

on the go

**Best Things to Do
in Rome**

**Horse-Drawn
Show Stoppers**



**March
April
2024**

PERIODICAL

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The Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles is well-known for its displays of historic gasoline, electric, and horse-drawn vehicles including carriages, wagons, and sleighs - all housed in the former main factory building of the Boyertown Auto Body Works. You'll want to check out their latest permanent exhibit, the original 1872 Jeremiah Sweinhart Carriage Factory, where vehicle manufacturing began in Boyertown. More on page 6.

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MARCH-APRIL 2024

Volume 102 Number 2

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



www.AAA.com

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President's Note

Peter J. Armstrong
President/CEO

“...use your vehicle’s high beams when the situation calls for it...”

Blinded by the Light

As sad as it is to admit, most of us have become used to dealing with distracted drivers, aggressive drivers, inconsiderate drivers and their ilk. AAA and many other traffic safety agencies continue our crusade to educate and engage the public about how to be safe roadway sharers. Much effort and significant resources continue to be dedicated to reducing injuries and death due to traffic crashes.

Despite year-round safe driving campaigns, we’ve now come to expect (and accept?) a dangerous annual “tradition” on the highways. Confused drivers surface during each holiday season - motorists who typically don’t travel far from home during most of the year and are thus unfamiliar with environmental and traffic changes, so they drive slower, go the wrong way, and commit other potentially catastrophic driving errors.

While those seasonally bad drivers can be explained away, what is going on with the rest of us during the balance of the year? Have motorists in general just given up on driving sensibilities? Are we just throwing our hands in the air in surrender?

There are driving errors that are easier dealt with by fellow motorists than others. For instance, if a driver in front of you neglects to signal their intention to make a turn, you can avoid a crash if you are alert and can make a change in your speed and position. If an aggressive driver follows too closely, you can handle it by slightly reducing your speed to encourage him to go around you where it is safe (remember not to make eye contact or drive home if followed - call 911 if necessary).

Here’s the issue I want to address - drivers who do not reduce their headlights from high beam to low beam for oncoming traffic.

It’s not something that we’ve never had to deal with before - I’m sure that you as a driver have had this happen personally. The troubling concern is that it is happening with more and more frequency. And

there isn’t much a driver can do when confronted with the blinding high beams of an oncoming car. Retaliating by bumping up your headlights may be what you want to do, but it is not the right thing to do. AAA suggests that you close one eye (assuming you have good vision in both eyes), focusing the open eye to the side of the road. After the danger passes, you now have one eye unaffected by the glare of the affronting driver’s high beams.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, drivers have a 50 percent greater chance of crashing after the sun goes down without having to deal with other drivers’ high beams. Combine that with Department of Transportation estimates that 85 percent of drivers misuse their high beams at some point and you have a recipe for disaster.

Not using high beams properly isn’t just an unsafe and disrespectful thing to do to fellow roadway users, it is also dangerous to the offending driver. Using high beams to drive in poor weather such as fog or rain makes the driving task more difficult because the light will be reflected off the water particles, making it harder to see oncoming traffic, pedestrians, etc (Tyndall Effect - look it up).

It can also cause the driver to misjudge distance to the front of the vehicle. This is because the same aspect that blinds drivers of oncoming vehicles - the higher aim of the high beam lights - is designed to better illuminate the roadway and sides of the road (revealing animals, cyclists, pedestrians, etc) farther than the low beam aim can. Using your high beams when rounding a corner or when cresting a hill can cause you to misjudge the distance to the front of your vehicle and cause delayed braking, intersection and turning crashes.

Certainly, use your vehicle’s high beams when the situation calls for it. But be aware and react appropriately when the situation calls for a change. I know I’ll appreciate it, and so will everyone else.

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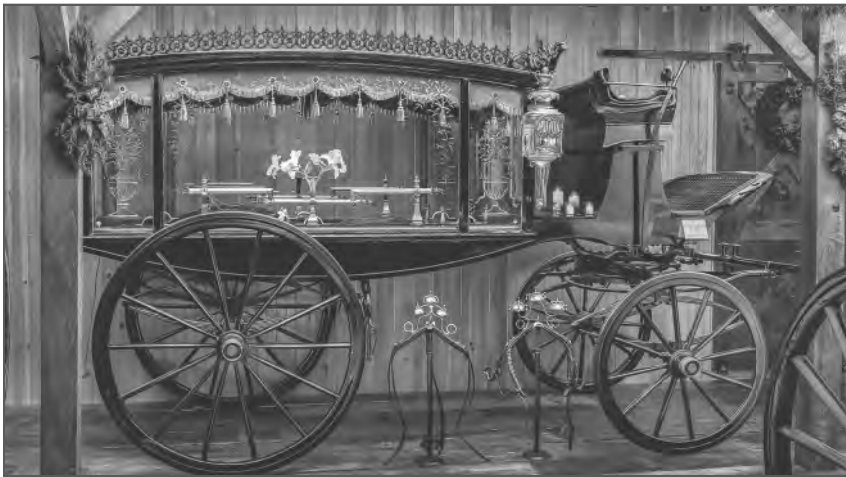
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horse-drawn show stoppers

Restored Carriage Factory Unveiled in Boyertown



The Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles has recently debuted a brand new permanent exhibit space—The Carriage Barn.

Attached to the 1872 Carriage Factory, which displays Boyertown-built carriages, a working blacksmith forge, and a functional belt-driven machine shop, the Carriage Barn features several showstopper vehicles in the Museum collection not built in Boyertown. Included is a restored huckster wagon built by the Hamburg Carriage Works, a predecessor of fire apparatus manufacturer Hahn Motors, and a pristine Wolfington Rockaway Carriage. Wolfington Body Company is still in business today in nearby Exton, Pennsylvania, specializing in school bus bodies. The Museum's restored English hearse, one of the most popular pieces with visitors, has also been moved out of the main gallery and into the Carriage Barn for permanent display.

