

EVERY GREAT JOURNEY BEGINS WITH A

Single Step

NEWS AND IDEAS TO INSPIRE YOUR NEXT GREAT JOURNEY

Welcome to the “Premier Issue” of *Single Step*, the Single Step Travel Planners newsletter for our clients, partners, and friends. Over 350 of you have worked with us to plan and book at least one trip, and over 100 of you have booked anywhere from 2 to 10 different trips with us in the past two years. We are very grateful to all of you for selecting us to help you with your trip planning! We hope that you will enjoy our occasional newsletter which will feature destinations, packages and travel ideas we hope will inspire you to think about your next trip. We will also include information, tips, and a variety of stories based on trips we have taken. We would also love to hear from you about your favorite trips and you will share some quick stories or photos for us to share in our upcoming newsletters.

In this issue, we will feature some “COOL SUMMER TRAVEL” ideas, for those of you who want to “beat the heat” this summer. “Summer” and “vacation” go together like “ice” and “cream”, but not everyone enjoys the heat and crowds that are staples of many popular destinations during the summer months. If you are cool to the idea of melting in the sun while exploring Rome on a 95 degree day, or sailing to the sweltering Caribbean in steamy August, this issue of “*Single Step*” is compiled with you in mind. Enjoy!

If you find something in this issue that you like, or that you think would be interesting to others, please share with them and/or on social media. If you have ideas for content, stories or photos you would like to share, we would love to hear from you. As we do in our travel planning process, we want to hear what is important to you and make this an interactive forum for sharing ideas and stories. Please [email us](#) anytime with your thoughts, suggestions and submissions.

HAPPY TRAVELS!!

Tom & Christine Kelly



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CRUISE SPOTLIGHT: Oceania Around the World Cruises - 2025 & 2026



Sail The World In Small Ship Luxury

For 2025 there are only LIMITED Ocean View, Veranda, Concierge Veranda and Penthouse Suites Still Available!

The 2025 world journey sets sail from San Diego in January 2025 on an exceedingly unique east-to-west circumnavigation designed for those seasoned explorers seeking their next epic adventure on the horizon. The 180-day odyssey will be filled with a kaleidoscope of destinations, immersive excursions and indelible moments that will remain with you long after the journey ends. Cultural treasures spanning the ages will captivate your mind, stunning natural wonders in all four corners of the globe will stir your spirit, and local encounters everywhere you sail will awaken your heart.

Click on the image below to View a 2 minute video about the 2025 cruise.



2026 Around the World Cruise

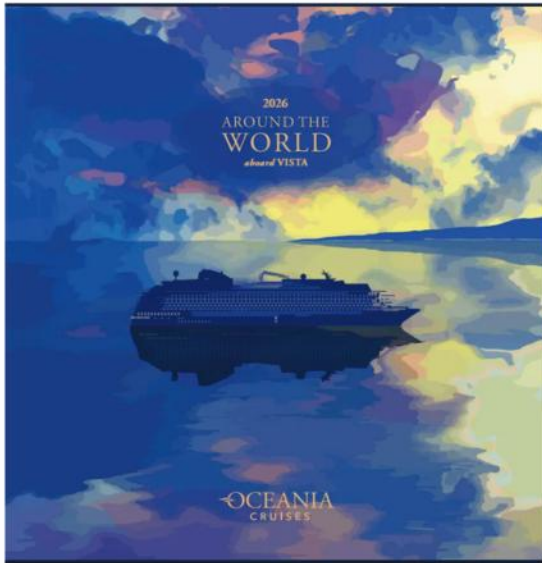
ON SALE NOW!

Set sail on our 2026 Around the World voyage aboard Vista, featuring even more complimentary amenities that will make your journey more luxurious. With our Exclusive Prestige Package,* receive generous amenities such as Free Laundry Services, a Free Visa Package and Free Luggage Delivery. All of this is in addition to 2 for 1 Cruise Fares, Free First-Class Roundtrip Airfare,* and simply MORE amenities: FREE Shore Excursions valued up to \$9,600, FREE Champagne, Wine & More; FREE Gourmet Specialty Dining and Free Unlimited WiFi.

Exclusive Prestige Package

- FREE Pre-Paid Gratuities, a value of up to \$9,000
- FREE Onboard Medical Consultation*
- FREE Laundry Services
- FREE Exclusive Shoreside Events
- FREE Visa Package
- FREE Luggage Delivery
- FREE 1-Night Pre-Cruise Luxury Hotel Stay

*Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Call Christine at 413-591-0068 for details.



[CLICK HERE](#) or on the image above to view a full color brochure booklet with more details on the 2026 cruise.

Call Christine, who specializes in Luxury Cruises, at 413-591-0068 for more information on this, or any other Oceania sailing.



