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Image: Xx

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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.

AAA to open a new Louisville-area branch office

AAA is expanding its presence in the Louisville area by opening a new branch office in the Forest Springs neighborhood. The office will be located at the Forest Springs Plaza, and is set to open in the spring. More details will be announced soon.

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.

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 Kentucky's REAL ID compliant license, visit [Drive.ky.gov](https://drive.ky.gov).

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

AAA 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-the-art diagnostic equipment will confirm whether your battery will hold a charge or if the problem lies deeper in the electrical system. The service is included with your AAA membership. 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

Pay 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 "spongy" 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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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

It'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?

Whether you'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



Terri Petrick



Image: uv_group. Adobe Stock.

Membership has its Privileges



Scan to search AAA's
Discounts & Rewards program.

truly next generation "gastro pub" experience.

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.

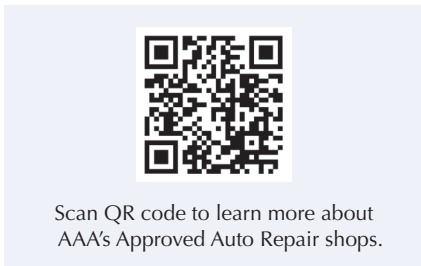
Don't be too quick to change air filter

Maintaining 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



Scan QR code to learn more about
AAA's Approved Auto Repair shops.

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.



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Costs can spiral if preoccupied behind wheel

Deep look into some lesser-known costs of distracted driving

By Robin Jones

By 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

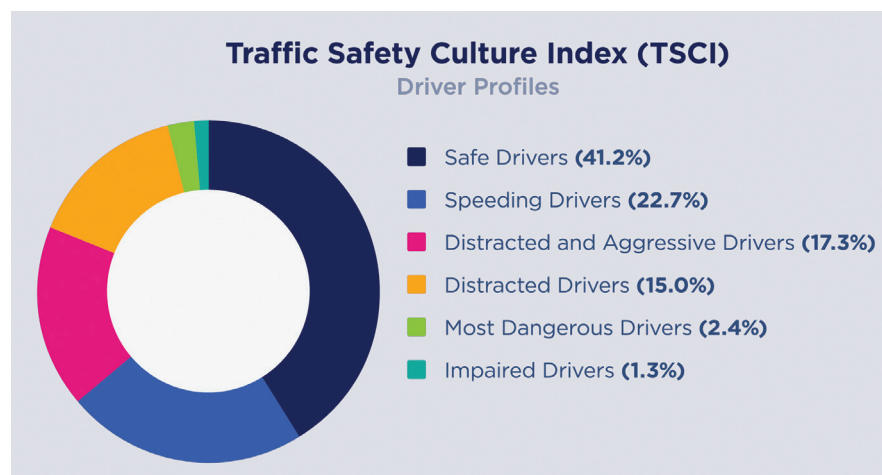
A report by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety identifies six types of drivers by analyzing risky driving behaviors.

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%) – 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

Bucket 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,

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.

Unappreciated attractions pack most punch

Find hidden gems in the shadows of famous counterparts

Underrated is a verb that never will let you down. How could it? The definition spells it out.

Underestimate the extent, value or importance of someone or something.

It's easy to be underrated among a group of stars. That goes for vacation destinations, as well. We constantly are told about places we must visit. But there also are places we *should* visit – ones that rarely are mentioned but are hidden gems waiting to prove their value.

They are sites less crowded and exist in some of the U.S.'s quieter spots. They might prove to be kinder to your wallet, but there is nothing cheap about them.

Take Yellowstone National Park, for instance. Old Faithful is arguably the most famous geyser in the world. But have you heard about Castle Geyser? The cone-shaped blistering fountain is older than its famous sister. It erupts less frequently, but when it does, it can shoot water as high as 90 feet into the air.

Mount Rushmore flaunts four of our country's most memorable presidents. But don't ignore the Crazy Horse Memorial that is fewer than 20 miles away. It's a tribute to the Lakota warrior who famously led Native American fighters in the Great Sioux War of 1876-77. It is the largest mountain carving in the world – an awe-inspiring sight.

Few destinations in New York City are more popular than Central Park. But if you're interested in the perfect remedy



DEEP IMPACT – Palo Duro Canyon Lighthouse watches over the beautiful lands of the Amarillo natural wonder. *Image: Kip. Adobe Stock.*

for maddening crowds, visit Tryon Park. It's north of Central Park and sits on the edge of the Hudson river. It's a modest 67 acres in size, but it boasts eight miles of peaceful pathways and the Cloisters, a branch of the Met focusing on medieval works.

