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The Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ returns to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on January 19, 20 and 21. The region's largest and most immersive travel show will bring more than 100,000-square feet of travel vendors, exclusive savings, displays of vacationing options and more.

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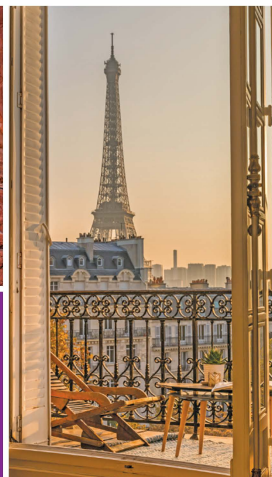
AAA Travel Advisors will be on-hand to do the work and research for you and make sure you're ready for your trip. Their knowledge comes from first-hand experiences, allowing them to informatively suggest a variety of options meant make your wishes come true! So, let's begin to dream.

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

continued on pg 21



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Wexford Branch Office set to relocate

Beginning soon, the AAA Branch Office located in Wexford will relocate to a different space in the same shopping complex that it's currently in. All current member services will still be offered. More details will be announced as they are available.

New branch opening in McMurray

AAA East Central expanded its footprint to better serve its members in Western Pennsylvania with the opening of a new branch office in McMurray. It opened **December 18** and is located at 4000 Washington Road Unit 206. Members can contact the branch by calling 724-260-2168.

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See page 9 for more information.



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AAA Motorist

Western Pennsylvania

Official publication of
AAA East Central
Published monthly (except bimonthly
Aug./Sept., Nov./Dec.) by AAA East Central
5900 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh PA 15206-3854
412-363-5100/1-800-441-5008
USPS 0679-240 ISSN 1066-6869
Periodicals Postage Paid at Pittsburgh PA
Postmaster: Send address changes to
AAA Motorist Western Pennsylvania
c/o AAA, 5900 Baum Blvd
Pittsburgh PA 15206-3854
Subscription Rate: \$1 included in Primary
Membership dues. All others: \$2/year.
Publisher.....Teresa G. Petrick
Managing EditorFrank A. Verdecchia
Editorial Office
5900 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh PA 15206-3854
For advertising inquires, contact
Heather Roth at 412-365-7232
E-mail: motorist@aaaec.com

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From Where I Sit

Take advantage of AAA membership

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

By Terri Petrick
President, AAA East Central

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

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



Terri Petrick

If you resolve to use your AAA membership to its fullest potential throughout the year, you will find yourself saving time and money. I'm not referring only to when you're stranded at the roadside. If you think about it, AAA is like several different companies acting as one to offer a multitude of services to its members. It is an insurance agency, travel agency, roadside assistance provider, discounts and rewards provider and more. All rolled into one!

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

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

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



Image: AAA.

Membership has its Privileges



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Don't assume other driver will stop after crash

What motorists should do if they're victims of a hit-and-run

By Robin Jones

You're driving on a busy highway when you notice a speeding car coming up quickly behind you. It's zigzagging between lanes, narrowly missing other cars. Before you can react, it catches up with you – and clips your car's rear end.

Momentarily stunned, you ask if your passengers are OK, and you start to pull to the side of the road. Then, you get a second shock: The perpetrator is racing away, clearly with no intention of stopping to exchange insurance information.

That's when you realize you're the victim of a hit-and-run driver. At this point, you know the normal post-crash procedures don't necessarily apply. But how can you make sure your insurance claim goes smoothly? Keep the following tips in mind:

DO pull over to a safe place and write down as much information about the other driver and the collision as you can remember. Some or all of the other driver's license plate would be great. But even the other car's make, model and color can help, along with the direction it was headed and any damage the car might have sustained.

DO take pictures of your car and



CAN'T STAY – A driver reacts after seeing the damage done to her vehicle after a hit-and-run accident. Image: pathdoc. Adobe Stock.

the area in which the crash occurred if it is safe to do so. Time-stamped photos of the road and weather conditions, as well as traffic flow, can assist with your claim.

DO ask any witnesses to describe what they saw, and write down their testimony, names and contact information, so that your claims adjuster

can contact them, if necessary.

DO call the police. If the damage is minor or no one is injured, the police might not come to the crash scene. However, your auto insurance policy might require you to notify the police of any hit-and-run accident. If that's the case, be sure to file a police report, whether at the scene,

by phone or at the police station.

DO report the collision accurately when you call your insurer. Intentionally misrepresenting facts about an accident could lead to a suspicion of fraud. Insurance companies are able to easily recognize whether a vehicle came into contact with another vehicle and whether it was in motion when it sustained damage.

In many cases, either the victim, a witness or a surveillance camera can supply enough information for the police to find the fleeing driver. If a hit-and-run driver is caught, he or she could face these serious penalties: fines up to \$10,000 and prison time, depending on the severity of the damage or injuries caused by the crash. Plus, the DMV could put points on the driver's license; the driver's insurer, if he or she has one, could cancel coverage; and anyone injured in the accident could sue.

DON'T play detective and chase the other car. You might be tempted to try to get the license-plate number for your claim, but that could result in unsafe driving and worsen the situation. Remember: As long as you have the appropriate coverage, your insurance company should assist in repairing your car.

Annual new vehicle costs rise above \$12K

Record prices, 90% increase in finance rates drive numbers

The yearly cost to drive a motor vehicle continues to rise.

AAA's Your Driving Costs – a data source for expenses associated with owning and operating a new vehicle – finds that the average cost of owning and operating a new vehicle in 2023 increased significantly. The annual expense of \$12,182 – or \$1,015 monthly – is a sharp increase from 2022, when the average cost topped at \$10,728 – \$894 monthly.

"It's important for car buyers to clearly understand the costs associated with owning a new vehicle," said Greg Brannon, AAA's director of automotive research. "Due to global supply-chain issues and constrained inventory of new vehicles, car prices rose dramatically in 2022. And while the situation continues to improve, the spillover effects are keeping prices high."

The overall average manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of new vehicles in 2023 increased to \$34,976 – an annual increase of \$1,575 from the previous year. It's important to note that MSRP does not always correspond to a consumer's actual purchase price and might vary depending on demand. A higher sticker price directly impacted finance costs, with vehicles boasting an average annual finance of \$1,253 – a 90% increase from the previous year.



MONEYPIT – The cost to own a new car in 2023 rose to above \$12,000. Image: pavel_shishkin. Adobe Stock.

The change in the annual cost of owning a new vehicle also is likely driven by:

- Depreciation, which is the difference between the car's value upon purchase and the value of the car when sold. According to 2023's YDC projections, new vehicles are expected to depreciate by an average of \$4,538 per year over five years of ownership – up 22% from 2022.
- The jump in new-vehicle prices compared to used-vehicle values that have experienced a decline in the past year.

- Automakers have focused on producing more oversized, luxurious and expensive vehicles loaded with extra features that increase prices even more.

Compared to 2022, fuel ranked among one of the higher annual-cost categories. The average cost per mile in 2023 decreased roughly 2 cents per mile. Meanwhile, the cost of charging EVs increased by nearly 2 cents per kWh from 2022. It went from 13.9 cents per kWh to 15.8 cents. The increase is likely accounted for by higher-than-expected inflation, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Your Driving Costs Online Calculator



Or visit [AAA.com/AutoRepair/DrivingCosts](https://www.aaa.com/AutoRepair/DrivingCosts)

Given their size, fuel economy and prices, it should come as no surprise that half-ton pickups have the highest average driving costs among all vehicle categories covered in the YDC study. Pickup trucks excel at hauling and towing, although many buyers don't use them for these purposes. Potential buyers should be aware that the unique capabilities of pickups come at a high cost of more than \$1 per mile.

The pickup market has slowed over the past 12 months, with gas prices trending higher and financial costs climbing.

