

Christmas Markets

Along the Rhine River by Private Ship

Nov. 23 - Dec. 4, 2016



Witness the excitement of the traditional Christkindlmarkt (Christmas market), brimming with handmade toys and ornaments, and filled with the delicious aromas of freshly baked cookies and warm mulled wine. For many, visiting the Christmas markets along the Rhine River is simply the most satisfying way to experience the holidays. And this festive private river ship cruise—which includes all meals onboard, and wine, beer, and soft drinks with dinner—is a wonderful gift to yourself that will remain a treasured holiday memory for years to come.



Expert trip leaders will bring you behind the scenes and off the beaten path with their intimate understanding of this enchanting sub-continent. Best of all, you'll travel in style with your friends from Southern Exposure! (Exact dates and prices for this trip will be posted here soon.)

REMINDER: Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, please call the Southern Exposure office at (269) 962-1255. If you haven't yet experienced a Southern Exposure travel adventure, feel free to ask questions or meet with us. *Welcome!*





Itinerary: Rhine River Xmas Markets

The incredible charm of Christmas time along the Rhine is waiting for you in November 2016. Together with your friends from Southern Exposure, you'll visit the holiday markets, historic sights and cultural gems of this magnificent region as you cruise along the Rhine River on our private river ship. **Trip Dates:** Nov. 23 - Dec. 4, 2016. Here is a quick look at our itinerary:

- Day 1 – Depart U.S. on Flight to Switzerland**
- Day 2 – Arrive Basel, Switzerland / Embark Ship**
- Day 3 – Breisach, Germany / Kaysersberg, France**
- Day 4 – Strasbourg**
- Day 5 – Plittersdorf, Germany / Baden-Baden / Speyer / Home-Hosted Kaffeeklatsch**
- Day 6 – Speyer / Optional Heidelberg Tour**
- Day 7 – Mainz / Optional Rudesheim Dinner**
- Day 8 – Cruise the Rhine / Christmas Traditions Discussion / Koblenz**
- Day 9 – Koblenz / Stollen Demonstration**
- Day 10 – Cologne**
- Day 11 – Nijmegen / Optional Liberation Museum Tour / Europeans Today / Amsterdam**
- Day 12 – Return to U.S.**

What's Included in the Package

- International round-trip airfare from Detroit
- Accommodations for 10 nights aboard a private Grand Circle river ship.
- 30 meals: 10 breakfasts, 10 lunches, and 10 dinners (with complementary beverages at onboard lunches and dinners)
- 6 exclusive included tours: Kaysersberg, Strasbourg, Baden-Baden, Mainz, Koblenz and Cologne
- Exclusive Discovery Series events: Home-Hosted Kaffeeklatsch / Christmas Traditions Discussion / Stollen Cooking Demonstration / Europeans Today Discussion
- Expert trip leader / program director
- All port charges and airport transfers
- Gratuities for local guides / motorcoach drivers
- Baggage handling for 1 bag per person

Passport & Visa Information

Your U.S. passport should meet the requirements for this itinerary. It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return and have the recommended number of blank pages. U.S. citizens do not need a visa for this trip. Learn more online at www.travel.state.gov.

What to Expect: Rhine River Cruise - Christmas Markets 2016

We will make every effort to accommodate your travel needs and make sure you have a pleasant, memorable experience in Europe. At the same time, it is important to remember that this is a true adventure. Please read these advisories:

- **Physical Requirements:** Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters. Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them throughout the trip. You must be able to walk 1-3 miles unassisted and participate in 2-3 hours of physical activities each day, including stairs. We reserve the right for our Program Directors to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home if their limitations are impacting the group's experience
- **Climate & Terrain:** Daytime temperatures range from 38-51°F during cruising season. Rain, ice, snow, and wind are possible during the holiday season. Throughout the Holiday River Cruise season, weather conditions and tides affect European river depths; water levels may require adjustments to your itinerary, including your Strasbourg canal cruise.
- **Christmas Market Tips:** Christmas Markets can be crowded, particularly at peak shopping times. Many of the local vendors at the craft stalls do not speak English, though some do. In many cases, you cannot use credit cards or U.S. dollars to make purchases at market stalls. However, it's relatively easy to convert U.S. dollars into Euros.
- **Transportation:** You will travel from Southern Exposure Herb Farm aboard a luxury motorcoach to Detroit Metro Airport, where you will fly to Basel, Switzerland, on a scheduled international flight. Group ground transportation will be provided to our private Grand Circle Tours river ship, where we will spend each evening. Your trip cost includes all port charges; gratuities to local guides and motorcoach drivers ; and baggage handling for 1 bag per person. Travel in Europe provided by 47-passenger coach, canal boat, and 140-passenger river ship
- **Accommodations:** We spend 10 nights aboard a private Grand Circle river ship as we cruise down the Rhine River.
- **Cuisine:** Meals will be a mix of local specialties and familiar American standards. Meals onboard feature a variety of entrée options, including vegetarian.
- **Before You Leave:** Before you leave on your vacation, we suggest that you have a medical checkup with your doctor; pick up any necessary medications (prescription and over-the-counter); have a dental and/or eye checkup. For a detailed and up-to-date list of vaccinations that are recommended for this trip, please visit the CDC's "Traveler's Health" website. To learn more, please visit the CDC's Traveler's Health website at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.





Detailed Itinerary: Christmas Markets Along the Rhine, Nov. 23 - Dec. 4, 2016

Day 1 – Depart U.S.

We depart the United States today and fly to Basel, Switzerland.

Day 2 – Arrive Basel / Embark Ship

This morning, you arrive at the Basel airport, where you are met and transferred to the pier to embark your river ship. From Basel, located where Switzerland, Germany, and France all meet, ships can navigate the Rhine all the way to the North Sea. A light lunch will be served onboard this afternoon. Otherwise, the balance of the day is at leisure. Gather this evening to meet your Program Director and traveling companions over dinner, and for a ship briefing on your upcoming cruise.

Day 3 – Breisach, Germany / Kaisersberg, France

This morning, you'll sail toward Breisach, Germany, set just on the edge of the Black Forest. Upon arrival this afternoon, you'll head into Alsace, on the French side of the Rhine, to visit Kaisersberg. This was the birthplace of Albert Schweitzer, the great humanitarian and recipient of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize, who is famous for his philosophy of "reverence for life" and his work in Africa. Your tour includes a visit to Dr. Schweitzer's former home, now a museum, where his study is preserved exactly as he last used it in 1959. You'll also see the city center, and have time to discover more of Kaisersberg on your own.

You'll also visit the nearby commune of Riquewihr, a renowned "wine village" known for its rieslings. After an informative stroll, you'll have free time to explore on your own.

Gather this evening with your fellow travelers and Program Director for a Captain's Welcome Drink and Dinner.

REMINDER: *Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, please call the Southern Exposure office at (269) 962-1255 during regular business hours. Welcome!*

Day 4 – Strasbourg

After breakfast, enjoy a sightseeing tour by boat along Strasbourg's canals. Strategically important since ancient times, Strasbourg became a free imperial city in 1262, and then was occupied by France in 1681 and Germany in 1871. France recovered the city in 1919 after World War I. From your boat, you'll see the major sights (including the Palais de L'Europe, where the European Parliament meets) and admire the city's remarkable Renaissance architecture. In mid-morning, your boat tour concludes at the Palais Rohan in the town center. If you like, you may walk on your own from the Palais to visit the city's magnificent cathedral, one of the finest of Europe's great Gothic cathedrals. Its lofty single spire dominates the city.

After lunch aboard ship, you have the afternoon free to visit Strasbourg's Christmas market or explore more of the city on your own. There is an excellent collection of Renaissance art in the Museum of Fine Arts, while the Alsatian Museum offers folk art, including reconstructed interiors of Rhine farm and vineyard houses. You may want to visit the picturesque Petite-France area (the former Tanners' District) and see the old Customs House, as well as charming covered bridges and their defensive towers. Return to the ship for an onboard dinner.

