

NEWSLETTER

sitzmarke

December 2019 Volume 55 Issue 7



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FROM MISSION CONTROL

BY JAN FERRELL, PRESIDENT

Tis the weeks before Christmas and all through the grocery stores are people ordering turkeys and grabbing bags of dressing. Yes, I agree that Pepperidge Farms has the best dressing. That is unless you are a fan of cornbread dressing. I had never encountered cornbread dressing until moving to Houston 50 years ago. It's an acquired taste. Well, enough about me—let's talk about YOU!



Our November general meeting at Dave and Buster's had over 50 determined members that braved really ugly weather to show up. Here are the big door prize winners:

Janet McKenzie - T-shirt
Rick Livi - Battery charger
David Gresko - Money pouch/belt
Rowena Roche - Backpack
Pete Mathieu - Flight socks
George Sargent - Beanie – grey hat
Ken Reding - Luggage tag
Pam Smith - \$25 Amazon Gift Card

We'll be at Sun and Ski, 6100 Westheimer, for our December meeting on 12/9. We've done this for several years and they are always excited to see us. Think Christmas presents for yourself and others!

Best wishes for the holiday season to you and your families.

Jan



COUNTDOWN TO LIFTOFF

BY BEVERLY ROBERTS, VICE PRESIDENT OF TRIPS

Hello from the trip desk!!

For me, time accelerates as soon as Labor Day is over. Halloween and Thanksgiving zoom by, and suddenly the holiday season is in full swing. We're decking the halls while we drink our Peppermint Mochas and Eggnog Lattes. We're pulling our sweaters and coats and boots out of storage and preparing our best Holiday Gala attire. And what else are we doing? We're getting ready for Ski Season!!!



Many ski resorts are open or preparing to open. On December 7, Kasia Rezmer will lead a devoted band of early season skiers as they kick off the 2019-2020 SCSC slate of trips. More festivities follow in January, with trips to Banff, Beaver Creek and Chamonix, France. February is packed full of excitement, with trips to Telluride, Crested Butte, and a February 29 Leap Day trip to Deer Valley.

Many of the ski trips are full or approaching full participation levels. Hurry up and grab a spot on the trips that still have room. But remember – if your preferred trip is full, please call the Trip Coordinator and ask to be put on the wait list. Every year, spaces unexpectedly become available. If you are on the wait list, you can grab that open spot and start to dream about cruising the blues. Or maybe you dream about big bumps and deep powder. Whatever your pleasure – sign up for available places or wait lists.

Even though the ski trips are first up, we also have some wonderful non-ski travel opportunities. Check out the exotic trip to Russia, the breathtaking cruise around the beautiful waters of the Greek Islands, the magnificent hiking and scenic tour through Zion national park and the Grand Canyon, and the down under adventure to New Zealand. Check with the TCs for the latest trip availabilities, or join the wait list so you can snag an opening or cancellation. BTW – please note that the Bruges to Amsterdam Bike and Barge trip has been re-scheduled for the 2020-2021 trip season. We will provide more information regarding scheduling and costs when the information is available.

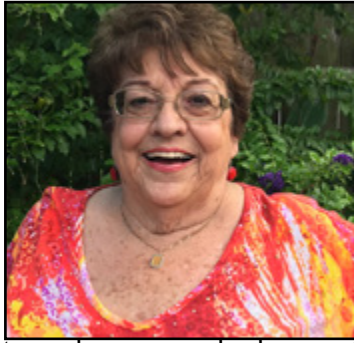
Finally – it's time to say THINK SNOW!!

Cheers,
Beverly

HAVING A BLAST

BY LYNN BURCH, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACTIVITIES

November had a few extra activities with Bingo where we had 19 members although no one won any money we had a great time. Kay McKeough hosted 31 members at her beautiful house that she had all decorated and served a variety of gourmet food along with lots of various Bordeaux wines. It was a wonderful party and everyone had a great time. She had a trivia contest about the region and the wines and a couple of people won a bottle of wine. November dinner at Moxie's in the Galleria was attended by 19 and we had a beautiful view with all the Christmas lights up. The November Happy Hour will be at the Yard House in City Centre behind Hotel Sorella.



There will be no dance lessons in December but we will start back in January.

Our biggest Event of the Year- The Holiday Gala- will be held on December 7 at the Hilton Garden Inn in the Galleria area. There is a social hour with appetizers and cocktails, a dinner buffet and a DJ playing music and a wooden dance floor. There are still spots available and the deadline

to sign up is December 1.

We will have the Game Day at Tea + Victory on December 10 but will not have Game Night in December.

The December Happy Hour is at Perry's in Memorial City on December 19.

Please check the website often for new activities. This is where you learn about them and can sign up.

Thank you to all the members who participate in the events, as long as you keep coming and signing up for activities we will keep having them and adding new ones.

EXTRAVEHICULAR ACTIVITIES UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENT CALENDAR

November 21	Happy Hour at Yard House in City Centre
November 26	Game Night at Tea + Victory
December 4	Dance Lessons
December 7	Holiday Gala at Hilton Garden Inn
December 9	Monthly Meeting at Sun and Ski 6100 Westheimer
December 10	Game Day at Tea + Victory
December 19	Happy Hour at Perry's Memorial City

Destinations	Trip Dates	Trip Coordinator	TC Email	Full Pkg \$/pp (w/air)	Land Pkg \$/pp	Trip Open Date/Status
Ski Trips						
Vail	12/7/19-12/14/19	Kasia Rezmer	vail@spacecity.org	N/A	\$1,325	wait list
Keystone (TSC)	1/4/20-1/11/20	TSC	https://www.texas-ski.org			
Banff	1/18/20-1/25/20	Ali Pethick	banff@spacecity.org	\$1,129	\$716	wait list
Beaver Creek	1/25/20-2/1/20	Ann Dorn	bcreek@spacecity.org	\$1,386	\$1,048	1 Full, male
Chamonix (TSC)	1/31/20-2/8/20	Cindy Moore	chamonix@spacecity.org	\$2,338	\$1,543	2 Full
Chamonix Pre: Paris	1/29/20-2/1/20	Cindy Moore	chamonix@spacecity.org	\$399	N/A	11/12/2019
Chamonix Post: Sicily	2/8/20-2/13/20	Cindy Moore	chamonix@spacecity.org	TBD	N/A	11/12/2019
Telluride	2/8/20-2/15/20	Rene Reed	telluride@spacecity.org	\$1,985	\$1,371	5 Full
open week						
Crested Butte (TSC)	2/22/20-2/29/20	Linda Erdman	cbutte@spacecity.org	\$1,593	\$1,116	wait list
Deer Valley	2/29/20-3/7/20	Stuart Traver	dvalley@spacecity.org	\$2,457	\$1,893	10 Land
Sun Valley (TSC)	3/7/20-3/14/20	CLASC	https://clasc.org/			
Non-Ski Trips						
Russia	6/2/20-6/12/20	Jill Nanney	russia@spacecity.org	\$4,395		wait list
Greek Isle Cruise	8/27/20-9/6/20	Thuy Rocque	greece@spacecity.org	varies	varies	wait list
Zion/GC Natl Parks	9/26/20-9/30/20	Arlen Isham	zion@spacecity.org	N/A	\$599	1 male
New Zealand (TSC)	10/13/20-10/24/20	Linda Kuper	nz@spacecity.org	\$4,233	\$2,492	wait list
NZ Pre: Australia	10/7/20-10/13/20	Linda Kuper	nz@spacecity.org			TBD
NZ Post: Fiji	10/24/20-10/28/20	Linda Kuper	nz@spacecity.org			TBD

THE NEXT SPACE CITY SKI CLUB GENERAL MEETING

DECEMBER 9, 2019

SUN & SKI

6100 WESTHEIMER

6:30PM - 8:30PM

BINGO NIGHT NOVEMBER 7th



DINNER at MOXIE'S



KING'S BEIRHAUS HAPPY HOUR





WELCOME NEW SCSC MEMBERS!

Space City continues to be the largest organization of its kind in Texas but there is room for more. Encourage friends and family to join us so they too can enjoy great happy hours, diverse activities, and great trips.

Please welcome recent new members to Space City Ski and Adventure Club:

Constance Acosta	Gary Haley	Deborah & James Marsh	Patricia Ruff
Lucinda Acquard	Rebecca Hall	Karen Matlock	Kit Ryan
Beth & Gary Ayers	Denise Hanrahan	James Matujec	Janet & Michael Sher
Alexandrea & Jasmin Bertovic	Anayancy Herrera	Joan McAuliffe	Roberta Shumway
Kary & Larry Burnham	Cecile Hodges	David McCullough	Jeff Smith
Greta & Sasha Costa	David Holeman	Suzan Miles	Elizabeth Souther
Oliver Dacey Jr	Dianna & Pat Jernigan	Dorian Myers	Thane Swisher
Kevin Dacey	Blake Jones	Carolyn Mytholar	Kim Tweedel
Ursula Dobelmann	Kevin Juhl	Kanak Nanavati	Patricia Lynn & David
Joyce Ferguson	Kimberly Keck	Anna Olexy	Weathersby
Elizabeth Fisher	John Kimbrough	Joni Perez	Narda Weierbach
Denis Fitzpatrick	Desiree LeBlanc	Candis & Charles Putnik	David Wildrick
Earl Francis	Darla Lemaire	Pamela & Tommie Rape	Karen Wisniewski
Gary Freeman	Richard Levi Jr.	John Reding	

TRIPS 2019-2020

BY BEVERLY ROBERTS, V.P. OF TRIPS
AND SCSC TRIP COORDINATORS

VAIL

TRIP SUMMARY

Start Date: Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019

Trip Coordinator (TC): Kasia Rezmer

End Date: Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019

TC email: vail@spacecity.org

Full Package Price: not offered

Land Package Price: \$1,325 per person

Single Supplement Price: \$1,295 per person

Final Payment Date: Mon., Sep 9, 2019

Deposit: \$150 per person Resort Pass Affiliation: Epic

Total Participants: 24

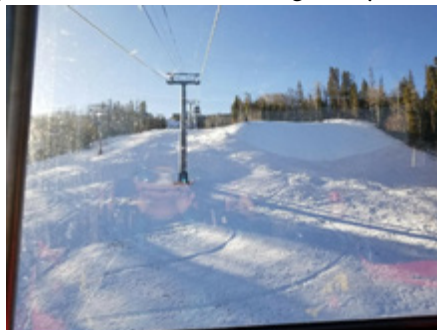
TRIP DESCRIPTION

At 5,289 acres, Vail is the largest single ski mountain in North America, featuring seven powdery bowls, the back-country skiing of Blue Sky Basin and the front side. 1,500 acres of "corduroy" each day means the most groomed terrain on the planet, Combined with a yearly average of 346 inches of snowfall and 300 days of sunshine, Vail is a skier's paradise. Off the slopes, head to Lionshead or Vail Village with world class dining, shopping, galleries, apres ski, nightlife and spas all just steps away.



Face Shot Photo By Jack Affleck Courtesy Of Vail Resorts

Imagine stepping out of your condo in the morning, making the short walk down to the complimentary ski valet, grabbing your skis and walking across to the gondola. World class skiing is literally at your door! Vail doesn't get any easier to do than this!



Eagle Bahn Gondola Photo By Kasia Rezmer

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

Vail consistently has good early season snowfall. While there are never any guaran-

tees when the weather is involved, you are highly likely to enjoy good conditions at Vail in early December.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Enjoy ski-in, ski-out luxury as our lodging is at the Lion Square Lodge, only 50 yards from the Eagle Bahn gondola. We will be staying in deluxe 2 bedroom condos. Complex amenities include an outdoor pool and hot tub, a fitness center, free ski check and an underground parking garage. El Sabor, an excellent Latin-fusion restaurant, is located on-site at the Lion Square Lodge. Other amenities include a 24-hour front desk, onsite concierge and daily housekeeping.



The price is over \$100 less than last year and includes gratuities for portage, housekeeping & bus (not ski valet).

