

OAK TOURS

SPONSORED BY COLUMBIA'S PARKS & REC

STEPHENS LAKE ACTIVITY CENTER / 2311 E. WALNUT, COLUMBIA, MO 65201
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Greetings,

Happy 2011 to all! We should have had a contest to count snow drifts this winter. Who would have thought Missouri could have soooooo much snow? But now Spring has officially arrived. Thank you all for your patience in awaiting this newsletter. A number of you have stopped by and called to inquire of its existence. The information included covers a spring trip delayed from April to May 2011 going east. All of the New Theatre's new 20th Anniversary Season is included. A trip to Kansas City to see the touring Princess Diana Exhibit and a Fall 2011 trip west to attend the International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, NM.

I know you have all been anxiously awaiting information on the 2011 day and overnight trips so we'll get right to the details. Be sure to refer to the last page, **Quick Reference Guide** for dates/times/payment due dates. And feel free to call us at **442-5353** for any further information, questions and to make bookings.

ONLY 3 SEATS!

Wed, April 13 -- Don't forget the upcoming trip to Overland Park, KS to see **The Odd Couple** starring **George Wendt** at the **New Theatre Restaurant**. Only 3 seats remain.



New!

KC Your Way—Princess Diana and more...Thurs, Apr 28
Lv 8:00 am/Return 8 pm \$75

Union Station-Kansas City is hosting **Diana, A Celebration**. This traveling exhibition showcases Diana, Princess of Wales's life, works and legacy to the world. All the items return to Althorp, her resting place in England, every summer when it opens for visitors.



The money raised goes to support her charities—6 organizations she concentrated her efforts on: Centrepont, working with the young and homeless; the Leprosy Mission, which treats leprosy sufferers in over thirty countries; the National AIDS Trust, working with HIV and AIDS patients; the children's hospital in Great Ormond Street; the Royal Marsden Hospital, which specializes in the treatment of cancer; and the English National Ballet, as dance was one of her great passions. The Princess took on causes which were viewed as 'difficult or 'unfashionable'. In 1987, Diana was the first high-profile figure to be seen shaking hands with an AIDS patient. Ten years later, her involvement in the campaign to ban land mines provoked an international reaction and brought the issue to prominence in a way that no one else could have achieved.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

On display are items from her childhood, engagement to HRH Prince Charles, her wedding, children, life and works. There are 28 outfits from her public life in the 1980's and a highlight is her beautiful wedding gown.

The morning will be spent at Union Station viewing the Princess Diana Exhibit. At the time of booking, we will be asking how you would like to spend your afternoon. Here are your choices:

1) remain at Union Station, lunch on your own at Harvey's at Union Station or Pierponts. There are other shows, some free exhibits, the Science City (admission \$10), people watching. You will be picked up where you arrived at 3:15 pm.



2) remain at Union Station, lunch on your own there or across the walkway in a Crown Center restaurant or Food Court. Spend the afternoon exploring, people watching, shopping or enjoying the Hallmark Visitor Center. Pick up at 3:30pm at Crown Center entrance on Grand Blvd (near the Milano Restaurant and Food Court)



3) depart Union Station at 12:15pm for transportation to the WWI Museum. Lunch on your own at the Over There Café. Senior admission to the museum is \$10. Pickup at 3:45pm.



4) depart Union Station at 12:15pm for transportation to Nelson-Atkins Museum. Lunch on your own at the Rozzelle Court Restaurant. Enjoy the museum. Admission to Monet's Water Lily Exhibit is \$7. Pickup at 4pm.



Dinner is included at a special restaurant on our way home. Expect a comfort food menu and a chance to catch up with everyone about how they spent their day.

The price includes motorcoach transportation, admission to the Diana Exhibit, shuttle service, dinner, all taxes and gratuities. Lunch and afternoon museum entrances are extra.

New! **PEAR TREE SURPRISE – Tues, May 24**
Lv 10:00 am/Rtn 8:00 pm \$75



We are combining a Surprise trip with one of our favorite spots-- the famous Pear Tree Restaurant. You will see NO show in Macon, no visit to Branson, no shopping malls or casinos. All you know about the day's adventure is it ends with dinner in Bevier. Where oh Where and What will we see and do? Better sign up to enjoy a day of adventure and friendship. Your Pear Tree dinner includes Batter Dipped Onion Rings, Garden Fresh Salad with Choice of Dressings, Hot Garlic Croutons, Large Baked Potato, Bread Basket, Beverage, Dessert, and Choice of Entrée—8oz Roast Prime Rib of Beef or Batter-Dipped Shrimp Prawns or Chicken Picata.

New!

Biltmore/Charleston/Savannah May 10-17. 2011 \$1100

Our motorcoach ride will lead us along the interstate through Nashville. If traffic permits, we'll plan an afternoon stop at the Gaylord Opryland, site of the devastating May 2010 flooding of Nashville which totally closed the hotel.



We'll overnight further east so that we arrive in Asheville, NC in good time on day 2 to visit the Biltmore house, gardens, and grounds that include a newly opened Alpine Village. George Vanderbilt completed the Biltmore in 1895 in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. It took 8 years and 1000 laborers to lay the 11,000 bricks in America's largest private home over built with 31 bedrooms, 43 bathrooms and 65 fireplaces. While about 60 rooms including a bowling alley and a 23,000 volume library are available to tour, many of you will want to take in as much of the 8,000 acres of gardens, meadows and woodlands on the property. Springtime's Festival of Flowers showcases acres of azaleas, roses, iris, and peonies. We stay near the estate tonight.



