



*May the gifts of Easter
Cause you much delight,*

*And the sun of Easter
Make your pathway bright. A.E.*

Whether you are celebrating Easter or Passover, our good wishes are extended to you and your family.

Today is Adult Autism Day. International Amateur Radio Day, Juggler's Day, and International Day for Monuments and Sites. Other days of note are National Hot Cross Bun Day, Lineman Appreciation Day, Newspaper Columnists Day, Velociraptor Awareness Day, and Transfer Money to Your Daughter's Account Day. We finish with Pet Owners Independence Day, Pinata Day, World Marbles Day and Good Friday. Weekly celebrations of note include Cleaning for a Reason, Consumer Awareness, Make Mine Chocolate, Dog Bite Prevention, Student Employment, Health Information Professionals, Osteopathic Medicine, World Irish Dancing, Public Safety Telecommunicators and finish with Police Officers Who Gave Their Lives in the Line of Duty.

The astrological sign for today is Aires, birth flowers for April are the daisy (signifies innocence, loyal love, and purity) and the Sweet Pea (signifies blissful pleasure but are also used to say good-bye). The birthstone for April is the diamond, a symbol of enduring love. Famous birthdays: (1947) James Woods, American actor and producer (*Against All Odds*), (1956) Eric Roberts, American actor, (1963) Eric McCormack, Canadian-American actor and producer (*Will & Grace*), (1963) Conan O'Brien-TV host (*Late Night*), (1967) Maria Bello, American actress and singer (*Coyote Ugly*, *Touch*) and (1976) Melissa Joan Hart, American actress (*Sabrina, Melissa & Joey*). Famous deaths: (1955) Albert Einstein, German-American physicist (b.1879) and (2012) Dick Clark, (American TV host and producer who founded Dick Clark Productions including *American Bandstand* and *New Year's Rockin' Eve*) (b. 1929). Famous weddings: (1951) Charles M. Schulz, cartoonist, weds Joyce Halverson and (1956) Grace Kelly marries Prince Rainier III of Monaco in a civil ceremony.

Today in history: (1881) Billy the Kid escapes from the Lincoln Country jail in Mesilla, NM, (1902) Denmark is the first country to adopt finger printing to identify criminals, (1906) an 8.25 earthquake and fire kill nearly 4,000 people and destroys 75% of San Francisco, CA, (1924) Simon & Schuster publish the first crossword puzzle book, (1925) the World's Fair opens in Chicago, (1955) the first Walk/Don't Walk lighted street signs are installed, (1977) Alex Haley, the author of "Roots", is awarded a Pulitzer Prize, (1978) the U.S. Senate votes to turn the Panama Canal over to Panama on December 31, 1999, (1983) the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon is attacked by a suicide bomber who kills 63 people, (1994) former President Richard Nixon suffers a stroke and dies four days later and (2013) a café bombing in Baghdad, Iraq kills 27 and injure six.

Today in Music: (1976) John LENNON releases 'Stand By Me', (1980) Pink Floyd's 'Another Brick in the Wall (part II)' hits #1 in the U.S., (1987) Aretha Franklin's duet with George Michael, 'I Knew You Were Waiting for Me' hits #1, (1992) Annie Lennox has her debut solo album "Diva" hit #1 on the U.K. album chart, (2003) Etta James receives her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, (2009) the Black Eyed Peas single 'Boom Boom Pow' hits #1 in the U.S. and stays on top for 12 weeks and (2009) Kieth Urban's fifth studio album 'Defying Gravity' hits #1 on the U.S. album chart. **Today in Sports:** (1923) 74,000 people are on hand for the opening of Yankee Stadium, (1981) the longest professional baseball game is suspended at 4:00am, the next morning and is completed on June 23rd in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, (1982) the Atlanta Braves win their record 11th straight opening game and (1995) quarterback Joe Montana announces his retirement from football.



We just returned from our latest Viking cruise, Malta, Morocco and the Mediterranean. Two of our favorite memories from this trip were eating dinner at Botin (the earliest operating restaurant in the world, in continuous operation since 1725), and taking a cooking class on the ship. Sue and Al Perugini



Venice Day-Tripper Tourist Tax Extended Through 2025

The cost to visit Venice for the day during peak season will double this year.

