



A Note from Dea:

As some of you may have heard, I have sad news to share: Mom passed away at 84 years old at the end of March. They found an aortic aneurysm 2 years ago, and she didn't want a traumatic surgery in her 80s, so it was a matter of time. I tell people that while I am so sad for all of us, I'm happy she is no longer in pain and with Dad. And just like Dad's visitation in 2018, hers was over 4 hours, full of tears, hugs and laughter. Everyone talked about the amazing, kind, thoughtful woman she was. Her last gift to me was planning her funeral and penning her own obituary, which if you met her, you would expect nothing less! And my parents' legacy in Vandalia will continue - Mom found someone to keep the store running, and the Vandalia Historical Society is planning a special exhibit about my parents and the Firestone store! I could not have asked for a better way to honor the extraordinary lives of my parents, and I will always carry them with me wherever I go in this wide world.

And, boy, are we going all over the world! Declan and I are off to Ireland soon with the Classic 55 Club from First National Bank of Waterloo. This will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> trip in the last 3 years, and if **Ireland** is on your list, you are in luck - we can add you to the list of other folks who can't wait to go next April! This year we also have two firsts, with **Greece in the fall** and **Antarctica in December** - Yes, Antarctica is officially a go, so if the 7<sup>th</sup> continent is on your list like us, sign up today! We're also going to **Australia and New Zealand in November**.

For you train buffs, we have **TWO Rocky Mountaineer** trips, a 3-night **Canadian Rockies** tour and a 2-night **Colorado & Utah**. Baseball fans will love Pittsburgh - see them take on St Louis for a game & explore the wonders we saw on our mystery trip like their preserved blast furnace! We're also going to **Door County, Crystal Bridges, New England Fall Foliage, Christmas in San Antonio** and our perennial **Mackinac Island** and **Key West** tours.

And yes, many tours are filling up fast. Travel is still very hot right now, even as prices keep increasing, especially domestically. Unlike other tour companies, **we continue to include transportation, airfare, gratuities and luggage handling** at the hotels. We don't cut corners by staying out near the airport or far from the city center. (It also helps that I'm on the tours, and I want to stay in nice, convenient places!) This attention to detail has made us stand out from the crowd for 20 years, and while these inclusions mean our tours are not the cheapest at first glance, we've heard from travelers about how some of the "cheaper" tours ended up costing them so much more in the end once they added up the extras.

The last bit of news is I have finally completed my third book. **Hermann, Missouri: A Walk Through History**. It should be out in May, and I am really proud of it. It is similar to the **Hannibal: A Walk Through History** book I wrote last time, a paperback book the size of a magazine with great photos and interesting things to do in Hermann, PLUS history and hidden facts. It makes a great gift for anyone going to Wine Country for a day or a weekend!

If you see a tour you are interested in, give us a call at **314-304-3508** or email us: [info@awtytours.com](mailto:info@awtytours.com). Our other email still works, this is just easier to type. It's also easier to tell your friends - [AWTYTours.com](http://AWTYTours.com) still sends you to [AreWeThereYetDea.com](http://AreWeThereYetDea.com) like normal. As always, we look forward to seeing you, on the road.

Yours in tours,

Dea!!

P.S. Don't forget Are We There Yet? is now a full travel agency, so if you can't go with us, we can plan something for you! We can help you decide between different options since we've actually been so many places and done so many things!



# Overnight Tours

**All prices are per person, double occupancy (2 to a room)**

**Mystery Tour! May 5-9** We'd like to tell you more about this tour but then it wouldn't be a mystery! \* It's to somewhere that Are We There Yet? has not led a tour, so never fear, long time travelers, you will not have a repeat experience! **\$1,623 credit/\$1,574 check**

**US Rocky Mountaineer from Denver to Moab! May 17-22** Enjoy the luxury of the Rocky Mountaineer train, but in the US! \* Start in Denver before we ride through the Rocky Mountains on a luxury train, same cars as in Canada! \* Moffatt Tunnel, Big Ten Curve, Gross Reservoir Dam and Byers, Gore and Glenwood Canyons in Colorado \* Then head into Utah with its rugged red sandstone, seeing Parachute Creek, Mount Logan, Ruby Canyon, and Book Cliffs from the train. \* Explore Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park, including the famous Island in the Sky district! \* **Special Savings! \$4,989 credit/\$4,789 check**