"The once popular pickup truck is now seeing a slight decline in demand as these vehicles have become increasingly expensive, rivaling the price of many luxury cars," said Brannon. "As interest rates continue to climb, this adds a layer of expense per month that consumers should consider when shopping for their next vehicle."

Destin leading destination on panhandle

Northwest Florida beach town chock full of entertainment

It's not easy to get a grip on Florida's panhandle when planning a trip to the Sunshine State.

It often is overlooked – not by any fault of its own. Florida is synonymous with Walt Disney World™, Space Coast, the keys and a myriad of beaches located on its east and west coasts.

Let's face it, Florida is a vacationer's utopia, making it easy to understand how some locations might not get the love they deserve.

But the panhandle shouldn't be ignored. It's comprised of a number of beach towns, including Pensacola, Navarre and Panama City – all destinations worth a visit. But Destin might be the crowning jewel of Florida's little area that could.

Destin is located on the southwest part of the panhandle on Florida's Emerald Coast, a name that originates from its beautiful, clear green water. The beaches are softer than a country club's fairways, and the atmosphere will have you wondering why it took so long to find this wonderful beach town.

Crab Island is Destin's hallmark attraction. It's only accessible by boat and encompasses approximately four acres. There are plenty of activities, but visitors are recommended to relax, and enjoy the atmosphere and natural beauty.

Enjoy tasty treats from mobile-



PANHANDLE PLAYGROUND – Steps lead down to a pristine beach in Destin.
Image: digidreamgrafix. Adobe Stock.

food boats and floating restaurants. Snorkel, paddleboard, kayak or just sit back and watch the dolphins and other marine life dancing through the Gulf of Mexico.

Destin Commons is a shopping district. More than 90 businesses line the quaint brick roads, giving it a town-like ambiance. It has 500,000-square feet of retail stores, bars and restaurants. It provides a

southern charm for a sun-bathing beach bum.

HarborWalk Village is a bustling hub of entertainment. Guests can take a cruise to dolphin watch, ride in a glass-bottomed boat, take a sunset cruise or board a pirate ship. Enjoy the freshest seafood on the panhandle after a day of wave-running, kayaking or snorkeling. Rise above the heavens while parasailing, ziplining

and rock climbing. Book a helicopter ride to view Destin from new heights. It's enough to boost your adrenaline, while creating unforgettable experiences.

Soft, sugar-white sand awaits at nearby Henderson State Park, a one-mile beach that offers a stark contrast to the emerald-green water and brilliantly colored sunset. Dunes stretch as high as 30 feet in height.

Among nature parks in Destin, it's the last stretch of coastal-dune terrain and a prime spot for ecotourism. Sand pines, scrub oak and sea oats are scattered along the landscape. Wildlife includes rabbits and gopher tortoise on land; herons and sandpipers near shore; and dolphins and sea turtles in the gulf. Migrating monarch butterflies arrive during the fall. Hikers can follow a trail that peaks on a dune.

And don't forget about fishing. Destin is called the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village." Destin Fishing Fleet has more than 250 boats waiting to be chartered. It's one of the largest fleets in the U.S. Reserve a private-group charter or join a shared excursion. The experiences are customizable, choosing from four-hour trips to overnight adventures.

So get a grip on Florida's panhandle. It's destined to satisfy your wanderlust and leave you wondering what took you so long to discover it.

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SERENITY NOW – AmaWaterways ship *AmaSerena* exceeds expectations in all categories. Image: AmaWaterways.

AmaWaterways ship sits at top of class

AmaSerena exceeds high standards on storied Rhine River

It's easy to equate massive ocean-liner ships with cruising. The Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean quickly come to mind. Vessels are the size of cities and carry the population to match.

Cruising, however, represents an evolving market that is growing on smaller waterways. The interest in river cruising has increased significantly the past two decades. And it's not difficult to learn why.

Ships sail on many of the world's most historic rivers. They glide peacefully on the Rhine, Danube, Seine and Moselle, to name a few. They visit myriad countries that have more stories to tell than Shakespeare. Learn about medieval times. Experience new cultures and witness indelible sights that will burnish your mind, strengthen your soul and meet any expectation.

AmaWaterways, meanwhile, plays a leading role in river cruising's climb in popularity. Its 26 ships sail throughout Europe and parts of Africa and Asia.

Its vessels have few peers and share wonderful characteristics.

They're luxurious but not gaudy. Cozy but not crowded. Peaceful but not quiet. And relaxing but never boring.

AmaSerena sits among its finest ships. Its stylish design quickly grabs your attention. Doors slide open upon arrival. The marble floor and gold hand railings sparkle. A glass-encased elevator adds to the ambiance. It's an intimate setting that personifies AmaWaterway's commitment to providing the best amenities.

Built in 2015, the 443-foot-long vessel offers 81 staterooms that can accommodate 162 passengers. Spacious rooms provide comfortable living quarters. A balcony enhances the openness. Pour a glass of wine, have a seat and absorb the changing landscapes of the Rhine River while sailing from Switzerland to the Netherlands.

AmaSerena has multiple places in which to dine. Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner while seated in its elegant dining room. Tables and booths uniquely populate an expansive hall that keeps guests from feeling crowded. Windows offer spectacular views of the water.



Image: AmaWaterways.

Delectable aromas waft from a kitchen comprised of fine-dining chefs.

Reserve a seat to experience the Chef's Table feast in a dining area located on the third floor. The room's sprawling windows offer spectacular views. Sit, mingle with fellow cruisers and enjoy a seven-course meal paired with a variety of wines.

Guests also can enjoy bistro meals in the lounge – the ship's main gathering place. It's a hotspot – the cool place to be. Comfy sofas, tables and a bar envelop an area designed specifically to be the ship's entertainment hub.

The river never has seemed more enticing to cruisers. More are learning that traveling small doesn't mean settling for less.

It exceeds expectations. Happy hour begins by early evening before dinner. This sacred time of day is highlighted by wine and a drink of the day. Libations flow and conversations spark. Comforting music strums from the hands of a piano player.

AmaSerena sits among its finest ships. Its stylish design quickly grabs your attention. Doors slide open upon arrival. The marble floor and gold hand railings sparkle. A glass-encased elevator adds to the ambiance. It's an intimate setting that personifies AmaWaterway's commitment to providing the best amenities.



Image: AmaWaterways.

Champion Ship

Facts about *AmaSerena*:

Year built.....	2015
Length.....	443 feet
Width.....	38 feet
Staterooms	81
Passenger capacity	162

Source: AmaWaterways

AmaSerena has a small library that serves as a sitting place. A workout facility allows guests to exercise, yoga classes are taught in the lounge each morning and spa services also are available.

A pool on the sundeck boasts a swim-up bar. Walk or jog on the outdoor track. Play chess on an oversized board topped by large pieces. Or have a seat and appreciate unrivaled scenery.

It's a remarkable lineup built on the shoulders of a remarkable staff. The ship's amiable captain converses with guests. His crew works diligently to keep the ship moving and docking safely and on schedule. The cruise and hotel managers are gems. Peerless greeters, chefs, servers, bartenders and housekeepers work congruently to guarantee guests have memorable trips for all the right reasons.

The river never has seemed more enticing to cruisers. More are learning that traveling small doesn't mean settling for less.



