

Travel Letter



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Tall Ship Sailing ~ February 2010

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Excuse My Ignorance But Where Exactly is Croatia?

by Jennifer Johnson

CROATIA? Where the heck is Croatia, I thought when Dr. James “Chip” Adomanis told me he was traveling to Croatia in 1993. Chip was heading up an educational exchange program between U.S. and Croatian educators and students. One of the goals of the program was to help the newly formed country begin to teach the principles of democracy in their school system.

Okay, the phrase “newly formed country” made me feel slightly better that I didn’t know exactly where Croatia was. Helping Chip with the layout of materials related to the exchange program over the next few years exposed me to a country that I had known little about.

Hopefully, I can be forgiven for not knowing where Croatia is—after all, that country name has only been used since 1991. Lying on the Adriatic Sea east of Italy, Croatia is about the size of West Virginia and has an amazingly deep cultural history and encompasses a wide variety of natural wonders. When WTT founder, Debra Asberry first mentioned a tour to Croatia, I was “Oh, good idea—Croatia has a lot to see and Dubrovnik is fabulous.” Knowing my limited travel history, Debra raised an eyebrow so I explained my “Croatian Connection”—Dr. Adomanis (Chip). Thus we’ve arrived to the point where I’m writing a story about Croatia, a country I have yet to visit but really want to! Where to start? Probably a bit of history.



Nope, this is not a new Disney Park. The water is really that color. Plitvic Lakes National Park, a World Heritage Site in Croatia.

History—The Extremely Short Version

In early recorded history, Croatia was inhabited by Illyrian tribes with ancient Greeks and Celts from central Europe establishing colonies. The area became a province under the Romans and many buildings and ruins from that time period remain to this day. A Slavic people, the Croats for whom the country takes its name today, were relatively late-comers in the 7th century. The Byzantine, Holy Roman and Ottoman empires as well as Renaissance Italy and Napoleon have played roles in the country’s culture and history. In the 20th century, the country was a part of the Soviet country of Yugoslavia. Bottom line, Croatia has a culture and history unique among European countries.

Croatia’s Natural Beauty

Chip tells me Croatia is the Maryland of Europe. Maryland is known as “America in Miniature” because of its wide variety of ecosystems—the Chesapeake Bay, numerous rivers, coastal plains, seaside and mountains. Croatia has a similar wide variety of ecosystems within its borders. Chip also tells me that Croatia has similar weather to Maryland—only it occurs seven days later compliments of the jet stream.

With a long coastline on the Adriatic Sea, Croatia is not as arid as Greece and both tropical and sub-tropical plants flourish. Further inland, Croatia boasts Alpine-like evergreen pine and oak forests with numerous lakes fed by fresh water springs.

Perhaps Croatia’s most famous natural wonder are the Plitvic Lakes, a World Heritage Site. The lakes are known for their distinctive colors, ranging from azure to green, to blue. The colors change constantly depending on the quantity of minerals or organisms in the water. I’ve seen pictures of the Plitvic Lakes and they look so perfect and unreal (something like a Disney

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Croatia, cont'd.

theme park) but Chip, having visited them, assures me they're real.

Croatia's Food and Wine

Being so close to Italy and Greece, Croatia has long culinary ties with Mediterranean cuisine. Fish, seafood and pasta dishes dominate along the coast with more eastern European dishes involving pork, beef and lamb being specialties in the interior. Chip is particularly fond of calamari dishes found in Croatia's seaside restaurants as well as the many varieties of zinfandel wine available. Contrary to popular belief, the zinfandel grape has its origins in Croatia not California.

Dubrovnik

Although Chip does a lot of his work in Zagreb, Croatia's capital city, he has spent a good bit of time in the city of Dubrovnik. One of his research projects involved investigating the ties between Dubrovnik and the U.S. during the American Revolution.

The prosperity of Dubrovnik has always been tied to the sea. In the Middle Ages Dubrovnik was known as the fifth Maritime Republic, together with Amalfi, Pisa, Genoa and Venice, and became the only eastern Adriatic city-state to rival Venice. Supported by its wealth and skilled diplomacy, Dubrovnik achieved a remarkable level of development, putting in place planning and institutions for the city's health years, sometimes centuries, before other European cities. For example:

- Medical service was introduced in 1301 and the first pharmacy opened in 1317
- A refuge for aged was opened in 1347
- The first quarantine hospital was opened in 1377
- Slave trading was abolished in 1418
- The orphanage was opened in 1432
- The water supply system was constructed in 1436

Despite bombing after the breakup of Yugoslavia when it was besieged by Serb-Montenegrin forces, Dubrovnik's old town now appears much as it did during its heyday of the 15th and 16th centuries. Not surprisingly, it has been designated a World Heritage Site and is Croatia's leading tourist attraction. While Chip enjoys all of Dubrovnik, he particularly enjoys visiting the city's Maritime Museum where he's done some of his research into historic U.S./Croatian connections. Seamen from Dubrovnik and other areas of coastal Croatia were aboard many famous expeditions of exploration including Columbus' voyages to the New World.



