

Newsletter

Greetings Travelers!

Happy New Year! Hopefully, you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season, and you're ready and rarin' to go in 2018!

If you're still wondering where you should go, there are certainly lots of ideas in this issue.

Since we've had questions about it, we wanted to explain why we have a "Last Call" section in our newsletter. If a tour is in that section, it means we are nearing a point in the process where we have to give up unsold group space. This usually happens between five and six months prior to the tour's departure. If you want to book the tour after that time, there's no guarantee of space or price past that point. If you're wondering why we are always pushing the "book now" idea, now you know!

Here's to a great 2018—we are looking forward to helping you!

Elaine, Kathy & Kelly



We have rescheduled our Great Gardens of Kent preview for **Tuesday, January 16, 6:30p at Olbrich Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison.**
Call 608/833-1525 x 211 or 261 to RSVP!

ALASKA: THE GREAT LAND



They say that once you go to Alaska, you never really come all the way back. After my 2017 trip, I can attest to that—I definitely left part of my heart in the Great Land. This wild and wonderful place is one breathtaking moment after another, so many big and beautiful mountains, stately green forests and meandering streams. To catch a glimpse of a mama bear with her cub or a majestic moose with antlers so heavy he can barely balance them, these are just some of the incredible experiences awaiting you in this glorious state! There are a lot of ways to see Alaska. Let us show them to you. Come to our January show for all the info you need and terrific special offers, too!

Kathy

ON-STAGE ALASKA

Dubuque: Tue, Jan. 30
Diamond Jo, Bell St.,
Dubuque

Madison: Wed., Jan. 31
Marriott, Greenway Blvd.,
Middleton

Reception at 6:00p - meet our Alaska experts and enjoy refreshments (\$5).
Presentation begins at 6:30p.

Special limited-time show offers!

RSVP by 1/26 Required

Call Kelly, 608/833-1525 or 800/556-9286 ext. 211 or
email: tours@burkhaltertravel.com



\$100 cash discount

HISTORIC SOUTH

May 6-12, 2018 ✈

Discover the meaning behind “southern charm” as you visit several of the south’s most beautiful cities. Charleston’s historic buildings and picturesque location draw millions of annual travelers. Visit the charming City Market, travel by boat to Fort Sumter, and explore Boone Hall Plantation. Learn Civil War history as you see Antebellum and Victorian homes on a horse-drawn carriage tour in beautiful Beaufort. Tour Savannah, the city that Sherman deemed “too beautiful to burn,” and enjoy its fun River Street area of shops and restaurants converted from warehouses. Take a trolley tour at the Jekyll Island resort before finishing the tour in beautiful St. Augustine, Florida, where the Old Town dates back to 1572. **\$2,825 from Chicago.**



\$100 cash discount - preview 1/16

GREAT GARDENS OF KENT

May 18-27, 2018 - Includes Chelsea Flower Show ✈

Join Jeff Epping of Olbrich Botanical Gardens on a tour of English gardens and a visit to London’s 2018 Chelsea Flower Show. Your first five nights will be spent in Kent, renowned as the “Garden of England.” Visits include Gravetye Manor’s hidden gardens; the gardens surrounding Leeds Castle; the Great Comp, a wonderfully quirky garden showcasing rare plants; Penshurst Place, where horticultural records date to 1346; the gardens at Hever Castle, once home to Anne Boleyn; Sissinghurst Castle Gardens; and Wisley. After traveling to London and spending a full day at the flower show, you’ll have a free day to explore this world capital on your own. **\$3,825 from Chicago.**



5% off land until 4/24

ITALIAN MOSAIC

May 20-June 3, 2018 ✈

Join Tom and Lou Ann Colby on this glorious, once-in-a-lifetime, 15-day tour of amazing Italy! Discover Rome’s incredible landmarks, from the Forum and Colosseum, to St. Peter’s Square and Basilica. See the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa and the treasures of Florence. Explore, by boat, Cinque Terre—five medieval villages along the dramatic coast. Travel to colorful Stresa on scenic Lake Maggiore. See the fabulous city of Venice and explore along its incredible canals. Visit St. Francis’ Basilica in Assisi en route to Sorrento, cross the bay to the remarkable island of Capri, and visit the amazing ruins of Pompeii. **\$5,120 from Chicago.**