DEPARTURES

President's Cruise – Baltic Capitals Voyage



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

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

PRICE INCLUDES:

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- Special AAA President's Cruise perks
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Full itinerary &
more information at
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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voucher (per room)

from
\$2,262.00
per person, double occupancy

JAMAICA

Jewel Paradise Cove Adult Beach Resort & Spa, All-Inclusive

package includes roundtrip airfare, all-inclusive resort accommodations in a premier room, and roundtrip shared airport transfers

Pleasant Activities Add On:

Bamboo River Raft - \$70.58 per person

Climb aboard a 30-foot, bamboo raft for an authentic Jamaican experience. Upon arrival you will be greeted with a welcome fruit drink and given the chance to explore the "Rafter's Village". Before you begin the tour, you can take a stroll through "Miss Martha's Herb Garden", a presentation of Jamaican herbs famous for their medicinal and healing properties. Then sit back and relax in your personal raft as your captain skillfully navigates the Martha Brae River.



AAA Member Benefit:
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voucher (per room)

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\$2,045.00
per person, double occupancy

PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Riu Bambu

package includes roundtrip airfare, all-inclusive resort accommodations in a deluxe room, and roundtrip shared airport transfers

Pleasant Activities Add On:

Scape Park - \$129.00 per person

A natural theme park with numerous attractions ranging from adventurous and adrenaline-pumping activities to smooth and cultural experiences. Let your senses Scape while ziplining on a cliff, exploring ancient caverns, swimming in underground caves, jumping from water zip lines and riding in our splash hammocks! In addition to all these unique adventures you can also have the option to cruise along stunning beaches, snorkel in tropical waters or just relax in our exclusive beach club. Choose two different adventures and build your own Dual Pack, the perfect combination to make your vacation an unforgettable experience.



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voucher (per room)

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\$1,853.00
per person, double occupancy

CANCUN, MEXICO

Barcelo Maya Beach

package includes roundtrip airfare, all-inclusive resort accommodations in a superior room, and roundtrip shared airport transfers

Pleasant Activities Add On:

Isla Mujeres Catamaran - \$129.00 per person

On this tour, you will sail from Cancun to Isla Mujeres, as you admire the beautiful view of the Caribbean Sea and snorkel among colorful fish. You will also tour the island and enjoy a delicious buffet lunch at a beach club.

Horseback Riding - \$183 per person

In this unique experience in which our friendly guides will take you to a relaxed horseback ride through breathtaking landscapes. This tour will take you through the verdant Mayan jungle and to visit two fascinating cenotes (sinkholes); you will be able to refresh and swim in one of them. Afterwards you will taste artisanal bubble gum.



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per person, double occupancy

ARUBA

Divi Aruba All-Inclusive

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Pleasant Activities Add On:

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Palm Pleasure Snorkel Adventure - \$93.40 per person

Aruba's newest catamaran will sail you to the best three snorkel sites, including the Antilla Shipwreck!



Full itinerary &
more information at
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Pleasant Holidays

Before-discount rate is per person/double occupancy, subject to availability at time of booking based on a February 17, 2024 check-in date, and includes flights from Pittsburgh, accommodations, and roundtrip airport/hotel transfers. Additional airline baggage fees may apply.

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- Disney logo surprise package

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DEPARTURES

Celebrity and the many itinerary options to sail the Caribbean

CELEBRITY GROUP OFFERING:

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Sail the W Caribbean with a Perfect Day at CocoCay on one of Celebrity's newest ships

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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 selfie from a hot air balloon soaring 450 feet above the island, and much, much more.

6-NIGHT ITINERARY

Day 1 Ft. Lauderdale, FL – Embarkation

Day 2 CocoCay

Day 3 At Sea

Day 4 Georgetown, Grand Cayman

Day 5 At Sea

Day 6 Bimini, Bahamas

Day 7 Disembark – Ft. Lauderdale, FL

AMAZING MEMBER PERKS!

Per stateroom, double occupancy (balcony or higher category)

- 6-night cruise accommodations
- All Included Package for two adults per stateroom
 - Classic Beverage Package, Basic Wi-Fi package, Gratuities to shipboard personnel

Rates are per person (double occupancy), are subject to availability at time of booking and include 6-night accommodations/entertainment, most onboard meals, member perks and government taxes/fees of \$165.24. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Malta

Sail from Ft. Lauderdale to San Juan on this 8-night voyage

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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

Day 1 Ft. Lauderdale, FL – Embarkation

Day 2 At Sea

Day 3 Labadee, Haiti

Day 4 At Sea

Day 5 St. Johns, Antigua

Day 6 Roseau, Dominica

Day 7 Castries, St. Lucia

Day 8 Basseterre, St Kitts & Nevis

Day 9 Disembark – San Juan, Puerto Rico

AMAZING MEMBER PERKS!

Per stateroom, double occupancy (balcony or higher category)

- 8-night cruise accommodations
- All Included Package for two adults per stateroom
 - Classic Beverage Package, Basic Wi-Fi package, Gratuities to shipboard personnel

Rates are per person (double occupancy), are subject to availability at time of booking and include 8-night accommodations/entertainment, most onboard meals, member perks and government taxes/fees of \$138.80. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Malta

Spend the holiday in the Dominican Republic, St. Thomas & St. Maarten on Celebrity's newest ship

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7-NIGHT ITINERARY

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Day 2 At Sea

Day 3 Puerto Plata, 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

AMAZING MEMBER PERKS!

Per stateroom, double occupancy (balcony or higher category)

- 7-night cruise accommodations
- All Included Package for two adults per stateroom
 - Classic Beverage Package, Basic Wi-Fi package, Gratuities to shipboard personnel

Rates are per person (double occupancy), are subject to availability at time of booking and include 7-night accommodations/entertainment, most onboard meals, member perks and government taxes/fees of \$151.09. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Malta

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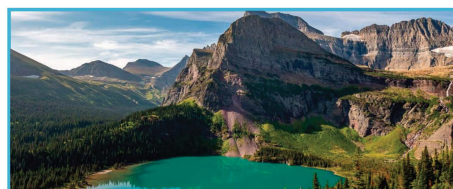
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July 21 - 29 / August 25 - September 2 / September 8 - 16

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- 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

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1/31/24

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double/single occupancy



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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

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Vacations!

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ATTEND FREE INFORMATION

FRIDAY Exploration Theater

- 1pm Venture to the Beauty of North America and the Nation of the USA and Canada with AAA Member Choice Vacations
- 2pm Discover Ireland and Europe through CIE Tours
- 3pm Explore Vacations to Portugal, Italy, Greece and more with AAA Member Choice Vacations
- 4pm Tropical Costa Rica on a guided tour with AAA Member Choice Vacations® by Collette and hosted by The National Avi

SATURDAY Exploration Theater

- 11am Experience the Magic of Ireland and the Splendor of the Kingdom with AAA Member Choice Vacations® by Collette
- 12pm Vacation Your Way on Norwegian Cruise Line
- 1pm Safari's, Pyramids and Tented Camps, Experience Africa on tour with AAA Member Choice Vacations® by Collette
- 2pm Your Juneau Adventure Starts Here!
- 3pm Ciao, Italy! Discover the many choices and wonders of this beautiful country on a guided tour with AAA Member Choice Vacations® by Collette
- 4pm AAA Member Choice Vacations® by Collette; a Rocky Mountaineer Adventure

SUNDAY Exploration Theater

- 11am Explore the Three I's; Italy, Ireland and Iceland and discover why they are the most popular destinations for a guided tour with AAA Member Choice Vacations® by Collette
- 12pm Exploring Alaska with Princess Cruises
- 1pm Ciao, Italy! Discover the many choices and wonders of this beautiful country on a guided tour with AAA Member Choice Vacations® by Collette
- 2pm Discover US River Cruising with Pleasant Holidays

- 4pm Exploring Alaska with Princess Cruises

SUNDAY Discovery Theater

- 11am Unique Experiences abound in Daytona Beach Florida, Discover, explore and learn more
- 12pm Rocky Mountaineer Rail Journeys
- 1pm Experience the National Parks with AAA Travel on a Small Group Adventure Tour
- 2pm Alaska and Anchorage by the Numbers

ENTER TO WIN! - RECEIVE AN
ENTRY FOR EACH
MEMBER CHOICE VACATION
PRESENTATION YOU ATTEND

SUNDAY Global Theater

- 11am Majestic Resorts; Discover the Majestic Way of Life
- 12pm Tour in Style with Insight Vacations
- 1pm National Parks & Beyond by Rail with Amtrak Vacations

Spotlight On Tuscany For Two – Land Only
Experience “La Dolce Vita” – “The Sweet Life” In Italy!
Discover the rolling hills of Tuscany, home to sprawling vineyards,
medieval hill towns, and enchanting cities.
9 Days 8 Nights • 10 Meals • (Trip Value: \$4,600.00)

ON THEATERS!

