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# Travel Scoop

*The Newsmagazine  
for Members of  
The Travel Society*

Vol. 20, No. 9 November 2002

## MEMORIES OF MAUI AND MOLOKA'I

— by Ann Wallace

From its spectacular coastline to the swirling mists of the lush area known as Upcountry to the moonscape of the vast, arid Haleakala volcanic crater, the Hawaiian island of Maui is breathtakingly beautiful. Here you can catch sight of fields of orchids and exotic proteas, discover beaches both deserted or alive with fluttering sailboards and daring surfers, taste fruits fresh from the farms and fish newly plucked from the sea, watch whales leap from the shimmering Pacific, meet some charming people, delve into a colourful history, and experience some of the world's most spectacular drives. With all it has to offer, it's no



*Lahaina was once the whaling capital of the world (Wallace)*

wonder that Maui is know far and wide as a tourist mecca. Yet, with just a few exceptions, the island rarely seems crowded, although its few roads can become congested.

You need at least a week to explore Maui fully, longer if you'd like considerable time on the beach or if you plan to play golf on one of the many courses

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# TravelScoop

The Newsmagazine for Members of  
The Travel Society

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November 2002

Vol. 20, No. 9

## From your Editor's desk...



Since the publication of my two-part report on The Travel Society's China/Yangtze Spectacular trip, I've had the pleasure of chatting to quite a number of you. And a couple of times it was pointed out to me that my account of the Yangtze cruise did not give many statistics on the vast engineering scheme known as the Three Gorges Project. Well ... I'm not very good at remembering figures, but I have now done some research and I thought it might be interesting to all of you to know a little more about the project that will affect the Yangtze River in the coming years.

The decision to build a dam in the Three Gorges Basin was made by the Chinese Government in April 1992. Preparation took two years, construction will take 15 years and completion is expected in 2009. Estimated cost of the project is US\$10.8 billion.

The river itself is 6,300 km in length with a drop of 5,400 metres. The top length of the dam is 2,331 metres and its height 185 metres. The length of the reservoir will be 600 km with a storage capacity of 39.3 billion cubic metres (of which 22.15 billion is for flood control) and a discharging capability of 116,000 cubic metres per second. Twenty-six generators will provide 84.7 billion kwh annually (12 times that of Niagara Falls).

For many of you, the most interesting statistic is that an estimated 1.13 people will be displaced in the area, although it is acknowledged that this figure may be extremely inaccurate. The submerged land will amount to 632 sq. km (of which 27,800 hectares is farmland) and will include 13 cities, 140 towns, 1,352 villages and 657 factories.

I hope that answers a few of the questions some of you may have. It's been hard to describe the size of the project to others for, on looking at the project from the observation points, construction could be seen almost as far as the eye can see. It certainly was interesting, even for someone without a head for figures!

## coming in *December*

- *Québec's Eastern Townships*

- *The Island of Kauai, Hawaii*

- *Galapagos Islands*

## Update Items

As we go to press just after Thanksgiving, we are thinking of the terrible news and images from Bali. The Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, Francesco Frangialli, spoke for all peace-loving people when he said, "On behalf of the World Tourism Organization, its Member States and the entire international tourism community, we wholeheartedly condemn the violent incident which took so many lives. It was an act of cowardice, committed against innocent tourists who were engaged in recreational activities. Terrorism has once again hit at the very root of tourism, a peaceful industry which is beyond political and religious considerations and whose very objective is to promote international peace and understanding."

Just before this latest tragedy, there was news that the Star Alliance had launched a new "Star Alliance Circle Pacific Fare" that allows travellers to visit the Pacific region for up to six months on a mileage-based ticket involving a combination of Star Alliance member airlines. Destinations available on the fare include Thailand, Philippines, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Western Samoa, Tahiti and Tonga (yes, Indonesia was also included, but today we place that country firmly in parenthesis). The Star Alliance Circle Pacific Fare is available for travel in first, business and economy class for trips with a maximum mileage of either 22,000 or 26,000 miles. Fares are determined by the mileage category, class of travel and origin/destination. As an example, a 22,000-mile Circle Pacific Fare for travel in economy class from/to the West Coast of Canada is available for \$3,269. The fare is valid for travel on Air Canada, Air New Zealand, ANA All Nippon Airways, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways, United Airlines and VARIG Brazilian Airlines.

## This Month's Winning Scoop

*Over the years, TravelScoop has published some of the information detailed below. But we constantly have new subscribers and many of you may no longer have the information to hand. And there are excellent new websites to bring to your attention. We also thought it would be a good idea to publish all this information together in one place for ease of reference. My thanks to author and fellow travel writer Habeeb for putting this together for us – Ed.*

# CANADA LOOKS AFTER YOU!

by Habeeb Salloum

**W**hen you are out of Canada for any reason - perhaps while living abroad or visiting the old country from whence your ancestors came; or as a snow bird spending the winter months in Florida, or as a traveller to exotic places, a back-packer roaming the byways in foreign lands, an affluent world rambler, or seeking adventure by meandering the globe - Canada has set in place a series of life lines that you can use.

The Consular Affairs Bureau, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade have published two fine booklets; *Bon Voyage, But ... Information for the Canadian Traveller* and *Her Own Way: Advice for the Woman Traveller*; and a pamphlet *Travelling Abroad? Assistance for Canadians*, all designed to aid Canadians outside of Canada. They are crammed full of information of what to say and do when living or travelling beyond the Canadian borders and they provide a wide range of information and advice on travel safety.

Perhaps, even more important is the establishment of a web

### ***Members are Rewarded for Sharing!***

TS rewards members for all submissions published.

**The Winning Scoop** receives a 1-year membership extension.

**Your Scoops** receive a 3-issue membership extension.

**Favourite Places** receive a 3-issue membership extension.

**Reader Reports** receive extensions depending on length.

**Submission Guidelines:** TS welcomes reader submissions but cannot guarantee they will be used. We reserve the right to edit submissions should they be used. It is very important to include specific travel details: costs, discounts, addresses, telephone and fax numbers, etc., for the benefit of other readers. Submissions can be sent by mail, e-mail: [brit@interlog.com](mailto:brit@interlog.com) or on diskettes.

site, where a traveller can find the 'on-line Travel Reports' with up-to-date information on the latest travelling conditions in some 225 countries. Visa requirements, health, security, and most other issues worrisome to travellers can also be found on this web site.

Abroad, Canadian Consular Services function seven days a week, 24 hours a day through a maze of over 270 Canadian offices located in some 180 countries. These consist of embassies, high commissions offices, consulates, cooperation bureaus and honorary consuls. In a number of countries services are provided for Canadians by agreements with the offices of other friendly countries. The offices of the British, for example, can be counted on to provide assistance to Canadians.

As long as you can find access to some kind of communication tool, you can reach these offices by telephone, fax, e-mail or by regular post. An efficient and sophisticated computer system connects these offices, enabling the traveller to have his or her questions answered at any time and from any location.

Both the consular staffs in Ottawa and abroad can do much to help, especially in emergencies. They can: replace passports and legalize documents; arrange evacuation in case of war or other disasters; contact family and friends; arrange help in medical emergencies and assist in the event of death; aid victims of robbery or violence; help in dealing with the justice system and endeavour to ensure fair treatment under another country's laws.

One of the main things to remember when travelling abroad is that being Canadian doesn't

exempt you from local laws (especially regarding illegal drugs). If you commit an offence or break the law in another country, you are subject to the judgements of that country's courts. Canadian consular officials can provide assistance to Canadians in jail abroad, but they cannot arrange for their release. Over 2,000 Canadians are languishing in jails throughout the world, after having broken the laws in these countries.

Annually, millions of Canadians travel to other countries. Most of these trips away from Canada are usually very fulfilling, but at times there could be unexpected complications. Even though, in the main, these problems are minor, a very few turn out to be devastating. These are the ones which the Department, with its contact mechanism, is trying to avoid.

To assist Canadian travellers in avoiding the pitfalls of travelling in a foreign land, it would be wise for them to carry with them the above-mentioned booklets together with the following contact numbers of Canada's Consular Services - available 24 hours a day - seven days a week:

**Consular services & travel reports:** 1 800 267 6788.

**For online information:** see [www.passages.gc.ca/menu-en.asp](http://www.passages.gc.ca/menu-en.asp) and click on "Foreign Destinations" and/or [www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/travel/menu-en.asp](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/travel/menu-en.asp)

**Emergency Services:** call collect from abroad: 613 996 8885.

**E-mail:** [voyage@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:voyage@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

**For publications:** 1 800 267 8376 or 613 944 4000, or write: Enquiries Service, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2 ■

## Your Scoops

### Making Decisions Based on the Weather

Mention of the rain gods in the September edition of *TravelScoop* has prompted me to write. Ever since my wife, Gayle, and I took a trip to Tahiti where we encountered clouds and little sunshine, which from advice of locals was the expected weather at that time of the year, we have always done extensive research on the weather to minimize the risks. Of course, there are no guarantees, but it has helped us make some wise decisions.

So I thought others readers might find the following web sites of interest when planning their trips. <http://cgi.usatoday.com/weather/wfront.htm> ... Go to banner "Get domestic and international forecasts", type in city, go to banner "weather tools looking ahead", click on daily averages and monthly averages. Yes, it provides you with daily averages for each day of the month.

[www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com) ... Provides historical monthly temperature and rain for cities throughout the world. Very easy to follow.

[www.vacationstogo.com/cruiseports.cfm](http://www.vacationstogo.com/cruiseports.cfm) ... Provides information for cruise ports: per month high and low temperatures, rainfall and humidity. Again easy to use.

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) ... A little bit more difficult to navigate. Go to web site, then local forecast typing in name of city, in section titled "10 day forecast" left click on averages and records.

[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/weather/historical/historical.htm](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/weather/historical/historical.htm) ... Does not have as many cities as the world climate site, but for those it does it shows by month average

temperatures, highest and lowest recorded, wind speed, rainfall, and morning and afternoon humidity.

[www.travel-guide.com/navigate/world.asp](http://www.travel-guide.com/navigate/world.asp) ... Takes a little effort. Following map identify country, then click on city and then under "travel information" banner click on climate.

