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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.

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 Ohio's REAL ID compliant license, visit bmv.ohio.gov.

TSA PreCheck® coming to Independence office March 18-22!

Enrolling in TSA Precheck® creates a smarter travel experience with fewer hassles and less stress. Enrollment opportunities are provided by IDEMIA. Enrollment is \$78 dollars and is valid for five years. A TSA PreCheck® agent will conduct enrollments March 18-22 daily from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the AAA East Central Independence branch office located at 5700 Brecksville Rd. in Independence. Appointments can be made online 40 days prior to the event. Registered appointments will take priority over walk-ins. To schedule an appointment, visit [//AAA.com/TSA](http://AAA.com/TSA).

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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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Thanks to **AAA Discounts & Rewards**, members enjoy real savings on the things they buy every day and just about everywhere. The more you use it, the more savings add up. When you're ready to buy, think AAA first. It's the membership that pays for itself.

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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

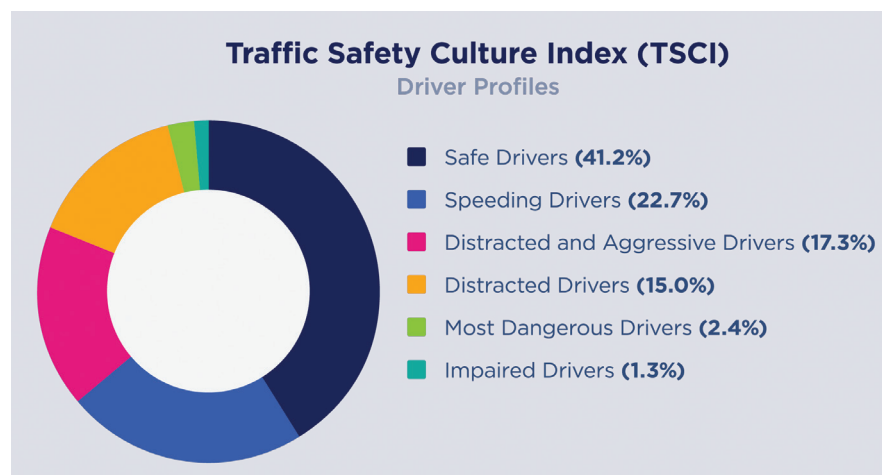
A report by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety identifies six types of drivers by analyzing risky driving behaviors.

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.

Nature grabs your attention in Crystal River

Hop in for a dip with manatees in sparkling blue waters

Few counties in Florida combine ingredients to create a masterpiece like Citrus County. It takes aspects of nature, shakes them in a bag and – *voila* – a delectable destination is waiting to be explored.

The location boasts seven rivers, a chain of freshwater lakes, the Gulf of Mexico and a web of islands, marsh and mangrove to present endless opportunities to experience the outdoors in and out of water.

Native Americans laid the foundation for Citrus County more than two millennia ago. The vestiges of their culture are displayed at the Crystal River Archaeological Site. The six-mound complex is a National Historic Landmark and a visitors center/museum holds artifacts excavated from the site.

Countless miles of undisturbed islets, channels, streams and rivers bless the Citrus County shoreline. Located 70 miles north of Tampa, it's a place where fresh water and saltwater meet in the gulf. Native plants, birds and marine life enhance the intimacy of Fort Island Beach, turning it into a secluded getaway.

Crystal River is labeled "The Manatee Capital of the World" and is one of Florida's top eco-tourism hotspots.



MARINE LIFE – A West Indian manatee lifts its snout out of the water at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park in Citrus County, Florida.

Image: Sunshower Shots. Adobe Stock.

Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge encompasses more than 70 springs. Each winter, warm, spring-fed waters attract North America's largest manatee population.

Hundreds of manatees gather in Three Sisters Spring from January to

March. It's also the only place in the U.S. where visitors can swim with the endangered Florida Manatee. These gentle giants measure more than 13-feet long and weigh as much as 1,300 pounds. Guided tours are recommended to guests who might want

to take a dip.

Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park resides in a historic fishing village and is believed to be the only place in the world to see West Indian manatees year-round. Pontoon boats take visitors to an underwater observatory, where they can see the manatees' slow-moving water ballet without getting wet. A manatee's nose and nostrils often are its only parts visible above the water. Other native wildlife includes black bears, Florida panthers, bobcats and river otters, which can be seen along paved walking trails and boardwalks.

