

# 'Do bunnies lay eggs?': A surprising number of people don't know

I was listening to SiriusXM last week as I was typing up Fabulous Friday and as I listened, this caught my attention:

According to Google AdWords, the phrases "Do bunnies lay eggs" and "Do rabbits lay eggs" each receive between 1,000 and 10,000 average monthly searches. That's a pretty big number, which leads us to believe that people sincerely do not know.

We can't say we're surprised. After all, a National Dairy Council survey in 2017 showed that a depressing number of Americans think chocolate milk comes from brown cows.



Allow us to clear this up: No, bunnies do not lay eggs. As placental mammals, rabbits develop embryos inside a uterus and, after a pregnancy lasting about 31 to 33 days, give birth to a litter of often 12 or more bunnies. If you found your way to this article by searching that very question, don't feel too bad. There's probably a reason for your confusion, and that's Easter. The Christian holiday, of course, has two very famous symbols, bunnies and eggs, with the former delivering the latter.

So why is there an Easter Bunny when rabbits do not lay eggs? The idea actually comes from a pagan celebration of spring, which was eventually linked to the religious holiday. According to the legend, following a long winter, the goddess of spring, Eastre, turned a frozen bird into a snow hare that could lay colorful eggs. Rabbits' reputation for rapid reproduction made them the perfect symbol for spring, but alas, the connection between bunnies and eggs is quite strange in the end.



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# Smell the Flowers with Spring Travel



The country's beloved national parks have always been a popular travel destination for nature-loving adventurers. But their popularity soared even more during the pandemic when social distancing in the great outdoors was embraced with a fervor. In order to limit visitor capacity, some national parks began requiring advance tickets or reservations as they reopened amid the pandemic. In 2023, many of those reservation systems remain in place and some new ones are joining the fray as individual national parks look to reservation systems as a potential tool for controlling high-season crowds, even in non pandemic times.

In 2023, all 63 national parks are open. However, these seven U.S. national parks require advance reservations of some kind:

- **Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado**
- **Haleakalā National Park in Hawai'i**
- **Acadia National Park in Maine**
- **Glacier National Park in Montana**
- **Arches National Park in Utah**
- **Shenandoah National Park in Virginia**
- **Olympic National Park in Washington (new for 2023)**

While the above list includes some of the most popular parks in the National Park System, plenty of must-see parks like the Grand Canyon and Great Smoky Mountains don't require advance reservations. (And Yosemite National Park, previously on the reservations list, is no longer requiring reservations.) In fact, none of the 10 most visited U.S. national parks in 2021 is requiring reservations this year. But as a growing number of visitors descend on these outdoor expanses, it's possible more parks will start to adopt advance reservation systems.





# Groups 2023-2024

## **SEPTEMBER 15-24, 2023—SIX NIGHT BERMUDA CRUISE ABOARD MSC'S MERAVIGLIA**

Sail from New York (Brooklyn) and spend three days at King's Wharf Bermuda enjoying the idyllic, pink sand beaches while imbibing a delicious rum swizzle. Experience everything the Meraviglia has to offer. Our special balcony rate includes accommodations, all current government and port taxes, gratuities, wi-fi for two devices, an upgraded beverage package for \$1,299.00 per person double. Upgrade to Aurea features for \$1,529.00.

## **OCTOBER 4-15, 2023 –11 NIGHT NEW ENGLAND AND CANADA CRUISE ABOARD MSC'S MERAVIGLIA**

Sail from New York (Brooklyn) and visit Newport, RI, Boston, MA, St. John, NB, Halifax and Sydney, NS Charlottetown, PEI returning to New York by way of Portland, ME. The Meraviglia is packed with extraordinary features for the perfect experience at sea. Enjoy gourmet dining, out of this world entertainment with new panoramic areas, an innovative ocean lounge, a two-deck high inside promenade with an LED dome and spectacular amusement area connected to an outdoor water park. Rates include cabin accommodations as selected, all current port and government taxes, beverage package for drinks up to \$9, wi-fi for two devices and gratuities. Ocean view \$1,277.00, Premium Balcony \$1,487.00 and Aurea Balcony \$1,877.00 (includes additional amenities, room service and more).

