

AAA Reading-Berks Member Publication

on the go

**Getting the Most
of Kissimmee**

**Best Time to
Book a Cruise**



**November
December
2025**

PERIODICAL

Latest AAA Road Rage Study

Family Roadtrip Safety Hub

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Finding the best time to book a cruise is an art rooted in predictable patterns. If you do your homework - or better yet book through a AAA Travel Agent - together you might snag a phenomenal deal. More on page 12.

On The Go

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President's Note

Peter J. Armstrong
President/CEO

“...a serious pattern of
e-bike-related injury
and death...”

E-menace

Police called the incident “a tragic accident”. The local news team reported that folks who lived in the area were astonished to find out two kids were so badly injured. “It’s very sad, it’s terrible to hear, I mean, you never want to hear a story like that,” said one local resident.

Days later, one of the juveniles succumbed to her injuries after she and her best friend, who were sharing a ride on an e-scooter, were struck by a car.

In another incident, investigators ruled out speed or drinking as contributing factors in the death of a 14-year-old who was struck and killed while riding his e-bike. The adult female driver and her juvenile passengers were unhurt, but they will have to live with what happened for the rest of their lives.

The latter incident happened July 17, 2025 in Somers Point, New Jersey. The Egg Harbor teen died of his wounds at the Level 1 Trauma Center at Cooper University Hospital in Camden two days later.

The scene of the former tragic event played out the month prior in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. It was the beginning of the summer season - a time of excitement and activity for children recently released from the tethers of the classroom.

Two young girls - best of friends, their families said - were sharing a ride on an electric scooter when they were thrown from it into oncoming traffic as they entered the road.

While our hearts go out to the affected families, it is easy to see how this can happen. Look at our own streets. How many e-scooters and e-bikes did you see over the summer? This fall on the way to/from school? Were they all sharing the roadway responsibly, safely?

The popularity of e-bikes - bicycles with electric motors - has risen dramatically due partly to their being a cost-effective, environmentally-friendly substitute to cars. Users relate that they are fun to ride and make commuting and exploration faster and

more convenient.

The surge in popularity has also meant more e-bikes on the roads that are dominated by much larger, heavier, and faster cars and trucks. Mix in the e-bike/e-scooter riders who are inexperienced or fail to follow the rules that apply to all roadway users, and you have a pot ready to boil over.

In response to the Somers Point tragedy and in an effort to protect riders, three New Jersey lawmakers have proposed legislation that would require riders of Class I and II e-bikes to undergo safety training courses.

NJ State Senator Vince Polistina, Assemblywoman Claire Swift, and Assemblyman Don Guardian are also seeking to establish regulations that will enable e-bikes, bicycles, and motorized vehicles to share the roadways safely.

“Abby’s Law”, named after the 12-year-old who died in June, is sponsored by Pennsylvania Senator Timothy Kearney. The law would require e-scooter users to be at least 16 years of age and require older teen riders to wear a helmet.

Last year, a University of California San Francisco study noted that e-scooter injuries rose by 45 percent annually from 2017 to 2022. According to another source, e-bike injuries doubled during the same time period.

Also last year, the American College of Surgeons issued a public warning. The bulletin, *Electric Bikes are Emerging as Public Health Hazard*, noted that “surgeons around the world have witnessed a serious pattern of e-bike-related injury and death.”

How many e-vehicles do you think will be under the Christmas tree next month? Will the parents take the time to educate their kids on e-mobility safety? As a community, we can work together to protect our young people and avoid a recurrence of the tragedies that began this conversation. Let’s keep talking and doing.

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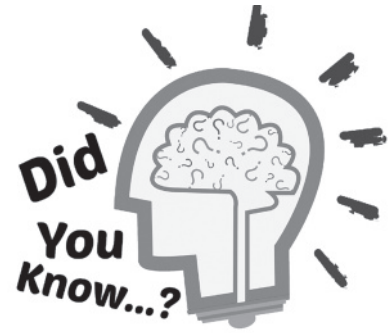
Club Update

Did you know...car batteries are the most recycled product in the world?

It's true! Lead-acid car batteries contain materials like lead dioxide and sulfuric acid. Recycling them helps recover these materials and prevents them from polluting the environment.

Find the battery-associated words in the puzzle below and submit to be entered to win a prize!

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Z N L T Y B X K M R P P M M C
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D I V T B I J G R C I S J N N
G U A R A N T E E K Y E Z U V
B X T K A L R V J T R R Z F E
Y L L L X Q L J G V J V R A N
T F O B G V G A P U K I X C I
N M H Q G M R R T N G C Y T E
Y G U B B L S F X I X E O U N
K B W B R A H M Y R O S X R T
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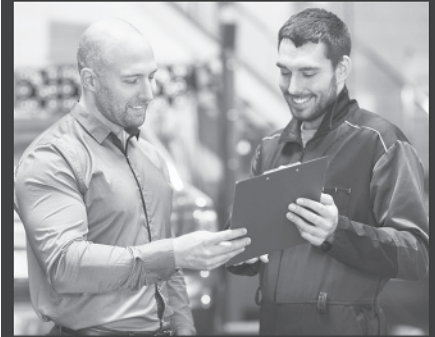


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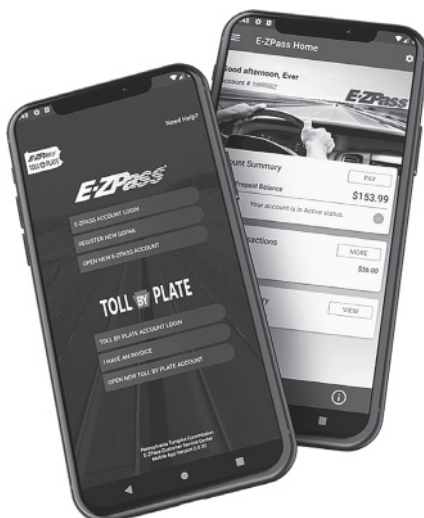


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getting the most of **Kissimmee**

From family vacations to anniversary trips, Kissimmee's a great place to go for a mix of excitement and relaxation. You'll be close to world-famous theme parks, while also having plenty to do right in town.

Staying in Kissimmee also means you're close to Orlando, one of the top family vacation spots in the US. There's no shortage of things to do and parks to explore when you're here, but that can make it harder to plan your upcoming trip.

