

Travelin'

August-December 2020

TravelTalks!

Look for us in 2021



Travel Talks! will return in 2021

Taj Mahal – February 2020



From Left to Right: Mary Odishoo, Denny Pasternak, Dinnie Dall, Mary Remien, Karen Cordes, CET Manager Linda Kerr, Marilyn Daleburn and Dawn Overend.

◀ *CET travelers learned the inspiring love story of the Taj Mahal on our trip to India in February.*

Testimonials

“My main takeaway is that the Indian people are generally happy, gracious, kind and friendly, regardless of their living conditions. They are to be admired. Terrific experience in every way!”

— Mary Remien, India

“India is the friendliest country—smiles on all the faces. Beautiful scenery, excellent accommodations and food and guides to match.”

— Marilyn Daleburn, India

Plans announced for 2020-2021 Travel

It's been some time since we've all traveled together, and we would really like you to know that all of us at CET miss all of you and can't wait until we are on the road or in the skies again! At CET, we have always prided ourselves on providing you, the traveler, with exemplary service focused on quality, reliability, comfort, safety and the utmost care. The health and wellbeing of everyone involved, travelers and staff, are paramount in this current age of COVID-19. These are, to quote an often-used phrase, truly unprecedented times, and many circumstances are beyond our control. To that end, CET, along with our travel providers, has decided to suspend all travel through the end of 2020. But don't worry — CET will be back in 2021. Here's how CET services will be modified:

Travel Offerings

CET plans to bring back our well-received Day Trips in the spring of 2021. Our “Day Trip Guru,” Bob Ramian, has some great new offerings that will be combined with some of the destinations we often visit or had to forgo in 2020. We also hope to offer a few extended tours through our travel partners American Classic Tours, Globus and Collette. See inside pages for longer tours planned for the beginning of 2021.

CET Staff

CET Manager Linda Kerr has chosen Aug. 28 as her last day as she retires from full-time work after 16 years and two months of service to you. She will return on a part-time basis in January to help Bob Ramian start up plans for the new year and to train someone to take her place. Bob will act as the contact for CET with limited office hours through 2020 and return full-time in 2021. Part-time staffer Pat Davidson will remain furloughed through the remainder of 2020.

Communicating with CET

We have been working hard to make sure you have all been notified regarding your canceled trips and refunds. Should you have any questions about a cancellation or refund, please contact us via email (preferred) at linda.kerr@d214.org or by phone at 847-718-7709 before Aug. 28. From Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, inquiries will only be accepted by email (preferred) at cetravel@d214.org or by phone at 847-718-7709. Bob will respond to your emails and calls as soon as possible, based on his schedule. The CET Office will remain closed to in-person visits.

Travel Talks! and CET Reunions

At press time, we are in Phase 4 of Gov. Pritzker's COVID-19 recovery plan. This mandates no gatherings of groups larger than 50 people, so our *TravelTalks!* and Reunions are on hold for now. We will see you in 2021 as soon as we can resume these popular events.

CET Travel Rewards

Many of you have asked what to do with your expired or expiring rewards. For any rewards, birthday cards, food coupons and certificates with expiration dates between April 1, 2020, and April 1, 2021, CET will extend those expiration dates to Dec. 31, 2021. The usual redemption rules will apply.

Return to Travel Survey

We know there is much to think about while deciding to return to traveling with a group. To that end, we've compiled a survey to gather your thoughts on the subject. Please go to ce.d214.org/cet-survey no later than August 28 to submit your answers. While this method is preferred, if you are unable to complete the survey in this manner, see inside pages for the survey questions and how you can email or mail us your completed survey. Those responding to the survey will have their names entered in a contest to win a \$100 CET Travel Certificate or one of three free CET Day Trip Certificates.

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Testimonials

Spotlight on 2021 Tours

We do have a few extended tours planned for the beginning of 2021. We suggest you make your reservation by Aug. 28 so they can be processed in a timely manner. For information and to view itineraries and pricing, you can go to our website at ce214.org, email us at cetravel@d214.org or call 847-718-7709.

Arizona Sun at La Paloma Resort, Tucson, Feb. 21-26, 2021

Enjoy the sunny skies of Arizona at the Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa in Tucson for a five-night stay. With staggering views of the Santa Catalina Mountains, this resort oasis features a multitude of fine amenities, including five outdoor pools with cabanas, lounge chairs and shimmering waterfalls; the Mynd Spa; and Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course. Explore the best of southern Arizona, including DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun, Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, Kartchner Caverns, Tombstone, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Old Tucson Studios, Pima Air & Space Museum, Mission San Xavier del Bac, historic Tanque Verde Ranch and more. Escape to sunny Arizona next winter!

