

The Travel Society

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Magazine



Time Travel in Eastern Ontario
Across Canada by Train
Exploring Salt Spring Island
A Week in the Peaks
New Orleans – Ready and Waiting for You

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At Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg, Ontario

editor's letter ...

A happy spring to all you travel lovers! Seems travel and tourism are healthy these days with the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) predicting the industry will generate in excess of US\$7 trillion in 2007 and rise to over US\$13 trillion over the coming decade. (No ... I can't imagine how much that is either!)

On the Canadian front, indications are that we are in a travelling mood too, with our airlines adding new routes and new planes to cope with increasing demand. Air Canada and WestJet both started this year with record load factors and both airlines are purchasing new aircraft and expanding services.

Canada has, however, been rapped over the knuckles by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) who are calling for a change to our aviation policy to promote competitiveness. In an address to the Vancouver Board of Trade in mid-March, IATA'S Director General and CEO – Giovanni Bisignani – declared that "Taxation, taxation and more taxation is not a recipe for competitiveness. Canada's tax revenue from aviation rose nearly 20% per year between 2001 and 2005, totalling \$800 million annually or 20% of the industry's production value. If Canada is serious about the 80,000 jobs and \$4.1 billion in economic activity that aviation generates for Canadians, this must change." The Director went on to point a finger at taxation policies with respect to security and airport Crown rent, which are a burden to the air transport sector. The Canadian Government collects the money yet does nothing, leaving infrastructure improvements to be funded independently by airlines and their passengers. "It's time for Ottawa to eliminate Crown rent and give Canada's aviation sector a fair chance to compete globally," Mr Bisignani concluded. We shall see.

Hope you enjoy this first issue of spring. As usual at this time of year, there are many ideas for travel within Canada, plus an account of exploring a beautiful part of England and an account of New Orleans today. (Lots more on Canada coming next month too.) Enjoy ... and bon voyage!



Taking a Swiss Train from Zurich to Sargans

I have been to Liechtenstein too, so was excited to read about it in the last edition of TTS. It is just as Editor Ann described, though she should have stayed longer, eaten more delicious dinners and taken some of those famous hikes! However, I was disappointed that she did not describe for readers the great train trip from Zurich to Sargans. Of course, almost any train trip in postcard-pretty Switzerland is worthwhile ... not only does it get you to your destination efficiently, but the scenery is almost always wonderful so it's just like taking a tourist tour. And so it is with the Zurich to Sargans run.

First the train runs all along the southern shore of the lovely lake known as the Zurichsee, where passengers can enjoy views of the opposite shore, ferries and sailboats, as well as peeks into pretty gardens and glimpses of neat villages, parks and lakeside camp sites. Farmlands come next and then, as one approaches the next lake on the journey – the Walensee – the scenery starts to change from gentle and pretty to magnificent and austere as the rocky mountains of eastern Switzerland come into view.

When one is ready to leave Liechtenstein there is no need to cover the same rail tracks twice. The route from Sargans leads on to the wonderful old city of Chur and there are other rail links to such famous Swiss destinations as Arosa, Klosters, Davos and St. Moritz (although I usually prefer the less well-known towns and villages).

Yes, there's no doubt in my mind that taking the trains and buses is the best way to see Switzerland. A copy of their transportation map shows that the system covers every corner of the country, everything runs on time and almost everywhere is beautiful.

Audrey Barnes
Toronto, ON

Yes, Audrey is right ... I should have described the above train journey and I'd like to thank her for doing so now. It is just as she describes, as is the whole Swiss travel system. Enjoy! – Ed.

A Visit to England's West Country

Last year, our annual visit to Devon, England, happened to coincide with the Devon County Show near the ancient city of Exeter. This huge agricultural and horticultural show consists of animals of all breeds, shapes and sizes; a horse jumping competition and specialized exhibitions as well as scores of stalls selling a wide variety of locally-made or grown items. On our visit there was also a large display of old steam farm tractors that included several working models. But the highlight for us was a demonstration by 100 members of the King's Royal Horse Artillery who, with horse-drawn cannons, careened around their field at high speed before the cannons were set up and fired ... much to the consternation of some of the nearby cattle! The surrounding fields are used for parking for the hundreds of cars that are driven to this event and then shuttle buses take visitors to the entrance of the show. As seniors, we paid £11 (£1 = approx. C\$2.26) each for the day. This year the show is on three days from 17 to 19 May and full details can be found at www.devoncountyshow.co.uk.

On arrival at Heathrow we picked up our rental car and spent our first night at an excellent B&B some two hours' drive away in Hampshire, where we had stayed before. May Cottage is located in the quiet, picturesque village of Thruxton, which dates back to 1740. It is a few miles west of Andover, just off the A303 road. Hosts there are Tom and Fiona Biddolph. The rooms (priced from £65 double, no credit cards) are comfortable and attractively furnished and an excellent, full English breakfast is offered. An inn located across the road has a good selection of meals at reasonable prices. The Biddolphs can

be contacted at [011 44] 1264 771 241, e-mail: info@maycottagethraxton.co.uk or visit www.maycottagethraxton.fsnet.co.uk for full details and photos.

The next day we continued our journey on the A303 to Devon, where we branched off and spent two nights in the village of Colyford at a beautifully-restored and newly-opened Victorian property called Swanhill House. This stay cost £50 per night double and our host was Sharon Chatting. Tel: 1297 553 387, www.swanhillhouse.com. Just a few miles away, we discovered the 12th century Harbour Inn at Axmouth, one of the most attractive inns that we had seen in years. We enjoyed an excellent dinner there at a reasonable price, but if you plan to go at the week-end a reservation (tel: 1297 20371) would be advisable.

Ralph Carder
West Vancouver, BC

Editor's note: Air Transat flies direct from Toronto to Exeter. And readers may remember Susan Gilbert's 'scoop' in our last edition, where she recommended a visit to Winchester, a beautiful cathedral town in Hampshire. The website of May Cottage, mentioned above, states that it is located close to Winchester, so this may be a good alternative property to the expensive Lainston House Hotel mentioned by Susan.

The Lost Villages of the St. Lawrence

The St. Lawrence Valley is a gorgeous area with plenty to offer the traveller, yet some visitors are unaware that has a fascinating recent history, too. When the St. Lawrence River was dammed in 1958 to create the new St. Lawrence Seaway, six villages and two hamlets were "drowned" and 6,500 residents were uprooted. The communities are

known as the "Lost Villages" and if you travel along Rte. 2, 10 km west of Cornwall, near Long Sault, Ontario, you will find the Lost Villages Museum in Ault Park, containing some of the 350 buildings rescued from the flooding. There's a little country railroad station dating back to the days of the *Moccasin*, the local steam train that served the St. Lawrence Valley; a typical country store, complete with the items that once stocked its shelves; a schoolhouse, and a clapboard church with a sweep of graceful curved pews. And then there are log cabins, an historic Loyalist home ... and more.

Admission is free, and the museum, run by the Lost Villages Historical Society, is open from May to October. On some Sundays in the summer they run four-hour bus tours which trace the lost village sites, usually with a "survivor" of one of the villages as a guide, who knows all the insider details that casual tourists would never discover on their own. There is a modest barbecue after the tour. Participants see roads vanishing into the river; water pumps standing like solitary sentinels on wind-blown hills; orchards gone wild and furious eddies in the wide river are all that's visible of the once mighty Long Sault Rapids. ("The rapids are still there," area scuba enthusiasts assure you, "but the water's ripping along underneath, where you can't see it.")

Next year, July 2008, marks the fiftieth anniversary of The Inundation, as the survivors of life in the Villages call it, and already locals are busy planning big events to commemorate the events of 1958. Videos and several books, available at the Lost Villages Museum and at the gift shop in Upper Canada Village (see p.6), tell the whole story of this incredible engineering feat that forever changed the face of the St. Lawrence Valley: the coffer-dams; the rapids that ran dry for a while, silent and bare; how the engineers knew, to the foot, where the water would rise and which houses had to be moved to dry land and which could be left; how the residents stood and watched as their homes were burned. I could go on and on, I'm still mesmerized by the whole story, but I hope visitors to the region will discover it all for themselves. Information at www.lostvillages.ca and www.lostvillages.ca/en/html/tours.html (as we go to print the summer 2007 tour dates are not listed; but they should be soon) or call 613 534 2197.

*Juliet Gill
Ingliside, ON*

Notes on Dubai

I found the article on Dubai in the December issue very interesting, especially as I was there last year. And I'd like to add a few words.

Western women are not encouraged to bathe on public beaches. Instead there are private clubs, for example the Jumeria Beach Club, where a 'membership' can be purchased for varying lengths of time. I'd also advise women to take taxis instead of the bus ... they are very cheap. The Jumeria Mosque (pictured in the article) is open on Thursday mornings for non-Muslims to visit; no shorts allowed and head coverings supplied to women. The talk there is most interesting. Buying gold in the *souk* (with bargaining) was cheaper than buying at the duty free. The grass in Dubai is watered with desalinated sea water as, at the time of my visit, there had been no rain for three years. I was fortunate enough to have been invited to stay with friends that were working there for five years with HSBC and they had a banker's house all paid for and with no income tax either! I was taken to many of the beautiful hotels for dinner. It is expected that Dubai will run out of oil in 15/18 years, so is concentrating on building hotels and summer homes for the world's wealthy and those associated with banking. The new marina will have at least 20 apartment buildings around it with prices starting at US\$90,000 for a small unit. I consider myself very lucky to have had 15 days there in late October.

*Sheila Kingsley
Toronto, ON*

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You can renew your subscription on-line too!

TTS member Juliet Gill wrote to us thus: “Have you ever wanted to travel through time? I live near Upper Canada Village, in Eastern Ontario, consistently one of Canada’s top tourist destinations. Last year they started an innovative adventure for adults wanting to sample life in the 1800’s. It’s been a runaway success, but you have to book early.” Here’s the story ...

