AAA Reading-Berks Member Publication

Top Things To Do At Disney World

Off the Beaten Path: Savannah



February 2025

PERIODICAL

Out With The Old (AEB)...

Ice Harvesting at Dreibelbis Farm

In This ISSUE

6 Top Things to Do at Disney

Check out some of the top things to do at the Walt Disney World Resort according to the locals

12 Off Beaten Path Savannah

Check out our list of off-the-beaten-path things to see and places to go while in Savannah, GA

16 Ice Harvesting at Dreibelbis

Dress for the weather and step back in time for the ice harvesting presentation at Dreibelbis Farm



Departments

- 2 PRESIDENT'S NOTE
- 4 CLUB UPDATE
- 10 TRAVEL NEWS
- 20 ON THE ROAD
- 24 WHAT'S GOING ON



Cover

Bucolic Dreibelbis Farm in Virginville hosts events year-round highlighting the historic and environmental features of the property. A favorite of those who like to get a feel of how things used to be done is participating in the annual ice harvesting demonstration. Photo credit: Amy Langman. More on page 16.

On The Go JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025

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President's Note

Peter J. Armstrong President/CEO

"Can you really say you don't know about it?..."

If You Know It, Show It

To be fair, maybe there hasn't been enough public education about Pennsylvania's Move Over Law. At least, not the kind that comes before you are handed a citation for not doing what you're supposed to.

Or is that really the case?

Pennsylvania's Steer Clear Law was signed into law in September 2006, requiring drivers approaching a roadside emergency being handled by emergency responders or where road crews have set up lighted flares, posted warning signs, or by some other means have made an effort to alert oncoming traffic of the elevated area of risk, to safely merge into a lane away from the emergency scene if possible, and to slow down if a lane change was not possible.

When the law was expanded in 2021, several major TV networks picked up the story and broadcast it to their vast Commonwealth audiences. Locally, CBS Philadelphia, NBC10 Philadelphia, ABC27 and 6ABC, and WFMZ all ran stories about the law and how drivers can comply to make the roads safer for everyone. Lots of opportunity to learn about the law there.

In print, the Reading Eagle ran an editorial on January 21, 2020, entitled "Move over laws protecting first responders need to be heeded, expanded". On April 27, 2021, the publication marked the date when the Pennsylvania Move Over law was expanded to include additional requirements for drivers.

The October 21, 2021 edition included the editorial, "Slow down, mover over and save lives". The editorial for August 23, 2022 was "Pay attention to rules of the road", including the Move Over law and others.

The Reading Eagle reports that the news source enjoys a Reading/Berks County audience of over 50,000 weekly. The digital version of the paper has over 290,000 readers weekly. Plenty of "transparency" there.

PennDOT and the PA Turnpike Commission recently partnered to produce a public event to increase public attention to the law and its importance. On October 19, 2024, the two entities with a similar goal - to make Pennsylvania's roadways safer - held a first-ever Move Over Awareness festival where the public could meet the men and women who put their lives on the line at the roadside as part of their job. Hosted by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission in Middletown, there were tow trucks and service units, fire trucks and fire police, law enforcement, turnpike maintenance equipment - even a concrete truck! - on display. The touch-a-truck area appealed to the kids.

The date had a special significance. October is National Slow Down-Move Over Month and the third Saturday in October is National Move Over Day.

"This event puts a face to the name," said Tom Macchione, director of traffic engineering and operations at the Turnpike Commission. He continued, "You can see what they do on a daily basis, so you know these are the people that are helping me."

To impress on people's minds the danger to roadside workers, PennDOT's traveling Workers' Memorial was set up to honor the ninety PennDOT employees who have died in the line of duty since 1970. The memorial features helmets with the name of each employee mounted on supports standing in rows.

AAA has been a vocal advocate of the nation's Move Over laws, and locally we've worked hard to make sure that you, our neighbors, know what the law is about.

Visit our newsroom on AAA.com to view the video posts, Move Over Law and Real AAA Truck Drivers Read Move Over Tweets. Check out the Move Over information at newsroom.AAA.com, including Slow Down Move Over Near Misses video and read data gathered by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

So, is it true that this life-saving information isn't out there? Can you really say you don't know about it?

Remember, *ignorantia legis neminem excusat* - "ignorance of law excuses no one". Now you know it. Show it. Move over. It's the law.

