

Strictly ELVIS UK



ELVIS
TRAVEL SERVICE

Newsletter No. 27

Winter 2021

Good Morning,

Well I know that the Covid pandemic isn't over just yet and I certainly don't want you to drop your guard or take any risks with the precautions needed to stay safe from it, but PHEW – isn't it nice to be able to get back to some semblance of living again? After some 18 months of restrictions we were finally able to get together for our Thames Cruise in August (an event that had been postponed 3 times!) and the look of relief on the faces of all who attended was a sight to see. Smiles nearly as wide as the Thames itself. Likewise at the Elvis Festival as our Elvis family from all over the country were able to get together for what turned out to be 'the party of the year'. Yes, we did have some brilliant bands and some great guests (See Neil Cameron's report on Page 12 & 13) but just as important for many of us was meeting up again, listening to Elvis, enjoying a drink and a chat, and putting the world to rights.



I know I've said it before but I'm always amazed by the generosity of Elvis fans when it comes to raising money for Charity – with some £5000 raised at the Festival for some very needy causes... now that really is following in Elvis' footsteps. Charities benefitting this year are the Little Haven's Children's Hospice, MacMillan Cancer Support, Jeff Brown Charitable Trust (providing holidays for terminally ill children), Prostate Cancer UK, the Alzheimer's Society, the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation for Cancer Research and the James Burton Foundation. Some of these Charities we have supported for a long time but if there's a particular Charitable cause that you would like us to consider in future, please let us know.

As I write this, I'm also thinking about the fact that our first USA visit since Elvis' 85th Birthday

Tour in January 2020 is due to fly out soon – we might even be back by the time you receive this Newsletter. This particular tour features Thanksgiving in Memphis and a trip to Tupelo (of course) but then travels on to the beautiful Crystal River area of northern Florida where Elvis made 'Follow That Dream' and here we'll see the filming location sites. Can't wait – although at the moment Elvis' 'What a Wonderful Life' is competing in my head with Willie Nelson's 'On The Road Again'.

And then Christmas will be upon us – if you can't think of a present for an Elvis fan then take a look at our Book Offers on Page 7, there's some good ones there – or perhaps the Calendar on Page 15, a DVD from the Elvis Film Society or just about anything from the Elvis Shop/Studio B?

Next year we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Elvis Travel Service, an organisation admired by most, copied by many and one that I'm so proud to have started and still be part of. I'd like to fill the next Newsletter with stories and photos from some of those fans who travelled on the early tours and to dedicate that bumper issue to all the fans who have travelled with us over the half century. Please share your memories with us.



And finally – here's wishing you all a safe and wonderful Christmas, a marvellous New Year and a happy and healthy 2022 – from all Staff and DJ's of Strictly Elvis UK and the Elvis Travel Service.

T
Cheers for now
B

David J. Wade

DIARY UPDATE

2022



Find us on...



The Elvis Presley Travel
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News spreads pretty quickly and whilst we'll always update you via our newsletters, if you're on Facebook head over to our page and give it a 'Like' by clicking the big blue thumb and being part of our friendly Elvis on-line family you'll get to see all of our latest news, photos, videos and even the odd free prize giveaway as soon as we post it.

FOR FANS, BY FANS

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Strictly Elvis UK is the Newsletter of Strictly Elvis UK and the Elvis Travel Service – trading names of David Wade Ltd, an organisation that has led the way in Elvis holidays and events since being founded by lifelong Elvis fan David Wade in 1972. This professional organisation is registered with Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc and works closely with them to promote Graceland, the Guest House at Graceland, Graceland's Chapel in the Woods and Elvis' legacy. The names 'Elvis', 'Elvis Presley', 'Graceland' and 'The Guest House at Graceland' are registered to Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc with the USPTO.

BAD NAUHEIM AND G I BLUES TOUR 24th-28th March 2022

Come and stay in the Grunewald Hotel in Bad Nauheim where Elvis lived for much of his time whilst stationed at Ray Barracks in nearby Friedberg. The Elvis Travel Service has taken the whole hotel for this unique 'house party' and we'll show you all the Elvis sights of this beautiful spa town, you'll be able to explore Friedberg and we'll have a full day's tour visiting historic Idstein, Wiesbaden and Rudesheim which were used as the backdrop for the movie G I Blues. For more information call us on 01473 621 564.

ELVIS SPRING BREAK USA MEMPHIS & TUPELO LUXURY BREAK 26th April-2nd May 2022 Memphis, Tupelo, Fort Chaffee, Shreveport and New Orleans 26th April-8th May 2022

Take a great value luxury break to Graceland and see all the Elvis sights in both Memphis and Tupelo or have all of that PLUS a wonderful 'King Creole' Extension tour featuring Fort Chaffee (Elvis' famous Army Buzzcut), Shreveport (Louisiana Hayride from the Municipal Auditorium) and New Orleans (to see the movie location sites of King Creole).