We will have a pizza party on arrival evening and family BBQ dinner from Moe's (latter not included in trip price).

Please make flight arrangements to arrive by 11 am and leave no earlier than 2.30 pm.



Lionshead Base Photo By Jack Affleck

Multi-day lift tickets or season passes can be purchased from epic pass.com. Please call me if you need help making a selection.

Trip Coordinator: Kasia Rezmer
vail@spacecity.org





TC: Ali Pethick
ATC: Joan Waddill

banff@spacecity.org
Bannfatc@spacecity.org

Package Prices

Land Package \$716 Full Package \$1129
Single Supplement \$685

BANFF HISTORY

On July 1st, 1867, the nation now known as Canada was born. In Canada's earliest years, the country's first Prime Minister had a dream of uniting the country from coast to coast. From that dream, came the Canadian Pacific Rail Way and the discovery of Banff.



Mt. Norquay credit Reubin Krebbe

What is now the town of Banff was discovered during the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. At the sight of the Rocky Mountains, then president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Sir William Cornelious V, we'll import the tourists."

TRIP DESCRIPTION

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

THE BIG 3 Mountains. Lake Louise, Sunshine and Norquay

TRAVEL

Non-stop direct flight!

We leave on Saturday, January 18th at 9:35 a.m. out of IAH. We enjoy a non-stop direct flight to Calgary. No getting up at 3 a.m. (unless you need to), no lost luggage due to weather and transfers. Once we get to Calgary in the early afternoon we enjoy a scenic bus ride to the Ptarmigan Inn located in central Banff. No schlepping luggage as it will be transported to our rooms. We will rest for a few hours before our Sports America's Welcome Party downstairs.

This is a joint trip with the Austin Ski Club. Friendships will be renewed and new acquaintances made as well as lift tickets disbursed.

Apres Ski events are planned for every night including at

the famous Banff Springs Resort which is only a few minutes away. Sunday night will be the SCSC welcome party and we can discuss the events of the day and continue planning the rest of the week.

Mid-week optional dinner for both Austin and SCSC.

If you are interested in any non-ski activities or just want to take a day off, Matty at Sports America will be coordinating these. They are booked on an individual basis and will include dog sledding, snowmobiling, snow tubing, and sleigh rides. Details not yet available. There are many museums and some historical sites not far from the Ptarmigan Inn. Also Banff national park is nearby.

Canada has a favorable exchange rate. At this writing \$1.00 USD to \$1.36 CAD.

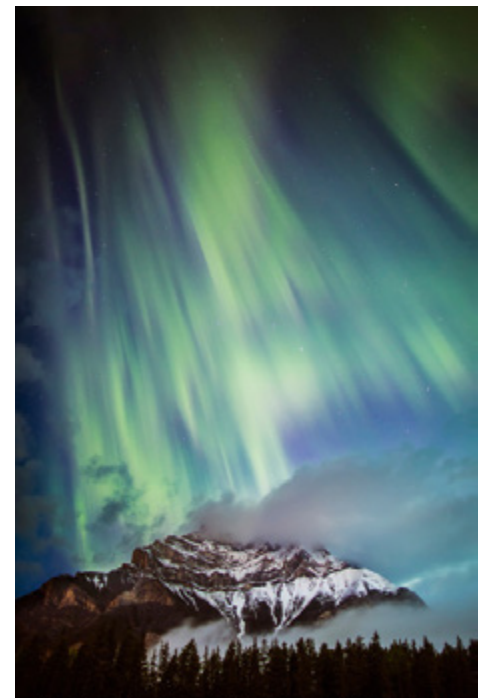
The Norquay Ski Resort is close and Sunshine Village and Lake Louise somewhat further but what a ride.

AND LET US NOT FORGET THE BIG 3!!!! Some of the best and fluffiest snow ever!!!! I went with the club 3 years ago and have been waiting for the opportunity to go again. Your ski passes are good at all of The Big 3. The Big 3 also accepts the Ikon pass.

Oh, and then there is the possibility of an aurora borealis. I will be on the website and keeping everyone posted. This is



Banff Springs Hotel credit Banff & Lake Louise Tourism / Fairmont Hotels & Resorts



Northern Lights credit Paul Zizka Photography

MOUNTAIN STATISTICS

Location	Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada
Nearest city	Banff, Alberta Calgary, Alberta
Coordinates	51°26'31"N 116°09'38"W
Vertical	991 m (3,250 ft)
Top elevation	2,637 m (8,650 ft) ^[1]
Base elevation	1,646 m (5,400 ft)
Skiable area	17 km ² (6.6 sq mi) ^[2]
Runs	145 ^[2]
Longest run	8 km (5 mi) ^[2]
Lift system	9 lifts: - 3 surface lifts - 1 triple - 1 fixed-grip quad - 2 high-speed quads - 1 high-speed six-passenger - 1 six-passenger gondola ^[1]

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Banff Ptarmigan Inn is centrally located in Banff National Park only steps away from the downtown area. This mountain hotel is a great escape to the Canadian Rockies. On your vacation you can enjoy our mountain views, and numerous outdoor activities from hiking trails, canoe rides, and biking in the summer, skiing, skating, and snowshoeing in the winter.

Hot and Cold Breakfast Buffet is served at Ptarmigan Inn. every day (see the website details of Ptarmigan Inn).

With your stay at the Ptarmigan, the bus fare is completely complimentary. It runs every 40 minutes from each stop, starting at around 6 AM.



Banff Avenue credit Paul Zizka Photography

The Ptarmigan Inn has

Location in Canada	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Show map of Canada <input type="radio"/> Show map of Alberta <input type="radio"/> Show all
Location	Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada
Nearest city	Banff, Calgary
Coordinates	51.204°N 115.599°W
Top elevation	2,133 m (6,998 ft)
Base elevation	1,630 m (5,348 ft)
Skiable area	0.77 km ² (0.30 sq mi) ^[1]
Runs	33
Longest run	1,167 m (3,829 ft) ^[1]
Lift system	4 chairlifts - 1 hi-speed quad - 1 fixed-grip double - 2 fixed-grip quads 1 surface lift

	
	
Sunshine Village ski resort	
Location	Banff National Park, Alberta  Canada
Nearest city	Banff
Coordinates	 51°04'43"N 115°46'56"W
Vertical	1,070 m (3,510 ft)
Top elevation	2,730 m (8,960 ft) ^[1]
Base elevation	1,660 m (5,450 ft)
Skiable area	13.6 km ² (3,360.6 acres)
Runs	120 <div><div> 15% easiest</div><div> 37% more difficult</div><div> 40% most difficult</div><div> 7% Expert</div></div>
Lift system	1 gondola (8) 9 chairs - 6 High-speed quad - 2 Quad chairlift - 1 High-speed quad with heated seats and bubbles 2 magic carpets

received very favorable reviews from SCSCers who have stayed there in the past.

If all or any of the packages offered in this trip have sold out (i.e., they show as Filled on the Event Registration Activities page), and you would still like to purchase them, then contact the TC to be put on a Wait List.

ATC Joan Waddell and I are both familiar with this ski area as are many SCSCers and look forward to sharing our enthusiasm with you.



LIFT TICKETS

Lift tickets will be made available after final payment date. Please info the TC which lift tickets you would like. Lift tickets can be used at any of the Big 3 Resorts, Lake Louise, Norquay or Sunshine Village.

Lift ticket prices (USD)

	Adult	Senior
3 of 5 day	\$237	\$182
4 of 6 day	270	215
5 of 7 day	310	238
6 of 8 day	372	285

When you register for this trip, all that you are required to do is pay your trip deposit of \$150/per person. You have until Final Payment Date to pay your balance.

If you require a single supplement to go on this trip, make sure you contact the TC immediately after registering for the trip so that one is assigned to you.

If you are not familiar with the Space City cancellation policy, please read it [HERE](#).



Ptarmigan Inn credit Ptarmigan Inn

Beaver Creek



Beaver Creek

Jan. 25 – Feb. 1, 2020

Full Pkg : \$1,386.00 Land Pkg : \$1,048.00

Single Supplement : \$1,013.00 (additional)

T C : Ann Dorn (281-989-9594)

bcreek@spacecity.org

ATC : Hyo (Gin) Knebel (713-412-7027)

hyoknebel@yahoo.com



Beaver Creek at Night courtesy Ski White Diamond

Why Choose This Trip:

Beaver Creek, nominated by USA TODAY as one of 2017 Best Destination Resorts, has a worldwide reputation for some of the best skiing Colorado has to offer. Beaver Creek offers unparalleled mountain terrain for all ages and abilities.

Beaver Creek Resort will host **Thursday Night Lights**, a glow stick ski-down set to music with a fireworks finale. The ski-down is open to skiers and riders with abilities of intermediate and above.

This is our club trip and we will start with our famous Pre Trip party to get to know all our fellow skiers in November. (Drinks, food and entertainment are included)

We will host our own welcome party & Ski Après Happy hour and also try to have some activities for non-skiers as well.

Travel: Non Stop flight on United Airlines (It may change to Southwest after Southwest post the schedules



Charter Welcome Party courtesy Ski White Diamond

and fair for our travel dates) into Denver airport. Private Charter bus from DIA to Beaver Creek (Charters) with a grocery/liquor shopping stop on the way.

Accommodations: We will be staying at The Charter at Beaver Creek situated in the heart of the Beaver Creek Ski Resort. The Charter offers ski-in/ski-out access to Elkhorn Chair Lifts and within walking distance of Beaver Creek Village. Recognized by Condé Nast as one of the “Top 50 Ski Hotels in the US and Canada”, this European-inspired property is considered one of Colorado’s best lodging options. The Charter at Beaver Creek invites guests to experience the finest in mountain hospitality and luxury. On-site amenities include an indoor lap pool and hot tubs, as well as a game room, health club and complimentary wireless internet access.



Credit Jack Affleck

The Resort Statistics: Base elevation at 8,100 ft. and

Summit of 11,400 ft. with 3,400 ft. vertical rise. The developed terrain includes 5 mountains including Beaver Creek, Grouse,



The Charter at Beaver Creek courtesy Charter

Larkspur, Arrowhead, and Bachelor Gulch spanning 150 total trails (19% beginner, 43% intermediate, 38% expert). This is an intermediate skier’s dream resort! There are 23 lifts including 2 Gondolas to cover all trails.

Lift Tickets:

	Adult	Senior
3 day	\$359.00	\$335.00
4 day	\$439.00	\$407.00
5 day	\$511.00	\$470.00
6 day	\$572.00	\$523.00

We will have more details for flight schedules and date for pre-warmup party and a lot more in August. We want you to have the most memorable fun trip of 2020 with us.



Credit Jack Affleck

Our registration on line is August 12, 2019 at 7 PM.
Please mark this one on your Calendar!!!