Time Travel in Eastern Ontario

story and photos by Juliet Gill



Yurts in Mongolia, Zodiacs in the Antarctic; check the travel supplements and you'll see lots of ideas for extreme travel. But just suppose you could travel through time! Imagine finding yourself in a quiet little village by the river, in 1866. Big silver maples cast dappled shade on elegant clapboard houses. Flower gardens are a riot of colour. Your neighbours call out a greeting as you pass on the boardwalk, hoop skirts bobbing, the breeze fluttering the ribbons of your lace cap. The stage coach rattles by, drawn by four magnificent black horses to the jingle of harness. The aroma of fresh bread wafts from the brick-oven bakery.

Down at the tenant farmer's house, you'll learn how to bake a pie in a dutch oven on an open hearth. Your husband's helping at the mill, where rushing water powers the great rumbling grindstones as they spin, turning wheat into flour with a texture fine as talcum powder. This morning he tried cutting grass with a scythe (no lawn mowers in 1866) picking up the graceful swing as well as some calluses on his hands.

The restful quiet and serenity are what you notice first. There are no cars, and feet fall softly on the hard-packed dirt lanes. This is Upper Canada Village, near Morrisburg in Eastern Ontario. Consistently rated one of Canada's top tourist attractions, it draws visitors from all over the world. The "Time Travel" feature has been a hit for years with children from the area. Imagine a summer vacation without computers, TV, iPods, soft drinks and junk food. Kitted out in authentic 1860's-style dress, the children spend their days like children of that time: learning the crafts and playing the games, even going to school in the one-room log cabin school house and writing on slates.

Until last year, adults who wanted to get in on the action had only a day to visit the past, either as a tourist strolling the lanes or, for a modest fee, dressed in an 1860's costume and touring the village in the yellow stage coach, later dropping by the inn for a hearty meal typical of the period.

Last fall, organizers floated a live-in adventure for adults. It was an overnight success. It begins with an orientation session where you're taught how to blend in with the surroundings (no cameras, gum or cigarettes, for example) and how to field questions from the 21st century tourists. Using measurements you send ahead, staff alter historical



costumes to your size, that you'll wear while you're "in character". You'll get hands-on experience with the trades of the village: open-hearth cooking, bakery, crafts such as quilting, gardening, farm chores, blacksmithing.

In keeping with the era, there's a church "service" re-enactment on Sunday, too, in a beautiful old 19th century white clapboard church rescued from flooding when the St. Lawrence Seaway project changed the face of the area forever. (*See Juliet's letter on p. 3 - Ed.*) Participation in the "service" is entirely optional but everyone wants to go and piles into the church and sings with gusto, regardless of their faith or lack thereof.

In the evening you'll get together by the light of candles and oil-lamps for a home-cooked dinner you've made as a group from scratch on the open hearth. Later, you'll gather for an evening of popular songs and music from the 1860's, getting the hang of dancing in frock-coats and hoop skirts. You'll sleep in period houses tucked away in a quiet, leafy lane and discreetly equipped with modern comforts. The soft rustling you hear outside your window in the night will only be the deer, who roam freely in the village after dark.

On Sunday evening, 26 hours later, when the time comes to step out of your costume and back into the 21st



century, you won't want to go. There may even be a few tears, and a vow to return.

What accounts for the runaway success of this new programme? I spoke with Bruce Henbest, the supervisor of heritage programs at Upper Canada Village. He was as intrigued as I was by the way it has taken off. "Participants don't want to leave," he said. "They don't want to take off their costumes. A lot of them want to sign up again right away."

Dressing in period clothing is a big part of the experience, and yet it's something beyond that. Different clothes seem subconsciously to alter our behaviour, and we feel connected to a simpler, uncluttered way of life. For some, it's just being close to nature and to the farm animals. For others it's the hands-on thing of learning a skill and getting to use something you crafted yourself, or working closely with neighbours and being in tune with the seasons, of being part of something so much bigger.

Barbara de Falco, a costumed interpreter in the village, puts it this way: "It's an adventure, like space travel. It demonstrates what it's like to live in the past. It recaptures memories that have been crowded out by the busyness of

life today. The sounds, smells and textures stimulate memories that are part of who we are. Coming to the village is a way of saying 'I want time out to reconnect'".

If time travel appeals, then Upper Canada Village is your destination. 🐾

The details ...

Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg, Ontario, is open from 9 May to 7 October from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission \$16.95 with reduced rates for seniors, families, students and children. www.uppercanadavillage.com

Journey of Discovery (adult one-day costume experience): \$75.00 pp.

Adult Overnight Adventure: \$250.00 pp (this would make a great gift).

And check out Eastern Ontario and St. Lawrence Seaway regions by visiting www.ontariotravel.net

Juliet Gill is a TTS member who lives in Ingleside, ON

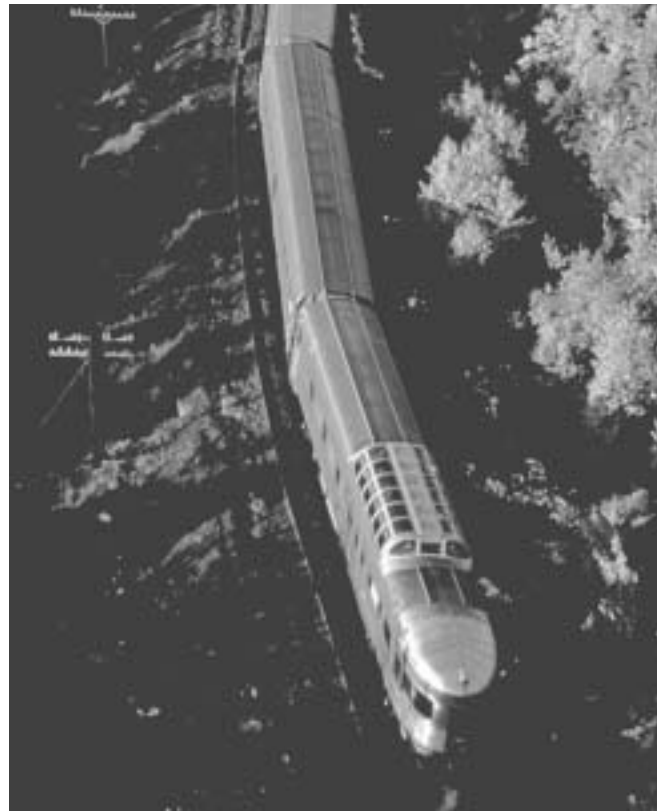
Across Canada by Train

story by *Juliet Gill*

Are you tired of “bargain” air fares that advertise a low price, only to charge so many hidden taxes that the final total is double; of being herded into long line-ups just to access the airport check-in desk; of the long wait for the security checks? And you haven’t even left yet! Then there are the squished-in seats, with the traveller in front who reclines his seat-back so his head is virtually in your lap, and the four-year-old who won’t stop kicking your chair-back.

Try this: get thee to your nearest train station. Check your big bag at the luggage desk (you might have to wait ten minutes if they’re busy). Take an easy chair in the lounge and relax till departure time, with free coffee and juice, and all the newspapers. At the gate, the attendant checks your ticket and points out your car, where a friendly steward shows you to your sleeper compartment. That’s it. Drop off your hand luggage and coat, then find your way aft to the lounge car. Here you’ll find your fellow travellers making themselves at home, relaxing in the armchairs. The lounge is tastefully decorated with a painted-sky ceiling and a big vase of fresh-cut flowers. There’s more coffee, and muffins too. A staircase leads to the observation dome car above, and when the train gets going a cheery attendant will show up there with glasses of champagne all round to celebrate the departure.

From the heart of downtown Toronto my train is bound west to Vancouver, some 4,500 km away. It’s a journey I’ve dreamed about for most of my life, and I imagine many other Canadians (and non-Canadians) have too. You can fly this stretch in six hours, and if it’s a clear day maybe catch a glimpse of the landscape far below. But the run-up to your flight takes at least another three hours, and chances are you’ll arrive stressed, ruffled and jet-lagged. The train takes just over three days and it’s an adventure, with room to walk around, chat to some fascinating people and per-



haps make new friends, to dine like a lord and to get up close to the beauty of the Canadian landscape.

Trains have always held a certain romance: think of the Orient Express, the Flying Scotsman and the Eurostar to Paris. Some passenger trains have taken a beating lately, slashing routes to meet the demands of the bottom line but there are still romantic voyages to be made, one of which is the four-day journey across Canada on VIARail’s “Canadian.”

The train is a half-mile long, with 26 retro stainless steel cars that date from the 50’s and have been refurbished to modern standards. Most of the cars are passenger accommodations, with economy class up front (passengers sleeping where they sit) and Silver and Blue class in the rear, with sleeping accommodation either in private bedrooms or in curtained fold-down bunks that are spacious and secluded. Silver and Blue class has four lounge cars with a scenic dome car above each.

The train slides slowly out of Union Station, everyone craning their necks to catch the city sights. Up in the dome car you feel as though you’re riding on the roof of the train as it burrows its way through the backyards of Toronto on its way north.

Lunch is divided into early or late sittings. The dining car is bright and gleaming with silver and sparkling glasses

set on starched linen. Each table has a vase of fresh flowers and, of course, knockout views of the passing scenery. The menu boasts native Canadian produce: red snapper with roasted red pepper and Alberta bison rib roast, all done to perfection by the train's chefs, and beautifully presented. Desserts are rich: lots of luscious chocolate and pastries. Unfortunately the chief exercise we're going to get is swaying along the corridors as the train rocks its way across the Canadian Shield, so packing on the pounds is a real hazard.

The city soon falls behind and we're in lake country. The train driver slows almost to a halt to let us admire the pretty harbours and sailboats. Pink rocky crags tower above the train, and dense forest crowds almost up to the tracks. We spy a blue heron taking off in dignified flight, its giant wings flapping slowly. On a log, a painted turtle basks in the sun.

The first night on the train is a noisy affair, though we've thoughtfully been provided with earplugs. My bed pulls down out of the wall, and is surprisingly roomy, with a deep, comfortable mattress and a fluffy duvet, but sleep is patchy, partly from all the things around me that are going bump in the night, and partly because I don't want to miss anything. It's a beautiful night. Lifting a corner of the window shade I can see the Big Dipper on our right, and the black spires of the spruce forests in the light of the waning moon.