Day 5 – Plittersdorf, Germany / Baden-Baden / Speyer / Home-Hosted Kaffeeklatsch

This morning, your ship docks at the German town of Plittersdorf and you depart for a scenic motorcoach journey into the Black Forest region. You'll stop for a visit in the spa town of Baden-Baden, nestled in thick, peaceful

forests. Since Roman times, Baden-Baden has been renowned for its thermal baths, with mineral waters thought to have restorative powers. Afterwards, the motorcoach takes you to Speyer, where you reboard the ship in time for lunch.

Speyer is a city more than 2,000 years old that has retained parts of its medieval wall and gates. As you visit the city's Christmas market later today, you can contemplate the fact that an earlier version of this town already existed in the time of Jesus.

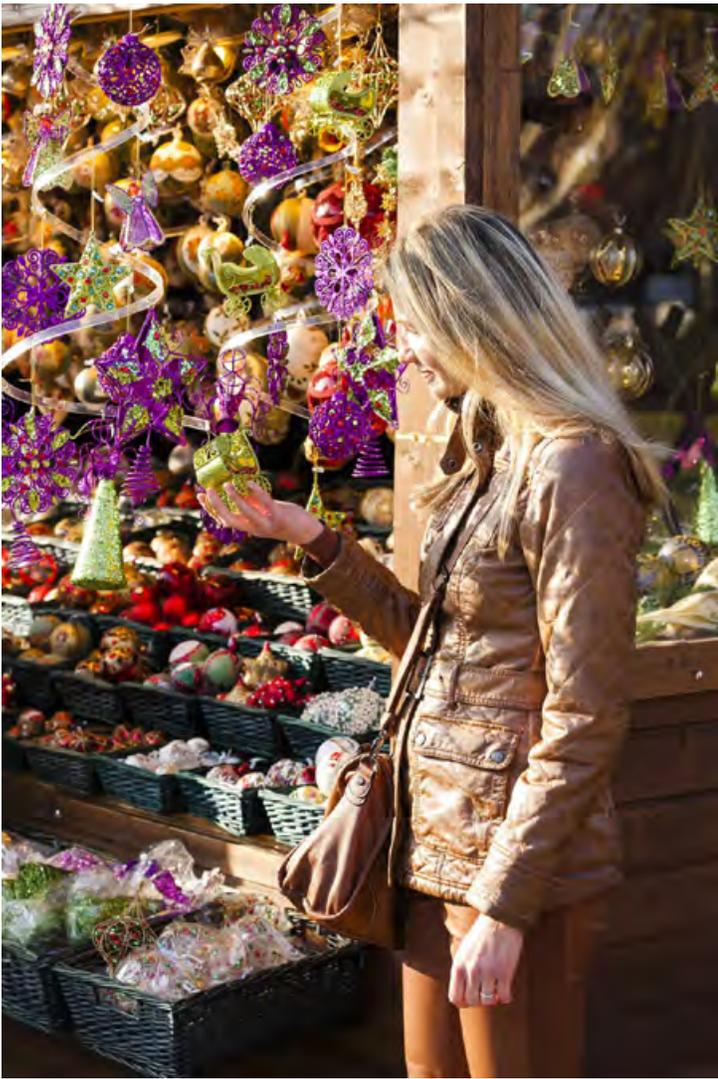
This afternoon, you'll join a local family for coffee, cake, and conversation at a Home-Hosted Kaffeeklatsch. Afterward, consider strolling through the Christmas market and browsing its festive stalls. We return to the ship for dinner.

Day 6 – Speyer / Optional Heidelberg Tour

You have the morning free in Speyer. On your own, you might take in the Historical Museum of the Palatinate, which has large collections of pre-Roman and Roman materials and includes a wine museum. Or, consider visiting Speyer's four-towered Imperial Cathedral. Dating to the eleventh century, it's one of the greatest Romanesque buildings in Germany and contains the tombs of eight emperors.

