



Travel Scoop

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On History's Trail in Saskatchewan

Make Time for Turin

A Week in England's Cotswolds

TravelScoop

The Travel Society Magazine

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No prizes for guessing the location of these Newfoundland and Labrador statues!



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Cover: Julee Albert shows off her costume at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, SK

editor's letter ...

A few practical reminders regarding air travel for my letter this month.

I've been hearing that airlines - especially U.S. ones - are getting strict about enforcing their maximum weight for checked luggage. Stressed people have been spotted moving items from their suitcase to their carry-on bag in an attempt to lighten the overweight baggage charge. There can also be charges for over-sized bags. Regulations differ from airline to airline, so check before you pack. Or, even better, travel light!

Another point to remember is that checked bags must be unlocked as they may be opened by security personnel. While these departments are no doubt secure and well-monitored, don't pack anything valuable and don't place small items in places where they can fall out easily when your bag is opened. (My bag was opened in Chicago - not in my presence - on my return from Korea and a handsome art book I had bought was sadly squished when my case was closed.)

Never pack film of any kind in checked luggage as this may be subjected to very high levels of radiation. Always carry both exposed and unexposed film in your hand luggage.

And while I can't speak for all of Canada's international airports, I do know that when you are planning to fly cross-border from Toronto you should give yourself LOTS of time, especially for those early morning flights when the airport is so busy. On a connecting flight to Newark recently I found that big U.S. Immigration Hall full to overflowing, with passengers lining up in the corridor behind the check-in counters. Once through immigration there were a multitude of security checks, and many, many passengers were rushing or stressed. Time was when imminent flights would be announced and those passengers allowed to move to the front of the line. Not so any more. Go early ... I'd recommend over two hours, especially during that busy early morning period ... take a good book, relax and just be prepared.

I wish you safe and smooth travels!



Enchanting Ticino

What makes the tiny Swiss enclave known as the Ticino so special? It's Italian in tone, character, language and cuisine, and yet it's undeniably Swiss in function, form and attitude. It's unique, like Québec in Canada, and is a popular vacation destination for the Swiss living in the country's 25 other cantons, much as Québec's sights and sounds are inviting to the rest of Canada. And the scenery is awe-inspiring.

If you've thought about escaping to Europe ... imagine sitting outdoors at a Ticinese *grotto* (tavern) late on a sunny afternoon, under a chestnut tree, close to the placid waters of Lugano, which is one of Switzerland's prettiest lakes. You're served a glass of wine – an excellent dry Merlot from one of the canton's many vineyards. Your gaze drifts to the Alps, reflected in the quiet lake. Just as you're about to open and begin reading that 'new' best seller that's been sitting on your night table for the past year, the waiter comes by with air-dried salami and mortadella. Later, a plate of steaming risotto and a dish of rabbit stew appear. Later still, you know you should avoid one of the delicious, sweet cakes and then, of course, your can't pass up a glass of the famous local *grappa* served with a dish of walnuts (*nocino*). Now all seems right with the world, no?

What surprised me is that a vacation here can be surprisingly affordable, in this country that has a long-standing reputation for being expensive. The Swiss Franc is almost on par with the Canadian dollar and you'll pay about the same in restaurants and bars – and even in your choice of accommodation, if you know where to look.

This is definitely wine country, by the way. If staying on a farm or with a vintner is appealing, there are

about 100 of these operating in the Ticino region. We visited one such vineyard, dating back to the 18th century, which is now owned by the affable Meinrad Perler, a former banker who followed his dream of creating his own wines – several of which have won awards. “*Tenimento Dell'Ör* has 55 acres,” Meinrad told us, “and 35 of them are for Merlot grapes. Although Meinrad's website – www.agriloro.ch – is not in English, he speaks the language perfectly and will answer inquiries at 011 41 79 337 20 55 or e-mail info@agriloro.ch regarding the accommodation he has available.

Another afternoon was spent visiting the *Fattoria l'Amorosa*, a small



On the shores of tranquil Lake Lugano (B. Bishop)

hotel (seven attractive rooms overlooking the hilly vineyards ranging in price from 150 CHF to 240 CHF) and sampling several vintages from the large Delea Wine Company. Here you can pause for a tasting of some of the best Swiss wines in the country – and unavailable in Canada. Again, your host will be speaking English, although the website is in German and Italian only (www.hotels-suisse.ch/fattorialamorosa/fattorialamorosa.htm).

I realised towards the end of my stay in Ticino that while the mainstream hotels are very comfortable and pleasant (the Swiss Diamond on Lake Lugano and the Villa Sassa, in the city of Lugano are especially fine), one can also rent chalets, apartments, condos and the like. On studying the Lugano

Region's 2003 brochure *Holiday Apartments and Houses* I was pleasantly surprised to find that many places in my favourite lakeside village of Morcote are available for rent. A week in the fully-equipped apartment Residenza Miralago, sleeping two, right on the lake with swimming, parking and TV costs about 400 CHF, while Casa Maria and Casa Rachele, accessible by walking the cobblestone streets of Morcote to their hillside locations, rent from 647 CHF (sleeping five) and 407 CHF (sleeping three to five) respectively, for a week. Go to www.ticino-tourism.ch for more information on accommodation and more.

If you're seeking relaxation, fine wines, Italian/Swiss ambience, beautiful scenery and warm temperatures year-round, the Lake Lugano region of Ticino is a good choice. And it's easy to get there: Swiss International Airlines has non-stop flights from Montreal to Zurich, with connecting flights to Lugano. The Swiss Travel System includes rail, lake steamers and city transportation lines – one can buy a Swiss Pass of 4, 8, 15, 22-day or one month durations. Details from 1 800 361 7245 or visit www.raileurope.com. Switzerland Tourism can be contacted at 1 800 794 7795, www.MySwitzerland.com. *Arrivederci!*

*Bruce Bishop
Toronto, ON*

Writers are rewarded for sharing!

TravelScoop rewards readers with subscription extensions of varying lengths for all submissions published. So whether you have a letter with a travel tip or a destination to share, please write to us!

South Pacific Islands, New Zealand & Australia

Late last year we enjoyed an exciting three month "trip of a lifetime" to the South Pacific. Since Dean had to keep in touch with the office, he took along his laptop, resulting in a new experience - detailed diary notes (87 pages) and extensive digital photos (over 4 GB) which were reviewed, downloaded and referenced on a daily basis.

Our diary has been set up with the web sites we used in our planning included, which on our computer system (MS Word, XP Professional) allows for automatic links to each web site where we can find more detailed information to refresh our memories and/or to plan a return trip.

If any readers are planning a trip to any of these delightful destinations, we invite you to send us an e-mail at DGFThornhill@rogers.com, advising which country you would like our notes on and we will forward our "raw" notes by return e-mail. If you are interested in photos, this is a little more complicated; but let us know and we can arrange to have you send us a disc in a post-return mailer and we will burn onto the disc the photos of the areas you'd like to see.

As an introduction, here's an outline of our journeys, which took us to the following wonderful countries:

French Polynesian Islands (14 days). We flew to the French islands

using Aeroplan points. Restrictions on availability of flights resulted in a four day costly layover prior to our 10 day cruise on the *Tahitian Princess*. We recuperated from the long overnight flight in **Papeete** (Island of Tahiti) for two days and then joined our friends on the Island of **Moorea**. We then returned by ferry to Papeete to board the *Tahitian Princess*. We cannot praise this ship, its staff, the food, and itinerary too much. This is the best cruise we have been on. The dinners were all memorable experiences. The ship, being only 30,000 tons, worked well without the normal boarding and disembarkation hassles. (*Princess* in fact allows you stay on board the day of your departure using all of the ship's amenities - other than your cabin, but including dining - until your flight departs. Some of the guests were still on board late into the evening on the day of our departure.) The itinerary can be best described as a "cruise through paradise" for the French Polynesian Islands are some of the most beautiful we have visited. Many of the islands are volcanic with rugged black peaks covered with green foliage tapering off at the shoreline into clear azure blue ocean water. Many of the lagoons, especially those in Bora Bora, are outstanding. Our cruise also included a side trip to the Cook Island of **Rarotonga**, allowing for two relaxing days at sea.

Cook Islands: Island of Rarotonga (5 days). We then flew back to **Rarotonga**, a very picturesque island with beautiful beaches,

one being the eight-mile long **Muri Beach**. Rarotonga has the advantage of much more reasonable pricing than the French Polynesian islands which are very, very expensive. We were able to rent over the web a cottage (part of a small development run by a very interesting retired US judge) on Muri Beach. Our days consisted of taking 60 short paces to a crystal clear lagoon where kayaks were provided, which we used to paddle out to and around the small uninhabited islands in the lagoon. Elliot, the owner, correctly calls his small cottage resort **Shangri Lai**.

New Zealand: Auckland and north (7 days). The New Zealanders are gracious hosts and the drive up the coast from **Auckland**, through the **Bay of Islands**, **Doubtless Bay** and up to **Cape Reinga** with its 80 miles of sand beach was very scenic, notwithstanding the rainy and, at times, windy weather encountered

Australia: Northern Territories, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia (57 days). Our trip was an ambitious one. On 5 October we started our Australia venture, flying from Sydney to the "**Red Centre**" - Ayers Rock/Kings Canyon/Alice Springs; then by air to the "top end" - **Darwin, Kakadu, Litchfield**; followed by air to the **East Coast** where we leisurely (sometimes not too leisurely due to our spending too much time in one location), traveled by car from **Cape Tribulation/Cairns** following the coastal highways through the famous **Sunshine Coast & Gold Coast** areas, **Brisbane**, by boat

The Travel Society

We have a file listing several single travellers who wish to take a Travel Society tour and wish to share. Destinations include: China, Australia, Turkey and the Galapagos.

If you would like to share with another member please contact us. We will put you in touch with each other so that you can chat on the telephone - or meet if convenient - to see if you would like to share.