Once we have the above, we then we go to the destination web sites and, using the information and links, attempt to get more recent information which reflects the changing weather patterns over the last few years. In this manner, for our pending cruise in Tahiti we accumulated a great deal of information and elected to go in September 2003 which seemed to be the best month which matched our travel plans. We will let you know how successful we are this time!

*Dean Feltham  
Thornhill, ON*

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*A few weeks ago I was contacted by Ronald Betty, who suggested we have a "Timeshare Corner" in TravelScoop to exchange information about this type of accommodation. I thought it a good idea, and invited Ronald to launch it himself for he had told me he had enjoyed a couple of good places in France. If any of you have timeshare information to exchange we would be happy to hear from you – Ed.*

### Notes for Timesharers

Most, but not all, timeshare facilities are found in resort destinations and do not lend themselves to being a "home-base" from which to tour a region on a day-

trip basis. The Mediterranean coasts of France, Spain and Portugal are good examples of resort destinations with many timeshare resorts but where tasting the local culture is made difficult by the number tourists in the area.

Our very fine exchanges for our month-long trip to France in May 2002 were both arranged via Interval International. The following comments about each of the resorts we experienced will, I hope, be of interest to any readers planning a trip to France and wishing to make use of their exchangeable timeshare units.

**Grand Vacation Club at Le Manoir des Deux Amants, Connelles, Normandy**, tel. 011 33 2 32 63 72 00, [www.gvc.co.uk](http://www.gvc.co.uk). This resort has both a newer wing and an older wing and is situated on the banks of the River Seine. We were in the newer wing and found the units clean and well equipped. The reception staff were English speaking and very helpful. Groceries, etc., were available nearby. We found this a convenient base for day trips to Giverny (Monet's home and gardens), Rouen, Honfleur, Caen, Bayeux, and the Normandy beaches.

**Residence le Port du Bourgenay, Talmont, St. Hilaire**, tel. 011 33 2 51 23 30 30, [www.pierre-et-vacances.com](http://www.pierre-et-vacances.com) (site in French). This resort is on the Atlantic coast, 15 km south of Les Sables d'Olonne which has a wonderful sand beach within walking distance of many shops and restaurants. This is a family resort with lots to interest children, a beach nearby, a marina, on-site golf course, outdoor pool complex, well stocked on-site convenience store with reasonable prices and several small restaurants. Housekeeping

was very good, the units well equipped, and the reception staff spoke English. We highly recommend this resort for a holiday break from touring (the popular Loire Valley points of interest are rather too many hours away by car for day tripping).

Interval International and RCI are the two exchange companies with whom most North American owners have their membership(s). The timeshare concept had rather a bad reputation at the outset, but now that companies such as Disney and Marriott have become involved everything is reputable and runs smoothly. We hold a timeshare with Marriott in California.

I hope the above gives something with which to kick off a column for timeshare owners. I look forward to reading the experiences of other owners. And I am happy to answer any e-mail questions regarding timesharing from other readers.

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[www.thetravelsociety.com](http://www.thetravelsociety.com)

**Our website is now up and fully operational. We will constantly endeavour to improve it and welcome your input. To access the site the password will be up-dated monthly and will appear on the back page of your TravelScoop within your address box.**

## Shopping in Cappadocia

Ann is quite correct ... Cappadocia is one of the world's most captivating regions. My wife and I have enjoyed all that it's famous for: driving and hiking through the unique landscape, taking photos (*far* too many!) and visiting the museums and underground cities. But there's one surprising element I should add ... shopping! No, not your average curios and trinkets, but the fine Kaya Ceramic (or Seramik) Factory at Avanos. Here you can watch the craftspeople at work, and can easily pass an hour or so in their glittering, cavern-like showroom.

The factory produces beautiful pieces for daily use or decoration and also 'museum pieces' – copies of Iznik ceramics produced in the Ottoman Empire such as plates, jugs, vases, bells and tiles. The originals reside in such illustrious establishments as the Louvre in Paris, the Victoria & Albert and the British Museums in London, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and many other museums worldwide. These beautiful museum copies are on sale in Avanos with hefty price tags or you can purchase

many other beautiful items at more reasonable prices or merely settle for some inexpensive pretty tiles that will remind you of your visit.

Whatever you do, don't miss this 'attraction' when in Cappadocia. Any locals in the town of Avanos will point out the way. Before you go, you can visit [www.gurayseramik.com.tr](http://www.gurayseramik.com.tr) to see how many pennies you need to save.

*Albert & Elaine Smith  
Toronto, ON*

## A Few Words on Driving in Cuba

My wife, Gayle, and I are attempting to put together a three-week trip to Cuba in 2003; and we thank those *TravelScoop* readers who responded to our inquiry for information on their experiences. The more research we do the more interested we become in getting to Cuba, meeting the people and enjoying the country.

However, one matter has come to our attention that we would like to share with readers. The Government of Canada has issued the following warning:

"Road travel [in Cuba] can be

hazardous. Bicycles, pedestrians, and horse-drawn carts use the middle of the road and do not readily give way to oncoming vehicles. Drive defensively at all times. Night driving is not recommended as few roads or city streets are lighted. Vehicles, bicycles, carts, etc., rarely have proper lighting. Many vehicles are old and poorly maintained. Inoperable vehicles are often left on the road until repaired. The Autopista Central (national highway), which runs the length of the island, is generally in good condition. Other roads are generally poor.

Car rental insurance differs from that in Canada. If you are in any way at fault in an accident, rental agencies will nullify coverage and Immigration officials will prevent you from leaving the island until damages are paid. Under Cuban law, those involved can be detained until the case is resolved in the courts. Depending on the severity of the accident, resolution can take from five months to a year."

In our investigations we have been advised by reliable sources that several Canadians have in fact been detained and/or had to pay damages. One person was detained for a period of six months before the court was able to hear his case. This letter is not meant to discourage anyone from going to Cuba. We plan to be there for three weeks, but have changed our plans from self drive to arranging for a Cuban to drive us.

Log on to [http://www.voyage.gc.ca/destinations/menu\\_e.htm](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/destinations/menu_e.htm) for this – and other – Canadian Government warnings. And the Canadian Embassy in Cuba can be contacted at 011 53 7 204 2516, e-mail: [havan@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:havan@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

*Dean Feltham  
Thornhill, ON*



*The magnificent store at the Kaya Ceramic Factory (Smith)*

continued from page 1

here. And while it is possible to stay in a resort and take guided day trips, a car is a definite advantage and a necessity if you plan to stay at an out-of-the-way B&B or cottage, of which there are many. All major car rental companies are located at the airport.

For me the most memorable experiences on Maui were those famous drives, so let's start my story there. Your rental company will provide you with a map of the island from which you will immediately see that there are few roads. If you make it your quest to cover every mile during your stay (excluding the city blocks in and around the main towns) you will be well rewarded. As you look at the map from your rental company you will notice two 'Road Warning' boxes, one along the north west coast, the other along the south east coast – the

P i ' i l a n i Highway. The former states "The road along this north side of Maui is for the most part a narrow, winding one-lane road. Rental cars are not permitted. Drive at your own risk." The latter states, "There's a seven mile stretch of road along this south side of

Maui that is unpaved, and there are several spots where limited ground clearance over projecting rocks can cause damage to the underside of your car. And after you get this there is 18 miles of potholes [sic]. If you get stranded along here, you are on your own because when you signed your car rental agreement you stated you wouldn't drive through here." Well. I think you can guess what I'm going to say now. *Mea culpa*. I am guilty. I erred. I did not do as I was told. I broke the rules. I drove these roads.

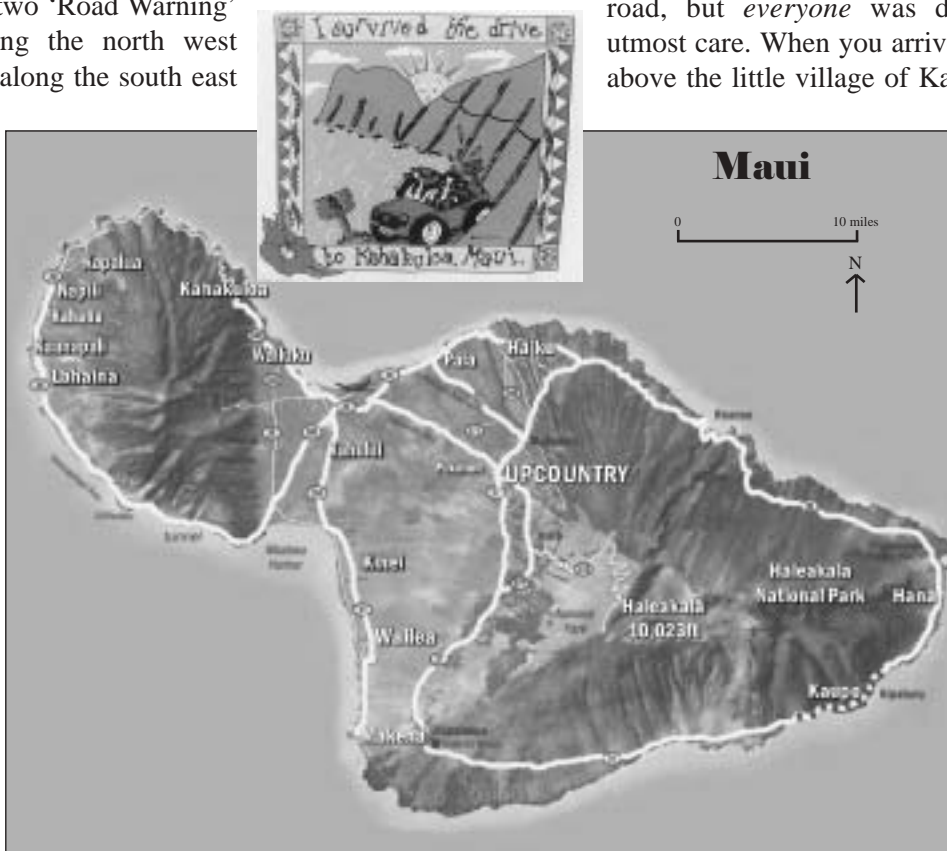
It would be wrong of me to encourage you to take

these drives, but I *can* tell you what I discovered. The north west coast drive is indeed spectacular, though rather hair-raising especially if you make the mistake, as I did, of travelling from east to west, which meant that I was on the ocean cliff side of the road. For many stretches it is single lane only with pull-overs at regular intervals. Usually, due to the winding nature of the road, you can spot approaching vehicles across the valleys, but not always, and on the blind corners great care must be taken and the ocean side pull-overs are not for the faint hearted or those who do not like heights. If you drive from west to east you can hug the inside cliff and feel safer. There was quite a lot of traffic on this road, but *everyone* was driving with the utmost care. When you arrive at the gift store above the little village of Kahakuloa you can

purchase a T-shirt that declares "I survived the drive to Kahakuloa, Maui." That alone gives you some idea of the experience!