RESORT SPOTLIGHT: Secrets Cap Cana Punta Cana



Escape into luxury at Secrets® Cap Cana Resort & Spa, a AAA Five Diamond Resort. Perfectly situated in the exclusive gated community of Cap Cana, Secrets Cap Cana Resort & Spa features gorgeous suites and brings all-inclusive dining and drinks to the crystal blue waters and magnificent sugar-sand Juanillo Beach, one of the most beautiful beaches in the Dominican Republic. Luxe and superior, couples can enjoy the epitome of luxury and romance — an idyllic getaway, or the setting for a perfect wedding or honeymoon, all complete with their signature Unlimited-Luxury® experience.

Your Secrets Getaway

A romantic getaway at Secrets is mesmerizing ocean views, gourmet room service or walks on the beach at sunset. It's also the experience of spending time alone together and being enveloped by luxury, concierge services and pure indulgences. An adults-only resort in beautiful Cap Cana, Dominican Republic, Secrets Cap Cana offers a passionate hideaway for couples looking for idyllic accommodations, delicious dining, exciting activities and a place to celebrate the two of you. In a setting of unparalleled magnificence, you can disconnect to reconnect.





COOL SUMMER TRAVEL IDEAS

Do You Want to “Chill Out” this Summer?

When it comes to summer vacations, many people immediately think of warm sandy beaches and tropical destinations. However, escaping the summer heat by traveling to cool climate destinations can be just as exciting and rewarding. Whether you're looking to explore lush green mountain forests, cruise through fjords, or even take a ski/snowboard vacation, there are plenty of cool climate destinations that offer a perfect way to “chill out” on this summer’s vacation.

NATIONAL PARKS

There are many US and Canadian National Parks that offer plenty of opportunities to get out in the fresh air and explore without overheating. Yellowstone National Park in Montana/Wyoming/Idaho, Acadia National Park in Maine, The Great Smokies National Park in Tennessee/North Carolina, and Sequoia National Park in California all feature moderate summer temperatures, with daily highs averaging below 75 degrees in July and August. Still too hot? Head to the State of Washington, with Olympic National Park averaging highs of 62 degrees in the summer months, or Mt. Rainier National Park, where temperatures rarely climb above 55 degrees. The Canadian Rockies are home to six national parks, including Banff and Glacier National Parks, where high temperatures average 65 degrees (fahrenheit) or less during the summer months. And then there is Alaska, which we'll discuss later, with 7 national parks amongst it's many reasons to visit.



National Parks by Rail

[Amtrak Vacations](#) offers 180+ rail itineraries that visit one or more national parks. Packages include rail travel from major cities to national parks, with some overnights on the train, as well as hotels in departure and arrival cities, and nights in iconic park lodging such as the [Glacier National Park Lodges](#) in Montana. Packages usually include some or most meals, motorcoach transfers and tours of the parks, and often have pre- or post- tour options to extend your trip.

[The Rocky Mountaineer](#) offers vacation packages in both the Canadian Rockies and Southwestern US. With both one-way and round-trip itineraries available between Vancouver, Banff, and Jasper in Canada, and between Denver and Moab in the US, there are a wide variety of options to view and experience majestic scenery and wildlife.



[ADVENTURES BY DISNEY](#) offers guided group/family vacations to magical destinations around the world, including several US and Canadian national parks. Above is a photo from their 7-day Wyoming adventure. Bask in the rugged beauty of the West while you horseback ride, raft, bike and hike through Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, with overnights in Yellowstone, Jackson Hole and Brooks Lake. From the moment you arrive at Jackson Hole Airport, your Disney Adventure Guides will be there to take care of all the details including transportation to hotels, group meals and all activities. Disney is renowned for their hospitality, entertainment and for creating life long family memories. Tom is a trained Disney Travel Professional, certified by the College of Disney Knowledge, and can help you plan magical vacations to Disney Resorts & Parks, Disney Cruises, Adventures By Disney, and partnered Expeditions with Disney and National Geographic.



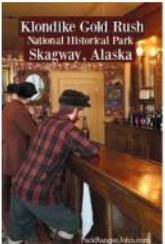


NORTH TO ALASKA

Saying Alaska is big is like saying that travel is fun... a MAJOR understatement. Alaska is not only the largest of the 50 United States, but could fit 19 other states (including New York, Florida and Pennsylvania) within its borders. It is not just “a little” bigger than Texas (the 2nd largest state), but if you cut Alaska in half, Texas would drop from 2nd to 3rd. You can’t see Alaska in one trip, but there are plenty of great opportunities to get to know it a little bit at a time.

ALASKA CRUISES & CRUISE TOURS

Because of Alaska’s sheer size, cruising is the easiest and most common way to visit Alaska. While there are approximately 20 ports of call for cruise ships in Alaska, a majority of cruise itineraries only visit ports along the Alaskan panhandle (which is about the size of the state of Florida). In fact, the three most common ports of Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway account for over 80% of cruise passengers visiting Alaska. These stops, combined with scenic cruising of the inside passage and one of many fjords, offer a good first glimpse. Our first trip to Alaska, on the Discovery Princess, featured these three ports and allowed us to see glaciers, view wildlife, learn about the Gold Rush, visit a sled dog camp and hold puppies!!, learn about the Salmon industry, watch Salmon swim up Salmon ladders to spawn, and enjoy a traditional salmon bake in an old gold mining camp. It was definitely a great first “taste” of Alaska!



