



March 2025

EDITOR: Judy Hardie



From the President ...

As spring approaches, the allure of travel beckons, and what better way to celebrate the season than by witnessing the breathtaking cherry blossoms?



Did you know that **Macon, Georgia** boasts over 350,000 Yoshino cherry trees, surpassing Washington, D.C.'s count of fewer than 4,000? Macon transforms into a pink paradise during its **International Cherry Blossom Festival**, cherryblossom.com, **from March 21 to 30, 2025**, located just 188 miles from here! While in Macon, consider exploring other must see-attractions: Hay House, Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park, History Museums, and Historic Sites. And, if you are an Allman Brothers Band fan like me, check out the Big House Museum, and then venture over to eat at H & H Soul Food Restaurant. Founded in 1959, this eatery is renowned for its unique friendship with the Allman Brothers Band. Serves breakfast and lunch.



Travel further and embark on an unforgettable 14-night Japan Intensive Voyage with the Travel Club aboard Azamara's luxurious Pursuit, scheduled from **March 27 to April 10, 2026**—perfectly timed to experience the nation's iconic cherry blossom season. This immersive journey features 13 captivating ports of call, offering an in-depth exploration of Japan's rich culture, history, and natural beauty. Throughout the cruise, you'll have the opportunity to witness the breathtaking *sakura* (cherry blossoms) in full bloom, a symbol of Japan's ephemeral beauty.

Azamara's Pursuit offers an intimate cruising experience with exceptional service, fine dining, and immersive cultural excursions, with an itinerary that provides a comprehensive exploration of Japan's diverse landscapes and cultural treasures.

Hope you'll join us! *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: Thursday, March 13, 2025

at 2:30 pm in Pinckney Hall Ballroom

National Geographic

An Expedition Through Alaskan Inner Passage

Anne & Erik Heins

Join Anne and Erik Heins as they recount their exhilarating expedition aboard the



National Geographic *Sea Lion*, a 62-guest vessel designed for intimate exploration. Their journey from Ketchikan to Sitka through Alaska's Inside Passage unveiled a tapestry of natural wonders and cultural treasures.

Experience their encounters with Humpback whales, and the beauty of bald eagles soaring overhead. Delve into the rich traditions of indigenous communities, gaining insights into their art and heritage. Marvel at the sheer cliffs of fjords carved by ancient glaciers and witness the sight of glaciers calving, sending massive ice chunks crashing into the sea. The pinnacle of their adventure was an unforgettable floatplane flight over five colossal glaciers, culminating in a visit to the historic Taku Glacier Lodge, nestled deep within the Alaskan wilderness.

Don't miss this captivating presentation filled with stunning photographs and stories that bring the wilds of Alaska to life.

Coming Up!

Wednesday, April 9

International Travel with Your iPhone

Mark Davis



SOME SAVVY TRAVEL TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VACATION



- Leftover grocery store bags can be used to wrap your shoes in them before packing your suitcase.
- Slow quick-handed pickpockets by connecting your bag's zippers together with wire twist ties.
- Bulkhead and exit row seats are sometimes available because most airlines charge extra for them but few people buy them. Be really friendly to the check-in agents and gate agents, ask them if they're available, and there's a decent chance they'll give them to you.



- Ask the locals! If you really want to know the best place to eat or the coolest place to take a picture in town, ask the locals. People are proud of their cities and towns and usually enjoy sharing their secret treasures that make their homes shine...but they will only tell you if you ask.
- For travelers with a jacket, put heavier items in the pockets. Remove heavy but smaller-sized items from checked luggage and transfer them to the jacket to reduce weight and create extra space.





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

SOLD OUT!

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.





BUS Trips, One-day & Extended

Weekend Get-Aways

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

(\$489 pp dbl occ., \$469 pp triple occ; \$569 pp single occ)

Deadline – April 10, 2025;

Take a \$10 pp discount if paid in full by March 14, 2025



Experience two completely different Florida gems on this two day/ one night trip: St Augustine, dripping in history and the oldest city in the USA and Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island's charming, historic town where there is something unique and beautiful lurking around every corner.

In St Augustine, tour the Old City on the hop on, hop off trolley tour; marvel at the beauty of Flagler College and the Lightner Museum.

Overnight in Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island with a tour of the charming historic town as well as the iconic Fort Clinch.

