

AAA Reading-Berks Member Publication

on the go

**2026 AAA Car
Guide Winners**

**Fall Colors Near
Montréal**



**September
October
2026**

PERIODICAL

Purrrfect Pet Photo Winners

Ringgold Band Celebrations

In This Issue

6 '26 AAA Car Guide Winners

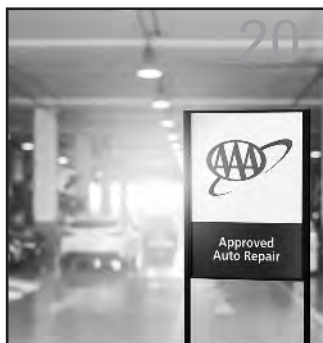
Higher gas prices put the spotlight on the 2026 AAA Car Guide Winners

12 Fall Colors Near Montréal

Thanks to Québec's northern latitude, autumn foliage often arrives earlier and is especially vibrant

16 Ringgold Band Celebrations

The Ringgold Band celebrates America's 250th as it prepares for its own demisemiseptcentennial



Departments

2 PRESIDENT'S NOTE

4 CLUB UPDATE

10 TRAVEL NEWS

20 ON THE ROAD

24 WHAT'S GOING ON



Cover

Our pets bring so many blessings to our lives including deep emotional, mental, and physical health benefits. Caring for a pet is associated with better health and higher life satisfaction. AAA and Spot Pet Insurance are happy to team up for our first Purrrfect Pet Photo Contest. On this issue's cover is the First Place Winner, Rambo, an eight-year-old, well-mannered German Shepherd-Pit mix. According to his human, his favorite indulgences are peanut butter and bacon-flavored treats. And he certainly looks like he enjoys hikes in the forest. More on page 4.

On The Go

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2026

Volume 104 Number 5

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



www.AAA.com

OFFICE HOURS

Current Hours

Office M-F 9am-5pm

Closed Saturday and Sunday

CONTACT US

General	610.374.4531
Travel	610.374.5600
Emergency	
Road Service	610.374.7433

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*
CARL J. SEIDL *Vice Chair*
FRANCES AIKEN
MICHAEL D. AXMAN
STEVEN D. BRIGHT
MICHAEL R. FRASCH
MICHAEL J. GOMBAR, JR., ESQ.
JAN C. JOHNSON
VIRGIL KAHL
DOUGLAS F. SMITH
JAMES WOOD

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

Peter J. Armstrong
President/CEO

“...Performance and safety
do not have to be on
opposing sides...”

Car Ads Push Wrong Message, Unsafe Behavior

A marketing guy says to an engineer, “I don’t see why engineers get paid more than marketing professionals.” The engineer replies, “Maybe because engineers designed and built every important part of modern civilization and all you did was misrepresent it.” (Scott Adams/Dilbert Comics)

What caught your attention to the last car ad you saw? The easily-read instrument cluster? How easy it would be to install a child safety seat? The number of air bags? Probably not, since safety features or other important but not “sexy” items are set aside to make room for what does sell – performance!

There’s a new study on the subject of vehicle ad design from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, an American independent, nonprofit scientific and educational organization founded in 1959 by auto insurance associations to reduce motor vehicle crash fatalities, injuries, and property damage.

According to the study, U.S. vehicle ads between the years 2018 and 2022 emphasizing vehicle performance increased even though deaths linked to crashes where excessive speed and/or aggressive driving were noted continued to rise.

The study went on to say that forty-three percent of the vehicle ads that aired during that time period “highlighted speed, maneuverability, traction, stopping or power” and that “speed was emphasized more than twice as often as safety”.

Yes, the ads do include the legal disclaimer that the vehicle was being operated by a professional driver using a closed track – essentially a “don’t do this at home” message. But by then the viewer is already hooked by the sizzle of what the car *can* do and has disregarded what is legal, safe, and even possible during everyday driving on normal roadways.

It’s not just TV ads that are driving unsafe behavior. All the way back to 1950s-era hot rod songs like “Rocket 88”, “Hot Rod Lincoln”, and “Race With The

Devil” crooned about souped-up motors and daredevil racing.

Movies get drivers’ adrenaline pumping, itching to emulate fast and aggressive driving by actors and stunt doubles in flicks like *Baby Driver*, *The Fast and the Furious* series, and *The Rock*. These films are described as delivering “relentless vehicular intensity,” encouraging drivers to push the limit.

Vehicle engineering advancement in the area of safety features such as Automatic Emergency Braking, Lane-Keeping Assist and Blind Spot Monitoring are certainly a help to drivers, but none of them can take the place of attentive, responsible, safe operators. Unfortunately, these advances are not always fully understood by consumers, who may push the aggressive driving envelope, trusting vehicle technology to rescue them from danger when they push too far and risk too much.

Performance and safety do not have to be on opposing sides, but advertising influences culture. The way driving is portrayed matters, especially for younger drivers. Collaboration is more effective than confrontation when it comes to improving road safety. Driving culture matters, because what we normalize on the road ultimately affects everyone.

Automakers have made enormous advances in crash protection and driver assistance tech. Here is an opportunity for all stakeholders to reinforce a culture where safety and responsibility are part of the driving experience.

A car salesman says to a prospective buyer, “It has satellite radio, voice-activated music and phone systems, text reading software, internet, email, Facebook and Twitter access, a full GPS system, along with a DVD movie player, but we encourage you not to drive distracted.” Mixed messaging? You bet! Don’t lose.

You can read the entire May 12, 2026 IIHS study, *More Car Ads Promote Vehicle Performance Despite Dangers of Speed*, at [iihs.org](https://www.iihs.org).

**9 OUT OF 10
CUSTOMERS WOULD
RECOMMEND
AAA INSURANCE.**

**WOW, 9 OUT OF 10
PEOPLE DON'T EVEN
LIKE MAC & CHEESE.**

And that involves carbs and dairy. Find out why
we're so loved and get a quote.

AAA.com/Insurance or call 610.378.3300

Get started
now!



INSURANCE

Auto • Home • Life

Based on a 2023 customer survey. Life Insurance underwritten and annuities offered by AAA Life Insurance, Livonia, MI
Insurance provided by CSAA Insurance Group, a AAA insurer © 2024 CSAA Insurance Group

Club Update

Winner Winner Kibble Dinner

You've met the First Prize Winner of our Purrfect Pet Photo Contest, Rambo, on the cover of this issue of *On The Go*. Now meet the runners up....



Second Place Winner - Kelsea and Jack

These two peppy Maltese pups love doing everything together - running, greeting visitors, and tussling over toys. When played out, they sit together in their human's lap, who says they've added a lot of joy to her life.



Third Place Winner - Rosie, Samwise, and Strider

Everyone into the pool! These cute Mini Schnauzer siblings sure know how to cool off during a hot summer. Looks like they found a better way than doggie paddling to get around in the water. Now that's a coordinated trio!

Up to 20% Off*

Spot Plans +

\$25 Visa Gift Card™

Includes 24/7 pet telehealth helpline





**DISCOUNTS
»»REWARDS®**

Get help paying for eligible vet bills.

AAA **DISCOUNTS»REWARDS**



Save today with your AAA membership.

Up to 15% off
eligible products and services*

Visit AAA.com/theupsstore to learn more

 **THE UPS STORE**

*Ask an associate for details. Additional fees and restrictions may apply.



Travel better.
Visit us for
luggage, travel
essentials, and
must-have
accessories
for every
destination.

AAA MEMBERS
SAVE 30¢ /GAL*
ON YOUR FIRST FILL UP WITH
SHELL® FUEL REWARDS®



Then enjoy complimentary Gold Status with
5¢/gal savings on all fill-ups! [LEARN MORE](#)



 **Shell Fuel Rewards** |  **DISCOUNTS»REWARDS**

Some restrictions apply. Visit AAA.com/Shell for complete details and terms.

**UNEXPECTED
REPAIR BILLS CAN
COST THOUSANDS**



Mechanical Breakdown Coverage
helps protect your budget

CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE

 **Reading-Berks** **800.574.5699**
aaa.com/warranty

'26 car guide winners



Electric vehicles lead nationwide

AAA has awarded the 2026 Lucid Gravity Touring as the overall winner and top vehicle in the midsize SUV category for the 2026 AAA Car Guide. This year, all category winners are either electric (EV) or hybrid vehicles.