- age Alaska
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- Passport and Visa Process
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- Introduction to Tauck
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Times & topics subject to change; check schedule board at each theater upon your arrival at the Showcase. Visit PittsburghTravelShowcase.com for updated current schedule.

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DEPARTURES

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- January 20th, 2023 -
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Travel through April 30th, 2024

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- Free international AAA maps
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- 24-hour travel assistance when traveling 100+ miles from home

Restrictions apply; ask a travel partner representative at the Showcase for details. Most offers available only on Jan 21, 22, 23 at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase.™ Offers shown are combinable with other offers.

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- Visit Clearfield County
- Visit Hagerstown & Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Visit Hershey Harrisburg
- Visit Potter-Tioga
- Visit Tampa Bay
- Visit Zanesville
- VisitErie

Partial listing of participating exhibitors as of presstime.

Visit PittsburghTravelShowcase.com for most current list.

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6-PIECE LUGGAGE SET

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www.PittsburghTravelShowcase.com

Tickets are \$10 each. Children 12 and under are free. Original coupon (no photocopies) must be presented at the Showcase Box Office when admission is purchased. Only 1 coupon per person. Advance tickets may be purchased at PittsburghTravelShowcase.com (use online discount code TRAVEL). Online tickets must be printed in advance by the purchaser and presented at the Showcase Box Office for admission. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotions, offers and/or discounts. Additional coupons are available at AAA Travel offices.

DEPARTURES

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Radiance of the Seas®

GRAND MOUNTAIN MARVELS "Southbound"
Cruise Tour • June 1-14
from \$3,369.00 per person double occupancy



6 night Land Tour followed by 7 night Cruise: 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 – Fairbanks
DAY 2 – Fairbanks/Denali
Day 3 – Denali
Day 4 – Denali/Talkeetna
Day 5 – Talkeetna/Anchorage
Day 6 – Anchorage/Seward
Day 7 – Seward/Radiance of the Seas®
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

MOUNTAIN PANORAMA
Alaska Adventure • June 14-26
from \$2,990.00 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 \$3,260.00 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 \$3,059.00 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 \$2,970.00 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
AAA.com/FeaturedVacations



Royal Caribbean
INTERNATIONAL

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 \$284.63. Ask about available add-on airfare. Ship's registry: Bahamian registry



Special Offer:
Book & Deposit by 2/1/24
Save \$300 off per person
double/single occupancy

Canadian Rockies featuring Rocky Mountaineer

July 14-21, 2024

\$7,749 per person double occupancy

Additional Departure:
September 21-28, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

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



Special Offer:
Book & Deposit by 2/4/24
Save \$300 off per person
double/single occupancy

Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park

Aug. 4-10, 2024

\$4,349 per person double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Calgary
- Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump
- Waterton Lakes National Park
- Glacier National Park
– Going-to-the-Sun Road
- Banff
- Athabasca Glacier
– Choice of Tour: Ice Explorer Glacier Tour or Columbia Icefield Skywalk
- Lake Louise



Special Offer:
Book & Deposit by 2/15/24
Save \$600 off per person
double/single occupancy

Canadian Rockies by train

Aug. 25-Sept. 2, 2024

\$7,599 per person double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- British Columbia
- Vancouver
- VIA Rail – excursion and overnight accommodations
- Alberta
- Jasper
- Maligne Lake
- Athabasca Glacier
- Choice of Tour: Ice Explorer Glacier Tour or Columbia Icefield Skywalk
- Lake Louise
- Banff
- Calgary



Special Offer:
Book & Deposit by 2/2/4
Save \$100 off per person
double/single occupancy

Maritimes Coastal Wonders

Aug. 2-12, 2024

\$4,949 per person double occupancy

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Halifax
- Peggy's Cove
- Mahone Bay
- Lunenburg
- Cape Breton Island
- Cabot Trail
- Prince Edward Island
- Anne of Green Gables Museum
- Hopewell Rocks
- Fundy Trail
- Grand Pré National Historic Site



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DEPARTURES



Pleasant Holidays®

NEW Secrets® Playa Blanca Costa Mujeres

EXPERIENCE THE NEWEST ADULTS-ONLY SECRETS RESORT IN MEXICO

Word is out about the newest Secrets resorts in scenic Costa Mujeres, Mexico. Secrets® Playa Blanca Costa Mujeres’ accommodations feature authentic hand-crafted art with a nostalgic feel and elegant furnishings for a beachside escape.

Secrets’ world-renowned *Unlimited-Luxury*® experience includes 24-hour access to options including choice cuisine from six à la carte restaurants, a buffet, a grill and a café. Indulge in a variety of drinks at eight different bars in this adults-only retreat. The *Unlimited-Luxury*® difference means the food, drinks, entertainment and more are available for one all-inclusive price.

AAA MEMBER BENEFIT: Members receive a \$50 per booking activity voucher valid toward a variety of select activities in Mexico.³



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Princess (Supplied)

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	Columbiana OH.	330-482-3836	Pleasant Hills	412-655-6100
	Cranberry Township PA	724-772-1122	Robinson Township	412-809-2800
	East Liverpool OH.	330-385-2020	South Hills Area (Bethel Park).	412-833-5203
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	Franklin PA	814-432-3960	White Oak/McKeesport	412-675-3400
	Greensburg PA	724-834-8300		
	Hermitage PA	724-981-9141	Rochester PA	724-775-8000
	Indiana PA	724-349-4193	Uniontown PA	724-438-8575
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	Meadville PA	814-724-2247	Washington PA	724-222-3800
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DEPARTURES

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Special Offer:
Book & Deposit by 1/31/24
Save \$75 off per person
double/single occupancy

Grand Canyon and Sedona Adventure

April 28-May 6, 2024 • \$3,999 per person double occupancy

Explore the unique landscapes of Arizona including Sedona, the Grand Canyon and Phoenix/Scottsdale

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

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip airfare from participating cities to/from Phoenix, Arizona
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers
- 8-night hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling, one bag per person
- Taxes and gratuities for included features
- 13 meals (restaurants subject to change) to include Western Evening
- Attractions, admissions and touring as per itinerary
- Services of a AAA Tour Manager upon arrival in Phoenix and local guides where noted

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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2024 No-fly Motorcoach Cruises



PITTSBURGH TO BALTIMORE MD DEPARTURES

April 12-20, 2024 Southeast Coast..... *Vision of the Seas*® from \$1,315

July 25-Aug 3, 2024..... Bermuda..... *Vision of the Seas*® from \$1,409

PITTSBURGH TO NJ AND NY DEPARTURES

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

June 19-29, 2024..... Eastern Caribbean..... *Liberty of the Seas*® from \$1,759

Aug 21-27, 2024 Bermuda *Carnival Venezia*™ from \$1,525

Sept 6-14, 2024..... Canada *Carnival Venezia*™ from \$1,305

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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NO-FLY, NO-DRIVE AAA MOTORCOACH VACATIONS

WASHINGTON D.C. IN BLOOM

Departs from Pittsburgh area
March 22-24, 2023 • \$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