Our experts at AAA want you to have the best experience, and that starts with stress-free travel planning.

How to Get Around Kissimmee

Having a car can give you the most convenient way to travel in and around this Central Florida city whenever you want. Making a road trip here means you're all set with transportation. Flying into Orlando makes it easy to rent a car and drive to Kissimmee. Just note that the area does get heavy traffic, so add that time to your travel plans accordingly.

If you're not eager to deal with traffic, your hotel might offer free shuttle service around town or to nearby parks and attractions. Kissimmee also has the following forms of public transportation:

- LYNX bus service throughout Central Florida. Details at www.golynx.com.
- Freebee car service for downtown Kissimmee, Lakefront Park, and other destinations. Details at ride-freebee.com.
- SunRail commuter rail service throughout Central Florida to downtown Kissimmee. Details at SunRail.com.

Best Time to Visit Kissimmee

If you have a flexible schedule for your trip to Kissimmee, certain seasons might offer a better or less expensive experience than others. That depends on your budget, what you want to see, and what type of weather you like. Here are a few ideas to help you get started on making this decision.

If you want a vacation filled with water activities, plan to visit here during the summer months. You can escape the heat and humidity on water rides and in swimming

pools. Keep in mind that this is the rainy season here, though, and it's the most expensive and most crowded time to visit.

The winter months are a great time to come to Kissimmee for vacation. Temperatures during the day are usually in the 70s, so walking around is more comfortable than in summer. It's also not as rainy.

If you want a combination of reduced prices and mild weather, then fall or spring are the ideal time to visit Kissimmee. You'll typically get lower rates on hotels and resorts. These seasons also have warm weather that doesn't get too hot.

One of the perks of visiting this Central Florida town is being near some of the top theme parks in the area. You're just a short drive or shuttle/bus ride away from world-famous attractions like Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando, LEGOLAND Florida, and SeaWorld Orlando. You might not have time to visit them all, but consider adding one or more of these to your Kissimmee trip itinerary.

Top Things to Do in Kissimmee

Now that you know which major parks are close by, it's time to focus on what's available right here in Kissimmee. The city has attractions you can enjoy during your stay. To help you decide where to go and what to do, we offer our recommendations for the city's top attractions.

Fun Spot America
2850 Florida Plaza Blvd.

You don't have to deal with crowds and high prices at the big theme parks. Stay in town and save money with a visit to Fun Spot America Kissimmee. The Kissimmee park's got roller coasters, family-friendly rides for the little ones, go-karts, arcade games and much more. There's even a wooden roller coaster with a thrilling barrel roll. If you'll be spending more time in Orlando, visit the other Fun Spot America Theme Parks location at 5700 Fun Spot Way.

Kissimmee Lakefront Park
201 Lakeview Drive

If you're looking for a way to let the kids burn off energy during your stay, spend the day at Kissimmee Lakefront Park. The park's playgrounds include climbing walls and other fun features. There's also a splash pad for cooling off in the heat. Pack a picnic lunch, and take a walk over to the lighthouse while you're here.

Old Town

5770 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway

Old Town is a mix of a historic walking district and an amusement park. Stroll through the streets, visiting shops and eateries in this part of town. Or go on Old Town's rides, like the Ferris wheel that overlooks the city from over 80 feet in the air or the Hurricane roller coaster.

Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament

4510 W. Vine Street

Combine dining and live entertainment with a visit to Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament. Have a four-course meal in a castle-like dining area while watching knights engage in a jousting tournament. You'll also get to see exciting falconry and swordsmanship demonstrations.



Where to Stay in Kissimmee

No guide to Kissimmee would be complete without recommendations on where to book accommodations. The ideal choice for your trip depends on how much you want to spend, what kind of accommodations you want and what activities your travel plan includes. We've narrowed down the list to some of the top places to stay in Kissimmee based on different travel goals, and all of them are AAA Diamond properties, indicating a clean and well-kept place to stay.

Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center

6000 W. Osceola Pkwy

AAA Four Diamond Property

Best for convenient resort near Disney and Universal

In winter, it's home to ICE!, the hotel's signature attraction with ice carvings and winter programming, but there's also fun to be had year-round. The resort features multiple places to eat, outdoor recreation and spa facili-

ties, and the location can't be beat. You can catch rides to and from Disney World when you stay here.

Margaritaville Cottages

8000 Fins Up Circle

AAA Four Diamond Property

Best for families and large groups

All the space you and your group will need for a comfortable and pleasant vacation. With trails on-site, along with a hot tub and tons of other amenities, you'll have lots to do here. There's also an on-site water park, and some units have a private pool.

SpringHill Suites by Marriott

4991 Calypso Way

AAA Three Diamond Property

Best for budget-friendly accommodations

It might not have resort amenities or a waterfront location, but it's got great rates for budget-conscious travelers. You can also save on transportation with the hotel's complimentary rides to and from the Disney parks.

Where to Eat in Kissimmee

You'll have no trouble finding great places to eat in and around Kissimmee. The problem is deciding which restaurants to visit during your trip, but luckily there are many AAA Diamond restaurants, which indicate the quality food and service that you can expect. Check out the following recommendations for dining establishments in the area, according to our AAA experts.

Adega Gaucha, 7804 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy

Reservations suggested; Brazilian cuisine

You can choose à la carte entrées, but the real highlight is the Brazilian churrasco experience with over 10 meats served tableside. Explore the gourmet table filled with cheeses, fruits, salads and more, or indulge in Brazilian desserts that pair perfectly with their wine list. Adega Gaucha's spacious dining area is ideal for groups and celebrations.

Ford's Garage, 3210 Margaritaville Blvd

Reservations suggested; American cuisine

For a retro dining atmosphere, have a meal at Ford's Garage. Order a plate of their classic wings to start, but save room for their car-themed entrées, like the Model A burger or the American Roadster. Enjoy an old-fashioned milkshake and a slice of key lime pie while you're there.

Columbia Restaurant - Celebration, 649 Front Street

Reservations suggested; Spanish/Cuban cuisine

Make a quick trip over to neighboring Celebration for a tasty meal at one of the oldest Spanish restaurant establishments in Florida. Columbia Restaurant serves the award-winning "1905 Salad" that's prepared right next to your table. Dine on Spanish dishes before finishing your meal with white chocolate bread pudding made from a cherished family recipe.

