





Travel | Insurance/Financial | Automotive

| Member Savings

Vol. 31 No. 2

#### WESTMORELAND REGION

**FEBRUARY 2024** 



### Member Choice Vacations® offers immersive experience

## **Southern Stars: Unveiling** Australia & New Zealand

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

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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.



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.

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seven business days prior to the membership expiration date. Enroll by using your checking account and your account will be charged one day in advance of the expiration date. To learn more or enroll in AAA's Auto Pay Program, call 1-800-441-5008 or visit your local AAA branch office. To sign up online, log in to your membership account at AAA.com and select "Enroll" in the Bill.

#### REAL ID Extended to May 7, 2025

The Department of Homeland Security extended the REAL ID deadline to May 7, 2025. The REAL ID Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for official purposes licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards. Beginning May 7, 2025, every state and territory resident will need to present a REAL ID compliant license/ID, or another acceptable form of ID for boarding commercial aircraft, accessing Federal facilities and entering nuclear plants. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) considers a current passport or military ID acceptable identification for boarding an aircraft. For more information on Pennsylvania's REAL ID compliant license, visit dmv.pa.gov/ REALID/Pages/default.aspx.

#### **AAA Members Save More at Shell**

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

#### Find Lower Gas Prices with Auto Club app



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

AAA Battery Service offers quick, accurate and convenient mobile-battery testing and replacement. State-of-theart diagnostic equipment will confirm whether your battery will hold a charge or if the problem lies deeper in the electrical system. The service is included with your AAA membership. You

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **TAKE CHARGE**

Count on AAA to turn battery problems into solutions. AAA Battery Service is available from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven-days a week. To verify AAA Battery Service availability in your area, call our toll-free number: 1-800-222-4357.

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

ay now. Or pay later.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

the vehicle

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

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

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

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

AAA recommends drivers take the

following preventative steps to reduce vehicle damage:

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

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

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



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

#### From Where I Sit

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

By Terri Petrick President, AAA East Central

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

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



**Terri Petrick** 

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

Let's go over some options.

If you want to try your hand at cooking a special

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

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

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



Image: uv\_group. Adobe Stock.

#### **Membership has its Privileges**



Scan to search AAA's Discounts & Rewards program.

truly next generation "gastro pub" expe-

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

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

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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.

#### AAA DIRECTORY

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## Harry& David

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Go to AAA.com/discounts and start saving today.

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

By Robin Jones

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Graphic: AAA.

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

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

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

The six profiles identified by the most recent TSCI are:

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

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

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

quickly.

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

Most Dangerous Drivers (2.4%) –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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fried rice, curries, grilled meat and fish skewers.

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

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

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

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

# Nitrogen in tires is not worth the effort

itrogen-filled tires are said to slow the loss of tire pressure. It's been proved that gas escapes more slowly than air. Better gas mileage and extending the life of the tires are the benefits of moving on fully inflated tires.

Nitrogen also is said to prevent tire "rot" by limiting moisture that occurs inside the tire and stops corrosion of the wheel – an issue that is caused by contact with moisture.

These claims, however, are questionable. The advantages of tires filled with nitrogen rather than air, aren't big enough to justify the cost or the inconvenience. On a new car, the cost can range from \$70 to as much as \$179. On existing tires, owners can expect to pay as much as \$30 per tire for service to drain air and refill with N2. Refills could run \$5 to \$10 per tire. Drivers can expect to do this less often with air-filled tires, but they'll need to be topped off every two or three months.

What makes nitrogen-filled tires unique?

Small amounts of air naturally leak from tires over a period of time,

particularly when they are subject to large temperature swings. This is because the walls of the tires are slightly porous. When a tire gets hot, the air inside expands. The added pressure pushes minute quantities of air through the side pores, forcing drivers to have air occasionally added to their tires.

Promoters of nitrogen tires stress that they don't lose pressure as quickly as air-filled tires. Since nitrogen molecules are bigger than normal air molecules, it's more difficult for them to leak. Therefore, drivers will be operating vehicles on tires that always are properly inflated, resulting in better fuel economy and longer tire life.