Up to \$150 discount

COLORADO ROCKIES, RAILS & NATIONAL PARKS

June 17-25, 2018 ✈

Ride the rails to see Colorado’s most spectacular sights! Three scenic train rides and five national parks are the highlights of this terrific 9-day adventure. The Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Rail is a delightful journey through the San Juan National Forest. The Pikes Peak Cog Railway is a dramatic ride to the top of the famous mountain. Some of the most arresting scenery in the entire country can be seen on the Royal Gorge Train. See Rocky Mountain, Mesa Verde, Great Sand Dunes, Arches and Canyonlands national parks! **\$2,999 from Chicago.**



GEYSERS TO GLACIERS

July 4-14, 2018 ✈️

Explore breathtaking glacial lakes, rugged mountains, and stunning waterfalls on this tour of national parks in Wyoming and Idaho. Overnight in beautiful and historic cities like Salt Lake City, Utah, with its six-spired temple and adjacent tabernacle; Jackson, Wyoming, a wild west town with wooden sidewalks and swing-door saloons; Helena, Montana, in the heart of "big sky" country; and Spokane and Seattle, Washington. Discover wildlife, including bison, bighorn sheep, elk and antelope. Stand in awe of nature in serene places like Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, surrounded by dozens of lakes left behind by Ice Age glaciers. **\$2,850 from Chicago.**



COSMOPOLITAN EUROPE

July 12-29, 2018 ✈️

Experience a taste of eight different countries on this whirlwind, 18-day tour of Europe that begins in London and ends in Paris! Discover England's spectacular capital of London; Brussels, Belgium, seat of the European Parliament; Germany's scenic Rhine River and the baroque city of Wurzburg; the Czech Republic's capital of Prague, with its beautiful Old Town Square; the splendid music city of Vienna, Austria; the Alpine landscapes of Lucerne, Switzerland; romantic Paris, France; and five fantastic nights in Italy, including Venice, Assisi, Rome and Florence. This is a great first trip to Europe! **\$4,549 from Chicago.**



2018 Alaska Land & Sea Journeys with Burkhalter Tours & Holland America

JUNE 18-JULY 1: ALASKAN ADVENTURE

This leisurely-paced journey takes you into Alaska's heartland and concludes with a wonderful 7-night cruise through the scenic Inside Passage...from \$3,826.

- ◆ 6 nights land and 7 nights cruise
- ◆ 2 nights Fairbanks
- ◆ 1 night Anchorage and 1 night Seward
- ◆ 2 nights Denali National Park with 8-hour Tundra Wilderness Tour
- ◆ McKinley Explorer Train
- ◆ Glacier Bay National Park
- ◆ Inside Passage - Haines - Juneau - Ketchikan - Vancouver

JULY 14-25: ALASKA'S BEST

After an amazing 7-night cruise, this tour continues with a wilderness adventure in Denali National Park...from \$3,549.

- ◆ 7 nights cruise and 4 nights land
- ◆ Ketchikan - Juneau - Skagway
- ◆ 2 nights Denali National Park with 8-hour Tundra Wilderness Tour
- ◆ McKinley Explorer Train
- ◆ 1 night Anchorage and 1 night Vancouver

AUGUST 3-15: ALASKA & THE YUKON

A longer land tour, including the fantastic Yukon Territory, this is the ultimate trip for wilderness lovers...from \$4,492.

