



friendship force

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Experience different views. Discover common ground.

# *United States eFlyer*

## December 2018

The U.S. eFlyer is a place to find information about domestic Journeys within the United States, undersubscribed U.S. outbound Journeys, and occasional regional conferences and special events. The Journeys listed in the U.S. eFlyer are open to all ambassadors, representing some of the many places where you can experience new cultures and expand your global circle of friends.

If you are interested in any of the following Journeys, please contact the Journey Coordinator directly.

Journey #15005

# Central Coast, Australia to Southwest Florida, Tucson-Southern Arizona and Quad Cities, USA

## Journey Dates:

February 24 - March 17, 2019

## Price:

Contact Coordinator

## Journey Coordinator:

Chris Stone

[christopherstone@mac.com](mailto:christopherstone@mac.com)

## Host Clubs:

[FF Southwest Florida](#)

[FF Quad Cities](#)

[FF Tucson-Southern Arizona](#)

Spaces Available: 6

## Itinerary Overview:

Southwest Florida: February 24 through March 3, 2019

Quad Cities: March 3 through March 10, 2019

Tucson: March 10 through March 17, 2019

This will be an interesting three-phase Journey where ambassadors will enjoy the warmth of Southwest Florida, together with the winter in northern USA, followed by the wonders of Tucson, Arizona.

## From your hosts in Tucson-Southern Arizona:

We will greet our ambassadors with a welcome reception. The following days, we will tour Tucson's downtown historical sites including the Presidio, the Art Museum and the botanical garden, have a tour of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and watch raptors during the Free Flight Raptor program swoop over your heads, an unforgettable experience and go to the Gaslight Theater.

We will also tour the San Xavier del Bac Mission, still an active church since 1692 on the San Xavier Indian reservation. A tour of Kartchner Caverns and Tombstone will be arranged. The artist community of Tubac with its Presidio and the nearby Tumacacori National Historic mission will also be visited.

On your free day, you can explore Sabino Canyon or Madera Canyon, both good examples of desert ecology and short walks, and/or the Pima Air museum. For bird watchers, there are many opportunities to observe some of our 300+ species in the Tucson area.

We would love to have you join in for the fun!

To learn more about the Tucson portion of this Journey, please feel free to contact Fran Pakenham at 520-638-7383 or [fpakenham@gmail.com](mailto:fpakenham@gmail.com).



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INTERNATIONAL

# Perth, Australia to Sarasota, Florida; Alajuela, Costa Rica; Mundo Maya de Tuxtla Gutierrez, México

**Journey Dates:**

February 28 - March 28

**Price:**

\$1,800

**Journey Coordinator:**

Ken Heedes

[ahedes@gmail.com](mailto:ahedes@gmail.com)

**Host Clubs:**

[FF Sarasota](#)

[FF Alajuela](#)

[FF Mundo Maya de](#)

[Mundo Maya de Tuxtla](#)

[Gutierrez](#)

Spaces Available: 4

The Friendship Force of Perth (Australia) would love for you to join our Journey in 2019. We are considering doing a private five-day tour in Cuba between Sarasota and Alajuela. Let us know if you are interested. We are a great fun-loving group looking forward to sharing our experiences with like-minded Friendship Force members.

Sarasota is on the west coast of Florida and renowned for its flora and fauna, particularly Selby Gardens and Mote Marine (notable for shark and dolphin research). The Journey will typically include Myakka State Park, Ringling Museum (home of Ringling Barnum and Bailey Circus) and Selby Gardens, just to name a few.

Alajuela in Costa Rica is situated 20 kms northwest of the capital San Jose and the nearest airport. It has a stable temperature (25-30 degrees Celsius) and we will be visiting during its dry season.

The province is rich in coffee and sugarcane plantations. Scheduled activities allow the ambassadors to learn about its history, nature and culture through such attractions as Poas Volcano, La Paz Waterfalls, Museums of Gold and Jade, Biological Reserves of Monteverde and La Tirimbina.

