



Newsletter

WWW.LAKEFREDERICKTRAVELCLUB.COM

MEETS THE 2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. IN RACHEL'S KITCHEN

2022 Committee

George Darnell
President

Doc Holladay
Vice President

Pam Toliver
Secretary

Gary McDowell
Treasurer

Chris Oxford
Membership Coordinator

Peggy Sabato
Newsletter Coordinator

TBD
Website Manager

Judy Bogner
Member at Large

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, January 9, 2023
Rachel's Kitchen
11:30 a.m.
Potluck
Please Bring a Dish to Share!

January 2023 ISSUE

President's Message for January 2023

Happy New Travel Year! I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season with family and friends and that the only pipes that burst were in the Athletic Center. What a mess!

It looks like travel is almost back to normal for 2023, and we are looking forward to some exciting trips. Please study our planned trips and sign up early for any trips of interest.

We selected a few of Shenandoah Tours' trips to highlight, but they have many others. They also offer some ingestion day trips to their travel club members. You can join for \$10. I invite you to visit their website or call them to get a hard copy color catalog. They fill up quickly. If we get at least 10 people from Lake Frederick on one of their trips, they will pick us up at the lodge. Tell them you live here when you register. Otherwise, we can park our cars at the Red Roof Inn on Rt. 50 near Rt. 522 for pick up. Their "Colors of Autumn" trip in October should appeal to Travel Club members. Michelle and I plan to sign up. Pittsburg is her hometown.

The club has several day trips of our own planned for this year, starting with a caverns tour in January. We will continue to use the MTL online event registration to help us keep track of who has signed up. Don't forget to drop off your check with the concierge to confirm your registration.

Greg Payonk has also arranged some interesting trips that we included in our calendar. We included information he provided me as PDF files in this newsletter. Contact Greg at gpayonk@gmail.com if you are interested.

Many thanks to all our committee members and travelers for continuing to support our club. If you have any ideas for trips, please let us know, especially if you can help us arrange the trip. We are a club, not a travel service.

Don't forget our potluck luncheon in Rachel's Kitchen on January 9th at 11:30 a.m. They are always fun.

See you around the hood . . .

George Darnell
Club President

Christmas in Union Station & DC Holiday Lights

December 16, 2022 by George Darnell



It is hard to find a more wonderful city for Christmas than nearby Washington, DC. We left the lodge in a VA Rides bus around 2:00 p.m. and took I-66 all the way into DC. Our driver missed the turn into the fourth-level parking garage behind Union Station and drove around to the front to let us off. That gave us a chance to see the decorated front of the station and enter into the main

hall with holiday travelers. It is a cavernous room with nothing but a large Christmas Tree from Norway on one side. It was once the main waiting room with large wooden benches.

We took a quick walk around the station, stopping for a comfort break at the restrooms, before making our way to the mezzanine level for dinner in one of the restaurants. Union Station has not recovered from Covid and many of the shops and table-service restaurants are still closed. We were disappointed to find that the only one open was Uno's and they couldn't seat us because they were short-staffed and expecting two large parties with reservations. So, we split up to visit the food courts on the main and lower levels for our evening meals.

Afterwards, we met our tour guide, Becca, at the Christmas tree. She took a group picture for us and then led us to our bus on the fourth level. Becca directed our driver to the Capitol Christmas Tree while she gave us some history of George Washington's and Pierre L'Enfant's plans for our nation's capital. We were able to park the bus a short distance from the tree and walk to it for pictures.



While most of the embassies in DC are on "Embassy Row," (Massachusetts Avenue), Becca told us that the Canadian Embassy is on Pennsylvania Ave between the Capitol and the White House. We stopped there to see their Christmas Tree in the large Parthenon style gazebo in front of the embassy.

Our next stop was "City Center" on New York Ave to view the tallest Christmas Tree in Washington. Becca told us this was part of an effort by the city to bring shoppers back into the city as part of its renovation.

