PERSON

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STARTING FROM \$849\* USD PER PERSON

SYMPHONY OF THE SEAS®

7 NIGHT EASTERN / WESTERN & PERFECT DAY February - December 2024

STARTING FROM \$989\* USD PER PERSON

8 NIGHT SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN 7 NIGHT WESTERN / EASTERN CARIBBEAN

STARTING FROM \$709\* USD PER PERSON

\*Taxes, fees and port expenses of up to \$159 - \$178 USD per person are additional and subject to change

### AAA VACATIONS \* AMENITIES\* — ONLY ON ROYAL CARIBBEAN\*

ANY SHIP, ANY SAILING & ANY STATEROOM CATEGORY

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BALCONY AND ABOVE ONLY

ONBOARD CREDIT (Balcony and above only) \$25 OBC per stateroom 6 nights or less \$50 OBC per stateroom 7 – 10 nights

\$100 OBC per stateroom 11 nights or more

MEMBER BENEFIT<sup>†</sup> / FREE 8 x 10 PRINT OR DIGITAL PHOTO

AMENITY VALUE UP TO \$250 PER BALCONY OR SUITE BOOKINGS







"Prices are per person, cruise only, based on double occupancy [in interior stateroom] and in U.S. dollars. All itineraries are subject to change without notice. Prices are subject to availability and change without notice. Certain restrictions apply. These may not be available during your voyage, may vary by ship and destination, and may be subject to change without notice and may be withdrawn at any time. Royal Caribbean International reserves the right to correct any errors, inaccuracies or omissions and to change or update fare, fees and surcharges at any time without prior notice. Contact your AAA Travel Advisor for full terms of offer including AAA Vacations\* @2024 Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Ships registry: The Bahamas.

# DEPARTURE

# 1-877-422-2654 AAA.com/Travel

Amtrak/Railbookers (supplied)

Rocky Mountaineer (supplied)



# **Grand Canyon & Sedona Adventure** April 28-May 6, 2024

**\$3,999** per person double occupancy

# **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
- Free time within the National Park
- Phoenix area- 2-nights, resort lodging
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Heard Museum
- Old Town Scottsdale



# **Northern California Railways & 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 Crúz
- Full itinerary &



• Silicon Valley – Apple Visitor's Center

# **Lake Tahoe & More**

XXXXXXXXXXX

**\$X,XXX** per person double occupancy

# **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

xxxxxxxxxxx

# **American Majesty**

XXXXXXXXXXX

**\$X,XXX** per person double occupancy

### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

xxxxxxxxxxx



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. Note: Discounts only apply to air inclusive rates.

# DEPARTURES

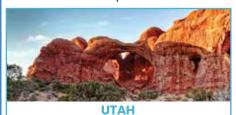
# 2024 SMALL GROUP ACTIVE ADVENTURE TOURS

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.







MIGHTY FIV

\$3,789 Per person/double occupancy
MAR.31-APRIL7; APRIL14-21; SEPT.8-15;

#### SEPT. 29-OCT. 5; OCT. 27-NOV. 3; NOV. 17-24 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

#### GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

**MONTANA** 

\$3,/89 Per person/double occupancy
JULY 7-13; JULY 14-20;
AUG. 4-10; AUG. 11-17; AUG. 25-31

#### ARIZONA ADVENTURE

ARIZONA • NEVADA
\$3,405 Per person/double of

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

#### CANYONS OF ESCALANTE

UTAH • NEVADA

\$3,115 Per person/double occupe MAY 5-12; OCT. 6-13

# TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS

NEW MEXICO • COLORADO • UTAH

**\$2,925** <sub>P</sub>

MAY 11-19; SEPT. 14-22; OCT. 19-27

# GRAND CIRCLE EXPERIENCE

NEVADA • UTAH • ARIZONA • COLORADO

\$4.755

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 o

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 occupar MAY 20-25: JUNE 3-8:

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

# YOSEMITE, SEQUOIA & THE CALIFORNIA COAST

CALIFORNIA

\$4,369 Per person/double occupan 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

**ALAKSA** 

\$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 occupance

JUNE 23-29

#### OREGON NORTH

OREGON

\$2,745 Per person/double occupancy

AUG. 5-11

from .195.00





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.

