



CUCRA/CUCEA Meeting, April 24 & 25, 2024

Introduction

As of October 29, we will have completed nine trips since the April 2024 CUCRA/CUCEA meeting: the Great Rivers of Europe cruise, Croatia yacht cruise, Memorials of WWII (England and France), Iceland, Japan, Scotland (two different departures), Alpine Lakes & Scenic Trains, and Culinary Journey through Tuscany.

Publicity

- We continued the monthly *Travel Talk* e-newsletter. Our email list started in May 2019 with 689 subscribers. Since April, the list has grown from 3,680 subscribers to 4,130 subscribers.
- We continued sending publicity to retiree center directors, CUCRA reps, and *New Dimensions* editor.
- We offered three trip preview webinars: one by Collette and two by our volunteers, hosted by UCSB and UC Riverside. We continue to have success with partnering with specific campuses to host webinars. The host campus publicizes the event to its retirees, and we invite retirees from all UC locations to register. Attendance ranges from 30-90 people. We add new travelers to our email list with each webinar.
- We ordered refrigerator magnets to give away at in-person retiree events. The magnets include the UC Retirees Travel website, email address, and group numbers for OAT and Collette.

Traveler Support

Most of our work continues to be pre-trip preparation. We provided support to travelers prior to departure:

- We answered questions & provided information to those considering trips and those who have registered.
- We sent welcome email messages and regular updates to trip registrants, including preparatory book and movie suggestions, packing tips, safety information, and more.
- We collected information to prepare a traveler profile sheet for each trip to share with that trip's travelers.
- We sent tchotchkes (UC Retirees Travel laundry bags) to registrants.
- We scheduled pre-trip meetings via Zoom about two weeks prior to departure for each trip.
- During the trips, escorts provided support to the trip leaders and helped to mediate any issues that arose. Some of our trips are a mix of UC travelers and non-UC travelers. Many non-UC travelers have expressed envy about all the prep and caring that UC travelers get and wish they were UC Retiree travelers as well.

Management

- We held monthly Zoom meetings with UC Retirees Travel volunteers (Sue Barnes, UCD/UCLA; Dolores Dyer, UCLA, assistant coordinator; and escorts Frank Trueba, UCSC; Sandra Norberg, UCSF; Vickie Leow, UCSF; Sabina White, UCSB; Elise Woods, UCB; and Judi Franz, UCI) to discuss successes and brainstorm solutions to challenges.
- Sue and Dolores connected at least twice per week to coordinate plans and address issues.
- We provided training for the new escorts.

Tour Operator Additional Incentives

Both Collette and Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT)/Grand Circle Travel (GCT) have begun offering us additional incentives because of the number of travelers we are bringing to them.

- Collette offers us an additional \$3,000 commission for every 30 travelers, in the form of credits to be used in the following year. We earned an extra \$9,000 in 2024 which will add to our 2025 trip commissions.
- OAT/GCT increases our commission from 10% to 12% for every traveler beyond 50 each year. We reached 50 travelers in May of this year, so we earned 12% for travelers during the second half of the year.
- Collette and OAT/GCT pay CUCRA a commission for individual travelers who mention CUCRA's group number when they register for any of their trips. We have earned about \$8,500 in commissions from nine individual travelers since April 2024. As an added incentive for travelers who mention our group code, OAT offers the travelers a \$100 per person discount and Collette offers a \$50 per person discount.

Trip Participation

We have increased the number of trips and travelers each year since we started up again after the pandemic:

- 2022: 9 trips, 130 travelers
- 2023: 13 trips, 189 travelers
- 2024: 18 trips, 257 travelers anticipated
- 2025: 22 trips, 190 travelers to date, 300 projected

We have reached the number of trips manageable by volunteers, so we will level off at 18-22 trips per year.

2024 Trip Participation Details Year-To-Date (as of October 3, 2024)

Trips with totals listed in red have not yet occurred; those totals may change if we have any cancellations.