ELVIS EARLY SUMMER BREAK UK 3rd to 6th June 2022

Join us at the 4 Star Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth for a wonderful weekend of Elvis at this lovely hotel. With entertainment from Gregg G's Undaunted, Rockin' Dave Riley and DJ Mark Monaghan and a great stay in this premier resort you are bound to have a great time.

ELVIS 45th ANNIVERSARY – The Elvis Aficionados Tour!

10th-17th August 2022

(Memphis & Tupelo)

45th Anniversary Plus:

10th to 28th August 2022

**(Memphis, Tupelo, Las Vegas,
Palm Springs and Hollywood)**

A trip to Memphis and Tupelo during Elvis week – especially on a major anniversary, is always special but if you can afford the time join us for one of the most comprehensive Elvis tours that we've ever done. You'll see all of Elvis' homes that are still standing, visit movie locations and where Elvis became the biggest name in Las Vegas' history. What a great way to celebrate our own 50 Years of Elvis travel.

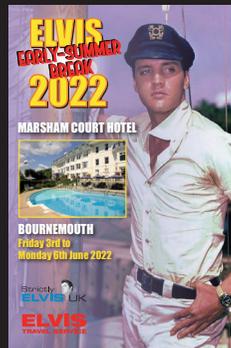
Bad Nauheim & European Elvis Festival 11th-15th August 2022

Join us for a lovely long-weekend in the beautiful spa town of Bad Nauheim, Germany, where Elvis lived during his tour of duty with the US Army. As well as seeing all the Elvis sights (including the fabulous new statue (see cover of the brochure enclosed with this Newsletter) you'll be able to join in the fun of the European Elvis Festival – concerts, classic car and Harley parades, Elvis movies, stalls, attractions and special guests.

Elvis Festival, Vauxhall Holiday Park, Great Yarmouth 9th – 16th September 2022

This is the largest weeklong gathering of Elvis fans anywhere in the world other than Elvis Week in Memphis – and whilst we might not be able to compete with EPE on numbers we certainly can on enjoyment. With great Celebrity Guests including the lovely Linda Thompson and a whole host of superb bands, rockin' Elvis Disco's, Elvis on the big screen, an Elvis Marketplace and much more besides this is definitely the place to be. For more information please see the brochure enclosed with this Newsletter

Elvis Early Summer Break at the exquisite Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth. Friday 3rd to Monday 6th June 2022. Prices from £348 inclusive of 3 nights accommodation, breakfast and table-service dinner daily, an entertainment programme featuring Gregg G's Undaunted, Rockin' Dave Riley and DJ Mark Monaghan, VAT and the services of the Elvis Travel Service Tour Managers. For a brochure containing full details call us on 01473 621 564



2023

Memphis & Tupelo Luxury Break 19th – 25th April 2023 Memphis & Tupelo plus Hawaii & Seattle Extension 19th April – 4th May 2023

Every few years the Elvis Travel Service adds a fabulous Hawaii Extension onto its Memphis and Tupelo tour and this time we've chosen to do it in the Spring in order to take advantage of better weather (not too cold or too hot) and more reasonable flight and hotel prices. Further details of these two great tours are included in the middle of this Newsletter.

AND MORE!

There will be many more tours and events in 2022, 2023 and beyond, including another UK Spring Break, Elvis Thames Cruise, Charity Ball etc – more details in our next Newsletter.

ELVIS AND HAWAII

by David Hawthorne

To an Elvis fan the words ELVIS and HAWAII are intrinsically linked. Elvis had a twenty-year association with Hawaii and its people, and they adopted him as one of their own. Elvis first visited the islands in 1957 to give three concerts. So taken by the beauty of the landscapes he promised to return. This he did in 1961 to perform a charity concert, raising much needed funds for the USS Arizona Memorial honouring the men who died onboard the battleship during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941.



After the concert Elvis remained in the 50th State to commence filming for his next film 'Blue Hawaii'. This would be Elvis' most successful film and to capitalise on this Elvis returned in 1962 to begin shooting 'Girls, Girls, Girls' and would revisit in 1965 to film 'Paradise Hawaiian Style'. Elvis continually visited Hawaii throughout his life - home movies show him enjoying vacations in 1968 and 1969 with Priscilla and Lisa as well as members of his entourage.

In 1972 Elvis performed three concerts in Hawaii and announced details of his forthcoming 'Aloha from Hawaii' concert which took place on 14 January, 1973. This legendary show raised \$75,000 for the Kui Lee Cancer Fund. Lee composed the song 'I'll Remember You', which Elvis recorded in 1966. Kui Lee was born in China and moved to Hawaii at the age of 4, becoming a popular singer/songwriter. He died at the young age of 34 from cancer. Elvis spent his final vacation in Hawaii in March 1977 accompanied by his girlfriend Ginger Alden and friends.