# CIE Tours Ireland and Scotland



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 BanquetDromoland 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.

# Taste of Scotland & Ireland (11 nights)

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

# HIGHLIGHTS:

Special Offer:

ook & Deposit by 2/29/24

Save \$50

off per person

- Glasgow
- Loch LomondLoch Ness Cruise
- Blair Athol Distillery
- Scottish evening food and entertainment
- Edinburah

- Belfast
- Dublin
- Killarney
- Blarney CastleRing 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.





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 hotels, luggage handling (1 bag/person), sightseeing/admissions per itinerary and local guide. Prices are land only, ask about air add-on.

# DEPARTURE.

# 1-877-422-2654 AAA.com/Travel

**MCV** Italy & Puglia

**MCV** Portugal & It's Islands

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

# **MOUNTAIN PANORAMA** Alaska Adventure • June 14-26 from \$3,004.00 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  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ rich Alaskan experience.

### ITINFRARY:

**DAY 1** – Vancouver, British Columbia Radiance of the Seas®

DAY 2 - Inside Passage cruising

Day 3 - Juneau

Day 4 - Icy Strait Point

Day 5 – Sitka

Day 6 - Skagway

Day 7 - Hubbard Glacier cruising

Day 8 - Seward/Alyeska (Girdwood)

Day 9 - Alyeska (Girdwood) Anchorage/Denali

Day 10 - Denali

Day 11 - Denali/Talkeetna

Day 12 - Talkeetna/Anchorage

Day 13 - Anchorage

ALASKA WILDERNESS SPECTACULAR "Southbound" Cruise Tour • July 13-26 from \$3,274.00 per person double occupancy



# 6 night Land Tour followed by 7 night Cruise:

See more of Alaska's spectacular scenery in unrivaled comfort traveling the full length of the Alaska Railroad in the glass-domed railcars of The Wilderness Express.

### ITINERARY:

DAY 1 - Fairbanks DAY 2 - Fairbanks

Day 3 - Fairbanks/Denali

Day 4 - Denali

Day 5 - Talkeetna

Day 6 - Talkeetna/Anchorage

Day 7 - Anchorage/Seward Day 8 - Hubbard Glacier cruising

Day 9 - Juneau

Day 10 - Skagway

Day 11 - Icy Strait Point

Day 12 – Ketchikan

Day 13 - Inside Passage cruising Day 14 - Vancouver, British Columbia

### **GRAND MOUNTAIN MARVELS** "Northbound"

Cruise Tour • Aug. 9-22 from \$3,072.00 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

DAY8 - Seward

DAY 9 - Seward/Anchorage

DAY 10 - Anchorage/Talkeetna

DAY 11 - Talkeetna/Denali DAY 12 - Denali

DAY 13 - Denali/Fairbanks

DAY 14 - Fairbanks

ALASKA WILDERNESS SPECTACULAR "Northbound" Cruise Tour • Aug. 23 – Sept. 5 from \$2,984.00 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.

### ITINFRARY:

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

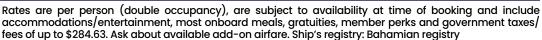
Day 13 – Fairbanks

Day 14 - Fairbanks









DEPARTURES

TBD?

TBD?

TBD?

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# 

# 1-877-422-2654 AAA.com/Travel



# Texas – Solar Eclipse

April 4-9, 2024 • \$6,269 per person double occupancy Explore sites in Waco, Dallas and Fort Worth and attend a VIP Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

#### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- Homestead Heritage Traditional Craft
- Texas Ranger Hall of Fame
- Waco River cruise, Magnolia Market, Dr. Pepper Museum, Waco Mammoth National Monument
- Dallas Historic tour, Sixth Floor Museum. Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

#### **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Fort Worth -Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, Stockyards National Historic Site
- UTA Planetarium at University of Texas
- VIP Solar Eclipse Watch Party