"Higher gas prices may increase consumer interest nationwide in making the switch to EVs," said Megan McKernan, manager of AAA's Automotive Research Center. "This year's AAA Car Guide helps drivers across the country compare vehicles with comprehensive information spanning eight vehicle categories."

Key Winners

The AAA Car Guide winners feature multiple advanced driving assistance systems such as automatic emergency braking, reverse automatic emergency braking, and lane-keeping assistance.

The **2026 Lucid Gravity Touring** was selected as the top vehicle in the midsize SUV category and as crowned the overall 2026 AAA Car Guide winner. This vehicle debuted last year and made its first entry into the AAA Car Guide. SUVs are often popular amongst consumers because of their versatility, safety, and comfort.

The **2025 Volkswagen ID. Buzz Pro S Plus** won the top spot in the minivan category. This minivan is a reimagined version of the beloved VW Bus and seats up to six or seven, depending on the configuration.

The only hybrid winner this year was in the small car category: the **2025 Honda Civic Hybrid Sport Touring**.

"Our goal with the AAA Car Guide is to help consumers navigate the evolving automotive marketplace by evaluating the latest vehicles, providing unbiased evaluations, as well as including additional automotive-related information," said McKernan.

Background

The AAA Car Guide includes comprehensive reviews



Overall Winner: 2026 Lucid Gravity Touring (Electric)



Large SUVs: 2026 Hyundai Ioniq 9 Performance Limited (Electric)



Small SUVs: 2025 Hyundai Ioniq 5 N (Electric)

of each vehicle based on 14 criteria, including advanced safety features, fuel efficiency, braking, performance handling, ride quality, and infotainment usability. Vehicles are tested, scored, and placed into one of eight categories by AAA's Automotive Research Center.



Minivans: 2025 Volkswagen ID. Buzz Pro S Plus (Electric)



Large Cars: 2025 Lucid Air Pure (Electric)

AAA EV Resources

- AAA Car Guide Website: For those in the market for newer used EVs, the online resources also contain links to prior editions of the guide.
- AAA Your Driving Costs calculator: Consumers should consider estimates of the cost of owning a vehicle based on financing it, owning and driving it for five years, and trading it in at the end of those five years.
- AAA Your Driving Costs revealed that, as of September 2025, the annual cost to own and operate a new vehicle was \$11,577, or \$965 per month, which was a drop of \$719 from 2024. That figure may be higher this year for gas-powered vehicles given higher pump prices, if they last.

• #AdulthoodwithAAA: Car Care Electric Vehicles – Low Maintenance – No Problem: AAA series for young adults providing helpful tips, advice and life hacks on all things “#Adulthood”.

• Mobile EV Charging Pilot & AAA EV Member Benefits: Available in select cities, this service is now part of our roadside assistance and will get EV owners back on the go if they run out of charge. That's just one of the many benefits and services we offer our EV members.

Overall winners, detailed evaluation criteria, vehicle reviews, and an in-depth analysis of ADAS technology can be found at [AAA.com/CarGuide](https://www.aaa.com/CarGuide).



Small Cars: 2025 Honda Civic Hybrid Sport Touring (Electric)



Pickups: 2025 Chevrolet Silverado EV LT Extended Range (Electric)



Midsize Cars: 2025 BMW i4 eDrive40 Gran Coupe (Electric)

SCORING RANKED BY CATEGORY:

Overall	Lucid Gravity Touring (Electric)
Small Cars	Honda Civic Hybrid Sport Touring (Hybrid)
Midsize Cars	BMW i4 eDrive40 Gran Coupe (Electric)
Large Cars	Lucid Air Pure (Electric)
Pickups	Chevrolet Silverado EV LT Extended Range (Electric)
Minivans	Volkswagen ID. Buzz Pro S Plus (Electric)
Small SUVs	Hyundai Ioniq 5 N (Electric)
Midsize SUVs	Lucid Gravity Touring (Electric)
Large SUVs	Hyundai Ioniq 9 Performance Limited (Electric)

Wild Wonderful West Virginia Trek

By Rosemary Fisher

The first point of our West Virginia adventure, which would prove not to be our last, was a lunch stop at a Buc-ee's Travel Center. If you have never been to one, the only way to describe it is to combine a large Wawa and a Walmart, adding a cartoon beaver as the company's mascot. Our day continued with a 90-minute tour of the Greenbrier Bunker in White Sulfur Springs. The Bunker is a former U.S. Government Relocation facility completed in 1962 and was America's best-kept secret for years. After our delicious Italian buffet dinner at the Schoolhouse Hotel - Sulfur Spring's first full-service boutique hotel - we spent our first night in Lewisburg, known as America's "Coolest Small Town".



Left to Right: Carole Yeager and Roxanne Bagby, taking a break at the High Falls of Cheat waterfall, the turnaround point for the New Tygart Flyer.

Wednesday was a fairly calm day with beautiful weather, which was a good thing since our train ride was in an open car pulled by a 119-year-old engine - the oldest and longest-operational Shay in the world and the official steam locomotive of West Virginia. Halliehurst Mansion in Elkins was our dinner venue. The palatial estate was the summer house of industrialist and former U.S. Senator Stephen Benton Elkins and is now a historical landmark and the administrative headquarters of Davis & Elkins College. Before we got to our hotel, I gave the teachers on the bus an assignment: write an essay without using the word 'tree'; A humorous nod to the fact that trees were about all we saw from our railcar during the day's five-hour train ride.

Thursday was rife with unplanned adventures. To start the day I did receive two essays - one from Roxanne Bagby and one from Kathleen Youse. They were both beautifully written and the group enjoyed hearing them. Thank you, ladies!



Left to Right: Dean Niedrowski, Susan Niedrowski, Sandra Barnhart, and John Barnhart aboard the Greenbrier Express.

We knew when we left the hotel that the weather wasn't going to be the best, but we definitely did not expect to be on the edge of a tornado. As the bus was getting pelted with limbs and swirling leaves, our driver pulled over to be safe and let everything - and everyone - calm down a little. Trees were down everywhere and I must say that I was impressed with the local road crews who were out and working to clear the highway faster than I have ever seen.

We made it to our next train ride, aboard the New Tygart Flyer, in time to board and begin the twenty-three-mile trip to Durbin where we had lunch. Next stop: the Green Bank Radio Astronomy Observatory, home of the Green Bank Telescope, the world's largest fully-steerable radio telescope. Our tour began with a short film followed by our next unexpected adventure - a grid failure that left us sitting in the dark waiting for power to come back on! Could an alien visitation be next? Much to our relief, no little green men made their presence known during our tour. Phones and cameras were banned, so we wouldn't have been able to document a close encounter of any kind anyway. The group enjoyed a nice, quiet dinner and headed back to the hotel - we'd all had enough excitement for one day.

Friday started out pretty good. Our train ride was pleasant until we had gone about a half-mile toward the station and our engine derailed - oh boy! We sat for awhile and then were able to continue on our way to enjoy an evening at the Gandy Dancers Theater in Elkins. The Branson-style dinner theater features two-hour, high-energy music from the '50s to today including country, gospel, pop, rock, and patriotic presentations, all performed by top musicians and performers. We enjoyed the fare and an awesome musical show ending with the song, "God Bless the USA".

Thank you, West Virginia, for a very adventurous week.

Tint Rules Reviewed

Dear Ask Ed,

I notice a lot more cars with the driver's side and passenger side windows tinted. This can cause a problem at a four-way intersection with stop signs. You can't see the driver's face - if he sees you or, if you would have to turn in front of him, you could not tell if he would acknowledge you to turn. I have even seen cars with their windshields tinted.

Is this allowed by the state, and if not how are these vehicles passing inspection? If it is not allowed, why don't the police ticket these drivers? Thanks for checking into this and I always enjoy your questions and answers in the magazine.

Jim G.

Hello, Jim.

The tint issue is becoming a big problem. Passenger vehicles, trucks, and multipurpose passenger vehicles have different rules regarding window tint. However, the



windshield and the front side windows have the same rules for all vehicles.

