



I N F I N I T Y

Travel Concepts



SUMMER 14

CURRENTS

NEWS + NOTES

Credit Card Insurance & Passports

Things you should know!

Many credit cards companies are now including some type of trip insurance as part of their list of “benefits” to cardholders. We urge you however to be very careful. “Trip Interruption” coverage is only valid once you have started your trip and does not give you *pre-trip* “Cancellation Protection.”

IF pre-trip cancellation is included as a benefit, coverage is usually limited to \$1500 - \$2500 per person, so another policy may be necessary to fully protect you in case an unforeseen emergency causes you to cancel before leaving home. If the value of your trip is higher than the amount covered by your card, Travel Concepts consultants are licensed insurance advisors and can quote on the extra coverage you need.



If you hold an adult passport that is still valid or has been expired for less than one year, you may be eligible to use the "simplified renewal process" to obtain a new Canadian passport. Application forms can be found online at www.passport.gc.ca and you are encouraged to complete the application online. Passport Canada’s website currently states that if you apply in person at a Passport office, processing time is 10 business days. By mail or through a Service Centre it increases to 20 business days. When you submit the application, your existing passport will be cancelled, so be sure not to have any trips planned south of the border during the processing period! Passport fees have recently changed and are now \$120 for a 5-year adult passport and \$160 for a passport valid for 10 years.

AFRICA: LIVE + IN COLOUR

with Pamela Martin

October 17–28, 2014. Journeys With Heart is privileged to have Pamela and husband John Haibeck as hosts for this extraordinary exploration of Kenya and Tanzania.

Experience the Masai Mara, Amboseli National Park, the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti on this unique safari. You’ll stay in tented camps and lodges with most meals and all gratuities included. The price is \$8,898 US per person sharing a double. For those with more time, an optional extension to Zanzibar is also being offered.

COMING IN 2015

For Women Only

Women With Wings is planning an amazing line-up of new tours for 2015. Aside from our trips to Kenya, the Low Country and Provence listed on page 3, we are also planning the following:

September 5–16 . Gentle Treks in the Czech Republic—Prague and Beyond. Music, architecture and walks combine to make this active trip very special.

November 8–21. Mystical Myanmar is a destination like no other—a golden land unspoiled and magical. This is Asia’s new frontier and we invite you to see it now.

Words of Wisdom

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do.

So throw off the bowlines.

Sail away from the safe harbor.

Catch the trade winds in your sails.

Explore. Dream. Discover.”

Mark Twain

FALL 2014

BOOK NOW!

Only a few spaces remain on these Private Tours:

SEPT. 18 - 28

Join renowned landscape architect, Ron Rule and wife, Carolann on an elite Garden Tour in Provence.

SEPT. 22 - OCT. 11

Our exclusive Wine & Culinary Tour of Spain is escorted by the lovely Lucila Planas who will show you the best of Spanish cooking, wine and architecture.

OCT. 7 - 15

A Flavour of Spain - Embrace creative days and inspirational art workshops with Barbara Daley & Kindrie Grove in Andalucia.

OCT. 24 - NOV. 10

Travel Concepts’ own Pamela Such invites you on a Women With Wings exploration of Northern India and the Camel Fair at Pushkar.





THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Is a World Cruise or Grand Voyage on your Bucket List?

For those with time and money, cruising around the world is the ultimate travel experience. Most ships take 90 – 120 days to make the full circuit and experienced cruisers will want to evaluate the itinerary carefully. Things to look for are the number of days you'll spend at sea and how often the ship stays overnight in port. Some travellers find long passages with several consecutive days at sea confining, so an option might be to cruise the world in "segments" of a month or more over several years. Most itineraries offer pick-up and drop-off points along the way.

A Grand Voyage is another option – these are usually sailings of 70 nights or more that focus on a particular continent or hemisphere but do not

complete a full world circuit.

If you do choose a longer voyage, think carefully about the size of ship.

Options range from a Silversea Cruise' vessel carrying just 400 guests, to Cunard's Queen Mary 2 accommodating 2600 passengers. Large ships offer more entertainment options on board but their size can limit the ports they visit. Smaller ships have fewer restaurant and night-life options and may be more prone to the whims of the weather.