Floral City is nestled in Citrus County's peaceful southeast corner. It's famous for its Florida charm, beautiful older homes and the Avenue of the Oaks, which is covered by a canopy of oaks and draped in Spanish moss.

It also is the opening to the Sunshine State's longest paved recreation trail. Withlacoochee State Trail offers 46 miles for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Withlacoochee State Forest is considered one of the "10 Coolest Places You've Been in North America" by the World Wildlife Fund.

Citrus County is sweet, adventurous and charming. It's a recipe for good times and lasting memories.

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.



DEPARTURES

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YOUR TRUSTED AAA TRAVEL ADVISOR.**





DEPARTURES

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President's Cruise – Baltic Capitals Voyage

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

ITINERARY

Sunday, August 11	Copenhagen, Denmark
Monday, August 12	Gdansk, Poland
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
Thursday, August 22	Return Home

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

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



Join AAA East Central President, Terri Petrick, on a cruise to the Baltic Capitals.

PRICE INCLUDES:

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



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



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

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BALCONY AND ABOVE ONLY
ONBOARD CREDIT (Balcony and above only)
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+\$50 OBC per stateroom 7 – 10 nights
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MEMBER BENEFIT[†] / FREE 8 x 10 PRINT OR DIGITAL PHOTO

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



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



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Amtrak/Railbookers
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Rocky Mountaineer
(supplied)



Grand Canyon & Sedona Adventure

April 28–May 6, 2024

\$3,999 per person double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Sedona – 3 nights, resort lodging
- “Old West” evening – features activities, private reception and Cowboy cookout w/ entertainment or Sedona dine around
- Verde Canyon Rail Excursion
- Williams, Arizona – Grand Canyon Railway Hotel, Western town on Route 66
- Grand Canyon Railway – First-class travel from Williams, Arizona
- Grand Canyon National Park
 - 2 - nights lodging within National Park
 - Motorcoach tour of Southern Rim vantage points
 - Free time within the National Park
- Phoenix area– 2-nights, resort lodging
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Heard Museum
- Old Town Scottsdale



Northern California Railways & National Parks

May 6–15, 2024

\$6,269 per person double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- San Francisco – 3-night stay; guided sightseeing
- 4 National Parks – Presidio, Yosemite, Sequoia, Kings Canyon and Muir Woods National Monument
- 4 Rail Excursions – Napa Valley Wine Train, Amtrak California Zephyr, Yosemite Sugar Pine Railroad, Roaring Camp Steam Train Ride
- Sausalito
- Napa Valley – Winery visit
- Lake Tahoe
- Boyden Cavern
- Monterey Peninsula
 - Carmel by the Sea
 - 17-Mile Drive
 - Cannery Row
- Santa Cruz
- Silicon Valley – Apple Visitor’s Center



Lake Tahoe & More

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

\$X,XXX per person double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- xxxxxxxxx



American Majesty

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

\$X,XXX per person double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- xxxxxxxxx



Full itinerary & more information at AAA.com/FeaturedVacations



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

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2024 SMALL GROUP ACTIVE ADVENTURE TOURS

Book & Deposit by 2/29 and SAVE \$50 per person
double occupancy! NEW BOOKINGS ONLY

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

Travel in a smaller but very comfortable Mercedes Sprinter (or similar) for more flexibility and access to places a bus can't go. See sights, hike trails and drive scenic roads large groups can't. Small group travel allows you more enrichment opportunities as you journey off the beaten path. Enhance your appreciation of natural wonders, make new discoveries and personal connections on these intimate, active adventures.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Missoula, MT, National Bison Range, Flathead Lake, Big Fork, Two Medicine Lake, Running Eagle Falls, Appistaki Falls, Glacier National Park, St. Mary's, Going to the Sun Road, Whitefish, MT, Guided hiking and optional boating on Lake McDonald, Boating (float trip or whitewater rafting) on Middle Fork of Flathead River