Texas: Presidential Libraries & Magnolia Market, March 12-18, 2021

From the Spanish charm of San Antonio, to the cowboy heritage of Fort Worth and Dallas to the NASA Space Center in Houston, the stars are shining bright on this spectacular trip to the Lone Star State. Special features will be visits to three Presidential Libraries: George H.W. Bush, LBJ and George W. Bush. Other highlights: Magnolia Market at the Silos, the creation of Chip and Joanna Gaines of HGTV's "Fixer Upper" series; Sixth Floor JFK Museum and the Grassy Knoll at Dealey Plaza; Pawnee Bill's Wild West Rodeo Show; Fort Worth Stockyards Cattle Drive the River Walk of San Antonio; the Alamo, San Jose Mission; and the Johnson Space Center. Join us deep in the heart of Texas!

American Queen Mississippi River Cruise Memphis to New Orleans, March 14-23, 2021

The American Queen is the most opulent paddle-wheel riverboat in the world, and the great Mississippi River is her home. Onboard the American Queen, enjoy your deluxe private veranda stateroom, regionally inspired fine dining, Broadway-caliber entertainment and Riverlorian lectures. Included shore excursions in every port of call: Memphis' Beale Street; Elvis Presley's Graceland; B.B. King Museum and Club Ebony; Vicksburg National Military Park; Antebellum Natchez and St. Francisville; Baton Rouge; Nottoway, Houmas and Oak Alley Plantations; and the French Quarter of New Orleans. Pamper yourself!

Iceland, June 6-14, 2021

Join Linda Kerr as CET travels to this island of dramatic contrasts. Iceland is a landscape forged by ice and fire. Its volcanic nature is reflected in steaming lava fields and hot pools. Massive glaciers continue to sculpt the mountains and valleys, leaving behind thundering waterfalls and plunging fjords. Travel the "Golden Circle," an epicenter of natural scenic wonders. Whether it's a soak in the Blue Lagoon, a whale-watching cruise, lava cave hike or admiring the wildlife, you'll discover spectacular landscapes and incredible culture on this fascinating Icelandic journey.



La Paloma Resort, Tucson



LBJ Ranch, Texas



Blue Lagoon, Iceland

Survey for Travel During COVID-19

If you are unable to complete the survey at ce.d214.org/cet-survey, you can email your answers to the questions below to cetravel@d214.org no later than **August 28**. You can also send your responses by mail to reach us by the deadline date; please include your name, address, phone and email in your response. You will be entered in the contest upon receipt of your response.

1. At what point do you think you will feel comfortable to start day tours with a group again?

- A. Only when there is a vaccine available.
- B. When COVID-19 cases reported at the tour destination are at a minimal level.
- C. When I can be assured proper protocols are being met aboard transportation and at hotels, restaurants and attractions while COVID-19 cases exist.
- D. I am ready and willing to go now with proper protocols in place.
- E. I am not interested in day tours even without the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. At what point do you think you will feel comfortable to start taking extended (overnight) domestic and/or international tours with a group again?

- A. Only when there is a vaccine available.
- B. When COVID-19 cases reported at the tour destination are at a minimal level.
- C. When I can be assured proper protocols are being met aboard transportation and at hotels, restaurants and attractions while COVID-19 cases exist.
- D. I am ready and willing to go now with proper protocols in place.
- E. I am not interested in extended domestic or international tours even without the COVID-19 pandemic

3. Has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your financial ability to take tours in the near future?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Prefer not to answer

4. What safety protocols do you feel are necessary to tour with a group while there are still COVID-19 cases (mark all that apply)?

- A. Temperature screening upon starting a tour
- B. Mask requirement
- C. Hand sanitizer availability
- D. Distancing aboard motorcoaches/planes
- E. I am unwilling to tour with a group while COVID-19 cases are still being reported

5. As of now, when is your best guess about when you will begin traveling with a group again?

- A. I am willing now.
- B. Autumn (September or October)
- C. Holiday tours (late November or December)
- D. Winter 2021 (January, February or March)
- E. Spring 2021 (April or May)
- F. Summer 2021 or later (June or after)

A Message From Linda on Retiring!



For the last 16-plus years I've been at CET, the best part of my career has been watching all of you enjoying your time on one of our tours, whether it be a Day Trip to Chicago, exploring the wonders of our great country or jetting off to exotic locations on our longer trips. Your joy of traveling, your reaction to seeing a dreamed-of attraction for the first time and the grateful feedback and positive comments have made all the efforts to get you there worth it. I loved making arrangements for your travel, getting you to your destination and taking care of you as family on quite a few of those tours.

Now it's time to do the same for myself, so Aug. 28 will be my last full-time day at CET. I look forward to staying at home, starting a healthy routine and thinking about writing that book about my travels. It will be an Erma Bombeck-type book, maybe titled, "Are We There Yet," about all the things that can happen while traveling. Don't worry — names will be changed to protect the guilty! And I will be back part-time in 2021, so I won't totally be gone.

What I'd like, though, is for you to drop me a line, either by email to linda.kerr@d214.org or by regular mail to the CET, 2121 S. Goebbert Rd., Arlington Height, IL 60005, and tell me what CET has meant to you.

It's been a blast!