Glacier National Park ranks among the top 10 most-visited parks in the U.S.

But the North Cascades, located about 500 miles away in Washington, remains blissfully anonymous. Appreciate the snowy peaks, fir-covered hills and glaciers. Among the most striking natural wonders is the North Klawatti Glacier.

Palo Duro Canyon in Amarillo doesn't have much of a reputation – at least compared to its southwest competition, the

Grand Canyon. Palo Duro is blessed with similar rugged red rocks and epic sunsets and sunrises but attracts a fraction of visitors. More than 30 miles of trails make it a playground for hikers, bikers and horseback riders.

Yosemite's Half Dome attracts major crowds. It rises 5,000 feet over the Yosemite Valley and offers fabulous views, but there are plenty of other bluffs found in the American West, including Devils Tower. Located in Wyoming, Devils Tower is a national monument that matches Half Dome in height and is sacred to many groups of Native American people.

Rock formations are geological gifts, and Natural Bridges National Monument is a shrouded jewel near the famed Arches National Park. The former is named for its trio of bridges carved out by rivers. It's also the first designated International Dark Sky Park worldwide, providing star-studded solitude.

Big Sur is a fabled stretch of California's storied Highway 1. It's a leading attraction for sightseers. A quieter journey, however, is sitting farther north. Oregon's shoreline includes a utopia like Ecola State Park. Drivers will find similar rock-studded sands and dramatic bluffs and might even spot a whale.

It's wise to visit the U.S.'s most admired destinations, but don't forget about the little guys. They have plenty to offer and always deliver.

Extend your family on AmaWaterways cruise

Smaller ships' cozy settings spark invaluable friendships on river

River 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

The 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 sun-tan. 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 Arctic 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.



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Tuesday, August 13	Gdansk, Poland
Wednesday, August 14	Klaipeda, Lithuania
Thursday, August 15	Riga, Latvia
Friday, August 16	At Sea
Saturday, August 17	Tallinn, Estonia
Sunday, August 18	Kotka, Finland
Monday, August 19	Helsinki, Finland
Tuesday, August 20	Mariehamn, Finland
Wednesday, August 21	Stockholm, Sweden
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- Day 10 – Skagway
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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 \$284.63. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Bahamian registry



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

PRICE INCLUDES:

- 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 Louisville, 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

Panama Canal Cruise

on the *Celebrity Summit*®
September 19–October 4, 2024 • from \$3,259 per person double occupancy



AMAZING MEMBER PERKS!

- Per stateroom, double occupancy (balcony or higher category)
- 15-night cruise accommodations
 - All Included Package for two adults per stateroom
 - Classic Beverage Package, Basic Wi-Fi package, Gratuities to shipboard personnel

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



15-NIGHT ITINERARY

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

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



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Iceland: Land of Fire & Ice

July 24–August 2, 2024 • \$5,499 per person double occupancy
Explore the dramatic landscapes of Iceland on this guided adventure

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

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

PRICE INCLUDES:

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

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



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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



AAA Travel Advisor:

Erin Zmuda

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

It'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 mom-and-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.

Princess betting newest ship hits the jackpot

Newly christened *Sun Princess* boasts cruise line's largest casino

Princess Cruises has gone “all-in” with its newest ship. There is nothing small about its latest vessel, *Sun Princess* – the largest among its impressive fleet.

Sun Princess set sail in February to a much-anticipated voyage. The next-generation ship holds 4,300 guests, cruising them in laps of luxury and enormity.

Among its impressive features, one that shines near the top is The Princess Casino. It houses an astounding 50% more space than the line's Royal Class ships. It's a gambler's paradise on the high seas; a jackpot awaits.

Located on deck 8 and adjacent to the bustling Piazza, The Princess Casino offers high ceilings and a spacious floorplan for world-class gaming comfort and entertainment. Several gaming positions are infused into the Piazza, giving guests easier and faster access to their favorite betting games.

Gamblers will find more than 200 of the newest and most popular slots and video-poker machines. The Princess Casino also features live table games that offer progressive jackpots and a variety of other games Princess players have come to enjoy. Included in the expansive casino is the original “Buffalo Zone” at sea – bringing these popular games by Aristocrat to the



BETTING MOOD – The Princess Casino is one of the many enhanced amenities on *Sun Princess*, the cruise line's newest ship. Image: Princess.

newest “Love Boat.”

