

JULY/AUGUST 2020

Connections

Exploring the world with the FSB Connect Club

Branson

Here We Come!



See inside for details

The Pioneer Woman



See inside for details

REFLECTIONS

Hello Connect Club Friends!



FSB has slowly begun to reopen its doors to our customers and will continue to serve you in a safe and protective manner. I know there is still uncertainty in the world right now, but we are taking great care to make good, solid decisions when it comes to the safety and health of our employees and customers - including our treasured Connect Club members.

Although our lives have been greatly impacted by this virus, and our normal lives have been changed forever, I want to encourage you to be grateful and love the life you have been given!

As we all continue to work on returning to our “new normal” lives, I want to let you know that I am still making travel plans beginning the month of October. My first priority is the safety and well-being of my travelers and I will make all the necessary changes to ensure you are protected and safe throughout our journey. If I need to cancel or make changes to a tour you have signed up for, I will reach out immediately to keep you updated and informed of the decision. Travel will not look exactly the same as it did in the past, but it will still offer that amazing love and joy that new journies always bring to us.

I am truly thankful for all of you who have travelled with me, who have attended my one day tours and events...and for all of you who have read my newsletter and enjoyed dreaming of travel. You are all very special to me and I appreciate your constant support!

“I travel because I need to...because my wild, adventurous spirit can’t live according to the “norm.” I travel to regroup, to reinvent myself, to be the best me I can be, to find joy in the ordinary and peace in the exploring. I travel to be.” – Unknown

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!*

Collette Welcomes You Back to Touring

We've implemented measures as recommended by the medical experts with whom we've consulted along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and appropriate government agencies to promote cleanliness, physical distancing and reduced contact. You can be rest assured that we will adhere to local laws and best practices in order to protect our guests' well-being and ensure an enjoyable experience.



Your Tour Manager: We have employed new and enhanced hygiene & physical distancing protocols for tour managers. They are local experts and highly trained to handle a variety of unexpected situations - including illnesses and emergencies. They are also available 24/7 for guests throughout the tour should any situation arise.

Pre-Tour Health Screenings: We will ask all travelers to complete a wellness declaration form before joining their tour. We will ask all travelers to monitor their health throughout their tour, with protocols in place in the event someone becomes ill.

Masks: Collette will provide reusable cloth face masks with your pre-tour documents. These masks will be required throughout many experiences on tour including the motor coach and air travel.

Air Travel: Specific details will vary by airline, but standard operations typically include flight attendants wearing masks, sanitizing all surfaces between flights and physical distancing. Visit your airline's website for specific information.

On-Tour Experiences: We work closely with our local partners to ensure adequate physical distancing during meals, experiences, and sightseeing.

Hotels: Specific protocols will vary from destination to destination, hotel to hotel. Overall, rooms and areas like restaurants, fitness centers, etc. will be deep-cleaned regularly, with rooms disinfected thoroughly between guests. High-traffic areas like lobbies and elevators will be cleaned hourly.

Motor Coach: Tours will operate with a number of empty seats to allow guests to space out for a more comfortable experience. All surfaces will be sanitized often, including regular cleaning of high-touch areas with disinfecting wipes. Hand sanitizer will be available at all times and drivers will wear protective gear when appropriate.

Tours: Guests should expect that certain attractions may remain closed, are operating but not yet open to the public, or are limiting services, hours, etc. Depending on local conditions, these changes may happen quickly and on a daily basis. We want to ensure every guest has a great time on tour, and that everyone's health and well-being always comes first.

We are all learning how to best operate in a new way. Travel is adventure - even during the best of times your itinerary may change depending on local events and conditions - and the adventure is part of the fun.

The health and safety of all US Tours passengers is paramount. As life moves forward and we start to travel again, we're eagerly waiting to help you plan fun trips and to welcome back your travelers in the very near future.

While America begins its processes to open back up and resume life as it once was, we realize there will still be some concern regarding health and safety. My staff has been busy reaching out to our industry suppliers confirming measures they have enacted that provides the safest and healthiest environments for guests.

Here are just a few examples of what can be expected moving forward:

Motor coach companies are sterilizing their fleets with fogging machines able to permeate the sanitizer throughout the entire bus. Each time passengers get off, new protocol has the drivers cleaning and wiping down seats, arm rests as well as public spaces like lavatories.