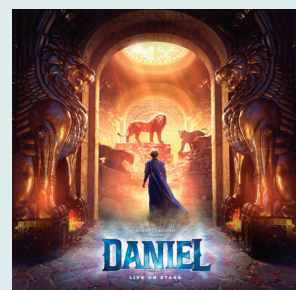
WASHINGTON D.C. IN BLOOM

Departs from Canonsburg, PA & Wheeling, WV
April 5-7, 2024 • \$785
• Guided touring of D.C. to include monuments and memorials
• 2 nights at Gaylord Resort
• National Harbor
• National Mall
• Dinner in Old Town Alexandria
• Brunch cruise on the Potomac



LANCASTER AND SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE - DANIEL

April 23-24, 2024 • \$489
• Kitchen Kettle Village
• Hershey Farm Restaurant and Inn
• Daniel - Sight and Sound Theatre
• Amish farmlands tour



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



HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL AND MACKINAC ISLAND

May 5-10, 2024 • \$1,815
• Holland Tulip Festival - guided tour; Nelis' Dutch Village; Tulip Immersion Garden; Evening performances
• Mackinac Island - 2- nights lodging
• Carriage tour
• Grand Hotel - luncheon buffet
• Dow Gardens
• Frankenmuth



NIAGARA FALLS GETAWAY

June 5-7, 2024 • \$765
• 2-night stay in Niagara Falls
• Guided tour of Niagara Falls and surrounding scenic points
• Dinner at Skylon Tower
• Niagara-on-the-Lake
• Welland Shipping Canal
• Winery Tour and Tasting
• Dinner at Table Rock House Restaurant



NH - MOUNTAINS, MOOSE AND MEADOWS

June 9-14, 2024 • \$1,675
• 3-night stay at resort in NH's White Mountains
• Evening wildlife presentation
• Fields of Lupines for photo opportunities
• Cog Railway to the top of Mount Washington
• Horse- Drawn Wagon Ride through a Christmas tree farm
• Omni Mount Washington Hotel
• Self-guided tour and luncheon
• White Mountains touring
• Local "Moose Tour on Moose" Tour
• Fadden's General Store
• Niagara Falls, NY



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Tips From a AAA Travel Advisor: Ebonee Hiner

Utah's Mighty Five live up to their billing

Natural wonders, adventure abound on this epic journey

I'm an outdoorsy type of person, so it's no surprise that Utah and the state's MIGHTY FIVE moved to first place on my travel list after



AAA Travel Advisor:

Ebonee Hiner

my trip this past November. I've been a travel advisor for six years, and this adventure took my breath away!

As soon as we arrived in Salt Lake City, our 12-passenger van and driver guide took us to Antelope Island, 90 minutes from town. We visited the Great Salt Lake, the largest of its namesake, and saw bison roaming in their natural habitat. Later, we toured Salt Lake City, including the Utah Capitol building, and world-famous Mormon Tabernacle.

Day 2, we drove four hours to Canyonlands National Park in southeastern Utah. It's known for its dramatic desert landscape carved by the Colorado River. We saw Mesa Arch, one of the West's most photographed landforms, and **Grand Point View Trail** – named because when you look over the cliff, the rocks look like a dead horse. Another notable area was the Needles, the remote Canyons of the Maze.

Day 3, we discovered the mighty



BREATHTAKING – The Mesa Arch offers a gateway to the beautiful Canyonlands.

Image: Ebonee Hiner. AAA.

Arches National Park, a red-rock wonderland of eroded sandstone. The landscape has contrasting colors, landforms and textures unlike any other, with 2,000 natural-stone arches, soaring pinnacles, massive rock fins and giant balanced rocks. I chose a six-mile, round-trip hike to Delicate Arch. It was steep and took about 90 minutes uphill. My travel tip is to get there early enough to see the sunrise.

Day 4, we drove by the Moab Petroglyphs from the Native American

Anasazi tribe, towering 60-70 feet off the road. All of this on our way to Goblin Valley State Park, where we saw thousands of hoodoos, referred to locally as goblins, which are formations of mushroom-shaped rock pinnacles, some as tall as several yards.

We ended the day at Capitol Reef, so named by the early settlers who thought the domes on the rock formations looked like the Capitol building in D.C. I hiked the 1.2-mile trail to Hickman Natural Bridge – a 125-foot-

tall formation that spans 133 feet! Our group indulged and spent the night at the Capitol Reef Resort, one of the Top 20 Resorts in Utah honored by Travel + Leisure in 2023. You can stay in a luxurious stand-alone cabin, relax in a teepee or go glamping in their Conestoga Wagon rooms onsite.

Day 5, we drove Highway 12 – a 123-mile scenic byway designated an All-American Road to Bryce Canyon – known for its crimson hoodoos or spire-shaped rocks. At Bryce, our tour guide gave us two options for a longer or shorter hike. I took the challenge and hiked two hours on the Queens Garden trail to the Navajo Trail loop, a 32-story hike, 7,000 feet in elevation.

Every day kept getting better and Day 6 was no exception. Zion National Park is distinguished by the canyon's steep red cliffs. Some trails were closed due to falling rocks. Our tour guide told us which ones were open. Zion has a shuttle system, so you start at the visitors center and the shuttle goes to all eight trails. We did the Narrows on the last stop. Then after a one-hour hike, we got back on the shuttle to the next trail.

My travel tips are pack good hiking shoes that are already broken-in, layer your clothes. It was cold in the mornings, and warm in the afternoon. And have your camera ready. Everything is SO PHOTOGENIC! And it's OK to do the easier hikes!

Scotland's islands more than window dressing

Natural beauty, history come to life on country's army of isles

It could be called the "Land of 1,000 Islands" and it wouldn't be a stretch. That's Scotland, the United Kingdom country that has more than 790 offshore islands – nearly 100 inhabited.

Island hopping isn't a cliché in Scotland; it's a sport. But these aren't your typical isles. They're home to rocky, weather-beaten coasts, white beaches, rugged mountains, heather-clad moorland and tranquil inland lochs.

Most of these islands share unique personalities. They have stories to tell anyone who's willing to stop by and listen.

Whisky is synonymous with the Isle of Islay. Coveted by connoisseurs for its peaty, smoky flavor, it's a rare treat. The island houses nine distilleries, including Lagavulin and Ardbeg, which translates from the Gaelic term for a "dark and mysterious place."

The Laphroaig distillery offers "Water to Whisky Experience," a 4.5-hour tour that includes visiting the water source and tasting from a selection of casks. The Gaelic term for whisky is "Uisge Beatha" or "water of life."

The Isle of Lewis is home to Lews Castle that presides over Stornoway. It's the largest island in the Outer Hebrides. The Standing Stones of Calanais date



OLD COUNTRY – Skara Brae is a 5,000-year-old village on the Scottish island of Orkney. Image: Vincentco64. Adobe Stock.

5,000 years and centerpiece the ritual landscape. Winds rage around this northern headland, making it the windiest spot in the U.K.

Majestic cliffs and sea stacks populate Orkney's coastline, including the striking Old Man of Hoy. Skara Brae is a 5,000-year-old village and the best-preserved

Neolithic site in Western Europe. Skara Brae thrived as a community well before the building of Stonehenge or the Egyptian pyramids. Stone walls, passageways and stone furnishings – including beds and dressers – remain intact.

Skara Brae is part of the Heart of

Orkney World Heritage Site. It's joined by Maeshowe, a chambered tomb, the Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar. Guests can explore the Viking Cathedral that dominates the skyline of Kirkwall, Orkney's ancient capital.

Scotland meets Scandinavia and the North Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean in Shetland. Partially submerged ancient hills formed archipelago's series of islands. Thousands of sea caves, open sandy bays and sheltered sea lochs are onsite. Words from the Old Norse language are preserved not only in place-names but also in Shetland dialect that is used daily. Shetland ponies can be seen throughout the islands – grazing by roadside or on the heathery hills.

