



May 20th, 2020

Dear Teen Traveler and Families,

We hope that this email finds you safe and healthy.

During this uniquely challenging time, supporting each other and our community we love has been our primary focus for the past months while in quarantine. You and your children have been in our thoughts, and we hope you have been staying safe and healthy.

Our department has been meeting virtually to discuss the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our Teen Travel program and operation for this summer. After careful deliberation, lengthy discussion, and consultation with experts in the fields in public health, **we have decided to suspend the Teen Travel program for the summer of 2020**. This decision to suspend the Program was painful for everyone involved, as we know it will be for many of you. The summer of 2020 would have marked the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this program. We are confident that this is the right and necessary decision. **The health and safety of our travelers and staff is our biggest concern**, and the only way we can guarantee the safety of the young adults entrusted to our care is to suspend the Program.

Since the very beginning of the pandemic, we have closely followed communications from federal and state authorities, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the local health department. As more information continues to emerge, it has become clear that we cannot operate the programs safely. We understand that many families are under tremendous stress and pressure right now both personally and financially, and can assure you that **payments received to date for the Teen Travel Program will be fully refunded**.

We recognize this decision is devastating to all, including our staff, who were looking forward to a fun summer with you all. Rest assured that, even though the pandemic required us to suspend travel plans, we have already begun preparations to deliver THE BEST SUMMER for you all in 2021. We're counting on your continued participation in all of our efforts.

We eagerly await when we can come back together and travel with your child.

Wishing you safety, and good health,

Dale Izzo

***Dale Izzo***

Assistant Director