

Connections 2023

Travel News

Take the Visual Tour



and Explore Your World

www.owensborohealth.org/travelwithconnections



Dear Connections Traveler,

Finally, the long awaited 2023-24 Travel Brochure! I am so excited to be adding travel back to our program.

It was a little challenging this year as many hotels no longer want to hold group space with non-refundable deposits and many no longer have staff to offer luggage handling. In the end, I finally scheduled a few trips for this year and expect 2024 to be back to normal with a full slate of trips. A few are even listed in this brochure. As soon as all the details are worked out I will update each trip.

Our Travel Program is one of the top reasons people join Connections. Travel plays an important role in maintaining a healthy lifestyle: physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It keeps you active, and older adults who are more physically active have lower rates of high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke and many other diseases. It stimulates and challenges your brain as you encounter new people, cultures and environments. It reduces stress and improves your mood and outlook on life. Travel shows you a world that you may not have known was out there. You may see and do things that you never dreamed of and with group travel you will certainly make new friends and renew old acquaintances.

I love planning trips and try to make each trip special and unique. For instance, notice that our Christmas in Memphis Tour includes a private event for a select few motorcoach groups and we will be staying at the Guest House at Graceland for all 3 nights!! I like to think it's these little things that set the Connections travel program apart from other travel programs.

I hope you find a trip or two that inspires you to join as we set out to see the world! I look forward to traveling with you and on behalf of Owensboro Health, I thank you for your support of Connections, where it is our goal to connect you to better health through education, socialization, fitness and travel.

Sincerely,

Melinda Cornell

Manager of Volunteer and Guest Services, Connections and Travel

melinda.cornell@owensborohealth.org

Spring Day at the Races

Friday, June 9, 2023

\$99 per person



Day at the Races is still one of Connections most popular trips and one of my very favorites! Each year we take the motorcoach to Churchill Downs for a fun-filled Day at the Races! It is horse racing at its finest. We start our adventure with the "Chef's Table of Delight" for lunch. Then we will spend the entire afternoon enjoying the horse races while sitting in the comforts of Millionaires Row! You can step out onto the balcony for the race or watch on the screen right from your dining table! Reserve your seat now as this trip sells out fast. **Lunch included. Payment due in full at time of registration.**

Go Vera

June 15 – 16, 2023

\$324 per person double occupancy

\$397 per person single occupancy

\$298 per person triple occupancy

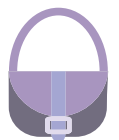
\$285 per person quad occupancy

Vera Bradley

Back by popular demand, the Vera Bradley annual outlet sale is happening once again. Held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, IN, this sale happens only once per year and you must have reservations to attend. Save as much as 70% off Vera Bradley items. Again, this year, we have secured two 2.5-hour time slots for Vera Bradley Factory Outlet Shopping during their 5-day annual event. Shop for hair accessories, travel accessories, key chains, hats, gloves, lunch sacks, coffee mugs, water bottles, tumblers, cosmetic bags, pens, umbrellas, planners, tea towels, scarfs, flip flops and every size bag/purse you can imagine!!! You'll get to shop on Thursday night and again on Friday morning. Special attention given to motorcoach travelers!! Arriving via motorcoach you will receive a Vera Bradley lanyard, drop off and pick up at the main doors, no waiting in the main line to enter the sale and refreshments in the waiting room where you'll wait for your friends to finish shopping. Best of all there is lots of room on the coach for shopping bags! Limited space – don't delay. 1 breakfast and 1 dinner meal voucher included. Optional Travel Protection Plan available.



The Vera Bradley
Factory Outlet Sale





Cancellation insurance is optional and available upon request. This is based on tour price and age per person. Pricing sheets are available at the Connections desk.

Inside 90 days of trip departure date a refund is only made after a claim has been filed and processed and after appropriate medical claims have been completed and approved by the insurance carrier.