A windshield cannot have any tint or sun screening product below the AS-1 marking. Any tint or product along the top edge of a windshield must be transparent and cannot extend more than three inches down from the top of the windshield.

The front side windows on trucks and multipurpose passenger vehicles and all windows on passenger cars cannot have any tint that does not allow 70% Visible Light Transmittance. That means that the tint cannot block more than 30% of the light. A tint meter is used to measure light transmittance.



Any side or rear windows behind the driver on a truck or multipurpose passenger vehicle are not subject to tint and/or sun screening rules.

Tint and/or sun screening is an item that is checked during State Inspection and should fail the inspection if the tint is too dark or in the wrong place. However, there are shops that are passing these vehicles. The inspection mechanic who signed the sticker and the shop that allowed the sticker to be issued can both have their inspection license suspended.

Police are writing tickets for illegal tint. They are also asking the vehicle owner if their vehicle was in that condition when it was inspected. If so, they are going after the inspection mechanic and shop that issued the sticker. I am often contacted by police and used as an expert on the subject.

There are also a lot of counterfeit inspection stickers out there. Police are ticketing drivers for operating an uninspected vehicle when they find these phony stickers. They are also trying to find the people making the counterfeit inspection stickers.

By the way, those who claim that their doctor told them that they can have tint on the windshield due to a health condition but have dark tint there contrary to safety inspection restrictions are also breaking the law. PennDOT only permits colorless/clear sun-screening products that block UV and heat without reducing visibility - and only after obtaining an official medical waiver.

Hope this helps. Happy motoring!

Ed

Contact Ask Ed with your automotive questions:

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

Exquisite Japan Through an Agent's Eyes



My nonstop journey from the East Coast to Tokyo crossed the international dateline into the future. One step off the plane, and the dichotomy between where I came from and where I ended up was drastic and palpable. From the chaos of Newark

was one of the top highlights of the trip.

A week was a very quick glimpse into the history, culture, and diversity of the country. From immaculate gardens to ancient temples and shrines to the vastness of the city of

Airport to the absolute peace and tranquility of Japan, I felt I entered a new world. Even in the midst of thousands of people, there was a quietness and understanding present.

We started our journey in Tokyo, then on to Yokohama, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and finally Kobe; all traveled by bullet train. We also took a ferry from Hiroshima to Miyajima, which

Tokyo, I really took in every moment I had to learn about this new place. Having a local tour guide was extremely beneficial to the overall experience of the trip. I learned that everything has meaning and there is an intention behind each moment.

The Japanese people are so kind and respectful to one another and also to travelers. Their food is so pure and nutritious. Everything is clean and organized and has a purpose. Their language is incredibly beautiful and carries so much symbolism. You could find pretty much anything you would want to experience on a trip in just one country alone here. There is city life, mountain life, island life, and so much more. Although it required a fifteen-hour flight, I cannot recommend enough this wonderful place that exists across the Pacific Ocean.



Becca Samsel
AAA Travel
Consultant



Restrictions apply.

FOR A LIMITED TIME!

Save up to 30% off stays of seven days or longer!

Valid for travel through Dec 31st



- 30% off stays of seven days or longer
- 25% off shorter stays
- Book by 9/30 for travel through 12/31
- Valid nationwide at all The Parking Spot or Park 'N Fly by The Parking Spot locations
- www.theparkingspot.com/#/?promold=AAAEXT30
- Promo Code: AAAEXT30
- Join The Parking Spot's loyalty program, get even more!



Alaska the way it was meant to be seen

With Princess, every moment feels larger than life.

Some places don't just impress you — they humble you. In the Great Land, glaciers thunder, wildlife appears without warning and landscapes stretch beyond imagination. Princess places you in the heart of this untamed beauty, surrounding you with vast national parks, pristine waterways and offering exclusive access to Princess® wilderness lodges and legendary rail routes that carry you deep into the wild.

This is the kind of wonder you don't just see — you feel it.
And once you experience Alaska this close, it stays with you forever.



PRINCESS PREMIER® PRINCESS PLUS®

**Your cruise. Your way.
With savings on drinks,
dining & Wi-Fi.**

Save up to 70% off per day,
per guest when you book
a Princess Plus® or Princess
Premier® package before
you sail.



**Contact Your AAA Travel Professional
For Details: 610-374-5600**

©2026, Princess Cruise Lines, Ltd. Princess®, MedallionClass®, and the Princess logo are trademarks of Princess Cruise Lines, Ltd. or its affiliates. All rights reserved. Ships registered to Bermuda.



fall colors near montréal

Best locations for leaf lovers in 2026

Eastern Townships

Where to go: Bromont, Orford and Owl's Head hills, Brome, Memphremagog and Megantic lakes, Sherbrooke City.

What to see: Head south of the St. Lawrence River, two hours outside Montréal, into the hills, farmlands and villages of the Eastern Townships. Parks and reserves offer easy hiking trails that are a fun way to experience the changing of the seasons with family. The Eastern Townships are also a foodie heaven, with wonderful restaurants, wineries, microbreweries and local producers of cheese, chocolate, coffee and other gourmet goodies.

The region also offers a variety of museums and other attractions. Whether it's exploring trails, tasting regional treats or visiting local shops and museums, choose a route and bask in the warm colors of fall as you drive through the countryside between your planned stops.

King's Road Scenic Highway

Where to go: L'Assomption, Trois-Rivières

What to see: PR 138 runs parallel to the north bank of the St. Lawrence River between Montréal and Québec City. The King's Road Scenic Highway, a AAA Road Trip, begins about midway at Cap-de-la-Madelaine. The route passes through farmland and semi-wooded areas that are especially picturesque when seasonal colors are on display, providing a stunning backdrop to the charming villages along the way.

Montreal City

Where to go: Montréal Botanical Garden, Mont-Royal Park, Morgan Arboretum, Parc Agrion, Old Montreal, Parc Jean Dapreau

What to see: Montréal Botanical Garden: You can see some of the best fall colors in Montréal without leaving the

city – just stroll through the autumn woods at the Montréal Botanical Garden. Trails through the vast arboretum will lead past a forest of red, yellow and orange. But colors abound here no matter when you visit—the Botanical Garden's landscapes and greenhouses are updated throughout the year with lush displays of seasonal blooms and foliage.

Mont-Royal Park: Consistently rated one of the best things to do in Montreal, Mont-Royal Park is another wooded oasis within the city. Walk, jog or bike the trails that wind through the woods of Mount Royal or hike up to the top for a bird's-eye view of the city framed in the colors of autumn leaves. Along with trails, the park includes scenic overlooks, historic sites and a lake, perfect for a family picnic or free outing.

Morgan Arboretum: On the western tip of the Island of Montréal is Morgan Arboretum, a 610-acre forest preserve on the McGill University MacDonald Campus. Walking trails here will take you into forests with a variety of trees, including beech, hemlock, red maple and sugar maple. The preserve also includes old fields and pastures, some of which became plantations for now-mature trees and shrubs grouped in themed collections, including birches, oaks, maples and flowering trees and shrubs. A self-guided tour and smartphone app are available to make the most of your visit.

Old Montréal: Take a stroll through the past in the district of Old Montréal, where you'll find stunning buildings like the Notre-Dame Basilica and lots to do, like the Bonsecours Market and enjoy French culture and history. Or jog, cycle or stroll along a riverside pathway. If you go in October, all this history will be backdropped by a gorgeous watercolor of fall leaves.

Parc Jean Drapeau: The Parc Jean Drapeau is only five minutes from downtown Montréal, but it still feels like a natural getaway from the hustle and bustle. The Parc offers lovely waterfront views of the fall foliage, situated on the Saint Lawrence River and making up both Sainte-Hélène and Notre-Dame islands.

Mont-Tremblant

Where to go: Tremblant pedestrian village, Lake Tremblant

What to see: Mont-Tremblant is two hours northwest of Montréal, nestled in the Laurentian Mountains. In winter, the village of Tremblant is a popular ski destination, but in fall, visitors flock to Tremblant for its unforgettable ochre and crimson leaves. The best ways to take in the views of the mountains are by hiking or taking the gondola to the summit of Mont-Tremblant, ziplining over the forest, playing golf on the Le Diable and Le Géant courses, kayaking on Lake Tremblant and watching an outdoor music performance in the village.

