



Hello Connect Club Friends!



2020 we dreamed of travel. 2021 we will travel!

It's time... and when you are ready, I'm here waiting for you!

As you all know by now, my greatest passion is planning trips and tours where you can safely experience the fantastic genuine hospitality, rich cultural history, fabulous authentic music and delicious cuisine that encompasses many of the things we all love about world travel. Be rest assured you can travel again with confidence, I will take care of you!

Enjoy this Connections Newsletter and read about all the amazing places you can explore with the Connect Club. In 2021 you can join me as we

enjoy some time locked up in prison with Johnny Cash for a live concert, be awed as we take in the breathtaking views of Niagara Falls, travel to Poland as we make our way through castles, poignant history and a welcoming culture, take a railroad adventure across Colorado & New Mexico, discover the true culture of Britain & Ireland on a journey through England, Ireland, Wales & Scotland, or celebrate the sights and sounds of the holidays in San Antonio Texas!

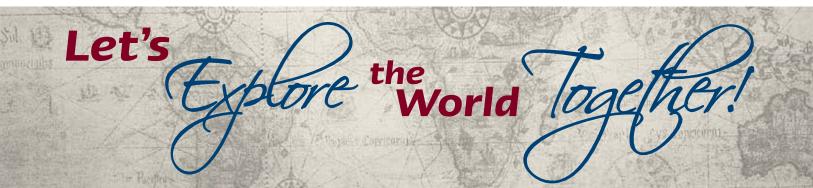
In 2022 join me as we start the year off relaxing at an all-inclusive beach destination, then we move on to discover the natural beauty, coastal charm, and fresh-from-the-sea cuisine along the shores of New England, don't miss out on an once every 10 year experience to Switzerland-Austria-Bavaria and the Oberammergau Passion Play, have fun exploring the Ark Encounter with arts and music of the Appalachia, take a captivating cruise to Alaska, a picturesque cruise to Italy-Croatia-Montenegro-Greece-Turkey, or an incredible journey through South Africa!

I am ready and excited to help you escape to discover exciting new destinations and to fill your dream vacation list.

Let's get back to creating lifelong memories!

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 Leesekamp - Connect Club Director • 319-294-2900





STAY CONNECTED!

If you're not one of the 178 followers on our Connect Club Facebook page, you are missing out on lots of information including upcoming trips, seminars and other fun stuff! It's easy to become a follower!



Don't miss out on our amazing Mailings!

In order for me to keep track of your correct address and to reduce the amount of returned mail I receive each month, please make sure you contact me if you have moved or if you have two separate addresses.

If you have two addresses (summer and winter), please send me an email (<u>Kathyleesekamp@fsbmail.net</u>) letting me know your two addresses and the months you will be at each address. I will then update this information into my Connect Club Database to keep track of your correct mailing addresses.

If you would like to change your mailing preference (Email or Mail) or if you prefer not to receive a newsletter when you are away, please let me know.

* DON'T MISS OUT! *

Time is running out to get signed up for these two amazing tours!

Contact me for more information!



Johnny Cash Prison Concert

"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 become 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.

Double PP \$1,249 • Single PP \$1,499

August 23 - 27, 2021

We will begin our tour with a visit to the National Museum of the US Airforce, the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world. We will enjoy a Rock N' Roll party with dinner and a show by BackTraxx. Next up is a special 3-hour Independence & Incarceration Tour featuring Wheeling's Independence Hall and a visit to WV's Gothic-looking prison. We will tour the Old West Virginia Penitentiary. Here is where things get really exciting! Our coach 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 and participate in a costumed Convict & Cop Competition! The excitement continues as we are presented with a re-creation of Johnny's "Outlaw Prison Concert" featuring Gray Sartin and the Tennessee Three. Did you know Johnny Cash is a member of the Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame? We will visit the Rock N' 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, and other notable figures who have had some major influences on the development of rock and roll.

Pricing includes: Sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, and deluxe hotel accommodations, gratuities, 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 July 13, 2021. Your deposit is fully refundable up to July 13, 2021.