Airlines are mirroring much of the same elevated protocols in respect to sanitizing the cabin, wiping down and sanitizing all seats, armrests as well as public spaces like lavatories.

Hotel partners have announced new programs that deliver elevated cleaning processes developed in collaboration with Mayo Clinic and key global companies like Lysol. These new scientific approaches to cleanliness will be visible to hotel guests in their rooms and all public spaces from the time they check-in to when they check-out.

Restaurants are following suit in the new cleanliness standards as well as reconfiguring their seating layout to accommodate more space between patrons.

US Tours values your partnership in bringing safe and quality travel to your customers, and we care deeply for the health and wellbeing of everyone. We will continue monitoring and evaluating each of our upcoming tours so we don't subject anyone prematurely to undo risk.

Thank you for your loyalty, trust and for being the heart of our business.

Sincerely,

US Tours | Robert L Cline | President



COOKING WITH THE CONNECT CLUB

Fruity Summer Coolers

Ingredients

- ½ cup Watermelon, *Diced*
- ½ cup Plums, *Diced*
- ½ cup Mango, *Diced*
- ½ cup Peaches, *Diced*
- 2 cups Coconut Water
- 8-10 Basil Leaves
- ½ tsp Black Salt



Directions

- **Watermelon cooler:** Blend together ½ cup watermelon, ¼ tsp black salt, ½ cup coconut water, ice.
- **Plum cooler:** Blend together ½ cup plums, ¼ tsp black salt, ½ cup coconut water, ice.
- **Peach cooler:** Blend together ½ cup peaches, 4-5 basil leaves, ½ cup coconut water, ice.
- **Mango cooler:** Blend together ½ cup mango, 4-5 basil leaves, ½ cup coconut water, ice.

Notes

- These quantities are good for 1 large serving for each cooler.
- Please adjust the liquid/fruit ratio according to the consistency you prefer.
- Please add any sweetener of your choice, if you wish.

FSB Connect Club Cookbook

Let's connect and have some fun creating a cookbook filled with cherished family recipes!

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Want to be part of the Connect Club Cookbook?

Just follow these simple steps:

1. Email me your favorite recipe, complete with all the ingredients and directions. *(You know, the recipe that everyone always asks for!)*
2. Add your heartwarming and/or humorous story behind this dish, if willing to share.
3. Provide a picture with your recipe, if you have one.
4. One per household.
5. Submit your recipe and picture to Kathy Leeseekamp:
Email Kathyleeseekamp@fsbmail.net (preferred method)

Deliver by mail or drop off in person to:

1240 8th Ave Marion, IA 52302

(Only if you do not have access to email.)

Please make sure to print neatly and legibly.

6. Submit your recipe by **October 1, 2020.**



* **NEW TOUR!** *

TRAVEL SHOW

August 4, 2020
2:00 PM

Elmcrest Country Club

Double PP \$1,399 • Single PP \$1,799

The Best of Branson

There is adventure waiting for everyone in Branson. From outdoor fun at Dogwood Canyon and Top of the Rock to amazing live entertainment like SIX and Clay Cooper, there's no shortage of great things to do in Branson.



October 12 - 16, 2020

Our tour begins with a motor coach drive to Branson Missouri where we will check into the Hilton Promenade at Branson Landing for our three night stay! We will enjoy a delicious meal at **Shorty's**. Shorty's story begins back in 1888, when his daddy was just an ornery mining town cook who made the worst pancakes ever. (But, when you're really hungry, who gives a darn?). When Shorty grew up and inherited the family business, he got rid of all that breakfast nonsense and started making the most delicious lunches and dinners anyone had ever tasted. Our evening will end with a **SIX performance!** SIX is a contemporary vocal band on power-mode and features six real brothers: Barry, Kevin, Lynn, Jak, Owen and Curtis, who take musical entertainment to a whole new level. Critically acclaimed and dubbed as "an orchestra of human voices" and "masters of showmanship", these multi-talented brothers sound like a band using only their mouths. They have been singing cappella for over 40 years.

