

# on the go

**Car Buying  
Advice**

**Pandemic Pause**



**September  
October  
2021**

**Travel Easier With  
TSA Pre-Check**  
Details Pg 10

**All-Electric 2022 Ford F150 Lightning**



# this is alaska

Discover a destination that defies all expectations with spectacular glaciers, vast stretches of pristine nature and wildlife nearly everywhere you look. It's called the Great Land for a reason — and no one can show you Alaska quite like Princess®. Enjoy the latest cruise technology as you sail there with the MedallionClass® experience now on all ships. And for the best value select Princess Plus for drinks, Wi-Fi and crew incentive, too.



**See why AAA recommends Princess Cruises to those who want to experience all the best of Alaska.**

**In-person Presentation with Princess Representative, Judy Kale**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2021 6:30PM  
AAA Travel Conference Room**



drinks, Wi-Fi & crew incentive

MedallionClass®

The latest cruise technology now on all ships



920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing - lower level  
RSVP (610) 374-5600

\*Fares are per person, based on double occupancy, subject to availability and capacity controlled. Please refer to your travel advisor for terms, conditions and definitions that apply to all bookings. Offer available to residents of US. Consult <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-4/coronavirus-cruise-ship> for the latest CDC cruise travel advice, warnings and recommendations. Princess Cruises is an authorized concessioner of Glacier Bay National Park. ©2021, Princess Cruise Lines, Ltd. Ships of Bermudan and British registry.

# In This Issue

## 6 Pandemic Pause

Restrictions in the spring of 2020 led to a drastic drop in U.S. road travel

## 12 Car Buying Advice

What should you know before buying your next car? AAA car guide offers inside track

## 16 Oktoberfest is back!

Featuring local talent like Dave Kline & the Mountain Folk band, Alex Meixner Band, more!



## Departments

2 PRESIDENT'S NOTE

4 CLUB UPDATE

10 TRAVEL NEWS

20 ON THE ROAD

24 AAR/AAB



## Cover

For over 200 years, Oktoberfest has been celebrated in Munich, Germany, the beer capital of the world. Can't make it to Munich? Take a short drive to 143 Spook Lane, Reading and revel in the merriment that is Reading Liederkrantz's Oktoberfest. Bratwurst and strudel and beer - oh my! More on page 16. *Photo is of Mac, retired Major in the U.S. Marines and member of the Reading Liederkrantz.*

## On The Go

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2021

Volume 99 Number 5

Published bi-monthly by AAA Reading-Berks, A not-for-profit organization.



[www.AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com)

### OFFICE HOURS

COVID-19 Green Phase Hours

Monday - Friday - 9 am-5 pm

License/Notary M-F 9 am-4:30 pm

Closed Saturday and Sunday

### CONTACT US:

General 610.374.4531

Travel 610.374.5600

Emergency Road Service

*In Berks:* 610.374.7433

*Outside Berks:* 800.AAA.HELP

### OFFICERS

PETER J. ARMSTRONG *President/CEO*  
MICHAEL D. AXMAN *Executive VP/COO*  
DAVID HAWKINS *Corp. Secretary/CFO*

### VICE PRESIDENTS

SUSAN FARR *Human Resources*  
JOE DEFRANCESCO *Technology & Automotive Services*  
BRENDA HUEY *Travel Center*  
JENNIFER TWIFORD *Member Services*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PETER J. ARMSTRONG *Chairman*  
SHARON S. KEATING *Vice Chair*  
MICHAEL D. AXMAN  
STEVEN D. BRIGHT  
KENNETH J. CHRISTIAN  
MICHAEL J. GOMBAR, JR., ESQ.  
JAN C. JOHNSON  
LARRY E. MILES, CPA  
CARL J. SEIDL  
DOUGLAS F. SMITH

AAA Reading-Berks headquarters are located at 920 Van Reed Road, Reading, Pa. 19610. Telephone, Reading (610)374-4531. Office of Publication, executive and editorial offices at 920 Van Reed Road, Reading, Pa. 19610. Periodical postage paid at Reading and additional entry offices, Boyertown, Pa. 19512. Yearly subscription price is \$2.00 included in membership dues. POSTMASTER ATTENTION: Change of address cards on Form 3579 should be sent to AAA Reading-Berks, P.O. Box 7049, Reading, Pa. 19610-6049. (ISSN 0744-7043) FOUNDED 1910



# President's Note

---

Peter J. Armstrong  
*President/CEO*

“...families should not wait to  
talk about safety...”

## Guidance for a Difficult Conversation

Uncomfortable conversations. Like having “the talk” with your son/daughter. Approaching the neighbor about their yappy, snappy dog. I’m sure you can think of others. The awkwardness may be daunting, but the words need to be said.

Many adult children dread starting an often painful but always necessary discussion with their aging parents about the cessation of the driving privilege. While the confrontation may be instigated due to safety “issues” noticed by friends, relatives, and others, the warning signs that are obvious to some may not even be on the older driver’s “radar”.

How does one begin to broach the subject? How do you avoid offending or alienating the older driver? Preservation of their personal freedom and mobility options is possible while maintaining the safety of all involved.

Understanding the safe mobility needs of senior drivers is the goal of the AAA Foundation’s Longitudinal Research on Aging Drivers study. Goals include a better understanding of the major protective and risk factors of safe driving in older adults, identification of how medical conditions and medications affect driving behavior and safety, and an exploration of the mechanisms through which older adults self-regulate their driving behaviors to cope with functional declines as they age.

The study also investigates how well older drivers are able to utilize new vehicle technology and aftermarket adaptations that are designed to make the driving task easier/safer. Perhaps most importantly, the study identifies the determinants and health consequences of driving cessation during the process of aging.

A public survey conducted by AAA in 2018 revealed that nearly 83 percent of older drivers report never speaking to a family member or physician

about their safe driving ability. Of the small percentage of families who do have the often difficult conversation, 15 percent do so after a crash or traffic infraction has occurred - which could be too late. Due to their fragility, older drivers are at greater risk of death and injury involved in a crash.

Five years ago, more than 200,000 drivers ages 65 and older were injured in a traffic crash and more than 3,500 were killed. Today, with seniors outliving their ability to drive safely by an average of seven to ten years, families should not wait to talk about safety. AAA urges seniors to begin planning for “driving retirement” at the same time they begin planning for retirement from work.

The best time to initiate a discussion with a loved one about staying mobile without a set of car keys is before you suspect a problem. Planning for personal mobility and independence should be done working shoulder to shoulder with the older driver. Talking sooner rather than later can help set mutual expectations and reduce safety issues or emotional reactions down the line.

It is important that families have a plan to help keep the older driver on the road for as long as safely possible. Past research by AAA found that older adults who have stopped driving are almost two times more likely to suffer from depression and nearly five times as likely to enter a long-term care facility as those who remain behind the wheel. Consider using the AAA Driver Planning Agreement as a guide to starting conversations.

Don’t wait for your older parent to initiate the uncomfortable but necessary conversation. Adult children can talk early and often about their parents’ future behind the wheel. With early discussion and proper planning, elderly drivers may extend their time on the road.

# Executive Order on EVs, Federal Emissions

On August 5, 2021, President Biden signed an executive order that establishes a non-binding 50% zero-emissions vehicle sales goal, primarily accomplished with electric cars and trucks, by 2030. In addition to fully electric vehicles, the target will also anticipate increased sales of plug-in hybrids and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles.

President Biden was joined by representatives from the three major U.S. automakers - Ford, General Motors and Stellantis, formerly Fiat Chrysler - and the United Auto Workers.

The White House is expected to propose new rules that will strengthen federal tailpipe standards through 2026. Under the executive order, the Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are expected to be directed to begin working on new fuel economy and emissions rules for later

this decade - both for light-duty cars and trucks and for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles like buses, delivery trucks, garbage haulers and 18-wheeler cargo carriers.

Read more about electric vehicles and vehicle technology at [newsroom.AAA.com](http://newsroom.AAA.com).



What our clients are saying about Nicki Vandevort, AAA Reading-Berks Travel Consultant:

**“Our trip was above and beyond our expectations! Thank you for organizing the best vacation ever!”**

**Lynne Murray**



## Warm Welcomes | Local Lore Unique Itineraries

CIE Tours offers excellent value on guided, private driver, and self-drive tours.



Our Inclusive Advantage means all excursions and many meals are included – and your travel is always worry-free.