Mundo Maya De Tuxtla Gutierrez is a relatively new club branching off from FF of Tuxtla Gutierrez four years ago. The city is the capital of the state Chiapas. It is surrounded by many national parks containing waterfalls and ancient ruins.

Visits will showcase their culture, restaurants, parks and museums including House of Crafts, Sumidero Canyon, City of Chiapa de Corzo amongst other activities.



# Frozen Beauty in Lake Baikal, Moscow, & St. Petersburg, Russia

**Journey Dates:**

March 9 - 23, 2019

**Price:**

\$3,500

**Contact Information:**

Oyuna Sengeeva

[oyuna@friendshipforce.org](mailto:oyuna@friendshipforce.org)

404-806-8170

**Host Clubs:**

FF Krasnogorsk

FF Ulan-Ude

[FF St. Petersburg](#)

**Spaces Available: 4**

Frozen Beauty in Lake Baikal takes place in March 2019.

We will arrive in Moscow during the celebration of the spring festival (Russian Mardi Gras). The Maslenitsa. We will participate in folk festivals, eat Russian pancakes, and of course, we will get acquainted with the sights of Moscow (Kremlin, Red Square, St. Basil Cathedral, Tretyakov Gallery and other places).

Then, after few days, we will fly to Siberia to see Lake Baikal. In March, the temperature gets 32F (zero C), but the ice is still solid and crystal clear. During our trip, we will visit extraordinary places (city Irkutsk, Ulan-Ude, Lake Baikal and Island Olkhon). These places filled with the magical power of nature and fascinating winter beauty.

You will be amazed by the frozen beauty, sunny place, and people. We will try local cuisine, stay with local people, and will take the short ride on Trans-Siberian train.

After Lake Baikal, we will come to St. Petersburg, the cultural capital of Russia, with the Hermitage, Faberge museum, Peter and Paul Fortress, Catherine Palace, and Amber Room.

In this Journey, you will discover such a different Russia (the capital and small cities, west and east, Christianity and Buddhism). It will be one of the most unforgettable Journeys of your life.

View this Journey on the FFI Catalog:

[Frozen Beauty in Lake Baikal, Moscow & St. Petersburg](#)



# Greater Olympia, WA to Taipei & Taichung, Taiwan

**Journey Dates:**

March 13 - 27, 2019

**Price:**

\$880

**Contact Information:**

Anne Gabriel

[360anne@gmail.com](mailto:360anne@gmail.com)

360-581-7664

**Host Clubs:**

[FF Taipei](#)

[FF Taichung](#)

**Spaces Available: 8**

Dreaming of an early spring, complete with cherry blossoms? Join us for 2 weeks of homestay in Taipei and Taichung, Taiwan.

Bask in the beauty and uniqueness of Yehliu Geopark, home to unique geological features, and Yangmingshan National Park for cherry blossoms, hot springs, fumaroles and Taiwan's tallest dormant volcano.

Visit the Chiang Kai-Shek and Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Halls.

Visit the National Palace Museum (with 8000 years of Chinese Art, from Neolithic to Modern Age) and stroll through the Zhishan Garden, a large scale traditional Chinese Garden, designed to evoke feelings of a beautiful poem.

Discover Wulai "hot spring water," a mountainous township a world apart from Taipei City. Spectacular waterfalls and hiking trails in this beautiful and untamed slice of Taiwan. Bask in hot springs. Learn about Taiwanese aboriginal culture (Atayal tribe).

Visit Taichung National Theater.

Enjoy Gaomei Wetlands, a well preserved wetland with both modern windmills and migrating bird watching.

Be amazed by the beauty of temples, including the Mazu Goddess Temple - the Patroness of the Sea.

Attend the World Flora Expo in Taichung.

Try your hand at calligraphy and making dumplings. Sing karaoke if you dare!

Enjoy the food culture by trying sun cookies, bubble tea, taro, or stinky tofu!