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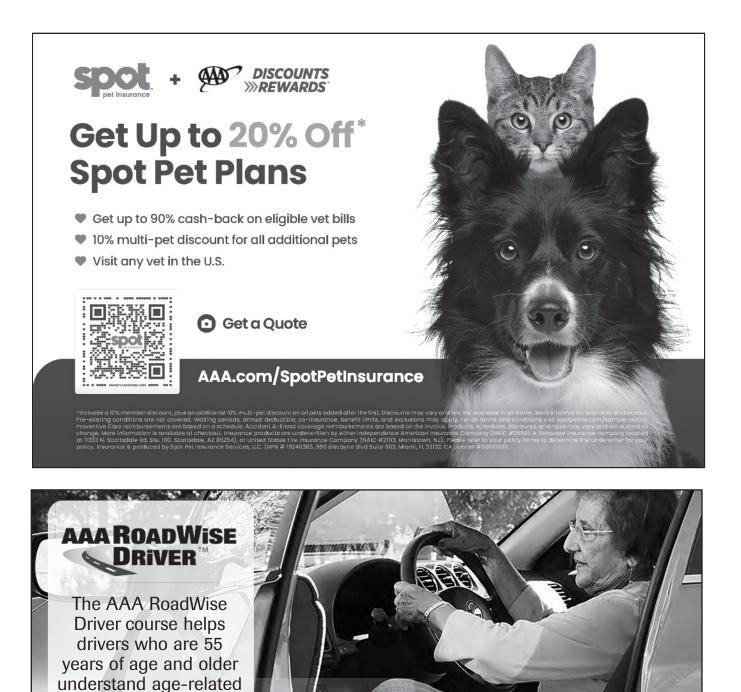
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top things to do at **disneyworld**

With an ever-evolving line-up things to do in Disney World, there's always something new whether you are a Disney fanatic or planning your first visit. It might feel overwhelming, especially if you are trying to plan the perfect memory-making vacation for kids, but there is no need to fret. With the help of locals, annual passholders and a former cast member (aka a park employee), we've put together a list of top things to see and do in Walt Disney World.

Magic Kingdom

Do: Get a haircut at Harmony Barber Shop

Anyone can get a haircut or beard trim here, but it's most popular for children's first haircuts. Kids getting their first haircut on-site also get a Mickey Ears hat as part of the package.

Do: Kids play dress up at Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique It's a fun option for kids ages 3 to 12 who love to play dress up. The smallest packages include hair and shimmer makeup, and the more extravagant packages include hair, shimmer makeup, nail polish, a princess dress and accessories. While the princess packages are the most popular, knight packages are available for little ones who don't dream of being a princess.

Reservations for this Disney World extra go fast, so plan to book well in advance. This experience is an extra cost in addition to your theme park tickets.

Eat: Cinderella's Royal Table

Cinderella herself greets guests at the entrance to Cinderella's Royal Table, the only restaurant in Cinderella Castle and one of the best places to eat in Magic Kingdom. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. While dining, you'll be greeted by princesses, and while it's always a surprise which princess you'll see, Aurora, Snow White, Rapunzel and Ariel have all been spotted there.

A special tip from our Disney experts: if you book a breakfast reservation, you can get into Magic Kingdom a little early giving you a special chance to see Cinderella Castle without crowds.

Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park

See: Rafiki's Planet Watch

Board the Wildlife Express Train in Africa to get to Rafiki's Planet Watch. This area of the park is dedicated to the conservation of animals, and you will find the Affection Section here. It's a petting zoo that features a variety of domesticated animals including goats.

The Conservation Station is a care center where animals are treated and their meals are prepared. You can also find out what scientists are working on in the realm of animal conservation. Rafiki's Planet Watch is one of the often-overlooked things to do in Disney World, but it's an interesting and fun area that worth visiting.

See: Harambe Village Acrobats

The Harambe Village Acrobats perform in the Africa section of the park between Zuri's Sweet Shop and Harambe Market. The troupe performs impressive acrobatic feats forming a variety of human pyramids along with lively dancing and drumming.

Performances last about 15 minutes and have some elements of audience participation. The Harambe Village Acrobats usually perform once per hour between 10 and 4. Check the Disney World website or app for performance times on the day of your visit.

Do: Earn badges with Wilderness Explorers

Fans of the Disney/Pixar movie "Up" may be excited that they can join the Wilderness Explorers just like Russell. There is no extra charge to participate, and while the program is designed for kids, everyone is welcome to participate.

You start at the Wilderness Explorers headquarters on the bridge between Oasis and Discovery Island by picking up a handbook. If you miss this station, you can also pick up a handbook from troop leaders at Wilderness Explorer Stations in Africa, Asia, Dinoland U.S.A., Pandora – The World of Avatar, and Rafiki's Planet Watch. The handbook will guide you to the stations where you can learn more about the plants and animals in the park and earn up to 25 badges.

Disney's Hollywood Studios

Do: Oga's Cantina

Entering Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge feels like walking into an entirely different universe, and Star Wars fans can enhance the experience with a visit to Oga's Cantina. This themed bar features a droid DJ and décor mimicking the bars in the Star Wars movies where the smugglers and bounty hunters grab a drink.

Oga's Cantina serves delicious alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages. Book reservations in advance to ensure you don't miss this experience. It is one of the most incredibly popular things to do in Disney World, so sameday reservations can be difficult to get. Parties have a 45-minute time limit to enjoy in the cantina because of the high demand.

