



Exploring Wonders of the World (HYBRID) SYLLABUS & CALENDAR Page 1 of 2

WEDNESDAYS 9:00 – 10:30. MAB2 157-161 SPRING – 2026

Team Lead: Vicky Birkland

Join our team of OLLI volunteer instructors as we share our choices of the world's wonders. Each session tells us something profound about the human experience in different times and places. (Subject to change as needed.)

WEEK #.	TOPIC	
#1-a. Feb. 4 9:00 – 9:45	“Hafa Adai!” Greetings from GUAM With this greeting from the Chamorro people of Guam, lets set out for this US territory – the beautiful Pacific island on the other side of the dateline. We'll explore its history, stunning scenery, and its unique character.	Vicky Birkland
#1-b. Feb. 4 9:45 – 10:30	Castles. Why did Medieval people build castles? And why is one being built today?	Jean Beard
#2-a. Feb. 11 9:00 – 9:45	72 Hours in Zion National Park The natural beauty of Zion National Park also masks the sudden chance for danger!	Fred Cover
#2-b. Feb. 11 9:45 – 10:30	Verde River Canyon Railroad Trip. Take the railroad trip through the breathtaking scenery of the Verde River Canyon.	Mari-Anne Cover
#3-a Feb. 18 9:00 – 9:45	Istanbul: The Imperial City The rich history of this ancient port city spans over 2,500 years, serving as Roman, Byzantine, & Ottoman capitals.	Joanne Hylton
3-b. Feb. 18 9:45 -10:30	Facts and fiction that created the legend of the Pony Express. This is the story of a business that should have been a minor footnote of history and how, in the last century and a half, it has become an important piece of history in the settling of the American West.	John Birkland
#4-a. Feb. 25 9:00 – 9:45	The Bermuda Triangle For centuries, the Bermuda Triangle, a stretch of water in the Atlantic Ocean, has been viewed with fear because of unexplained disappearances of ships and planes in the area, fueling theories ranging from natural phenomena like rogue waves and methane gas eruptions to paranormal explanations like alien abductions. Learn what science is learning about the Bermuda Triangle.	Ed Ort
#4-b. Feb. 25 9:45 – 10:30	The Edmund Fitzgerald Explore the history, mysteries, and myths that surround the Edmund Fitzgerald and its tragic fate.	Marilyn Getty
#5-a & b Mar. 4 9:00 – 9:45 & 9:45 – 10:30	Russia! A country so wide it spans 11 time zones, so large it is 1.7 times larger than the United States. It is a land full of natural and man-made wonders. What is Russia like in the 21 st century? Let's find out!	Butch Langel
#6-a. Mar. 11 9:00 – 9:45	The USS Constitution and her sisters. The USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) is the oldest commissioned naval vessel still afloat, and she has been designated "America's Ship.". We will look at the ups and downs of her career since her launching in 1797, and the part she and her five sisters played in protecting our fledgling nation.	John Birkland

WEEK #.	TOPIC	
#6-b. Mar. 11 9:45 – 10:30	The Mystery and Majesty of Malta. Walk the ancient streets of the EU's smallest nation and explore Malta's hidden side, secrets you were never told of this unique paradise in the Mediterranean.	Vicky Birkland
NO CLASSES	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASSES
#7-a. Mar. 25 9:00 – 9:45	Barbershop Harmony 4-Part Harmony is a unique art form which was developed in the U.S. Barbershop singing is not only a hobby, but a way of life.	Ivan Lambert
#7-b. Mar. 25 9:45 – 10:30	The Indian Boarding School Learn of the complex and troubled history of the Indian Boarding School and its evolution, with the real insight gained from years serving as the nurse at an Oklahoma Indian Boarding School.	Marilyn Getty
#8-a. Apr. 1 9:00 – 9:45	Churchill's War Rooms. Travel back to 1940s London and relive World War II from the center of the action!	Jean Beard
#8-b. Apr. 1 9:45– 10:30	The WWII Doolittle raid on Japan. Just 4 months after Pearl Harbor, at a point when American morale was at its lowest, a super-secret operation did what was thought to be impossible. On April 18, 1942, 16 aircraft and 80 men, launched from an aircraft carrier, struck the Japanese homeland and the city of Tokyo, greatly improving American morale and creating fear and panic in the Japanese population who had been told many times that the war would never touch them.	John Birkland
#9-a. Apr. 8 9:00 – 9:45	The Colosseum: Engineering Marvel of Rome. Journeying to the Eternal City, we will examine this massive Flavian amphitheater, seeking its history, survival, and its majesty engineered to stand for over 2000 years.	Vicky Birkland
#9-b. Apr. 8 9:45 – 10:30	Wonders of the Sistine Chapel. Discover the breathtaking and ingenious art, architecture, history, and construction of the Sistine Chapel.	Vicky Birkland
#10-a. April 15 9:00 – 9:45	Las Vegas: Neon Oasis. Come delve into the history, the secrets, and the possibilities of this weird oasis of glitz and mystery in the Mojave Desert.	Vicky Birkland
#10-b. April 15 9:45 – 10:30	Disney's Magical Dream: Disneyland. Travel back with Walt Disney to discover how he turned his wildest dream into a reality that has brought joy to generations of families. Explore the ingenious engineering and construction that brought the world of animation to California.	Vicky Birkland