



I N F I N I T Y

Travel Concepts



WINTER 15 **CURRENTS**

BIG & IMPORTANT NEWS

WE ARE MOVING!

After 28 years in West Vancouver, our lease is expiring and it is time for a change. Many of you will remember that until 2010, Travel Concepts had a second office in Edgemont Village, North Vancouver. Well, that is where we are headed – right back into the very same office space!

We are looking forward to the move, but there are logistical issues during the transition period that we need to share with you. Because we must vacate our premises in West Van on Friday, February 20 and the Edgemont office will not be ready for occupancy until Monday, March 16, we are facing some significant challenges! Your Travel Concepts advisor will be working either from home or a temporary location in Edgemont Village so during the transition period, please contact us by email or phone. Here are the details:

Fri. Feb. 20 Move-out day. Phones disrupted - voice mail only

Feb. 23 to March 16 Please make an appointment to meet your agent
CONTACT BY EMAIL OR PHONE ONLY

Mon. Mar. 16 Business as usual at:
**#103 – 3151 Woodbine Drive
North Vancouver, V7R 2S4**

**Our phone number does not change:
604-926-8511**

YOU'RE INVITED

By Cindy and Ellie

Travel Concepts' partners, Cindy Horton and Ellie Hender will together host two unique trips this year. If you've travelled with them before, you know to expect lots of surprises and extras along the way!

May 1 – 8 is a Women With Wings trip to Charleston and Savannah and the Low Country. Imagine yourself at Mid-night in the Garden of Good and Evil! There are many highlights planned so book now. \$3,499 US pp/twin.

Oct. 20 –Nov. 3 - Explore Peru from the Andes to the Amazon. This couples trip will take you beyond Lima, Cuzco and Machu Picchu to Arequipa and the Colca Also included is a luxurious 3-night trip on the Peruvian Amazon. \$10,260 US pp + air.

SPAIN & PORTUGAL

With Chef John Bishop

Join our celebrity guest host on a *Journeys With Heart* that benefits the North Shore Hospice. Discover the rich and colorful history of Spain and Portugal and be forever inspired by delicious food, amazing art, astounding architecture and John's personal stories and *joie de vivre*.

The trip begins in Madrid on Sept. 14 and ends in Barcelona Sept. 29, 2015. Highlights include Toledo, Porto, Lisbon, Gibraltar, Ronda, Granada's Alhambra and Valencia, to say nothing of some very special meal highlights along the way and unique Pousada and Paradore accommodation. Most stopover points include a 2-night stay.

The trip is priced at \$6,998 per person plus the \$500 donation.

2015/16 TOURS

Limited space remains, so act now!

BOOK NOW!

MAY 1 - 8

Join Cindy Horton and Ellie Hender on a Women With Wings trip to The Low Country – Charleston & Savannah – only a very few spaces remain!

SEPT. 5 - 16

Gentle Treks in the Czech Republic – Prague & Beyond. Ladies - join Jennifer Hewlett, founder of Fresh Air Life on this exploration of Europe's most idyllic destinations.

OCTOBER 2015

Join Travel Concepts' garden guru, Julia Guest in France and tour private gardens and art studios across Provence. See page 3 for more information.

OCT. 5 - 13

Hiking and Cooking in Andalucia with Hilary & Mike Powell – a creative and fun encounter for couples or singles in Spain's olive country.

2015 Art Workshops with A Flavour of Spain

These fun and instructional workshops are offered in Andalucia, Spain, and are hosted by Mike and Hilary Powell.

This spring, their line-up of artists include:

Linda Muttitt
Suzanee Norcott
Nancy Crawford
Gail Short
Amy Melious

For complete details on these unique workshops, please contact Cindy Horton at 604-926-8511.



EXTRORDINARY VALUE



Add a week of luxury on *Crystal Serenity* to your European holiday

Whether you want to explore the Iberian Peninsula or the Italian Riviera, pricing on these November sailings start as low as \$1,995 US per person sharing an ocean view double stateroom.

Sail Nov. 6 – 13 from Monte Carlo to Lisbon with stops in Barcelona, Valencia, Alicante, Gibraltar and Portimao. Nov. 22 – 29 cruise from Monte Carlo to Marseille via Genoa, Florence/Livorno, Rome, Naples and Corsica.

