



# SOLO TRAVELERS CLUB NEWSLETTER

October 2018



**Greetings from  
Susan Sweigard**  
YOUR CLUB DIRECTOR

The temperatures are dropping, days are growing shorter and trees are changing colors. Autumn has arrived. It's a beautiful time of the year and a great time to get out and explore all central PA has to offer.

It was my pleasure to accompany two groups of club members on our most recent Solo Exclusive trips. The first one took us to the quaint town of Jim Thorpe in northern PA. What a delightful place so full of history. Then it was off to Baltimore to see the Air Show and tour naval ships during Fleet Week. There are two more trips still available this year. Home for the Holidays departs December 4 and our overnight trip to Philadelphia to have a "Mummer" experience over New Year's Eve. Don't delay, reserve your place now.

Your Solo Travelers Club team has been busy planning lots of new Solo Exclusive trips for 2019. Just take a peek inside this issue and look at what we have in store. I previewed them at our September meetings. Most of these brochures are available to access on our website or visit your local AAA travel agent. I hope you can find one or two or maybe even three trips that suit your taste.

Plan to join me and your fellow club members at our annual holiday event. The details are right here on the front page. Hope to see you there!

Traveling Solo, Together  
Susan

## You're Invited

A Holiday Affair

Holiday Inn Harrisburg East

815 South Eisenhower Boulevard, Middletown

Join fellow **SOLO Travelers Club** Members for a Special Holiday Event luncheon filled with food, fun and festivities.

**Thursday, November 29, 2018**

**12:00 – 2:00PM**

**Lunch served by 12:30PM**

Enjoy a delicious lunch and learn about the exciting trips planned for 2019.

**SOLO Travelers Club Basic Members \$39.95\***  
**SOLO Travelers Club Rewards Members \$34.95\***

Advance tickets – Oct. 5th – 26th (including tax and gratuity)

RSVP no later than 5:00PM, November 19th

For reservations call 888-746-4566.

\*Pricing is applicable only if reserved prior to Oct 26th. From Oct 27th – Nov 19th pricing increases to \$44.95 for Basic Members and \$39.95 for Rewards Members (including tax and gratuity).

*"Life begins at the end of your comfort zone."*

*– Neale Donald Walsch*



## SOLO EXCLUSIVE TRIPS

These trips are only available to Solo Travelers Club members! Meet like-minded travelers who want to share the fun, peace of mind, and convenience of group travel.



**Solo Exclusive**  
**Homes for the Holidays**  
 December 4, 2018

Begin your day celebrating the holiday season with guided tours of Johns Hopkins University's magnificent historic house museums, decorated in period style; Mount Clare, Garrett Jacobs Mansion, Homewood Museum and the Evergreen Museum & Library. Each property has unique characteristics, charm and architecture. Guided tours at each location will provide not only an opportunity to enjoy the holiday décor, but also the history, traditions and opulence of a bygone era. A buffet lunch is included while touring the Garrett Jacobs Mansion.

PRICE PER PERSON: ..... **\$169**



**Solo Exclusive**  
**Celebrate New Year's with the Mummies**  
 December 31, 2018 - January 1, 2019

Start New Year's Eve with MummiesFest in Philadelphia, discover all the fun and fancy around the Mummies with a behind the scenes private tour at the Convention Center. Experience the excitement as performers put the final touches on floats, assemble their props and rehearse their struts. Enjoy a delightful dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Philadelphia while touring through the city from the historic district to the hip downtown. Celebrate New Year's Day at the Convention Center, at a 2 ½ hour spectacular, the Mummies Fancy Brigade Finale, followed by a luncheon.

PRICE PER PERSON: Single ..... **\$679**  
 Double ..... **\$559**



**Solo Exclusive**  
**Winterthur Garden Follies**  
 and special exhibit *Costuming the Crown*  
 April 9, 2019

Upon arrival at Winterthur enjoy a delightful narrated garden tram ride (weather permitting). Escape into the imaginative world of garden follies, Winterthur's first-ever exhibition of whimsical and classical garden structures. A guided introductory house tour includes exquisite spaces in which Henry Francis du Pont entertained family and friends in grand style. The 175 rooms are furnished with his outstanding collection of antiques and objects added since his death. After lunch on your own at the café, you will have free time to explore the special exhibit *Costuming the Crown*. This exhibit features 40 iconic costumes from the beloved Emmy award-winning Netflix series *The Crown*.