UC Retirees Travel Trip Counts 2024 (excluding escorts)

Trip	Ret. Staff	Ret Fac	Curr Staff	Curr Fac	Guests	Non UC	Total	LANL	LBNL	LLNL	UCB	UCD	UCI	UCLA	UCOP	UCR	UCSB	UCSC	UCSD	UCSF	Total	
Costa Rica (Collette)	11	3			8		22		2	2	2		2	5		2		1	2	4		22
Australia/NZ (Collette)	5	2			4		11				1	2		4				1	2	1		11
Japan A (OAT)	6	1			5		12				2	2		3			1		2	2		12
Sicily (OAT)	4	2			5		11			1	1			1			3		3	2		11
Morocco (Collette)	5	4			6		15					3	2		2				5	3		15
Turkey (OAT)	5	2			3		10					2		3			2			3		10
Great Rivers Cruise (GCT)	12				7		19	1		4	2	6				2				3	1	19
Croatia (Collette)	4				2		6	2										2	2			6
Memorials of WWII (Collette)	10				5		15					2	5	5		1				2		15
Iceland (OAT)	6				3		9				2			2	2					1	2	9
Japan B (OAT)	9		1		5		15		1			2		2	2				1	5	2	15
Scotland A (OAT)	10				5		15			4	2	1		3	1					2	2	15
Scotland B (OAT)	8		1		5		14			4	3	3	1	3								14
Alpine Lakes (Collette)	3	2	2		5		12				4			8								12
Tuscany (Premier)	8	2			11	2	23			2				3	4	6	1			5		21
SE Asia A (Collette)							5															
SE Asia B (Collette)							20															
Montreal/Quebec (Premier)							23															
Total	106	14	0	0	79	0	257	3	3	17	19	23	10	42	11	11	7	5	34	22	207	

Total number of trips: 18 Collette (8 trips): 106 OAT/GCT (8 trips): 105 Premier (2 trips): 46
Average travelers/trip: 14.4

2025 Trip Details Year-To-Date

Several trips scheduled in the first half of the year are full but there is still ample space open on many trips. Two trips with limited space remaining are noted below. The year-to-date numbers of travelers, excluding escorts, are:

Trip	Dates	Regist.	Avail.	Trip	Dates	Regist.	Avail.
Galapagos A (OAT)	1/9-24/2025	13	FULL	Africa B (OAT)	6/22-7/9/2025	14	FULL
Galapagos B (OAT)	1/16-2/1/2025	13	FULL	Canadian Maritimes (Coll)	7/27-8/6/2025	6	
Costa Rica (Collette)	1/31-2/8/2025	13	FULL	Scandinavia (Collette)	8/3-17/2025	6	
Finland (Collette)	2/20-27/2025	23	FULL	Azores (Collette)	8/14-26/2025	1	
Italian Vistas (Collette)	3/3-15/2025	22	FULL	England/Scotland (Collette)	9/17-30/2025	3	
Japan (OAT)	3/17-31/2025	12	2 dbls.	France (OAT)	9/19-10/5/2025	4	
N. Spain/Portugal (OAT)	3/30-4/15/2025	15	FULL	N. Spain/Portugal (OAT)	3/30-4/15/2025	3	
Danube River Cruise (GCT)	4/19-5/3/2025	12		Niagara Falls (Collette)	10/15-22/2025	5	
Northern Italy (OAT)	4/28-5/13/2025	6		Cuba (Premier)	10/20-25/2025	4	
Cowboy Country (Collette)	5/22-29/2025	5		India (OAT)	11/11-29/2025	0	
Africa A (OAT)	6/19-7/6/2025	10	2 dbls.	Vanc/Vict. Xmas (Premier)	Dec. TBD	0	
Total		190					

Submitted by Sue Barnes, UC Retirees Travel coordinator, and Dolores Dyer, assistant coordinator