



friendship force

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Experience different views. Discover common ground.

# *United States eFlyer*

## June 2019

The U.S. eFlyer is a place to find information about domestic Journeys within the United States, undersubscribed U.S. outbound Journeys, and occasional regional conferences and special events. The Journeys listed in the U.S. eFlyer are open to all ambassadors, representing some of the many places where you can experience new cultures and expand your global circle of friends.

If you are interested in any of the following Journeys, please contact the Journey Coordinator directly.

# Journey to Edmonton & Area, Manitoba, Canada, and Greater Harrisburg, USA

**Journey Dates:**

August 1 - 27, 2019

**Price:**

\$1,050 (FFI Fees/Host Fees)

**Contact Information:**

Teresa Whitters

[twffss@outlook.com](mailto:twffss@outlook.com)

**Host Clubs:**

[FF Edmonton and Area](#)

[FF Manitoba](#)

[FF Greater Harrisburg](#)

**Spaces Available: 7**

The FF Southern Sydney club is excited at the opportunity of a triple Journey in August 2019 to Canada and the east coast of the USA.

If you decide to join us, you will have the chance to see diverse parts of Canada, starting in Edmonton near the beautiful Canadian Rocky Mountains, which you could visit en route if you so desired. Then we fly to the central province of Manitoba near Lake Winnipeg. The Canadian countryside and its people are a joy to experience.

After a five-day individual break where everyone will be “doing their own thing,” we will gather in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA. This area is rife with the history of the American Civil War and has Amish and Mennonite communities which we will visit. We also have the chance to enjoy Hershey chocolates amongst many other cultural and culinary pleasures.

Some of us will be visiting nearby Washington and possibly staying in New York either during the break or after the Journeys have been completed. The choice is yours!

Please contact Teresa Whitters if you are interested in these Journeys or have any questions. We currently have space for 8 ambassadors, and we'd love to meet and travel with you.

[Edmonton & Area and Manitoba, Canada and Greater Harrisburg, USA](#)



# Greater Hamilton and Burlington to Limburg, Belgium, and Székesfehérvár, Hungary

## Journey Dates:

September 15 -29, 2019

**Price: \$2,000**

## Contact Information:

Heather Oliver

[holiver@cogeco.ca](mailto:holiver@cogeco.ca)

905-627-0632

Host Clubs:

FF of Limburg

FF of Székesfehérvár

**Spaces Available: 3**

We have 3 spaces available to Limburg, Belgium; 1 space with home-hosting for Székesfehérvár, Hungary (anyone beyond that number is welcome to stay in a hotel in Székesfehérvár, and the club there will offer day-hosting to balance both segments). Ambassadors will arrange their own international and domestic flights.

On September 15, we'll meet Limburg hosts at the Hasselt train in Limburg. There is the possibility of an optional group pre-tour to Ypres and Flanders Fields, ahead of the main Journey. Limburg, Sept. 15-22, may include day trips to Antwerp and Leuven, local sightseeing around the Limburg province, a brewery, museums. Sept. 22 we travel back to Brussels by train or bus to get flight to Budapest. Sept. 22, 23 – stay in a hotel in Budapest and see local attractions with the group.

On September 24, we'll meet the president of FF Székesfehérvár to tour Budapest and take us back to Székesfehérvár by chartered bus. As hosts in Székesfehérvár work, you will be out of the home from 8:00 a.m until 8:00 p.m., while taking tours and seeing the area - to Pannonhalma (40 miles) to visit the UNESCO World Heritage site the Benedictine Arch-Abbey and taste 5 different wines at the Winery of the Abbey, the porcelain museum in Herend, and Lake Balaton area, Balatonfüred and Tihany, and tour Székesfehérvár. Saturday we spend the day with the hosts; Saturday evening is the farewell party. Sept. 29 we will go by reserved bus to Budapest for onward travel.

All ambassadors must be in good physical condition and have high stamina. There will be a lot of walking on uneven ground and some hosts have multiple stories in their homes with a washroom on a different floor than the bedroom.



# Austin, USA to Karsiyaka Bay, Turkey

## Journey Dates:

September 17 - October 1,  
2019

**Price: \$435 for homestay,  
\$950 for optional 2nd week  
tour**

## Contact Information:

Kay Binder  
[kaybinder2@gmail.com](mailto:kaybinder2@gmail.com)  
512-838-1183

Host Club:  
[FF of Karsiyaka Bay](#)

**Spaces Available: 6**

An exciting homestay of seven days in the exotic city of Izmir includes not only a tour of the city but incredible historic sites in the surrounding area around Izmir. An excursion to the coast to overnight in hosts' summer homes is planned with an short excursion on the Pelagos Sea.