The Crystal all-inclusive experience will exceed your expectations with complimentary premium wines, outstanding guest lecturers and Six Star Service from Crystal's unparalleled on board team.

Experience a Voyage of Discovery

For those who wish to immerse themselves in the culture of a destination the *Voyager* offers a unique style of discovery cruising. Small enough to reach out-of-the-way ports, yet large enough to make light work of crossing the great oceans, the 540 guest ship avoids the excess of today's mega-liners.

Here's an example: On Oct. 6/15 you can sail the beautiful Dalmation Coast from Athens to Dubrovnik on a 12-day trip for just \$3,899 US per person/twin including onboard gratuities, port charges and a comprehensive award-winning guest speaker program. Highlights include ports in Albania as well as Hvar, Pula and Split in Croatia, Kotor in Montenegro and Venice.

THE YACHTING LIFE

Are you celebrating a special event - a milestone anniversary or birthday - and looking for a special travel gift? If so, ask us about Seadream Yacht Club's twin mega yachts. Life on board is relaxed, casual, active if you want and elegant.

The yachts spend the winter in the Caribbean and the summer in the Med, offering 7 - 12 day Itineraries that will whisk you away from the madding crowds to classic yachting destinations brimming with individuality and character.

Ask us about *Seadream II's* Sept. 26/15 sailing round trip from Rome to Corsica, Sardinia, Amalfi, Positano, Sorrento and Capri. Fares start at \$4,799 US + tax and include meals, drinks, gratuities and the use of water toys and mountain bikes.

SPRING IN NEW ENGLAND

Oceania Cruises has just announced extraordinary savings on a lovely springtime cruise from New York City to Montreal. Sail for 11 days beginning on May 7 and visit Newport RI, Boston, Portland ME, Saint John and the Bay of Fundy, Halifax, Sydney, Saguenay and Quebec City before enjoying your final overnight on board in Montreal.

This is a beautiful itinerary to do when the days are long and spring flowers are in full bloom. You'll sail aboard the beautiful 1200-guest *Marina* with prices starting at just \$3,499 US per person sharing a double.

Balcony staterooms start at \$4,399 US per person. It is important to note that all Oceania cruise fares include your economy airfare from major gateways across Canada.

THE UN-CRUISE



Unrivaled in Alaska

Nobody can deliver a true Alaska experience better than Un-Cruise Adventures. Their small ships offer 7 to 21-night itineraries and are perfectly suited to foster uncommon encounters and unexpected Inside Passage experiences - including two days in Glacier Bay National Park! Brown bears and "polar bear plunges", rainforests and glaciers, hiking and kayaking, humpback whales and orca, bald eagles and sea birds may all be on the agenda. And whether you choose from the inclusive boutique yachts or expedition vessels, expert teams will guide you on a unique and unforgettable journey. Book by March 27, 2015 and save \$400 per couple on 12-, 14-, and 21-night adventures in 2015!

Around the World

Each January a variety of ships head off on Grand and World Voyages. For 2016 the list is long:

Pacific Princess departs Los Angeles Jan. 20 for 94-days exploring the South Pacific and beyond.

Cunard's *Queen Victoria* leaves the same day for a 103-day voyage that begins in Southampton.

Both Holland America Line's *ms Amsterdam* and Silversea Cruises' *Silver Whisper* depart Ft. Lauderdale on Jan. 5 for 115 nights away.

Oceania Cruises' *Insignia* sets sail on Jan. 4 for a 180-day circumnavigation that starts and ends in Miami.

Last, but far from least is the Jan. 24 departure of *Crystal Serenity* from San Francisco on a 102-day journey to Cape Horn and back. If a World Cruise on your bucket list, we are here to help with all the details!



POT POURRI

Creative Writing & Yoga in Provence

Whether you are a published writer or have never put pen to paper, whether you are a long time yoga practitioner or have never done a pose before, there will be something for everyone in this one or two-week workshop.

Join Jane Mortifee and Valentine Leonard as they guide you in expanding your creative spirit - Sept. 5 - 12, and/or Sept. 12 - 19, 2015. Both women are certified yoga instructors and have also trained with the Amherst Writers and Artists Association.