Journey #15040

# Kansas, USA to Tauranga Western Bay of Plenty, New Zealand

## Journey Dates:

March 21 - April 3, 2019

## Price:

\$3,865

## Contact Information:

Sherril Lichtenberger

[sherrilich46@gmail.com](mailto:sherrilich46@gmail.com)

316-729-7028

## Host Clubs:

FF Tauranga Western Bay of  
Plenty

**Spaces Available: 8**

Join us for a Journey with Tauranga, Western Bay of Plenty, New Zealand and a 10-day tour of the South Island!

We will arrive in Tauranga on March 21 to begin the Journey and spend six days with the Tauranga club. The Bay of Plenty has lots of Maori culture and history, along with beaches and a volcano. We plan to visit Rotorua, which includes geothermal hot springs and a Maori village, and Hobbiton, the movie set for *The Hobbit*.

On our tour of the South Island, the current plans include Marlborough Sound, wine country, Christchurch, and Arthur's Pass to Greymouth. On the west coast, we'll be stopping at Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and the Hokitika jade factory.

Then on to Franz Josef Glacier and down the Haast Valley through areas of rainforests, waterfalls, and rugged mountaintops to Queenstown and Milford Sound. While in Queenstown, we will visit a sheep farm and cruise across Lake Wakatipu.

We'll finish our tour with a cruise in Milford Sound before returning to Queenstown and flying back to Auckland for our flight home. If you would like to discover most of scenic New Zealand in a single trip, this Journey is for you!



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INTERNATIONAL

# Flathead Valley, MT to Richmond and Charlottesville, VA

**Journey Dates:**

April 22 - May 7, 2019

**Price:**

\$607

**Contact Information:**

Twila Moss

[tdemenezes@msn.com](mailto:tdemenezes@msn.com)

206-465-7579

**Host Clubs:**

[FF Richmond](#)

[FF Central Virginia](#)

**Spaces Available: 1**

We will be visiting Richmond, VA the first week and then going to Charlottesville, VA the second week.

**RICHMOND, VA**

We will be there during "Garden Week," so will most likely be touring some of the gardens of homes in the area, visiting Colonial Williamsburg, Tredegar (Civil War) Iron Works, James River T. Polls Bridge with civil war quotes as you walk across, Virginia Museum, St. John's Church re-enactment of Patrick Henry's famous speech, a possible wine tour, Maymont Park with Maymont family home/gardens and a possible 1/2 to 1 day choose or snooze.

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA**

Tour of Monticello (Thomas Jefferson's Home), Montpelier (James Madison's Home), Blue Ridge Mountains and Staunton and much more.

There is a maximum of 14 ambassadors on both Journeys. We have twelve great ambassadors signed up, so these Journeys promise to be both fun and informative. If you love history, these Journeys are not to be missed. The weather I'm told should be wonderful and we would love to have you join us. One thing to think about when considering these Journeys is that the activity level will be moderate to high with lots of walking and possible stairs.

Questions? Please feel free to email, call or text Twila Moss, the Journey Coordinator.



# Greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to Shelby, North Carolina

## Journey Dates:

April 28 - May 4, 2019

## Price:

\$300

## Contact Information:

Lisa Cordell

[lisacordell@embarqmail.com](mailto:lisacordell@embarqmail.com)

717-903-2140

## Host Clubs:

FF Shelby

**Spaces Available: 8**

## Optional Add-on:

Sightseeing in Lexington, VA to tour the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and the Washington and Lee Chapel. Overnight at the beautiful Martha Washington Inn. Cost \$145 pp/double or \$260 single, includes tours, hotel, and breakfast.

This 6-night Journey from April 28 - May 4, 2019 will allow us to spend 5 full days with our hosts in Shelby, North Carolina. On Day One - Sunday, April 28, ambassadors may arrive by car or flight into Charlotte, (CLT) no later than 3PM. A Welcome Event will kick off our week that will include some the following activities:

- BMW factory tour, near Spartanburg, SC. The BMW US Manufacturing Company, also known as BMW Spartanburg, is a vehicle assembly facility located in Greer, South Carolina; it is BMW's only assembly plant in the United States. The plant is currently BMW's sole global production site for X4, X5, X6, and X7 crossover SUVs whose biggest market is the U.S., while other BMW models sold in the U.S. market are imported.

