

## AGENT SPOTLIGHT! A collective series ...



**New in our Agent Spotlight series, all eyes are on Danette Jacob this week - Travel Advisor with Travel Leaders in La Crosse.** In addition to her vast knowledge of Europe and her passion for the South Pacific, Danette will share with you her adventures a bit closer to home.

Grab a “sweet tea” and unwind as Danette takes you on a paddlewheel adventure!

### European Culture, All Inclusive, World & River Cruises, Luxury and more!

When people read about me and my travels, more often than not it is Germany-related. I lived in Germany, speak the language, and feel as if it is my second home. Germany isn't the only country I am passionate about though. One of my goals when I turned 50 was to make sure I had traveled to at least 50 countries. I succeeded and surpassed that goal on both accounts! 😊 Learning about new cultures, exploring new areas and experiencing new things is very important to me.

Some people also know that I absolutely adore River Cruising. It's my favorite mode of transportation and I've blocked group space for late 2021 on a River Cruise itinerary called “Festive Season on the Romantic Rhine 2021” which includes visits to Christmas Markets (please contact me if interested!) This year though, due to Covid-19, I will stay a little closer to home.

### Are you intrigued by the thought of a River Cruise, but not looking forward to an international flight?

Then let me help you with a cruise on the Mississippi or the Columbia and Snake Rivers. The rivers of the United States offer great travel options. I loved sailing on the American Queen so much that I decided to sail on the American Empress and American Duchess as well! Now, I have sailed with the American Queen Steamboat Company three times – each time was a different ship, a different river or different part of the river – each time was unique. The ships are lovely, with a classic, stately elegance and as the calliope plays and paddle wheels turn, you're transported back to a simpler time.



I often saw the American Queen and its big, red paddlewheel as she sailed the Mississippi River through La Crosse or was docked at our Riverside Park. I wondered what it would be like to sail on her, and thought about how lucky the people were that were sitting on the rockers on the front porch sipping iced tea, lemonade or a glass of wine. However, I didn't want to just WATCH the people; I wanted to BE one of the people!!! So, I booked my mother and me on the American Queen, to experience a different part of the country. We decided on a lower Mississippi River sailing that embarked in Memphis and ended in New Orleans. The steam calliope played as we sailed to historical places such as Vicksburg, Natchez, Baton Rouge and Nottoway. We visited memorial battlefields, cotton fields and antebellum mansions. Nottoway, located near the town of White Castle in Iberville Parish, is one of the largest antebellum houses in the South and the



largest surviving plantation house in Louisiana. Interesting fact: the mansion has a total of 365 doors and windows to represent 365 days of the year. Notice the dual staircases outside; it is rumored one was for women and one for men so the men couldn't look up women's skirts!

### The Pacific Northwest was a new area yet to be discovered by me, and so – off I went to sail

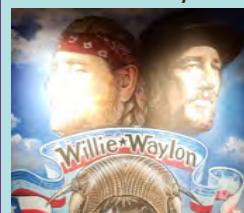
the Columbia and Snake Rivers with the American Empress. For nature and history fans, and if you enjoy wineries, this is a cruise for you. We boarded the ship in Vancouver, WA (across the Columbia River from Portland, OR) and proceeded to Astoria, OR; Stevenson, WA; Dalles, OR; Richland, WA; Clarkston, WA; and flew home from Spokane. The scenery was amazing and the landscape quickly changed from spruce and pine trees to vineyards and cherry trees. I especially liked the waterfalls in the Columbia River Gorge.



Astoria is known as the oldest settlement west of the Mississippi. Make sure to visit the Columbia River Maritime Museum which preserves the heritage of the Columbia River region. Fort Clatsop is approximately five miles from Astoria. Lewis and Clark and their explorers spent the winter in Fort Clatsop from early December 1805 to late March 1806. Today's Fort Clatsop is an “approximated” copy of the original structure – there were no photos or descriptions of the original one. There is an interesting interpretive center that offers an exhibit and two films about Lewis and Clark's expedition. Rangers in period costumes lead visitors through the fort and several trailheads; the most interesting being the Netul River Trail and Fort to Sea Trail.

### My latest adventure was late in fall on the American Duchess and I was not disappointed. It

was a Country Music lover's dream as the riverboat's itinerary was a circle trip - Nashville, back to Nashville. We went to the Country Music Hall of Fame and even took in a show at the *Grand Ole Opry*!



I was in awe at *The National Quilt Museum* in Paducah. I am not a quilter but found myself staying much longer than expected.

Clarksville, Tennessee is home to the *Star Spangled Brewing Company*. It is a proud veteran-owned, locally-owned brewery that specializes in small batch, high gravity beers and homemade root beer. You can “beer it forward” in honor of a military division or friend. It is family-friendly and has room outside for picnics and yard games.



**The American Queen Steamboat Company has a cruise for everyone.** There are so many inclusions such as tours, shows, transfers, meals and even wine on select cruises. One night at dinner I had the “special” which included lobster, a baked potato and corn on the cob. The waiter noticed I had eaten my lobster, but hadn't touched my potato or corn and asked why. I explained that although I like potatoes and corn, lobster was the real treat. Next thing I knew... he came with another lobster tail 😊!

Other cruise lines will also be sailing our rivers. Viking Cruises has announced it will launch an all-inclusive, 386-passenger river ship on the Mississippi River in August 2022. The first vessel - Viking Mississippi - will sail voyages on the Lower and Upper Mississippi, between New Orleans and St. Paul. We are already taking reservations as these sailings will be quick to sell out.

No matter what type of vacation you're looking for, I would love to share my knowledge with you and help you to create your own uniquely crafted riverboat experience! Please contact me at [Danette.Jacob@TravelLeadersgo.com](mailto:Danette.Jacob@TravelLeadersgo.com) or 608-779-1194. I look forward to assisting you in planning your next adventure!

To view my bio, stories, photos and - most importantly - testimonials and reviews from a few of my clients, please check out our website at [www.TravelLeadersgo.com](http://www.TravelLeadersgo.com) or [my own specialist](#) page.

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