The National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse behind the White House was our next destination. We passed the Executive Office Building near the White House and found a parking spot on the street nearby. It was a short walk to the site, between the White House and the Washington Monument.





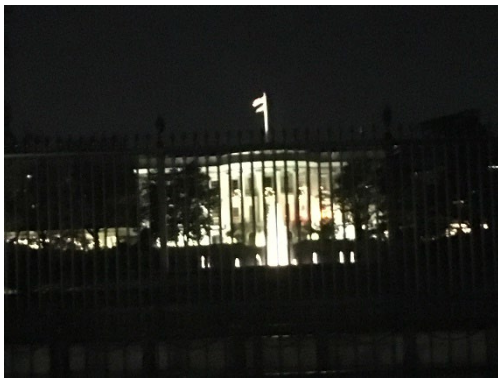
The National Tree is surrounded by smaller trees representing the 50 states, US Territories, and major US installations around the world. They are in alphabetical order, making it easy to find Virginia and other trees of interest to our group. A highlight of the evening was a young man proposing to his girlfriend by the tree. Romance still lives.



We couldn't get a good view of the White House because of the 12-foot iron security fence around the grounds. It wasn't there 40 years

ago when Michelle and I took our children to see the tree. Times change.

Our last stop was the Reflecting Pool and Lincoln Memorial. Becca knew we would need a restroom break before starting our drive back to Lake Frederick. There are restrooms and museum displays in the basement of the memorial with a ground level entrance and an elevator to the main level. Who knew?



I shared with some of the group that my first job after high school was in WWII temporary buildings on the south side of the Reflecting Pool. They were used by "The Agency" until they built their headquarters in Langley. I joined many other

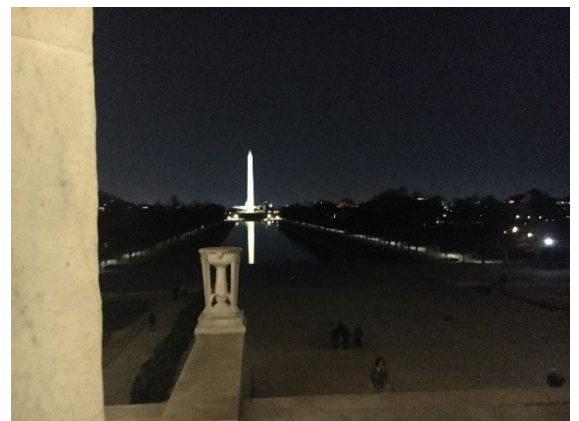
college students and some housewives working parttime in the evening doing clerical work during the height of the Cold War.



We were blessed with a calm winter evening with clear views down the Mall to the Washington Monument and the Capitol beyond. Washington, DC is truly a beautiful city, especially lighted for Christmas. But it was not always that way, as Becca reminded us at the beginning of our tour. And recent renovations and new memorials are making it even more attractive. We lingered a while, remembering all the historic events that had taken place around us. Then we boarded our bus to head for home after thanking Becca and giving her an envelope of tips. How she got home we will never know, but I suspect a friend was waiting nearby to help her.

Our ride home took us past the colorfully lighted Kennedy

Center on the Potomac. Some of us would return there a week later to attend the musical, "Wicked." We arrive back at the lodge about 10:00 p.m., tipped our driver, Kevin, and returned to our homes. It was a pleasant trip.



