

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays.

This is the time of the year when we typically send out our brochure with the new trips for the coming season. However, this is not a normal season. We had hoped that the virus would be gone by now, we could forget about 2020 and start up again with some great trips for 2021. But it looks like it will be a little bit longer before that happens. Our current plan is to start our bus trips again in June or July. This will depend on the success of the vaccine and its rollout, along with the government allowing restaurants to reopen.

Safety is our primary concern and we will not start trips until we feel comfortable that it is safe to do so. We are developing safety protocols for the trips and may limit the number of seats available. If you get the vaccine or a negative COVID test, make sure you keep the paperwork as it may be required. Masks will be required for the near future. Complete details will be put on our website at a later date.

We will probably start with a few outdoor garden trips first, before moving to indoor venues. The Philadelphia Flower Show for 2021 has been moved to June and will be outside at FDR Park. We are looking into this as a possible trip. If you have any suggestions for a trip, please send them to us.

As for escorted tours and river cruises with our travel partners (CIE, AMA Waterways, Viking, Tauck, Collette, Globus, etc.), we are booking trips with them for 2021 and 2022. They are expected to start in the spring also. If you are considering this type of trip, even if not until 2022, you may want to consider reserving a date soon. There has been strong interest in next years' trips as people really want to get out and travel and feel things will be settled by then. The Passion Play in Oberammergau has been moved to 2022 and many trips scheduled for last year have been rebooked already.

In other news, our favorite bus driver, Lemon Green, has retired. He has been thinking about it for a while and has decided this would be the best time. We feel bad that we could not do one more trip with him to say "goodbye". Hopefully he will join us on a trip when they begin again. Also, Aristocrat Bus Company has decided to close because of the pandemic. We will be using the service of other transportation companies going forward. Long's Travel is still open and ready to book your vacation for you though! I still have kids in college, so I'm not going anywhere for a while.

I will send out an email or newsletter to let you know when our trips begin, feel free to email me at any time with questions, info or just to say hi.

I hope you and your family are staying safe and I hope to see you in the near future.

Take care,