PRICE PER PERSON: ..... **\$109**



**Solo Exclusive**  
**Springtime in the Secret Valley**  
 May 21, 2019

Arrive at the Colebrookdale Railroad and step into the time of the Great Gatsby aboard the meticulously restored, century old passenger cars. Marvel at the views as you get lost in the deep woods sheltering the Manatawny and Ironstone Creeks in the mythical secret valley. Following this wonderful train excursion, depart for a delightful luncheon at the Schultheis Carriage House Restaurant where you will experience the warmth and charm of this 18th century farmhouse. The last stop of the day will include a tour at The Carousel at Pottstown, the second oldest operating Philadelphia Toboggan Company wooden carousel in the United States.

PRICE PER PERSON: ..... **\$149**



**Solo Exclusive**  
**Lavender, Wine & Belle Grove Plantation**  
 June 12, 2019

Enjoy a relaxing day starting at White Oak Lavender farm for a guided tour of the farm gardens with information on growing lavender, distilling and cleaning the flower buds along with time to pick some lavender and browse The Lavender Shop. Following lunch enjoy a catered luncheon and wine tasting at Purple Wolf Vineyards. The last stop of the day will be at the Belle Grove Plantation for a guided tour of the rich history, Jeffersonian architecture, serene landscape and important collections of Belle Grove Plantation.

PRICE PER PERSON: ..... **\$209**



**Solo Exclusive**  
**Gone with the Wind**  
 August 27 - 28, 2019

Highlights of this trip include a tour of the Buhl Mansion, the architectural legacy of Sharon's great steel magnate, Frank H. Buhl and Daffins' Chocolate Kingdom, were unbelievable sights await as you visit a fantasyland of chocolate characters. Spend the night at the hotel which is inspired by the greatest movie of our time **Gone with the Wind**. Tara, A Country Inn is in a real sense the embodiment of the Old South. All rooms have a VCR and a copy of the movie for you to enjoy. After breakfast depart for Titusville where we will board the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad. During the three hour round trip excursion the train will take you to where oil history began. This is a unique trip that is sure not to disappoint!

PRICE PER PERSON: Single ..... **\$599**  
 Double ..... **\$569**

## SOLO FRIENDLY TRIPS

These trips, while not exclusive to Solo Travelers Club Members, offer a great opportunity to travel with friendly folks at a great value. Solo Club Members benefit from the pre-negotiated discount of the applicable single supplement fee, as well as the convenience and security of group travel.



### Solo Friendly Vikings: Beyond the Legend at the Franklin Institute November 10, 2018

Our first stop will be a luncheon at Bistro Romano for a Viking inspired lunch that was created especially for us. Following lunch depart for the Franklin Institute for their special exhibit Vikings: Beyond the Legend. Take a voyage back to the time when Vikings ruled the North Atlantic and sailed the seas searching for needed resources and treasures. After your tour enjoy free time at the Reading Terminal Market for shopping and dinner on your own. A day to enjoy!

PRICE PER PERSON: ..... **\$189**



### Solo Friendly Traditional & Tacky Lights Tour December 15 - 17, 2018

A perfect trip for an extended weekend getaway to put you in the holiday spirit! After enjoying a dinner at Capital Ale House, one of Richmond's favorite dining spots, you will head outside to board the trolley for the Tacky lights tour. Richmond has received the dubious distinction of having some of the best tacky holiday lights in America. You will get to see some of the hottest art in town at a glass studio where you'll watch a live demonstration of how molten glass becomes a work of art. You'll see how traditional glass Christmas ornaments are made and maybe get to lend a hand. Before heading home enjoy a tour of Thomas Jefferson's boyhood home which will be decorated for the holidays.

