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FROM AMERICAN CRUISE LINES**

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**Presenting Dorothy's Ruby Slippers
American Cruise Lines Partners with the Smithsonian's National Museum of
American History to show that "there's no place like home."**



Guilford, CT—October 19, 2021—American Cruise Lines is pleased to announce that it has partnered with the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, to be the presenting sponsor of the *Ruby Slippers* in their upcoming *Entertainment Nation* exhibition opening fall 2022. Recognized throughout the world, these iconic red slippers come from America's most beloved film, *The Wizard of Oz*. For decades, the Ruby Slippers have embodied the spirit and essence of the movie's most famous line; "there's no place like home." Dorothy's words live in our shared consciousness as a nation and are understood by Americans and cultures throughout the world. The enduring appeal of the Ruby Slippers continues to inspire both the National Museum of American History and American Cruise Lines today. Each organization offers enriching all-American experiences that educate their guests—by reminding them of our nation's past, present, and future, what it means to be an American, and the universal truth that "there's no place like home."

The Ruby Slippers were donated to the museum anonymously in 1979. Since then, they have been displayed in multiple places throughout the museum and underwent a thorough conservation treatment in 2017. The world-famous slippers are currently on display in the museum's newly renovated 3rd floor West Wing and they remain one of the most asked-about artifacts at the Smithsonian.

In 2022, the Ruby Slippers will make a new debut as the signature *Spotlight* artifact in the museum's upcoming permanent exhibition, *Entertainment Nation*. This is the first time in its history that the museum has devoted extensive gallery space to showcase and illustrate how the American entertainment industry, in its many forms, has influenced and reflected our shared American culture. From Prince's guitar to Muhammad Ali's boxing gloves to Dorothy's Ruby Slippers, *Entertainment Nation* will feature the iconic cornerstones that celebrate our values, experiences, heartbreaks, and triumphs—illuminating what it means to be American.

"The Ruby Slippers hold symbolic and lasting meaning in American culture, representing our deep ties to our families and communities, no matter how far we roam," said Anthea M. Hartig, the museum's Elizabeth MacMillan Director. "For the museum, they continue to inspire, awe, and captivate audiences of all ages. We are so grateful to American Cruise Lines for sharing our educational goals and making the display of these magical shoes possible for generations to come."

"The Ruby Slippers remind us to appreciate that there really is *no place like home*. While they push us to test our bounds, they have a power that draws us back and connects us to family and community," said Charles B. Robertson, President & CEO of American Cruise Lines. "Dorothy's immortalized phrase, *there's no place like home*, is something we feel each day, as we appreciate everything we have right here at home in the U.S.A. American Cruise Lines is proud to expand on our 20-year relationship with the Smithsonian by presenting the Ruby Slippers and we are honored to be a part of *Entertainment Nation*."

The Ruby Slippers will be on display in fall 2022, as the centerpiece of the *Entertainment Nation* exhibition at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

About the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History:

Through incomparable collections, rigorous research and dynamic public outreach, the National Museum of American History seeks to empower people to create a more just and compassionate future by examining, preserving and sharing the complexity of our past. The museum, located on Constitution Avenue N.W., between 12th and 14th streets, is open Friday through Tuesday between 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Admission is free and timed-entry passes are no longer required. The doors of the museum are [always open online](#) and the virtual museum continues to expand with offerings, including online exhibitions, K–12 educational materials and programs. The public can follow the museum on social media on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). For more information, go to <https://americanhistory.si.edu>.

About American Cruise Lines:

American Cruise Lines offers river cruising and small ship coastal cruising in the U.S.A. Year after year, American continues to launch the newest U.S. built ships and uniquely curated itineraries for exploring and *Cruising Close to Home*.[®] On all American's cruises, guests discover the history, spirit, and culture of the United States aboard a sophisticated fleet of modern riverboats and small cruise ships. American

operates 15 ships, all accommodating just 100-190 passengers, which cruise more than 35 itineraries in over 31 states.

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