My morning shower, just along the corridor in the next car, proves to be an exercise in balance as the train bounces and sways along. Soon, camera in hand, I'm ready for the dome car again. There's an impressive cooked breakfast available in the dining car, a full-calorie assault, but I settle for the continental breakfast and plentiful fresh fruit laid out in the lounge car. It's been twenty-four hours' steady progress since we left Toronto, and we're still in Ontario. Trees and rocks, rocks and trees. Glancing up, I catch sight of a magnificent twelve-point buck in the woods. We're leaving the Canadian Shield behind. Here and there are wide areas of clear-cut logging and, seemingly in the midst of nowhere, lumber mills smoke and bustle beside the lakes. I scan the woods for bears: Dave, the attendant, assures us they're plentiful, but today they seem to be shy.

A river winds its way through the forest to our right. The train stops to unload a group of hardy adventurers with their canoes. We seem to be in the back of nowhere, but anyone can arrange to be dropped off in the wilderness miles from civilization by calling ahead. For fifty dollars you can bring along your canoe ... or even your dogsled. (*But what about the dogs?! - Ed.*)

Tucked away in the corners I notice several quite elderly women chatting, reading or doing crosswords. I discover it's a great mistake to overlook these feisty women ... they're the ones with the best stories. Elsie, 82, boarded at Capreol, a little town in the bush. She's made this trip over 100 times, but this occasion is special ... she's going to Saskatoon for her brother's wedding (he's 83) and will be getting off the train at 2 a.m. Many of my fellow travellers

are retirees, some from places as far away as Australia and South Africa, and all are hoping you'll ask them about their grandchildren.

We're finally out of Ontario and onto the prairies, golden wheat fields stretching to the horizon. From the dome car I spot a pair of ospreys who've built their nest on a gantry spanning the railroad. Alberta's oilfields are well-known but yes, there really are nodding-horse pumps beside the tracks, beef ranches too. In the morning an amazing vista of the Battle River opens up to our right.

The Rockies are at first just a blue shadow on the horizon. As the train begins to climb, passengers cluster in the dome car, in awe at how massive these mountains are, filling the sky. The chalky-blue Athabasca River tumbles along on our left, and to our right a family of big-horn sheep balances on the sheer mountainside, the ram showing off his great curled horns. We arrive in Jasper this afternoon, after two and a half days' steady travel.

I've decided to spend four days here, picking up a car to explore the stunning Icefields Parkway and visit the Athabasca glacier. I'll join the train again on Monday.


After four days of jaw-dropping sightseeing I check my bag at Jasper's pretty little stone station, and gather with other passengers in the afternoon sunshine. This train is a mirror-image of the one I left on Thursday. I have to get my train legs back and learn how to sleep on the train all over again. Back in the dome car, sipping champagne, I have a wonderful view of Mount Robson and the Yellowhead Pass. The couple from Canberra, Australia, who stopped off in Edmonton, is back on the train too, and I meet another couple from South Africa.

We're passing through lower, gentler country now, and the sky's no longer dominated by mountains. On our right the Thompson River rushes west, milky green from suspended glacial rock flour, and boiling with rapids. Pretty soon we see tall trees, the Douglas firs, and as we approach Vancouver the scenery gets lush and tamer, wide swaths of cultivated green stretching away on each side. Tall trees dominate the suburbs of Vancouver, and pretty soon we're coasting through the backyards and industrial landscape of the city.

It's a bright, sunny morning. The train glides to a stop in the station with a final hiss of the brakes. As I climb down the steps for the last time I feel like a mariner returned from a long sea voyage with so many stories to tell. You won't get that on a plane.

For details ...

VIARail 1 888 842 7245 (1 888VIA RAIL), or visit **www.viarail.ca**.

Fares vary considerably depending on the season. I paid \$1308.04 Canadian for my trip. Two seniors can ride the rails in a lower bunk – secluded and comfy – in shoulder season (May) for \$1231.72 Canadian, total fare for two. Double bedrooms are in demand in high season, and cost more. 

EXPLORING SALT SPRING ISLAND

Story and photos by Nancy Macdonald

Leaving Toronto with its extreme heat alerts of July 2006 for the British Columbia coast on 1 August, proved to be a welcome respite. Perfect weather, warm in the sun and cool in the shade. I know I was exceptionally lucky as the following two and a half months only produced the equivalent of one day of light rain.

I spent the first five weeks in the home of friends on Salt Spring Island, one of the larger of the gulf islands after Vancouver Island. A five-minute taxi ride will take you from the Victoria Airport to the ferry dock at Swartz Bay. What a thrill to dig a fleece out of my suitcase for the half hour ride to the south ferry terminal of Salt Spring Island at Fulford Harbour. Unless you are bringing a car, it was suggested that you book a taxi to meet your ferry. Silver Shadow 1 250 537 3030 or Amber Cab 1 250 537 3277

The main town of Ganges can supply most of the necessities of life for island residents and many treats for tourists. The Visitor Information Centre has accommodation suggestions and activity ideas like kayaking lessons with tours allowing close-up views of the shore line, 1 866 216 2936 or www.saltspringtoday.com.

My love is exploring and hiking. Mount Maxwell at 1975 feet is a challenge but the views of Burgoyne Bay, Fulford Harbour and across Sansun Narrows of Vancouver Island are worth, at least, the drive up. There are many trails through Ruckle Park on the south east side of the island. There is an original farm set up

as a museum. They used to row to Vancouver to pick up the mail. Picnic tables are set up to enjoy the boat and ferry traffic of Captain Passage.

A daily walk took me by at least a dozen Harbour Seals sinking a long dock under their weight. A Great Blue Heron usually stood guard at one end of the dock. The eight-inch diameter, five-point blue starfish cling to rocks at low tide. We saw the multi-pointed sunburst starfish and graceful jellyfish in the water near the dock at Fernwood. No swimming there. Salt Spring Island may be the best setting for the rare Arbutus trees. Old leaves drop and new leaves grow at the same time. Brilliant copper red, thin bark peels off to reveal olive green trunks. Small-leaved Gary Oak are also a rare and beautifully sculptured tree.

Western birds are numerous. My favourite sighting was a Barred Owl gazing down from a branch about five feet above my head with its "big, moist, brown eyes" as described in the bird book. In Vancouver parks, I saw signs warning of the menacing, aggressive Barred Owls on the park trails. The California Quail families were a different menace as father remains standing in the middle of the road to protect his brood. A Pileated Woodpecker, with its flaming red crest, pulled huge pieces off the tall pines. They can damage homes as well. The small deer will destroy any gardens not protected by nine-foot fences. They may even climb up on your porch to eat from the hanging baskets. Keep a sharp look-out when driving too.

Salt Spring is well known for its arts and crafts. The best way to see these during summer and fall is at the Saturday Market in Ganges. There is some food. Yellow and pink beets, dark purple potatoes, hand-braided garlic. Blackberry yogurt popsicles are for sale, also flavoured goat and sheep cheeses to go with the creative breads of the Salt Spring Island Bread Company. My favourite was the loaf with fruit, nuts and ginger. Most booths in the market feature arts and crafts: local photography and painting, hemp clothing, tie-dyed batik jackets and scarves and many other items are on display. Some young and old hippies add great colour. The Visitor Centre has a map of studio locations



Kayaking along the Salt Spring Island coast

throughout the island you can visit year round. The Salt Spring Winery offers tours.

Artcraft, in historic Mahon Hall, has been showing and selling the quality work of artspeople for thirty-six years. I liked the weaving, both in wool and silk, of Donna Vanderwekken from Ravensbluff Farm. She raises her own sheep, guarded by Indiana Jones, a llama. Painting is also featured in the Robert Bateman Gallery of the modern Art Spring Theatre. Also, author talks, music concerts and plays keep up a high standard of entertainment.

Restaurants are plentiful and I've indicated some under my favourites below. Accommodation of all types is available. I toured the several listed below. The Visitor Centre has lists as well.

Whether you have time for a short visit, arrive by ferry, yacht or take a float plane to Ganges Harbour from Vancouver, you will find your own interests. Like me, you will hope to return to Salt Spring Island often.

Some personal choices ...

Accommodation:

Seabreeze Inne, a short drive out of Ganges, offers views, a gazebo, hot tub, bbq's and some self-catering rooms. Located at 101 Bittancourt Road., Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2K2, tel: 1 800 434 4112, www.seabreezeinne.com, rates Nov. to May from \$59, June to Sept. \$115.

Green Acres Lakeside Cottage Resort, has 1- and 2-bedroom cottages on St. Mary Lake at 241 Langs Road, S.S.I., BC V8K 1N3, tel: 1 800 667 0774.

Beachfront at Vesuvius, oceanfront vacation suites at 120 Langley Road, tel: 1 877 538 1601 www.beachfrontvesuvius.com

Time to splurge? If so, consider **Hastings House Country Estate**, listed in *1000 Places to Visit Before You Die*, overlooking Ganges Harbour. 1 800 661 9255 www.hastingshouse.com, rates \$360 to \$910 (for a 3-bedroom cottage).

