

NEWSLETTER

# sitzmarke

April 2020 Volume 55 Issue 11



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[www.spacecity.org](http://www.spacecity.org)

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## FROM MISSION CONTROL

BY JAN FERRELL, PRESIDENT

Thanks to everyone who attended our March meeting and thanks to everyone who submitted your votes for our proposed Executive Committee for the coming year. The proposed slate was unanimously approved. Here are your new officers and they are awesome:

Beverly Roberts President  
Lynn Burch V. P. Activities  
Marsha Lutz V. P. Trips  
Bruce Lowther V. P. Membership  
Bil Cusack V. P. Marketing  
Kasia Rezmer Treasurer  
Rowena Roche Secretary

Please support them by volunteering to help in any way. The club runs on volunteers and we NEED you!



Once again, our intrepid V. P. Membership brought his bag of door prizes and the lucky winners were Jo Ann Zemlicke, \$25 Amazon gift card, Janet McKenzie, \$25 Amazon gift card, Pat Musemeche, \$25 Amazon gift card and Peggy Schillinger, Survival Kit (toilet paper and bottled water). That was brilliant, Bruce!

That having been said, these are scary times and your club has decided to suspend meetings, dinners and Happy Hours until further notice. The TSC has also cancelled the meeting in Austin but will conduct it virtually. More to follow on that. Your \$95/\$110 registration fee will be refunded by the TSC. You need to contact the Hilton to cancel your reservation. TSC is not responsible for your lodging.

Please stay safe and healthy. Also, keep in touch with one another as we go through these awful days of wonder and worry. This, too, shall pass.

Hope to see you soon, Jan

## COUNTDOWN TO LIFTOFF

BY BEVERLY ROBERTS, VICE PRESIDENT OF TRIPS

What a difference a month makes!

First, let's start out celebrating the outstanding ski trips we had this year. Our trip coordinators and assistants did the usual phenomenal job of planning and managing ski trips to Vail, Banff, Beaver Creek, Chamonix, Telluride, Crested Butte and Deer Valley. The number and quality of ski trips that Space City is able to offer depends on club volunteers that consistently knock the ball out of the park with



their trips. Trip volunteers – you are beyond awesome!!

On to the other travel news: As everyone is painfully aware, the Coronavirus situation has affected everything and everyone. I keep thinking of the John Lennon song, "Nobody Told Me" – Nobody told me there'd be days like this – strange days indeed. So here's what we know:

- The Russia trip is under evaluation. The status of travel advisories changes almost daily. Jill Nanney, the trip leader, is in constant contact with the tour operator for updates. Jill is VERY experienced, and the tour op – smarTours – has been a reliable partner to both Space City and to the Texas Ski Council for years. Updates and changes will be pushed out as soon as we know them.
- The Greek Island trip is also under evaluation. We are looking at the possibility of delaying the trip until 2021. Thuy Rocque, the trip leader, is in constant contact with the tour operator to understand options, and is communicating regularly with trip registrants on options and alternatives.
- Arlen Isham's trip to Zion and the Grand Canyon is the end of September. At this point, the trip is a go.
- The New Zealand trip is our last trip of the year. Linda Kuper is running the trip and is working with Holidaze, another long-time partner of the Texas Ski Council. We are coordinating with both the TSC and the tour operator to understand impacts of the pandemic. We have no further updates at this moment.
- Statuses for ALL of the remaining trips change often, sometimes daily. Your trip leader will push out updates and options as soon as they are available.

A note: trip insurance is always a good idea to protect your investments. Some insurance providers offer a 'cancel for any reason' policy that you can consider.

Another Coronavirus impact: Bidfest in Austin has been canceled. From the TSC Website:

*If you have hotel reservations, please call Embassy Suites and cancel them. We will coordinate with fellow councils and industry reps to select dates in the future to once again gather together safely or we may go virtual, if necessary, to select our 2022 ski trips. If you have already registered for the Bid Meeting and paid your registration fee, please be patient while we decide if we can meet on a later date. If we choose to do a virtual bid meeting, your registration fee will be refunded. If you would like your registration fee refunded now, please let us know.*

Generally, the message from the trip desk and your trip officers, Beverly and Marsha, is this:

Wash your hands often. Observe 'social distancing' and refrain from close contact (hugs, etc) for the time being. Use good sense. And be confident that we will monitor the situation as it impacts our trips. We will always provide the best and most up to date information we have.