- ◆ 8 nights land and 4 nights cruise
- ◆ 1 night stays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Skagway
- ◆ McKinley Explorer Train
- ◆ 2 nights Denali National Park with 8-hour Tundra Wilderness Tour
- ◆ 3 nights Yukon Territory
- ◆ Glacier Bay National Park - Ketchikan - Vancouver

**Join us for our January On-Stage Alaska show -
Tue., Jan. 30 in Dubuque or Wed., Jan. 31 in Madison!**

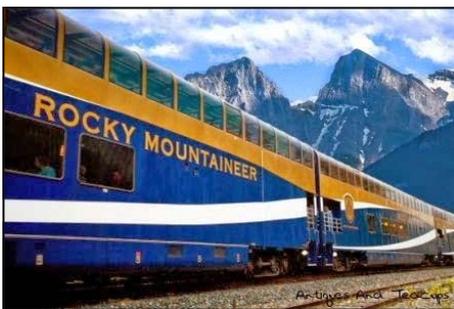


5% off land
until 4/24

BEST OF NORWAY

July 15-22, 2018 ✈️

Deep-blue fjords, breathtaking mountains, glimmering glaciers and flowing waterfalls—these are the things that make Norway a must-see destination! This wonderful tour begins in Oslo, where a city tour reveals treasures like Frogner Park and the Royal Palace. Drive through the world's longest road tunnel before arriving in the picturesque village of Flam. A ride on the Flam Railway takes you through 20 tunnels and climbs over 2800 feet into the mountains. Cross Hardanger Bridge, one of the longest suspension bridges in the world. Ride a local ferry across Hardangerfjord. Stay at the historic Ullensvang Hotel, where Edvard Grieg wrote his most famous works—his cabin still stands on the hotel's grounds. Wrap it up with two nights in colorful Bergen. **\$3,830 from Chicago.**



CANADA'S ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

July 29-August 5, 2018 ✈️

Explore the gorgeous Canadian Rockies on this popular train famous for its amazing views! Start in Calgary, a former host of the Winter Olympics. Visit Banff, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and discover the spectacular beauty of Lake Louise. Then, enjoy a two-day adventure by rail through the incredible Rocky Mountains. Conclude in vibrant Vancouver, a modern city with a dramatic location between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. You'll also spend a day on the island of Victoria and visit the wonderful Butchart Gardens. Don't miss this amazing adventure! **\$4,799 from Chicago (coach transfer from Madison).**



ICELAND: LAND OF FIRE & ICE

August 1-7, 2018 ✈️

Our travelers are loving Iceland—here's your chance to find out why! By popular demand, this itinerary has been expanded from a six- to a seven-day trip! Spend six nights in Reykjavik and tour the capital, a wonderful contrast of charming historic buildings and modern architecture. A day on the South Shore introduces you to small villages and farmlands amid majestic mountains, volcanos and glaciers. Spend some time on the Reykjanes Peninsula, one of the country's most volcanic areas, and swim in the famous Blue Lagoon. Embark on a full-day tour of "The Golden Circle," a scenic drive that features beautiful lakes and waterfalls, and the World Heritage Site of Thingvellir Nat'l Park, where you can walk through a canyon that is the meeting place of two of the earth's tectonic plates! **\$3,079 from Chicago (coach transfer from Madison).**



Free
Gratuities!

PARIS TO NORMANDY RIVER CRUISE

August 16-25, 2018 ✈️

Join Tom and Lou Ann Colby for a trip that combines the unparalleled city of Paris with the stunning gardens of Monet's Giverny, and the picturesque and historic region of Normandy. Gently cruise along the serene Seine River, past charming villages, castle ruins and lovely river-side scenery. Choose from included excursions to Normandy's landing beaches, a drive along the "Abbey's Route," where more than 100 abbeys once stood, an agricultural region where you can sample local specialties, Rouen, where Joan of Arc lived and died, Van Gogh's last home, and much more. **From \$5,110 from Chicago.**



SOUTH AFRICAN SAFARI ADVENTURE

September 9-20, 2018 ✈️

Join your host, Kathy Brinkman, and experience the culture, history, wildlife and beauty of four south African countries on this once-in-a-lifetime bucket-list tour! Stay in beautiful park lodges and embark on safari adventures in Kruger, Hwange and Chobe national parks in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Stand in awe at nature's supreme masterpiece, Victoria Falls, and relax onboard a spectacular sunrise cruise on the mighty Zambezi River. If you still have some time, you might book an optional three-night extension to Cape Town. Call for a complete itinerary. **\$7,459 from Chicago (coach transfer from Madison).**



CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS

September 23-29, 2018 ✈️

Explore U.S. history and the phenomenal natural beauty in New England destinations like Hyannis, Plymouth, Nantucket Island, Martha's Vineyard, Newport and Boston. You'll spend six nights in one Hyannis hotel. See the Kennedy compound and Kennedy Memorial. Visit Plymouth Rock and the recreated Pilgrim village of Plimoth Plantation. Cruise by ferry to Nantucket Island, where the cobblestoned Main Street, sea captains' houses and art galleries will charm you. Enjoy the colorful cottages and stately homes on Martha's Vineyard. Tour historic Boston, and discover the extravagant estates in Newport. Feast on your included lobster dinner! **\$2,375 from Chicago.**



TREASURES OF THE BALKANS & TRANSYLVANIA

October 1-14, 2018 ✈️

Discover the treasures of the Balkans—Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. In Hungary, visit the twin cities of Buda and Pest. Discover Romania's historic castles, including the Bran castle once inhabited by Vlad the Impaler, better known as Dracula! In Serbia, see the Petrovaradin Citadel, "Gibraltar of the Danube," in Novi Sad, and later overnight in the capital of Belgrade. In Bulgaria, visit the capital of Sofia and its UNESCO-listed Bojana Church. Stop in Plovdiv to see the Old Town and Roman Amphitheater, before you continue over the Stara Planina Mountains to Veliko Tarnovo, located on the Yantra River and dating back to the Middle Ages. In beautiful Bucharest, your tour includes the unique open-air Village Museum. This is a unique and fascinating tour! **\$3,459 from Chicago.**



5% off land
until 4/24

ESSENTIAL BRITAIN

October 5-17, 2018 ✈️

This exciting tour circles Britain, including Lands End and Cornwall, and considerably more time in Scotland than most UK tours. You'll see: Prehistoric Stonehenge; Plymouth—where you will follow in the footsteps of the pilgrims on a cruise on Plymouth Sound; the seaside resort of St. Ives in Cornwall; a stop in King Arthur's Glastonbury; Jane Austen's Bath; the Welsh capital of Cardiff and Brecon Beacons National Park; the Roman city of Chester; the Beatles' hometown of Liverpool; Wordsworth's Grasmere; and Gretna Green, Glasgow, Inverness and Edinburgh in Scotland; Yorkshire; Stratford and more! **\$3,800 from Chicago.**

About Our Tour Listings

Individual brochures including reservation forms, complete itineraries and all terms and conditions, are available for each of the extended tours listed in this newsletter. Call or email to request a copy. Or, if you receive the newsletter electronically, you may simply click on the tour title to go directly to the brochure for that tour. Prices shown are complete per person based on double occupancy, including accommodations, admissions, some meals, taxes and fees, and the cost of transportation by air, motorcoach, train or ship.

Note: airfares are often estimated and subject to change.



Burkhalter Travel Agency Locations

Any of our terrific tours may also be booked through our equally terrific travel agents—call one today!

West Madison:

800/556-9286 or 608/833-5200
6501 Mineral Point Rd, Madison 53705

East Madison:

800/414-7166 or 608/241-7500
615A N Sherman Ave, Madison 53704

Fitchburg:

888/522-4269 or 608/441-0151
3050 Cahill Main, Fitchburg 53711

Oregon:

800/537-0419 or 608/835-8474
763 N Main, Oregon 53575

Stoughton/Chalet Travel:

800/733-6970 or 608/873-8133
226 S Forrest St, Stoughton 53589

Baraboo:

800/660-8359 or 608/356-4999
141 Third Ave, Baraboo 53913

Prairie du Sac/Travelog Travel:

800/242-8457 or 608/643-4599
180 Washington St, Prairie du Sac 53578

Brookfield/Olson Travel:

800/847-5921 or 262/782-0110
17550 W Bluemound Rd Suite 202
Brookfield 53045

Dubuque/Travel Headquarters:

800/383-0563 or 563/588-3456
2095 John F Kennedy Rd Suite 1
Dubuque, IA 52002

If you want one of these, book it now!