Call 416 926 2500, ex. 24 or 1 877 926 2500, ex. 24

out to the **Great Barrier Reef**, and then continuing on by car down the coast to **Sydney**, inland to **Canberra** (the capital), and back to the coast, along to **Melbourne**, on to the **Great Ocean Road**, and then up to **Adelaide**. The scenery is outstanding, the beaches "are to die for", and each major city has its own character with many enjoyable attractions. Gayle has a green thumb and interest in gardens resulting in many side trips to the local gardens where the flora was often spectacular. We left Australia with many grand memories promising ourselves that we will return in the near future

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Accommodation in Queenstown, N.Z.

We'd like to add a few more tips to the recent 'scoops' on New Zealand. My wife and I spent two weeks in early March 2002 touring the North and South Islands by rental car on a self planned trip, before going on to Australia for another two weeks. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy has greatly increased interest in travel to New Zealand so we hope the following will be of interest to anyone planning a tour.

In Queenstown, the Flag Coronet Alpine Hotel was the accommodation we chose for our two-night stop. This fine 78-room hotel is built in chalet style to complement the nearby Coronet Peaks winter ski area. Located 10 minutes' drive from town on Malagans Road, the quiet property is situated below the mountain with the famous Shotover River across the road. It is also located about half way along the road to Arrowtown, an interesting former mining town now boasting many excellent shops offering high quality goods for souvenirs or gifts. One of the hotel staff told us that the actors and crew of *Lord of the*

Rings took over the entire hotel for many months while they filmed at eight major local sites. Apparently there were two helicopter pads, and the parking lot was lined with production trailers from which, each night at a specific time, the day's rushes were transmitted via satellite to Hollywood for processing. But for us there were the usual tourist things to enjoy, including a cruise on the *T.S. Earnshaw* steamer to Walters Sheep Station for lunch and a sheep shearing demonstration.

The Flag Hotel Group is affiliated with our Choice Hotels, and can be booked through them. (*Or enter Flag Coronet Alpine Hotel in your internet search engine and compare the rates offered by the various on-line hotel booking companies... there appear to be a number of 'deals' – Ed.*) We paid NZ \$135.00 (about C\$120) for a fully equipped double room. There's a courtesy van into town. 181 Malagans Road, Arthurs Point, P O Box 959, Queenstown, New Zealand, e-mail: reservations@parl.co.nz, tel: 011 64 3 442 7850

Bruce Halfyard
Brampton, ON

Cunard Caution!

After booking with Cunard for their transatlantic westbound crossing on the new *Queen Mary 2* (5 – 11 June) we were very unpleasantly surprised to receive the following notice with our invoice. It ran thus:

Restaurant Charges on the QM2
Due to the high demand for dining in the Todd English restaurant aboard QM2 and our desire to reduce and control demand, Cunard will be implementing a cover charge for this venue beginning with the March 6, 2004 sailing. They will be charging \$20 for lunch and \$30 for dinner.

Reservations for Todd English must be made on board ship and

cannot be taken in advance.

The Chef's Galley has a charge of \$35.00 per person. Reservations will be taken on board the ship only.

(All Cunard's prices are US dollars.) We were astounded. We have taken many cruises and although most ships have a smaller dining room with a special menu – Italian, Oriental, etc., – where reservations must be made because the area is small, this is the first time we have ever encountered extra charges for meals.

In order to obtain clarification, I phoned Frank Sansone, Cunard's Director of Guest Relations, (1 800 223 0764). He told me that some rather fancy restaurants, such as Todd English, have become very popular in the U.S. Cunard decided that the QM2 should have one of those fancy restaurants. However, because they are so popular Management feared that the restaurant would be overrun and a lot of passengers would be unable to get reservations. Therefore it was decided that there would be charges for the meals so that only rather wealthy passengers could eat there. Other meals are still included in the fare. But we know from past experience that not all ships' chefs are good so often some passengers like to avail themselves of a fancier meal.

Barbara Redlich
North York, ON

That Farm in Wales

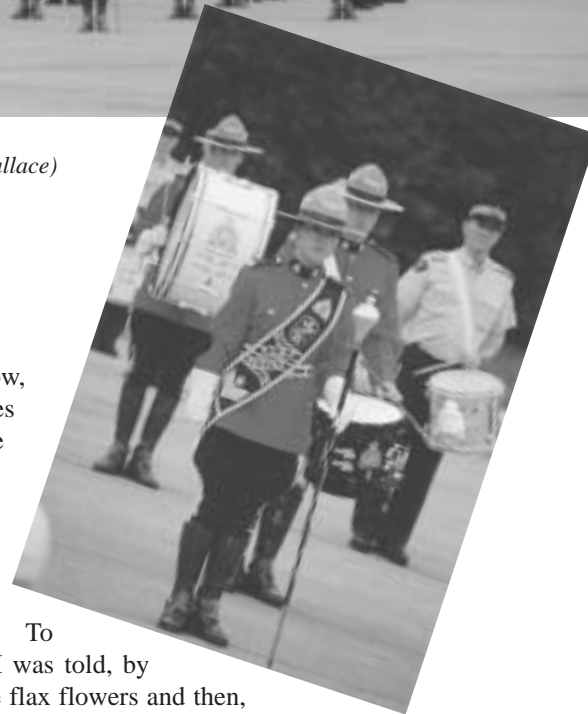
So sorry ... we omitted to give you contact details of Knock Farm in Wales (last issue, p. 5). Hosts are John and Judith Williams, Knock Farm, Camrose, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA62 6HW, U.K., tel: 011 44 1437 762208, e-mail: Judith@knock-farm.co.uk, www.knockfarm.co.uk
Open all year with rates from £20 to £27.50 pp according to season (£1 = approx. C\$2.44) – Ed.

On History's Trail in Saskatchewan

by Ann Wallace



The RCMP Sunset Retreat Ceremony (Wallace)



As many of you know, I grew up in England. But what you may not know is that Canada used to loom large in our school geography lessons there. I don't know whether it is still a significant part of the curriculum in the UK, but it certainly was when I was a child. I can clearly remember colouring the Great Lakes blue and the prairie provinces yellow. And I can also remember the province that intrigued me most – the easiest to draw but the most difficult to spell – Saskatchewan. How I loved that intriguing, unusual word. But I have an admission to make. I have lived in Canada for nearly thirty years now but, until last summer, I had not set foot in that favourite province of my childhood imagination. But now I have ... and I've discovered it certainly should not be coloured all yellow!

And yet ... and yet. For my first glimpse of the prairies from ground level early in July they were indeed yellow,

brilliant yellow, in some places as far as the eye could see, with the flowers of the rape-seed (or canola) plant. To be followed, I was told, by the periwinkle flax flowers and then, in August, the glorious yellow sunflower crop. But I was soon to discover that Saskatchewan is far more than prairie; in fact 70% of its landmass consists of forest and lakes; an estimated 100,000 lakes and rivers and close to 5 million acres of national and provincial parklands. It also holds much of Canada's history amongst its natural beauty, so if you are driving across Canada please do leave

time to explore off the Trans-Canada Highway, and if you have yet to add Saskatchewan to your list of provinces visited, I urge you to do so soon ... you'll be amazed at what there is to enjoy. I was ... and I only scratched the surface. Let me tell you about some of the things that I enjoyed there.

.....

No first visit to Saskatchewan would be complete without a visit to Regina. I have to admit I didn't know what to expect, as Regina does not seem to have a high profile in the other provinces. So ... a city tour seemed to be a good idea, whereupon almost the first words I was to hear our guide say were, "Regina is unknown to many." It shouldn't be ... it's a delightful city! It's green with about 400,000 trees and spacious, built around beautiful Wascana Park, one of the largest man-made urban parks in North America, with many pleasant residential areas close to town. The Wascana Centre in the park has a popular restaurant and here you can pick up a brochure listing eight walks in the area which will reveal much of the park and its nearby attractions. Your explorations of the city should take in the interesting Legislative Building tour and Government House (both free). The former is the largest provincial legislative building in Canada and it is very imposing. Tours take place every half hour, seven days a week and even lone visitors can enjoy this free tour. Please don't miss the Assiniboine Gallery here which contains the 15 handsome pastels of First Nations Chiefs painted from life by Edmund Morris between 1909 and 1911 as he travelled amongst the people by canoe. And here you'll also hear about the Queen's Golden Jubilee Statue project, due to be unveiled this year, featuring the Queen's favourite horse, presented to her by the RCMP.

A visit to the fine Royal Saskatchewan Museum (also free, but donations are welcome) is a "must" if you wish to learn more about the province before setting off to explore further. Allow plenty of time for this museum because there is a great deal to enjoy and absorb here, and if you have young people with you they will love it. Broadly divided into the Earth Sciences Gallery, the Life Sciences Gallery and the First Nations Gallery, the museum pays tribute to Saskatchewan's history, from the ancient days when it was covered by an ocean, through the ten-thousand-year history and traditions of the Aboriginal societies and on to the present in the provocative "Human Factor" display which shows mankind's impact on our earth. The museum is especially renowned for its beautiful, life-size dioramas by famous wildlife lover, conservationist, artist and award-winning photographer Fred Lahrman, who died last year. I took a series of photos of these dioramas and have enjoyed seeing the reaction of friends to whom I have shown the images because they look so real. The First Nations Gallery is another highlight here (I hope you find my guide – Preston –

who was a gem), as is the 70 million-year-old dinosaur shin bone that you are allowed to touch (think about it ... how amazing is that!?). Here you'll also be introduced, again through dioramas, to all the natural areas of Saskatchewan waiting for you to explore, from the Cypress Hills in the south west – the highest point of land between Labrador and the Rocky Mountains – to the Athabasca Sand Dunes in the north. I guarantee you'll wish, as I did, that you had more time to spend here in this province.

Non-Saskatchewan residents may not have a clear image in their minds of Regina, but they are sure to know one fact: it is the home of the RCMP. So while in this city you must make time for the RCMP Academy and Museum (free) and if possible try to be in town on a Tuesday afternoon/evening to witness the popular RCMP Sunset Retreat Ceremony ... a colourful pageant that has been chosen by the American Bus Association as one of Canada's top 20 events. Spectators, many with children, gather in the grassy RCMP grounds to watch the fine horses and their colourful riders, to sing "O Canada" and tap their feet to the marching bands, to hold their ears at the firing of the guns and to celebrate the close of another lovely day as the flags are lowered at sunset. The ceremony is held at 6:45 p.m. on Canada day and thereafter every Tuesday evening until mid-August. And while on the RCMP grounds don't miss the Chapel, Regina's oldest building, with its Mounties immortalized in stained glass windows.