We have touched on only a few of the considerations in planning a World Cruise or Grand Voyage – visas, shots, and packing are other details to think about. Travel Concepts' cruise advisors will happily assist you in selecting the right ship and itinerary.

Dreaming of Tahiti ?

A graceful sailing yacht is the perfect way to experience the true wonder of Tahiti. Until November 2014, and again May to November 2015, Windstar Cruises' 148-guest *Wind Spirit* will offer 7-day multi-island sailings round trip from Papeete. Moorea, Tahaa, Raiatea, Bora Bora and Huahine are all on the agenda, along with crystal-clear lagoons filled with colourful fish, lush rainforests and tropical landscapes.

The casual elegance, extraordinary cuisine and attentive crew all combine to promise you an extraordinary vacation. *Cruise pricing starts at \$2,799 US per person* if you book by June 27, 2014. Windstar also offers optional extensions in Tahiti either before or after your cruise.

CRYSTAL CRUISE NEWS

If you have never cruised the waters of Canada/New England, this is the year to try it! *Crystal Serenity* is offering a variety of 5, 7 and 10 day sailings during September and October that are intriguing and well priced. There is a 7-day cruise round trip from Quebec City on September 29/14 that takes in Saint-Pierre & Miquelon and the Magdalen Islands. On October 11 you can sail 5 days one way from Halifax to New York City via Bar Harbor, Boston and Newport. 10-day cruises between Quebec City and New York City include overnight stays in both cities and 6 ports in between.

Pricing starts at \$1,780/\$2,830/\$3,470 US per person based on double for 5/7/10 days and fares are inclusive of complimentary beverages, all gratuities and Crystal's renowned enrichment programs. Book by June 30 for these special rates.

SOMETHING NEW!

Un-Cruise in Hawaii

If you're looking for an exceptional add-on to your next Hawaiian sojourn, why not consider a week of kayaking, sailing, paddle boarding and cultural visits? Un-Cruise Adventures' Hawaiian Seascapes program is a unique way to explore the islands from a different perspective. Aboard *Safari Explorer*, you'll be among just 36 privileged guests enjoying a truly all-inclusive experience – even a complimentary massage! You can snorkel with the Giant Pacific Manta rays, search for humpback whales and jam with the locals on Moloka'i. Sailings depart Kailua-Kona every Saturday and are priced from \$3,595 US per person sharing a double.

HEBRIDEAN PRINCESS



This is a ship like no other and fit for royalty. She is the smallest luxury ship afloat carrying just 50 guests and she cruises an extraordinary area of the world – the remote and spectacular Western Isles of Scotland, using Oban as her home port.

Furnished like a Scottish country manor, the ship is all-inclusive and boasts an excellent line-up of guides whose knowledge of local folklore, wildlife, culture and architecture is sure to enthrall. Some departures are designated as walking cruises with Footloose guides. *Pricing for a week aboard in May starts at \$5,659 US per person and we strongly recommend that you plan now for 2015!*



2015 ~ LADIES ONLY!

KENYA BOUND

Women With Wings is excited to announce a Wildlife Safari of Kenya February 15 to 28, 2015. Your host will be photographer and popular WWW leader Colleen Wood as you enjoy game drives and the rugged African landscape. You'll have the opportunity to connect with the industrious and entrepreneurial women of East Africa. *The tour price of \$7,299 US per person sharing twin includes first class camp and lodge accommodation, most meals and airfare within Kenya.*

Charleston & Savannah - Life in the Low Country

Cindy and Ellie invite you to join them on this exciting foray into Low Country, USA. These two fabulous southern cities boast history, architecture, gorgeous gardens and great food plus we've planned a whole lot of surprises for you. We'll travel by every conceivable mode of transport and be entertained by friends at a private home in Savannah. Book now or miss your chance!
Land only cost: \$3,599 US per person based on twin occupancy.
Singles add \$535 US. Tour dates: May 1 to 8, 2015

Creative Writing & Yoga in Provence

Join us for either 1 or 2 weeks in the South of France for a creative writing and yoga retreat. No matter your level of experience in writing or yoga, your hosts Valentine Leonard and Jane Mortifee will enrich your experience and help you develop your skills in both areas. Workshop dates are September 5 to 12 or September 12 to 19, 2015

JUST ANNOUNCED

Journeys with Heart Tahiti

Chef John Bishop will work with the Vancouver Aquarium and join famed oceanographer Jean-Michel Cousteau aboard *Paul Gauguin* in Tahiti next winter. The trip will take place Feb. 4 - 14, 2015.

