

Classic Travels, L.L.C.

"VIP Travel and Service"

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Newsletter

Dear Friends:

March 24, 2025

The 2025 season shows at The Fireside Dinner Theatre in Ft. Atkinson, WI are "Murder on the Orient Express," "The Church Basement Ladies," "The Little Mermaid," "Oklahoma" and "It's A Wonderful Life."

At the Barn in Goodfield, IL, start the season with "Nunsense." There is a good show "Arsenic and Old Lace," and for Christmas there is "Forever Plaid."

The Summer Mystery Trip is June 17- 20. I am announcing this trip so you can plan to go with me and have several days of fun. Please note that this trip requires early payment and deposit information because of the hotel. If you can go with me call me right away.

I am going back to Shippshewana. It will be August 25-28. It's a fun trip if you like food or shopping.

The Great Plains Adventure is a bus trip to all sorts of museums, and attractions to be held in October 6-14. Read all about it in this newsletter.

The Ultimate Branson Trip is planned for 6 days/5 nights December 1-6. I am going to "David" at the Sight and Sound Theater this year!

An Hawaiian Cruise plus a two-day and night stay in Honolulu. See details in this newsletter.

A trip is scheduled from July 9-23, 2026 to Norway and the Arctic Circle on Celebrity *Apex*. The ports are set out in this newsletter. Details are being finalized.

If you're not on our mailing list, give us your name and address or email address and check out our website at your convenience.

Have a Blessed Easter holiday and we'll see you soon. God Bless you and your families and God Bless America!

--Jill Kirkpatrick

Sunday, April 13, 2025

“Nunsense!” at the Barn III in Goodfield, IL Before the Singing Sisters became world famous, Sister Mary and Father Chaunce launched their habit wearing choir of chaos right here. Now they’re back to help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary kicking off our golden jubilee as only a gaggle of singing nuns can! Their mission was to bring people of all denominations together for dinner, and a show and a spirit-filled celebration of the Barn III. And of course, to ready our hearts for Lent... the season when we give up good things and pretend we don’t miss them. So dust off your hymnals, warm up your vocal chords and prepare for an afternoon of music, laughter, and maybe even a few shouts of AMEN! Leave at 9:30 a.m., back at 6:00 p.m. includes show, bus and meal. Price is \$120. **Payment due now if there are still seats available.**

Thursday, April 24, 2025

“Murder on The Orient Express,” at The Fireside Dinner Theatre, Ft. Atkinson, WI

Just after midnight a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. Agatha Christie’s luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed eight times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, the passengers rely on detective Hercule Poirot to identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again. Join us for this theatrical thriller from the Queen of Crime with both intellectual and comedic twists and turns, masterfully adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig. Menu is watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew, kiwi and strawberries over fresh garden greens and our famous papaya chutney dressing, pork back ribs, accompanied by our buttermilk marinated southern fried chicken breast, accompanied by roasted garlic redskin potatoes and creamed corn. Dessert is French silk pie with velvety chocolate mousse, topped with fresh whipped cream. Leave at 7:00 a.m., back at 8:00 p.m. Price is \$156.

Payment due now if there are still seats available.

Tuesday, June 17-20, 2025

Mystery Trip

This is a doozie! It’s a lot of fun and an unusual stop for lunch. Price is \$1,099 dbl. and \$1,299 sgl. Because of the hotel situation and the luncheon reservations, reservations are going to be due by Monday, April 28. See complete details in the reservation coupon. You will notice that they are requesting Day 2 and 3 for meal choices. The second person has been included as well if there are two (2) in a room. If you can come with me, you have to give me a call to see if I have rooms. **Payment due now if there are still seats available.**

Thursday, June 26, 2025

“The Church Basement Ladies” at The Fireside Dinner Theatre, Ft. Atkinson, WI

It is 1979, the day of the church’s Centennial Celebration, and past parishioners have gathered to share hot dishes, bars, and stories from the last 100 years. As the women work in the kitchen,

shared memories burst into life through a series of flashbacks. Travel back to 1897 and meet Vivian's grandmother; see Karin as a newlywed cautiously navigating the politics of the kitchen; and be there in 1944 when Mavis first barreled her way through the door. The Centennial Celebration is bittersweet. Times are tough in this small community, and hard decisions will have to be made. Menu is an Asian vegetable mix with cashews and sesame dressing topped with fried rice noodles, supreme cut chicken breast seasoned with lemon pepper, served with fried rice and peas, onion and egg and honey glazed carrots. Dessert is a creamy lemon custard garnished with fresh whipped cream and diced strawberries. Leave at 7:00 a.m., back at 8:00 p.m. Price is \$156. **Payment due Thursday, May 22, 2025.**