Dubrovnik, Croatia

Beautiful, Interesting but Is Croatia Safe?

As vague as my understanding of world events can be, I had definitely heard of the troubles in Bosnia which borders Croatia during the 1990s. Chip explained Croatia managed to largely escape, although not entirely, the intense fighting that engulfed the area after the breakup of Yugoslavia, in part because Croatia is homogenous religiously—95% of the country is Catholic. The area's long history of diplomacy and negotiation also helped Croatia avoid much of the conflict.

Today, Croatia has a system of government and justice system that would not seem too dissimilar to our own. Chip has visited Croatia two to three times a year since the country's declaration of independence in 1991, and has experienced firsthand its growth towards economic and governmental independence. Croatia has applied to join the EU (European Union) and is expected to gain membership in 2011.

While pickpockets can be a problem in major cities like Zagreb (as they are in most major European cities), Chip says Croatia is by and large a peaceful, crime-free country. Chip does complain about the fairly recent proliferation of cell phones in Croatia but then he also complains about cell phones at home in the U.S. Currently, the exchange rate is favorable for the U.S. but Chip fully expects that to change as more and more people "discover" Croatia as a must-see destination.

Last but not least, I had Dr. Adomanis (Chip) review the itinerary and pricing for WTT's 2010 tour to Croatia (with time in neighboring Slovenia). He thought it was such a good value and itinerary that he's passed the information on to his fellow educators (the female ones at least) who expressed an interest in traveling to Croatia. ♦

A Note from the President

25 trips...Wow!!!

I had the honor of congratulating Lorraine Butts on her 25th trip with *Women Traveling Together*. I happened to be the tour leader when Lorraine first traveled with WTT in 2002. Lorraine's first trip was a long weekend trip to Charleston and she came with her sister Denise. Lorraine enjoyed that experience enough to travel with WTT again and again, sometimes traveling solo and sometimes sharing a room with another traveler. Lorraine has traveled domestically and overseas with WTT, but her favorite destinations are here in the U.S. —Hawaii, Alaska, Yellowstone, the Everglades, and Death Valley.

Meet Hazel Cannon: One Key to WTT's Success

While I may be the founder of *Women Traveling Together*, it is Hazel Cannon who is generally the first person at WTT you'll meet. Hazel is my mom and has been greeting new members with a friendly hello for more than ten years. Hazel's gentle southern accent comes through when you talk to her and she can put anyone at ease if they are a bit apprehensive about traveling alone.

Hazel started out as a traveler with WTT and then became a tour leader. Nowadays Hazel spends most of her time in the office helping new and returning travelers with whatever they need. Over the years, Hazel has become so well known to WTT travelers that her name often comes up in conversation while on tour—everyone seems to know Hazel and can relate a story of how she helped them with something.

I regularly get emails about how helpful Hazel has been. This is just one example from Maggie who is taking her first trip with *Women Traveling Together* to Costa Rica:

"May I just say what a wonderfully efficient and professional business you run. I am so thankful for all the communications and the beautiful letters and forms that I have received from you. It certainly eases my nervousness about traveling alone with your company. And my husband is very impressed and also relieved with the superb job that you are doing. Thank you."

Interacting with Travelers is the Best Part of the Job

Whether emailing back and forth with Maggie to answer her questions about her first trip, or chatting with Lorraine about where she's planning to take her 26th trip, both Hazel and I really enjoy our interaction with the "WTT Family." We look forward every day to meeting women who are just discovering *Women Traveling Together*.

Happy Travels,

Debra



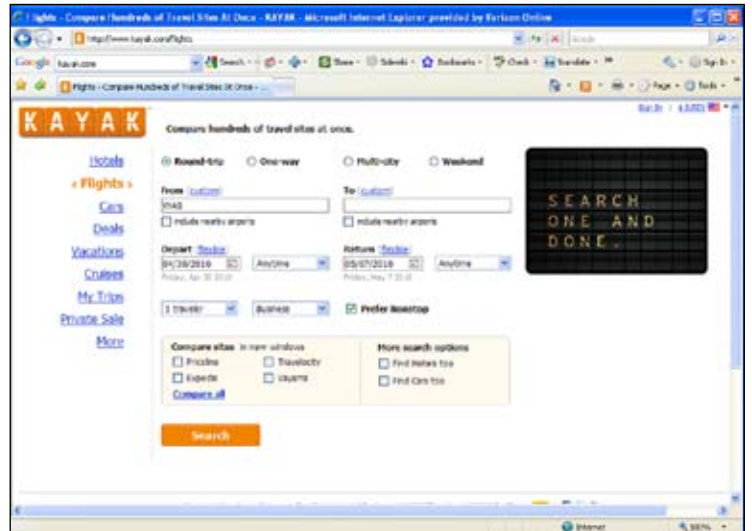
We wanted to do something special to recognize Lorraine's 25 trips. Combing through thousands of photos taken by our tour leaders while traveling, we found several that told the story of Lorraine's travels. We created a photo collage and included the names and years of the 25 tours Lorraine has taken.

