



friendship force

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

Experience different views. Discover common ground.

United States eFlyer

January 2019

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.

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

404-806-8170

Host Clubs:

FF Krasnogorsk

FF Ulan-Ude

FF St. Petersburg

Spaces Available: 3

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

360-581-7664

Host Clubs:

[FF Taipei](#)

[FF Taichung](#)

Spaces Available: 6

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
316-729-7028

Host Clubs:

FF Tauranga Western Bay of
Plenty

Spaces Available: 6

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, wine country, Christchurch, Arthur's Pass to Greymouth and Dunedin. 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

An Introduction to Sierra Leone, Africa

Journey Dates:

April 13 - 23, 2019

Price:

\$1,550

Contact Information:

Teresa Wilkin

sierrachannel@gmail.com

Host Clubs:

FF Freetown

Spaces Available: 10

NEW THIS MONTH!

Spread the mission of Friendship Force on this Journey that focuses on creating personal connections with people from all walks of life in Sierra Leone. We will meet with students, government officials, and local families in Freetown and Bo, making new friends wherever we go!

There are not one, but two clubs that have worked hard for their first ever inbound Journey. And the country of Sierra Leone has done the hard work of settling a decade-long civil war, only to be hit with an Ebola outbreak 12 years later.

But Sierra Leone was declared Ebola-free in 2016, and that year, Sierra Leone was described as the fastest growing destination by the UN World Tourism Organization. Given that many world tourist destinations are being overrun, it is even more important that we encourage our members to explore new destinations as a way of promoting cultural understanding.

But our Journey is not about places, but about faces. Clubs in both Freetown, the capital and largest city, and Bo, the second largest city and capital of the southern region, are busy preparing for our arrival. They have designed a program to give Friendship Force maximum exposure to both the country's leadership in Freetown, and tribal leaders in Bo.

So even if Sierra Leone is not on your bucket list, I invite you to join me in furthering the mission of Friendship Force in Africa, and to make new friends in that part of the world.

View this Journey on the FFI Catalog:

[An Introduction to Sierra Leone](#)



Greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to Shelby, North Carolina

Journey Dates:

April 28 - May 4, 2019

Price:

\$300

Contact Information:

Lisa Cordell

lisacordell@embarqmail.com

717-903-2140

Host Clubs:

FF Shelby

Spaces Available: 4

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.



Oklahoma, USA to Berlin, Germany and Riga, Latvia

Journey Dates:

May 21 - June 4, 2019

Price:

\$990

Contact Information:

Rose Schultz

roses@jswtech.com

641-777-3336

Host Clubs:

[FF Berlin](#)

[FF Riga](#)

Spaces Available: 4

NEW THIS MONTH!

You are invited to join this exciting journey to Berlin, Germany and Riga, Latvia.

We will spend the first week in Berlin. Highlights of the Berlin visit will include the Gardens of the World; The East Side Gallery (murals painted directly on a remnant of the Berlin Wall); Spreewald, located south of Berlin (designated a biosphere reserve by UNESCO); German Parliament; Brandenburg Gate; Berlin Cathedral (located on the island in the River Spree); Bebel Place; a boat tour of Berlin; Pergamon Museum (located on the Museum Island); Bode Museum; and other sites.

The second week will be in Riga. In Latvia we will be attending a concert in the Riga Cathedral (the organ dates back to 1884), visiting the Rundale Palace (the largest and most famous in Latvia) and gardens. Other highlights will include a visit to the Ligatne Bunker (a secret bunker of Russia that was located in Latvia) and a visit to Cesis (an old Latvian town rich in culture and historical heritage). Their program is not complete, but these items are usually included for visitors.

Most importantly we will get to spend time with the families in both countries, eating their cuisines and experiencing other cultures, returning having made new friends in other countries.



Journey #15108

Global Art and Bumba Meu Boi Festival in Fortaleza, Brazil

Journey Dates:

June 6 - 20, 2019

Price:

\$1300

Contact Information:

Mary Jane DeVault
mjdevault@gmail.com
407-920-1745

Host Clubs:

[FF Fortaleza](#)
[FF São Luís](#)

Spaces Available: 15

NEW THIS MONTH!

Enjoy the friendly hospitality of FF Fortaleza, whose members will take you on a tour of Fortaleza to see its unique qualities as a city colonized by Europeans, but with a strong indigenous influence, affecting the cuisine, culture, language, and the habits of its people.

Following that homestay, members of FF São Luís hope to provide ambassadors the opportunity to experience the natural beauty of Maranhão, São Luís, and Barreirinhas, with their stunning beaches, fascinating culture, delicious cuisine, and rich history.

Attend Bumba Meu Boi, an interactive play deeply rooted in the culture of Brazil presenting a comedic Folklore story told through song and dance.

For more details, view this Journey on the FFI Catalog:

[Global Art and Bumba Meu Boi Festival](#)



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INTERNATIONAL

Greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to Greater Olympia, Washington

Journey Dates:

June 25 - 30, 2019

Price:

\$300

Contact Information:

Lisa Cordell

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

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

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

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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INTERNATIONAL



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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

404-965-4337