



February 2025

EDITOR: Judy Hardie



From the President ...

I think of February as the month for love and adventure! It's not just hearts and roses in the air—it's also the perfect time to celebrate our shared love of travel! Whether exploring new destinations or revisiting favorite getaways, every journey brings stories to cherish and connections that make life richer.



This month, we encourage you to embrace the spirit of adventure with those you love. Plan a romantic weekend escape, a special dinner inspired by global cuisine, or even start dreaming about your next unforgettable trip. After all, travel is one of the greatest ways to create lasting memories with friends and loved ones.

Looking ahead, we're excited about the amazing experiences coming up for our Travel Club! From inspiring presentations to thrilling group excursions, there's so much to discover together. Stay tuned for our upcoming events and be sure to secure your spot early. We're also looking for new and exciting destinations, whether road trips, cruises, or unique getaways. If you have suggestions or dream trips in mind, please reach out and share your ideas—we'd love to explore them together!

Thank you for being part of this incredible community where our shared passion for exploration brings us closer together. Wishing you a month filled with love, laughter, and the joy of planning your next great adventure!

Happy Travels,

Dianne



Looking Ahead

TRAVEL CLUB OF SUN CITY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

All meetings are 2:30 to 3:30 pm at ***Pinckney Hall Ballroom***
unless otherwise noted.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 12, 2025
at 2:30 pm in Pinckney Hall Ballroom

South America Journey,

Glaciers, Penguins, Sea Lions & Rainforest

Noah & Mary Helen Rosenstein



February promises to be an exciting month as
Mary Helen and Noah Rosenstein take us along

on their latest adventure—an unforgettable Viking cruise from Valparaiso, Chile, to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Join them as they share captivating stories and stunning photos of volcanoes, glaciers, guanacos, penguins, sea lions, and vibrant birdlife, all while navigating the legendary Cape Horn. The journey concludes with a visit to the breathtaking Iguazu Falls, one of the New 7 Wonders of the World. Don't miss this incredible presentation!

Coming Up!

Thursday, March 13 **National Geographic Alaskan Inner Passage Expedition**

Anne Heins

Wednesday, April 9 **International Travel with Your iPhone**

Mark Davis



SOME SAVVY TRAVEL TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VACATION



- **Prices** always seem to tumble after just a two block walk away from the central tourist area.
- **Buy all your adapters, SIM cards, and currency at home.** It'll be less expensive and you won't have to worry about tracking down essentials on the first day of your trip.
- **Alert your credit cards and financial institutions** that you will be traveling and let them know your destination. This prevents any card cancellations by your bank after making an unexpected purchase far from home. Also, inquire about details on fees and charges made overseas if traveling abroad.
- **Don't be afraid to get purposefully lost.** Wandering aimlessly through a new city is a good way to get to know it, get off the beaten path, and away from the tourists. You might be surprised by the hidden gems you find.



- **Photocopy** your driver's license, passport, visa, vaccination status (if required), and other important documents. Scan them in the cloud so they're accessible wherever you are.
- If your trip is a long one, think about items such as **toiletries** that may be better to buy there rather than pack.
- For frequent travelers, have **a kit just for travel** that lives in your travel bags. Phone/watch charger, toothbrush, shampoo and conditioner, umbrella... everything you need except clothes. Makes packing and unpacking so easy.
- **Buy food at grocery stores**, at least sometimes. Whether it's the occasional breakfast, lunch, dinner, or just a snack, you will save so much money if you shop ready-to-eat (fruit, yogurt, snacks, etc.) or prepared food (salads, sandwiches, etc.) at a grocery store. Picnic in the park!





TRAVEL BUZZ



NEW TRAVEL CHANGES IN 2025: HOW TO GET PREPARED AND WHY IT MATTERS

REAL ID

Americans should make sure their identification is up to date sooner than later this winter, because starting May 7, 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will enforce the use of REAL ID at airports and some federal facilities. You must be REAL ID compliant in order to board domestic flights. For more information:

<https://www.dhs.gov/real-id/are-you-real-id-ready>

ENTERING THE UK WITH ETA

The expansion of the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) program will impact U.S. and European travelers headed to the United Kingdom.

Starting January 8, 2025, ETA registration will be required by inbound travelers so that UK authorities can screen visitors before arrival, which was modeled after the U.S. Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) system in an effort to reduce potential security risks and make border entry more efficient. The ETA, which costs approximately \$13, is not a visa and does not replace any existing visa requirements.



Americans traveling to the U.K. **on or after January 9** can apply through the UK government's official website here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>, or an easier way is to use the ETA app. There are also some YouTube videos online to help you through the process. The ETA is valid for multiple entries over a 2-year period.

You do not need to apply if making a transit through the UK and will not pass through border control before you leave on your connecting journey.

ETIAS ENTRY AND EXIT REQUIREMENTS

Though not yet operational, the European Union’s European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), which has been postponed multiple times, is expected to take effect **May 2025**.

