

## United States Pre-Departure Tour Information

We are delighted you have decided to join our “Route 66” tour, and we want you to know we will do everything possible to make it a pleasant and rewarding experience for you.

This hosted tour is operated by **Cosmos**. (part of the Globus Family). Alex has been working with them since 1990, and thousands of people from Hawaii have enjoyed them during this time. We at Dold World Journeys promote these programs because we feel that, considering the quality of the features included and the length of time spent, the Globus Family gives you the best value for your travel dollars.

At this stage we are enclosing some information to help you prepare for your trip—after all, the excitement of getting ready for any journey is a good part of the fun that comes with travel. Also, you are investing a considerable amount of money, and we would like to make sure the program you are buying is what you actually want. We know there are many, many questions in your mind, and we will try to answer the basic ones in this flier. If there is anything else you would like to know, contract us. Talking can easily clarify many things and avoid misunderstandings later.



### **What kinds of documents do I need?**

To leave and re-enter Hawaii all U.S. passengers need to carry valid government issued photo identification. A driver’s license is perfect. Be sure to always have your photo I.D. with you, especially at the airport.

**At all times it is important we have the correct spelling of your full name and address and your telephone number. We need these for documentation and correspondence. Should you note any errors or deviations on our part in this respect, please notify us immediately.**

### **What if I need special assistance on tour?**

If you have any type of special circumstance regarding your health and/or mobility, please advise us as soon as possible so we can inform Cosmos. Dold World Journeys and Cosmos will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the needs of disabled travelers but are not responsible in the event we are unable to do so.

Enjoying our cruise down our country’s Mother Road requires a fair amount of physical fitness. Walks through

museums, towns, and other historic sites can be lengthy and uneven. As an equal member of this group, you should be in reasonably good health and able to manage walking, dining, getting on and off motorcoaches and other vehicles, and taking care of any other personal needs independently. A qualified and physically able companion must accompany travelers who require such assistance and must assume full responsibility of their well being. Of course, our tour director and group host are there to assist you, but under normal circumstances their primary job is taking care of everyone in the group.

### **What if I get sick on tour?**

There are excellent doctors and hospitals to be found throughout the United States. Your tour director, with the help of the local representative, will see to it that you are well taken care of.

If you are taking drugs under a physician’s orders, have the **container clearly labeled** and carry a copy of the prescription with you at all times.

Carry medicines in your hand luggage. Let the tour director know if you’re under medical treatment. You should also get a clean bill of health from your doctor before you go. If you wear eyeglasses, take an extra pair with you, as well as a copy of the prescription.

Medical insurance policies vary widely, and you may or may not be covered by your policies when leaving Hawaii. It is wise to review your policies or check with your insurance agent to be sure.

### **What about baggage and clothing?**

The best advice is, “If in doubt, leave it out.” Due to the limited capacity on the motorcoach, you may only bring one bag per person. It is highly recommended you bring a suitcase you can handle. The dimensions *should be* about 30” x 21” x 11”, and your bag cannot weigh more than **50 pounds**—*an airline rule*. Porterage for this bag is included in the journey price. If your suitcase exceeds the established weight and/or dimension, an additional charge will be collected by the tour director and/or airline carrier.

We regret Cosmos cannot accept a second suitcase or any luggage exceeding these limits. Additionally, most airlines are charging **fees for baggage**, including the first checked bag, and this is **not included** in the program cost.

**Carry-on bags should not exceed the dimensions of 12" x 11" x 6".** *Carry-on bags* with *wheels* are not recommended as hand luggage on motorcoaches.

Put toiletries in plastic cases and then in plastic Ziploc bags for double protection against leaks. Plastic bags come in handy for many things, including damp laundry and washcloths.

The weather along Route 66 during the first few weeks of fall should be comfortable during the daytime and cool in the evenings. The average day temperature is 75°. Las Vegas, NV, will be the warmest (around 85°), and Grand Canyon, AZ, will be the coolest (around 68°). The nights are normally around 51°.

When you are planning your wardrobe, remember there is no guarantee of average temperatures; it may be warmer or colder than normal. The layered look is the easiest way to prepare for seasonal weather and still travel light. Wash-and-wear clothes are the most practical. One or two pairs of comfortable walking shoes are a must, and always be ready for rain. Allow enough underwear and socks so that daily laundry is not necessary.

Traveling light is recommended. You might want to bring something a little nicer for the evenings, but it is not required. Pullover sweaters are comfortable and always smart looking.

### **May I deviate from the air schedule?**

Yes, you can change your flights as you desire, the question will be how much will it cost? We are only able to offer you the group's air schedule. If you wish to deviate from these flights, then you'll be purchasing a Land Only package from us. We'd be happy to refer you to Sara at ES International. She is the agent that will be issuing our group's airlines tickets. You can reach her at 808-596-0490.

When you deviate from the group, keep in mind there may be charges for any changes made after the cancellation deadline (normally 180 to 120 days prior to departure; please refer to the General Conditions page of your brochure). Once your airline tickets are issued, they are **non-refundable**, and the airlines will charge **fees** for any changes.

We suggest you discuss this with us as soon as possible because there is a *limit on the number* of land only seats we can sell per departure.