Trips Planned for 2023

- Jan 20—Luray & Skyline Caverns Tour; \$40 R/T bus.
- Feb 17—Winter Wine Tour; Aspen Dale, Fox Meadow, & Valerie Hill; \$40 R/T bus
- Mar 17—St. Patrick's Pub Crawl TBD
- Mar 27—Cherry Blossoms/Jefferson Memorial/Lunch on the Wharf; \$50 R/T bus
- Mar 30—Bluebell Hike in Front Royal
- Mar 31-Apr 1—Moses/Sister Act; Lancaster, PA; 2 Days/1 Night/ 3 Meals; \$459 pp dbl, \$4538 sgl, R/T coach; \$100 dep by Feb 1 - Contact [Shenandoah Tours](#).
- Apr 5-13—Chesapeake Bay Cruise
- Apr 10-14—Charleston & Savannah: Springtime in the Old South; 5 days/ 4 nights/ 7 meals; \$1349 pp dbl, \$1759 sgl, R/T coach; \$100 dep by Feb 10 - Contact [Shenandoah Tours](#).
- Apr 29—Apple Blossom Parade; reserved seat on parade route plus R/T shuttle \$50
- May 12—Winchester Battlefields TBD
- May 27-Jun 1—Bermuda Cruise w/Greg on Royal Caribbean from NJ; \$552 pp inside cabin by Feb 1; carpool R/T NJ; Contact Gregory Payonk gpayonk@gmail.com
- Jun 5-8—Niagara Falls; 4 days/ 3 nights/ 4 meals; \$789 pp dbl, \$979 sgl, R/T coach, \$100 dep by Apr 1 - Contact [Shenandoah Tours](#).
- Jun 16—Culpeper/Montpelier Wine Tour TBD
- Jun 22—Potomac River Dinner Cruise TBD
- Jul 31-Aug 12—The Best of Alaska: Klondike, Denali & Glacier Bay & Inside Passage Cruise & Train Tour; 13 days/12 nights; 27 meals from \$4727 pp plus airfare (TBA) – \$600 dep by Mar 1 - Contact [Shenandoah Tours](#).
- Aug 18—Manassas National Battlefield Park Tour & Brewery Lunch Tour TBA
- Aug 26—Charlottesville Area Wine Tour TBA
- Sep 16—Harpers Ferry, WV Tour TBA
- Sep 24-Oct 1—Globus Iceland Tour w/Greg; 8 days/ 7 nights/ bkfst & dnr daily; R/T air from Dulles; \$4,536 pp w/\$500 deposit by Jun 1; R/T carpool to Dulles; Contact Gregory Payonk gpayonk@gmail.com -
- Sep 29—Oktoberfest Brewery Tour TBD
- Oct 12-14—Colors of Autumn: Falling-water, Pittsburgh tour & river cruise, Potomac Eagle train ride; 3 days/ 2 nights/ 6 meals; \$839 pp dbl, \$1039 sgl., R/T Coach; \$100 dep by Aug 1 - contact [Shenandoah Tours](#).
- Oct 23—Camp Rapidan Tour by NPS TBD
- Nov 16—Night at Charles Town Races TBD
- Nov 28-30—Longwood Gardens/Miracle of Christmas in PA; 3 days, 2 nights, 4 meals; \$769 pp dbl, \$899; \$100 dep by Sep 15, R/ Coach - contact [Shenandoah Tours](#).
- Dec 10-13—Christmas in Williamsburg TBD

Please note: Shenandoah Tours fill quickly; make reservations early!

Skyline & Luray Caverns Tours, January 20, 2023



What better way to stay warm in winter than to tour beautiful underground caverns nearby? For this trip we will visit Skyline Caverns in Front Royal and Luray Caverns in Luray. We should have them almost to ourselves. We may be able to get discounts on the admissions if the group is large enough. Skyline Caverns <https://skylinecaverns.com/> admission is \$20.00 with discount coupon, which we have. Luray Caverns <https://luraycaverns.com/> admission is \$28.00 each or \$18.50 each if we have at least 20 travelers. You can pay individually for both tours. After visiting Skyline Caverns we will have lunch at Vibrations in Front Royal <https://vibrissabeer.com/>. They have an excellent lunch menu with a variety of beverages in addition to their draft brews. Here is our schedule.