Eat: Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater

Step inside Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater and be transported under a starry night sky to enjoy a drive-in movie. The booths at the restaurants are cars facing the movie screen that play clips from old sci-fi movies. It's a fun atmosphere that gives diners the chance to escape a hot summer day to enjoy an old-fashioned drive-in on a cool night. The menu features variations of burgers along with some lighter fare. Reservations are highly recommended.

"...there's always something new..."

Ride: Slinky Dog Dash

In Toy Story Land, you'll fit right in with all of Andy's toys as you'll find that you've magically become the same diminutive size, and while all the rides in Toy Story Land are imaginative and exciting, Slinky Dog Dash is quite the sight. Slinky Dog coasts along tracks that weave around other toys and games. On this roller coaster, you'll ride on Slinky Dog and experience a coaster best described as "springy."

Epcot

See: Turtle Talk with Crush

Turtle Talk with Crush is a 15-minute, interactive live chat with Crush, one of the sea turtles that Marlin meets while searching for his son in "Finding Nemo." Kids can sit upfront on the carpet while there are benches at the back for adults. Crush asks children in the audience questions, and kids can learn about sea creatures. The show is improvised, so you may get lucky and meet other characters from "Finding Nemo" and "Finding Dory" like Marlin, Squirt and others.

Do: International Food & Wine Festival

EPCOT has some fantastic and popular events, and one them is the International Food and Wine Festival

from July to November. Throughout the park are pop-up stalls, and each has a different menu. They feature small bites of entrée-type dishes, desserts and beverages, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic, available for purchase.

Within the World Showcase, the food stalls feature foods from the eleven countries in the showcase as well as others. Outside of the World Showcase, food stalls feature foods with a variety of themes, like chocolate, cheese, vegan and others. If you plan to attend, come hungry and be prepared for lines; the International Food & Wine Festival is one of the best things to do at EPCOT, and is considered by many to be one of the best things to do for adults.

See: The fireworks show over the World Showcase Lagoon

EPCOT's current fireworks show is "Luminous the Symphony of Us." The fireworks display typically begins at 9 p.m., but you should check ahead on the Disney World website or app for showtimes on the day of your visit.

Fireworks shoot over the World Showcase Lagoon while from the ground fountains spray water in an impressive display and lasers add to the spectacle. This display is accompanied by a soundtrack of original songs composed especially for this show and existing Disney music. The entire show is an awe-inspiring finale that closes the day at EPCOT.

Disney Springs

Shop: The LEGO Store is a must-do at Disney Springs and is a delight for LEGO fans young and old with a huge selection of kits from cars to Disney-specific sets. Among the colorful LEGO bricks is The LEGO Minifigure Factory where you can design a customized minifigure. You get to choose the colors, hair and accessories. Best of all you can design the minifigure's shirt, and in addition to premade prints and graphics, you can draw your own design. Once complete, your design is sent off to print. You'll get your minifigure in a special box that can be used for display, and it comes on a LEGO brick that has your name or the name you gave your minifigure.



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Tips for Visiting Canada - Before You Go

When planning a trip to Canada, there are certain things that U.S. travelers need to keep in mind to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience. From entry requirements to insurance, it's important to be prepared before you leave the United States and enter Canada.

Pack Your Passport

Do you need a passport to go to Canada? Yes, U.S. citizens will need a valid U.S. passport (with at least one blank page in it) to enter into Canada via international flights or by car. (Note that a passport is required for infants and children.) Your local AAA office can help with passport applications and photos.

For passengers on cruise vacations, it is generally recommended to pack a U.S. passport regardless of ship itinerary.



Check the Holiday Calendar

The last thing you want to happen on vacation is to face unexpected holiday crowds or closures, so check the holiday calendar before planning your Canada trip.

National and provincial Canada holidays include Family Day (second or third Mon. in Feb.), Good Friday (Fri. before Easter), Victoria Day (Mon. on or before May 24), Canada Day (July 1), Civic Holiday (first Mon. in Aug.), Labour Day (first Mon. in Sept.), Thanksgiving (second Mon. in Oct.), Remembrance Day (Nov. 11) and Boxing Day (Dec. 26).

Know Your Credit Card PIN

Merchants in Canada generally use the Chip & PIN verification system for debit and credit card transactions, so you'll need to know your 4-digit personal identification number (PIN) before making any purchases.

While most travelers know their debit card PIN, some are caught unaware at hotels, restaurants and stores when a PIN is required for credit card purchases. Contact your bank well in advance of your trip for help with setting up or tracking down a credit card PIN. You should let the bank know about your upcoming travel plans, too.

Add Travel Insurance

Some U.S. health care policies (including Medicare) won't cover you in Canada, so ask your AAA travel agent about adding travel insurance to your vacation packages.