Chamonix, France

January 31 to February, 2020

Full Pkg \$2338 Land Pkg \$1543

TC Cindy Moore Chamonix@spacecity.org

TRIP SUMMARY



Start Date: 01/31/2020	Trip Coord. (TC): Cindy Moore
End Date: 02/08/2020	TC email: Chamonix@spacecity.org
Full Package Price: \$2338 pp	Asst. Trip Coord. (ATC): N/A
Land Package Price: \$1543 pp	ATC email: SCSC Trip email
Single Supplement- Add \$725 pp	Final Payment Date: 11/11/2019
Single Supplement-(SS) Paris: Add \$103 pp	
Single Supplement- (SS) Sicily: Add \$265 pp	
Contact TC for availability for SS	
Deposit: \$300 pp	Resort Pass Affiliation: No
	Chamonix mountains, however, Verbier is included in EPIC Pass



Chamonix Train Station © Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

Do you have a significant other who doesn't ski or board but loves touring fabulous destinations? This trip is the perfect choice if you do! Nestled at the foot of the famous 4810m-high Mont Blanc, the Chamonix valley is one of the most visited sites of natural beauty in the world. You will enjoy world class skiing; in fact the first winter Olympic game was held in Chamonix in 1924! The valley of Chamonix Mont Blanc is situated less than 15 km from the Swiss and Italian borders. In this one trip you can tour 3 countries in Europe; a paradise for both skiers and non-skiers. **See the section at the end of this for the January 29th Paris pre-trip details! Add \$399 for Paris. The direct air to Paris is substituted for the inbound flight to Geneva on the main trip if taking a full package. Details are also there for the Sicily post-trip.**

You can ski three different countries in the French Alps with access to Brevent-Flegere, Logna-LesGrands-Montets, Les

Houches, Balme - Le Tour - Vallorcine", les Planards, le Savoy, la Vormaie and Aiguille du Midi, Montenvers Mer de Glace railway on the Mont Blanc Unlimited pass. Also enjoy Courmayeur in Italy and 50% off the Verbier pass both also included. You will ski to your hearts content while your loved one enjoys tours in Aosta, Italy; Annecy; Geneva and Lake Geneva Region and savors wine tasting tours with Space City friends. Experience romantic France and Italy together in the evenings and possibly plan some tours together. This is also the perfect European winter adventure trip for couples and singles who don't ski at all. For those members who like to experience a little European skiing with a lot of other fantastic adventure and spa options, this trip is a dream come true! Read on....

We are staying at the fabulous four star Hotel La Folie Douce. I have heard some members are saying they are picking this trip just to stay at this amazing hotel! Click this link for a video of this hotel during the summer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=033LQUdfVd4&feature=youtu.be>

Are you sick of trying to adapt to high altitude? Or even worse, does staying at high altitude make you sick? Would you believe our hotel's altitude is a mere 3400 feet? By European standards, with enough snow, the hotel sales person told me it is considered ski in, ski out to the Savoy lift, a beginner lift. (There could be a short walk to this lift, according to our tour operator, but it is "ski in" from this lift serving the Le Savoy & Brévent area.) Our hotel has shuttles to many ski areas included in your pass and there are also buses going to most of them included with your lift pass. This package includes an exquisite breakfast buffet every morning and a full dinner at the hotel for 7 nights. What other 2020 SCSC ski trip includes all of these meals? When comparing prices, don't forget to estimate how much you will spend on meals out and add that amount on to the domestic ski trips.

In addition to the above, your tour package includes a welcome drink and resort orientation evening of arrival before dinner, all transfers to and from Chamonix from the airport, TSC Gala dance party night, portorage of one piece of luggage per person, use of spa facilities at the hotel, optional tour program, TSC credential for Chamonix activities and Special TSC Pin.

When you purchase our special 3-day or more lift tickets they include access to museums, the Vox Cinema, skating rinks, one toboggan slide decent per day, access to QC Terme, Chamonix plus free and unlimited access to the skyway!

Chamonix has some of the world's best peaks and glaciers for expert skiing but also is perfect for the shopping aficionado. Chamonix's village is flooded with everything from jewelry and designer boutiques to high performance outdoor gear shops. Also, enjoy Nordic Trail, ski touring, winter paragliding and the town's nightlife hot spots and casino!



Photo courtesy of Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley Tourist Office

The Valley of Chamonix Mont Blanc is also a veritable playground for intermediate and beginner skiers. Enjoy the unique scenery to be found at this gateway to the high mountains, most notably via the amazing **Aiguille de Midi cable car** and the famous Montanvers train to the Mer de Glace. (See more about this under “More Than Just Skiing” below.)



Hotel La Folie Douce credit MCPixphotography



Hotel La Folie Douce credit MCPixphotography

ACCOMMODATIONS: We will be staying in premier rooms at the amazing Hotel La Folie Douce right at the slopes (ski in, walk out; ski out with the right snow conditions to the beginner lift). Most skiers will walk or take a 2 minute shuttle ride to the Brévent Cable Car to access the Brévent ski area. The party is ON at our hotel, complete with unforgettable Apres’ Ski. There you will find music,

dancing and light shows from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. nightly. It is the “happening” place to be after skiing in Chamonix!



Hotel Night Life! credit MCPixphotography

The Feel Good Club Sports & Spa boasts an 18-metre heated outdoor swimming pool, saunas and a steam room, fitness room and a sun terrace overlooking the majestic mountains of Chamonix. Book a massage or a yoga class and spoil yourself!

With Ample nightlife, 3 restaurants, your included breakfast buffet and dinners, 2 boutiques and 1 ski rental shop, and free Wi-Fi all inside our hotel, you can save your legs for the exceptional skiing and touring.



Feel Good Club Spa Pool credit MCPixphotography



Photo courtesy of Hotel La Folie Douce- Guest Room credit MCPixphotography



Luge Alpine Coaster © Pierre Raphoz

MORE THAN JUST GREAT SKIING

With Vox Cinema, museums, the sky way, tobogganing, QC Terme access, Mer de Glace glacier and the ice caves, the unique Apres' Ski parties in our own hotel's incredible bar, and multiple optional tours to choose from, it doesn't get better than this! We have a Paris pre-trip option for \$399 per person double occupancy with a direct flight from IAH to Paris on For the non-skiers we have many options for day trips and excursions. Just a few are as follows:

- Aosta, Italy
- Annecy
- Geneva and Lake Geneva region
- Wine tasting Tours

If people prefer to be adventurous on their own, they can hop on the train and travel to a dozen different villages in any direction.

The Chamonix ice caves (or ice grotto) in the Mer de Glace glacier is a great way for non-skiers (or skiers just taking a day off!) to spend a morning or afternoon in Chamonix and is included in the Mont Blanc Unlimited ski pass. This is what differentiates Chamonix from other ski resorts. Walking through the Chamonix ice caves, touching a real live glacier and being high up within these majestic mountains is a once in a lifetime experience. Take the steep Montenvers rack and pinion train (pictured above) up the mountain to access the Mer de Glace glacier and the ice caves. The ice caves are included in the train ticket.



Montenvers rack and pinion train -
Courtesy of Chamonix Mont-Blanc Valley Tourist Office

The crimson, toy like train has been delivering sightseers to arguably the most stunning mountain scenery in Europe since 1908. Walk through the ice caves, drink in the spectacular views over the glacier, learn about these great hunks of ice in the glaciarium and visit the small crystal exhibition.



Ice Caves in
Mer de Glace Glacier



Argentiere Glacier. MCpixmapography

MOUNTAIN STATISTICS AND THE SKIING:

The lift ticket that will be for purchase for 2 days or more through SCSC is the Mont Blanc Unlimited pass which includes all of the following:

Access to all Chamonix Ski Resorts:

Brevent-Flegere
Grand Montets
Les Houches
Balme "Le Tour – Vallorcine
les Planards
la Vormaine
le Savoy

Access to all Chamonix sightseeing excursion

Aiguille du Midi
Montenvers Mer de Glace railway

In addition, you also have the following benefits based on the number of days of your pass:

2-Day or More: Free and Unlimited access to ski
Courmayeur, Italy
Evasion Mont Blanc Ski area (from Megeve)
Free and unlimited access to the Skyway
<https://montebianco.com/it/>

3 Day or More: All of the above, plus
Unlimited access to the swimming Pool,
skating rink and Museums
One Toboggan slide descent per day at
Les Planards Ski Area
1 Cinema Vox
<http://www.cinemavox-chamonix.com/>
Access to QC Terme, Chamonix
<https://www.qcterme.com/fr/chamonix-mont-blanc/qc-termechamonix>

Note: At the QC Terme you can enjoy whirlpools, hydro massages, hydrojets, waterfalls and much more.

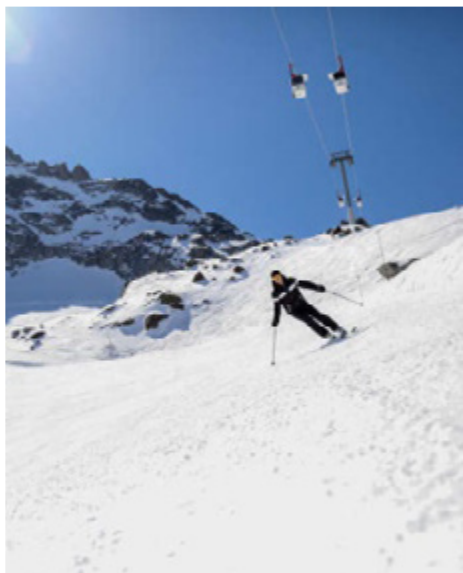
6 Day or More: All of the above, plus 1 ski day at Verbier, Switzerland. (50% off Day pass)

Note: Lift tickets include the ski shuttle busses throughout the resort plus Megève, with the exception of Verbier. None of the Chamonix Areas are included in either Epic or IKON, however, one of the optional tours will be to Verbier, Switzerland for a ski day. The Mont Blanc Pass gives you a 50% reduction off the lift pass there if you buy a 6 day pass. However, with the Epic Pass, you get a 5-day ticket for Verbier. You could use this here.

Based on 2019 prices, a 1-day Cham-ski pass is: \$51.00 Adult / \$42.00 Senior 64-79 and \$26.00 for 81 and older. Unlike the one-day Cham-pass, the Mont-blanc Unlimited pass (prices in the chart for 2 days or more) offers all the areas in the Mountain stats below:

Go to this website for up to date information:

www.montblancnaturaalresort.com



Grands Montets ski area-© Salome' Abrial

LIFT TICKETS		
	Adult 15-64	Senior 65-79
1 Day	\$51.00	\$42.00
2 Days	\$152.00	\$129.00
3 Days	\$224.00	\$184.00
4 Days	\$286.00	\$243.00
5 Days	\$343.00	\$291.00
6 Days	\$372.00	\$317.00

THE STATISTICS OF ALL CHAMONIX SKI AREAS:

GRAND MONTETS SKI AREA:			
VERTICAL	TOP ELEVATION	BASE ELEVATION	SKIABLE AREA
6680 Feet	10800 Feet	4,130 Feet	29 km of marked trails

BREVENT-FLAGERE SKI AREA:			
VERTICAL	TOP ELEVATION	BASE ELEVATION	SKIABLE AREA
4915 Feet	8335 Feet	3,420 Feet	60 km of marked trails

LE TOUR SKI AREA:			
VERTICAL	TOP ELEVATION	BASE ELEVATION	SKIABLE AREA
2645 Feet	7452 Feet	4,807 Feet	27 km of marked trails 40km of Cross Country

LES HOUCHES SKI AREA:			
VERTICAL	TOP ELEVATION	BASE ELEVATION	SKIABLE AREA
2986 Feet	6234 Feet	3248 Feet	34km of marked trails

You can also experience the Aiguille du Midi (Mont Blanc Glacier) as well as Courmayeur, Italy and Verbier and Megève with our Mont Blanc Pass.

All in all, you will have over 200 miles of marked/groomed runs. This does not take in account off-piste, of which there is almost double the terrain. (France considers Off-Piste anything that is not a groomed run.)



QC Terme Indoor Pool © QC Terme

TRANSPORTATION

Our flight schedule, subject to change, is below:

FLIGHT SCHEDULE:

31 JAN.	KL 662	IAH / AMS	3:15PM – 7:45AM
01 FEB.	KL1927	AMS / GVA	9:30AM – 11:00AM
08 FEB.	AF 1243	GVA / CDG	7:20AM – 8:35AM
08 FEB.	AF 636	CDG / IAH	10:10AM – 2:20PM

So far we have private chartered bus transportation for transfers, but we will take a train for part of the transfer from Paris to Chamonix.

RENTALS AND SKI SCHOOL

Our tour operator is currently working on securing the TSC the best rates for both rentals and ski lessons. I will update this area closer to the trip once these prices are available.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE.....

We have finalized a fabulous 2-night PARIS pre-trip option with a direct flight to Paris from IAH from January 29th to February 1st! You can experience Paris, using less than 2 and a half days of vacation, for only \$399!