**Alaskan Adventure! May 24 - June 1** No one does Alaska quite like Are We There Yet? The Last Frontier has a special place in Dea's heart as she grew up with stories from her parents time in Fairbanks. See the best places in Alaska, both famous and some hidden gems that might surprise you \* Start in Fairbanks before heading south to Denali, the tallest mountain in North America. We take the longer excursion to see Moose and Caribou and Bear. One year we even saw a lynx! Continuing south we ride the train to Talkeetna, home to the quirkiest town in Alaska before we get to Anchorage and Seward, where we take a boat ride out to the glaciers. A trip of a lifetime you will never forget! \* **\$5,624 credit/\$5,399 check**

**Rivers of Steel – See St. Louis play at Pittsburgh! June 28 – July 2** Stay downtown at the Drury Plaza and enjoy a ball game as well as seeing hidden gems like the Duquesne Incline, Burgh Bits & Bites Food Tour, Bost Building, the Carrie Blast Furnace, Pump House, the Heinz History Center, and a Grand Concourse Dinner. **\$2,167 credit/\$2,032 check**

**Crystal Bridges Art Museum - Ride the A&M Railroad! July 11 - 14** See some of the best American artwork in an amazing museum! \* Alice Walton has used the Walmart fortune to bring incredible works of art to the South, from Norman Rockwell's Rosie the Riveter to Winslow Homer's Spring you will be astonished at the collection less than a day's travel from St. Louis! \* New this year: a scenic ride on the A&M Railroad **\$1,093 credit/\$1,049 check**

**Canadian Rockies Encore tour due to high demand! June 9-18** Ride the rails for 3 days through the Canadian Rockies, from Vancouver to Whistler and Jasper \* Discover amazing sights you can only see while on the train, far away from the busy highway \* Horseshoe Bay, Howe Sound fjords, and the tallest mountain in Canada, Mount Robson \* Amazing service with refreshments and meals brought right to your seat. \* **\$10,103 credit/\$9,699 check**

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# 2025 Overnight Tours (continued)

**Mackinac Island - A Perennial Favorite! August 22-28** Head to a place where cars are banned, and horse and buggies everywhere! \* Spend 3 nights on the island at the Island House, right on the water! \* Fly to maximize touring and minimize driving \* Tour also includes taxi between the dock and the hotel! \* **\$3,645 credit/\$3,499 check double occ.**

**Paris & Seine River Cruise - Visit to Normandy Beach! Sept 4-15** Scenic is Emerald Waterways luxury brand, so you will be pampered as we cruise the Seine to Normandy \* Visit Rouen, Les Andelys, Honfleur and more \* See the Normandy Beach sites, including the D-Day Memorial \* Included shore excursions at every port with English-speaking local guides \* Complimentary wine, beer & soft drinks at lunch and dinner, plus complimentary mini-bar! \* Evening entertainment \* All meals and gratuities included onboard \* ~~Starting at \$14,990~~  
**Limited time discount! Starting at \$8,366 credit /\$8,115 check double occupancy**

**Door County, WI – Visit Washington Island! Sept 21 – 25** Escape the heat in Door County, the Cape Cod of the Midwest! See a traditional Fish Boil \* Visit Washington Island, off the tip of Door County \* Lambeau Field, Koepsel's Farm Market, Al Johnson's, & Eagle Bluff Lighthouse \* Dinner Cruise on the Milwaukee River \* **\$2,033 credit /\$1,972 check**

**New England Fall Foliage – Stay at the Trapp Lodge! Sept 28-Oct 6** New England is beautiful in Fall as the mountains are awash in color \* Fly rather than drive for more time touring! \* Visit a maple syrup farm and learn about this delicious, natural product! \* Scenic drives through Vermont, New Hampshire and, for those who want to visit every state, we even go to Maine! \* Enjoy a traditional lobster bake! **\$5,874 credit /\$5,639 check**