The Hotel Saskatchewan – the *grande dame* of Regina's hotels and for many years referred to simply as "The Hotel" by locals – has seen much history itself. Building of this fine property was begun just prior to 1914 with plans to call it Chateau Qu'Appelle, but the project was abandoned at the outbreak of WWI and it was to be 1927 before Regina finally acquired its grand hotel. Located on Victoria Avenue opposite Victoria Park it provides a delightful oasis. Many older staff members here are happy to share

One of the fine dioramas in the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (Wallace)





*Prairie house at the
Sukanen Pioneer Village
(Wallace)*



sky ... whether it's brilliant blue fading to silver grey on the horizon, whether it's etched with feather-light cirrus clouds or brooding with swirling gold-tipped cumulus or whether it's bathing the land with the glow of its lingering sunset, the sky over the prairies is simply wonderful. I remembered a joke I heard when I first came to Canada: a prairie man goes to the mountains for the first time and is asked what he thought of them. "They're okay," was his reply, "but they sure do spoil the view!" No wonder the tourism slogan for this province is "Land of Living Skies".

My eyes must have been popping by the time we reached the outskirts of Moose Jaw and booked into a hotel that has been recommended by one of our readers before: Temple Gardens Mineral Spa. Then it was off to enjoy Moose Jaw's favourite attraction ... no, not the giant moose awaiting your photograph, but "The Tunnels of Moose Jaw" and a tour entitled "The Chicago Connection". This is indeed fun. Drama students are your guides on the 45-minute journey into the prohibition era and Al Capone's Moose Jaw operation. First, Capone's 'moll' – Miss Fanny – greets everyone and embarrasses the guys by pretending to know them, then leads the group into the underground bar, the private rooms and offices of the famous

tales of some of the property's history, including facts about its state-of-the-art operating systems at the time of its building and its royal visitors. In 1993 it was designated a Municipal Heritage Site. Today the property operates under the Radisson banner. Of course Regina, and indeed the whole province, offers a wide range of accommodation, from large hotels to B&B's and campgrounds. They can be found listed and described in the *Saskatchewan 2004 Accommodation, Resort and Campground Guide* (contact details below) which, together with the *Saskatchewan Vacation Guide*, makes planning a tour of this province so easy.

Of course I've only touched on Regina's many attractions. A resident told me that trendy shops and restaurants are springing up constantly. If you're so inclined there's a casino located in the historic old train station with a fine restaurant – Van Horne's – in an old trolley car. And for a cool beer – and a fine selection of food – after a day of sight-seeing, head to one of Canada's finest brewpubs: Bushwakker on Dewdney Avenue.

After my brief visit to Regina, I hit the road, travelling due west along the Trans-Canada Highway to Moose Jaw, about 45 minutes away. This, now, is my first glimpse of the prairies. No film, photo or description can do justice to this experience. The brilliant yellow rapeseed flowers are rippling and undulating in the breeze, turning the prairie into a golden ocean. And reigning supreme in this landscape is the

gangster who used Moose Jaw as a base for operations during Prohibition, then into the liquor storage dungeons and the escape tunnels, pretending all the time that a raid is imminent. It's great entertainment and very well done. Children in the group loved it; thus are budding actors born!

Take time while in Moose Jaw to remember Peter Gzowski's love of the town, a place he described as "that most Canadian of all cities" and whence he made his last 'Morningside' broadcast on 30 May 1997, a fact celebrated in the foyer of the Temple Gardens Spa. Take a wander or a trolley tour through the streets here, looking at the 38 murals depicting local history, life on the prairies, sports, trades and the commemorative "Lest We Forget" painting dedicated to the war efforts and losses. And enjoy the many nice stores that are springing up here. A highlight among these is Yvette Moore's Gallery at 76 Fairford Street West which offers a fine selection of local arts and crafts and a most welcoming adjoining restaurant - the Copper Café - for a delicious lunch. Try the Saskatoon iced tea here and be sure to leave room for the mouth-watering Saskatoon berry pie!

After a busy day, the indoor/outdoor geothermal mineral pools of the Temple Gardens are very pleasant. The mineral-rich water is drawn from the porous rock formation of ancient seabeds more than 1,350 meters beneath the earth's crust. Plan to relax in these pools for a while and a wonderful night's sleep is guaranteed.

If your time in Moose Jaw allows, there's another tun-

nel experience entitled “Passage to Fortune” which tells the story of early Chinese immigrants, but with time at a premium I opted instead to drive about 13 km south of town to learn about the bizarre Sukanen ship and the homesick Scandinavian who built it. It’s a weird story, and I have to admit I wouldn’t go out of my way to see the sad, strange ‘ship on the prairies’, but the surrounding Pioneer Village and Museum is well worth a visit. Here visitors can see a collection of old vehicles, peek into tiny one-room cabins that served the prairie farmers of old and see the store and farm and school house of a time long gone.

Moose Jaw is a popular stopping place in Saskatchewan because, of course, it lies on the trans-Canada Highway. But now, on my journey, I was going to leave this well-travelled route and head north to Saskatoon and beyond ... right to Prince Albert National Park. This route is Highway 11, more romantically known as the Louis Riel Trail. But don’t rush for there’s plenty more history along the way. No, it’s not Al Capone this time, nor the tales of Europeans who settled on the prairies; there’s another more ancient history buried in this land and nowhere better than to discover it that in Saskatchewan. It is, of course, the history of our First Nations, celebrated across the province with a variety of Heritage Parks and Historic sites and the interesting people waiting to share them with visitors.

But first a few words about Saskatoon, another city that provided lots of pleasant surprises. Here, in one brief visit, I enjoyed an overview of the city via a boat tour on the South Saskatchewan River that swirls through town; I walked through the pleasant grounds of the University of Saskatchewan; I paid a visit to the gem called the Mendel Art Gallery (free) beside the river; I enjoyed a rollicking riverside performance of *As You Like It* by the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival and laid my head in the historic Delta Bessborough Hotel – Saskatoon’s ‘Castle on the River’ – where my pretty room had a fine river view and I enjoyed exploring the property’s interesting history. I learned that this was the last of Canada’s grand chateau-style hotels, as the Depression put a stop to the construction of any more. Noteworthy at the Bessborough is the fact that copper roof hasn’t turned green – a tribute to the air quality in Saskatchewan – and don’t miss the fascinating photographs in the ground floor corridors of the hotel being constructed. And don’t think this grandeur comes with a high price

tag ... it doesn’t (details below).

More history was on the itinerary for the following day: a visit to the National Historic Site of Wanuskewin Heritage Park just 5 km north of Saskatoon. Wanuskewin has been home to special gatherings for over 6,000 years. Today the site offers visitors glimpses into that distant past, to a time 6,000 years ago when hunter-gatherers inhabited the Northern Plains and gathered here in the Opimahaw Valley to shelter from winter’s winds, to worship and to celebrate with the natural world. Here you can enjoy the exhibitions and a movie in the Interpretive Centre, sample authentic Native cuisine in the restaurant and purchase unique gifts in the store here that prides itself on being one of North America’s finest gift shops featuring original Aboriginal arts and crafts. As I write this I can see, hanging on my office wall, the elegant print entitled ‘Going to the Dance’ by Ioyan Mani (a.k.a Maxine Noel) that I treated myself to in this tempting gift store.

When you’ve enjoyed all the Interpretive Centre has to offer, you can enjoy walking the outdoor trails through an area consisting of a diversity of ecosystems and containing important archaeological and traditional sites. You may wander alone, or join a guide to learn more. Tenille Campbell of the Dene tribe took me around, describing at she did her unusual childhood, and pointing out the tipi rings, stone cairns and the buffalo jump in use 2,300 years ago. And it is outdoors that you can pause a while to enjoy the traditional exhibition of dancing and music performed at 2:00 p.m. every day during the summer. That’s Julee Albert of Sweetgrass First Nations dancing on our cover this month.

After the fine hotels I had enjoyed in Regina and Saskatoon I thought I should try something completely different. And you can’t get more different than a tipi. A small ring of tipis and a covered wagon, as well as comfortable rooms, can be found at Jack Pine Stables near the little town of Duck Lake, about 80 km north of Saskatoon on the road to Prince Albert. You may choose to sleep in any or all of them. Here Lawrence and Darlene Mullis will give you a warm welcome and, round the campfire at night, Lawrence – a proud Métis – will tell of Métis and First Nations cultures and tales of his great, great grandfather Patrice Fleury, a Captain in the Louis Reil Rebellion of 1885. As the name implies, this is a working ranch and it is rustic ... not *faux* rustic, real rustic!

*My accommodation at
Jack Pine Stables
(M. Nolan)*



Here in the main house you can stack your beer contribution in a corner, take off your boots and spread out on the well-used sofas in front of the fire. The B&B rooms are comfortable, and there's a large, shared bathroom with a Jacuzzi which is very welcome if you've opted for a ride on one of the fine horses here. This property is located on 160 acres of unspoiled forest where lots of activities are available as well as riding: canoeing on the South Saskatchewan River, wagon rides, hiking and bird watching as well as lots of winter activities.

When I told Darlene how interesting I was finding the history of Saskatchewan she gave me a fascinating book: *The Voice of the People: Reminiscences of the Prince Albert Settlement's Early Citizens 1866 – 1895*. How little most of know of the daily lives of the hardy souls who settled this country. Darlene also urged me not to miss the nearby Batoche National Historic Site just a few miles from the stables. The outdoor site displays the remains of the village of Batoche on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River, the place selected by Louis Riel as the headquarters of his "Provisional Government of Saskatchewan" and, ultimately, the last battlefield in the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. Here visitors are invited to imagine the lifestyles of the Métis of Batoche between 1860 and 1900 - the trails they walked, their homes, their church, and the Battle itself. Several buildings have been restored within the site where costumed guides are waiting to greet you. Again visitors will find a fine interpretive centre explaining the importance of this site in the history of Canada. Here visitors can see an award-winning 40-minute multi-media show, enjoy the gallery holding the late 19th century paintings of Armand Paquette depicting daily life at Batoche and learn the story – through words and photographs – of the tragic life of Louis Riel's wife Marguerite. Batoche is open from 8 May until 30 September, admission is \$5.75 or less. The outdoor site covers a large area of attractive rolling parkland ... a picnic here would be a fine idea as there's only fast food available in the Centre.