This pre-trip includes:

- * Air between IAH and Paris via Air France
- * Transfer between Charles Du Gaulle Airport and Hotel
- * 2 nights accommodations at the Novotel Tour Eiffel, Paris with major tourist attractions steps away!
- * Breakfast buffet daily in Paris
- * Transfer between Hotel and Gare de Lyon Station, Paris.

- * 2nd class rail between Paris and Geneva via TGV (High Speed Train) Train rides are so FUN!
- * Transfer to our wonderful Chamonix Hotel
- * All local taxes

You are free to experience dinner in Paris, both evenings, anywhere your sense of adventure takes you! Choose a romantic evening for two or a fun group dining experience, however, dinner will be on your own. If I have 20 participants for Paris, I will be able to throw in a special surprise for each of you!

FLIGHT SCHEDULE: (subject to change at any time) –

We are currently holding 24 seats

29 JAN. AF 639 IAH / CDG 4:15PM– 8:40AM

Note: The \$399 includes no air. The flight above is substituted for the January 31st inbound flight to Geneva if you are doing the pre-trip and the full package. You substitute the Paris air for the regular full package air to get there, then both have the same return air unless you also sign up for the post trip which will have different TBA return air.

Post-Trip To Sicily

Experience an optional 6 day TSC post trip, offering a unique tour of Sicily, with the following tentative schedule. The price for this post-trip will vary depending upon how many participants sign up. The price is \$1545, based on double occupancy, however, this price is subject to change. The price will go up if the TSC has less than 30 total participants and it will go down to \$1494 double occupancy, if the TSC has more than 35 participants.

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Chamonix/Milan/Palermo

Transfer by coach from Chamonix to Milan. Flight between Milan & Palermo, Sicily on Easy Jet. Arrival in Palermo airport and transfer by private coach to the hotel. Overnight.

Day 2: Palermo - Monreale - Palermo

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning departure to Monreale for the visit of its splendid Cathedral covered of golden mosaics, the most extended in the world after Santa Sofia in Istanbul and San Marco in Venice. Visit of the next Benedictine Cloister. At the end, return to Palermo for the visit of the Palatine Chapel, located inside the Normanni Palace, the ancient real palace, and the Cathedral. We will follow along Corso Vittorio Emanuele, the ancient “cassaro”, straight down to the Quattro Canti, focus point of the city. Free time for lunch. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 3: Palermo – Segesta – Erice – Selinunte – Agrigento

Breakfast at hotel and departure to Segesta: Visit of the

Doric Temple. Then continue to Erice, a small medieval town perched on top of the mountain. Time for leisure to stroll and visit of the beautiful “Chiesa Madre”, the gothic cathedral. Continue to a local farmhouse where you will have an Olive oil tasting and lunch. After lunch departure to Selinunte: guided tour of the archaeological zone. Overnight at the hotel in Agrigento. Dinner and overnight.

Day 4: Agrigento – Piazza Armerina – Palermo

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, we visit the famous Valley of Temples of Agrigento, which was one of the greatest cities of the ancient Mediterranean world, it has been preserved in an exceptionally intact condition. The archaeological Park contains one of the great treasures of Greek still existing. The Doric temples, built in tuff sandstone, are still worth seeing today. The colour of the temples changes from deep yellow to pink during sunset. The “Valley of the Temples” is a World Heritage Site (UNESCO) since 1997. Departure to Piazza Armerina. Lunch in a local farmhouse with typical products. After lunch, visit the marvellous Villa Romana del Casale (UNESCO heritage) with its perfectly preserved mosaics dating from the late fourth century. A.D. The charm of the place is mainly due to the enchanting decorative mosaics, exceptional in their artistic quality and for their sheer size. Proceed to Palermo. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 5: Palermo – Cefalù – Palermo

Breakfast at the Hotel. Departure to Cefalù, an enchanting small village on the sea that offers a beautiful artistic view of colours and lights. Visit of the impressive “Norman Cathedral” (UNESCO heritage) which dates back to 1131. Free time to stroll among the small streets, which retain their medieval charm, full of elegant shops and jewellers. Return to Palermo. Tonight enjoy a Farwell Dinner at a local Restaurant. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 6: Palermo

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Palermo airport for departure flight to USA via Rome or Milan.

The air for the full post-trip will be as follows:

08 FEB.	IG 667	MXP / PMO 3:05PM - 4:45PM **
13 FEB.	AZ 1774	PMO / FCO 6:45AM - 7:55AM **
13 FEB.	DL 065	FCO / ATL 11:35AM - 5:00PM
13 FEB.	DL 1853	ATL / IAH 7:55PM - 9:17PM

At the time of this Sitzmarke update 24 spots have already been sold. Don't delay your sign-up on line if you want to go! Currently all land packages are sold out, but contact me (Cindy) if you require one as I might be able to add some more.

Come with me.....to Chamonix! We will have a blast!



Start Date: 02/08/2020 End Date: 02/15/2020

Sign Up: August 12th

Trip Coordinator: René Reed

TC Email: ReneSReed@icloud.com

Full Package: \$ 1975 Land Only: \$ 1361

Deposit: \$ 150 Total Participants: 30

The question isn't "Why should you come on this Telluride Trip?" The question is, "Why would you not?" The beautiful town of Telluride and its Mountain Village Ski Resort offer us a bucket list opportunity to ski the #1 Ski Resort in North America (Conde Nast)!



THE MOUNTAIN: Two thousand beautiful, uncrowded acres with 40 percent of the slopes dedicated to beginner and intermediate runs. Galloping Goose, a green run, is the longest at 4.6 miles. There is a blue run for every lift so you can see a lot of the scenery. The remainder of the mountain is for lovers of advanced runs and the steep and deep Double Black Diamonds. There are also multiple bowls and terrain parks. Average snow is 300 inches per year.

Total Lifts: 17 Total Trails: 148

Vertical Drop: 4,425 feet

Base: 8,725 feet Maximum by lift:

Alpino Vino: Highest elevation restaurant & wine bar in N. America 11,996 feet



Discounted Lift tickets and Epic Pass is accepted!

3 Day - \$ 247

4 Day - \$ 314

5 Day - \$ 386

6 Day - \$ 523

OUR ACCOMMODATIONS: Bear Creek Lodge is an intimate lodge with 31 very spacious 2 bedroom/2 bath and 3 bedroom/3 bath condominiums. Ski storage is provided



at each con-do.

Porters will be on hand when we arrive to whisk our luggage from bus to bedroom. The con-dos have all been updated with stainless appliances and granite countertops. Complimentary wifi. There is a heated pool and three hot tubs (outdoor and indoor), fitness room, ping pong, and a large lobby with a fireplace. For aching muscles, a massage spa is on site. The large fire pit will be a great place to meet-up for a post ski happy hour.

A semi-private funicular makes a 4 minute ride from our condominiums to a green run that goes down to the Mountain Village Base with access to the lifts and the 'Chondola.'



JUST PLAIN FUN!! The ski life only gets better with lots of opportunities to meet, greet and cheat on our "lifestyle eating plans". Why not.... we will burn off those calories. A wine and cheese reception will welcome us after our arrival on Saturday. We will hear about the mountain and everyone will receive their lift tickets.

We will also have opportunities to meet on and off the

mountain for lunches and happy hours. These meet ups offer a great chance to gather and socialize with other Space City members at the restaurants or bars suggested for each day. You will likely find new friends that ski your ability!!

Be sure to come to Telluride with one or two of your very best jokes and we will do our own version of Clean Comedy Central, when we meet one night for a group dinner!! If that is not enough comedy for you, the 21st Annual Telluride Comedy Festival will be taking place on February 13 and 14 with top Comedians from the U.S. If you need more to get your heart pumping, there is ice climbing, ice skating, fat tire snow biking and heli-skiing.

TRANSPORTATION: Awesome flight times on United Airlines!! No getting up at the crack of dawn in either direction.

February 8 United #6507 12:05 pm - 2:02 pm
February 15 United #6125 3:00 pm - 6:32 pm

The shuttle bus will be waiting to take us to Bear Creek Lodge on a 90 minute ride.

Land Package participants, please schedule your flights to take advantage of the shuttle opportunity.

There are several markets in Mountain Village and Telluride for grocery and liquor shopping. Bear Creek Lodge provides a shuttle to anywhere around Mountain Village and they have a great reputation for their timelines and availability. The icing on the cake is the unique, free, public transportation of the Gondola that runs between Mountain Village and the very quaint town of Telluride. Ski into Telluride for lunch and take the Gondola back up!! It's only 13 minutes.

Can't wait to see you there.



TRIP SUMMARY

Start Date:

Sat., Feb. 22, 2020 End Date: Sat., Feb. 29, 2020

Trip Coordinator (TC): Linda Erdman

TC email: cbutte@spacecity.org

Full Package Price: \$1,593 per person

Land Package Price: \$1,116 per person

Single Supplement Price: \$961 per person

Final Payment Date: Mon., Nov. 11, 2019 Total Participants: 34

Deposit: \$150 per person Resort Pass Affiliation: Epic

TRIP DESCRIPTION



Mountain Photo Courtesy of Vail Resorts National Sales Team

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

Come ski Crested Butte with over a hundred of your fellow Texans. That's right, 5 of the Texas ski clubs will be making the trip this winter!! In addition to the Space City activities, you can participate in the TSC activities which include a welcome party with a DJ, a pub crawl through the village,



Elk Avenue Courtesy of Vail Resorts National Sales Team

a fun racing day and a banquet with dinner and dancing to wind up the trip. There will also be daily suggested lunch and happy hour meeting places and some optional group activities that are still in the works.

Crested Butte, the self-proclaimed "last great ski town in America", is one of the few resorts in North America that really does offer wide-ranging terrain for every kind of skier. Spanning 1,547 acres, Crested Butte Mountain Resort has plenty of terrain for beginner and intermediate skiers (more than two thirds of that acreage) while the rest is dedicated to insanely steep extreme terrain serviced by some of the best lifts in the country. Due to its large amount of extreme skiing terrain, the mountain has attracted the U.S. Extreme Skiing Championships and the X Games.

Founded in 1879 as a coal and silver mining town, Crested Butte transitioned to a ski town in the 1960s when the Crested Butte Mountain Resort opened. The town is just a 10-minute shuttle ride from the mountain and is extremely pedestrian friendly with plenty of places to shop and eat, many of them on the iconic Elk Avenue. Be sure to stop and take in the breathtaking view of the mountain when you are in town.



Skiers Photo Courtesy of Vail Resorts National Sales Team



Groomers Photo Courtesy of Vail Resorts

MOUNTAIN STATISTICS

1,547 skiable acres Average snowfall 234 inches
2,775 vertical drop with a summit elevation of 12,162 feet
and base elevation of 9,375 feet
121 named trails Longest run 2.6 miles (Peak to Treasury)
Beginner 18%, Intermediate 29%, Advanced 21%, Expert 32%
15 lifts open daily 9AM-4PM



The Plaza © Vail Resorts

ACCOMMODATIONS

We will be staying at the Plaza (on the mountain) in 2- and 3-bedroom condos. The Plaza offers condominium convenience in a hotel-like setting and is located a short walk from the Silver Queen and Red Lady lifts. Some of the amenities include room service, high-speed internet, indoor and outdoor hot tubs, a steam room, covered parking and free shuttle service to town. Each unit has a private washer and dryer, balcony, fireplace and full kitchen.

For your convenience, the WoodStone Grille, Log'd Gift Shop and Wildflower Spa are located in the lobby of the Plaza.



Bungee Trampoline Photo Courtesy of Vail Resorts National Sales Team

MORE THAN JUST GREAT SKIING

In addition to ski and snowboard trails, the resort has a well-earned reputation for being the Nordic ski capital of Colorado with 55 kilometers of Nordic trails for cross-country and skate skiing.

If you are not a skier or snowboarder, there are still plenty of activities for you to enjoy. The resort offers winter horse-back riding, guided snowmobile tours, sleigh ride and yurt dinners, snowshoeing and fat tire snow biking. There are also 4 terrain parks, including Ten Peaks Progression Park which offers small, simple lines to learn on as well as to take your skills to the next level. For more fun, check out the Adventure Park which offers year-round bungee trampolines, ziplining and a tubing hill.