Venice is, quite literally, doubling down on the day-tripper tourist tax that it introduced in 2024, extending the policy through 2025, adding more days to pay, and increasing the fee.

From April 18 through July 27, during peak days and hours, day-trippers to Venice will be charged a 10-euro (\$10.80 USD) tax. The fee will apply to all visitors who do not have overnight accommodations and enter the city Friday through Sunday and holidays between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.



Join the Manahawkin Elks Lodge

To San Juan and a seven-night all-inclusive cruise to the Southern Caribbean on the Grand Princess.

October 25th-November 2, 2025

Your vacation will start in San Juan where we will transfer as a group for a pre night at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Casino before the cruise. The Embassy Suites is located 2 miles from the airport in the beautiful area of Isla Verde and two blocks from the beach. Included for your one-night stay is a complimentary cocktail reception from 5:30pm to 7:00pm, cooked to order breakfast buffet, portage service for one bag and use of beach chairs, umbrellas and towels. The next morning, we will transfer as a group to the cruise terminal to start your southern Caribbean adventure.

Visit the ports of call of: Tortola, BVI, St. Kitts, Dominica, Grenada, Barbados and one day at sea to experience cruise ship life. This eight night package includes: Round trip non stop air on American Airlines out of Philadelphia, transportation in San Juan to hotel, cruise ship and back to the airport, one night pre hotel at the Embassy Suites, cruise accommodations as selected, **Princess Plus** covers all drinks alcoholic and non-alcoholic, all meals except specialty dining (surcharge), pre-paid gratuities, two casual dining meals, two premium desserts, two fitness classes, room service, WI-FI, all government and port taxes plus some Home Town perks. Not included is optional travel insurance, which will be provided. Transportation locally will be provided for nominal fee to the airport.

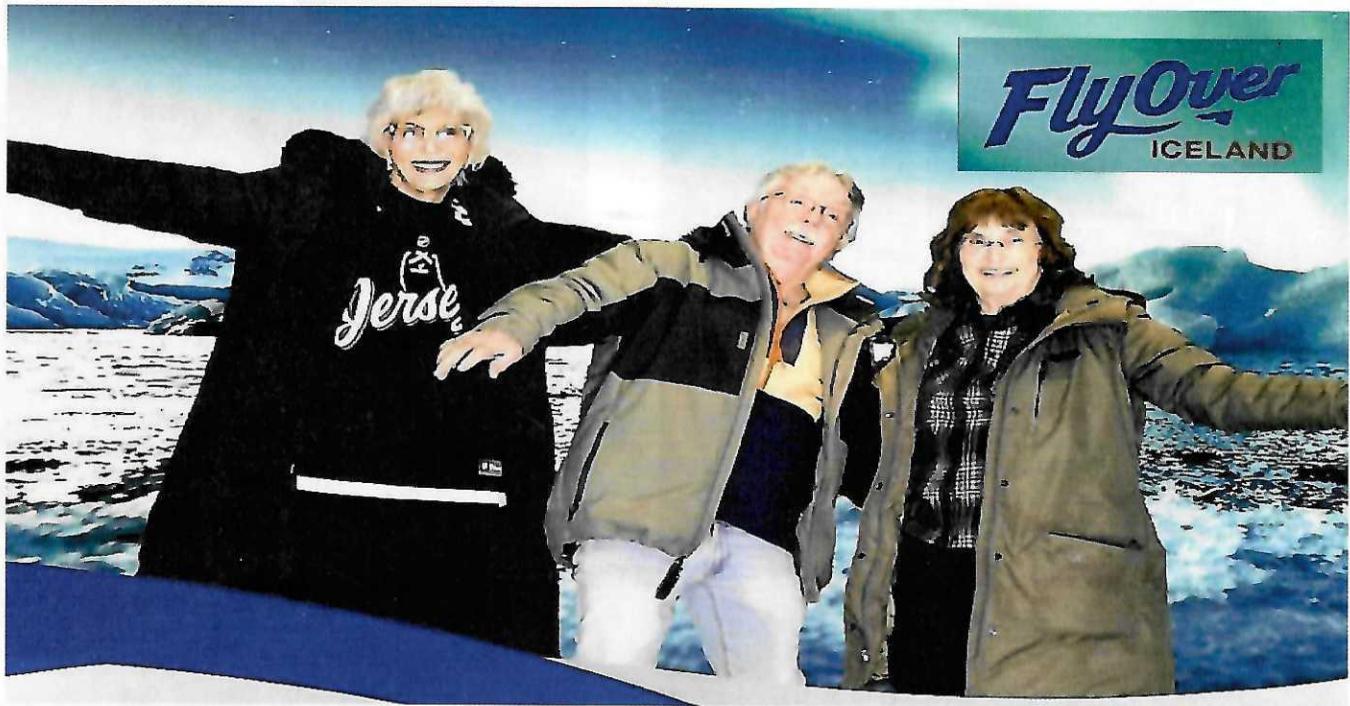
You will need a valid US passport with a validity date of more than 6 months to the date of return. A deposit of \$250.00 per person would be required to book by **April 25th**. **You do not have to be a member of the ELKS to travel.**

