Find your adventure.
Traveling Bulldogs 2013 Catalog
**Find your adventure**

Do you crave adventure? Are you looking for exciting global travel opportunities? Do you have a passion for learning about other cultures and traditions while enjoying luxurious accommodations? Take a trip with the Mississippi State University Traveling Bulldogs and witness some of the most exotic and exciting locations around the world.

Picture yourself on the sandy beaches of the Greek Isles or exploring medieval cathedrals along the Italian Rivera. Board a Zodiac craft in Antarctica and admire the antics of the abundant wildlife on the world’s southern most continent. Enjoy the stunning natural beauty of South Africa as you adventure to six ports of call along the Cape of Good Hope. Discover fairy tale castles, ancient architecture and sprawling gardens across Russia, Sweden, Great Britain and France. Escape from your day-to-day activities accompanied by fellow Bulldog travelers to destinations hand-picked by our outstanding travel partners.

Each of our 2013 trips offers a particular kind of adventure. Choose your own adventure by answering questions as we go along in the brochure. We will lead you to a trip full of fun and excitement, and tailored to your individual travel desires.

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Do you long to explore other cultures and learn about the historical significance of a city? If so, turn to page 3.

Are you interested in architecture and art unique to a region? Turn to page 13.

Do you love beautiful landscapes and admiring the beauty of the earth? If this is you, skip to page 23.
Every city has a story. Within the ancient walls and composition is a tale of its creation. Each mark captures a moment in the city’s history that is unique to a certain time and event. Discover these stories as you travel to one of our historical locations. Dive deep into the culture and immerse yourself in the knowledge of the region’s character. Take a trip back in time and imagine being in the story as it is told.

The tumultuous past of Germany and Russia has changed how our world governments operate and relate to one another. If you have ever wanted to walk along the streets once ruled by dictatorships and now open freely to its citizens, turn to page 5.

The Italian region of Tuscany is renown for its unique culinary delights, lavish lifestyle and artistic heritage. To experience the daily lives and customs of the Tuscan way of life, turn to page 7.

Along the Mediterranean coast lie cities that carry immense political and religious narratives. Have you ever wanted visit the hometowns of major historical figures or explore the cities that paved the way for modern life? If so, turn to page 9.

In the first and second centuries AD, the Roman Empire experienced over 200 years of a peaceful era known as Pax Romana. The civilization and culture thrived during this time, and formed antiquated cites that still exist. If you long to delve into ancient Roman history, turn to page 11.
Discover treasures old and new on the sparkling Baltic Sea aboard Oceania Cruises’ elegant Marina. Depart Copenhagen and cruise to Germany, Poland, Estonia, Russia and Finland, stopping first in the charming German port of Warnemünde. Meander its seaside promenade or make the short drive to Berlin for a powerful glimpse of recent history. Witness the rich spectacle of Gdansk, Poland, where medieval charm combines with a rebel spirit that gave birth to the famed Solidarity movement. In Estonia, stop at Tallinn and wander its splendidly preserved medieval Old Town. Cruise to Russia and spend three glorious days taking in St. Petersburg’s breathtaking sites, the gorgeous onion-domed cathedrals and fabled palaces, to name a few. Or head south to Moscow for a memorable day visiting famed sights like Red Square, St. Basil’s Cathedral and the Kremlin Towers. Get a splash of modern art and architecture in the Finnish capital of Helsinki before ending your journey with a day in Stockholm, Sweden’s lovely capital – another treasure of the Baltic.

TRIP: Baltic Treasures: Copenhagen to Stockholm
DATE: July 4-15, 2013
PRICE: From $3,999 per person (airfare included)
PARTNER: Go Next