Soon I'm on the road again, travelling north through Prince Albert to one of our national treasures: Prince Albert National Park, a drive of about an hour and a half. Here the prairies and aspen parklands have gradually given way to the lakes and boreal forests of the north. This meeting of two habitats has influenced the wildlife and historical use of the area, leaving a rich history and a unique ecosystem. It would take a complete edition of *TravelScoop* to tell all there is to see and do in this pristine wilderness of lakes, rivers and forest; home to moose, elk, wolves, red fox, beaver and black bear; habitat of about 233 bird species; a

place for hiking, walking and cycling as well as relaxing on the beach; a lake-scattered region for fishing, canoeing, kayaking and sailing or enjoying one of the boat trips offered by local outfitters; for camping in both serviced and back-country sites. And for those who prefer not to camp there are excellent resorts, lodges and condos in the village of Waskesiu, where visitors will also find a gas station and post office as well as the park's Nature and Information Centres. The Lakeview Resort here offers comfortable rooms as well as attractive condos suitable for a family or group of friends.

Another very nice property of lakeside cabins, located just outside the park, is Land of the Loon Resort on beautiful Anglin Lake, part of a six-lake system ideal for canoeing and kayaking (craft available from the resort). But what makes the resort and Anglin Lake special is that it is home to one of the largest populations of nesting loons in North America. Stay here and you will enjoy a trip out on the lake in a 22 ft Gimley yawl, skipped by loon expert Jack Greening, patriarch of the Greening family that owns the lodge. Jack loves and knows all his loon families and is so interesting. From him I learned that loons are considered the oldest bird alive, believed to have inhabited the earth for between 50 and 80 million years, a strange fact considering they usually have only one chick, just occasionally two. I also learned about their mating and offspring rearing patterns, the fact that they can change buoyancy and that they cannot walk on the ground because, like the penguin, their legs are located far back on their bodies but, unlike the penguin, they have not evolved to walk upright. Not only did Jack show his group his beloved loons, but we also saw a beaver and a couple of young deer drinking from the lake's edge. Moose and elk are often seen here too. It was a wonderful late-afternoon experience, to be followed by a fine dinner in the resort's Snail's Pace dining room where the entrees are priced from \$16.50 and include soup and salad courses. A great place offering a very warm welcome.

But, to sum up, I can only say that I received a warm welcome everywhere I went in Saskatchewan. The residents are so pleased to have visitors from other parts of Canada, especially when an interest is shown in their history and in all the great sights and sites they have to offer. So don't just rush through ... make Saskatchewan part of your travel plans this summer. You'll receive a warm welcome and have a great time.



*A favourite photo spot at the RCMP Museum
(M. Morse)*

... continued on page 20

Make Time for **Turin**

by Ann Wallace

If my story in the last edition of *TravelScoop* has tempted you to visit the lovely region of Langhe and Roero in northwestern Italy, I hope you will also take my advice and spend a couple of days in Turin. “Turin?” do I hear you ask in amazement, “that city of industry and soccer?” Well, Fiat has made it rich and soccer may have made it famous but there’s far more to Turin than that. Here, in one of the greenest cities in Italy, you’ll discover handsome riverside promenades, views of the nearby Alps, prosperous residential areas rising from the banks of the River Po, 18 km of fine colonnaded shopping, delightful parks, and some fascinating museums, all of which combine to make a visit here well worthwhile. In fact, it remains a mystery to me why Turin is not included in more tours of Italy. If my memory serves me correctly it offers far more than Milan, which often crops up on itineraries covering Italian cities. However, all that Turin has to offer is sure to be shown to the world once the Olympic spotlight shines there in the winter of 2006. But why not go before then?

You do not have to be in Turin long before you realize that its claim to being one of the greenest cities in Italy must be true. Here there are 17 parks, including the pretty English Garden and the famous Valentino Park which extends along the river Po, home to the Valentino Castle and the Medieval Village, created in the 19th century by a group of Piedmontese intellectuals and artists. In fact, parkland covers 70 km of the river bank and the city also boasts 400 km of tree-lined avenues. It’s all very pleasant indeed and a



The Italian Alps frame Turin and the Mole Antonelliana building (ENIT)

great city for walking, whether you favour the green spaces or the superb shopping streets.

Museum lovers will especially enjoy a visit here. The Egyptian Museum (admission €6, about C\$9.80) is said to be the second most important in the world after Cairo, and while the building itself is sadly in need of renovation and modernization, there’s no doubt that it contains some very fine artefacts. Here visitors marvel at the famous black granite statue of Rameses II, the tomb of the architect Kha and the reconstructed temple of Ellesija. Also in safe keeping here are many unique papyrus documents, including the oldest topographical map known to mankind.

Offering quite a different experience is another Turin highlight celebrating the city’s claim to be the original home of the cinema. It’s the soaring National Museum of Cinema (€5.20, closed Mondays), housed in the extraordinary Mole Antonelliana building. Built in 1863 as a synagogue, this is now Europe’s tallest museum, Italy’s highest structure and the highest traditional brick building in the world. Inside

there's a glass elevator which provides a ride to the observation platforms atop the building for panoramic views of the city and distant mountains. And the museum itself? Let me give you a few figures! There are 7,000 film titles in the library; 9,000 works of art, paintings, old prints, viewing and filming equipment; 125,000 photographs; 200,000 posters, more than 200 magic lanterns and more than 20,000 books in the Library as well as a fabulously trendy bar/restaurant and a great gift store. The galleries cover five floors of rising walkways and there are exhibits to fascinate old and young alike. When you feel like resting your weary feet you can relax in a *chaise longue* in the immense Temple Hall and watch movies or the projected images on the ceiling. The Temple Hall is surrounded by ten 'chapels', each devoted to a particular theme: animation; horror; love and death; experimental cinema; Turin as Film Town and more. Movie buffs will find it hard to drag themselves away!

If paintings are more your scene, don't miss the 25 priceless works on show in Giovanni and Marella Agnelli's gallery known as Agnelli's Casket of Dreams. You'll want to visit the Lingotto complex anyway, as this is the now-converted Fiat factory

where the rooftop car chase of the original *Italian Job* movie was filmed. Today this building, once described as a 'horizontal skyscraper', has been transformed from car plant into a hotel complex (the Meridian) with adjoining offices, shops, restaurants, cinemas and conference facilities. And the gallery, designed by architect Renzo Piano, is like a casket suspended by metal wires above the complex's North Tower. The museum can be reached by taking elevators from the art bookstore in the shopping complex, or visitors arriving by taxi can request the driver to drive right up to the gallery (or *Pinacoteca*) on the building's south ramp, a relic of the days when the building was a car plant ... a thrilling ride!

Once inside this little gem of a gallery, visitors will enjoy a small but outstanding collection of works by Canaletto, Manet, Modigliani, Picasso, Renoir, Matisse and others. Highlights for me here were Picasso's stun-

ning *L'Hétaire* and Matisse's pretty *Intérieur au phonographe*. Don't miss this gallery if you're an art lover.

Sadly that was about all I had time for in Turin. But I know there is so much more to see in this city of Baroque art and architecture that was once the seat of the Savoy kings. There are dozens more museums (modern art, automobiles, decorative arts and more), an opera house and several concert halls, the ring of Royal Residences (a UNESCO site), fine churches and a renowned antique market – the Gran Balôn – held on the second Sunday of every month behind Porta Palazzo. Turin is also home to the biggest open-air market in Europe, held every morning in the Piazza della Repubblica. I was tempted at almost every turn by enticing shops, by the wonderful restaurants, riverside terraces and the many bars and coffee/chocolate shops – some elegant and historic, some 'cool' and trendy. But for me all that will have to wait for another visit.

It is a source of pride, but not surprise, to the city's residents that, in 1888, philosopher Frederich Nietzsche wrote from Turin: "Here is the city of my heart. I would never have believed that a city, thanks to its light, could be so beautiful." If Italy is in your plans, and you enjoy city visits, I'm sure Turin will delight you too.



*Turin boasts
handsome riverside
promenades
and serene
gardens
(Wallace)*



... continued on page 20

*In the beautiful village
of Bibury*



A Week in England's Cotswolds

story and photos by Stan Farrow

A cottage in the Cotswolds! My wife and I had long dreamed of such a vacation here in one of England's most scenic districts. Friends who had experienced it encouraged us with their enthusiastic tales of memorable visits. So last spring we took the plunge and booked self-catering accommodation for a week in late April-early May.

Of course, no reader of this publication would simply arrive on the doorstep and expect to find something available. Perusing pamphlets, catalogues and websites prior to booking is half the fun, at least for some of us! The British Tourist Authority (now called VisitBritain) has information available on all areas of the U.K., including a specific publication on self-catering which lists particular cottages, as well as many companies specializing in such accommodation. You can check the web for all of these, to narrow down your choices for locale, size, and price.

But I also remembered that past issues of *TravelScoop* had featured an advertisement in the old "network" section for Hearthstone Holidays, offering rental accommodation in all of Europe. Upon calling we learned that HH has now become a division of Atlynn Travel Ltd. in North Vancouver. They still serve as the Canadian representative for English Country Cottages, one of the companies whose

web addresses I had explored. They rushed me a huge (500 pages) colour catalogue along with a price list. The agent I spoke with could handle the entire booking in Canadian funds, as well as other travel arrangements such as flights and car rental should we require them. (We were also impressed to receive a telephone call from her shortly after our return inquiring about our impressions of the accommodations we chose.)