The P i i l a n i Highway in the south is not such a hair-raising road. It certainly is not in good condition but careful negotiation of the

potholes ensures a safe journey. It is unpaved for about five miles. And on these rough sections there are no cliff drops. It is, however, an isolated drive through wild, uninhabited country for about 20 miles. I passed just one other car and I can't imagine the surly man in the funky general store in the only village – Kaupo – would give assistance too readily as he seemed to think he owned the whole area. For me, however, the spectacular coastal scenery and the flower dotted slopes rising to the rim of the volcano's crater to the north made it all worthwhile. It was a great adventure. I travelled



from west to east, and as I approached Hana I started to encounter traffic again as visitors come to the area (most of them via Hana) to visit the park known as Seven Sacred Pools and to see Charles Lindbergh's grave, situated on a promontory beside Palapala Hoomau Church at road mile marker 41.

The two drives I have just described are not, however, the roads for which Maui is famous. That mark of distinction goes to the northern Hana Highway and to the Crater Road which leads to the summit of Haleakala volcano. Don't miss either of them. There are no restrictions placed upon these two routes by the car rental companies. Both are winding roads, but are in excellent condition. The Hana Highway provides ocean and rainforest views with many parks, waterfalls, pools and hiking trails along its route of curves and narrow bridges. Hana itself is a quiet, hippy-ish little town with one luxurious hotel – the Hana-Maui – and lots of cabins and B&B's. It's appealing and quite isolated compared with the other beach-side locations in Maui, but if you wish to explore the island fully I do not recommend you stay in Hana, as every time you wish to reach somewhere you will have to negotiate that slow, twisting Highway. The road certainly deserves its fame ... it's a beautiful drive, but I have to admit that, as I'd already taken the roads I wasn't supposed to, it was a bit of an anti-climax!

Not so the Crater Road leading to the Haleakala ("House of the Sun") volcano rim ... it's a memorable drive and the sight that greets you at the top takes your breath away. Rising to an elevation of 10,023 feet over a distance of 40 miles, it is one of the world's fastest-climbing roads, so care must be taken, especially on the descent, but like the Hana Highway the road is in excellent condition. The route takes drivers from the area called Upcountry, a lush, green, mist-shrouded land of fruit and flower farms, which quite suddenly becomes an arid, unearthly land of cinder cones and lava flows leading to the volcano's rim. The huge crater (though if we read the official literature we learn that in fact this is not a crater but an "erosional depression") is like nothing I have ever seen, except on television when man landed on the moon! The scale of the huge area that one looks over at the summit is almost impossible to grasp, although, again referring to the literature, we learn that it is 21 miles around the rim, 7.5

miles long, 2.5 miles wide and .5 mile deep. Shadows and clouds play amongst the red and grey craters and valleys, that are punctuated only by the rare silver-sword plant or the occasional rare nene bird (a relative of the Canada goose). A few trails, like scars, lead away from the observation area into the distance for intrepid horse-back riders and hikers. The area is a National Park and the volcano is considered active; it has been estimated that the last eruption was in 1790.

Awesome is not a word I use very often, but that is what this sight is. I'll never forget it. Once on Maui you won't fail to hear about the sun-rise treks to the summit that have become something of a ritual. But I advise you to travel the road in daylight before you attempt this in the pre-dawn hours. And be aware of the weather, which can spoil your views (call 871 5054 to check before making the trip). Remember the height and take a sweater and a jacket, especially if you plan to be there in the dark, when temperatures can fall to below freezing. In the sun the ultraviolet radiation can be intense, so take sunblock too, especially if you plan

to do any walking. The drive takes approximately two hours from the nearest coast and there's lots to read in the Visitors' Centers so plan to spend at least an after-

noon on this excursion and take your own snacks if you plan for a longer visit. The Park is always open and there's a National Park Headquarters at the entrance and a Visitors' Center further on.

Yes, a visit to Maui is worthwhile for these spectacular drives and the glorious scenery alone. But there's much more to discover. All the area known as Upcountry is beautiful, with lush green fields, golden sunlight and occasional swirling clouds that bring gentle rain. Here you'll find flower, sugar cane and pineapple plantations; ranches with fine horses and cattle; quaint cottages with resplendent gardens and several parks and botanical gardens displaying the island's unique flora. The quaint little two-street town of Makawao is a great spot for arts and crafts. I popped into the Avalene Gallery there and was fortunate not only to see an exhibition of some of the vibrant works of Maui artist Jan Kasprzycki, but also to meet him. He lives and works in nearby Olinda. And while in this quaint village, drop into Duncan's Coffee Company for his wonderful coffee and a delicious light lunch. If you go, ask Duncan where he hails from!

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*For me, the most memorable experiences  
on Maui were those famous drives.*

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And you won't be on Maui long before you hear of its most famous restaurant: the Hali'imaile General Store. It's not cheap, but the food and atmosphere are memorable and for US\$30 you can purchase a copy of the Hali'imaile General Store Cookbook as a souvenir and to recreate some of the island's tastes at home.

Driving north west from Makawao and Hali'imaile you'll come to Pa'ia on the coast. This is a favourite spot of the beach boys and girls, who come here to catch a wave or to hang out in one of the funky restaurants. Again you'll find many arts and crafts here, and a dazzling bead shop just behind the Maui Crafts Guild building. Having checked out of my accommodation I spent my last couple of hours here before a late flight out, enjoying a hearty pasta dinner in Moana Bakery & Café on Pa'ia's main street.

Where should you stay in this paradise? On my trip in January of this year I took with me a copy of a *TravelScoop* article featured in January 2001: "Visiting Hawaii with Cadillac Taste and a Volkswagen Budget", by Corinne LaBossiere.

Corinne recommended two Maui properties: the Silver Cloud Ranch in the heart of Upcountry, and Maluhia Hale (Peaceful Home) overlooking the north coast at Haiku. I found both properties to be just as Corinne described: the Ranch is set among rolling hills and guests look out over the gardens to the distant bay. There's a variety of rooms and cottage accommodation ... all very clean and acceptable, even if slightly on the shabby side. But there's nothing shabby about Maluhia Hale, where the rooms are bright and fresh with billowing drapes. When I called this property to introduce myself, owner Diane Garrett was so excited. "I'd love to meet you and show you around," she said, "and I also wish to thank you because we have a couple from Montreal staying in our cottage for a month, and they heard about us through *TravelScoop*!" This



*The Haleakala Volcano (Wallace)*

lovely property stands in gardens high over the ocean just a short drive from the airport off the Hana Highway. Both properties will provide 'How to reach us' information. (Details at the end.)

If you travel south from Upcountry (perhaps you've decided to give the south Pi'ilani Highway a try) you'll pass several Botanical Gardens of which Kula is the finest. And at the end of the "you are allowed to drive here" stretch of road you'll pass the Tedeschi Winery. It's worth stopping here to admire the cool, pretty, sculpture-filled gardens and to sample – and perhaps purchase – some of the island's unique fruit wines.

Heading to the west coast of this east section of the island, visitors discover quite a different atmosphere.

Kihei is heavily developed and is a favourite destination for Canadians who come here to rent condos or villas for winter long-stays. Enter "Coldwell Banker Island Properties, Kihei, Maui" in your internet search engine and you'll find a wealth of rental properties and information.

Driving on south the area known as Wailea comes next. Here the condos are replaced by large resorts, fancy shopping malls and golf courses. There's the luxurious Outrigger Wailea Beach Resort here, where I stayed for a couple of nights before heading to the Upcountry B&B's. If you favour big resorts and you see this property offered on a tour from Canada you will find it offers all you could want in a resort. And, unlike many resort properties, it is quiet, secluded and elegant. Further along the road stands the fine, Canadian-owned Fairmont which will also cater to your every whim. Even if condo accommodation and large resorts are not to your taste, it's worth taking this road and continuing on to the end, for eventually it becomes more deserted (apart from a few luxurious homes) and leads to the largest undeveloped beach on Maui – beautiful Big Beach.

There's a large car park here and restroom facilities, but that's all. Driving on you'll discover the road crosses a large lava flow area, dating from the volcano's last eruption in 1790, until the road abruptly stops in La Perouse Bay.

Apart from my notes on the drive to Kapalua at the beginning of this article, all the above locations are on the larger, eastern section of Maui. But you will, of course, wish to explore the west as well. A good road leads all the way around the south western shore, taking you to the historic port of Lahaina and beyond. Lahaina was once the whaling capital of the world, so it has a raffish history which included brothels, bars and grog shops, gambling dens, riots, stories of naked women who swam out to meet the whalers and, naturally, trouble with the missionaries! Today it is still Maui's top visitor destination, but for different reasons! The two blocks that line the harbour are full of shops of every description, while clothed tourists now patiently wait along the harbour to catch the ferry to Molokai or to take a whale-watching tour. If you would like to stay in

Lahaina you might like to be in the centre of the action at the historic Pioneer Inn, a Best Western property right on the harbour that dates from 1901.

There are several interesting little museums in Lahaina, there's an art gallery in the historic Old Courthouse under the famous Banyan Tree (you can't miss it), a walking tour described in an easily-found brochure published by The Lahaina Restoration Foundation and, as mentioned, a plethora of shops – arts and crafts, jewellery, toys, clothes, maps, old prints, souvenirs and so on, as well as restaurants to suit every taste and budget. Beyond Lahaina, heading towards Ka'anapali, the big resorts with familiar names start again – Hyatt, Westin, Sheraton, Royal Lahaina are all here.