Cuillin – the isle of Skye – is famous for its breathtaking scenery. Dramatic sea cliffs and towering slopes define its personality. Named "Cloud Island" in Old Norse, it's the largest of the Inner Hebrides and the most popular island with visitors. Mealt waterfall cascades 180 feet, highlighting gorgeous scenery. Neist Point Lighthouse stands watch over the island's western tip near Glendale.

Scotland might better be named "Scotlands". It's a country blessed with history and an island waiting to tell a story.

Unique roads rumble to different tunes

Singing highways come to life in California, New Mexico

Music plays an integral role in our driving experiences – especially on road trips. Tunes spice up the route. Dialing to your favorite radio station or synching your smartphone has you jamming to your favorite singers and bands.

It's an ideal way to pass the time, but have you ever thought of the road providing the melodies? Only a few highways in the world offer this unique opportunity and two of them are in the U.S.

Singing highways make literal symphonies from streets. It seems impossible, but careful planning and mathematics make this possible. It's not magic; it's science.

Music is the result of vibrations. The speed of those vibrations dictates how sound waves are interpreted through the human ear. Certain speeds correlate specific notes on the scale. For example, 330 vibrations per second translate into an E note.

It *sounds* simple, but to reproduce them on the treads of tires involves more work. The rubber wheels are triggered by rumble strips – bumps that warn sleepy drivers to remain alert – and spacing them in a particular way produces the proper vibrational pattern to register a specific pitch.

Other automotive factors come



TUNED IN – Legendary Route 66 in New Mexico is one of two roads in the U.S. that includes a singing highway. *Image: trekandphoto. Adobe Stock.*

into play to make the roads sing. Tire size makes a difference in sound quality and – just as music – timing and speed play leading roles in success.

Ingenuity comes to life. Engineers choose a speed at which they assume a vehicle will pass over the strips. A vehicle traveling 45 mph will require

330 strips per second to hear an E note – or one rumble strip every 2.4 inches.

The effort is dizzying but the payoff is priceless. It brings a new sense to sightseeing.

The U.S.'s dueling highways can be found in California and New Mexico.

Rather than competing pianos, it's more like repeating rumble strips.

Lancaster, California's Avenue G is a nondescript strip of road about 90 minutes northwest of Los Angeles. It's the first of its kind in the U.S.

The highway sings the "William Tell Overture." Honda tuned it up in 2008 as part of a marketing campaign.

Travelers are warned of the oncoming song about a mile from the strips, which are located between the town's 30th and 40th Street West. Motorists should take the left-hand lane and maintain a speed 55 mph for the best results.

Meanwhile, New Mexico's Route 66 has its own roadway opus along a 490-yard section located between markers 4 and 5, between Albuquerque and Tijeras.

Completed in 2014, it's more tuned than California's road, playing the ending of "America the Beautiful" for drivers who find themselves motor-ing along the rumble strips.

Drivers are warned of the queued-up tune from about a mile away and speed plays a key role in hearing the correct notes. The song plays perfectly at 45 mph.

Perhaps the next singing road to be constructed could be named "Tom Cochrane Road".

"Life is a Highway" certainly would be a fitting tune.

AAA analysis underscores car seat safety

Data reveal nearly half of kids injured not properly secured

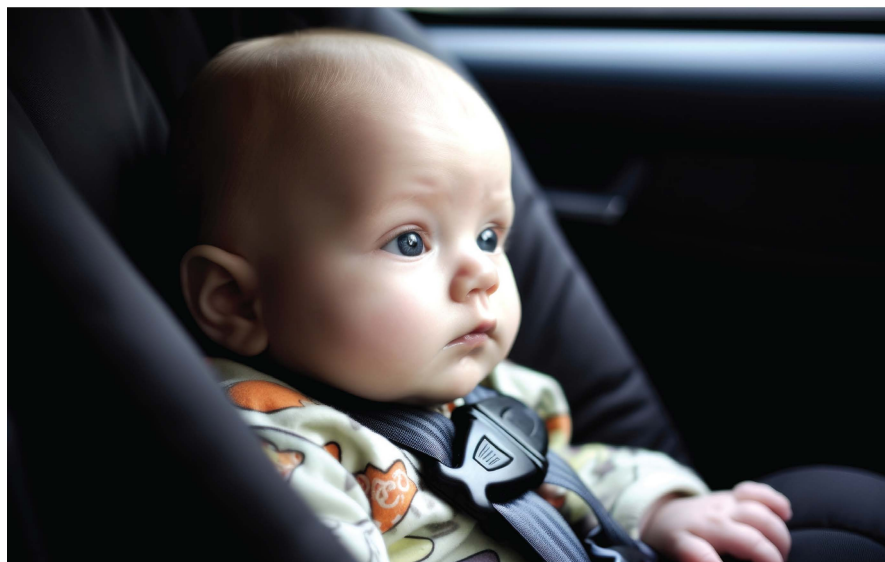
New analysis from AAA examined five years of crash data from the U.S. Department of Transportation and points to a lack of proper child-restraint use among children injured or killed in car crashes.

The results of this analysis, released by AAA and car seat leader Chicco USA, uncovered that nearly half (48%) of children ages 10 and younger who were injured and half (51%) who were killed in car crashes were using a vehicle seat belt prematurely or no restraint instead of a car seat.

Families spend a significant amount of time on the road and, from 2017-21, more than 3.9 million children ages 10 and younger were involved in crashes while riding in a vehicle, 527,000 were injured and 2,789 were killed.

"AAA's in-depth analysis of crash data has brought to light safety issues that concern us, and we're in a position to help by sharing our expert resources about car seat safety use factors such as proper seat installation, type of seat and mode of use at each stage of child growth," said William Hasse, vice president of marketing, Chicco USA.

Infant seats, boosters and seat belts will effectively protect young passengers when used properly. The U.S. Department of Transportation found



STRAP IN – Children dying or injured during car crashes often were not properly secured in the vehicle. *Image: Sergey. Adobe Stock.*

that child restraints reduce fatalities by 71% for infants younger than 1 and by 54% for children 1 to 4 years old in passenger cars.

According to AAA's analysis, the most recent data from the DoT reflects a need for parents to ensure they are using the correct child-restraint system for each phase of growth. Chicco

Child Passenger Safety Technician Josh Dilts offers the following advice for families:

Don't skip the booster phase – The data decreased by more than half in car seat use from age 7 to age 8, an age that saw significant injuries reported. Many parents must not know that seat-belt fit is more about the child's height

than age (many state laws focus on age only). Based on their size, children upwards of 10 years old may benefit from using a booster seat. Most booster seats accommodate children as tall as 57 inches.

Children should always use a restraint when riding in vehicles – Shifting from a car seat to a vehicle seat belt too early isn't the only issue. Nearly four in 10 children, ages 7-10, killed in a car crash, were completely unrestrained and, of the youngest children (ages newborn-3), nearly one in four who were killed were unrestrained. Chicco's Dilts notes that the use of restraints, which is defined by this dataset as not using a car seat, booster seat, seat belt or strapped into the vehicle in any manner, is alarming.

"Parents should be diligent in ensuring their child is properly restrained in the car before it is in motion, especially if the child is not old enough to secure themselves," said Dilts.

Use available resources – Chicco offers the most recent car seat guidelines, installation tutorials and caregiver FAQs on ChiccoUSA.com. Local fire departments often have a child passenger safety technician on hand who can check if your car seat is correctly installed. For more resources, visit AAA.com.



and witness France or Italy saying hello and welcoming you.

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

The theaters include videos and vendors who will have you dripping with fervor to book your next vacation. Wanderlust is alive and kicking at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™, and AAA Travel will be sure that it's satisfied.