Contact your AAA Reading-Berks Travel Advisor for special savings and AAA Member Benefit.

Call: (610) 374-5600 Click: [AAA.com/travel](http://AAA.com/travel)



IRELAND | BRITAIN | ICELAND | ITALY

# Club Update



Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



**DISCOUNTS»»REWARDS™**

[AAA.com/discounts](http://AAA.com/discounts)



AAA DISCOUNTS»»REWARDS™

Promoting your business.

**30% PRINTING SERVICES  
off SITE WIDE\***

Order today at [AAA.com/theupsstore](http://AAA.com/theupsstore)

\*Online Only. Excludes flat rate products. Additional fees and restrictions may apply. Offer ends 9/30/2021.

The UPS Store

AAA Members

Save **20%**

During October  
Car Care Month!\*



**DISCOUNTS  
»»REWARDS™**



**AUTO PARTS**



**REWARDS**

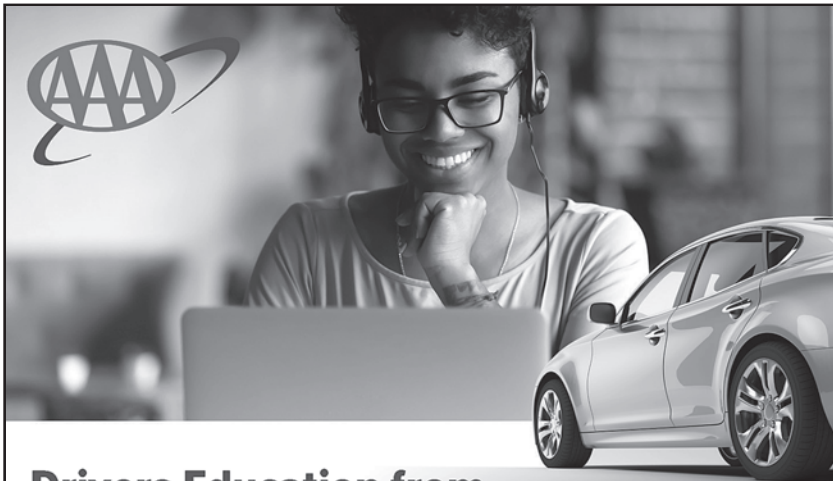
AAA members save even more when they join the **NAPA REWARDS** Program!

**Save 20% Off Qualifying Parts, Accessories and Tools at NAPA AUTO PARTS from Oct. 1–31, 2021!\***

Shop and save online at [AAA.com/napaonline](http://AAA.com/napaonline) or show your AAA card at checkout when shopping in-store.

\*20% discounts are off regular retail prices at participating NAPA AUTO PARTS Stores nationwide with valid AAA membership card. Offer is available for Buy Online-Pick-up at Store, Ship to Home, or Walk-in purchases. Discount excludes tax and gift cards. Shipping, handling, delivery, and service charges are not included. Other exclusions may apply. May not be combined with other offers. Offers are subject to change without notice and may be subject to additional terms and conditions.





**Drivers Education from the Safety of your Living Room.**  
Log in and turn the key.

- Pennsylvania approved for novice driver classroom education

## AAA's How to Drive - Online

- Online driver training program
- Approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Authored and produced by the nation's leading automotive safety and driving instructors
- Gold standard for effectively learning life-long driving skills in a convenient online format
- 30 hours of online instruction
- \$85 AAA Member Price
- Available at <https://pennsylvania.aaadriverprogram.com>



## Get a Safe Driver Discount on Your Auto Insurance

Take the AAA RoadWise Driver course, approved by PennDOT to qualify participants for a safe driver discount!

Contact AAA to register: 484-987-7025. The class is open to everyone 55 years of age and better. AAA and Military discounts. Classes held at AAA Reading-Berks, Wyomissing.

### AAA License Services provides you with quick, convenient, quality service!

- Title Transfers
- Notary Services
- Registration Renewals
- Registration Duplicates
- Vehicle Restorations
- Messenger Services
- Duplicate Titles
- Driver's License Renewals
- Driver's License Duplicates
- Driver's License Restorations
- Plate Transfer
- Special Plates

For more information, please contact the AAA License and Notary Department at 610-374-4531, option 3.



# pandemic pause



## *Americans cut driving nearly in half in early stage of COVID Crisis*

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions in the spring of 2020, such as stay-at-home orders, led to a drastic drop in U.S. road travel and a sharp increase in the number of people who chose to stay home all day. While the dramatic change in traffic patterns was widely noted last year, new research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's New American Driving Survey (2020) provides compelling month-by-month data that examines the types of trips and the characteristics of the people who altered their driving habits. According to the



research, the average number of all daily personal car trips plunged 45% in April 2020 and 40% for trips by all modes of transportation combined. The dip in travel moderated later in the year but remained below 2019 levels.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on our commute habits and patterns in the United States," said Dr. David Yang, executive director of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. "Findings based on our survey data provided some contextual information to

understand better how this unfortunate event has affected the way we travel."

Daily trips for all modes of transportation fell from an average of 3.7 trips per day in 2019 to 2.2 trips in April 2020, before slightly recovering. After abruptly decreasing in April 2020, daily trips by U.S. residents rebounded somewhat in May and June and then remained at approximately 20%–25% below their 2019 levels during the second half of 2020.

The survey results show that early in the pandemic, reductions in travel were most substantial among teens and young adults (ages 16–24) and among those ages 65 and older. But later in 2020, reductions in travel were more uniform across various age groups.

### **Other key findings:**

- **Daily Car trips:** (as a driver or passenger) fell from 3.2 pre-pandemic to 1.8 in April 2020, before rebounding slightly to 2.6 trips for the rest of the time period.

- **All travel by any mode:** Daily trips in April 2020 by people living in urban areas dropped 42%, versus 25% for their rural counterparts, before leveling off to a 20%–30% reduction in both groups for the rest of the survey period.

- **Travel by transit, taxi, or rideshare:** The proportion of people who reported making any trips by transit, taxi, or rideshare plummeted from 5.5% pre-pandemic to 1.7% in April of 2020, before leveling off at approximately 2.4% for the remainder of the year.

- **Commuter Travel:** Work-related travel by all transportation modes dropped by 40% in April 2020, likely reflecting a mix of layoffs, job losses, and telecommuting. Commuting trips made by workers on days when they worked decreased by approximately 22% relative to pre-pandemic levels as well. In the following months, com-



muting trips returned to approximately 26% below pre-pandemic levels among the population as a whole, likely due to increases in the proportion of Americans who were working. Commuting remained approximately 25% below pre-pandemic levels among workers on days when they worked, indicative of continued widespread telecommuting.

• **Staying At Home:** The percentage of the population who remained in the same place all day fluctuated between 9% and 14% before the pandemic but increased to 26% in April 2020, before stabilizing at levels slightly higher than those before the pandemic for the remainder of the year. The proportion of respondents who stayed in the same place all day quadrupled among those with the highest levels of education (from 5% in the second half of 2019 to 21% in April 2020), whereas it doubled (from 15% to 30%) among those who did not attend college.

• **Marital Status:** The percentage of married people staying home nearly tripled from 8% in 2019 to 22% in April 2020, versus 12% and 29% for unmarried people. The numbers for both groups remained elevated over pre-pandemic levels for the remainder of the year.

Despite fewer cars on the road and more people staying home, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently estimated that 38,680 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2020 – the largest projected number of fatalities since 2007. It is an increase of about 7.2 percent over 2019.

“It’s counterintuitive to see the rate of traffic deaths spike when so many of us were driving less often,” said Jake Nelson, AAA’s director of traffic safety advocacy. “As the U.S. climbs out of the COVID-19 pandemic, highway safety officials will need to double down on curbing



speeding, substance-impaired driving, and failure to buckle up.”

#### **Methodology**

This study examined data from the AAA Foundation’s New American Driving Survey (New ADS), which surveys a representative sample of U.S. residents ages 16 years or older to collect detailed information about all of the travel they did on the day before the interview. The current study examines the mean daily number of trips made by U.S. residents each month among 7,873 respondents who were interviewed between July 1, 2019 (start of data collection for the New ADS) and December 31, 2020. In the New ADS, a trip refers to any travel from one place to another. You can read more about this study and others at [www.aaafoundation.org](http://www.aaafoundation.org).



# Life Insurance: Part of Your Financial Plan

When you pause and think about what you value most, what comes to mind? Should the unexpected happen, are they protected? While insuring our larger investments like homes or cars is essential, there is also a way to help protect what many consider to be most important – your own life and the financial future of your family.