Simple Guide on Renewing Your Passport

Keeping your passport up to date has a few benefits. No one wants to start planning a dream vacation only to find they have to postpone or miss out on a last-minute deal because their passport has expired. You also don't want to leave your passport expired beyond the renewal period.

Renewing a passport is easier than applying for a new one, and it eliminates the risk of not having a valid passport in time for upcoming travel — it can take over two months between submitting your renewal application to receiving your new passport. While you have up to five years after your passport expires, it's best to renew your passport before its expiration because many countries require U.S. citizens' passports to be valid for at least six months after their scheduled departure. Whether your passport is expiring within a year or expired a few years ago, it's time to renew.

Is My Passport Eligible for Renewal?

Age 15 or younger: Passports issued to children age 15 or younger cannot be renewed. Parents or legal guardians must submit an application for a new passport in person for their children.

Age 16 and 17: If you are 16 or 17, you also cannot renew your passport, but you can apply for a new passport with proof of a parent's or guardian's consent.

Age 18 to 24: You cannot renew a passport issued when you were age 15 or under, so you must apply for a new passport.

Age 25 and older: If your current passport was issued when you were 16 or older, was valid for 10 years, and is expiring within a year or expired no more than five years ago, you can renew your passport.

Renew Your Passport Online

If you are eligible for renewal and have not changed your name, you can renew your passport online at travel.state.gov. You must complete and submit the online application within seven days, or you will have to restart the application process. You need your passport, a digital passport photo in JPEG format, and a debit or credit card to pay the fee.

Renew Your Passport by Mail

If you've changed your name since receiving your current passport, you must renew your passport by mail. Download the renewal form at travel.state.gov and follow the instructions. In an envelope addressed to the Passport Processing Center, include your current passport along with the completed renewal form, a passport photo, a check or money order for the renewal fee, and if you changed your name, a certified copy of a document showing your legal name change (like a marriage certificate). The processing center will mail your document and old passport back to you separately.

How Long Does It Take to Renew a Passport?

Online: It can take six to eight weeks from submitting your renewal application online to receiving your new passport in the mail.

Mail: It can take eight to ten weeks from mailing your renewal application to receiving your new passport in the mail.

If you need your passport within six weeks, use an expedited passport service like RushMyPassport. RushMyPassport offers a discount to AAA members for expedited passport services.



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Lamentable

Dear Ask Ed,

I am lamenting the demise of a wonderful truck; a 1994 XLT Ford Ranger.

Its exterior is in perfect condition, and it only has 185,370 miles. In recent years, I have only driven it about 2,000 miles per year, primarily short distances on country roads in the Hamburg area to Lowe's, Walmart, etc. I do not take it on interstates.



However, I am now forced to take it to a Ford graveyard, i.e., the Ford section of an auto junkyard, since I can't get it past annual inspection!! It failed inspection for one problem: the small leak at the valve cover. Otherwise it would have passed. The garage does not see this as a simple fix since they can't locate a valve cover for the 1994 XLT Ford Ranger, even when searching aftermarket and used part sources. A single part is now impossible to obtain; the left side valve cover.

Yes, that "lid" has slight oil seepage around a deteriorating edge. But is this oil seepage sufficient for ending the truck's glorious existence?

So, I wonder: Is there a way for repairing this valve cover? Is some type of sealant possible that can prevent the oil seepage? Should I consider replacing the engine with a rebuilt one?

I'm sure you have recommendations.

I really hate the thought of having this almost vintage truck left languishing amidst all the deteriorating junkyard wrecks.

Thanks.

Dale G.

Hi, Dale. Thanks for your email.

My wife and I are both inspection mechanics and we



teach classes for PennDOT to get mechanics their inspection licenses (both Emissions and Safety). Nowhere in the inspection manual does it say "Check and REJECT if there is an oil leak". An inspector cannot fail a vehicle for an oil leak. You need to report the inspection station to PennDOT.

Also, valve covers are available in aftermarket and used parts.

You mentioned the Hamburg area. I would recommend that you make an inspection appointment at Always Towing and Service Center at 201 S. Third Street in Hamburg. Their phone number is 610-914-4567. They are a AAA Approved Auto Repair facility. If you want to get that oil leak fixed, I know they can help you with that.

Hope this helps. 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.

AAA Preferred: G Adventures

AAA Travel is proud to partner with G Adventures, a pioneer of community tourism, to offer AAA members exclusive access to G Adventures' portfolio of small-group adventures spanning more than 100 countries. This collaboration will bring G Adventures' unique brand of community-centered travel, with more than 1,000 small-group trips worldwide, to AAA's 65+ million members across North America. G Adventures will also work with AAA travel advisors to provide exclusive agent education, support, and service.

"We're thrilled to partner with AAA Travel to introduce their members to the G Adventures' expansive collection of life-changing travel experiences," said Steven Lima, G Adventures Vice President of Growth for USA and Latin America. "AAA is one of the most trusted brands in North America, and we are honored that they have chosen to align themselves with G Adventures, a company founded on the belief that travel not only connects us, but also can be one of the most powerful forces for positive change in our world."

In addition, an ongoing dedicated community tourism fund has been established in partnership with Planeterra, G Adventures' non-profit partner, that will further boost the impact that AAA member bookings will have on local communities. The first project that will benefit is the Asociacion de Desarrollo Integral de San Luis (ADISL), a Costa Rican locally-run cooperative organization that runs much of the region's resources while protecting and maintaining traditional culture and agricultural practices. G Adventures will make a monetary contribution to the project for each AAA-booked traveler who is booked on itineraries that visit this project.

G Adventures was selected as AAA Travel's preferred adventure travel partner after a comprehensive evaluation process that assessed factors including product quality, safety standards, customer service excellence, and alignment with AAA's member-focused values. The partnership will enhance AAA Travel's ability to serve the growing demand for adventure and experiential travel among its membership.



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best time to book a cruise



You've picked a cruising destination, the perfect ship and you can practically feel the salty, cool air on your face. But before you secure your purchase, you ask yourself, when's the best time to book a cruise? Book too early and you may miss a better deal. Book too late and you could lose out on your desired cabin or early bird discounts. Timing makes a difference.

