



May 2025

EDITOR: Judy Hardie

From the President ...

As we approach the summer months, our club will be on hiatus from June through August, resuming our adventures in September. This pause offers a perfect opportunity to reflect on upcoming travel trends and destinations that are capturing the world's attention.

One notable trend is the rise of "Vitamin T" vacations, emphasizing wellness-focused travel aimed at promoting longer, healthier lives. Destinations like **Sedona, Arizona**, and **Ojai, California**, are gaining popularity for their holistic offerings, including spiritual workshops, nature hikes, and hot springs. – *New York Post*

As you plan your future travels, consider exploring some of the world's greatest places highlighted this year:

The Ghan, Australia: This iconic train journey from Adelaide to Darwin offers a unique experience through Australia's Outback, recently recognized among the world's top destinations. – *The Courier-Mail*

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam: Marking 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War, the city boasts a bustling design and dining scene, making it a vibrant destination for culture enthusiasts. – *Condé Nast Traveler*

LOOKING AHEAD: Our club is excited to announce that the exclusive group tour for Travel Club members to **Portugal** has been finalized with Gate 1 Travel. See additional information in this issue of *The Frequent Flier*.

Additionally, we have a price reduction for the 14-night **Japan** Intensive Voyage on the Azamara Pursuit, scheduled for March 27, 2026. Details for these trips and more can be found on our website: www.travelclubsuncityhh.com.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer filled with inspiration for your next adventure. We look forward to reconvening in September to share our travel stories and plan future journeys together.



Happy Travels! *Dianne*





Looking Ahead

TRAVEL CLUB OF SUN CITY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

All meetings are 2:30 to 3:30 pm at **Pinckney Hall Ballroom**
unless otherwise noted.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 14, 2025

at 2:30 pm in Pinckney Hall Ballroom
**Comparing Cruiselines:
Azamara vs. Oceania**

Bob and Carol Kennedy

PLUS: Traveling Safely

Joannie Welsh

Avid cruisers, Bob and Carol Kennedy enjoy small, adult-oriented ships. While they have been on many Azamara cruises, they recently sailed for the first time on Oceania and would like to share their comparison of the two lines with you. Join us on **May 14 at 2:30 in Pinckney Hall** to see how they rate Oceania when compared to Azamara Cruise Line.



Also, Joannie Welsh will offer some no-nonsense recommendations for traveling safely. This will include topics: cash vs credit card, avoid thefts of cellphone, money & passport, also the new regulation for UK travel plus other tidbits.



Coming Up!

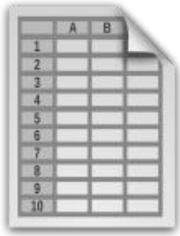
Travel Club takes a siesta!

We're taking the summer off and will return in the fall. During the summer months watch for emails from the Travel Club and updates on the website (www.travelclubsuncityhh.com) with trip and travel information.

This will be the last issue of our newsletter this year until the next season begins.

See you in September!

SAVVY TRAVEL TIPS & HACKS



Excel Sheet or Google Doc: Create a detailed **planning document** that lists all bookings, including hotels, flights, rental cars, and restaurant reservations or any ticketed activities. Check off exactly what's booked, complete with confirmation numbers, cancellation dates, and total cost. This helps keep track of all your travel arrangements.

DIY Itinerary: Imitate itineraries from good travel companies to have a cheaper and better experience.

Middle Seat Trick: When flying with a buddy, book one window and one aisle seat in a three-seat row. Chances are, the middle seat will stay empty, giving you three seats to yourselves.



Save money on food: Buy food at grocery stores for the occasional breakfast, lunch, dinner, or just a snack. You will save so much money if you shop ready-to-eat (fruit, yogurt, snacks, etc.) or prepared food (salads, sandwiches, etc.) at a grocery store. Picnic in the park!

Plan a plane picnic: Pack a picnic lunch in your carryon. All the treats your family loves – cheese, meats, sweets and bread in an insulated bag. Order the water, soda or wine in the airport or on the plane and remember to toss in some plastic utensils.