Before I move on to tell you a little about Molokai,

I should mention that Maui offers many more experiences for the visitor. You can fish, snorkel, sail, experience at Lu'au (a traditional hula and feast), take surfing lessons (yes, even for seniors!), helicopter rides, whale watching trips and more. Tourist information can be found everywhere, and lots of publications – such as those listing dining options – contain coupons. For those who like to explore in depth I recommend the guide *Hidden Maui*, by Ray Riegert, published by Ulysses Press at a cost of about C\$20. I don't think the author has missed a thing on this island, and it contains many recommendations for B&B's, cottage complexes and small resorts, all of which appear to be well described.

While Maui is indeed beautiful and offers many experiences to the vacationer, with lots of hidden corners to explore and "get away from it all", it's no secret that it is fast becoming very developed, with large resorts, golf courses, etc., appearing along many of the coasts at an alarming rate. Not so its sister island Molokai. Molokai is an island apart and, as many people pointed



*The Silver Cloud Ranch in Upcountry (Wallace)*

ed out to me, it is like 'the old Hawaii'.

It takes 90 minutes to reach Molokai by ferry from Lahaina (at a cost of about \$84.80 return ... all prices US). If you take this trip between mid-December and the middle of May you can probably count it as your whale-watching trip too. Tours of Molokai are offered by the ferry company, or they can arrange a rental car for you or you can reserve one yourself but do pre-book (Dollar and Budget are there). All ferry schedules are on their website at [www.molokaiferry.com](http://www.molokaiferry.com) or call 808 667 6165. The ferry leaves Lahaina at 6:30 most mornings and leaves Molokai at 5.30 p.m. You can make this a day trip or, of course, stay on Molokai awhile.

Locals on Molokai love to tell visitors "this is how Hawaii used to be ... quiet roads, no traffic lights, few

tourists, no tall buildings, no big resorts and few attractions apart from what nature provides.” And nature provides here in abundance: beaches, forests, deserts, reefs, waterfalls, cliffs, flora and fauna. Here you can fish, kayak, mountain bike, ride, hike or merely stroll in the cool forests or on the wide beaches. There are a few ‘attractions’ you won’t want to miss: the sleepy main town of Kaunakakai – virtually unchanged for a century – which offers some quaint shops and restaurants; the Coffee Plantation and the macadamia nut farm; the Molokai Museum and Cultural Center and so on. A day trip is better than nothing, but if you wish to relax, explore in depth and engage in some activities you’ll need longer. And you will need to stay at least a night if you plan to take Molokai’s most famous tour: a mule ride down winding cliff paths to the National Historic Park known as Kalaupapa.

I was disappointed I didn’t have time to do this whole-day trip, but I did visit the Kalaupapa Lookout overlooking the route and the park and so appreciate this ride is not for the faint-hearted. And I suspect spending several hours on a mule must be quite uncomfortable and result in stiffness for those not used to riding ... but oh, the scenery and the experience! It must be almost heart-stopping! The path down covers 2.9 miles and drops 1,700 feet down the side of the highest sea cliffs in the world (according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*). The mule ride (or a hike or small-plane flight) is the only way to reach the Kalaupapa Peninsula, a lush but wind-swept, wave-lashed piece of land. It’s significance? Since Hansen’s Disease (more commonly known as leprosy) swept through the Hawaiian islands in the 1850’s, this isolated piece of land has been a leper colony. If you only visit the Lookout you will be able to read the story on

the signs there, but if you make your way down to the village at the bottom, where the Damien Tours bus will meet you, you may catch sight of one of the 40 white-haired people who still live here. Once the inhabitants of this tragic place were outcasts; prisoners in this wild place. Today, of course, they are free to leave, but a few have decided to remain, living out their lives in peace and (relative) privacy while being cared for medically and in every other way by the U.S. Government.

Throughout Molokai – and on Maui too – you will hear the story of this once God-forsaken place, and

how hope was brought to it in the shape of courageous Father Damien, a Belgian priest, who decided to devote his life to fighting the government and helping the people of Kalaupapa. Living amongst the people, F a t h e r



*Kalaupapa from the Overlook (Wallace)*



*The Mule Ride to Kalaupapa (V. Carmona)*

Damien’s efforts made the settlement more liveable by establishing a hospital, a church, meeting places and so on. He eventually contracted the disease himself and died in 1889 at the age of 49. It wasn’t until 1941 that sulfone drugs were found to arrest Hansen’s Disease and eventually the residents were free to leave if they

wished.

A guided tour is imperative, as visitors must be ‘sponsored’. And although it is impossible to contract leprosy here now, current law prohibits children under 16 years from visiting. I heard and read, over and over again, that it’s a sad and moving, but uplifting experience to visit Kalaupapa and I hope to return to Molokai one day and do just that. The tours are offered every day except Sundays, with Molokai Mule Ride Inc., providing all transportation, permits, picnic lunches and liaison with Damian Tours who provide the ground tours of the Historical Park. The mule ride excursion

costs US\$150 pp if you are in Molokai; packages are also available from Maui and Honolulu, as well as Kalaupapa fly-in trips. For information call 808 567 6088 or log onto the company's excellent website at [www.muleride.com](http://www.muleride.com)

The tourism website listed below gives details of all Molokai's B&B's, condos, cottages and resorts. Check out Ka Hale Mala B&B, for example. Unfortunately I didn't have time to investigate any B&B's for you, but I did see the very nice Paniolo Hale Resort Condominiums and I also briefly visited the luxurious Molokai Lodge (now owned by Sheraton) and its beachside ranch which offers luxury camping in eco-friendly 'tentalsows'.

If I return to Hawaii, I will do all I can to spend a little more time on wild and wonderful Molokai and take that mule ride down the cliffside before I'm too old!

### Some details ...

Several companies (Air Canada Vacations, Sunquest Vacation, etc.) offer accommodation-included or air-only trips to Maui. Air Canada flies from Toronto, via Vancouver, to Maui on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 2 November until 9 December 2002 and thereafter will offer a daily service until 30 June 2003. Sunquest charters operate from Vancouver (to Maui and Honolulu) and from Calgary to both destinations once a week each from late December until mid April 2003. And Aloha Airlines has a daily flight from Vancouver to Honolulu with connections on to the other islands. At certain times inter-island passes are available.

**Silver Cloud Ranch**, 1 800 532 1111, e-mail: [slvr-cld@maui.net](mailto:slvr-cld@maui.net), [www.SilverCloudRanch.com](http://www.SilverCloudRanch.com), prices from \$85. (All prices US\$.)

**Maluhia Hale**, P.O. Box 687, Haiku, Maui, Hawaii 96708, tel: 808 572 2959, e-mail: [djg@maui.net](mailto:djg@maui.net), [www.maui.net/~djg/](http://www.maui.net/~djg/) Prices around \$110, but please discuss rates for longer stays.

**The Pioneer Inn**, 1 800 457 5457 or [www.pioneerinn-maui.com](http://www.pioneerinn-maui.com), rooms from \$115.

**Hali'imaile General Store**, tel: 572 266 for reservations. Request seating in the front – or old store – section. Dinner entrees in the \$20 - \$30 price range.

If you're close to the Kapalua Resort shopping mall and like seafood and sushi, treat yourself to dinner in the popular **Sansei Restaurant**, where entrée choices

from the large menu are in the \$16-\$24 range and sushi starts at \$3. Call 669 6286 for a reservation. If you like to dine early (before 6 p.m.) you'll enjoy a 25% discount.

**The Old Lahaina Lu'au** is a famous tourist attraction that is described as the best lu'au on Maui. Guests are offered a welcome lei, demonstrations of Hawaiian crafts, music and hula, photographs, an open bar and a vast dinner buffet in a torch-lit, ocean-side setting. It is described as 'romantic' which is a bit of a stretch as it's pretty large, but it's extremely well run and is a pleasant way to spend an evening if you feel like spending \$75 plus taxes per person. Reservations at 808 667 6998 are a must. To see what it's all about visit [www.oldlahainaluau.com](http://www.oldlahainaluau.com)

I rented a 4 x4 from **Budget** for a week and drove 563 miles. Basic cost was \$140 and the bill came to \$204 after taxes, surcharges, refuelling etc.

Note: one doesn't want to take advantage of misfortune, but with many U.S. citizens still wary of flying, tourism to Maui is probably not what it was pre 9/11 and some good deals may be available this coming winter.

**Maui Visitors Bureau**: 1 800 525 MAUI. Websites: <http://www.visitmaui.com> (this site lists 28 B&B's) and [www.hawaiiactivities.com](http://www.hawaiiactivities.com) for pre-booking activities, sightseeing tours, etc.

**Moloka'i Visitors Association**: 1 800 800 6367, but it seems this and the above number go through to the same office, so one call will bring you all the information you need. [www.molokai-hawaii.com](http://www.molokai-hawaii.com)

**The Molokai Ranch**: call 1 877 726 4656 or visit [www.molokai-ranch.com](http://www.molokai-ranch.com) A package is currently available for \$169 pp pn which includes all meals and a \$25 credit towards an activity.

**The Panioloa Hale Condominiums** can be contacted at 1 800 367 2984, [www.paniolohaleresort.com](http://www.paniolohaleresort.com) High season prices start at \$115 pn. for 3 nights; discounts on weekly rates.

**Caution**: Green thumbs may be tempted to purchase some unusual and exotic seeds when visiting the many lovely botanical gardens in Hawai'i. These may be stamped as approved for importation into the U.S., but they will be confiscated and incinerated at Canadian customs as they may be subject to something called the 'soybean cyst' or create other unspecified problems. Please don't risk it.

*There's one more Hawaiian island in this mini-series ... next month we will be bringing you details of Kauai. ▀*

# HONG KONG REVISITED

by Ann Wallace

Our plane banked steeply over the shimmering sea and we peered out of the window for a glimpse of the fabled city of skyscrapers rising from the green hills of Hong Kong Island. This was not my first visit to Hong Kong, but it's always an exciting sight and as I was, on this occasion, accompanied by my daughter on *her* first visit, I was keen to point out the major landmarks. It was also my first time landing at the fine new Hong Kong International Airport, built on reclaimed land off Lantau Island.