Booking in Advance (6-18 Months Out)

If you like to plan early for clarity and security, then this option is for you. Most experts agree that planning ahead is best if you're seeking the optimal balance of value and control. Many companies release route itineraries more than 12 months out, with some showing availability up to 18 months. However, the most desirable cabins, especially those in coveted destinations like Hawaii or the Mediterranean, may sell out more quickly. Booking six to 18 months ahead allows you to plan flights, choose excursions and set ship reservations without the rush.

Cruise lines often incentivize early planners with great bonuses, such as lower deposits, free or discounted cabin

upgrades, early booking access to onboard activities and special events that require reservations, priority when selecting excursions or dining, or onboard credits for specialty dining, spa sessions or Wi-Fi.

Booking early means you can put your lifestyle first. For families, this means figuring out how to align with school schedules or considering where everyone will be in a year. For adult cruise line travelers, early bookings mean ample time to request vacation days and extra time to plan special events. Purchasing your cruise early also gives travelers ample time to take off work or cover at-home obligations such as pet care and home maintenance.

The Last-Minute Gamble (0-8 Weeks Before Departure)

A last-minute booking strategy is best for the flexible traveler. If you have a calendar with wide-open availability, can pack quickly or are open to different destinations, you can snag a high-value package. This is because cruise lines would rather have heads in beds over empty cabins, which you can use to your advantage.

Cruise lines may cut rates on unsold cabins as the departure date approaches, about a month or two before the sail date. This is best suited for the solo traveler, a retired couple or anyone with an open schedule. You may even score a balcony for the cost of an inside room. There will be tradeoffs. You may pay more for airfare, have fewer cabin options and, during popular cruise dates, you could have limited onboard reservation availability. You may have to roll with the punches, but with an open mind, it might pay off.

Seasonal Trends and Major Promotions

The best time to take a cruise extends beyond your sail date and depends on the time of the year. For example, the best time to cruise to Alaska is in May, with the season boasting some of the best prices. Shoulder



seasons - dates that are right on the 'shoulder' of more popular travel times - are a favorite for Mediterranean cruisers due to fewer spring and summer break crowds. Keep an eye on any seasonal trends in the area you plan to cruise in. You can look into past sales trends to predict when a new one will pop up in the current year. You can also subscribe to promotional email lists for seasonal updates and discounts.

Let's dig even deeper into other factors that impact when you should book your cruise.

Use a Travel Agent

Booking a cruise with a travel agent can unlock added perks and simplify the process. Travel agents can access deals and extras you won't see online. You can rely on their pricing and regional expertise, saving time while finding the perfect fit. You'll get customized cruise options catered to the experience you're seeking and no deep research is required.

“...you may have to roll with the punches...”

Group Travel

If you're traveling with a larger group, don't wait until the last minute to book. Availability may be limited or you may be placed in cabins on opposite sides of the ship. Commit at least six months ahead and align your booking with Wave Season (January to March) or a holiday sale. Make sure to ask about group rates. If your party has enough cruisers, you could get a discount on cabins or other perks such as dining or bar credits.

Cruise Fare Trackers

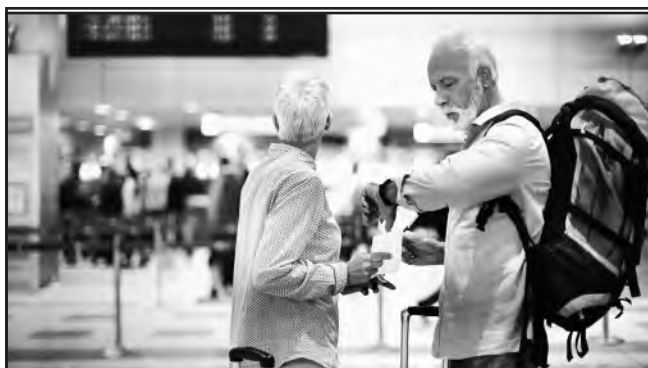
Set fare alerts to monitor cruises for price drops or special offers to save time. Since the cheapest time to cruise may be hard to pinpoint, this lets you watch the pricing patterns and understand the price fluctuations. A travel agent can track these for you and may also be aware of bundles and promotions that a third-party tracker may miss. So, consider enlisting support if you don't see the deals you want online.

Cruise Line Trends

Cruise lines have their own promotional timelines, so it's worth researching and seeing which ones have early bird rates and which ones have last-minute deals. While some companies offer fixed pricing, others have dynamic pricing, so prices adjust based on demand. Knowing these company-specific practices makes the booking process more predictable.

Destination

Where you choose to cruise also affects when you should book. Alaskan cruises are best booked early, so you



CRUISE PLANNING FAQs

What is the cheapest month to book a cruise?

Typically, the cheapest time to book a cruise is January, February or September, because of lower demand. However, January and February are great months to explore Wave Season deals and offers.

Do cruise prices get cheaper closer to the date?

