



The future is looking good!

David Smeriglio graduated from Rutgers with degrees in math and economics. A job as actuary is in his future once he returns from his European cruise with his mom, Lynn.

Tara's daughter Kenna Bihlmier graduates Southern Regional next week. Kenna is a member of the National Honor Society and will be heading to Keystone College in Pennsylvania where she will be studying for a degree as an Occupational Therapist while on a soccer scholarship. Good luck!



One Year Out, Americans Need to Get Serious About REAL ID

Almost 20 years since Congress passed the REAL ID Act, the U.S. is now officially less than 12 months away from the REAL ID enforcement date.

And, while travelers may have gotten used to the delays for enforcement, the latest of which came in 2022, barring a dramatic change in heart from the DHS, this May 7, 2025 deadline is for real.

That means it is time for travelers, particularly those without a passport who want to fly domestically, to get serious about obtaining a REAL ID. Because, according to some recent news, they haven't:

- According to NJ.com, only one in seven New Jersey drivers have opted for REAL ID.

REAL ID-compliant IDs and driver's licenses will usually have a marking on the top portion of the card—most often a star—that will prove its compliance. The mark denotes that the IDs have met the new minimum standards for identification cards.

Travelers will still be able to board flights should they not have a REAL ID as long as they have another form of acceptable identification, which, for travel, is most commonly a passport (though less than half of Americans currently have a passport). Some states, including Washington, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, and Vermont, also offer enhanced driver's licenses, considered acceptable alternatives to REAL ID.

For travelers who do not have a REAL ID, and want to get one before the May 2025 deadline, the first step is to go to their state's driver's licensing agency website to find out exactly what is needed to get a REAL ID. Typically, at minimum, those applying for a REAL ID will need to provide a full legal name, date of birth, social security number, and two proof of address. Other requirements could be needed depending on the state.



GROUP DEPARTURES 2024, 2025 AND 2026

DECEMBER 7, 2024-ROYAL CLIPPER (round trip Barbados)

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, this tall ship adventure is your ticket. Casual and relaxes with top notch dining and less than 250 passengers. Have a tropical drink while you relax in the bowsprit netting while listening to a steel drum band on deck. Visit Grenada, St. Vincent, Bequia, Martinique and St. Lucia. Rate per person for an outside cabin, including current taxes, is \$2,475.00. Our special pricing also includes pre-paid gratuities and an on-board credit of \$200.00 per person.

FEBRUARY 26 to MARCH 4, 2025-ICELAND

Our annual Iceland adventure begins with flights on Icelandair round trip from Newark Liberty Airport to Keflavik. We will begin with a stop at the Viking World Museum for a heavy continental breakfast before heading to the Blue Lagoon for a sunrise cocktail. Our package includes four nights at Midgardur Center Hotel with a buffet breakfast daily, full day Golden Circle tour with a tomato soup lunch at Fridheimar Greenhouse, shared Northern Lights tour, optional tours will be available to the glacier and South shore black sand beaches and Sky Lagoon. Price per person double \$1,998.00 included all current air and government taxes. A few singles are available at a surcharge of \$650.00. Insurance is recommended and a valid passport is required.

MARCH 24-30, 2025, SOUTHERN CHARM (with Collette Vacations)

Explore warm southern hospitality in America's southeast. Come to know its rich history and deep traditions on this tour highlighted by stays in Charleston, Savannah and Jekyll Island. Included are round trip transfers from Home Town Travel to Newark airport, six breakfasts and three dinners, professional escort for the duration of the trip, all accommodations and entrance fees. The rate per person, based on double occupancy is \$3,799.00. Cancel for any reason insurance is optional at the rate of \$429.00

MAY 18 to 25, 2025, BERMUDA CRUISE ABOARD THE CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE

Start next summer off right; especially if you missed this year's Bermuda group. Enjoy all that Bermuda has to offer while enjoying your beverage package and wi-fi relaxing on your balcony as you sail from Cape Liberty (Bayonne, NJ) passing the Statue of Liberty enroute to the beautiful pink sand beaches this beautiful island has to offer. Your special group rate includes your balcony accommodation, all current port and government taxes, beverage package and wi-fi for \$1,859.00 per person double. BOOK BY JULY 15th and RECEIVE A \$100. PER PERSON ON BOARD CREDIT.

NOVEMBER 5-16, 2025, OLD WORLD SICILY AND MALTA (with Collette Vacations). This is a small group departure for Home Town Travel with a maximum of 24 passengers on this adventure. These legendary isles are nestled amongst the deep blue water of the Mediterranean. Discover how ancient traditions blend into modern society as you travel along timeless Italian Maltese and Sicilian towns. This eleven-night tour begins with a four-night stay in Malta with a ferry to Sicily where you will stay three nights in Ragusa and three nights in Taormina. This package includes round trip transportation to Newark airport from our office, round trip air from Newark airport with an overnight flight to Malta, 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners, professional escort throughout the trip and all accommodations and entrance fees. The rate per person based on double occupancy is \$5,399.00. Cancel for any reason insurance is optional and at a rate of \$549.00. Please call for more information.