There are a number of places to eat located at the base of the mountain including a Mexican restaurant and a pizza parlor. Options on the mountain include Umbrella Bar at Ten Peaks located at the top of Painter Boy Lift, Uley's Cabin & Bar located off the Red Lady Express at the bottom of Peanut Run and Paradise Warming House located at the bottom of Paradise Lift

TRANSPORTATION

We leave George Bush Intercontinental Airport on Saturday, February 22nd at 12:30 p.m. and arrive in Gunnison (Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport) at 2:20 p.m. with a short ride to the resort. On Saturday, February 29th, we leave Gunnison at 3:00 p.m. and arrive in Houston at 6:34 p.m. Both flights are with United Airlines.

RENTALS & SKI SCHOOL

I will be providing information on discounted ski and snowboard rentals at a later date. If you are interested in taking a group or private lesson or a specialty clinic, I will also be providing information on ski school options.

Trip Coordinator: Linda Erdman
cbutte@spacecity.org



DEER VALLEY

February 29 – March 7

TC: Stuart Traver



DEER VALLEY

This year, SCSC is offering a trip to Deer Valley, one of the premier locations to ski in North America. The vision of the founders was to provide a luxury lodging experience, first class guest services and gourmet food along with skiing. Since 1998, the ski resort has been ranked in the top three and #1 eight times by the readers of SKI magazine, including an unprecedented 5 times between 2008-12. Since 2013, Deer Valley has been voted the Best Ski Resort in the United States by the voters of the World Ski Awards who are professionals working in



Scenic Skier credit Deer Valley Resort

the skiing industry.

Deer Valley has 21 chairlifts, 103 runs, and 6 bowls on over 2000 acres of skiable terrain on 4 mountains catering to all ability levels. The number of lift tickets sold each day is limited so that lift lines remain short. Deer Valley offers a ski-only resort experience.

We will be staying in two-bedroom, three-bathroom condominiums at the Lodges, located in the Base area of the resort. Each condominium features a full kitchen, dining area, gas fireplace, and washer/dryer. The Lodges offers several conveniences: a restaurant, general store for groceries, beer and wine, ski-rental shop where lift tickets

can also be purchased, fitness center, hot tub and heated swimming pool. A hot breakfast and après ski are included



Groomers credit Deer Valley Resort

with the lodging. Shuttle transportation by Cadillac is offered within the resort and to Park City's historic Main Street for dining and nightlife.

We will arrange transportation to meet your flight for each SCSC participant to and from the airport at Salt Lake City, less than an hour away from the resort (38 miles). Non-stop flights are available between Houston and Salt Lake City. On your day of arrival, we are planning a cocktail party with appetizers and light entrees from 6 - 8:30 pm. For this trip, SCSC is offering land-only packages. If we get 10 or more participants who want air transportation, we will offer a group airfare rate (see full package price).

Group rates are available on lift tickets if we get 20 participants per day. Otherwise, Deer Valley offers discounts for multi-day tickets and for seniors (65+).

Deer Valley has been on my bucket list for some time. Please join me!

Land Only : \$1893 (includes lodging, local transportation, and cocktail party)

Single Supplement \$1796.



The Lodges credit Deer Valley Resort

Classic Russia

Moscow, the Golden Ring & St. Petersburg

Embrace the beauty of tradition and well-preserved history as you travel through Russia's most incredible cities!

Dates: June 2 to June 12, 2020

Full package: \$4395*

TC: Jill Nanney email to: russia@spacecity.org



St. Basil's Cathedral

Trip at a Glance:

- 11 days - 3 nights in Moscow, 2 nights in the Golden Ring (Suzdal), 4 nights in St. Petersburg
- **Tour highlights:**
 - o Moscow: Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, Kremlin, Tretyakov Gallery
 - o Golden Ring: Open-Air Museum of Wooden Architecture (preserves traditional peasant villages for people to see how Russians lived, worked and wor-



shipped in the 17th to 19th centuries), Lunch with a Local Family

o St. Petersburg: Hermitage Museum, Vodka Tasting in Museum of Russian Vodka, Peterhof's Palace, St. Cathrine Palace and more!

- Round-trip air from IAH via Lufthansa airlines; taxes, fees and fuel surcharges
- Accommodations in First Class hotels
- 14 Meals: 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 2 dinners
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours including admission fees
- English-speaking tour guides throughout
- Note: You will need a Russian Visa – currently \$160

* We've tried to plan around as much as possible but the price may change/increase if we need change of hotel and/or keeping same hotel in St Petersburg IF our dates end up falling into the International Economic Form (Forum date will not be confirmed until late October of 2019)

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 - Tuesday June 2, 2020 - USA – RUSSIA

Your magical journey to Russia begins as you depart Houston today on your overnight flight. Your flight will leave at 3.55pm from Houston on Lufthansa airlines and arrive the following day around 5.15pm (Sunday) in Moscow, with about a 4.25hour layover in Frankfurt for the flight connection.

Day 2 - Wednesday June 3, 2020 – MOSCOW

Arrive in Moscow, a beautiful city filled with palaces, cathedrals, beautiful bridges over canals, spacious squares and wide streets. You'll be met and escorted to your centrally located hotel. After a welcome meeting, check-in and attend a welcome dinner at the local Chekhov restaurant. Accommodation (D)

Day 3 - Thursday June 4, 2020 - MOSCOW

In the morning, you will visit the Old Tretyakov gallery which is a unique museum where one will have the perfect chance to get acquainted with the best examples of Russian art. Enjoy a tour in the halls devoted to Russian icon painting, where you will learn the painting techniques of the old masters and admire medieval masterpieces while listening to the fascinating stories about them. In the afternoon, visit the Russian handicraft centre-Izmaylovo, famous for its open-air souvenir market. Here is an opportunity to browse or to buy a great variety of traditional Russian craft objects- famous matryoshkas, wood-carving goods, porcelain, birchbark items, Russian Army uniforms and more! Here you will partake in a Matryoshka (the famous Russian

nesting dolls) painting class! Evening at leisure. Accommodation in Moscow (B)

Day 4 - Friday June 5, 2020 - MOSCOW

Begin the day with an early entrance tour of the heart of the city and country – the Kremlin. You might be surprised how many ancient and magnificent structures one can see within its walls: 15th century cathedrals, a bell-tower, Patriarch's Palace, Grand Kremlin Palace and of course the Armoury. The Armoury has a fantastic collection of insignia of Imperial power, precious clothes, ceremonial harnesses and a unique collection of imperial carriages. In the afternoon, enjoy a Moscow city tour, passing the main streets and boulevards of the ancient city. You will see all the major landmarks: Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, Sparrow Hills and New Maiden Convent. The next stop is the Metro, as Moscow's underground is not only the fastest means of transportation in Moscow, but also a unique architectural ensemble. Major stations built in the 1930s look like palaces richly decorated with marble, mosaic and semi-precious stones. Learn about the thrilling "underground palaces" during a tour of the oldest and most beautiful metro stations. Accommodation in Moscow (B/D)

Day 5 - Saturday June 6, 2020 - MOSCOW - VLADIMIR – SUZDAL

After breakfast, Drive to Vladimir. The history of Vladimir goes back over one thousand years and preserves examples of white-stone medieval architecture along with buildings from the 16-20th centuries. Unique memorials still remain – Cathedrals of Assumption and St. Demetrius Cathedral. You will see the famous Golden Gates (1158-1164) located close to town centre. Visit the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl river (Bogolubovo). You will have lunch at the Duke Vladimir then continue to Suzdal, check in at the hotel in Suzdal (B,L).

Day 6 - Sunday June 7, 2020 – SUZDAL

Today, explore Suzdal. The entire town is a museum which has hardly changed for the past two and a half centuries. First, visit the Monastery of St. Euthymius which was founded in the 14th century and grew in importance in the 16th and 17th centuries after donations from Vasili III, Ivan V and the Pozharsky family, a noble dynasty of the region. Among the buildings erected during this period were the Assumption Church, the bell tower, the surrounding walls and towers, and the seven-domed Cathedral of the Transfiguration of the Saviour. Continue to the Suzdal Kremlin, the oldest part of the Russian city dating from the 10th century. Together with several structures in the neighboring

city of Vladimir, it was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1992. Visit the Open-Air Museum of Wooden Architecture, which preserves traditional peasant villages for people to see how Russians lived, worked and worshipped in the 17th to 19th centuries. For lunch, enjoy a meal with a local family. This evening, enjoy at leisure. (B,L).

Day 7 - Monday June 8, 2020 - SUZDAL-GOLDEN RING-HIGH SPEED TRAIN TO ST PETERSBURG

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and drive to Moscow. On arrival in Moscow, enjoy lunch at "Bon App" restaurant before the journey through the Golden Ring. The Golden Ring of Russia is amidst plains, lakes and marshes with scattered old Russian towns. Life here is completely different from the big cities and an opportunity to see true Russia. Arrive in St Petersburg and transfer from the train station to the hotel for check-in. Accommodation in St Petersburg. (B,L).



Day 8 - Tuesday June 9, 2020 - ST PETERSBURG

After breakfast, enjoy early-access to the Hermitage, the world's second biggest museum. Today, the museum has over 2 million exhibits. The exhibitions are diverse with works by Da Vinci, Raphael, Rembrandt, an impressive collection of impressionists and the largest collection of the Titans in existence. Your tour will continue with a visit to Peter & Paul's fortress, founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, and the oldest building in St. Petersburg. Until 1917, the fortress was mainly used for holding political prisoners, such as Dostoevsky, Lenin's brother Alexander, and Peter the Great's own son, Alexei. At the heart of the fortress is the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, with its landmark gold spire, where all of Russia's pre-Revolutionary leaders were buried, apart from Peter, Ivan IV and Nicholas II. Drop off

in Nevsky for free time and lunch at leisure. Afterwards, enjoy a vodka tasting and a guided tour of the Museum of Russia Vodka. The museum tells us about the drink which has been an integral and essential attribute of Russian life for centuries. Possible date for the evening at a ballet event or on day 10 (ballet dates not yet published). (B)

Day 9 - Wednesday June 10, 2020 - ST PETERSBURG

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and then head to Peterhof, or “Peter’s Court,” for a special early opening of the Grand Palace. Peterhof dates back to 1715 and is the former summer residence of the Russian Tsars. Most famous for its stunning golden fountains, the palace grounds are also home to several buildings and parks. This afternoon, experience St. Petersburg from the water, on a private canal ride. As you cruise along, relax and enjoy the unique view of St. Petersburg then visit of St Isaak. St. Isaac’s Cathedral stands out in the Saint Petersburg’s skyline and is the largest cathedral in the city. It adorns impressive exteriors and beautiful interiors and is a landmark in the city. In the evening, you will go see the Nikolayevsky Posad Folk show. Accommodation in St Petersburg (B)



Church of the Spilled Blood

Day 10 - Thursday Jun 11, 2020 - ST PETERSBURG

Today, you will explore the Tsar village, the Catherine palace and its parks and the church of the Spilled Blood. Tsarskoe Selo, in the town called Pushkin near St. Petersburg, is one of the area’s most impressive sights. The palace complex of Tsarskoe Selo (which means “Tsars’ Village” in Russian) includes attractions that are popular draws on their own: the Catherine Palace and parks, the Alexander Palace and parks, and associated outbuildings that have been restored or renovated into exhibition spaces. The entire complex is a part of the UNESCO-protected Russian World Heritage site and will dazzle you with its beauty so completely, you’ll be seeing tsars! and you will cover the most iconic mon-

uments and the must see in St Petersburg. Potential date for the Ballet evening or in day 8. Accommodation in St Petersburg (B)

Day 11 - Friday June 12, 2020 - ST PETERSBURG – USA

Following breakfast, very early transfer to the airport for your early return flight to the USA that would leave St Petersburg around 5.55 am with Lufthansa airlines, connecting to your trans-Atlantic flight in Frankfurt around 10 am (2 hours layover) to arrive back home in Houston around 1.50 pm the same day. (B)