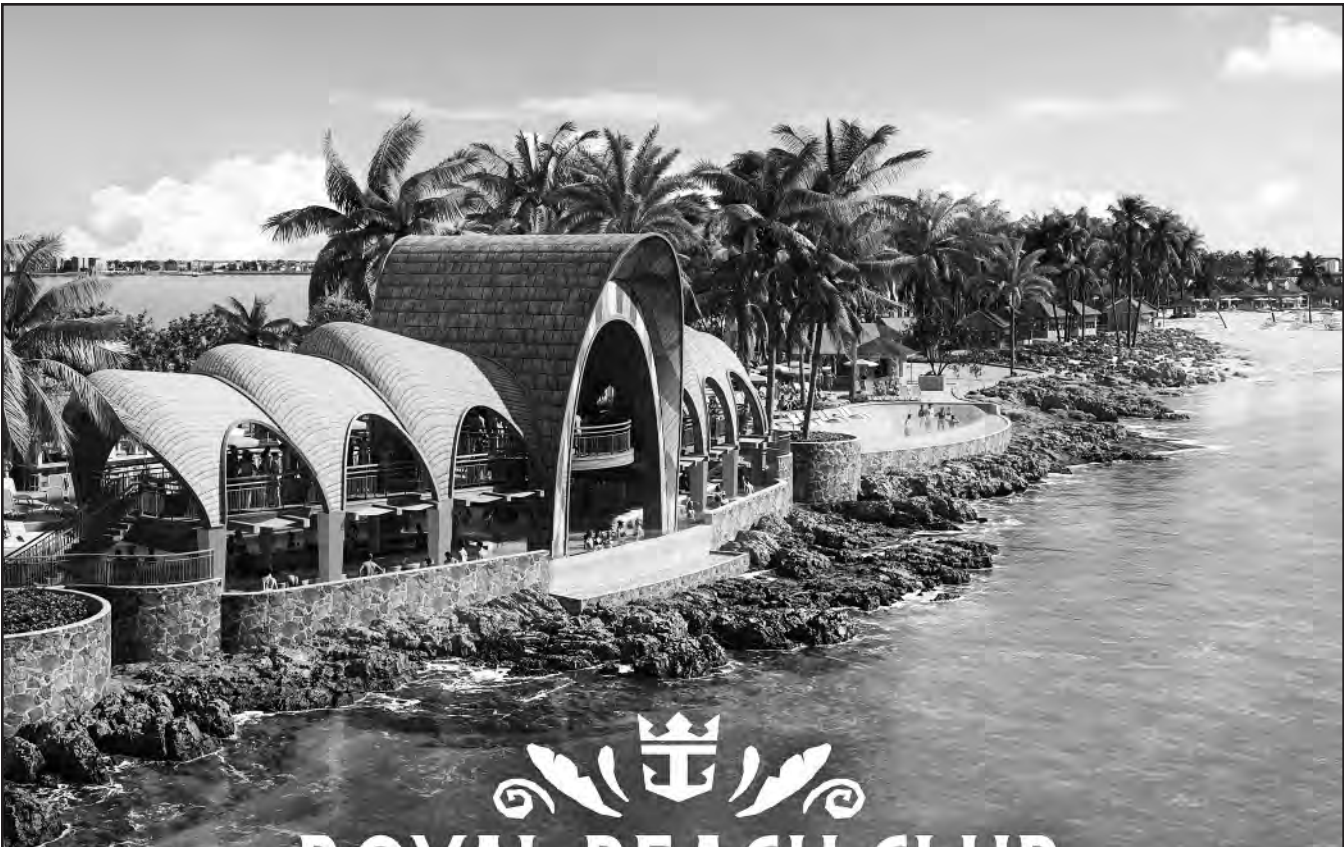
Sometimes. As a cruise date approaches, if a cruise line has unsold cabins, they may reduce the price to sell unsold cabins. However, last-minute deals often come with some trade-offs, such as limited cabin choices and higher airfares.

What day of the week do cruise prices drop?

Typically, Tuesday is a great time to check for price drops. Many cruise lines will update prices at the beginning of the week and deals will go live around this time. Make sure to set alerts to notify you of the best time to buy a cruise.

can plan excursions before they sell out. But Caribbean itineraries and repositioning cruises may have more leeway. Do your research. You may be surprised by how much aligning your trip with these factors can add value to your booking.

Finding the best time to book a cruise is an art rooted in predictable patterns. If you consider the above booking factors, you can snag a phenomenal deal.



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For you!

Destinations & Diversions

Chicco/AAA Road Trip Safety Hub to Help Families Travel Safer

New research from Lancaster County's baby gear manufacturer, Chicco USA, found that more than half (52%) of parents feel stress and anxiety in the days leading up to a family road trip as they pack and handle travel logistics. Further, 2 in 10 (23%) parents admit they only occasionally or never check that their child's car seat is properly installed before hitting the road, highlighting the importance of taking extra care to ensure child passenger safety on extended road trips.

As millions of travelers take to the road this holiday season, Chicco and AAA have teamed up for the third year to spotlight the importance of effective car seat use and driver safety with a free resource to help parents of young children better prepare for family road trips: a Family Road Trip Safety Hub.

The one-stop resource, which makes it easy to access advice from the brand's trusted experts, covers topics including state car seat laws, a simple test parents can perform to check for proper car seat installation, as well as car maintenance and defensive driving tips.

Key tips from the Family Road Trip Safety Hub, credited to Chicco Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Josh Dilts and Kellan Howell, AAA Spokesperson, include:

- Navigating Car Seat Laws by State: States vary in the exact requirements for a child's weight, height and/or age to determine the correct car seat type. Reference the hub's interactive map at www.chiccousa.com/baby-talk/family-road-trip-safety-hub to be aware of the laws

of any states you may be driving through.

- Road Trip Prep Tips for a Safer Journey: "When will we get there" is asked by kids once every 20-30 minutes (40%), and in some cases more frequently (31%), according to parents surveyed by Chicco. AAA's Trip Canvas tool (AAA.com/tripcanvas) allows users to search local guides and recommended activities from experienced travel editors to make sure the whole family has a more relaxing journey to their destination.

- Safe Driving Tips for New Parents: Drive defensively and keep your eyes up and brain on. Always search the entire traffic scene so you see everything going around you in all directions and keep a huge donut of space around your vehicle – especially to the front.

- Tips for Alternative Methods of Travel: It's always recommended to bring your own car seat when you can. If you must rent, like with rental cars and international travel, always check the expiration date and make sure you have access to a user's manual.

"A car seat that is properly installed and used correctly is the first line of defense that parents can take to keep young passengers safe in the backseat," said William Hasse, VP of Marketing for Chicco USA. "Once again, by combining our expertise in child safety with AAA's vast knowledge of road safety, we hope to make it easier for parents juggling it all to feel confident they've taken the steps needed to enhance the safety of their traveling family."

"We anticipate that millions of families will be traveling by car over the year-end holiday period," said Kellan Howell, AAA Spokesperson. "Our continued collaboration with Chicco to help families feel confident as they navigate their journey is more important than ever during these peak travel seasons."



ADA: Promising Tech, Lingering Challenges

Advanced vehicle technology is becoming increasingly common, presenting both opportunities and challenges. AAA Automotive Engineers evaluated five passenger vehicles with low-speed-capable Active Driving Assistance (ADA) systems, also known as Traffic Jam Assistance, in heavy traffic. Traffic Jam Assistance is a new vehicle technology designed to help drivers manage stop-and-go traffic by automatically applying the brakes when traffic comes to a halt and resuming acceleration as traffic moves.

