

# VIA ROAD TRIP

The Quarterly Newsletter from 



## Winter Storms in California Means a Boost in Spring Tourism

The first months of California’s winter can be described in a word that’s eluded the state for several drought-parched years: **wet**. Thanks to a back-to-back stream of atmospheric rivers dousing the state in record rain and snow, residents have dealt with flooding, power outages, downed trees, and evacuation warnings.

Even though Spring has officially arrived, winter is far from over. It’s too soon to tell what impact the storms will have on this summer’s fire season — less dry conditions could ease the risk, or rain-spurred growth could provide more fuel and worsen it — but there are bright spots for a state that’s been coping with major drought.

“The heavy mountain snowfall is proving beneficial for Sierra resorts and skiers, and could extend the 2023 season deep into the spring,” said Caroline Beteta, the president and chief executive of Visit California, which promotes tourism in the state. “The snowpack also raises the prospect of fuller reservoirs and rivers this spring and summer.”

This winter is shaping up to be the kind of season that skiers and riders dream about. Mammoth Mountain, which has clocked more than 500 inches of snow at its summit so far this season, is currently “the snowiest place in North America.” Palisades Tahoe’s upper mountain is just shy of 400 inches, according to Kirstin Guinn, the marketing director of the North Tahoe Community Alliance. “Ultimately, this has been one of the best skiing winters in memory,” Ms. Guinn said.

“We’re expecting to be skiing well past Memorial Day,” said Lauren Burke, the communications director of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.

Travelers can expect the mountains to be busy, with traffic to match. Ms. Burke recommends visiting Mammoth midweek, and Ms. Guinn encourages downloading apps for resorts (which share current weather information and more) and checking the Caltrans website for the latest on road conditions.

*Excerpted from NY Times 3/17/2023*



## In This Issue

# STAYCATIONS

The New Way to Discover and Reconnect

## The Top 5 Benefits of Renting a Charter Bus for Your Next Trip

**Charter Buses are Comfortable and Spacious** - Being cramped in a car or on a plane is uncomfortable for anyone. With a charter bus, the seats have ample spacing allowing you to stretch your legs and most seats on charter buses are able to recline.

**Charter Buses Have Great Amenities** - Most charter buses offer bathrooms for the passengers’ convenience and use during the trip. When traveling by car, a bathroom is not an option unless you pull over somewhere.

**Charter Buses are Safe** - Safety and security of the passengers on charter buses are the top priority. Every driver of the charter bus is trained to help passengers arrive at their destinations safely and securely. Each vehicle is required to undergo routine inspections according to state laws to ensure the charter bus is able to safely carry passengers.

**Riding a Charter Bus is More Flexible and Less Stressful** - Charter buses have the ability to make stops and customize your travel plans more than you’d be able to when traveling by plane or other options. Charter buses allow the opportunity for the entire group to board and exit the event or stop together.

Choosing to rent a charter bus for your next group outing has many benefits from offering added safety and togetherness to the many amenities the bus offers. **VIA Trailways** offers charter bus services in California and Arizona to fit all of your travel needs.

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# STAYCATION

## Discover and Reconnect at Home

**STAYCATION-** "a vacation spent in one's home country rather than abroad, or one spent at home and involving day trips to local attractions".

This year with the rising costs of just about everything (fuel, food, clothing, rent, insurance, etc.), many travelers are now turning to "**staycations**," - vacations where you stay at home or nearby, to rest and recharge. A shorter trip closer to home offers many of the same mental and physical benefits as a traditional vacation, but with less stress and a lower price tag.

Here are the top reasons that **STAYCATIONS** are trending this year.

- Staycations generally don't require early morning flights, long travel days or complicated trip logistics. With a staycation, the only thing left to do is set up an out-of-office reply.
- Vacation itineraries are often jam-packed with dozens of things to do and places to go, but a staycation itinerary can be blissfully simple. If you've ever needed a reason to sit by the pool all day or relax in a comfy hotel bed with no other plans, a staycation may be just the ticket.
- Think about your average vacation budget and how much you spend on hotels, meals and activities. With a staycation, you skip most of those costs, which allows you to stretch your travel budget even further. Put that extra money toward an upgraded hotel room, a nice spa treatment or possibly an additional staycation later in the year.
- Have you been spending too much time on the computer and your smartphone? Make the theme of your staycation a digital detox, with plenty of soul-nourishing activities and time spent outdoors. Is there a hobby you've been wanting to try? Bring supplies and use the change of scenery as inspiration to really dig in.
- If saying the word "vacation" in your household is associated with a trip to the dog kennel, your four-legged family member will definitely appreciate a staycation where they can come along. Many nice resorts have pet-friendly rooms, so you can relax at the pool and know that your pet is safe and sound nearby.
- A staycation is as good an excuse as any to finally check things off your tourist to-do list. Wander a nearby historic district, visit local parks, ride your bike somewhere you've never been before, visit a U-Pick farm or try out a new yoga studio.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Our offices will be closed for the following holidays:**  
**MEMORIAL DAY - May 29, 2023**

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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**DENISE "BOSTICK"  
DEMERY**



### Honoree of Rice University's First Black Student Athletes Commemoration

Rice University commemorated the transformational role black student-athletes played in the university's history at the First Black Student-Athletes Celebration in September 2022.

2022 marked the 50th anniversary of Rice's Class of 1972, which included the first four Black student-athletes to compete for the Owls and also the 50th anniversary of Title IX, which created the opportunity for Denise (Bostick) Demery (1980) to become one of the first Black female student-athletes at Rice.

Demery (Bostick) earned three letters in volleyball from 1977-80 when women's athletics were administered by the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (IAAW).

"This celebration is a fitting tribute to the courage, faith and confidence displayed by the men and women who became the first Black student-athletes at Rice. They not only paved the way for future student-athletes, they profoundly impacted our University and community during a time of great social change in our country," said Joe Karlgaard, Rice Director of Athletics, Recreation and Lifetime Fitness.

Demery (Bostick) said that when she started to reflect on her role in Rice history, she is proud to have helped create opportunities for Black athletes down the road.

"To be a part of, you know, when I look back, and I start reflecting, you know, I've gone through the Black history of rice, and the rice alumni... The first Black women's basketball scholarship athlete was Goya Qualls a year or two after me. Today they have a lot more tools that they're giving these young ladies, to be able to really succeed and get everything that they need ... To be a part of furthering that is just a real blessing."