When I was a young man, I had an aunt who went on a holiday to Hawaii. I asked

her what was it like? She replied "everyone should visit Hawaii at least once". That statement resonated with me and I decided I would visit there someday. The opportunity came in 1997 when the Elvis Travel Service organised a trip to the islands as an extension to their 20th Anniversary Elvis Week tour. On this, my first trip to Hawaii, I visited all the Elvis related places plus the many other tourist attractions that were included also.

In 2017 I returned to Hawaii with the Travel Service and visited two islands: O'ahu, and the smaller island of Kauai. Elvis visited both these islands to shoot his three Hawaiian films. O'ahu, known as 'The Gathering Place' is the third biggest Hawaiian island and the most populated - Honolulu being the state capital. There are many Elvis related sites to see on the island including Pearl Harbour where the main attraction for us here is the USS Arizona Memorial. Other attractions to see here include the submarine USS Bowfin and the USS Missouri battleship on which the Japanese surrendered in 1945, bringing the Second World War to an end. We also saw the Honolulu International Centre where Elvis performed the famous 'Aloha from Hawaii via Satellite' Concert in 1973 a statue of Elvis marking the event was erected outside the building in 2007; Hanauma Bay where Elvis and Joan Blackman swam in 'Blue Hawaii' and where Elvis sings 'No More' in the movie; Halona Blowhole which Elvis visited in 1969 with Memphis Mafia members and Priscilla and Lisa Marie. The Blowhole is a rock formation which, when it's windy shoots the sea spray high into the air like a geyser. While visiting here check out Halona Beach Cove beside the Blowhole site as it's here the famous 'kiss scene' was shot





for the film 'From Here To Eternity', when Burt Lancaster kisses Deborah Kerr, on the beach as a Pacific Ocean wave splashes over them. Another Elvis sight is the Polynesian Cultural Centre; scenes from here were used in 'Paradise Hawaiian Style', including 'The Drums of The Island' performance at the end of the film. Also on the itinerary was a visit to Kualoa Ranch and Beach Park and from here you can see a small island called 'Chinaman's Hat' which appears in the scene in 'Paradise Hawaiian Style' when Elvis, Donna Butterfield and Marianna Hill are stranded on the beach after losing the keys to the helicopter. Other places visited included Pupukea Beach Park and Waimea Bay Beach.

On my trip in 2017 I checked out 'things to do in Hawaii'. Top of the list was, 'go snorkelling to Hanauma Bay'. This is where Elvis swam, but it's also the best place to go snorkelling, particularly for beginners. You don't have to swim far out to be surrounded by hundreds of different tropical fish in a variety of colours and sizes. If snorkelling doesn't float your boat, then take a trip on "The Voyager" a yellow submarine and go deeper and further out into the Pacific Ocean. A bonus here is the boat that takes you out to the submarine is stationed at the marina used by the fishing company in 'Girls, Girls, Girls' and the buildings are still there. Another place well worth a visit is Diamond Head, a 762 foot high volcanic cone that overlooks the city of Honolulu; there is a visitor's centre at the bottom of the 475 acre crater and a pathway leads to the top of the ridge where you have an astounding view of Honolulu and the Pacific Ocean. Diamond Head can be seen in the opening credits of both 'Blue Hawaii' and 'Paradise Hawaiian Style'.

The Elvis Travel Service tour also offered a trip to the beautiful island of Kauai, a short flight away. The climate is quite different from O'ahu with a green and lush landscape, higher humidity and the potential for heavy rainfall. Elvis sights on Kauai include The Coco Palms Resort where the famous

wedding scene from 'Blue Hawaii' was filmed. The resort was damaged by a hurricane in 1992 and since then has been abandoned. I visited the site in 1997 and although the resort had been closed to the public, it was still relatively intact. Our group were only allowed access as we were travelling with the Elvis tour. I was able to walk around the grounds and inside the hotel. I also visited the cottages filmed for scenes in 'Blue Hawaii' including the one Elvis stayed in. On the back for the door in his room was a Coco Palms Resort information card, giving details of room rates etc. I thought that these rates will be out of date and this card will be tossed in a bin, so I made myself a souvenir of it, knowing that it will be going to a good home.

When I returned in 2017 I was shocked to find the whole area had fallen into a state of disrepair. It had suffered fires and vandalism and most of the grounds, reclaimed by nature. I fear it will not be long until the entire site is razed to the ground. We also saw the O'Paeka'a Falls, it is near here on Wailua beach

where the horse-riding scene from 'Blue Hawaii' was shot with Elvis singing 'Island of Love'. Another scene from 'Blue Hawaii' was shot nearby at Anahola Beach Park, it's where Elvis put Ellie (Jenny Maxwell) over his knee; as well as Hanalei Beach where scenes for 'Paradise Hawaiian Style' and 'South Pacific' were shot.