This 10-day Society Islands Cruise offers a unique opportunity to discover and understand the fragile ecology and extraordinary beauty of Tahiti and the Tuamotu Archipelago while travelling with John Bishop.

Final details are still being worked out, but if you are interested in joining the trip, please call Jenny Karmali to register. This Journey With Heart exclusive departure will directly benefit the Vancouver Aquarium.

JAZZ LOVES NEW YORK

Back by popular demand

is our New York jazz trip with Cory Weeds and ex-CBC Radio host Katie Malloch. Enjoy private performances and meet many of New York's finest jazz musicians.

You'll stay at the prestigious Kitano, a boutique hotel on Park Avenue that features world class jazz every evening. For complete trip details go to www.trvlconcepts.com and click on "Specialty Tours".

Tour dates are Feb. 14 - 22, 2015 and land only *starts at \$2,620 US per person* sharing a standard twin or double. If you prefer *premium accommodation, the price is \$2,850 US per person*. Single pricing is also available so give us a call or check the website.

TRIPS FOR EVERYONE



Private tours for couples or singles

We are privileged to have Ron Rule, Program Director for the UBC Certificate of Garden Design, hosting an exploration of the **Gardens of Provence** September 18-28, 2014. Complete itinerary details can be found on our website under "Specialty Tours/Gardens. Only a few spaces remain, so act now!

Due to popular demand, Ruth Payne of the Ferry Building Gallery, will once again host our **Absolutely Art trip to Santa Fe**. May 8-14, 2015. Our 2013 and 2014 trips sold out in just a few days, so call us soon to register your interest.

Flavour of Spain art workshops will be held in Andalucia both spring and fall 2015. So far, the artist lineup includes Linda Muttit, Nancy Crawford and Suzanne Northcott in April. For September, Amy Melious and Gail Short are both confirmed as workshop leaders.





WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Travel Concepts recent travels

By the time you read this, *Cindy Horton* will be back from touring Southern Africa with a small group. Their unique, hand-crafted itinerary included several deluxe Sanctuary camps – Puku Ridge, Chobe Chilwero and Stanley's Camp for game viewing as well as Cape Town and South Africa's Winelands. *Cindy* and her husband *Mike* then hiked the Dolphin Trail – a portion of the famed Garden Route, before returning home.

Pamela Such has recently visited Morocco with a hiking group. They began with a tour of the Imperial Cities of Morocco – Casablanca, Rabat, Marrakech and then continued with 10-days hiking and touring through HF Holidays in the High Atlas. If you love to walk, be sure to ask Pam about HF Holidays' excellent worldwide options.

David and Linda Powell toured Vietnam and Cambodia with Uniworld River Cruises earlier this year. June will see *Pamela Rose* escort a small group on a Peruvian Escape. The group will spend 2 full weeks exploring Peru – you are sure to read about it in future issues of Currents!

Julia Guest has just returned from escorting a group to many private gardens in Italy. She would be happy to share the highlights with you.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

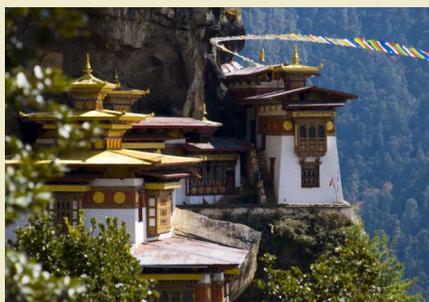
Way, way off the beaten track

Does your Bucket List include the Arctic or Bhutan?

2015 will see the debut of **Natural Habitat Adventure's new Base Camp Greenland** which will provide access to that country's magnificent east coast. Imagine a deluxe African safari camp at the Arctic Circle! Natural Habitat is the only company able to offer this experience and space is strictly limited to 12 guests per expedition. You'll stay in a private cabin, enjoy excellent meals and make daily excursions – by helicopter, kayak, boat and foot. Only 4 departures of 9 days duration each will be offered and land only pricing starts at \$8,995 US per person plus air.

Another option in 2015 is Abercrombie & Kent's Northwest Passage trip from **Greenland to the Bering Sea** on an exclusive charter of the luxury vessel, *Le Boreal*. The trip length is 23 days and on this unique itinerary you will follow in the wake of great explorers like Roald Amundsen.