- Roundtrip air to and from Dallas/Fort
- Worth from participating cities

  Roundtrip airport and hotel transfers

  5-night hotel accommodations
- · Luggage handling, one bag per person
- 8 meals (restaurants subject to change)
- Attractions and admissions as stated in the itinerary
- Gratuities for included meals

Before-discount rate is per person/double occupancy, subject to availability at time of booking and includes roundtrip flights from Philadelphia, 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

# **2024 No-fly Motorcoach Cruises**



# PITTSBURGH TO BALTIMORE MD DEPARTURES

April 12-20, 2024	Southeast Coast	Vision of the Seas®	from \$1,315
July 25-Aug 3, 2024	Bermuda	Vision of the Seas®	from \$1,409
Nov 9-24, 2024	Southern Caribbean	Vision of the Seas®	from \$1,304
Dec 7-19, 2024	Southern Caribbean	Vision of the Seas®	from \$1.267

# PITTSBURGH TO NJ AND NY DEPARTURES

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

June 19-29, 2024	Eastern Caribbean	Liberty of the Seas®	from \$1,759
Aug 21-27, 2024	Bermuda	Carnival Venezia™	from \$1,525
Sept 6-14, 2024	Canada	Carnival Venezia™	from \$1,305
Sept 25-Oct 5, 2024	Canada	Liberty of the Seas®	from \$1,565
Nov 23-Dec 6, 2024	Southern Caribbean	Carnival Venezia™	from \$1,615

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







Ships' registry: RCI — Bahamas CCL — Bahamas

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

# NO-FLY, NO-DRIVE AAA MOTORCOACH VACATIONS

# WASHINGTON D.C. IN BLOOM

March 22-24, 2024 • \$835 Guided touring of D.C. to include monuments and memorials

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



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

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

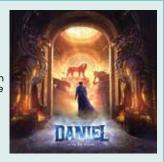
- 2 nights at Gaylord Resort
- National Harbor
- National Mall
- Dinner in Old Town Alexandria
- Brunch cruise on the Potomac



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

April 23-24, 2024 • \$489

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





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

May 5-10, 2024 • \$1,815

- Holland Tulip Festival guided tour; Nelis' Dutch Village; Tulip Immersion Garden; Evening perfromances
- . Mackinac Island 2- nights lodging
- Carriage tour Grand Hotel luncheon buffet
- Dow Gardens
- Frankenmuth



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

May 24-27, 2024 • \$1,399

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



### **NIAGARA FALLS GETAWAY**

June 5-7, 2024 • \$765

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



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

June 9-14, 2024 • \$1,675

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





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

# Tips From a AAA Travel Advisor: Erin Zmuda

# South Africa an eye-opening experience Breathtaking natural wonders, wildlife and more await

ho doesn't want to see penguins live in their natural habitat at Boulder Beach? Experience the sunrise on



AAA Travel Advisor: Erin Zmuda

a morning-game drive, complete with your own personal tracker? Take a cable car up Table Mountain to take in the breathtaking views of South Africa's Cape Peninsula - the city, harbor, and boats below? I have been a Travel Advisor with AAA for 29 years - most

of my adult life – and I love to make my clients' dreams come true. This time, it was my turn, and I still have not woken up from the dream!

African Travel greeted us upon arrival and its guide provided VIP service – accompanying us through customs and immigration, with a van transfer to the hotel and check-in. Our hotel – Table Bay – in Cape Town was conveniently located by the Boardwalk at the Victoria Albert Waterfront.

After a much-needed sleep, Day 1 was all about the culture! We met the owner of the Thunariso Organic garden. She started her business with the goal of teaching the locals to grow their own



**EYE CANDY** – Cape Town is one of the more beautiful cities in Africa. Mountains rise in the foreground of blue waters. *Image: Erin Zmuda. AAA*.

food and to improve their health and eating habits. Then, we visited the Ekhaya Ekasi non-profit art and education center. They teach the local women crafts to try to create positivity in the community. The highlight was a visit to a local kindergarten, where we attended a graduation ceremony. The school was built out of trash and recycled materials.

Boulder Beach was a remarkable wildlife encounter with the hundreds of African Penguins who reside there. The beach is a sheltered inlet between granite boulders. Boardwalks make the

area wheelchair friendly, but also provide protection for the penguins.