Choosing involved listing a number of possibilities in order of preference. Location and the size of the accommodation were the major factors. We wanted to be close to many of the Cotswold attractions but required housing for just the two of us. Groups up to 10 and 12 can also be accommodated. Our "second choice" was available for the last week in April, and we duly completed the arrangements with HH, confirmed later by a letter from English Country Cottages with directions on how to find the property, and a telephone number in Britain for the owners to arrange for the pick-up of the keys and other such mundane matters. The price for our week was £324 (£1 = C\$2.43). The two previous weeks covered the Easter holidays and the charges then were £379 and £389 respectively. Prices during the year range from a low of £301 in November to a high of £484 in July-August.

"Cottage" was rather an understatement for our home, as we had gathered from the illustration and description in

the catalogue which ran thus: "Set in well-maintained landscaped gardens, amid 4,000 acres of beautiful National Trust countryside, the Palladian style mansion of Sherborne House, formerly owned by Lord Sherborne, commands an idyllic position in the Windrush Valley between Burford and Stow. The ground floor apartment – "Windrush" – offers a warm and inviting split-level interior, with beautiful stone mullion windows affording a pretty aspect over the cloistered courtyard. Guests enjoy the use of an indoor heated swimming pool, small gym, sauna and tennis court while beyond the property footpaths lead to many delightful walks amid the Cotswold countryside."

The Sherborne estate dates back to the 1500s and includes the small village of Sherborne. Sherborne House stands in a walled, 10-acre plot of land right in the village. The family sold this part of their estate in the 1970s, and the mansion interior was converted into thirty apartments. The remainder of the estate is now owned by the National Trust. As we drove through the gateway at dusk on our arrival Saturday we fell in love with our surroundings immediately. Narcissus and apple blossoms vied for our attention along the curved driveway. When we emerged from our rental car in the parking area, we heard nothing but the breeze and the sound of water tumbling over the weir in Sherborne Brook. To complete the perfect scene, across the expanse of the front lawn, we spotted a deer emerging from a stand of trees.

We strode past the church (still in use) and up to the grand entrance doors where we rang the bell for our flat. Soon Fiona Weldin opened the door and guided us through the hallways to our temporary home. Fiona, an English teacher, and her husband, Michael, a member of the British diplomatic corps, live in the area and purchased the apartment partly as an investment, but also as a home base in the future when Michael is next called to service abroad. (When that happens, "Windrush" will probably not be available to renters like us.) We had taxed the Weldins' hospitality somewhat when problems with our rental car arrangements forced us to arrive late. They had already stocked the kitchen with a few staples to see us through the first day, and

Fiona graciously arranged to return the following morning to complete our orientation tour of the grounds in daylight. Flowers, a bottle of wine and a welcoming note were awaiting us.

Our apartment is probably the most compact of the thirty in the estate. (In a later conversation with one of the permanent residents, we learned that there are two other larger units available for rent through "Rural Retreats.") The entrance-way leads past a three-piece washroom and into the sitting-dining area with those large stone windows, a television, VCR and portable radio-cassette-CD unit. The small but well-equipped kitchen has windows overlooking the fountain playing in the cloistered area. A stairway leads up to a loft overlooking the dining area. This area contains a queen-sized bed, cupboards and dressers. A tiny two-piece bathroom adjoins this area, as does a cupboard with a washer-dryer. There is also another bedroom containing a single bed, so that a couple plus one could be accommodated. All linen and towels are supplied and there was no extra charge for heating or electricity.

The grounds, of course, were a bonus, even in the rainy weather which we tend to bring with us everywhere. I have mentioned the heated indoor pool, kept around 80° F and there are lounge chairs as well as a small snooker table, table tennis, some exercise equipment and a sauna. All the luxuries of a resort hotel! There is also an orangium, where residents were growing tropical plants. In the grounds there is a tennis court and a manicured croquet lawn, but also many natural areas with trees and wildflowers.

Most evenings I had postcards to mail and it was always a pleasant walk to the post office, either along the village road with its view of the Sherborne Brook and its meadows, or through the estate grounds past the garden/nursery buildings and along a National Trust path. The full-time resident we met did not own a car but took a local bus once a week for shopping and other excursions, and I could see how one could actually enjoy a week here without leaving the Sherborne area.

However, we had come to see more of the Cotswolds, and they were close at hand. Any road we took, from the well-travelled A-40 between Oxford and Cheltenham (Sherborne is almost equidistant from the two) to the narrow lanes we much enjoyed (unless we met another car!) provided superb views over rolling countryside, river valleys, and tawny villages. Most of our visits tended to be northwards, since Sherborne had many attractive back-road connections in that direction.

We were able to stock up at a



*Sherborne House ... our
'home' for a week in
the Cotswolds*

Sunday market in Bourton-on-the-Water, held, conveniently, in the parking lot of the local Co-op Supermarket, where we could shop for what was not available outside. Then, by parking in the metred town lot, we were able to window- (and otherwise) shop along the lovely main street, which is divided down the centre by the River Windrush with parkland on both sides. The arched bridges over the river have led to Bourton's designation as the "Venice of the Cotswolds". Bourton, Upper and Lower Slaughter and Stow-on-the-Wold are all close-by. My wife, used to the distances in Ontario, was skeptical that we could combine them all in one afternoon, but we did ... and without feeling rushed.

There is also a much larger market in Moreton-in-Marsh on Tuesdays, and another in Burford on Fridays, so self-catering can lead to some interesting shopping experiences. Our routine was to eat breakfast and supper at 'home' and dine out (everything from bacon-on-a-bun at the outdoor market to a three-course dinner in a restaurant) at lunch time. In most of the villages, such as Broadway and Burford, there are very roomy and convenient parking lots handy to the tourist areas charging quite low rates. Admittedly, we had the advantage of touring ahead of the high season. Tree blossoms by the water in Bourton, dazzling wallflowers in Lower Slaughter, the purple wisteria covering much of Broadway, and a carpet of bluebells in the woods near Woodstock were the rewards of a spring-time visit, along with manageable crowds.

Other visits which we would recommend: the Roman villa at Chedworth (just a half hour away for us) is well presented (you probably do not need to rent the earphone commentary). Snowhill Manor, near Broadway, houses an eclectic array of collections: Samurai armour, bicycles, musical instruments - a theme to each room - plus a terraced garden and marvellous vistas. Blenheim Palace, Churchill's birthplace, is a bit east of the Cotswolds proper, but a must-see for both the tour of its state rooms and the landscaping of its grounds. There is a miniature train to a children's play area, in case you have family along. A rainy-day visit which children might also enjoy (although it is a bit longish at 2 hours) is Keith Harding's World of Mechanical Music in Northleach. We also found the church in Northleach (one of the many impressive such buildings in the Cotswolds financed by the wool trade) a restful respite from the weather. It has an unusually large selection of brasses, but I was even more impressed by its newest feature, a spectacular stained-glass window, "Christ in Majesty," from the 1960s.

One disappointment was finding the Roman museum in Cirencester closed for major renovations - a rainy-day activity that will reopen this year. As a complete contrast, we did enjoy the indoor shopping centres in Cheltenham, as well as the leafy walk along the Promenade when the sun returned. We searched out the Daffodil restaurant in Cheltenham for lunch one day. It is a converted art-deco movie theatre, and we were seated in the balcony beside one of the projectors.

Lunch options included either a two-course (£10) or three course (£12) meal, while we watched staff downstairs set up for a Jazz Festival dinner-concert that evening. Another highly recommended place for lunch is the Fossebridge Inn, just south of Northleach, where we had good pub food in 15th century surroundings following our visit to Chedworth.

We loved Burford, with its steep High Street from the top of which you can look across the Windrush Valley; and Bibury, with the medieval workers' cottages of Arlington Row and a perfect English garden in a home beside the renowned Swan Hotel. We counted 19 pheasants adding colour to fences and fields on one day's touring. It was indeed a dream come true to have a gracious home in the Cotswolds, if only for one week. We may just go back!

More information ...

VisitBritain, 5915 Airport Road, Suite 120, Mississauga, ON, L4V 1T1; tel: 1 888 VISIT UK; e-mail: britinfo@visitbritain.org, website: www.visitbritain.com/ca

Hearthstone Holidays, a division of Atlynn Travel Ltd.: 202-1199 Lynn Valley Road, North Vancouver, BC, V1J 3H2; 1 866 980 2515, www.atlyntravel.com


The Daffodil, 18-20 Suffolk Parade, Cheltenham, Glos., GL50 2AE; www.thedaffodil.co.uk

Fossebridge Inn, Fossebridge, Glos., GL54 3JS; fossebridgeinn@aol.com; www.fossebridgeinn.com

Stan Farrow is a TravelScoop subscriber who lives in Scarborough, ON.

In the above article I make brief mention of rental car difficulties. Readers who are as inexperienced in car rentals as we were might like to take note. We had arranged to pick up our car from Hertz's Oxford location, since that was handy to the Cotswolds. We arrived in Oxford by train at 3:00 p.m. on a Saturday, only to discover that the outlet closes at 12:30 p.m. not to reopen until Monday. After a number of panic telephone calls from the Oxford rail station, we returned to the Birmingham Airport station, where the outlet was open until 9:00 p.m. We picked up our car and placed a call to our accommodation to get new instructions on getting there.

After our return we did receive a letter of apology from Hertz, plus a cheque to cover the train tickets and extra fuel consumption. However, in the future, we will make a point of checking the opening hours of car rental outlets!

A final caveat to travellers planning to travel in Britain by train: our experience lugging baggage up stairs, over the tracks, and down on the other side proved that the British train system, handy as it is for getting almost anywhere, is not set up for travellers with the large pieces of luggage. The stations do not all have lifts, and the coaches themselves have very little space for luggage. Travel lightly or consider renting a car or taking a bus - S.F. 

Belgium

Newly arrived on our desks here at TS are some exciting, up-beat brochures from the Belgian Tourist Office in New York (tel: 212 758 8130). This prompted us to check out Belgium's English-language website www.visitbelgium.com where we found lots of special deals on accommodation, week-end packages and so on. If Europe is in your plans you may like to consider adding Belgium to your itinerary ... it certainly looks great for: food, shopping, museums, beautiful towns and, of course, beer and chocolate!

