

JUNE 2020

Connections

Exploring the world with the FSB Connect Club

January 16 - 22, 2021

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

All Inclusive Tour

See inside for details

REFLECTIONS

Hang in there! We are all in this together!



Due to health and safety concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, I have decided to cancel all tours from June - September 2020 at this time. This has been a very difficult decision to make, and no one is more disappointed than I am since it means I won't get the chance to travel with you this year. Most important, I want to make sure you all stay safe and healthy during this time of uncertainty.

Every summer has a story and this year's is truly a unique one. It may not have been what you were expecting, but we can still take the time to create new and exciting adventures in our own home or back yard.

This is the perfect time to get outside to do something active like playing corn hole, gardening or walking, or enjoying some quiet time like relaxing on the porch, drinking some lemonade, listening to the birds chirping and enjoying the beautiful summer weather!

I would love to be able to travel with all of you next year, so I have put together a pretty amazing line-up of tours for 2021. Now is the perfect time to check out this issue to see what journeys I have in store for you!

Please call me with any questions you may have or to sign up for one of the many upcoming tours I have to offer.

Kathy Leeseekamp - Connect Club Director • 319-294-2900

Let's

Explore the World Together!

COOKING WITH THE CONNECT CLUB

Spicy Sriracha Shrimp Tacos with Cilantro Lime Slaw



Ingredients

- 8-12 soft corn or flour tortillas
- 1 pound shrimp - fresh or frozen/thawed
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp ground cayenne pepper
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp black pepper
- 1 TBSP of your favorite oil
- 1/4 cup homemade or store-bought ranch dressing
- 1 TBSP Sriracha
- 1 cup finely shredded/chopped cabbage** (green, red, or both!)
- 1 jalapeño pepper
- 1-2 TBSP apple cider vinegar
- 1 TBSP honey
- 1 lime
- 1/8 tsp salt
- fresh chopped cilantro to taste

Directions

1. Clean and peel shrimp, defrosting if needed.
2. Set prepped shrimp in the fridge, covered while you make your slaw and sauce.
3. For the Sriracha Ranch, simply whisk together both ingredients.
4. For the Cilantro Lime Slaw, remove the stem/seeds/ribs from the jalapeño, cut into strips and mince. Combine with cabbage, apple cider vinegar, honey, salt, and pepper. Cut your lime in half and add juice of half the lime into your slaw. Toss together and add as much cilantro as your heart desires! Slice the remaining half into wedges for your tacos. Adjust honey to taste and set aside to marinate while you cook the shrimp.
5. Pat shrimp dry and season with paprika, cayenne, garlic, salt, and pepper. Mix well to coat both sides.
6. Heat a large pan or skillet to medium-high heat with 1 TBSP of oil and sauté your shrimp. Cook on each side for about 2 minutes until shrimp curl and become opaque.
7. Place your shrimp on a clean cutting board and chop into smaller pieces.
8. Line your corn or flour tortillas with shrimp and top with a hearty drizzle of sauce.
9. Top with slaw, serve with lime wedges, and dig in!

TRAVEL SHOW

**JULY 7, 2020
1:00 PM**

Elmcrest Country Club

Contact me at 319-294-2900
to reserve your spot.



December 13-19, 2020

Southern Charm Holiday

Charleston, Savannah and Jekyll Island

\$2,969 per person (double occupancy) and \$3,669 single occupancy. Travel insurance \$299 per person.

Charleston is a city that has defied all odds. It survived the Civil War, major fires, an earthquake and hurricanes - and still exudes elegance, charm and grace. Join us as we explore this city's rich history and beautiful scenery. We'll begin our tour with your choice to stroll through Charleston's historic center with a local guide, exploring hidden alleys and quaint areas that are only accessible by foot. **OR**, you can choose to set out on a panoramic coach tour with a local guide to see the best of the city. Each choice includes a stop at the battery overlooking Fort Sumter where the first shots of the Civil War were fired in 1861.