This was also an early center of printing as the home of the 15th-century printers John of Speyer and his brother Wendelin. The ship begins cruising towards Mainz around noon.





Or, perhaps you'll take our all-day optional tour to discover romantic Heidelberg, a historic university town nestled between wooded hills at the edge of the Odenwald Forest and crowned with the ruins of Heidelberg Castle. Begun in the Gothic style of the 14th century and built up gradually over the next 400 years, the castle demonstrates the evolution of architectural style, finally completed in the Baroque period. After lunch, tour Heidelberg's turreted 600-year-old university, Germany's oldest. In keeping with the spirit of the holidays, we'll also stop at Heidelberg's lively Christmas market.

After the tour, you'll ride to Mainz to reboard the ship before dinner.

Day 7 – Mainz / Optional Rudesheim Dinner

This morning you'll enjoy a walking tour of Mainz and see the town's great eleventh-century Romanesque cathedral. The 2,000-year-old city of Mainz rose to prominence in the eighth century when St. Boniface, the "German Apostle," designated it an archbishopric, thereby making it the center of Germanic Christendom.

The Mainz archbishops held spiritual and political power, serving as electors of the Holy Roman Empire.

But Mainz remains best known for its most famous son, Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of movable type, who was born here in 1397. Gutenberg began his career by creating and selling indulgences—papers that could be purchased and used as "coupons" by the faithful to absolve them of some of the time they had earned in Purgatory. Gutenberg realized he could absolve himself of some of his own monetary debts if he could mass-produce the indulgences. To do this, he created uniformly sized metal molds for letters that allowed him to create error-free, repeatable text. This was the beginning of the movable type that transformed the world.

You'll see the Gutenberg Bible and the printing press, which are housed in the town's Gutenberg Museum. The museum exhibits one of the 47 extant copies of the Latin Gutenberg Bible—a 42-page volume with elaborate Gothic lettering, dating from the 1450s.

After lunch aboard ship, you have the afternoon free to visit the Christkindlmarkt (Christmas market) in Mainz. You'll have ample opportunity to explore the myriad craft stalls, and to explore the rest of the city as you please.

Dinner is onboard this evening. Or, join us for an optional evening outing to the cobbled Drosselgasse wine alley in Rudesheim for a dinner with wine, food, song, and dance.

Day 8 – Cruise the Rhine / Christmas Traditions Discussion / Koblenz

Your ship docks at Nuremberg quite early this morning. Today, the ship cruises along some of the most beautiful and inspiring parts of the Rhine as you sail for Koblenz. En route, you'll learn about local holiday lore during an exclusive Discovery Series discussion about German Christmas traditions, focusing on the origins of the Tannenbaum (Christmas tree), the Advent calendar, and more.

You'll hear more enlightening commentary as you pass the Lorelei, a large rock rising 440 feet above the river. Since ancient Greek mythology, there have been legends of sirens, women-creatures who lure sailors to their death with sweet songs. Ancient Germanic legend places one such siren (Lorelei) here, and it is said she enticed sailors to destruction on the reef below the rock.

This afternoon, embark on a walking tour of Koblenz, the 2,000-year-old city that stands at the confluence of the Rhine and Mosel rivers. Sitting amidst hills populated with castles and fortresses, this strategic location



has made the city vital to European trade—and explains why it was heavily bombed during World War II. Many of its historic buildings have since been restored and the Altstadt (Old Town) features distinct architecture like the Liebfrauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), a 13th-century Gothic basilica with twin towers capped by onion-shaped spires, and the Basilica St. Kastor or Kastorkirche, dedicated to Castor of Karden, featuring four towers. Across the Rhine you'll find the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, central to a ring of fortifications built to protect the town and the region.

