

FRANK TALK SUPER TRIP, 2018

When it was determined that we needed to cancel a great trip to Canada, we knew it would be necessary to replace it with a trip just as great and maybe even a tad bit better! Although we didn't have enough travelers to make the CanAm trip a winner, we had the bus reserved and didn't want to let our reservation go to waste. With limited time to put together a new trip, we decided to move a super trip from 2019 to 2018!

Those of you who were signed up for either the CanAm trip or the July trip to St. Louis, MO, will be given first choice of bus seating for this trip. But, due to the short time before the trip, you will have to move quickly!

Question: What do the three pictures to the right have in common?

Answer: All three are world-class hotels where we'll be staying on this trip! The top hotel is the West Baden Springs Hotel in French Lick, IN. It has been called the 8th Wonder of the World. FRANK TALK travelers visited this hotel a couple of years ago and we were all amazed at this structure. The first night of this trip will be spent in total luxury at this hotel!

The hotel in the middle picture is brand new but the address is known worldwide! It's called The Guest House at Graceland! Yup, it's the same Graceland. This hotel has just recently been built and it is a beautiful hotel. Classified as a 4-star hotel, it even has a movie theater in the hotel that shows an Elvis movie each night! We'll be spending two nights in Memphis with this 450-room hotel as our home base. Located very near the former home of Elvis, we expect it to be a great place to hang our hats for a time!

The bottom picture may be recognizable to some of you as we have stopped overnight there a few times. It is also a 4-star hotel with a casino. The rooms are first-class, and we will enjoy a fantastic breakfast each day we are there. In addition, you'll receive some casino money to do a bit of gaming! This hotel is the Ameristar in a suburb of St. Louis called St. Charles, MO.

Itinerary:

This trip will start on Sunday morning, Sept. 9, 2018, from our normal starting point at 6300 Quackenbush Rd., Reading, MI. We will stop for a quick breakfast at a rest stop en route. Incidentally, we now have a restroom you are welcome to use at our starting point.

The distance to French Lick, IN, is only 301 miles or about 5 1/2 hours of driving time. After stopping for an included "brunch" at a Cracker Barrel near our destination, we should arrive at the West Baden Hotel mid-afternoon. The hotel next door does have a casino, and we will have time for you to enjoy either the casino or the beautiful surroundings around this fantastic hotel!

After a luxurious night of sleep, we will have breakfast in the French Lick Hotel. It's a breakfast buffet and included in your package.

Around 10:00 a.m., we'll be boarding our motorcoach for the six hours of driving time trip to Memphis, TN, where we'll check into the Guest House at Graceland Hotel. They will be providing a welcoming reception for our FT travelers, and they will also be showing an Elvis movie in their theater at 7:00 p.m. We will be providing the evening meal, but we are presently narrowing down the options! I'm sure it will be "interesting," as it always is in Memphis!

When we wake up on Tuesday morning, the exciting city of Memphis is at our doorstep! We'll start the day with a step-on guide showing us the ins and outs of Memphis. A mega stop in the music industry, Memphis is also famous for many other businesses. Their prominence in the field of health care will absolutely amaze you. After our tour, we'll return to the hotel where you'll have some time to relax a bit before we venture virtually next door to tour Graceland. The home of Elvis Presley is certainly interesting and informative. You'll also have an opportunity to tour a couple of his airplanes. The Graceland complex has been improved immensely since we were last there, most notably with the addition of some new structures including the hotel where we are staying!

Besides Graceland, most of the very interesting things about Memphis are located in the downtown area. Museums, scads of restaurants, and shops of all kinds are pretty much squeezed into an area of downtown on Beale Street. You can spend a considerable amount of time in that area and not be bored! After our Graceland tour, we will be taking you to the Beale Street area and you will have a bunch of free time to do as you wish. Everybody wants to see different things and eat different foods. This will be your opportunity to do just that! Our motorcoach will pick you up in the downtown area at approximately 9:00 p.m. and we'll return to our plush hotel for an evening of relaxation or perhaps spending some time in their "theme" lounges with entertainment!