Mont-Saint-Bruno National Park

Where to go: Sentier des Lacs trail, Seigneurial Lake trail, Montérégien loop

What to see: East of metropolitan Montréal is Mont-Saint-Bruno National Park, where you'll find a nature-lover's haven. With swaths of maple and bitternut hickory trees and orchards of over 2,000 apple trees, the park turns breathtaking golden hues in autumn. The park also includes five different lakes, a tea room, campgrounds and plenty of trails for hikers. You can pick your own apples while keeping your eyes peeled for wildlife, like deer and ducks.

Parc-nature du Cap Saint-Jacques

Where to go: Any of the hiking/biking trails, the river-mouth overlook

What to see: Montréal's largest park at some 865 acres (350 hectares), Parc-nature du Cap Saint Jacques lies on a nubby peninsula on the southwestern side of the Island of Montréal, tucked between the Rivière des Prairies (River of the Prairies) and Lac des Deux Montagnes (Lake of Two Mountains). Its extensive forests, which include sugar maples, American beeches and other mixed hardwoods, certainly put on a show in the fall, making for some of the best leaf-peeping to be had right on the city's doorstep.

Multi-use trails lace their way throughout the park, providing ample access (and a sense of sylvan seclusion remarkable for the close proximity to urbanity). And sightlines from here run across the Lake of Two Mountains northwestward to the wooded shores of Oka National Park, giving you more bang for your buck, fall-colors-wise.

The Laurentian Mountains & the Lanaudière-Mauricie Countryside

Where to go: Mont-Tremblant Provincial Park, La Mauricie National Park, Forêt Ouareau Regional Park, Lac Taureau Regional Park

What to see: The amply timbered highlands of the

Laurentians—something of a northern sister of New York's Adirondack Mountains, which are geologically related—are Montréal's iconic hinterland recreational getaway and without question an across-the-board home run for autumn leaf-peeping. Formed of truly ancient rocks of the Canadian Shield, the Laurentians loom above 3,000 feet on blocky peaks such as Mont Raoul-Blanchard (3,875 feet) and Mont Belle Fontaine (3,776 feet).

Much of the forest cover is of the boreal variety, but strung among the evergreens are plenty of paper birches, aspens, tamaracks and other deciduous species that blaze with color in fall and the southern borderlands of the Laurentians also have more temperate-style mixed hardwoods such as maples and beeches to spice up the kaleidoscope.

The Laurentian Mountains boast numerous large protected parks and preserves, including Mont-Tremblant Provincial Park, La Mauricie National Park and the sprawling Laurentides Wildlife Reserve. And the drive northwest from Montréal across the St. Lawrence Lowland should whet your appetite with no shortage of fall colors en route to the orange-, red- and yellow-sprinkled scarps of the Laurentians. Indeed, there are plenty of prime leaf-peeping driving routes in the non-mountainous parts of the Lanaudière-Mauricie region helping form Montréal's lovely backyard.

Is Montréal worth visiting in October?

Yes, the seasonal colors in Montréal make it absolutely worth visiting in October. In late September to mid-October, the leaves in Montréal start turning red, yellow and orange, turning the city into a dazzling display of fall colors.

When is peak foliage in Montréal?

The best time for fall colors in Montréal is usually in mid-October (usually the second or third week of the month), though the leaves can start changing in late September. However, peak fall colors in Montréal vary year by year, so make sure to check out a fall colors map while you plan your trip.

What makes Montréal such a world-class launchpad for fall colors?

Québec sits at the crossroads of Canada's vast boreal forest and the mixed hardwood forests of the Upper Midwest and northeastern United States, creating an impressive variety of tree species. Maples, beeches, oaks, aspens, birches and tamaracks all contribute to the region's spectacular fall colors.

Escape to Mallorca's Mediterranean Coast



★
IBEROSTAR
Waves
Bahía de Palma

WAKE UP TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. UNWIND IN STYLE.

Perfectly positioned on the golden sands of Playa de Palma, **Iberostar Waves Bahía de Palma** is an adults-focused retreat where beachfront relaxation meets the vibrant culture of Mallorca. Spend your days beside the sea, indulge in locally inspired cuisine, explore Palma's charming old town, or simply savor the sunset from the rooftop Sky Bar.

Start Planning Today!



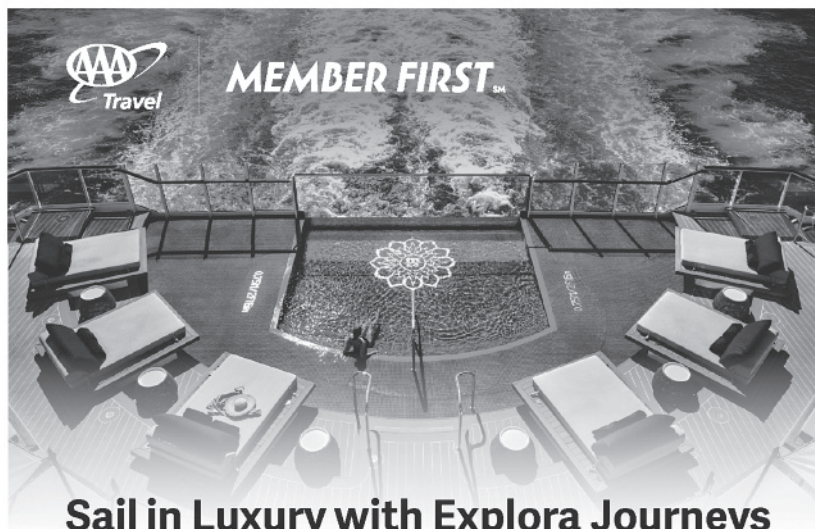
Ask about your Travel Impressions
AAA Member Benefits.
For Reservations & Information, please
contact your AAA Travel Advisor

Travel Impressions is not responsible for errors or omissions. Bookings are subject to the current Travel Impressions terms and conditions. Travel Impressions materials (including, but not limited to, names, trademark, service marks, logos, marketing materials, etc.) shall not be used, reproduced, transmitted or distributed in any way, except with the express written consent of Travel Impressions. CST #2139014-20.. 50165_cm_7.20



Experience
seamless,
authentic
adventures across
Ireland and
beyond with
**95% guest
satisfaction**
since 1932.

Contact us to
learn more
about our
airfare promotion
to Europe.



Sail in Luxury with Explora Journeys

ALASKA | ASIA | ARCTIC | CANADA | CARIBBEAN |
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA | EUROPE | MEDITERRANEAN | UNITED STATES

Ask about AAA Member Benefits when you book.

Book today with your local AAA Travel Advisor



Advance reservations through AAA Travel required to obtain Member Benefits & savings which may vary based on departure date. For complete Terms and Conditions, please visit <https://www.memberfirsttravel.com/terms-and-conditions/>. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Member First acts only as an agent for cruise & tour providers listed. CST# 1007939-10. Member First is registered with the State of Florida as a Seller Of Travel ST#37983. To learn how we collect and use your information, visit the privacy link at [memberfirsttravel.com](https://www.memberfirsttravel.com). Copyright©2026 Pleasant Holidays, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Ships' Registry: United Kingdom



Contact Your **AAA
Travel Professional**
Today

610-374-5600

AAA.com/travel

Agent consultation
by appointment.

Understanding the PA Turnpike's '27 Rates

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Media Site

Each July, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission votes on the following year's toll schedule. We want to continue to keep our customers well-informed about the new toll schedule and the reasons behind these changes.

There Will Be A 3.5% Toll Rate Increase In 2027

The increase, which will be effective January 3, 2027, is in accordance with our Act 44 plan for toll rates along the PA Turnpike. The increase of 3.5% is the lowest rate increase since 2014, falls below the current national inflation rate level and will be used to repay Act 44 debt service.

Tolls are calculated per segment and distance traveled across the entire system. The Act 44 increase moves the per-mile rate from \$.073 to \$.075 and the segment fee from \$1.13 to \$1.17. Toll rates round up to the nearest penny. On all other extensions, where the tolling infrastructure doesn't support a per-segment and distance traveled rate, the Act 44 increase will be a straight 3.5% increase to existing trips.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commissioners approved the toll rate at their July 7 meeting.