Sound of Music – at the Derby Dinner Playhouse

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

(Lunch Show) \$89 per person



The final collaboration between Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II, *The Sound of Music*, has become a play beloved around the world. Based on the true story of the Von Trapp Family Singers, *The Sound of Music* tells the tale of young postulant Maria Rainer, whose free spirit has trouble fitting into the rules and regulations of Nonnberg Abbey. Commissioned by the Mother Abbess to serve as the governess for seven motherless children, Maria transforms the Von Trapp family home from a place of dour rules and regulations to one filled with joy, with laughter, and with music. In the process, Maria wins the hearts of all seven children--and their widower father, Captain Von Trapp. With the Mother Abbess' blessing, and to the children's delight, Maria follows her heart, and she and the Captain marry. Upon returning home from their honeymoon, Maria and the Captain learn that their beloved Austria has been taken over by the Nazis, and the retired Captain is asked to report for immediate service in the Nazi Navy. When the Nazis show up at their door to take Captain Von Trapp away, it is a family singing engagement (wily navigated by their friend Max) that buys the family time to make their narrow escape. Their Austrian convictions compel Maria, the Captain, and the children to flee over the mountains of Switzerland to safety, taking the words of the Mother Abbess to heart: "Climb Every Mountain... till you find your dream." Buffet Lunch included. **Payment due in full at time of registration.**

Dare to live the life you've always wanted.

Calling All Quilters, Shoppers and Chihuly Fans

August 24 – 27, 2023

Per person double occupancy	Connections Members \$1339	Non-Connections Members \$1489
Per person single occupancy	Connections Members \$1649	Non-Connections Members \$1799
Per person triple occupancy	Connections Members \$1199	Non-Connections Members \$1349

This 3-night trip was especially designed for the quilter, but turned into so much more as I started putting it together. A story in the bi-monthly magazine, Guidepost, spoke of a small town in Hamilton, MO, now known as “The Quilt Capital of the World”, but was actually put on the map many years ago by James Cash (J.C.) Penney. Boyhood hometown to J.C. Penney, Hamilton, MO. is a quaint little one stoplight town with many unique shops. You can find the perfect gift, home decor, flowers or quality fabric and accessories for all your quilting needs. You’ll also have the opportunity to visit the J.C. Penney Museum and Boyhood Home. After a full day in Hamilton we’ll travel to St. Charles, MO, a river city with a unique historical perspective, beautiful sites, friendly people and a pace just a little slower than that of the big city. *Saint Charles. A little mysterious - a lot of fun.* The highlight of this entire trip, however, may be the Missouri Botanical Gardens which will be hosting Chihuly in the Garden. Chihuly is most known for his work in glass art and has magnificent displays all over the U.S. Our late arrival to the Gardens will be the perfect time for dinner at Sassafras and the Chihuly Nights Experience, where you can view dramatically illuminated works of art throughout the garden. 7 meals included; 3 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, and 3 Dinners. Optional Travel Protection Plan available.



2023 Mystery Tour

September 25 – October 1, 2023

Per person double occupancy	Connections Members \$2539	Non-Connections Members \$2689
Per person single occupancy	Connections Members \$3079	Non-Connections Members \$3229
Per person triple occupancy	Connections Members \$2439	Non-Connections Members \$2589
Per person quad Occupancy	Connections Members \$2349	Non-Connections Members \$2499



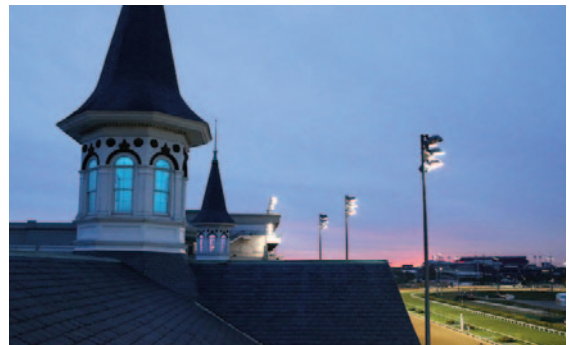
Well folks, I believe I have done it again – I have created another great opportunity for a grand Mystery Tour! New places, new scenery, new activities – where in the world could this be? I can't tell you much, but I can tell you – you won't want to miss this trip! It's filled with excitement from start to finish! And it may or may not be a place I have been before!!! Ha! **13 meals included; 6 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners.** Optional Travel Protection Plan available.