OUR NEW FAVORITE SITE TO BOOK AIR: www.kayak.com

WHILE the name appears to have nothing to do with booking air or hotel rooms, kayak.com is nonetheless quickly becoming the go-to site to find the best airfares. The website displays many more options for a given flight than Expedia, Orbitz or Travelocity do, and they make it easy for you to narrow down exactly what you are looking for in terms of departing and arriving times, number of stops, and by airline. Once you select your flights, you actually book them through the airline, or Expedia, or Orbitz, etc. Kayak.com's role is to show you all the available choices and then pass you off to whomever you choose to book the flight. While it sounds like you've added another layer to the process, it really doesn't feel that way when you actually use the site.

WTT books a lot of air for our tour leaders and we are now using kayak.com exclusively. Not only do we have more flight options to choose from, but we can often find flights that Expedia and Orbitz don't list. A case in point was a recent trip we took to France. We needed a fairly complicated routing for two tour leaders who were not starting or finishing the trip at the same city but we wanted them to fly together as much as possible. Through kayak.com we were able to accomplish our objective and saved several hundreds of dollars because the site found a combination of flights on United that Expedia and Orbitz did not offer.

The only caution about kayak.com—which also applies to Expedia, Orbitz, etc.—is that you won't find air for Southwest Airlines, AirTran, or Jet Blue on their site. To see flights for those airlines you must visit their web sites. ♦



U.S. PASSPORT RATES INCREASING BY 50%: Get Your Your Passport or Renew NOW!

If your passport is due to expire in the next 12 months or you don't have one, NOW would be a good time to get one or renew the one you have. The passport office is still deciding when to implement the new pricing and exactly how much to raise the cost, but initial estimates are that rates are going up as much as 50%. Ouch!

Most people assume that they can wait until their passport expires before getting a new one, but that is not possible if you are planning to travel within six months of your passport expiration date. Most countries require that your passport be valid for three to six months after the date you plan to leave their country. Why? Because if you were to stay longer for whatever reason and your passport expires, you could not return to the U.S. and they would be obligated to keep you. You would be unable to enter the U.S. and unable to leave their country, and that's not a situation you want to find yourself in. ♦

To learn more about renewing your passport or to apply for a new passport please visit:
http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

TRAVELING FOR SCIENCE: Katherine Fowler-Billings, Geologist

KATHERINE FOWLER-BILLINGS surveyed and published fundamental geological descriptions of large areas of the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming and much of New Hampshire. She led two expeditions to Sierra Leone to discover iron ore and gold deposits where she earned the nickname of “Gold Missus” from her native guides. Perhaps most important, Katherine provided the scientific arguments for the environmental conservation of regions in New England including the eastern White Mountains in New Hampshire, the Saco River watershed and Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Katherine Fowler-Billings might never have become a geologist but for the untimely death of her mother while she was still attending college. Born in Boston in 1902 to well-to-do parents, Katherine’s upbringing included all that the Boston of the time brings to mind: lace dresses, dancing schools and values that did not include careers for women. Attending a select girl’s school, Katherine (or Kay as she was also known) spent as much time as she could at the end of each school year exploring New Hampshire’s White Mountains. From an early age she was curious about why the mountains were there and why they were so different from the coastal terrain.

When Kay was 16 her father died. She convinced her mother to allow her to continue her education at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. Her mother felt it was a good choice as it was exclusive and only “nice girls” went there. True as this was, the college was also a haven for many intellectually restless young women. It was there that Kay, trying to get as far from the confines of New England as possible, was taught by a pioneer woman scientist, Florence Bascom, the second woman in the United States to earn her Ph.D. in geology. Under Bascom’s tutelage, Kay decided to become a geologist but knew her mother would never approve.

While Katherine was attending college, her mother died. This freed Kay from her mother’s expectations of a “proper” kind of life and allowed her to pursue her dream of becoming a geologist. Kay went onto Columbia University to further her education. Women were so rare and unwelcome in scientific studies at the time, Kay was often required to sit behind a screen while attending lectures. For her Ph.D. work at Columbia, Kay mapped the geological formations of a 40 x 20 mile region of the Laramie Mountains in Wyoming. Working alone because no man at the time could consider working with her, Kay laboriously mapped the area with the help of a battered Model T Ford. She would locate a gully, back the car up the grade as far as she could (it wouldn’t make the steep grades in forward gear), continue up on foot, take her measurements and repeat the process.

In 1929, Katherine went to South Africa to attend an international congress of geologists but also so she could explore the African continent. There she met and fell in love with a Scottish geologist, Jack Lunn. After a wedding in London, the two returned to Africa where her husband found work in West Africa but Kay, as a now married woman, did not. She took a trip to the neighboring country of Sierra Leone where a lucky accident of timing and few geologists in the immediate vicinity led to a job to studying recently discovered iron ore and gold deposits.