Other Pennsylvania manufacturers featured in the Carriage Barn are John Yohn of Pottstown, Graves and Eighmy of Somerset County, and Daniel Wieand of Mauch Chunk (Jim Thorpe). Sleighs of different styles from these companies help illustrate the large variety of horse-powered transportation in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Finally, the Museum is pleased to feature some new acquisitions in the Carriage Barn, including some not built in Pennsylvania. Their rarity, however, makes them truly stand out and worthy of display. A unique Skeleton Break, used to train and exercise carriage horses, takes center stage in the Carriage Barn. Truly a 'workhorse' of a vehicle, not many skeleton brakes from the late 1800s have survived to present day because of their hard, continuous use.

Also new to the Museum's collection is a Hansom Cab, a distinguished front-entry taxi cab, an original condition scallop sleigh by the famous Brewster & Company, and a Bavarian State Coach built in 1856 for King Ludwig I and used by his fourth son, Prince Albert.

How did this piece of European royalty end up in the United States? Dieter Holterbosch, importer of Lowenbrau Beer, purchased it and other King Ludwig estate items and had it shipped to his home on Long Island in 1959. The carriage eventually ended up in the collection of the Smithsonian, which then graciously donated it to the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles.





The Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 1965 by Paul and Erminie Hafer. The Museum, located at 85 South Walnut Street in Boyertown, Pennsylvania, preserves and displays examples of Pennsylvania's road transportation history in the former factory buildings of the Boyertown Auto Body Works. Over ninety locally manufactured cars, trucks, carriages, bicycles, and motorcycles are on display, as well as two examples of roadside architecture - a 1921 cottage-style Sunoco gas station and a 1938 Jerry O'Mahony diner.

The Museum, including the Carriage Barn, is open

seven days a week, 9:30am-4pm. Contribution rates are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and AAA members, and ages 15 & under are free. For more information, call 610-367-2090 or visit www.boyertownmuseum.org.



Best Cruise Lines for Kids and Families

Parents know that traveling with kids can be more of a “trip” than a vacation — keeping all the kids entertained and fed is a full-time job. This list of top cruise lines for kids and families lays out the top options and makes finding an ideal vacation easier for everyone.

Adventures by Disney with Amawaterways

Destinations: Africa, Asia Pacific, Central and South America, Europe, North America

AAA Partnership: Yes

What makes it great: Adventures by Disney cruises travel to over 40 destinations with adventure guides to help you explore new places and immerse yourself in the culture, all with the magic you expect from Disney.

It may be surprising to hear that a European river cruise can be a family-friendly vacation, but Adventures by Disney is exactly that. The cruise line has exclusive family river cruises onboard AmaWaterways that make it not only possible, but fun!

Carnival Cruise Line

Destinations: Alaska, Asia, Australia, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada & New England, Caribbean, Europe, Great Barrier Reef, Greenland & Canada, Hawaii, Melbourne, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama Canal, Papua New Guinea, South Pacific, Tasmania, Transatlantic, Transpacific

AAA Partnership: No

What makes it great: Cheaper fares make family cruising budget-friendly. Plus, your kids will love the 24/7 pizza on most ships. Carnival Cruise Line is on our list of kid-friendly cruises for their youth programs, offered for kids ages 2 to 17. The cruise line is one of the best for teens.

Celebrity Cruises

Destinations: Alaska, Africa, Asia, Australia & New Zealand, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada & New England, Caribbean, Europe, Galapagos, Hawaii, Mediterranean, Mexico, Panama Canal, Pacific Coastal, South America, Transatlantic, Transpacific

AAA Partnership: Yes

What makes it great: Select ships partner with the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science to offer STEM programming for kids and teens so they can learn while they play. From family-friendly excursions to the Camp at Sea kids program, there's plenty of family fun on a Celebrity Cruise.

Disney Cruise Line

Destinations: Alaska, British Isles, Bahamas, Baja, Bermuda, Canada, Eastern Caribbean, Western Caribbean, Hawaii, Mediterranean, Mexican Riviera, New Zealand & Australia, Northern Europe, Norwegian Fjords, Pacific Coastal, Panama Canal, Southern Caribbean, South Pacific, Transatlantic

AAA Partnership: Yes

What makes it great: Experience the magic of Disney without the theme park lines — meet your favorite characters, see a firework show and enjoy phenomenal dining experiences. Everyone in the family is sure to find fun things to do aboard a Disney cruise. You can dance with Disney characters at family parties, take part in family game shows and watch fireworks on themed nights.

Norwegian Cruise Line

Destinations: Antarctica, Asia, Africa, Alaska, Australia & New Zealand, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada & New England, Caribbean, Greek Isles, Hawaii, Mediterranean, Mexico, Northern Europe, Pacific Coastal, Panama Canal, South America, Transatlantic

AAA Partnership: No

What makes it great: Kids under 12 eat free at onboard specialty restaurants if they order from the kids' menu. Norwegian's “freestyle” approach to cruising makes cruising with kids as stress-free as possible. With no set dining times, assigned seating or dress codes, eat when the kids are hungry, not when the ship's schedule tells you to.

Choosing a cruise line can be tricky, especially for first-timers looking for a family trip. AAA Travel has been booking with our cruise partners for decades, and we know what to look for in the best cruise lines for families.

Aging Parent Resource Forum – Monday, March 25 4-7pm

A Resource for Adult Children Supporting Aging Parents

AAA Reading-Berks is happy to once again host this “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, care alternatives, assistive services and connections to people and programs that can serve them and their loved ones. No appointment required. This event will be on the lower level of the **AAA office at 920 Van Reed Rd, Wyomissing** (use side entrance).



Subaru Issue Follow-Up

Dear Ask Ed.

I am replying to "Battery Issue" column from the Jan/Feb 2024 issue of On the Go.

I am the owner of 2016 Subaru Outback that I bought new from our local Subaru dealership. I went through 4 batteries in the span of a few months. I was fortunate that AutoPro in Shillington stayed with me through this nightmare.

When there was nothing more they could do they recommended I take the car to the Subaru dealership. There, they found that the DCM unit had gone bad; so they replaced it and assured me that the battery would no longer give me the trouble it was giving me.

