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FEBRUARY 2024



Image: Xx

Member Choice Vacations® offers immersive experience

Southern Stars: Unveiling Australia & New Zealand

mesh better than cookies and milk. Together, they create a delicious vacation that few combinations worldwide can match.

Tucked away in the mystical Southern Hemisphere, the tandem opens doorways to wondrous journeys. Down is up and right is left – but unforgettable is unforgettable. Step by step, beauty multiplies from all directions. It's more than a vacation. It's an experience. One that will touch your heart, tease your senses and soothe your soul.

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Australia & New Zealand Uncovered will run from October 7-28, 2024. The cost is \$12,099 per person double occupancy and includes airfare. Members who book and deposit by February 29 can save as much as \$200 per person.



Image: Xx

These jewels of the South Pacific – affectionately dubbed "Oz" and "Aotearoa" – offer an otherworldly allure that is guaranteed to satisfy your wanderlust. They're priceless gems rarely seen but always reward. Absorb the atmosphere and relish radiating lands awaiting your arrival.

This extensive trip to the other side of the world will put you in the best spots to witness locations that only can be fully appreciated by your own eyes. Photos might bring back memories, but personal experiences last a lifetime.

Venture off the usual tourist path to discover the real Australia and New Zealand. Imagine what might be beneath the surface once you take your trip beyond seeing sights. Dive deeper to engage with the environment and culture – actively and meaningfully.

Close your eyes and imagine your journey.

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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.

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.

AAA Members Save More at Shell

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

Find Lower Gas Prices with Auto Club app



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

cruise, and much more. To get the app, text APP10 to 86792 and you will receive a link to download it.

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 five-year 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.



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

From Where I Sit

Take advantage of Valentine's Day savings Put your AAA membership to work to find the perfect gift

By Terri Petrick President, AAA East Central

's February, and love is in the air! Valentine's Day, the holiday of love, is quickly approaching and you don't want to be caught off guard when buying your sweetie a gift.

So, if you're in the planning process, consider how your AAA membership can offer you exclusive savings on gifts and experiences this Valentine's Day. After all, what's not to love about saving money?



Terri Petrick

Whether vou're planning dinner, a movie, a date night or a weekend getaway, your AAA membership can really come in handy this month.

Let's go over some options.

If you want to try your hand at cooking a special

meal, AAA offers a pantry's worth of exclusive savings on home-meal-kit delivery services. Hello Fresh offers 55% off your first order, and Home Chef offers 60% off your first three boxes. Or, if you're thinking of something clean and organic, Green Chef offers AAA members 65% off of their first box delivery, plus free shipping.

If you prefer to dress up and head out to celebrate at a local restaurant, AAA offers discounts at Landry's Restaurants, including Joe's Crab Shack, Hard Rock Café and more. Discounts are also available at McCormick & Schmick's and Rainforest Café.

If your idea of a special dinner is at a more casual location, consider the Brick House Tavern + Tap. With a relaxed atmosphere, seemingly endless assortment of local, craft and import beers, and an inventive menu of American tavern fare, Brick House Tavern + Tap offers guests a



Image: uv_group. Adobe Stock.

Membership has its Privileges



Scan to search AAA's Discounts & Rewards program.

truly next generation "gastro pub" expe-

After dinner, how about a show? Get exclusive AAA discounts on movie tickets by buying them in advance with AAA Tickets. Through this service, members can save on admission to thousands of theaters across the United States. Also, tickets are available for Broadway shows, sporting events, concerts and more.

Or, if you're looking for something to watch while at home, AAA members now have access to exclusive savings with

DIRECTV. Did you know that you can get up to a \$400 Visa Reward card when you activate new DIRECTV service?

While there's no better way to someone's heart than dinner and a show, AAA discounts open the door to other means of appreciation. Members can get up to 20% off flowers and gifts from 1-800-Flowers. com. Or if a sweet treat is more your style, save 20% on online orders of Cheryl's Cookies' award-winning treats and 25% off on Harry & David's premium fruit, gifts and more.