Kay and her husband’s different locations and separate careers undermined their marriage and they divorced in 1935. Kay returned to the United States where the coming of World War II suddenly made geological surveys a national priority. Cut off from foreign sources of minerals, the government enlisted scientist-explorers to locate national sources of minerals. Kay did extensive work locating mica deposits in New Hampshire, a valuable mineral used in the war effort. Emerging from the war years as a recognized expert in her field, Kay was appointed an associate in geology at the Boston Museum of Natural History.

Ironically, coming back to the childhood home she had struggled to free herself of, Kay met her second husband, Harvard geologist, Marland Billings with whom she had two children. Kay and Billings enjoyed a long collaborative career not only as a married couple but as geologists, exploring the world and publishing numerous scientific papers.



**“This ain’t
no young fella.
This is a lady
geologist.”**

A guide explaining
Katherine to a miner
during a visit to a Butte,
Montana mine during
the 1920s

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Katharine as a young woman.

Remaining active and alert to the end of her long life, Kay used her geological knowledge in environmental conservation activities, particularly for the beloved White Mountains of her childhood. A year before her death, Katherine published an autobiography, *Stepping-Stones: The Reminiscences of a Woman Geologist in the 20th Century*. As she herself wrote, it had been “a full life, spanning the century and circling the globe.” ♦

SOURCES:

Fowler-Billings, Katherine, *Stepping Stones, The Reminiscences of a Woman Geologist in the Twentieth Century*, Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1996.

Milbry Polk, Milbry & Tiegreen, Mary, *Women of Discovery: An Celebration of Intrepid Women Who Explored the World* (Clarkson Potter/Publishers, New York) 2001.

www.geoscienceworld.org

TRAVELING FOR SCIENCE

Women traveling—together or alone—is not a radical concept in today’s Western society. But wide acceptance of a woman’s freedom to travel and the freedom to have a profession other than wife and mother is a fairly recent phenomenon.

In this and coming issues of the *Travel Letter*, we’ll introduce you to four lesser-known American female scientists. Not only pioneers in opening doors to new possibilities for women (although they didn’t necessarily see themselves this way), these women also made significant contributions to scientific knowledge. If you consider American women hadn’t yet won the right to vote and were still wearing corsets when these women were born, their journeys and contributions seem all the more remarkable.

YNES MEXIA - BOTANIST

(1870-1938) ...profiled in the January 2010 *Travel Letter*.

Ynes Mexia was one of the most remarkable plant collectors of the 20th century, not only because she spent several years in remote areas of South and Central America, but also because she didn’t begin her botanical career until she was 55 years old. For 13 years, she traveled through the wilder parts of Latin America collecting over 150,000 plant specimens many that were then unknown and several that are now named for her.

KATHERINE FOWLER-BILLINGS - GEOLOGIST

(1902-1997) profiled at left

LOUISE ARNER BOYD - POLAR EXPLORER

(1887-1972) ...devoted a lifetime to exploring the northern polar region and a portion of Greenland is named for her. Louise led an expedition to find a lost explorer and although she never managed to find him, she was presented a medal from the King of Norway for her efforts. She was contracted by the U.S. government to investigate magnetic and radio phenomena in the Arctic and was given secret assignments during World War II. In 1955, she became the first woman to fly over the North Pole. Through it all, Louise never thought of going anywhere without powdering her nose first.

NICHOLE HUGHES MAXWELL – ETHNOBOTANIST

(1905-1998) ...walked into the Amazon jungle for some excitement in 1945 and emerged nearly half a century later as one of the world’s foremost ethnobiologists and an expert on herbal medicine. She brought back more than 300 plants and herbal remedies from the Amazon including a contraceptive effectively used by stateside friends. To the day she died, Nichole was adamant in her belief the world would one day realize the importance of the rain forest and its potential treasure trove of medicine.

Our Favorite Memories

Florida Everglades & Key West ~ March 7-10, 2010

By Vivien C. Arguelles, Tour Leader

How can one bring travelers to Miami and not expose them to a bit of Cuban culture? Our first evening together, we went to Lario's, a typical Cuban restaurant in South Miami. Everyone was inquisitive about the food so I ordered a "sampler dish" and was rewarded with "ooohs and aaahs" as they were introduced to Cuban cuisine.

The next day we made our first visit to the Everglades, a beautiful and utterly unique landscape called "The River of Grass." The largest remaining subtropical wilderness in the U.S., the Everglades are home to a veritable zoo of endangered, rare, and exotic species. The Everglades' simple, uncluttered vistas highlighted by wildlife's presence, is a sight to see. Ripples in the saw grass signaled the movement of alligators, by nature a shy animal. The travelers were surprised to know Everglades National Park is the third largest park in the United States outside Alaska.

We next visited one of the most lush gardens in the world—the 83 acre Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden opened in 1938.