Protection can take many forms, but having it offers financial flexibility no matter what life throws at you. When it comes to life insurance, one of the primary motivations for many when purchasing is to provide added protection and peace of mind for those who matter most. It can be both affordable and incredibly valuable while playing a key part in ensuring you and your family have the coverage you need.

## The Importance of Life Insurance Coverage

Nearly half of Americans<sup>1</sup> have avoided purchasing a life insurance policy because they believe the process will be too difficult. Others have put it off because they believe it will be too expensive, when in reality, the monthly cost can be less than what many would pay for a video-streaming or food delivery service.

Unfortunately, these misconceptions cause many to go about their lives without the additional coverage that life insurance can provide. While the required insurances for our homes and cars provide necessary protection, those without life insurance may leave themselves more vulnerable.

Imagine there's a protective circle around you and what you believe is most important. When complete, this circle offers all the protection you need. But when there's a gap in that circle, it opens you and your family up to the possibility of a potential hardship.

Through auto, home, and life insurance coverage, you can take steps to eliminate any potential gaps. Pairing life insurance with home and auto coverage means you can move forward in life confidently no matter what happens.

A simple way to begin the process is by calculating how much life insurance you need. AAA Life Insurance Specialists are available to answer your questions and to tailor a policy to fit your needs. Talk to your local agent, call 888-422-7020, or visit [www.aaalife.com](http://www.aaalife.com) to see how life insurance can provide the added protection you deserve.

*AAA Life Insurance Company is honored to be ranked the number one life insurance company for 2021 by Insure.com. Rated best for price and customer service, the 91% of surveyed policyholders who indicated they would recommend AAA Life to others are a testament to the strength and stability the company provides to over 1.5 million policyholders.*

*AAA Life and its agents do not provide legal, financial, or tax advice. Therefore, you may wish to consult independent professional advice prior to the purchase of this coverage. Life insurance underwritten by our affiliate, AAA Life Insurance Company, Livonia, MI. AAA Life is licensed in all states except NY. AAA Life CA Certificate of Authority #07861.*

<sup>1</sup> LIMRA Life Insurance Barometer Study, 2021

## GET PROTECTED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE



**Mechanical Breakdown Coverage**  
pays for covered repairs;  
\$0 deductible plans available.

Low Member Rates –  
We've Got You Covered  
Great on New or Existing Vehicles



Call 800.574.5699  
[aaa.com/warranty](http://aaa.com/warranty)



# The Flash-Superhero, Yes; Brake Light, No

Dear Ed,

**I am a DIYer and enjoy working on and improving my vehicles. Lately I've noticed vehicles with flashing brake lights. I think they would be safer and would like to switch out the OEM brake lights on my cars with a flashing version. Where can I find them?**

**Awaiting your response,  
David D.**

Dear David,

I have also noticed more and more vehicles with the flashing brake lights - many of them at the side of the road receiving a traffic ticket!

While I, too, am for anything that would reduce traffic crashes and injuries/deaths on the highways, doing away with your factory-installed lighting in favor of lighting that is not approved in the Vehicle Code is not the right way.

For safety reasons, vehicle lighting is subject to certain requirements, all meant to help alleviate motor vehicle crashes and incidents. When you take your vehicle to be safety inspected, your certified safety inspector passes/fails it according to the Vehicle Equipment and Inspection Regulations found in PennDOT Publication 45.

Regarding approved and acceptable brake lighting equipment, Pennsylvania's Vehicle Code specifies that the color of stoplamps must be red in color and that there must be at least two of them on passenger cars, multi-purpose vehicles, trucks, trailers, and buses of less than 80" overall width. They must be on the rear of the vehicle, one on each side of the vertical centerline at the same height, and as far apart as practicable. They may not be any closer than 15 inches to the road surface or any higher than 72 inches above the road surface. On motorcycles, the color must be red and on the vertical centerline not less than 15 inches nor more than 72 inches from the road surface. If two are used on the motorcycle, they must be symmetrically disposed about the vertical centerline.

Your safety inspector will apply his knowledge of aforementioned Pub 45 when inspecting vehicles brought to his shop. Subchapters E through H apply to Class 1, 2 and 3 vehicles. In each of these subchapters is information regarding flashing or revolving lamps, stating that these types of lights are not ornamental and are reserved for use by authorized/emergency vehicles with special operating privileges. Subsection 153.4 of Title 67, Chapter 153, states that "turn signal lamps, hazard warning signal lamps and school bus warning lamps shall flash. All other lamps shall be steady-burning, except that means may be provided to flash headlamps and side marker lamps for signaling purposes."



This situation is similar to the blue headlights that you may see heading your way when driving at night. I'm not talking about the HID (Xenon) headlights that are factory-installed on many newer cars. These approved-for-highway-use (that's important!) headlights burn more efficiently and at a higher intensity than halogen lights and seem to have a bluish hue to them. The lights that are NOT approved are actually blue in color and may specify on the box that they are not approved for highway use. I mention these headlights because some people hear about the safety advantage of the HID lights but can't afford them or don't want to shell out the cash. They instead purchase the cheaper, non-approved bulbs that have a blue film over them, thinking that they are choosing a safer way to be seen by other drivers at night. By the way, you can get a traffic ticket for those illegal blue bulbs. You can't say I didn't warn you.

While I applaud your wish to be a safer driver, you might want to think of a better, legal way. After all, you don't want your vehicle to fail its next safety inspection OR find yourself being pulled over and handed a citation that will use up a chunk of your DIY project budget.

Thanks for writing in, everyone. Keep those cards and letters and emails coming. Happy motoring!

Ed

*Do you have an automotive question, comment or concern? Contact Ask Ed - maybe you'll see your issue addressed in a future edition of On The Go!*

*AskEd@aaardgberks.com or write to Ask Ed, AAA, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610.*



## Smarter Travel Experience with Fewer Hassles and Less Stress

Schedule your appointment with a TSA PreCheck™ agent at AAA! \$85 per applicant

**Monday, October 25 - Friday, October 29**

Appointments available from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm



**AAA Reading-Berks**  
920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing

**IdentoGO**



Transportation Security Administration

**AFTER SEPTEMBER 13, visit [AAA.com/TSA](http://AAA.com/TSA) for more information or enroll at [universalenroll.dhs.gov](http://universalenroll.dhs.gov)**

Click on START APPLICATION NOW then click on NEW ENROLLMENT for first-time applicants, or RENEWAL if within 6 months of expiration. STEPS 1-3: Enter information in required areas. STEP 4 OF 4: Enter WYOMISSING, PA and select the coordinating AAA Pop-Up Event. Once "selected" move to bottom of page and click NEXT to create an Appointment (Time/Date)

Good for 5 years. Have questions or need help setting up an appointment? Call 855-347-8371 (8am-10pm EST, Monday-Friday)

## Mask Guidance for Travelers

The CDC recently updated its guidance on mask-wearing, advising people in areas with high COVID-19 transmission to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status. You will be required to wear a mask on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States, and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Additionally, some states and cities have updated their mask and other travel requirements.

### **Modes of Travel – What to Expect**

Road trips can offer more flexibility than some other modes of travel, but it's still important to plan ahead for travel by car. Understand the impact COVID-19 has on cities and states you

are traveling through and if there are any restrictions in place. To be informed, check out AAA's COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Map and TripTik.AAA.com.

For those traveling by air, the CDC advises that most viruses and other germs do not spread easily on flights because of how air circulates and is filtered on airplanes, in addition to universal use of masks throughout the air travel experience.

Recent AAA Travel hotel bookings have increased almost 50% over 2019 levels, and these travelers are being met with a different hotel experience. In fact, the pandemic has had a vast impact on consumers' expectations for cleanliness during their stay. As a result, AAA has enhanced its Diamond

inspections. Hotels that meet AAA's standards for cleanliness, condition and new surface cleanliness testing are now recognized as Inspected Clean and then assigned a Diamond designation. For additional information, visit [AAA.com/Diamonds](http://AAA.com/Diamonds).





# “Miles to Empty” - How Accurate?

In-dash fuel economy displays estimate the number of miles a vehicle gets per gallon, including how many “miles to empty.” AAA tested the accuracy of these systems and found their estimates vary significantly over shorter trips or are dependent on the consistency of things that affect gas mileage like speed and acceleration. This means drivers could be taking an unnecessary risk if they over rely on these displays. This is especially true for the 74% of drivers who use their “miles-to-empty” display when they are low on gas to decide when to fill up (according to a AAA consumer survey). To avoid running out of gas, AAA recommends drivers watch their gas gauge and fill up when it reaches a quarter of a tank.