Belize

News of some properties in tropical Placencia ... casual Kitty's Place Beach Resort acts as agent for several nearby cabins and houses where weekly rates start as low as US\$350, while rooms at the resort itself cost from US\$135 per night. The area offers beaches, snorkelling and diving on the nearby barrier reef as well as inland excursions and guests can take advantage of the private island belonging to the resort for snorkelling, sea kayaking and overnight camping trips. For details call 011 501 523 3227 or visit www.kittysplace.com where the rental homes are illustrated.

Britain

Calling all garden-lovers ... 2004 is the Year of Gardening in Britain as the Royal Horticultural Society is 200 years old and marking its bicentenary with over 3,000 gardening events ranging from the famous Chelsea Flower show (25 – 28 May) to local plant fairs. Details available at www.rhs.org.uk but here are a few highlights: Hampton Court Palace, www.hrp.org.uk, near London will offer historical costumed garden tours between 5 June and 26 September, while the RHS annual Hampton Court Flower Show – the world's largest – will take place 6 –

11 July; also in July one of the world's biggest tree houses will be completed in magnificent Alnwick Gardens in the country of Northumberland, northeast England, www.alnwickgarden.com, while back close to London, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew will be home to a four-month long summer festival, www.kew.org. For a new, free, lavishly illustrated and information-packed guide entitled *Britain's Gardens: Enter an Enchanted World* contact Visit Britain at 1 888 VISIT UK, e-mail: britinfo@visitbritain.org, www.visitbritain.com/ca Britain is full of holiday rental homes, but there's a new website from conservation charity The National Trust which highlights romantic holiday home hideaways just for two ... with double beds and/or open fires. Examples are Coastguard Cottage in Clovelly, Devon and Tanner Brow overlooking Lake Windermere in Cumbria. On the website www.nationaltrustcottages.co.uk these properties are marked with a heart symbol. Frequent visitors to London, England, may like to consider joining the website 'London Elite' where special offers and discounts on accommodation, restaurants, attractions, theatres etc., are available for an annual subscription of US\$20.

One only has to join in order to access the special offers; free for all on the site is a great deal of information such as walking itineraries, restaurants, London news and so on. (*Here at TravelScoop we would like to hear readers' experiences if they subscribe and make use of the special offers on this site – Ed.*)

www.londonelite.com

Canada

The Bike, Hike & Paddle Touring Co., is an eco-tourism company based in Smithers, northern BC, that specializes in small-group (6 participants and 2 guides) adventure tours. Although the trips are for the fit and

include camping, support vans, a 'mother boat', a packhorse and other facilities are always available and novice paddlers are welcome. The trips sound wonderful, with breathtaking scenery and wildlife sightings guaranteed. For more information call host Gregg Drury at 250 847 0388, e-mail: info@BikeHikePaddle.com, www.bikehikepaddle.com

Ireland

If you'd like to consider a tour in Ireland, visit www.shamrock.org (or call 1 800 SHAMROCK) for details of the wide variety of good-value packages from a wide range of Canadian tour operators. If exploring Ireland independently is more your style, there are three properties you may like to investigate. Draw a triangle from coast to coast in the middle of Ireland and you will approximately come up with the locations of the three hotels that have joined forces: Sandhouse Hotel (Donegal), Glenlo Abbey (Galway) and Rathallagh House (Wicklow) to form 'The Emerald Triangle'. The hotels are family owned and their friendly proprietors – Brian, Brian and Joe – are waiting to make your Irish vacation perfect with their in-depth knowledge of Ireland. Visit www.emerald3.com for details.

Kenya and Tanzania

G.A.P. Traveller, a Canadian adventure travel specialist, is offering a range of African adventures at reduced prices from Guerba, an experienced Africa tour operator. Among these is a 14-day deluxe lodge-based safari through Kenya and Tanzania, viewing wildlife in seven of the finest game parks in the world. For full details call 1 866 732 5885 for a brochure on this and all Guerba adventures, or visit www.GAPadventures.com

Morocco

How about making the summer a really exciting one for the children in your life? WestCan Treks is offering a

series of Moroccan Family Adventures: 14-night tours of Morocco that include wonderful hotels, desert camping, shopping in the souks, camel rides across the Sahara dunes and time to relax on Atlantic beaches. "No bored kids" guaranteed! The trips depart from Marrakech on 19 July, 2 & 16 August and during summer 2005. Land only price from C\$1,430 pp with 15% discounts for children. WestCan can also organize your international flights. For full details call 1 800 661 7265, www.westcantreks.com

Switzerland

Everywhere you look in Switzerland the scenery is spectacular, so when touring in this mountainous country it's wise to let someone else do the driving. How about a Postbus experience or a train/bus/boat package? For brochures detailing the most scenic Postbus routes and/or the all-in-one ticket for travel by train, bus and ferries on Switzerland's extensive transportation network, call Switzerland Tourism 1 800 794 7795 or visit www.MySwitzerland.com and www.postbus.ch/gr The Postbus brochure has details of each

destination's highlights, together with famous hiking trails, overnight possibilities in mountain accommodations and multi-day excursions. And example: a round trip that includes Chur, St. Mortiz, Lugano, Domodossola, Saas-fee, Berne and Zurich and, of course, that spectacular scenery. The cost of this trip is from CHF865 or about C\$910; that works out to \$130 pp, per day for all that travel, accommodation in hotels such as Best Westerns and breakfast. Take a look at this brochure or visit the website ... you'll wish you were there! And, as mentioned on p. 3, Ticino can, of course, be included in your travels on the Swiss pass.

at the galleries

There are glorious Egyptian artifacts from the British Museum on show at the **Royal Ontario Museum**, Toronto, now until 6 June 2004, then from 10 July to 31 October at the **Royal British Columbia Museum**, Victoria, and from 22 January to 15 May 2005 at the **Montreal Museum of Fine Art**. Choose the location nearest to you ... but please don't miss this exhibition, entitled *Eternal Egypt – Masterworks of Ancient Art from The British Museum*. Spanning over 3,000 years and 30 dynasties, this exhibition of over 140 exceptional artefacts never seen before in Canada, reveals the creative genius of one of history's most extraordinary cultures. You'll see the life-size granite statue of Tutankhamun, a rare glimpse into Egyptian sense of humour via the antics of animal characters illustrated by an ancient cartoonist, exquisite statuettes, a great red granite lion carving in a curiously 'unegyptian' relaxed pose and much more ... So enjoyed spending a morning among these ancient wonders.

The big summer exhibition coming to the **National Gallery of Canada**, 25 June – 19 September 2004, is entitled *The Great Parade: Portrait of the Artist as Clown*. Of course I haven't seen it yet, but from the publicity literature it looks as though it's going to be an exciting thematic exhibition. It will contain major and famous works of clowns, monsters, acrobats and harlequins by Goya, Degas, Picasso, Daumier, Toulouse-Lautrec, Chagall and the many other artists who have been fascinated by all aspects of the circus, from spectacular performance to the loneliness of its performers. The 175 exhibits have been assembled from around the world: Madrid's Prado, London's National Gallery, the Musée d'Orsay of Paris, Buffalo's Albright-Knox, the National Gallery of Washington and other famous gal-

leries. This is sure to be a highlight of a summer visit to our Capital Region. Call 1 800 319 ARTS or visit www.national.gallery.ca for more details.

The **Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida**, is celebrating 100 Years of Dali in 2004. Running until 26 September, this exhibition showcases the depth of the museum's collection in chronological order. It includes many rare and rarely exhibited objects such as Dali's sculptures as well as never-before-exhibited objects such as Dali's birth certificate, school grades and handwritten manuscripts. The St. Petersburg museum houses the most comprehensive collection of Dali works in the world. www.salvadoralimuseum.org *Rembrandt's Journey: Painter, Draftsman, Etcher* is the title of an exhibition on now at the **Art Institute of Chicago** until 9 May 2004. Using over 200 works – about 20 paintings, 30 drawings, and 150 prints – this exhibition explores the Dutch master's range and variety. Check it out at www.artic.edu.

The **Imperial War Museum in London, England** (within walking distance of Waterloo Station) will mark the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France (6 June 1944), the biggest combined military operation ever seen, with a special D-Day exhibition, on show until May next year. Exhibits include secret briefing documents written by Eisenhower, Montgomery and other commanders; top secret papers relating to the double-agent "Garbo" whose messages helped deceive the Nazis; sabotage equipment used by Special Operations agents; water-stained maps and equipment used by Allied soldiers who landed on the Normandy beaches; original film footage shot during the landings and the historic photographs by Robert Capa. www.iwm.org.uk AW



Canada's newest expedition cruise vessel is the 245 ft square-rigged Barquentine called *Caledonia* of **Canadian Sailing Expeditions Inc.** It is the largest expedition cruise vessel built in

Canada in the last 100 years, and although new she offers the old world charm of a traditional tall ship. Accommodating up to 80 guests and a crew of 20, this Canadian-flagged vessel will sail on its first voyage from Halifax in July this year to start a season of cruises in Atlantic Canada, to be followed by Caribbean destinations later in the year. For more details call 1 877 429 9463, www.canadiansailingexpeditions.com If an **Ontario** visit is in your plans this summer (or if you live here) a short cruise in Muskoka, out of Gravenhurst, is a lovely way to spend a couple of days. **The Muskoka Fleet** is comprised of the classic *r.m.s.* *Segwun* and *Wenohan II* and these short cruises include overnight accommodation at one of two Muskoka inns: Cleavelands House or the Sherwood Inn, where guests can enjoy such extras as cooking demonstrations and

garden tours. For information call 705 687 6667, www.muskokafleet.com and treat someone you care about to one of these short but memorable getaways.

French Country Waterways is extending its 50th birthday and 5th – 60th wedding anniversary discounts to selected departures in Burgundy in the spring and fall. The 8-passenger *Liberté* plies the Canal du Nivernais and winding River Yonne on leisurely 6-night cruises. The 50% Jubilee discount invites those born in 1954 to celebrate their birthdays by cruising in Burgundy on the *Liberté* at US\$1,798 pp.dbl., or the 18-passenger *Esprit* at US\$1,648 to US\$1,848. Anniversary discounts of 5% – 60% are offered to couples celebrating anniversaries in sequences of five; for example, a 45% discount for a 45-year anniversary. Savings range from US\$179 to US\$2,157 on the *Liberté* and from US\$164 to US\$2,877 on the *Esprit*. For further details, call 1 800 222 1236 or visit www.fcwl.com. - they look good.