There you can walk garden paths surrounded by the wonders and beauty of nature, talk to experts in horticulture, conservation and science, view impressive art, see butterflies and birds at every turn and take classes on everything from photography to grafting. We saw beautiful and colorful glass sculptures by the famous glass blower Chihuly, and marvelous giant flowers, psychedelic in style and massive in size, designed by the prominent Japanese artist Kayoi Kusama.



Some of the Everglades' abundant wildlife.



Vivien getting "hands-on" with Florida wildlife.

Photo courtesy of WTT Traveler Linda Atkinson. Thanks!

Over the next two days, we further explored Florida's interior land, rivers, fauna and flora. We took a traditional Florida airboat ride and watched a reptile show which included some snake handling which was a bit too "hands-on" for some of travelers including me!

Next, we headed south to Key West where as Jimmy Buffett puts it "Changes in latitude, Changes in attitude!" If you are a type "A" personality and want to relax, I can guarantee you that after three days in the Keys, you come out being a type "Z" personality! Time seemed to slow down as we drove from island to island across long bridge spans. Stopping for lunch at the Lazy Days Restaurant in Islamorada, we knew we had arrived in the Keys. The restaurant was "classic" Key West style, built on stilts with a tin roof. We lunched on the wrap around deck where the view of the ocean was totally magnificent.

Three days in the Keys isn't enough time to do everything there is to do. You can select any water sport you want, from snorkeling to boating, to diving. Some of the ladies chose to take a day trip Dry Tortugas where in addition to touring historic Fort Jefferson you can lay on the beach or snorkel the reefs. Some stayed on the mainland visiting the art stores, boutiques, museums or just relaxing in the beautiful interior garden of our

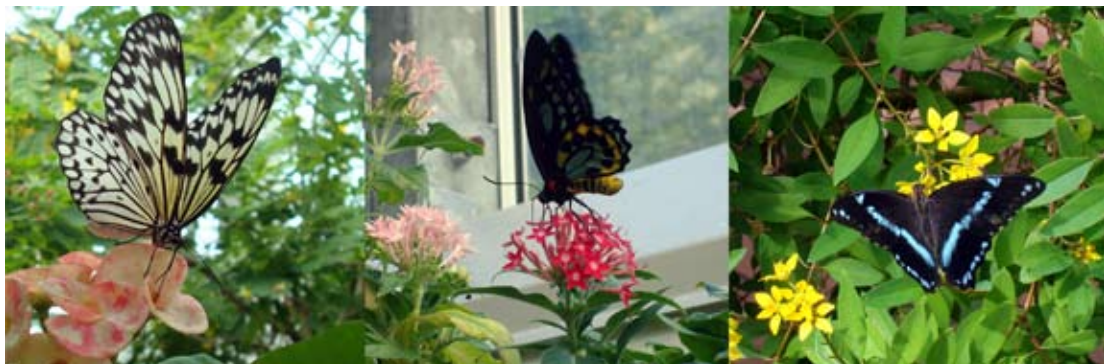
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Everglades, cont'd.

hotel The Almond Tree. One day after a very interesting tour of the Hemingway House, we had an amazing experience at the Butterfly Conservatory, an enclosed butterfly garden with the most brilliant and dramatic colorful butterflies I have seen. A Key West highlight is watching the sunset in Mallory's Square. We were truly blessed and experienced a spectacular sunset!

We dined in style at Kelly's, savoring the wonderful variety of fish and shellfish in an indoor garden under the stars. We also enjoyed a marvelous breakfast at the Blue Heaven Café shaded by tropical trees and entertained by the roosters and cats roaming around, characteristic of this restaurant and Key West. After three laid back days, we drove back to Miami stopping along the way at the Island Grill for one more lazy lunch hour featuring an assortment of delectable seafood.

Our farewell dinner location in Miami was a surprise—the Fontana Restaurant in the Biltmore Hotel. Located in the exclusive suburb of Coral Gables, the Biltmore was built in 1924 and sits in a dreamlike setting complete with exquisite, hand-painted frescos on barrel-vaulted ceilings, brilliant travertine floors, fine marble columns, intricate leaded glass fixtures, carved mahogany furnishings and lavish gardens. The food was amazing, the service excellent and the setting impressive—it was fabulous end to an unforgettable trip! ♦



Some inhabitants of the Butterfly Conservatory.



Picture perfect sunset in the Florida Keys.



Lunch at the Island Grill.

Please check the website for full itineraries
& the most up-to-date information space availability.

MAY



Bryce & Zion National Parks

May 9-15, 2010

Member Price: \$1687 (single room-add \$633)

Located in the state of Utah, Bryce and Zion National Parks are only accessible by two-lane roads winding through beautiful scenery. Bryce leaves you awestruck when you walk the crest of the rim to view the canyon from above and see the hoodoos—pillars of rock, usually of fantastic shape, left by erosion. The Navajo Loop Trail allows you to walk among the hoodoos and see these magnificent rock formations up close. Next, we visit Zion National Park and what a difference a few miles can make! Zion features canyons surrounded by mountains with unique sandstone cliffs ranging in color from cream to pink to red. Join us as we explore these two very different National Parks. This trip also includes a visit to Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada and an evening to explore Las Vegas.