A & K's incomparable Expedition Team will bring to life the riveting history of the Northwest Passage with lectures and thrilling Zodiac excursions. From \$24,995 US per person sharing double.



The kingdom of Bhutan has been slowly opening its doors to adventurous travellers after being closed to the outside world for centuries. In recent years a network of luxury lodges have been built and the latest – Gangtey Goenpa Lodge is set in a protected habitat that is home to rare birds and magnificent scenery. There are just 12 guest rooms - each boasting a fireplace and floor to ceiling windows framing the gorgeous valley views. Recreational activities include trekking and mountain biking to remote communities.

EXOTIC DESTINATIONS

Botswana Flying Safaris

Imagine indulging yourself on a 7-day Botswana flying safari, staying in spectacular lodges and camps. Discover the Okavango Delta, the vast herds of Chobe and the mysterious Savute channel. &Beyond is a conservation-led luxury experiential travel company with deep roots in Africa. Currently, &Beyond is offering complimentary flights between its lodges in Botswana. A week of indulgence starts at \$6,550 US pp/twin from Maun.

Experience the food of South America

Whether you are headed to Argentina, Chile or Peru, we can arrange short city stays focused on food and wine. Spend 2 nights in Buenos Aires with a cooking class, lunch in a boutique restaurant, a wine tasting, a dinner Tango show and a full day Local Cuisine tour for as little as \$960 US per person. In Lima, a 2-night program includes a special city tour, a culinary tour including lunch and more for \$1200 US pp double.



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WHY WE LOVE OCEANIA

Over the last 15 years, cruise vacations have become a very large part of our business here at Travel Concepts. It has been necessary for us to experience the various cruise lines and become familiar with the differences, the specialties and the options offered by each. Between all the counselors here at Travel Concepts, we have travelled on nearly every cruise line and have had the opportunity to compare and assess them.

As a result, we have formed a strong partnership with Oceania Cruises. We feel that they provide extraordinary value and an outstanding experience. Their 5 beautiful mid-size ships offer so much of what our customers seek in a cruise – a casual atmosphere on board with no need ever to dress formally; elegant, open-seating dining with a variety of venues on each ship; itineraries that maximize your time at each destination – often including overnight stays on board

We thought you would be interested to see a comparison of pricing between several cruise companies. Please note that this compares only what is included in the price and not the products or services offered by the various lines.

ENJOY THE EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE OF A VOYAGE ON BOARD OCEANIA CRUISES

	OCEANIA CRUISES	HOLLAND AMERICA	PRINCESS	CELEBRITY
Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice 2013 Top Mid-size Ship Cruise Line	1st Place	3 rd Place	5 th Place	6 th Place
Ship	Riviera	Ryndam	Regal Princess	Equinox
Year Ship Launched	2012	1994	2014	2009
Itinerary – Mediterranean 2014	Sep 8, 2014	Sep 10, 2014	Sep 11, 2014	Aug 28, 2014
Cruise Length	14	10	12	12
Days in Port	11	9	10	10
Number of Guests	1,250	1,448	3,560	2,850
Number of Staff	800	580	1,350	1,250
Cabin Category	Balcony	Balcony	Balcony	Balcony
Cabin Square Footage	282	225	222	194

ADDITIONAL COST

	OCEANIA CRUISES	HOLLAND AMERICA	PRINCESS	CELEBRITY
Roundtrip Airfare	INCLUDED	\$1,218	\$1,218	\$1,218
Government Fees & Taxes	INCLUDED	\$171	\$139	\$156
Shuttle Service ¹	INCLUDED	\$150	\$150	\$150
Alternative Dining ²	INCLUDED	\$125	\$135	\$240
Soft Drinks, Bottled Water, Specialty Teas & Coffees ³	INCLUDED	\$185	\$120	\$193
PLUS Your World On Sale Amenity Savings++	\$668			
TOTAL per person	\$6,931	\$5,248	\$5,161	\$4,866
COST PER PERSON PER DAY	\$495	\$525	\$430	\$406

Due to space limitations we are unable to provide full details here of how this comparison pricing was calculated. Please inquire and we will happily forward the full article from Oceania