Fall Day at the Races

Friday, November 17, 2023

\$99 per person



When one day a year isn't enough, you go twice (Spring And Fall)!! We'll take the motorcoach to Churchill Downs for a fun-filled Day at the Races! It is horse racing at its finest. We start our adventure with the "Chef's Table of Delight" for lunch. Then we will spend the entire afternoon enjoying the horse races while sitting in the comforts of Millionaires Row! You can step out onto the balcony for the race or watch on the screen right from your dining table! Reserve your seat now as this trip sells out fast. **Buffet Lunch included. Payment due in full at time of registration.**

Christmas at Graceland *Thank you... Thank you very much*

December 4 – 7, 2023

Per person double occupancy	Connections Members \$1739	Non-Connections Members \$1899
Per person single occupancy	Connections Members \$1939	Non-Connections Members \$2099
Per person triple occupancy	Connections Members \$1639	Non-Connections Members \$1799
Per person quad Occupancy	Connections Members \$1589	Non-Connections Members \$1749

Travel with your Connections friends to Memphis, TN and check in to the Guest House at Graceland where you'll be staying for 3 nights! Before Dinner at the Kings Palace, we'll head over to the Peabody Hotel to see the **Peabody Duck March**, a sight you will talk about for days to come! Day Two will be full of fun and excitement as we take off on the **"Merry, Merry Mojo Tour"**, featuring a Mojo guide showing you the sights of the city while history sings. As you rock on down the road, you will also visit **Sun Studio**, the Birthplace of Rock n' Roll, and walk the halls where Elvis, Jerry Lee, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and a hundred others made music. Also included is a visit to the **Memphis Rock n' Soul Museum**, a Smithsonian Institution featuring the complete history of Memphis Music. It tells of the musical pioneers and legends of all racial and socio-economic backgrounds who, for the love of music, overcame obstacles to create the sounds that changed the world. You will have free time on **Beale Street** to have lunch on your own at one of the several restaurants. Tonight, you will be treated to the **Blue Christmas Holiday Dinner Show** where you can be sure a few of Elvis' greatest hits will be featured! Day Three is a full day in Dr. King's Memphis. You will drive by such

places as the **Mason Temple** and the **Claybourn Temple**. You will visit the **National Civil Rights Museum** and see the **Lorraine Motel**. Plus, you will tour **Stax Records** and enjoy a **Soul Food Lunch**. Tonight, perhaps will be the highlight of your tour. Typically, the Graceland Mansion closes for the evening, but by special arrangement it is available exclusively to a few select tour groups for a private event and we



were selected! Dinner tonight will be Memphis Barbecue buffet in the new **Elvis Presley Memphis Complex**. While here you will have access to the **Presley Motors Automobile Museum** and the **Elvis Entertainer Career Museum**. After 3 full days of Rock & Roll, Soul & Jazz we must head home, but not without a stop at the **Western Tennessee Heritage Center**. Featuring the home of Blues pioneer "Sleepy" John Estes and Flagg Grove School, the childhood school of Tina Turner, which is now home to a collection of the Queen of Rock's personal memorabilia including costumes and gold records. Even her high school yearbook is included among the treasures. 7 meals included; 3 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, and 3 Dinners. Optional Travel Protection Plan available.

