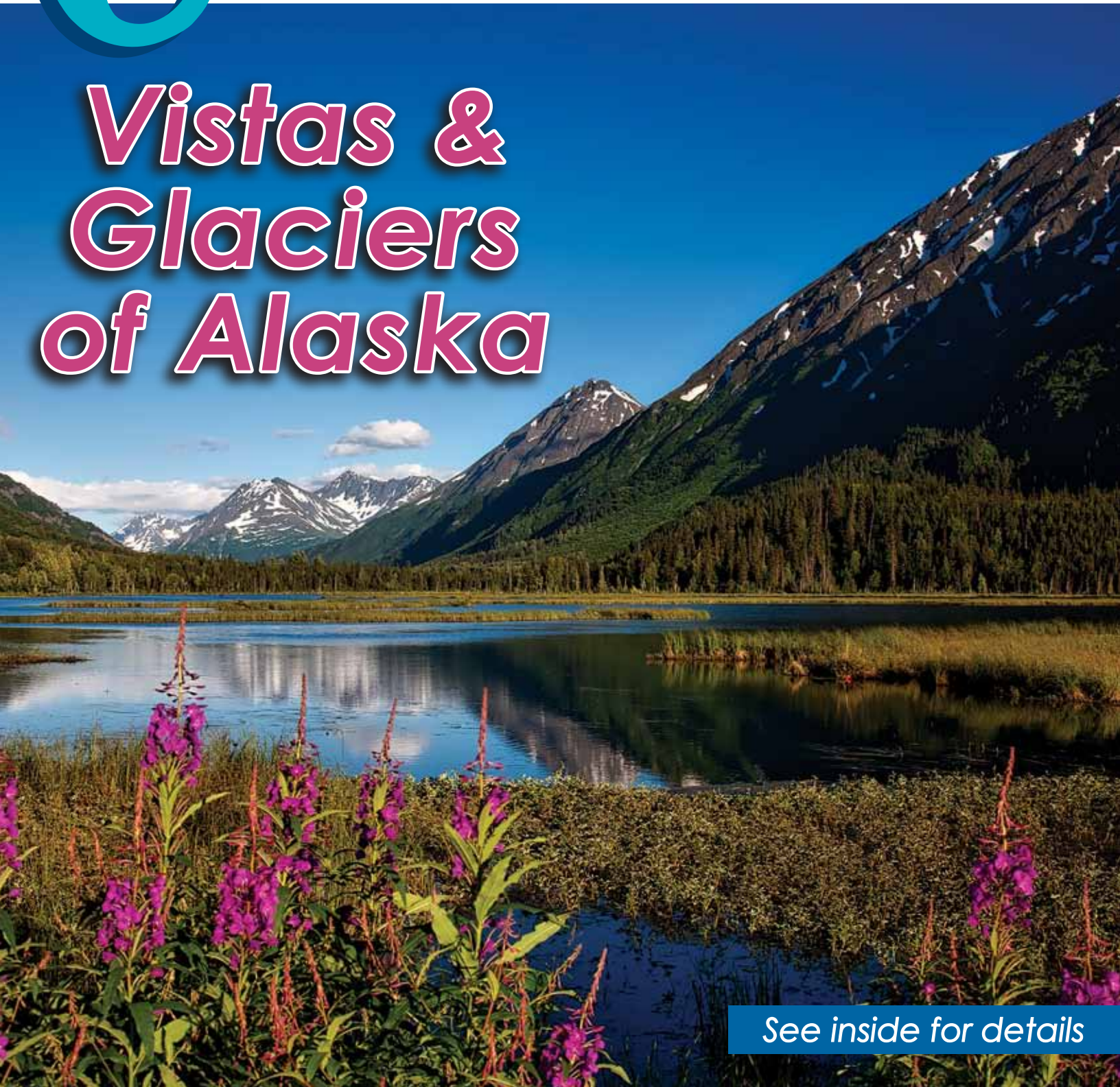


NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

Connections

Exploring the world with the FSB Connect Club

Vistas & Glaciers of Alaska



See inside for details



Hello Connect Club Friends!

Wow this year has flown by so fast! It is hard to believe the year is almost over. I hope you all enjoyed your year and spent some good quality time with family and friends.

I have a great line-up of tours for 2022 that are already selling fast. It appears that everyone is ready to get out there and experience the wonders of the world again!

Cancun: Let's celebrate winter at the Hotel Riu Cancun, where you can relax and enjoy the white sandy beaches and gorgeous turquoise water. You will never get bored with all the activities and entertainment this resort has to offer!