“People want to get the most out of a tank of gas, especially when prices are higher,” said Megan



McKernan, manager of the Automotive Research Center. “Collectively, the systems we tested were relatively accurate, but a closer examination of different driving scenarios revealed significant variability based on changes in speed, acceleration and distance.”

## Testing Shows Driving Habits Directly Impact Fuel Economy

AAA, in collaboration with the Automotive Research Center (ARC) of the Automobile Club of Southern California, used a dynamometer, essentially a treadmill for vehicle testing, to run selected vehicles through a series of simulated driving scenarios to determine the accuracy of the fuel economy estimation and range value (aka “miles-to-empty”) systems.

On average, the fuel economy display of the vehicles tested showed a relatively low error of 2.3% as compared to the fuel economy measured by the dynamometer. However, individual vehicle error varied greatly, ranging from -6.4% to 2.8%. The negative number indicates that one test vehicle overestimated fuel economy by 6.4% or 2.2 mpg, while another underestimated it by 2.8% or 0.9 mpg. These specific results suggest that each vehicle reacted to changes in driving differently, and that the accuracy can be impacted by driving style and conditions.

Testing of the “miles-to-empty” display found similar results with accuracy fluctuating across driving scenarios. While each manufacturer likely uses a unique algorithm to estimate vehicle range, it can be assumed that some his-

torical driving data is also used to determine the vehicle’s fuel efficiency for future driving. Therefore, the range estimation, at any given point, is affected by the vehicle’s most recent driving conditions.

“We ran our test vehicles through different driving situations ranging from cruising at highway speeds to being stuck in traffic to typical city driving,” said McKernan. “Despite the irregularities our testing found, a vehicle’s fuel economy display is an important tool to understand how different driving styles impact how efficiently a vehicle uses fuel.”

The information displayed by these systems can give drivers a clearer picture of how their specific driving habits influence their fuel economy. To do this, drivers should reset their vehicle’s trip data after filling up, and then watch how their fuel economy display changes as driving conditions change.

## Maximizing Fuel Economy is Key as Gas Prices Reach 7-year High

This past July, gas prices had reached their highest point in seven years. To offset such a situation, AAA recommends drivers do the following:

- Plan ahead and run multiple errands in one trip, and whenever possible avoid times of day when traffic is heavier.
- If you own more than one car, use the most fuel-efficient model whenever possible.
- Avoid hard acceleration to maximize fuel economy, and always inflate your tires to the recommended pressure.
- Remove unnecessary and bulky items from your car. Minimize your use of roof racks and remove special carriers when not in use. Smaller cars weighed down by heavy cargo will have a greater reduction in fuel economy than larger models designed to carry more weight.
- Consider minimizing your use of air conditioning. Even at highway speeds, open windows have less effect on fuel economy than the engine power required to operate the air conditioning compressor.
- In hot weather, park in the shade or use a windshield sunscreen to lessen heat buildup inside the car. This reduces the need for air conditioning (and thus fuel) to cool down the car.

While these tips will help improve fuel economy, AAA reminds drivers it’s best to always have at least a quarter of a tank of gas. This will ensure drivers have enough fuel in case of unexpected delays but also helps to prevent fuel pump damage that can occur when a vehicle’s gas tank is regularly run down to empty.

# car buying advice



Buying a car is the second biggest purchase behind a home that most people will make in their lifetime. The car buying process can be seen as difficult, time-consuming and stressful. Understanding all of the options available as well as individual needs can ease some of the anxiety associated with purchasing a car. AAA offers the following guidance when it comes to shopping for your next vehicle.

## What Should You Know Before Buying Your Next Car?

- **Dollars and Sense.** Before considering any specific makes or models, determine what makes sense for your budget. Consider how much a trade-in is worth and how much money you want to put toward the vehicle. Investigate both financing and leasing options. Spend time calculating all of the costs (depreciation, insurance, maintenance, fuel and monthly payment) to decide how much you can afford without overextending. Each year AAA produces *Your Driving Costs*, an in-depth cost analysis of new car ownership. This study includes formulas and information that can help you determine the cost of cars you are considering for purchase.

- **The Car's Purpose.** Take a realistic look at how the vehicle will be used. What types of trips will you most frequently take? How many passengers will the vehicle need to carry? Will it be used for a commute? If so, for how long (time and distance)? Will the vehicle be driven on the highway? Will you need extra cargo space?

- **Must Haves versus Wants.** Make a list of all the required features the vehicle should include, separating 'wants' from 'needs.' How much occupant and cargo capacity do you need? Minimum fuel economy? Safety features and technologies? When making the list, do not just

think about needs today, but also look several years down the road. Could children be in the future? Could your commute become longer or shorter? Will there be a need to transport passengers that require special accommodations?

- **New or New to You?** Look at pricing options for both new and slightly used vehicles. New vehicles typically come with longer warranties, buying incentives from the automaker, the latest features and are widely available. When it comes to used vehicles, there are two types to choose from – certified pre-owned and used. The advantage of a certified pre-owned vehicle is the original owner has absorbed the majority of the depreciation cost, while the vehicle still has quite a few of the latest features and a manufacturer's warranty. Non-certified, pre-owned vehicles typically are less costly, but are older and usually come without a manufacturer's warranty.

- **Are You Covered?** Review the length of the warranty of vehicles being considered and exactly what it covers. Investigate the maintenance costs associated with the car by reviewing its recommended maintenance schedule and pricing out the cost of several of the regularly needed maintenance items. Consider purchasing an extended warranty – if you do, understand what's covered as not all extended warranties are the same.

- **Safety First.** Check the safety ratings of all





models under consideration from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at [Safercar.gov](http://Safercar.gov) and Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Evaluate the safety features available on each model. If using a car seat, check if the vehicle's Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH) system is easy to access.

- **Ask a Friend.** Seek recommendations and reviews from friends, family and colleagues on their vehicles. Supplement by reading both professional reviews, such as those provided in AAA's Car Guide or by AAA's Auto Buying experts at [AAA.com/AutoBuying](http://AAA.com/AutoBuying).

- **Variety is the Spice of Life.** Narrow the choices down to two or three vehicles that meet all of your criteria. By being flexible, you will have more negotiating room and a better chance of finding the best price. Once you have narrowed down your choices, contact your insurance agent to obtain a quote on each vehicle.

- **Contact Your Insurance Rep.** Tell them what you plan to buy and get a quote. Don't discover that it costs a lot more to insure your new car than you thought after you've signed the purchase agreement.

#### **What about Vehicle Safety Systems?**

Nearly 96% of 2020 vehicle models came equipped with at least one advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) such as automatic emergency braking, blind spot warning or lane keeping assistance. In addition to the AAA Car Guide, AAA has conducted extensive research on new vehicle technologies to give consumers additional resources they can use when shopping for their next car.

#### **Is it Better to Buy a Car Online or in Person?**

In the past, buying a car usually started at the dealership or with a private owner. Now you may begin your shopping experience online by researching and pricing out the vehicles up for consideration. Many dealerships and other suppliers even offer an entirely virtual buying experience including home delivery of the vehicle. There are pros and cons to both in-person and

online car buying and it's important to weigh both when considering the best option for you.

Shopping online allows you to browse at your convenience and look at a large variety of vehicles without having to talk to a salesperson. Others enjoy the face-to-face interaction and having the opportunity to interact with and test drive vehicles in person. No matter which route you go, the steps to buying a car, whether online or in-person, are essentially the same.

#### **What Do You Need to Know to Test Drive a Car?**

AAA recommends the following test-driving tips:

- **Kick the Tires.** Walk around the car. Is it the right size for the needs of your family? Visually inspect the vehicle to see if there are any uneven gaps between body panels (e.g. doors, trunk, hatch, etc.), which may indicate the vehicle was damaged at some point. Check for bubbles and pitting on the paint. Open and close the tailgate or trunk and doors. Does it sound solid and well-made? Are the body panels aligned? Are the door gaps even? Will the design allow for easy loading of luggage, sporting goods and groceries?

- **Be a Backseat Driver.** Ask the salesperson to take you for a preliminary test drive. You can focus on the ride without the distraction of driving, and you are more likely to notice noise and overall comfort. And, of course, you can evaluate backseat room for future passengers.