GLACIER
NATIONAL PARK
MONTANA**\$3,789** Per person/double occupancy
JULY 7-13; JULY 14-20;
AUG. 4-10; AUG. 11-17; AUG. 25-31ARIZONA
ADVENTURE
ARIZONA • NEVADA**\$3,405** Per person/double occupancy
MAR. 31-APRIL 7; MAY 12-19;
SEPT. 22-29; OCT. 20-27CANYONS
OF ESCALANTE
UTAH • NEVADA**\$3,115** Per person/double occupancy
MAY 5-12; OCT. 6-13TRAIL OF THE
ANCIENTS
NEW MEXICO • COLORADO • UTAH**\$2,925** Per person/double occupancy
MAY 11-19; SEPT. 14-22;
OCT. 19-27GRAND CIRCLE
EXPERIENCE
NEVADA • UTAH • ARIZONA • COLORADO**\$4,755** Per person/double occupancy
MAY 13-24; JUNE 16-27; AUG 18-29
SEPT. 15-26; OCT. 13-24GRAND TETON & YELLOWSTONE
NATIONAL PARK
UTAH • WYOMING • MONTANA**\$3,789** Per person/double occupancy
MAY 19-26; JUNE 9-16; JULY 14-21;
AUG. 11-18; SEPT. 29-OCT. 6; OCT. 13-20BLACK HILLS OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA**\$2,539** Per person/double occupancy
MAY 20-25; JUNE 3-8;
JULY 8-13; AUG. 26-31YOSEMITE, SEQUOIA & THE
CALIFORNIA COAST
CALIFORNIA**\$4,369** Per person/double occupancy
JUNE 9-16; JULY 21-28OREGON
SOUTH
OREGON**\$3,019** Per person/double occupancy
JUNE 9-16, 2024, AUG. 11-18COLORADO
NATIONAL PARKS
COLORADO**\$3,115** Per person/double occupancy
JUNE 16-23; AUG. 4-11;
SEPT. 15-22MAGNIFICENT
ALASKA
ALASKA**\$7,899** Per person/double occupancy
JUNE 16-26; JULY 21-31;
AUG. 4-14RAILROADS OF
THE OLD WEST
COLORADO**\$3,119** Per person/double occupancy
JUNE 23-29OREGON
NORTH
OREGON**\$2,745** Per person/double occupancy
AUG. 5-11Full itinerary & more information at
[AAA.com/SmallGroups](https://www.aaa.com/SmallGroups)

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

CIE Tours *Ireland and Scotland*

Special Offer:

Book & Deposit by
2/29/24
Save \$50
off per person
double/single occupancy**from**
\$3,745.00
per person, double occupancy
land only

Irish Heritage (7 nights)

July 21 - 29 / August 25 - September 2 / September 8 - 16

HIGHLIGHTS:

- House of Waterford Crystal
- Dromoland Castle
- Ring of Kerry
- King John's Castle
- Cliffs of Moher
- Sheepdog Demonstration
- Experience Glasnevin
- Irish National Stud
- Medieval Castle Banquet
- Dromoland Castle Dinner
- The Merry Ploughboy Pub
- Jameson Experience Midleton

Ireland is the land of breathtaking landscapes, friendly people, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences. CIE Tours' vacations to Ireland help you experience the real Emerald Isle, whether you're raising a pint with new Irish friends at a lively pub, following in the footsteps of your ancestors among the rolling hills and picturesque castles, or enjoying the best of Irish culture through tastings and authentic experiences. You'll see Ireland in a whole new light.

Special Offer:

Book & Deposit by
2/29/24
Save \$50
off per person
double/single occupancy**from**
\$4,195.00
per person, double occupancy
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Taste of Scotland & Ireland (11 nights)

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

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Glasgow
- Loch Lomond
- Loch Ness Cruise
- Blair Athol Distillery
- Scottish evening - food and entertainment
- Edinburgh
- Belfast
- Dublin
- Killarney
- Blarney Castle
- Ring of Kerry
- Cliffs of Moher
- Galway

Let Scotland's lochs and highlands enchant you. There's a reason a unicorn is the symbol of Scotland—it's a land of pure magic. Travel there with CIE Tours to discover every enchanting vista, from the heather-covered Highlands to the depths of Loch Ness. Explore the rich Scottish culture, beyond the traditions of tartan, whisky and bagpipes. Let us introduce you to the charms of Scotland.