For those who are keen cruisers or those considering trying this type of vacation for the first time, a valuable book to have is Douglas Ward's *Ocean Cruising and Cruise Ships 2003*, just published by Berlitz (www.berlitzbooks.com) and now available for the 18th year. Telling you all you need to know about the different styles of ship, this comprehensive volume may prevent you from making expensive mistakes when you choose a cruise liner. Available in Canada for about \$34.

from the bookshelf

Setting out to explore **Ireland** independently? If so, chances are you have a typical guidebook. But if you're interested in the historic sites you may like to complement your existing guide with a fascinating volume entitled *Ancient Ireland – an Explorer's Guide* by Robert Emmet Meagher and Elizabeth Parker Neave (www.interlinkbooks.com, C\$35.00, 272 pp.). Beautifully illustrated and full of wonderful facts that your partner can read to you as you drive, this is also useful in its honest-sounding accommodation and restaurant recommendations and its clear itineraries to help you discover *really* ancient Ireland ... Ireland before Christianity and even before the Celts. Rich stuff and a lovely book even if Ireland isn't in your plans.

France anyone? How about this guide, whose title tells all: *Michelin Charming Places to Stay; 1000 hotels and guesthouses in France for less than €80* (at press time that's about C\$133). In fact about half of the fine-looking properties (they're all illustrated) are less than €40. The guide lists 540 hotels and 460 guest houses and contains clear maps with all the properties keyed ... an indispensable resource for touring in France. C\$28.95, 525 pp.

If **Texas** is in your plans, you don't necessarily have to be in a romantic state of mind to welcome the Hunter Travel Guide entitled *Romantic Weekends – Texas*, for not only does this book give details of the many attractions to be found in the state, but it has many recommendations of charming accommodations. Even if you're heading to a city such as Dallas you'll find a listing for an historic beaux-arts hotel as well as a choice of B&B's. This would be a great book to have with you when you're exploring the Lone Star State. Hunter Publishing, www.hunterpublishing.com, US\$16.99, 300 pp.

Air Canada and Star Alliance partner **bmi** (British Midland) will jointly offer non-stop **Toronto-Manchester** service beginning 25 April. Initially operating four times a week, this route will increase to daily service on 28 May.

Air Transat Holidays is offering deals to France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland and the U.K. between April 2004 and March 2005 in most cases at prices under those of 2003. As well as air/hotel packages, Air Transat Holidays is offering short- and long-term car rentals, train passes, a B&B voucher programme, studio and apartment rentals, an open-jaw policy for all destinations, 2-for-1 extras and lots more. Ask your agent for Air Transat Holidays' comprehensive brochure for full details.

CanJet Airlines is due to begin service from Hamilton to Montreal and Ottawa on 19 April. **WestJet's** presence is growing in the central and Atlantic provinces. The carrier has announced that it will be launching non-stop service between a number of cities, including Ottawa/Vancouver, Victoria/Toronto, Winnipeg/Montreal, Winnipeg/Ottawa, and Moncton/Montreal. A schedule that goes into effect 18 April offers, on a weekly basis, 39 Montreal-Toronto flights, 32 Ottawa-Toronto flights, seven Halifax-Toronto flights a week, seven Montreal-Winnipeg flights, four St. John's-Halifax flights and three Halifax-Gander, Nfld. www.canjet.com

Jetsgo has incorporated surcharges into its advertised base fare. These charges include fuel and NavCan. The airline had previously eliminated its insurance surcharge in September 2003. The fuel surcharge varies from \$5 to \$25 for each one-way flight, depending on length.

NavCan fees are \$12 per flight segment and the now defunct insurance surcharge was \$3. This represents an overall change in the advertised fare of between \$17 and \$37. Fees and taxes that will continue to be added to the advertised fare are airport improvement fees, security taxes and applicable sales taxes. The U.S. buffer tax incorporating immigration and transportation fees is also added to transborder flights. www.jetsgo.net

LanChile's Visit Chile airpass programme is being offered through to 2005 with savings of up to 70% compared to purchasing separate segments to travel the country's vast distances. Purchase your international round-trip ticket with LanChile (out of Miami, New York or Los Angeles) and you're eligible for three coupons for US\$285 and additional coupons for US\$68 each. www.lanchile.com

If you've been thinking of New Zealand you may want to finalize your plans before 30 April, for that's the deadline for taking advantage of **Air New Zealand's** seat sale to one of NZ's 7 destinations with a free stopover in Auckland and other domestic stopovers available for an additional C\$40 in either direction. www.airnz.com

There's also a **AccessAsia Pass 2004** available to North Americans from **Malaysia Airlines**, which allows passengers to fly to any or all of 24 destinations in Southeast Asia at fares starting at US\$999 which includes the trip between Los Angeles or Newark and Kuala Lumpur. For full details www.malaysiaairline-susa.com

Check out the prices of Canada's **Zoom Airlines** to Scotland, England and points south: www.flyzoom.com

insurance

An Insurance Reminder

As Spring springs, many of us start to think about travelling, especially within Canada. Here's an insurance reminder from RBC Insurance.

- * Don't leave your province or territory of residence without medical insurance, as you may not have as much coverage as you think elsewhere in the country. Medical treatment can be very expensive - even if you are travelling within Canada - and your provincial health insurance plan usually only covers a limited part of these costs.

- * Make sure to carry proof of travel insurance with you, along with the company's name and phone number. Leave a copy of this information at home with family or friends, as well.

- * Travel arrangements are often non-refundable so don't risk losing your entire travel investment should something unexpected happen. Purchasing cancellation and interruption insurance can help protect your investment in case you have to cancel your trip, come home early, or stay later at your destination.

Some details ...

As with all regions of Canada, Saskatchewan offers the traveller comprehensive literature to make trip planning easy. In addition, I've given here telephone numbers for enquiries and links to websites so that readers can enjoy a 'virtual tour' of many of the attractions I enjoyed and plan their own travels accordingly.

Saskatchewan Tourism: call toll-free: 1 877 2ESCAPE, www.sasktourism.com

Tourism Regina: 1 800 661 5099, www.tourismregina.com
For excellent **Regina city tours** look for the brochure of **CNT Tours** upon arrival or tel: 306 584 3524, www.cnt-tours.ca

For **Royal Saskatchewan Museum** information call 306 787 2815, www.royalsaskmuseum.ca

R.C.M.P. National Heritage Centre, tel: 306 780 5838

Radisson Plaza Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina, tel: 1 800 333 333 or 306 533 7691, www.radisson.com/reginaca

Temple Gardens Mineral Spa, tel: 1 800 718 7727, www.templegardens.sk.ca, room rates here start at \$99 and include access to the enormous spa pool, the steam room and the fitness centre.

The Tunnels of Moose Jaw, tel: 306 693 5261, www.TunnelsOfMooseJaw.com

Yvette Moore Gallery, tel: 306 693 7600 or visit www.yvettemoore.com

The **Sukanen Ship Pioneer Village & Museum**: tel: 306 693 7315, www.sukanenmuseum.ca

Tourism Saskatoon: 1 800 567 2444, www.tourismsaskatoon.com

Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan tickets from \$14.50, for

reservations tel: 306 652 9100, www.shakespeareonthesaskatchewan.com

Delta Bessborough Hotel, tel: 1 800 268 1133 or visit www.deltabessborough.ca Rooms here cost \$132 but there are 10% seniors' and CAA discounts available, as well as anniversary specials: married in 1963? Then you can spend up to 3 nights here for just \$63. Your stay must be within 21 days of your actual anniversary. A great bargain for such a memorable property.

Wanuskewin Heritage Park, tel: 306 931 6767 or visit www.wanuskewin.com

Jack Pine Stables, tel: 1 877 467 4576, www.jackpinestables.com, enquire about pricing because all visits here are customized.


The town of Duck Lake is the headquarters of the **Louis Riel Trail Association** whose *Travel Guide and Map* can be obtained by calling 1 866 467 2057.

For information on all **National Historic Sites and National Parks in Canada** there's an excellent website at www.parkscanada.pch.gc.ca

Prince Albert National Park is open year round, entry fee \$5 or less. For complete information call 1 877 255 7267 or visit www.parkscanada.gc.ca/princealbert

For a variety of accommodation in the **Lakeview Resort** within Prince Albert National Park call 1877 0331 3302, www.lakeviewhotel.com

Land of the Loon Resort, tel: 306 982 4478, www.land-of-theloonresort.com, studios for 4 are \$75, 2-story chalets for a maximum of 8 from \$170 per night.

And the websites of the **Canadian Tourism Commission** for travel information for the whole country are: www.travelcanada.ca and www.voyagecanada.ca 

A few details ...

Turismo Torino has information offices at the airport, at the Porta Nuova railway station and in the Piazza Castello (or visit www.turismotorino.org). You'll want to visit a tourism office in person to pick up a **Torino Card**, valid 48 hours (€15) or 72 hours (€17) which gives free travel on all urban public transportation, free entry to 120 museums, monuments, castles, fortresses and royal residences in Turin and Piedmont, free access to the panoramic lift in the Mole Antonelliana and to the boats on the River Po, plus reductions for theatres, concerts, tours, bicycle hire and more.

I did not spend the night in Turin, but my guide gave me the following hotel recommendations to share with readers:

If antique and historical is your style, the **Dogana Vecchia**, Turin's oldest hotel, will fit the bill. It's an 18th century property whose walls have seen the sleeping figures of Verdi, Mozart and Napoleon. Via Corte d'Appello 4, Torino, tel: (code: 011 39) 436 72 72, fax: 436 71 94, e-mail info@doganavecchia.it, www.hoteldoganavecchia.it.