PA Turnpike Toll Rate Increases Are a Direct Result of Act 44

Since the legislation passed in 2007, tolls on the PA Turnpike have increased as a direct result of Act 44. In lieu of raising taxes for transportation, Act 44 of 2007, which was amended by Act 89 in 2013, obligated the Commission to assist in funding statewide ground transportation beyond PA Turnpike operations.

Since 2008, we have provided \$8.1 billion to the Commonwealth for this purpose. Act 44 debt service drives the annual toll increases. Prior to Act 44, the Turnpike only raised tolls five times in 64 years.

PA Turnpike Toll Rates Remain Competitive

Despite the imposed debt of Act 44, the PA Turnpike maintains toll rates that are middle of the pack as compared to other U.S. toll roads, bridges and tunnels. In fact, based on 2026 rates, the PA Turnpike's passenger car rate is 10.5 percent below the national average.

Despite inflation, recessions and a pandemic, the PA

Turnpike has not deviated from its repayment plan over the course of nearly 20 years, which was achieved through controlled spending, efficient debt management and innovation.

The PA Turnpike Has Flexible Payment Options

We strive to provide customers with the best service and value, and all drivers can save 50% on tolls with E-ZPass, the most cost-effective way to travel the PA Turnpike. More than 85% of our customers recognize E-ZPass' value and use it to travel our roadway. Those drivers are largely satisfied with their experience due to cost, convenience and time savings.

We are also committed to evolving with our customers' needs. We offer more ways to pay, including expanded, convenient payment options with Google and Apple Pay. Cash payment for Toll By Plate invoices or E-ZPass account fund additions is accepted through KUBRA, a nationwide network of more than 75,000 retail locations.

Customers can also budget ahead for tolls with the PA Toll Calculator, which provides a predictable bill before they hit the road.



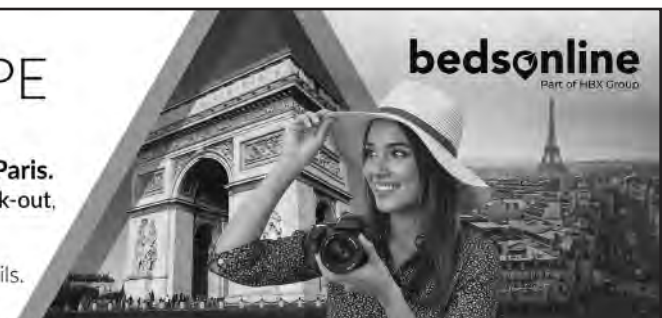
YOUR CHIC PARIS ESCAPE



Indulge in the timeless style of Hôtel du Collectionneur Paris.

Enjoy valuable travel perks including early check-in and late check-out, so you can make every moment in Paris count.

Contact Your **AAA Travel Professional** at 610-374-5400 for details.



Destinations & Diversions

Ringgold Band: Getting Ready For Its 175-Year Celebration in 2027

The Ringgold Band is having an exciting year as it prepares to celebrate its demisemiseptcentennial (175 years) of entertaining Berks County with traditional concert band music.

Education remains central to Ringgold's mission. The band provides teaching and mentorship to school students through its outreach programs, impacting thousands of young musicians over the years.

This year began with awarding three Berks high school seniors the Ringgold Band Young Artist Award (RBYAA). Artemins Drake, Rocky Rochlin, and Marissa Smith each received a cash award to be used to continue their musical education.

On April 26th the band held its 174th Spring Concert at Muhlenberg High School. Two of our RBYAA winners, Artemis Drake and Rocky Rochlin, performed solos with the band. Governor Mifflin High School graduate Master Sergeant J. G. Miller, a French horn player with the United States Army

the band in the early 2000s.

In addition to the normal schedule of fifteen to twenty concerts, Ringgold has performed several special concerts celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary.

A very special performance was the June 28 Patriotic Concert at Long's Park in Lancaster, PA. Before the concert began, the US Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps performed a set of drills while playing in their period uniforms. Then the Ringgold Band performed a 90-minute concert for over fifteen thousand people. The concert finale was Tschaikowsky's Overture "1812" accompanied by eighteen Civil War era cannons from the Smithgall Foundation Cannon Museum. The concert was followed by a drone and fireworks show.

Ringgold performed two concerts on July 4th, the first in Orwigsburg and later that evening in Brickerville. Both concerts featured patriotic music and celebrated the 250th anniversary

of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

On July 8th the Ringgold Band celebrated the anniversary of the first reading of the Declaration of Independence



Photos credit Cynthia Miller-Aungst

in Reading, PA at the Berks County Courthouse and Government Services Center. The ceremony included ringing Reading's "Liberty Bell" 250 years to the day. Dale Cake and Jennifer Lovelin, 6th-generation descendants of the original reader, Sheriff Henry Vanderslice, read the Declaration of Independence for those in attendance.

Ringgold's regular season ends with their annual fundraising dinner concert in November and a December 6th Christmas concert at Reformation Lutheran Church.

This year's dinner concert theme is "Ringgold Swings". The concert will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Reading, PA. The concert starts at 5PM, with a choice of three entrées. The band will be performing the top tunes from the 1930s and '40s. The concert will feature dancers demonstrating the moves of the '30s and '40s.

If you are interested in hiring the Ringgold Band for your event, contact the band's business manager at business.manager@ringgoldband.com. For more information about the Ringgold Band, the dinner concert, or upcoming concerts, visit www.ringgoldband.com.



Field Band, was the guest artist and performed several selections with the band. MSG Miller's performance was not his first performance with Ringgold; he played as a member of

PATP Day Trips: Late Summer Adventure

Looking for one more summer road trip? The Pennsylvania Turnpike connects travelers to longtime favorites, along with opportunities for quirky and off-the-beaten-path adventures that leave you wondering “How did I not know that was in Pennsylvania?”

Most attractions and tours require tickets; visit each destination's website for full details.

EAST

American Treasure Tour Museum

Nearest exit: Valley Forge Exit 326

Escape the summer heat with a museum that's kitsch to the core. Visitors view the 100,000-square-foot collection dedicated to decades of pop culture and Americana mostly by tram, with some self-guided areas. Learn more: www.american-treasure-tour.com

VAMPA Vampire & Paranormal Museum

Nearest exit: Fort Washington Exit 339

Family-friendly and just a little spooky, the museum is dedicated to the intersection of the supernatural, myth, faith, folklore and art through the ages. Younger visitors can enjoy a dinosaur park, Zen garden and peacocks. Visit: www.vampamuseum.com

WEST

Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village

Nearest exit: Pittsburgh Exit 57

One of North America's most important archaeological sites, featuring evidence of human occupation dating back nearly 19,000 years. Interpretive villages, including a 16th century Eastern Woodland Indian Village, 18th century log cabin and 19th century schoolhouse take visitors through the area's historic highlights. Website: heinzhistorycenter.org/visit/meadowcroft.

Forbes State Forest Blue Hole

Nearest Exit: Somerset, Exit 110

Located within Forbes State Park, its turquoise water offers a cooling escape from hot summer days.

Swimmers do so at their own risk, and water shoes are a must, so be sure to take all relevant safety precautions. Find information at: hiddenswimmingholes.com/swimming-holes/blue-hole-barronvale-pa.

CENTRAL

Gnome Countryside

Nearest exit: Lebanon-Lancaster Exit 266

A whimsical encounter with magic, storytelling and nature, this family-friendly location offers imaginative outdoor experiences. Pack swimwear, towels, water and snacks, and be sure to make a reservation. Website: atgnomecountryside.com

Mt. Gretna Lake & Beach

Nearest exit: Lebanon-Lancaster Exit 266

Freshwater swimming in a family-owned lake, complete with a sandy beach, rope swings and diving boards, it's a classic and refreshing summer stop. Be sure to pack swim gear and sunscreen. Website: mtgretnalake.com

NORTHEAST EXTENSION

Crystal Cave

Nearest exit: Lehigh Valley Exit 56

Discovered in 1871, “Pennsylvania's First Show Cave” is named for the numerous crystalline formations on the walls and ceilings. Guided tours, plus additional onsite attractions, offer family friendly fun. The cave is not wheelchair accessible. Website: crystalcavepa.com.