Get a new credit card just for this trip. Lost credit card on your first day of vacation, the one all automatic payments are on? Don't spend the initial few days of your vacation taking care of switching card numbers on those accounts. Having a new dedicated travel card eliminates that problem. Also getting a new credit card lets you grab one of those intro specials like \$150 when you spend \$500 in the first few months.

Double duty essentials: Need to wash out underwear or other clothing items? Shampoo is the perfect substitute for hand wash detergent. It's great for getting out a grease spot, too. Leave the shaving cream and body wash at home! Hair conditioner is great for shaving, and shampoo can clean your whole body.





BUS Trips, One-day & Extended

Weekend Get-Aways

www.scottiedavis.com Contact: Cheryl Fuchs, 703-887-7793, or Scottie Davis, 843-422-3360

Our friends at the Moran Theater in Jacksonville asked us to let you know they are offering a senior rate of \$46.50 for MJ, The Musical on some performances during the April 22-27 run with the promo code SMOOTH37 - www.fscjartistseries.org.



St. Augustine & Amelia Island May 6-7, 2025

(\$489 pp dbl occ., \$469 pp triple occ; \$569 pp single occ)

Experience two completely different Florida gems on this two day/ one night trip: St Augustine, dripping in history and the oldest city in the USA and Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island's charming, historic town where there is something unique and beautiful lurking around every corner.

In St Augustine, tour the Old City on the hop on, hop off trolley tour; marvel at the beauty of Flagler College and the Lightner Museum.

Overnight in Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island with a tour of the charming historic town as well as the iconic Fort Clinch.

This popular trip includes transportation from Sun City, accommodations, breakfast, dinner, two tours in St Augustine, two tours in Fernandina Beach, museum entrance, snacks, bus driver's tip. The trip will leave from Bluffton at 7:30 am on day and returns about 7:30 pm on day 2.

Four GA Islands in Three Days Cumberland, Jekyll, St Simons & Sapelo October 28-30, 2025

(\$849pp dbl occ; \$789 pp triple; \$1,099 single occ)

Deadline- Sept 21, 2025 [\$10 discount if signed up & paid by Aug 5.]



Experience four completely different islands. Hike Cumberland with private guides; tour Jekyll's historic district, the playground for America's most powerful; visit St Simons and dine in style at a top restaurant; tour primitive Sapelo via bus plus lunch at Lulu's, a treat you will long remember. Overnight for 2 nights on Jekyll Island.

Escorted trip includes travel by motorcoach & ferry, acc., 4 tours, 5 meals, bus driver's tip.

Departs Bluffton at 8 am on day 1; returns by 6 pm on day 3.



BUS Trips, One-day & Extended

Weekend Get-Aways

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The spectacular Brevard trip June 24-26, 2025 includes visits to Brevard, Flat Rock, Hendersonville and Biltmore. The discount date has been extended to April 19. This trip is a great way to get to know western North Carolina.



Brevard Music Center, Flat Rock Theater, King Tut Exhibit at Biltmore ... and More!

June 24-26, 2025

(\$897 pp dbl occ; \$828 pp triple occ; \$1,069 pp single occ.)

Deadline – May 15; take a discount of \$10 pp if paid before April 19.

Overnight for two nights at the Hampton Inn in Brevard; attend a performance at the Brevard Music Center and return the next day to observe a rehearsal with Keith Lockhart and the orchestra, followed by free time to explore the charming downtown Brevard and have lunch on your own.

And there is more...attend a performance of Beautiful, The Carol King Musical at the Flat Rock Playhouse, NC's State Theater and be blown away by the performance. To add icing to the cake, there is the new King Tut Exhibit at The Biltmore with true to life artifact replicas of the magnificent ancient treasures.

Included: transp, acc., two breakfasts, two dinners, two performances, Biltmore & King Tut exhibit, snacks, bus driver's tip.





BUS Trips, One-day & Extended

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The Magic of Biltmore at Christmas plus King Tut Exhibit December 9 -10, 2025

(\$819 pp dbl occ; \$748 pp triple; \$714 pp quad occ; \$1,064 pp single occ)

Deadline - October 1, 2025. *Take a discount of \$10 pp if paid before June 30.*

There is nothing more magical than spending 24 hours on the Biltmore Estate grounds and staying at the elegant Inn on Biltmore Estate to experience true holiday joy. Wine tasting, dinner, candlelight tour, breakfast, tour of Estate grounds with a step on guide add to this joy and seeing the King Tut Exhibit puts the trip over the top.