Hong Kong is definitely a "must see" destination. Dubbed the "City of Life" by the Hong Kong Tourism Board, lively it surely is. And it's also easy to explore. Tourism is very important to the region and the Hong Kong Tourism Board is highly organized and offers a plethora of information. There's a Tourist Information location at the airport, one by the ferry dock at Tsim Sha Tsui (Kowloon) and another in the basement of Jardine House at 1 Connaught Place in Central (Hong Kong Island). As well as reams of printed information and an assortment of transit passes, the HKTB offers a wide variety of half- and full-day tours designed to acquaint the first-time visitor with the layout and the highlights of the region, as well as an array of more specialized tours and activities for the return visitor.

Hong Kong is famous for so many things: delicious food, incomparable shopping, spectacular scenery, fine museums, exciting festivals. But what many people don't realize is that it also offers superb

beaches, a beautiful island-dotted coastline and many miles of hiking trails. So it's always worth adding an extra day or two to your itinerary to explore further. And the great thing about the food and the shopping is that they can be tailored fit any budget: a visit to a fine restaurant on one occasion, a noodle shop on another; the purchase of a special antique or a designer suit, perhaps, followed by a suitcase-filling trip to a bustling street market. Whatever your taste or budget Hong Kong can fit the bill.

As it was my daughter's first visit to Hong Kong, we hastened to fill our precious days with many first-visit highlights: the Star Ferry, of course (and at about 45¢ Cdn. a trip you can afford to do it often); the steep



Shek O Beach on Hong Kong Island (Wallace)

– 27° at times – tram ride to the Peak (about C\$6, half price for seniors); the gentle, paved and tree-shaded walk around the Peak itself with its incomparable views in all directions; visits to the bird, flower and goldfish markets; some delicious food and quite a bit of shopping. We also visited some of the region's outstanding museums to learn something of Hong Kong's history. And we rode the top of a double decker bus around Hong Kong Island and found quiet (at least during the week) Shek O Beach for an afternoon of sand-between-the-toes and swimming-in-the-South-China-Sea relaxation. (The # 9 bus goes to Shek O. Major beaches have facilities such as change rooms and showers.)

One of the interesting offerings of the Hong Kong Tourism Board is their *Meet the People Cultural*

*Kaleidoscope* and on a couple of occasions we took advantage of this programme, which offers visitors the opportunity to meet experts in a variety of fields and to engage in some activities that they might otherwise not do. With the neat little brochure detailing the programme to hand, we discovered that Mr Pandora Wu and Mr William Ng are in the Piazza of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui, close to our hotel, at 8:00 nearly every morning conducting a Tai Chi Class. Having seen this activity often on our travels through China we were keen to learn more. So we joined them, and so did about 20 others. We followed the masters, leaning, twisting, turning and stretching and trying to balance the *yin* and *yang* of our minds and bodies. I'm not quite sure we achieved this, but it sure was fun exercising in such a spectacular setting and trying something we'd never imagined we'd do.

Also as part of this programme we enjoyed a visit with tea expert *extraordinaire* – Mr Vincent Li – who meets his guests at his Chinese Tea Appreciation Classes every Monday in the traditionally-styled courtyard of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum in Sha Tin, New Territories (reached via KCR train to Tai Wai Station, followed by a short walk or taxi drive). There Mr Li tells stories about his family and tea, discusses customs and how to make and serve the elixir. Should you be unable to attend this class, and if you're at all interested in tea, do try to pay a visit to Mr Li's MoonGarden TeaHouse at 5 Hoi Ping Road, Causeway Bay. There you can enjoy dim sum and dessert and, of course, sample one or more of the 70 teas on offer. I loved their names: Drunk Princess, Supreme Dong Ding, Emperor's Robe, Culture Revolution Brick, Silver Bugs, Gun Powder, Mount Jade, Dong Ding Oolong and lots more. The tea house contains some antiques that are for sale, as well as a selection of tiny tea pots and wonderful tea sets. Gentle Chinese music plays and visitors may

choose to sit outside in the tiny courtyard with its goldfish and turtle urns, offering an atmosphere a world away from the towering buildings that surround it.

Other offerings of the *Meet the People* programme are heritage and architecture walks; antiques, pearl, jade and Chinese clothing appreciation classes and even a Feng Shui class.

If you do make your way to the fine Hong Kong Heritage Museum you must allow at least a couple of hours there, for you are sure to be fascinated by its many exhibits of Chinese artefacts: paintings, sculptures, engraved tiles, exquisitely embroidered ceremonial clothes, photographs, a gallery devoted to the Chinese opera and so much more. The new Hong Kong History Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui is also well worth a visit. As well as the splendid artefacts on display, there are linking galleries that take you through Hong Kong's history from its earliest geological formation to the present and even into the future. There's a small admission charge for each museum, as well as "free" days. The HKTB brochures have all the details.

Heading to famous Stanley Market for a morning of shopping? Anyone can tell you the way, but maybe not everyone will know about the Boathouse pub beside the bay on Stanley Main Street. A Canadian-owned establishment, this is a great stop to rest the feet after shopping and to enjoy a beer and a sandwich by the open doors overlooking the ocean.

Of course there are many vehicles on the roads, but most Hong Kong residents would not dream of taking a car into the central areas. Instead they rely on an efficient system of trams, buses, minibuses, subways, trains, escalators, taxis and, of course, ferries. And all these are perfect for the visitor too. As mentioned, there are combination passes to suit any itinerary. If you plan to travel via Airport Express into town,



*Mr Vincent Li loves to talk about tea (Wallace)*

enquire about the 'Octopus' stored-value card before you leave the airport as this card can be used first for the airport bus and then on the railways, the Peak Tram, the Star Ferry and most buses. The subway is safe, clean and very efficient, and taxis rides are reasonably priced.

Whatever you do, don't miss riding the escalator system from Central to the Mid Levels. Jump off somewhere when you see a bar and sit and watch the commuters using this unique transportation system as they travel home late in the afternoon. It's great entertainment! This system rises close to the trendy Lan Kwai Fong area of Central where the prosperous young people of Hong Kong 'hang-out'. If you're looking for a change from Chinese food and fancy a smart Italian place I can recommend trendy Baci, at 2/R, No. 1 Lan Kwai Fong.

For a day out of town take a tour or ride public transit out to Sai Kun, a fishing village on the coast in the New Territories. There you can charter a boat, rent a sampan from one of the many women who offer this service in the harbour or take the ferry to one of the outlying islands.

A couple of nights spent with friends in the New Territories, enabled us to splurge on our city nights and stay at the Shangri La Hotel. Overlooking that famous Hong Kong skyline from Kowloon (request a harbour view when making reservations) this hotel offers 5-star luxury but special rates are often offered. The upgrade to the executive rooms brings a lot of appealing extras: full breakfast at the rather 'cool' Napa Californian restaurant on the top floor, complimentary drinks, wines and hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour and refreshments throughout the day, 6:00 p.m. check out and more. The hotel is a pleasant 10-minute walk along the harbour to the Star Ferry dock or, for a few pennies more, you can take the high-speed ferry which



*That famous - and ever-changing-view from The Peak (Wallace)*

will deliver you just two short blocks east of the hotel. The staff here is wonderful, as you'll soon realize when the doorman remembers your name! For current rates call 1 800 942 5050 or log onto [www.shangri-la.com](http://www.shangri-la.com)

If your pockets aren't so deep, consider staying at the YMCA of Hong Kong, know as The Salisbury, which occupies one of Hong Kong's finest positions in Kowloon between the Star Ferry Dock and the luxurious Peninsula Hotel. Here double rooms are available from HK\$670 (about C\$135) per night or HK\$3,500 (\$706) per week. But early reservations are essential as this is a very popular property. With in-room refrigerators and tea/coffee making facilities, dataport connections and colour TV's, with its fine dining room, café, conference facilities, swimming pool and other fitness facilities, wellness centre, concierge, shop, laundry and dry cleaning service and so on this is like no 'Y' in your imagination. For reservations call 011 852 2268 7888, fax 011 852 2739 9315, e-mail [room@ymca-](mailto:room@ymca-hk.org.hk)

[ahk.org.hk](http://ahk.org.hk), [www.ymcahk.org.hk](http://www.ymcahk.org.hk).

Details of my first visit to Hong Kong, entitled "Hong Kong Now", appeared in the April 1998 edition of *TravelScoop* along with a short article "Watching those pennies in Hong Kong" by subscriber Marion Magee, who stayed at the YMCA.

The Hong Kong Tourism Board in Toronto can be contacted at 9 Temperance Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Toronto, ON M5H 1Y6, tel: 416 366 2389, e-mail [yzwww@hktourismboard.com](mailto:yzwww@hktourismboard.com) or log on to [www.DiscoverHongKong.com](http://www.DiscoverHongKong.com) where there's a link especially for Canadians.

*Hong Kong add-ons will be available on all The Travel Society's China trips scheduled for 2003. We use centrally-located 4-star hotels for this well-priced extension and an excellent tour is included in the price. ■*

*I am not the only person associated with TravelScoop who has enjoyed travels in Turkey in the past few years. Here are two more reports from our readers who have discovered this fascinating country. -Ed.*

# OUR TRAVELS IN COASTAL TURKEY

by *Thelma Sampson*

In the Spring of 2000 we spent three weeks touring the western coast of Turkey, from Istanbul to Antalya. One of our favourite areas was the **Bodrum** peninsula on the Turquoise Coast. The city of **Bodrum** (the ancient Halicarnassus) is a central place to stay while touring the area. It is the site of the Crusader castle of St. Peter, built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century by the Knights of the Hospitaller of Rhodes. This has now been turned into a museum which contains many of the artefacts found off the coast by scuba divers working on an exploration funded by a Texas University. The three towers housing dungeons, the glass shipwreck exhibit, sarcophagi and a medieval refectory are all worth seeing, while the views of the town and marina from the castle walls are great.

There are many shops here with reasonable prices for lovely cotton tablecloths, hand worked cottons and, of course, there's always the carpets! The harbour marina is interesting, with yachts and sailboats from all over the world docked there.

One of the seven wonders of the ancient world is also found here. The Mausoleum or tomb of King Mausolus. There are not many of the actual remains left but the site is interesting and there are models and translations explaining its history.