All meals and expenses, except personal purchases and some drinks, all included. Following the homestay, a seven-day tour of famous historic sites and cities takes us throughout Turkey and includes transportation, hotels, fees, breakfast and some dinners.

Some highlights of the Journey include: A day trip to world-famous Ephesus ruins and also visit Virgin Mary's shrine; a visit to a carpet factory, watch demonstrations of famous Turkish carpets; visiting Alacati, a beautiful village which is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Turkey; visiting Cesme Castle & Museum.

If weather permits, stay overnight in Cesme at hosts' summer home. Then have a boat trip next day, swim in the Aegean Sea, with many shades of blue, dine at a fish restaurant, visit the Farmer's Market in Karsiyaka, have lunch at Pide Restaurant for Turkish Pizza, take a ferry across the Izmir Bay & visit Ataturk Museum (father of modern Turkey) & the Izmir History and Art Museum.

We'll have a city tour in Izmir. Go to 5,000 year old Kemeralti Bazaar, Kizlaragasi Inn, see city clock tower - a symbol of Izmir. Taste the world famous doner kebab. You can then have a chance to do souvenir shopping, visit the amazing Cars Museum then take the Urla winery road and taste the award-winning wines of the region. This is a Journey of a lifetime!



# Baton Rouge, USA to Ribeirao Preto and Piracicaba, Brazil

**Journey Dates:**

October 3 - 21, 2019

**Price:**

\$2,300

**Contact Information:**

Sheila Melancon

[sheilamela@cox.net](mailto:sheilamela@cox.net)

225-964-0286

**Host Club:**

FF Ribeirao Preto

FF Piracicaba

**Spaces Available: 2**

This fantastic Journey is planned with the help of a travel agent who has all flights, Iguazu Falls arrangements and bus travel arranged.

We will leave October 3 out of Ft. Lauderdale on Azul airlines, fly to Sao Paulo then to the unbelievable Iguazu Falls for an optional tour and 3 night stay in a hotel. At the falls we will have the option to have Brazilian BBQ and see Brazilian dancers.

Then we're off on a flight to Ribeirao Preto (October 7) which will be the start of our first week of the Journey. This is a very progressive city where we'll visit museums, see a sugar mill, have an opportunity to go to a "hot springs" spa.

We'll travel by bus to Piracicaba (October 14) for our second week of the Journey. This is another progressive city which is on the Piracicaba River and is closer to Sao Paulo City. We'll have great opportunities to explore this area and then we will travel to Sao Paulo to depart for the USA on October 21.



# Northern California Birding

**Journey Dates:**

October 11 - 18, 2019

**Price:**

\$575

**Contact Information:**

Chris Smith

[smithsinsac@gmail.com](mailto:smithsinsac@gmail.com)

916-712-6979

**Host Club:**

[FF of Sacramento](#)

**Spaces Available:** 10

**NEW THIS MONTH!**

The fall is a great time in the Sacramento Valley. Surrounded by rivers, lakes, and farmland, it makes a wonderful place for migrating birds. There are a variety of habitats including woodland, marshes, grasslands, and chaparral. Depending on the weather, we'll do some short hikes and/or car trips through some of the numerous wildlife areas and farm roads.

Some of the birds you might discover are the yellow billed magpie, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, American kestrel, snow goose, northern harrier, western meadowlark, large flocks of blackbirds, great and snowy egrets, bald eagle, horned larks, great blue heron, white-faced Ibis, and sandhill cranes to name a few! We'll have one or two days of non-birding to see the local history and nature as well. [Click here](#) for more information about birding in Sacramento.



# Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley, USA to Whangarei and New Plymouth, New Zealand

**Journey Dates:**

October 12 - 27, 2019

**Price:**

\$1,900

**Contact Information:**

Chris Duval

[duval15@comcast.net](mailto:duval15@comcast.net)

Marilyn Peterson

[mdpwanders@gmail.com](mailto:mdpwanders@gmail.com)

**Host Clubs:**

[FF Whangarei](#)

[FF New Plymouth](#)

**Spaces Available: 3**

**NEW THIS MONTH!**

Ambassadors will gather in Auckland on Saturday, October 12 and after a night at a hotel in Auckland will travel north to Whangarei visiting the Matakoho Kauri Museum on the way. Time spent with the Whangarei club will include a tour of the town and surrounds, a visit to the Kiwi House, gardens and a Paper Mill. Also included is an overnight trip to the Bay of Islands and Waitangi where ambassadors will learn about the signing of The Treaty of Waitangi between Maori & Pakeha in 1840.

Between hosting weeks ambassadors will spend three days in Rotorua. There will be an opportunity to look at Whakawerawera Village, a traditional Maori village, then onto the Gondola for lunch, and the Maitai Village for a show and the traditional Hangi meal in the evening.

Ambassadors will arrive in New Plymouth in the late afternoon of October 21 by bus. Activities in New Plymouth may include: a one-day bus tour around the Mountain to South Taranaki, visiting Tawhiti Museum with Whalers and Traders, a visit to a back-country Sheep Station with lunch in the woolshed, followed by a shearing demonstration and talk about the day-to-day running of the Station. Also, a local club member, who is a mountain guide will lead a short walk up on Mt. Egmont.

We are also planning an optional 7-day tour of the South Island.



# Central Iowa, USA to Greater Kyiv, Ukraine and Tbilisi, Georgia

**Journey Dates:**

October 15 - 29, 2019

**Price:**

\$1,605

**Contact Information:**

Diane Oppedal

[dianeopp@gmail.com](mailto:dianeopp@gmail.com)

515-233-2300

**Host Clubs:**

FF Greater Kyiv

FF Tbilisi

**Spaces Available: 3**

**NEW THIS MONTH!**

Join us for a home stay in Kyiv, the capital and largest city of Ukraine, located in the north central part of the country on the Dnieper River. Kyiv is an important scientific, educational, industrial and cultural center of Eastern Europe. It is home to many high-tech industries, higher education institutions and world-famous historical landmarks.

The city has an extensive infrastructure and highly developed system of public transport, including the Kyiv Metro. FF Greater Kyiv will host us from October 15-22. We look forward to exploring this beautiful city with new found friends!

From Kyiv we head to Tbilisi, Georgia for a second week homestay with FF Tbilisi, October 22-29. Tbilisi, with its cobble stoned old town, reflects a long, complicated history, with periods under Persian and Russian rule. Its diverse architecture encompasses Eastern Orthodox churches, ornate art nouveau buildings and Soviet Modernist structures. Looming over it all is Narikala, a reconstructed 4th-century fortress, and Kartlis Deda, an iconic statue of the "Mother of Georgia."

The week's program includes a welcome party with national music and dance, visits to religious UNESCO World Heritage Sites, museums, a cave town, a hike with possible glimpse of one of the highest glaciers in the Caucasus, Mt Kazbek, wine tasting and an Open Air Museum.



# Explore Myanmar and Laos

**Journey Dates:**

October 15 - November 2,  
2019

**Price:**

\$3,450

**Contact Information:**

Jim Kerr

[judgejwkerr@gmail.com](mailto:judgejwkerr@gmail.com)

214-987-4411

**Spaces Available:** 12

**NEW THIS MONTH!**

Enjoy the warm climate and even warmer hospitality of Myanmar on this two-week Journey that will teach you about the culture of this wonderful country. Learn about Buddhist traditions, meet residents in the small villages around Kengtung, watch local craftsmen create beautiful works of art, and visit plenty of pagodas, statues, and locations offering breathtaking scenery.

Some journey highlights:

- Discover the culture and food through visits with locals sharing meals, exploring monasteries, and experiencing festivals
- Learn about Buddhism
- See remote villages untouched by tourism
- Safely serve the cause of peace
- Be met with appreciation as you share toys and over-the-counter medicine with adults and children in the local villages

For more details, view this Journey on the FFI Catalog:

[Explore Myanmar and Laos](#)



# Exploring South of Brazil

**Journey Dates:**

October 20 - November 3,  
2019

**Price:**

\$2,100

**Contact Information:**

Helcio Lanzoni

[hlanzoni@teseprime.org](mailto:hlanzoni@teseprime.org)

011-55-16-99156-5213

**Host Club:**

FF Curitiba

**Spaces Available: 7**

Get to know the south of Brazil from from all angles on this combination Journey which includes a homestay and personalized tour! Begin your adventure with a week of home-hosting with the incredible Friendship Force of Curitiba, as you samba the night away, enjoy a picnic lunch and visits to local wineries, and learn to cook Brazilian food with your new Brazilian friends! Then continue on with a tour of the breathtaking Iguassu Falls and the Itaimbezinho Canyon, part of the Aparados da Serra National Park.