Islands of New England: Discover the natural beauty that lies along the shores of New England. Come to know its coastal charm, friendly people and fresh-from-the-sea cuisine. Providence, Rhode Island, Newport, Block Island, Plymouth, Cape Code, Martha's Vineyard, Hyannis and Nantucket are all waiting for you to explore all that they have to offer!

Switzerland-Austria-Bavaria, Oberammergau with the passion play: Explore the amazing old towns, bridges, churches, Olympic landmarks, gardens, fairy tales, castles, charming villages, and the most spectacular performance you will ever witness - the Oberammergau Passion Play!

Ballard's with Gene and Jeanie: It's time for some summer fishing fun with the Neighbors! Ballard's supplies everything so you can focus on having an amazing time catching fish, eating, socializing and getting to know your Connect Club Members!

Vistas & Glaciers of Alaska: Embark on a luxury cruise in Seattle, cruise the inside passage, enjoy the unique culture of Ketchikan, visit the home of the largest native settlement in Alaska - Icy Strait Point and the culturally rich fishing village of Hoonah, cruise by the awe-inspiring Hubbard Glacier, join the fun and excitement of Juneau, enjoy the great outdoors of Haines, take in the picturesque city of Sitka, cruise the outside passage and last but not least, enjoy Western Canada's oldest city-Victoria, British Columbia.

Byzantine Antiquity: Enjoy 10 nights aboard the Regatta/Oceania Cruise Ship. Cruise the ports of Venice/Italy, Split/Croatia, Kotor/Montenegro, Chania-Crete/Greece, Santorini/Greece, Athens (Piraeus/Greece, Kusadasi-Ephesus/Turkey, Istanbul/Turkey. Take in the beauty, architecture, palaces, canals, cathedrals, limestone cliffs, waterfront harbors, black sand beaches, rock formations, Greek and Roman cultures, ancient temples, ruins, archaeological sites and the lively and entertaining streets of all these ports.

South Africa: Let's explore Africa, where the incredible landscapes lead the way to a blend of cultural diversity, an abundance of wildlife and a remarkable history. From urban centers to wild safaris, Africa takes you by surprise, delighting you again and again until its unique spirit claims you, heart and soul. And although we are completely full for the first tour, we still have 10 spots available on the second tour!

Take some time to look through the Newsletter and daydream about all the places you could visit next year!

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 • KathyLeeseekamp@fsbmail.com

Let's

Explore the World Together!

Exploring South Africa, Victoria Falls & Botswana

Two Tour Dates Are Being Held:

**Oct. 6-21, 2022 - FULL
AND**

Oct. 21 - Nov. 4, 2022

Only 10 spaces left!



\$7,864 Per Person Double Occupancy • \$8,949 Per Person Single Occupancy • Insurance \$449 Per Person

South Africa is all about discovery, revitalizing your spirit and reinventing your thinking. Luxurious resorts, moving township visits, open-air safari game drives and vibrant cities like Cape Town; few destinations can offer such a myriad of enriching experiences.

Get ready for an unparalleled journey through the cultural diversity and abundant wildlife of southern Africa. We will begin our journey in Johannesburg—a vibrant city that revolves around modernity and a gold-mining history. We will venture out in a 4x4 to seek out the “Big 5” on 8 different safaris. First thing on the safaris we will enjoy coffee and tea amongst the wildlife. We will experience an authentic African tent camp with all the amenities of a luxury resort along with a bush dinner under the stars in Pilanesberg National Park. When the rainbows are at their best, we’ll witness the natural beauty of Victoria Falls. When the sun sets and the animals gather around the watering hole, we’ll toast the stunning African landscape with a sundowner.

We will embark on an experience of a lifetime where we’ll greet African elephants and spend time interacting with them and join a local family for a home-based lunch. We’ll then search for animals along the winding Chobe River, as we take a safari cruise into the untamed national park with epic scenery, hippos that linger along the shores, crocodiles basking in the sun and winding coastlines that come together in an incredible adventure. On a game drive through Chobe National Park, we’ll take in the diverse ecosystems and unparalleled biodiversity. Next up is an unforgettable dinner by river where we’ll learn the secret to cooking a traditional braai, complete with some local favorites and delicacies.