This popular trip includes transportation from Sun City, accommodations, breakfast, dinner, two tours in St Augustine, two tours in Fernandina Beach, museum entrance, snacks, bus driver's tip.

The trip will leave from Bluffton at 7:30 am on day and returns about 7:30 pm on day 2.



Brevard Music Center, Flat Rock Theater, King Tut Exhibit at Biltmore ... and More!

June 24-26, 2025

(\$897 pp dbl occ; \$828 pp triple occ; \$1,069 pp single occ.)

Deadline – May 15; take a discount of \$10 pp if paid before April 1.

Overnight for two nights at the Hampton Inn in Brevard; attend a performance at the Brevard Music Center and return the next day to observe a rehearsal with Keith Lockhart and the orchestra, followed by free time to explore the charming downtown Brevard and have lunch on your own.

And there is more...attend a performance of Beautiful, The Carol King Musical at the Flat Rock Playhouse, NC's State Theater and be blown away by the performance. To add icing to the cake, there is the new King Tut Exhibit at The Biltmore with true to life artifact replicas of the magnificent ancient treasures.

Included: transp, acc., two breakfasts, two dinners, two performances, Biltmore & King Tut exhibit, snacks, bus driver's tip.



BUS Trips, One-day & Extended

Weekend Get-Aways

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Four GA Islands in Three Days Cumberland, Jekyll, St Simons & Sapelo October 28-30, 2025

(\$849pp dbl occ; \$789 pp triple; \$1,099 single occ)

Deadline- Sept 21, 2025 [*\$10 discount if signed up & paid by Aug 5.*]



Experience four completely different islands. Hike Cumberland with private guides; tour Jekyll's historic district, the playground for America's most powerful; visit St Simons and dine in style at a top restaurant; tour primitive Sapelo via bus plus lunch at Lulu's, a treat you will long remember. Overnight for 2 nights on Jekyll Island.

Escorted trip includes travel by motorcoach & ferry, acc., 4 tours, 5 meals, bus driver's tip.

Departs Bluffton at 8 am on day 1; returns by 6 pm on day 3.



The Magic of Biltmore at Christmas plus King Tut Exhibit December 9 -10, 2025

(\$819 pp dbl occ; \$748 pp triple; \$714 pp quad occ; \$1,064 pp single occ)

Deadline - October 1, 2025. *Take a discount of \$10 pp if paid before June 30.*

There is nothing more magical than spending 24 hours on the Biltmore Estate grounds and staying at the elegant Inn on Biltmore Estate to experience true holiday joy. Wine tasting, dinner, candlelight tour, breakfast, tour of Estate grounds with a step on guide add to this joy and seeing the King Tut Exhibit puts the trip over the top.

Trip includes: transp., wine tasting, Biltmore House candlelight tour, Estate tour, acc. at Inn on Biltmore Estate; 2 meals, King Tut Exhibit, snacks, bus driver's tip.



BUS Trips, One-day & Extended

Weekend Get-Aways

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Elegant Charleston Christmas Trip Saturday, December 13, 2025

(\$249 pp)

Deadline - Oct 5, 2025

A festive, fun day to feed all of your senses! Enjoy a spectacular lunch at *High Cotton*, one of Charleston's finest restaurants; attend the spectacular *Moranz Christmas Show* at the **Charleston Music Hall** filled with beauty and pure holiday joy and then, on to James Island to experience the **Festival of Lights** and ride through the amazing light display singing Christmas carols and sipping wine.



Trip includes transp., fabulous lunch at High Cotton, Christmas show, James Island Festival of Lights, wine, snacks, bus driver's tip.

*When our travelers cancel at the last minute, there is no refund. It occurred to me some of you would be willing to be a "last minute" traveler and pay the person who cannot go half the cost of the trip. It would be a win-win for all....So, if you want to be on the "**LAST MINUTE TRAVELER**" LIST, send an email to getaways.scottie@gmail.com with a note saying "sign me up as a last minute traveler, your name and phone number." This must be in writing!*