Day 9 – Koblenz / Stollen Demonstration

The morning is at leisure to explore Koblenz and stroll among the stalls of its wonderful Christmas market. Savor the smell of chestnuts roasting over open fires, and perhaps savor an authentic Bratwurst as you shop for handmade gifts and enjoy watching artisans at work. Perhaps you'll visit the Deutsches Eck, or “Corner of Germany,” where both the Altstadt and the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, across the Rhine, are visible.

Enjoy an afternoon of sailing as you cruise to Cologne. En route, perhaps you'll participate in an exclusive Discovery Series cooking demonstration where you'll learn how to make Stollen, a traditional German bread made with fruit and nuts and topped with powdered sugar.

Day 10 – Cologne

Roman settlement called Colonia Agrippina after AD 50, Cologne came under Frankish control in the fifth century. You can still see the ruins of Roman temples scattered through the city, and the Roman Tower near the cathedral was once part of the medieval town walls. During the 15th century, the city flourished as a member of the Hanseatic League.

Your tour ends in front of the city's magnificent Gothic cathedral (Dom), which you may visit on your own. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the cathedral largely escaped the World War II damage that ravaged the city and the rest of Germany. (There's evidence that Allied forces

worked deliberately to avoid damaging this beautiful structure.) It's the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe, boasting beautiful stained-glass windows, an ornate gold shrine on its elaborate altar, and the intricate detail common to 14th-century Gothic churches.

After your tour, enjoy some time on your own in Cologne. Perhaps you'll spend time at the Romano-Germanic Museum, with its beautifully restored Roman mosaics and reconstructed tomb. The museum is the home of the largest collection of Roman glass vessels in the world and also holds a significant collection of Roman and early medieval jewelry. You could also visit Cologne's Christmas market, and browse its wide assortment of Christmas creations. Tonight, join your travel companions for dinner onboard.

Day 11 – Nijmegen / Optional Liberation Museum Tour / Europeans Today discussion / Amsterdam

This morning, arrive in Nijmegen, a Dutch city built on seven hills overlooking the Waal River just west of its confluence with the Rhine. You'll see the arching bridge that spans the Waal, which was the site of an important battle during World War II that caused devastating damage to the city. As a result, Nijmegen, one of the oldest towns in Holland, was almost completely rebuilt. The town center, however, was remarkably unscathed by shelling, and provides a striking contrast to the newer architecture that surrounds it.