Destinations	Trip Dates	Trip Coordinator	TC Email	Full Pkg \$/pp (w/air)	Land Pkg \$/pp	Trip Open Date/Status
<b>Non-Ski Trips</b>						
<a href="#">Russia</a>	6/2/20-6/12/20	Jill Nanney	<a href="mailto:russia@spacecity.org">russia@spacecity.org</a>	\$4,395		single male full
<a href="#">Greek Isle Cruise</a>	8/27/20-9/6/20	Thuy Rocque	<a href="mailto:greece@spacecity.org">greece@spacecity.org</a>	varies	varies	wait list
<a href="#">Zion/GC Natl Parks</a>	9/26/20-9/30/20	Arlen Isham	<a href="mailto:zion@spacecity.org">zion@spacecity.org</a>	N/A	\$599	wait list
<a href="#">New Zealand (TSC)</a>	10/13/20-10/24/20	Linda Kuper	<a href="mailto:nz@spacecity.org">nz@spacecity.org</a>	\$4,233	\$2,492	wait list
<a href="#">NZ Pre: Australia</a>	10/7/20-10/13/20	Linda Kuper	<a href="mailto:nz@spacecity.org">nz@spacecity.org</a>			TBD
<a href="#">NZ Post: Fiji</a>	10/24/20-10/28/20	Linda Kuper	<a href="mailto:nz@spacecity.org">nz@spacecity.org</a>			TBD

## HAVING A BLAST

BY LYNN BURCH, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACTIVITIES

Well this has been a crazy week. First, they shut down the Rodeo, then George Bush Library calls me and says they have to close. After talking to the bus company, we have left our money up with them and will reschedule our visit to the Library when they re-open and we can choose a date. Next, we had to cancel the dinner at Los Tios but I have moved the Rainbow Lodge Happy Hour to April 30. We have cancelled the Escape Room for now and will reschedule later. The Dance classes for the rest of March have been cancelled and we will have to see what happens for April. As of when I am writing this article I have not been able to get in touch with Stages to see if they are cancelling the show Honky Tonk Laundry and we need to reschedule or if we are still going. Watch the Website for further cancellations and reschedulings. Who knows how long this mess is going to last.



We got a nice surprise at the February Dinner at Christie's Seafood when George Sargent proposed to Rowena Roche and we all got to see it happen. Then at the Happy Hour on

February 27 at Click's Sports Bar George got down on one knee and proposed again since he had the ring sized and it now fit Rowena. We had about 25 attend although no one ended up playing pool or the slot machines.

With this Coronavirus going on, please check the website often for newest updates on 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 APRIL EVENT CALENDAR

Since all events were cancelled in March these activities may or may not happen. Watch the website for updates!

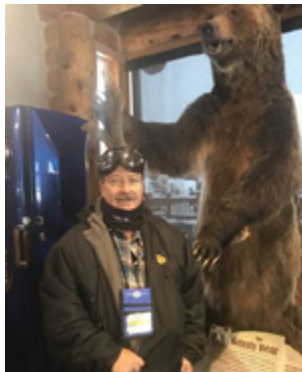
April 1 to 22	Dance Lessons Every Wednesday
April 2	Stages Honky Tonk Laundry
April 5	Bike Ride on White Oak Bayou
April 25	Dinner at the Downtown Aquarium
April 28	Game Night at Tea + Victory
April 30	Happy Hour at Rainbow Lodge

## BANFF 2020 TRIP REPORT by Ali Pethick TC and Joan Waddill ATC

Many of our travelers posted their pictures on the SCSC website photo album so I encourage everyone to go there as they are truly interesting and show what a great trip we all had.

After an uneventful plane trip to Calgary (not to be under appreciated) we were met by our bus to take us to the town of Banff. We traveled past ski jumping venues from previous Olympics and enjoyed our bus driver's discussion of the area. We arrived at the picturesque town of Banff and our hotel, the Ptarmigan Inn. Our hotel was small and centrally located with fabulous accommodations and an outstanding staff.

That first evening our tour operator, Sports America Tours, treated us to a great welcome party at a nearby restaurant and pub. The subs, pizza and wraps just kept coming and we were all more than satisfied. We shared this event





with the Austin Ski Club.

Sunday night we enjoyed our Space City Welcome party downstairs at Meatballs in our Ptarmigan Hotel. We had many types of pizza and a glass of wine or beer for all. There was much more to drink at the lobby bar. The Ptarmigan Inn was a wonderful place in general and we enjoyed many opportunities for socializing. Breakfasts every morning were fabulous and great way to start the day.