We will make our way to the City Market, one of the oldest public markets in America. The bustling market is also the central hub for Gullah sweet grass basketry, an intricate handicraft of African origin. We will also explore Boone Hall Plantation & Gardens where we will experience Southern living and come to know one of America's oldest plantations, beautifully decorated for the holidays. In the evening we will visit James Island County Park, where over 500,000 lights will provide us with an enchanting 3-mile driving tour. We will have time to explore Charleston at leisure.

Take in the ambiance of the "Old South" with our holiday-themed trolley tour highlighting Savannah's sprawling Historic District. Lively, informative commentary brings the city to life as we travel along the cobblestone-paved streets and beneath moss-draped oaks. Allow the stately mansions, beautiful squares and romantic riverfront promenades to capture your heart. We will have time to explore Savannah at leisure. Then it will be time to gather at a popular local restaurant on Savannah's famous River Street for a cooking demonstration and dinner showcasing regional culinary specialties.

Jekyll Island is situated grandly in the middle of the Golden Isles and was once the beloved vacation spot for prominent families including the Rockefellers, the Vanderbilts and J.P. Morgan. With a morning at leisure, we can take a complimentary tour of the Jekyll Island Club hotel or just enjoy the old-world ambiance of this iconic island resort, beautifully decorated for the holidays. Gather for a tram ride that brings us on a tour of the island and the Jekyll Island Historic Landmark District - one of the nation's largest restoration projects. In the afternoon you will find yourself in the holiday spirit with Christmas caroling and refreshments.

Pricing includes: Round-trip airfare from Cedar Rapids, sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, 1st class and deluxe hotel accommodations, gratuities and all taxes/service charges.

A deposit of \$500 per person plus insurance and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due on Oct. 14, 2020. Your deposit is fully refundable up to June 12, 2020.

Stop by or contact me at 319-294-2900 for a complete itinerary of this tour.

Discover Britain & Ireland

TRAVEL SHOW

July 7, 2020 @ 1:00 PM

Elmcrest Country Club

Contact me at 319-294-2900
to reserve your spot.



April 29 - May 13, 2021

Discover the true cultural treasures of Britain and Ireland on a comprehensive journey through England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

Double Occupancy pp \$4,999, Single Occupancy pp \$5,999, Insurance \$329 pp

This amazing journey begins in the regal city of London. We will see Big Ben, Westminster, Whitehall, Hyde Park, and Buckingham Palace. As we continue our journey, we will explore the mysterious formation that dates back to the Stone Age in Stonehenge, visit the elegant Georgian town of Bath to walk the cobblestone streets, soak in its old-world atmosphere and visit the Roman Bath Museum. In Cardiff we will learn about the city's deep ties to the coal industry, take in the beautiful countryside of Wales and the coastal village of Fishguard. We will board the ferry for Ireland, crossing the Irish Sea as we travel to the historic Blarney Castle.

Then it is off to Killarney National Park where we will take a traditional jaunting car ride along the glorious Ring of Kerry where you'll find some of Ireland's most magical scenery and marvel at the vistas created by windswept cliffs, rugged mountains, lakes and picturesque villages. We will see border collies in action during a traditional sheepdog demonstration at a family-run farm. We will discover Dublin's past and present including the Bank of Ireland, O'Connell Street, Grafton Street, Phoenix Park and St. Patrick's Cathedral. We will enjoy a traditional Irish cuisine cooking class and dinner at one of Dublin's premier culinary institutions and will top off the evening by making our very own Irish coffee.

We will take a Ferry across the Irish Sea to Holyhead, Wales. We will pass anfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwl'llantysiliogogogoch, the town with the longest name in the world, make a stop at majestic Caernarfon Castle, where Charles was crowned Prince of Wales and take in the views of the Welsh countryside to discover some of the most magnificent scenery in all of Britain. As we cross into Scotland, we will stop in the town of Gretna Green where generations of runaway couples eloped. We will continue to Edinburgh, Scotland's majestic capital city where we will visit the Edinburgh Castle, home of the Scottish Crown Jewels, and the Palace of Holyrood house (the Queen's official residence in Edinburgh and former home of Mary, Queen of Scots).