Our initial Alaska cruise last Fall was fulfilling, but also convinced us that we want to see and experience more of Alaska. To do this we will take, and have had numerous clients book and highly recommend, a combination Alaskan cruise and land tour. Multiple cruise lines offer these hybrid itineraries, which usually include a one-way cruise from Vancouver or Seattle up the inside passage to Whittier (near Anchorage) combined with a multi-day land tour into Alaska’s interior. Most include a scenic rail trip from Anchorage to Denali National Park, one or more nights at one of Denali’s wilderness lodges, and guided motorcoach tours through the Park and back to Fairbanks or Anchorage for your flight home. The cruisetours can also be taken in the reverse direction, or “land-first”. Holland America also offers a cruise tour which includes the cruise, Denali train and overnight(s), and a continuation of the journey with flights into Dawson City to explore Canada’s Yukon Territory before boarding your ship or flying home.

Over 50 different ships representing at least a dozen cruise lines sail to Alaska each season. From large and lively (Royal Caribbean’s fun-filled, family-friendly Quantum of the Seas holds over 4,100 passengers) to iconic and formal (Cunard’s Queen Elizabeth II) to luxurious and intimate (Silversea Cruises’ newest all-suite ship, the Silver Nova holds 728 passengers and includes butler service and shore excursions such as a Hovercraft cruise with possible wildlife glimpses of eagles and whales, followed by a beach landing in the Tongass National Forest), there are ships and itineraries for all types of travelers and budgets.



SUMMER IN ICELAND - Always Cool, Never Dark

Iceland is known as the “Land of the Midnight Sun” because, in the summer months, the sun never fully sets. Whether you're seeking adventure, relaxation, or cultural immersion, Iceland in summer offers numerous reasons to visit, and many ways to explore. When I first visited Iceland, I literally felt like I'd traveled to a different planet. The stunning natural landscapes, including majestic waterfalls like Gullfoss and Seljalandsfoss, the stark volcanic landscapes, and the iconic black sand beaches are truly otherworldly. Other reasons to visit Iceland include soaking in geothermal pools and hot springs, glacier trekking, ice cave exploration, whale watching and connecting with Icelandic culture and traditions by attending summer festivals and events, such as the Reykjavik Arts Festival or the Icelandic Independence Day celebrations.

Getting to Iceland is fairly easy, with non-stop flights from 18 US and Canadian cities. There are a wide range of group tours available that will allow you to explore Iceland and it's wonders. We will gladly work with you to find the right itinerary and provider for your desired level of adventure, or put together an independent tour to let you explore at your own pace. You can also cruise to Iceland from North America or Europe. Many cruise lines include Iceland and sometimes Greenland in transatlantic itineraries. There are also numerous itineraries from Northern European ports including Amsterdam, London and Stockholm that either begin or end in Reykjavik. Expedition cruise lines like Atlas and Hurtigruten offer cruises that circumnavigate the island, visiting smaller ports, exploring fjords in Zodiac rafts, and offering interactive connections to the wildlife and natural geographical features that make Iceland a truly unique destination.

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JULY & AUGUST: THE BEST TIME TO SKI OR RIDE THE ANDES



When it is summer north of the Equator, it is winter in the Southern Hemisphere, making July and August the perfect time to head south... way south... and hit the slopes. Chile offers BIG mountain skiing and a great variety of terrain from groomed courderoy cruisers to backcountry powder stashes. Easily accesible from Santiago, the nation's capital and largest city, are several world class areas and resorts, including **Portillo** to the North and **Valle Nevado** in the Tres Valles region which features 3 interconnected resorts and over 7,000 acres of terrain. These resorts are located within 1.5 - 2.5 hours driving time from Santiago, or we can arrange private or shared round trip shuttles. We work with several tour operators who offer custom ski packages for individuals, groups and families of all sizes and abilities. There are great options for Heli-skiing and Cat-skiing as well. If summer skiing sounds appealing, give Tom (a life-long skier) a call at **413-298-2327**, and he can discuss your preferences and put together the perfect package for you.



Single Step Travel Planners LLC is an independently owned, full service agency based in Great Barrington, MA. We pride ourselves on our individual connections with and service to our clients before, during and after their trips. We are also proud members of the Avoya Travel network, which allows us to offer you the leveraged rates and benefits exclusively available through one of North America's largest travel organizations, while providing you with VERY personalized service.

We look forward to working with you to make your next trip absolutely AMAZING!

WWW.SINGLESTEPTRAVELPLANNERS.COM

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