The only way to see Hawaii is the 'Elvis Way' in the company of other fans, visiting places of interest during the day and spending the evenings partying in true 'Paradise Hawaiian Style'. As I mentioned earlier, my aunt said everyone should visit Hawaii at least once. My reply would be "Once is not enough!"



UNLOCKED

BOOK REVIEW

by Ellen Bramwell

Dixie Locke Emmons is considered Elvis Presley's first serious girlfriend. Most of us have seen that famous prom photo from 1955 of a beautiful young Dixie and Elvis. Dixie began dating Elvis in January 1954, they initially met at the First Assembly of God in Memphis. When Elvis overheard Dixie saying she had plans to go to the Rainbow roller skating rink of course he showed up and that's when the fairy-tale romance began.

There has been a lot of books written about Elvis by past girlfriends but when I found out Dixie had finally published her book over 65 years after she dated Elvis, I was so excited.

I love reading personal accounts by people who were close to Elvis and with Dixie being with him at such a pivotal time – rising from Memphis celebrity to the eve of World stardom - I knew it would be a good read.

Dixie was witness to Rock'n'roll history and describes being at early rehearsals and concerts including the Overton Park Shell on July 30th, 1954. There are some real treats in this book, some rare photos that us fans would not have seen before, and my personal favourite part is reading the love letters that Dixie wrote to Elvis when she was in class and all she could think about is when she would see him again.

I love how this book makes you feel like you are living it along with Dixie. In the book she recalls how 'her boyfriend' had become a local star overnight after 'That's All Right' was played over and over on the radio. There are some fond memories written about Elvis' mother Gladys and about how close Elvis' and

Dixie's families were, funny stories and some that make you well up for sure. The book was co-written by Dixie's daughter Kristi and it was nice to hear her recollections along with other friends and family regarding Dixie's romance with Elvis.

I feel the book is heartfelt and there is no doubt about the passion Dixie feels for Elvis. It was like a time machine had picked me up and placed me in Dixie's shoes – I wish!!! Even Priscilla approves, she reviewed the book as captivating and heart-warming. Dixie and Priscilla have become friends over the years and sometimes meet up and share their memories. Elvis even shared stories about Dixie to Priscilla when they met in Germany which I think speaks volumes about how much he thought of Dixie.

This book is a must for any Elvis fan. It is sitting proudly amongst my Elvis book collection, and I will read it again soon without a doubt. Thank you, Dixie, for sharing your personal story with us after so many years – we truly appreciate it.



Ellen Bramwell holding her personal copy

LEARN – LAUGH – LINGER – ENJOY!

Buy a book for yourself or treat someone else (remember Christmas is coming) to help while away those winter nights. Strictly Elvis has a great selection of Elvis books to choose from and the prices all include postage and packing.



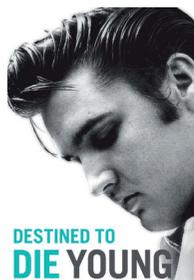
Unlocked
*By Dixie Locke
& Kristi Emmons Jones*
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Leaves of Elvis' Garden
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To order any these books please phone us on 01473 621 564 or 07721 435 291 with your Credit/Debit Card details, send a cheque to the Strictly Elvis office or pay by PayPal to DavidWade@strictlyelvis.net remembering to say which book/s you require and provide your address....and if you order more than one book then there's a special £1 per book discount.



HAWAII 2023 ADVANCE DETAILS

We've chosen to visit Hawaii as a wonderful add-on to our Springtime luxury Memphis and Tupelo break in April/May 2023. This is to take advantage of the great weather in both Tennessee and Hawaii as well as the far better travel and accommodation costs at this time of the year. Details are still being worked out and a brochure is expected to be released shortly but we are delighted to now be able to provide the dates, approximate itinerary and a good idea of the price.

MEMPHIS & TUPELO LUXURY BREAK

Wednesday 19th to Tuesday 25th April 2023

Very similar to our regular Spring USA Breaks with 5 nights at the luxurious Guest House at Graceland, a full day at Graceland, a day trip to Tupelo, a comprehensive tour of the Elvis sights of Memphis plus time to explore, shop and sightsee at leisure.

MEMPHIS & TUPELO FOLLOWED BY HAWAII AND SEATTLE

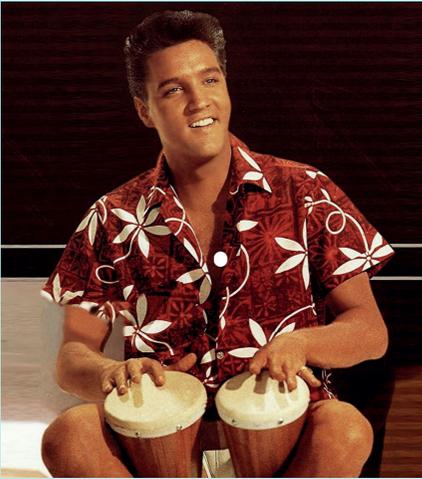
Wednesday 19th April to Thursday 4th May 2023