The cost of travel insurance is often minimal and can protect you in case of unforeseen accidents, medical emergencies, illness, lost baggage or even trip cancellations. Most policies require that you purchase a policy within fourteen days of your initial deposit to cover preexisting conditions.



Make Sure Your U.S. Driver's License is Valid

No need to worry about IDPs when you visit Canada. For U.S. citizens, a valid U.S. driver's license will suffice. In addition to your license, you will need proof of auto insurance; check with your insurance company before

your trip to verify that your coverage extends to Canada. Depending on which province you're visiting, you'll

want to familiarize yourself with the local driving laws. Bring Your AAA Card

Did you know your AAA membership is honored in Canada? Through reciprocal arrangements with the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA), AAA members can use benefits like roadside assistance while in Canada. Don't forget to pack your AAA membership card, or use the AAA Mobile app to access your account information (cellphone roaming rates and data charges may apply).

Brenda's Travel Tip

Never put your passport in your carry-on.

When traveling internationally, keep your passport on your person or in your personal item that will not be subject to gate-checking. If you put it in your carry-on bag and it unexpectedly needs to be gate-checked, you won't have

access to it until the destination airport baggage claim - which is *after* the border control checkpoint.



Is That So?

Dear Ask Ed,

I never thought of myself as an actual auto tech, but I know enough to fix minor problems with my car. Enough to get by, I guess you'd say. At least, I thought so until recently.

The battery in my car went dead. So I got a new one and put it in. I've done it before, so I was confident in what I was doing.

Then my car had a problem that was more than I could handle so I took it to a dealer, thinking that they would be the expert on what's going on.

I was surprised to be told by the dealer that the battery I put in my car to replace the dead one was "too big" for my car and would damage it. I think he said something about the battery damaging my car because it was too powerful or something. To be honest, I wasn't aware that something like that was possible. Could you please explain so I know for the next time? Thank you.

Erik T.

Dear Erik,

That's an interesting diagnosis by the dealer tech. I hope he didn't talk you into buying another battery.

While it is true that installing a 12-volt battery - typically used in vehicles since the mid-1950s

- into a vintage car that runs on a 6-volt system can cause issues like catastrophic electrical system damage, I'm guessing you're not talking about a '52 Caddy here.

Yes, different modern vehicles require different group size batteries. If we're replacing a battery, we generally replace it with the same group size recommended by the vehicle manufacturer in the car's owner's manual (also found on the top of the installed battery and via online tools). There are sometimes exceptions

and/or alternatives. The wrong group size battery can lead to poor connections, electrical system damage and lessened battery life. And oftentimes the wrong group size battery won't physically fit the battery case or securement system.

A vehicle battery stores energy until it is needed to start the car or run the electronics. It is important to understand that some components of vehicles do not stop functioning when you turn the car off. The battery provides power continuously to those components that utilize memory or other continuous functions.

The battery also loses power when an interior light is



left on or there is some other kind of unintentional draw. Such a situation can drain the energy from the battery to the point where it needs to be recharged and brought back to its intended state for proper vehicle operation.

Back to the dealer tech's statement. I wonder if he was referring to the car battery's CCA-rating, or Cold Cranking Amps? Even so, I think he might want to get some more training in this area. The same battery group



size can come in a range of CCA ratings. Using a battery with a higher CCA number is acceptable - even advantageous in some cases - and won't damage your car. A battery with more available cold cranking amps than the car manufacturer calls for just means that

they're there should the vehicle need them. The battery doesn't force the car's system to accept more amperage than it needs. An example of when a higher CCA rating might be a great idea is if you added an aftermarket remote starting system to your car.

Hope this helps, Erik. By the way, our mobile battery program for members will bring the proper size battery to you when you need us. Happy motoring! Ed

Contact Ask Ed with your automotive questions: AskEd@aaardgberks.com or write to Ask Ed, AAA, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

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Travel News



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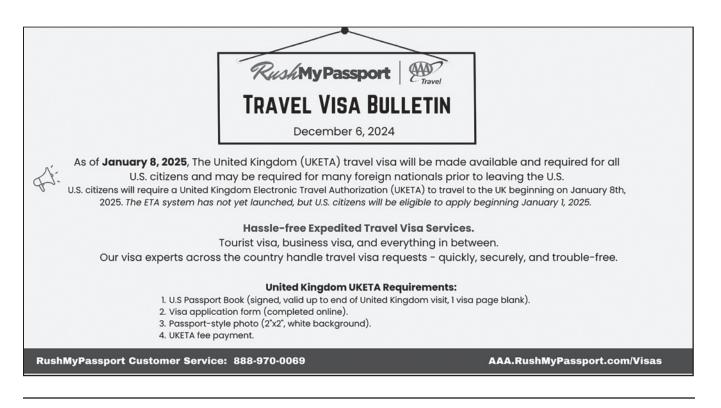
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Inspector Picks: Pet-Friendly Restaurants

Quality time with your pet doesn't have to stop when it's time to eat. There are many great restaurants that are pet-friendly. Whether you're a fan of restaurants with outdoor dining or you're planning a road trip with pets, AAA inspectors have you covered. Over the years, AAA inspectors have traveled widely and shared their expertise. Here are some of their favorite pet-friendly restaurants.

