

Groups 2023-2024

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. **Only 6 seats left!!**

APRIL 28, 2024—GREAT TRAINS and GRAND CANYON

Highlights: Two rail journeys, Grand Canyon, Sedona, trolley tour and the Chapel of the Holy Cross. Five nights at the Hilton Sedona, five breakfasts and three dinners, all sightseeing and round trip air fare. Rate \$3,399.00 per person double occupancy.

JUNE 9, 2024—UTAH'S MIGHTY NATIONAL PARKS

Highlights: Arches, Capital and Canyonlands National Parks, Monument Valley, Canyonlands by night and wine tasting. Six nights hotel, six breakfasts, one lunch and three dinners, all sightseeing and round trip air fare. Rate \$3,625.00 per person double.

JUNE 9-16, 2024—SAIL CELEBRITY ECLIPSE TO BERMUDA

Sail on the revolutionized Celebrity Eclipse from Cape Liberty (Bayonne) and spend three glorious days in Bermuda. Sail past the Statue of Liberty enroute to the Royal Naval Dockyard. Your balcony cabin will include your accommodations, all meals (except for restaurants), beverage package, wi-fi, gratuities and all current port and government taxes. **Book by August 9, 2023 and receive a \$100 per person on board credit. Proof of citizenship is required (NO PASSPORT). Rate is \$1,859.00 per person double.**

SEPTEMBER 4, 2024—BLACK HILLS, BADLANDS and MT. RUSHMORE

Highlights: Mt. Rushmore day and night, Devil's Tower, Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer State Park and Buffalo Jeep Safari. Six nights hotel, six breakfasts and four dinners, all sightseeing and round trip air fare. Rate per person \$3,395.00 double occupancy.

OCTOBER 13, 2024—NATIONAL PARKS and CANYONS of the SOUTHWEST

Highlights: Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, Zion Park Tram and Hoover Dam. Two nights in Las Vegas and three nights in Mesquite, five breakfasts, one lunch and two dinners, all sightseeing and round trip air fare. Rate \$3,395.00 per person double occupancy.

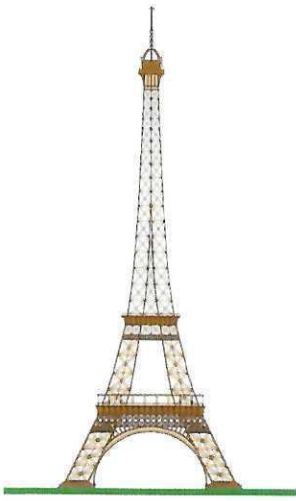
NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 3, 2024—ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS CRUISE ABOARD AMA WATERWAYS AMA LEA

Depart USA on the evening of November 23rd 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 STAR CLIPPERS ROYAL CLIPPER

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 help sail the vessel? If so, a tall ship adventure might just be the ticket. Life on board is casual and relaxed with top notch dining and less than 250 passengers. Have a tropical drink while you relax in the bowsprit netting listening to the steel drum band on deck. Enjoy complimentary water sports, yoga and wellness classes. The shore excursions on board the Star Clipper are designed to highlight the best of the ports visited. Enjoy a beach BBQ. Ports of call are the Grenadines; including St. George's, Grenada, Tobago Cays, Kingstown, St. Vincent, Bequia, Fort de France, Martinique with beach stop, Marigot Bay, St. Lucia, and Soufriere, St. Lucia. The rate per person (cruise only for an outside cabin with port taxes) is \$2,399.00 including a \$200.00 onboard credit and pre-paid gratuities. Air rates and pre-night information will be available in January 2024. A passport is required and insurance is highly recommended.





Tips for Visiting the Eiffel Tower Without the Crowds

The Eiffel Tower is one of the world's most popular tourist attractions. Every year, nearly 7 million people ascend Gustav Eiffel's iconic construction, built for the 1889 Exposition Universelle, to look out over the breadth of Paris below. Various exhibitions and events will honor the 100th anniversary of the engineer's death this year, but the most fitting tribute is still the most common one: a visit to his famed creation to marvel at its 1,083 feet of latticework, 2,500,000 rivets, and 7,300 tons of iron. So how does one do that without being crushed by the crowds? We've got some tips.

Understand the Eiffel Tower's layout, so you can make a plan.

The Eiffel Tower has three viewing areas: the first platform (187 feet), the second platform (377 feet), and the summit (906 feet), which is itself two levels, one indoor and one outdoor.