Another stop will be the wine lands of the Western Cape where we’ll see for ourselves why this area boasts a reputation as one of the world’s most beautiful wine countries. The idyllic town of Stellenbosch is home of the most famous wine regions, and where we will settle in for a two-night stay among the rolling vineyards and historic Cape Dutch architecture. Say hello to Cape Town, an electric cultural mecca that captivates you at every turn. From heritage sites to historic landmarks, markets, shops, restaurants, the waterfront is one of South Africa’s most compelling destinations. We will rise gently over the South African landscape in a cable car to Table Mountain, taking in the views of Cape Town, Lions Head, and historic Robben Island. We’ll travel to Cape Point where we’ll marvel at the vibrant green foliage blanketing the rocky outcrops, with an easy hike down the mountain, wandering by diverse patches of native flowers, and a stop at Boulders Beach for the rarest of black-tie events—a rendezvous with endangered African Penguins!

This Explorations tour gives 19 travelers access to the world in a truly authentic way. On these active, immersing journeys, travelers connect with the cultures of the world on a deeper, more meaningful level in ways that are hard to replicate. The group size is kept small allowing these journeys to be the most active, engaging, and rewarding experience possible. If this tour is sold out, I have set aside the exact same tour for October 21 - November 4, 2022.

Pricing includes: Round trip air from Cedar Rapids, inter-flights from Johannesburg, sightseeing, baggage handling, deluxe motor coach, 1st class deluxe hotel accommodations, gratuities, and all air taxes/fees/surcharges. A deposit of \$600 per person, plus insurance of \$449 per person and your completed reservation form are required to reserve your space. Final payment will be due by August 8, 2022. Deposits are refundable up until March 8, 2022.

January 15 - 21, 2022
7 Days

All-Inclusive Cancun

Adults Only Resort



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)

Tour Highlights

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 carte or 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. Semi-private 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. Cancun is a destination that will surprise you with all of its hidden historic gems. Discover the impressive pyramids of Kukulcán 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)

LAST CHANCE to join me for some relaxation on the beautiful sand beaches of Cancun!

This tour includes: Round trip airfare from Cedar Rapids, round trip airport transfers in Cancun, luggage handling and all taxes and fees. Reservations are based upon availability. Final payment is due with your completed reservation form and passport copy.



Islands of New England

May 20 - 27, 2022

*The Atlantic coast is calling.
Explore New England's
majestic seaboards, from
Rhode Island to Cape Cod.*

\$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.

A Mystery Inside A Mystery

June 7-10, 2022



Guess what?! I hired a professional to take over 2022's Four Day Mystery Tour! This mystery tour will be wild, fun and different from our past tours! It is packed with mystery, secrets, charm and exciting unknown places!



Mystery characters from the Wild West & The North Pole will surprise you along the way!



Pack your mukluks and your cowboy boots and get ready because we are looking for an outlaw!



Mystery Clues on your hotel pillow.



Special gifts throughout the tour.

Pricing **WILL** include: Deluxe Motorcoach, hotel accommodations for three nights, luggage handling, admissions to mystery attractions, all meals and gratuities. This tour will be casual dress. There will be some walking but not much. **Pricing will be announced in the next Connections Newsletter.**

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

Discover Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria with Oberammergau Passion Play



June 24 - July 3, 2022

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 Altstadt (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 in the amount of \$800 per person, a second deposit in the amount of \$1500 per person, insurance in the amount of \$500 per person along with your completed reservation form are required to reserve your spot on this tour. Reservations are now based upon availability. Final payment is due February 24, 2022.

*** This tour is full, please call me at 319-294-2900 to be added to the waitlist! ***



Ballard's Resort Fishing Trip with Gene Neighbor

in Minnesota's Lake of the Woods

July 5-7, 2022

**We are finally able to plan for another Ballard's
Tour with Gene and Jeanie Neighbor!
Watch future issues for pricing for this tour!**

Day One: Depart from Marion at 6:00 am, arrive at Ballard's Resort 4:00 pm, where you will check in, receive your lodging assignment and attend a briefing orientation. A complimentary welcome reception and evening dinner are included.

Day Two: Breakfast at 7:00 am, guided walleye fishing (8-5), lunch on the lake, evening meal, lodging in Cabin.

Day Three: Breakfast 7:00 am, guided walleye fishing (8-5), lunch on the lake, evening meal, lodging in Cabin.

Day Four: 6:00 am breakfast, depart lodge at 7:00 am, and arrive in Marion at 5:00 pm.