*It's not what you look at that matters.
It's what you see.*

A Christmas Carol – at the Derby Dinner Playhouse

December 14, 2023

(Lunch Show) \$89 per person

A lively Broadway style musical adaptation of the classic Dickens tale. Follow along with Ebenezer Scrooge as he is visited by four ghosts; his old business partner Marley, the ghost of Christmas past, present and future. See what happens when he gets a glimpse of his own future if he doesn't change his life. Will Scrooge catch the holiday spirit and save himself in the process? Find out by joining us for this special holiday show with a story so warm it will melt the cold heart of even the grumpiest Scrooge! **Buffet Lunch included. Payment due in full at time of registration.**



Cancellation insurance is optional and available upon request. This is based on tour price and age per person. Pricing sheets are available at the Connections desk.

Inside 90 days of trip departure date a refund is only made after a claim has been filed and processed and after appropriate medical claims have been completed and approved by the insurance carrier.

Hawaiian Adventure

January 21 – 30, 2024

Per person double occupancy Connections Members \$6428

Per person single occupancy Connections Members \$8128

Per person triple occupancy Connections Members \$6378 Rates good through July 21, 2023

Book Now
& Save
\$50
Per Person

Embrace the spirit of “Aloha” on a leisurely 3-island tour of Hawaii featuring 3-night stays each in O’ahu, Big Island (Kona) and Maui. Remember Pearl Harbor and visit the USS Arizona Memorial. Take in the natural beauty of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island. Admire the hula dance, an ancient Polynesian art form. Visit a coffee farm in Kona and learn about the coffee bean’s journey from tree to cup. In Maui, visit the old royal capital of Lahaina where you can stroll through historic streets. Uncover the beauty, culture and traditions of all three islands. 13 meals included: 9 Breakfasts and 4 Dinners. Airline fees and cancellation and waiver insurance is also included in the cost of this trip.

Call for a more detailed brochure.



Bunco Squad – at the Derby Dinner Playhouse

February 7, 2024


\$89 per person

In this hilarious, brand-new comedy, you are invited to sit in on Bunco night in Seymour, Indiana! This squad of long-time friends drink, eat, reminisce, gossip, complain about their husbands and occasionally remember to play another round of Bunco. Written by Derby's very own, Jim Hesselman, this comedy is a slice of life with characters we all can recognize from our own neighborhoods. With a scoop of sass, a dollop of drama, a heap of heart, and loads of laughs, you will leave smiling ear to ear and ready to reconnect with old friends! **Buffet Lunch included. Payment due in full at time of registration.**



Explore Tuscany

April 17 – 25, 2024

Per person double occupancy	Connections Members \$4178	
Per person single occupancy	Connections Members \$4578	
Per person triple occupancy	Connections Members \$4148	

Discover the rolling hills of Tuscany, home to sprawling vineyards, charming medieval hill towns, and enchanting cities. Savor a 7-night stay in Montecatini Terme, the famous resort and spa town. Visit Pisa, Florence, and San Gimignano in the Italian countryside. Discover the charming town of Lucca, Italy's best-kept secret. Learn about the heroic deeds of WWII at remains of the Gothic Line and visit the Museum of Liberation. Enjoy free time to explore the cultural treasures of Florence. Partake in a Tuscan cooking class. Sample cheese at the farm where it is made. Enjoy fabulous local wines and the region's famous cuisine. Steeped in history, culture and legend, this is Tuscany as you always imagined it. 10 meals included: 7 Breakfasts and 3 Dinners. Airline fees and cancellation and waiver insurance is also included in the cost of this trip. **Call for a more detailed brochure.**



Footloose

– at the Derby Dinner Playhouse

May 15, 2024

\$89 per person

When Ren and his mother move from Chicago to a small farming town, he is prepared for the inevitable adjustment period at his new high school. But he's not prepared for the rigorous local edicts, including a ban on dancing instituted by the local preacher, who is determined to exercise control over the town's youth. When the reverend's rebellious daughter sets her sights on Ren, her roughneck boyfriend tries to sabotage Ren's reputation, with many of the locals eager to believe the worst about the new kid. The heartfelt story that emerges pins a father longing for the son he lost against a young man aching for the father who walked out on him. To the rockin' rhythm of its Oscar and Tony-nominated Top 40 score, augmented with dynamic new songs, Footloose celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people while guiding them with a warm heart and open mind. **Buffet Lunch included. Payment due in full at time of registration.**



*The journey of a thousand miles begins
with a single step.*

Also coming in Spring 2024

Savannah & Charleston
Cheekwood Gardens Tour
A Kentucky Series Trip

Connections General Trip Information

Cost:

Connections trips include all transportation, hotel/motel accommodations, tours, admission fees, tips and gratuities for all meals included in the itinerary, and the bellhop gratuities when available.