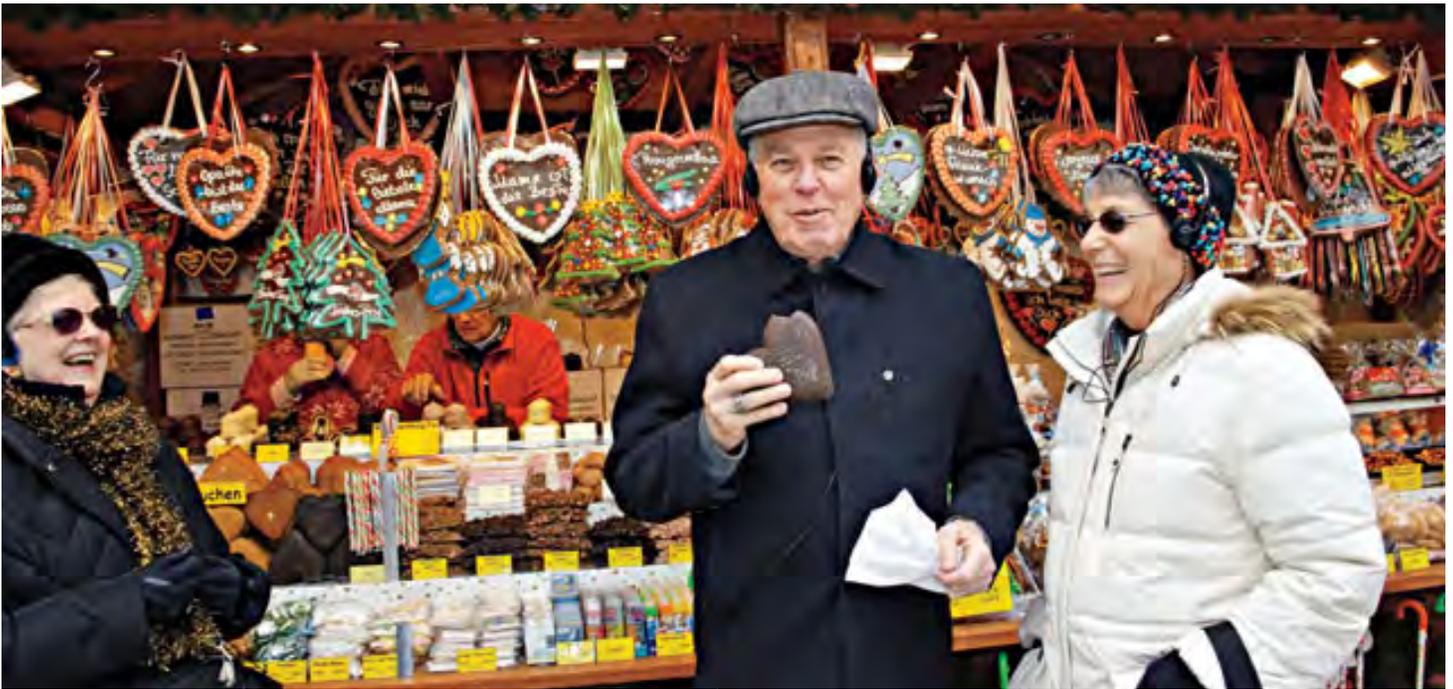
Enjoy a walk throughout the city. Or, perhaps you'll join an optional excursion to nearby Groesbeek for a visit to the Liberation Museum (Bevrijdingsmuseum). Here, the occupation and liberation of wartime Holland is vividly recreated through interactive displays.

After lunch onboard, enjoy an afternoon of sailing and take in the passing landscapes as you cruise to Amsterdam.

Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers for a frank exclusive Discovery Series discussion concerning Europeans today, followed by a Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner. Arrive tonight in Amsterdam, where you will dock for the night.

Day 12 – Return to the U.S.

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight home.



Pricing Summary (Per Person)

Trip Name: Christmas Markets Along the Rhine

Description: 12 days, 10 nights aboard ship, including items listed in the “What’s Included” box above, plus international roundtrip airfare from Detroit, government taxes, fees and airline fuel surcharges

Occupancy: Double

Departure Date: Nov. 23, 2016

Return Date: Dec. 4, 2016

Departure City: Detroit, MI

Per Person Cost:

Exact price depends on cabin deck level selected. The 12-day trip with airfare and all items listed in “What’s Included” on page 2 of this info kit starts at \$2,495. For further details, please call the Southern Exposure office at (269) 962-1255. We will be happy to assist you.

Taxes and Fees (included in the Per Person Cost)

Travel Protection Plan: Highly recommended!
(See details on the next page.)

Motorcoach Travel to/from Detroit Metro
(Call Southern Exposure for details.)

Pricing Notes:

Note: The information and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.

Pricing Disclaimer: *Every effort has been made to provide accurate pricing information. Operator reserves the right to correct promotional or pricing errors at any time, or to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, cruise fares, currency fluctuations, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons, unless you pre-paid according to the terms of the Good Buy Plan prior to the cost increase going into effect. For more information, contact Southern Exposure at (269) 962-1255.*

Important Travel Notes:

- For your comfort and safety, we recommend this tour for individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking, this may be a difficult trip for you.
- We reserve the right to cancel this tour due to insufficient registration. Full refund will be given if tour is canceled due to insufficient registration.
- If traveling alone, we will match you up with a roommate (this tour is double occupancy only).

Tour Cancellation Policy and Travel Protection Plan

Please read the following cancellation policy and Travel Protection Plan. Pricing and coverages are subject to change as we get closer to the departure date for this travel adventure.