Additional Information

- **Lodging in Cabins:** Each unit is complete with living room, two single beds per bedroom, bathroom, TV, towels, bedding, & daily maid service.
- **Guided Walleye Fishing:** 27 ft. Sport crafts (guide boats), include angling equipment, bait, tackle, on-board restroom facilities, & fish processing. The boats accommodate up to six anglers, plus Coast Guard licensed guide.
- **Meals:** Piping hot breakfasts, sack or shore lunches prepared for you daily and home-style evening meals.
- **MN fishing license:** Purchase online at www.licenses.dnr.state.mn.us, or at Ballard's (cost is \$37.00).
- **Pricing includes:** Round trip coach transportation from Marion, three nights lodging, two days guided walleye fishing, all meals, rods, reels, bait, tackle, fish processing, gratuities, sales and lodging tax.



Vistas & Glaciers of Alaska

10 Nights aboard Regatta/Oceania Cruises

July 22 - August 1, 2022



You must have a passport and completed COVID-19 Vaccine card to join us on this tour.

July 22: Seattle, Washington - Embark on your luxury cruise in the popular city of Seattle, home to the iconic Space Needle and Pike Place Market. Local and Sustainable are words to live by in Seattle. Visitors are spoiled for choices of things to do in Seattle. Whatever you end up doing, you'll fall in love with the Emerald City.

July 23: Cruising Inside Passage - While cruising the inside passage, a beautiful island-dotted waterway edged by verdant forests, mountains, and glaciers, you will catch glimpses of breathtaking rugged scenery, plus staggering wildlife like salmon sharks, white spirit bears, and millions of seabirds.

July 24: Ketchikan, Alaska - Built around salmon canneries and sawmills, Ketchikan was once proclaimed the Salmon Capital of the World. Its unique culture is celebrated through its renowned collection of totem poles, a testament to Native art. Ketchikan is backed by steep, forested slopes and fringed by a pristine waterfront. Not far in the distance is the Tongass National Forest, filled with wildlife and the peaceful aura of the North Country.

July 25: Icy Strait Point (Hoonah), Alaska - Icy Strait is home to the largest native settlement in Alaska and is laced with strong ties to their cultural heritage. Visit the beautifully restored salmon cannery, which dates back to 1930 and offers a view into Alaska's more recent past, or watch for whales spouting at the nearby Point Adolphus feeding area. Close by is culturally rich Hoonah, a Tlingit fishing village.

July 26: Cruising Hubbard Glacier - View Hubbard Glacier, the longest tidewater glacier in North America, which enchants visitors with its awe-inspiring walls of ice.

July 27: Juneau, Alaska - The thriving town of Juneau offers an eclectic mix of people and pastimes. The busy downtown streets feature upscale shopping with a traditional twist while spectacular mountain scenery stuns from every angle. The famous Mendenhall glacier sits just outside town, and even a casual observer is likely to spot bald eagles. Humpback whales, or perhaps a black bear.

July 28: Haines, Alaska - Haines is a great place to see the outdoors – hiking, fishing and wildlife viewing are all popular activities. A top local attraction is the decommissioned military outpost of Fort Seward, now an historic landmark. Bird watchers take note: the world's largest concentration of bald eagles comes to the area every autumn.

July 29: Sitka, Alaska - Picturesque Sitka is known for its fishing industry, an annual music festival, and its vast array of historic attractions. The city's fascinating museum houses some of Alaska's oldest indigenous collections, and the Sitka National Historical Park boasts totem-lined forest trails and authentic artisan exhibits.

July 30: Cruising the Outside Passage - Cruise the Outside Passage through the open blue waters of the Pacific Ocean.

July 31: Victoria, British Columbia, Canada - Western Canada's oldest city displays its civilized British heritage with pride. Visit the elaborately manicured Butchart Gardens and see the steep-gabled Craigdarroch "bonanza castle." Spend time in the beating heart of the city, the Inner Harbor, where you might enjoy the Royal BC Museum, street performers, craft vendors and more.

August 1: Seattle, Washington - Disembark in Seattle.

To reserve your spot, please submit a deposit of \$750.00 per person along with your completed reservation form. Final payment is due April 7, 2022. Deposits are fully refundable up to the final payment date (including the cost of insurance).

September 3 - 14, 2022

10 Nights aboard
Regatta/Oceania
Cruises

Byzantine Antiquity

You must have a passport and completed COVID-19 Vaccine card to join us on this tour.