In England, we will visit Hadrian's Wall (this wall has served as the northern border of the Roman Empire), continue to the historic city of York where we will find ourselves surrounded by the charms of history as you explore its quaint narrow streets. And we'll step back in time as we visit William Shakespeare's birthplace.

Pricing includes: Round trip airfare from Cedar Rapids, sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, 1st class and deluxe hotel accommodations, gratuities and all taxes/service charges. A deposit of \$500 plus insurance and your completed reservation forms is required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due February 28, 2021. Your deposit will be fully refundable up to October 30, 2020.

Stop by or contact me at 319-294-2900 for a complete itinerary of this tour.

Discovering Poland 2021

TRAVEL SHOW

July 7, 2020 @ 1:00 PM

Elmcrest Country Club

Contact me at 319-294-2900
to reserve your spot.

August 6 - 18, 2021

Your journey through
Poland, a land of
amazing castles,
poignant history and
welcoming cultures!



\$4,429 Double Occupancy pp, \$5,279 Single Occupancy pp, \$329 pp Insurance

We will visit Warsaw, the city that blends old-world charm with a modern vibe. Embrace the moving history of Warsaw, a city reborn after WWII. Our journey through this capital city includes a stop at the monument dedicated to the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Our journey will take us to the town of Malbork, home to Malbork Castle, one of the largest castles in the world. **A guided tour of this 700-year-old structure** introduces us to the world of the Knights of the Teutonic Order. We will continue onto Gdansk, stopping at the Gdansk Shipyards, site of the creation of the anti-Communist Solidarity movement in 1980 that helped liberate Poland from Soviet rule.

It's your Choice! Join your Tour Manager on an excursion to the seaside resort town of Sopot -OR- remain in Gdansk and join a local guide on an educational shopping excursion during which you'll learn about Polish amber at a demonstration, followed by the opportunity to purchase the stone.

We will travel to the town of Torun, a UNESCO World Heritage site and birthplace of Nicolaus Copernicus, the famous astronomer. Torun remains one of the best-preserved medieval towns in all of Europe and is one of the "Seven Wonders of Poland." On arrival, we will walk past Copernicus's house before stepping back into history while baking and sampling our very own gingerbread according to a 500-year-old recipe.

Once we arrive in the ancient city of Wroclaw, we will enjoy some locally-brewed beer and a traditional "home-style" dinner at a local restaurant. Wroclaw brings us up close and personal to this large and ethnically diverse city. It could be the only location where you can find a *Stare Miasto* (Old Town) with a Synagogue, a Lutheran church, a Roman Catholic Church and an Eastern Orthodox Church standing near each other. We will have plenty of time at leisure to savor Wroclaw's idyllic parks and captivating culture. Be sure to go in search of the many "dwarfs" hidden on the streets of the city!

We will visit Krakow, an enchanting city famous for its well-preserved town center. Along the way we will stop in Czestochowa, the spiritual capital of Poland, where each year over 5 million pilgrims journey to pay their respects to the famous Black Madonna. Housed in the Jasna Góra monastery, we will journey inside for an up-close look at this miraculous image.

During the morning we will explore the city on a panoramic tour that includes Market Square, St. Mary's Church and the university, and the famous Wawel Castle, the former residence of Polish kings. You will have time at leisure to stroll the quaint streets of Krakow's famous Old Town and visit the Schindler Museum.

On the last day of our tour we will **embark on a poignant journey through history as we travel to Auschwitz**. A local expert will guide us through the former concentration camp where we will learn firsthand about the terrors as well as the resilience of the human spirit that occurred within those walls.

Pricing includes: Round trip airfare from Cedar Rapids, sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, 1st class and deluxe hotel accommodations, gratuities and all taxes/service charges. A deposit of \$500 plus insurance and your completed reservation forms is required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due June 8, 2021. Your deposit will be fully refundable up to February 8, 2021.