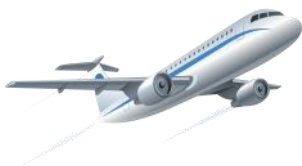
U.S. Passport holders who previously traveled to Europe without a visa will not need to apply for authorization through the ETIAS platform before visiting.

Once granted ETIAS travel authorization, travelers will be able to enter participating countries multiple times for short-term stays—usually up to 90 days—over a 180-day period. The ETIAS is valid for up to three years, but if your passport expires, a new ETIAS travel authorization will be required. For more information about ETIAS requirements and how to apply: <https://etias.com/etias-requirements/etias-for-american-citizens>.

The Application fee can be paid using a credit card online, and **if you are over 70 years of age you are eligible for a waiver!**

The Travel Club will keep you informed of changes that may occur with ETIAS.

NEW PROTECTIONS FOR AIR TRAVELERS



In 2024, new federal regulations took effect that require airlines to make it easier for ticketed passengers to get their money back after flight cancellations or other significant changes.

Under the new Department of Transportation rules, travelers can easily receive automatic refunds if they opt not to take a rebooked flight, when significant delays are clearly defined across all airlines. Travelers are also eligible for refunds on bag fees if a bag is delayed for over 12 hours (or 15-30 hours for international flights), and refunds on ancillary paid services that don’t work such as WIFI, and 24/7 live customer service support channels. Check with your airline for their regulations regarding flight cancellations. For more information: <https://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/fly-rights>



BUS Trips, One-day & Extended

Weekend Get-Aways

www.scottiedavis.com Contact: Cheryl Fuchs, 703-887-7793, or Scottie Davis, 843-422-3360



Christ Church Tour of Homes

Saturday, March 15, 2025.

\$269

Visit five magnificent homes on exclusive Sea Island, GA; have lunch at Halyards, a top restaurant on St Simons Island, and end the day at historic Christ Church with refreshments at the Parish House, beautifully prepared and served by the Ladies of Christ Church.

The popular trip includes transportation from Sun City, tour ticket, lunch, bus drivers trip and snacks. Trip ETA : Leave Sun City at 8 am and return between 6-7 pm.



Menopause the Musical 2:

Cruising Through 'The Change'

plus Shopping at St Johns Town Center, Jacksonville FL

Saturday, April 12, 2025 [Deadline – March 5, 2025]

\$199

The girls are at it again! This time, they are cruising through “the change,” and their crazy antics and funny songs will make your face hurt from laughing so hard!

Men are invited.. but warned, “Lethal lyrics! Attend at your own risk!”

The play begins at 3 pm, giving you from 11 am to 2:10 pm to shop and have lunch at St Johns Town Center. The trip includes travel by motor coach from Sun City, orchestra ticket, bus drivers’ tip, wine & snacks on the way home. Full payment reserves your space. Trip closes when full. ETA: Leave Sun City at 8 am and return between 8-8:30 pm. No dinner stop.





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St. Augustine & Amelia Island May 6-7, 2025

Details TBA



Explore St Augustine via the *Hop on and off trolley* and visit Flagler Museum and other sites. Overnight on Amelia in Fernandina Beach with a tour of the charming town and historic Fort Clinch.

This popular trip includes transportation from Sun City, tour ticket, lunch, bus drivers trip and snacks. Trip ETA : Leave Sun City at 8 am and return between 6-7 pm.

Brevard, Hendersonville, Asheville, NC

Details TBA -last week in June



Attend a performance at the Brevard Music Center where Keith Lockhart is artistic director; visit Biltmore to see the new exhibit, Tutankhamun: His Tomb and His Treasures and the summer gardens; explore Hendersonville and more.

Stay tuned!

For more details and to register, go to www.scottiedavis.com or call Scottie at 843-422-3360.



Keep on Cruisin'

by Diane Lipka

Azamara Cruises is a small-ship cruise line that offers a personalized experience for discerning travelers. The name *Azamara* is a coined term derived from the Romance languages with links to the blue (*az*) and the sea (*mar*) The name was also inspired by the star Acamar, which, during Classical times, could be seen from the latitude of Greece. Thus, Azamara is a STAR ON THE BLUE SEA.

Features of the Azamara brand include:

- **Ships:** Azamara's four ships are intimate and club-like, with a capacity of up to 702 guests. They are designed to sail into rivers, cross oceans, and dock at locations that larger ships can't reach.
- **Itineraries:** Azamara is known for its meticulously curated itineraries that explore lesser-known and captivating destinations.
- **Destination Immersion:** Azamara's "*Destination Immersion*" concept allows passengers to explore their destination even after the sun goes down. This includes late-night departures and overnight stays in select ports

Azamara Cruises' current offer for 2025 includes up to **\$1,000 in onboard credit** per stateroom on select sailings for new and individual bookings made between December 11, 2024 and February 28, 2025, and departing between January 1, 2025 and May 11, 2026.