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Wednesday morning will present a new day with new adventures! After enjoying breakfast at our Graceland hotel, we'll board the bus to start our trip to St. Louis, MO. But first we'll visit one more icon of the music business known as the original Sun Recording Studio. It's where Elvis, and many others, got their start in the music business. We've been there before, but the "newbies" to Memphis wouldn't want to miss this very interesting stop. It's included in this Super Trip package.

After the tour of Sun Studios, we'll start our trip northward to the city of the Arch! Our destination will be the Ameristar Hotel/Casino in a suburb of St. Louis called St. Charles. As the picture on the other page indicates, it is truly a work of art and luxury living at its finest! And, their food ain't bad either! We will arrive in time to enjoy a full buffet at the hotel with all the trimmings. Yes, it is included in your trip package!

You'll have some "casino money" to gamble with and there are shops and other points of interest at the hotel.

When you rise and shine on Thursday morning you'll enjoy a full buffet breakfast at the hotel (included). Then, our day begins!

We'll start the day with an interesting tour of Anheuser Busch, Inc. There is no other brewery experience in the world quite like an Anheuser Busch brewery tour. The historic architecture of the St. Louis brewery has a captivating story to tell. As you walk through the halls of the brewery, all of your senses will be engaged while you discover what it takes to brew some of America's most popular beers. You will also learn about Budweiser's signature 7-step brewing process that was created and perfected more than 100 years ago to brew the most consistent, quality beer. It's all yours to learn and enjoy during our tour. There are also some snack locations to enjoy lunch on your own.

We also expect to be doing a city tour while in St. Louis with a step-on guide.

Our next stop is an icon in St. Louis. The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis is the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, located in the central west end of the city of St. Louis. The Cathedral Basilica also serves as a Catholic parish whose membership roster includes Catholic families and individuals residing within its boundaries as well as many others from the metropolitan area. Visitors come from all over the world to view the architectural grandeur of this sacred house of worship.

From the beauty of the Basilica to one of the wonders of the world, we'll be visiting the famous Arch in St. Louis. While at the Arch, we'll have the opportunity to view the new museum and those who wish will be able to ride the Arch tram up high for an outstanding view of the St. Louis area from on top of the Arch!

NOTE: If you elect to not endure the ride to the top, you will be given a \$10 refund.

We'll be taking a one-hour ride on the Archway cruise boat after our visit to the Arch. You'll see still another part of the fantastic city of St. Louis, MO.

When we're done with all the activities, we'll return to the Ameristar for the evening where you can enjoy the food available in 8 or 9 great restaurants of all types. You will be on your own for your evening meal. There are also shops to browse and very comfortable places to simply sit and "people watch."

When we wake up Friday morning, we will once again enjoy a great breakfast at our luxurious Ameristar Hotel. But then, sadly, we will load the bus for the trek home! However, we have decided to do one more thing in St. Louis before we leave!

We will be visiting the World Bird Sanctuary to give you a chance to get an up close look at bald eagles, owls, falcons, vultures, and more. The Sanctuary is also the place to learn more about the world's threatened bird species through a variety of seasonal shows, educational programs, and special presentations. After the Sanctuary, we'll head towards home at about 6 p.m.

As I stated in the beginning, this trip was on the planning boards for 2019. I really wanted to let you take advantage of it now because I know some of you were disappointed that we just couldn't make the CanAm trip work. I do hope you'll agree that this is a very adequate replacement!

\$1099 pp, dbl occ. Single and triple prices are available.

Reserve your seats by email or phone. Full payment due within 10 days. Those previously signed up for either the CanAm trip or the St. Louis trip will be given first choice of seating for this trip. Deposits and/or payments may be transferred to this trip and any balance do the customer will be refunded.