Trip includes: transp., wine tasting, Biltmore House candlelight tour, Estate tour, acc. at Inn on Biltmore Estate; 2 meals, King Tut Exhibit, snacks, bus driver's tip.

Elegant Charleston Christmas Trip Saturday, December 13, 2025

(\$249 pp)

Deadline - Oct 5, 2025

A festive, fun day to feed all of your senses! Enjoy a spectacular lunch at *High Cotton*, one of Charleston's finest restaurants; attend the spectacular *Moranz Christmas Show* at the **Charleston Music Hall** filled with beauty and pure holiday joy and then, on to James Island to experience the **Festival of Lights** and ride through the amazing light display singing Christmas carols and sipping wine.

Trip includes transp., fabulous lunch at High Cotton, Christmas show, James Island Festival of Lights, wine, snacks, bus driver's tip.



WHAT IS ARMCHAIR TRAVELING?

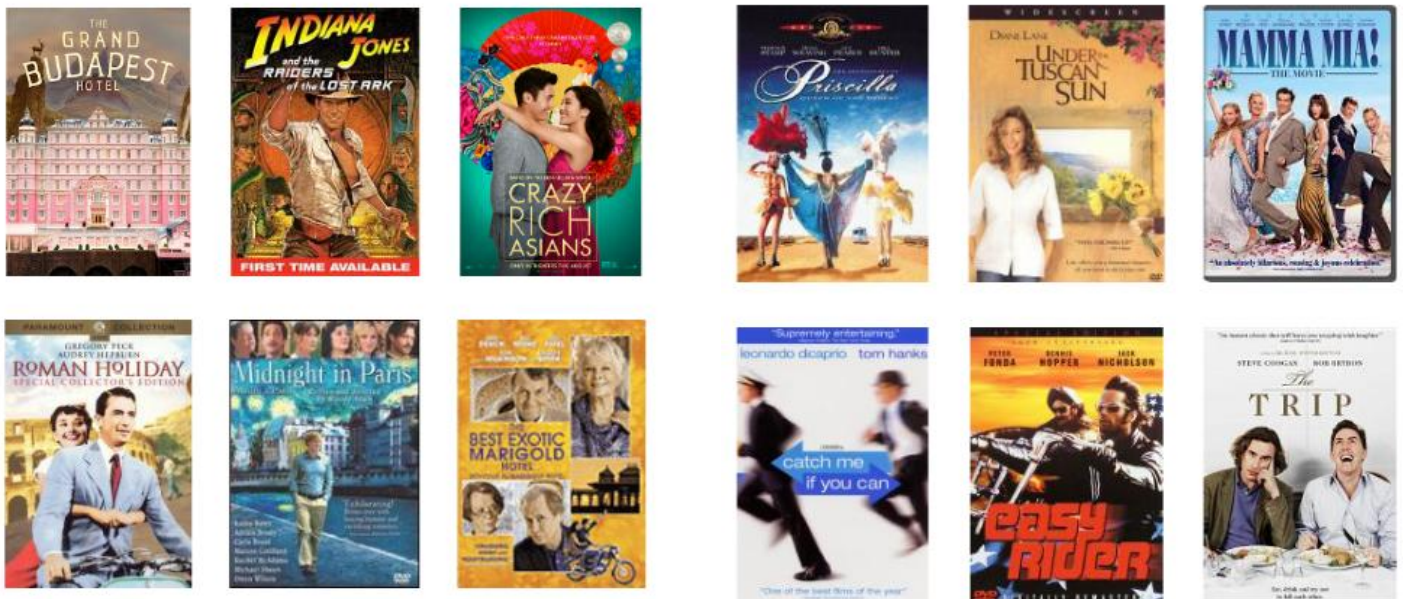
An Armchair Traveler is someone who finds out what a place or location is like by watching travel programs on television, looking at internet websites about travel or reading books about travel. Armchair traveling is about letting yourself day dream and imagine what it would feel like to physically be there. It is great for those who can not travel, and for those who want to fantasize about where their next vacation will be.