Rates per person based on double occupancy start at **\$2239.00 for an Ocean View cabin** (partial obstructed) and **\$2639.00 for a balcony cabin**. Single rates available upon request.

Tara Bihlmier at Home Town Travel,

Email: t.l.gaffney@comcast.net

(609) 597-5100

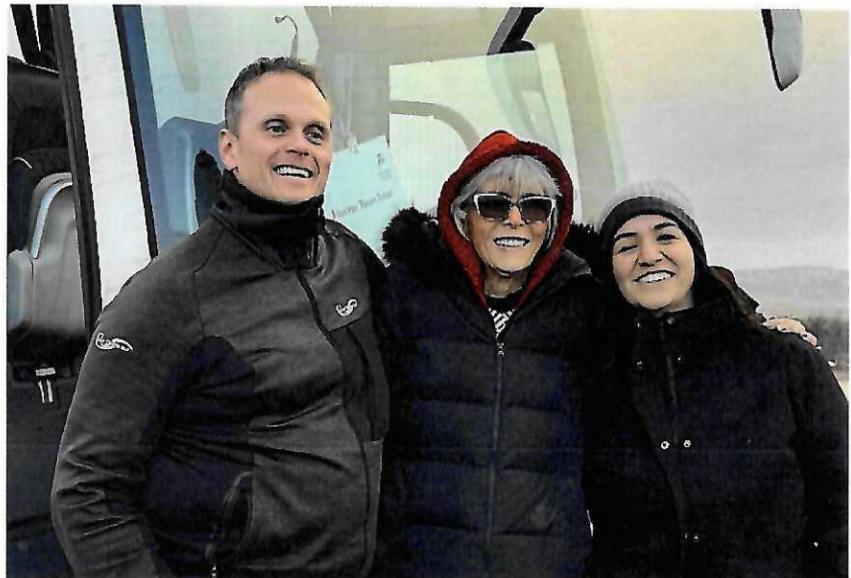


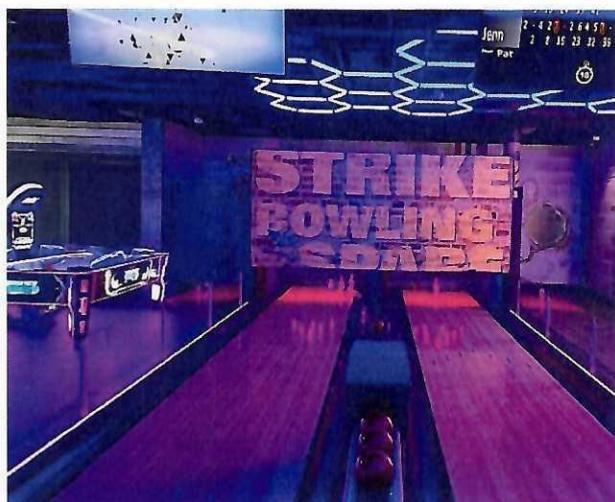
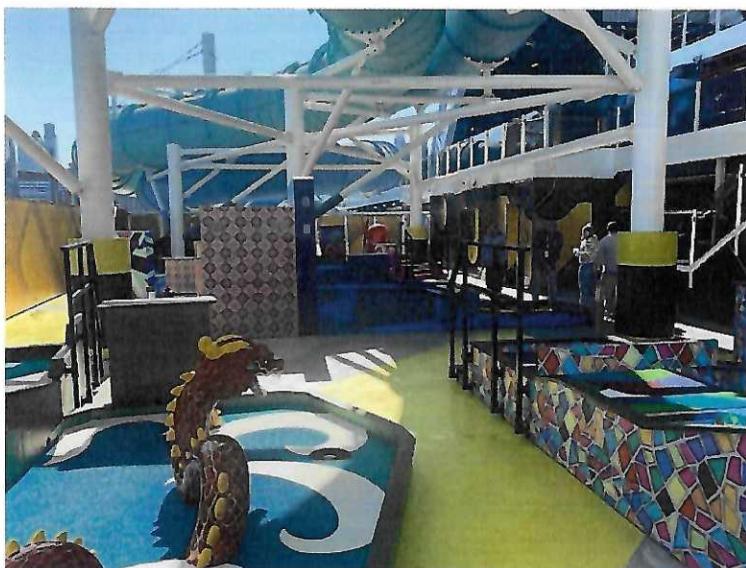
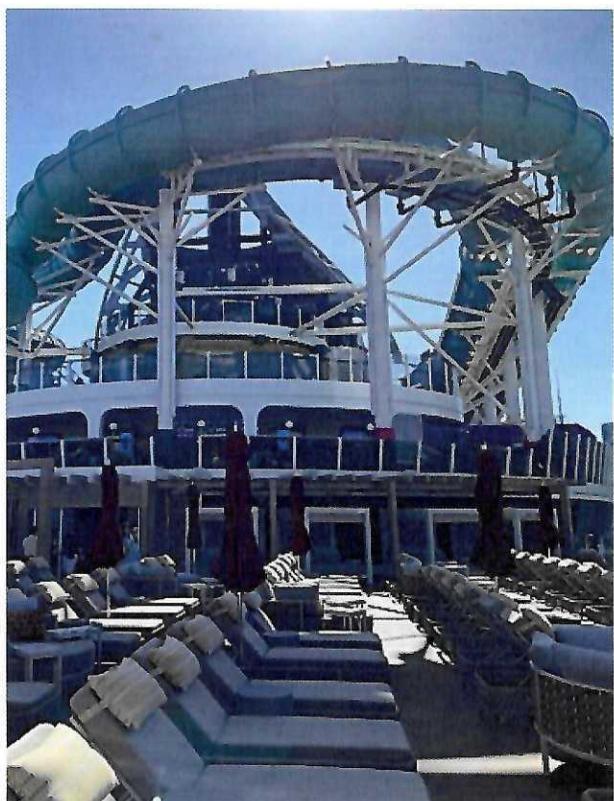
This winter's adventure to Iceland was awesome! After a pleasant plane ride on Icelandair, our day began with a wonderful continental breakfast at the Viking World Museum. We toured the Viking vessel encased in the museum and moved to a rejuvenating soak in the Blue Lagoon with a sunrise cocktail. Each day we were offered one of several tours, South Shore, the Glacier and the Golden Circle. The Golden Circle tour included a lunch of tomato soup at the greenhouse which blew us away. Spectacular! At the farm we also experienced a stable of iconic Icelandic horses, which are very special. On the tours we experienced many waterfalls, hot springs, geysers and a black sand beach (a highlight in comparison to our sandy shores on LBI). We stood on the spot where the tectonic plates are that separate the continents. On the day when most of the group went to the glacier, we chose to explore Reykjavik with Nancy, our tour director. We got an overview of Iceland on **Fly Over Iceland** ride which was great. The fish and chips at the Reykjavik Market was the best we ever had. The weather was fascinating as we experienced sun, rain, sleet and snow during a 15 minute interval. So many wonderful experiences, fantastic food, and a great tour group made the trip most memorable. Thank you, Nancy. We recommend this trip for a fun winter getaway with Hometown Travel.

—Patty and Carl Penn

ICELAND

Our bus driver Ivar,
Nancy and our local
guide Elisa.