The study compared hands-on and hands-off ADA performance. Notable events occurred every 9 minutes on average. The most common events were cut-ins and poor lane centering.

"This technology is not a replacement for paying attention behind the wheel," said Greg Brannon, director of Automotive Research. "Drivers really need to stay alert and cut down on distractions, especially when things get busy on the road."

In total, notable events were recorded every 3.2 miles, which is approximately every 9.1 minutes on average. A "notable" event was defined as any situation in which the ADA system failed to handle the driving conditions adequately, as determined by the researcher driving the vehicle.

The most common incidents reported were inadequate responses to cut-ins, which required a researcher to inter-

vene 90% of the time. Cut-ins are defined as instances when a vehicle enters the lane directly in front of the test vehicle.

The second most frequent issue was inadequate Lane Centering Assistance. Lane Centering is a driver assistance system that uses cameras and other sensors to keep a vehicle centered within its lane, providing steering assistance to prevent drifting.

Engineers reported a difference between hands-on and hands-off ADA systems. Hands-on systems require the driver to keep their hands on the steering wheel while the ADA system is in use. The ADA system utilizes sensors such as cameras and radar to monitor the driving environment (road condition, lane lines, etc.).

Hands-off systems allow the driver to remove their hands from the steering wheel in most situations but may require them to put their hands back on in certain conditions. These systems use similar sensors, but they also commonly rely on roads that are pre-mapped in the system.

AAA's ongoing testing of vehicle technology helps drivers make smart decisions about purchases and influences industry and regulators to build safer vehicles. The goal is to save lives through advocacy, education and research.

Read the complete report at www.newsroom.AAA.com/2025/08/active-driving-assistance.

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AAA: Most Drivers Experience Road Rage

If it feels like everyone has road rage these days, that's because they probably do. A staggering 96% of drivers admit to engaging in aggressive driving behaviors over the past year, according to a new study from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. From speeding and tailgating to cutting off other vehicles, aggressive driving has become a near universal experience – and it's not just frustrating, it appears to be contagious.

The study found that the more drivers are exposed to aggressive behavior on the road, the more likely they are to drive aggressively themselves. This self-fulfilling cycle of aggressive driving and road rage is fueling a culture where impatience and hostility are becoming the norm behind the wheel.

“Driving can be a stressful experience due to behaviors of others on the road and how you respond to various situations. Our study finds that experiencing various forms of aggressive driving behaviors is common for almost all motorists and many drive aggressively,” said Dr. David Yang, president and executive director of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. “This work also concludes that road etiquette and manners can be a protective factor against aggressive driving. Let's change our driving culture so we can achieve the safe mobility vision for all road users.”

Other Key Findings:

- 92% of drivers reported aggressive behaviors that put others at risk, like speeding or cutting off other vehicles. Their top motivators were to get to their destination faster and avoid perceived danger.
- 11% admitted to violent actions such as intentionally bumping

another car or confronting another driver.

- Aggressive driving is contagious: Drivers who experienced higher levels of aggressive driving also had higher levels of engagement in aggressive driving.

- The vehicle plays a role: The kind of car you drive could predict how you act – and how others perceive you. Drivers in sports cars, big trucks, and motorcycles are often seen as more aggressive. Some drivers say they felt more powerful and dominant behind the wheel of these vehicles.

This latest study updates research originally conducted by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety in 2016, offering a look at how aggressive driving behaviors have shifted over time. While some behaviors have become more common, others have declined:

Since 2016:

- Cutting off other vehicles is up 67%.
- Honking out of anger is up 47%.
- On the positive side, tailgating is down 24% and yelling at other drivers is down 17%.

AAA encourages drivers to prioritize courtesy and safety to help curb aggressive driving. In fact, the study found that encouraging good road etiquette may be the most effective way to reduce aggressive driving and road rage. Simple actions—like using turn signals, letting others merge, and offering a friendly wave—can help de-escalate tension and create a safer, more respectful driving environment for everyone.

“Having good manners

behind the wheel isn't just about being polite,” said Dr. Jose Torres, AAA traffic safety advocacy and research manager. “It's about ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone on the road.”

AAA's Top 3 Tips if you encounter an aggressive driver:

1. Stay Calm – Don't Engage
No eye contact, no gestures, no response.
2. Give Space
Let them pass and keep your distance.
3. Protect Yourself
Call 911 or go to a public place – never drive home.

AAA's Top 3 Tips to control road rage:

1. Breathe Before You React
One deep breath can reset your drive and attitude.
2. Don't Take the Bait
Ignore and avoid aggressive drivers.
3. Choose Time Over Tension
Leave early, give space, arrive safe. Courtesy is contagious!



