STATE FAIR: UNABASHED IOWA FUN!

A short, 90-minute motor coach trip takes us to one of the best C1st Golden Opportunity Club deals of the year—the Iowa State Fair (Wednesday, Aug. 17) for just $32 per person. More than six hours of unabashed Iowa fun is sure to send you home with a smile.

We'll be dropped off in the middle of the fairgrounds near plenty of food concessions, entertainment and exhibits. We'll arrive shortly before lunchtime and leave after dinner, so there will be plenty of time to enjoy delicious Iowa meals or tasty “food-on-a-stick” treats.

See free stage shows, big hogs, a butter cow, museums, antiques, big pumpkins, farm equipment, 4-H exhibits, Bill Riley Talent Search, fill a bag with free giveaways or stand in line for a truly excellent ice cream cone and find a shady spot to sit down and watch thousands of people stroll by.

We'll leave the fairgrounds after dinner and arrive back in Ottumwa before 8 p.m. There will be a pick-up and drop-off in Oskaloosa too! Fair admission is included in the $32/person cost! Call Jeff to make a reservation.

PLENTY OF EVERYTHING FOR GOPP IN 2016

We jump into summer with “Sister Act” June 22 at Circa ’21 in Rock Island and a Lake Rathbun dinner cruise July 21. But before that, we have a few pictures here from a fun CR Follies outing in April and a Mystery Trip in May with the West Branch Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum, Tipton’s Old Jail and famous bakery, plus Hal Colliver’s unbelievable sign collection.

Elite Tours’ Steve Goodman warmed us up with details about a January 2017 “Winter Escape” to Fort Myers, Fla. at the May GOPP luncheon. The Florida trip will include a Ryman Auditorium backstage tour in Nashville, a Florida Glass Bottom Boat cruise, Sanibel Island, Edison and Ford winter estates in Fort Myers, Everglades Wonder Garden, Manatee Park and a stop at the Lookout Mountain Incline Railway on our return trip. 10 days and 9 nights for $1,150 per person/double room. Call me for a detailed trip flyer.

Our summer trips are filling up. We’re into a second motor coach for the Lake Rathbun dinner cruise, and boat capacity will limit the popular cruise to about 72 members. The “Sister Act” musical comedy at Circa ’21 still has about a half dozen seats available.

The Fort Atkinson, Wisc. Fireside Theatre-Lake Geneva-Racine lakefront trip Sept. 1-3 is getting a nice response. The final payment deadline is July 1 and that’s only 4 weeks away. Then there’s trip confirmation and a waiting list for the C1st member-wide trip to Italy in October. And don’t forget “Nana’s Naughty Knickers” at Maples Repertory Theatre Nov. 1 in Macon, Mo. Their 2016 season brochure assures the comedy is rated PG, but adds a “Suggested Naughtiness” label!

The year wouldn’t be complete without a final trip to Riverside Casino Nov. 16, a GOPP Fall Picnic Sept. 14 and the Christmas Banquet. Dec. 10. And plenty of time to rest up for Fort Myers Jan. 21–30, 2017!
June 22, 2016 (Wednesday) – “SISTER ACT,” Circa ’21 Dinner Playhouse, Rock Island, Ill. – $91/person

July 21, 2016 (Thursday) - LAKE RATHBUN DINNER CRUISE; 5 to 8 p.m. – $80/person
- We started a waiting list for reservation requests and might choose to add a second motor coach. Please call if you’re interested in joining us. We will include an Albia pick-up.
- A luxurious, 85-foot houseboat will take us on a three-hour, buffet dinner outing. A delicious menu includes pulled pork, homemade rolls, shaved meats and cheeses, potato and macaroni salad, cole slaw, baked beans, jumbo peeled shrimp, honey-flavored chicken wings and drummies, cocktail smokies in bourbon sauce, relishes, chips and dip, munchies, homemade fudge brownies and beverages. Cash bar available.

August 17, 2016 (Wednesday) – IOWA STATE FAIR, Des Moines – $32/person
- Enjoy the unparalleled grandeur of the Iowa State Fair with amazing things to see, amusing things to do and culinary marvels to savor. We’ll be dropped off in the middle of the fairgrounds at about 11 a.m. After a full day enjoying Iowa treasures, we’ll depart for home at 6:30 p.m. Cost includes fair admission ticket.

- The much-acclaimed Fireside Theater will have another favorite complete with an excellent dinner and even an indoor rainstorm for this show! Day two we’ll head to Lake Geneva to see the young mail carriers leap from the boat and onto residents’ piers to deliver their lakefront route. Lunch is at Baker House right on the lake. Then there’s a short trip to Racine for their First Fridays monthly downtown celebration. Saturday morning we’re off to O & H Bakery for Racine’s famous Danish pastry— the Kringle, the Johnson Wax corporate headquarters designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and finish at Wind Point Lighthouse on Lake Michigan.

September 14, 2016 (Wednesday) – FALL PICNIC, Ottumwa Park Shelter – $8/person

October 1–10, 2016 – “REFLECTIONS OF ITALY” BY COLLETTE VACATIONS – $4549/person/dbl. includes airfare from Des Moines.

November 1, 2016 (Tuesday) – “NANA’S NAUGHTY KNICKERS,” Maples Repertory Theatre, Macon MO.

November 16, 2016 (Wednesday) – RIVERSIDE CASINO – $35/person

December 10, 2016 (Saturday) -- GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER - 921 Church St. Ottumwa, 12 – 3 p.m. – $9/person

- Includes Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Silver Springs glass bottom boat, Charlotte Harbor sunset cruise, three nights in Fort Myers, Sanibel Island tour, Thomas Edison and Henry Ford winter estates, Everglades Wonder Garden and Lookout Mountain Incline Railway. Reservation deposit $100/person and final payment due Dec. 6.