The Houdini Museum

Nearest Exit: Keyser Avenue, Exit 115

Dedicated on the legendary Harry Houdini, the museum is a rich repository of memorabilia – including authentic restraints and escape devices – exploring his life, career and legacy. Live performances, shows and other events give visitors the chance to experience magic and illusion first-hand. Website: houdinimuseum.net



AGING PARENT RESOURCE FORUM

For adult children supporting aging parents

Monday, October 5

4-6pm AAA Reading-Berks



A “drop in” health fair-styled event intended specifically for those caring for an elderly parent or relative. Attendees will be able to speak with professionals offering financial resources, assistive services, and connections to people and programs that can serve them and their loved ones. No appointment required. Lower level of AAA, 920 Van Reed Rd, Wyomissing.

Washington DC Cherry Blossom Festival

By Rosemary Fisher

It was the perfect weather weekend to spend in Washington, visiting the memorials and watching the once-a-year cherry blossom parade and activities. Even though we saw only one cherry blossom in the entire tidal basin - which everyone rushed to capture photographically - the gardens were alive with colors.

Our first day took us to Hillwood Museum and Gardens, the home of Marjorie Merriweather Post, heir of the Postum Cereal Company which later became General Foods. Businesswoman, socialite, and philanthropist - Post was among the wealthiest women of her time.

Next stop: the Capitol. An introductory film explaining the history and importance of the structure, designed by architect Thomas U. Walter and easily recognized by its iconic neo-classical cast-iron dome, was followed by a tour of the building.

After a quick check-in at the hotel, we were back on the bus and off to the waterfront to end our day at Tony and Joe's Seafood. The fare was great and the views of the Kennedy Center and Key Bridge made an appropriate ending to our first day spent in the nation's capitol.

Day Two was all about the cherry

blossom parade, during which we enthusiastically shook our pink pom-poms for the cameras. All enjoyed the two hours-plus of dancers, floats, bands and balloons.

After lunch at Pentagon City (a walkable, mixed-use urban village just minutes south of DC), the rest of the day was a whirlwind! Somehow we managed to visit the Arlington National Cemetery, the Marine Corp Memorial, the Kennedy Center and enjoyed dinner at Old Europe, a German restaurant on Wisconsin Avenue NW replete with antique steins and a wonderful old-world decor. Happily satisfied with our day's activities, we returned to our hotel at 10:00pm. What a day!

Day Three, a Sunday, was just a little more relaxing. Lunch was a personnel choice along the mile-long wharf of the Potomac River. The rest of the day was spent walking in the beautiful weather and visiting memorials. Dinner was the highlight of the day at Carmine's, a restaurant with a relaxed atmosphere and offering authentic Southern Italian family-style cuisine and located in the District Architecture Center on 7th Street NW. Food was endless and no one left hungry.

Our last day was not without adventures. We started at the amazing Washington National Cathedral with a

guided tour followed by free time to explore the 150,000 tons of limestone, 2 sets of bells, 231 stained glass windows, and 112 gargoyles - including the Darth Vader limestone grotesque that was part of a 1980s youth out-

reach initiative.

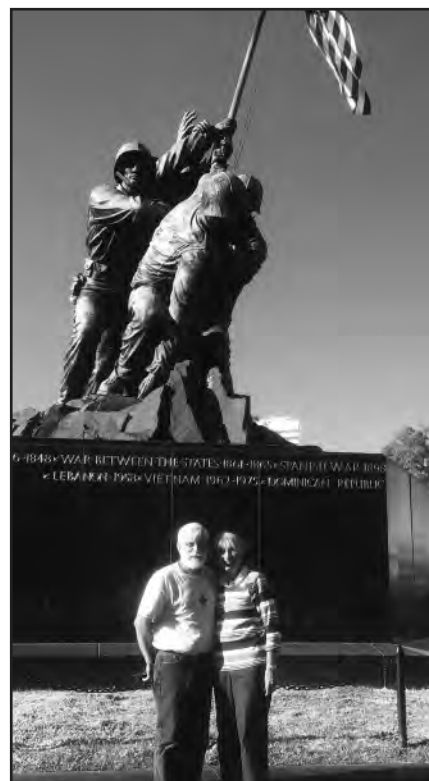
The central tower stands 301 feet tall and 676 feet above sea level. It was built entirely from donations and receives no support from the federal government. It is the home of all denominations of faith.

One last stop before we headed home was free time for all at the Smithsonian National Mall. It is estimated that it would take about 95 days to see every public display there, assuming you would spend eight hours per day and give at least three seconds to every single artifact. Guess we'll have to make another trip or two or three.

Carl, our bus driver from Elite Coach Charter Bus Service, and our guide, Tammy, made this trip effortless and very informative for all of us to enjoy.

Below: Robert and Cathy Denvers at the War Memorial.

Left: Irene and Darryl Taylor at the Lincoln Memorial.



Where Is Your Focus When Refueling?

What are your habits when fueling your vehicle? If you're not careful, a moment of inattention can cost you more than what you pay at the pump.

A type of vehicle-related theft, "sliding" is occurring more and more frequently at gas stations and convenience stores. Typically, the driver pulls up to the pump and exits the car to begin the refueling process, leaving the car unlocked. While the driver's attention is on the pump or on their phone, a thief can approach the passenger side of the vehicle, quietly open the door, grab valuables from the seat or passenger side floor, and leave before being noticed. All of this can happen in a mere couple of seconds and with the driver just steps away. The operation is even easier with SUVs, since their elevated stance and design helps block the driver's view.

What can you do to lessen your risk of becoming a "sliding" victim? Here are a few suggestions:

- Always turn off the vehicle and lock all your car doors before turning your attention to operating the fuel pump
- Hide your belongings, keeping purses, bags, and electronics out of plain sight, preferably in the vehicle's

trunk or rear hatch that has to be accessed from the rear of the vehicle

- Stay alert and aware of your surroundings; don't get distracted by your phone, social media, or conversations while refueling
- Remove earbuds or headphones so you can hear activity around you
- Remove keys - never leave your keys or key fobs in the ignition or inside the vehicle while you are at the pump
- If something feels suspicious, stop pumping and get back inside your vehicle and lock the doors



PROTECTED AAA TRAVELERS TELL BETTER STORIES

“ I can honestly say I have never had an easier resolution of a [travel insurance] claim in my life...”

Marcia R.
AAA Member
Orlando, FL
February 2024



Ask your AAA Travel Advisor or visit AAA.com/TravelInsurance for a free quote—even if you've already booked.

➔ Special travel insurance benefits, plus extra covered reasons, are available through AAA.

Benefits vary by plan purchased and state of residence. Check your plan documents for details.

Terms, conditions, and exclusions apply. Plan(s) underwritten by BCS Insurance Company or Jefferson Insurance Company. AGA Service Company is the licensed producer and administrator of these plans. Plans include insurance benefits and assistance services. Contact AGA Service Company at 800-284- 8300 or 9950 Mayland Drive, Richmond, VA 23233 or customerservice@allianzassistance.com. 1634019_04222026



Allianz

AAR: Established to Address Consumer Issues

In today's fast-paced world, our vehicles are more than just modes of transportation; they are essential tools that keep us connected and on the move. However, back in the 1970s, many consumers faced a frustrating reality: bad auto repair services. The need for a solution became evident. It was during this time that AAA took steps to change the landscape of auto repair forever.

The Problem: A Surge of Consumer Complaints

During the 1970s, consumers began to voice their frustrations surrounding auto repair services. Reports of shoddy workmanship, inflated prices, and dishonesty became all too common. Many car owners felt powerless, unsure of who to trust with their vehicles. The lack of regulation and standardization in the industry meant that anyone with basic mechanical skills could claim to be a "professional," often leading to more issues down the road. It was clear that something had to change.

AAA's Commitment to Quality

Recognizing these widespread concerns, AAA took the initiative to establish a network of approved auto repair shops. This program was designed to combat the negative reputation of auto repair services and ensure that consumers had access to trustworthy and competent mechanics. The Approved Auto Repair program laid out stringent criteria for shops seeking approval, including:

- **Certified Technicians:** Shops are required to employ ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certified technicians or facility certified who pos-

sess the necessary skills and knowledge to provide high-quality repairs.