We took a local *dolmus* (bus) to the fishing village of **Gumusluk**, a few miles further along the peninsula. For the 25-minute ride we paid about C\$1.00 and got to see all the local villages and some very pretty countryside. **Gumusluk** itself is on the sea and sports many fish restaurants along the promenade. We were shown

all the fresh fish and seafood and had a meal of sea bream and prawns with wine for \$12.00. The waiters were very friendly and as it was April and not too busy they had lots of time to practise their English! **Gumusluk** also has the remains of a causeway (under water now) to what was once the ancient city of **Mindos**. This is now called Rabbit Island because of the many rabbits that live there and are fed by the locals. We waded across on the causeway but in warmer weather it is said the swimming is excellent and ancient Byzantine floor tiles are visible in the deeper water off the island.

We stayed at the Antique Theatre Hotel (across the street from the ancient theatre on the Gumbat road).

This is about a 15-minute walk to the centre of Bodrum, past the Mausoleum, or you can take a *dolmus* from the entrance of the hotel. The hotel is small: 19 double rooms built in



*The Crusader Castle of St. Peter, Bodrum (Sampson)*

terraces with all rooms having a view of the Crusader Castle and their own patio. There were lots of pretty patio boxes filled with flowers too. You can also view the castle while swimming in the outdoor pool. They had an excellent French chef when we were there and the meals were wonderful. Rates were around US\$150.00 fax: 0252 316 0825 [www.antiquetheatrehotel.com](http://www.antiquetheatrehotel.com) e-mail: [theatrehot@superonline.com](mailto:theatrehot@superonline.com)

For those with access to time-shares, the **City of Mugla** has many properties. Even if you don't stay there, this city with its mosques, old Ottoman houses and bazaars is worth a visit.

One can drive from the Bodrum peninsula to

**Antalya** direct in about 7½ hours, but the region offers much to see and there are many interesting places to stop, so it can take several days or longer to fully enjoy this coast. Here are some of the highlights:

**Fethiye** - population 25,000; good museum and many Lycian sarcophagi. The Lycians date from the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. to the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. and have left remains of ancient Lycian sarcophagi all along this coast in **Fethiye**, **Xano**, **Kas** and **Myra**. Most have been broken into and plundered but remain impressive in their sites and structure. This area is also a major horticultural centre with huge greenhouses, donkeys working and many fruit, nut and honey stands.

**Xanthos** - a ruined city with an old Roman theatre and many Lycian tombs.

**Patara** - birthplace of St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) and renowned as home of one of the world's top 10 beaches.

**Kas** - a fishing village of about 5000. Lovely harbour and interesting shops with reasonable prices. We bought a carpet at the 'Kas and Karry' after some very relaxed bargaining with a retired military man. He exports carpets to Britain and conducts classes on them when in England. Good seafood restaurants here with lots of outdoor eating. Also a well-preserved theatre.

**Demare** - St. Nicholas, or Noel Baba as he's called

in Turkey, was the bishop of Demere. His remains are on display at the church of St. Nicholas.

**Myra** - here there's an interesting Roman theatre and Lycian tombs hewn into the nearby cliffs, that resemble homes.

**Phaselis** - a quiet spot with three lovely bays with beaches, some ruins and fragrant old pine trees.

There are many boat trips of different lengths available from many of these towns, from full-day trips in wooden gulleys to 1½ hour tours to the sunken city of **Kekova** or the old castle at **Simena**. We took a morning trip from **Ucagiz**, a quaint little village, to **Kekova**. The foundations of the city can be seen underwater, together with the steps going down to them. Another short boat trip took us on to the Byzantine fortress and the ruins of **Simena**, where we bought hand-made and decorated scarves from the locals women in the square, then another from the woman who insisted on helping us up the path to the castle. There is a working primary school and an ancient theatre on the small island as well as a few shops and cafés to relax in after the hike.

We spent five days in this area, but could easily have spent longer as there is so much to see. It was all wonderful. ☺

*Thelma Sampson is a TravelScoop reader who lives in Dryden, Ontario*

## Hiking in Cappadocia Turkey

by Tiiu Adamak

When my husband and I went for our five week visit to Turkey in May last year we thought we had a good idea of what we were going to see: Ephesus was going to be postcard pretty, the Lycian cliff tombs around Fethiye would be impressive and the Aegean might truly be turquoise. As for hiking, we had packed our boots, but had no definite plans. As keen hikers, we're a fussy lot: our aim is to find supremely scenic vistas for our efforts, preferably high and wild. We feel it's hardly worth lacing up our boots for anything less. But we knew that in Turkey in May the "high" of the Pontic Alps would still be snowed in, and the "wild" of the Taurus Mountain meadows only become accessible in June. Yes, summer is the time for walking/hiking/climbing tours in Turkey, but because the country is so multi-faceted, we were just as happy to do a little of everything, including swimming on the beach where Cleopatra is said to have splashed about!

So we carried on with our travels, enjoying everything, until we found our way into Cappadocia. This area delighted us so much that we stayed there for a whole week, sipping the local wine and munching Turkish hazelnut chocolate. But they weren't our only indulgences ... we also enjoyed some idyllic wanderings. While Cappadocia is neither high nor wild, it is so unique that it is a "must-see" for anyone able to go there, even if only on a short bus tour. But if you can stay and walk as we did, you'll be in heaven.

Geographically, Cappadocia covers an area of some 15 – 20 km<sup>2</sup> between the Mediterranean and Ankara. Geologically, some 30 million years ago volcanoes covered it with lava and ash and it is the erosion of this "tuff" which has created the rock pillars, canyons and valleys seen today. Historically, Cappadocia was removed from the centres of power, yet trade routes have crossed it for centuries, with the

Silk Route still shown on local maps, and its communities go back to pre-Hittite times, later spanning the centuries of Christianity and, more recently, Islam. For tourists it is the landscape that is most striking; and lunar-like world of hoodoos and fairy chimneys, a land where troll-like folk could frolic, ‘spooky’ to some, but a wonderful area to explore. We enjoyed daily hikes here, sometimes for six to eight hours, returning to our hotel by local minibus.

The valleys are lyrically named: Rose Valley, Walnut, Pigeon, White, Long and, yes, Love Valley. For hundreds of years the people lived inside these rock formation clusters with fields and livestock amongst them. Openings were chiselled in the rock, along with inner rooms, window openings, internal stairs, tunnels, small churches and chapels and lots of shelf space. With reasonable care, a flashlight and well protected by our clothing we ventured into many of these interiors, finding the chambers dry and usually clean. In the last decades, all the inhabitants have settled in real houses, be they in villages or some towns. But some of the rock formations are still used as stables or outbuildings.

To show what the cave communities were like in the past, two large areas have been set aside as outdoor museums – Zelve and Goreme – which are visited by great numbers of tourists, many of them on tours. However, visitors with time are free to take walks in all directions, including along the valleys to the next villages. In the summer it is probable that the crowds are considerable, but as most come on tours hikers can still probably get well away from the madding crowd.

While it did not rain while we were there, the occasional dark clouds rendered the scenery even more spectacular. Cappadocia is indeed a photographer’s delight. (Time here for a note re films and airport security: always take film through by hand, no matter how safe the machines are said to be. On this trip we had one whole roll damaged which had been left in our suitcase by mistake.)



*On the trail in Cappadocia (Adamek)*

As our base, we chose the most central area and ended up in Goreme which has all the tourist “frills”: convenient eateries, travel agencies and even internet cafés, all within walking distance of each other. Also, lots and lots of budget *pensions*, all at very competitive prices. We stayed at Anatolia Pension, run by Bekir and Isabelle (tel: [country code 011 90] 384 271 2221) where the price for two was about US\$20, large Turkish breakfast included. Most of the *pensions* are very attractive, many tucked into rock caves. We also heard from another couple we met that they were very happy with the Tan Pension (tel: 384 271 2425, fax: 384 271 2510). A guide book is useful for background information, but finding accommodation and restaurants is probably best done on the spot, except for the high summer season when reservations are necessary.\*

Turkey is such a fascinating, multi-layered country with so much to see and do that our only real hiking on this trip was limited to Cappadocia. The rest of the time we got our walking in the usual way: making it up to all the sites on the hills, from St John’s Walls in Selcuk to Ataturk’s Mausoleum in Ankara. Also, we discovered that in addition to the Turkish Delight, nougats and marzipans for which the country is renowned, the restaurants carry an array of luscious pastries and *tortes* which gave us additional incentive for vigorous walking! All in

all, visiting Turkey provides a wonderful opportunity for hiking, visiting sites and relaxing in cafés. We could ask for nothing more on a vacation.

*Tiu and Frank Adamek have written about hiking on previous occasions in TravelScoop. They started this activity in their mid-fifties and now have many different destinations – and many miles – under their hiking boots.* ■

\* For readers who would like mid-range accommodation, every guide book on Turkey that I consulted recommends Ottoman House Hotel, located at Orta Mahallesi 36, 50180 Goreme, tel: 384 271 2616, fax: 384 271 2351, e-mail: [ottoman@indigoturism.com.tr](mailto:ottoman@indigoturism.com.tr), website: [www.indigoturism.com.tr/ottoman](http://www.indigoturism.com.tr/ottoman) - Ed.

## RIDING THE RAILS IN EUROPE

New versions of the Eurail Selectpass will offer greater freedom of choice and value for travel in Europe in 2003. Prices and the new product lines have just been announced by Rail Europe, who remind travellers that passes must be purchased before they leave North America.

In addition to the already popular 3-country pass introduced in 2001, the Eurail Selectpass will be available as of 1 January 2003 in 4- and 5-country versions as well, meaning travellers may choose 3, 4 or 5 countries that are connected by train or ferry from the 17 Eurailpass countries. These countries are: Austria, Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg count as one country with the Selectpass), Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Monaco is considered part of France and Lichtenstein part of Austria.