Thursday, August 7, 2025

"Disney's Little Mermaid" at The Fireside Dinner Theatre, Ft. Atkinson, WI

In a magical kingdom beneath the sea, the beautiful, young mermaid Ariel, King Triton's youngest daughter, longs to leave her ocean home to live in the world above. Based on one of the Hans Christian Anderson's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney's "The Little Mermaid" is a hauntingly beautiful love story. With music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater and a compelling book by Doug Wright, this fishy fable of Ariel and her colorful friends will capture your heart with irresistible songs "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl," and "Part of Your World." Menu is a blend of romaine and iceberg lettuce, hard boiled egg, red onion, grape tomato, avocado, cucumber and Jones's cherrywood bacon chips and Wisconsin cheddar cheese. The entree is chicken cordon bleu, skinless breast of chicken dipped in egg and stuffed with herbed cream cheese with Dijon Mustard. Above entrees are served with parmesan orzo and roasted broccoli and cauliflower. Dessert is peanut butter pie with chocolate ganache, coffee, tea or milk. Leave at 7:00 a.m., back at 8:00 p.m. Price is \$156. **Payment due Monday, July 7, 2025.**

Monday, August 25-28, 2025

Shipshewana, Indiana

We'll stay at Das Dutch Essenhaus, a unique combination of lodging and shopping. You can visit Voder's Popcorn Shop, the Front Porch, and Shipshe Casuals. Then it's on to the next stop, Yoder's Department Store and dinner at an Amish home. E&S Bulk Foods is next on the list, Teaberry Wood Products, a visit to Ben's Pretzel Shop where you'll make your very own pretzel and bake it, and a stop at Carolyn's Kitchen and 20 homemade jams, Yoder's Meat and Cheese and fried pies, dinner at the Blue Gate Restaurant, a stop at Silver Star Leather, and you'll have a few hours where there are over 100 shops and boutiques. Next you will have several hours at the flea market if you wish. The famous "Haystack" dinner is included and a stop to the Rise-n-Roll Bakery and a final stop at Katie's Noodles. Price is \$769 dbl., \$999 sgl. We leave at 6:00 a.m., return at 8:00 p.m. **Final payment due Tuesday, July 22, 2025.**

Thursday, September 25, 2025

"Oklahoma!" at The Fireside Dinner Theatre, Ft. Atkinson, WI

It's an American classic. It's the show that first introduced the immortal writing team of Rogers and Hammerstein! It's the show that ushered in the Golden Age of American musical theatre. This bright, brassy, boisterous musical comedy is filled with colorful costumes, breathtaking dancing, side-splitting humor, and a musical score featuring such hits as "People Will Say We're in Love," "Surrey with the Fringe on Top," and the rousing title number "Oklahoma!" The original production won a Pulitzer Prize and various Broadway revivals have multiple Tony

Awards. Now the Fireside presents a fresh, new, not to be missed telling of this time-honored musical. The menu is a seared, fresh Atlantic Diver Scallop with a potato croquette, presented on our tomato butter sauce. The entrée is a Beef Short Rib, slowly braised in beef stock and dressed with a red wine demi-glaze. The above entrees are served with garlic whipped potatoes and roasted asparagus. Dessert is a double layer carrot cake with cream cheese frosting. Coffee, tea, and milk. Leave at 7:00 a.m., back at 8:00 p.m. Price is \$156. **Payment due Thursday, August 28, 2025.**

Monday, October 6-14, 2025

The Great Plains Adventure

A southwest bus trip to the Pony Express, professional storm chasers throughout the tour, Carol and Jonny Glessner, Mid-American Heritage Pole, Gallery of Nations, All-Indian Museum, Old