Restaurants:

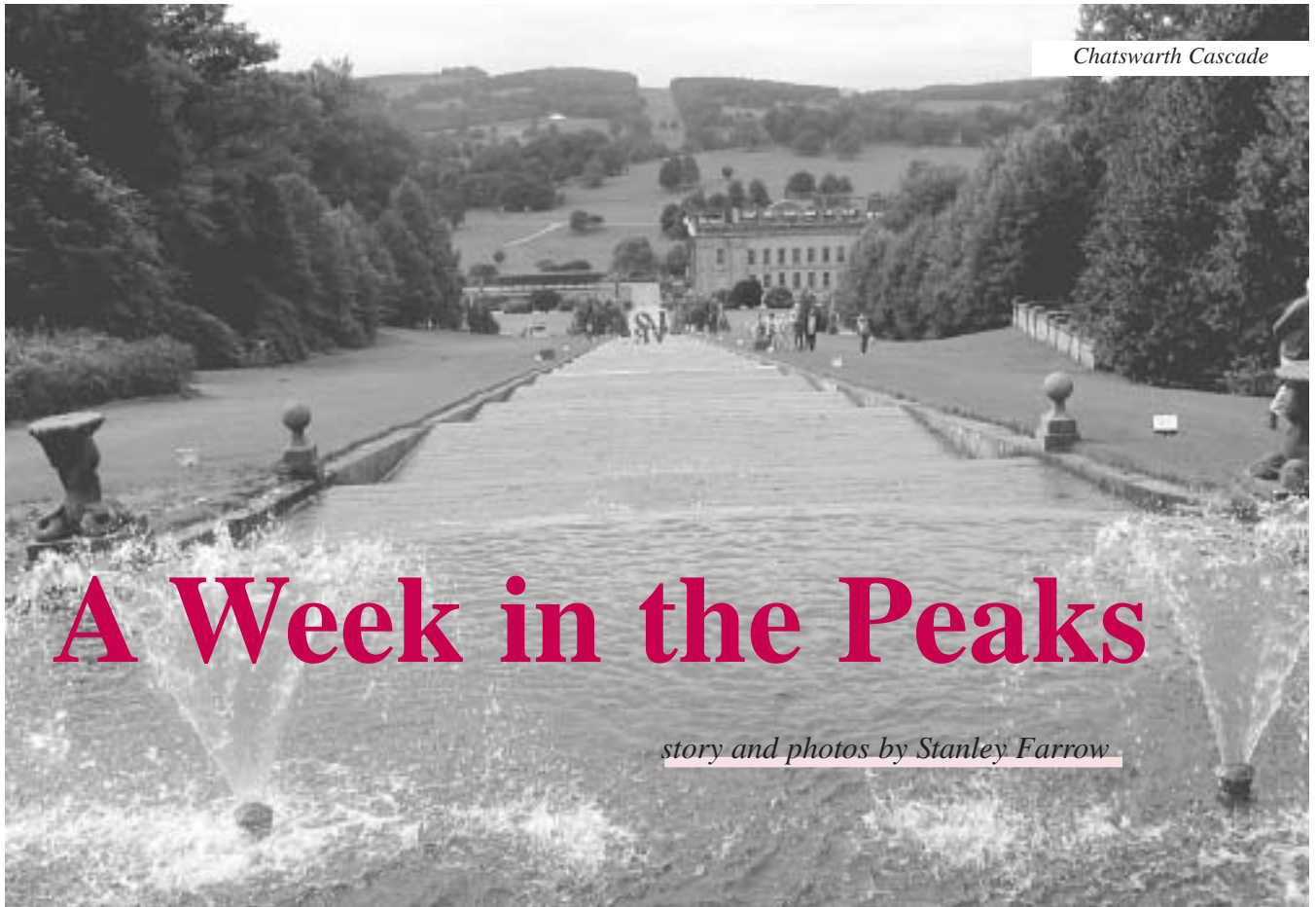
... or splurge on dinner perhaps! **Hastings House Dining Room**, as above, has a fabulous gourmet menu including Salt Spring lamb and wild Pacific sockeye salmon.

In Ganges on the Harbour, I also enjoyed **Oyster Catcher** tel: 537 5041, plus **Calvin's Bistro** tel: 538 5551 and **Tree House Café** for its patio with music under the stars. (Huge servings here ... best to share!), tel: 653 4833 plus **Auntie Pesto** for wonderful sandwiches. Worth the drive north to Fernwood is the **Raven Street Market Café**, tel: 537 2273.

Arts and Entertainment:

Art Spring Theatre in Ganges has art exhibitions, speakers, music and plays: www.art-spring.ca

Art Craft for art exhibitions and sales: www.artcraftgallery.ca



A Week in the Peaks

story and photos by Stanley Farrow

In late summer, 2006, my wife and I spent a delightful week in Derbyshire, England, as part of a holiday to explore family roots. (Mine go back to nearby Lincolnshire, but Barb's own parents and older brothers emigrated from Derbyshire in 1929.) A self-catering cottage and a rental car formed the basis of our stay.

As we had done on a previous visit to the Cotswolds, we searched out suitable accommodation through English Country Cottages, represented in Canada by Hearthstone Holidays in North Vancouver. Their huge catalogue can be a bit daunting, but, since we could narrow down our needs to two people and the Peak District, our task was eased considerably. And, as we discovered in the Cotswolds, the catalogue could not do justice to the real thing.

Orchard Cottage, like so many others in England, is part of a converted stable building. It sits on the grounds of Horsleygate Hall, a 17th century estate about five miles north-west of Chesterfield. There is another self-catering cottage in the same stables complex, and the main house, besides being home to Margaret and Rob Ford, is run as a three-room Bed and Breakfast. Our cottage is the only one that can be booked through English Country Cottages.

Inside the stone walls, Rob has designed and built a wonderfully cozy self-contained unit with an ample kitchen, dining and sitting area on the main floor overlooked by a

double-bedded loft. The bathroom facilities are up a separate set of stairs on a "mezzanine" floor to the rear of the main downstairs area. Three skylights in the peaked roof brighten the interior, as does a large picture window by the dining table, which overlooks the large yard between the stables and the house. The door which once graced what is now the window acts as the main part of the dining table! Through the window you can enjoy the antics of a rooster, hens, and guinea fowl, plus, on occasion, the Fords' hunting hound.

The kitchen has a large armoire to hold dishes and non-perishable food items. There is ample cupboard space for the pots and pans, cutlery, etc. which are also supplied. The refrigerator is rather small, not really up to handling a week's provisions, but it was fun to shop more frequently as we toured. The range/oven is a Rayburn, somewhat of a mystery to us both. Gas-powered, it remains on constantly and doubles as a source of heat for the cottage (supplemented by a wood-burning stove, which we never used). I left it to my wife to master its intricacies!

The sitting area is very cozy, partly tucked in under the stairway and the floor of the loft. It includes a sofa and chairs, some books and games, as well as brochures for local attractions, a small television set and a radio/CD player. Above, the bedroom has a very limited clothes cupboard, but an ample dresser. The bed is quite comfortable, but we did



above: Wardlow Well Dressing
below: our Orchard Cottage

need to open the skylight window above it since the heat from the Rayburn tended to rise. There are blinds that can be pulled over the skylights if the morning sunlight is too bright, but we were there in September, when mornings come later.

One disadvantage of the bathroom's location was revealed whenever we needed to use it at night, finding our way down the stairs to the main floor and then back up the half-flight in the dark - not an insurmountable problem, especially if we left a small light on in the bathroom. We also largely avoided using the "shower", the regular hand-held coil with a shower-head, and used the full bath-tub facilities instead. One interesting note is that the bathroom, because of the slope of the land, is actually on the ground level of a small patio for the cottage's users, right outside the window by the toilet! We ate our last night's meal outdoors on the patio just before sunset.

The grounds are quite awesome. Margaret and Rob have restored acres of gardens around the house, where we spent the better part of one sunny morning pretending that we were British aristocracy. The Fords grow a lot of the fruit and vegetables they serve in the B&B in another garden plot. And, as our cottage name implies, there is a large apple

orchard behind it. There are still stables and meadows on the grounds, where locals can keep their horses. But be forewarned! There is also a hunt club a couple of fields away, and we did hear the dogs and the hunting horns on a few mornings (before we arose). Otherwise, the area is very quiet, since the estate is off a very narrow village road in rural countryside, with a footpath by a babbling brook nearby. (I walked part of it one evening at dusk.)

For provisions on the day of our arrival (the only absolutely miserable weather on our whole trip) we were directed to a very modern Sainsbury's supermarket in Dronfield, about 3 miles away. But we later discovered a Farm Shop in Dronfield Woodhouse, about half that distance, with a staff member who had recently visited Ontario. We also added bits and pieces in town markets and local stores during our various outings.

Those outings included two visits to Chatsworth, the world-famous home of the Dukes of Devonshire (not Derbyshire!), and only 15 minutes away from "our home." On the first, we were lucky enough to attend the annual Chatsworth Country Fair, held on the first week-end in September. One day is not enough to see it all, with rows of tent-booths selling everything under the sun, a large area for midway rides, acres set aside for displays and competitions, from horses and buggies to highland dancing, from pipe bands to stone wall construction. And, of course, lots to eat! The previous day's downpour had rendered the grounds a muddy mess and had wiped out the hoped-for hot-air balloons and parachutists. But we did sit in the stands for an impressive vintage car drive-past (about 150 vehicles) and a display of professional dog training. The locals had their wellies on, dressed for the occasion. And the best-behaved dogs in the world accompanied their owners around the fair. It was a very special outing.

Two days later we returned to take the standard tour of Chatsworth House itself, a truly impressive home in the valley of the River Derwent and the setting for numerous movies, including Mr Darcy's home in the most recent film version of *Pride and Prejudice*. We can recommend renting the audio guide to assist on a tour of the interior, with much of the commentary by the present Duke. Again, it is a full day's outing to see the interior and the grounds, without feeling rushed. Highlights for me were the lavishly-appointed dining room and the views over the countryside from the top of the Cascade, the series of pools and waterfalls running down the hillside behind the House.

All our various tours were an easy drive from our home base. We visited Bakewell, home of the famous pudding. Several local shops vie for the claim to have baked the original! It was Market Day, so the town was crowded, but we simply enjoyed mixing with the shoppers and listening to the sales pitches. One local confessed to me that he came every week just to watch the routine of one successful towel salesman (successful enough that we now have his towels in our bathroom!). It is also well worth the climb up North Church Street to visit the Old House Museum. The oldest house in

town dates back to the time of Henry VIII. Each of twelve rooms is set aside with displays on different aspects of life in Derbyshire over the years. And all visitors must take time to walk across and then wander downstream to look back at the 13th century Bridge on the River Wye (sorry about that!).

On our way home from this visit, we stopped to view the often-photographed (justly) view over Monsal Dale with the now-disused (except for hikers) railway viaduct above the River Wye. About two miles further along the back road, we discovered a freshly-completed well dressing in the village of Wardlow, honouring St. George. This area of England is virtually alone in continuing the tradition of decorating moist-clay-in-wooden-frame "altars" with flowers and other plant materials in pictorial form, then dedicating them, usually on a Sunday, perhaps originally in thanks for abundant well-water.