On Tuesday we shared another event with the Austin Ski Club, “the midweek dinner”. That was another event in which the food was non-stop. We were served one course after another. We were also serenaded by Bil Cusak with his new toy which he was kind enough to bring with him. The melodica is described as a contraption that looks like a small hand keyboard with a mouthpiece and sounds like a harmonica. I first saw it on Stephen Colbert’s late show played by his band leader, Jon Baptiste—so cool.



The weekend we arrived we were greeted with a celebration in Banff called Snow Days. The main street was packed with activities. Vendors offered S’mores to help people to get into the spirit. Ice and snow sculptures decorated the



streets. Snow transformed into art and carvers turned blocks of snow into magnificent sculptures that we all marveled at. Skijoring went on for most of the weekend. Skijoring is a winter sport in which a person on skis is pulled by a horse, a dog (or dogs) or a motor vehicle. It is derived from the Norwegian word skijøring, meaning “ski driving”. No SCSC members participated in this but we met plenty of people who did. It seemed that anyone who wanted to, could “just get in line” and wait their turn. I didn’t.

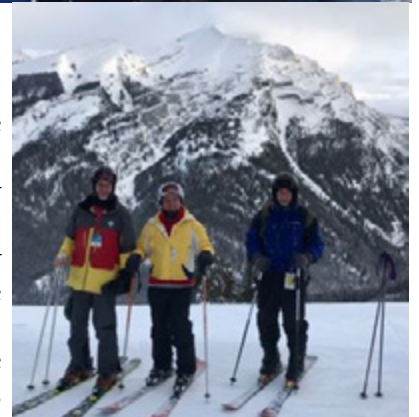


Banff is located between three ski resorts called the Big Three—Norquay, Sunshine and Lake Louise. We had planned days that we skied as a club at each resort with designated lunch locations. Lunches were well attended and most participated in them.

Connie and Diane had many opportunities to shop: at the many souvenir shops, jewelry shops and ski apparel shops. Banff has many types of cuisine: Vietnamese, Thai, American (Steak Restaurants) as well as the old standbys like McDonalds.



Connie, David and Diane took a local bus to see Chateau Lake Louise and saw large, creative and beautiful Ice Sculptures. They also booked a tour to hike 3 miles at Johnston Canyon Ice Walk. They were equipped with ice cleats





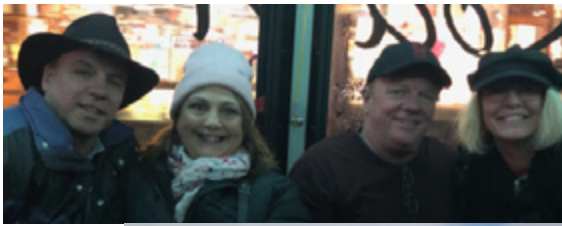
and hiking poles. In the winter the falls freeze solid to create Ice Sculptures.

Happy hours were scheduled every night which most attended and afterwards many ultimately ended up at the Ptarmigan Inn bar which was located near the entrance of the hotel.



When you walked in the door of the hotel you were right in the midst of “where everybody knows your name”

It was hard to resist stopping before going up to your room when the gang called your name. We re-capped and reviewed the day and planned for the next adventure.



The Banff Grizzly House is known for their fondue and steaks, and history. Telephones are located at each table in case someone would like to call you. Ric, Pete Mathieu Sr and Jr. enjoyed an evening there as well as Frank Yu, Karen and Bil Cusak. I hear that they did not receive any phone calls.



Gordan Boulger's daughter, Lauren, joined us for the first time and agreed that good snow and lots of challenging terrain was on the daily menu at Banff. Their favorites were the Paradise Corridor, Cowboy and the A-G Gullies at Lake Louise. At Sunshine Valley the wide open snow fields were great, while Delirium Dive was definitely challenging for any level skier. And Norquay's North American and Lone Pine were good mogul runs, but had iffy snow. Gordon said that beyond the skiing, their favorite lunch place was the Whitehorn Bistro, where Gordon said



he had possibly the best burger he ever had.

Conditions were picture gorgeous but sometimes changing.

David Klaus, Angela and Robert rode Great Divide to the top and enjoyed beautiful conditions, then on the very next ride up we were socked in with zero visibility as we got to the top. It was like night and day and we struggled forever getting down to tree line where at least there was some contrast with the whiteness.