If you want to really stand out this Valentine's Day, consider booking a getaway. Nothing is quite as fun as being surprised with the gift of travel! Of course, AAA Travel is known for its connections with vendors, hotels and travel services across the world. Whether you're considering a weekend getaway to a local town or even a weekend cruise, call your local AAA Travel Advisor and start planning now.

However you chose to celebrate this Valentine's Day, don't make any purchases without first checking AAA.com/ Discounts to find your options for savings.

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Save 25% on Valentine's Chocolate-Dipped Berries

Shop from our juicy chocolate dipped strawberries are always the right gift. Save 25% this Valentine's Day! We select only the largest, most flavorful berries for our incredible line of dipped fruit and desserts. Always fresh and always ready to share with those you love. Visit AAA.com/SharisBerries and enter Promo Code 25AAA and Membership# in Member ID box at checkout.









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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 of a 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 Buddhas 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,

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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.

Multiple factors have owners holding on to vehicles longer

ife expectancy has risen dramatically in recent years for motor vehicles. Supplychain issues, and rising costs and interest rates have played leading roles in more Americans keeping their vehicles more than a decade.

Recent data from S&P Global Mobility finds that the average life of passenger cars is 13.6 years, light trucks 11.8, which leads to an averaged total of 12.5 years. It's the sixth consecutive rise and the three extra months added between 2021 and 2022 represent the biggest annual jump since 2008-09.

It doesn't help that the annual cost to drive a new vehicle rises each year. AAA research found that owning and operating a vehicle in 2023 rose to \$12,182 – or \$1,015 monthly. That is a more than \$1,000 annual increase from 2022.

Retail sales of new vehicles dropped by 8% last year, the lowest level in a decade, according to S&P Global Mobility. It's disturbing news for new-car sales representatives but great for the aftermarket-service industry. The average cost of a new vehicle in the U.S. is well more than \$40,000. Longer loans and higher



KEEP IT RUNNING – Preventive maintenance can extend the life of a vehicle. Rising prices and interest rates have consumers keeping their vehicles more than a decade. *Image: Minerva Studio. Adobe Stock.*

interest rates have made it nearly essential to keep the vehicle an extended period of time.

Longer ownership has consumers paying better attention to preventive maintenance and learning that having problems repaired by a mechanic are more financially beneficial to purchasing a new vehicle.

Motorists in need of a reputable repair shop should consider finding a nearby AAA Approved Auto Repair shop. There are more than 7,000 locations across North America. Visit AAA.com/AutoRepair to find a facility.



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Extend your family on AmaWaterways cruiseSmaller 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.



Jewel of the Seas (need content)

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Friday, August 16	At Sea
Saturday, August 17	Tallinn, Estonia
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- Positano



Mediterranean **Coastal Journey**

Sept. 21-Oct. 5, 2024

\$7,749 per person double occupancy

Special Offer:

Book & Deposit by 2/29/24

double/single occupancy iscount only apples to air-inclusive rat

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Barcelona
- La Sagrada Família
- Choice on Tour:
- National Museum of Art of Catalunya or Castle of Montjuic by Cable Car
- Costa Brava
- Winery VisitChoice on Tour: Cosquer Cave Museum or Marseille Soap Experience
- Impact Moment
- · Aix-en-Provence • French Riviera
- Monaco-Montecarlo
- Portofino
- Cinque Terre • Florence
- •Truffle Hunting
- San Gimignano





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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.

LAST CHANCE!



Canadian Rockies featuring Rocky Mountaineer

July 14-21, 2024 • \$7,749 per person double occupancy Additional Departure: September 21-28, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

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

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
- Chartered transportation
- Rocky Mountaineer two SilverLeaf rail excursions
- 7-night hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling, one bag per person (under 50 pounds)

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LAST CHANCE!