That solved the problem for a few months. However, last month the car would not start. The battery was entirely drained. Auto Pro took my car to run some diagnostic tests. They looked online to try to figure out if others were having the problem.

They found that Subaru FINALLY admitted the problem. Their recommendation was to replace the battery with a higher voltage battery. That is what Auto Pro did. I now have my car back and I start it everyday for about 10 minutes just to make sure, even though I should not have to do that. Other car owners do not. Their cars sit out in all kinds of weather. My car is garage kept.

The bottom line is that this is a problem that affected more than just a handful of people. It is affecting 10s of thousands of Subaru owners. The fact that Subaru only now has admitted there is a problem and provided a part number for the exchange of the battery is very sad. How many of us have had to purchase battery after battery and pay for any other service done to the car and Subaru knew this was an issue. I am fortunate to have Auto Pro take care of me whenever I need them. God blessed me with Alex the owner!!

Well, I thought I'd share this little bit of information and hope it helps you to solve someone else's problem with the Subaru.

Dr. T.

Dear Dr. T.,

Last year there were many Subarus sitting and waiting for the backordered battery sensor. Once the problem was known the parts flew off the shelf and demand exceeded supply.

I'm sorry to learn that you had to go through the ordeal of replacing multiple batteries as a temporary repair.



In case you didn't see the part in question, it looks like this.



I'm happy to know your car is now fixed correctly.
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.

5 Ways Trip Insurance = Peace of Mind

As a AAA member, you understand the importance of being prepared for the unexpected. That's why AAA offers travel insurance to help you secure your investments, belongings and yourself with plans that feature exclusive AAA benefits. That means whatever your vacation looks like, you can make the most of it with greater reassurance. Read on for five ways that travel insurance can secure peace of mind the next time you travel.

Worry less about nonrefundable trip investments

For some of us, the term "nonrefundable" can cause hesitation or concern. The "what-ifs" that have the potential to derail our plans can seem infinite. What if something like a hurricane causes a change in plans? Or what if there's a family emergency back home while you're away?

Luckily, putting your concerns to rest over many of these hypotheticals can be simple. Travel insurance plans offered by AAA offer a broad range of covered reasons for trip cancellation and interruption to reimburse your prepaid, nonrefundable vacation expenses, so you can spend your vacation (and the weeks leading up to it), with your mind at ease.

Know you're protected with emergency benefits

Plenty of travelers often forget that U.S. government medical plans and many personal health insurance plans don't work outside their country. The U.S. State Department even cautions you in your passport to look into this before leaving the country. A trip protection plan provides important coverage benefits for emergency medical/dental and emergency medical transportation, plus services to help ensure you get the care you need away from home.

Benefits can help make unexpected travel delays easier

If, for example, inclement weather keeps your flight from boarding on time, then it could be even more disappointing to have to pay extra for meals, lodging and transportation that were never part of your plans.

Relax knowing you have 24/7 access to professional, multilingual assistance

Whenever an issue arises away from home, it can be all the more challenging to work through it if you're not completely familiar with local emergency facilities and

other nearby services.

Let's say you lose your passport. One call to your assistance team can help you reach local authorities and the nearest U.S. government office, so you can report the loss and replace your passport as quickly as possible. If you have a medical emergency while traveling, access to these services can help save you or your travel companions critical minutes by locating your nearest appropriate facility and making any necessary transportation arrangements to get there.

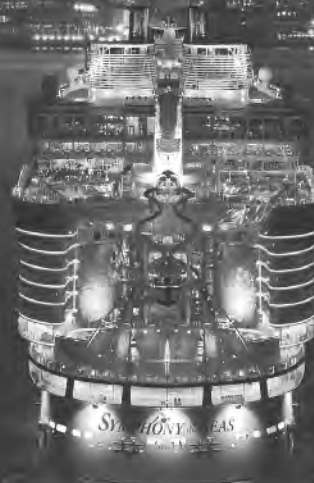
Epidemic-related covered reasons are now included

Now you can worry less about what would happen if you came down with COVID-19 before or during your trip. For example, depending on your plan, benefits for trip cancellation, trip interruption or emergency medical care and transportation could apply if you become ill. Ask your travel advisor and be sure to read your plan details for more information.



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best things to do in rome



Rome, Italy, is one of the biggest magnets for tourists worldwide due to its historical sites, magnificent ruins and delicious cuisine. Known for its breathtaking landmarks, such as the Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum and the Trevi Fountain, there's something for everyone to enjoy during their vacation to Rome. We've curated a list of the top best things to do in Rome that every visitor should put in their travel itinerary.

Hike Through the Villa Borghese Gardens

Reservations required: Yes

Time needed: 2 hours

Part of the Villa Borghese complex, the gardens offer an incredible respite from busy Roman streets. The garden, open from dawn to dusk, covers nearly 200 acres and includes the Borghese and Pietro Canonica art museums, cafes and restaurants. Another point of interest within the Villa Borghese Gardens is the Casino della Meridiana (Meridiana Pavilion), recognizable from its marble and stucco adornments.

Explore the Galleria Borghese

Reservations required: Yes

Time needed: 2 hours

Part of the Villa Borghese, the Galleria Borghese is an art museum that houses numerous exquisite paintings, sculptures and antiques. The structure was constructed in the 17th century and is in the northern part of the inner city. It is an attractive building with a lovely façade decorated with stone statues.

Within the museum are 20 different rooms that feature works by Raphael, Caravaggio, Rubens and Titian, among others. Give yourself ample time to see this impressive masterpiece and the magnificent Villa Borghese Gardens.

Stroll Through the Roman Forum

Reservations required: No, but recommended

Time needed: 2-3 hours

The Roman Forum is an ancient site that once served as the center of Roman public and political life. There were several temples, squares and archways, many of which still



Palatine Hill

stand today, including the Temple of Saturn, the Temple of Vesta, the Arch of Septimus Severus and the Arch of Titus.

The Roman Forum is situated close to the Colosseum and the Altar of the Fatherlands and is practically a required stop for first-time visitors to Rome. Tip: Plan to visit the Roman Forum, the Colosseum and Palatine Hill on the same day. They are close together, and tours typically include all three.