Contact me at 319-294-2900 for a complete itinerary of this tour.

* Important Date & Tour Changes ➤ September 7-12, 2021

Niagara Falls Castles, Flowers & Falls

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.



We will tour the Butterfly Conservatory & Foral Show House, brave the raging waters as IMAX takes us over Niagara Falls and visit the Daredevil Exhibit. We will stand at the heart of Niagara and feel the thunderous vibrations of the Horseshoe Falls. This tour also features a voyage boat tour of the magnificent Great Gorge, American Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and, of course, the mighty Horseshoe Falls. We will meet up with a local guide for a tour to scenic Niagara-on-the-Lake. We will also make a stop at the Whirlpool Aero Car, the Floral Clock and enjoy an English Afternoon Tea at the Prince of Wales Hotel. We will visit the George Eastman Museum, tour the Sonneberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park, and climb aboard the Canandaigua Lady Steamboat to cruise the enchanting Thousand Islands with a stop at Boldt Castle.

Pricing includes: Round trip air from Cedar Rapids, sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, and deluxe hotel accommodations, gratuities, all air taxes/fees/surcharges and Travel Protection.

TRAVEL SHOW June 10, 2021 • 1:00 PM Elmcrest Country Club

Discovering Poland

Let's embark on an in-depth journey through Poland!

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



We will tour the thriving capital city of Warsaw. Reborn after World War II, it is again one of Europe's great cultural centers. We will walk the meandering lanes of historical Krakow where we will see the Wawel Castle, once home to the kings of Imperial Poland. The somber history and tragic reality of Auschwitz is unveiled during a moving visit. Behold the Black Madonna while visiting the Jasna Góra Monastery. Discover Polish culture at a folklore dinner and show in Krakow. Make tasty gingerbread in Torun. Stand on the dock where union workers formed the Solidarity Anti-Communist movement in 1989 in Gdansk. Explore the ancient city squares and UNESCO World Heritage sites of Torun, Wroclaw, Warsaw, Gdansk and Krakow. Join me on this unique once-in-a-lifetime tour!

Pricing includes: Round trip air from Cedar Rapids, sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, 1st class deluxe hotel accommodations, gratuities and all air taxes/fees/surcharges. A deposit of \$500 per person, plus Insurance of \$329 and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due by June 8, 2021.

Contact me at 319-294-2900 for a complete itinerary of this tour.

TRAVEL SHOW June 10, 2021 • 1:00 PM Elmcrest Country Club



*Important Date Change ► October 1-15, 2021

Exploring Britain & Ireland

Let's travel to some of the world's most magnificent cities and magical countryside's of Britain and Ireland.

Double Occupancy PP \$4,749, Single Occupancy PP \$5,749, Insurance \$399 PP

This breathtaking journey takes us through rolling farmlands and across the Irish Sea, through England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. We will marvel at the mystery of Stonehenge. Experience Ireland's culinary renaissance during a cooking class at one of Dublin's premier culinary institutes. Walk in the footsteps of William Shakespeare at his birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon. Be mesmerized by the breathtaking landscapes in the English Lake District, Ireland's Ring of Kerry and the valleys, mountains and imposing castles of North Wales. Admire the ancient Roman ruins in elegant Bath and at Hadrian's Wall. Get acquainted with Britain's pageantry in the royal cities of Edinburgh and London. This is a tour you will not want to miss!

Pricing includes: Round trip air from Cedar Rapids, sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, 1st class deluxe hotel accommodations, gratuities and all air taxes/fees/surcharges. A deposit of \$500 per person, plus insurance of \$399 and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due by August 2, 2021.



Railroads of Colorado & New Mexico

This Railroad Adventure steams across Colorado and New Mexico.