To get to the first and second floors, visitors have a choice of elevators or stairs (more on that below), but the summit is only accessible by elevator.

Guests who buy elevator tickets must start their visit at the highest level they purchased; those who choose the stairs can make their own decision. Keep in mind that you have to make that decision beforehand—there is no way to buy a ticket to the second floor and then add on the summit once you arrive.

Bottlenecks happen at a few spots, so it's helpful to know where those are so you can build those wait times into your expectations for the day. The first is at the security check at the main two entrances to the tower. (If you're buying tickets on-site, there will be another wait at the cash registers.) The next backup happens at a security checkpoint at the elevators. Visitors taking the smaller lift to the summit will likely see another delay at the second floor while waiting for the elevator. There's no way to avoid this, unfortunately.

To skip waiting in line on-site for tickets (we hear the wait can be over an hour long), buy them online—most ticket options are available up to 60 days in advance. Pro tip: They're timed, so if you're trying to coordinate your visit to sunset, for example, try to schedule them for about 90 minutes before.

However, if you're open to taking the stairs—all 674 of them—your plan might be different. For instance, if you want to go to the tippy top, the ticket combo of "stairway + lift" (i.e., stairs to the second floor, then elevator to the summit) is only sold on-site. Stairs to first and second floors only can be bought online (up to 14 days in advance). There's also the weather to think about.

Granted, this is hard to do, because, well, it's Paris and this is the Eiffel Tower. However, the tower's website helpfully lists out the busiest times of the year (roughly June–September, with some specific weeks called out), as well as holidays that might make things even worse.

November, January, and February are the best months to come.

In terms of time of day (it's open 9:30am–11pm), the first few hours in the morning and the last few at night are likely to have the lowest attendance. Eat at the Eiffel Tower's Michelin-starred restaurant

Le Jules Verne restaurant is on the second floor of the tower. Guests who have a reservation at the one-Michelin-star restaurant can take a dedicated elevator to it, bypassing the rest of the crowd. A reservation includes access to the first viewing platform of the tower, but if you want to go to the top, you'll still have to buy a ticket and queue for the summit elevator just like everyone else (and it's recommended you visit before you eat).

Skip the summit

Even though most visitors will automatically want to go to the top of the Eiffel Tower, there's an argument for avoiding the crowds and hassle caused by waiting for that smaller elevator to take you up to the smallest viewing area.



WHY DO YOU HAVE TO CLAIM AND RECHECK YOUR BAG FOR A CONNECTING INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT IN THE USA?

IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED WHY YOU HAVE TO COLLECT AND RECHECK YOUR SUITCASE AFTER LANDING IN THE UNITED STATES, HERE ARE SOME ANSWERS.

THE FOREMOST REASON FOR RECHECKING YOUR BAG AFTER AN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT IS SECURITY.

IT'S REQUIRED BY SEVERAL FEDERAL STATUTES AND REGULATIONS, THOUGH THE ONE CBP (US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION) POINTS TO AS THE DRIVING FORCE APPEARS IN THE **CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS** (SPECIFICALLY **TITLE 19, CHAPTER I, SUBSECTION 162.6**), WHICH STATES THAT "ALL PERSONS, BAGGAGE, AND MERCHANDISE ARRIVING IN THE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES FROM PLACES OUTSIDE THEREOF ARE LIABLE TO INSPECTION BY A CBP OFFICER."

BETWEEN COLLECTING YOUR LUGGAGE AND LEAVING THE CUSTOMS AREA, CBP OFFICERS CAN ASK YOU TO REPORT TO A SECONDARY AREA FOR FURTHER SCREENING OF YOUR BAGGAGE. SHOULD YOU BE SELECTED, AN OFFICER WILL SEARCH THROUGH YOUR SUITCASE TO LOOK FOR ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ALLOWED INTO THE COUNTRY. HAVING YOUR BAGGAGE WITH YOU AT THAT TIME HELPS STREAMLINE THAT PROCESS.

UNDER THAT SEARCH AUTHORITY, CUSTOMS OFFICERS CAN SEIZE ANYTHING THEY KNOW OR HAVE REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE VIOLATES A CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION LAW OR IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT LAW, AS WELL AS LAWS FROM ROUGHLY 40 OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THAT CAN INCLUDE ITEMS THAT ARE STOLEN OR SMUGGLED, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, OR THINGS THAT ARE CONSIDERED UNSAFE TO BRING INTO THE COUNTRY (RANGING FROM FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES THAT COULD INTRODUCE PLANT PESTS OR DISEASE TO WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICES), AMONG OTHER OBJECTS.