- A trip by van to the Biltmore House in Asheville, NC. Located on what once was a 125,000 acre estate, this "home" was built by George Vanderbilt, grandson and heir of one of America's wealthiest families. Designed to reflect the style of 4 different castles in France, this 250-room mansion is truly magnificent. It is America's largest home and is still owned by descendents of George Vanderbilt. On this day we will tour the mansion with an audio guide, see the grounds, and enjoy a delicious lunch buffet at Deer Park event venue on the Biltmore property. After lunch we will sample Biltmore wines, produced on the estate. Bring your camera! You will appreciate the foresight of the owner and the architect he entrusted to build this magnificent home.

-Shelby/Cleveland County Day: Renowned bluegrass musician, Earl Scruggs grew up here and there is a museum in his honor. You would expect to find Civil War history in Shelby, near the Blue Ridge Mountains in the South, but Kings Mountain Battleground, located here was the turning point in the Revolutionary War!

-Experience Lake Lure where scenes from the movies Dirty Dancing and The Last of the Mohicans were filmed. Tour the Green River Plantation, built during the 1800s and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



# Greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to Greater Olympia, Washington

**Journey Dates:**

June 25 - 30, 2019

**Price:**

\$300

**Contact Information:**

Lisa Cordell

[lisacordell@embarqmail.com](mailto:lisacordell@embarqmail.com)

717-903-2140

**Host Clubs:**

[FF Greater Olympia](#)

**Spaces Available: 13**

**Arrival Information:**

Ambassadors will need to pre-arrange transportation from Seattle to Olympia. This can be done by either shuttle or Metro bus. More information will be shared after acceptance on this Journey.

You are invited to join FF Greater Harrisburg on a 5-night Journey to the beautiful American Northwest as we visit FF Greater Olympia, Washington. This locale provides the perfect opportunity to join a cruise to Alaska that leaves from Seattle.

A day in Olympia, Washington's capital city: State Capital Tour and walking tour of the memorials, the Governor's Mansion. Enjoy the beautiful views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains. Lunch on your own at Farmer's Market, which has been in existence for 41 years and features local produce, baked goods, artisan crafts and daily music.

Elbe train tour and trip to Mt Rainier: Located in the small town of Elbe, this heritage railroad, south of Mount Rainier National Park, provides steam train rides through the forest and across the glacial fed Upper Nisqually River to a museum located in Mineral, Washington. Congress established Mt. Rainier National Park on March 2, 1899. It is 14,410 feet above sea level, and on a clear day it can be seen from Olympia. It is America's 5th oldest national park, and encompasses 369.35 square miles.

A day in Tacoma, Washington:

- Washington State History Museum: History of Washington State and how it relates to the Pacific Northwest with artifacts from Women's Suffrage, Industrialization, Native American tribes and items such as Clovis Point.

- Wright Park Arboretum and W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory, designed by Bavarian landscape architect Edward Otto Schwageri with 700 mature trees (native and exotic) and 550+ plant species,

Tumwater Falls Park and wine tasting at a local winery. Located in the small, historic city of Tumwater, Washington, the Deschutes River ends its journey from the shoulders of the Cascade range, to tumble a final 82 feet into Capitol Lake, which was once the final reach of Puget Sound. Walking trails are highlighted by cascading waterfalls, reflective pools and massive rocks.

A Welcome Breakfast and a Farewell Dinner will provide us with opportunities to initiate and celebrate the friendships made during our Journey with FF Greater Olympia, Washington.



# Discover Brazil with FF Cedar Rapids-Iowa City

**Journey Dates:**

June 26 - July 8, 2019

**Price:**

\$995

**Contact Information:**

Jim Steggall

[bjjfs@mchsi.com](mailto:bjjfs@mchsi.com)

319-651-1092

**Host Clubs:**

[FF Ribeirão Preto](#)

FF Salvador-Bahia

**Spaces Available: 9**

The Journey will begin with a five-night homestay in Ribeirão Preto. Ribeirão Preto ("Black Stream" in Portuguese) is one of the most important cities in São Paulo state. With about 600,000 inhabitants, Ribeirão Preto has the 24th highest GDP of Brazil and is an important cultural and health center, with several universities, hospitals and clinics. Its warm evenings invites you to visit the city's countless bars, restaurants, and micro-breweries. The city is 162 years old and maintains important historical sites, like the Pedro II Theater, considered one of the best in Latin America.