On the day that we visited the town of Chesterfield (to explore family roots in the Library), we came upon a tent in which a group of volunteers were working on their own well dressing, also featuring St. George, due to be dedicated in four more days. Despite their deadline, they patiently explained the process to the many visitors who dropped by. The tent had been erected beside the Church of St. Mary and All Saints, a town landmark because of its twisted spire. This whole central area of Chesterfield, including the market square, is now a pedestrian precinct, making the town a much more attractive destination than we had anticipated.

On each of our two remaining days in Derbyshire, we indulged in a kind of double bill, with different visits in the morning and the afternoon. We drove through the most spectacular scenery of our sojourn to Castleton and cave country. There are about half a dozen natural or partly man-made (through mining) caverns in the vicinity. We chose Treak Cliff because of its Blue John Stone (blue and yellow - French bleu-jaune). It is quite a climb to the entrance (definitely not wheel-chair accessible!), and the interior is very damp, with constant dripping water, but well worth the visit, especially if you, like us, arrive just before noon in off-season, and have the guide to yourselves. Just don't panic when they turn off all the lights!

We emerged from the cavern even higher up the hill-face, with an awe-inspiring view down over Castleton and the surrounding valley. And, in town, we discovered a very restful outdoor garden patio at the Rose Cottage Café. The ambience and the food were both memorable, on a glorious sunny September afternoon. We had a chat with the new co-owner, who has really refurbished the property and its menu. Well worth a stop!

A drive through rocky Winnats Pass took us on to Buxton, the Peak District's most famous spa town. It was a treat to wander through the Georgian atmosphere of the Pavilion and its gardens by the River Wye and to wander up the hillside for a view from the War Memorial down over the Crescent and the Opera House and across to the dome of the Royal Devonshire and the gables of the Palace Hotel.

On our last morning, we shed our jackets in the warm

sunshine, to hike the pathways in Dovedale. The narrow valley of the River Dove, on the border of Nottinghamshire, often necessitates rather steep climbs beside and often above the river. Wheelchairs can travel as far as the famous stepping stones across the river, and no further. But the constant sound of busy water makes the entire venture quite relaxing, despite the exertion. We can also recommend the Isaak Walton Hotel, right by the entranceway to Dovedale Park, for a refreshing lunch. It looked rather upscale for accommodation, but beautifully situated.

Our route homewards took us past the blue waters of Carsington Water (a good place to camp), through the tourist-thronged gorge of Matlock Bath on the River Derwent and on to Haddon Hall, our final visit. In contrast to the splendour of near-by Chatsworth, this home has retained a darker Medieval and Tudor feel. But it, too, has had its share of glory as a film and T.V. setting. Here, there are guides stationed in various rooms to answer questions and recount behind-the-scenes stories. Our visit served as a very romantic reminder of how far history, the country's and our own family's can stretch back in this land.

A short drive to Manchester airport in the morning would take us back to our present home in Canada, but we feel we can now call Derbyshire home as well. 🇬🇧

Some details ...

* **English Country Cottages** can be accessed through **Hearthstone Holidays**, 202 Lynn Valley Centre, 1199 Lynn Valley Road, North Vancouver, BC V7J 3H2, tel: 604 980 8301, e-mail: Jolie Peach at jolie@atlyntravel.com In 2006, Orchard Cottage rented for £415 (about \$860.00) for the first week in September. Rates vary with the season. You can also access ECC's website at: www.english-country-cottages.co.uk

* **Horsleygate Hall**, Horsleygate Lane, Holmesfield, Derbyshire S18 7WD, tel: [011 44] 289 0333 www.2stay.com/uk/hotels/horsley/html.

* We rented an automatic Ford Focus for just over two weeks from **Hertz**, through **Auto Europe** (as arranged by our local travel agent, **Jane Travel and Cruise**, in Scarborough) for \$571.71. It was picked up and returned at Manchester Airport.

* www.derbyshireuk.net gives comprehensive information on Derbyshire, and will certainly indicate how much more there is to see and do than I have recorded here. Other related web addresses:

Bakewell: www.bakewelluk.co.uk

Buxton: www.visitbuxton.co.uk

Chatsworth: www.chatsworth.org

Chesterfield: www.visitchesterfield.info

Haddon Hall: www.haddonhall.co.uk

Old House Museum: www.oldhousemuseum.org.uk

Treak Cliff Cavern: www.bluejohnstone.com

Well Dressing: www.welldressing.com (an interesting site, with background information, plus a schedule of the year's well dressing dedication dates throughout the area).

Here at TTS we have been hoping for news from New Orleans for a quite a while ... and now our loyal 'reporters' Judy and Ted van der Veen have delivered!

New Orleans – Ready and Waiting for You

by Judy and Ted van der Veen

New Orleans – the Big Easy, the Birthplace of Jazz, one of America's top tourist attractions – but since Hurricane Katrina, this vibrant city has, perhaps understandably, been avoided as a tourist destination. But in January of this year, almost a year and a half after the storm, we spent two wonderful weeks here, and would encourage you to do the same. The French Quarter is alive and well, but the entire city needs the financial input of tourism. Everyone we met – restaurateurs, hoteliers, streetcar drivers, tour leaders, musicians – thanked us for visiting their city, and encouraged us to tell our friends to “Come on down.” Everything the visitor expects from New Orleans is available, and what's more, because there are no crowds, all the attractions are more accessible. There are deals to be found, the food and the music are as appealing as ever and most attractions have kept their admission fees at pre-storm levels. The city's new motto could be “We shall overcome” but, being New Orleanians, they will stick to “Laissez les bons temps rouler!” The recent bad publicity about shortage of police and increasing violent crime is not helping, but it does not apply in the tourist quarter at all. Also, the French Quarter was spotless; a friend who was there last June mentioned how dirty it had been, but no more.

The period from American Thanksgiving to Christmas and from New Years to Mardi Gras is typically slow and the weather can be ideal. While the January average high is 52° F, we enjoyed temperatures ranging from 43° to 78°, around 65°/70° most days, with mainly sunny skies, although the winter storms that crossed Texas into Missouri did bring some rain and cold. Generally, it was very pleasant to walk around with a light jacket, some days we felt overdressed, one day we had breakfast at a sidewalk café, and often strolled or sat along the river basking in the sunshine.

The storm did relatively little damage in the French Quarter, and most businesses have re-opened, although some have reduced opening hours, and nearly every shop and restaurant has a sign in the window offering work. Restaurant reservations are rarely needed, and anything

more than ten minutes would be considered a long wait; every week another place will re-open or expand its hours. The renowned **Antoine's**, founded in 1840, is serving only 200 meals a day some days, rather than their usual thousands. The second-oldest restaurant (established 1856), tiny **Tujague's**, with no printed menu, still offers 5-course *prix fixe* meals with a choice of four entrees plus coffee for US\$32-39 per person, and there might be only four or five tables occupied. The **Gumbo Shop** is usually quite busy, as is the **Red Fish Grill**, one of the famous Brennan restaurants. The popular and upscale **Commander's Palace** in the Garden District has only been re-opened since December, and reservations are recommended here, particularly for dinner, but more because of its location away from the busier French Quarter, where there is always somewhere else just a few steps away if your first choice appears crowded. Several restaurants have coupons offering a free bottle of wine for two people ordering dinner, a free appetizer or cocktail per person, or a free entrée for the second person.


Hotels, too, are suffering from lack of clientele, and there are some excellent deals available if one asks for their best price. Normally, timeshare exchange availability in New Orleans is scarce, but not at the moment. Some of the more popular ones have been running at a 35 % occupancy rate, and if no exchange is available, the resorts will give RCI or II owners a substantial discount on unit rentals. We had exchanges to two very good timeshare resorts at opposite ends of the French Quarter. In the Warehouse District, **Plaza Suites** is a Gold Crown resort, RCI #4028, open since 1996 in an historic building converted from an 1870s fire-hall, with luxurious, spacious units and a second-floor atrium with a two-storey high stained glass roof where continental breakfast (really a sugar fix!) is available every morning. Harrah's Casino is practically next door, if that appeals, and it is less than ten minutes walk to Canal Street where the French Quarter begins, or about half an hour's walk in the other direction to the Garden District. The excellent **D-Day Museum** and **Ogden Museum of Southern Art** (with jazz after hours on Thursdays) are close by, as are several restau-

rants, including the very popular **Mother's** where you will stand in line to get into the cafeteria-style diner for local favourites such as jambalaya or po'boys. (Go for a late breakfast to minimize the wait.) However, this area has little outdoor ambience; the action is definitely in the French Quarter, and 15-20 minutes walk will take you to Bourbon Street or Jackson Square. Our second exchange, **Hotel de la Monnaie**, recently elevated to Silver Crown status, RCI #3647, is on Esplanade Avenue, across from the Old US Mint (closed since Katrina), and behind the Market, at the downriver and quieter end of the French Quarter. It is an older resort (1984) with smaller units, but cosy and comfortable. Frenchman Street, four blocks of restaurants and contemporary jazz clubs favoured by the locals, including the popular **Snug Harbor**, is around the corner. Most of the French Market is under renovation since Katrina, the farmer's market has not yet returned, but the flea market is going strong, and most of the shops along the street are back in business. The **Palm Court Jazz Café** is about five minutes walk away; very good dinners at an excellent price are served Wednesday-Sunday evenings with excellent live traditional jazz. Ten minutes on foot will take you to Jackson Square where the **Café du Monde** is still open 24 hours a day, still serving coffee and beignets as they have since 1850 (now also hot chocolate or orange juice); on a warm sunny weekend afternoon you might have to wait a couple of minutes for a table, but not usually. There will often be a musician or two playing on the sidewalk here, or elsewhere, but there are only about half as many street musicians as there were before the hurricane. Of course, you will want to go to **Preservation Hall**, the ramshackle old home of jazz on St. Peter Street. Currently, they are open Thursday-Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons, but that will change as tourism improves. Admission is just \$8, and if you arrive about 20-30 minutes before the doors open, you will likely get one of the few bench seats (there are also cushions on the floor), or standing room if you are late; the long queues hoping to get in are, for the moment, a thing of the past. The **Steamboat Natchez** also offers dinner-jazz cruises on the Mississippi with the *Dukes of Dixieland* several nights a week; check the current schedule locally. As for getting around, the French Quarter is quite walkable; you can get from any point A to point B in 20-30 minutes. The Riverfront and Canal Street streetcars are running, with diminished service, but the Charles Street streetcar to the Garden District and the universities is not expected to be back in operation until late 2007.