Last Call



BEST OF GREECE

April 20-30, 2018 ✈️

Discover the origin of the Greek gods and what they represented in early cultures, and how Greek civilizations laid the foundation for modern times. Highlights include Epidaurus and its magnificent open-air theatre; Mycenae, a fortress cursed by the gods but rich in gold and warrior kings; Sparta and its Peloponnese history; Mystra, once known as the Florence of the East; Olympia, first site of the Olympic Games; Delphi, one of the country's grandest sites; and Meteora with its spectacular cluster of monastic buildings. Add an island cruise if you like!
\$2,619 from Chicago.



CALIFORNIA RAIL DISCOVERY

April 25-May 1, 2018 ✈️

Experience the beauty and vitality of California on this unique tour that features several popular train trips. Start with two nights in San Francisco. Explore its fabulous Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown, Golden Gate Bridge, and more. Travel to Napa Valley for a wine tasting and lunch aboard the beautiful Wine Train. Visit Sacramento and learn about its fascinating Gold Rush history, and from there, take a scenic journey through the Sierra Nevada to Lake Tahoe, for two nights. **\$2,850 from Chicago.**



TEXAS TREK

June 11-19, 2018 🚗

This delightful journey travels through much of America's heartland, culminating in Waco, Texas for two nights, a tour of the city and a visit to Chip and Joanna Gaines' Magnolia Market. Other en route highlights include: three presidential museums; Oklahoma City's Nat'l Memorial; a two-night stay and touring in San Antonio; the Book Depository Museum in Dallas; and a few unique, out-of-the-ordinary stops throughout the tour. Whether you're a *Fixer-Upper* fan or a fan of presidential history, this tour should be fun! **\$2,498 from Madison.**



CITIES AND CASTLES OF BOHEMIA

June 22-30, 2018 ✈️

Beyond the beautiful suburbs of Prague, you'll find a land of rolling hills, rich farmland and thick forests. This is Bohemia, a region of surprising variety. In addition to seeing the beautiful architecture and learning the most important history of major Czech cities like Prague, Cesky Krumlov and Ceske Budejovice, you will also spend some of your days venturing outside them to visit spa towns and smaller villages with incredible, must-see castles and cathedrals. This is an awesome tour at a great price! **\$2,588 from Chicago.**



Wicked

Oriental Theatre, Chicago

Sat, Jan 20 - \$210

Re-visit the musical that put Chicago theatre back on the map! This story of the witches of OZ, pre-Dorothy, continues to captivate.



Fish Fry Tour

Milwaukee

Fri, Mar 2 - \$120 (L)

This tour was hugely successful last year, so we are bringing it back for 2018! Sample the fishy fare at several popular Milwaukee eateries, tour a beautiful cathedral, and wrap it up at one of the city's terrific custard stands!

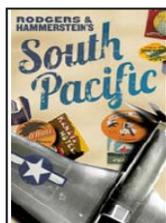


Pretty Woman, The Musical

Oriental Theatre, Chicago

Sat., Apr 7 - \$170

This new musical is making its pre-Broadway debut in Chicago! The love story of this unlikely couple is guaranteed to lift your spirits and light up your heart. Enjoy some free time for lunch and shopping downtown before the show—a great spring day out in the Windy City!



South Pacific

Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook

Terrace, IL

Thu, Apr 19 - \$120 (L)

More timely than ever, this Rodgers & Hammerstein landmark musical proves that even the backdrop of a tropical paradise cannot shelter its residents from the perils and prejudices of war. The winner of 10 Tony Awards, *South Pacific* also won the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

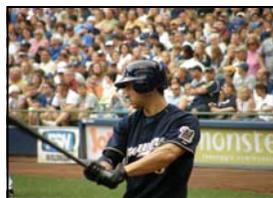


Architecture Tour & Cruise

Downtown Chicago

Fri, May 18 - \$99

Discover the historic role that Chicago has played on the world stage when it comes to the topic of architecture. Enjoy scenic views of the city's magnificent skyline as you learn the story. Later, embark on a 90-minute cruise on the Chicago River for up-close views of some of the city's most remarkable buildings.