Travel Tip #1
Pick up a phrasebook for the country you are visiting before you go. Not only does it contain common phrases translated from English, but it also provides insight on local culture.
Experience la dolce vita di Toscana (Tuscany’s sweet life) for one full week in one of Italy’s most fabled and timeless provinces. Stay four nights in the heart of Florence and three nights in an ideally located, deluxe hotel in medieval Siena, both UNESCO World Heritage sites. This delightful sojourn introduces you to the authentic traditions and culture of Tuscany, with specially arranged excursions and cultural enrichments highlighting the region’s Etruscan and medieval history, the exquisite artistic and architectural legacy of great Italian Renaissance masters, and the centuries-old secrets of world-renowned wine and olive oil. Walk through the streets of Florence, the “Cradle of the Renaissance.” Discover hidden gems like the ancient hill towns of San Gimignano, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and Chianti, known for their world-famous wines. Meet local residents during the exclusive Village Forum™ for a personal perspective of daily life in Tuscany. This highly popular program is an exceptional value.
Discover incredible ancient wonders on this Aegean odyssey aboard the graceful Oceania Cruises Nautica, sailing from Istanbul to the Greek Isles and Athens. Stop in Kusadasi and visit the amazing ruins of Ephesus, a former Roman town that is now one of the best-preserved archaeological sites on the Mediterranean. Visit Rhodes, world famous for its ancient Acropolis and as the former site of the legendary Colossus. Then sail on to Crete, the largest of the Greek isles. Take in its picturesque landscapes dotted with villages and windmills, and get a glimpse of ancient Minoan civilization at the reconstructed Bronze-Age Palace of Knossos. After a stop on the lovely Greek island of Santorini, a stunning natural spectacle of volcano-carved landscapes and wineries, it’s on to another Greek island and town with the same name, Mykonos. Stroll though the seaside town’s winding maze of streets amid dazzling whitewashed homes dotted with brightly painted shutters and doors, before concluding your Greek Isles odyssey in Athens.
Let Italian-influenced towns and islands inspire you from aboard the gorgeous Oceania Cruises Riviera as you cruise to Italy, Greece and Croatia. Set out from Rome’s port, Civitavecchia, and sail down the Mediterranean coast to Sorrento. From this lovely village, explore the nearby ruins of Pompeii, an ancient town famously frozen in time since 79 A.D.; or travel to Capri, an island so beautiful that it served as a vacation getaway for ancient Romans. Continue to vibrant Amalfi or Positano, where medieval cathedrals and Moorish-style houses cling breathtakingly to seaside cliffs. Cruise to Taormina and take in the island of Sicily, where Greek and Roman ruins contrast with colorful modern shops. In Zakynthos, visit the Venetian-style St. Mark’s Square or comb the beaches for native loggerhead turtles, then experience a dash of greenery on Corfu. Renowned for its lush forests, the Greek island offers towns filled with elegant Italianate buildings, leftover from four centuries of Venetian rule. Discover Croatia among medieval walls and Venetian monuments in Dubrovnik or in the nearby village of Cavtat, once a Roman colony, before concluding your inspirational journey in Venice.
Art and Architecture

Creative expression in the form of architecture and art has long been the way a country or city defines itself. Whether Gothic or modern, impressionistic or abstract, the style derived from a piece of stone or paint swatch conveys the spirit and passion of its creator. Remark at the glory and wonderful of these unique works, whether a towering building or a small sculpture, by admiring the architecture and art in foreign cities.

East meets west in modern Asia when it comes to architecture and art. Whether walking the busy streets of a large metropolis or strolling by a solemn monument, an array of lively colors and a Zen-like atmosphere await. To cruise through some of Asia’s most beautiful spaces, turn to page 15.

The Italian Renaissance influenced centuries of artistic expression around the world. Characterized by works of Michelangelo, Botticelli and Da Vinci, this era in world history stands out as one of the greatest producers of art and culture. To gaze first hand at prestigious works by the masters, turn to page 17.

The European coast provides a mix of old world and modern charm. Whether touring ancient archeological sites, wandering through galleries filled with renowned works of art, or experiencing the glamorous lifestyle of modern royalty, you will enjoy the trip on page 19.

Precise and meticulous craftsmanship is a main characteristic of art in Eastern Europe. Rich in textiles, folk art and jeweled masterpieces, Russia’s artistic fingerprints are as pristine as they are prized. To tour the heartland of the old country and discover its many architectural treasures, turn to page 21.
Discover legendary East Asia, where the past comes to life and ancient temples mingle with modern high-rises, while sailing the shores of China, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea. Begin in Hong Kong, a city where the old and new seamlessly intertwine, notably in its lovely temples and steel-edged buildings that dominate the skyline. Taiwan is next, and the colorful markets of Taipei; then sail to Japan and the scenic island of Okinawa for a visit to the imposing Shuri Castle. Visit Kyoto, an ancient imperial capital dotted with shrines, or travel to Kobe and see Himeji Castle. Continue to Hiroshima, home to the moving Peace Memorial Park and Museum, and onward to Shanghai with its soaring, state-of-the-art buildings, where you can stroll along the famous Bund or explore the colorful Yu Yuan Garden. Cruise to Seoul, South Korea, where historical structures linger among their ultra-modern counterparts, then on to Beijing, China’s fascinating capital, where age-old pagodas and temples blend with towering skyscrapers. Explore the vast and fascinating Forbidden City, admire the symmetry and vibrant colors of the Temple of Heaven, or take a walk along the magnificent Great Wall of China. Combining elegance with exceptional intimacy and warmth, Oceania Cruises Nautica offers every indulgence imaginable for an unforgettable journey.