We will travel on five scenic trains on some of the highest altitude railroads in America during the day and enjoy comfortable rooms and fine dining at night. We will ride on the Georgetown Scenic Railroad, the Silverton-Durango Railroad, the Cumbres & Toltec Railroad, the Royal Gorge Route Railroad and the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad. We will also enjoy some amazing tours each day. We will go 500 feet into a mine tunnel bored in the 1870's at the Lebanon Silver Mine and take a 3-hour jeep tour over 12,000 foot Corkscrew Pass into the Red Mountains with a picnic lunch. We'll then travel to the Garden of the Gods Park, visit the Great Platte River Road Archway, and enjoy views of the Gold Spike Tower and tour the Pony Express Museum. This is an all-fun, all-natural Rocky Mountain High, combining adventure, history and romance into one great tour.

Pricing includes: Sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, and deluxe hotel accommodations, gratuities, and Travel Protection. A deposit of \$300 per person and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. A second deposit of \$350 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.

TRAVEL SHOW June 10, 2021 • 1:00 PM Elmcrest Country Club



Spotlight on San Antonio Holiday

Welcome to the "American Venice" Historic missions, River Walk, restaurants, Spanish architecture and a beautiful river centerpiece make this a truly remarkable city. The sights and sounds of the holiday celebrations are sure to immerse you in the spirit of the season!

Relax Texas-style as we settle into our River Walk hotel on this Southwestern getaway. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage sites of the legendary Alamo and Mission San José. Cruise along the Paseo del Rio. Savor dinner at a restored convent in the historic King William District. Journey to Stonewall to view the grounds at the LBJ Ranch, birthplace of the 36th President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson. Visit the National Museum of the Pacific War when we venture to charming Fredericksburg nestled in the Hill Country, rich with German heritage. Immerse yourself in the laid-back atmosphere of this vibrant city.

Pricing includes: Round trip air from Cedar Rapids, sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, 1st class deluxe hotel accommodations, hotel transfers, gratuities and all air taxes/fees/surcharges.

A deposit of \$600 per person, along with \$199 for insurance and your completed reservation are required to reserve your space (with the \$100 discount) by June 19, 2021. Final payment is due by September 27, 2021. Deposits are refundable up until June 26, 2021.



Call to be added to the waitlist!

Discover Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria with Oberammergau Passion Play

The distinct cultures of Switzerland, Austria, and Bavaria await you!

Explore delightful Lucerne, "Swiss Paradise on the Lake," and enjoy a walking tour featuring the Alstadt (Old Town), Chapel Bridge, and Jesuit church. While in Innsbruck, enjoy a panoramic visit to this city's Olympic landmarks. In beautiful Salzburg, stroll through Mirabell Gardens and along the quaint Getreidegasse (site of Mozart's birthplace). Have dinner in Austria's oldest restaurant, St. Peter's. Fairy tales come to life with a picture stop at Bavaria's most famous castle, Neuschwanstein. Your amazing journey concludes in the charming village of Oberammergau. Here you'll witness a spectacular performance of the Oberammergau Passion Play, whose origins date back to 1634. Watch as the entire village comes together to present you with their rendition of this Biblical story.

Pricing includes: Round trip air from Cedar Rapids, sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, 1st class deluxe hotel accommodations, gratuities and all air taxes/fees/surcharges. A deposit of \$500 per person, plus Insurance of \$329 and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due by June 8, 2021.



\$1,899 Double and \$2,299 Single

This great tour combines America's largest faith-based attraction, The Ark Encounter with the arts and music of Appalachia, plus the historic grace of the Boone Tavern Hotel. Your days are filled with both artistic and divine inspiration. Your evenings are filled with enough live entertainment and southern cooking to have your lips a smackin' and your toes a-tappin.'

On this amazing tour we will tour The Ark Encounter & Creation Museum, Cumberland Falls State Park, we will take a ride on the Big South Fork Scenic Railway, visit the Harlan Center, Coal Mining Museum & Portal 31 Coal Mine, Loretta Lynn Exhibit, Jenny Wiley State Park Dinner and Show, Hatfield & McCoy Tour, Dueling Barrels Distillery, Loretta Lynn's Birthplace, US 23 Country Music Highway Museum, Kentucky Opry and Louisville Mega Cavern!

Pricing includes: Motor coach Transportation, sightseeing, baggage handling, hotel accommodations, all taxes, gratuities and Travel Protection Plan.