New Orleans, LA

Featuring the French Quarter

May 28-31, 2010

Member Price: \$725

(single room-add \$260)

The French Quarter and the downtown areas of New Orleans have enjoyed resurgence in popularity as new visitors and those returning find that New Orleans is still a wonderful destination. Join us over the Memorial Day weekend when we will call the French Quarter home. In Jackson Square, only a few blocks from our hotel, you can see street performers, have your fortune told, enjoy a lovely park, or just people-watch (always fun). If food is your passion, the choices are endless and fabulous. We love New Orleans and know you will too!



JUNE

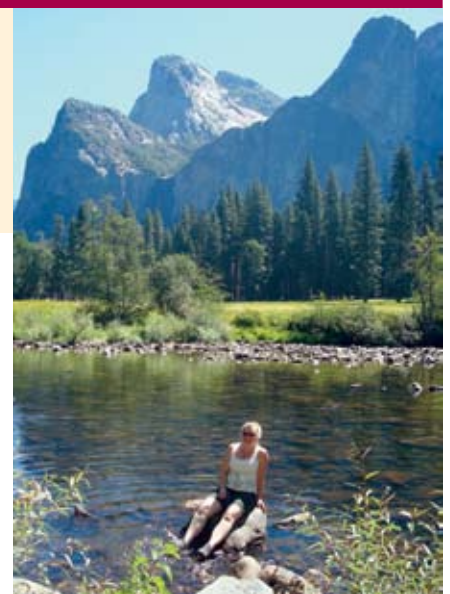
Yosemite National Park & the Pacific Crest Trail

June 6-11, 2010

Member Price: \$1593

(single room-add \$517)

We'll explore Yosemite at the height of the spring runoff when the waterfalls are at their best! Our time will be filled with spectacular scenery, cascading waterfalls and easy to moderate walks. Walking through Yosemite allows you to see the features of this incredible park up close and reflect on the geology that makes up the landscape, and to view the vistas as famous artists and photographers once saw them. We will also spend some time on the Pacific Crest Trail, one of America's National Scenic Trails. The section we will walk passes through Yosemite National Park and wanders through a canyon, mostly alongside the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River.



Alaska: The Kenai Peninsula, Denali & Talkeetna

June 16-25, 2010

Member Price: \$3719 (single room-add \$1391)

We'll begin our trip with three days on the beautiful Kenai Peninsula and experience the beauty of the sea and glaciers. We'll then venture north for a visit to Denali National Park where we will get our first look at Mt. McKinley—the highest peak in North America. Our final destination will be Talkeetna, where we will be closest to Mt. McKinley and have the opportunity to take a flightseeing tour, approaching within six miles of the mountain! We'll spend plenty of time viewing wildlife and glaciers, often traveling by train. There will be long days to explore it all because Alaska enjoys almost 24 hours of daylight this time of year.

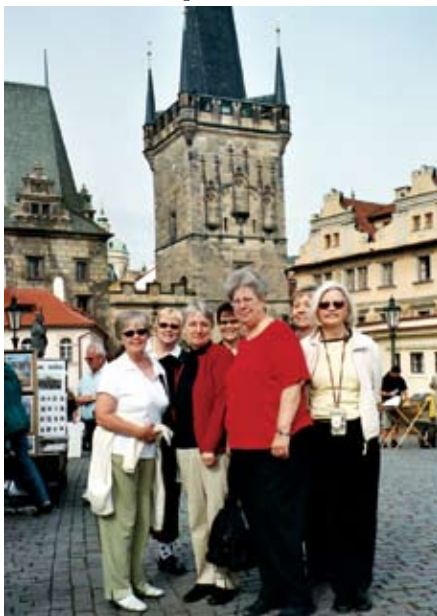


Prague, Vienna & Budapest

June 16-25, 2010

Member Price: \$3288 (single room-add \$658)

Three lovely cities—one incredible trip! Join us as we explore the best of old Europe. We will have three days in each location, with special activities in each city. Enjoy a dinner cruise in Prague and visit the World Heritage Site of Czesky Krumlov, a 13th century town in Southern Czech Republic. In Vienna see the Lipizzaner stallions and have dinner and attend a Mozart concert at the Schönbrunn Palace, then travel by hydrofoil on the Danube River to Budapest and take a day trip to the Royal Palace of Godollo. We've packed a lot in, but have also given you time to explore with your fellow travelers. Add to this lovely 4 and 5 star hotels located city center and you have a recipe for a wonderful time.



San Francisco & the Pacific Coast Highway

June 20-26, 2010

Member Price: \$1844
(single room-add \$632)

The magnificent Golden Gate Bridge with fog rolling in from the Pacific is a sight you won't soon forget. Then there is San Francisco itself, with its cable cars and pastel painted buildings clinging to the steep hills. Just down the coast from San Francisco is the famous Pacific Coast Highway with its incredible vistas and charming towns. This trip combines San Francisco (one of our favorite cities) with the beauty of the Pacific Coast Highway and the famous 17-Mile Drive. We will visit the seaside towns of Monterey, Carmel-by-the-Sea and Big Sur—each area having its own beauty and charm. This is an ideal trip for those wanting see more than just the city of San Francisco. These are six days in Northern California that will stay with you forever.