- **One Size Does Not Fit All.** Get in and try the car on for size. Check the legroom and visibility. How easy is it to adjust the seats? Are the controls easy to read, reach and use? Try all of the accessories and options, such as air conditioning, the sound system and navigation aids.

- **Take It for a Spin.** Drive the exact model of the car you want to purchase. If possible, pick your own route for the test drive that mirrors your daily driving routine. It is a good idea to test the car's ride quality and handling on a number of different road surfaces: city streets, hills, freeways and winding roads.

#### **Time to Sign on the Dotted Line**

Once you've found the right vehicle for you, it's time to make it official. In most cases, there are three separate negotiations that occur when purchasing a car: the price of the new vehicle, trade-in value and finance rate if applicable. Take your time and negotiate them individually. Remember – you control the deal. Only buy the car you want with a deal and price that you feel comfortable with.



# Tragedy ► Awareness

The devastating loss of a AAA fleet tow truck driver brought the towing community together in Cincinnati to celebrate his life while reflecting on his death and the risks faced by all first responders working in and around traffic.

Glenn Ewing, 32, was placing a AAA member's vehicle on the back of a tow truck July 4 when a passing vehicle struck him.

Ewing's death underscores why Slow Down, Move Over laws are critical and why the best thing drivers can do to keep someone at the roadside safe is to slow down and move over into the next lane, if they can do so safely.

In the wake of the tragedy, over 80 tow truck operators from the surrounding Ohio and Kentucky towing community gathered with AAA drivers for a procession from the Cincinnati AAA fleet office to the nearby city where Ewing's services were held.

Educating the public about Slow Down, Move Over laws makes the job safer for tow truck drivers and is consistent with AAA's safety mission. While all 50 states have these laws, awareness of and compliance with them varies.



**When it comes to savings, you want more, not less.**

**Get more with a AAA Online Savings Account.**

With some accounts, you save more. Others, less. Our Online Savings Account gives you great rates to earn more!

- **5x more interest than the National Savings Average<sup>1</sup>**
- **\$0 minimum balance and NO<sup>2</sup>. Fees. Period.**
- **24/7, U.S.-based customer service**

**Check the rates and don't settle for less. Open a AAA Online Savings Account today to earn more!**

**800-347-7056**

**AAA.com/deposits  
Invitation Code: PUBQ321**



**DISCOVER<sup>®</sup>  
Bank**

<sup>1</sup>The APY for the Online Savings Account as of 7/29/2021 is more than five times the national average APY for interest bearing savings accounts with a balance of \$500 as reported by Informa Research Services Inc. as of 7/29/2021. National average is based on information regarding the top 50 banks (by deposit size) and may not include information from variations in regional pricing at such banks or information from products that may not be widely available to their customers. Rates were obtained from Informa Research Services, who relies on the data from the banks. If tracks and such information cannot be guaranteed, APYs are subject to change at any time.

<sup>2</sup>Outgoing wire transfers are subject to a service charge.

Deposit accounts offered by Discover Bank.

© 2021 Discover Bank, Member FDIC

**Member  
FDIC**  
DISCOVER, DISCOVER BANK and the Discover logo are Trademarks of Discover Financial Services and are used with permission.

RIK 29236-1

## MYSTICAL IRELAND

May 14-21, 2022  
8 Days/7 Nights/12 Meals  
\$2,195 LAND ONLY, PER PERSON  
Call AAA Travel for details (610) 374-5600

**CLIFFS OF MOHER • CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL • TITANIC BELFAST  
DOWN CATHEDRAL • GIANT'S CAUSEWAY  
WALLED CITY BREWERY - CIE TOURS EXCLUSIVE!  
WESTPORT HOUSE • MEDIEVAL CASTLE BANQUET**





**Purchase your E-ZPass at AAA \$44**

Important information E-ZPass Go Pak first time use: You must register the E-ZPass Go Pak Transponder prior to using it. Once you have registered the E-ZPass Transponder, it can be used after 24 hours on the PA Turnpike and after 48 hours on toll roads and bridges other than the PA Turnpike. Limit of one (1) E-ZPass Go Pak Transponder per customer.



**ALASKA'S NORTHERN LIGHTS**

**March 7-13, 2022**

**\$3,999** Dbl occ, inc air

Call AAA Travel for details  
(610) 374-5600

Anchorage • Talkeetna  
Northern Light Excursions  
Winter Glacier Cruise  
Prince William Sound  
Alaska Railroad  
Fairbanks • Dog Mushing

7 Days/11 Meals



**Peru: From Lima to Lake Titicaca**  
**February 19-28, 2022**

*with optional 3-night  
Peruvian Amazon  
Post Tour Extension  
10 Days/15 Meals*



**\$4,649\*** per person, dbl occ

For details or to book, call  
AAA Travel (610) 374-5600



**Lima, Sacred Valley of the Incas, Local Andean Cultures, Ollantaytambo Ruins, Home-Hosted Lunches, Machu Picchu, Cuzco, Lake Titicaca, Uros Floating Islands**

\*Per person based on double occupancy. Subject to change. Includes roundtrip air from PHL, inter-flights from Lima, air taxes and fees/surcharges, hotel transfers. Additional restrictions may apply.





# Destinations & Diversions

## Reading Liederkrantz OKTOBERFEST

Having survived our second pandemic since our founding in 1885, the Reading Liederkrantz Oktoberfest is back and promises to be better than ever. Our membership is anxious to show the world why we have twice been voted #1 in the USA! The public is welcome to join us as we celebrate and raise our glasses and toast our endearing spirit, our families, and our German culture at the 2021 Reading Liederkrantz Oktoberfest. Germany will be on parade as we welcome everyone back to the mountain for Oktoberfest 2021, September 29th through October 3rd.

### Open to the public.

You don't have to leave the United States to enjoy the very best in German culture. Every age is welcome to the biggest family-friendly festival celebrating Germany in Berks County! Our mouthwatering German menu includes slow-roasted chickens, served as a 1/2 chicken dinner - just like Munich - perfectly prepared pork for sandwiches, dinners, goulash, schnitzels, and a variety of locally made bratwurst. Don't forget our homemade German potato salad, too!

Top it all off with our freshly made Apfelstrudel, freshly baked throughout the five days. Baked to perfection, our

signature dessert, available year-round at the club, is clearly a crowd favorite. Enjoy some ice cream with your strudel, or plain - either way, your stomach will think you are in Germany. After eating, walk the grounds and visit the many vendors that are part of the Oktoberfest.

You will be impressed by our large selection of imported German beers, along with many favorite domestic brews. Sit under the big tent and enjoy the music and atmosphere of Oktoberfest. For those that prefer wine, enjoy our wine bar selling by the glass, including our traditionally prepared German Glühwein.

Dance to non-stop bands: our friend Kermit Ohlinger, aka Dr. Squeezebox,



the Reading Liederkrantz Singers and the G.T.V. Edelweiss Schuhplattlers. Weekend family entertainment will feature plenty of fun and excitement for the young...and the young at heart!

Open to the public, General Admission is \$15 for those 21 and up, and ages 20 and under are FREE!

Hours are Wednesday and Thursday (September 29 and 30), 5-10 pm; Friday (October 1), 5-11:00 pm; Saturday (October 2), 11am-10pm; and Sunday October 3), 11am-5pm.



The clubhouse will remain open later each evening. Free shuttle buses run to the main festival grounds from various free satellite parking locations. ADA compliant.

For up-to-date Oktoberfest information, including the Schedule of Events and parking directions, please visit [www.readingliederkrantz.com](http://www.readingliederkrantz.com).

*Photos: Top right - Kermit Ohlinger, aka Dr. Squeezebox. Below right - Alex Meixner Band.*



# AAA - Inspected Clean

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, hotels have adapted their cleaning procedures and housekeeping standards, and the AAA Diamond Program is evolving to meet the changing expectations of today's travelers. In fact, according to AAA research, 76% of consumers surveyed would be disappointed if a third-party inspection did not evaluate whether high-touch areas in a hotel are sanitized. As a result, AAA is enhancing its housekeeping evaluation to include objective, scientific validation of the cleanliness of common surfaces throughout hotels. Hotels that meet AAA's standards for cleanliness, condition and this new surface cleanliness testing will now be recognized as Inspected Clean and then assigned a Diamond designation.

