

TRAVEL TALK

Loudoun County Senior Trips Newsletter

August 2020

Wanted...Crystal Ball!

I was thinking about putting the above ad in the local paper but thought better of it when I realized , finding a crystal ball that really predicted the future would be like finding a coveted computer game for our grandchildren on Black Friday. How many of us during this pandemic have wished for a Crystal Ball? Most of us, I'm sure, but certainly those in the travel industry would have paid a premium for one.

While writing the last issue I felt certain that come August we would be in a much better place and traveling again. Although the situation is improving , it seems to be in fits and starts, one step forward and two steps back. While some museums have opened , many others and all theatres remain closed and plan on staying so until 2021. With that said I know there are some of you that are ready to get out and about a bit ,so I am working on some trips for the Fall. Once all the details are in place I will send out an abbreviated trips list and information on registration.

Please know we will be taking precautions to ensure everyone's safety and all of the places we visit will also have safety protocol in place.

In the meantime please stay healthy and if you come across anyone looking to sell a second hand Crystal Ball give me a jingle.

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Keep an eye out for information on these fall trips

9/29 - The Bible Museum

10/06 - Hillwood Museum and Gardens

10/30 - Esther at Sight and Sound

11/16 - Spy Museum

And **Save the Date** for our Holiday Trip to the Biltmore
December 9 to 13, 2020

2021....please bring some fun!

As far as travel goes, this year has pretty much been a bust but its time to look forward to 2021. With the hope that it will be safe to travel again we have been busy planning some overnight trips. Some will be trips that we had scheduled for 2020 that had to be cancelled and some are exciting brand new trips. Dates are not set in stone yet but here's some general information to get you thinking about traveling again.

April - Better in the Bluegrass featuring The Ark and Creation Museum. Kentucky has been a spiritual destination since the days of Colonial America, but is also a place of gangsters, whiskey and horses. This trip features the Ark Encounter, The Creation Museum and much more.

Rescheduled from 2020.

May - Seaside Gems—Delaware and Cape May . This trip to the charming coastal communities of Cape May , Rehobeth and Lewes Island Delaware will be the perfect spring getaway.

Rescheduled from 2020.

June - Nova Scotia and the Royal International Tattoo, It has been 7 years since we've done this trip and this time we're also including Stockbridge Massachusetts and the Norman Rockwell Museum, Kennebunkport Maine and Princeton University. All this and beautiful Nova Scotia!

July - The Crooked Road Music Trail. Experience first hand how music is woven into the rich tap-estry of tradition in Southwest Virginia as you wind through almost 300 miles of scenic terrain through the Appalachian Mountains from the Blue Ridge to the coalfield region.

August - The American Empress in the Pacific Northwest. Experience the serenity of wilderness in the Pacific Northwest on a cruise aboard the *American Empress*. Embrace dramatic scenery and re-live the daring exploits of frontiersmen and adventurers aboard a luxury paddle wheeler on the Columbia River.

September - Michigan and Mackinac Island. If breathtaking landscapes, unique attractions, quaint villages, historic hotels, rich culture and delicious meals interest you, you do not want to miss this very special trip to Michigan.

.Rescheduled from 2020

October - Party on the Prairie . This exclusive trip features the Best of Oklahoma , The Woody Guthrie Center, The Pioneer Woman and exclusive Signature Parties each night including an Oil Barons Ball, Party under the Stars and a Route 66 Sock Hop.

December - Holiday Trip Destination to be announced.



A Biltmore Christmas

George Vanderbilt built his beautiful Estate in Asheville North Carolina in six years time. The 250 room Mansion boasts 35 bedrooms, 43 bathrooms and 65 fireplaces . Although he moved into the home in October of 1895 he did not officially open the house to family and friends until Christmas Eve that year. That first Christmas George Vanderbilt was host to 27 Vanderbilt family members. The home was beautifully decorated with a very large tree in the Banquet Hall as the focal point.

This year (2020) our Holiday Trip will be to Asheville for *A Biltmore Christmas*. Now at Christmas the large tree in the Banquet Hall (it's 35 feet tall) is still the focal point. You'll also find 55 hand decorated trees and thousands of poinsettias throughout the mansion. Candles and fireplaces will fill the home with a warm glow as you enjoy an evening candlelight tour. **This 5 day 4 night trip runs from December 9th to the 13th.**

More information will follow.



Take out your frustrations... scream at a Volcano

If you've had enough of 2020, if your stress level is building, you can take out your frustrations by screaming at a mountainside or waterfall in Iceland.

Go to Iceland's <https://lookslkeyouneediceland.com/>

and scream into your computer. Speakers will broadcast your scream to, say, Snæfellsjökull, a 700,000-year-old glacier-topped volcano, or Skógafoss, a cliffside waterfall. Those of you who participated in our Iceland Trip in February visited these two sites. Had we only known then we could have done some screaming in person.

10 Reasons to Travel

I recently came across an article in Group Travel Leader Magazine. I wanted to share a couple of thoughts from the article with you. I realize for many, traveling right now is just not an option and it may not be an option for you for some time to come. The author wrote this with the pandemic and this season we're in right now in mind but these reasons absolutely apply to traveling in general, regardless of what is happening in the world. So if you are considering travel in 2021 or in 2025 take a minute and ponder these. They're wonderful reasons to explore.....when you are ready.

Here are 10 compelling reasons why you might want to travel in 2020 and beyond.

Travel helps your mental health.

Sometimes, your brain just needs a break from daily routines and familiar surroundings. If you've spent the past few months at home, that's truer now than ever.

Travel breaks the news cycle.

When you're in the middle of a great trip, it's hard to keep up with the headlines. In a year full of negative press, we could all use a bit of distance from the news.

Travel supports communities.

Cities and towns all over the country depend on travel and tourism to provide jobs. Traveling is one of the best ways to help our economy recover.

Travel restores the soul.

Getting away to beautiful places helps center you and remind you that the world is full of good, especially when you've spent too much time surrounded by bad.

Travel creates memories.

Chances are the first part of this year has left you with a lot of bad memories. It's time to start replacing them with better ones.

Travel fosters friendship.

After months of isolation, we're all sorely in need of human interaction. FaceTime and Zoom don't hold a candle to taking a trip with people you love.

Travel breaks down barriers.

As Mark Twain famously wrote, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness." It makes us all better people.

Travel builds bridges.

The more time you spend visiting unknown people and faraway places, the more you'll come to realize there is far more uniting us than dividing us.

Travel makes you grateful.

Seeing how other people live will also help you see your life in a new light. At the end of any trip, you'll realize that Dorothy was right — there really is no place like home.

Travel is worth the risk.

We all want to be safe and healthy. But safety is never a guarantee — on the road or at home. The best things in life always come with some amount of risk. And the risks of travel are far outweighed by its rewards.