Tropical Costa Rica

hosted by Dr. Pilar Fish of the National Aviary

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HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Roundtrip air with airport/hotel transfers Cano Negro Refuge
- 12-night hotel accommodations • Tortuguero Jungle experience boat ride
- Bird watching excursion San Jose
- Coffee Plantation
- Arenal Volcano
- **PRICE 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

- Lake Arenal Cruise
- Farm Tour and Lunch
- Monteverde Cloud Forest Guanacaste
- Special visit to Rescate Wildlife Rescue C'enter
- Luggage handling, one bag per person • 24 meals (restaurants subject to change)
- Sightseeing and admissions as stated in itinerary
- Local English-speaking Tour Guide

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

Before-discount rate is per person/double occupancy, subject to availability at time of booking and





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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

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June 19-29, 2024	Eastern Caribbean	Liberty of the Seas®	trom \$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

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Sept. 26-Oct. 5, 2024 • \$6,199 per person double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- RT air and airport/hotel transfers
- Intra-island flights
- 9 nights accommodaitons
- Waikiki Beach
- Pearl Harbor
- · Iolani Palace

- Volcanoes National Park
- Kona Highlights
- Iao Valley
- Lahaina
- Polynesian Luau

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip air (subject to availability at time of booking) from participating cities to Honolulu/from Maui
- Baggage fees for flights may apply and are not included in the package price
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers Chartered transportation
- Internal flights
- 9-night hotel accommodations
- · Luggage handling, one bag per person
- 13 meals (restaurants subject to change)
- · Sightseeing and admissions as stated in itinerary
- Local Tour Guide

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March 22-24, 2024 • \$835 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



WASHINGTON D.C. IN BLOOM

oarts from Canonsburg, PA &

April 5-7, 2024 • \$785

- Guided touring of D.C. to include
- monuments and memorials
- 2 nights at Gaylord Resort
- 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 Shippina Canal
- Winery Tour and Tasting
- Dinner at Table Rock House Restaurant



NH - MOUNTAINS, MOOSE AND MEADOWS

June 9-14, 2024 • \$1,675

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- Horse- Drawn Wagon Ride through a Christmas tree farm
- Omni Mount Washington Hotel
- White Mountains touring
- - Niagara Falls, NY





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Celebrity and the many itinerary options to sail in 2024

\$50 ONBOARD CREDIT PER BALCONY STATEROOM • ALL INCLUDED PACKAGE FOR TWO ADULTS PER STATEROOM: CLASSIC BEVERAGE PACKAGE, BASIC WI-FI PACKAGE, GRATUITIES TO SHIPBOARD PERSONNEI

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

6-NIGHT ITINERARY:

- Day 1 Ft. Lauderdale, FL Embark
- Day 2 CocoCay
- Day 3 At Sea
- Day 4 Georgetown, Grand Cayman At Sea
- Day 5
- Day 6 Rimini, Rahamas Disembark – Ft. Lauderdale, FL

FALL CARIBBEAN CRUISE TO SAN JUAN Celebrity Summit® • Oct 4-12 from \$1,125 perperson double occupancy



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

8-NIGHT ITINERARY:

- Ft. Lauderdale, FL Embark
- At Sea Day 2
- Day 3 Labadee, Haiti
- Day 4 At Sea
- St. Johns, Antiqua Day 5
- Roseau, Dominica Day 6 Day 7 Castries, St. Lucia
- Day 8 Basseterre, St Kitts & Nevis Day 9 Disembark
 - San Juan, Puerto Rico

EASTERN CARIBBEAN THANKSGIVING CRUISE Celebrity Ascent® • Nov 25-Dec 1 from \$1,885 per person double occupancy



The fourth ship in Celebrity's revolutionary Edge® Series, the Celebrity Ascent takes their innovative outward-facing design further than ever, creating an even close connection between you, the sea, and every exciting place on the horizon.

7-NIGHT ITINERARY:

- Day 1 Ft. Lauderdale, FL Embark
- At Sea
- Puerto Plata, Day 3 Dominican Republic
- Day 4 Charlotte Amalie,
- St. Thomas
- Day 5 Philipsburg, St. Maarten Day 6 At Sea
- Day 7 At Sea
- Day 8 Disembark – Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Celebrity Edge® • Aug 30-Sept 6 from \$2,399 per person double occupancy



Sail on the first ship in Celebrity's revolutionary Edge® Series, Celebrity EdgeSM to take in the wild, forested beauty of Alaska's coast. Sail roundtrip out of Seattle, stopping at various ports in Western Canada and Alaska.