Next, we drove along Chapman's Peak Drive, a toll road on the Atlantic Coast between Hout Bay and Noordhoek in the peninsula renown as one of the most spectacular marine drives in the world. Cape Point is where two oceans meet – the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean on the west and the warmer Indian Ocean waters on the east. The views were spectacular. I rode the funicular up but decided to do the 10-minute walk down to enjoy the views.

And it kept getting better. Our Winelands tour took us to quaint towns, complete with wine-tasting at family-led Haute Cabriere. We enjoyed lunch at the five-star Delaire Graff Estate restaurant, where we tried local delicacies with a view of the Winelands as our backdrop.

On our Safari, we flew to Skukuza, and stayed at the Sabi Sabi Bush Lodge inside Kruger National Park. As the oldest lodge in the collection, every room is a suite with a blend of relaxed luxury mixed with local tradition, inspired by the owners' love of Africa. Upon arrival, we were briefed about our next two days at the Lodge.

Our stay was all-inclusive with three meals and drinks. We did two game drives by jeep each day – one at 6 a.m. (with an early 5:30 a.m. wakeup call), and 4:30 p.m. (the afternoon time is seasonal), for 2.5-3 hours. Each jeep had a tracker who knows from tradition how to interpret the animal footprints and patterns, and a ranger who sat up front to explain the animals. Over the two days, our tracker did not disappoint. We saw the BIG 5: leopard, lion, elephant, American buffalo and rhino.

Some tips I learned from my experience include discussing the recommended medications and vaccinations with your doctor. It is a personal choice. Bring neutral not bright clothes, and layers; and keep your arms in the jeep, but your camera ready. You do not want to miss any photo opportunities!

# I-95 road trip that reaches great heights 2,000-mile highway home to big cities, eclectic destinations

t's common to hear the words "cross country," particularly when it comes to road trips. Miles and miles of highways crisscross our country. They meander through some of our finest natural wonders and most unique locations. Tiny towns, blessed with immense personalities, grab your attention. Mountains, canyons and rock formations leave you in awe.

It isn't a coincidence that travelers often choose cross-country trips. But what about a vertical excursion? Of course, Pacific Coast Highway quickly comes to mind, but it's not your only option.

Interstate 95 is a highway that stretches more than 1,900 miles from the Canadian border in Maine to Miami. It passes through 16 states, as well as the District of Columbia. It takes travelers through a host of metropolitan regions and hugs much of the East Coast shoreline.

There isn't a bad time to witness all I-95 has to offer. See the trees bloom in the spring and their leaves turn brown in the fall. Enjoy miles of beaches. Vibrant scenery lines the roadway like streetlights. Cities and communities are populated by colonial architecture and there are sure to be plenty of eateries, serving mouthwatering, eclectic dishes.

Your only issue might be deciding which places to visit. Many options make research and scheduling priorities before beginning your trip.



**PARK PLACE** – Maine's Acadia National is must-stop destination while taking a trip on Interstate 95. *Image: Skyler. Adobe Stock.* 

Planning to visit the obvious destinations is easy. Maine's Acadia National Park, Boston, New York City, Miami, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. should be givens. It's finding the hidden gems that will make your trip unforgettable.

It could be a bed-and-breakfast town in Connecticut or Rhode Island. Perhaps a museum in Virginia, an estate in Georgia or historic landmarks populated throughout your journey. There's no telling what could turn up.

St. Augustine, Florida is the oldest city in the U.S., founded in 1565. It's home to the Fountain of Youth, as well as Castillo de San Marcos – a masonry fort that dates to the 17th century. It's withstood attacks from Napoleon in the early 1800s and would be an ideal stop for history buffs.

Few places in the U.S. showcase magnificent Victorian-style architecture like Savannah, Georgia. Its Historic District and Bonaventure Cemetery are comprised of cobblestone streets and intricately

detailed homes. Visit Fort Jackson, which has daily cannon firings. And foodies should take advantage of the traditional and innovative tastes of Southern cooking that only can found in a number of momand-pop restaurants.