Nitrogen will slow the amount of inflation lost by a tire by about one-third of what it would experience with air. Drivers still will need to check and top off their tires' air roughly every other month to remain within ideal inflation range.

Drivers should expect to spend more having their tires filled with nitrogen than they would save on gas and tire-tread life, making it more economical to keep the tires filled with air



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tourism bonds people, and river



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name.

Admit it. You sang that previous sentence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Greenland becomes more intriguing with each fact. Its unvarnished beauty



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

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

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

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

roads outside city limits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Jewel of the Seas (need content)

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Sunday, August 11	Copenhagen, Denmark
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Tuesday, August 13	Gdansk, Poland
Wednesday, August 14	Klaipeda, Lithuania
Thursday, August 15	Riga, Lativa
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

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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, 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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Add On Excursion: Night Kayak Tour St. Thomas-Westin Frenchman's Reef - \$59 per person Night Kayak / GLOW tour is an award-winning excursion based out of the newly renovated Westin Frenchman's Reef resort. This 1st in the world tour started right here! Upon arrival "get your glow on" literally with glow paint - adds to your awesome memory. Note: this tour is a relaxing paddle, fun for all ages (minimum 3 years old).



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Located 25 minutes from Cancun International Airport along the lively Cancun strip in the Hotel Zone, nestled between Nichupte Lagoon and the Caribbean Sea. Soak in unmatched ocean and lagoon sunset views from one of two connecting towers, each offering their own unique vibe. Become immersed in an eclectic entertainment scene at the rooftop with an upbeat infinity pool overlooking spectacular white sands and turquoise waters.

#### leasant Activities Add On:

Drive your own 2 passenger capacity boat (speedboat or Aqua ray) on a breathtaking voyage across the Nichupte lagoon on a guided tour. Explore the wonders of Cancun jungle until you reach the living coral reefs where you will experience the thrills of

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ackage includes roundtrip airfare, inter-country airfare and 3-nights otel accommodation in each city

\$3,899.00 Boasting a prime location in Britain's royal and political heartland, the **Conrad London St. James** sits on the doorstep of world-renowned attractions such as Westminster, St James's Park, and Buckingham Palace. The hotel offers a chic, contemporary design, intuitive service, and creative technology.



**Melia Paris Champs-Elysees** is a boutique hotel that offers comfortable accommodations near Paris' most popular attractions. Amongst its facilities, the hotel provides an extensive breakfast buffet, a pleasant and welcoming bar to relax and enjoy a cocktail, a library room for events or meetings, and 61 bright, quiet and elegant rooms on Victor-Hugo Avenue.

Le Meridien Visconti Rome, a magnificent hotel in Rome's chic Prati neighborhood, has been reinvented into a stylish mid-century modern space. Elegantly designed rooms and suites feature floor-to-ceiling windows, Le Meridien Signature Beds and a host of amenities for your comfort and well-being.

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See the best that England's capital has to offer on a full-day city tour of London! Explore St Paul's Cathedral with a guide, then make a photo stop at Westminster Abbey. Watch the Changing of the Guard ceremony outside Buckingham Palace and have some free time for lunch around the UNESCO-listed Tower of London. Finish up with a sightseeing cruise down the River Thames.

#### Paris Walking Food Tour - \$121.87 per per

Like Parisians, in Montmartre we'll visit high-end boutiques for the finest ingredients, sampling along the way. Your guide reveals history, local shops, and delicious selections like cheeses, wines, cured meats, crepes, and pastries. Or, in Notre Dame, indulge in classic French delicacies and explore the birthplace of Paris. From viennoiseries to oysters, regional tarts to desserts, we'll discover hidden gems near Pont Marie. Immerse yourself in local life and the gastronomic influence of Parisian history.