New Orleans is more than good food and music. Most of the museums are now open, with the exception of some of the older, smaller restored homes. The **Audubon Complex (Aquarium, Zoo, Imax Theater ... see below)** is in operation. But do check the hours locally, as they may differ from published materials. You will want to take a walking tour of the French Quarter; there are self-guided walks available from AAA, online or the Tourist Office on

Jackson Square, as well as guided ones at reasonable prices. (Also, free guided walks by the National Parks Service.) Not all tour companies are operating; however, the largest, **Gray Line**, does offer a selection, although not as frequently as pre-Katrina. Their ticketing office is on the pier behind the Jackson Brewery shopping complex; tours leave from here, there are various discounts and coupons available, including 10% for AAA members. All of their tour leader-drivers are residents of the city who add their personal perspective to their "spiel". The **Swamp and Bayou Tour** takes you out on the bayous and canals with a local Cajun boat-driver to view alligators, birds, and whatever wildlife appears that day. From running three or four tours a day pre-Katrina, they are now lucky if they can fill four tours a week. **Oak Alley** is the only plantation tour offered at the moment, with about a hundred visitors a day now instead of over a thousand pre-Katrina.

We highly recommend that you take one of the post-Katrina tours; this is absolutely essential to understand how horrific the storm was, the terrible impact it has had on all levels of New Orleans society, what is being done (or not) to remedy the problems with the levees, the massive clean-up that is still underway and will be for a long time to come. Don't be squeamish about this; one is not taken into the slums to gawk at the homeless and the destitute, but you will see the equivalent of a ghost town with cars still sitting in carports crushed under the weight of half-collapsed houses. Katrina affected the entire city, the rich and the poor. Be sure to see the film *Hurricane on the Bayou* at the Imax Theater adjacent to the Aquarium as well; filming was already underway before Katrina to publicize the need to protect the wetlands; filming during and after the storm was then incorporated as the theme was reworked to show what "did" happen, not just what "might" happen. Enjoy the French Quarter, the jazz, the food, the atmosphere of a warm and friendly city, but don't limit yourself to that and come away thinking "Katrina wasn't really that bad after all." Above all, just go ... it is a grand place to experience, and the entire populace will thank you. Please be generous with your tips because there are now so few of us to keep the economy going. Visit www.neworleansonline.com or www.neworleansinfo.com, where you will find general tourist information and downloadable coupons as well as links to individual attractions.

TTS note: For those who would prefer to include New Orleans in a Louisiana tour, the following Canadian Operators offer programmes to that State: Alio, Fun Sun Vacations, Intair, Holiday House, Pacific Sun Spots, Royal Scenic Holidays while Collette Vacations and DeNure have motor coach tours to New Orleans. There are still no direct (non-stop) flights from Canada to MSY, but airlines servicing New Orleans include: American, Continental and United (code sharing with Air Canada), plus Delta, Northwest and USAirways. 

BE AWARE AND DECLARE!

by Ann Wallace

As frequent travellers, we are all aware that there are regulations governing what can and cannot be brought back into Canada. Meat, cheese, bulbs with earth clinging to them, illegal items such as ivory, are all obviously banned. But can you imagine doing one of the following?

* Before your flight home to Canada you buy a yummy-looking sandwich at a Paris airport in case the airline lunch offered doesn't appeal. But the lunch looks fine and you forget about the sandwich.

* When you bought the sandwich you also bought an apple. You forgot about that too!

* Perhaps you like to travel with some trail mix? Why not? With its dried fruit, nuts and seeds it's a good, healthy snack. You see some in London and, with your homeward journey in mind, you purchase a few little packages.

* When shopping in Rome, you see a cute little cushion that would complement Aunt Mabel's décor. You haven't bought her a gift in a long time, so you decide to treat her.

* When in Morocco you've treated yourself to a number of items, including a trendy leather overnight bag that was quite a bargain, and a suede jacket at a fraction of the price you'd pay at home.


* Travelling through some African countries you make a collection of wooden carvings from local craftspeople depicting some of the animals you've seen on safari. They're just wood, after all.

Yet ... if you don't declare the above items you will be breaking the law. The sandwich may contain meat or dairy products that could potentially introduce animal disease into Canada. The feathers and/or down in that

pretty cushion may be also be restricted or prohibited for the same reason. The Health of Animals Act regulates such items entering this country. The apple poses a risk of introducing pests that have no natural enemy in this country and the same can be said of the nuts, dried fruit and seeds in the trail mix. These items, together with seeds for planting and wood products, which may also contain pests or micro-organisms, are controlled under government Plant Protection Regulations. Skins, hides, furs and other animal byproducts can carry viruses if not properly processed and are also subject to controls under the Health of Animals Act.

All these items *may* pose a very real risk to Canada's food supply, economy, environment and human health and it is because of these threats that Canada is so serious about protecting its borders.

If you find you have inadvertently brought in food items such as your sandwich or apple, tell a customs officer so that he/she can instruct you where to dispose of it safely. Declare the other items so that they can be inspected. If you declare them and they are not admissible they will merely be confiscated. If caught without declaring, prosecution and/or fines of up to C\$400 per item may be imposed.

Your customs declaration form reminds you, but remember to avoid contact with farm animals (including poultry), zoo animals or wildlife for five days after you return if you were exposed to similar animals while you were abroad. If you visited a farm or had contact with wild birds while abroad, you are requested not to visit a Canadian farm for 14 days. Even then, be sure the footwear you wore to the farm or when you had contact with wild birds is disinfected and your clothing is washed thoroughly and dried at a high temperature. Complete the appropriate areas of your Customs Declaration Card regarding farm visits so that your customs official can assist you and answer your questions. 

TRAVEL IDEAS ACROSS CANADA

compiled by Ann Wallace

ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

Friends coming from overseas this year? Or perhaps you've long promised yourself a stay in a lovely lodge in the Rockies? Check out the three properties of the Rocky Mountain Resorts group: Buffalo Mountain Lodge on Tunnel Mountain near **Banff**, Deer Lodge at **Lake Louise**, and Emerald Lake Lodge at **Field**, B.C. They all look so beautiful and promise a "true Canadian experience" in any season. Visit www.crmr.com and see if you're tempted! Some Sunday to Thursday packages make these resorts more affordable than over week-ends and they certainly look wonderful.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- **Hollyhock**, one of Canada's leading education retreat centres (located on **Cortes Island**) has their summer 2007 courses all lined up. Participants can choose to stay in ensuite private, rooms; in dorms or in luxury tents (with ocean-view hot tubs nearby!) and take courses in a wide variety of programmes: naturalist, kayaking and sailing, singing, writing, web design, yoga, professional development and so much more. Or you can merely visit and enjoy the island. For a comprehensive brochure call 1 800 933 6339 or visit www.hollyhock.ca
- Almost every year, at a tourism conference, I meet a delightful colleague who works for **Penticton Tourism**. Every year she encourages me to visit and I have yet to do so. However, I promised her I would one day, and that in the meantime I'd tell you that this lovely area of BC is home to dozens of great B&Bs, wineries with a variety of programmes and even "chef" dinner cruises. Visit www.penticton.ca and perhaps you'll visit before I do.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

- This coming season, **Maxxim Vacations**, those eastern specialists, are offering 10-day fly-drive tours of Newfoundland and Labrador, including hotel, rental car, local excursions and airfare from C\$1,869 from Toronto, Ottawa or Montreal or from C\$2,519 from Vancouver. For those who don't wish to drive themselves, motor coach tours and escorted programmes are also offered. Call 1 800 567 6666 or visit www.maxximvacations.com.
- You may also like to consider a tour or cruise in this province offered by **Wildland Tours**. Their small-group trips include a Northern Whale Study, and escorted programmes featuring UNESCO world heritage sites, humpbacks, puffins and other birds, icebergs, dog teams,

Northern Lights and more. Full details at www.adventure-newfoundland.com.

NOVA SCOTIA

- Three properties are grouped under the **Nova Scotia Signature Resorts** umbrella: the Pines Resort, the Keltic Lodge and Liscombe Lodge. All three look delightful, but the rustic cottages of Liscombe, on Nova Scotia's east shore just two hours from Halifax would, I feel, be especially appealing to readers of TTS. The resort offers 30 large rooms in its main lodge, overlooking the Liscombe River, and 1- and 2-bedroom chalets along the river, all with balconies and fireplaces. The resort offers kayaking, canoeing, tennis, hiking, birdwatching and programmes of outdoor activities for family fun. Glimpses of all resorts at www.signatureresorts.com or call 1 800 665 6343.
- Another group of properties in Nova Scotia is listed under the heading **Association of Unique Country Inns** and they look wonderful. To discover more and take a 'virtual tour' of this wonderful province visit www.unique-countryinns.com.
- Summer visitors to **Halifax** may like to make a note of the dates for the stirring and entertaining Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, due to take place this year 1-8 July. Visit www.nstattoo.ca for details. And more excitement in Halifax in that month: those tall ships will again be gathering there around 13-16 July. Details at www.wdcl.ca

ONTARIO

Living or journeying through Ontario during the April to October months? Take advantage of Ontario Heritage Trust's "Doors Open Ontario" to discover some natural and heritage sites that are not usually open to the public (and some that are) ... all free. Almost every town that you find yourself in, or live near, will have treats and surprises in store for you. The programme was launched in 2002 and since then nearly two million visits have been made to the participating sites. The brochure itself makes for some good reading. Call 416 325 5000 for your copy, or visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca or www.doorsopenontario.on.ca and plan some great day trips in Ontario. (Morrisburg, featured in this edition, will be a programme participant on 9 & 10 September.)

QUEBEC

- Two fine and famous Québec inns on **Lake Massawippi** – **Manoir Hovey** and **Auberge Ripplecove** (just a one hour drive from Montréal) – are offering inn-to-inn biking

packages this May. Itineraries allow participants to explore the beautiful countryside and towns of the Eastern Townships, to enjoy each chef's gourmet packed lunch and dinner at the end of each day at the inns. The packages are for four nights – two in each inn – and the price from C\$455 pp., dbl., includes accommodation, full country breakfasts, all gratuities, picnic lunches (in your gift picnic backpack), gourmet dinners, trail maps and use of the inns' fleet of bicycles. And your car and luggage will be transferred between the inns for you. For more information visit www.bikeinntoinn.com or call 819 842 2421.