The new Inspected Clean criteria relies on an objective method to validate cleanliness by detecting adenosine triphosphate (ATP)—an energy-carrying molecule found in all living cells. ATP is found in most food sources, human skin cells, bacteria, yeast, mold and biological material found in respiratory droplets.

The AAA inspector will conduct this testing on-site by swabbing a surface, adding the sample to a vial containing a special testing chemical, and then inserting the vial into a portable test machine, about the size of a large cellphone. Inspectors will measure eight surfaces in a selection of guest rooms and bathroom locations, which may include guest room door handles, light switches, thermostat controls, guest room desk or writing surfaces, television remotes, refrigerator handles, faucet and toilet handles, hair dryers and vanity surfaces.

While the test does not provide direct identification of viruses such as the one that causes COVID-19, it will allow for confirmation of properly cleaned surfaces. ATP monitoring is recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is used in health-care, food service, education and other environments that require effective sanitation monitoring programs.

AAA inspectors have begun conducting testing to identify Inspected Clean properties. Travelers will be able to find Inspected Clean hotels on [AAA.com/Diamonds](http://AAA.com/Diamonds) to help plan their trips later this fall. For Americans planning trips between now and then, look for AAA's Best of Housekeeping badge for peace of mind. Prior to any hotel stay, call ahead to ensure your hotel is open and ask what precautions they are taking to protect guests. In addition to cleanliness, ask about social distancing protocols like capacity reductions, hotel staff requirements to wear masks and if all amenities are available, like restaurant dining and/or pools.

For more than 80 years, AAA has conducted professional, independent, in-person property inspections. The AAA Diamond Program comprises more than 26,000 Diamond designated hotels across the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.



# \$SAVE

- ✓ **FREE Flip Phone or Smartphone**
- ✓ **FREE Activation**
- ✓ **FREE Shipping**



## Talk and Text

Starting At **\$10** per month\*

## Talk, Text and Data

Starting At **\$20** per month

It doesn't get any better than that, start saving on your cell phone service today!

**Affinity**   
CELLULAR VETERAN OWNED

# 844-864-9061

[AffinityCellular.com](http://AffinityCellular.com)



**DISCOUNTS  
»REWARDS**

\*\$10 first 3 months then \$12.99 thereafter. Requires Credit/Debit card.



# Travel Is My Favorite Form of Self-Care

By Samantha Brown, Host of “Samantha Brown’s Places to Love”

Travel allows me easy access to my favorite forms of self-care. I love a quiet morning cup of tea while soaking up my surroundings—the more beautiful, the better! There’s nothing that relaxes me as much as a walk through a new town, a hike in the fresh mountain air, or hitting a winding trail on my bike. And is there anything lovelier than a slow dinner overlooking the water with a glass of wine?

These days, I’d have to lock myself in the bathroom for a moment of peace and quiet. Walks around the neighborhood are great, but everything still feels so weird. And if I have to defrost one more mystery meal from the bottom of my freezer, I’m going to lose it. Life is stressful right now—precisely why we need travel more than ever!

COVID has me rethinking why I travel. I do it because I love meeting new people, experiencing local culture—through art, history, food, drinks and music. I love how it gets me out of my comfort zone and makes me more present. When I travel, I am in the moment. Sometimes I will go hours without looking at my phone (okay, fine, 20 minutes). I feel at my best when I’m traveling. When I consider my whys, none of them require anything grandiose. I don’t need to fly half-way around the world to meet new people or try new food. I can do that anywhere.

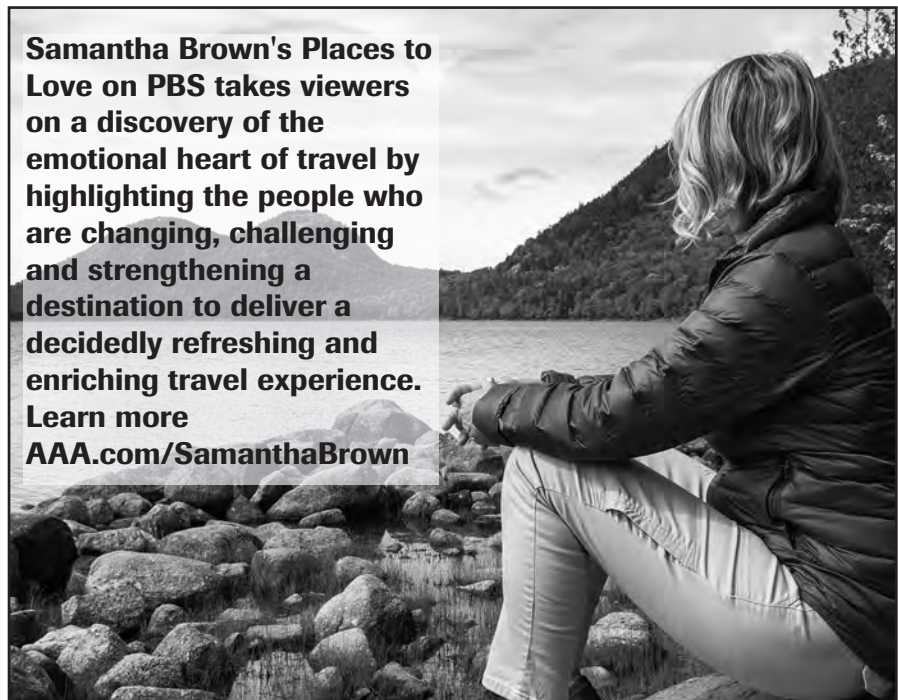
Sometimes, I think we get so

caught up in these big, grandiose adventures that it keeps us from thinking that less fabulous (aka more convenient) locales don’t even count. But there are so many wonderful places that are a quick flight or even driving distance of wherever we call home.

Here’s an exercise: Write down the three best trips you’ve ever taken. What made them so special? Was it the people? The activities? The solitude? The views? The weather? Now look at your list and think of ways you can integrate those things in a less far-flung destination. This is just one good reason why working with a travel advisor pays off. They know all sorts of domestic (and even local-ish) places that wow. They can help you find a cozy lodge with a fireplace and maybe even a hot tub. They can point you to a quaint small town

known for scenic hikes and great breweries. They can even score you a deal at a luxurious hotel downtown, complete with soaking tub and access to all those shows you can’t binge when the kids are around (and if there’s contactless room service, I may never leave). Even small trips offer big rewards, and this year, I’ve really learned to appreciate the little things.

What’s more: if you take a smaller trip this year, it means you can save up for something extra fabulous in 2021. Did you know bookings for next year are through the roof? Especially when it comes to trips like Alaskan cruises, European river cruises, and luxe rail journeys. Did you know it’s scientifically proven that just planning a trip brings you happiness? Now if that’s not selfcare, I don’t know what is.



**Samantha Brown's Places to Love on PBS takes viewers on a discovery of the emotional heart of travel by highlighting the people who are changing, challenging and strengthening a destination to deliver a decidedly refreshing and enriching travel experience. Learn more [AAA.com/SamanthaBrown](https://www.aaa.com/SamanthaBrown)**



# PA Turnpike Toll Increase Begins January

Convenience comes at a cost. Motorists using the Pennsylvania Turnpike will soon be digging a little deeper into their pockets for the privilege.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission announced the approval of the latest toll increase to be effective January 2, 2022. The 5 percent increase will be in effect for the entire system with the exception of the Southern Beltway, west of Pittsburgh. Charges to vehicles using this newest stretch of the pike, scheduled to open next month, will reflect the toll increase from the get-go without waiting for January 2022.

The increase will be applied to users of E-ZPass and those who are invoiced through the Toll By Plate system.

How much can you expect to pay? The most common E-ZPass toll paid by a passenger vehicle goes up a dime from \$1.60 to \$1.70. The most common toll paid by Toll By Plate users goes up 20 cents from \$3.90 to \$4.10. A common fee paid by commercial vehicles will go from \$13.00 to \$13.70 using E-ZPass or from \$26.60 to \$28 when using Toll By Plate.



The PTC took this opportunity to remind motorists who use E-ZPass that they can realize a savings of almost 60

percent over using the Toll By Plate system. Those who don't care to get E-ZPass can still save by using the PA Toll Pay app on their smartphone (requires creation of an autopay account).

Motorists can expect 5 percent toll increases to continue yearly through 2025, a 4 percent hike in 2026, a 3.5 percent hike in 2027, and 3 percent increases annually from 2028 to 2050.