TRIP: Asian Explorations: Hong Kong to Beijing
DATE: February 20-March 10, 2013
PRICE: From $6,263 per person (airfare included)
PARTNER: Go Next

Travel Tip #5
An easy way to obtain currency when you arrive at your destination is to visit a local ATM. However, be aware of extra transaction fees and fluctuating exchange rates.
The treasures of the Mediterranean are spread out before you while sailing the shores of Italy, France and Monaco aboard Oceania Cruises’ elegant Nautica. Depart Rome’s port of Civitavecchia for Sorrento, a trove of cobblestone streets and charm. Take in the stunning island beauty of Capri, or visit the famed ancient town frozen in time, Pompeii. More enchanting treasures await you in the hillside towns of Amalfi and Positano, a blend of seaside cliffs, colorful houses and medieval palaces. From Livorno, head to Florence where you can stroll past opulent Renaissance palaces and see Michelangelo’s breathtaking statue of David, or visit Pisa and stand before the famous Leaning Tower. Continue to the wildly beautiful island of Corsica and the town of Ajaccio, the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte. In Marseille, stroll the Canebière to the fascinating Old Port, or venture through the Provençal countryside to the lovely fountains of Aix or the medieval walls and fortress-like palace in Avignon. Stop on the French Riviera and mingle with the rich and famous, first in the famed resort of St. Tropez and then in the celebrated city of Cannes, before concluding your voyage in Monte Carlo, where more of the glamorous jet-set life can be seen at its famous casino and palace.
Encounter some of the world’s most evocative cities in Portugal, Spain and France as you weave your way through the colorful tapestry of Western Europe. Depart from Lisbon and travel north along the Atlantic coast aboard the elegant yet intimate Oceania Cruises Nautica. First is Oporto, Portugal, where an urban liveliness provides a modern sheen to the Renaissance architecture of the city’s cathedral area and to the preserved medieval authenticity of its Barredo quarter. In Spain, visit La Coruña and its still-working 2nd-century Roman lighthouse, or take in Santiago de Compostela with its legendary cathedral marking a 9th-century pilgrimage route. In Bilbao, witness amazing modern and contemporary art at the thrillingly designed Guggenheim Museum. Complete your European tapestry with two days in Bordeaux, France, the city punctuated by Gothic churches, broad avenues and 18th-century mansions; and the region marked by famed vineyards and glorious château-dotted estates. Spend a day sailing along French shores and into the English Channel before arriving in England and the port of Dover.

TRIP: European Tapestry: Lisbon to London
DATE: June 12-20, 2013
PRICE: From $2,199 per person (airfare included)
PARTNER: Go Next

Travel Tip #7
If you plan to explore on your own, find a city street map to help you navigate to all of the local markets and sightseeing attractions. Maps can be purchased ahead of time, or when you arrive at your destination.
Join us for nine nights aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe M.S. VOLGA DREAM, the premier ship cruising Russia’s waterways and a capacity of 109 passengers. This carefully crafted itinerary highlights Russia’s two great cultural capitals. Spend two nights aboard ship in St. Petersburg, czar Peter the Great’s “window on the West,” featuring a guided tour of the State Hermitage Museum. And, spend one night aboard ship in the fabled city of Moscow, the political and commercial capital of the world’s largest country, and see the world’s largest collection of Fabergé eggs. Cruise through the heartland of Mother Russia along scenic rivers, lakes and canals to the legendary open-air museum of Kizhi Island, the 14th-century monastery of Goritsy, medieval Yaroslavl and tenth-century Uglich, rustic remnants of Old Russia. This unique and always popular program appeals to the first-time visitor to Russia and the return visitor curious to see the astounding changes that have taken place in Russia’s two largest and most important cities. A two-night Moscow post-cruise option is offered.
Beautiful Landscapes

The world is a beautiful canvas filled with an array of textures, colors and silhouettes. Whether an icy wilderness, vast wasteland, mountainous region or tranquil ocean, the diversity of our global landscape is awe-inspiring. Become a student of the earth. Admire magnificent scenery, exotic wildlife and breathtaking coastlines in striking destinations around the world.

The earth’s southern-most continent abounds with untouched vistas and comical wildlife fascinating to explorers of any age. A sense of adventure and discovery awaits the fearless traveler longing for excitement. For a taste of adventure in the last frontier, turn to page 25.

A multi-ethnic and diverse culture awaits globe-trekkers seeking the rush of exploration. Exotic animals roam freely among the picturesque terrain framed by dry mountainous regions and a lush coastline. To go on safari in a foreign land, skip to page 27.

Europe’s countryside features some of the world’s most spectacular scenery along the Rhine River Valley. Travel by both land and water to experience the peaceful lakes and mountains found in this region. If you long for a great journey through Europe, jump to page 29.