The first 6 days are as per the Luxury Break except that instead of then flying back to the UK we continue West, over the Pacific Ocean to the beautiful islands of Hawaii. We'll stay for a full week at the lovely Park Shore Waikiki Hotel situated overlooking the golden sandy Waikiki Beach and from here we'll have a great selection of excursions to fill your days when not lazing in the Hawaiian sunshine. Included tours comprise

of a sightseeing tour of Honolulu (plenty of Elvis sights here) with a scenic journey throughout the beautiful island of Oahu... including a visit to a pineapple plantation as well as a separate visit to Pearl Harbour and the USS Arizona Memorial. Optional tours include a visit to the island of Kauai, a visit to the Polynesian Cultural Center and a Sunset Dinner Cruise.



After 7 days in Hawaii, we fly back to the USA mainland in order to break the long journey to the UK. But this is no ordinary 'stop-over'. We've now arrived in Seattle,



capital of Washington State but known to Elvis fans perhaps more-so as the location for the movie 'It Happened At The World's Fair' and with 2 nights here we'll have time to see the film location sites and other Elvis sights before heading back to the UK. This is quite some holiday and although it is still too early for the airlines, hotels etc to provide accurate prices we have based our approximate prices below on our, and their, best estimates.

And we will gladly hold places for you on this tour for just a £50 refundable deposit until such time that we can confirm what the brochure prices will be. You can then cancel with a full refund of monies paid or pay the rest of the deposit. Your holiday – your choice. We can't be fairer than that can we?

Expected Prices

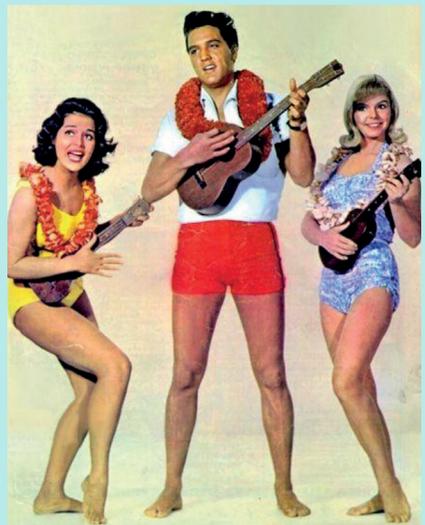
MEMPHIS & TUPELO

Single Room	£1998
Sharing twin or Double Room	£1678
Sharing Triple Room	£1578
Sharing Quad Room	£1498

MEMPHIS, TUPELO, HAWAII & SEATTLE

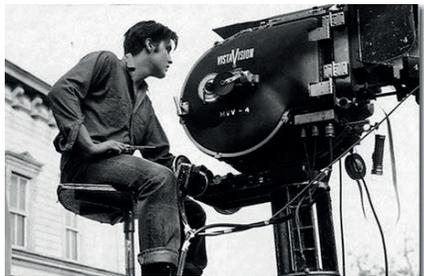
Single Room	£4698
Sharing twin or Double Room	£3698
Sharing Triple Room	£3378
Sharing Quad Room	£3198

The prices are inclusive of all your flights, accommodation, coach transfers and sightseeing tours as stated, admission to Graceland and all attractions on the 'included' tours, some meals and the services of experienced Tour Managers. Plus a few nice surprises along the way!



The Elvis Presley Film Society

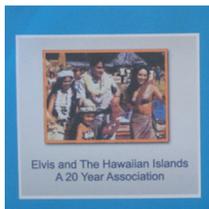
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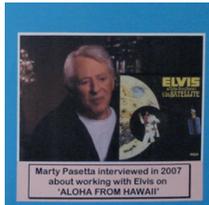
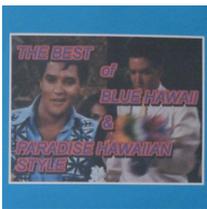
The now long-established Elvis Presley Film Society continues its work in projecting a positive image of Elvis. The **Strictly Elvis/Elvis Travel Service** team were kind enough to invite us to their amazing Elvis Festival in September where we enjoyed showing our footage.

To coincide with the Elvis Travel Service plans for a fabulous trip to Hawaii in 2023 we are illustrating some of our DVD titles which we have produced appropriate to that event. We hope you might find these titles of interest. There are of course many further DVD titles in our catalogue of Elvis film material, much of it produced by the Film Society. These are all available at £5 per disc + postage.

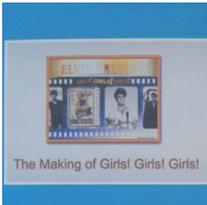
For a full list of available titles please email us at elvispresley.filmsociety@ntlworld.com



Elvis and The Hawaiian Islands
A 20 Year Association



Marty Pasetta interviewed in 2007
about working with Elvis on
"ALOHA FROM HAWAII"



The Making of Girls! Girls! Girls!