Learn more about other Cultures

[Virtual Museum Tours](#) - Tour some of the worlds most beautiful and historically valuable museums without ever leaving home.

[Condé Nast's Ultimate Guide to Armchair Travel](#) - A guide to help you travel without leaving home, whether you have five minutes or five days to spend exploring.

Films That Take You Away



Books about Exotic Places





What Ever's Going On - WEGO!

The Travel Club's very active special interest group for local events

WEGO meetings are a great way to get together with other members. Click [here](#) to view the WEGO page on the Sun City website. Current and past lists of events are in the Documents section at the bottom of the page.

The WEGO Special Interest Group specializes in local activities (usually within a 45-minute drive). Most are moderately priced, and many are free! Browse the **May-Jun 2025 WEGO Events** list to find information about activities in five categories – Classical Events, Festivals & Home Tours, Music & Theaters, More Adventures, and Museums & Tours! Click the links on the list for more information and to register or purchase tickets.

May has many exciting things to do! Look for **classical concerts** by the Gretsck School of Music, Atlantic Youth Orchestra, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Savannah Philharmonic, and Chamber Music Charleston. There are **ballets** by Ballet Hispánico, Hilton Head Dance Theatre, Tybee Ballet Theatre, and Okatie Youth Ballet. Appreciate two **operas** (*Salome* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) at Cinemark.

Festivals include an Asian Festival: Echoes of the East, Colonial Faire & Muster, Taste of Beaufort, Savannah's Scottish Games, Browse Day, Art & Soul Music Festival, Humane Society Doggie Carnival, Cinco de Mayo Party, Fairy and Gnome Festival, Bluffton Mayfest, Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue May Carnival, Beaufort County Bike Show, The Lafayette Soirée, Sunset Palooza, Tybee Beach Bum Parade, Motors For Moms Car Show & Wing Fest, Original Gullah Festival, Hilton Head Island Art Festival, Spoleto Festival USA and Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Harbourfest, and others! Take a tour of homes on Tybee Island.

Enjoy **great music** at Randy Wood's Pickin' Parlor, Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina, First Presbyterian Church Social Hall, SoundWaves, the Corner Perk, Enmarket Arena, Victory North, Tybee Post Theater, Paris Ave. in Port Royal, Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, Savannah Civic Center, Averitt Center for the Arts, Christ Church Episcopal, Sea Pines Resort, and First Presbyterian Church. Attend **movies** at Martin Family Park and Lucas Theatre for the Arts.

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There are **plays and shows** at the HHI High School (by Seahawk Stage Company and Hilton Head Ballroom Dance Studio), Main Street Theatre (by Hilton Head Preparatory School and Lean Ensemble), Savannah Theatre, May River High School, Coligny Theatre, Lucas Theatre for the Arts, Hilton Head Christian Academy, Bluffton Youth Theatre, USCB Center for the Arts, and Sea Pines Resort.

Other adventures include many free events at Palmetto Bluff Conservancy and Beaufort County Libraries. Celebrate Mother's Day with a scrub-making workshop, brunch, or Savannah Riverboat cruises. Attend lectures and classes, participate in walks and races, meet majestic birds of prey, compete in a fishing rodeo, watch basketball and wrestling, go to a car show, and observe a dressage schooling show.

Check out the wonderful activities and exhibits at Coastal Discovery Museum, Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage, PRSF Maritime Center, Ships of the Sea Museum, Telfair Museums, and others.



Look at the latest [WEGO Ongoing Happenings](#) list for local tours and many more things to do and places to go!

The monthly WEGO list and the Ongoing Happenings list are available on the Travel Club website (travelclubsuncityhh.com) and on the Travel Club page of the Sun City website (suncityhiltonhead.org) under Clubs & Groups / General Interest.

If you are ever looking for something to do, the WEGO list is the place to find it!

The next meeting is Wednesday, **May 21st at 1 pm in Pinckney Hall** (Edisto River Room).
Come starting at 12:30 to see what events others are planning to attend.