Featured Hotels

Hotel Azimut Olympic 4****

18/1 Olimpiyskiy prospekt,
127055 MOSCOW

Art hotel Nikolaevsky Posad

Ulitsa Lenina, 138,
Suzdal, Vladimirskaya oblast', Russia, 601293

Marriott Courtyard Vasilievsky hotel 4** or similar****

2 line of Vasilievsky Island 61/30

Sankt-Peterburg, Russia, 197701

(**) We may have to switch hotel if 2020 International economic forum falls into our dates of travel to stay in a reasonable accommodation cost (to be determined once the dates of the forum are published)

All photos courtesy of SmarTours

Trip Coordinator: Jill Nanney
russia@spacecity.org



Greece Cruise

TRIP SUMMARY

Start Date: Aug. 27, 2020 End Date: Sep. 6, 2020

Trip Coordinator (TC): Thuy Rocque

TC email: greece@spacecity.org

Full Package Price: varies by cabin

Land Package Price: varies by cabin

Single Supplement: n/a

Final Payment Date: Mon., Apr. 13, 2020 Deposit: \$300 per person

Total Participants: 28

TRIP DESCRIPTION

Greece, the name conjures images of magnificent ancient ruins, crystal blue seawater with sandy beaches, white stucco building with colorful rooftops perched on steep cliffs, and of course delightful foods. Now you can turn those images into reality by joining us on this once in a lifetime trip to the Greek islands whether you're looking to relax on picturesque islands with unspoiled sandy beaches or stimulate your senses in places that have marked ancient history. Come and be serenaded by the romance of the Aegean Sea and visit the most enchanting Greek island destinations dotted around the Aegean Sea, where culture, history, pristine beaches, and fishing villages suspended in time all await.

Set foot on some of the most magnificent ancient ruins in the world when we visit Athens, Greece as part of your adventure. Our journey spans 2 countries and starts

in the magnificent ancient city of Athens, then we embark on a 7 night cruise starting in Turkey (Kusadasi) then visit some of Greece's most popular islands (Mykonos, Santorini, Ephesus, Rhodes, Santorini, Milos, and Olympia), and finally disembark back in Athens for another half day of sightseeing. There's also the option of extending your journey for another 2 nights in Athens to explore a city that

you've read about in history books.

So, what are you waiting for??? Join me on my "Big Fat Greek adventure" and sign up today. Get your spouse,

partner, significant other, friend, sibling or even a parent and sign up together to get the cabin class you want for this Bucket List trip. Cabin types are limited and leaving it to chance to get a cabin-mate who wants your exact choice of cabin price category is risky so find a partner ahead of time then sign up as cabin mates. Opa!!



TRIP AT A GLANCE:

- Roundtrip airfare from Houston (IAH) (full package only).

- Airline taxes, fees & fuel surcharges.

- Intra-Greece ground transportation and transfers by air-conditioned motor coach.

- Accommodations pre and post cruise at first class and deluxe Athens hotels (1 night before and 1 night after cruise).

- 7-night "Idyllic Aegean" Sea Cruise aboard Celestyal Cruises Crystal Ship.

- Port charges.

- 25 meals: 9 full buffet American breakfasts (B), 7 lunches (L) and 9 dinners (D).

- Comprehensive sightseeing tours in Athens, Olympia and Delphi.

- Three (3) included shore excursions (additional optional shore excursions are available for purchase onboard).

- Professional guides for included sightseeing tours and tour director throughout trip.

- All tips & gratuities during cruise onboard ship and on included shore excursions.



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY:

(B,L,D) indicates if breakfast, lunch and/or dinner is provided

Day 1 - August 27, 2020 - USA - GREECE

Your magical journey to Greece and the Greek Isles begins as you depart Houston, TX today on your overnight flight.

Day 2 - August 28, 2020 - Athens

Arrive today in Athens, the capital of Greece and the birthplace of western civilization. You'll be met at the airport and transfer to the hotel. The balance of the day is at your leisure. Accommodation at the Amalia Hotel (D)

Day 3 - August 29, 2020 - Board onto the Celestial Crystal Cruiseship

After a sumptuous breakfast, check out of the hotel and board a bus for a guided Athens city tour including visits to the Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum. Afterwards, transfer to Piraeus, your port of embarkation, and settle into your cabin onboard the ship. Over the next seven days you'll sail the deep blue waters of the Aegean Sea and explore Turkey and the fascinating Greek Isles.

Your ship sails at 7pm. Dinner and overnight aboard ship. (B,L,D)

Day 4 - August 30, 2020 - Kusadasi, Turkey

Dock this morning at the Turkish port of Kusadasi located a short driving distance from the ancient city of Ephesus. Take a shore excursion to ancient Ephesus where you will find immortal relics of the Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian era. At the archaeological site, you will be given a guided tour among the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main street of Kourtes, the Baths of Scholastica, Trajan's Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Residences of the Patricians, the Prytaneum, and the Temple of Hadrian. The Great Theatre, built in the 4th century B.C., could accommodate 24,000 spectators and it is famous even nowadays for its acoustics. The finds from the excavations, which have brought to light only 13% of ancient Ephesus, reside in the Archaeological Museum of Ephesus, in the city of Selcuk. During this excursion you will have the opportunity to do some shopping such as carpets, jewelry, leather and other souvenirs.

Return to the ship and set sail towards the lively Island of Rhodes, Greece in the evening. Dinner and overnight aboard ship. (B,L,D)

Day 5 - August 31, 2020 - Rhodes, Greece

Today's port of call is Rhodes, the beautiful "Island of Roses". A visit to the old city of Rhodes is like stepping back to the time of the Crusades as you stroll the polished cobblestones of the Street of the Knights and explore the medieval Palace of the Grand Masters. You can relax at leisure or enjoy one of the optional shore excursions to the acropolis of Lindos, perched high on a hilltop overlooking the sparkling Bay of St. Paul. In the heart of the port city of Rhodes is the larg-

est inhabited medieval town in Europe, a fascinating web of Byzantine, Turkish and Latin ruins. Its mighty fortifications provide the finest surviving examples of defensive architecture of all time. Rhodes' most picturesque town is Lindos where whitewashed houses are clustered beneath a soaring castle-capped acropolis dedicated to the goddess Athena.

Set sail later today. Dinner and overnight aboard ship. (B,L,D)

Day 6 - September 1, 2020 - Heraklion, Greece

Morning arrival to the island of Crete, rich with history and culture. Awake to the island's bustling capital, Heraklion. The busy capital of Crete is a former Venetian harbor with a history dating back even further, to the time of the Minoans. Visit Knossos, once home to Europe's oldest civilization and the setting of the legend of Theseus and the Minotaur and delve further into the art and creativity of the Minoans at the city's extraordinary Archaeological Museum. You can visit one of the island's most picturesque places: the Lion's Square. Stop in a local cafe where you can savor a "bougatsa", a local Cretan pastry.

The ancient city of Knossos, with constant habitation from the Neolithic era until the 5th century A.D. and is beyond doubt the land that "gave birth" to the first civilization of Europe. The first excavations were begun in 1878 by the Heraklian Minos Kalokairinos. A bit later (1900-1913 & 1922-1930) the excavations by the British Sir Arthur Evans were to complete the scientific research, bringing to light the Minoan palace in its entirety, which was, according to tradition, the residence of the wise King Minos. The palace of Knossos spreads around the large Central Court. You will reach the awe inspiring Throne Room, the fresco of the "Prince of the Lilies", the imposing Grand Staircase, and the Queen's Megaron in the east.

We will stop in Heraklion on the way back to the ship. Heraklion was founded in 824 and is an important homeland of many contributors to Literature and Art, some examples of which are the Nobel winning poet Odysseas Elytis, the Renaissance painter Domenikos Theotokopoulos (El Greco) and the writer Nikos Kazantzakis. Heraklion is also endowed with some wonderful edifices: the "Koules" fortress, the award winning Venetian structure of the Loggia, the Morosini Fountain, the Basilica of Saint Mark, and the Church of Agios Titos. Starting the walk from Liberty square of Heraklion, guests will pass by the shopping streets of Dedalou and 25th August and see the aforementioned sights along the way.

Return to the ship in the evening. Ship will sail at night for the next destination. (B,L,D)

Day 7 - September 2, 2020 - Santorini, Greece

Early arrival in Santorini. Sprinkled like sugar over sheer black volcanic cliffs, Santorini's whitewashed capital, Fira, is a sight to behold. Wander the narrow streets or venture along the



cliff top to pretty Oia for that iconic shot of the blue domed church. The ship will spend the evening in port, so take a ring-side seat in a cliff top bar to watch the fiery sunset.

After breakfast the next day is your included excursion to Santorini's Oia Village. First we head up to Megalochori village, one of the most authentic and unspoiled villages of the island with its distinctive architecture and character. We will continue to the east passing by small traditional villages of Kamari, Monolithos, Fira, Firostefani and Imerovigli, with delicate architecture and beauties, to eventually arrive at the settlement of Oia. During the entire route, to the west is lace-like caldera, the little islands of Thirasia, Palea and Nea Kameni and a magnificent panoramic view. In Oia, we will have plenty of time to stroll through the marble-paved alleys, to gaze at cute shops, to take pictures, to become acquainted with the characteristic buildings carved into the rocks, and the unusual captains' manors. The settlement Ammoudi is at the foot of the caldera. After your curiosity has been sated of the area which is characterized as being of "exceptional natural beauty", you will return to the ship. Afternoon at leisure in Santorini.

Return to the ship. Dinner and overnight sailing to the next destination. (B,L,D)

Day 8 - September 3, 2020 - Santorini - Milos - Mykonos, Greece

This morning, arrival in the island of Milos. Volcanic Milos shows off classic Cycladic beauty: the pretty whitewashed capital Plaka spilling over a hilltop, the coastline fringed with wind-and sea-sculpted rock formations, soft sandy beaches and aquamarine coves. Bask on the flat rocks of stunning Sarakiniko Beach or explore 2,000-year-old catacombs. You can visit at leisure or select one of the optional shore excursions. We will sail early afternoon to Mykonos and arrive in the evening. A cosmopolitan paradise that attracts more than its fair share of beautiful people, Mykonos Town is the archetypal image of the Cyclades, with immaculate whitewashed houses, windmills and winding alleys. Explore the sandy beaches, wander through the ancient temples on neighboring Delos and venture out on your overnight stay to enjoy the legendary nightlife.

Dinner and overnight aboard the ship in Mykonos (B,L,D)

Day 9 - September 4, 2020 - Mykonos, Greece

After breakfast, enjoy your day at leisure in Mykonos or select one of the optional shore excursions to discover the island of Delos with the Apollo sanctuary or travel to the South coast of the island and enjoy the day at the Kalafatis beach.

Return to the ship where we will sail early evening. Dinner and overnight sailing to the next destination. (B,L,D)

Day 10 - September 5, 2020 - Port of Piraeus, Greece

Early breakfast and arrive in Piraeus at 9 am. You will disembark from the ship and take a bus transfer back to your hotel in Athens for an overnight stay. Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure or you can opt for an optional excursion visiting the Vassiliou winery with wine tasting followed by a mezze lunch with seafood appetizers.