Cow Town, visit the Big Well attraction, featuring the largest hand-dug well in the U.S., Twister Museum, National Weather Center, Oklahoma National Memorial, Will Rogers Memorial, Route 66 Historic Park Road, Ree and Ladd Drummon and ranch tour, Walter Conkrite Museum, Harry S. Truman Library, and much more. We're going to stay at the historical Drury Inn for a two-night stay; one night in Greensburg, Kansas, the site of the first recorded EFS Tornado, Wakita, Kansas, used in the filming of Twister!, Check into our hotel, the Bricktown, Hampton Inn and Suites, including the Toby Keith Bar & Grill, 2 nights at Hard Rock Hotel, and much more. Leave at 6:30 a.m., back at 8:00 p.m. 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 5 dinners are included. A deposit of \$50. is required upon reservation. Brochure is now available. Call and we will send you one. Price is \$2,599 dbl., \$3,299 sgl. **Final payment due Friday, August 1, 2025.**

Sunday, October 19, 2025

“Arsenic and Old Lace” at the Barn III in Goodfield, IL

When Mortimer Brewster's announcement is upended when he discovers a corpse in his elderly aunts' window seat. Mortimer rushes to tell Abby and Martha before they stumble on the body themselves. Only to learn that the two old women aren't just aware of the dead man in the parlor, they killed him. There is nothing more poisonous than family. Leave at 9:30 a.m., back at 6:00 p.m. includes show, bus and meal. Price is \$120. **Payment due Friday, September 19, 2025.**

Thursday, November 13, 2025

“It's A Wonderful Life” at The Fireside Dinner Theatre, Ft. Atkinson, WI

The story of George Bailey and his wonderful life in Bedford Falls, has brought hope and inspiration to every heart with its celebration of the goodness in all of us. The Fireside is proud to bring you this stunning, live stage version of Frank Capra's beloved film. Written by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning lyricist Sheldon Harnick one of the creators of “Fiddler on the Roof” and Grammy and Emmy reward winner Joe Raposo whose music from Sesame Street inspired generations of young people. “A Wonderful Life” captures all the magic of the film as it shines with the spirit of Christmas. The menu is loaded potato soup, creamy potato soup loaded with flavor, parmesan and cheddar cheese, sour cream and diced bacon garnished with green onions and cheddar cheese. Entrée is Chicken Monterey, a skinless breast of chicken, dipped in egg, lightly breaded with Panko crumbs, sauteed to a golden brown, topped with a blend of spinach, artichoke, parmesan, Monterey Jack, and cream cheese, finished with Havarti cheese and presented on a sun-dried tomato cream sauce, served with scalloped potatoes and garlic

green beans. Dessert is Bailey's Irish Cream Cheesecake, a crumbly Oreo cookie crust filled with Bailey's cheesecake batter, topped with a Bailey's Chocolate Ganache, coffee, tea and milk. Leave at 7:00 a.m., back at 8:00 p.m. Price is \$156. **Final payment due Monday, October 13, 2025.**

Monday, December 1-6, 2025

Ultimate Branson, Missouri

We'll travel to Missouri and stop at Redmon's Candy Store. At dinner time we'll stop at Lambert's Café. We'll be staying at the Best Western, Music Capital, nice hotel, newly renovated. Shows are Retro Christmas Spectacular; Dublin's Irish Tenors and Celtic Ladies; Legends in Concert; Hughes Brothers Christmas; Dean Z's Ultimate Elvis Show, Texas Tenors, The Haygoods; The Sounds of Simon & Garfunkel; Branson Christmas Wonderland; and The Sight and Sound production of David. We'll have lunch at Mel's Hard Luck Café; dinner at SS Dockside Cafe and Pub; dinner at Heroes Tastes & Taps; College of the Ozarks and lunch at the Keeter Center; Dinner at Black Oak Grill; lunch at McFarlain's Restaurant, and dinner at the world-famous Chateau on the Lake. Leave at 6:00 a.m., and return about 9:00 p.m. Price is \$1,499 dbl., \$1,699 sgl. **Final payment due Saturday, November 1, 2025.**

Sunday, December 14, 2025

"Forever Plaid" at the Barn III in Goodfield, IL.