**The Grand Tour of Greece – Includes Mykonos and Santorini! October 18 – 29** After many requests, we are offering our first ever tour to Greece! \* Explore ancient ruins and modern museums as we see the famous landmarks of Athens like the Panathenaic Stadium, Hadrian's Arch, the Temple of Zeus and Athena and, of course, the Parthenon! \* Visit Delphi, famous in Ancient Greece who visited the Oracle \* See the monastery of Meteora, built high upon mountain peaks \* See Thermopylae and the monument to King Leonidas of Sparta \* Visit the Greek Islands of Mykonos and Santorini! \* **\$8,874 credit /\$8,519 check**

**Australia & New Zealand - All over Down Under! Nov 1-19** Dea & Declan spent their honeymoon in Australia and New Zealand and loved it so much they have returned twice with tours to share their favorite places, full of hidden treasures and amazing sights! \* Start in New Zealand, both the North and South islands, from the thermal features of Rotorua to the snowcapped peaks of Queenstown. \* Sail on a steam ship to a sheep dog demonstration\* Visit a Maori village to learn about their amazing culture \* In Australia, explore every kind of environment, from the Rainforests and Reefs in the North to the harsh Outback \* Penguin parade in Melbourne \* Drive through the Outback learning about how the Royal Flying Doctors Service & School of the Air allow families to live there\* Sydney tour and harbour cruise \* Even have the chance for a photo with a Koala! **\$13,891 credit/\$13,335 check**

**Dea says: REAL ID is coming (finally)** - After countless delays, **May 7** is the official date that a **REAL ID will be required to fly**. If you want to use your license to fly, you must request a REAL ID when you renew it - follow the checklist and make sure it has a gold star that shows it is a REAL ID. You may still use other REAL ID approved Government ID such as your passport, a passport card, Global Entry Card, TWIC, Telos, etc. The reason we are reminding people is that travel insurance will not issue a refund if a customer books a flight tour and does not have a REAL ID and we don't want that to happen to you!

# 2025 Overnight Tours (continued)

**San Antonio Christmas – See the thousands of Luminaria! December 3-6** Follow the star for Christmas in the Lone Star state! Stay on the famous Riverwalk at the Drury, famous for its free apps and drinks every night \* See thousands of luminarias lining the river - right outside the door! \* We'll explore the highlights of the area, from popular destinations like the Mexican Market and The Alamo to hidden gems like the Japanese Sunken Tea Gardens, the San Fernando Cathedral, and Villa Finale historic home! **\$1,885 credit/\$1,809 check**

**Christmas Around the World in Omaha, NE! Dec 7-11** Take a trip and experience Christmas around the world, all in Omaha! \* Dine in a Scottish-inspired Castle, visit beautiful churches, and a museum in a restored train station like stepping back in time \* Incredible meals at Warren Buffet's favorite steakhouse, the German American Society Center, the Greek Church, and more! \* Visit Boys Town, founded in 1917 to care for children and their families and revolutionized foster care, and see Father Flanagan's original home decorated in the Irish fashion before touring the grounds lead by the mayor, one of the teenage residents of the village \* Enjoy treats from a Lithuanian Bakery, \* Stay right in downtown Omaha! \* City Tour including a stop at Hollywood Candy, with all your favorite candies from your childhood! \* An evening performance of A Christmas Carol \* **1,645 credit/\$1,579 check**

**Antarctic Discovery Cruise on Scenic – IT'S HAPPENING! Dec 9-22** When space opened on this amazing, life changing tour, Dea jumped on it - this tour is officially going, as it is our 7<sup>th</sup> continent, and we didn't want to miss our chance! \* We start in Buenos Aires before flying to the tip of the continent and sail onboard Scenic, the same cruise company we use in Europe \* The most modern ships designed specifically for Antarctica! \* Dine at any of the amazing dining options on board, with all meals and beverages included \* Special presentations on board everyday \* Walk amongst the penguins! \* Boots and Parka included – no need to bring them in your suitcase! \* **New Lower Price! call us for more details!**