Per the PTC web site newsroom, these increases are necessary "to meet escalating debt-service costs resulting from the PTC's payments to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for transit operations under Pennsylvania Acts 44 and 89."

You can read more on the PTC web site: [paturnpike.com/press](http://paturnpike.com/press).

## Get Life Insurance Coverage That Fits Your Needs

It's time to reconsider priorities and think about your financial future. The right type of life insurance can help protect you and your loved ones at every stage of life.

Call 888-764-2539 to speak with an advisor or visit [aalive.com](http://aalive.com) for a free quote.

We are excited to be ranked the #1 life insurance company for 2021 by Insure.com, best for price and customer service.



Products and their features may not be available in all states. Life insurance and annuities underwritten by AAA Life Insurance Company, Livonia, MI. AAA Life (CA Cert. of Auth.#07861) is licensed in all states except NY. Your local AAA club and/or its affiliates act as agents for AAA Life. ALAN-27653-621-XX

## Revealing The All-Electric 2022 Ford F-150 Lightning

F-series is America's best-selling truck for 44 years for a reason. And now, it's charging into the future with the all-new, all-electric 2022 Ford F-150 Lightning. It's the first ever F-Series that's gas-free and offers more purposeful technology, an elevated driving experience and trusted Built Ford Tough capability. Lightning offers an ingenious array of connected, intelligent features with over-the-air software updates to help ensure your truck can get even better over time.



The Ford F-150 Lightning connects to your house when it needs to power up, but can seamlessly return the favor without even the push of a button if the lights go out with available Ford Intelligent Backup Power. Best of all, you can monitor your truck's status from just about anywhere with your phone.

Ford looked for every opportunity to make sure the F-150 Lightning is a tough, powerful and productive tool for our customers who need to get the job done. Because they're never satisfied, Ford makes sure they're bringing the kind of innovative, powerful work tool F-150 customers have come to expect. And by going all-electric, you also get a truck that requires no gas and offers lower

scheduled maintenance costs.

Two inboard motors powering a standard 4x4 system means it offers almost instant torque delivered to all four wheels for truly impressive performance.

Ford equipped the F-150 Lightning with an advanced lithium-ion battery pack that's protected by a unique exostructure which acts as a shield when off-roading. Ford also mounted it between the frame rails to make sure it doesn't occupy any interior volume or take away any bed space.

The F-150 Lightning utilizes an independent rear suspension that helps minimize body roll and isolates road imperfections for a smooth ride and precise handling. Aluminum-alloy control arms help reduce unsprung mass. And you can be sure it's been torture-tested to live up to Built Ford Tough standards.

Security and peace of mind are invaluable during severe weather and unpredictable events. That's why Ford helps ensure you never have to worry about being left in the dark. The all-electric F-150 Lightning features



available Ford Intelligent Backup Power that can provide full-home power for up to three days on a fully charged battery, or as long as 10 days if rationing power. And you can turn your truck into a generator. The

Pro Power Onboard feature offers an available 9.6 kW of max power provided through 11 outlets. No matter the job, the 9.6 kW version offers four 120V outlets in the front trunk, two in the cab, and four in the bed. The bed also features a 240V outlet for the tougher tasks at hand.

With the available Phone As A Key feature you can access and start your F-150 Lightning without having to take your phone out of your pocket or use a physical key fob. You can even connect up to four profiles through the FordPass™ App, so your whole household has access.



Worried about recharging? With Intelligent Range, your truck learns how much energy it uses in various conditions and accurately calculates range while factoring in the weather, traffic, grade, payload, towing weights and more. If future conditions such as driving in the mountains or towing your boat are predicted, estimated range is updated and you're informed.

The Ford F-150 Lightning comes with a standard-range battery that offers a targeted EPA-estimated range of 230 miles. Or choose the available extended-range battery that offers a targeted EPA-estimated range of 300 miles.

Whether you're on the job, on the road or at home, Ford has you covered.



Approved  
Auto Repair

# October Car Care Event

Special offer for AAA members.  
Appointment required.

October 11-22, 2021

Contact one of these AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities for a free multi-point maintenance check\* appointment:

- Bill's Emergency Roadside Service, Shillington 610-207-2946
- Dubble's German Motors, Reading 610-375-8330
- Dulin's Tire & Service, Reading 610-929-5820  
Shillington 610-775-0375
- Lee Myles Transmissions & Auto Care, Reading 610-775-3820  
Birdsboro 610-685-7815
- V.J. Wood Service Center, Hamburg 484-662-4004

#### INCLUDED IN THE FREE MULTI-POINT MAINTENANCE CHECK

Windshield, Wiper Blades, Mirrors • Belts and Hoses  
Vehicle Lights • Engine Oil & Coolant, Fluids  
Horn, Emergency Flashers, Warning Lights/Gauges  
Tire Pressure and Tread • Air Filter, Radiator Cooling Fan

Vehicle battery issues? Get it checked for free at one of these AAA Mobile Battery facilities (appointment req.):

- Bill's Emergency Roadside Service, Shillington 610-207-2946
- Always Towing, Hamburg 610-914-4567

\*Multi-point check is free. Fluid refills, parts replacement and normal labor rates apply.

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP?**

**CONSIDER AN  
UPGRADE TO**



**AAA PLUS  
AAA PLUS RV  
AAA PREMIER  
PREMIER RV**

Talk to one of our knowledgeable customer service staff about the advantages of each level.

**(610) 374-4531**

Compare membership levels at **AAA.com**.

Associate member(s) must reside in same household as Primary member. Associate member(s) must have the same level of membership as the Primary member.





# Voyages of discovery...

AAA.com/travel 610-374-5600  
920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing

## A Slice of Brooklyn featuring Coney Island

September 21, 2021 \$229 per person\*  
Experience pizza and Brooklyn from one end to the other! This is the same world-famous Pizza Tour that has been featured on The Today Show, The Food Network, and The Travel Channel! You'll skip the lines at Grimaldi's in Dumbo for their Neapolitan-style pizza and L&B Spumoni Gardens in Bensonhurst for their Sicilian-style pizza. You'll receive two slices of pizza at each restaurant along with a beverage. While on the tour we'll visit the Brooklyn waterfront in Dumbo and get a photo opportunity of the Brooklyn Bridge. Visit famous Brooklyn movie locations such as: Saturday Night Fever, Good Fellas, The French Connection, The Warriors, Requiem for a Dream, and Brighton Beach Memoirs. Our tour will end with a stroll along the famous Coney Island Boardwalk. Following the tour you'll have free time to explore Coney Island on your own. Coney Island is a thriving, year-round entertainment destination full of fun things to do and best known for hotdogs, amusement park rides and attractions, along with iconic history.



## Cape May Whale and Dolphin Cruise

October 2, 2021 \$189 per person\*  
Welcome to America's original seaside resort with pristine beaches, promenade, and all the amenities that make a seashore town worth visiting, along with rich history and architectural diversity. Cape May Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has one of the country's largest collections of 19th century framed buildings. You will have independent time before and after the cruise to get a bite to eat, explore the sites, and enjoy the shops. The fully-narrated, afternoon cruise aboard the Cape May Whale Watcher lasts for three hours. The captain and his seasoned crew will take you into the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. The Delaware Bay Estuary is a sanctuary for many species of marine life. The unique confluence of fresh and salt water make for a nutrient-rich area teeming with life and conducive to whale and dolphin activity.

## Springtime in Historic Cape May

May 23-25, 2022 \$949 per person\*  
Enjoy a tasting at Cape May Brewing Company before checking into our charming and casual Victoria beach front hotel for a two-day stay. The evening is yours to relax and take in the sights and sounds of the New Jersey shore from the comfort of your private balcony or patio. Surrounding the hotel are century-old mansions and homes that make Victorian Cape May a National Historic



\*All pricing and included features are based on a minimum number of full paying passengers. Rates and itinerary are subject to change.