Tour the Colosseum

Reservations required: No, but recommended

Time needed: 2-3 hours

The Colosseum, one of the most recognizable landmarks in Rome, is a historically significant structure from ancient Rome. The amphitheater was constructed between A.D. 70 and 80 and could hold 50,000 spectators. Emperors staged gladiator competitions, chariot races and, surprisingly, mock naval battles. The Colosseum is easily accessible from the Colosseo metro stop, about a 5-minute walk.

Walk to the Palatine Hill

Reservations required: Yes

Time needed: 3 hours

Palatine Hill is the location where, according to Roman legend, twins Romulus and Remus were found as infants by a shepherd and are said to have later built the city of Rome. Today, the hill reaches about 130 feet above the city, and the ruins include Domus Flavia (Flavian Palace) and the Temple of Cybele.

Note: Be sure to put on your walking shoes before climbing to the top of this ancient landmark.

View the Vittoriano (Altar of the Fatherland)

Reservations required: No, but recommended

Time needed: 1-2 hours

Another monumental building, located in the center of Rome, is Vittoriano, named for Victor Emmanuel II, the first king of unified Italy. Unlike many of the notable landmarks in Rome, this one is comparatively modern. Construction began in the late 19th century, and the monument opened to the public in 1911.

The memorial features a massive bronze statue of Emmanuel and several other stone sculptures. The façade has an elegant columnar pattern, and the museum within the center of the monument focuses on Italy's unification and its historical beginnings.

Vittoriano is located between the Pantheon and the Colosseum, about a 15-minute walk to either.

Tour the Quirinal Palace

Reservations required: Yes

Time needed: 1-2 hours

The stately building and complex is an official residence of the Italian president and is located on Quirinal Hill. The 270-acre complex is a massive palace with 1,200 rooms. The rooms are richly furnished, and courtyards and staircases add to the opulence.

During a tour, you can see numerous exhibits detailing the palace's history and uses. The Quirinal Gardens have several flowers and fountains, trees, hedges and works of art that seem to be tucked away in every spot of the garden.

Explore the Piazza Navona

Reservations required: No

Time needed: 1-2 hours

Built on the ruins of the Stadium of Domitian, the Piazza Navona dates back to the 15th century and remains one of the more popular sights in Rome. Generally, artists and vendors fill the piazza, and the surrounding buildings frame the open space perfectly.

Notable parts of the square are The Fontana del Moro (Moor Fountain), Fontana del Nettuno (Neptune Fountain), the Palazzo Braschi, Palazzo Pamphilj and the Church of Sant'Agnese in Agone.

Eat at Trastevere

Reservations required: Depending on the restaurant

Time needed: 2-3 hours

Once a walled city in the Middle Ages, Trastevere features narrow cobblestone streets, which wind between buildings of this neighborhood. Some consider Trastevere one of the few places to experience authentic Roman life, even though the neighborhood has grown in popularity with tourists for the last several years.

While strolling through the neighborhood, you can see ivy growing on the buildings and feel enmeshed in the culture. Grab a drink or a bite to eat at any of the many cafes and pubs. If you want to go bar hopping while in Rome, Trastevere is a popular nightlife spot.

Visit the Pantheon

Reservations required: Yes

Time needed: 1 hour

The Pantheon, one of the best-preserved historic Roman buildings, is an iconic attraction in Rome. Roman statesman and architect Marcus Agrippa ordered the construction of the building in 27 B.C., and the Pantheon was rebuilt under the rule of the emperor Hadrian between A.D. 118 and 128.

The entrance to the round building is a rectangular porch adorned with large columns and a triangular pediment inscribed with Agrippa's name. Besides the magnificent dome, statues and marble walls decorate the interior, and it appears much as it did in the time of Hadrian.

Note: The Pantheon is also the Basilica di Santa Maria ad Matyres. It is free to enter, but reservations are required on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

Visit the Capitoline Museums

Reservations required: No, but recommended

Time needed: 2 hours

The Capitoline Museums, located on top of the Capitoline Hill, are another opportunity to learn more about Roman heritage and beautiful art. Established in 1471 by Pope Sixtus IV and opened to the public in 1734, the Capitoline Museums are one of the oldest public museums you can visit. View magnificent sculptures, paintings and ancient Roman objects among the museum's exhibits. You can also enjoy a beautiful view of the city from the museum's terrace.

Shop at Campo de' Fiori

Reservations required: No

Time needed: 2-3 hours

Campo de' Fiori, translating to "Field of Flowers," is another market square that's popular amongst visitors and residents. Enjoy one of the city's largest outdoor food markets, where you can enjoy fresh produce and beautiful flowers—hence the name. During the evening, enjoy a meal or drinks at one of the area's restaurants and cafes while fully immersing yourself in the quintessential Roman neighborhood.





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Annual Meeting

To AAA Reading-Berks members: In accordance with the Bylaws of AAA Reading-Berks, you are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Club will be held at 4:30PM on Thursday, April 18, 2024 in the downstairs meeting room at AAA Reading-Berks, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing.

Notice of nominations for Club Directors - in compliance with Article IV, Section 7 of the Club

Bylaws, a committee has placed in nomination the following members as Directors for a three year term: Michael D. Axman, Michael J. Gombar, Jr., Esq., Carl J. Seidl, and James Wood.

Note: Any 1% of the membership in good standing may also make nominations, providing such nominations are received by the secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the annual meeting.



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Destinations & Diversions

article saved in favorites
at csp.aaa.com for may
june issue

Planning Your First Family Camping Trip - Part 1

Road trips and outdoor destinations are a natural fit if you're looking for a vacation that allows family bonding or social distancing. Camping is a fun, budget-friendly way to enjoy a get-away in the great outdoors. However, it does take some planning and preparation. If you've never tried camping before, these tips will help make your first time a success.