● **Le Québec Maritime** is the association that covers all tourism activities in the lower **St. Lawrence River, the Gaspé, the North Shore** and the **Îles de la Madeleine**. Every year they produce tempting offers for the adventurous or 'good-food-in-a-luxurious inn'-style traveler, from inns on the Îles to cruises on the great River. How about an eco-tourism excursion to wild Brion Island? A stay in a quaint inn on a wild island in the St. Lawrence? A night or more in a lighthouse keeper's house? Or in a yurt? A journey along the Lighthouse Trail? There are so many offerings it would take a whole issue of this magazine to

describe them all. Instead visit www.quebecmaritime.ca and follow the links that appeal to you.

ACROSS CANADA

It's true, they are not inexpensive, but Canadians should be proud of our many **Fairmont Hotels**, which are 100 years old this year and which are not only full of fascinating histories but have been world leaders in hotel environmental initiatives since 1990. To celebrate, one landmark hotel per month will host a complimentary (or small fee for charity) "Open Doors" event which includes behind-the-scenes guided tours for both guests and public. After the tours, which will run throughout the day, participants are invited to enjoy afternoon tea or a centennial-inspired cocktail or even do a little shopping at Fairmont retail outlets which a 20% discount on all merchandise will be available to AmEx card users. Toronto's Royal York will be open in May, Ottawa's Chateau Laurier in June, Banff Springs in November and the Empress in Victoria in December. Other hotels will be added and overseas properties are also included. Visit www.fairmont.com/centennial for updates and further information.

airline news

● **oneworld** adds three new members: **Japan Airlines (JAL)**, **Malév Hungarian Airlines** and **Royal Jordanian Airlines** began **oneworld** services and benefits on 1 April in the global airline alliance's biggest expansion since its launch eight years ago. Five other members of the JAL Group will join **oneworld** alongside **Japan Airlines** on the same day. With the expansion, some 20 million frequent flyers from these airlines will be able to earn and redeem mileage awards on all other **oneworld** carriers. Top-tier (Emerald and Sapphire) members will have access to the 400 airport lounges worldwide offered by the alliance's airlines. Eligible members of these programmes will soon be sent new membership cards, bearing the **oneworld** logo. Also 1 April, **Aer Lingus** will withdraw from the alliance, with its focus on low fare point-to-point passengers no longer in line with **oneworld**'s strategy of providing services for premium, multi-sector, frequent, international travellers. Three other airlines are lining up to become part of **oneworld** this year: **Dragonair**, **LAN Argentina** and **LAN Ecuador**, all as affiliate members.

● **Aer Lingus** will now charge extra for every bag checked on their within-Europe (not trans-Atlantic) flights. Trans-Atlantic passengers will still be able to check 2 bags at no charge. The airline has also cut back on its trans-Atlantic baggage weight limits, with passengers allowed a maximum of 80 lbs. of checked luggage in two bags (the previous weight was 100 lbs in two bags). **Aer Lingus** is also

restricting carry-on bags to a 6 kg (13 lbs) limit on all flights (including trans-Atlantic) and limiting the size to 18"x14"x9" (22"x14"x9" is the more common allowable size).

Air Canada is expanding its US transborder network with the introduction of non-stop services from **Calgary** to **Seattle** (1 June) and between **Vancouver** and **Sacramento** (15 June). In addition, the airline is launching new non-stop service from **Calgary** to **Prince George, BC** on 1 June. All the new routes will be operated by **Air Canada Jazz**.

● **Air New Zealand** is offering customers **Pacific Island** stopover options at 'minimal fees' when they fly from **Vancouver** to **New Zealand** via Los Angeles. Stopover options include **Fiji, the Cook Islands, Tonga** or **Western Samoa** at \$150 per stop. Other new features include add-on fares for select Canadian and New Zealand cities while, looking forward, a new non-stop service between **Vancouver** and **Auckland** will begin in November of this year and significantly reduce travel time.

● As of 13 February this year, **British Airways** refuse to accept any bag that weighs more than 23 kg (50 lbs). Other airlines usually accept heavier bags and charge for the extra weight but now British Airways is refusing to carry heavy bags.

● **Harmony Airways** will increase its summer **Hawaii** flight schedule in May with additional service on both its **Toronto** and **Hawaii** routes, with non-stop flights between

Vancouver and **Maui** or **Honolulu** spread across the week and two daily flights between **Toronto** and **Vancouver**.

• **Skyservice Airlines** will begin scheduled air services to **Zagreb, Croatia** and **Belgrade, Serbia** in June. On 18 June, the airline will launch direct scheduled service from **Toronto** to **Belgrade**, and two days later direct scheduled service from **Toronto** to **Zagreb**. In addition, Skyservice will operate scheduled service to Portugal and Italy this summer.

• In the coming June, **Zoom Airlines** will be launching

new scheduled routes from **Halifax** to **Paris** and from **Halifax** to **Belfast, Northern Ireland**. Flights can be purchased now at prices from \$199 each way.

• News of a new website you may find useful. By visiting **www.ParkSleepFly.com** or calling 1 800 PARKING, travellers can book an overnight stay at one of over 750 hotels located just minutes from more than 120 airports in North America and Europe that offer free parking for 7-21 days and free shuttle service to and from every terminal.

at the galleries

We know many of our members plan Canadian city get-aways around “what’s on” at our art galleries. With that in mind, here’s a brief list of what is being planned at our major museums this year.

• This summer’s big exhibition at the **National Gallery of Canada** in Ottawa will be **Renoir Landscapes**. Ten years after **Renoir’s Portraits** set record attendance at the gallery, this exhibition is also expected to be a blockbuster, at this, its only Canadian venue. On view will be 60 rare works never before assembled by subject matter in this way. And the subject is sure to appeal to travellers, as they escape with Renoir into the countryside surrounding Paris as well as farther afield: to the Normandy coast, to French villages, to Venice and Naples, Monaco, Guernsey in Britain’s Channel Islands and event to share with the artist a glimpse of tourists in the kasbah of Algiers in mid-19th century. The exhibition will run from 8 June – 9 September 2007, with admission \$15 or less. Tickets may be purchased by calling 1 888 541 888 or on for more details visit **www.national.gallery.ca**

• And if you’re in Ottawa before June, don’t miss the **Ron Mueck** exhibition (on now until 6 May), also at the National Gallery. If you are unfamiliar with the work of this British mixed-media artist, you will be amazed as you are confronted with figures that seem to be alive with every detail: veins, wrinkles, moles, body hair etc. But what is most disconcerting is their size – always smaller or larger (*much* larger) than human scale. There’s a video showing Ron at work in his studio and we hear this exhibition has created quite a ‘buzz’ in Ottawa. Warning: much nudity.

• To Toronto now, where **Ancient Peru Unearthed: Golden Treasures of a Lost Civilization** opened at the **Royal Ontario Museum** on 10 March and will be on display until 6 August 2007. Consisting of about 120 objects – most of them gold – this wonderful exhibition celebrates one of the most important finds in archaeological history: the tomb of the Sicán Lord of Ancient Peru, unearthed in 1991. If you have travelled to Peru and know something

of the Incas, you will be especially fascinated by this celebration of the earlier Sicáns, a people who produced intricate and sophisticated metallurgical work and employed strange burial customs, which are revealed in this exhibition with a fascinating model. For young visitors, there’s an *Archaeological Excavation Dig* within the exhibition, where children can try their hand at “discovering” interesting artefacts. Bring your budding archaeologists and inspire them! Admission \$18 or less (\$5 after 4:30 p.m. on Fridays), call 416 586 8000 or visit **www.rom.on.ca** for information. (Reminder: Toronto CityPasses give admission to six attractions for \$55, a programme that includes ROM and the **Art Gallery of Ontario**.)

• Which brings us to the **AGO**, whose turn it is to host the touring exhibition **Emily Carr: New Perspectives on a Canadian Icon** this spring from 3 March to 20 May (and thereafter at the **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts** from 21 June to 23 September). There is so much revealed and so much to be learned at this exhibition of over 200 works, not only of the eccentric artist herself, but also of First Nations communities and our spectacular British Columbia landscapes through which Carr loved to travel. Admission \$15 or less, information at **www.ago.ca** or by calling 416 979 6608.

• And if you can never get your fill of museums, plan to be in Montréal on Sunday, 27 May, the day when tourists are invited to take part in **Montréal Museums Day**, when some 30 institutions will open their doors free of charge from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sound hectic? Well, to make your day easy there will be free shuttle-bus service between the sites. And if you plan to visit Montréal for that whole weekend, take advantage of the city’s **Sweet Deals** event: a reduction of 50% on the cost of a second night in a hotel room, gifts and special promotions and, if you travel by train (from Friday to Monday), **VIA** is offering a 35% discount on all Comfort Class journeys in the Quebec-Windsor corridor (and a 5% reduction in First Class). Full details (including a link to the train promotion) at **www.museesmontreal.org** or 1 800 BONJOUR, ex 867.

China ... Yangtze Spectacular

New itinerary
for 2007

FROM \$4,145 FOR 18 DAYS! Departing: 3 October 2007, Spring & Fall 2008



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!

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.

AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES departing:

Vancouver	\$4,145 pp/dbl	Victoria	\$4,195 pp/dbl
Calgary	\$4,420 pp/dbl	Edmonton	\$4,420 pp/dbl
Saskatoon/Regina	\$4,590 pp/dbl	Winnipeg	\$4,590 pp/dbl
Toronto	\$4,490 pp/dbl	Ottawa	\$4,490 pp/dbl
Montreal	\$4,490 pp/dbl	St. John's	\$4,850 pp/dbl
Halifax/Quebec	\$4,850 pp/dbl	London	\$4,850 pp/dbl
Single supplement \$1,195 (Sharing can be arranged.)			
Taxes and visas extra. Prices are subject to confirmation			

ADD-ON HONG KONG

4 days/3 nights \$1,288 pp/dbl
Single supplement \$544

ADD-ON BANGKOK

4 days/3 nights \$1,185 pp/dbl
Single supplement \$350

ADD-ON TOKYO

4 days/3 nights \$1,375 pp/dbl
Single supplement \$299

ADD-ON KYOTO

4 days/3 nights \$1,450 pp/dbl
Single supplement \$325

Your tour costs includes:

- Round-trip transpacific air fares on **Japan Airlines or Air Canada**
- 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

A new tour

CHINA SILK ROAD

Departing: 10 September 2007

Perhaps you are one of the many people who have come with The Travel Society on our China Yangtze Spectacular tour of China? Or perhaps you have always been fascinated by tales of the Silk Road? Whichever the case, we hope you will be thrilled to hear about our new, 20-day Silk Road tour. Come with us from Canada to Beijing, Urumqu, Kashgar, Turpan, Jiayuguan, Dunhuang and Xi'an before ending your tour in Shanghai. Lakes at sunset and mountains at dawn; lush vineyards and spectacular deserts; exotic walled cities and ancient ruins; colourful ethnic minorities, nomads, imams, merchants and saints; Great Bazaars

selling camels and donkeys, carpets and spices; caravansaries, gardens and pagodas; train trips and cultural shows and, would you believe, the 492 Mogao grottoes known as the Cave of the One-Thousand-Buddhas. All this and more you'll experience on this trip. Call us now for the detailed itinerary and start dreaming of discovering part of the fabled Silk Road of China.

AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES departing:

Victoria	\$5,490 pp/dbl	Vancouver	\$5,370 pp/dbl
Edmonton	\$5,500 pp/dbl	Calgary	\$5,500 pp/dbl
Winnipeg	\$5,620 pp/dbl	Halifax	\$6,100 pp/dbl
Toronto, Montreal & Ottawa	\$5,670 pp/dbl		
Single supplement \$1,100 Prices are subject to confirmation			

Your tour costs includes:

- Round trip transpacific air on Air Canada
- All domestic air and coach transportation
- All transfers and baggage handling
- 4-star accommodations
- 1 sleeper on overnight train
- 3 meals (except on free days in Beijing & Shanghai)
- Daily sightseeing
- Local English-speaking guides

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.



A 19-day tour with Cyril Payle at an incredible price ...

Spectacular South Africa

No charge
London stopover

Departures: 12 October 2007, Spring & Fall 2008

Come with The Travel Society to a land of wonder ... on a South African trip unlike any other. Designed especially for our members, this trip takes in all the highlights: Kruger National Park for game watching, the famous Garden Route, the beautiful wine region of Stellenbosch and the sights of incomparable Cape Town, including Cape Point, Chapman's Peak Drive and Robben Island. But on our trip you will do far more. You will tour the Great scarpment of Eastern Transvaal – a place so beautiful writers run out of adjectives – where you will visit God's Window, the Blyde see Johannesburg

and be escorted to Soweto for lunch in a Township house and jazz in a famous nightclub. You'll enter the Kingdom of Swaziland to meet the people and enjoy more game watching. Zululand is also on the itinerary, with its historical sites and unique entertainment traditions. You'll be driven through the Valley of a Thousand Hills to East London and take the famous Outeniqua Choo-Toe train from Knysna to George. You'll visit the Addo Elephant National Park and traverse the Little Karoo Desert – flanked by great mountain ranges – to see the Cango Caves. You'll travel in a luxury air-conditioned coach, you'll stay in lovely properties ranging from good hotels to charming chalets, you'll enjoy a wide variety of entertainment and you'll enjoy South Africa's delicious cuisine and wines and you'll be escorted all the way by Satour-accredited guides. Here at The Travel Society we know South Africa well ... and we can't imagine a more comprehensive, in-depth and fascinating tour of South Africa.

Your tour includes:

- Return international airfare on British Airways
- First-class accommodation throughout
- Luxury a/c coach
- Experienced Satour-accredited tour guides
- Special Travel Society experiences
- All meals; breakfast, light lunch and dinner
- All transfers with full luggage service
- All sightseeing fees (with no hidden extras)
- All taxes

PRICES INCLUDING AIR AND TAXES departing from:

Toronto, Montreal	\$7,680 pp/dbl
Ottawa	\$7,940 pp/dbl
Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg	\$7,940 pp/dbl
Halifax	\$8,040 pp/dbl

Single supplement \$850.00 (sharing can be arranged)

Prices are subject to confirmation

Pre-tour - Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe ~
3 days \$1,548 including Air

Pre-tour - Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park,
Botswana ~ 5 days \$2,946 including Air

Post-tour - Namibia & Etosha - Desert Wildlife
Experience ~ 4 days \$1,688 including Air

New Tours for 2007

- Peru - including Machu Picchu
- Chile, Patagonia & Easter Island
- Costa Rica - à la carte
- Africa - train tours
- Namibia and the Shongololo Express

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.



22 days from \$5,995

A Traveller's Turkey

Limited to 20 Members

Depart: 24 April & 11 September 2007 Spring & Fall 2008

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. 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: 22 Days

Toronto	\$6,275.00 pp/dbl	Ottawa	\$6,475.00 pp/dbl
Montreal	\$6,275.00 pp/dbl	Vancouver	\$6,395.00 pp/dbl
Edmonton	\$6,495.00 pp/dbl	Calgary	\$6,395.00 pp/dbl
Winnipeg	\$6,495.00 pp/dbl	Halifax	\$6,495.00 pp/dbl

Single supplement \$750 (Sharing can be arranged.)

Prices are subject to confirmation



Your tour includes:

- Round trip transatlantic flights with Air Canada/Lufthansa/British Airways
- 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
- All taxes

Small Ship

Galapagos Islands Cruise & Ecuador

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

14 days departing 26 April, 10 & 24 May, 30 August, 6 & 20 September, Oct, Nov & Dec 2007, Jan, Feb, Mar & April 2008

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: Toronto \$5,995.00 pp/dbl

prices are available from all major cities

GREAT ADD-ONS, INCLUDING AIR:

Kapawi - from all departure points \$1,680.00 pp/dbl
Machu Picchu from \$1,996.00 pp/dbl

Prices are subject to confirmation

Your tour includes:

- Round-trip international air
- All domestic air transportation
- All accommodation
- First class Galapagos small ship cruise
- All meals as per the itinerary
- Admissions to all sites
- Expert Galapagos guides
- Transfers & baggage handling
- All taxes

Copper Canyon and Mexico City

Departing: 4 & 18 May, 8 & 22 June, Sep, Oct, Nov & Dec 2007, Spring & Fall 2008

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

Air-inclusive prices:

Toronto	\$3,760 pp/dbl	Ottawa	\$3,830 pp/dbl
Montreal	\$3,760 pp/dbl	Vancouver	\$3,994 pp/dbl
Calgary	\$3,994 pp/dbl	Halifax	\$4,196 pp/dbl
Winnipeg	\$3,994 pp/dbl		

Single supplement \$798 (Sharing can be arranged.)

Prices are subject to confirmation

New itinerary!

Your tour includes:

- All air on Mexicana/Air Canada
- Canadian domestic air
- Bilingual guides
- 8 nights' first-class accommodation
- All transfers, baggage handling & tips
- Meals as per the itinerary
- All train trips and tours as per the itinerary
- All taxes

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.



Now 23 days

India's Golden Triangle

No charge London stopover

23 days departing: 24 September 2007, Spring & Fall 2008

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 all the highlights and more, including camel and elephant rides ... guaranteed to give wonderful photographs! You'll start your tour in Mumbai (once known as Bombay) where you'll visit Dhobi Ghat, the Gateway of India, Marine Drive, the Hanging Gardens, Jain Temple and the Prince of Wales Museum. There will be free time also, perhaps for a little shopping, before you fly to Udaipur, home of the Maharna City Palace, the Jagdish Temple, Garden of Maidens and so many other sites. And here you'll dine in the spectacular 250-year-old Lake Palace that seems to float on an island on Lake Pichola.

A drive to Mount Abu, a beautiful hill resort, comes next, followed by fabled Ranakpur, home of the beautiful Ranakpur Temples. Ancient Jodhpur is next on the itinerary, then it's on to the pilgrimage city of Pushkar with its temple dedicated to Lord Brahma. It's in Pushkar that, if you wish, you will take a camel ride into the sand dunes. The famous Pink City – Jaipur – the capital of Rajasthan comes next and you will spend two nights there, with days full of exciting sightseeing and an excursion to the Amber Fort by elephant. Jaipur is also famous for its bazaar full of wonderful gifts ... and of course you'll spend time there.

Agra is the home of the Taj Mahal and so, of course, it's on

our itinerary too. You'll have an early night and leave before dawn to watch the beautiful Taj revealed by the rising sun. Then it's on to Jhansi by the famous Shatabdi Express train – an incredible excursion. You'll be met by your bus there and driven on to Khajuraho, site of the World Heritage Temples – the eternal images of love. Varansi has been requested by many of our members and we've arranged for this destination to come next. You'll never forget your early-morning boat ride on the River Ganges here, nor the narrow by-lanes of this, one of the most ancient living cities. Your last destination is Delhi, reached by air to allow for plenty of time to see the sights and do some last-minute shopping.

Throughout this trip you will stay in first-class hotels; travel in de luxe 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! Twenty-one days! A life-time time of memories! Come with The Travel Society and enjoy the best of Rajasthan with fellow members!



Your tour includes:

- All international flights with British Airways
- Domestic flights
- Deluxe a/c coach transportation
- Shatabdi Train Fare
- State transport taxes
- All taxes and meals
- English-speaking guides and escort
- All entrance fees
- Elephant ride and Camel safari
- Baggage handling

AIR-INCLUSIVE PRICES: 23 Days

Toronto	\$6,275.00 pp/dbl	Ottawa	\$6,475.00 pp/dbl
Montreal	\$6,375.00 pp/dbl	Vancouver	\$6,548.00 pp/dbl
Calgary	\$6,548.00 pp/dbl	Winnipeg	\$6,650.00 pp/dbl
Halifax	\$6,650.00 pp/dbl		

Single supplement \$1,480 (Sharing can be arranged.) Prices are subject to confirmation

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