



14 MAY TO 11 JUNE 2025

USA and CANADA

horse racing extravaganza



**WITH HOSTS GEORGE AND MARYANNE SIMON
AND LINDA AND JOHN WHEELER**



USA for the 2nd and 3rd legs of the Triple Crown
with Canadian river and coastal cruise
14 May – 11 June 2025

Come and witness just the 6th Triple Crown winner in the last 75 years???

Includes Baltimore, Washington, D.C & Montreal, Quebec City, 8 day cruise through Saint Lawrence river and gulf, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Maine, then New York city and upstate New York in Saratoga

ITINERARY

WED 14 MAY

NZ & AUSTRALIA TO BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

United Airlines & Air New Zealand Flights example
Depart Auckland 4pm and arrive 10.45pm the same day in Washington, D.C.

On arrival at Washington Reagan Airport the group will be met and transferred to our Baltimore Hotel for the next 5 nights.

WED 14 – MON 19 MAY

BALTIMORE

Residence Inn by Marriott Baltimore Downtown/Inner Harbour
17 Light St
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
· In Wednesday 14 May Out Monday 19 May 5 nights Baltimore, MD
· Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
· Full breakfast included

THURS 15 MAY

ALIBI BREAKFAST AT PIMLICO RACECOURSE

In the late 1930s on the porch of Pimlico Clubhouse, a group of trainers gathered most mornings to tout the merits of their horses or give alibis as to why their horses were not competing so well. Today's Alibi Breakfast is a successor of these original gatherings where trainers, jockeys and owners of Preakness horses give unique insight to racing fans and media about the Middle Jewel of the Triple Crown and what it takes to possibly become Thoroughbred racing's next great legend. We'll meet in the foyer at 8.15am for immediate departure and the Alibi Breakfast commences at 9.30am.

FRI 16 MAY

BLACK-EYED SUSAN DAY AT PIMLICO

A full day at the races as we head out to Pimlico to watch their 2nd biggest day of the year in Black-Eyed Susan day (1st race 11.30am) where we'll have admission and reserved seats with a multitude of refreshment areas at hand. Incidentally the Black-Eyed Susan is Maryland's State Flower (it's yellow and black) and the winner of the Preakness Stakes tomorrow will return to the Parade Ring with a garland of Black-Eyed Susans around his neck. The Black-Eyed Susan race (starts at 4.50pm) After the last race is at 6.28pm we're transferred back to our lodgings near Baltimore Harbour to ready ourselves for the 2nd leg of the Triple Crown.

SAT 17 MAY

PREAKNESS STAKES AT PIMLICO

The middle gem in the Triple crown gives us a fabulous day's racing back at Pimlico where this time we have a full food & beverage package (with reserved seating) to watch the 149th running of the Preakness Stakes (post time is 6.48pm). Again, we'll have return transfers from the hotel to the track but with the 1st race at 10.30am and the last of the 14 races carded for 7.35pm it'll be a long day

SUN 18 MAY

BALTIMORE

Time for a lie-in after the extravagances of the last 3 days at Pimlico and we have a free day exploring Baltimore before a group dinner this evening at the famed Rusty Scupper Restaurant, right on the harbour.

MON 19 MAY

BALTIMORE TO WASHINGTON, DC

We will depart from our hotel in Baltimore at 9:30 a.m. and head down to the Nation's Capital of Washington D.C. where we will have a drive by of some of the major sites including the White House, Washington Monument, the Smithsonian Institute. After our brief orientation tour of the city, we will be dropped off at our hotel where the rest of the afternoon and evening are completely free to explore.

MON 19 MAY – WED 21 MAY

WASHINGTON, DC

Embassy Suites by Hilton
900 10th West St
Washington, DC 20001

·In Monday 19 May Out Wednesday 21 May 2 nights Washington

·Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
·Full breakfast included

TUES 20 MAY

WASHINGTON DC

We depart the hotel at 9:30 a.m. to begin our guided coach and walking tour of Washington DC. We will visit the city's historic, iconic landmarks and monuments, like the White House, the United States Capitol, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial. Our tour will take us to the beautiful Georgetown Waterfront Park where we will break for a group lunch and have a one hour cruise down the Potomac River. After the cruise, we will board the bus to visit the Iwo Jima Memorial - with spectacular views of Arlington Cemetery and the Washington, D.C. landscape before returning to our hotel.