CBP SAID IT ALSO PLAYS A ROLE IN ENFORCING IMPORT AND EXPORT REGULATIONS, BECAUSE WHEN TRAVELERS ARRIVE IN THE UNITED STATES, THEY ARE REQUIRED TO DECLARE CERTAIN ITEMS, SUCH AS GIFTS, DUTY-FREE PURCHASES, OR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. REQUIRING TRAVELERS TO COLLECT AND RECHECK THEIR BAGS, ACCORDING TO CBP, HELPS ENSURE THAT PASSENGERS DECLARE ALL THEIR ITEMS ACCURATELY, PREVENTING ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF RESTRICTED GOODS AND ENSURING THAT TRAVELERS PAY APPROPRIATE DUTIES ON THEIR PURCHASES. HOWEVER, CBP WOULD NEED TO FIND THOSE GOODS IN A SEARCH TO BE ABLE TO ENFORCE THOSE REGULATIONS.

CAN YOU AVOID RECHECKING YOUR BAG?

YOU CAN, OF COURSE, AVOID RECHECKING BY BRINGING ONLY CARRY-ON LUGGAGE WITH YOU, FOR ONE. BUT THE ONLY WAY AROUND RECHECKING A CHECKED BAG FOR YOUR CONNECTING FLIGHT IS BY GOING THROUGH A PRECLEARANCE FACILITY BEFORE ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES. CBP HAS **PRECLEARANCE FACILITIES** AT 15 LOCATIONS IN 6 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE, INCLUDING:

ARUBA

BAHAMAS (NASSAU AIRPORT)

BERMUDA

CANADA (CALGARY, EDMONTON, HALIFAX, MONTREAL, OTTAWA, TORONTO, VANCOUVER, VICTORIA, AND WINNIPEG AIRPORTS)

IRELAND (DUBLIN AND SHANNON AIRPORTS)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (ABU DHABI AIRPORT)

ONCE THROUGH THE PRECLEARANCE FACILITY, ALL ONWARD FLIGHTS OPERATE LIKE DOMESTIC FLIGHTS.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T COLLECT YOUR BAG?

THE OFFICIAL CBP LINE IS "BAGGAGE NOT OBTAINED AFTER YOUR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT WILL NOT GET TO YOUR FINAL DESTINATION."

IT'S HARD TO SAY WHETHER THEY MEAN AT ALL OR JUST WITH YOU. IF YOUR BAG GOT LEFT BEHIND OR WAS PUT ON THE WRONG FLIGHT AND DIDN'T END UP ON THE CONVEYOR BELT, THE AIRLINE WILL TYPICALLY GET IT TO YOUR HOME (OR AT LEAST YOUR HOME AIRPORT) AS SOON AS IT CAN, AND YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR FLIGHT PATH AS PLANNED.

IF YOU FORGET YOUR BAG (OR CLAIM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN IT, PERHAPS TO MAKE A TIGHT CONNECTION), THE SAME MAY BE TRUE. OR IT COULD BE DECLARED ABANDONED, IN WHICH CASE IT'S ANYONE'S GUESS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO IT.

Beach Destinations

As summer is drawing to a close, now is the time to start planning your next escape to a beachside paradise. Whether they looking to soak up the sun, set off on an adventure or simply seeking time to relax, a vacation to a beach destination offers something for every type of traveler. We are here to assist you in planning an unforgettable trip that will have your clients counting down the days and daydreaming of sitting on a lounge chair with their toes in the sand.



Beaches have a unique way of captivating our hearts with their tranquil shores, pristine waters, and breathtaking sunsets. If you are a sunseeker, an adventurer, or a relaxation enthusiast, the world offers an array of stunning beaches that cater to every traveler's dream. Here are the top ten beach destinations around the globe that stand out for their beauty, activities, and unforgettable experiences.

1. Bora Bora

Often referred to as the "Pearl of the Pacific," Bora Bora's crystal-clear turquoise waters, overwater bungalows, and vibrant coral reefs make it a true tropical paradise. The island's main beach, Matira Beach, offers calm, shallow waters perfect for sunbathing, watersports and taking in breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains.

2. Hawaii

The islands of Hawaii are a true testament to nature's beauty. With so many choices of breathtaking beaches, diverse coastline and stunning waters it is hard to decide which island boasts the best beaches. The golden sands of Waikiki offer iconic relaxation, while the rugged beauty of Papakolea's green sand and Punalu'u's black sand are a true marvel. From the tranquility of Lanikai Beach to the fiery sunsets at Ka'anapali, Hawaii's beaches enchant with diverse offerings, relaxation, and activities for every type of traveler.