A Message from Reverend Derek



Hello everyone,

How many times have you been told "you can't be good at everything?" In my case it is perfectly true since when it comes to technology or anything mechanical, I just don't have a clue. It's always been a mystery to me and I secretly envy those who know how things work and what to do when they go wrong.

I remember a time when my car failed to start and a neighbour told me that my battery was flat. In my ignorance I asked "what shape should it be?!" I really struggle to understand how things work - not least my car's sat nav. You see, all I have to do is key in the place or postcode where I want to go and it tells me how to get there. It's wonderful! As my journey proceeds I hear a voice giving me instructions e.g. "turn right", "turn left" although I have to admit sometimes I think I know better and ignore them and go my own way. Then the voice says "recalculating route" followed by a new set of directions with no criticism for going wrong!!

It seems that no matter how many wrong turns I may make, there is always a route to my destination. In fact, I discover that there is always hope as no matter where I am, I can still get to where I should be. When you think about it, the Christmas story tells us the same thing.

In that story we are told of how the Wise Men made their way to that stable in Bethlehem and I wonder if the star which guided them was the very first sat nav? They followed it and it took them to where they needed to be, and it changed their lives. In today's world, so often troubled and broken, where so many wrong directions are taken, we need to pay attention to the Christmas story and the hope it contains. The birth of a child who grew into the man, who gives us a destination and directions surely tells us something.

Amidst all of our Christmas hustle and bustle, I hope that our various journeys will end in the place where it all began and a voice will confirm "you have reached your destination."

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

Rev Derek

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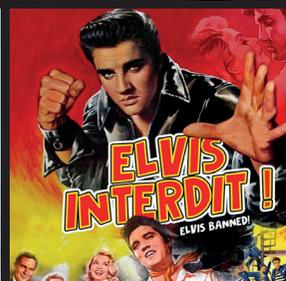
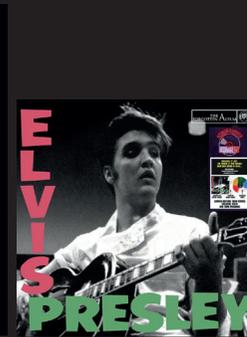
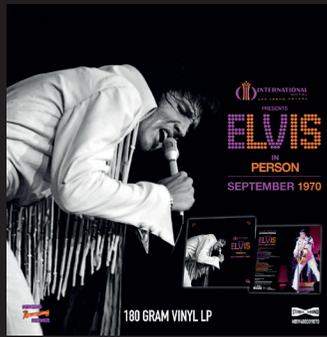
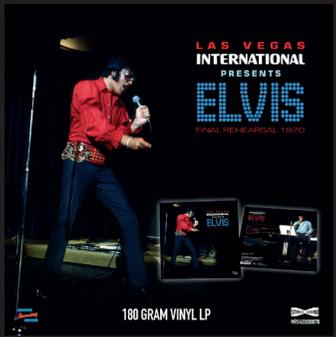
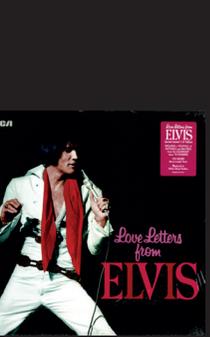
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ELVIS FESTIVAL

by Neil Cameron

It was the long overdue Elvis Family reunion we had all been looking forward to, and one that we all needed after the uncertainty of 2020...and this year's Elvis Festival certainly didn't disappoint!

A few 'curve balls' were thrown our way in the weeks leading up to the event with our special guests from the USA, Linda Thompson, Sam Thompson and Jon Daly, being unable to attend due to the travel restrictions put in place by President Biden. But Strictly Elvis weren't going let this put a blight on the Elvis party of the year, so calls made, emails sent and favours asked and we were still able to put together a superb line-up of guests.

This may have been one of our best ever Elvis Festivals, and due to the amount that we crammed into the programme we would need a whole newsletter to cover everything, but here are just some of the highlights from an amazing week.

Despite the initial disappointment of our US guests being unable to be with us, we had a stellar replacement line-up with author Zoey Goto who talked about, and signed, her fascinating book 'Elvis Style'. We were joined by 'man and machine' as Geoff Brown once again brought along his huge Elvis truck (with the added

bonus of an authentic pink Cadillac as well!). This 'rig' has to be seen to be believed and Geoff was able to raise a huge amount of money for charity with a prize draw - the winners being taken for a spin along Great Yarmouth seafront in the truck. Heads turned!

Songwriter to Elvis (and many other stars) Guy Fletcher talked about his amazing life in the music business and the behind-the-scenes machinations with the Colonel that led to some of Elvis' most popular recorded songs. It was great to hear a different side of this part of Elvis' legacy.