- 9:00 AM – Board bus at Lodge
- 9:30 AM -- Arrive Skyline Caverns for tour
- 12:00 PM -- Arrive Vibrations for lunch
- 1:00 PM – Depart for Luray Caverns
- 2:00 PM – Arrive Luray Caverns for tour
- 3:30 PM – Depart Luray Caverns
- 5:00 PM – Arrive Lodge

Minimum for this trip is 14 and maximum is 28. Registration is \$50 for transportation.

Estimate of other expenses:

\$20 – Skyline Caverns
\$28 – Luray Caverns
\$10-20 – Lunch

Please register online with MTL and drop off a check with your contact information and the date of the trip with the lodge concierge no later than Jan 15, 2023.

Bermuda Cruise (6 days) – \$552*/pp May 27 – June 1, 2023

INCLUDES:

- Royal Caribbean Liberty of the Seas departing Port Liberty, Bayonne, NJ (inside cabin)
- Gratuities, port charges, taxes, fees

Cruise Itinerary - Check-in Between: 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM (Embarkation time, itinerary)

Date	Port Location	Arrive	Depart
27 MAY	CAPE LIBERTY, NJ (NY METRO)		3:00 PM
28 MAY	CRUISING		
29 MAY	ROYAL NAVAL DOCKYARD, BERMUDA	9:00 AM	
30 MAY	ROYAL NAVAL DOCKYARD, BERMUDA		6:00 PM
31 MAY	CRUISING		
01 JUN	CAPE LIBERTY, NJ (NY METRO)	7:00 AM	

NOT INCLUDED:

- Transfers from Lake Frederick to Cape Liberty Cruise port (5hr drive; suggest carpooling)
- Parking at Port Liberty pier (\$25/day)
- Excursions in Bermuda (very inexpensive, use public local buses and ferries)

WHAT NEXT:

- Make reservation on Royal Caribbean website or I used Costco (get additional \$25 shop card)
- If you own at least 100 shares of RCL stock, submit online request for \$50 onboard credit



5 Night Cruise from Bayonne
(Round Trip)

Royal Caribbean®
Liberty of the Seas

5 Night Cruise

Departure Date: Sat, May 27, 2023

Embarkation Port: Bayonne

Return Date: Thu, Jun 01, 2023

Disembarkation Port: Bayonne

Hello Neighbors and fellow Bermuda Cruisers

I just wanted to connect us all easily so I created this group. If you want any other emails added, please let me know. So far we have the following going on the trip: Greg Payonk & Louise Liddle, Christine Chu & Frank Hall, and Gary Blevins & Phyllis Ford - We all travelled to New Orleans together. Interesting.

Right now, Greg is planning to depart LF 5AM on 5/27 and will be carpooling with Christine/Frank. Gary will follow and may continue up to Lake George after cruise returns or possibly come back home depending on his carpool situation. Please tell others about this inexpensive cruise. The more the merrier. I've attached the trip info George Darnell asked me to put together and he said he was going to mention it at the LF travel club.

Once we get onboard, we can link our reservations and then we would be able to all sit at the same table for dinner. If you prefer to dine separately on any particular night, no problem, just let the dining reservationist know when you show up for dinner. There will probably be two formal nights so plan accordingly. Each stateroom can bring two bottles of wine in luggage. If you don't plan to use your allowance, let others know so a bottle can be added to your bag for exchange once on board. Frank and Greg purchased a soda beverage package (was promo at 50% off so if you are interested watch for that. Now I see only 35% discount. Alcohol packages are not worth it IMO -- please contact me for more info!)

Do create Royal Caribbean account and join their Crown and Anchor Society frequent cruiser program and call Royal with this number to add to your reservation. And download Royal app as you will use it extensively on-board to communicate with each other and check your daily itinerary and make reservations.