## **OCTOBER 11-19, 2023—EGYPT AND NILE CRUISE ABOARD THE BRAND NEW H/S NEBU**

Have you always wanted to take a camel ride by the Pyramids or a hot air balloon ride over the Nile while cruising and visiting these ancient sights? Spend two nights in Cairo and visit the new and exciting National Museum, the Great Pyramids of Giza, the enigmatic Sphinx along with a camel ride? Visit Old Cairo. Fly to Luxor and board the H/S Nebu for a four night cruise visiting Karnak & Luxor Temple, Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut, Edfu, Kom Obo and more. Return to Cairo for a farewell dinner and your return to the U.S. Breakfast daily and full board while cruising, lunch while on Old Cairo tour. Rate per person, based on a minimum of 15 passengers is \$4,935.00 including air from JFK. Single supplement \$985.00

## **NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 3, 2023—HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN DUBLIN AND GALWAY'S CHRISTMAS MARKETS**

Enjoy this unique getaway visiting the Christmas Markets in Dublin and Galway. Included in this package is round trip airfare from Newark, a professional tour director for the duration of the trip, four breakfasts (including morning of arrival), two hotel dinners and one traditional Pub dinner, a walking tour of Galway, tour of Connemara, Kylemore Abbey, Clonmacnoise, Newbridge Silver Factory, St. Patrick's Cathedral and Guinness Storehouse. Rate \$2,249.00 per person double occupancy. Minimum participation of 15 is required. Call Tara for more info and reservations.

## **FEBRUARY 7-12, 2024—TENTH ANNUAL ICELAND WEEKEND GETAWAY**

Explore the 'Land of Fire and Ice' witnessing spectacular waterfalls, boiling geysers and spend a few hours relaxing with a cocktail while watching the sunrise in the Blue Lagoon. A visit to Thingvillar National Park is not to be missed; called the Grand Canyon of Iceland because it is where the tectonic plates of North America and Europe merge creating an awesome sight. There is always the opportunity of seeing the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights. Our package includes round trip air from Newark on Icelandair, four nights hotel with a full buffet breakfast daily and a continental breakfast at Viking World Museum on the morning of arrival, all current taxes. Optional tours will be available. Rate is \$1,998.00 per person double. A valid passport is required and insurance is highly recommended.

## **NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 3, 2024—ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS CRUISE ABOARD AMA WATERWAYS AMA LEA**

Depart USA on the evening of November 23 flying to Prague where you will board the AMA LEA for your seven night Christmas Market cruise. The intimate AMA LEA was built in 2018 and sails with a maximum of 156 passengers. Sail the Continental Divide and visit Passau, Melk and Vienna enroute to Budapest. Cruise only rates start at \$3,799.00 per person double including port taxes. Single cabins surcharge range from 125 to 150%. Pre and post nights along with airfare will be available at the end of this year. Call Nancy for information and reservations.

## **DECEMBER 7-14, 2024—SAIL THE CARIBBEAN ON STRA CLIPPERS ROYAL CLIPPER**

Details will be available soon



# VISIT OCEANSIDE

Located on San Diego's north shore just 40 minutes from downtown San Diego, Oceanside is a relaxed beach destination known for its vibrant surf culture and off-beat vibe. This quintessential California coastal escape includes wide sandy beaches, a quaint New England-style harbor, historic wooden pier, and charming bungalow neighborhoods.