PRICE PER PERSON: Single ..... **\$769**  
Double ..... **\$629**



### Solo Friendly Fire & Ice Festival January 18 - 19, 2019

Upon arrival in historic and charming Somerset you will be greeted by a representative of the Fire and Ice Festival, where you will receive your festival pin that gives you free or reduced prices for the many activities. Throughout the weekend you will see costume characters strolling the festival area, window decorating contestant's displays in the participating windows, forty ice sculptures & live ice carving demonstrations. Following dinner enjoy the festivities of fireworks, music and dancing. Following breakfast the next morning you will have a day to do as you please at the festival before departing for home. A unique winter experience!

PRICE PER PERSON: Single ..... **\$279**  
Double ..... **\$229**



### Solo Friendly Splendid Sicily March 30 - April 8, 2019

The "toe" of Italy's "Boot" points right at the island of Sicily. Although Italians, Sicilians proudly point out their distinctions from mainlanders. Your tour begins in the capital, Palermo, replete with architectural masterpieces in Moorish, Norman and Baroque styles; taste traditional foods at an open-air market. Tour hilltop villages, including historic Savoca, a site for filming "The Godfather." Siracusa is a treasure chest of ancient Greek archaeology. Neapolis features Greek and Roman antiquities. Bid arrivederci to Sicily while local musicians serenade you during a farewell dinner.

PRICE PER PERSON: Single ..... **\$4,689**  
Double ..... **\$4,329**



### Solo Friendly Bermuda & Caribbean Cruise May 9 - 18, 2019

Enjoy four ports of call on this relaxing 9 night cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's Anthem of the Seas. Leaving from Cape Liberty, NJ your first stop will be beautiful Bermuda which is an outdoor adventurer's paradise. Explore British colonial landmarks, pastel-painted estates and military strongholds on land, or tee off on a brilliantly green golf course. Move on to St. Maarten that sits at the crossroads of the Caribbean and the Atlantic. Enjoy a day of sightseeing in Puerto Rico's vibrant capital, San Juan that offers 500 years of history and culture to explore. After finishing your last port of call in Labadee, Haiti enjoy two relaxing days at sea on your way home to Cape Liberty.

PRICE PER PERSON: Single ..... **\$2,019**  
Double ..... **\$1,209**



### Solo Friendly California's Great National Parks July 17 - 24, 2019

A trip of a lifetime. Start your journey in Las Vegas where you will immerse yourself in the desolation of UNESCO-listed Death Valley. Enjoy scenic views of the undulating rocky landscape of Zabriskie Point and learn about the valley's unique geological features, history and intriguing weather patterns. From there travel to Mammoth Lakes, Yosemite National Parks, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Park. You will end your journey in Los Angeles where you'll be joined by a local specialist for a guided walking tour to see Hollywood's most famous icons and a farewell dinner.