In addition to the onboard credit, the offer includes over \$4,500 in added value through "Always Azamara" inclusions. These include complimentary room service, a variety of dining venues; beer, wine, and spirits all day & night; unlimited self-service laundry; tips & gratuities.



Visit www.azamara.com for further details.

SOLO TRAVELERS SIG



Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 21st
All meetings are at 7 PM in the Lakehouse Ballroom.

Join **Bob Auwood** as he shares his unforgettable solo adventures! Hear about his Queen Mary 2 crossing, a 10-day London exploration, a scenic Ireland road trip from Dublin to Kinsale and Galway, and a breathtaking Viking Rhine River cruise from Basel to Amsterdam. **Inspiring stories for solo traveling.**

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.



"You're just the kind of person we're looking for to test our airline seats."



What Ever's Going On - WEGO!

The Travel Club's very active special interest group for local events

WEGO meetings are a great way to get together with other members. Click [here](#) to view the WEGO page on the Sun City website. Current and past lists of events are in the Documents section at the bottom of the page.

The Travel Club is not just for long trips every once in a while. **The WEGO special interest group has something to do all year round!** Attend a WEGO meeting to hear about local events, showcasing a diverse range of experiences, including classical performances, festivals, parades, home and garden tours, concerts, plays, shows, markets, art exhibitions, lectures, lunch with author series, museum exhibits and events, local tours, and many other places to go and things to do. Discover a variety of options – most events are moderately priced and numerous offerings are free.

The **WEGO list** is in two parts. The *Monthly list* includes events for specific dates. The *Ongoing Happenings* list contains information about events that occur every month, rather than repeating them all the time. Keep it handy to supplement the monthly lists. Special activities for anything on the ongoing list will be included on the monthly list. Click on the links provided on both lists for more information about the activities and to purchase tickets or register. Since an additional fee is often charged for online tickets, consider calling the phone number given to save some money.

The WEGO lists are emailed to club members and posted on the Travel Club page of the Sun City website (suncityhiltonhead.org under Clubs & Groups/General Interest) in the middle of the prior month. These lists are for your information to go on your own. The meetings and Facebook page provide an opportunity to get together and arrange to go places with others. The Facebook page also provides last-minute updates and a way to keep in touch with other Travel Club members.

The **February list** includes classical concerts, the Savannah Irish Festival, Hilton Head Restaurant Week, Gullah celebrations, several food festivals, a Colonial Faire and Muster, the Beaufort International Film Festival, contemporary concerts, plays and musicals, comedy and variety shows, American Traditions Vocal Competition, a flute concert, a silent movie, a cabaret-style supper club, singing Valentines, art exhibits, activities at Beaufort libraries, author talks, Martin Luther King Day events, Palmetto Bluff Conservancy activities, classes and lectures, sporting events, Valentines Day dinner cruises, races, markets, a circus, Super Museum Sunday, other special museum activities, and many more things to do and places to go!

Meetings are at 1 pm on the third Wednesday of the month (except in June, July, and August). They provide the opportunity to learn more about what is going on, ask questions, tell about places you have gone and things you have done, meet with fellow members, and arrange to go places together. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you are ever looking for something to do, the WEGO list is the place to find it!

**The next meeting is Wednesday, February 19th at 1 pm
in Pinckney Hall (Edisto River Room).**

Come starting at 12:30 to see what events others are planning to attend.

FYI: LOCAL TRAVEL AGENTS

These are local travel agents. FYI ONLY *Travel Club does not endorse travel agents so do your own due diligence.*



Dream Vacations - Stephanie - 843-816-4083

Lisa & Terry Mosher Travel

843-929-0775 -lisa.russo11@gmail.com (*Sun City Residents*)

Travel Experts - Carolyn Weber - 843-645-0800

(*Sun City resident*)

AAA - Kelly Brock - 843-815-3775

Expedia Cruises, Diane Lippa, 843-929-2527

(*Sun City Resident*)

"To TRAVEL is to LIVE."

Hans Christian Andersen

2025 Travel Club Board

* Indicates voting members

President*	Dianne Brooks	678-428-4746	Membership Admin.	Lisa Whannel	970-481-7115
Vice President*	Shelly Clarke	661-755-3012	Trip Managers	TBD	
Secretary*	Denise Killeen	201-805-7987		Scottie Davis	843-681-1900
Treasurer*	Michael Chorney	571-234-7812		Diane Lippa	760-668-7499
Past President*	Ed Raney	843-707-7085	Editor, <i>The Frequent Flier</i>	Judy Hardie	215-962-7213
WEGO SIG Leader*	Joan Morris	843-705-6132	Webmaster	John Clarke	443-286-7052
	TravelClubOfSCHH@gmail.com			travelclubsuncityhh.com	
Solo Travelers Leader*	Karen Ovesney	304-481-5406	Social Com. Co-Leaders:	Cyndee Wilbur	412-417-7281
Program Director*	Joannie Welch	603-275-1274	Special Assistant	Linda Maslowsk	708-268-6197
				Bernie Wilson	843-705-5468