Rome in a Day (Small Group) - \$180.03 perperson
If you're visiting the Eternal City for just a few days, join us on our Rome in a Day tour which features the
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# DEPARTURE

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#### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

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- Grand Canyon National Park
   2 nights lodging within National Park - Motorcoach tour of Southern Rim vantage
- Free time within the National Park
- Phoenix area-2-nights, resort lodging
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Heard Museum
- Old Town Scottsdale



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\$6,269 per person double occupancy

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- Snake River float trip
- Salt Lake City and the Mormon Tabernacle



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- Rio Grande Gorge
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- Turquoise Trail
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
- Sandia Peak Tramway
- Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta including Dawn Patrol, Twilight Twinkle









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- St. Michael Island
- Azores
- Ponta Delgada with choice of tour: Garden

- Experience • Terra Nostra
- Sete Cidades
- Madeira Island
- Espetada Dinner



- National Park
- Folkloric Show
- Porto Moniz



### **Flavors of Portugal** & Spain

Sept. 8-23, 2024

#### **\$7,399** per person double occupancy **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- RT air with airport/
- hotel transfers • 14-nt. hotel
- accommodations
- Lisbon • Tagus River Cruise
- Tomar, Porto
- Port Wine Tastings Braga, Douro River
- Douro River Cruise
- Salamanca
- La Rioia
- Pamplona • Bullfighter's Home Experience
- San Sebastian
- Bilbao
- Guggenheim Museum
- Pintxos Tapas Pub Crawl



### **Italy: Amalfi Coast** to Puglia

Ravello

Matera

• Tarantella Folk

Performance

Alberobello

Music & Dance

• Ape Calessino Tour

• Lecce

Ostuni

Sept. 12-25, 2024

#### \$6,649 per person double occupancy **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- RT air with airport/
- hotel transfer's • 12 nt.
- accommodations
- Naples
- Pompeii
- Wine Tasting Minori
- Amalfi
- Positano



### Mediterranean **Coastal Journey**

Sept. 21-Oct. 5, 2024

**\$7,749** per person double occupancy

**Special Offer:** 

Book & Deposit by 2/29/24

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

#### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

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





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### LAST CHANCE!



### Canadian Rockies featuring Rocky Mountaineer

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

#### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- Vancouver 2-night stay
- Guided touring to include Stanley Park
- Rocky Mountaineer SilverLeaf excursions – Vancouver to Kamloops; Kamloops to Lake Louise
- Chateau Lake Louise overnight stay
- Banff 2-night stay
- Guided sightseeing; free time
- Icefields Parkway guided sightseeing • Icefields Adventure - Choice of Tour
- **PRICE INCLUDES:**
- Roundtrip air (subject to availability at time of booking) from participating cities to Vancouver, BC, and from Calgary, AB
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers
- Chartered transportation
- Calgary
- Rocky Mountaineer two SilverLeaf rail excursions
- 7-night hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling, one bag per person (under 50 pounds)

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







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hosted by Dr. Pilar Fish of the National Aviary

NATIONAL AVIARY PITTSBURGH, PA October 24 - November 5, 2024 • \$4,299 per person double occupancy

#### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

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

**PRICE INCLUDES:** 

- Coffee Plantation
- Arenal Volcano
- · Roundtrip air (subject to availability at time of booking) from participating cities to San Jose/from Liberia
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers
- Chartered transportation
- 12-night hotel accommodations

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

• 24 meals (restaurants subject to

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







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#### PITTSBURGH TO BALTIMORE MD DEPARTURES

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

#### PITTSBURGH TO NJ AND NY DEPARTURES

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

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

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







Ships' registry: RCI — Bahamas CCL — Bahamas

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### **Hawaiian Adventure**

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

#### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

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

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

#### **PRICE INCLUDES:**

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

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









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

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



### WASHINGTON D.C. IN BLOOM

oarts from Canonsburg, PA &

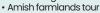
April 5-7, 2024 • \$785

- Guided touring of D.C. to include
- monuments and memorials
- 2 nights at Gaylord Resort
- National Mall
- Dinner in Old Town Alexandria • Brunch cruise on the Potomac



## LANCASTER AND SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE - DANIEL

- April 23-24, 2024 \$489
- Kitchen Kettle Village
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#### **HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL AND MACKINAC ISLAND**