- **Customer Service Standards:** A commitment to excellent customer service is non-negotiable. This includes transparent communication, fair pricing, and thorough explanations of services performed.

- **Regular Inspections:** Approved shops must undergo regular inspections to maintain their status, ensuring that they consistently meet AAA's high standards.

Restoring Consumer Trust

By creating the Approved Auto Repair program, AAA aimed to restore consumer trust in the auto repair industry. This provided consumers with a reliable resource for finding trustworthy mechanics, alleviating fears of poor workmanship and fraudulent practices. It empowered car owners to make informed decisions, knowing that any AAA-approved shop had been vetted and met specific criteria.

The Legacy of AAA's Initiative

The establishment of AAA Approved Auto Repair not only trans-

formed the auto repair landscape of the '70s but also set a precedent for quality and accountability in the industry that continues to this day. Over the decades, this initiative has contributed to improving consumer confidence and satisfaction, creating a culture where good service and integrity are the norms rather than the exceptions.

Today, when you see that familiar AAA insignia in the window of a repair shop, you can rest assured that you are in capable hands. The legacy of addressing consumer complaints from the past has paved the way for a brighter future in auto repair—one where quality service is not just expected but guaranteed.

AAA's decision to create the Approved Auto Repair program was a direct response to the pressing concerns of consumers in the 1970s. By prioritizing quality, honesty, and reliability, AAA successfully transformed the auto repair experience, ensuring that today's drivers can hit the road with confidence. Go to AAA.com/AAR to find a local AAR.



Resorts Earn AAA Four Diamonds

Four hotels and six restaurants are the newest recipients of AAA Four Diamonds. These properties stand out for their upscale surroundings, modern amenities, and cutting-edge cuisine. AAA Four Diamond hotels and restaurants are ideal for special celebrations, memorable vacations, and creative culinary experiences.

Throughout the year, AAA Inspectors visit hotels and restaurants across North America, the Caribbean, and Costa Rica unannounced to objectively verify the Four Cs of AAA Diamonds: Cleanliness, Comfort, Cuisine, and Consistency.

New AAA Four Diamond Hotels

Calabash Hotel | L'Anse Aux Epines, Grenada
 Condado Vanderbilt Hotel | San Juan, Puerto Rico
 Grand Fiesta Americana Oaxaca |

Oaxaca City, Oaxaca, Mexico
 Secrets Huatulco Resort & Spa | Bahias de Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico

New AAA Four Diamond Restaurants

Akira Back | Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
 Jerome Ferrer – Europea | Montreal, Quebec, Canada
 Sushi Nishinokaze | Montreal, Quebec, Canada
 TS Steakhouse | Verona, New York
 Union Grill & Bar | Camana Bay, Cayman Islands
 Zuma | Las Vegas, Nevada
Local AAA Four Diamond Restaurants
 The Circular | The Hotel Hershey, 100 Hotel Road, Hershey (since 1988)
 Barclay Prime | 237 S. 18th Street, Philadelphia (since 2006)
 Friday Saturday Sunday | 261 S. 21st Street, Philadelphia (since 2023)
 Hiroki | 1355 N. Front Street,

Philadelphia (since 2022)
 Morimoto | 723 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia (since 2002)
 Vernick Food & Drink | 2031 Walnut Street, Philadelphia (since 2017)
 Vetri Cucina | 1312 Spruce Street, Philadelphia (since 2023)
 Zahav | 237 St. James Place, Philadelphia (since 2017)

About the AAA Diamond

Program

Since 1937, AAA's professional inspectors have conducted in-person property evaluations. Diamond lists are updated monthly, as AAA Inspectors visit properties throughout the year.

AAA remains the only organization that performs comprehensive, on-site hotel and restaurant evaluations guided by member priorities.

To explore AAA Diamond hotels and restaurants, visit AAA Trip Canvas. To view AAA Five and Four Diamond lists, visit the AAA Newsroom at newsroom.aaa.com/aaa-diamonds.



NEW!

Dining Deals

Save up to
40% off
 at over
35,000
 restaurants



AAA.com/DiningDeals





Let's Go! With Rose Fisher



*For more information or to book any of these getaways, contact Rose Fisher, 610.374.5600 x 7938 or rfisher@aaardgberks.com.

Philly Food and Ghost Tour

Thursday, October 22, 2026 \$249* pp
Eat like a local on this Philadelphia-themed food tour. Enjoy Philly favorites like cheesesteaks and tomato pie while learning about the history of how some of these iconic foods came to be while driving across multiple neighborhoods of Philadelphia, sightseeing and learning about the many communities that make up the City of Brotherly Love.

Winter Wonderland American Music Theatre

Tuesday, November 24, 2026 \$159* pp
Includes roundtrip motorcoach transportation from AAA Reading-Berks to Lancaster, lunch at Miller's Smorgasbord, admission ticket to American Music Theatre's 2026 Christmas Show, taxes and gratuities, AAA Escort.



Currier & Ives Vermont Christmas

Five days Dec 3-7, 2026 \$1,725* pp dbl occ
Take home memories wrapped in the warmth of a Currier & Ives Holiday. Appreciate the simplicity of a hand-made evergreen wreath decorating a barn door; hear the jingle of bells as your team of horses and fellow carolers cruise through the woods.

Holiday in NYC

Saturday, December 12, 2026 \$87* pp
Hope Sculpture, 7th Ave and 53rd Street, New York City. Includes roundtrip motorcoach transportation from AAA Reading-Berks parking lot, driver gratuities, and snacks on the bus.

Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites

Thursday, December 17, 2026 \$185* pp
We start our day learning about Moravian traditions and three sites displaying twenty Christmas trees. After lunch, there is free time at Christkindlmarkt and the downtown area before finishing our day seeing Bethlehem at night.

Virginia International Tattoo 2027

4 Days April 23-26, 2027 \$1,529* pp dbl occ
A spectacular patriotic display of military splendor, showcasing over 800 performers from more than seven nations. Richmond, Norfolk & Virginia Beach, three nights of lodging, three hotel breakfasts and two dinners, all taxes & tips on the above services, luggage handling (as available), motorcoach transportation. Itinerary subject to change.

Explore Your World | with AAA Travel

Easy Pace Spain

Insight Vacations

April 10-19, 2027 \$3,675 pp* land only
Barcelona, Pamplona, San Sebastián, Bilbao, Guggenheim, Burgos, Madrid, The Medieval Streets of Segovia. Tour & hotel accommodations plus 9 breakfasts and 3 dinners (1 with wine). Contact AAA Travel for details 610-374-5600.

*Rate is per person, land tour only, based on dbl occ. Roundtrip airfare and transfers will be an additional cost and will be determined at a future date.

Irish Legends

CIE Tours

May 4-13, 2027 \$4,045 pp* land only
Tales of Irish heritage and culture await as you explore hidden gems like the timeless Aran Islands and medieval Kilkenny. 10-day itinerary & hotel accommodations plus 9 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 6 dinners including a welcome dinner at Dunboyne Castle Hotel. Contact AAA Travel for details 610-374-5600.

*Rate is per person, land tour only, based on dbl occ.

Travel with AAA's Dave Hawkins, CFO

Paris & the Heart of Normandy

Viking *Fjorgyn*

June 27-July 4, 2027 *from* \$3,474 pp* cruise only
One complimentary shore excursion in every port of call. Visits to UNESCO World Heritage sites. Beer, wine & soft drinks with onboard lunch & dinner. Free Wi-Fi (connection may vary). Enrichment Lectures & Destination Performances. Pre & Post night packages available at an additional cost. Services of a AAA Escort with minimum part. Contact AAA Travel for details 610-374-5600.

*Rate is per person, cruise only, based on dbl occ for Category F-Standard Stateroom. Includes taxes and gov't fees, subject to change.



AAA TRAVEL
610-374-5600
www.AAA.com/travel
Agent consultation by appointment only.

National Parks of America

AAA Member Choice Vacations

September 14-25, 2027 \$6,499 pp* If booked by 3/14/27
Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Jackson Hole, Grand Teton & Yellowstone Nat'l Parks, Old Faithful, Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Crazy Horse Memorial, Mount Rushmore. Contact AAA Travel for details 610-374-5600.