The Cottonwood Cafe, Sisters, Oregon

AAA Inspector: This magical cafe has a pet-friendly backyard patio blanketed by cottonwood trees. I enjoy time with my pet here.

When visiting this tiny picture-perfect town, stop in this cozy café located in a darling 1930s cottage. Just look for the white picket fence. The menu is seasonal and a few highlights consist of sweet tea pork and grits, Parmesan crusted turkey on rye, bacon mac 'n' cheese tossed in noodles and hearty soups and salads. The veggie Benedict steals the show. Vegan and vegetarian options are plentiful.

Flying Saucer, Cordova, Tennessee

AAA Inspector 596: I find this to be the perfect spot to enjoy a cold beer, good food and the company of my dog out on the patio.

This pub features a full array of draft beers, and dogs are welcome to join diners outside on the patio. Enjoy live music and great food as well. The menu features items such as bacon-wrapped jalapeños, the "Duke" burger, a turkey melt and pizza. If you have a sweet tooth, try the "Mud Island" torte.

Garrison, Austin, Texas

AAA Inspector: A modern show kitchen with a mystery centerpiece box attracts me, but the truffle tater tots keep me coming back for more!





The use of local products, an open fire grill kitchen and the talents of the culinary crew make this one of Austin's leading food venues. Most dishes on the seasonal menu were created with the touch of the open flame. I highly recommend the fermented carrot embers, and entrées like seared Atlantic cod are perfectly grilled and nicely garnished with pickled cherries. The menu is artistically descriptive and fun to read.

The Jetty, Grasonville, Maryland

AAA Inspector 593: Whether relaxing in the sand on an Adirondack chair or enjoying a meal on the dock, it's the perfect place for dining with your dog.

With beautiful views of Wells Cove, this fun pub boasts a seafood-heavy menu with bar staples like nachos and pizza. The huge outdoor seating area is pet-friendly, and a special menu of steak and chicken is available to feed your hungry pup. Happy hour is offered Monday to Friday. Live music is featured Wednesday to Sunday during the season. On-site boat slips are available on a firstcome, first-served basis.

The Open Door & Wine Bar, Sisters, Oregon

AAA Inspector 334: I sit with my dog and have lunch or dinner on a beautiful patio in a pleasant garden setting. Also, they provide water for my pet.

If you are looking for a place to unwind, this restaurant is the perfect spot. The patio resembles a quiet backyard. The artichoke dip and skewered bacon and Brussels sprouts are great starters. Seasonal dishes may include veggie or meat lasagna, wild fish of the day with polenta and roasted rib chop with a hard-cider glaze. Wine paring is a highlight and the knowledgeable staff is spot-on with their suggestions. Gluten-free and dairy-free items are available.

January-February

off the beaten path: Savannah

With Savannah's downtown so walkable – and historic – it can be easy to forget that there are other natural hangouts and interesting places just out of plain sight in the greater Savannah metropolitan area. Sure, you know to see



River Street, browse Broughton Street and visit Forsyth Park in the historic district, but there are also some beautiful places and interesting history off the beaten path. Places to go like the beach and artistic attractions offer some familyfriendly alternative things to do in Savannah, while nature lovers should include Savannah National Wildlife Refuge or Savannah National Wildlife Refuge on their itinerary.

Do you want a more in-depth understanding of lesserknown American history? Immerse yourself in the rich history of Georgia at the Wormsloe State Historic Site in Savannah, where the captivating tabby ruins of Noble Jones' colonial estate stand as the oldest architectural remnant in the city.

If you're building a day trip, there's also Fort Pulaski National Monument, a nearby fort full of history and scenic beauty just east of the city. Continue toward Tybee Island for a relaxing day at the beach; with miles of coastline, there's plenty of space to spread out and soak up the sun. For those who want to explore the local arts and culture, a number of local haunts, including galleries and architecturally significant attractions offer convenient and immersive opportunities or even guided tours. So why not switch up your Savannah itinerary, uncover interesting history and discover a different side to the Southern city?

Fort Pulaski National Monument

This historic fort is named after Kazimierz (Casimir) Pulaski, a general who died from injuries sustained from the siege of Savannah in the American Revolution. The Union Army seized it during the Civil War, adding another dimension to the fort's background.

These days you will find it a good place to stroll and learn about history. The attraction lies just outside the historic downtown on the way to Tybee Island.