“Casino lovers, high rollers or simply those wanting to try a hand during their vacation will be stunned by the new Princess Casino,” said John Padgett, President of Princess Cruises. “Princess has embraced the casino experience and is proud to offer such exciting gaming surrounded by absolutely world-class dining and

entertainment.”

Princess Casino's key enhancements include:

- Nearly 9,000-square feet, featuring 10-foot ceilings, 227 slot machines and 13 live tables.
- Newest and most comfortable gaming seating available for slot and table-game players.
- New linked blackjack- and pok-



Scan QR to learn more about AAA cruise packages

er-table progressives, offering high-value cash top awards.

- High-limit slot area, with high-end seating.
- New gaming experiences and celebrations through an interactive audio-visual experience throughout the casino.

The 175,000-ton, 4,300-guest *Sun Princess* offers an array of exciting new entertainment and culinary offerings, as well as luxurious staterooms and suites across a broad spectrum of categories. It has the most balconies and sun decks on any Princess ship. Guests will be able to absorb the sunshine and crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean and Caribbean from the comfort of their own room.

To book a Princess cruise or learn more about other cruise lines, visit your nearest AAA branch office to meet with a travel advisor or visit AAA.com/Travel.

AAA puts tire-pressure sensors to test

Don't let vehicle's monitoring system leave you feeling flat

A new study by AAA found that in-vehicle tire-pressure-monitoring systems (TPMS) generally are accurate, but drivers still should check their tire pressure manually.

Why keep tabs on your tires? They are the only part of your vehicle in contact with the road and proper inflation is the key to safety and better gas mileage.

“Whether in rain, sleet, snow, or dry conditions, tires are the unsung heroes of your car,” said Greg Brannon, AAA's director of automotive engineering. “They are designed to work best when properly inflated. Our research found that the pressure-monitoring systems that provide data for instrument displays or trigger the amber dashboard warning worked as intended. But we recommend always having a dependable old-school manual pressure gauge to check them once a month because a tire can be more than 20% deflated before it triggers the dashboard warning.”

AAA engineers evaluated 11 passenger vehicles from 2022-24 models, including sedans, pickups and SUVs with “direct” TPMS, which uses air-pressure sensors mounted in each wheel. The AAA survey found that the average percentage difference between displayed and actual tire pressure



AIR SUPPLY – AAA recommends regularly using a tire gauge to monitor tire pressure. Image: NongAsimo. Adobe Stock.

was between 1.2% and minus-1.5%, depending on the tire location.

Additionally, the amber warning TPMS light illuminated when tires were underinflated to 75% of the posted pressure (located on the sticker inside the doorjamb) for five of the 11 test vehicles. Five of the six remaining test vehicles illuminated the TPMS warning dashboard light when tires deflated to 70.3% to 72.9% of the posted pressure,

depending on the test vehicle.

Key findings from the study:

- No significant error in displayed tire pressure readings was noted for any vehicles evaluated within the study.
- The largest percentage difference in reported vs. actual tire pressure was 3.3%. This large pickup truck had a significantly higher posted pressure than other test vehicles.

- One vehicle did not illuminate the TPMS warning light even when one of its tires was deflated to only 65% of the recommended posted pressure, despite the immediate update of pressure readings in the instrument cluster.

AAA urges drivers to utilize displayed tire pressures in the instrument cluster and keep tires inflated to the vehicle's posted pressure rather than relying solely on the TPMS light to determine when a tire needs to be reinflated.

TPMS lights only illuminate when one or more tires are severely underinflated. Drivers should regularly check the displayed tire pressure at each corner. In addition, not all vehicle TPMS provide pressure readings. Some systems, particularly on older vehicles, only have a warning light if one or more tires are low.

AAA encourages drivers to regularly check their tire pressure (either in the instrument cluster or using a gauge), even if their TPMS light is not illuminated. And with winter here, it's important to remember that cold weather makes the air denser, so the pressure in the tire is reduced, triggering a dashboard warning. Do not ignore the warning even if the light goes off after driving because the tire is likely low. For this reason, tire pressure should be checked when it's cold outside.



Australia & New Zealand Uncovered

continued from page 1



Great Barrier Reef



Abel Tasman National Park

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)
Member	\$200 (Premier), \$175 (Plus), \$150 (Classic)
Airport:	Louisville

*Person double occupancy.

You're in Wellington, New Zealand – the hip capital known for its wind-swept 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 you 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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