If 'trendy' is more your style the **Hotel Boston** was also recommended. Their website is only in Italian, but it's pretty

easy to figure out and the photos give a good idea of the style you'll enjoy there (click on 'tour'). Via Massena 70, 10128Torino, tel: 500 359, fax: 599 358, e-mail: direzione@hotelbostontorino.it, www.hotelbostontorino.it

The **Hotel Piemontese** is an historic Best Western property in the heart of town at Via Berthollet 21, 10125 Torino, tel: 1 800 780 7234, e-mail: info@hotelpiemontese.it, www.hotelpiemontese.it

The **Hotel Crimea** is a larger Best Western property located a short walk from the town centre in a peaceful residential area below the hill close to the Po river.. Via Mentana 3, Torino, tel: 1 800 780 7234, hotel.crimea@hotelres.it, www.hotelcrimea.it

All the above properties are classed as 3-star, B&B prices start at about €100 and most offer some kind of week-end packages.

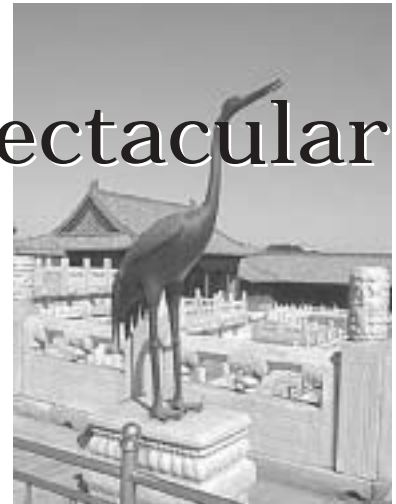
Turin's international airport, 16 km from the city centre, receives flights from all over Europe. I travelled from Toronto overnight to Frankfurt with Lufthansa (which was excellent) and made the onward flight to Turin (less than an hour) early the next morning. There are also train and bus links with the rest of Italy and Europe. 

FROM \$3,942 FOR 18 DAYS

China ... Yangtze Spectacular

FULLY ESCORTED

Departures: 26 September & 17 October 2004



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 (now in the process of changing 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!

*Come with us on our most popular, unique
tour to China,
still at an amazingly low price.*

AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES departing from:

Vancouver	\$3,942 pp/dbl
Victoria/Nanaimo/Kamloops	\$4,089 pp/dbl
Calgary/Edmonton	\$4,188 pp/dbl
Saskatoon/Regina	\$4,434 pp/dbl
Winnipeg	\$4,372 pp/dbl
Toronto	\$4,298 pp/dbl
Ottawa & Montreal	\$4,372 pp/dbl
Halifax/Quebec City/London	\$4,495 pp/dbl
Thunder Bay/St. John's	\$4,643 pp/dbl

Single supplement \$1,200 (Sharing can be arranged.)

Taxes and visas extra.

GREAT ADD-ONS:

Hong Kong	4 days/3 nights	\$1,188.00
Tokyo	4 days/3 nights	\$892.00

Prices are subject to confirmation

Editor, Ann Wallace took the China Yangtze trip and her 14-page, illustrated account is available. For your copy please send \$5 with your address.

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 time in Beijing & Shanghai

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. **TICO** reg #01280649

21 days, prices include all airfares

Space limited to 20 people

A Traveller's Turkey

Departing: 1 May & 18 September 2004

It is one of the cradles of civilization and one of the most wonderful countries on the planet. Here 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 of Turkey exclusively for Travel Society members. It is due to take place in September 2003 for a maximum of 20 people.

We have combined our extensive knowledge with careful research 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 (subject to confirmation) departing from:

Toronto	\$4,950.00 pp/dbl	Ottawa	\$4,950.00 pp/dbl
Montreal	\$4,950.00 pp/dbl	Vancouver	\$5,195.00 pp/dbl
Edmonton	\$5,195.00 pp/dbl	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.

Your tour includes:

- Round trip transatlantic flights with Air Canada
- All domestic flights
- 20 nights' accommodation
- All 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

28 days, prices include all airfares

Space limited to 20 people

Turkey - An Anatolian Adventure

Departing: 28 August 2004

If you can travel with us for 28 days, you might like to consider our longer tour of Turkey. In addition to all the destinations in 'A Traveller's Turkey' detailed above, this tour also includes a trip to legendary Troy, a tour of the historic battlefields of Gallipoli, a visit to the walled city of Iznik, a drive to Gordion (the home of Alexander's famous knot) and to many other historic sites such as Catal Hoyuk, Xanthus and mysterious Termessos, one of Turkey's most beautiful ruins. The extra time here also means more time on the beautiful coast, where you will enjoy boat trips, picnics and beach time or you may decide to take an overnight *gulet* cruise from Antalya to Kas. This truly is a superlative tour that covers all the highlights of this wonderful land.

AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES (subject to confirmation) departing from:

Toronto	\$6,750.00 pp/dbl	Ottawa	\$6,850.00 pp/dbl
Montreal	\$6,850.00 pp/dbl	Vancouver	\$7,150.00 pp/dbl
Edmonton	\$7,000.00 pp/dbl	Calgary	\$7,000.00 pp/dbl
Winnipeg	\$6,950.00 pp/dbl	Halifax	\$6,900.00 pp/dbl

Single supplement \$670 (Sharing can be arranged.) Taxes included, visa extra.

Your tour includes:

- Round trip transatlantic flights with Air Canada
- All domestic flights
- Return airfare to Turkey
- 27 nights' hotel accommodation
- All meals as per itinerary
- 40 seat air-conditioned luxury bus
- Admission to all sites
- An English-speaking guide and a Travel Society host

Vineyard Walking through Piedmonte

Daily departures from May to September (travel independently or with a group)

Set out to discover the magical hills and breathtaking scenery of the Langhe and Roero regions of Piedmonte ... a beautiful region of Italy that is still virtually undiscovered and untouched by major tourism. Discover a land of nature, art, medieval architecture, famous wines and delicious food. Stroll through vineyards between ancient hill-top towns, stop for a picnic in the shade of a hazelnut tree, explore ancient castles, visit the cellars of famous wineries and enjoy one of the world's finest cuisines. Our 'Hiking without Luggage' trips allow you to explore this region at your own pace. You'll stay in quaint small hotels and farmhouses (always with private facilities), you'll enjoy memorable breakfasts and dinners each day and be provided with a picnic lunch to enjoy in the countryside while we'll take care of your luggage.

Before or after your trip you can extend your exploration of this region with an add-on to Turin and with an additional 3--night Wine and Gourmet, self-drive tour with all meals and car rental for 4 days included.

LAND-ONLY PRICES

Vineyard Walking \$2,255 pp.dbl.

Turin add-on from \$286 pp. per night

Wine and Gourmet self-drive adventure \$1,253 pp.dbl

Taxes extra. Prices are subject to confirmation

All your domestic and international flights can be arranged by The Travel Society. Please call for complete quotations.

Your tour includes:

- Transfers from Milan
- 7 nights' accommodation
- Breakfast, dinner and picnic lunch daily
- Local tours of castles, villages and wineries
- Walking map with detailed instruction
- Daily luggage transportation from hotel to hotel
- Hotel service and taxes

from
\$4,496

India's Golden Triangle

20 days departing 11 October 2004

India is one of the world's greatest travel destinations. But unless you're a young backpacker, a tour is the way to go! And The Travel Society is offering the ultimate tour of India's fabled northwestern region, known as The Golden Triangle. This tour will show you the highlights of this fascinating region. You'll spend time in the economic powerhouse of India - Mumbai (once known as Bombay) where you'll drive along Marine Drive, visit the Hanging Gardens, enjoy the Prince of Wales Museum and stroll through Neru Park. On another day you visit St. Thomas Cathedral, the Jain Temple and see the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi as well as take an optional tour to Elephanta caves. Then it's on to Udaipur, the most romantic city in all of Rajasthan, known as the city of lakes. Here there are palaces and temples to visit as well as beautiful gardens with pools, fountains, pagodas and carvings. Mt. Abu-Ranakpur is next on the itinerary, famous for its 15th century temples, before you proceed to the famous medieval city of Jodhpur, home of the massive Mehrangharh Fort and many exquisite palaces. Then how about a camel safari ... sure to bring lots of laughs and some great photographs! Khimsar and Nagaur are next on the itinerary, where there's more sightseeing and lots of leisure time for relaxing, shopping or wandering alone with your camera. Bikaner is next - a royal walled city with a wealth of architectural heritage - where you'll visit Lalgarh Palace Museum, a combination of European luxury and Oriental fantasy and Junagarh Fort, which was started in 1587 and houses 37 palaces, pavilions and temples. You'll then travel on to Mandawa, known for its exquisite frescoes where you'll stay in Castle Mandawa, a unique desert resort. Jaipur - the pink city - is next; a city of beauty famous for its bazaar full of wonderful gifts. Here you can take an elephant-ride excursion to Amer Fort and also see the Palace of the Winds and the stone Observatory. Of course Agra is on the itinerary, for that never-to-be forgotten dawn visit to the Taj Mahal, before you travel on to famous Delhi, the capital of India. Throughout this trip you will stay in first-class hotels, travel in deluxe a/c, fully-equipped coaches and enjoy wonderful meals, banquets and entertainment. Many days will be full, but there's plenty of free time too. Haven't you always wanted to visit India? Make this the year and come with The Travel Society this fall.



PRICES INCLUDING AIR departing from:

Vancouver	\$4,696 pp/dbl	Toronto	\$4,496 pp/dbl
Victoria	\$4,896 pp/dbl	Ottawa	\$4,496 pp/dbl
Edmonton	\$4,696 pp/dbl	Montreal	\$4,496 pp/dbl
Calgary	\$4,696 pp/dbl	Halifax	\$4,696 pp/dbl
Saskatoon	\$4,696 pp/dbl	St. John's	\$4,896 pp/dbl
Winnipeg	\$4,696 pp/dbl	Single supplement	\$794
Prices are subject to confirmation		Taxes extra	

Your tour includes:

- All international & domestic flights
- Deluxe a/c coach transportation
- State transport taxes
- All meals
- English-speaking guide
- All entrance fees
- Elephant ride
- Village safari in Jodhpur

Galapagos Islands and Ecuador

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

14 days departing 15 June, 14 September & 12 October 2004

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.

You'll also visit other destinations in Ecuador, and then you can choose to enjoy the exciting optional extensions: to Kapawi - a ecological lodge in the Amazon and/or a visit Machu Picchu in Peru. We'll take care of all the travel details. All you have to do is 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
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- First-class hotels accommodation throughout
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