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge

Navigate the Savannah Coastal Refuge Complex, spanning from Pinckney Island, S.C. to Wolf Island, Ga. Don't miss the visitor center at 694 Beech Hill Lane in Hardeeville, South Carolina. Utilize the trails – once rice fields – for wildlife viewing and hiking in habitats rich with species like waterfowl, deer and bobcats.

Note: The Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex, managed



from its Savannah, Georgia headquarters, oversees seven distinct refuges, including the substantial Savannah refuge as well as the smaller Pinckney Island, Tybee, Wassaw, Harris Neck, Blackbeard Island, and Wolf Island refuges.

Skidaway Island State Park

This hidden gem on the Georgia coast is waiting for you to explore. Just a short drive from historic Savannah, you'll find stunning maritime forests and salt marshes bordering the Skidaway Narrows, part of Georgia's Intracoastal Waterway. Among the many outdoor activities available at the park are camping, picnicking and hiking.

"...switch up your Savannah itinerary, uncover interesting history and discover a different side..."

SCAD Museum

It's hard to miss the Savannah College of Art and Design since many restored buildings in the Savannah historic district belong to the campus, and you might see SCAD students sketching and collaborating, but you'll want to head to the contemporary art museum for a different take.

SCAD Museum offers eye-catching, sometimes provocative art by professional artists. The pieces change often, so every visit could be different, a plus if you're a repeat visitor to the city of Savannah.

Tybee Island

Once marketed as Savannah Beach, this barrier island

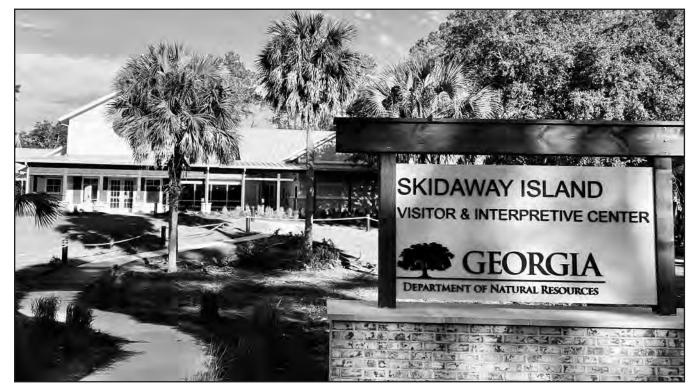


offers a sandy shore, where you can put down a towel and relax with family or friends. Easy to access from U.S. 80, North Beach is only about 30 minutes away from the Savannah historic district – an outing here is a perfect way to end your trip.

Wormsloe State Historic Site

Noble Jones, an English-born colonist who came to Georgia with Gen. James E. Oglethorpe, established the historical Isle of Hope in 1736. Explore the remnants of his fortified tabby house, the only surviving architecture from Georgia's first decade, located at the end of a picturesque 1.5-mile oak-lined avenue.

A museum showcases excavated artifacts and an immersive audiovisual show about early settlement in Georgia. You'll also find nature trails, re-created homesite, blacksmith area and living-history area where interpreters in period costumes demonstrate colonial crafts.





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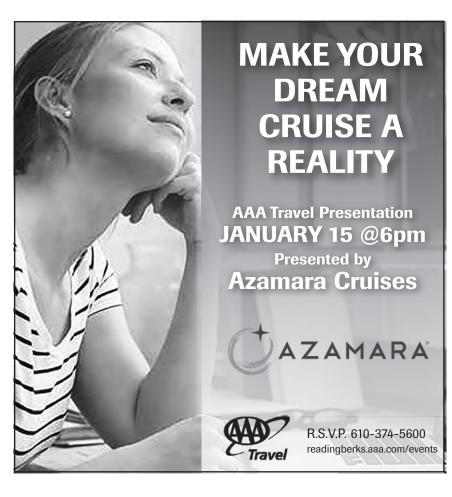
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Destinations & Diversions

Ice Harvesting Demonstration at Historic Dreibelbis Farm

Ice was the most valuable mid-winter "crop" produced on a Pennsylvania German farm. Harvested from frozen ponds or waterways and carefully stored in thick-walled ice houses, the ice would last into the summer months. Having ice on hand helped to preserve foods and keep milk from spoiling in warm weather.

In past centuries at the Dreibelbis Farm, the residents and farm workers would carve blocks of ice from the farm grounds and nature trail will be open to the public.

The event will be held rain or shine, with only blizzard conditions or pouring rain cancelling. If thin ice prevents walking on the pond, a demonstration of tools and techniques will still be held. Attendees are encouraged to dress for the weather and be prepared to walk on an unpaved farm lane that may be icy or muddy.

The Historic Dreibelbis Farm is



frozen ice pond located near the Maiden Creek and haul them to the property's ice house near the farm's creamery.