Camping covers a broad spectrum of experiences, from primitive camping with a small personal tent to parking a luxury RV in a campground with its own restaurant and swimming pool. If you're new to camping, tent camping in a campground is a great way to get started, as it doesn't require a large investment and your family can enjoy fun camping activities such as roasting marshmallows and sleeping in a tent while still having access to restrooms, showers and other amenities. Some campgrounds even offer extra features and activities for kids, such as the ones chosen by AAA inspectors as their top picks for "Coolest Campgrounds for Families¹." If pitching your own tent

sounds intimidating, consider renting an RV or a safari tent at a "glamping" property, which will allow you to try out an outdoorsy vacation without having to invest in camping gear.

Where Should I Go Camping?

While it's tempting to set your sights on a spectacular, nationally known park or wilderness area, for your first camping trip it's a good idea to find a campground closer to home, or at least one within easy driving distance of a city. That way, you can easily head into town if you realize you forgot to pack something you need, an unexpectedly severe storm makes tent camping uncomfortable, there's an emergency, or you (or one of the kids) suddenly decide camping is not your cup of tea.

It's easy to find nearby national forests and parks with the National Parks search feature in AAA's TripTik® Travel Planner². Enter a state in the search box and select a national public land from the drop-down menu. You'll be taken to a map of the area that shows features of the park, scenic drives and nearby attractions. Click on the camping icon in the toolbar to see AAA Approved campgrounds in the area.

You can also search for pre-planned, scenic Road Trips in TripTik Travel Planner or at AAA.com/RoadTrips, then locate campgrounds and attractions along the route.

Be sure to involve the kids. Involving the entire family in planning your camping adventure ensures a personalized experience that caters to everyone's comfort level and interests. Prompting them to think about enjoyable activities such as swimming, hiking, canoe riding, or even making s'mores can heighten their excitement

for the trip. Remember, the meaning of camping varies for different people, so thinking about the possibilities will get them excited about the trip.

Once you've decided on a destination and chosen your desired campground, reserve a campsite as soon as possible, especially if you're traveling during the busy summer months. Consider campsite preferences when making your reservation, such as location of the campsite—do you need to be near restrooms? Close to or away from a shoreline or swimming pool? If the campsite allows both tents and RVs, find out if there are areas designated for tent campers only so there's less chance of being disturbed by an RV generator running at night.



Camping is a natural fit for a get-away in the great outdoors, but takes planning and preparation to ensure a safe and fun trip. See the May/June issue of *On The Go* for tips on what to pack, what to bring to eat, how to stay safe outdoors and more tips for a fun, safe camping trip.

¹<https://www.aaa.com/tripcanvas/article/coolest-campgrounds-for-families-CM163>

² triptik.aaa.com

Budget Friendly Orlando

"Budget" and "Orlando" are terms that can make sense together if you plan ahead when you visit Orlando. Consider experiencing a few affordable theme park offerings and then heading to local attractions that are both easy on your wallet and fun things to do. Here's a few to get you started.

The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, Winter Park, Florida

If you want a word-class experience at a good price, you can find one in nearby Winter Park. The museum features a sizable collection from Louis Comfort Tiffany as well as works from other well-known artists and sculptors. Highlights include the colorful reconstructed chapel and daffodil-detailed columns moved from Laurelton Hall, Tiffany's onetime estate in Long Island, New York.

Disney Springs, Lake Buena Vista, Florida

Though there's plenty you could spend money on here, you'll want to enjoy the ambience and only browse if you want to conserve cash. With numerous stores and restaurants in four "neighborhoods," this entertainment hub remains a fun place to go. In The Ganachery, you might even receive a free sample of chocolate.

Lake Eola Park, Orlando, Florida

Locals love the City Beautiful's downtown park. It's the place to play with your dog, hang out with friends or take a break. In addition to the large fountain, sculptures dot the park and add interest. Check out the Walt Disney Theater, where the rainbow-colored Walt Disney Amphitheater hosts occasional events.

The Mennello Museum of American Art, Orlando, Florida

On a pleasant day, you'll want to lounge on an Adirondack chair by the cultural institution's sculpture garden. Though there are many attractions within Orlando Loch Haven Park, you'll want to save money by hanging out by the sculptures and visiting another interesting landmark, the Mayor, a large oak tree out front that's thought to be one of the oldest in Central Florida.

Universal's Cabana Bay Beach Resort, Orlando, Florida

If you must stay on-site at an Orlando theme park, check out one of Universal's more moderately priced Orlando resorts. The fun retro décor is as much a draw as the activities, which are considerable. You can exercise in the Jack LaLanne-themed fitness center, float down the lazy river or play a game in the upstairs bowling alley (for a small fee). There's also a shuttle to Universal CityWalk™, where you can shop, dine or enjoy nightlife if you choose.



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Real Heroes of the Road

Small Acts of Kindness to Help Heal a Community

Jeanette Kingsbury and her team at Action Wrecker Service, Inc. in Midland, TX had been the dedicated towing provider for the local police department for some time. This typically meant helping clear crash scenes, towing abandoned vehicles and other similar activities. But, one tragic and unforgettable day, a mass shooting occurred in the region, where a single gunman targeted innocent drivers on Midland's highways. For their actions to assist in this instance, Action Wrecker Services is a AAA Real Hero of the Road.

On this tragic day, it was their job to tow the vehicles of the shooting victims from the scene. Jeanette says she was in awe of her drivers and her office staff, who are always professional and courteous, but on this day, they went above and beyond. Since they had these vehicles in their possession, they had to



notify the families of the victims that they had their vehicle. She said her staff handled each outreach with tremendous care and compassion.

One family in particular stood out who wanted to keep their loved one's truck since it was his prized possession. In the aftermath of what had happened, it held great senti-

mental value and they felt it would give them closure to have it. Jeanette knew the family could not see the truck in its current shape so they made sure it was clean before returning it to them.

Jeanette and her staff were deeply affected by the tragedy and also wanted to help an officer who had been wounded in the standoff. Her staff, along with the owner and general manager, worked tirelessly for weeks to refurbish a vintage vehicle to present to the officer.

When Jeanette thinks back to those days and weeks following the shooting, she says, "I have never known a group of people that are as kind, generous, caring and professional as the people I am privileged to call my Action Wrecker family. I pray every family affected that day is in a place of healing and grace and that they know we are always here if you need us."