Norwegian Aqua

April: 7-9. 2025

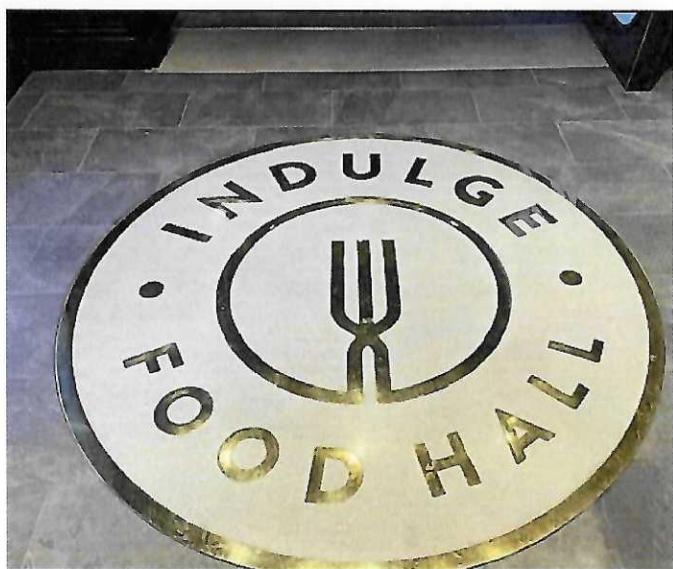


The Norwegian Aqua

will be sailing from
NYC to Bermuda.

Other departures
include Harvest Cay,
Great Stirrup Cay,
Bimini and Cozumel.
Cruises from two to
seven nights..

Call now to book this
beautiful, new ship.





Lemon-Garlic Chicken

This garlicky lemon chicken is a make-ahead, crowd-pleasing dish that's fancy enough for a dinner party or easy enough for a cozy family supper. All you have to do is marinate the chicken in the same dish you cook it in, then pop it in the oven about 45 minutes before eating. It's super flavorful thanks to the vibrant sauce, and the chicken skin gets crispy and caramelized as it bakes.

Ingredients:

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon smoked paprika
8 cloves garlic, minced
4 lemons, 1 zested and juiced, 1 juiced and 2 quartered
Kosher salt
One 3- to 4-pound chicken, cut into 8 pieces
Freshly ground black pepper
3 tablespoons dark brown sugar
4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, diced small
1/4 cup low-sodium chicken broth
1/4 cup dry white wine
2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

In a small bowl, combine the olive oil, mustard, garlic powder, paprika, minced garlic, lemon zest and juice and 1 teaspoon salt.

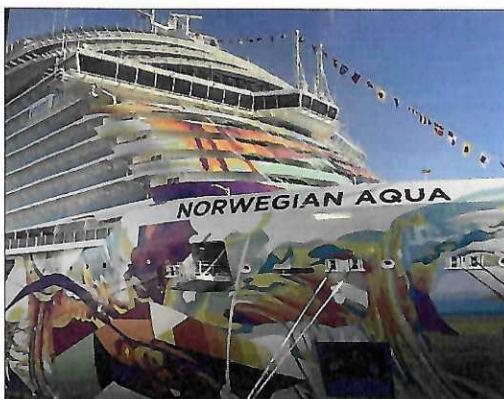
Pour the marinade over the chicken and use your hands to coat the chicken. Cover and let marinate in the refrigerator for 1 hour.

Allow the chicken to come to room temperature, 45 to 60 minutes. Pre-heat the oven to 400 degrees F.

Sprinkle the chicken with additional salt and some pepper, then roll the pieces around and arrange them skin-side up. Scatter the lemon quarters around the dish. Sprinkle the sugar on top of the chicken and dot the dish with the butter. Pour the broth and wine around the chicken.

Bake, basting with the juices about every 15 minutes, until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the chicken registers 165 degrees F, 40 to 45 minutes.

Turn on the broiler. Broil the chicken until it's deep golden brown and slightly charred in spots, 2 to 3 minutes. Spoon the liquid in the pan over the chicken and sprinkle the parsley on top.



GROUPS FOR 2025-2026

UTAH'S MIGHTY FIVE AND THE ROCKIES, SEPTEMBER 9-17, 2025, with Collette Vacations, Highlights include Rocky Mountaineer, Glenwood Springs, Moab, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park ending our tour at Paris Hotel Las Vegas. The tour includes round trip transfers to/from Newark, airfare, air taxes, fees and surcharges. Insurance is available at \$429.00. Book now and save \$200 per person. Rates \$6,549.00 (double), \$7,749.00 (single) and \$6,449.00 (triple) and must be booked by January 20, 2025.