*Rate is per person, based on dbl occ. Includes round trip air from PHL, air taxes and fees/surcharges, hotel transfers. Subject to change.

Join Amy Kepner's Friends & Family

Greek Isles & Croatia Cruise

Celebrity *Eclipse*

Sept 20-Oct 1, 2027 *from* \$2,926²⁹ pp* cruise only
Departing from Athens (Piraeus), Greece and visiting Mykonos, Rhodes, Santorini, Crete, Dubrovnik, Kotor, Split, and disembarking at Ravenna, Italy. Onboard meals and entertainment, classic drinks package, and basic Wi-Fi access. Contact Amy Kepner for details 484-878-2062.

*Rate is per person, cruise only, based on dbl occ for Prime Inside - Category I1 Stateroom. Includes taxes and gov't fees, subject to change.

Swiss Alps & Rhine Castles Christmas

Cruise Basel to Amsterdam

AmaWaterways *AmaVenita*

Dec 14-21, 2027 *from* \$3,829 pp* cruise only
Seven night river cruise in elegantly-appointed accommodations. Fine dining onboard in multiple venues. Unlimited hand-selected wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch/dinner. Small group guided shore excursions with a variety of choices, including exclusive Special Interest Tours, hiking and biking tours. Professionally-trained Wellness Host leading engaging wellness activities. Live local entertainment. Unlimited complimentary Wi-Fi access. Contact AAA Travel for details 610-374-5600.

*Rate is per person, cruise only, based on dbl occ for Category E Stateroom. Includes port charges of \$280, subject to change.

Renew Your Membership at AAA.com

what's going on



**Free Public Presentation
Tuesday, Sept 8
3:00pm AAA Reading-Berks**

RSVP Victoria@610-741-5810
<https://www.dementiafriendspa.org/eventdetail/1194>

To become a Dementia Friend, you join others in a one-hour Dementia Friends Information Session. The session will cover five key messages about dementia and touch on what it is like to live with dementia. As a Dementia Friend you will turn your understanding into a practical action that can help someone with dementia living in your community. The action can be as big or small as you choose, because every action counts!



AAA CAR CARE EVENT October 12-24

**Special offer for AAA Members.
Appointment required.**



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

- Always Towing & Service Center, Hamburg 610-914-4567
- Bill's Emergency Roadside Service, Shillington 610-207-2946
- Dubble's German Motors, Reading 610-375-8330
- Dulin's Tire & Service, Rdg 610-929-5820, Shill 610-775-0375
- Lee Myles, Reading 610-775-3820, Birdsboro 610-685-7815, Sinking Spring 610-678-4496
- Rich's Automotive Sales & Service, Reading 610-376-4045

Free Multi-Point Check*: Wiper Blades • Mirrors
Belts/Hoses • Vehicle Lights • Emergency Flashers
Tire Pressure/Tread • Air Filter • Horn
Warning Lights/Gauges • Radiator Cooling Fan

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



HEADLIGHT RESTORATION SPECIAL

**\$79.99 Limited Time Offer
September 14-26, 2026**

Bill's Emergency Roadside Service LLC
324 Elsie Street, Shillington

Call Bill's Emergency Roadside Service LLC for an appointment at 610-207-2946. Must present proof of valid AAA membership and ID at time of service.

Renew Your Membership at AAA.com



NORWEGIAN PEARL®



MOTHER OF PEARL.

Experience the wonder of cruising aboard Norwegian Pearl® – a mid-sized ship with a relaxed atmosphere and elegant décor. Whether you're seeking a family vacation or a romantic retreat, Norwegian Pearl's sophisticated design and first-class amenities make this ship an excellent choice. A wide range of delicious dining options, unique bars and lounges and an outdoor walking track are just a few things that make ship a destination of her own.

11-DAY CANADA & NEW ENGLAND ROUND-TRIP PHILADELPHIA:

BOSTON & HALIFAX

NORWEGIAN PEARL

OCT 19, 2027 to OCT 30, 2027

BALCONY STATEROOM STARTING FROM \$3052 PP

OCEANVIEW STARTING FROM \$1854 PP



11-DAY CARIBBEAN ROUND-TRIP PHILADELPHIA: BERMUDA &

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NORWEGIAN PEARL

MAR 28, 2027 to APR 8, 2027

BALCONY STATEROOM STARTING FROM \$2331 PP

OCEANVIEW STARTING FROM \$1514 PP



AAA READING BERKS
920 VAN REED
WYOMISSING, PA 19610
610-374-5600



Additional restrictions may apply. Price are based on availability and ©2026 NCL Corporation LTD. Ships' Registry: Bahamas and United States of America.
Fares are current as of 07/22/2026 and subject to change or withdrawal.



See more and spend less with Hertz & AAA

Fall's on the way – why aren't you?

Get moving with Hertz as a AAA member for **up to 20% off** and an **extra \$30 off weekly rentals** – just include **AAA Club Discount Code 219** and **PC 211950** during booking.*

For more perks and even better travel, join our free Hertz Gold+ program. And after your first rental as a member, you'll get 1 free rental day.¹

Join now: www.AAA.com/HertzGold

Call: 800-654-3080 | **Click:** AAA.com/Hertz

Visit: Your local AAA branch or your nearest Hertz neighborhood location

*Offer ends 12/31/2026. Up to 20% discount will vary depending on location, date, length of rental, car class, & other factors. \$30 on a weekly rental base rate, minimum 5 days. Discounts apply to Pay Later base rate. Taxes, fees, & options excluded. Promotion Code 211950 and AAA CDP# 219 must be provided at time of reservation for full offer discounts. This offer is available at participating Hertz locations in the US, Canada, & Puerto Rico. Age, driver, credit, & qualifying rate restrictions for the renting location apply. Advance reservation required. Offer not valid and rate change or additional fees may apply in the event of reservation modification, early / late vehicle return or if not returning vehicle to renting location. Valid on all car classes except large SUVs, minivans, & Dream. Offer has no cash value, & may not be used with other discounts, promotions, or special rates. Valid for vehicle pickups through 12/31/2026. Subject to availability, blackout periods, & additional restrictions. At the time of rental, present your AAA membership card for identification.

¹The 1 free day rental offer is an exclusive offer for AAA members who enroll at AAA.com/hertzgold. Valid for new Hertz Gold+ members only. Free rental day will be awarded in the form of 950 Gold+ points after the member's first paid Gold+ rental. Free day excludes taxes, fees, & options. Skip the counter available at select locations. © 2026 Hertz System, Inc. All rights reserved. CS 1225076



AS BIG AS VACATION GETS

The all-new *Legend of the Seas*SM is setting the stage for unforgettable weeklong adventures across the Southern and Western Caribbean, with stops at the award-winning Perfect Day CocoCay — tropical island-hopping never had stops this hot.

6 Night Western Caribbean 2027

Fort Lauderdale, FL • Perfect Day, Bahamas
Falmouth, Jamaica

8 Night Southern Caribbean 2027

Fort Lauderdale, FL • Willemstad, Curaçao • Oranjestad, Aruba
Cabo Rojo, Dominican Republic • Perfect Day, Bahamas

AAA VACATIONS[®] AMENITIES* ONLY ON ROYAL CARIBBEAN[®]

All Ships. All Sail Dates.

ALL CATEGORIES

SPARKLING WINE &
CHOCOLATE COVERED
STRAWBERRIES

Delivered to your stateroom



BALCONY OR ABOVE

UP TO
\$100 ONBOARD
CREDIT
Per stateroom



MEMBER BENEFIT[†]

PRINT OR DIGITAL
8 X 10
FREE PHOTO
If your cruise is 7 nights or longer
(Balcony or Suite)

*Group pricing not applicable

CONTACT YOUR AAA READING BERKS TRAVEL ADVISOR TODAY AT (610) 374-5600



*AAA Vacations[®] amenities are subject to change without notice and may be withdrawn at any time. Royal Caribbean International reserves the right to correct any errors, omissions or misstatements and to change or update fares, fees and surcharges at any time without prior notice. Contact AAA for full terms of offer including AAA Vacations[®]. All ship features, experiences and itineraries are subject to change without notice. ©2016 Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. The Bahamas, 360/5375 • 6/1/2016