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

MOUNTAIN PANORAMA

Alaska Adventure • June 14-26
from \$3,004.00 per person double occupancy



7 night Cruise followed by 5 night Land Tour:

Enjoy frontier hospitality in the small mountain towns of Girdwood and Talkeetna, along with two nights in the wilderness on Denali, for a rich Alaskan experience.

ITINERARY:

- DAY 1 – Vancouver, British Columbia
Radiance of the Seas®
- DAY 2 – Inside Passage cruising
- Day 3 – Juneau
- Day 4 – Icy Strait Point
- Day 5 – Sitka
- Day 6 – Skagway
- Day 7 – Hubbard Glacier cruising
- Day 8 – Seward/Alyeska (Girdwood)
- Day 9 – Alyeska (Girdwood) Anchorage/Denali
- Day 10 – Denali
- Day 11 – Denali/Talkeetna
- Day 12 – Talkeetna/Anchorage
- Day 13 – Anchorage

ALASKA WILDERNESS SPECTACULAR "Southbound"

Cruise Tour • July 13-26
from \$3,274.00 per person double occupancy



6 night Land Tour followed by 7 night Cruise:

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

ITINERARY:

- DAY 1 – Fairbanks
- DAY 2 – Fairbanks
- Day 3 – Fairbanks/Denali
- Day 4 – Denali
- Day 5 – Talkeetna
- Day 6 – Talkeetna/Anchorage
- Day 7 – Anchorage/Seward
- Day 8 – Hubbard Glacier cruising
- Day 9 – Juneau
- Day 10 – Skagway
- Day 11 – Icy Strait Point
- Day 12 – Ketchikan
- Day 13 – Inside Passage cruising
- Day 14 – Vancouver, British Columbia

GRAND MOUNTAIN MARVELS

"Northbound"
Cruise Tour • Aug. 9-22
from \$3,072.00 per person double occupancy



7 night Cruise followed by 6 night Land Tour:

With two nights in Denali and a half-day cruise around Resurrection Bay, this 13-night holiday is filled with opportunities to see Alaskan wildlife by land and sea.

ITINERARY:

- DAY 1 – Vancouver, British Columbia
Radiance of the Seas®
- DAY 2 – Inside Passage cruising
- DAY 3 – Juneau
- DAY 4 – Icy Strait Point
- DAY 5 – Sitka
- DAY 6 – Skagway
- DAY 7 – Hubbard Glacier cruising
- DAY 8 – Seward
- DAY 9 – Seward/Anchorage
- DAY 10 – Anchorage/Talkeetna
- DAY 11 – Talkeetna/Denali
- DAY 12 – Denali
- DAY 13 – Denali/Fairbanks
- DAY 14 – Fairbanks

ALASKA WILDERNESS SPECTACULAR "Northbound"

Cruise Tour • Aug. 23 – Sept. 5
from \$2,984.00 per person double occupancy



7 night Cruise followed by 6 night Land Tour:

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

ITINERARY:

- DAY 1 – Vancouver, British Columbia
Radiance of the Seas®
- DAY 2 – Inside Passage cruising
- Day 3 – Juneau
- Day 4 – Icy Strait Point
- Day 5 – Sitka
- Day 6 – Skagway
- Day 7 – Hubbard Glacier cruising
- Day 8 – Seward/Anchorage
- Day 9 – Anchorage/Talkeetna
- Day 10 – Talkeetna/Denali
- Day 11 – Denali
- Day 12 – Denali/Fairbanks
- Day 13 – Fairbanks
- Day 14 – Fairbanks



Full itinerary &
more information at
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RoyalCaribbean
INTERNATIONAL