France’s landscape provides a beautiful tapestry of urban and rural civilization. From the lovely vineyards in the south, to the bustling of city life in the north, the western European nation is a spectacular sight. If you long to draw in the splendor of France, turn to page 31.
Join us for this spectacular 14-day journey featuring a nine-night cruise to Antarctica, Earth’s last frontier. Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, intimate M.S. L’AUSTRAL, the finest vessel in Antarctic waters, combining innovative design with personalized service and featuring private balconies in 95 percent of the deluxe, outside suites and staterooms. Experience the White Continent in its unspoiled state—fantastically shaped icebergs, turquoise glaciers, bustling penguin rookeries and breaching whales—during the lingering light of the austral summer. Accompanied by the ship’s expert expedition team of naturalists, board a sturdy Zodiac craft for excursions ashore and observe the antics of Antarctica’s abundant wildlife—penguins and seals, especially, are unafraid of human visitors. The expedition team will provide a series of enriching lectures on this untouched wilderness. Also, spend two nights in a deluxe hotel in Buenos Aires, including a cultural tour of this vibrant capital. Extend your journey with the exclusive three-night Iguazú Falls post-program option. Reserve by July 5, 2012, for early booking savings.

TRIP: Expedition to Antarctica
DATE: January 17-30, 2013
PRICE: From $7,595 per person (plus airfare)
PARTNER: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company

Travel Tip #9

Keep a photocopy of your passport, suitcase, insurance card and other identification items in your carryon in case anything is lost or stolen. It is also good to leave copies with a family member or friend at home.
Discover the staggering diversity of South Africa, “a world in one country.” Stunning natural beauty awaits you, filled with abundant exotic wildlife, including more than 850 species of birds and a predominance of the “Big Five.” Soaring mountains, expansive velds and low-lying grasslands set the scene. Green gorges, lush swamplands and 3,000 miles of spectacular coastline define the landscape. Join us for this unique voyage aboard the six-star, all-suite, small ship M.V. SILVER WIND. Couples receive $1,000 Passport to Luxury shipboard credit upon embarkation, and endless opportunities to discover the pride of Southern Africa. Unpack just once as you cruise round trip from Cape Town. Explore ports of call in Port Elizabeth, Richards Bay, Durban and East London, South Africa, and Maputo, Mozambique. Enjoy the world-class cities and diverse cultures, and experience the grandeur of the landscape on safaris at first light and beneath the radiant glow of the African sunset. Three-night Victoria Falls pre-cruise and two-night Cape Town post-cruise options are offered. *(Free airfare from 43 gateway cities.)
Many of our trips include walking tours through cities and to historical sites. Take into account the amount of physical activity of each trip before you book.
This quintessential French sojourn features a stay in the great city of Paris. Travel by way of the famous high-speed Train à Grande Vitesse from Paris to Lyon, and a delightful five-night cruise almost the entire length of the bucolic Rhône River through the splendid countryside of Provence. Spend a full day in Lyon, France’s gastronomique gateway, before embarking the exclusively chartered M.S. AMADEUS SYMPHONY. Experience the world-famous Côtes du Rhône wine region, which inspired the great Impressionists Cézanne and Van Gogh, and visit the Roman city of Orange, the historic Papal Palace of Avignon and the wonderfully preserved Roman Amphitheater in Arles. The carefully designed London pre-program option travels aboard the Eurostar train through the marvelously engineered Chunnel to Paris; an Aix-en-Provence post-program option is offered also. This great itinerary is an excellent value, and you have the opportunity to travel all the way from London into the very heart of Provence.
Go Next (1-800-842-9023)

For over 38 years, Go Next has been designing and operating affordable, high quality, air-inclusive travel programs that appeal to varied interests and all age groups, exclusively available through associations and professional organizations. Each year, they offer new and exciting itineraries that exceed the expectations of even the most seasoned travelers. A wide selection of optional excursions allows the convenience and flexibility to personalize an itinerary, take part in excursions with fellow alumni, or, explore on your own. With Go Next’s exceptional service and professional, on-site management, you can expect a seamless travel experience, leaving you to enjoy every moment.

Thomas P. Gohagan & Company (1-800-922-3088)

Gohagan & Company is a leading preferred provider of international and domestic travel programs to North America’s most prestigious nonprofit organizations, museums, college and university alumni associations and cultural institutions. Highly discerning members have come to rely on Gohagan & Company for singular travel programs of the very highest standards to confidently travel the world in style and comfort. Since 1984, Gohagan & Company has developed and operated imaginative travel programs that are simply unavailable anywhere else. Gohagan & Company’s programs are designed to appeal to a wide range of participants from those seeking an ultra-deluxe river cruise or sea voyage to those who yearn for the simplicity of a tranquil week in one of Europe’s many historic villages.
Visit us on the web at www.alumni.msstate.edu/travel.

PLEASE NOTE: All trip prices and dates are tentative and subject to change.

To find out more about the Traveling Bulldogs program, please contact Libba Andrews, associate director of the MSU Alumni Association, at landrews@alumni.msstate.edu or 662-325-3479.

MSU is an AA/EEO university.