



CUCRA/CUCEA Meeting, April 26 & 27, via Zoom

Introduction

UC Retirees Travel has completed eight successful trips since the October 2022 meeting—Chile/Argentina (two departures), a Danube River cruise, South Africa, Egypt, Spain/Portugal, and Japan (two departures). As we gain more experience with escorting trips, we can better anticipate the needs of our travelers and provide the services that are most helpful to them.

Publicity

- Continued the monthly *Travel Talk* e-newsletter; started in May 2019 with 689 subscribers; during the last six months, the list has grown from 2,150 subscribers to 2,545 subscribers.
- Continued sending publicity to retiree center directors, CUCRA reps, and *New Dimensions* editor.
- Continued working with Bob Daly to list and update information on the CUCRA website.
- Offered four webinars: one by Collette, one by OAT, and four by our volunteers for UCSF, UCSD, USB, and UCI retirees.

Management

- Continued working with Dolores Dyer, assistant coordinator, on trip planning and publicity.
- Held monthly Zoom meetings with UC Retirees Travel volunteers (Dolores Dyer, UCLA; Frank Trueba, UCSC; Sandra Norberg, UCSF; Vickie Leow, UCSF) to share successes and brainstorm solutions to challenges. Much of our support is in pre-trip preparations (answering questions and coordinating with tour operators). Once the trips are underway, the escorts provide back-up to the trip leaders, assisting with logistics and group management. While most trips have been problem-free, issues arise, such as interpersonal conflicts between travelers, COVID transmission, and occasional problems with the tour operators' leaders and/or tour logistics. In several instances, the escorts have played essential role in addressing issues on the trips.

Trip Participation

UC Retirees Travel Trip Counts 2022 (excluding escorts)

Trip	Ret. Staff	Ret. Fac.	Curr. Staff	Curr. Fac.	Guests	Non UC	Total	LANL	LBNL	LLNL	UCB	UCD	UCI	UCLA	UCM	UCOP	UCR	UCSB	UCSC	UCSD	UCSF	Total
Spain/Port #1, OAT	5	0	1		9		15				1	13							1			15
Spain/Port #2 OAT	6	2			3		11					4		1					1	1	4	11
Neth/Belg/Fr, Collette	5	1			3		9			2		5		2								9
Isds of New Eng, Collette	6		1		4		11					2	3	3						2	1	11
Can. Rockies, Collette	9	3			7		19				1	3		8						4	3	19
Cuba, Premier	14	4			9		27	2	4	2		4	3	2		2		4		4		27
Chile/Arg #1, OAT	10		1		5		16					5		4			1	2		3	1	16
Chile/Arg #2, OAT	5	1			6		12		2		2			3						4	1	12
Xmas on Danube, Collette	4	1			5		10	2				2	2							2	2	10
Total	64	12	3	0	51	0	130	4	6	4	4	38	8	23	0	2	1	6	2	20	12	130

UC Retirees Travel Trip Counts 2023 (excluding escorts)

Trip	Ret. Staff	Ret. Fac.	Curr. Staff	Curr. Fac.	Guests	Non UC	Total	LANL	LBNL	LLNL	UCB	UCD	UCI	UCLA	UCM	UCOP	UCR	UCSB	UCSC	UCSD	UCSF	Total	
Egypt	5	2			10		17				1	3								2	2	9	17
South Africa	10	1	4		4		19		1			2	8	1					2		5	19	
Spain/Portugal	5	4			6		15		2			4	4							2	3	15	
Japan #1	8	1			6		15				1	6		5					3			15	
Japan #2	8	1			5		14			1	2	3		1		2				2	3	14	
Total	36	9	4	0	31	0	80	0	3	1	4	18	12	7	0	2	0	0	7	6	20	80	

Grand Total	100	21	7	0	82	0	210	4	9	5	8	56	20	30	0	4	1	6	9	26	32	210
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Some of our 2023 trips still have limited space available. We are off to a good start with 2024 bookings. The number of participants (excluding escorts) for upcoming confirmed trips as of April 22, 2023, are:

- Ireland #1, 4/24-5/6/2023, Collette (11)
- Rhine/Moselle cruise, 8/27-9/4/2023, Collette (2)
- Iceland #1, 9/20-10/2, OAT (15)
- Iceland #2, 9/19-10/1, OAT (15)
- Greek Isles, 10/9-24/2023, Collette (17)
- Cuba, 10/23-29/2023, Premier (15)
- Music Cities Holiday, 12/10-17/2023, Collette (6)
- Costa Rica, 1/20-2/1/2024, Collette (13)
- Australia/New Zealand, 3/4-25/2024, Collette (5)
- Japan, 3/15-29, OAT (8)
- Sicily, 3/30-4/14/2024, OAT (2)
- Morocco, 4/4-19/2024, Collette (7)
- Turkey, 4/4-20/2024, OAT (1)
- Memorials of WWII, 8/19-28/2024, Collette (3)
- Scotland, 10/7-24/2024, OAT (1)

Additional trips in the planning stages for 2024 include a Rhone River cruise, a Croatia yacht cruise, Switzerland, a culinary journey through Tuscany, Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia/Thailand, and Montreal and Quebec City Christmas markets.

Submitted by Sue Barnes, UC Retirees Travel program coordinator