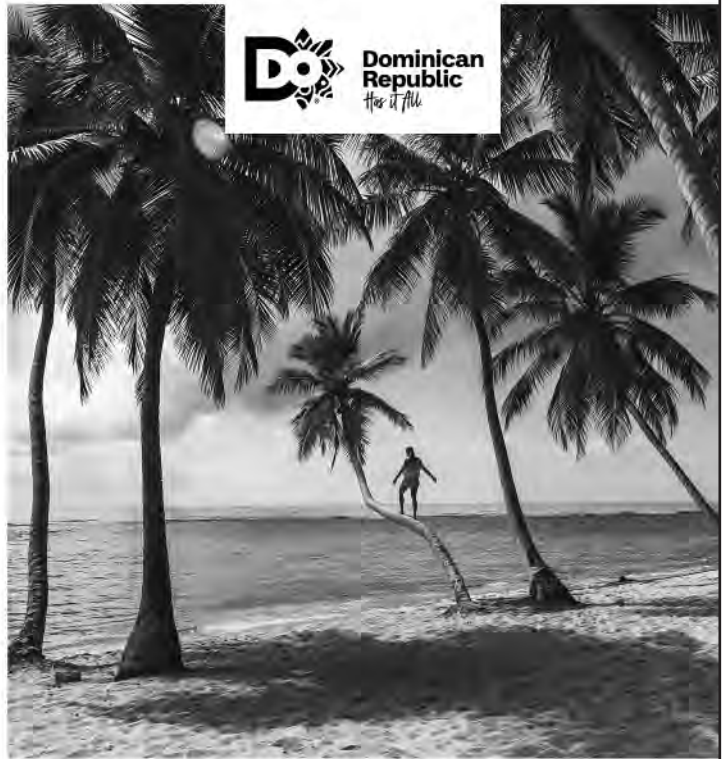
Dominican Republic Has It All

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The ultimate destination to pamper yourself with its endless miles of pristine white-sand beaches, luxurious resorts, world-class golf courses, and diverse culinary experiences. This Caribbean paradise offers something for everyone, from relaxing spa retreats to thrilling water sports and enchanting off-the-beaten-path adventures. Whether you're seeking a lively escape in Punta Cana, the serene beauty of Samana, the vibrant culture of Puerto Plata, or the charm of La Romana, the Dominican Republic promises blue skies and unforgettable memories. Seeking adventure or looking to unwind, the Dominican Republic provides experiences of a lifetime, making it the perfect getaway any time of year.

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Brenda's Tips - Let's Talk Bucket List!

Let me introduce you to one of AAA Reading-Berks Preferred Suppliers, African Travel, Inc. the longest established luxury safari company in the United States that focuses exclusively on Africa, with over 45 years of experience. They have extensive knowledge of the continent's most exciting destinations and specialize in custom safaris, escorted and group journeys. Your AAA Travel Agent along with African Travel Specialists will help you plan family travel, honeymoons, golfing and spa excursions, wine and food tours, as well as cultural excursions and special interest safaris at all price points. For groups, we can customize a safari or book you into a small group escorted journey or AAA Vacations itinerary.

One of my favorite African Travel tourist expeditions is the Kenya Wildlife Safari. If you're looking to visit Africa, December is a great time to explore Kenya, with lush green landscapes, fewer crowds, and excellent value. Kenya Wildlife Safari combines the cosmopolitan charm of Nairobi with the thrill of wildlife viewing in the Masai Mara. It's the perfect balance of vibrant city life, natural beauty, and unforgettable wildlife encounters – from big

cats, giraffes and elephants to newborn animals and migratory birds making game drives experiences truly unforgettable. Every detail is taken care of—luxury accommodations, internal flights, game drives, sightseeing and transfers.

Members will enjoy gourmet cuisine, hand-picked experiences, and the expertise of local guides who bring the destination to life through personal stories and insights. A bucket list definite for unforgettable experiences you'll cherish. Want to join me?



Brenda Huey, VP, Travel Center

On the PA Turnpike, 'Safety Always' Matters

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is committed to educating the public on work zone safety and enhancing protection for workers and motorists. Since 2015, the annual "Go Orange" campaign has reminded drivers that everyone plays a role in ensuring that they and all highway responders return home safely each day.

The Commission invests in training, initiatives and safety equipment to support safer roads. In 2024, the PA Turnpike piloted a new rear-facing air horn system to quickly alert motorists approaching Truck-Mounted Attenuators (TMA). TMAs, attached to the rear of maintenance vehicles, are designed to absorb collision impact and reduce crash severity. The air horn system provides a fast, loud alert to motorists if they are approaching too quickly. A trial program for these driver-triggered warning sirens is underway near Jefferson Hills, Burnt Cabins, Everett and Donegal along the system. During the initial eight-month period, the horns have been triggered more than 100 times.

Beyond the air horns, travelers will also see green lights throughout the state. Act 78, passed in 2024, permits these lights on vehicles to make construction and maintenance activity more visible. Green lights, combined with existing flashing yellow lights, address high visibility standards, especially within foggy or snowy weather. This technology has been successful in other states,

such as Ohio, Michigan, Maine, Connecticut, North Carolina, Maryland and New York. Act 78 is the latest Pennsylvania law, backed by the Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the Pennsylvania State Police, to enhance roadway safety.

Other recent legislation includes the Work Zone Speed Safety Camera program, which issues violations to motorists exceeding posted work zone speed limits, captured by vehicle-mounted systems. The 2020 Move Over law requires drivers to shift into an adjacent lane, if safe, or slow down no more than 20 mph below

the posted speed limit when approaching an emergency response area. Finally, Paul Miller's Law, which took effect in June,

prohibits hand-held mobile device usage while driving.

The stakes couldn't be higher. With drivers more connected than ever, even the smallest distractions can lead to serious consequences. Reckless or distracted driving's impact goes beyond license points or financial penalties; it's a matter of life and death for those working to improve the PA Turnpike.

Visit our website and do your part to keep Pennsylvania Turnpike work zones and employees safe.





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610-374-5600

Low Country Charm of Charleston & Savannah

March 7-13, 2026

\$2,699* pp dbl occ AAA mbr rate

Highlights: Guided tour of the Battleship North Carolina, horse carriage tour of historic Charleston, dinner cruise on the Spirit of Carolina, Charleston tour including the Battery and the Citadel, Magnolia Plantation & Gardens, Savannah Old Town Trolley Tour, Mercer-Williams House Guided Tour, Savannah Harbor sightseeing cruise, cooking class at Chef Darin's Kitchen Table, Charleston Tea Garden.

Brooklyn Chocolate Tour

Friday, March 20, 2026

\$299* pp dbl occ AAA mbr rate
Famous Brooklyn Chocolate Tour! Visit four of the finest traditional and artisanal chocolates being made in Brooklyn: Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory, Chocolate Room in Cobble Hill, Raaka Chocolates, and Li-Lac Chocolates - the oldest chocolate maker in NYC. Plus lunch at Grimaldi's under the Brooklyn Bridge: everyone will receive two slices of Margherita pizza and a soft drink.

Rockies to the Red Rocks by Rail

June 11-16, 2026

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Salt Lake City, Denver, Moab, Castle Gate, Glenwood Springs, Continental Divide. Includes Premier Level Upgrade, exclusive lounge car access, elevated dining, signature cocktails and gourmet snacks, additional outdoor viewing area, additional restroom. Incl five nights accommodations.

A Slice of Brooklyn Pizza Tour

Thursday, June 18, 2026

\$299* pp dbl occ AAA mbr rate

As seen on the Food Network, the Travel Channel, and the Today Show! Experience pizza and Brooklyn from one end to the other! Grimaldi's and L&B Spumoni Gardens plus tours of architecture and history of the local neighborhoods and famous movie locations such as SNL, Goodfellas, Annie Hall, the Warriors and more! Plus guided tour and free time at Coney Island Boardwalk.