OLD WORLD SICILY AND MALTA, NOVEMBER 5-16, 2025, 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 (Nuremberg 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 Christkindlmarkt, 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 op 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. **ONE CABIN LEFT.**

MARCH 8, 2026 to APRIL 8, 2026—31 DAY PANAMA CANAL, INCA & SOUTH AMERICAN DISCOVERY ABOARD

HOLLAND AMERICA'S OOSTERDAM. Holland America's first Vista-class ship, the Oosterdam recently emerged from dry dock with exciting updates including completely refurbished suites and new lounge, dining and entertainment venues, such as Music Walk with Lincoln Center Stage, B.B. King's Blues Club and Billboard on board. Guests can choose from delectable specialty restaurants, hone culinary Skillswith America's Test Kitchen and thrill to BBC Earth experiences. Embark in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires where pre-cruise packages will be available soon. Visit the penguins in Patagonia as you get ready to sailpast Cape Horn and the Straits of Magellan. We then sail from Ushuaia and cruise the dramatic coast of Chilewith stops in Puerto Montt and Punta Arenas. Sail through Glacier Alley enroute to a full transit of the Panama Canal. Inside cabins start at \$4,999.00 per person double. Available additions include Holland America's "Have It All" package which includes beverage package, three specialty dining venues, \$300 per person shore excursion credit, wi-fi and \$250 per person on board credit. This package is available for \$55 per person/per day. Prepaid gratuities are available at \$17/day. Other categories are available. Call for other rates and more information.

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Cultural Treasures of Japan with Collette Vacations April 2026

Welcome to Japan, the “Land of the Rising Sun.” Explore ancient and modern Japanese culture firsthand. Discover peaceful temples and technological marvels set against unimaginable natural beauty. This amazing 14-day tour will include airfare from Newark, transfer to and from Newark airport from Home Town Travel, 18 meals, all accommodations, sightseeing with entrance fees, transportation within Japan and a professional tour escort thorough the trip. Some of the highlights of this tour will include: Tokyo, Asakusa, Sensoji Shrine, Tea Ceremony, Ginza, Lake Ashi Cruise, Matsumoto Castle, Takayama, Sake Tasting and Hida beef dinner, Kyoto, bullet train and Hiroshima. Exact dates and rates will be out shortly. For more information, please call the office.

Netherlands, Belgium & France with Collette Vacations September 2026

From iconic Dutch windmills and cozy Belgian streets to the world-renowned Champagne region and the “City of Light,” experience the essence of three European countries. This 12-day tour will include airfare from Newark, transfers to and from Newark airport from Home Town Travel, 16 meals, all accommodations, transportation through out your journey, sightseeing with entrance fees and a professional escort. Some of the highlights of this tour will include: Amsterdam, Canal Cruise, Kinderdijk, Bruges, Reims, Route du Champagne, Paris Parisian Bakery Workshop, Parfum Workshop, Le Marais, Ile de la Cite, Seine River Cruise and Eiffel Tower dinner. Exact dates and rates will be out shortly.

We will be having an informative Wine and Cheese with Collette tours in April with all the information on promoted tours. Please make sure to RSVP early, date will be confirmed and will be in our news blast.

Princess Cruises Goes Country with New Music Partnership

Princess Cruises, in partnership with the Academy of Country Music (ACM), is bringing country music to the high seas with the ACM Live from the Red Barrel Lounge concert series. On Caribbean voyages departing Galveston, Texas, between Feb. 9 and March 17, guests aboard Regal Princess will enjoy live performances from some of country music's most exciting emerging artists, including chart-topping singer and ACM Award nominee Kameron Marlowe, reigning ACM New Vocal Duo or Group of the Year Tigirlily Gold, and America's Got Talent breakout stars Chapel Hart, along with other rising acts across several cruises sailing out of Galveston in early 2025 voyages. (Pictured above: Maddie & Tae being interviewed live from the Princess Stage at the 59th ACM Awards Show.)

As part of the series, six ascending country music acts will perform two, 45-minute concerts in the Princess Theater and interact with guests during Meet & Greet sessions.