All-Inclusive Cancun Adults Only Resort

7 Days - January 15 - 21, 2022

Per Person Prices

Junior Suite

\$1,995 Double (Insurance \$138), \$2,495 Single (Insurance \$174)

Junior Suite Ocean view

\$2,095 Double (Insurance \$174), \$2,595 Single (Insurance \$206)

Suite Ocean view

\$2,295 Double (Insurance \$174), \$2,895 Single (Insurance \$206)



Seven Nights at the RIU Palace Las Americas: Just steps from the shops and nightlife in Cancun, Riu Palace Las Americas is the perfect place for an all-inclusive Cancun vacation. Step into a lobby that is beyond extravagant, with great columns rising to hand-painted domes in gold leaf and floral designs, a stained glass ceiling, Edwardian furniture in rich satin and extraordinary chandeliers.

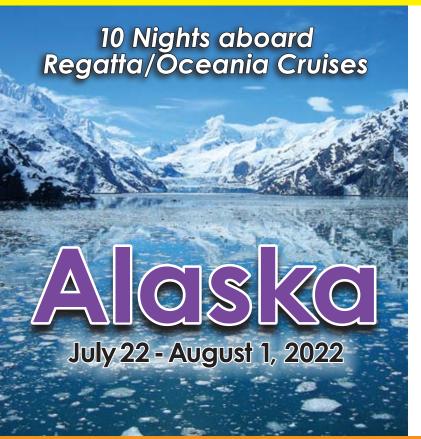
All-inclusive Amenities: Activities include table tennis, volleyball, windsurfing, snorkeling, and much more. Enjoy a relaxing day at the beach or take advantage of the three pools offered, one of which has a swim-up bar and one that is an infinity pool that appears to flow into the turquoise sea framing a white sand beach.

All-Inclusive Meals and Drinks: The RIU Palace Las Americas is hailed for excellent dining and includes a selection of five à la carteor grand buffet restaurants. Recently revamped menus now offer a wide range of cuisine and finer ingredients at the à la carte restaurants, as well as the incorporation of a vegetarian menu in all restaurants. Fine cuisine is served at Los Arcos Italian restaurant, Sakura Japanese restaurant, Tio Pepe Mexican restaurant, Krystal Fusion restaurant, and a Grill and steakhouse. Domestic and imported drinks are served 24-hours a day and the mini-bar and liquor dispenser in the rooms are restocked regularly. Semiprivate Group Dinner Reservations will be arranged for certain nights.

Sightseeing Desk: If you are up for an adventure, visit the tour and sightseeing desk and see what exciting adventures are offered. Cancún is a destination that will surprise you with all of its hidden historic gems. Discover the impressive pyramids of Kukulkán in Chichen Itzá, the turtle conservation center on Isla Mujeres, the archaeological museum, the scenic tower and Holbox Island, among many other spectacular locations. (Additional fees apply)

This tour includes: Round trip airfare from Cedar Rapids, round trip airport transfers in Cancun, luggage handling and all taxes and fees. \$75 per person deposit and completed application is due upon reservation. \$150 per person due by September 1, 2021. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit date of September 1 are based upon availability. Final payment is due by November 1, 2021. Deposits are refundable up until November 1, 2021.

TRAVEL SHOW July 15, 2021 • 1:00 PM Elmcrest Country Club



Tour Planning in Progress... Details to Come!

Day 1: Seattle, Washington

Day 2: Crusing the Inside Passage

Day 3: Ketchikan, Alaska

Day 4: Juneau, Alaska

Day 5: Skagway, Alaska

Day 6: Crusing Hubbbard Glacier

Day 7: Icy Strait Point (Hoonah), Alaska

Day 8: Sitka, Alaska

Day 9: At Sea

Day 10: Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Day 11: Seattle, Washington

Contact me at 319-294-2900 to be placed on the interested list for this tour.

*Important Travel Show Date Change

TRAVEL SHOW

Sept. 3, 2021 • 1:00 PM Elmcrest Country Club

10 Nights aboard Regatta/Oceania Cruises

Tour Planning in Progress... Details to Come!