May 5-10, 2024 • \$1,815

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



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

May 24-27, 2024 • \$1,399

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



June 5-7, 2024 • \$765

- 2-night stay in Niagara Falls
- Guided tour of Niagara Falls and surrounding scenic points

  Dinner at Skylon Tower

**NIAGARA FALLS GETAWAY** 

- Niagara-on-the-Lake Welland Shippina Canal
- Winery Tour and Tasting
- Dinner at Table Rock House Restaurant



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

June 9-14, 2024 • \$1,675

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





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

### Celebrity and the many itinerary options to sail in 2024

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

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

#### **6-NIGHT ITINERARY:**

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

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



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

#### **8-NIGHT ITINERARY:**

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

- San Juan, Puerto Rico

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



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

#### 7-NIGHT ITINERARY:

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

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



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

#### 7-NIGHT ITINERARY:

- Day 1 Seattle, WA Embark
- Day 2 At Sea
- Day 3 Ketchikan, Alaska
- Juneau, Alaska Day 4
- Day 5 Skagway, Alaska
- Day 6 At Sea
- Day 8 Disembark Seattle, WA

- Inside Passage Cruising
- Victoria, British Columbia Day 7

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



Soak up the sun, salt breezes, and stunning scenery in newly expanded open-air spaces on the Celebrity Ascent. Savor fine dining that rivals anything you'd find on land. And discover even more

#### ways to relax and renew. 12-NIGHT ITINERARY:

Day 1 Barcelona, Spain-Embark

Day 2 At Sea

Day 3 Seville, Spain

Day 4 Gibraltar, United Kingdom

Day 5 Malaga, Spain

Day 6 At Sea

Day 7 Nice, France Day 8 Florence/Pisa, Italy

**Day 9** Depart Florence/Pisa Day 10 Rome, Italy

Day 11 Santa Margherita, Italy Day 12 At Sea

Day 13 Disembark - Seattle, WA







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

#### Tips From a AAA Travel Advisor: Erin Zmuda

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

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



AAA Travel Advisor: Erin Zmuda

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Pa. small towns often have most to share Host of quaint communities ideal destinations for getaways

esearching destinations for a short getaway often causes many to only consider popular hotspots.

Major cities quickly come to mind. Beach towns, as well. But what if there was a gem shrouded by the temptation of bright lights or sandy shores? A small town that's within a reasonable vicinity? That could change a determined traveler's mind.

These towns replace glamor and glitz with peace and beauty. Their mom-and-pop atmospheres are a covered-bridge jaunt to another realm – one that resides in an antique setting that provides guests a needed hiatus from their everyday grinds.

Pennsylvania is home to many of these charming towns. Some of its most enticing destinations include:

Johnstown – Synonymous with a tragic flood in 1889, it's situated among the Allegheny region. Visit the Johnstown Flood Museum to learn how the town reinvented itself after 20 million tons of water nearly destroyed it. The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art is a soothing way to spend an afternoon, watch a performance by the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra, or visit the Johnstown Inclined Plane – the steepest vehicular inclined plane in the world.

Lititz – Located in Lancaster County, Lititz is best known for its tasty American snacks. Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery was the first of its kind



**FULL STEAM AHEAD** – The Strasburg Rail Road provides guests with fantastic scenery of many of Pennsylvania's best farmlands. *Image: Ispi138. Adobe Stock.* 

in the U.S. Guests can tour the facility and take a lesson in pretzel twisting. The Wilbur Chocolate Factory has been operating since 1894 and remains famous for its Wilbur Buds – specially blended chocolate shaped to resemble a flower bud. Tour the neighborhoods in this Dutch Country town and admire the architecture that dates more than three centuries.

**Bloomsburg** – This Susquehanna Valley town combines art, architecture

and history. It's easily walkable to see the myriad of shops, art galleries and entertainment venues. Bloomsburg's unique eateries feature specialty hoagies and homemade treats from momand-pop bakeries.