Sign up for trips at www.scottiedavis.com

Contact us, email getaways.scottie@gmail.com



Keep on Cruisin'

by Diane Lippa



Azamara Pursuit

JAPAN INTENSIVE VOYAGE

Mar 27th, 2026

EXCLUSIVE
GROUP PRICING

P2 - CABIN TOTAL	\$19,458
V2 - CABIN TOTAL	\$18,518
V3 - CABIN TOTAL	\$18,078
05 - CABIN TOTAL	\$11,998

14 NIGHT CRUISE

Tokyo
Hakodate
Sakata
Toyama
Maizuru
Sakaiminato
Busan
Nagasaki
Kitakyushu
Hiroshima
Takamatsu
Kobe



TRAVEL CLUB
OF SUN CITY HH



Contact Diane Lippa 843-929-2527



Email: dlippa@expediacruzises.com

Or Flavius: fgarmacea@expediacruzises.com



SOLO TRAVELERS SIG

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 18th
All meetings are at 7 PM in the Lakehouse Ballroom.

EXPLORING *FRANCE* AS A SOLO TRAVELER

Join seasoned solo traveler **Roberta Sommer** as she shares her expertise on traveling to France as a solo adventurer. Roberta will guide us through her process of selecting which city or village to visit, choosing accommodations, navigating public transit, and sharing tips on local customs. You may even learn a few basic French phrases during her presentation.

Don't miss this informative session on Tuesday, March 18th, at 7 PM in the Lakehouse Ballroom.



*Tourists don't know
where they've been,
travelers don't know
where they're going.*

– Paul Theroux



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 WEGO Special Interest Group specialize in local activities (usually within a 45-minute drive). Most are moderately priced, and many are free! March has many exciting things to do. Click on the links in the [March 2025 WEGO List](#) for information about the following events and many more!

CLASSICAL EVENTS

Mar. 2-3 Carl Orff: Carmina Burana, Mar. 7-8 Bach Brandenburgs & More, Mar. 9 USCB Chamber Music, Mar. 10-17 Hilton Head International Piano Competition, Mar. 15-19 Met Opera: Fidelio (Live and Encore), and Mar. 28-29 Savannah Ballet's The Little Mermaid.

FESTIVALS & HOME TOURS

Mar. 1 Hilton Head Bold Beer & Cigar Fest, Mar. 7-17 Savannah Saint Patrick's Events, Mar. 8-9 Low Country Pow Wow and Cultural Festival, Mar. 15 Bluffton St. Patrick's Golf Cart Parade & Block Party, Mar. 21-22 Hilton Head Wingfest, Mar. 23-29 Hilton Head Island Wine & Food Festival, and Mar. 28-30 Chalk It Up! Beaufort Festival.

MUSIC & THEATERS

Mar. 1-30 Savannah Theatre (Jersey Boys, "Ghosted" IMPROV Comedy Show, and Menopause The Musical), Mar. 4 Gullah Cultural Series – Preach! from Ring Shout to Gospel: Music of the Gullah Geechee, Mar. 20 Honky-Tonk Angels: Female Pioneers in Country Music, Mar. 21-29 USCB Center for the Arts ('Splish Splash' The Music of Bobby Darin starring Ron Gartner and Off the Wall and Onto the Stage: Dancing the Art of Jonathan Green), Mar. 21-30 Beauty and the Beast, Jr., and Mar. 29 U.S. Navy Band National Tour.

MORE ADVENTURES

Now-Apr. 30 Harriet Tubman Statue Traveling Exhibit, Mar. 1 St. Vincent's Nun Run, Mar. 1-2 9th Annual March Forth, Mar. 3-30 31st Annual Judged Show, Mar. 4 Lunch with Author: Terah Shelton Harris, Mar. 6-16 Cirque de Paris by Anouchka Bouglione, and Mar. 29 The Great Helicopter Easter Egg Drop.

MUSEUMS & TOURS

Mar. 19 Dorothy Sinkler Richardson: The Woman Who Saved Francis Marion's Life and Mar. 20 Grow Your Own Edible Mushrooms at Coastal Discovery Museum, Mar. 21 Living History: The Heyward Family and Eliza Lucas Pinckney and Mar. 29 Catawba Pottery Demonstration at Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage, Mar. 15 Marsh Madness and Mar. 25 Tuesday Talk: Diamondback Terrapins with Chris Kehrer at PRSF Maritime Center, and Mar. 29 Venice and the Ottoman Empire Free Family Day at Telfair Museums.

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

**The next meeting is Wednesday, March 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

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