- Day 2 At Sea
- Day 3 Ketchikan, Alaska Day 4
- Juneau, Alaska
- Day 6 At Sea
- 7-NIGHT ITINERARY: Day 1 Seattle, WA - Embark
- Day 5 Skagway, Alaska Inside Passage Cruising
- Victoria, British Columbia Day 7 Day 8 Disembark - Seattle, WA

Evening wildlife presentation Fields of Lupines for photo opportunities Cog Railway to the top of Mount Washington

- Self-auided tour and luncheon
- Evening Moose watching tour
 Fadden's General Store

/IEDITERRANEAN, FRANCE & SPAIN Celebrity Ascent® • Sept 2-14 from \$3,370 perperson double occupancy



Soak up the sun, salt breezes, and stunning scenery in newly expanded open-air spaces on the Celebrity Ascent. 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-Embark

Day 2 At Sea

Day 3 Seville, Spain

Day 4 Gibraltar, United Kingdom

Day 5 Malaga, Spain Day 6 At Sea

Day 7 Nice, France

Day 8 Florence/Pisa, Italy **Day 9** Depart Florence/Pisa

Day 10 Rome, Italy Day 11 Santa Margherita, Italy

Day 12 At Sea Day 13 Disembark - Seattle, WA





Rates are per person (double occupancy), are subject to availability at time of booking and include accommodations/entertainment, most onboard meals, gratuities, member perks and government taxes/ fees of up to \$184.63. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Malta



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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 a 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.

Green valleys sparkle with sea in Wales Art, castles and landscapes come to life in British country

o be born Welsh could be considered a work of art. Cliché intended. It's that undeniable. There's even a proverb. It goes: "To be born Welsh is to be born privileged. Not with a silver spoon in your mouth, but with music in your blood and poetry in your soul."

How did they get to be so lucky? It only adds to Wales' luster and makes it a gem in Great Britain.

The country is located on the peninsula in central-west Great Britain, covering an area similar in size to Massachusetts. The glens and valleys fan out from Welsh capital Cardiff and are movingly described in Richard Llewellyn's "How Green Was My Valley," as greener now than they were a century ago.

Wales has a number of sayings synonymous with its history. Often referred to as "the land of song," it is particularly famous for its male choirs. English is considered the spoken language, but nearly 20% of its residents speak Welsh – a language known for its missing vowels and unpronounceable names like Cwmystwyth and Bwlchgwyn.

Researchers say the dolphins in Cardigan Bay whistle and click in their own distinct Welsh dialect. Thousands of visitors board tour boats to witness escapades of these clever marine mam-

Arts and cultural institutions have grown in popularity through the years.



COASTING – Quilted clouds and a blue-hour sunset highlight Three Cliffs Bay on the Gower Peninsula in Swansea, Wales. *Image: Leighton collins. Adobe Stock.*

Cardiff's former docklands once was considered the largest port in the world. Today, it's a cultural playground.

Climb to the top of the 12th-century Cardiff Castle in the middle of town to absorb expansive sights of the city. Caroline Street – known locally as Chippy Lane – is famous for its fast-food restaurants. Chips and curry sauce are

the most popular items on the menus.

Swansea is 40 miles west of Cardiff and is the birthplace of Dylan Thomas. Guests can visit the home of the famous Welsh poet and writer at 5 Cwmdonkin Drive. The Dylan Thomas Center is near the waterfront and chronicles his turbulent life. He inspired Bob Dylan to borrow his name.

Witness some of Britain's most picturesque and unspoiled scenery off Wales' 750 miles of coastline. The seaside village of Mumbles marks the beginning of the Gower Peninsula coastline.

The view over Cliffs Bay can be seen from the south coast of the peninsula and describes a perfect semicircle of sea cliffs and white beach that is framed by extraordinary rock formations. Castles, medieval churches, iron-age fortifications and prehistoric stones highlight the landscape.

Wales has more than 600 castles – none is made from sand. That's more per square mile than any place on Earth. Beaumaris Castle on the Isle of Anglesey is a medieval fortress that dates to the 13th century. Constructed by an ingenious "walls within walls" plan, it's considered the most technically sound castle in Great Britain.