Heading Home for the Holidays

A young woman headed to surprise her family for Christmas ended up stranded with a flat tire. It was late and as Dennis Lee Richards of Riverside Auto & Towing, Longbottom, OH, arrived on scene, he could see the member was quite scared and upset. Since she did not have a spare tire, he knew he would have to tow her car to his shop.

Before loading up her vehicle, Dennis called his wife and they both agreed he would bring her to their home so she had a place to wait while he repaired her tire.

Once Dennis got her car to his shop and had a chance to get a better look, he realized the tire could not be fixed. Usually he doesn't keep tires in stock but it just so happened he had two tires on hand that fit her car. After changing both front tires,

Dennis went to his home where she was waiting and offered the new tires as a Christmas present. He only asked that she first call her parents and let them know she was traveling.



Before the young woman left, Dennis's wife packed up some snacks for the road and told her where she could stop along her route to rest safely. As she turned to leave, Dennis saw that she had tears in her eyes. When telling this story, Dennis says, "I know we gave her tires but it seems like her visit was a gift to us that night. She told my wife the reason she called us was because her grandmother had told her that if she was ever stranded to always call AAA because she would find people she could trust."

Jeanette and her staff are Real Heroes of the Road to the families and their community that suffered such a horrific day. Dennis was a Real Hero of the Road to that young woman who was just trying to get home to her family for the holidays.

When you're driving along the highway and see Jeanette or Dennis or someone else working at the roadside, think of these stories and what their selflessness meant to those drivers. And when you do, please slow down and move over so they can do their job safely. We need service providers like Jeanette and Dennis and so do our members; but most of all, so do their families. Help us keep them safe.

Flying With Children

Looking forward the next family vacation but dreading the air travel to get there? Keeping even the calmest child entertained in a small space for hours at a time can be daunting. Here are some tips from AAA and the FAA on how to keep your kids happy and safe from ticket counter to touchdown.

Turn practice into play.

Kids need a sense of safety. Talking to your kids ahead of time about what will happen at the airport and on the plane is helpful. You might even act out the adventure by setting up some furniture to resemble a TSA checkpoint and play-act the process. Let them know what they will or will not be allowed to do on the plane/in the airport so they understand what is expected of them.

Consider buying infants and toddlers their own seat.

Most major domestic airlines allow kids under the age of two years to fly for free as a lap child. Seriously though, how many of you who are parents of a child old enough to crawl or walk can imagine trying to keep that child on your lap the whole trip? Children may be less restless in an FAA-approved seat designed specifically for their bodies (look for the FAA-approved label on your

car seat). You can find great tips about using child safety seats on aircraft - including how to install them - at faa.gov/travelers/fly_children.

Give yourself an extra hour.

Get to the airport early to allow for extra time to get through security with your stroller, carrier and any baby food. All liquids need to be removed from your bag during screening. Find out what baby items are allowed in aircraft at tsa.gov/travel/tsa-cares/traveling-children. If there's still time, allow your toddler to blow off excited energy before boarding.

Divide and conquer.

If traveling with another adult, one of you can board early to stow away all of your extra gear while the other gets some final wiggles out of your little one.

Have a plan for tantrums.

This starts with a well-rested, well-fed toddler. Tantrum flare while in the air? Try distracting/redirecting your child with snacks, activity books, or quiet toys. In worst-case tantrum scenarios it is still important to obey flight safety rules like keeping the seat belt on/staying secured in the child safety seat. Safety is never negotiable.



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High Cost of ADAS Repair Following a Crash

A recent study by AAA found that advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), like automatic emergency braking, blind spot monitoring, and lane departure warning, can add up to 37.6% to the total repair cost after a crash. This is due to the high cost of replacing and calibrating the sensors that operate these systems.

Even minor damage to systems such as front radar or distance sensors can result in additional repair expenses of up to \$1,540. AAA advises consumers to 1) be aware of the repair costs associated with these vehicle systems and 2) prioritize repairing them when necessary to ensure they work as intended.

“Vehicles equipped with more sophisticated safety systems are much more common now, especially since NHTSA proposed its rule requiring automatic emergency braking last year,” said Greg Brannon, AAA’s director of automotive engineering. “Consumers should know about the repair costs associated with these technologies. But they must also understand the importance of fixing them since improperly functioning systems could result in a deadly crash.”

Many variables can affect the cost of repairing ADAS, including vehicle make and model, the type and location of the sensor and the type of facility where the repair work is performed. Consumers may not realize it, but the sensors that help ADAS “see” the world around the vehicle are located at the front, side and back. AAA looked at four repair scenarios (front-end collision, side mirror replacement, rear collision and windshield replacement) to

understand the costs of repairing these sensors.

The highest repair cost for ADAS components is attributed to radar sensors and cameras damaged in a front-end collision. However, the replacement of a side mirror represented the largest proportion of repair costs of the three scenarios.

For the three vehicles (model year 2023) evaluated in this report, AAA found that:

- The average cost of replacing ADAS components in a minor front collision repair was \$1,540, or 13.2% of the average total repair.
- An average of 70.8% of the repair cost (\$1,067) was attributable to the ADAS camera included in the side mirror assembly.
- The average cost of replacing ADAS components in a minor rear collision repair was \$684, or 40.9% of the average total repair estimate of \$1,698.
- The cost of windshield glass replacement attributable to ADAS components averaged 25.4% (\$360.00) of the total repair cost.

Individual ADAS component costs (part and specific labor/calibration) over the four repair scenarios range from a low of \$290 to a high of \$1,596. AAA’s research determined the ranges listed below for typical ADAS repair expenses. Note that these numbers are for costs over and above the normal bodywork required following a collision.

- Front radar sensors used with automatic emergency braking and adaptive cruise control systems: \$500 to \$1,300.
- Front camera sensors used with automatic emergency braking, adap-

tive cruise control, lane departure warning and lane keeping assistance (does not include the cost of a replacement windshield): \$600 - \$800.