JULY

Costa Rica Adventure & Discovery

July 1-10, 2010

Member Price: \$2865 (single room-add \$708)

Costa Rica is about the same size as Kentucky, but packed into this small country is an amazing variety of flora and fauna in an equally impressive array of landscapes—cool mountain valleys, sultry mangrove forests, and massive volcanoes draped in lush forests and topped with desolate craters.



Costa Rica has spectacular biological diversity: 850 species of birds, 205 species of mammals, 376 types of reptiles and amphibians, and more than 9,000 species of flowering plants, including 1,200 varieties of orchids. This trip incorporates a wide variety of adventure activities as we travel from San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, to Guanacaste on the Pacific Ocean. River rafting, a volcano hike, an ATV adventure and more await the truly adventuresome WTT traveler. Beautiful accommodations in lush settings make this trip one you will remember for a lifetime.



Paris & Chateaux ~ July 15-23, 2010

Member Price: \$3694 (single room-add \$826)

This tour is designed around two of the best places in France to visit—The Loire Valley with its magnificent chateaux, and Paris with its...well, you get the idea! We begin in the Loire Valley where we will use the town of Tours as our home base for five nights and then explore each day in a different direction. We'll see chateaux (lots of them!), have a French cooking demonstration, visit a winery and have unstructured time to explore some of the quaint towns of the Loire Valley. Then we will go to Paris—with a stop at Versailles—and enjoy three nights in the City of Lights. A city tour, a ride up the Eiffel Tower and a Seine River Cruise are on our agenda while in Paris along with plenty of time to explore the attractions of Paris on your own.

Niagara Falls & the New York Finger Lakes

July 18-24, 2010

Member Price: \$1879 (single room-add \$715)

Spend a week enjoying the beauty of parks and waterfalls in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State and our most famous waterfall of all—Niagara Falls. A drive along Cayuga Lake highlights the wine country region including a stop for cider and wine tasting. We will spend a day in Corning, New York—home to the Corning Museum of Glass. Our day in Niagara Falls is yours to enjoy the sights and sounds of the city. Our final stop is Niagara-on-the-Lake, where we have the better part of the day to enjoy this lovely town. All of this while enjoying the beauty of the fall foliage. Perfect!



AUGUST

Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Monument & Badlands National Park ~ August 2-7, 2010

Member Price: \$1775 (single room-add \$548)

Seeing Mount Rushmore is something many of us would like to see, but let's face it... it's in the middle of nowhere. After some in-depth research, we found that the area really did offer a lot to see. We've designed a tour that includes Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Monument (also a massive mountain carving still in the making), Wind Cave National Park, Badlands National Park, a stay at a resort in Custer State Park, and a visit to a mammoth dig site. At the Sylvan Lake Resort, we'll enjoy the activities of the Park including a Buffalo jeep safari, or choose a hike around the lake, horseback riding or a paddleboat, or just find a comfortable chair and take in the beautiful scenery.



The Passion Play: Oberammergau, Germany includes sightseeing in Austria & Germany

August 6-13, 2010

Member Price: \$2639 (single room-add \$460)

Once every 10 years the small village of Oberammergau, Germany celebrates the Passion of Christ in thanksgiving to God for sparing the village and its people from the Bubonic Plague in 1634. The play is our final stop after a week's worth of beautiful scenery and lovely towns in Austria and Germany. We will take a small group of only ten travelers and will have first class seating at the play. It is a special week you don't want to miss.

The Coast of Maine & Acadia National Park August 8-14, 2010

Member Price: \$1845 (single room-add \$665)

If you have never been to Maine, you are in for a treat. The coastline is rugged, the water a sparkling blue. You will love the food, the people, and the scenery. We will explore the coastal region and Acadia National Park, visiting such lovely places as Camden and Booth Bay. Our journey will take us through quaint towns, to famous lighthouses, and spectacular natural scenery at Acadia National Park. Now it's your turn to see why we love Maine so much.



SEPTEMBER



Seattle & Victoria, Canada

September 12-18, 2010

Member Price: \$1872 (single room-add \$630)

Strikingly different from the East Coast, the Pacific Northwest sparkles in the setting sun and is green everywhere. Join us as we explore Seattle and Victoria, British Columbia. Our trip begins in Seattle, where we will experience the waterfront, the Space Needle and go to the famous Pike Place Market. From Seattle we will travel by ferry to Victoria where we will visit fabulous formal gardens and have high tea at the Empress Hotel. Come see what all the fuss is about. We love visiting Seattle and Victoria and know you will too!