David Klaus skied with Andy Smith, Craig Campbell, and Angela Zumwalt for several days at each resort. When not skiing, David and Hope Klaus did a lot of dining and sight-seeing with Robert Riley and Angela Zumwalt, including tours of the Fairmont Banff Springs and the Fairmont Chateau at Lake

Bernie and Kate took a little walk along the river. They took the Voodoo trail at the recommendation of the visitors center. A ways into the Voodoo trail it got steep. They wished for cleats or snow shoes but kept going. When encountering a road one of them took the bus back and one walked. Although beautiful, Kate acknowledged it was not one of her brightest ideas. All in all it was a 10 mile journey. We were so glad they made it back.

We had several newcomers such as Ursula who said that as a newcomer to the SCSC she felt immediately included in the camaraderie and friendship. She appreciated the great accommodations, hot tub, and the spectacular Canadian Rockies, great weather and amazing ski conditions, the Banff Springs Hotel and walking out on to the middle of frozen Lake Louise. We were all so happy to meet her and enjoyed her company.

This was Karen Cusak's 11th day skiing. She was skiing blues at Sunshine and then Lake Louise!!!!

It was a great group of people and I thank my Assistant Trip Coordinator, Joan Waddell for her all her help along the way. I greatly appreciate all of her assistance to help to make this trip the success that it was. I also appreciate everyone's cooperation during the trip and hope to see everyone again at another event.

I also thank Frank Yu for being the Sargent at Arms at every gathering.





## MARCH 2020 SPACE CITY GENERAL MEETING





## CLICKS HAPPY HOUR





## CHRISTIE'S DINNER





## 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](mailto: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 worshipped in the 17th to 19th centuries), Lunch with a Lo-



cal Family

- o St. Petersburg: Hermitage Museum, Vodka Tasting in Museum of Russian Vodka, Peterhof's Palace, St. Catherine 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, porce-



lain, 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 interi-



Church of the Spilled Blood

ors and is a landmark in the city. In the evening, you will go see the Nikolayevsky Posad Folk show. Accommodation in St Petersburg (B)

### **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 monuments 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, Firopstefani 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



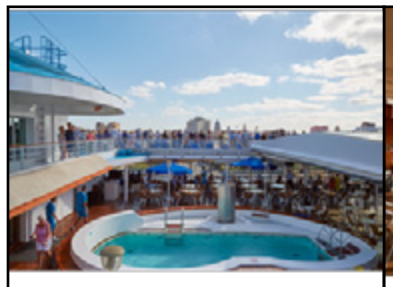




CELESTYAL CRYSTAL CRUISE SHIP\*\*



CRYSTAL SHIP LOUNGE & BAR AREA\*\*



CRYSTAL SHIP POOL AREA\*\*



CRYSTAL SHIP OUTDOOR BAR AREA\*\*

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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.

### **Vasilou 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



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!!



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-



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

President & TSC Rep	Jan Ferrell	<a href="mailto:president@spacecity.org">president@spacecity.org</a>
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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.**





# April Happy Hour

## RAINBOW LODGE

2011 ELLA AT TC JESTER

THURSDAY APRIL 30 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

HAPPY HOUR PRICES TO 7 pm

Rainbow Lodge is a 100 year old cabin overlooking beautiful gardens in the middle of Houston. It looks like an antique hunting and fishing lodge full of collectibles. There are several patio areas and we will use one if the weather is permitting.

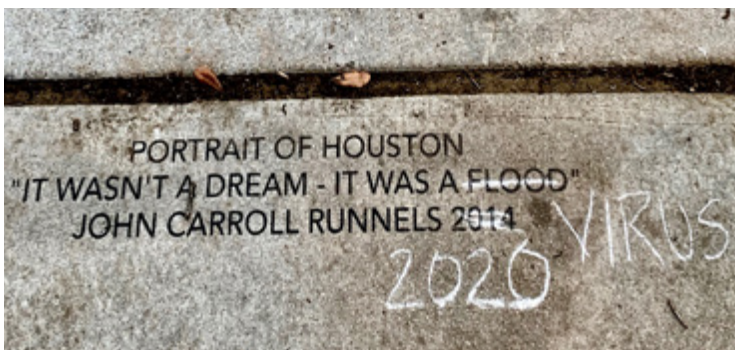


Happy Hour prices are:

Selected wines \$6 to \$10 glass  
Selected Domestic & Draft Beer \$3 glass  
Selected House Martinis \$5 glass  
Bar Snacks \$6 to \$10

Parking is mostly valet –  
DO NOT PARK IN THE  
KING'S BIERGARTEN  
PARKING LOT, YOU WILL  
PROBABLY BE TOWED!!

PLEASE JOIN US  
FOR HAPPY HOUR  
AT THIS BEAUTIFUL  
RESTAURANT



## Sitzmarke

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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](http://www.spacecity.org)

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