August 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.
Legends and Treasures of Armenia

Journey Dates:
September 13-24, 2019

Price:
$1,670

Contact Information:
Oyuna Sengeeva
oyuna@friendshipforce.org
404-806-8170

Host Club:
FF of Yerevan, Armenia
(Club is in Development)

Spaces Available: 13

View this Journey on the FFI Catalog: Global to Armenia

Join us for a 10-day tour taking you through Yerevan, Armenia and 12 other destinations in Armenia (Yerevan, Khor Virab, Areni, Noravank Monastery, Noravank, Lake Sevan, Dilijan National Park, Goshavank Monastery Complex, Materadaran, Ijevan, Geghard). Since our club in Armenia is in development, this Journey includes accommodation in a guesthouse.

Exploring Armenia we will also visit Khor Virap, Norovank Monastery, T'rchuneri (Bird) Cave, and Areni, a wine-growing town in a scenic landscape. With a guide to help bring each destination to life, you'll discover history, the natural world, and some of Armenia's most distinctive wines.

Khor Virap Monastery continues to be a holy site of the Armenian Apostolic Church and an important pilgrimage location which locals often visit for a baptism or after a wedding to perform a “matagh” or “sacrifice,” often of sheep or chicken. The walled, religious complex also stands before the snowcapped flanks of Mount Ararat, offering a spectacular view of the mountain and cutting a striking silhouette in and of itself.

Areni Winery is one of Armenia’s main attractions for connoisseurs of vintage wines. It is located 110 km from Yerevan, at the entrance to the small village of Areni. The winery is a two-story stone building with an annex. It has a cellar with bottles of wine, huge barrels, and a small production facility, as well as a cafe, souvenir shop, and, of course, a tasting room.
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 Matakohe 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.

Journey Dates:
October 12 - 27, 2019

Price:
$1,900

Contact Information:
Chris Duval
duval15@comcast.net
Marilyn Peterson
mpwanders@gmail.com

Host Clubs:
FF Whangarei
FF New Plymouth

Spaces Available: 3

Journey #15240
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.
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

View this Journey on the FFI Catalog:

Explore Myanmar and Laos
Get to know the south of Brazil 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

View this Journey on the FFI Catalog:
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!
NEW THIS MONTH!

Come discover Sarasota, Florida with the Friendship Force club of Connecticut. The Sarasota area is known around the world for its beautiful beaches. The weather should be lovely in November, with comfortable temperatures, lower humidity and the Gulf still warm enough for enjoying the beaches and the water.

They are considering a boat tour of Sarasota Bay by the Mote Marine Aquarium and Marine Biology Center. It is lead by a Marine biologist who after she drags a net will explain what she has caught from the bottom of the bay. We would also see the beautiful homes on the bay. They would like to take us to Historic Spanish Point, a museum of an old Florida homestead and ancient Native American artifacts from hundreds of years ago.

The Sarasota area is also known for its wonderful cultural arts. We are planning on going to the Ringling Museum, and the Selby Botanical Gardens. Perhaps take a backstage tour of their Opera House built in 1925, and take in the musical The Fantastics.
2020 Super Regional Conference for the Midwest, Southwest and Great Lakes Regions

Save the Date!

Friendship Force International
2020 SUPER-REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Great Lakes, Midwest and Southwest Regions
September 18-20, 2020

HOSTED BY
The Friendship Force of Minnesota–Twin Cities

Conference location:
Embassy Suites by Hilton
Minneapolis Downtown
12 Sixth Street South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55412

Watch for further details in the coming months.

Keep these dates in mind as you plan Journeys and other activities for 2020.

Conference Dates:
September 18 - 20, 2020

Price:
TBD

Contact Information:
Rita Mays
ritamnffi@yahoo.com

Host Club:
Minnesota–Twin Cities

Spaces Available: 125
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:

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404-965-4337