At the Travel Showcase™, the canals of Venice and Amsterdam will seem like they are only a gondolier away. The midnight sun of Iceland is lighting the path to fjords, lagoons and waterfalls. Fields of purple Alaskan lupine and unique, friendly villages help make this island a rising star among destination hotspots.

Barcelona, Budapest, London, Dublin, Berlin, Rome, Paris, Copenhagen, Lucerne, Strasbourg ... The list goes on and on and on, and the Travel Showcase™ is here to make sure each and every adjective will be available to describe these wonderful places down to the very last detail.

Don't forget about Asia, Africa, Australia and Antarctica. These places alone are premier Bucket List destinations, and we haven't even gotten out of the A's! Questions abound; the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ has the answers.

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

And not all top destinations are outside of the United States of America. How does Hawaii sound? How about Alaska? Maybe California?

Whet your palate on a trip through Wine Country in Northern California. Tour by train, bus or rented vehicle. Also at the Travel Showcase™, learn about what America's national parks have to offer. Utah is home to Moab and Arches National Park. It's a red-rock wonderland that sits in the foreground of the snowcapped Rockies. Geysers let off steam by the hour in Yellowstone. The sightings of elk, bison, bears, moose and a bevy of other animals enhance the experience. Mount Rushmore is a majestic stone portrait of history in South Dakota. See the northern lights at Montana's Glacier National Park or Denali National Park and Reserve in Alaska, where you'll witness the highest point in North America.

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

How's that for variety? It's a time to recharge your curiosity to travel to all of these destinations, and many more! The Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ will guide you in the right direction.

Plan a destination wedding. Imagine tying the knot while standing barefoot in the soft sand of the Caribbean or Hawaii. Or how about under the bright lights of Las Vegas? Or a cruise ship – the moon dotting the sky while you exchange vows on the top deck?

Group tours could take you through the dashing surroundings of the Canadian Rockies by motorcoach. There's even a motorcoach onsite for you to examine, sit in and dream about riding through the parts

of the world that you never imagined would be possible.

For cruisers, Regent, Azamara and Silversea rank among the finest lines in the world. Journese by Pleasant Holidays unlocks a treasure chest of opulence that will take you to all corners of the globe, and vendors will be on hand to tell you about your options.

The impressive roster of vendors at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ includes AAA Member Choice Vacations, AmaWaterways, Amtrak Vacations/Railbookers, Anderson Madison County-East Central Indiana, Carnival Cruise Line Cayman Islands, Celebrity Cruises, CIE Tours, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, Holland America Line, Jamaica Tourist Board, MSC Cruises USA, Norwegian Cruise Line, P&O Cruises, Red Roof, Beaches Resorts, West, The National sorts of Am Virginia Beach, Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, Virgin Clearfield, Azamara, Regent Seven Seas & Window, Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, Sight and Sound Theatres, Visit Hershey Harrisburg, LadyLedLuxury, Visit Tampa Bay, Visit Potter-Tioga, Majestic Resorts, Athens County, Convention & Visitors Bureau—Athens, Ohio, SoIN Tourism, Chautauqua-Allegheny Region, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Resort Sales by Spinnaker Inc., Palace Resorts, Nemaquin, Explora Journeys, RushMyPassport, New York State Tourism Industry Association, Camp Bow Wow, Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau, The Hertz Corporation, Allianz Travel, Karisma Hotels & Resorts, Visit Hagerstown

take paragraph with vendors

GET SHOWCASE TICKETS!

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

VALUABLE PRIZES

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

- 1.
- 2. \$1,000 AAA Travel Gift Certificate
- 3. 2 Delta Air Lines Tickets to any city in Florida for one person

PRIZE INFORMATION: Purchase must be made by Jan. 15. Must be 18 or older to win. Enter in person at the Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ or mail a plain 3" x 5" postcard (with hand-printed first & last name, complete address and telephone number) to Pittsburgh Travel Showcase™ Drawing, AAA East Central, 5900 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh PA 15206, to be received by Jan. 20. Winners need not be present. Drawing will be held by AAA. Winners will be notified by mail. No substitutions. Limit one entry per household. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Sponsor owns all entries and has no liability for lost, delayed, incomplete or misdirected entries. All prizes will be awarded. Noncompliance with rules or fraud will result in disqualification. Decision of sponsor is final. Winners list can be obtained at above address through AAA. Taxes on prize are responsibility of winner.

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

& Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lindblad Expeditions, Corning Museum of Glass.

Pack your bags and put in that PTO. Choose your destination and allow AAA Travel to take it from there.

Italy is work of art waiting to be admired

Style, splendor put it among world's top destinations

Italy lights up our senses. It's charming, romanticizing and stunning. Few places blend art, passion, food and sights better.

Italy feasts on our ambitions and turns them into reality. It meshes the sunny splendors of the "Bel Paese" (beautiful country) with architecture, culture and history. It's unparalleled zest for good living includes an unbridled obsession for delectable dishes and fine wine.

Simply put, there are as many ways to experience Italy as there are coins in the Trevi Fountain.

Tuscany is a region blessed by brilliance of nature and man. Olive groves and vineyards meander up rolling green slopes. Hill towns emanate a special glow under the evening sun, setting on a quiet hillside.

Italian Renaissance flourishes in Florence. Piazza Signoria housed Michelangelo's David for centuries. Today, it rests safely in the Accademia Gallery. Witness the towering belvedere from Piazza Signoria and Boboli Gardens. They offer sights that will soothe your senses and tell a story about one of the world's most unique countries.

The treasures of the Medici and other masterpieces like Botticelli's Birth of Venus and Leonardo da Vinci's Adoration of the Magi sit in Uffizi Gallery, a museum in the Historic Centre of Florence.

The town of Sorrento sits atop some



THAT'S AMALFI – Bright houses settle into a hillside in Positano on Italy's Amalfi Coast. Image: GISTEL. Adobe Stock.

of the Mediterranean's most breathtaking cliffs and crowns Italy's Amalfi Coast – royalty among shorelines in the Old Country. Absorb the stunning panoramas. Salerno is home to the Path of Gods and is a three-hour trek along a trail overlooking the Amalfi Coast, offering a magnificent view over Conca dei Marini.

The Isle of Capri is a ferry ride across the Bay of Naples. A celebrated retreat

since the Roman times, it's famous for the Blue Grotto – a sea cave, where the sunlight imparts an otherworldly blue glow to the water. The villa of Swedish doctor Axel Munthe offers wonderful views of the Bay of Naples and Vesuvius.

Amalfi drips in beauty throughout every morsel, but no place better than Positano. Sun-bleached homes come in subtle shades of pink, peach and ochre. They rise like dominoes on steeply

terraced streets.

Venice, meanwhile, is the Adriatic's "Bride of the Sea." Ride a vaporetto through canals to Byzantine Basilica, Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Square. Climb to St. Mark's Campanile – a bell-tower of St. Mark's Basilica – to spot the location where Galileo demonstrated his telescope in 1609. Lord Byron immortalized the "Bridge of Sighs" and connected the Doge's prisons with the Inquisitor's chambers. It's believed that sighs of the condemned prisoners inspired the name.

And cliché intended: All roads lead to Rome. The Baths of Caracalla mark the beginning of the Appian Way that boasts monuments like the Circus of Maxentius. The Arch of Titus watches over the Forum and offers sweeping views of the ruins on Palatine Hill.

By April, parks and gardens are overflowing with flowers. Villa Borghese, once a cardinal's private estate, is an oasis of formal gardens, lakes and winding pathways in the middle of the city.

Savor la dolce vita on the Via Veneto or linger over cappuccino in one of Piazza Navona's outdoor cafés. Piazza de Spagna gives way to the Spanish Steps, perhaps the most romantic rendezvous in the world.