WED 21 MAY

WASHINGTON, DC TO MONTREAL, CANADA

We depart the hotel sharp at 8.30am and head out to Washington Reagan airport where we catch a flight to Montreal
Air Canada Flight
Departs Washington 11am Arrives Montreal: 12.44pm

After clearing Canadian Immigration and Customs we'll have a coach (there's a boxed lunch onboard) give us an orientation tour of the city before getting to our hotel around 4pm with the rest of the day and evening at leisure.

WED 21 – FRI 23 MAY

MONTREAL

Le Square Phillips Hotel & Suites
1193 Rue du Square-Phillips
Montreal QC H3B 3C9

·In Wednesday 21 May Out Friday 23 May 2 nights Montreal
·Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
·Full breakfast included

THURS 22 MAY

MONTREAL

The day is ours to continue exploration of this very cute city. Yesterday's guided overview of Montreal showed us many of the city's top attractions and historical sites like Notre-Dame Basilica, Chinatown, Mount Royal Park, Olympic Stadium, Saint Joseph's Oratory, Old Port, and Old Montreal, to name a few. So today it's your opportunity to revisit those that most held your interest.

FRI 23 MAY

MONTREAL TO QUEBEC CITY

A 9.30am departure and an absolutely lovely day as our coach takes the scenic route from Montreal to Quebec City stopping in Troi-Rivieres for lunch before getting into our hotel around 4.30pm. The rest of the day and evening is ours to explore in and around our lovely central city hotel

SAT 24 MAY

QUEBEC CITY THEN DEPARTING BY SHIP 11PM

Quebec City Hotel

·In Friday 23 May Out Saturday 24 May 1 night Quebec City
·Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
·Full breakfast included

SAT 24 MAY

QUEBEC CITY THEN DEPARTING BY SHIP 11PM WED 28 MAY

SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA

We have a cracking walking tour after breakfast where we wander the historic streets of Old Quebec and learn about the rich culture and heritage of this special city with our guide who will point out the architecture and design of the buildings we pass by. We will see the Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral and the city fortifications as well as exploring the Quartier Petit Champlain before taking the Funicular train to the Lower Town and enjoying the view as we travel down the steep hillside.

We'll be back at our hotel to officially check out at 12 noon but we will be leaving our luggage at reception as our transfer from the hotel to our ship isn't until 8pm – so the afternoon and early evening are free to explore until our transfer.

But back to the hotel at 8pm for our transfer to our ship Holland America has excellent ratings globally as a Cruise Line and our ship Zuiderdam comes with terrific reviews. The ship is classified as medium sized and holds 1,916 passengers and 817 crew. It has an excellent main dining room with a number of specialty restaurants as well. It has 2 pools, casino, spa, Blues club, 2 story theatre, library and piano bar.

Holland America Cruise onboard the Zuiderdam
Departs Quebec City at 11pm and heads up the Saint Lawrence River.

SUN 25 MAY

SAINT LAWRENCE RIVER (DAY OF CRUISING)

The nearly 1,200-kilometer (750-mile) stretch of the St. Lawrence River is a lighthouse lover's paradise, with more than 40 of them lining the Québec portion alone. Centuries-old fishing villages line the mighty waterway that alternates between imposing cliffs and plateaus and broad estuaries filled with fertile islets. Today, some 200 miles of the river are called the whale route, along which some 13 resident species thrive, including blue, beluga and right whales.

MON 26 MAY

GULF OF SAINT LAWRENCE (DAY OF CRUISING)

A lighthouse on little St. Paul's Island is a stark reminder of days gone by as we sail past this infamous old shipwreck site, known as the graveyard of the gulf, on our way through the Cabot Strait and into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. So huge is the gulf that half of Canada's 10 provinces have a coastal connection to it and it is the world's largest estuary - yet a mere 19,000 years ago it was covered under a mile-thick sheet of ice.