Day 1: Depart for Italy (Land)

Day 2: Venice, Italy (Cruise Begins)

Day 3: Split, Croatia

Day 4: Kotor, Montenegro

Day 5: At Sea

Day 6: Chania, Crete, Greece

Day 7: Santorini, Greece

Day 8: Mykonos, Greece

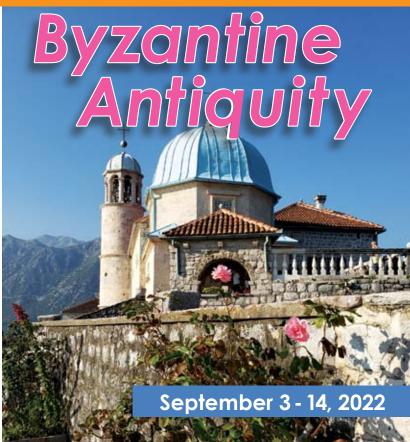
Day 9: Athen (Piraeus), Greece

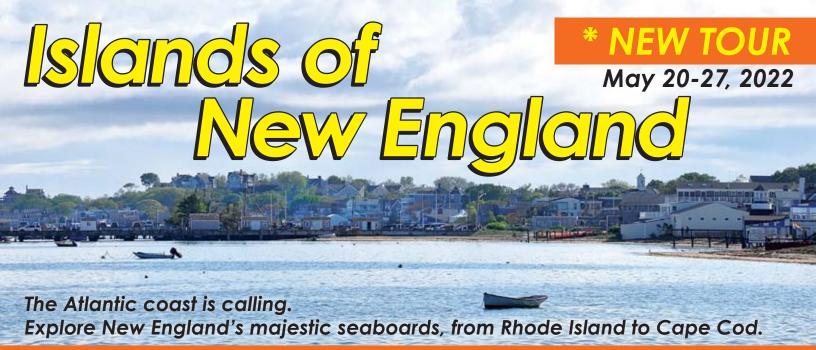
Day 10: Kusadasi/Ephesus, Turkey

Day 11: Istanbul, Turkey

Day 12: Istanbul, Turkey

Contact me at 319-294-2900 to be placed on the interested list for this tour.





\$3,179 per person, double occupancy and \$3,779 per person Single occupancy

On day one we start the day with a visit to Providence and the Gilded Age mansions of Newport. We'll spend time in the lively artist colony of Provincetown, experience the beautiful islands of Martha's Vineyard, Block Island, and Nantucket. We'll complete our local experience as we indulge in a traditional seafood and lobster feast, explore the local charms, walk along historic cobblestone streets, and feel like a true New Englander in a traditional cranberry bog.

Day two we will visit Providence, "America's Renaissance City." We'll take a tour of the prestigious Brown University and learn about the city's vibrant art, cultural, and culinary scenes. Then we head to Newport and travel along Bellevue Avenue. Lined with extraordinary 19th-century summer "cottages," this road is home to 7 mansions designated National Historic Landmarks. It's your choice! Explore Marble House, built by the Vanderbilts and modeled after the Petit Trianon at Versailles -OR- tour Rosecliff, the opulent former residence of silver heiress Theresa Fair Oelrichs, known for her lavish parties.

Day Three we will start our day off with a ferry ride to Block Island, a quaint isle smaller than 10-square miles and get a taste of the local flavors at a restaurant before touring the island. We'll visit a micro-yarn mill, learning about the process before we meet the animals. Ferry back to the mainland and enjoy an evening at leisure in Providence.

Day four we will delve into rural life as we tour a New England cranberry bog and learn about dry harvesting. Step back in time with a stop in the celebrated town of Plymouth where the Pilgrims landed in 1620, and see legendary Plymouth Rock. Later, we arrive at our beachfront hotel for a 4-night stay. We'll enjoy a traditional New England experience as we indulge in a seafood and lobster feast.