**Danube Christmas Markets Cruise – on Emerald Waterways! Dec 14-22** There's nothing quite like the Christmas Markets of Germany, Austria, and Hungary, and the best way to see it is by sailing the Danube! \* See spectacular landscapes, experience the rich culture and fascinating history of these world-class cities and charming towns and villages \* Experience an unforgettable cruise through the heart of old Europe \* Enjoy walking tours and visit the homes of locals! \* Sightseeing excursions that showcase the magnificence of yesteryear \* All on a beautiful ship with wonderful crew \* Maggie and Greg went on this cruise a few years ago and said it was absolutely magical and a must-see experience. Plus, she did much of her Christmas shopping there, too! **Limited Availability - Call for pricing!**

ALL tours include luggage handling at the hotel, & gratuities for waitstaff, housekeepers, drivers, & guides – no need to constantly reach for your wallet like other tour companies!

Flight tours include airfare from St. Louis. We can arrange flights from other cities – just ask!

Tours depart from St. Louis. Ask for pricing on other pick-ups, including airport transfers from Cape Girardeau and Sikeston. We can also connect you with reliable transportation if you want to be dropped off and picked up instead of leaving your car!

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# And in 2026

**Key West Escape! Feb 22 – Feb 26, 2026** Take a break from the gray days of Missouri with a trip to Key West! \* Spend 5 days and 4 nights at the Southernmost Hotel, right on the water with its own beach! \* A sunset cruise with light fare and open bar \* Guided tour of Key West \* Visit the Truman Little White House \* Meals include daily breakfast, a welcome dinner at the beach and light fare on Sunset Cruise! \* Plus, as always, round trip airfare is included!

**Africa Adventure! February 2026 - Our most exclusive tour!** The best of Africa at the best time of year, as the great migration winds through the parks of Tanzania. Plus see the spectacular Victoria Falls, one of the 7 Wonders of the World! \* Enjoy 8 scenic game drives throughout iconic locations such as the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater \* Stay in luxurious tents camps - it's not camping, it's "glamping" (glamorous camping) \* Visit Tarangire National Park, home to the most elephants in Africa \* Olduvai Gorge, home to some of the oldest human remains \* The fly to Victoria Falls and stay just over a mile from this natural wonder! \* Great meals cooked to order while on Safari, plus enjoy unique experiences in Victoria Falls such as a traditional Zimbabwean meal, the Bushtracks Express Luxury Dinner Train, and a Farewell Sunset River Cruise \* All flights, visas, park entrance fees included \* Travel with peace of mind with Flying Doctor Evacuation Service included \* We only take as many as can fit in the jeeps with one of us - last time we took 8 people!

**Windmills, Tulips & Belgian Delights Cruise – April 6-14, 2026** The Netherlands are famous for their tulips, and there's nothing like seeing them all in bloom! \* Learn about the history of the Tulips and how people went mad for them \* Plus visit Belgium, famous for chocolate, beer and diamonds \* Explore the wonders of Amsterdam and cruise the canals!

**The Backroads of Ireland – including Northern Ireland! April 2026** This is our signature tour, the one Declan was hired to plan before he and Dea fell in love! We have revised it over the years to make it the very best it can be. Fly into Dublin and head to Northern Ireland where we see Giant's Causeway, Titanic Belfast, and the Ulster American Folk Park, where historic buildings like Robert Campbell's childhood home have been preserved, plus see what it was like to emigrate to the US in the 1800s \* Ride along the Wild Atlantic Way, seeing highlights like Achill Island and the Cliffs of Moher \* Spend 2 nights on the island of Inishbofin, like stepping back in time to country life \* See the Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens, Blarney Stone and more \* Scenic drives on Dingle and Beara Peninsulas!

**Spain & Portugal Douro River Cruise ~ Sept 4-15, 2026 ~Plus Barcelona!** This tour is so popular, we are offering it again for the 4th time! \* Visit Spain and Portugal on this wonderful river cruise! \* Cruise through the famous Douro Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Area famous for its wine and olive oil \* Sail through numerous locks, including the tallest one in Europe! \* Included shore excursions at every port with English-speaking local guides \* All gratuities included \* All meals included onboard with a variety of international cuisine \* Complimentary regional wines, beer & soft drinks accompany onboard lunches and dinners \* Evening entertainment \* New for 2026 – Barcelona!