After a two-night excursion to Iguassu Falls we will continue our Journey with a five night homestay with the Salvador Bahia Club.

The city of Salvador is known as the "melting pot" of Brazil where the Portuguese, African, and indigenous people came together to form the "Bahian" culture. We will learn about the history of the Portuguese settlers, the African slave trade (which was banned in 1835) and the blending of these two groups with the existing indigenous people. Sugar was king in the colonial times, and we will hear about its importance in the region.



# OLLI at FSU-Tallahassee to Campinas and Belo Horizonte, Brazil

**Journey Dates:**

July 12 - 28, 2019

**Price:**

\$660

**Contact Information:**

Wendy Johnston

[mrswendyjohnston@gmail.com](mailto:mrswendyjohnston@gmail.com)

850-766-5572

**Host Clubs:**

[FF Campinas](#)

[FF Belo Horizonte](#)

**Spaces Available: 6**

Come spend part of your summer enjoying winter in Brazil!

We will start the Journey with a 3-day trip to Iguazu Falls, one of the new 7 Wonders of the World. Our stay at the falls begins on July 12, 2019, and our travel package includes (based on double occupancy) round trip airline transfers, 3 nights lodging at Bourbon Cataratas Hotel and breakfast each morning. It also includes guided tour to the Brazil falls side, guided tour to the Argentina falls side, and bird park entrance for a total of \$695.

On July 15, we travel to our home stay in Belo Horizonte, then on July 21 we travel to our homestay in Campinas, and finally on July 28 we'll return home.

FFI fees and host program fees total \$660. A visa is required for Brazil and there is an E-Visa process which costs approximately \$40. Travel insurance through FFI or private company is highly recommended.

Our travel agent can help book the airline flights if you would like to travel with our group, going through the gateway of Miami, Florida. Total cost of trip to Iguazu Falls (\$695), FFI fees (\$660) and Visa (\$40) = \$1395, plus international airfare.



Journey #15154

# Journey to Edmonton & Area, Manitoba, Canada and Greater Harrisburg, USA

## **Journey Dates:**

August 1 - 27, 2019

## **Price:**

\$1,050 (FFI Fees/Host Fees)

## **Contact Information:**

Teresa Whitters

[twffss@outlook.com](mailto:twffss@outlook.com)

## **Host Clubs:**

[FF Edmonton and Area](#)

[FF Manitoba](#)

[FF Greater Harrisburg](#)

**Spaces Available: 8**

The FF Southern Sydney club is excited at the opportunity of a triple Journey in August 2019 to Canada and the east coast of the USA.

If you decide to join us, you will have the chance to see diverse parts of Canada, starting in Edmonton near the beautiful Canadian Rocky Mountains, which you could visit en route if you so desired. Then we fly to the central province of Manitoba near Lake Winnipeg. The Canadian countryside and its people are a joy to experience.

After a five-day individual break where everyone will be “doing their own thing,” we will gather in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA. This area is rife with the history of the American Civil War and has Amish and Mennonite communities which we will visit. We also have the chance to enjoy Hershey chocolates amongst many other cultural and culinary pleasures.

Some of us will be visiting nearby Washington and possibly staying in New York either during the break or after the Journeys have been completed. The choice is yours!

Please contact Teresa Whitters if you are interested in these Journeys or have any questions. We currently have space for 8 ambassadors, and we'd love to meet and travel with you.



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# *United States eFlyer*

**US eFlyer Submissions are due the 21st of each month. Please submit your information to FFI using this online form:**

**[US eFlyer Submission Form](#)**

**If you have any questions about the US eFlyer or submission process, please contact:**

**Maryam Jordan**

**[maryam@friendshipforce.org](mailto:maryam@friendshipforce.org)**

**404-965-4337**