After a picnic lunch, we'll take a "ride on the wild side"! Step aboard an open-air tram and explore the beauty of **Dogwood Canyon** where we'll wind through the canyon floor, past towering bluffs and waterfalls, making a stop at the Glory Hole (a magnificent blue-green pool where some of our largest trout reside). Then we'll cross the Arkansas border where your tram may mingle with herds of American bison, elk, whitetail deer and Texas longhorn. Our next stop will be "Happy Hour", where we will enjoy some **Wine Tasting** at a local Branson winery. Dinner will be at **Florentina's Ristorante Italiano**, where we will enjoy the Italian traditions of food, friendship, and hospitality. Then we will end the day enjoying an evening of music with "**Legends in Concert**". Each legendary performer not only looks like the star they portray, but use their own natural voices to pay homage to their iconic music counterpart. Legends in Concert live tribute shows are known for their elaborate theatrical sets, magnificent costumes and full array of incredible special effects, including three dimensional multimedia and multimillion dollar, state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems.

Enjoy some free time at **Branson Landing** located on the waterfront of beautiful Lake Taneycomo in downtown Branson. Included today is a stop at **Smith Creek Distillery** where we will enjoy the moonshine tasting bar. Then we are off to discover the **Lost Canyon Cave & Nature Trail** where we will enjoy an unforgettable two and a half-mile journey on an electric cart. This dramatic trail was created to highlight stunning rock formations, waterfalls and views of **Table Rock Lake**. Don't forget to stop at the **Bat Bar** for a fresh glass of lemonade. Next, we will discover world-class dining at **Top of the Rock**, a fine dining experience complete with a glass of wine. We will complete our evening with the signature Sunset Ceremony. As the sun shows its final glistening light, we will hear a civil war cannon erupt as everyone raises their glass for a toast.

On our last full day we will visit **Clay Cooper** and his Live Band, 11 Dancers, Third Power, and Comedian Matt Gumm along with outstanding youth entertainers Colton & Caden Cooper! Clay Cooper's Country Express has something for everyone with 24 entertainers on stage, great visual effects and a variety of music. We will enjoy lunch at **Pickin' Porch Grill**, a Folksy, counter-serve joint at Branson Craft Mall, plus live music with a special Meet & Greet from Clay Cooper during lunch.

Pricing includes: Motor coach transportation, lodging, all taxes, gratuities, baggage handling, and travel protection. A deposit of \$150 per person and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due by September 12, 2020. Your deposit is fully refundable up to August 13, 2020.

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

* **NEW TOUR!** *

TRAVEL SHOW

**August 4, 2020
2:00 PM**

Elmcrest Country Club

Double PP \$1,095 • Single PP \$1,295

Pioneer Woman Mercantile



Nov. 9 - 12, 2020

Ree Drummond, aka The Pioneer Woman, has launched an empire from Pawhuska, Oklahoma, a small town brimming with charm. She is the blogger, best selling author and host of the Food Network Show "The Pioneer Woman Cooks. This tour feature's her story and shows the effect that a TV Show can have on a small town. It includes lots of Native American history and nature here in the High Grass. As carefree as a tumbleweed on the prairie, you've got a chance to shop and explore sites you've seen on television.

We will begin this tour with a visit to the **Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve**. First, we will drive through the Wildlife Preserve, a 3,700 acre home to more than 30 varieties of native and exotic animals and birds. It is a working ranch that maintains the animals for the enjoyment of guests in a natural, protected setting. Frank Phillips, founder of Phillips Petroleum Company, created the Woolaroc preserve in 1925 to retain the essence of the West as he had known it before the turn of the century. Some of the animals you will see include American Bison, elk, longhorn cattle and more.

Then we will have time to visit the Museum with one of America's most unique displays of Western art and artifacts; Native American pottery, baskets, beads, blankets and cultural art; historical displays and one of the most complete collections of Colt firearms. Next, we will visit the **Pioneer Woman Mercantile**, owned by Food Network TV show host Ree Drummond, aka The Pioneer Woman. This shop is a must-see destination. The Pioneer Woman Mercantile began in 1910 as Osage Mercantile and was a place for trading goods and browsing. Before leaving, we will enjoy a **delicious dinner** that consists of a 4-course meal, appetizers, salads, entrees, dessert and beverage - all made in The Mercantile and served family style.

The next day we will travel to the home of **E.W. Marland**. The Marland story is fascinating and his home is an architectural wonder. It was designed and constructed as a showplace for pieces of fine art and in the process, it became a masterpiece in its own right. As you tour through this site, they will show us the mansion and we'll learn about the Marland family, the industry that made it all possible, and the "oil boom-town" that rose from it all, Ponca City, Oklahoma. Next we'll meet "**Madame Opal**", a Ponca City original, who will lead us on a tour of "Ponca City Dirt" while she shows and tells us all about their town.