Milford – Hidden within the Pocono Mountains, Milford has a host of beautiful Victorian homes to visit. Guests should begin at Grey Towers, a National Historic Site and former home to a previous state governor, Gifford Pinchot. The Columns Museum is a 22-room mansion that sheds light on local history. Visitors can see the flag that was draped from the Presidential box the night of Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Go hiking, biking or view the scenic waterfalls at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Lancaster – No place in the state is better associated with the Amish community. Absorb the countryside and share roads with horse-drawn buggies. Lancaster Central Market is the oldest public market in the U.S., operating since the early 1700s. Visit the Amish Farm and House to tour an Old Order Amish home and farm, a peek inside the lives of Pennsylvania's strong Dutch heritage.

Strasburg – Located at the cross-roads of Lancaster and Philadelphia, Strasburg transports guests to past times. A stagecoach stop and trading center in the 18th and 19th centuries, this town continues to boast artifacts from those eras that define small-town living. Explore thousands of acres of farmland onboard via the Strasburg Rail Road. Visits to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and the National Toy Train Museum are essential following a train ride.

These are only a handful of Pennsylvania's quaint communities that are hiding in plain sight. Sometimes, the best options can be found where they're least expected.

# Snow, ice on car shouldn't be ignored Failure to remove them could cause crashes, injuries

Overnight snow mixes with frigid temperatures to create an icy layer on our vehicles by morning. Snow blankets the roof, hood and windows, hiding the irritating concoction.

Even worse, we're running late and are rushing to make it to work on time. This could be called the "peephole-driving season." But that isn't an option, anymore – at least in Pennsylvania. Christine's Law, signed into law in 2022, requires drivers to thoroughly clear their vehicles of snow and ice.

Removing ice can be difficult, but there are some tricks. Spatulas, CD cases and credit cards are commonly used to scrape ice and snow off car windows. Auto-glass experts recommend using a proper ice-scraper or deicer spray. Only use a scraper on windows to avoid damaging the finish, exposing metal surfaces to corrosion.

Investing in a windshield cover also is an alternative to scraping. They're relatively inexpensive – ranging from \$20 to \$30 – and are dependable. An alternative is placing a piece of cardboard or a plastic tablecloth over the windshield and securing it with the wipers.

An unconventional solution, mean-



**SCRAPING BY** – Clearing snow and ice off your vehicle is essential to keeping our highways safe. *Image: Natasa. Adobe Stock.* 

while, might seem difficult to believe. Cut a potato in half and rub it over the windshield the night before a heavy frost. Potato juice functions like antifreeze by lowering the freezing point of water.

Hot water is not recommended. The significant difference in temperatures

causes a thermal shock that could crack the windshield. Also, water that tumbles to the ground could freeze and create a risk.

Frost could form inside windows if humid air from inside the vehicle reaches a cold windshield. Wet clothes, a hot cup of coffee or tracking snow or

water into the vehicle all could contribute to the problem. It's important to regulate the temperature and humidity inside the vehicle. Remove as much snow and ice as possible before entering.

These actions are crucial to maintaining safety on our roadways, particularly during the most dangerous season. Often, drivers remove just enough snow and ice from their windshields to have limited visibility. Know as "peephole driving," it drastically reduces vision. Chunks of ice or snow could project from the vehicle, causing danger to other drivers.

Snow ignored on your hood or front bumper could blow onto your windshield and obstruct your vision. Snow blowing off your roof could blind other drivers.

Simply put, never drive before all the snow and ice from your vehicle have been removed and defrosted. Set vents to fresh-air positions to prevent windows from fogging. Open a window as soon as you enter the vehicle to speed up the process. And turn on your lights when daytime visibility is an issue.

Snow and ice form a dangerous combination. Don't let them lock you up in a terrifying situation.





#### Australia & New Zealand Uncovered



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

When: October 7-28, 2024

Cost: \$12,099

(airfare included)

\$200 (Premier), Member

\$175 (Plus),

\$150 (Classic)

Pittsburgh Airport:

\*Person double occupancy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A glass-bottomed catamaran will take 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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