On Day five a ferry ride transports us to beautiful Martha's Vineyard. Known for visits by presidents and royalty, this summer home of many artists, writers and celebrities is full of surprises. We'll see all the highlights of "the Vineyard" (as the locals call it), including quaint gingerbread-styled cottages and a once-famous whaling port resplendent with sea captains' homes and widows' walks. Later, we depart the island and cruise back to Cape Cod.

Day six we travel to Provincetown, located on the tip of the Cape. This lively artist colony remains famous for its crafts and bright seagoing flair. Then, it's your choice! Set out on a whale watch cruise to Cape Cod Bay in search of these magnificent creatures -OR- enjoy a scenic adventure through the iconic sand dunes of the Cape.

On day seven catch a glimpse of the Camelot era in Hyannisport, home of the Kennedy compound, and visit the poignant Kennedy Memorial. Next, we set off via ferry to explore the idyllic island of Nantucket. From its cobblestone Main Street to its beaches and lighthouses, this place lives up to its reputation. During time at leisure, meander the waterfront where sailboats and yachts sway in the harbor or shop for a famous Nantucket basket. Tonight, we'll enjoy a farewell dinner and chef-led demonstration.

Pricing includes: Round trip air from Cedar Rapids, sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, 1st class hotel accommodations, gratuities and all air taxes/surcharges. A deposit of \$600 per person, plus insurance of \$299 and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due by March 21, 2022. Deposits are refundable up until November 20, 2021.



October 8-21, 2022

Get ready for an unparalleled journey through the cultural diversity and abundant wildlife of southern Africa. Seek out the "Big 5" on 9 different safaris. Experience an autentic bush dinner under the stars in Pilanesberg National Park. Get a taste of South African culture at local wineries. Witness the natural beauty of Victoria Falls. Greet African elephants and spend time interacting with them. Search for animals along the winding Chobe River. Epic scenery and winding coastlines come together in an incredible adventure.

Contact me at 319-294-2900 to be placed on the interested list for this tour.





Thursday nights in June! **Lowe Park 6-9 pm**

June 3rd - Strays

June 10th - Boot Jack Band

June 17th - The Mixtape

June 24th - Lonesome Road

This year food vendors... Carlos O Kelly's, Aroma Artisan Pizza, One More Bite, and Moo Moo's Ice Cream Truck.

Our event will be moved out to Lowe Park this year due to construction going on downtown Marion. The safety of everyone attending or working the event will be our top priority this year, having our event at Lowe Park will allow people to spread out more for your safety.



Domestic and International Travel 2021/2022

- - - 2021 - - -

Discover Poland

August 6 - 18, 2021

Travel Show - June 10, 2021 at 1:00 PM - Elmcrest Country Club

Johnny Cash Prison Concert

August 23 - 27, 2021

Niagara Falls - Castles, Flowers & Falls

*Important Date Change ► September 7-12, 2021

Railroads of Colorado & New Mexico

September 19-27, 2021

Exploring Britain & Ireland

Wales, England, United Kingdom, Scotland, and Ireland

*Important Date Change ► October 1 - 15, 2021

Travel Show - June 10, 2021 at 1:00 PM - Elmcrest Country Club

* NEW TOUR - Spotlight on San Antonio Holiday

November 26 - 30, 2021

Travel Show - June 10, 2021 at 1:00 PM - Elmcrest Country Club

- - - 2022 - - -

All-Inclusive Cancun

January 15 - 21, 2022

Islands of New England

May 20 - 27, 2022

Discover Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria with Oberammergau Passion Play

June 24 - July 3, 2022

Ark Encounter & Appalachia

July 11 - 17, 2022

Alaska

July 22 - August 1, 2022

Travel Show - July 15, 2021 at 1:00 PM - Elmcrest Country Club

Byzantine Antiquity (Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece, Turkey)

September 3 - 14, 2022

Travel Show - September 3, 2021 at 1:00 PM - Elmcrest Country Club

Exploring South Africa, Victoria Falls & Botswana

Tentative Date: October 8 - 21, 2022

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Kathy Leesekamp Connect Club Director 319-294-2900 KathyLeesekamp@fsbmail.net PRSRT STD US Postage **PAID** Cedar Rapids, IA Permit No. 214



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.