As we leave Ponca City, we head to the **Silvertop Farm & Vineyards** for lunch and a guided tour. This fully functional farm is located on 4,000 acres in Ponca City. Here we will meet historical re-enactors who share tidbits of history, from Native American heritage to wine making lessons. Silvertop Farm also includes a sheep and goat herding demonstration, as well as a petting zoo, where we can learn more about animal science and of course we will get a chance to pet the animals. We'll then tour the vineyard, try samples of the vineyard-crafted wines and enjoy a deluxe lunch buffet with Native Americans providing entertainment before getting back on the road. Our evening will include a catered dinner at the **Iron Dog Ranch**. On arrival you'll find the Chuckwagons are circled and steaks are on the grill. This working Longhorn Cattle Ranch is a historical treat where you can explore the ranch house and grounds at your leisure.

Pricing includes: Motor coach transportation, lodging, tours listed on the itinerary, all taxes, gratuities, baggage handling, and travel protection. A deposit of \$250 per person and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due by October 10, 2020. Your deposit is fully refundable up to October 10, 2020.

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



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.

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

Punta Cana Dominican Republic

TRAVEL SHOW

August 4, 2020
2:00 PM

Elmcrest Country Club

**ALL
Inclusive
Adults-Only
Tour**

**Relax.
Enjoy.
That's all you have to do.**

**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.

April 8 - 22, 2021



Discover Britain & Ireland

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

Double Occupancy pp \$4,749, Single Occupancy pp \$5,749, Insurance \$399 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 anfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch, 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.

*** NEW TOUR! ***
**TRAVEL
SHOW**

**August 4, 2020
2:00 PM**

Elmcrest Country Club

Double PP \$2,395 • Single PP \$2,895

Niagara Falls - The Best of Both Sides

May 6 - 11, 2021



A North American natural wonder, Niagara Falls flows with scenic might through Niagara Falls State Park. And just beyond its waterfall vistas, Niagara is filled with splendid discoveries and fantastic attractions like the Butterfly Conservatory and the Daredevil Exhibit. This tour also features an afternoon in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Rochester, NY Lilac Festival and the enchanting Thousand Islands.

Our tour begins as we fly into Buffalo, NY and travel into Canada where we are transported to the **Butterfly Conservatory & Floral Show house**, a tropical paradise full of lush vegetation, trickling waterfalls and thousands of vibrantly colored butterflies. Over 2,000 butterflies, made up of 45 different species, call this beautiful space home. Next, we'll visit a collection of orchids, succulents, and other tropical plant species on display throughout the year, along with floral shows that reflect the changing seasons. Then we will spend two nights in Niagara Falls, Ontario overlooking the American and Canadian Falls. Our hotel, the **Hilton Niagara Falls**, is connected by a covered skyway to the Fallsview Casino's Entertainment Centre, Galleria Shops & Dining. The Incline Railway to Horseshoe Falls is streets away, and just a short distance from other area attractions.

Get ready to brave the raging waters as **IMAX®** takes you on a heart-pounding ride over Niagara Falls. Travel back in time to learn of its 12,000-year history and experience the death defying stunts performed by daredevils who challenged the fury of Niagara Falls. Then we will visit the **Daredevil Exhibit** where we will hear the stories, feel the fear and touch the actual daredevil barrels. Next we will stand at the heart of **Niagara** by descending 125 feet and explore the 130-year-old tunnels through the bedrock, but we'll feel the thunderous vibration of the **Horseshoe Falls** long before we see them. The observation deck at the foot of this 13-story-tall wonder will leave you breathless (and maybe a little bit wet), but don't forget the viewing portals cut straight through the rock, offering a once-in-a-lifetime view of one-fifth of the world's fresh water crashing down in front of you.

Next up we will take the **Voyage to the Falls Boat Tour** providing us with an up-close viewing of the magnificent **Great Gorge, American Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and of course the mighty Horseshoe Falls**. We'll experience the thundering roar, awesome power and amazing mist of the magnificent **Niagara Falls**. In the afternoon we will meet up with a local guide for an afternoon tour to scenic **Niagara-on-the-Lake**. On the way we'll stop at the **Whirlpool Aero Car** (a cable car that transports passengers over a section of the Niagara River referred to as the Niagara Whirlpool, the **Floral Clock** (The intricate designs on the face of the Floral Clock are created with up to 16,000 carpet bedding plants and are changed twice each year. The tower at the back of the clock houses Westminster chimes that greet each quarter hour). Next we will indulge in the elaborate ritual of **English Afternoon Tea** in the Victorian dining rooms at the Prince of Wales Hotel. From the adornment of rose chandeliers to floral tablecloths and teapots, the Victorian Tea Room and English delicacies are fit to be enjoyed by guests who appreciate regal dining with an imaginative twist.