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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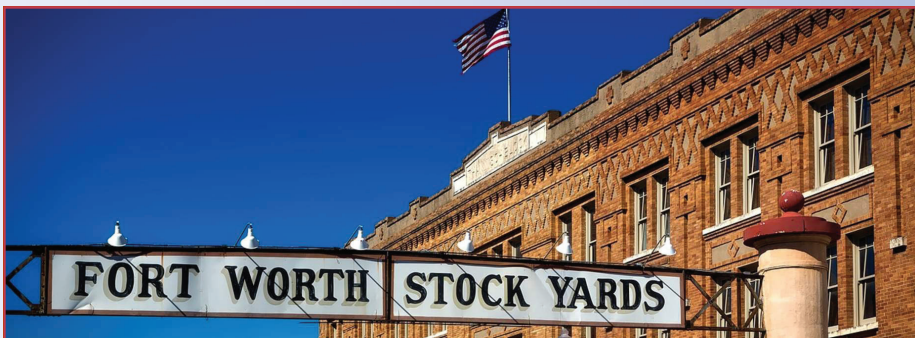
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DEPARTURES

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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 Cleveland, 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.



Full itinerary & more information at
AAA.com/FeaturedVacations

Celebrity **X** Cruises®

2024 No-fly Motorcoach Cruises



CLEVELAND TO BALTIMORE MD DEPARTURES

April 12-20, 2024	Southeast Coast	<i>Vision of the Seas®</i>	from \$1,315
July 25-Aug 3, 2024	Bermuda	<i>Vision of the Seas®</i>	from \$1,409
Nov 9-24, 2024	Southern Caribbean	<i>Vision of the Seas®</i>	from \$1,304
Dec 7-19, 2024	Southern Caribbean	<i>Vision of the Seas®</i>	from \$1,267

CLEVELAND TO NJ AND NY DEPARTURES

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

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

Rates are per person (double occupancy), are subject to availability at time of booking and include roundtrip motorcoach transportation from the Cleveland 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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No-fly, no-drive AAA MOTORCOACH VACATIONS

CLEVELAND DEPARTURES

DC SPRINGTIME

April 18-21 • \$1029.00

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Illuminated Monuments tour
- Full day guided DC sightseeing
- Half day Arlington Cemetery tour
- Flight 93 Memorial

HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL AND MACKINAC ISLAND

May 5-10, 2024 • \$1,815

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Holland Tulip Festival – guided tour; Nelis' Dutch village: Tulip Immersion Garden; Evening performances
- Mackinac Island – 2 nights lodging; Carriage tour; Grand Hotel Luncheon
- Dow Gardens
- Frankenmuth

DANIEL IN LANCASTER PA

June 7-9, 2024 • \$779

HIGHLIGHTS:

- "Daniel" performance at Sight & Sound Theater
- "The Full Monty" performance at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater
- Kreider Farms Tour
- Julius Sturgis Pretzel tour

HUDSON VALLEY HOLIDAY & NEW YORK CITY

July 8-13, 2024 • \$1,739

HIGHLIGHTS:

- West Point
- Hudson River Cruise
- Vanderbilt Mansion
- FDR Home & Museum
- Walkway over Hudson
- Manhattan City tour
- Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island
- 911 Museum
- Kykuit Mansion



FRENCH TOAST: MONTREAL/QUEBEC CITY

August 19-24, 2024 • \$2,179

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sunset Dinner cruise at Thousand Islands
- Kingston Market Square
- Montreal City guided tour
- Quebec City guided tour
- Boldt Castle tour

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



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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 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.

It's good to be king at regal residences

Take a peek inside Britain's favorite royal haunts; see history

Have you ever wondered how Princess Diana lived, or where Henry VIII shared quality time with his six wives?

The private homes and haunts of Britain's royal family are not as private as you might think. Many are open to the public. Have a look inside some of Britain's most celebrated royal residences and attractions and make yourself at home.

One of Britain's most recognizable landmarks, *Buckingham Palace*, is the official residence of the King. Every August and September, His Majesty opens his home to visitors, giving you the chance to tour the lavish State Rooms and Garden. You'll also see incredible treasures from the Royal Collection along the way. And don't forget to catch the spectacular *Changing of the Guard* ceremony — daily from May to July, and on alternative days for the rest of the year.

Kensington Palace has been home to many members of the Royal Family, including Queen Victoria, Diana, Princess of Wales, and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It was also the birthplace and childhood home of Queen Victoria. Kensington Palace recently added a pair of



MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME – Visitors can tour State Rooms and Garden at Buckingham Palace. Image: Visit Britain.

permanent exhibitions. *Victoria: A Royal Childhood* is a reimagined visitor route through the State Rooms, where the princess spent her formative years. *Victoria: Woman and Crown* in the Piggott gallery examines her later life and legacy.