On Saturday, February 1, 2025, the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society will host a free public presentation of Pennsylvania German ice harvesting. The demonstration will include an exhibition of antique ice harvesting tools and (weather permitting) cutting and harvesting techniques used to retrieve ice blocks from the ice pond.

Farm workers will explain how ice was hauled to and loaded in the ice house. The first presentation will begin at 1:45pm, with a second presentation at 2:30. Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides will be offered for a small fee. A bonfire, homemade soup, and hot chocolate will be available and the located on Route 143 south of the village of Virginville. GPS Address: 356 Hard Hill Road, Hamburg, PA. Parking will be available behind the Virginville Grange. The Ice

Harvesting

Demonstration is the first of several events to be hosted in 2025 by the DFHS, to fulfill its mission to preserve and protect the historic Dreibelbis farm and to make it available to the public for educational, historical, and environmental purposes. Other events, such as wood duck/screech owl nest box walk,

the annual Wetlands and Wildflowers Walk, a Spring Peeper Walk, and the annual Historic Farm Festival will be held in coming months.

The Dreibelbis farm in Virginville, PA was founded in 1778 by Jacob B. Dreibelbis, son of the original family immigrant, John Jacob Dreibelbis. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the second oldest continuously owned family farm in Berks County.

The farmland surrounding the Dreibelbis homestead in Virginville, PA was first deeded to George Boone (Daniel Boone's grandfather) by the sons of William Penn. Boone then sold the property to George Merkel in 1750. Merkel, a close friend of John Jacob Dreibelbis, became a ward for John Jacob's children after he died in 1761. When John Jacob's son, Jacob B. Dreibelbis, came of age in 1778, he bought the property from Merkel. Jacob B. constructed a 2-story log cabin that stood on the property until 1868, when Joel H. Dreibelbis built the house that still stands today.

The farm currently comprises 180+ acres. Although this is substantial, it is only a fraction of the acreage of the original land grant that the Dreibelbis ancestors owned.

For more information visit www.Dreibelbisfarm.org, "Historic Dreibelbis Farm" on Facebook or contact Mark or Janine Dreibelbis at 610-451-1193.



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Traveling can be a rejuvenating experience at any age, and with the right tour company, travel for seniors becomes even more enjoyable.

AAA Travel is proud to partner with the elite tour operators mentioned below. All provide diverse, stress-free, tailored travel experiences to some of the most remarkable places in the world.

Tauck

Best for: Premium river cruises **Key features:** Premium accommodations, expert tour guides and award-winning itineraries

Popular tour packages: Danube River, Rhine and Moselle River Cruise and the Rhine Family River Cruise

Specializing in luxurious river cruises, Tauck is ideal for seniors seeking a memorable journey. What sets Tauck apart is its commitment to personalized service and extraordinary experiences.

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Brendan Vacations

Best for: Authentic Celtic experiences

Key features: Local expertise, iconic destinations, personalized itineraries and sustainable travel

Popular tour packages: Best of Ireland and Scotland, Enchanting Ireland and Scenic Scotland

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New Year, New Tourist Fee - Venice

Built on a group of islands in northeastern Italy, Venice is a popular draw for international tourists. Travelers throng to ride in flat-bottomed gondolas to admire the Renaissance and Gothic palaces that line the waterways. Familiar Venetian sites include the Piazza San Marco and the Byzantine mosaics and Campanile bell tower of St. Mark's Basilica.

New this year, the city of Venice has introduced an access tax for tourists who visit the Queen of the Adriatic during the 'high season' without staying overnight. The purpose of the tax is to better manage the flow of tourists so as to preserve Venice from the negative effects of overtourism.

The 2025 dates that the access tax will be levied are April 18th through the 30th and the weekends during May, June and July, plus certain public holidays during that fifty-four day period.

The price of the entry tax for 2025 has been set at five euros for travelers fourteen years of age and older as long as is it is paid before the fourth day before your arrival. The rate increases to ten euros after that and is payable on the web site cda.ve.it/en/. You'll want to save the payment-generated QR code on your phone to be presented in the event of a check.

Visitors to Venice can avoid the new tax simply by staying at least one night in a hotel, bed and breakfast, or apartment within the Venetian municipal territory, including Venice, Murano, Burano, Lido, Pellestrina, Favaro Veneto, Mestre-Carpenedo, Chirignago-Zelarino and Marghera, because the access tax is already included in the tourist tax.

Exempt from the access tax are residents of the city of Venice and their relatives up to the third degree of kinship, students enrolled at a school or university in Venice, owners of overnight accommodations in Venice - Italian or foreign - as well as anyone traveling for professional reasons. Children under fourteen years of age are also exempt from the tax.

Whether you are subject to paying the tax or exempt from it, tourists who plan to enter into or pass through Venice are obligated to register to obtain an exemption QR code. Visit https://cda.ve.it/en/ for more information.