### **What about seat assignments?**

Once everyone in the group has made **full payment**, we send all the names to the airlines for seat allocation. *The airlines have full control of all seats.*

We do everything we can to place spouses together with one of them sitting in an aisle. For roommates we request as many aisle seats as we can and strive to put roommates close to each other. If you would like to request a window seat or be seated next to your roommate with only one of you in the aisle, please let us know before the **final payment deadline**. These requests can never be guaranteed, but we will do our best. Window and aisle seats are very limited.

Upgrading from a group ticket is not possible. United Airlines MileagePlus Premier **Gold** Member or higher, please let us know **before** you make your final payment so we can try to accommodate you in Economy Plus seating.



### **What about hotel accommodations?**

The program's price is based on two people sharing a room in First Class and Superior First Class hotels as indicated in the tour itinerary. All rooms include a **private bath or shower**,

For those traveling alone we will endeavor to arrange for congenial rooming arrangements wherever possible. If a single room is assigned either voluntarily or for reasons beyond our control, the single supplement must be charged.

### **What additional expenses will I have?**

Hotel accommodations, airfare, entrance fees to the attractions featured in the itinerary, meals as noted in the itinerary, and tips for baggage handling are included in the tour price. Additional expenses include (but are not limited to) optional excursions; additional meals; tips to the tour director who takes care of you on tour, the driver who takes you through your tour, local guides, and hotel personnel; and souvenirs you are planning to buy. Please see our **General Conditions** found on the back of the itinerary for more details.

To give you an idea, if you budget \$10 for each breakfast, \$15 for each lunch, and \$25 for each dinner that is not included, you will know approximately how much you will need for the additional meals. For example, on this 16-day "Route 66" journey, meals not included are 10 breakfasts (x 10 = \$100), 15 lunches (x \$15 = \$225), and 12 dinners (x \$25 = \$300). The total for meals is \$625. Then, if you participate in every possible optional excursion, including a Grand Canyon "Flightseeing" tour at \$200, you will need another \$667 (list given at group briefing). The total additional cost is about \$1,342 including airline baggage fees .

These costs, of course, will vary from person to person. You can do your tour for less or the sky can be the limit. These figures should be a guideline only. If you have any questions on the extra expenses on our tours, please give us a call.

### **What about valuables, cameras, and film?**

Do not take anything with you that will create an emotional or financial hardship if lost or stolen. It's that simple. Leave extra credit cards and keys, as well as favorite or expensive jewelry, at home. Your cash and any valuables you cannot live without should be carried in your purse, in an inside pocket. Do not put them in your suitcase or travel bag. **A money belt is highly recommended.**

If you are considering buying a camera for your trip, we suggest a light, compact one. Buy it a few weeks before you leave so you will have time to become used to it and make sure it is working properly.

Bring plenty of media storage (memory cards) and batteries, since these are usually more expensive in popular tourist areas and may not be available in isolated areas. Remember, never leave your camera in your hotel room.

### **Will we have a tour escort with us from Hawaii?**

Yes, Alex will be your host and will accompany you from Honolulu and see to it that you are taken care of from when you depart Honolulu until you return home. On our journey you will have a professional tour director who is well acquainted with the different aspects of the tour.

### **When must I make final payment?**

Final payment is due no later than 65 days prior to departure; however, DO NOT send any money until you receive our invoice. Please read the refund and cancellation clause under General Conditions carefully so there will be no misunderstandings.

### **When do I get my documents?**

At least three weeks prior to departure we will have a get-together where we will brief you once more, try to answer your questions, and give you your final documents. You will receive a sufficient supply of hotel lists and flight schedules to leave with relatives and friends, a final itinerary, etc. We will send you an invitation to this meeting. For those of you joining us from the neighbor islands, if you cannot attend, we will express your documents to you.

### **Should I take out insurance?**

Insurance for Trip Cancellation and/or Interruption is strongly recommended and costs little. With the strict cancellation charges the airlines and tour operators impose upon us, it is important to insure against these cancellation charges, plus loss of money or travelers checks and personal accident. We will send you an insurance policy. Look it over and discuss it with one of us. In some cases your homeowner's insurance may cover you when traveling, but check with your insurance agent. It is better to be safe than sorry.

### **Before departure...**

You should tell the local police and neighbors that your house or apartment will be vacant. Stop mail and newspaper deliveries or they will be piling up outside your door. Arrange for the care of Scooby your dog, Garfield your cat, and all your plants. Turn off the gas and water, and disconnect all electrical appliances, especially the television set. Buy a timer in a local hardware store and arrange a lamp in a strategic place to be turned on at sunset and off at midnight. Make sure everything is locked. Leave a set of house and car keys, plus an itinerary, with a relative or trusted friend. It is also a good idea to make sure your insurance policies are up to date.

### **And a final word...**

Travel at all times is an intensely rewarding experience. It is also a very personal experience. We all see the same things, but we react differently to them, depending upon our background, nature, and personality; therefore, what is absorbed, remembered, or treasured varies from individual to individual.

Much work has gone into the planning and operating of your itinerary.

The program has a great nostalgic value, will be lots of fun, and will provide you with memories to last a lifetime.

Let us assure you we will make every conceivable effort to pave the way for an exciting tour.



**“All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.” ~ Martin Buber**