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OCEANIA CRUISES®
Your World. Your Way.®

2 for 1 Cruise Fares plus Free Airfare*
Early Booking Savings up to \$4,000 per stateroom



FREE Pre-Paid Gratuities
FREE Unlimited Internet Package
up to \$500 Shipboard Credit
per stateroom on select sailings



New \$799 BUSINESS CLASS AIR UPGRADE and \$99 PREMIUM ECONOMY AIR UPGRADE on select sailings*
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LIMITED AVAILABILITY - BOOK NOW FOR BEST OFFERS

EARLY BOOKING FARE
FROM (PER GUEST)

CLASSIC CONTINENTAL

ms Marina

Amsterdam to Barcelona

Sep 2, 2014 | 12 Days

Amsterdam, Netherlands; London (Dover), UK;
Saint-Malo, France; Lorient, France; Bordeaux
(Le Verdon), France; La Coruna, Spain; Oporto, Portugal;
Seville (Cadiz), Spain; Malaga, Spain; Valencia, Spain;
Barcelona, Spain

Early Booking Fare From (per guest):
\$5,499

NORTHERN ATLANTIC EXPLORATION

ms Insignia

London to New York

Oct 2, 2014 | 15 Days

London (Southampton), UK; Belfast, Northern Ireland;
Dublin, Ireland; Cork (Cobh), Ireland; St. John's,
Newfoundland; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Saint John
(Bay of Fundy), New Brunswick; Portland, Maine;
Boston, Massachusetts; New York

Early Booking Fare From (per guest):
\$4,749

ENCHANTING ISLANDS

ms Insignia

New York to Miami

Oct 17, 2014 | 15 Days

New York; Cruising the Atlantic Ocean;
Hamilton, Bermuda♦; Cruising the Atlantic Ocean;
Gustavia, St. Barts; Castries, St. Lucia; St. George's,
Grenada; El Guamache (Isla Margarita), Venezuela;
Oranjestad, Aruba; Santa Marta, Colombia; Cruising the
Atlantic Ocean; Key West, Florida; Miami, Florida

Early Booking Fare From (per guest):
\$3,699

PACIFIC DREAMS

ms Marina

Papeete to Papeete

Jan 4, 2015 | 10 Days

Papeete (Tahiti), French Polynesia♦; Moorea, French
Polynesia; Raiatea, French Polynesia; Bora Bora, French
Polynesia♦; Nuku Hiva, Marquesas Islands♦; Rangiroa,
French Polynesia; Papeete (Tahiti), French Polynesia

Early Booking Fare From (per guest):
\$4,299

Your World. Your Way.®

Award-Winning Mid-Size Ships | Destination Specialist | Finest Cuisine At Sea | Country Club Casual Ambiance | Extraordinary Value

*Fares are subject to increase on 9/3/2014. \$99 Air Upgrade is a Premium Economy Air Upgrade. It applies to intercontinental flights only and is priced per person, each way, on select sailing from select getaways, based on availability. Not all amenities will be available on all carriers. Business Class Air Upgrade applies to inter-continental flights only and is priced per-person, each way. Free Unlimited Internet Package and Shipboard Credit are per stateroom, and all fares are per person based on double occupancy for new bookings only and may be withdrawn at any time. St. Petersburg Free Shore Excursions apply to select tours on select sailings. 2 for 1 and Early Booking Savings are based on published Full Brochure Fares; such fares may not have resulted in actual sales in all cabin categories and do not include optional charges as detailed in the Guest Ticket Contract, which may be viewed along with additional terms at OceaniaCruises.com. Free Airfare promotion does not include ground transfers and applies to coach, roundtrip flights only from the following airports: ATL, BOS, CLT, DCA, DEN, DFW, DTW, EWR, HNL, IAH, IAD, JFK, LAX, MCO, MIA, ORD, PHL, PHX, SAN, SAV, SEA, SFO, TPA, YOW, YUL, YVR, YYZ. Airfare is available from all other U.S. & Canadian gateways for an additional charge. Any advertised fares that include the Free Airfare promotion include all airlines fees, surcharges and government taxes. Airline-imposed personal charges such as baggage fees may apply. For details visit explore@lightfees.com. Ships Registry: Marshall Islands. PR028702 REVISED APR2114

♦ One Overnight | Prices shown on this page are in US dollars.