NOVEMBER 25, 2025-ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS ABOARD AMA REINA (Nuremburg to Budapest)

Travel back through centuries as you walk along cobblestone streets through grand cities and historic towns bedecked with twinkling Christmas trees and lined with wooden huts gleaming with handcrafted treasures. Nuremberg's festive Christkindlemarkt, the largest and oldest Christmas market in Germany, Regensburg's Artisan Christmas Market, one of Bavaria's most beautiful and romantic, Vienna with its impressive Christmas Market and Budapest where most products are handmade. Revel in a feast for the senses: sparkling lights, festive sounds of children dressed as angels singing carols and the enticing smells of hot-mulled wine, roasted chestnuts, sausages, and sweet treats of every kind. Rates start at \$3,699.00 per person double occupancy. Air fare and pre and post stays are optional and will be available in January 2025.

MARCH 13-26,2026—TWELVE NIGHT VIETNAM & THAILAND CRUISE ABOARD THE CELEBRITY SOLSTICE

This bucket list trip starts in Hong Kong and visits Hanoi (Halong Bay), Hue/Danang, Ho Chi Minh (Phu My), Bangkok/Laemchabang and Ko Samui Thailand, and disembarking in Singapore. Pre and post land packages will be available. Cruise includes balcony accommodations (V1), all current port and government taxes, beverage package, gratuities, and Wi-Fi. SAVE OVER \$1,500 PER CABIN. Rate per person based on double \$3,350.00. A deposit of \$900/cabin is required to reserve your cabin. Final payment is not due until December 1, 2025.

**REMEMBER-IF YOU FIND SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU, BOOK EARLY SO YOU WILL NOT TO BE DISAPPOINTED.
OUR SPECIAL RATES TEND TO SELL OUT.**



3 WAYS TO EXPERIENCE AMERICAN HISTORY IN WASHINGTON D.C. THIS YEAR

Delve into the past this election year by adding these sights and exhibits to your itinerary.

Every year, crowds of visitors from around the world flock to Washington, D.C., to see the museums, monuments, memorials, and other historic attractions. With the 2024 presidential election happening this November, this year is a particularly timely one to delve into America's past in our nation's capital.

Tour the sights of the National Mall

Washington's National Mall and Memorial Parks attract more than 25 million visitors every year and is the most visited National Park Service site in the United States. While it's impossible to see all the monuments and memorials (there are over 100 scattered amid 1,000 acres of green space), several are within close walking distance. For example, you can cross seven off your list on this two-hour self-guided walking tour, including the Lincoln Memorial, where 36 columns represent every state in America at the time of the president's death; Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which is etched with the names of 58,318 Americans who gave their lives to serve our country; and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, where 22 quotes from the leader's presidency are engraved into granite walls.

Check out these impactful exhibits

The Smithsonian Institution encompasses 21 museums, which house some of the country's most treasured artifacts. If you're interested in learning more about the most powerful office in the world, stroll through **The American Presidency** exhibit in the National Museum of American History. There, you can see more than 900 items, such as Abraham Lincoln's iconic top hat, gowns worn by the First Ladies, and Bill Clinton's saxophone. At the National Museum of African American History and Culture, investigate some of the darkest periods of our country's history at the **Slavery and Freedom** exhibition, where powerful objects such as Harriet Tubman's shawl and a slave cabin emphasize stories of inhumanity and resilience. Find out how American Indians are depicted in American history, popular culture, and identify at the National Museum of the American Indian's **Americans** exhibit, which touches on everything from the Cleveland Indians' mascot to the Tomahawk missile.

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Pretzel Crusted Chicken Nuggets Salad

Making the nuggets to top this salad may sound like a lot of work, but with this recipe it's a breeze. Cut the chicken into bite-size pieces so that it cooks in as little as 12 minutes. A mayo-based dredge keeps the pretzel coating attached, while adding tons of flavor and moisture to every bite. That means you can get this crowd-pleaser on the table (and dig into crunchy, pretzel-crusted goodness), any night of the week.

Chicken: Nonstick cooking spray, for the baking sheet 1/2 cup mayonnaise 1/4 cup Dijon mustard 1/4 cup grated Parmesan 1 teaspoon garlic powder Freshly ground black pepper 3 heaping cups pretzels, preferably Dot's Homestyle Pretzels, finely crushed (a few larger pieces are okay) 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch bite-sized pieces, patted dry.

Salad: 10 ounces chopped kale or baby kale 1/2 cup shaved or grated Parmesan, plus more for serving 4 radishes, thinly sliced 1 avocado, sliced.



Dressing: 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt 1/4 cup grated Parmesan 2 tablespoons olive oil 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard 2 shakes Worcestershire sauce Lots of freshly ground black pepper Pinch kosher salt 1 clove garlic, grated with a fine zester Juice and zest of 1/2 lemon.

Directions: For the chicken: Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Set a wire rack in a rimmed baking sheet and spray the rack with nonstick spray. Set aside. Combine the mayo, mustard, Parmesan, garlic powder and a few turns of pepper in a large bowl. Add the pretzels to a separate bowl or large shallow dish. Coat the chicken all over in the mayo mixture, then the crushed pretzels, and transfer to the wire rack, spacing it out evenly. Spray the chicken with cooking spray and bake until fully cooked, with an internal temperature of 165 degrees F, 12 to 18 minutes. For the dressing: Combine the yogurt, Parmesan, oil, mustard, Worcestershire, pepper, salt, garlic, lemon juice and zest in a bowl and adjust the seasoning as needed. For the salad: Toss together the kale, Parmesan and radishes in a large bowl. Top with the avocado slices, chicken and more shaved Parm as desired.