The spirit of the 18th century is alive and well in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Several sites date to the Revolutionary and Civil wars. The Rising Sun Tavern is a pub that once was a house built by George Washington's brother, Charles.

Battleship, New Jersey is where you can find one of the largest and most decorated battleships that can be toured and you can learn more about New Jersey's role in World War II, Korean War and Vietnam. Hardcore war aficionados even can arrange to stay a night in one of the bunks.

The Breakers is an elaborate mansion that can be found in Newport, Rhode Island. Commissioned by Cornelius Vanderbilt, it has 70 rooms, massive chandeliers and an abundance of gilt.

Stop by the Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate in Canton, Massachusetts. Mystic, Connecticut's seaport recreates a 19th-century village with more than 60 restored buildings and more than 500 historic ships. And South Carolina's Congaree National Park offers 26,000 acres of parkland.

There's no telling what you might discover on I-95, but it's likely to be a treasure.

# Las Vegas Strip golf course raises stakes Beauty, creativity of Wynn Golf Club put it in upper class

here isn't much you can't find on the Las Vegas Strip – including a golf course.

That might shock travelers who aren't familiar with Sin City. The Strip is four miles of resorts, venues and congestion. Hotels reach the sky. Themes range from Venice to Paris. You can "walk like an Egyptian," admire the New York City skyline or catch a show in a Roman colosseum.

The Strip is rivaled by few locations in the U.S. It's a parallel universe where up is down and even is odd. A sense of normalcy might best be found on a golf course – Wynn Golf Club, to be exact.

The course sits behind the Wynn Las Vegas resort on the northern end of the Strip. It's a stunning championship course. It's 6,722 yards of lush green paradise. The fairways are soft, the rough is tame and the greens are smooth. The cost is steep.

Golfers can expect to pay at least \$550 per round. The green fee includes a caddie, cart and complimentary loaner clubs from Callaway Golf. It's a bargain for avid golfers eager to play one of the most magnificent casino courses in the U.S.

Wynn Golf Club's history extends beyond the day resort owner Steve



**GREEN WITH ENVY** – The Wynn Golf Club is one of the finest courses in Nevada. It's behind Wynn Las Vegas resort on the Strip. *Image: dashagorbenko. Adobe Stock.* 

Wynn opened it in 2005. The previous Desert Inn Golf Club played host to a plethora of PGA tournaments during its five decades of existence. Golf greats Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Sam Snead, Greg Norman and Tiger Woods are among the many stars who played it

Wynn purchased the property in

2000 and had Tom Fazio redesign the course before its opening five years later. Fazio has designed nearly 50 golf courses, including Pinehurst No. 6 and Pinehurst No. 8.

Wynn closed the course in 2017 and considered using the property to build a lagoon and more hotel rooms but reversed his decision after seeing

a significant drop in revenue. Fazio updated the layout and it reopened in the fall of 2019.

No. 18 is its marquee hole, a 249-yard par-3 that screams Las Vegas. Players must hit over a pond and a creek to a green situated at the base of an active constructed waterfall. The hole's seamless fit into the environment is similar to No. 18 at Pebble Beach or No. 12 at Augusta National.

Golfers also have a new partner. The opening of Sphere – a multibillion-dollar entertainment venue – adds to the entertainment. An LED lightshow encompasses the venue's outside appearance, turning it into a different appearance almost daily. It sits in the foreground of holes. It might even be smiling.

The course, meanwhile, fits like a puzzle on 129 acres. Streams and foliage – 100,000 shrubs and 8,000 trees – cause players to forget they're in the desert.

Each nine of the par-70 course has a pair of par-5 holes. Water comes into play on 12 holes and 37 bunkers are strategically located throughout the course. Four of the first five holes are reconfigured from the previous design.

Golf – Vegas style. It's all you ever could image and more.

# Clearwater avoids the dreary, gray skies Sun always shines bright on the Florida, gulf-coast town

dubious for its gray skies. So much so, the sight of a blue sky might seem like witnessing a unicorn.

A recent study found that Pittsburgh ranks fourth among major cities for number of cloudy days. It's hardly an honor of which to be proud, but it does keep people yearning to choose the perfect spot for their next vacations.