Italy's attributes create a peerless masterpiece that is best experienced in person.



Badlands is just too good to pass up

South Dakota natural masterpiece opens minds and souls

Natural beauty doesn't get much better than at Badlands National Park. A jewel in South Dakota, its incredible rock formations, expansive horizons and animals attract more than 1 million visitors annually. They arrive with high expectations and leave in awe.

Badlands is the result of millions of years of rock formations and erosions that have made it one of the most impressive environmental attractions in the U.S. The park's 244,000 acres protect an expanse of mixed-grass prairie that today are populated by bison, bighorn sheep, prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets. Many of the creatures roaming Badlands include some of the most endangered species in North America.

Badlands is nirvana for stargazers. The sky opens up at night. Its remote location and dearth of light pollution creates a perfectly dark palette to showcase the brightest stars. It's clarity reveals constellations, the moon, satellites and airplanes.

But the unique darkness allows visitors to see planets, the Milky Way, star clusters, nebulae, the International Space Station, shooting stars and occasionally the aurora borealis – aka the northern lights.

Badlands' natural wonders share similar splendor. Clastic Dikes are



COMING TO LIFE – The sun rises over the horizon of Badlands National Park.
Image: Zak Zeinert. Adobe Stock.

impossible to miss. They are vertical sheets of rock that crosscut the horizontal layers of the badlands. They normally are a different color than the surrounding rock, with tan, green and red shades most common. Many of the spectacular ridges and spires in the park are partially supported by clastic dikes.

Sod tables reside throughout the prairie land. These rarities are broken sections of grass and soil that sit atop badlands material. The different rates of erosion make it appear as if sod tables are springing out of the Badlands, where they actually are wearing away more slowly than the rock surrounding them.

Most archaeological sites found in Badlands have been discovered in sod tables, including those surrounding the Ancient Hunters Overlook. Tools, pottery, charcoal fragments and butchered bison bones from ancient inhabitants are preserved in the sod – some as long as 12,000 years.

Badlands Loop State Scenic Byway is recommended to visitors as the best way to tour the park. It's a two-lane, 31-mile stretch that passes through buttes, cliffs and multi-colored spires. Drive cautiously. Wildlife roam the area and could wander onto parts of the roadway.

The highway contains numerous passes, 15 overlooks and eight trails. Big Badlands Overlook and the Door, Window and Notch Trail are must-visit attractions, as well as Pinnacles Overlook and Yellow Mounds Overlook.

Badlands is home to one of the richest fossil beds in the world. Tourists can visit the Fossil Preparation Lab. Watch park paleontologists perform fossil preparation. It includes identifying species based on fossil characteristics, removing rock from fossils and preparing and cataloguing finished specimens for display.

There are plenty of sights to witness. Visitors should take their time and absorb all Badlands has to offer. It's certain to be a good time.

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Winter driving puts your skills to test

10 ways to keep you safe on dangerous highways

Winter-driving season is most challenging to our nerves, vehicles and skills. The scenario is too familiar. Temperatures drop, snow falls and ice forms. It's a losing trifecta.

Slippery roads cause many of us to shudder behind the wheel. Our familiar commutes just became a treacherous nightmare.

Snow and ice, meanwhile, aren't the only culprits. Fewer hours of daylight obscure our vision and the sun's glare reflecting off the snow can have a blinding effect.

Rapidly changing weather conditions make it essential drivers remain alert and vigilant. Here are 10 winter-driving tips to help make the experience safer and less stressful:

- Monitor weather and travel conditions. Know the difference between a Winter Storm Watch and Winter Weather Advisory, and how they could impact your plans. Allow for extra time to travel, wait for conditions to improve or stay home if possible.
- Think cautiously if you must drive in wintry conditions. Make sure your fuel tank is full. Clear all snow from the hood, roof, windows and lights of your vehicle. Clear windows of fog before driving. Make sure the windshield-wiper fluid is full and wipers are in good condition. Turn



SNOW DOWN – Drivers should take extra precaution when driving during a winter storm. Image: fotoyou. Adobe Stock.

on the headlights when you turn on your windshield wipers.

- Increase your following distance. Focus as far ahead as possible. Avoid hard braking. It could keep you from sliding into another vehicle or barrier.
- Not all vehicles respond similarly to icy, slippery roads. Familiarize yourself with the vehicle's braking system, tire tractions and

all-wheel-drive systems. Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions.

- Don't panic if your vehicle becomes trapped in a storm or snowbank. Avoid overexertion and exposure and stay in the vehicle. Run the motor sparingly and keep fresh air in the vehicle. Stay moving and don't fall asleep. Stay alert for traffic and

first-responders.

- Try to avoid secondary roads and drive with caution. Measure your speed to road and weather conditions. Avoid passing other vehicles when road conditions are at their worst. Bridges, ramps and overpasses freeze first.
- Plan your route and make sure someone knows which way you will be traveling, your destination and expected arrival time, especially when driving long distances. Report a safe arrival.
- Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows. Remain at least 200 feet behind them.
- Carry a winter-survival kit in the trunk or storage area of your vehicle. Fully charge your cell phone; and always keep a road map, flashlight, first-aid kit, blanket and shovel in your vehicle.
- And most importantly, drive slowly. Take your time. The posted speed limits are meant for dry pavement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit AAA.com for information on all things automotive including tips on buying, operating and maintaining a vehicle.

Cold weather can be unkind to battery

Take steps to reduce chances it leaves you in bad spot

Cold weather affects your battery more than any engine component. Batteries are filled with fluid, most of which is water. They are susceptible to freezing if a battery is not fully charged.

Cold also thickens engine oil, forcing the battery to work harder when starting the car. Your vehicle's battery loses approximately 35% of its efficiency when the temperature dips below freezing and nearly as much as 60% of its efficiency when the temperature falls below zero.

Slow cranking is a common sign your battery might be getting weak but diagnosing battery problems can be tricky. Your battery terminals could be calcified, or a parasitic draw, often from a mobile device, is draining its power. Unplug your phone and charger when you don't need them.

AAA Battery Service offers fast, 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.

If a new battery is needed, you can purchase one and have it installed on the spot. AAA Battery Service vehicles carry batteries compatible with 90% of cars, SUVs and light trucks on the road. And each AAA-branded battery is covered by



STONE COLD – AAA Battery Service quickly will have you on your way if your battery loses charge. Image: AAA.

a nationwide 36-month, free-replacement warranty.

Our Instant Quote battery-price calculator on AAA.com will give you member and nonmember pricing for your vehicle's battery, reflecting your exclusive AAA discount. In addition, every battery that AAA replaces is safely recycled to protect the environment.

AAA also recommends you take these special precautions with your vehicle's battery this winter:

- Have the starting and charging systems tested every year.
- On frigid days, shut off the heater fans, radio and other devices before cranking the engine.
- Inspect the battery cables, posts and fasteners. Cable corrosion prevents power from flowing freely from the battery, reducing the power available to start the car. Clean the battery terminals with a wire brush or battery-cleaner spray.

- Avoid short trips. It can take as long as 30 minutes for a car battery to fully charge. Short trips can diminish the amount of reserve capacity.
- Preventative measures – such as garaging your vehicles or using a battery charger like the AAA Battery Tender – can help extend a battery's lifespan.

Winter also means fewer hours of daylight and increased use of lights, wipers and heating, all of which extract a heavy toll on your battery. The more electrical devices in the car – such as electronic fuel-injection systems, power windows and infotainment systems – the more power the battery should have.

Your best defense against failure is a fully charged battery and adequate cold-cranking amps – 500-700 – depending on the type of engine in your vehicle.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If your battery is failing you, give yourself the added peace of mind by calling the AAA Battery Service for a no-cost evaluation. 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.



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