Cubs at Brewers

Miller Park, Milwaukee

Wed, Jun 13 - \$TBD

Whether you're a Brewers or Cubs fan, this rivalry is always fun to experience up close and in person!

If you see this (L) or (D) after the tour price, it means a meal is included.



2018 Mystery Tour

Thu, Jun 21, 2018 - \$106 (L)

If you've got a keen sense of curiosity, you'll enjoy this tour full of surprises. Enjoyment is guaranteed!



2018 Mississippi River Cruises from Dubuque: All \$99pp

Country Music - Wed, Jun 27

Oldies Music - Wed, Jul 18

Fall Foliage - Wed, Oct 3 (from Prairie du Chien)

These four-hour cruises are so much fun, they sell out quickly every year! Enjoy a delicious lunch, terrific music and scenic cruising. The Dubuque cruises include two hours free time after the cruise for the river museum or the casino. The fall cruise from Prairie du Chien includes a visit to an apple orchard before returning to Madison.



The Cher Show

Oriental Theater, Chicago

Sat, Jul 7 - \$189

Another sure-fire hit premieres in Chicago before it hits Broadway! This show is the story of Cherilyn Sarkisian La Piere Bono Allman, the rock goddess with a hundred million records sold, the legend who's done it all, but is still wracked with stage fright, the wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend—and they're all here, dressed to kill!



BURKHALTER TOURS

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January 2018 Newsletter

Burkhalter Tours At-A-Glance

Extended Tours

Cruise the Hawaiian Islands	Feb 08-17 <i>closed</i>
A Week in Rome	Feb 18-25 <i>request</i>
Best of New Zealand	Feb 21-Mar 08 <i>request</i>
Intro to Ireland	Mar 04-10 <i>request</i>
Simply Vietnam	Mar 09-21 <i>request</i>
European Mystery Tour	Mar 14-25 <i>request</i>
Tulip Time Cruise	Apr 16-24 <i>cabins open!</i>
Best of Greece	Apr 20-30 <i>request</i>
California Rail Discovery	Apr 25-May 01 <i>request</i>
Historic South	May 06-12
Great Gardens of Kent	May 18-27
Italian Mosaic	May 20-Jun 03
Treasures of France and Spain	Jun 08-21
Texas Trek with Waco	Jun 11-19 <i>request</i>
Colorado Rockies, Rails & Parks	Jun 17-25 <i>new</i>
Alaskan Adventure	Jun 18-Jul 01
Cities/Castles of Bohemia	Jun 22-30 <i>request</i>
Geysers to Glaciers	Jul 04-14
Cosmopolitan Europe	Jul 12-29
Alaska's Best	Jul 14-25
Best of Norway	Jul 15-22 <i>new</i>
Canada's Rocky Mountaineer	Jul 29-Aug 05

Iceland: Fire & Ice	Aug 01-07
Alaska & The Yukon	Aug 03-15
Normandy River Cruise	Aug 16-25 <i>new</i>
South African Safari	Sep 09-20 <i>new</i>
Cape Cod & The Islands	Sep 23-29 <i>new</i>
Balkans & Transylvania	Oct 01-14 <i>new</i>
Essential Britain	Oct 05-17 <i>new</i>
New England Autumn Splendor	Oct 06-14
Polar Bear Discovery	Oct 18-22
Argentina Highlights	Oct 31-Nov 09

One-Day Tours

<i>Wicked</i>	Jan 20
<i>Hamilton</i>	Mar 14 <i>sold out</i>
<i>Pretty Woman, The Musical</i>	Apr 07 <i>new</i>
<i>South Pacific</i>	Apr 19 <i>new</i>
Chicago Architecture	May 18 <i>new</i>
Cubs at Brewers	Jun 13 <i>new</i>
Mystery Tour	Jun 20 <i>new</i>
Country Music River Cruise	Jun 27 <i>new</i>
<i>The Cher Show</i>	Jul 07 <i>new</i>
Oldies River Cruise	Jul 18 <i>new</i>
Fall Foliage River Cruise	Oct 03 <i>new</i>