O'side (as locals affectionately call it) is a destination of discovery where visitors can explore everything from California history at Mission San Luis Rey, the "King of Missions" currently celebrating its 225th anniversary, to surf culture at the California Surf Museum and awe-inspiring sea life through exciting ocean adventures like whale watching tours, fishing and ocean kayaking. This playful and fun destination is an official training location of USA Surfing and thrives on taking recreation to the next level. In addition to world-class surfing, Oceanside is an epicenter for skateboarding, bike riding, boating and even skydiving. Oceanside's flourishing dining and craft-beverage scene includes three Michelin recognized restaurants, award-winning breweries, and a wide variety of farm-to-table, flip-flop fine dining offerings. Local chefs enjoy the home-grown bounty from Oceanside's agricultural district, which is also open to visitors for seasonal flower fields, strawberry picking, and even wine tasting at a coastal vineyard. Oceanside's creative and entrepreneurial spirit is also evident in its exciting arts and culture programs ranging from a respected art museum to numerous cultural events that earned Oceanside one of just 14 California Cultural District designations in 2017. Classically charming, eclectic, and always genuine, Oceanside is an ideal SoCal getaway and a true O'iginal.



## BOOK A BABYMOON PACKAGE TODAY

Know anyone who's expecting a baby? You can help them enjoy a relaxing & romantic getaway before their bundle of joy arrives. Book 3 nights or more at Sun Palace, our four diamond, adults-only resort in Cancun. They'll be able to indulge in all-inclusive dining, drinks (including mocktails), Be sure to ask about our Babymoon Package to add special treats, including:

Special welcome amenities

Breakfast in bed

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Late check-out\*

## AmaWaterways puts regulation-size pickleball court on the AmaMagna



AmaWaterways has installed a regulation-size pickleball court on the AmaMagna's sundeck.

The AmaMagna is a double-wide ship, and AmaWaterways was able to put the court behind the wheelhouse, where there are no staterooms below the playing surface. The court has a perimeter net, which will prevent balls from going out of play.

Guests will be able to play only when the ship is docked because the perimeter net will need to be removed during sailings in order to pass under certain bridges. Wind could also interfere with the game, which is another reason why the court will only be open while the ship is docked.

The AmaMagna exclusively sails Danube cruises.





## STAR CLIPPERS

# Sailing the High Seas on a Tall Ship

Would you like to climb the mast to the crow's nest 75 feet above the deck or visit the open bridge where you can participate in the sailing? A tall ship adventure might just be the ticket. You can relax in the bowsprit netting to listen to the waves and experience the feeling of being surrounded by water on all sides while suspended above the ocean and maybe watch dolphins frolic below you.

Life on board is casual and relaxed, with no crowds or lines, just the perfect amount of personal service—like being on your own private yacht. Visit ports untouched by larger cruise ships. Water sports, yoga and wellness classes, swimming pools, shore excursions designed to highlight the best of the ports visited and guest lecturers.

Watching the sun rise each morning and slip below the horizon each evening from the top deck also makes for some incredibly romantic moments.

The warm air on your skin, the thrill of visiting far flung locations, the vibrant sunsets glimpsed from a cozy spot on the deck. The experience of gliding into an exotic port aboard one of the world's largest clipper ships under full sail is simply undeniable.

Back in 1989, Swedish entrepreneur Mikael Krafft turned his boyhood dream into a reality when he founded Star Clippers, the only modern-day cruise line dedicated to re-creating the golden age of the tall sailing ships while providing passengers with a mega-yacht experience sailing to remote ports in the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Central America.

The company now operates three of the world's largest and tallest sailing vessels: Star Clipper and Star Flyer are traditional clipper ships with modern amenities carrying 170 guests, while the 227-guest Royal Clipper holds the Guinness World Record for being the largest and only five-masted, full-rigged sailing ship in service today. All three ships have expansive teak decks, swimming pools, informal dining, convivial tropical bars on deck and piano lounges.

Star Clippers' itineraries are created with wind charts, allowing them to move by the power of the wind 70-90% of the time. Star Clippers has also been awarded the world's GREENEST cruise line for many years.



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