'The Royal Ruler' Tony Prince who not only met and interviewed Elvis, but got to introduce him on stage at the Hilton in Las Vegas, returned to the Festival and gave an interview about his memories of the heady days of the Elvis Travel Service tours in the 1970s and the excitement of seeing Elvis live in concert.

We were also honoured to be joined by the lead singer of music legends The Osmonds, Merrill Osmond, who was already touring in the UK at the time of the travel Lockdown. Merrill took to the stage to talk about meeting Elvis and the influence that Elvis had on the Osmonds before wowing us with a live performance of some of the Osmonds most popular numbers, with some Elvis tracks included too.

Some of the other highlights included our always popular Sunday morning service with Rev. Derek. Poignant and yet with his characteristic humour included too, the Rev. Derek's services are inspiring and entertaining in equal



measure. Rockin' Dave Riley once again performed as a 'human jukebox' entertaining us for over 5 hours at our Wild West themed BBQ afternoon. And it wasn't just that we dressed up for – our 70's and Christmas fancy dress nights were superb fun too, and we partied each night away with great



bands (with Showaddywaddy topping the bill closely followed by the ever-popular Dreamers) and all-Elvis disco's from our team of top DJ's.

And as ever we had our regular programme fillers - a huge Elvis Marketplace, Elvis on the big screen, dance instruction, Elvis swap-meet and everything else that makes this the biggest weeklong all-Elvis gathering of fans outside the USA.

Our huge thanks to all those who make the week a success - our bands, DJs, guests, crew and the fantastic staff at our 5* venue, Vauxhall Holiday Park. And also to you, our Elvis Family who bring nothing but unity, happiness and love to our week. No trouble, no politics - just 100% devotion to celebrating the life and legacy of 'our man'.

We'll be back next year with our Elvis Festival 2022, which runs from September 9th - 16th. Bookings are now open by going to www.parkdeanresorts.co.uk or by calling 0330 818 0671. Do join us.

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Support us and, at the same time, show the world that you're a member of the Elvis family with this unique and beautifully British-made Strictly Elvis UK enamel pin badge. At 35mm long by 12mm high it's the perfect size for wearing in a lapel but would be equally attractive worn on a jumper or fastened to a bag. Or add it to your badge collection because this 1st Edition is sure to become a Collector's item.



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Remember, Strictly Elvis UK doesn't charge anything for you to be a member of our Elvis family and hopefully we'll never have to, but it does cost thousands of £'s to print and mail out our Newsletters so the support that you show by purchasing a badge helps pay for these and that's so appreciated by us all.

IN ELVIS' SHADOW

by Carol Pugh

In the nearly 50 years that the Elvis Travel Service has been operating, by far our most visited destination is, of course, Memphis, it is, after all, the mecca for any Elvis fan. What has become increasingly popular however is the variety of extension destinations also offered.

As we know only too well, Elvis didn't tour Europe – his stay this side of the Atlantic was confined to his tour of duty with the US Army in Germany - however he extensively travelled across the USA, he undertook concert tours in many of the states, filmed movies, received his army training, bought or rented homes, vacationed or visited; and Elvis' shadow still looms large over many of these locations and are very significant in the Elvis story. It is these places that we include in the extension tours - designed to take in as many of the Elvis sights as possible, whilst experiencing the real USA, it's people and its attractions.



Over the five decades that the Elvis Travel Service has been taking fans to the USA we've also visited, amongst many others, such cities as New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Miami and San Francisco, travelled throughout Texas, had loads of fun in Disneyland, looked out over beautiful Lake Tahoe and gazed in wonder at the mighty Niagara Falls and the awesome Grand Canyon.

So, what extension tours do we have planned in the near future? Spring of 2022 takes us across the “Dolly Parton Bridge” into Arkansas to re-visit Fort Chafee, the barracks where Elvis had the famous Army ‘Buzz Cut’, a location visited by very few Brits but brimming with Elvis history. Our next location is no less significant, many will say even more so. It's Shreveport and the home of the Louisiana Hayride; we can't over-estimate the impact that this place had on launching Elvis' career, the stage that Elvis stood on multiple times, still there, intact and unchanged, the dressing rooms, the auditorium, all still bathing in the shadow of Elvis. If that wasn't enough then we head south to New Orleans, where each turn of the French Quarter reveals a King Creole location, the most famous must be the balcony, where Elvis looked down on the “crawfish” scene however there is so much more and that's why our King Creole tour is so highly recommended as it takes in so many of the locations where Elvis gave what many consider an Oscar winning performance.