After a short ride we arrive in Charleston for a 2-night stay. Our time here will introduce us to the history and colorful present day charm of Charleston with its pastel houses, both Colonial and Victorian, and the Old City Market where ladies weave and sell sweet grass baskets. It was here that shots rang out at Fort Sumpter at the start of the Civil War. You may want to try some of the Low Country Cuisine which draws upon traditional ingredients like shrimp, oyster, crab, rice grits, okra, fried greens and tomatoes.

Charleston

Then on to Savannah for another 2-night stay where we'll enjoy America's first planned city, laid out in 1733 on a perfect grid of which 21 of the original 24 squares remain. Historic Savannah's fabled architecture was saved from burning in the Civil War for us to enjoy today among the wonderful spring blooms throughout the city. Savannah is a life style and we're going to slow down and enjoy and embrace it's southern hospitality during our short visit.



The trip price includes motorcoach transportation, 7 nights hotel accommodations, breakfast daily, baggage handling, all permits, sightseeing and admissions, trip and cancellation insurance, all taxes and gratuities. \$1100/person Double Occupancy, Single Supplement add \$700.



New!

Balloon Fiesta October 3-9, 2011 \$1100

It is difficult to find words to describe the awesome sight of a sky full of balloons any direction you look. Columbia experienced a small taste the summers of 1995, 1996, and 1997 when we hosted a National Balloon Festival. That experience

will be amplified 10-fold and more at the grand daddy of them all, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, NM. Now all you need is a camera and binoculars and you're ready to enjoy the beauty and excitement of the event.



We'll be stopping in Wichita for some sightseeing on the way west. It is an interesting city with roots in the historic west and cowboy lore and a present and future in technology. We'll get a taste of it all during our short visit there.



On arrival in New Mexico, we'll settle into our home away from home, the **Hilton Garden Inn** in Rio Rancho, a suburb of Albuquerque close to the Balloon Field. We'll be spending 3 days at the field--early mornings for Special Shape Rodeo, Flying Competition and Prize Grab/Key Grab, Morning Glow and Mass Ascension and evenings for Glowdeo and Fireworks. Base camp at the Balloon Field is the **Rio Rancho Convention/Visitor Bureau Hospitality Tent** on a bluff overlooking the balloons and next to the ramp leading into the pit with all the balloons. The hotel restaurant will be open for breakfast before leaving for early morning events and the heated hospitality tent is close to our bus parking and equipped with hot drinks--coffee, chocolate, snacks and seating.

A trip to New Mexico would not be complete without spending time in **Old Town Albuquerque** and **Santa Fe**. Centered round the plaza, Albuquerque's Old Town encompasses ten blocks of historic adobe buildings including the San Felipe de Neri Church, oldest building in the city, built in 1793. You'll enjoy the Pueblo-Spanish style architecture with flat-roofed buildings, many of them now housing shops, galleries and restaurants. While Santa Fe was inhabited as early as 1607, it was truly settled by the conquistador Don Pedro de Peralta in 1609-1610, over 400 years ago. Santa Fe has long been a center for arts and culture. It's Plaza remains the central part of the city, hosting Indian and Spanish markets.



On our return we'll overnight in Dodge City, KS and enjoy dinner and a Long Branch Variety Show on Boot Hill. A truly memorable end to our Southwestern adventure.

The trip price includes 6 nights hotel, breakfast daily, special Southwestern dinner and Longbranch dinner/show, balloon festival parking, permits, tickets, events over 3 days, sightseeing, trip and cancellation insurance, all taxes and gratuities.
\$1100/person Double Occupancy, Single Supplement add \$700.



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QUICK REFERENCE TRIP GUIDE

2011 ONE DAY TRIPS

DATE	TRIP	DEPTIME	DUE DATE	AMOUNT
WED APR 13	THE ODD COUPLE - NEW THEATRE	8:00 AM	NOW	\$70
THU APR 28	KC YOUR WAY-PRINCESS DIANA AND...	8:00 AM	NOW	\$75
TUES MAY 24	PEAR TREE SURPRISE	10:00 AM	APR 15	\$75
WED JUN 29	JOSEPH & AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT - NEW THEATRE	8:00 AM	MAY 15	\$70
WED SEP 28	MUVE OVER MRS MARKHAM- N.THEATRE	8:00 AM	AUG 15	\$70
SAT NOV 26	GAME SHOW - NEW THEATRE	9:00 AM	OCT 15	\$70

ONLY 3 SEATS

New!

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2012 ONE DAY TRIPS

DATE	TRIP	DEPTIME	DUE DATE	AMOUNT
WED MAR 28	PUMP BOYS & DINETTES - N. THEATRE	8:00 AM	FEB 15	\$70
WED JUN 13	25 TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE - NEW THEATRE	8:00 AM	MAY 1	\$70
WED JUL 11	HAIRSPRAY - NEW THEATRE	8:00 AM	JUN 1	\$75

New!

New!

New!

2011 OVERNIGHT/LONG DISTANCE/CRUISE TRIPS

DATE	TRIP	DEPTIME	DUE DATE	AMOUNT
MAY 10-17	BILTMORE, CHARLESTON & SAVANNAH	7:45 am	NOW	\$1100
OCT 3-9	ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA	8:00 am	JUN 15	\$1100

New!

New!

DATED: MAR 25, 2011

*TBA - To be announced

(Most trips require a minimum of 25-30 participants. If you're interested in a trip, please let us know as soon as possible. This may avoid having to cancel a trip without enough participants.)

Next newsletter will address additional day trips, Holiday trips and Brans on for the Holidays.