The 3-, 4- and 5-country Eurail Selectpass and the 17-country Eurailpass are all available at discounted prices when 2 or more people travel together (the "Saverpass") or for travellers under 26 (the "Youthpass"). Both Eurail Selectpass and Eurailpass are for unlimited travel on a given num-

ber of days within a 2-month period in 1<sup>st</sup> class (except the youth pass, which is available only in 2<sup>nd</sup> class). In 2003, the Selectpass starts at C\$502 pp when 2 or more people travel together in 3 countries for 5 days of rail travel within a 2-month period, C\$561 in 4 countries for 5 days and C\$618 in 5 countries for 5 days. Travel days may be consecutive or non-consecutive. The pass may also be purchased for 6, 8 or 10 travel days while the 5-country version is available for 15 days.

Prices for 2003 on the 3-country Eurail Selectpass represent a 3% increase over 2002 prices, as do 2003 prices for all versions of the 27-country Eurailpass. Travellers planning a trip to Europe in the first half of 2003 should therefore purchase passes (except the new 4- and 5-country Selectpass) by 31 December to take advantage of the lower 2002 prices, for the passes may be used up to 6 months after purchase and validation.

For more information or to book passes, consult your travel agent or Rail Europe at 1 800 361 7245 or log onto [www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com)

## Airline News

**LanChile** and American Express have teamed up to offer AmEx Platinum Card members two-for-one tickets to South America if the first passenger purchases a business class ticket. This offer applies to all LanChile and **LanPeru** flights originating from the airline's U.S. gateways of Miami, New York or Los Angeles for round-trip travel to any destination in the airlines' vast network around South America. Travel must be completed by 31 August 2003. LanChile is a partner in the *oneworld* frequent flyer programme. For more details contact the airline at 1 866 LANCHILE or visit [www.lanchile.com](http://www.lanchile.com) and/or [www.lanperu.com](http://www.lanperu.com)

**Mexican Airlines** will begin non-stop Vancouver-Mexico City service on 15 December in addition to its Toronto and Montreal service. There will be five weekly flights using Airbus A319's with early morning arrival in Mexico City enabling passengers to connect to other destinations beyond the capital on the same day.

Arizona in your plans? **America West** now offers daily non-stop service from Calgary to Phoenix and will offer daily non-stop Toronto/Phoenix service commencing 2 December.

Things at **WestJet** seem to be good. An additional Calgary/Toronto flight starting on 15 November will bring the service on that route to a total of 26 weekly flights, while a new non-stop service between Toronto and Vancouver starting 1 December will bring the count on that route to 6 non-stop flights per week. For schedules and current fares visit [www.westjet.com](http://www.westjet.com)

## From the Bookshelf

There's a new guide to Florida designed just for Canadians. Entitled *Florida, Eh?* and subtitled *A Canadian Guide to the Sunshine State*, the author is Isobel Warren, with photographer Milan Chvostek, (yes, the Isobel Warren who sends travel tips to *TravelScoop*). In Isobel's own words, "Recent statistics reveal that today's Florida visitor is younger, more active and more affluent. These folks want an active, enriching holiday – something more than theme parks and crowded beaches. This book reveals a Florida away from the super highways, another world of charming towns, rich history, raw nature and unique restaurants and lodgings." And that's what this appealing book lists, together with details of the state's many cultural offerings, festivals, special offers for Canadians and more. C\$22.95 in bookstores or by calling 1 866 895 9296. If you order online at [www.florida-eh.com](http://www.florida-eh.com) the book is yours for C\$20. And the website provides links to Florida web pages for current prices and discounts for Canadians.

If there is a wheelchair user in your family you may also like to know of a new guide called *Wheelchairs on the Go: Accessible Fun in Florida*. Refreshingly written with the young as well as the elderly in mind, this guide would be invaluable to

wheelchair users looking for fun and new experiences in addition to an efficient and convenient trip through the sunshine state. Here readers will find listed the 80 beaches that loan beach wheelchairs to cross the sand, locations for high adventures such as gliding and hot air ballooning, sailing lessons, wheelchair friendly RV rentals and more. By Michelle Stigleman (whose husband is a quadriplegic) and Deborah Van Brunt, about \$40 in Canadian bookstores, or order online at: [www.wheelchairsonthego.com](http://www.wheelchairsonthego.com)

For many retirees it's time to start thinking about that trek south in search of the sun. If the I-75 is in your plans don't go without Dave Hunter's great guide *Along Interstate 75*, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> edition. Great information here, not only on the route itself, but also on all the states this highway passes through: not-to-be-missed sights, restaurants and cafés, fascinating history and trivia, laws, radio stations, accommodation, lots of money-saving tips and so on. This volume is guaranteed to make your drive from Detroit to Florida (or Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee or Georgia) more efficient and a lot more interesting. Available at book stores, AAA and CAA offices, by calling 1 800 431 1579 or check [www.i75online.com](http://www.i75online.com) (C\$27.95)

*The Travel Society*

## Travelling companions wanted!

At The Travel Society we frequently receive requests from single members wishing to share accommodation on our tours. If you would like to travel on any of these dates, want to avoid the single supplement and are willing to share accommodation with fellow members, please call Nigel at 416 926 2500 x24 or 1 877 926 2500 x24 as soon as possible.

### We have requests for the following:

- China Yangtze tour Spring 2003 - a lady (smoker)
- China Yangtze tour Spring 2003 - a lady (non-smoker)
- China Yangtze tour Fall 2003 - a gentleman
- China Yangtze tour Fall 2003 - a lady
- China Yangtze tour Spring 2003 - a gentleman
- Copper Canyon tour Spring 2003 - a lady
- Galapagos Island Spring 2003 - a lady

The TravelSociety ~ tours designed for TravelScoop members and their friends.

from \$3,924 for 18 days

Our editor, Ann Wallace took the April 2002 China Yangtze trip and her 14-page, illustrated (and honest) account is available. For your copy please send \$5 with your address.

# China ... Yangtze Spectacular ~ 18 days!

*Come with us on our most popular, unique tour and spend 18 days in China still at an amazingly low price. Reserve now for departures on 12 April, 27 April, 9 September & 19 October 2003*

It is vast, fascinating and mysterious and it has beckoned travellers from the west for centuries. Mention it to avid travellers and they are sure to say, "Yes, I hope to visit China one day." And what would they choose to experience? **A cruise on the mighty Yangtze River (soon to be changed for ever);** a look at the work-in-progress on the massive **Three Gorges Dam;** a walk on the ancient **Great Wall;** views of charming villages, lush terraced hillsides and magnificent mountain peaks; visits to the great cities of **Shanghai** and **Beijing;** a trip to view one of the world's greatest archaeological finds ... the 6,000 terra-cotta warriors at **Xi'an;** scenes of palaces, pagodas, pavilions and pandas; tastes of Peking duck and Chinese banquets and so much more. So how do you choose? When you decide on The *Travel Society's* tour there's no need to choose because all these highlights are included. Yes, in these remarkable 18 days you'll stay in Beijing; you'll take a 4-day first-class cruise on the Yangtze with many shore excursions; you'll fly to see those centuries-old terra-cotta warriors in Xi'an; you'll visit bustling Chongquin and see its pandas; stay in Hangzhou and travel into the hills covered with tea plantations; explore the exquisite gardens of Suzhou, and visit Nanjing and Wuzhen. And you'll have time to explore spectacular Shanghai. Throughout the trip you'll see magnificent architecture, you'll be entertained at cultural events, you'll join your hosts at a variety of banquets, you'll have time to shop, and you'll marvel at some of the most wonderful scenery on earth, all in the company of English-speaking guides. You'll travel by plane, by luxury bus, cruise ship and river boat. Many of our members have told us it's an experience of a lifetime ... and all at an amazing price!

**\$100.00  
EARLY BIRD  
BOOKING BONUS!**

Make your reservation with deposit 8 months prior to your departure date and we will deduct \$100 per couple.

### Your tour costs includes:

- Round-trip transpacific air fares on Japan Airlines
- Chinese domestic airfares
- Canadian domestic airfares
- First-class hotel accommodation
- First-class 4 days/3 nights Yangtze River cruise aboard a deluxe cruise ship
- All transfers
- Daily sightseeing
- Three meals daily
- 2 Western style dinners.
- Special banquets in Hangzhou, Xi'an and Beijing
- Evening cultural shows
- Fully escorted by English/Chinese-speaking tour guide
- English-speaking local guides
- Free day and evening in Beijing & Shanghai

### AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES departing from:

Vancouver	\$3,986 pp/dbl
Victoria/Nanaimo/Kamloops	\$4,099 pp/dbl
Calgary/Edmonton	\$4,224 pp/dbl
Saskatoon/Regina	\$4,428 pp/dbl
Winnipeg	\$4,392 pp/dbl
Toronto	\$4,320 pp/dbl
Ottawa & Montreal	\$4,426 pp/dbl
Halifax/Quebec City/London	\$4,540 pp/dbl
Thunder Bay/St. John's	\$4,688 pp/dbl

Single supplement \$1,090 (Sharing can be arranged.)

Taxes and visas extra.

### GREAT ADD-ONS:

Hong Kong	4 days/3 nights	\$1,094.00
Tokyo	4 days/3 nights	\$892.00

Prices are subject to confirmation

So many members have said:  
"We don't know how you do such a first class tour at this price!"

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# The Travel Society ~ tours designed for TravelScoop members and their friends.

NEW

## Copper Canyon & Guadalajara

**9 days 18 October & 8 November 2002, March & April 2003**

We are offering a new 9-day tour to the Copper Canyon, together with a stay in Mexico's wonderful city of Guadalajara. The Copper Canyon is four times larger than the Grand Canyon, and you'll enjoy a journey that is considered by many to be the world's most exciting train trip, with its 87 tunnels, 39 bridges and uncountable spectacular views. You'll meet the people, stay in unique accommodations and explore the present and the past in this astonishing region.

### AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES departing from:

Toronto	\$3,245 pp/dbl
Ottawa & Montreal	\$3,245 pp/dbl
Vancouver, Calgary, Halifax, Winnipeg	\$3,460 pp/dbl
Single supplement \$600 (Sharing can be arranged.)	Taxes extra.