The options are plentiful. Florida is an excellent place to start – Clearwater to be exact. The city that hugs the Gulf of Mexico on the state's western side is synonymous with sunshine. Gray skies are an enigma, and rain is a rarity.

Clearwater averages 361 days of sunshine per year. And it holds the record for consecutive sunny days with 768 – more than two consecutive years.

It's astonishing, particularly to the many who reside north of the Mason-Dixon line. Here, clear skies and sunshine are a bonus; in Clearwater, they're a given. The temperatures range year-round from the low 70s to the low 90s. The water is just as unblemished as the sky, and the beaches are softer and more pristine than a country club's fairways.

Clearwater's sugar-white sand and tranquil setting create a gorgeous and captivating environment for guests. The beaches are arguably the city's



**SUNNY DAYS** – High-rises sit in the background of beautiful Clearwater Beach. *Image: Scott. Adobe Stock.* 

greatest attribute. Visitors spend hours bathing in the sun or sitting under an umbrella. The scent of saltwater wafts from the gulf, enticing beach bums to take a dip.

Beach Walk is one of shore's primary attributes. The \$30 million redevelopment initiative has transformed the look and atmosphere of south Clearwater Beach. It's a long and meandering promenade – a half-mile

in length – surrounded by resorts, entertainment, restaurants and artwork. It's dotted with palm trees, resting areas and lush landscaping.

Pier 60 is a recommended stop on Beach Walk. Dangle a fishing pole during the day, but by evening, don't miss the free sunset celebration, a local tradition for more than a quarter century. Highlights of the sparkling festival include street performers, artists, crafters and live music. The event begins two hours before sunset and concludes two hours after the sun drops beneath the gulf's horizon.

Clearwater's revitalized downtown area offers shopping, dining and live entertainment. The Cleveland Street District overlooks the eye-catching Clearwater Harbor and Marina and provides a stunning backdrop for a variety of concerts, festivals and exhibits throughout the year.

The Gulf of Mexico is home to an abundance of delicious seafood, making Clearwater well known for its fresh daily catches. Grouper is the town's favorite. The flaky, white fish can be prepared many ways and is a hit among the locals and visitors. Stone crab is another specialty, available from May to October.

Food festivals and events are held throughout the year, including Frenchy's Stone Crab Festival, Cooters Annual Crab Fest, Clearwater Beach Uncorked and many more. The seafood might be just as delectable as the beaches.

Guests also can golf, charter fishing boats, go dolphin watching, or simply ... just relax.

The sky is blue, the sun is shining, and the gulf waters are pure. It's safe to assume that Clearwater more than lives up to its name.

Travel Showcase continued from page 1

So, let's begin to dream.

Close your eyes and imagine the powdery snow of the Swiss Alps beneath your skis while the scent of pine trees tickles your nose. Imagine medieval castles on hillsides blanketed in grape vineyards along the Rhine Gorge. Envision yourself at the top of the Eiffel Tower or the Leaning Tower of Pisa. A comforting breeze adds to the ambiance as you stand under a blue sky dotted with puffy, white clouds or twinkling stars that illuminate the clear nighttime heavens. Look out and witness France or Italy saying hello and welcoming you.

No destination is out of reach at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™! Engulf yourself in three Destination Theaters and experience 42 information-packed presentations. The World's top travel experts not only tell you about the destinations, they tap into their own extensive travel experience and give you an insider's look at your next cruise, all-inclusive resort, train excursion, safari, group tour or a host of other options that you're waiting to check off your Bucket List.

The Destination Theaters will be full of presentations that will have you dreaming to book your next vacation. Wanderlust is alive and kicking at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase ™ and AAA Travel will be sure that it's satisfied.

Is Alaska on your adventure list? This year, Travel Juneau not sure joins Visit Anchorage to give you a variety of options, including large and small group tours. If you're thinking of visiting by sea, Alaska remains one of the top cruising destinations!

Don't forget about Asia, Africa, Australia and Antarctica. These places alone are premier Bucket List destinations, and we haven't even gotten out of the A's!