In August 2022, after our 45th Anniversary stay in Memphis, we venture onto Las Vegas, staying at the hotel where Elvis broke every performance attendance record, in what was then the International/Hilton Hotel. Hey, come on, where

else would you want to stay? It allows us access to the Showroom, the stage, the Green Room and, on occasion, the Penthouse and it leaves us in no doubt that Elvis' shadow is still very much present within those walls. Next, we head across the Stateline from Nevada to California and the jewel that is Palm Springs, a place where Elvis lived and loved. You'll understand why. On one of the days we take the mountain road to Idyllwild and the Kid Galahad set. This little town doesn't often see a coach full of Elvis fans wandering through its pretty streets, a place that few of our American friends are even aware of or have visited but a firm favourite for the Elvis Travel Service. However, we don't stop there as we have so much more to see, so onwards to Hollywood, staying close to the Burbank NBC studios, making the most of a visit to Universal Studios and of course all that Hollywood has to offer, Elvis homes, film and recording studios, the brightest star in the famous Walk of Fame. This is an aficionado tour, taking in so many of the significant sights that make up Elvis' history and not forgetting that it takes in every home that Elvis lived in that's still in existence in the USA!

I cannot really finish this piece without mentioning the April/May 2023 tour and its extension to Hawaii. Once again, the most comprehensive tour of its kind to the stunning Hawaiian Islands, visiting the locations, hotels and scenery that Elvis came to love and enjoy so many times for both work and leisure.

Elvis' influence stretches far and wide, his footsteps and his shadow are there to follow still, so if you are looking for that tour that takes you closer to the man, takes you to the less trodden parts of the USA; to experience something special, then why not join us, our motto is simple, where Elvis led we will follow.

ELVIS TRAVEL SERVICE CALENDAR 2022



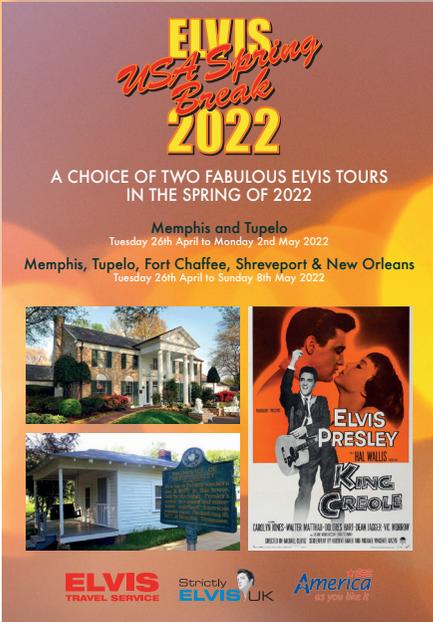
Keep track of the days in 2022 with one of our great CD-size Calendars. Each month has a great photo of an Elvis-related scene in Memphis and Tupelo...Graceland, the Birthplace, the Music Gates, the Elvis statues plus more besides. Great reminders perhaps of your time there or views of places you'd love to see for yourself.

The calendars are a perfect size – large enough to view easily yet perfect for desk, mantelpiece, bedside cabinet or just about anywhere. And at just £8.95* including postage, packing and VAT they won't break the bank either. They'd also make great Christmas presents for friends and family.

Bonus Offer: We are giving (absolutely FREE!) a Strictly Elvis Wall Planner with every Calendar sold – perfect for writing reminders for appointments, noting holiday dates and Birthdays.

To order your Calendars simply phone us on 01473 621 564 or 07721 435 291 with your Credit or Debit Card details to hand and we'll process the order there and then. Alternatively send full payment by cheque or Postal order (made payable to Strictly Elvis UK) to Elvis Travel Service, Unit D Bristol Court, Martlesham Heath Business Park, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP5 3RY

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Memphis and Tupelo
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Memphis, Tupelo, Fort Chaffee, Shreveport & New Orleans
Tuesday 26th April to Sunday 8th May 2022





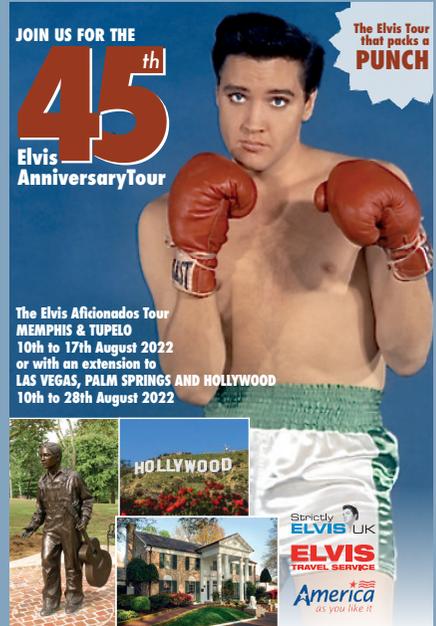
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The **Elvis Aficionados Tour**
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or with an extension to
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For your copy of these brochures containing fully detailed day-by-day itineraries call us on 01473 621 564 or 07721 435 291, message us on Facebook or email us at enquiries@strictlyelvis.net. And remember, don't book any other tour until you've compared prices, quality, what's included and experience.... with 50 years of operating Elvis tours to the USA we're confident you won't find better.

ELVIS
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**DON'T DELAY,
PLACES ARE
FILLING FAST...**