



Travel

Planning for your summer vacation

By Victoria Diaz
staff writer

Summer comes early to Sea World of Ohio this year and stays late. The marine life park in Aurora, Ohio, will open for business the weekends of May 2 and 9, and begin daily operation May 16. Gates won't close this year until September 27.

New entertainment features include a spectacular laser light show over the lake, and 90 new residents from the polar region: penguins and chinstrap penguins, collected as eggs on a recent Sea World Antarctic expedition.

A new Maritime Museum recently opened its doors in Mantoloking, Wis. The Resource Center inside the new museum provides a setting for the preservation of Great Lakes history, housing over 20,000 photographs, plus 10,000 books, a 10,000-piece manuscript collection, and a blue-print collection with over 5,000 plans for schooners, passenger vessels, ship parts and other ships.

You might want to cruise down to Ft. Lauderdale in your '50s and '60s nostalgia trip that'll knock your dingo socks off.

Four live weekend concerts will feature such luminaries as Fabian, Bobby Rydell, the Kingston Trio, Jan and Dean, the Drifters, Del Shannon and Little Anthony, and will be hosted by Frankie Avalon and Connie Stevens.

During the week at the Spring Break Reunion, you can take in '50s dress parades, bathing suit shows, fin-and-furry-dice car rallies, memorabilia swaps, moonlight dance cruises, and "oldtimer" football and baseball games, featuring sports stars from the era.

Also scheduled is a 50s-60s film fest. All will be part of a television special (to be aired in the fall), focusing on the Spring Break phenomenon that first took hold way back in the '50s. Contact the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Area Convention & Tourism Bureau, Dept. MS, 201 S.E. 8th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33301.

IF YOU'RE a mystery buff, an amateur sleuth, or just think you're smart, the pleasure of your company is requested at Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel May 23-26, where a "murder" will be committed and you will be challenged to discover the perpetrator of the dastardly deed. The mysterious four-day event is part of the Grand's Centennial Year Celebration.

While the game is afoot, you'll stay at the Grand and (when you're not sniffing out clues) be treated to a Wild West square dance, a Railroad Man's barbecue, a moustache contest and much more. Every activity is designed to fit into an 1887 theme. ATS Travel, 26075 Woodward, Huntington Woods 48070.

ALSO IN MAY, Chicago will kick off its annual Navy Pier festivals with an International Art Exposition running May 8-12. Art dealers from all over the world will gather at the Pier to exhibit the works of such modern masters as Alexander Calder, Joan Miró, Claes Oldenbourg, and Roy Lichtenstein.

The Chicago International Wooden Boat Festival and Sailboat Show, at the Pier June 19-21, features daily demonstrations of boat building, U.S. Coast Guard rescue operations, marine-spike seamanship, and semaphore signaling.

Boat rides on Lake Michigan are offered, as are free sailing lessons. A New Art Forms Exposition will be at the Pier Sept. 18-21, and an International Antiques Show Oct. 16-18. Lakeside Group, 600 N. McClurg Ct., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

JUNE 5-7 Oklahoma City will host what is expected to be the world's largest Pow Wow ever, and you're cordially invited, regardless of what your ancestry may be. During Red Earth '87, downtown Oklahoma City will be the scene of this gigantic festival, in which some 100 tribes from the U.S., Canada and Mexico will participate.

City Convention and Tourism Bureau, 4 Santa Fe Plaza, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73101.

FARTHER AFIELD, special package tours have been set up during May and June for those who want to view the Royal Ascot, the Epsom Derby, the Pilkington Ladies' tennis championships and the Stella Artois tennis championships in England.

Added highlights of the packages include sightseeing tours of London, plus tickets to hit London musicals and plays. Keith Frowse, 234 W. 44th St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

In addition, packages are offered for travelers interested in viewing the French Open Tennis Championship, also in May and June, where you can cheer your favorites from coveted reserved seats at Center Court. Custom Travel Consultants, 2105 Woodside Road, Woodside, Calif. 94062.

Been yearning for a spa vacation? Let Spa-Finders Ltd. help you to locate a spa spot for you. For \$4, you'll receive the Spa-Finders catalog, listing and describing more than 200 spas worldwide — and a personal consultation to determine the spa best-suited for your needs. The \$4 is refundable if you decide to book a vacation through Spa-Finders. Call 1-800-ALL-SPAS.

If you're 25-50 years of age and single, membership in the newly formed Single Travelers Club of Michigan offers year-round trip discounts, plus the chance to mingle with other singles, and choose destinations of upcoming trips. Call 828-8888.

HOWARD JOHNSON, through its new "Road Rally" program, offers a 50 percent discount on room rates to senior citizens, until Dec. 15. Members of the new Road Rally Club can earn "check points" for each night stayed at a Howard Johnson facility, and points can subsequently be redeemed for other special travel discounts and merchandise. Call 1-800-634-3404.

For the 18th year, Flying Wheels Travel Inc. is offering worldwide tours for the handicapped (and any able-bodied friends and relatives who want to come along). If you're confined to a wheelchair or otherwise disabled, you can go with a group (or opt for independent travel) to Singapore or Disney World and dozens of places in between. Call 1-800-533-0363.

If you're young and restless and yearning to see Europe, Contiki Holidays, the world's largest tour operator for people 18-30s, may be just the ticket for you. Contiki vice president Terry Lazar says that, through his research, Contiki has found "vacationers in the 18-30s group want non-stop activities at an affordable price." Call 1-800-626-0611. The

You can relive the '50s and '60s in Ft. Lauderdale in May and June and attend concerts by Fabian, Bobby Rydell and Del Shannon.

company also offers a full range of Contiki vacation videotapes. Other vacation videotapes can be obtained through AAA Michigan's new video lending library. Preview potential vacation spots or simply enjoy some armchair globetrotting. For a refundable \$25 deposit, videos may be reserved at your local AAA travel office, and picked up three business days later.

ACCESS AMERICA, a subsidiary of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of the National Capital Area and Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield, provides emergency assistance and insurance protection for traveling Americans. They attend to everything from stolen wallets and lost tickets, to hospitalization and medical transport. Clients are served through an emergency 24-hour hotline. For further information, call 1-800-851-2800.

Any business traveler booking through a local Thomas Cook Travel Center can obtain Preferred Rates (lower than Corporate Rates) at hotels in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, San Francisco, Atlanta, Boston, Cleveland, Dallas, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Washington, D.C., and Detroit.

Finally, if you're planning a trek into the wild anytime soon, you might be interested in Christina Dowdell's *An Explorer's Handbook: An Unconventional Guide for Travelers to Remote Regions*. Dowdell, a veteran wilderness explorer and author of a number of travel books, covers everything from what to do when you've lost your compass to how to dine on crocodile.



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