3. Mexico

Mexico's coastline is a treasure trove of stunning beaches along both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Each Mexican beach destination offers a unique charm. From Tulum's unique blend of culture and relaxation with its palm-fringed shores and ancient Mayan ruins to the vibrant energy of Cancun's famed beaches that offer a myriad of water sports. The calm crystal waters of Playa del Carmen and the secluded beauty of Playa Escondido showcase the country's diverse coastal landscapes, inviting visitors to revel in the sun, sand and sea.

4. Australia Australia's coastline boasts unparalleled beaches that cater to all types of travelers, whether your clients are looking for the best surfing spots, blissful relaxation or wildlife encounters, Australia's beaches have it all. Bondi Beach in Sydney is an iconic destination known for its vibrant energy, while the pristine expanse of Whitehaven Beach in the Whitsundays offers a tranquil escape and turquoise waters. The rugged Wineglass Bay is a heaven for nature lovers and Bells Beach in Victoria is a surfing haven. Whatever beach you choose Australia is a paradise for beach enthusiasts.

5. Turks and Caicos Turks and Caicos is a Caribbean paradise, renowned for its enchanting beaches and vivid coral reefs. Grace Bay, with its powdery sands and azure waters, epitomizes tranquility. From secluded Half Moon Bay to the vibrant Bight Beach, the islands' coastline is a true idyllic Caribbean escape that offers a tapestry of beauty, attracting sun-seekers and water enthusiasts from around the world.

6. Seychelles The Seychelles are a true tropical haven, that is known for its pristine beaches. Anse Lazio, found on Praslin Island, boasts a crescent of sugar-white sands, and awe-inspiring turquoise waves set against dramatic boulders. From the hidden coves and crystal-clear waters of Anse Source d'Argent to the untouched beauty of Anse Intendance, Seychelles' beaches are a testament to nature's artistry, inviting travelers to bask in paradise.

7. Maldives The Maldives is a tropical jewel that is synonymous with luxury and relaxation, boasting overwater villas, abundant marine life, and stunning coral atolls. The powdery sands of Hulhumale offer relaxation, while the vibrant coral sands of Pink Beach are a visual wonder. From the luxurious retreats on Veligandu Island to the serene seclusion of Fulhadhoo Beach, the Maldives' beaches create a dreamlike canvas for sun-soaked escapes and unparalleled serenity.

8. Greece Greece's beaches are a reflection of its rich history and natural beauty. The golden sands of Mykonos beckon with vibrant energy, while the ancient charm of Navagio Beach is a hidden treasure with its iconic shipwreck and steep limestone cliffs that are accessible only by boat. From the turquoise waters of Elafonissi to the volcanic allure of Red Beach, Greece's coastline offers inviting diverse landscapes for beach lovers to explore and enjoy.

9. Bahamas The Bahamas is synonymous with stunning beaches that lure travelers to unwind and relax. Cable Beach's golden stretch is a sunbather's and snorkelers' heaven, while the striking Pink Sands Beach on Harbour Island is a visual delight of blush-colored sands and swaying palm trees. Paradise Island and Exuma offer miles of tranquil shores and soft white sand beaches that draw visitors from around the world.

10. Portugal Portugal's Algarve, the southernmost region in the country is a paradise for beach lovers. From the secluded beauty of the region's most emblematic beach, Praia da Marinha to the stunning cliffs of Ponta da Piedade, the Algarve's coastline is an unmatched visual delight. Praia de Benagil's iconic sea cave and the golden stretch of Meia Praia offer a range of experiences from hiking, and watersports to sunbathing which make the Algarve a cherished destination for sun, sea, and exploration.

Each of these beach destinations offers a distinct blend of natural beauty, activities, and cultural experiences. Whether your client is looking to explore or simply bask in the sun's warmth on a remote shore, these beaches promise memories that will last a lifetime.

Six Flags will go big on new rides, upgrades, park investments in 2024

Six Flags Entertainment Corp. this week announced its biggest investment in its parks in more than 10 years.

Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey will celebrate its 50th anniversary with boomerang coaster The Flash: Vertical Velocity. The coaster will move backward and forward at nearly 60 mph. Additionally, that park's Wild Safari Park will be home to the new Savannah Sunset Resort & Spa glamping experience, including tents, spa services and VIP dining.