Transportation:

All trips depart from Owensboro.

Deposits:

Deposits are due within 10 days after making a reservation. Deposit amounts may vary depending upon the cost of the trip. For 1-day trips, payment in full is requested when making your reservation.

Reservations:

We suggest you make your reservation as soon as you know your travel schedule. Trips are scheduled with pre-arranged seating and many times extra seats for shows, meals, or even motorcoaches are not available. To avoid being disappointed, sign up before the trip is sold out. To register, call Connections at (270) 688-4855.

Waiting List:

Connections will take a waiting list on all tours since we do have frequent cancellations. When a cancellation is known, the vacancy will be filled from the waiting list in the date order in which it was received.

Cancellation Policy:

Connections realizes that, due to uncontrollable circumstances, there may be times you have to cancel a tour; therefore we offer an optional travel protection plan. In the event that a cancellation becomes necessary and you have purchased the Connections optional plan, the following policy will apply:

Cancellations made 90 days or more prior to the tour departure will receive a full refund less any non-recoverable expenditures made on behalf of the participant at the time of the cancellation, such as meals, tickets, hotels, etc. Many hotels and restaurants require payments be made 45 – 90 days out from a trip and tickets are often purchased in advance as well.

Inside 90 days WITH the purchase of the Connections optional travel protection plan: Inside 90 days your travel protection plan becomes effective. You will be protected against cancellation fees for unforeseen circumstances such as illness, death in the family or accidents. Under this program, you will receive a refund of all trip payments less the insurance fee (once all the necessary paperwork has been submitted and approved by the carrier). It is optional and is the responsibility of the traveler to purchase Connections travel protection plan.

Inside 90 days WITHOUT the Connections travel protection plan: You will only receive money that is recoverable. Please remember many hotels and restaurants require payments be made 45 – 90 days out from a trip and tickets are often purchased in advance as well. While Connections will try to recover all of your money there is no guarantee as each venue has its own cancellation policy.

Please note: Trips in which we partner with Collette have a separate travel protection policy and will override the above policy.

Frequently asked questions:

What does seat reduction date mean?

This is the last date the airlines will hold empty space for our group. If you have not registered by this date there is no guarantee of space. It then becomes first come first served and fees may have to be renegotiated.

Why are early deposits required?

Deposits are required to reserve space on the coach or airplane. Also the uniqueness of some of the activities on a trip requires an early deposit to hold space. Many places now require groups to pay in full at least 2 months out from the trip.

Why are single rooms so much more expensive?

Most hotels set a price for a room. The cost of this room is then divided by the number of people in that room. Persons rooming alone will bear the entire expense.

Can there be more than 2 people to a room?

In most situations, accommodations will allow up to 4 people in a room. Pricing available upon request.

Can installment payments be made?

Yes, except on trips under \$100. All trips over \$100 can be paid through monthly installments, as long as the last payment is made by the final payment date.