Barcelona, Budapest, London, Dublin, Berlin, Rome, Paris, Copenhagen, Lucerne, Strasbourg ... The list goes on and on and on, and the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ can get

you there!

Indulge your imagination. You're on the high seas or a famous river. A luxury cruise on the Mediterranean will have you witnessing first-hand the Ancient Greek Ruins. A river cruise will put you on the Rhine, Danube or Seine.

Whet your palate on a trip through Wine Country in Northern California. Tour by train, bus or rented vehicle. Also at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™, learn about what America's national parks have to offer. Utah is home to Moab and Arches National Park. It's a red-rock wonderland that sits in the foreground of the snowcapped Rockies. Geysers let off steam by the hour in Yellowstone. The sightings of elk, bison, bears, moose and a bevy of other animals enhance the experience.

Mount Rushmore is a majestic stone portrait of history in South Dakota. See the northern lights at Montana's Glacier National Park or Denali National Park and Reserve in Alaska, where you'll witness the highest point in North America.

Or, if a drive destination is more of what you had in mind, the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ will feature new vendors this year welcoming you to some of the best destinations in our backyard. Pigeon Forge, Tennessee and Dollywood Parks & Resorts offer a country-themed getaway, and closer to home Destination Gettysburg, Visit Atlantic City and Colonial Williamsburg provide options for the whole family.

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

Plan a destination wedding. Imagine tying the knot while standing barefoot in the soft sand of the Caribbean or Hawaii.



Image: Lubomir. Adobe Stock.

Or how about under the bright lights of Las Vegas? Or a cruise ship - the moon dotting the sky while you exchange vows on the top deck?

Group tours could take you through the dashing surroundings of the Canadian Rockies by motorcoach. There's even a motorcoach onsite for you to examine, sit in and dream about riding through parts of the USA that you never imagined would be possible.

For cruisers, Regent Seven Seas, Azamara, AmaWaterways and Tauck rank among the finest luxury ocean and river cruise lines in the world. Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Princess Cruises will introduce you to the newest and grandest ships on the high seas. Visit with the beautiful beach destinations of the sunshine state – Daytona Miami, St. Pete-Clearwater and Tampa Bay and relax in the Caribbean with the Caymans, Curacao, Jamaica and the United States Virgin Islands.

Pack your bags, choose your destination and allow AAA Travel to take it from there.

Get your tickets, details and updates at PittsburghTravelShowcase.com or for tickets, details and updates visit www.PittsburghTravelShowcase.com.

#### **SHOWTIMES**

Jan. 19 - Noon to 6 p.m. Jan. 20 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 21 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

The Showcase is open to AAA Members and nonmembers. Everyone's invited!

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

#### **VALUABLE PRIZES**

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

- 4-night Mackinac Island & Frankenmuth Oktoberfest Motorcoach tour for two September 16-20, 2024, from the Pittsburgh region. Retail value: as much as \$2,870
- 2. \$1,000 AAA Travel Gift Certificate
- 3. 2 Delta Air Lines Tickets to any city in Florida from Pittsburgh

PRIZE INFORMATION: No purchase necessary. Must be 18 or older to win. Enter in person at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase" or mail a plain 3" x 5" postcard (with hand-printed first & last name, complete address and telephone number) to Pittsburgh Travel Showcase" Drawing, AAA East Central, 5900 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh PA 15206, to be received by Jan 18, 2024. Winners need not be present. Drawing will be held Jan 22, 2024. Winners will be notified by mail. No substitutions. Limit one entry per household. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Sponsor owns all entries and has no liability for lost, delayed, incomplete or misdirected entries. All prizes will be awarded. Noncompliance with rules or fraud will result in disqualification. Decision of soprosor is final. Winners list can be obtained at above address through Feb. 23, 2024. Taxes on prize are responsibility of winner.

- Sept.11, 2024. One complete package as advertised for 2 adults sharing room. No cash value.
- Certificate cannot be reissued. There is no cash value. Reservations
  are subject to availability and must be submitted at least 45 days in
  advance. Valid towards a prepaid package or cruise.
- 3) For travel in 2024. Coach class. Must reserve 45 days in advance.

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