If your organization needs guest speakers, why not ask Dea? As a tour guide for over 20 years, Dea is a natural public speaker, and can talk on any number of topics, from travel tips to packing demonstrations or about her books, including bestseller, *STL Scavenger!*

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# 2025 Vacation Days

**Warm Springs Clydesdale Ranch – Friday, May 16** Tour the state-of-art Clydesdale breeding farm Warm Springs Ranch in Boonville, MO \* Enjoy lunch at the Settlers Inn, just for us! \* Visit Crane's Country Store \* **\$159** includes lunch **SOLD OUT – CALL FOR WAITLIST**

**Quincy- A City of Refuge - Friday, Jun 20** Learn about Quincy, IL and its history as a welcoming city opening its gates to those in need throughout the 1800's \* Visit Woodland Cemetery and St. Boniface Church, where the first black priest, Fr. Tolton, celebrated mass in 1886 \* Visit and tour the preserved Dr. Eells House, now home to the Underground Railroad Museum \* Lunch at Tiramisu \* **\$169** includes lunch!

**Clue at The Maples Theater with lunch at AJ's Eat & Drink ~ Friday, August 8** Venture to Macon, MO, to see *Clue* \* Based on the beloved 1985 movie inspired by the classic board game, *Clue* is the ultimate whodunit that will leave you dying of laughter \* Plus enjoy lunch at AJ's Eat & Drink, choice of prime rib, shrimp, chicken piccata or salmon! **\$169** includes lunch!

**Tues, Sept 2 - Celebrate Cape: Then and Now** - Enjoy a guided city tour of Cape Girardeau, MO \* Lunch at local favorite, Port Cape \* Tour of Red House Interpretative Center, a home built by poteaux-sur-solle ("post-on-sill") technique \* Tour old St. Vincent's Church, known for its English Gothic Revival Style, which is not only beautiful but also rare as very few churches of this style exist in America today. \* **\$159** includes lunch!

**Thursday, Sept 18 – Anchors Away - special visit to USS LST 325 Tank Landing Ship** Tour the USS LST 325 docked in Alton at America's Central Port \* Melvin Price Lock & Dam Tour\* Castelli's Moonlight's famous Talk-n-Chic fried chicken \* **\$145** includes lunch!

**Thurs, Oct 9 - Miss Augusta Luxury Yacht Lunch Cruise** A wonderful tour that sells out every time we offer it! Enjoy a fall time lunch cruise on the newly remodeled Miss Augusta luxury yacht \* Tour & Tasting at Mount Pleasant Winery \* \$169 includes lunch!

**Friday, Oct 17 - Bygone Beer Barons** Take a tour through St. Louis's Beer Baron history! \* Private guided tour of Bellefontaine Cemetery with a focus on the beer baron families' final resting place \* Plated lunch at Lemp Mansion \* Guided tour of Lemp Mansion with facts about the Lemp Family that lived there and their bygone brewing empire \* **\$149** includes lunch!

**Thurs, Oct 30 - Roots & Rye in Collinsville, IL** - Visit and tour the Willoughby Heritage Farm exploring what farm life was like in the 1940's \* Learn about how Collinsville became the US capital of Horseradish \* Enjoy a lunch and private tour at Old Herald Brewing & Distillery \* Special treat at Kruta Bakery, family-run since 1919! \* **\$139** includes lunch!

**Fri, Oct 31 – Irish in STL: Halloween Edition** – Learn about the Irish history in St. Louis, plus how Halloween traditions are rooted in Irish folklore and tradition \* Tour St. James the Greater\* Lunch at McGurk's\* Visit Kerry Cottage \* Tour Campbell House Museum with special performance by St. Louis Irish Arts \* **\$169** includes lunch!

We offer trip insurance for our tours as well as for any of your other travel bookings made by us, on your own, or even with other operators – call us today!

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