Always be on the lookout for the presence of wonder

- EB White



Motorcoach Trip Protector

Trip Cancellation or Interruption – up to 100% of non-refundable trip cost
Accident/Medical (Secondary Insurance) – up to \$5000 of medical expense

Calling All Quilters, Shoppers and Chihuly Fans

AUGUST 24 – 27, 2023 – OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

MEMBER

AGE	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE
Trip Cost	\$1649.00	\$1339.00	\$1199.00
Insurance Rates.....			
50 – 55	\$56.00	\$46.00	\$41.00
56 – 65	\$79.00	\$64.00	\$58.00
66 – 70	\$96.00	\$77.00	\$70.00
71 – 80	\$119.00	\$97.00	\$87.00
81 – 85	\$171.00	\$139.00	\$124.00
86 – 89	\$236.00	\$191.00	\$171.00

NON-MEMBER

AGE	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE
Trip Cost	\$1799.00	\$1489.00	\$1349.00
Insurance Rates.....			
50 – 55	\$62.00	\$51.00	\$46.00
56 – 65	\$86.00	\$72.00	\$65.00
66 – 70	\$104.00	\$86.00	\$78.00
71 – 80	\$130.00	\$108.00	\$98.00
81 – 85	\$186.00	\$154.00	\$140.00
86 – 89	\$257.00	\$213.00	\$193.00

Motorcoach Trip Protector

Trip Cancellation or Interruption – up to 100% of non-refundable trip cost
Accident/Medical (Secondary Insurance) – up to \$5000 of medical expense

CONNECTIONS MYSTERY TRIP

September 25 – October 1, 2023 – OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

MEMBER

AGE	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	QUAD
Trip Cost	\$3079.00	\$2539.00	\$2439.00	\$2439.00
Insurance Rates.....				
50 – 55	\$131.00	\$108.00	\$83.00	\$80.00
56 – 65	\$184.00	\$152.00	\$117.00	\$113.00
66 – 70	\$223.00	\$184.00	\$141.00	\$136.00
71 – 80	\$278.00	\$229.00	\$176.00	\$169.00
81 – 85	\$397.00	\$328.00	\$252.00	\$243.00
86 – 89	\$549.00	\$453.00	\$348.00	\$335.00

NON-MEMBER

AGE	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	QUAD
Trip Cost	\$3229.00	\$2689.00	\$2589.00	\$2499.00
Insurance Rates.....				
50 – 55	\$138.00	\$115.00	\$110.00	\$85.00
56 – 65	\$193.00	\$161.00	\$155.00	\$120.00
66 – 70	\$234.00	\$195.00	\$187.00	\$145.00
71 – 80	\$291.00	\$242.00	\$233.00	\$180.00
81 – 85	\$417.00	\$347.00	\$334.00	\$258.00
86 – 89	\$576.00	\$480.00	\$462.00	\$357.00

Motorcoach Trip Protector

Trip Cancellation or Interruption – up to 100% of non-refundable trip cost
Accident/Medical (Secondary Insurance) – up to \$5000 of medical expense

Christmas in Memphis

December 4 – 7, 2023 – OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

MEMBER

AGE	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	QUAD
Trip Cost	\$1939.00	\$1739.00	\$1639.00	\$1589.00
Insurance Rates.....				
50 – 55	\$66.00	\$60.00	\$56.00	\$54.00
56 – 65	\$93.00	\$83.00	\$79.00	\$76.00
66 – 70	\$112.00	\$101.00	\$95.00	\$92.00
71 – 80	\$140.00	\$126.00	\$118.00	\$115.00
81 – 85	\$200.00	\$180.00	\$170.00	\$164.00
86 – 89	\$277.00	\$248.00	\$234.00	\$227.00

NON-MEMBER

AGE	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	QUAD
Trip Cost	\$2099.00	\$1899.00	\$1799.00	\$1749.00
Insurance Rates.....				
50 – 55	\$72.00	\$65.00	\$62.00	\$60.00
56 – 65	\$101.00	\$91.00	\$86.00	\$84.00
66 – 70	\$122.00	\$110.00	\$104.00	\$101.00
71 – 80	\$152.00	\$137.00	\$130.00	\$126.00
81 – 85	\$217.00	\$196.00	\$186.00	\$181.00
86 – 89	\$299.00	\$271.00	\$257.00	\$250.00

NOTES:



Connections

PO Box 20007
Owensboro, KY 42304

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Make Connections your
travel partner today!**

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