



## CUCRA/CUCEA Meeting, October 25 & 26

### Introduction

By October 25, UC Retirees Travel will have completed six trips since the April 2023 CUCRA/CUCEA meeting— Ireland (two departures), Rhone/Moselle River cruise, Iceland (two departures), and Greece. Two additional trips will be completed by the end of 2023. A group of travelers will be in Cuba while CUCRA meets in Davis and the last trip of the year, America's Music Cities Holiday, will depart on December 3, 2023.

### 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 2,545 subscribers to 3,102 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 six trip preview webinars: one by Collette, one by OAT, one by Premier, and three by our volunteers, hosted by UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, and UC Berkeley. We have found a successful model...partnering with specific campuses to host webinars. The host campus publicizes the event to its retirees, and we also invite retirees from all UC locations to register. We usually have 60-80 participants and have been able to add many new travelers to our email list by reaching out to webinar attendees. Upcoming webinars will be hosted by UC San Diego (11/14/2023) and UC Davis (1/10/2023).

### Traveler Support

Most of our work involves pre-trip preparation. We provided the following support to travelers prior to departure:

- Answered questions and provided information to those considering trips and those who have registered.
- Sent welcome email messages and regular updates to trip registrants, including preparatory book and movie suggestions, packing tips, safety information, and more.
- Sent tchotchkes (UC Retirees Travel luggage handle wraps and nylon shopping bags) to registrants.
- Scheduled pre-trip meetings via Zoom about two weeks prior to departure for each trip.

During the trip, the escorts provided support to the trip leaders and helped to mediate any issues that arose.

### 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.

### Lessons Learned

- **FAQs**-We receive many of the same questions repeatedly, so we developed a Frequently-Asked Questions web page and PDF handout which is posted on the page, <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/travel-FAQs.html>. We include the link to the page in our monthly e-newsletter, send it to anyone who asks about trips, and include it in our welcome email to anyone who registers for a trip.
- **Activity levels**- Most of our travelers are moderately to very active, but on a few trips, some travelers have struggled to keep up physically, so we are more clearly emphasizing trip activity levels. We plan to offer one river cruise each year, as a cruise is a good option for those who prefer a more leisurely pace.
- **Registration timelines**-Several travelers have been disappointed to be placed on a waiting list, so we are more clearly emphasizing early registration. Our partner tour operators hold space for us until six to seven months prior to departure. If we have not filled our spaces, the held seats are opened to the public. At that point, trips often fill immediately.
- **Web photos**-I will not use copyrighted photos with permission! I inadvertently used a copyrighted photo on the UC Retirees Travel website and an attorney in Germany is demanding payment for our unauthorized use of the photo. UC's general counsel office is assisting with resolving the situation.



## Trip Participation

We experienced a significant increase in the number of travelers this year. In 2022, we took a total of 130 travelers on nine trips. By the end of 2023, we will have taken 189 travelers on thirteen trips. Seventeen trips are scheduled for 2024 and fifteen trips are tentatively planned for 2025.

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 (Collette)	5	2			10		17				1	3							2	2	9	17
South Africa (Collette)	10	1	4		4		19		1			3	7	1					2		5	19
Spain/Portugal (OAT)	5	4			6		15		2			4	4							2	3	15
Japan #1 (OAT)	8	1			6		15				1	5		5					4			15
Japan #2 (OAT)	9	1			4		14			1	2	3		1		2				2	3	14
Ireland A (Collette)	6				6		12				4			4						4		12
Rhine/Moselle Cruise (Coll)	1				1		2													2		2
Iceland A (OAT)	8				7		15				1	1	2	4			1		1	2	3	15
Iceland B (OAT)	10				5		15			1	1	5		1					4	3		15
Ireland B (Collette)	4	3			6		13		1	2				2					2	4	2	13
Greece (Collette)	5	4	1		9		19				2	2		5					2	2	6	19
Cuba (Premier)	11	2			10		23	5		4	1	2		3			5			1	2	23
America's Music Cities (Coll)	5				5		10				2	4	2	2								10
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>189</b>

**Total number of trips:** 13      Collette Travelers (7 trips): 92      OAT Travelers (5 trips): 74      Premier Travelers (1 trip): 23  
**Average travelers/trip:** 15

## 2024 Trips

Several 2024 trips are full, and others are filling rapidly. The number of registrants (excluding escorts) for 2024 trips as of October 6, 2023, are:

- Costa Rica, 1/20-2/1/2024, Collette (24-filled)
- Australia/NZ, 3/4-25/2024, Collette (11-registration closed after trip opened to the public and it filled)
- Japan A, 3/15-29, OAT (15-filled)
- Sicily, 3/30-4/14/2024, OAT (9)
- Morocco, 4/4-19/2024, Collette (17-registration closed after trip opened to public and it filled)
- Turkey, 4/4-20/2024, OAT (11-filled)
- Great Rivers of Europe cruise, 5/9-24, GCT (10)
- Croatia yacht cruise, 6/4-15, Collette (8-registration closed after trip opened to public and it filled)
- Memorials of WWII, 8/19-28/2024, Collette (8)
- Japan B, 9/4-18/2024, OAT (5)
- Switzerland, 9/10-20/2024, Collette (3)
- Tuscany, 10/15-23, Premier (18)
- Scotland A, 10/7-24/2024, OAT (15-filled)
- Scotland B, 09/8-22/2024, OAT (4)
- Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia/Thailand, 11/7-25/2024, Collette (14)
- Montreal/Quebec Christmas, 12/11-16/2024, Premier (2)

## 2025 Trips

We are tentatively planning 15 trips for 2025: Costa Rica, Finland, the Galapagos, Italy (two different itineraries), Portugal/Spain, Yosemite/Grand Tetons/Mount Rushmore, Scandinavia, Africa, England/Scotland, France, Cuba, Niagara Falls, Guatemala/Belize, and a Danube River Cruise.

*Submitted by Sue Barnes, UC Retirees Travel program coordinator*