Croatia

September 15-24, 2010

Member Price: \$2998

(single room-add \$574)

Crystal-clear seas, lush islands, Roman ruins and medieval walled cities are just some of the treasures which make Croatia a traveler's paradise. Besides its natural beauty, it also offers a

unique history and a eclectic mixture of cuisines. The Croatian coast is among the most beautiful in the world and we will spend two days of our journey exploring the coastline. Another must see is the beautiful Plitvice Lakes National Park—a waterfall filled wonderland where water cascades over hillsides, creating hundreds of individual waterfalls that are connected by 16 turquoise lakes stair-stepped down into a valley. We will conclude our trip on the coast in the city Dubrovnik which was the rival of Venice for many centuries.



Save \$262!
If you book
before 5/30/10

Italy: The Tuscany Region

September 17-25, 2010

Member Price: \$3459 (single room-add \$654)

The Tuscany region of Italy is known for its picturesque scenery, but also for its famous wines and superb culinary treats. This trip will give you the opportunity to experience it all, and come away with an in-depth understanding and knowledge of this region, its food and its wines. This trip includes sightseeing, an introduction to Tuscan cooking, visits to two wineries, chocolate and olive oil tastings and more. For those who like fine things, we have time in Florence where you can shop for gold and leather, or if shopping is not your thing, explore this marvelous city where art, history and the culture abounds everywhere you turn.





Hudson River Valley & New York City

September 18-24, 2010

Member Price: \$1940 (single room-add \$786)

The Hudson River Valley, home to millionaire estates along the river, West Point Military Academy, vineyards, quaint towns, and miles and miles of trees displaying their fall colors, is absolutely beautiful! This trip is a combination of stately homes, military history, beautiful scenery, fabulous food, and the bright lights of New York City. We'll take a cruise on the Hudson River and make a stop at the Culinary Institute of America to watch budding chefs at work and sample their work. This trip is a reminder that while New York City may be the heartbeat of the state, there is a world of beauty just beyond the Big Apple.

New England Sampler

Vermont, New Hampshire & Maine

September 26-Oct. 2, 2010

Member Price: \$1786 (single room-add \$755)

This trip will introduce you to the similarities and differences the states of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine have to offer. From rural Vermont to the White Mountains in New Hampshire to the rugged coast in Maine, these three states have a lot of sights packed into a small space. We will begin our trip in Vermont and make our way east, stopping to enjoy the scenery, the maple syrup, the mountains, the quaint villages, the water and the seafood. Plus, we'll do a lot of leaf viewing as fall settles into the region. This tour is truly a sampling of the best of New England.



OCTOBER

The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Including a visit to Santa Fe, NM

October 1-5, 2010

Member Price: \$1368 (single room-add \$516)

Up, Up and Away!
Come visit Albuquerque, New Mexico and experience firsthand the spectacular Hot Air Balloon Fiesta. Over 800 balloons participate in the event that has become the premier balloon festival in the country. Each day a mass ascension at dawn fills the skies over Albuquerque with hundreds of balloons of all shapes and sizes, while the evening "glow" showcases the balloons in the light of their own fires. We will begin our five days in Albuquerque at the festival and then take time to visit Santa Fe and the surrounding mountains. There is time set aside one morning for those interested in experiencing the thrill of riding in a hot air balloon.



Denver to San Francisco by Train

October 7-13, 2010

Member Price: \$1989
(single room-add \$868)

Come see the American West in a way you'll remember forever—by train! Our trip begins in the Mile High City of Denver, which offers 300 days of sunshine every year! While in Denver we will visit The Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak before we board our train and travel west to Salt Lake City. Here we will attend a performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and tour the city. We again board the train and head west to San Francisco. What better way to end the trip than with memorable views of the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean! Oh yes, let's not forget about the beautiful fall colors to be seen from the train.





**Asheville, North Carolina
& Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

October 10-15, 2010 AND October 17-22, 2010

Member Price: \$1683 (single room-add \$680)

Thought to be among the oldest mountains on Earth, the Smoky Mountains get their name from the bluish haze that clings to them. We'll see pristine waterfalls and beautiful mountain vistas in the Park, spend time in Asheville NC, home of the Biltmore Estate, and shop for local crafts. Early October also brings the beauty of the changing leaves. If you love the outdoors mixed with the charm of small towns and gorgeous scenery, then this trip is for you!



Seeing how the fabulously rich lived—outside the Biltmore Estate.

DECEMBER



**Nashville, Tennessee
Dressed for Christmas**

December 3-7, 2010

Member Price: \$1557

(single room-add \$681)

In mid-November each year Nashville sets up the lights, the trees, and transports visitors to a wonderland of Christmas beauty. This year we will visit Nashville dressed for Christmas and see the shows, see the ice carvings, and see the Grand Ole Opry. It's fun, it's beautiful, and a great time!

**NEW TOURS
COMING SOON:**

**American Artists
Featuring Norman Rockwell
July 12-17, 2010**

**Newport, RI & Cape Cod
October 1-6, 2010**

**Shenandoah National Park
& Presidential Homes
October 23-28, 2010**



The Breakers, Newport, Rhode Island.