Please call for prices from other departure cities

### Your tour includes:

- All air transportation on Mexicana
- Canadian domestic air
- 8 nights first class accommodation
- All transfers,
- Meals as per the itinerary
- All train trips and tours as per the itinerary

NEW

## Panama Highlights ~ see this beautiful land before it is over-run by "tourists"

**Departing 22 November 2002 & 21 February 2003**

Imagine discovering colourful Panama during the coming November or February. Come with The Travel Society for 10 exciting days in four different locations. You'll stay at Fort Amador, famous for its views of the Pacific and the entrance to the Panama Canal. Then you'll travel on to a luxurious rainforest resort – the Gamboa – close to the Canal in the heart of the lush Panamanian rainforest. There you'll discover the secrets of the upper forest canopy – its flowers, mammals and splendid birds – on a unique aerial tram ride. A flight to the San Blas Islands is next on the itinerary, described in the October 2000 edition of TravelScoop as "A paradise ... truly special and beautiful." A stay in a resort on the Costa Blanca and a chance of explore Panama City will bring your trip to a close. What an unusual winter getaway!

### AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES departing from:

Toronto	\$3,480 pp/dbl
Ottawa & Montreal	\$3,480 pp/dbl
Vancouver	\$3,564 pp/dbl
Calgary	\$3,564 pp/dbl
Halifax	\$3,580 pp/dbl
Single supplement \$1,620.0 (Sharing can be arranged.)	Taxes extra.

Please call for prices from other departure cities

### Your tour includes:

- Round-trip international airfares
- Canadian domestic air
- 9 nights' accommodation in 4 different properties
- all land transfers
- flights to San Blas
- all breakfasts
- 4 lunches
- 4 dinners
- rainforest aerial tram tour

NEW

## Costa Rica – "Nature's Museum"

**11 days departing 8 November 2002 & 7 February 2003**

Costa Rica is known as Nature's Museum and with good reason. Come for a visit and you'll be impressed by this country that is dedicated to preserving its delicate ecology for all to enjoy and by its warm friendly people who are waiting to show it to you. During your 10-day tour you'll visit historic San Jose, stay in a tropical rain forest at a thermal spa resort; visit a vast jungle preserve; take a river boat trip to watch and photograph the wildlife; soak in the thermal pools of Arenal Paraiso and visit the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. And after all this you'll relax or play on the beach at Guanacaste Also available is a 3-night jungle odyssey post tour extension, an exciting soft-adventure to Tortuguero, the Amazon of Costa Rica.

### AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES departing from:

Toronto	\$2,920 pp/dbl
Ottawa & Montreal	\$2,920 pp/dbl
Vancouver	\$2,990 pp/dbl
Calgary	\$2,990 pp/dbl
Halifax	\$3,036 pp/dbl
Single supplement \$464 (Sharing can be arranged.)	Taxes extra.

Please call for prices from other departure cities

### Your tour includes:

- Round-trip international airfares
- Canadian domestic air
- 9 nights' accommodation in 4 different properties
- all land transfers
- flights to San Blas
- all breakfasts
- 4 lunches
- 4 dinners
- rainforest aerial tram tour

NEW

## Chile with add-ons to Easter Island and Patagonia

***As we go to press we are just finalizing the details on this most fascinating tour; with great add-ons. Please call and we will send you the details.***

# The Travel Society ~ tours designed for TravelScoop members and their friends.

NEW

from \$4,950 for 21 days  
including all airfares

Space limited to 10 people

## A Traveller's Turkey

Departing 5 October 2003

It is one of the cradles of civilization and one of the most wonderful countries on the planet. Here there are fabled cities, unique landscapes, incomparable historic sites and calm, friendly people who are eager to show that their land is, indeed, both historic and modern.

Ann Wallace, our editor, has travelled extensively in Turkey and always returns claiming it is one of her favourite destinations. So now we have organized a luxurious tour exclusively for Travel Society members. It is due to take place in October 2003 for a maximum of 20 people.

No expense has been spared to ensure you see the very best that Turkey has to offer. You'll stay in first-class historic or very specialized hotels, travel in a 40-seat air-conditioned luxury bus, enjoy cruises on private boats, sample fine food and be entertained by cultural performances. And the itinerary? Magical Istanbul (plenty of time there); Ankara, home of one of the world's finest museums; the unique 'geological poem' called Kapadokya (or Cappadocia); mysterious and lovely ruins such as Aphrodisias, Pergamum and, of course, Ephesus; the fabled and beautiful Aegean coast; the peaceful Princes Isles in the Sea of Marmara and so much more.

Ann says, "This is the most perfect tour of Turkey imaginable; you will have an unforgettable time ... and such a small group, too! Sign up now!"

### AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES departing from:

Toronto	\$4,950.00 pp/dbl
Ottawa & Montreal	\$4,950.00 pp/dbl
Vancouver	\$5,195.00 pp/dbl
Edmonton & Calgary	\$5,195.00 pp/dbl
Winnipeg	\$5,125.00 pp/dbl
Halifax	\$5,125.00 pp/dbl

Single supplement \$455 (Sharing can be arranged.) Taxes included, visa extra.

In order to prepare participants for their visit to this historic land, an annotated reading list will be sent to all applicants and comprehensive tour kits will be sent 30 days before departure.

### Your tour includes:

- Round trip transatlantic and domestic flights with Air Canada
- 20 nights' accommodation
- Most meals as per itinerary
- All domestic transportation
- 40 seat air conditioned luxury bus
- Admission to all sites
- An English-speaking guide/director and a Travel Society host

## The Kingdom of Thailand

with optional Angkor Wat (Cambodia) pre-tour and Pattaya post-tour extensions

17 days departing April & October 2003

"Thailand is magical." So say the increasing number of travellers who journey to this exotic land, a land of majestic palaces, ornate temples, quaint cities, beautiful landscapes and charming, gentle people. Come with The Travel Society and over 14 memorable days we'll show you bustling Bangkok, the floating market and legendary canals of Damnoen Saduak, the Bridge on the River Kwai at Kanchanaburi, Ayutthaya – Thailand's ancient capital, the cool hills and forests of Chiang Mai with their Hill Tribes and working elephants and so much more. You'll shop for unique items, enjoy a Thai cooking class, witness cultural shows, take river trips, visit museums AND still have plenty of time at leisure to follow your own interests.

However, before your arrival in Thailand, you may like to enjoy a unique experience in Cambodia where you'll visit fascinating Angkor Wat. You'll view the Wats and Terraces at sunset and spend a day among the fascinating temple structures that formed the former capital and religious centre of the Khmer Empire.

And an optional post-tour will take you to relax at Pattaya – known as the Riviera of Thailand, where you can enjoy exquisite tropical gardens, a visit to the Mini Siam miniature display of Thai heritage and a catamaran cruise as well as the inviting beach. This trip is scheduled for Spring and Fall, 2003. Give us a call ... we'll add you to the list of those interested and send a full itinerary and applicable prices.

### PRICES INCLUDE AIR AND TAXES departing from:

Toronto	\$3,045.00 pp/dbl
Winnipeg & Montreal	\$3,045.00 pp/dbl
Vancouver & Calgary	\$3,045.00 pp/dbl
Ottawa	\$3,100.00 pp/dbl
Edmonton	\$3,560.00 pp/dbl
Halifax	\$4,095.00 pp/dbl

### GREAT ADD-ONS:

Angkor Wat	\$919.00 pp/dbl - plus air
Pattaya	\$839.00 pp/dbl - plus air

### Your tour includes:

- Round-trip transpacific and domestic air
- All domestic flights
- Canadian domestic air fares
- Fully escorted by knowledgeable tour guides
- All transfers
- All sightseeing tours, boat trips and fees to parks & sites

Please call The Travel Society 1 877 926 2500 x24 or 416 926 2500 x24 for the full details. All our tours are specially priced for Travel Society members and are only available at these prices through our office.  reg #01280649

The Travel Society ~ tours designed for TravelScoop members and their friends.

NEW

# Galapagos Islands and Ecuador

with options to Kapawi Lodge in the Amazon and Machu Picchu, Peru

14 days departing 12 November, 26 November 2002

18 February, 18 March 2003

Each tour is limited to  
20 people

The Travel Society is proud to be able to offer its members an outstanding trip to some of the world's most spectacular destinations. Who hasn't dreamed of cruising to the Galapagos Islands and seeing wildlife as Darwin witnessed it? Think of the unique adventure you will enjoy, of the stories you will have to tell and the photographs you will take! You will spend a week aboard your first-class 20-passenger ship, taking daily shore excursions to a variety of the islands with experienced naturalists in groups of no more than 10 people per guide.

But of course there's more to Ecuador than the Galapagos. On this tour you will also visit Quito, Calderon (where you'll stay in one of the oldest haciendas in Ecuador) and Cotacachi. You'll travel through spectacular countryside with mountains, lakes and colourful Indian communities ... whose markets you will visit.

The optional extensions to this trip are equally exciting. Spend four nights in the Amazon's premier luxury ecological lodge – the magical paradise know as Kapawi – and experience the river and the rainforest up close. Machu Picchu in Peru is probably also on your wish list and we are offering a 4-day trip there too. You can travel from Quito to Lima and then on to Cuzco for a visit to this breathtaking Lost City of the Incas. We'll take care of all the travel details. All you have to do is marvel and enjoy!

#### PRICES INCLUDE AIR AND TAXES departing from:

Toronto	\$7,476.00 pp/dbl
Ottawa & Montreal	\$7,476.00 pp/dbl
Vancouver	\$7,797.00 pp/dbl
Calgary	\$7,797.00 pp/dbl
Halifax	\$7,394.00 pp/dbl

#### GREAT ADD-ONS INCLUDING AIR:

Kapawi - from all departure points	\$1,680.00 pp/dbl
Machu Picchu -	
: Toronto	\$1,642.00 pp/dbl
When departing from : Ottawa, Montreal	\$1,642.00 pp/dbl
: Vancouver, Calgary	\$1,547.00 pp/dbl
: Halifax	\$1,694.00 pp/dbl

#### Your tour includes:

- Round-trip air transportation
- All domestic air transportation
- All accommodation
- All meals as per the itinerary
- Admissions to all sites
- Expert Galapagos guides
- Transfers & baggage handling
- Islands Park Entrance Fee (US100)

Please call The Travel Society 1 877 926 2500 x24 or 416 926 2500 x24 for the full details. All our tours are specially priced for Travel Society members and are only available at these prices through our office.  reg #01280649

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