Today will be an amazing day because we will be attending one of the largest Festivals of its kind in North America, **Rochester Lilac Festival**. View more than 200 varieties of lilacs and other flowers, trees and shrubs. Peak around every corner and you will see magnificent gardens, musical gems, exciting exhibits and special events. You will have the entire afternoon and evening to visit on your own. Our hotel is within walking distance of the Rochester Lilac Festival. On day four we will visit the **George Eastman Museum** honoring the pioneer of popular photography and motion picture film. It is the world's oldest photography museum and one of the oldest film archives. We will also tour **Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park**, one of the nation's most extensively preserved country estates from the Victorian era. This 50 acre site features beautiful formal and informal gardens, a historic mansion, the Lord & Burnham greenhouse complex with beautiful views of Canandaigua Lake. Next we will experience resort-style living on the shores of the **Canandaigua Lake at the Hotel Canandaigua**. We will climb aboard the **Canandaigua Lady Steamboat**, right outside the resort, for an enjoyable dinner cruise. The Canandaigua Lady is a 19th century steamboat replica and an authentic double-decker paddle wheeler operating on Canandaigua Lake. We will enjoy a dinner while relaxing and listening to a captivating narration on this sixty-five ton Mississippi style paddle wheel boat.

Our last day on this tour will be spent enjoying a leisurely cruise through the enchanting channels of the **Thousand Islands** and learning about the region's rich history from one of the knowledgeable guides while enjoying a sumptuous buffet. We will complete our cruise with a stop at historic **Boldt Castle**, a castle rivaling those of Europe. We will spend the night at beautiful **Riveredge Resort**, built on a steamboat wharf this resort enjoys water vistas on the three sides so you'll always have a room with a view. We will enjoy a casual dining atmosphere with the magnificent Boldt Castle as a backdrop. Relax and take in all the sights and sounds of the bustling Alexandria Bay harbor and the main shipping channel of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Pricing includes: Round trip air from Cedar Rapids, air taxes/fees/surcharges, hotel transfers, gratuities, baggage handling, and travel protection. A deposit of \$50 per person and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. A second deposit of \$250 per person is due by January 6, 2021 and final payment will be due by April 5, 2021. Your deposit is fully refundable up to April 5, 2021.

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

August 6 - 18, 2021

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

Discovering Poland



\$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.

* **NEW TOUR!** *

TRAVEL SHOW

August 4, 2020

2:00 PM

Elmcrest Country Club

Double PP \$1,249 • Single PP \$1,499

Johnny Cash Prison Concert



August 23 - 27, 2021

"Folsom Prison Blues" was recorded in 1955 and was an instant hit. It was very popular among inmates who wrote to Johnny and perhaps that is why he became a very vocal advocate for Prison Reform. His first Prison Concert was at Huntsville State Prison in 1957, a full 10 years before his famous live albums at Folsom Prison (1968) and San Quentin (1969). Most people don't know those were just two of many prison concerts Johnny Cash played. Show us your conviction, and come party in the Big House.

We will begin our tour with a visit to the **National Museum of the United States Air Force** -- the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world -- located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. We will then check into the beautiful **Oglebay Resort** for a two night stay. In the evening we will enjoy dinner and a show by **BackTraxx**. This group frequently performs at the Cleveland's Rock n' Roll Hall playing the greatest hits of the 60s and 70s -- they are both a great stage show and a wonderful dance band.

Next up will be a special **three hour Independence & Incarceration Tour**. It is titled with a bit of humor and irony, it features Wheeling's Independence Hall where the vote to secede from Virginia was won in 1863; followed by a visit to WV's gothic-looking prison, that was once on a list of the top 10 most violent correctional facilities.