Howdy, Travel Club Members:

Saddle up and join us for a rootin' tootin' good time at our Western BBQ on June 5th. Dust off your cowboy boots and don your best Western attire as we gather for an evening filled with hearty grub, lively games, and spirited line dancing.

Whether you're a seasoned cowboy or city slicker, this shindig promises a barrel of fun for everyone. So, mosey on over to the Pavilion for an unforgettable evening. Be on the lookout for the invitation via email.

We can't wait to see y'all there!



SOLO TRAVELERS SIG

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 16th
All meetings are at 7 PM in the Lakehouse Ballroom.



As Willie Nelson famously said, *"On the road again, just can't wait to get on the road again."*

Solo Travelers, summer has arrived, presenting an ideal opportunity to travel.

Whether you choose to use your passport and fly, or drive, take advantage of this opportunity to explore the world.

The Solo Travelers Special Interest Group will be pausing meetings for May, June, July, and August. We look forward to gathering again on **Tuesday, September 16th at 7pm in the Lakehouse Ballroom.**





Exciting News: Registration Now Open for the Exclusive 2026 Portugal Tour

The Travel Club of Sun City Hilton Head is delighted to announce that registration is now open for our exclusive 10-day Portugal tour in partnership with Gate 1 Travel, scheduled for **Sunday, May 31 - Tuesday, June 9, 2026**.

[For comprehensive information, including the full itinerary, pricing, and optional excursions, please review the trip details on the Gate 1 Travel website. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Gate 1 Travel directly: 215-572-7676.

For booking information email travelclubofschh@gmail.com. Don't miss this opportunity to explore the rich culture and history of Portugal with fellow Travel Club members. Secure your spot today!

FYI: LOCAL TRAVEL AGENTS

These are local travel agents. FYI ONLY *Travel Club does not endorse travel agents so do your own due diligence.*



Dream Vacations - Stephanie - 843-816-4083

Lisa & Terry Mosher Travel

843-929-0775 -lisa.russo11@gmail.com (*Sun City Residents*)

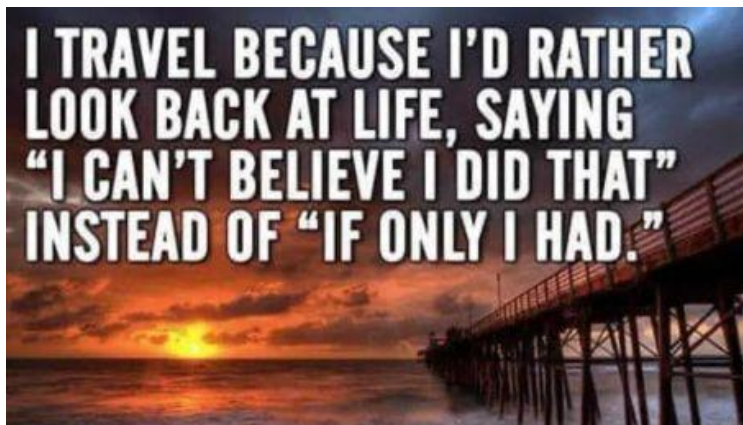
Travel Experts - Carolyn Weber - 843-645-0800

(*Sun City resident*)

AAA - Kelly Brock - 843-815-3775

Expedia Cruises, Diane Lippa, 843-929-2527

(*Sun City Resident*)



2025 Travel Club Board

Contact us at: TravelClubOfSCHH@gmail.com

President*	Dianne Brooks	678-428-4746	Membership Admin.	Lisa Whannel	970-481-7115
Vice President*	Shelly Clarke	661-755-3012	Trip Managers	TBD	
Secretary*	Denise Killeen	201-805-7987		Scottie Davis	843-681-1900
Treasurer*	Michael Chorney	571-234-7812		Diane Lippa	760-668-7499
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Solo Travelers Leader*				travelclubsofchh.com	
Program Director*	Joannie Welch	603-275-1274	Social Com. Co-Leaders:	Cyndee Wilbur	412-417-7281
				Linda Maslowsk	708-268-6197
			Special Assistant	Bernie Wilson	843-705-5468

* Indicates voting members