Included features:

- Free parking w/roundtrip motorcoach transportation
- Meals per itinerary
- Tours/admissions per itinerary
- Local guide service
- All taxes and gratuities
- AAA Discoveries Journey Mgr

Conrail History & East Broad Top RR Ramble

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Rates based on the Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania membership status:

Current Member \$250* pp

Non Railroad Member \$275*pp

Conrail History Museum, lunch at Knute's Tap Room, train ride on the East Broad Top Railroad, Rockhill Trolley Museum Trolley ride at East Broad Top Railroad, guided tour of the Belt Driven Machine Shop Complex at East Broad Top Railroad.

Blue Angels in Baltimore

Sunday, June 28, 2026

\$259* pp dbl occ AAA mbr rate

Explore the Inner Harbor, then board a boat for a cruise which will include opportunities to view the Blue Angels as they perform overhead. The Blue Angels are the US Navy's flight demonstration squadron. Formed in 1946, it is the second oldest formal flying aerobatic team in the world.

*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.



Let's Go! With Rose Fisher



**Plan now for your
2026 adventure!**

Gregorian: Pure Chants

One show only! February 28, 2026 \$159* pp
See the show that has thrilled millions of people worldwide as they switch seamlessly from classical chorales to pop and rock songs. American Music Theater, Lancaster.

Philadelphia Flower Show

March 4, 2026 \$97* pp
The nation's largest and longest-running horticultural event by the world's premier floral and landscape designers.

The Sunshine Boys

March 25, 2026 \$159* pp
Will a pair of feuding vaudevillians' act last long enough for the two to collect a paycheck?
Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, New Jersey.

DC Cherry Blossoms

April 10-13, 2026 \$1,295* pp
Annual springtime attraction at peak bloom.

Gettysburg

July 23, 2026 \$179* pp
Tour historic Gettysburg during the nation's Semiquincentennial.

Trains of West Virginia

June 16-20, 2026 \$1,590* pp
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Mystery Tour

May 21, 2026 Call for pricing 610-374-5600
Join us to see where we end up!

The Funny Farm and Historic Smithville, NJ

August 25, 2026 \$149* pp
The quaint town with something for everyone.

Niagara Falls

September 14-17, 2026 \$1,225* pp
And the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

2026 Christmas Show

November 24, 2026 \$159* pp
'Winter Wonderland' American Music Theater.

Currier & Ives Vermont Christmas

December 3-7, 2026 \$1,725* pp
Vermont Soap Factory Maple Landmark
Woodcraft, Vermont Maple Farm Tour and Tasting,
Cabot Creamery, Lake Champlain Chocolates,
Smuggler's Notch Distillery, so much more!

Free Day in NYC

December 12, 2026 \$87* pp
Enjoy the comfort and convenience of a AAA
Motorcoach Tour to the Big Apple. We'll get you
there and home again - the rest is up to you.

*For more information or to book these getaways, contact Rose Fisher, 610.374.5600 x 7938 or
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CIE Tours

April 12-18, 2026 \$1,480 pp* land only
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Carlingford Free Time, Crosskeys Inn, Derry and
Galway Walking Tours, Giant's Causeway, Irish
Night in Dublin, Sean's Bar in Athlone, Sheepdog
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*Rate is per person, land only, based on dbl occ. Airfare additional. Subject to change until departure. Contact AAA Travel 610-374-5600.

Prague, Vienna and Budapest

Trafalgar

June 5-14, 2026 \$2,995 pp* land only
Includes tour and hotel accommodations, an expert
Tour Director and professional driver, nine break-
fasts and three dinners, all portage and included
group meal gratuities, all hotel tips, charges and
local taxes, audio headsets for flexible sightseeing.

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



Paris & Normandy

AmaWaterway's *AmaDante*

June 6-13, 2026 from \$4,399 pp** cruise only
Seven night river cruise in elegantly appointed
accommodations. Fine dining onboard in multiple
venues. Unlimited hand-selected wine, beer and
soft drinks with lunch/dinner. Small group guided
shore excursions with a variety of choices, includ-
ing exclusive Special Interest, hiking and biking
tours. Professionally trained Wellness Host leading
engaging wellness activities. Live local entertain-
ment. Unlimited complimentary Wi-Fi access.

**Rate is per person, cruise only, based on dbl occ for Category E Stateroom.
Includes port charges, subject to change. Contact AAA Travel 610-374-5600.

Viking & Nordic Legends

Oceania's *Marina*

August 13-23, 2026 from \$4,599 pp** cruise only
Reykjavik, Grundarfjörður, Akureyri, Isafjörður,
Nanortalik, Qaqortoq, Narsaq, Prince Christian
Sound. Meals, entertainment onboard the ship.

**Rate is per person, cruise only, based on dbl occ for Inside Stateroom
Category G. Taxes/gov't fees included. Subject to change until departure.
Contact AAA Travel 610-374-5600.

Canada/New England from Philly

NCL's *Norwegian Jewel*

Sept 26-Oct 7, 2026 from \$1,139.05 pp** cruise only
Boston, Bar Harbor, Saint John, Bay of Fundy,
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Island, Prince Edward Island, La Baie, Quebec
City. AAA Escort with min. participation.

**Rate is per person, cruise only, based on dbl occ for Category IB-Interior
Stateroom. Taxes/gov't fees extra. Subject to change until departure. Contact
AAA Travel 610-374-5600.



Iceland's Midnight Sun: Glaciers, Geysers and the Golden Circle

AAA Member Choice Vacations

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Akranes, Breidafjörður Bay Cruise, Lava Exhibition
Center, Vik, Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon, Sky
Lagoon. AAA Members - get extra \$50 off pp!

**Rate is pp, dbl occ, subject to change, based on air inclusive package from
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MONDAY DECEMBER 1ST

5:00-6:00PM

AAA Reading-Berks
920 Van Reed Rd
Wyomissing - lower level

RSVP 610-741-5810

Victoria.Griffis@berkscomfortkeepers.com
www.dementiafriendspa.org/eventdetail/1101



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