Cancel For Any Reason Waiver

When you purchase the Travel Protection Plan, you also qualify for the Grand Circle Travel Cancellation Waiver Benefit that allows you to cancel your Grand Circle Travel Arrangements before your scheduled departure FOR ANY REASON.

Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion Waiver

The exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions will be waived if payment for this plan is received by Grand Circle Travel within 14 days of your initial deposit, for payment for your Trip.

Below is a brief listing of the plan benefits:

Part A - The Travel Arrangement Protection Benefits of this Part A are provided by Grand Circle Travel.

Schedule of Benefits - Part A

Benefit	Maximum Benefit Amount
Trip Cancellation	Trip Cost
Trip Interruption	Trip Cost
Missed Connection	\$750
Travel Delay	\$750 (Up to \$150 Per Day)

Part B - The Travel Insurance Benefits of this Part B are provided by United States Fire Insurance Company.

Schedule of Benefits - Part B

Benefit	Maximum Benefit Amount
Accidental Death and Dismemberment	\$25,000
Medical Expense, Emergency Assistance	
Accident and Sickness Medical Expense	\$50,000
Emergency Evacuation and Repatriation	\$500,000
One Call 24-Hour Assistance Services	Included
Baggage and Personal Effects	\$1,500
Baggage Delay	\$250

If your Trip is Canceled or Interrupted, Your Travel Investment is Protected

If you are like a lot of people these days, you don't just look forward to your vacations, you need them. A vacation is your opportunity to rest, relax, and recharge your batteries. Or to catch up with friends and family. Unfortunately, many things happen that might cause you to cancel your travel plans or cut them short. Illness or injury. The death of a family member. The worst part is, without adequate protection, you can lose your travel investment. The Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan protects your travel investment if your Trip is canceled or interrupted for a covered reason such as injury, illness or death of you, a Family Member, a Traveling Companion or a Business Partner.

If you must interrupt your Trip or return home early for a covered reason, the plan will pay (up to the original cost of your Trip) for your unused land or water Travel Arrangements, less any refund paid or payable, plus the Additional Transportation Cost to return home or rejoin your Trip.

Medical Expense and Emergency Assistance Benefits Could Be a Real Lifesaver!

If you have a serious illness or injury, the last thing you want to worry about is getting the care you need. The Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan gives you peace of mind with benefits that cover, up to the plan's limits, everything from medical expenses (incurred within 60 days of a sickness or injury that began during your Trip) to special transportation (such as an air ambulance) required for medical reasons.

Travel Delayed? You're OK!

You'll be reimbursed up to \$150 per day (to a maximum of \$750 total) for meals and accommodations if your Trip is delayed for more than 12 hours for a covered reason.

Baggage Lost or Damaged? You're Protected!

It's a traveler's nightmare. You arrive at your destination, but your baggage has disappeared. Or has been stolen or damaged. What do you do? If you're protected by the Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan, you'll be reimbursed up to \$1,500 to replace or repair your lost or damaged luggage and personal articles.

Baggage Delayed? Need Clothes and Toiletries? Count on us!

The Grand Circle Travel Protection Plan reimburses you up to \$250 to help cover the cost of clothing, toiletries and, or personal items if your baggage is delayed for more than 24 hours while you are on your Trip.

Accidental Death Benefit

Your beneficiaries will receive payment according to the plan's Schedule of Benefits for Accidental Death which occurs within 180 days of an injury sustained while you are on your Trip.

The Travel Protection Plan is Administered by:

Trip Mate, Inc.
9225 Ward Parkway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64114
Tel: 1-800-888-7292
Plan Number: F394G

The Travel Insurance is Underwritten by:

United States Fire Insurance Company under Form series TP 401. In KS, LA, SD, TX, and UT Form #'s TP-401 CW. In WA under Form #TP-401-WA. In OR under Form #TP-401 OR.

TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Southern Exposure Farm at (269) 962-1255 during regular business hours with a \$500 deposit. Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.



Southern Exposure Herb Farm

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