We will also spend the evening at the **Old West Virginia Penitentiary**, a Gothic style structure built in 1876 that once held over 2000 inmates. Unlike many of them, you may rest assured you're getting out after the show. Here is where things get really exciting! Our bus will drive through a high arched entrance under the North Guard Tower and into The Yard. We will start the evening with a **Jailbird Feast**, a menu of comfort food, in a **prison cafeteria** atmosphere, served by the usual suspects. In order to get into the spirit of the day, we encourage everyone to join in on the **costumed Convict & Cop competition!** There will be several prizes awarded, such as a file in a cake, handcuff keys, plus a few commutations and paroles. Prize categories will be created spontaneously by our eccentric Warden who maintains a strict, but happy discipline here at the Pen.

The excitement continues as we are presented with a re-creation of **Johnny's "Outlaw Prison Concert"** featuring Gray Sartin and the Tennessee Three. With a live band behind him this show will feature Johnny's "Folsom Prison Blues," "I Walk the Line," "A Boy Named Sue," "San Quentin," and "Ring of Fire," plus many other favorites! Historical Note: The song "Folsom Prison Blues" was recorded in 1955, became an instant hit and was very popular among inmates who actually wrote to Johnny. At the conclusion of your "sentence" we will return to the Oglebay Lodge for an evening of relaxation.

Did you know Johnny Cash is a member of the **Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame** (as well as the Country Music Hall of Fame)? We will visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, located on the shore of Lake Erie in downtown Cleveland where we will see the archives and learn the history of the best-known and most influential artists, producers, engineers, other notable figures who have had some major influence on the development of rock and roll.

Pricing includes: Motor coach transportation, lodging, all taxes, gratuities, baggage handling, and travel protection.

A deposit of \$150.00 per person and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due by July 13, 2021. Your deposit is fully refundable up to July 13, 2021.

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

*** NEW TOUR! ***

TRAVEL SHOW

**August 4, 2020
2:00 PM**

Elmcrest Country Club

Double PP \$3,195 • Single PP \$3,995

Railroads of Colorado & New Mexico



September 19 - 27, 2021

This Railroad Adventure steams across Colorado and New Mexico. We will travel on five scenic trains, some of the highest altitude railroads in America during the day and enjoy comfortable rooms and fine dining at night. It's an all-fun, all-natural Rocky Mountain High, combining adventure, history and romance into one great tour.

Our first stop on this tour is a visit to the **Great Platte River Road Archway**. Built over the top of I-80, this history museum holds over 150 years of transportation and communication across America. Another stop will be at the **Golden Spike Tower**, where you can view a courtyard proudly flying the 23 flags representing each state Union Pacific Railroad serves. Truly a once in a lifetime experience with more trains than you can keep track of! Our journey will take us to Georgetown (at 8,500 feet she was once known as the 'Silver Queen of Colorado') here we ride the **Georgetown Scenic Railroad**. An old-time steam locomotive chugging its way up the canyon, hauling our train past the remains of several gold and silver mines. This open car train takes us between Georgetown and Silver Plume, over 2 miles apart, over mountainous terrain, requiring trestles, cuts, fills, loops, and curves totaling 3.1 miles of narrow gauge track. We also tour the **Lebanon Silver Mine**, taking us 500 feet into a mine tunnel bored in the 1870s. Our guide will point out rich veins of silver and tell us about early-day mining.

We will take a **three hour Jeep Tour** over 12,000 foot Corkscrew Pass into the Red Mountains. This jeep tour ends in Historic Silverton, CO where we will board the **Silverton-Durango Railroad**. This steam locomotive travels along the Animas River winding through spectacular & breathtaking canyons in the remote wilderness of San Juan National Forest. We will travel to Pagosa Springs, CO, a town in southwest Colorado known for its hot springs and will continue our drive into Chama, NM for a ride on the **Cumbres & Toltec Railroad** which is one of the most beautiful rides in America. As we climb through an unspoiled landscape, past historic railroad structures dating back to the turn of the twentieth century, we will enjoy the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains as this sure-footed locomotive rolls through tunnels, above deep gorges and over Cumbres Pass.