It's surrounded by a moat and known as the "Mother of Wales." It's believed to be the site of Avalon – the legendary island of Arthurian legend.

Welsh food represents the country's mix of moorland, mountains and coast. Crawl is a traditional broth that mixes with lamb, root vegetables, leeks and onions. Lavabread is made from boiled seaweed rolled in oatmeal and is eaten fried with bacon and cockles for breakfast.

Art comes to life in Wales. There's no doubt it always will be a masterpiece.

Tech company creates innovative lenses Improving drivers' optics should lessen odds of accidents

rtificial intelligence is sneaking its way into most aspects of our lives. Whether it's a good thing remains to be seen.

A technology company is using AI to help make driving safer. Shamir Optical Industry recently launched an innovative product. Its Shamir Driver Intelligence lenses are designed to transform operating a vehicle by making it safer, more comfortable and visually clear.

Its new lens development began with Shamir's decision to address the issue of visual challenges that confront drivers on roadways, such as sudden changes in conditions, varying light intensities from the sun, streetlamps or oncoming headlights, and the need to keep switching focus from the close vehicle interior to the distant road.

Its research showed one in five drivers suffer from eye fatigue and 25% have trouble focusing quickly on varying distances. This modern technology introduces disturbances to drivers, such as in-car, digital-screen displays and bright LED lights.

The lenses' designs are based on extensive measurements of head movements and eye-tracking, providing comprehensive understanding and prediction of a driver's visual behavior. By applying elements of AI, Shamir invented a lens solution ideally suited



SEEING IS BELIEVING – Shamir Driver Intelligence glasses are meant to make driving safer all hours of the day. *Image: NewsPress USA.*

to all types of drivers.

Shamir Driver Intelligence comes as a set of two pairs of glasses, available as single or progressive vision – "sun" for daylight and "moon" for nighttime driving to provide uncompromised-optimal vision for all conditions

The "sun" lens incorporates an advanced filter that enhances color perception, making colors and objects appear more vivid, similar to the effects of Formula F1 racing-helmet visors. The clear "moon" lens is designed for conditions of low-light and nighttime driving, with visual age-based myopic

shift for improved low-light sharpness. It reduces visual noise, eye fatigue and improves drivers' reaction times for safer performance.

"The rich insight and extensive data received from professional drivers under conditions of extreme challenges have enriched our big data set and have been invaluable in the development of the new driving-dedicated performance lens," said Shamir CEO Yagen Moshe. "Going the extra mile with this valuable partnership, Shamir exercises its ability to see through the eyes of its consumers, to study the environment, the activities and needs of the users, and then to apply the most advanced technologies, including elements of AI to maximize the user experience. The lens solution we have developed upgrades the driving experience to premium, allowing drivers (professional as well as passionate and everyday drivers) to enjoy clarity of vision, whether of the road ahead or of the image in their mirrors, bringing them safely to their destination.'

Shamir Driver Intelligence is available throughout Europe, the Asian Pacific and North America. Visit Shamir.com for more information about the product.

Seeing the road ahead is getting easier, thanks to AI. Drivers can put on their shades and lessen the odds of getting into an accident.





Australia & New Zealand Uncovered



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

When: October 7-28, 2024

Cost: \$12,099

(airfare included)

\$200 (Premier), Member

\$175 (Plus),

\$150 (Classic)

Pittsburgh Airport:

*Person double occupancy.

You're in Wellington, New Zealand - the hip capital known for its windswept coast. You're greeted with a traditional powhiri welcome. Delve into the rich Māori history and enjoy local flavors through a unique Hangi lunch cooked beneath the earth. The Māori culture has been deeply rooted into these lands for more than 1,000 years, offering a living connection to ancient traditions and wisdom.

Cross the Cook Strait to South Island. Scenic wonders like Abel Tasman National Park quickly will snatch your attention. Crystal-clear waters hug golden beaches to create a treasure trove of experiences. Enjoy the

local arts and culinary scene in Nelson before venturing to the Pancake Rocks of Punakaiki. These limestone formations are shaped by the relentless tides of time and weather. Aging rarely has been more graceful.