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On The Road

Out with the Old (AEB), In with the New

AAA's latest research found that new (2024) model vehicles with automatic emergency braking (AEB) avoided 100% of forward collisions when tested at speeds up to 35 mph, in comparison to old (2017 -2018) model vehicles, which only avoided collisions 51% of the time.

AEB uses forward-facing cameras and other sensors to automatically tell the car to apply the brakes when a crash is imminent. Most new vehicles are equipped with AEB, but earlier this year, NHTSA issued a new Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard requiring automakers to include AEB in their vehicles by 2029.

"Since we began testing AEB in 2014, the advancements by automakers are commendable and promising in improving driver safety," said Greg Brannon, director of automotive engineering research. "There is still significant work ahead to ensure the systems work at higher speeds."

Over the last decade, AAA has evaluated various advanced driver assistance systems, including AEB, to determine if the technology performs as expected. While these systems continue to be refined with upgraded software and sensors, AAA wanted to see if AEB functionality has improved when compared to older versions.

Results

New model vehicles (2024) were nearly twice as likely to avoid a collision as older model vehicles (2017 – 2018) when tested at speeds up to 35 mph, which aligns with current safety standards requiring AEB to work up to this same speed.

Conclusion

Based on these results, the progression of AEB systems in vehicles demonstrates substantial improvement over time. The newest models were capable of avoiding potential collisions altogether at slower speeds. This improvement in AEB technology is a promising development that significantly reduces the risk of collisions on the road. As car manufacturers continue to enhance these systems, can the public expect even higher levels of safety and reliability? AAA will continue to monitor these developments as well as other changes to regulations.

Advice to Drivers

• The progression of these systems is improving and per-

forming as intended. Having these systems in your vehicle can help prevent collisions.

• Never rely solely on technology to apply the brakes. AEB systems are not a replacement for an attentive driver.

• Be aware of the limitations of an AEB system and stay engaged while driving. Maintain focus, even when driving vehicles equipped with advanced safety features.

• Engaging in risky driving behaviors such as speeding, texting, driving while drowsy or distracted, or driving under the influence of cannabis or alcohol significantly increases the risk of a collision. Remember to stay alert! Follow speed limits, keep your smartphone out of reach, and only drive when sober.

What happens at higher speeds?

According to data collected by the Federal Highway Administration, a majority of total miles driven in the U.S. occur at higher speeds (above 35 mph). AAA engineers added test scenarios to assess the limits of current AEB systems at higher speeds. Three out of four vehicles evaluated avoided a 45-mph collision. For those vehicles that avoided a collision at 45 mph, the test speed was increased to 55 mph. None of the remaining test vehicles avoided a collision at 55 mph.

Bottom Line

These findings highlight the importance of continued AEB improvements. A NHTSA rule released last year requires new vehicles to avoid a forward collision at speeds up to 62 mph by 2029.

Free Virtual Airport Cueing Service

According to many air travelers, one of the greatest causes of anxiety isn't fear of flying - it's the daunting line-up to board the aircraft.

Many seasoned fliers - and even infrequent air travelers - have taken advantage of the Transportation Security Administration's TSA PreCheck[®] service. Benefits of enrollment in TSA PreCheck include significantly less wait time to board - most participants wait less than 10 minutes! More than 200 U.S. airports and nearly 100 airlines utilize the TSA PreCheck program.

There is an alternative to the TSA PreCheck process, which includes submitting an application and then visiting a processing center where the applicant is fingerprinted, photographed, documented and charged a fee.

Introducing the Reserve powered by CLEAR program, a free virtual cueing service offered at select airports.

CLEAR is an innovative American tech company founded in 2010 that claims to offer "a variety of frictionless experiences to make traveling easier". Their mission statement is to "make the journey as joyful as the destination." The Reserve is certainly a step in that direction.

How It Works

On your smart device, enter your flight details, how many people are traveling with you, and when you plan to go through airport security.

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The Reserve powered by CLEAR is available at these North American airports: Calgary (YYC), Denver (DEN), Edmonton (YEG), Halifax

(YHZ), Los Angeles (LAX), Minneapolis (MSP), Montreal (YUL), New York (JFK), Orlando (MCO), Phoenix (PHX), Seattle (SEA), Toronto (YYZ) and Vancouver (YVR). The Reserve powered by CLEAR is also available at these European airports: Amsterdam (AMS), Frankfurt (FRA), London Luton (LTN) and Rome (FCO).

The Reserve powered by CLEAR is not available to TSA PreCheck or CLEAR+ passengers. You can learn more at clearme.com/reserve, including a helpful FAQ page.





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May 19-22, 2025 \$1,195*pp dbl occ

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The Outer Banks

August 17-25, 2025 \$2,450*pp dbl occ The Outer Banks of North Carolina were home to America's first colony, the Wrights' first flight, and the nation's first seashore. Highlights: Wright Brothers Memorial, Guided Lighthouses Tour,

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





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