On May 29, I'm planning to take public bus transportation (available at the pier) to Horseshoe Bay and spend most of the day on the beach. I'm not a beach person, but this beach is world renown and spectacular. You will need some sort of sun protection. I have a pop-up beach tent I'm bringing that folds flat. Amazon link below. Make sure you practice how to get the tent back in the bag (Louise and I can help)!!

<https://www.amazon.com/SUNBA-YOUTH-Instant-Portable-Shelter/>

May 30, AM will take a ferry from Royal Dockyards (at pier terminal) to St. Georges and then probably take a bus back to cruise terminal. May stop off in Hamilton (shopping district) depending on time. This way you will cover the entire island and get to see the scenery and locale. Public transportation is very inexpensive and a great way to do an island tour. There are ship-based tours as well you might consider as well (book in advance if you like as there will be no discounts once on-board).

As you have other thoughts or questions, respond to this email so we can all be better prepared.
Greg Payonk

Iceland Tour - \$4,536*/pp Sept. 24 – Oct. 1, 2023 (8 days)

INCLUDES:

- Scheduled tours with expert local guides as outlined in itinerary.
- VIP sightseeing access to iconic sites.
- Includes full buffet breakfast and 3-course dinner daily.
- First class hotels.
- Tour transportation beginning day 2 to completion day 8.
- Roundtrip, nonstop Iceland Air (IAD – KEF, departing 9/23/2023 8:35 p.m.).
- Roundtrip transfers from KEF (Reykjavik airport) to downtown hotel (Hilton Reykjavik Nordica)

NOT INCLUDED:

- Roundtrip transfers from Lake Frederick to Dulles (available \$25 pp each way).
- Optional excursions at particular points on tour during scheduled free time will be made available for booking as tour date gets closer.
- Morning of arrival after Iceland airport transfers to hotel to drop bags (before 2 p.m. check-in), we will take 3 hrs. Viator Reykjavik sightseeing tour by minibus \$54

WHAT NEXT:

- \$500 non-refundable deposit (cancellations 90 days prior, deposit applied to a different Globus tour).
- Decide on purchase of Globus travel protection (\$299/pp) paid at time of deposit.
- Contact Leslie Dean 303.703.7769 or ldean@globusfamily.com Ask for discounts!!! *Price quoted was based on airfare booking Nov 4, 2022 and may change based on airfare at time of your booking)
- I emailed passport info for each passenger (full name, number, birthdates, state of birth, issue and expiration date) and Leslie called me back to take credit card info for deposit. Or you could give all that info when she calls if you prefer.
- Do mention you are part of Lake Frederick Travel Club group and ask to be attached to reservation #859935 so your booking will count towards our group discount and rooms and dinner reservations will be booked together.

OTHER INFO:

- Depending on group size, we would get additional per person discounts. 8-12 \$100, 13-16 \$150, 17-24 \$200
- Final Payment due 7/26/2023.
- Northern lights peak periods are September and March (equinoxes).
- This is a small group tour with 24 people max.

Greg Payonk is travel lead for this trip.

201.323.2144 gpayonk@gmail.com 106 Witherod Court

Hello Iceland Travelers - Update

We have all booked the Iceland airfare and RT local transfers through Globus.

After many emails with the Viator tour operator for the Reykjavik City tour, you will need to consider the following information whether or not to keep or cancel the Viator reservation:

- We arrive 6:30AM and have to deplane and collect luggage
- Then exit through customs/immigration (I was told this is zero time by another LF Iceland traveler)
- Find the Globus transfer vehicle 45min ride to downtown hotel

Assuming flight arrives on time (could be earlier too?), and baggage is expedient and transfers to downtown hotel are smooth (I contacted Globus rep about this and she reached out to transfer agent and was told once we load into van, it would depart immediately and direct to hotel), we should arrive before 8:30AM which is the latest hotel-pickup time the tour operator would agree to.

So the risk is we pay \$54 for the tour and lose this money because we are late and tour will not wait for us.

Viator cancellations are 24hrs prior full refund but we wouldn't know our timing till morning of the tour.