TUES 27 MAY

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Arrive 7:00 a.m. – Depart 5:00 p.m.
Charlottetown is the capital of Canada's smallest province, Prince Edward Island, and is a most beautiful small city with its Victorian houses and historic buildings. However, It is perhaps most famous as the birthplace of Confederation as here an 1864 conference led to the creation of the Dominion of Canada.
Prince Edward Island is linked to New Brunswick on the mainland of Canada by the remarkable 13-kilometer Confederation Bridge that soars over the Northumberland Strait.

Arrive 7:00 a.m. – Departs 4:00 p.m.

Sydney is the largest city on Cape Breton Island, which is linked by causeway to the rest of Nova Scotia. Sydney's attractions start at the harbour, where visitors can shop for locally made crafts and see the world's largest fiddle, which towers beside the port's cruise pavilion. Some of the city's historic houses and churches date back to the 1700s and 1800s and are open for tours.

THURS 29 MAY

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Arrive 8:00 a.m. – Departs 4:00 p.m.

Located on a rocky inlet on the Atlantic Ocean, Halifax—Nova Scotia's provincial capital—is defined by its maritime geography. It's a spirited mix of world-class history and nautical-themed museums alongside bunkers and fortresses that guarded the harbour, plus funky shops and excellent pubs serving up folk music and good beer. And probably worth a wander around the streets of Lunenburg, whose colorful Old Town is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

FRI 30 MAY

PORTLAND, MAINE

Arrive 12:30 p.m. lunchtime and Depart 10:00 p.m.

We're back in the USA in modern Portland which was first settled in 1633. Portland is a wonderful combination of restored brick buildings and warehouses of the Old Port and the fine upright houses of prosperous captains, merchants and shipbuilders which make the city's past a living part of its present. And the waterfront is a going concern, not a museum, as fishing boats chug into and out of their berths, buoys clang, harbor seals bark.

SAT 31 MAY

BOSTON TO ESSEX TO NEW YORK CITY

We arrive into the port of Boston at 7am and we'll immediately be met by coach and head straight to Essex, Connecticut where we will have a quick orientation tour of the area by coach before stopping outside the famed Griswold Inn for a few hours. You can walk through the quite beautiful town and around the river port before our included lunch at the Griswold. Then a 3pm departure for New York City where this evening will be free to explore at our leisure although we might be watching the brilliant Robert Whaley playing (more about Robert later).

SAT 31 MAY - THURS 5 JUNE

MANHATTAN NEW YORK CITY

The Shelburne Sonesta Hotel

303 Lexington Ave

Murray Hill,

Manhattan, New York 10016

In Saturday 31 May Out Thursday 5 June 5 nights Manhattan

·Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi

·Full breakfast included

SUN 1 JUNE

MANHATTAN

It's Sunday in Manhattan and we have a leisurely start to the day before a New York signature "bottomless mimosa" brunch cruise from 11am until 2.30pm. We depart from Pier 61 and cruise both the Hudson and East rivers with spectacular views of the Manhattan skyline, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State building and up close and personal with the Statue of Liberty - all the while with superb cuisine and drinks. After disembarking the rest of the day is free although there's a cracking jazz bar near our hotel.

MON 2 JUNE

MANHATTAN

We have our own guided spectacular tour of New York which will depart the hotel at 9.30am and return by 4.30pm with a short stop for lunch (included). Our tour will include a city-wide tour including a Ground Zero and 9/11 Memorial tour, the Financial district, Little Italy, Soho, Central Park and a general overview of Manhattan. We will have our own coach but get off at a number of stops around the city.

TUES 3 JUNE

MANHATTAN

The next 2 days on tour are completely free to enable us all to tick off our very own bucket lists of New York city and surrounds. In saying that we will certainly have some non-mandatory options for everyone which will include walking down to Grand Central Terminal for a drink and lunch at its famous Oyster Bar and Restaurant.

We will also give a list of Broadway and off-Broadway shows as our departure gets closer and we'll also advise what concerts are on while we're in town.

WED 4 JUNE

MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

The day itself is again free to continue to see the sites of Manhattan and New York city although this evening we will have seats to see a musical on Broadway (the actual production will be verified later in the year).