Enjoy a memorable farewell dinner at a local restaurant with an incredible view of the Acropolis. Return to the hotel. Accommodation at the Amalia hotel (B/D)

Day 11 - September 6, 2020 Athens - USA or Extension stay in Athens

Following breakfast, early transfer to the airport for your return flight to the USA. Your memorable journey ends as you arrive back in Houston, Tx later today or hop on to the post cruise extension for 2 more nights in Athens (B)

CABIN CATEGORY & PRICES:

XA: Exterior Staterooms on Deck 2 (~12 sqm) with a porthole & 2 separate twin beds

Full Package: \$4,616* Land Package: \$3341

XB: Exterior Staterooms on Decks 3,5 and 6 (~11 sqm) with a window & 2 twin beds that can be separated or pushed together

Full Package: \$4,716* Land Package: \$3,441

SBJ: Junior Balcony Suite on Deck 6 & 7 (~15 sqm) with 2 lower beds and 1 sofa bed; a refrigerated mini bar and a balcony

Full Package: \$5,118* Land Package: \$3,843

*estimated airfare - final pricing available mid October 2019



XA Cabin



XB cabin with twin beds separated



XB cabin with twin beds together



SBJ suite balcony



SBJ suite king bed



Greece photos used in this article are stock photos owned and provided by smarTours
Ship & cabin photos used in this article are stock photos owned and provided by Celestyal Cruise

OPTIONAL TOURS (purchase onboard during cruise)

Delos-Sacred island & Apollo Sanctuary (To be booked onboard the Cruise)

You will be transported by boat to the ancient harbor of Delos where you will travel back in time. In front of the pier is the "Agora of Hermaists" or "Competalists" with altars and shrines where the ancient road crossed the two porticoes. Behind the south portico used to be the "Agora of Delians". Next follows the "Oikos (House) of Naxians", dated to the 7th century B.C. Further north you will admire the three "Temples of Apollo", the oldest of which was already in use by the 6th century. The southernmost temple is known as the "Temple of the Delians". At the northern side of the temples you will stand in front of the so-called "treasures". Here, every city of antiquity exhibited its offerings. A monument that will draw your attention is the "Sanctuary of the Bulls". You will find yourself at the "Agora of Theophrastos", and will pass by the "Temple of the Twelve Gods" to eventually reach the "Granite Monument". Next follows the "Avenue of the Lions", which was encircled by full-sized marble lions. The large building complex that rises in front of you is the "Establishment of the Poseidoniasts of Beirut" and it was built by ship owners and merchants from Beirut. The excursion comes to an end at Chora with free time for strolling through the alleys and the shops. Included: Guide, Boat transfer, Entrance Fees

Mykonian Dinner (To be booked onboard the Cruise)

This delightful excursion takes you on foot and up close to the wonders of Mykonos Town, one of the world's best-loved destinations. We'll start with a stroll along its narrow-cobbled streets, past chic boutiques and white-washed

churches and elegant cafes, until we arrive at Kastro, home of the famous Paraportiani Church. Next to Paraportiani is the Folklore Museum*, which is found in an old two-story captain's house. We will visit the museum, which houses interesting costumes, furniture and household items typically found in the island's homes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries alongside jewelry and textiles. The Folklore Museum is an in-depth tour of Mykonian life as it was more than 100 years ago. While in Kastro, we will also visit the smaller chapels of Paraportiani.

We walk from Kastro to Alefkhandra and Windmills. Alefkhandra, also known as "Little Venice," is a charming corner of Mykonos Town. The houses here, the homes of wealthy merchants and sea captains, were built on the sea in the 18th century, and their wooden balconies evoke the homes along the canals of Venice. From here we will walk to the windmills for a magnificent sunset and one of the best spots to take photos on this splendid island.

Your stroll through the picturesque little streets of Chora will bring you to a local tavern, where you are welcome to savor the taste, aromas and essence of genuine Greek spirit through Greek favorite flavors, drinks, music and dances.

Cycladic tastes, food on foot (To be booked onboard the Cruise)

Savor the delights of Mykonos with a foodie tour around the island capital. You'll see the city's highlights and neighborhoods all while sampling the best food and drink that Mykonos Town has to offer. We'll start it all with a caffeine kick at Café Barco where you'll be served a traditional coffee and sweet treat, after which we'll stroll past the famous windmills, through the narrow, cobbled lanes of Little Venice and the Three Mills to the one and only Paraportiani Church. Next, try some Greek peppers and olives washed down with some local raki before heading to Gioras bakery to eat their famous cheese and onion pie. We continue our food odyssey at Popolo where you'll sample local bruschetta, and then it's onto the pretty garden of Cine Manto to taste fresh Greek salad, beer and Mykonian sausage. And last but not least, you'll have some fig cheesecake served with olive marmalade waiting for you at Il Forno di Gerasimo.

Nostalgic Milos Cruise- Land and Sea (To be booked onboard the Cruise)

A short drive from the harbor takes us to famous Sarakiniko beach and its landmark white rocks. Naturally sculpted by volcanic eruptions, the sea and strong Aegean winds, it's the ideal backdrop for your snapshots. No wonder why it is one of the favorite photography subjects in the Cyclades. We'll walk down to the inlet in quest of intriguing photo opportunities and for swimming of course. You'll feel as if you've landed on the moon!

The picturesque village of Plaka, at the foot of the venetian

castle, comes next. We'll stroll through its cobblestone alleys, pass by traditional houses and blooming bougainvilleas. We have time to savor karpouzopita and koufeto, the local sweet delicacies at pastry shops, or head to the marble courtyard of Korfiatissa church for the best panoramic views – it's right next to the Folklore Museum, which we can also visit.

Last but not least, is our tour to Kleftiko. We drive by coach to Kipos, passing by Papikinos beach and the Salt fields. Aboard the "Delfinia" boat, we start our journey towards Kleftiko, once a pirate lair that has become an absolute must for any traveler. Its greyish rocks come out of the turquoise sea and you have the chance to swim through the sea caves. On the way to Kleftiko, the boat will make a shorter swimming stop at Gerondas beach.

Cruise to Santorin's Island and Volcanoes (To be booked onboard the Cruise)

The little islands of Palea and Nea Kameni are of particular geological interest, since underneath them slumbers an active volcano. From the cruise ship, you will be transported easily within a few minutes by small boat to Nea Kameni which resembles a moon landscape! You will walk up to the verge of the crater, the heart of the volcano, a unique geological phenomenon that will overwhelm you with awe. In Nea Kameni, nowadays there is gas-steam activity at the top of the crater, while its beaches are embraced by thermal springs.

The next stop of this special excursion, is Palea (or Palia) Kameni with its therapeutic warm waters. Here you will have a chance to swim in the hot springs. The sea temperature here is 5°C higher than in the rest of the locations and the green-yellow water contains sulphur. After the trip to the volcano, you will have the chance to walk, take keepsake photos, to touch the magic and energy of Fira. Finishing your trip in the main town of Santorini, you will descend by funicular (the ticket is included in the fee of this excursion) to the Old Port to reach the cruise ship by small boat.

Akrotiri village excavations (To be booked onboard the Cruise)

The people who lived on prehistoric Santorini called the island "Strongyle" (round). In 1650 BC the massive Thira volcano erupted, sinking the center of Strongyle and leaving behind an incredible caldera. You will marvel at its towering cliffs as slender boats carry you to the port of Athinios, where our air conditioned bus awaits to take you to Santorini's most significant archeological site, the village of Akrotiri.

From Athinios we will drive south. We will stop at the ruins of the island's famous windmill for photos and to enjoy the incredible panoramic view. We leave the windmill

for Akrotiri, where you'll have a chance to explore this ancient village. Its amazing ruins will take you back in time. These advanced people built two- and three-storey homes and grew crops, and you will marvel at the remnants of the houses, shops and workshops that surrounded the village square thousands of years ago. Akrotiri had been a bustling town, but its inhabitants abandoned it before the Thira volcano eruption, a mystery archeologists and historians are still trying to solve. The ash from the volcano buried the city, preserving many of its structures and some of its incredible frescoes. Could Akrotiri be the lost city of Atlantis? We'll let you decide.

After Akrotiri we'll drive to Fira, the capital of Santorini and its largest town, where we'll visit the Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral, also known as the Church of Ypapantis, famed for its elegant construction and its beautiful frescoes, which were painted by Santorini artist Christoforos Assimis. After our visit to the cathedral, you can linger in Fira to shop and enjoy a coffee or a snack, or you can take the Santorini Cable Car, the teleferik, to the port below with an incredible descent of more than 200 meters toward the deep blue waters of the caldera. Our boats will be ready, once you disembark from the teleferik, to bring you back to the ship.

OPTIONAL 2-NIGHT EXTENSION IN ATHENS: SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2020

- \$439 per person Double Occupancy (+\$149 for Single Supplement)
- Accommodation at first class hotel for 2 nights including breakfast
- Transfer from hotel to airport
- Half day tour in Cape Sounion w/ English speaking guide
- Optional excursions: half day Athens Markets walking tour; full day tour to Mycenae and Epidaurus.

EXTENSION TO ATHENS ITINERARY

Day 11 - September 6, 2020 - Athens, Greece

Following breakfast, morning at leisure or enjoy the opportunity to take an optional Athens Markets walking tour which takes you to the hustle and bustle of the capital's iconic 19th- century Varvakeios market, giving you the opportunity to walk amid the traditional stalls to take in the sights and smells of the freshest raw ingredients that have been the basis of Greek cuisine for centuries! Your expert guide will share stories of old Athens that will bring alive the history of this magnificent location.

In the afternoon, embark on the included half day excursion to Cape Sounion including a guided visit of the temple of Poseidon with your English speaking guide. Drive along the coastal road past the wonderful beaches of Glyfada, Vouliagmeni and Varkiza to the most southern point of Attica, Cape Sounion, where the white marble pillars of the Temple of Poseidon stand. On the way there, you have a splendid view of the Saronic Gulf and the little islands off-

shore. After visiting the Temple of Poseidon, you have time to walk at leisure on the rocky promontory of Sounion. Rest of the day at leisure. Accommodation (B)

Day 12 - September 7, 2020 - Athens, Greece

Following breakfast, you can enjoy Athens at leisure or opt for this full day optional tour to Mycenae and Epidaurus. You will drive the coastal road along the Saronic Gulf to the Corinth Canal, which connects the Aegean Sea. After a short stop, you will drive on to Mycenae, the Homeric city of the Atreides – the city “rich in gold” of the ancient poets (visit the Lion’s Gate, the Cyclopean Walls, the Royal Tombs etc). Depart for Nafplion through the fertile plain of Argolis, the picturesque town nestling at the foot of a cliff crowned by the mighty ramparts of the Palamidi Fortress. In the afternoon, we leave for Epidaurus to visit the Theatre (4th century B.C) famous for its astonishing acoustics. Return to Athens by the National road connecting Epidaurus with Corinth.

Accommodation (B)

Day 13 - September 8, 2020 - Athens, Greece - USA

Following breakfast, early transfer to the airport for your return flight to the USA. Your memorable journey ends as you arrive back in Houston, Tx later today (B)

OPTIONAL TOURS for Athens Extension post Cruise

Athens Market Walking Tour \$55 per person (Min. 15 participants)

Start by sampling different varieties of the country’s favorite breakfast food: traditional village pastries. Choose from a selection of cheese pies and spinach pies wrapped in traditional multilayered phyllo dough, before heading to your next stop, to explore the fragrant world of Greek herbal teas and infusions. Here you’ll get a chance to discover some of the different varieties of Greek herbs and learn about their medicinal properties and their role in traditional life around the country.

Next, we’ll treat you to one of the country’s favorite treats: a plate of warm, freshly prepared loukoumades drizzled with aromatic Greek honey. Just a touch of sweetness before we move on to some savory delicacies! Your journey will then take you to the hustle and bustle of the capital’s iconic 19th-century Varvakeios market, giving you the opportunity to walk amid the traditional stalls to take in the sights and smells of the freshest raw ingredients that have been the basis of Greek cuisine for centuries! Your expert guide will share stories of old Athens that will bring alive the history of this magnificent location.

The next stop takes you to what is likely the best tradition-

al deli in the Greek capital, where you’ll enjoy an authentic meze experience, complete with a selection of smoked cured meats, traditional Greek cheeses and fragrant tsipouro to wash it down.

Continuing your journey through the city center’s winding side streets, you’ll stop to enjoy a cup of original Greek slow coffee. Traditionally brewed and served in small cups with a small sweet on the side, Greek coffee is a ritual in its own right—and you’ll also get introduced to another, closely linked ritual: the folk art of fortune telling based on the patterns of coffee grounds in your cup.