All this said, I'm going to keep my reservation and risk it because the alternative is we arrive very early in Reykjavic and have nothing to do all day and no other day available to see the city. However, I just wanted all my fellow travelers to understand the issues and make their own decision.

I also contacted a private tour operator but they did not write back (several weeks now). I asked Globus if they offer a city tour and they said they use Viator. If anyone has other ideas please circulate to the group.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Reykjavik/Reykjavik-Sightseeing-Tour/d905-2970AH10>

Colors of Autumn, Rails, & Riverboats

October 12-14, 2023

Tour # 23006 Cost of Tour - Per Person

Twin \$839 Single \$1079

3 DAYS * 6 MEALS It's Autumn, and Mother Nature has put on her spectacular coat of many colors. Join Shenandoah Tours for the Autumn Serenade River Cruise in Pittsburgh, and a scenic rail excursion on the Potomac Eagle train in Romney, West Virginia. Rediscover the real America from the rivers and the rails. Visit Fallingwater, the famous home of Frank Lloyd Wright, cantilevered over a mountain waterfall. Don't delay...book today for this scenic journey!

- Day 1 - Thursday - October 12

Travel to Pennsylvania

Fallingwater / Arrive in Pittsburgh

All aboard for our scenic Autumn adventure. This morning we'll make our way into Pennsylvania's beautiful Laurel Highlands for a visit to Fallingwater, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. This architectural masterpiece was built over a waterfall and was used as a mountain retreat by the Edgar Kauffman family. It's a must-see attraction. Continue to Pittsburgh and check into the Drury Hotel for a two night stay. Tonight, enjoy a light dinner at the hotel with fellow travelers. (D)

- Day 2 - Friday - October 13

- Autumn Serenade River Cruise Pittsburgh Sightseeing Tour

- Ride on the Duquesne Incline

An exciting day awaits as we board the Gateway Clipper Autumn Serenade River Cruise. Sit back and rediscover the real America with her scenic vistas and spectacular foliage. Enjoy an included lunch and entertainment while gliding along the river. Afterwards join our local guide for a tour of Pittsburgh's highlights and take a ride on the Duquesne Incline to the top of Mount Washington for the Three Rivers view. Again, dinner is included at the hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

- Day 3 - Saturday - October 14

- Travel to West Virginia,

- Board the Potomac Eagle Train Excursion

- Travel Home

This morning we head to Romney, West Virginia, to board the Potomac Eagle Autumn Train. This train excursion takes us through narrow valleys and along the South Branch of the Potomac River, offering views of fall's brilliant colors that can only be enjoyed from the rails. Keep your camera ready for magnificent eagles that make their home here among the high valley walls. Later this afternoon, we'll board our coach and head for home bringing with us fond memories of our "Colors of Autumn" adventure. (B,BL)

Australia & New Zealand Cruise (14 days)
Nov 18 – Dec 1, 2024 \$5,900/couple

INCLUDES:

- Book through Celebrity Cruise Line (or United Cruises if want 35,000 United miles – ask me)
- Sunset veranda balcony room (a “real balcony” compared to “infinity fake balcony” room type)
- Cruise, port charges, gratuities
- Additional \$450/stateroom on-board credit

NOT INCLUDED:

- Airfare
- Shore excursions
- transfers

WHAT NEXT:

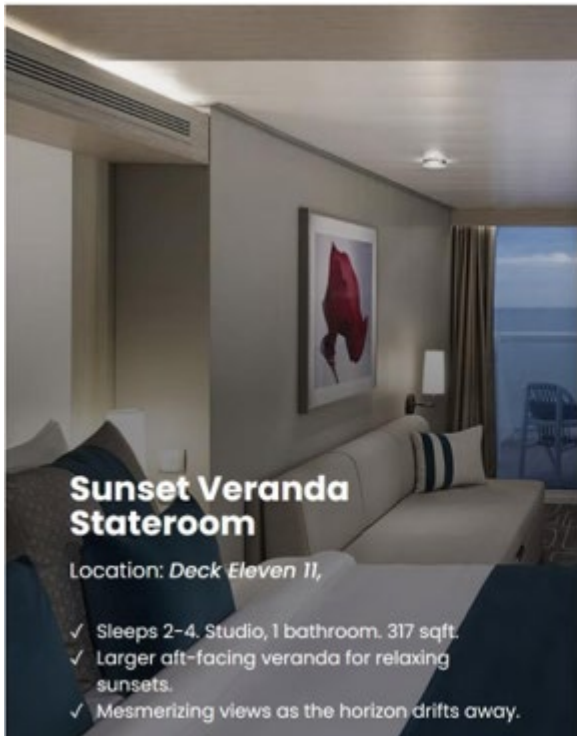
- have 2 couples with reservations as of Dec 2022

Greg Payonk is travel lead for this trip.

201.323.2144

gpayonk@gmail.com

106 Witherod Court



Sunset Veranda Stateroom
Location: Deck Eleven 11,

- ✓ Sleeps 2-4. Studio, 1 bathroom. 317 sqft.
- ✓ Larger aft-facing veranda for relaxing sunsets.
- ✓ Mesmerizing views as the horizon drifts away.

Sunset Veranda Stateroom	
First Guest Total	\$5,198.00
Second Guest Total	\$5,198.00
Discounts	
Semi-Annual Sale Savings	-\$400.00
Non-Refundable 75% 2nd Guest Discount	-\$5,199.00
BONUS OBC NRD (\$50.00 to spend Onboard)	
SAVOBCOFFER NRD (\$400.00 to spend Onboard)	
Dining	
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included at select venues	
Main Dining Time - 06:00 PM	
Add-ons	
Prepaid Tips	\$455.00
Taxes & Fees	
Taxes, Fees, and Port Expenses	\$647.18
Trip Total	\$5,899.18 USD



Cruise Itinerary

Itinerary: 13 Night New Zealand (Sydney Roundtrip)
Departing On: November 18, 2024
Returning On: December 01, 2024
Cruise Line: Celebrity Cruises
Cruise Ship: Celebrity Edge
Dining Request: Dining Time: 06:00 PM
Room Type: SV (Sunset Veranda)
Room Number: 12264

Day-by-Day Itinerary:

Day	Date	Port of Call	Arrival	Departure
1	Monday, November 18, 2024	Sydney, Australia	---	6:45 PM
2	Tuesday, November 19, 2024	At Sea	---	---
3	Wednesday, November 20, 2024	At Sea	---	---
4	Thursday, November 21, 2024	Bay Of Islands, New Zealand	10:00 AM	5:30 PM
5	Friday, November 22, 2024	Tauranga, New Zealand	7:15 AM	6:30 PM
6	Saturday, November 23, 2024	Auckland, New Zealand	6:30 AM	6:00 PM
7	Sunday, November 24, 2024	Napier, New Zealand	2:30 PM	8:00 PM
8	Monday, November 25, 2024	Picton, New Zealand	10:00 AM	7:00 PM
9	Tuesday, November 26, 2024	Lyttelton (Christchurch), New Zealand	9:00 AM	7:00 PM
10	Wednesday, November 27, 2024	Port Chalmers (Dunedin), New Zealand	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
11	Thursday, November 28, 2024	Cruise Dusky Sound	8:30 AM	10:15 AM
11	Thursday, November 28, 2024	Cruise Doubtful Sound	11:45 AM	1:15 PM
11	Thursday, November 28, 2024	Cruise Milford Sound	5:00 PM	6:00 PM
12	Friday, November 29, 2024	At Sea	---	---
13	Saturday, November 30, 2024	At Sea	---	---
14	Sunday, December 01, 2024	Sydney, Australia	6:30 AM	---