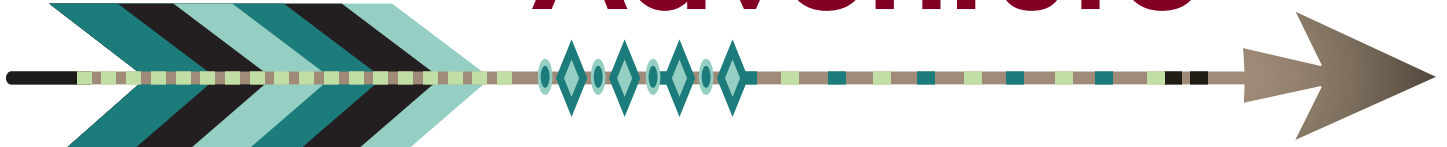
Next we will take a ride on the **Royal Gorge Train** for a scenic journey through the spectacular Royal Gorge. We will also have the opportunity to tour the **Garden of the Gods Park**, a Registered National Natural Landmark in Colorado Springs where we will learn of the park's geology and experience Native-American culture. Then it is on to the **Manitou Cliff Dwellings**, located at the foot of Pikes Peak, these mountain dwellings are a rare historical treasure. We will ride the newly refurbished **Pikes Peak Cog Railway** to the 14,110 foot summit. This 8.9 miles long ride begins along Ruxton Creek in Englemann Canyon. We will pass Minnehaha Falls and through a natural gateway known as Hells Gate, past Lake Moraine and Mount Almagre before climbing above the timberline. Keep your eyes open for big horn sheep and yellow bellied marmot once you get above the timberline. Dinner in the evening will be at the Flying W Ranch where we will enjoy a real **Chuckwagon Dinner** and be entertained by the Flying W Wranglers. The Wranglers specialize in beautiful 3-part vocal harmonies about the romantic American Cowboy.

We will also visit Gothenburg home to two original **Pony Express stations**. The original log building was disassembled, moved, and reassembled at its current location in 1931. Our last stop of this tour will be at **Omaha's Lithuanian Bakery**. We will hear from the Machevicius family about how their family escaped Germany in WWII and moved to Omaha to start a bakery business. Here you will taste some of the bakery's famous breads and enjoy their signature dessert which takes three days to make.

Pricing includes: Deluxe motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations, taxes, gratuities, baggage handling, and travel protection. A deposit of \$300.00 per person and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. A second deposit of \$350.00 per person is due by June 18, 2021 and final payment will be due by August 13, 2021. Your deposit is fully refundable up to June 18, 2021.

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

Choose Your Own Adventure



Domestic and International Travel 2020/2021



▪ **The Best of Branson** ▪

October 12-16, 2020

▪ **Pioneer Woman Mercantile** ▪

November 9-12, 2020

▪ **Southern Charm Christmas Markets** ▪

Charleston - Savannah - St. Simons Island - Jekyll Island

December 13-19, 2020

▪ ▪ ▪ **2021** ▪ ▪ ▪

All-Inclusive Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

January 16 - 22, 2021

Discover Britain & Ireland

Wales, England, United Kingdom, Scotland, and Ireland

April 8 - 22, 2021

Niagara Falls - The Best of Both Sides

May 6 - 11, 2021

Discover Poland

August 6 - 18, 2021

Johnny Cash Prison Concert

August 23 - 27, 2021

Railroads of Colorado & New Mexico

September 19 - 27, 2021

▪ ▪ ▪ **2022** ▪ ▪ ▪

Switzerland - Austria - Bavaria - Oberammergau

2022 - dates are being finalized

I am currently taking reservations for this tour!

The Ark & Appalachia

July 11 - 17, 2022

Southern Africa (In progress)

2022 or 2023



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Connect Club Director
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2020 Calendar

August 4: Travel Show at the Elmcrest Country Club at 2:00 PM

- The Best of Branson •
- Pioneer Woman Mercantile •
- All-Inclusive Punta Cana, Dominican Republic •
- Niagara Falls - The Best of Both Sides •
- Johnny Cash Prison Concert •
- Railroads of Colorado & New Mexico •

*** Join me to learn more about these amazing upcoming tours! ***

October 12-16: The Best of Branson

November 9-12: Pioneer Woman Mercantile

December 13-19: Southern Charm Christmas Markets

The FSB Customer Appreciation Picnic Has Been Cancelled.

Each year we look forward to hosting our Customer Appreciation Picnic - a time set aside to renew the valued friendships we share with each of you.

Unfortunately, we've made the difficult decision to cancel this year's event due to the ongoing health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, especially as it pertains to large group gatherings.

Thank you for understanding, and rest assured, we will be back bigger and BETTER next August!

Stay safe. Be well.

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, all tours are subject to change. FSB will continue to monitor the situation and adjust or cancel tours as needed.



SAVE THE DATE