Francis, Jinx, Smudge and Sparky aren't sure why they've returned to Earth for another posthumous performance, but a phone call from the heavenly Rosemary Clooney lets them know that they're needed to put a little harmony into a discordant world. Sprinkled among the Christmas offerings are audience favorites, like their riotous three-minute-and-eleven-second version of The Ed Sullivan Show – this time featuring the Rockettes, The Chipmunks and The Vienna Boys Choir, as well as a Plaid Caribbean Christmas that puts the "Day-O" in Excelsis! The perfect Barn reunion performance for the Holiday Season! Leave at 9:30 a.m., back at 6:00 p.m. includes show, bus and meal. Price is \$120. **Payment due Friday, November 14, 2025.**

Wednesday, February 11-22, 2026

Hawaii Cruise plus a 2-night package in Honolulu

We will spend the night at a hotel near Chicago O'Hare Airport. We embark on a 7-night cruise aboard Norwegian Cruise Lines, "Pride of America" with pre- and post-cruise packages in Honolulu. Discover cascading waterfalls, active volcanoes, black, green and white sand beaches, historic sites and unspoiled nature at five (5) incredible ports. Enjoy a group excursion to the Royal Lahaina's Myths of Maui Luau. A sightseeing tour of the east side of Oahu including Diamond Head, blow hole and the Pali Lookouts, in addition to the National Cemetery of the Pacific at the Punch Bowl Crater. Before the cruise we'll tour Pearl Harbor and Arizona Memorial. After the cruise we'll tour the Dole Plantation and ride on the Pineapple Express Train. We'll travel to the Polynesian Cultural Center including the Gateway Buffet before traveling home. Includes round trip local transfers, round trip airfare, all baggage handling, tour-related taxes and gratuities for guides, drivers and bellmen, customary shipboard gratuities. For balcony cabins, \$7,099 dbl., obstructed cabins, \$6,699 dbl., and interior cabins \$6,499 dbl., singles are available. **Payment due Friday, October 3, 2025.**

Thursday, July 9-23, 2026

Norway Cruise and the Arctic Circle

Leave from Southhampton, England on Celebrity Cruises *Apex*; sail through Bruges, Belgium; Flam, Norway; Arctic Circle (cruise); Tromso, Norway; Honningsvag, Norway; Arctic Circle (cruise); Alesund, Norway; Olden, Norway; Rotterdam, Netherlands; and back to Southhampton, England. Details to follow.

You agree that Classic Travels, L.L.C., its affiliates, entities and employees, assume no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss which may be occasioned by (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful or unauthorized act or omission of any travel agent or agency, other goods or services provider or other third party, (2) any defect or failure of any equipment, instrument or means of transportation owned, operated or otherwise used by third parties, (3) sickness, lack of appropriate medical facilities/practitioners, weather, strikes, theft or other criminal acts, war, terrorism, computer problems, late arrivals or departures, change of schedule, Covid or other related conditions.

Miscellaneous Information

Reservations:

If you would like to make or cancel reservations or to receive a brochure, call us at Classic Travels, at (563) 332-0014. Our answering machine will take your message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Remember to speak slowly and clearly and to give your name, telephone number, and message so we can get back to you, if necessary. If you don't receive a call back within 24 hours, we're probably on a trip, and if outside the United States, will only be able to possibly respond to email messages. You will, however, receive a call back as soon as we return. Check out your newsletter or our website to see if we're traveling.

Trip Departures:

Bus arrives 15 minutes prior to departure from the lower parking lot of the Northwest Bank & Trust Company, 100 E. Kimberly Road, Davenport, lower parking lot, west side of the building. Tenants and employees park in this lot and the Bank graciously allows us to use it while on trips. Please, park your vehicles to the west and north, away from the building. Thank you for your cooperation.

Payment:

Trips are payable about 30 days in advance unless stated otherwise. If you need to cancel, call us as soon as possible as many dates sell out and have a wait list. For overnight trips, a reservation is confirmed only when a completed reservation form, with your down payment, is received. Checks should be made payable to Classic Travels and mailed to 3371 Eastridge Drive, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722. Usually, final payment dates are listed at the end of trip descriptions. To be fair, if payment is not received by the final payment date, reservations will automatically be offered to those on the wait list. No telephone call reminders will be made for final payment. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Gift Certificates:

The perfect gift for birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, or just "because," is a Classic Travels gift certificate available in any amount. Simply give us a couple days' notice to prepare one for you.