Some highlights of this Journey include:

- Try traditional Brazilian food with people who know how to cook it!
- Experience a real samba night
- Visit beautiful places with a Brazilian point of view
- Tours are amazingly personal, allowing us to obtain a really thorough understanding of the cities
- Explore the part of Brazil closest to Europe due to the European colonization in the area

For more details, view this Journey on the FFI Catalog:

[Exploring South of Brazil](#)



# Charlotte, USA to Mundo Maya de Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico

**Journey Dates:**

October 25 - 31, 2019

**Price:**

\$420

**Contact Information:**

Dorothy Tremble

[bonitarental@msn.com](mailto:bonitarental@msn.com)

704-649-2044

**Host Club:**

FF Mundo Maya de Tuxtla Gutierrez

**Spaces Available: 8**

**NEW THIS MONTH!**

Tuxtla Gutierrez is in the state of Chiapas, a region east of Oaxaca and South of Villahermosa and is undoubtedly Mexico's most stunning natural scenic area, mostly wild and rugged. It is rich in indigenous life and culture.

Many agree that the natural beauty of this area has no parallel in Mexico. Deep green forested valleys and high mountains with deep canyons and gorges, a colossal wealth of flora, fauna and wildlife and glorious lakes certainly make this area one of Mexico's most unspoiled and scenically awesome natural habitats.

The Host Coordinator has indicated that the Journey will include the Sumidero Canyon and its viewpoints, the coffee and Marimba museum. We will attend a Marimba concert and they will also take us to San Cristobal (magical town) and two indigenous colonies.

There is an optional extension to Oaxaca planned for after the Journey. We hope you can join us!



# Discover Chile with La Serena, Chile

**Journey Dates:**

November 5 - 16, 2019

**Price:**

\$4,225

**Contact Information:**

Vicki Coulson Vance

[brlacolibri@gmail.com](mailto:brlacolibri@gmail.com)

225-275-3816

**Host Club:**

[FF La Serena](#)

**Spaces Available: 2**

**Note:** Price of \$4225 USD includes four internal flights, six nights homestay fees, four nights all-inclusive hotel in the Atacama Desert with all meals, guided tours, ground transportation, gratuities, FFI fees and one night hotel upon arrival in Santiago with ground transfer. Not included is your international airfare to Santiago, travel insurance, free day activities and personal expenses.

There are two spaces left to discover the wonders of Chile on November 5-16 with a homestay in colonial La Serena followed by a tour of the Atacama Desert, the world's driest desert region.

Our friendly hosts in La Serena, Chile's second oldest city, will show us the best of this seaside city with visits to vineyards, parks, museums, market, beach villages, and a special day trip to Damas Island where we hope to see penguins, sea lions, and pelicans. Practice your Spanish in the local market while you shop for crafts and local art and enjoy the taste of superb Chilean wines of the Andean Elqui Valley - try out a delicious pisco sour. We will see crystal clear skies, stars, and constellations with a night visit to an observatory.

Following our homestay, we will have a four-night all-inclusive stay in San Pedro de Atacama in the world's driest desert. No need for a raincoat here, as the region receives about 1 mm of rainfall per year! This high remote, rugged land is made up of volcanoes, geysers, salt flats, lagoons with pink flamingos, thermal springs, colorful rock formations and small villages. In fact, this is where NASA tests out the Mars rover since the land is similar! Some of our excursions include visits to the Valley of the Moon, Los Flamencos National Reserve, El Tatio Geysers, nighttime stargazing, dips in thermal pools, and trips to the salt flats.





**friendship force**

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Experience different views. Discover common ground.

# *United States eFlyer*

**US eFlyer Submissions are due the 21st of each month. Please submit your information to FFI using this online form:**

**[US eFlyer Submission Form](#)**

**If you have any questions about the US eFlyer or submission process, please contact:**

**Maryam Jordan**

**[maryam@friendshipforce.org](mailto:maryam@friendshipforce.org)**

**404-965-4337**