- Mirror mount, side mirror used with around-view systems: \$740 - \$1,600.

- Windshield camera sensor used with lane keeping assistance, traffic sign recognition and pedestrian detection: \$900 - \$1,200.

- Front or rear ultrasonic sensors used with parking assist systems: \$300 - \$1,000.

A driver is alerted by a warning light or icon on the instrument panel and/or a message display if an ADAS component is failing and causing the system to be inoperable. Once this occurs, it’s crucial for drivers to take their vehicle to a reputable repair facility for repair.

For proper ADAS repair, it’s vital to determine the location where the work is performed (dealership or independent) and that it be done competently, to the highest quality and accurately. Finding a reputable repair shop with professionally trained technicians to evaluate cost, quality, and standards guarantees a smoother repair experience. Look for the AAA Approved Auto Repair sign, as shops that display this logo have met AAA’s high-quality standards.

You can find the full report, including methodology, previous work, specific vehicle makes/models, four common repair scenarios, testing equipment and labor rate information at newsroom.aaa.com.

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Springtime in Bryn Athyn - Castle, Cathedral, Gardens and Wine

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

\$239* per person

Reminiscent of a French chateau, Cairnwood Estate's distinguished architecture, flowering gardens, and expansive lawns are a magnificent sight to see. Located in Montgomery County, in picturesque Bryn Athyn, PA stand three distinct National Historic Landmarks: Cairnwood Estate, Glencairn Museum and Bryn Athyn Cathedral. Includes lunch in the Garden House and wine and cheese tasting at Stone Barn Cellars.

AZ Diamondbacks vs Phillies at Citizens Bank Park

June 23, 2024 \$179* pp

Roundtrip motorcoach transportation, Game Ticket: Terrace Deck Section 419 (under overhang for shade/rain protection). Enjoy America's National Pastime in the park that was honored with the title of Best Ballpark Eats by Food Network and is one of the most kid-friendly ballparks in the country. Enjoy your day at this 43,500 seat stadium with lush natural grass and a view of of the Philadelphia skyline. Kick back as the Phillies take on the Diamondbacks!



River Lady Lunch Cruise, Tom's River NJ

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

\$269* adult, \$249* child (up to 11)

Take in the ambiance of this 150 passenger, 85' authentic reproduction of a Mississippi paddle wheel riverboat. Includes three hour lunch cruise and tour of historic Smithville Village.



Circle Lake Erie Experience

August 11-18, 2024

\$3,269* pp dbl occ

Pelee Island Ferry, Port Stanley Train, Canadian Cold War Submarine, Blazing Fiddlers Show, Grand River Lunch Cruise, Buffalo NY Tour, Lockport Locks & Erie Canal Cruise, Frank Lloyd Wright's Graycliff, Dunkirk Historical Lighthouse & Veterans Park Museum, Bicentennial Tower, Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Presque Isle State Park and Presque Isle Lighthouse. Meals included: 7 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 6 Dinners

Historic Haunted Cape May

Oct 23-24, 2024 \$829* pp dbl occ

Willow Creek Winery, Narrated Trolley Tour of Cape May, Emlen Physick Estate, Cape May Whale Watcher Whale & Dolphin Cruise. Meals included: 1 Breakfast, 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner

*Rates are pp based on a minimum number of passengers. Subject to availability at time of booking and includes taxes, fees and fuel surcharges which are subject to change. These getaways are arranged in connection with AAA Central Penn.



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Gettysburg Battlefield Tour

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Battery Park, NYC

Saturday, June 8, 2024 \$73* pp
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lawns, an urban farm and the SeaGlass carousel
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*Full payment due upon confirmation of reservation.

When the Witches Were in Salem

Sunday-Wednesday, October 21-24, 2024
\$1,195*pp dbl occ

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Happenings Harbor Cruise, Ghostly Night Tour,
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Innocent: People vs Bridget Bishop Trial, Gallows
Hill Ghost Hunt.

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 - Three Breakfasts & Three Dinners
 - All Taxes and Tips on above services
 - Luggage Handling (as available)
 - Motorcoach Transportation & Driver's Gratuity
- *\$200 pp deposit due with reservation. Final payment due by August 15, 2024



New Jersey Festival of Ballooning

Saturday, July 27, 2024

\$125 Per Adult • \$100 Per Child (Age 2-12)

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- Night Glow
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August 3-14, 2024 \$6,421 pp*

Lima, The Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Historical Cusco, Lake Region, Floating Islands of Lake Titicaca, Puno. Includes 11 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 7 dinners, luxury coach and included train travel on tour, personal headsets for local expert commentary, seamless baggage handling at every hotel, hotel & restaurant tips included, coach and hotel WiFi (where available), complimentary private airport transfers at start and end of tour.

*Rate is per person, land only, based on dbl occ. Airfare additional. Subject to change until departure. Contact AAA Travel 610-374-5600.

Premium Kenya

Club Adventures

September 14-20, 2024 \$4,799 pp dbl occ*

Soak in the spectacle of Kenya's vast plains and wild grasslands on a seven-day Premium adventure. Get among the massive herds and their predators from the comfort of four-wheel driver Landcruisers, with an expert local leader at the helm. From Nairobi, travel to the waters of lakes Naivasha and Nakuru, then take in quintessential Africa in the Masai Mara, filled with spectacular landscapes and rich wildlife. Meet Maasai warriors and learn about their way of life during a visit to a traditional village. With cultural experiences and magnificent wildlife right on your doorstep, it's easy to fall in love with this enchanting corner of the world.

*Rate is per person, based on dbl occ and is current at the date of print. Air transportation, optional tours, gratuities for tour guides and items of personal nature are excluded from price. Subject to change until departure. Contact AAA Travel 610-374-5600.

Old World Sicily & Malta

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November 3-14, 2024 from \$4,849 pp dbl occ*

Malta, Grand Harbour Cruise, Valletta, Impact Moment, Ferry to Sicily, Winery Tour, Ragusa-Ibla, Siracusa, Choice on Tour, Taormina's Greek Theatre, Mount Etna Off-Road Excursion.