### Included Features:

- Free parking with roundtrip motorcoach transportation
- Hotel accommodations
- Baggage handling
- Meals per itinerary
- Tours/admissions per itinerary
- Taxes/gratuities
- Services of a Discoveries Journey Manager

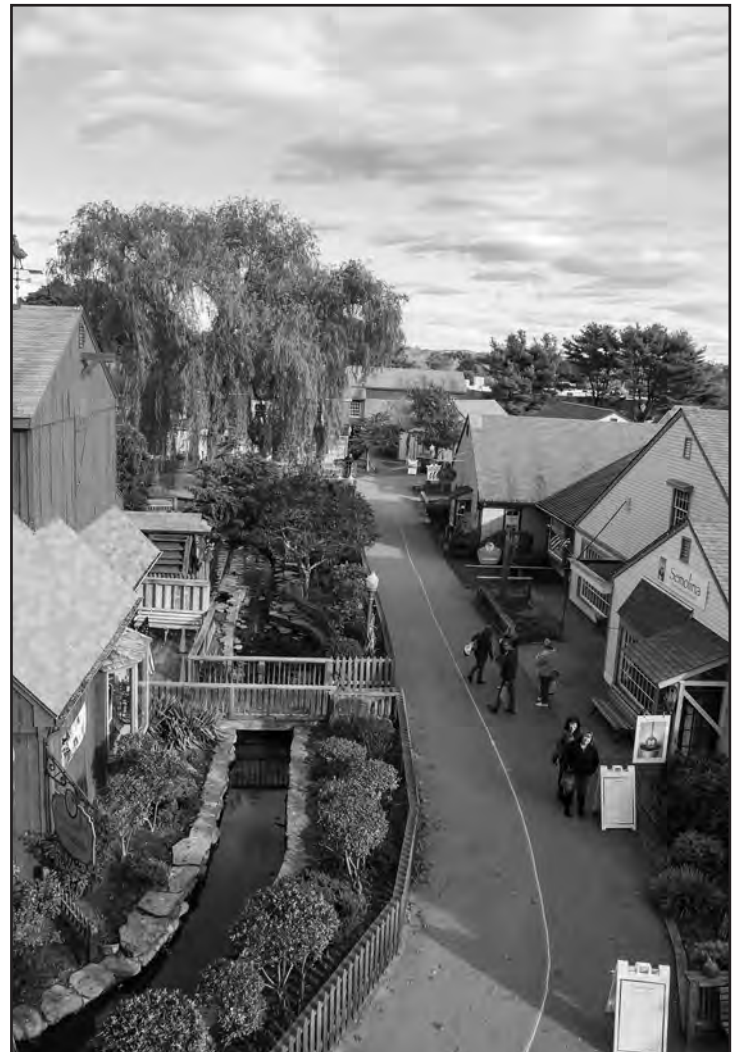


Landmark. The city is filled with shops, restaurants, dinner theaters, museums, and galleries, all within easy walking distance from the hotel. Cape May is also known as one of the top-rated world-class beaches. Highlights: Emlen Physick Estate, Trolley Tour & Wine Tasting, Dinner Cruise, Skyline Cruise of Atlantic City.



## Rails & Sails of New England

June 20-24, 2022 \$1,749 per person\*  
Highlights: Olde Mistick Village, Mystic Seaport Museum, Essex Steam Train, Becky Thatcher Riverboat Cruise, Newport Rhode Island Ten Mile Drive Tour, Breakers Mansion, Newport and Narragansett Railroad Lunch Train, Martha's Vineyard, Hyannis & Sandwich Tour.



## Atlanta Highlights Tour

June 4-11, 2022 \$2,359 per person\*  
Highlights: CNN Studio Tour, Fountain of Rings at Centennial Olympic Park, Atlanta City Tour, Georgia Aquarium, Martin Luther King, Jr. Nat'l Historical Park, Jimmy Carter Museum, Gone with the Wind Tour including the Margaret Mitchell House, Jonesboro Tour and the Road to Tara Museum, Stately Oaks, Chick-fill-A Backstage Tour, Porsche Experience Center, Chick-fill-A College Football Hall of Fame.

**Renew Your Membership at [AAA.com](http://AAA.com)**



Reloadable Prepaid

# THE SMART WAY TO PAY FOR TRAVEL



Whether for domestic or foreign travel, the AAA MemberPay Visa® Prepaid Card is the perfect payment solution for any trip. It's not a credit card or linked to your checking account. You spend only what you load.

- Emergency money and card replacement<sup>1</sup>
- Lost luggage reimbursement
- Multiple, convenient reload methods
- Easy management with text alerts & mobile app<sup>2</sup>

Get details at [AAA.com/MemberPay](http://AAA.com/MemberPay)

<sup>1</sup>Visa Zero Liability policy covers U.S. issued cards only and does not apply to ATM transactions, PIN transactions not processed by Visa, or certain commercial card transactions. You must notify Customer Service promptly of any unauthorized use. Consult Terms & Conditions for additional details or visit [www.visa.com/security](http://www.visa.com/security).

<sup>2</sup>Standard text message and data rates, fees and charges may apply.

Card issued by MetaBank®, Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Use everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted worldwide.



AA18\_0025

## Take the Guesswork Out Of Auto Repair

As a AAA member, you get more than just quality workmanship at an Approved Auto Repair facility. You receive guaranteed written estimates, the return of used parts (on request), a 24-month/24,000-mile parts and labor warranty, a free maintenance inspection with a paid repair, and AAA resolution of any dispute you may have with a AAA-Approved shop. Find out more at [AAA.com/repair](http://AAA.com/repair).

### Approved Auto Repair

**Bill's Emergency Roadside Service LLC**

740 Lancaster Ave, Shillington 610-207-2946

**Dave's Auto Service**

925 W. Phila Ave, Boyertown 610-367-1844

**Dubble's German Motors**

2697 Bernville Rd, Rdg 610-375-8330

**Dulin's Tire & Service Co.**

3151 Centre Avenue, Reading 610-929-5820

1530 Lancaster Avenue, Shillington 610-775-0375

**Fred Beans Ford**

525 Route 100 N, Boyertown 610-367-2081

**Haldeman Ford**

15465 Kutztown Road, Kutztown 610-683-3553

**Lee Myles Transmissions & Auto Care**

914 Fern Avenue, Reading 610-775-3820

6720 Perkiomen Avenue, Birdsboro 610-685-7815

**Manderbach Ford**

301 S. Front Street, Hamburg 610-929-3683

**Patriot Buick/GMC**

933 E. Philadelphia Ave, Boyertown 610-367-8800

**Rich's Automotive Sales & Service**

Rt. 12/1340 Clarion St, Reading 610-376-4045

**Tom Masano Ford**

1600 Lancaster Ave, Reading 610-777-1371

**Trupp's Garage**

1550 North Sixth Street, Reading 610-376-4255

**VJ Wood Service Center**

411 South Third Street, Hamburg 484-662-4004

### Approved Auto Body

**Fred Beans Collision Center**, 525 Route 100 N, Boyertown 610-367-2680

**Manderbach Ford**, 301 S. Front Street, Hamburg 610-929-3683

**Trust. Confidence. AAA Approved Auto Repair.**



Approved  
Auto Repair



Approved  
Auto Body

Renew Your Membership at [AAA.com](http://AAA.com)

# Hertz®



## Turn moments into unforgettable memories.

From unplanned detours to unscheduled stops, make every mile unforgettable – all while earning points toward free rental days and upgrades.

Not a Hertz Gold Plus Rewards® member? Enroll for free at [AAA.com/hertzgold](http://AAA.com/hertzgold).

Plus, AAA members receive exclusive rates and benefits\*, including:

- Free Additional Driver
- Free child seat
- Unlimited Miles
- Waived Young Renter fee

Book now using your AAA Club Discount Code (CDP#).

Click: [AAA.com/hertz](http://AAA.com/hertz) | Call: 1-800-654-3080 | Visit: Your local AAA branch

\*AAA member benefits available at participating locations in the U.S. and Canada. AAA CDP# must be included in the reservation. Advance reservation required. Additional Driver and Young Renter (20-24yrs) must be AAA member and meet standard rental requirements. Child seat is subject to availability. Taxes and fees excluded. Additional terms may apply. © 2021 Hertz System, Inc. All rights reserved. CS 621069

**#1** in Customer Satisfaction in Rental Cars, 2 Years in a Row

For J.D. Power 2020 award information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](http://jdpower.com/awards).





# Luxury

## Travel Event

for the discerning traveler



**Thursday, September 9**  
**6:00pm-8:00pm**  
**Reading Public Museum**  
500 Museum Road, Reading

Talk with representatives from these luxury travel providers:

**Travel Impressions**  
*Villas of Distinction*

**Cunard Luxury Cruises**

**Uniworld & Insight**  
*Luxury Gold*

**Rocky Mountaineer**

**Viking Cruises**

**Royal Caribbean**

**CIE Tours**  
*Luxury Tours*

**AAA Member Choice**  
**Vacations**