PRICE PER PERSON: Single ..... **\$4,559**  
Double ..... **\$3,319**

# More SOLO FRIENDLY Cruises, Motorcoach Tours, and Land Tours

**Salem Haunted Happenings**  
Oct 28-30 2018

**Step Back in Time**  
November 2, 2018

**Currier & Ives Christmas in New England**  
November 27-December 1, 2018

**Dickens of a Christmas Celebration**  
December 1, 2018

**Southern Caribbean Cruise**  
December 1 -13, 2018

**Southern Christmas Spectacular**  
December 2-7, 2018

**Radio City Christmas Spectacular & More**  
December 6, 2018

**Holiday Happenings & Christkindl Market**  
December 13, 2018

**Tournament of Roses Parade**  
December 29-January 2, 2019

**Spectacular South Africa Culture Hosted by WHP580's RJ Harris**  
January 10-23, 2019

**Murder Mystery Luncheon**  
January 26, 2019

**Valentine's Treat Fabulous Food & Wine Tour**  
February 9, 2019

**Winter Escape to Northeast Florida**  
February 23-28, 2019

**Philadelphia Flower Show**  
March 3-4, 2019

**Irish Odyssey**  
March 7 -19, 2019

**Spotlight on San Antonio with BOB 94.9**  
March 17-22, 2019

**Iceland's Magical Northern Lights with the River 97.3's Glenn Hamilton**  
March 23-29, 2019

**Greenwich Village Food & Culture Tour**  
March 26, 2019

**Girlfriend Getaway Savannah Southern Women's Show**  
March 28-April 1, 2019

**Southeast Coast & Bahamas Cruise**  
March 28 - April 6, 2019

**Cherry Blossom Luncheon Cruise**  
April 4, 2019

## SOLO CONNECTION BOARD

Are you looking for a roommate? Do you want to be added to the list?

**Contact Solo Susan**  
888-746-4566  
[SoloSusan@aaacp.com](mailto:SoloSusan@aaacp.com)

**Bahamas Holiday Cruise**  
*Royal Caribbean*  
*Anthem of the Seas*  
December 29 - January 6, 2019  
Male

**Sunny Portugal**  
*AAA Member Choice Vacations*  
March 1 - 10, 2019  
Female, Non-Smoking

## Stay in Touch

Meetings • Newsletters  
[AAA.com/Solo](http://AAA.com/Solo) • Facebook



[facebook.com/groups/AAACPSoloTravelersClub/](https://facebook.com/groups/AAACPSoloTravelersClub/)



## 8 Tips for Respecting Local Culture

by Janice Waugh

One way to land on the wrong side of safety when traveling solo (or any kind of travel for that matter) is to disrespect the local culture.

At home, ignorance of the law is no excuse for not following it. The same goes for other countries. It's also wise to follow the customs of the land. A respectful approach to both the laws and customs of the country you're visiting is fundamental to your trip going safely and smoothly.

While it is worth reading up on the basic laws and customs of your destination, it is unlikely that you will gather all the nuance that you will actually encounter when there. Here are a few tips to help you travel safely by respecting local cultures.

- 1. Take a step back and observe.** Take pause and observe what the locals do before you walk into a public space or even pick up a tomato at a vegetable stand. You'll avoid going into places you shouldn't tread and discover what good manners are in that culture.
- 2. Dress conservatively.** This is especially important in cultures where dress is a reflection of respect. Better to try to blend in than to draw attention to yourself and risk offending.
- 3. Respect what is highly valued** in the countries you visit. Electricity and water are often precious commodities. Conserve both as you travel. Likewise, show respect for dearly-held traditions.
- 4. Live the rhythm of the destination.** If siestas are the norm, don't disturb people by looking for an open store mid-day.
- 5. Give back to the community** to be appreciated and protected by locals. You can do this by giving to a local charity, supporting local artists and craftspeople, or lending a hand when the opportunity presents itself.
- 6. Learn a bit about the history.** Understanding the origins of a culture will help you better understand their world view and specific customs. Take the opportunity to learn more from those who grew up in the culture.
- 7. Recognize your own prejudices** and leave your biases at the door. Don't judge the culture through the lens of your own. Look for commonalities.
- 8. Look for the good.** Realize that, just like at home, what one person does or says is not necessarily representative of an entire culture. Be patient. Find the good and you'll likely stay on the right side of safety as well.

- [AAA.com/Solo](http://AAA.com/Solo)
- 1-888-746-4566**
- Visit your local AAA

**CARLISLE**  
1911 W. Trindle Road  
243-1844

**GETTYSBURG**  
1275 York Road, #10  
334-1155

**HARRISBURG**  
2301 Paxton Church Road  
657-2244

**HERSHEY**  
1142 Mae Street  
533-3381

**HUNTINGDON**  
608 Washington Street  
814-643-1030

**LANCASTER (Downtown)**  
101 West James Street  
397-4444

**LANCASTER (Centerville)**  
804 Estelle Drive  
898-6900

**LEBANON**  
984 Isabel Drive  
273-8533

**LEWISTOWN**  
33 N. Brown Street  
242-2221

**LITITZ**  
727 South Broad Street  
626-3040

**WEST SHORE**  
4680 E. Trindle Road  
761-6811