*Rate is per person, based on dbl occ and includes round trip air from PHL, air taxes and fees/surcharges, and hotel transfers. Subject to change until departure. Contact AAA Travel 610-374-5600.

NEW! Utopia of the Seas Bahamas Cruise

Royal Caribbean International

November 4-8, 2024 \$752 pp*

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*Rate is per person, cruise only, based on dbl occ for 2D (Ocean View Balcony) Stateroom for this departure. Taxes, gov't fees additional. Subject to change until departure. Contact AAA Travel 610-374-5600.

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June 13-21, 2025 from \$5,120 pp*

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*Per person, dbl occ for AAR Private Balcony Stateroom for this departure. Airfare additional. Subject to change. Contact AAA Travel 610-374-5600.

Great Lakes Explorer

Viking Cruises *Viking Polaris*

May 26-June 2, 2025 \$6,370 pp*

Discover the maze of granite islands of Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve while hiking and kayaking through its tranquil beauty. Experience Victorian charm on Mackinac Island and venture into the boreal forests of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park on Lake Superior's northern shore. Explore coastal wetlands replete with birdlife and get acquainted with native cultures of the northern Great Lakes.

*Rate is pp, cruise only, dbl occ for Cat N2 Stateroom for this departure. Taxes, gov't fees addl. Subject to change. Contact AAA Travel 610-374-5600.



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purchases¹

5%

Gas & EV-charging stations
Wholesale clubs • Streaming
services • Pharmacy
AAA purchases¹

3%

All other purchases³

1%

\$0 Annual Fee
and 0% Foreign
Transaction Fees⁴

\$0



AAA TRAVEL ADVANTAGE VISA SIGNATURE® CREDIT CARD

Purchases earn cash back on:

5%

Gas & EV-charging
stations²

3%

Travel • Restaurants
AAA • Grocery store
purchases²

1%

All other purchases³

\$0

\$0 Annual Fee
and 0% Foreign
Transaction Fees⁴



From roadside assistance to planning dream vacations, the AAA advantage has always made life richer. Now, it can be even more rewarding every time you shop, gas up or travel with two new credit cards—AAA Daily Advantage or AAA Travel Advantage. Each card delivers exceptional value in everyday purchases, maximizing your cash back rewards. From grocery list to bucket list, experience the AAA advantage.

Earn a \$100 statement credit by spending \$1,000 within the first 90 days of account opening with purchases on your AAA Daily Advantage or AAA Travel Advantage card.⁵

MAXIMIZE YOUR CASH BACK AND APPLY TODAY AT AAA.COM/CREDITCARD.

¹Offer is exclusive to AAA Daily Advantage Visa Signature® Credit Card holders enrolled in the AAA Daily Advantage program. For offers associated with a specific category, earnings will only be awarded if the merchant code for the purchase matches a category eligible for the offer. Each merchant is assigned a code by a third party that indicates the merchant's area of business. Comenity Capital Bank does not have the ability to control assignment of merchant codes. Maximum of \$500 USD cash back earned in a calendar year at grocery stores, wholesale clubs and gas stations combined. After that, purchases will earn 1% cash back for the remainder of the calendar year. Excludes third-party insurance and offers, automobile extended warranties, and trip insurance. Cash back can be redeemed as statement credits, direct deposit, rewards and qualifying purchases at participating AAA locations. This rewards program is provided by Comenity Capital Bank and its terms may change at any time. For full Rewards Terms and Conditions, please see AAA.com/AdvantageDailyTerms. ²Offer is exclusive to AAA Travel Advantage Visa Signature® Credit Card holders enrolled in the AAA Travel Advantage program. For offers associated with a specific category, earnings will only be awarded if the merchant code for the purchase matches a category eligible for the offer. Each merchant is assigned a code by a third party that indicates the merchant's area of business. Comenity Capital Bank does not have the ability to control assignment of merchant codes. Maximum of \$350 USD in cash back in a calendar year on the 5% category, and earn 1% cash back on all net eligible purchases thereafter. Excludes third-party insurance and offers, automobile extended warranties, and trip insurance. Cash back can be redeemed as statement credits, direct deposit, rewards and qualifying purchases at participating AAA locations. This rewards program is provided by Comenity Capital Bank and its terms may change at any time. For full Rewards Terms and Conditions, please see AAA.com/AdvantageTravelTerms. ³Offer is exclusive to AAA Travel Advantage Visa Signature® Credit Card or AAA Daily Advantage Visa Signature® Credit Card holders enrolled in the AAA Travel Advantage or AAA Daily Advantage Rewards program. ⁴For new accounts, as of August 2023: Variable Purchase APR of 19.24% to 33.24% based on the Prime Rate. Balance Transfer APR of 26.99%. Variable Cash Advance APR of 34.24%, based on Prime Rate. Minimum Interest Charge is \$2. Balance Transfer Fee of the greater of \$10 or 5% of the transfer. Cash Advance Fee of the greater of \$10 or 5% of the advance. ⁵Valid one time only. Offer is exclusive to AAA Travel Advantage Visa Signature® Credit Card or AAA Daily Advantage Visa Signature® Credit Card holders enrolled in the AAA Travel Advantage or AAA Daily Advantage Rewards program. Maximum of \$100 statement credit per account.

Credit card offers are subject to credit approval.

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Holidays.

ALOHA DAYS

\$175 OFF PER
BOOKING
on Hawaii Vacations¹

HURRY — Must be booked by 04/30/2024
Valid for travel through 12/14/2024



AAA MEMBER BENEFIT: Members receive a \$50 per booking activity voucher valid toward a variety of select activities in Hawaii².

CALL YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL ADVISOR TODAY! 610-374-5600

¹Aloha Days Offer: Valid on new bookings made 03/01/2024 – 04/30/2024 for travel 03/01/2024 – 12/14/2024. Minimum 5 nights' hotel accommodation at participating resort and roundtrip airfare required. AAA Members receive \$175 discount per booking at time of booking. This entire offer is based on availability and can be modified or closed out at any time.

²AAA Member Benefit: Activity voucher does not apply to air/car only bookings.

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