Adventures deepen in Australia. Enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the iconic Sydney Opera House. Take a sunset-dinner cruise through Sydney Harbour and pinch yourself just to make sure you aren't dreaming.

The stars of the Southern Hemisphere sparkle in Uluru. Parlay a gourmet meal and stargazing under a sky free of light pollution in the Sounds of Silence experience. The Aboriginal

connection to the cosmos is profound. Constellations tell ancient stories about creation and connection. See celestial features like the Southern Cross, the Seven Sisters and even the Milky Way. The clarity is incredible, making it a truly stellar experience.

A glass-bottomed catamaran will take vou to the Great Barrier Reef from Cairns. Choose to snorkel, walk the island or talk with a marine biologist. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the Seven Wonders of the World and a marine paradise that hosts more than 1,000 fish species. Its vast, vibrant lagoons are visible from space - a testament to its immense beauty

and ecological significance. Meanwhile, conclude your experience with an ecocultural adventure to learn about Aboriginal traditions and natural remedies in a lush wetland setting.

The riches of Australia and New Zealand know no boundaries. They're destinations that move beyond postcard images and forge unbreakable personal bonds.

Go beyond the standard itinerary to experience the wonder of the lands Down Under. Embrace the journey with Member Choice Vacations®. Contact a AAA East Central Travel Advisor to learn more about the Australia & New Zealand Uncovered tour.

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- ✓ All repairs are guaranteed up to 24 months or 24,000 miles³
- Worry-free repairs at AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities



TO FIND A PARTICIPATING AAA APPROVED AUTO REPAIR FACILITY NEAR YOU: **CALL** 800-441-5008 **CLICK** AAA.com/Save10

regularly-priced parts and labor at AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities if discount is requested. Cannot be combined with any other discount or coupon. Valid AAA membership card must be presented at the facility at time of service. Available with paid service upon request. Free inspection is limited to items identified on the AAA Vehicle Maintenance Inspection form only. Cost of any repairs not included. Most passenger cars and light trucks are eligible. An appointment may be required. Contact the facility in advance for details. Valid AAA membership card must be presented at time of service. Other restrictions may apply. *All repairs, both parts and labor, are guaranteed by the facility for up to 24 months or 24,000 miles, whichever occurs first, under normal operating conditions, unless otherwise stated in writing. Other restrictions may apply. See facility for details. Copyright © 2024 Auto Club Services, LLC. All Rights Reserved.





SELECT THE PLAN THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU:

ESSENTIAL

Free Basic monitoring of your Experian credit file includes:

- Experian Credit Monitoring
- Lost Wallet Protection

Classic/Plus/Premier members: **FREE**

DELUXE

Monitors all three credit bureaus plus:

- Social Security Monitoring
- Dark Web Monitoring
- ldentity Theft Insurance up to \$1 Million
- **And** more

Classic/Plus members: \$10.95/month

Premier members: **SAVE 10%**

COMPLETE

Our highest level of protection includes all the features of Essential and Deluxe, plus:

- Experian Credit Lock
- Online Exposure Removal Assistance
- Social Media Monitoring
- And more

Classic/Plus members: \$17.95/month

Premier members: **SAVE 10%**

FOR COMPLETE PRODUCT FEATURE AND TO SIGN UP TODAY: VISIT AAA.COM/IDSafe OR CALL 844.384.2633 Use this special offer code at checkout:

60FREE24

ProtectMyID® Essential, ProtectMyID® Deluxe and ProtectMyID® Complete are provided by Experian®. You must be 18 years of age or older and a current AAA member to be eligible to enroll in ProtectMyID. A valid email address and access to the internet is required. Products subject to change or terminate at any time without notice. Certain terms, conditions, and restrictions apply. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions. / Credit card required at enrollment. After your 2 free months, you will be billed the monthly rate plus applicable sales tax unless you cancel.

Offer non-transferable and expires 12/31/24. Limit 1, 2-month-free offer, per member. Copyright © 2024 Auto Club Services, LLC. All Rights Reserved.