Stop by or contact me at 319-294-2900 for a complete itinerary of this tour.

Punta Cana Dominican Republic

ALL Inclusive Adults-Only Tour

January 16 - 22, 2021

Luxury: \$2,795 Double Per Person and \$4,095 Single Per Person
Ocean view: \$2,895 Double Per Person and \$4,195 Single Per Person
Swim Out: \$2,995 Double Per Person and \$4,395 Single Per Person

Who's ready for some rest and relaxation on the beautiful beaches of Punta Cana?

The all-inclusive Hideaway at Royalton Punta Cana is an adult's only oasis, offering a sophisticated vacation experience in one of the Caribbean's top destinations. Get ready to savor world-class cuisine, sip on artfully prepared cocktails, and soak up the sun on the famous shores of Bavaro Beach!

Keep up with your exercise routine, try out yoga on the beach and cool off with a host of resort-offered water sports. Evenings can be spent trying out mixology classes by the pool, enjoying sunset champagne toasts, and watching incomparable entertainment. You will also enjoy full access to all amenities, services, and facilities at neighboring Royalton Punta Cana Resort and Casino, Grand Memories Punta Cana and Grand Memories Splash, just a short trolley ride away.

Included in this package will be a group outing to the Outback of the Dominican Republic. On this excursion we will visit a local school to be a part of the "One word at a time" program that encourages children to learn useful words and phrases. Then we will enjoy a visit to a charming countryside working coffee and chocolate plantation. Freshly roasted coffee and chocolates will be served pretty much straight from the tree! Then we will help make a difference to the ecological impact by planting a fruit tree together. We will finish this day off with a delicious buffet lunch "Dominican Family Style", take a ride to a beautiful secluded river where you can relax, swim, cool off in the refreshing waters of the Anamuya River or float on one of their tubes with a cocktail in hand! Our final stop for the day will be a visit to local family where we will learn all about the harvesting of coconut oil!

Included: Round trip airfare from Cedar Rapids, round trip airport transfers, 6 night stay at Hideaway by Royalton Punta Cana, Resort Diamond Club Amenities, Outback Safari Excursion, round trip airport to resort transfers, all meals, drinks, tips & entertainment at the resort, all taxes & luggage handling, and group travel protection.

A deposit of \$150 and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due on October 23, 2020.

Stop by or contact me at 319-294-2900 for a complete itinerary of this tour.



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Kathy Leeseekamp
Connect Club Director
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▪ Switzerland - Austria - Bavaria - Oberammergau ▪

Postponed until 2022

▪ Ark Encounter & Appalachia - July 12-18, 2020 - CANCELLED ▪

▪ Mancation - July 22, 2020 - CANCELLED ▪

▪ Ladies Day Out - July 23, 2020 - CANCELLED ▪

▪ 4-Day Mystery Tour - August 18-21, 2020 - CANCELLED ▪

▪ Ballard's - Fishing with Gene Neighbor - August 24-27, 2020 - CANCELLED ▪

▪ Discover Washington, D.C. - September 3-8, 2020 - CANCELLED ▪

▪ One Day Mystery Tour - September 16, 17, 18, 2020 - CANCELLED ▪

▪ Southern Charm Christmas Markets ▪

Charleston - Savannah - St. Simons Island - Jekyll Island

December 13-19, 2020 ▪ Travel Show: July 7th - Elmcrest @ 1:00 PM

▪ ▪ ▪ Upcoming 2021 Tours ▪ ▪ ▪

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

All-inclusive resort ▪ January 16-22, 2021

Discover Britain & Ireland

Wales, England, United Kingdom, Scotland, and Ireland ▪ April 29 - May 13, 2021

Travel Show: July 7th - Elmcrest @ 1:00 PM

Poland

August 6 - 18, 2021 ▪ Travel Show: July 7th - Elmcrest @ 1:00 PM

Southern Africa Tour

October 2021 ▪ More to come in future issues.