Day One: Depart for Italy

Day Two: Venice, Italy - Discover la bea vita (the beautiful life) in the fairytale city of Venice. Take in the glory of Venetian architecture, marble palaces and flower-strewn canals, in this timeless city of piazzas, trattorias, and charming old shops. Enjoy Venetian cuisine-inspired by its garden islands and lagoon aquaculture-expressing the city's historic ties to the ancient spice route.

Day Three: Split, Croatia - The largest city on the Adriatic Coast, Split has been under Roman, Venetian, Austrian, French, Italian, and Yugoslav rule. The Old City is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and must-see historic attractions include Diocletian's Palace, the Cathedral of Saint Domnius, and the striking Grgur Ninski Statue. Take time to stroll along the Riva Harbor, browse through the Green Market, and sample the restaurants and wine cellars.

Day Four: Kotor, Montenegro - Beneath the limestone cliffs of Mount Lovcen lies the dramatic and secluded coastal city of Kotor. Settled during Roman times, this walled medieval city, with its narrow streets, Venetian architecture, and the twelfth-century Saint Tryphon Cathedral, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day Five: At Sea - Today is a full day at sea. Take in all the fun and excitement the ship has to offer.

Day Six: Chania, Crete, Greece - Chania is a city on the northwest coast of the Greek island of Crete. It's known for its 14th-century Venetian harbor, narrow streets and waterfront restaurants. At the harbor entrance is a 16th-century lighthouse with Venetian, Egyptian and Ottoman influences. Opposite, the Nautical Museum has model ships, naval objects and photographs. The former monastery of St. Francis houses the Archaeological Museum of Chania.

Day Seven: Santorini, Greece - Witness a panorama of indigo-domed churches and chalk-colored homes clinging to stony cliffs along the caldera, black-sand beaches dotted with pebbles beside deep, azure waters, and breathtaking rock formations climbing from the volcanic floor-here is the epitome of Grecian beauty.

Day Eight: Mykonos, Greece - Amid the shimmering waters of the Mediterranean, Mykonos is the heart and soul of the Cyclades. Situated on an island of the same name, the town artfully balances elegance and classic Greek culture within its labyrinth of cobblestone streets and chalk-white homes nestled beside blue-domed churches.

Day Nine: Athens (Piraeus), Greece - Wonder at the picturesque port of Piraeus and legendary Athens, one of the world's oldest cities. Built around the ruins of the ancient temple, the Parthenon, Athens is set between its rich modern present and its astounding past.

Day Ten: Kusadasi/Ephesus, Turkey - Kusadasi is home to one of the remaining Seven Wonders of the Ancient World-the Temple of Artemis. Nearby are the legendary ruins of the city of Ephesus whose remains are an important archaeological site and a historic Christian pilgrimage destination.

Day Eleven: Istanbul, Turkey - Indulge your senses in this magnificent city astride two continents and divided by the Bosphorus strait. Once known as Constantinople, Istanbul was the capital of both the Byzantine and Ottoman Empire. Revel in this lively cosmopolitan's fascinating blend of East and West, ancient and modern-home to the impressive Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, and the Grand Bazaar.

Day Twelve: Istanbul, Turkey

Everyone receives free internet aboard the ship. You will have your choice of 6 free shore excursions or free beverage package or \$600 shipboard credit. (These amenities are per stateroom based on double occupancy.) Brochure will be available soon. Contact me to be placed on the "interested" list.

Let's

EXPLORE

Domestic and
International Travel
2022

Choose
Your Own
Adventure

■ ■ ■ **2022** ■ ■ ■

All-Inclusive Cancun
January 15 - 21, 2022

Islands of New England
May 20 - 27, 2022

4-Day Mystery Tour
June 7 - 10, 2022

**Discover Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria
with Oberammergau Passion Play**
June 24 - July 3, 2022

Ballard's Resort Fishing Trip
July 5-7, 2022

Alaska
July 22 - August 1, 2022

Byzantine Antiquity (Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece, Turkey)
September 3 - 14, 2022

Exploring South Africa, Victoria Falls & Botswana
Two Tour Dates: October 6 - 21, 2022 (FULL)
AND
October 21 - November 4, 2022



Faster. Stronger. Better.®

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Marion, IA 52302-0569

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Kathy Leeseekamp
Connect Club Director
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KathyLeeseekamp@fsbmail.net

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Cedar Rapids, IA
Permit No. 214

2021 Calendar

NOVEMBER

19th - Movie Day

DECEMBER

17th - Movie Day

Happy Holidays!



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.

Enjoy the Journey ...
no matter where it takes you.