THURS 5 JUNE

NEW YORK CITY TO ALBANY, UPSTATE NY

A lovely relaxing drive north towards Albany and Saratoga but we stop for lunch and a look around in the beautiful town of Hudson, renowned for being a living history of American architecture. Both the Hudson River (which is the river to the west of Manhattan and runs 500km to the north) and the town are named after the famous English explorer Henry Hudson. We will have an included group lunch at the fantastic Kitty's Market and Restaurant and savour some good old-fashioned American hospitality. We'll still get to Albany by 4pm where the rest of the day and evening are free for exploration.

THURS 5 – Mon 9 JUNE

ALBANY, NEW YORK

Hampton Inn Western Ave
Albany, upstate New York
·In Thursday 5 June Out Sunday 8 June 3 nights in Albany
·Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
·Full breakfast included

FRI 6 JUNE

BED O' ROSES AND GOLD CUP RACEDAY AT SARATOGA

We're off to the famed Belmont Race carnival (at upstate Saratoga) and today the featured races include the "Bed o' Roses Invitational", the Tremont (over 5 furlongs for the 2 yos) and the True North Stakes (all on dirt) and the New York Stakes and the Belmont Gold Cup Invitational over 2800mtrs (both on turf). We'll have return transfers from our hotel to Saratoga racetrack and General Admission tickets with dining tables for the group.

SAT 7 JUNE

BELMONT STAKES DAY AT SARATOGA

It's Belmont Stakes Day and the 3rd leg of the elusive Triple Crown and with 5 x Group 1 races and 1 x Group 2 race it's a day for the thoroughbred connoisseur. With the 1st race at 11.35am and the Belmont Stakes itself not until 6.35pm it'll be another massive day but if we witness just the 6th horse in the last 75 years to win the Triple Crown it'll be a day to remember for sure. Again, we'll have return transfers from our hotel to the track but this time we'll include a magnificent full hospitality package with premium seating and we'll expect to be back at the hotel around 8.30pm.

SUN 8 JUNE

ALBANY

The day itself is free (Sunday markets or another day at the races?) to get over the excesses of the past few weeks, but we will have an included Gala dinner, incorporating our now infamous annual awards ceremony this evening at the hotel.

MON 9 JUNE

ALBANY TO JFK AIRPORT VIA MAMARONECK

We get a coach from our Albany hotel at 12 noon and drive towards New York's JFK airport. We will stop for sightseeing and a late lunch/tea/early dinner at Mamaroneck (a swanky coastal village/town) about 30 miles north of JFK airport and have around 3 hours here. We will then depart Mamaroneck at 5.40pm and head to JFK Terminal 1 and arrive around 6.45pm where we will now fly JFK to Auckland non-stop on the Air NZ Dreamliner Flight.

Air New Zealand Flight NZ001

Departs New York JFK 9.55pm Arrives Auckland: 7.30am
(Wednesday 11 June)

INCLUSIONS

- Escorted by celebrity tour hosts George and Maryanne Simon and John and Linda Wheeler
- Services of an Epic Journeys tour guide throughout
- All flights as detailed
- 18 nights hotel accommodation with full breakfast daily
- Cruise in a large Interior or Oceanview Stateroom
- The cruise includes all meals and a full drinks package
- Quality coaches throughout with WiFi access and toilet where possible
- All transfers and tours as detailed in the itinerary
- All flight taxes, accommodation taxes and service fees throughout the tour
- Racecourse admission and hospitality packages as detailed in the itinerary
- Other meals as detailed in the itinerary
- All entrance fees throughout the tour (during day tours)

COST

COST: NZ\$23,680 per person**

Single Supplement: NZ\$6,970**

TOUR COST/DEPOSITS/PAYMENTS

**The quoted tour prices are based on Currency Exchange rates as of 29 February 2024 and are subject to alteration (up or down) in the event of marked currency fluctuations.

A deposit of NZ\$5,000 is required to confirm your place on the tour.

A 2nd instalment of NZ\$6,000 is required by 30 September 2024, a 3rd instalment of NZ\$6,000 by 31 December 2024 and the balance is due on or before 28 February 2025.