Hampton Court Palace, about 35 minutes south of London,

illustrates the magnificence of the Tudor era. Step back in time for a taste of Tudor life in Henry VIII's kitchens or lose yourself in the famous Hampton Court Maze. The Hampton Court gardens are internationally renowned for being among the most beautiful in the world.

With a stunning ceiling painted

by Rubens in 1635, *Banqueting House* at Whitehall, is all that remains of the 1,500-room Whitehall Palace, home of British monarchs from 1530 until 1698. In 1649, King Charles I was executed on a scaffold built outside the building.

Legend has it that if the ravens ever leave the *Tower of London*, both the tower and the monarchy will crumble. One of the world's most famous fortresses, the Tower has seen duty as a royal palace, prison, armory and even a zoo. Today, it's a World Heritage Site, and prepare to be dazzled by the Crown Jewels, the world-famous collection of 23,578 gemstones. Stand on the spot where Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard lost their heads. The Yeoman Warders or Beefeaters have been guarding the Tower since 1485.

Windsor Castle, an hour outside of London, is where the Royal Family heads for weekend retreats, state visits and special events. A royal residence more than 900 years, visitors can tour the State Apartments, furnished with treasures from the Royal Collection, including paintings by Holbein and Rubens, and a suit of armor made in 1540 and worn by King Henry VIII.

Tricks to keep windshield free of ice

Ways to possibly skip scraping and see road ahead

Waking up to a frost-laden windshield is a disheartening way for commuters to begin a day — particularly if they're running late.

It's a scenario too familiar. The windshield is covered and the wiper blades are stuck to the glass. It's a hinderance that's going to take ample time to clear. Driving with iced-up windows is dangerous and against the law in many states.

Removing the ice is a two-step process. Turn on the vehicle's defrosters and begin scraping the windshield, back window, door windows and rearview mirrors.

Auto-glass experts recommend using a proper ice scraper or deicer to avoid damaging the glass. Use a pump-oriented deicer spray rather than an aerosol if it's a commercial brand.

Only use the ice scraper on the windows. You risk damaging the finish and exposing metal surfaces on any surface other than the windows. You also could damage the finish and expose metal surfaces to corrosion by trying to scrape snow or ice off painted surfaces.

It's unwise to attempt to melt the ice from your windshield by pouring



FRIGID CONDITIONS – Drivers should make sure they pull the wiper blades from an ice-covered windshield before turning on the wipers. Image: remik44992. Adobe Stock.

hot water on it. Glass has a hard texture, but it's not flexible enough to permit rapid uneven expansion. Thermal shock could shatter it. And always avoid turning on the windshield wipers before they are freed of snow and ice.

Drivers also could cover the windshield. It's an alternative to scraping. The shrouds are relatively inexpensive and many are durable enough

to handle anything that is dumped on them. Some have magnetic edges that quickly attach. Others, like FrostGuard, feature a security panel that can be dropped between the doorjamb and window to prevent theft, making it ideal for parking lots and public places. Try placing a piece of cardboard or a plastic tablecloth over the windshield and secure it with the wipers.

Scraping ice off the side mirrors can be challenging. Cover them with large zip-lock bags or a plastic grocery bag to prevent ice from forming.

The most irritating frost forms inside the windshield. It's caused by humid air inside the vehicle that comes in contact with a cold windshield. Frost easily can form. Wet clothing, a steaming mug of coffee or tracking snow or water into the vehicle all contribute to the issue.

Regulating the temperature and humidity inside the vehicle are key to preventing it. Be sure the intake vents at the base of the windshield are free of ice and snow and lower a window to allow cold, dry air into the car. Brush off as much snow and ice as possible before entering the vehicle and remove wet mats and let them dry overnight. Turn off the HVAC system's recirculating setting and set the vents to the fresh-air position when driving to keep the windows from fogging.

Don't forget to remove any snow that's on top of your vehicle and on the hood. Snow can fall onto your windshield or could blow onto other vehicle's windshields, decreasing visibility. Keeping your windshield clean will make it easier to see road conditions ahead.



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:	Cleveland

*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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