To wrap up your tour, you’ll have the opportunity to enjoy one-of-a-kind souvlaki, the quintessential Athenian street-food, before indulging in a fantastic wine-tasting experience to familiarize yourself with the world of Greek fine wines.

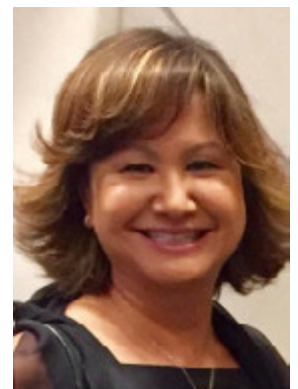
Vasiliou winery visit, wine tasting and Lunch \$129 per person (Min. 15 participants)

The Nemeion Estate Winery, where guided tours and wine tastings take place, is a true work of art: Minimal but impressive it extends in 5 levels, with no windows. Two atriums allow the natural light to reach the underground cellar of the winery.

In the basement besides the production area there is the reception as well as a wine museum painstakingly created by the estate owner Giorgos Vassiliou. We will conclude this tour with a Mezze lunch with seafood appetizer family style.

Mycenae, Epidaurus Tour \$99 per person (Min. 15 participants)

Leave by the coastal road along the Saronic Gulf to the Corinth Canal, which connects the Aegean Sea. (Short stop). Drive on to Mycenae, the Homeric city of the Atreides – the city “rich in gold” of the ancient poets. (visit the Lion’s Gate, the Cyclopean Walls, the Royal Tombs etc). Depart for Nafplion through the fertile plain of Argolis, the picturesque town nestling at the foot of a cliff crowned by the mighty ramparts of the Palamidi Fortress. Afternoon leave for Epidaurus to visit the Theatre (4th century B.C) famous for its astonishing acoustics. Return to Athens by the National road connecting Epidaurus with Corinth.



Trip Coordinator: Thuy Rocque
greece@spacecity.org



Zion and Grand Canyon Tour Hiking & Sightseeing

Sept. 26 - 30, 2020

\$599, 5 days & 4 nights

Final Payment – 6/26/2020

Two nights at Springdale, Zion National Park,
hiking and scenic views

Scenic drive - Zion National Canyon

One night at the Grand Canyon North Rim Lodge

Scenic drive to Point Imperial and Cape Royal on the
North Rim

Scenic drive to the south rim Grand Canyon
including many view stops.

One night at the Maswik, Grand Canyon South Rim

Rt. 66 & Hoover Dam on the return to Las Vegas

Optional extra time at Las Vegas



Zion National Park

Why Choose This Trip?

My wife and I first went to the Grand Canyon in 1969. About 15 years later, we visited Zion and both the North and South rims with our children. That started a long association with the Grand Canyon, where I organized 14 adventure trips with almost 400 people over the next 30 years. Many SCSCA members have been on those Rim to Rim hiking adventures. You may have been to Zion and the Grand Canyon, but you missed what I will show you, including the amazing North Rim.

This is your chance to join me on a trip with SCSC next September, 2020. Travel with me as I show you the best

way to maximize your experience on this scenic trip with the chance to hike a little bit of two of the top ten adventure hikes of the world. If you are not a hiker, you will still be able to see and enjoy these two great National Parks. There will be lots of opportunities to stop and gawk at amazing sights.



Zion National Park

What is the Plan?

We fly to Las Vegas on an early Saturday morning flight via Southwest Airlines flight; but you can choose your own airline with an early arrival to Las Vegas. We will pick up our three 15 passenger vans with 10 people in each van. The drive to Springdale is only about 170 miles, so we will arrive in time for an afternoon visit to Zion to hike or sight see. You can join me as I lead a hike up into the famous Zion Narrows for a short distance on the next afternoon as one of the several options.

After our two nights at Zion, we leave Zion on Monday through the east side with more view stops. A stop at Kanab will acquaint you with that area of lower Utah on our drive to the North Rim.

The North Rim has spectacular views and is surrounded with forest of Ponderosa Pines. It averages 1,000 to 1,500 feet higher than the South Rim! It is isolated from the crowds of the South Rim and provides for a great laid back and relaxing afternoon and evening. We will eat dinner at the famous North Rim Lodge and also enjoy what many people say is one of the best Bloody Mary's in the world.



Be in this picture, Monday, September 28, 2020
on the back patio of the North Rim historic lodge.

An optional afternoon drive to Point Imperial is often considered the greatest viewpoint on the North Rim. We will continue to Cape Royal to see Angels Window and great views of the Canyon and the south rim.

On Tuesday, our 3rd day, we will drive around to the South Rim with several stops, including down at the Colorado River to dip your hands into the 55 degree water coming out of Glen Canyon Dam, and maybe see raft companies launching trips down the 270 mile trip through the Canyon. The stop at Marble Canyon over the Colorado River may include sights of Condors under the bridge. The drive along the south rim of the Grand Canyon will take in the incredible views with stops for pictures.



Grand Canyon South Rim

Our arrival to Grand Canyon Village on Tuesday will be early in the afternoon giving everyone a chance to wander the south rim area, including possibly walking down a little bit of one of the two rim to rim corridor trails, Bright Angel or South Kaibab. I will be leading a 1.8 mile round trip hike down the South Kaibab to **Ooh-Aah point!** Remember, down is optional, and up is mandatory. For those that want to see much of the south rim without walking much, take the Hermits Trail shuttle out and back. Most people never get the chance to do that.

On Wednesday morning, you may want to get up early and see the sunrise over the Canyon, then head back for breakfast at the Maswik or even Breakfast at the El Tovar. However, we will be leaving at 7:30 AM for one last great view of the Canyon at Yavapai point.

Our trip back to Vegas will include stops briefly in Williams, then a quirky stop at Grand Canyon Caverns. We probably won't have time to actually go in the Cavern, but you can find out about it.

Finally, we will do a drive though of Hoover Dam and brief stop to see the Dam and Lake Mead.

Trip Lodging

Our lodging at Zion will be the La Quinta at Springdale, which is less than 1.5 miles from the Park front entrance.

From April through October, access into Zion Canyon is by shuttle bus only right outside the La Quinta. The shuttle will take you to 1 of 9 stops on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, depending on which hike you'll be conquering for the day or just to stop and stroll along the Virgin River. The La Quinta is in great walking distance to all of the eateries and shopping in Springdale.

Our lodging at the North Rim will be in the rustic Frontier Cabins. These are conveniently located close to the North Rim Grand Canyon lodge and the amazing views at the Lodge. Plan on relaxing on the back patio looking out to the south rim between Roaring Springs Canyon and Transept Canyon.

The Lodging at the South Rm will be at the Maswik Lodge, only about ¼ mile from the Bright Angel trail and close to the other major "On Rim" locations to sight see and have dinner. The south rim shuttle provides ease of exploration to the "over rim" sights near Grand Canyon Village. The guest rooms are accessed from outside walkways and stairwells (there are no elevators). Rooms feature in-room Keurig coffee maker, refrigerator, air conditioning, safe, satellite TV, telephone, hair dryer and two queen-sized beds or one king-sized bed.

We return to Las Vegas about 3:00 PM for our return home or perhaps some of the group will decide to do an extension in Las Vegas (Lost Wages).

This trip will fill quickly, possibly in a couple days. Don't miss out. It is very possible this trip will be full before the publication of the September Sitzmarke. If so, get on the wait list.

Look on the SCSC website for more pictures and detailed information.



Grand Canyon View from Cape Royal

TC- Arlen Isham
713-560-0187
zion@spacecity.org



New Zealand

TC: Linda Kuper
Trip: New Zealand
Date: October 13-24, 2020



TRIP SUMMARY

Start Date: 10/13/20 End Date: 10/24/20

Trip Coord. (TC): Linda Kuper

TC email: nz@spacecity.org

Full Package Price: \$4,233 pp

Land Package Price: \$2,492 pp

Single Supplement Price: TBD

Final Payment Date: TBD Deposit: \$300 pp



Auckland Skyline photo from TSC brochure

FIVE REASONS TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND

- Auckland and north island lakes and forests
- Experience the Maori culture and the warm waters of Rotorua
- Queenstown – the Southern Hemisphere's premier resort area for 5 days of fun
- Spring temperatures for walks with views of mountains, glaciers, waterfalls and lakes
- Sample New Zealand's award winning "Pinot Noir" and other local favorites.

SPRINGTIME IN NEW ZEALAND

Come and enjoy a spring adventure in New Zealand with other TSC members. The journey begins with a non-stop flight from Houston to Auckland. Enjoy the wonders of the North Island for 4 nights before flying to Queenstown on the South Island for 5 more nights.

In Auckland, our home will be at the centrally located Hotel Grand Millennium. Auckland is known as the "City of Sails" and is nestled between 2 harbors, providing an abun-



Waiheke Island Photo from TSC Brochure

dance of fresh seafood. Upon arrival we will enjoy a half-day tour of the city. The next day we take a full day tour to Waiheke Island. This island is rated as one of the best island escapes in the world. It has an abundance of beautiful vineyards, olive groves and beaches to explore....only a 40-minute ferry ride from Auckland.

As we head for Rotorua and our next home base Hotel Millennium, we stop for a tour of the Hobbiton Village. This "Lord of the Rings" movie set has been left for public tours. We will be treated to a beer at the famous pub. Get ready to belly up!!



Hobbiton Village photo from TSC brochure

From here we arrive in Rotorua, which is southeast of Auckland and is known for its geothermal activity (many hot pools to relax and enjoy), the 18 pristine lakes nearby, the wonderful forests for taking walks as well as the Maori culture. The Maori are the indigenous people of New Zealand. Currently on the agenda is an Evening Maori Experience. More info to come.

Following our stay on the north island, we fly south to Queenstown (known as the Adventure Capital of the Southern Hemisphere) to enjoy the next 5 days. We will reside at the Novotel Lakeside Hotel where the views of Lake Wakatipu and the mountains are fantastic. Our TSC Welcome Party will be at the top of the Skyline Gondola which overlooks the city, lake and surrounding mountains.



Skyline Gondola Restaurant from TSC brochure

Another evening we will ride the historic steamship TSS Earnslaw across Lake Wakatipu to the Walter Peak ranch for dinner and a sheep shearing program.

In Queenstown there are many things to experience----

1. A beautiful botanic garden on the lake shore
2. Jet boat ride on the Kawerau River
3. Hike the Queenstown Hill for a panoramic view of the area
4. Charter a fishing boat and catch your dinner
5. Shop at the quaint stores in town



View of Queenstown from Gondola photo from TSC Brochure

The final list of activities from TSC is still a work-in-progress. More info will be released as we get the full itinerary. Also being finalized are a PRE-TRIP TO AUSTRALIA and a POST-TRIP TO FIJI. (Two more Bucket List Places to be removed from your list!!) Stay tuned for more info to be released on these exciting adventures.



New Zealand in the Fall photo from TSC Brochure

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM 2019-2020

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Space City Ski and Adventure Club is a proud member of the Texas Ski Council and the National Ski Council Federation.



NOVEMBER HAPPY HOUR



Yard House

800 Sorella Ct in City Centre
(Located behind Hotel Sorella)

Thursday November 21 5 TO 8:30 PM

Happy Hour prices until 6 PM

All draft beer, wine and cocktails \$2 off

Selected half price Appetizers and Pizzas

DECEMBER Happy Hour



PERRY'S

9827 Katy Freeway Memorial City
December 19 5 TO 8:30PM

Happy Hour prices until 7

7 Handcrafted Cocktails &

7 Bar Bites for \$9 each

Select Wines \$7 & \$8

Valet Parking or plenty of free parking in
Macy's parking lot & garage

Sitzmarke

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SPACE CITY SKI & ADVENTURE CLUB

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Members are emailed a link to the Sitzmarke each month.
Non-members may download the newsletter from our website
in the *About Us/Club* Documents section on
www.spacecity.org

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