You'll stay in a lovely villa overlooking the Mediterranean on the French Riviera and enjoy workshops, excursions and yoga instruction as well as free time to do your own thing. *Week one land cost: \$2,098 US; Week two: \$1,950 US; Two-week combination: \$3,490 US - per person sharing twin.*

Mystical Myanmar

This once off-limits country is now one of the world's newest travel sensations and Women With Wings can take you there! Join trip host Colleen Wood and immerse yourself in the traditional customs, history and warmth of the Burmese people.

The trip takes place Nov. 8 - 21/15 and the price of \$4,995 US includes 4-star accommodation, breakfast daily as well as some other meals. Airfare is extra.

Create your own private trip

If you belong to a ladies club and would like to organize a trip for your own group, Women With Wings' Cindy Horton is your ideal contact. Cindy and her team at Travel Concepts/Women With Wings have successfully planned trips focused on a variety of interests - garden, book and walking clubs, tennis, golf and photography groups. We handle all the details and take away the hassle.

WISH WE WERE THERE!

Trips to the top and the bottom of the world

At Travel Concepts we are privileged to help our clients and friends live their travel dreams and in recent months we have helped plan some truly amazing ones. We haven't got space to mention them all, but these two really stand out.

Through the Northwest Passage on *Silver Explorer*. The couple who took this trip have travelled extensively the world over but had never explored the Arctic. They spent 23 days travelling from Kangerlussuaq, Greenland to Nome, Alaska - a trip more exciting than they had ever imagined. Guests needed to be flexible as well as game. The planned itinerary of the ship could not always be followed due to ice conditions and often when they went ashore, the landings were wet ones off the zodiacs. They certainly appreciated Silversea's well-prepared expedition ship which was both comfortable and safe. Being ice bound for several days required the assistance of a Canadian Coast Guard ice breaker to complete the journey. Both clients agreed that this was the trip of a lifetime.



As this edition goes to press, Elaine and Bill Hornell have just returned from their extraordinary Antarctic adventure. They were kind enough to send us reports along the way which we wish we had room to reprint here in detail - their excitement was truly palpable. They sailed for 24 days aboard *Seabourn Quest* from Valparaiso to Santiago and there is no doubt that the trip surpassed their wildest expectations!

GARDENS OF FRANCE

With Julia Guest

This exclusive tour will focus on contemporary living in the south of France at a time of year when the air is still warm and redolent with herbal fragrances released by the Mediterranean sun.

You'll visit private gardens, artist's studios, museums and markets in the Luberon and Alpilles, Aix-en-Provence and Marseilles. Accommodation will be in 4-star hotels including continental breakfast daily.

Details and dates are now being finalized, but if this trip appeals to you, please call Julia today to register your interest.

TAUCK TAKES OFF!

Special air offer valid until March 31/15

Tauk Tours is offering special low airfares for clients booking a European land trip, river cruise, Culturious or Bridges family experience before the end of March and departing before August 31, 2015.

Including all taxes and fuel surcharges, the rates are: Economy \$1090 US, Premium Economy \$1,690 US and Business Class \$3,490 US no matter your destination within Europe.

Please ask us too about Tauk's 2015 Solo Traveller Departures - if you're on your own, Tauk makes seeing Europe easy for you.



NEW & EXCITING

India with Uniworld



2016 will see Uniworld Boutique River Cruises unveil a 13-day trip to India's Golden Triangle and the Sacred Ganges. Enjoy 7 nights cruising aboard the brand new *Ganges Voyager II* and 5 nights in luxurious Oberoi Hotels as you travel between New Delhi and Kolkata.

In addition to the Ganges cruise which operates round trip from Kolkata, you'll spend 5 nights visiting New Delhi, Agra where you'll see the Taj Mahal, and the Pink City of Jaipur. Pricing starts at \$7,599 + \$175 tax US per person sharing a twin room including 12 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 9 dinners. Please ask us for a brochure.



Travel Concepts

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www.womenwithwings.ca www.journeyswithheart.com

RECOMMENDATIONS

Do you love the North?

Pre-planned trips in the Arctic for the independent travellers



Are you fascinated by northern attractions like Baffin Island, the Northern Lights, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands? If so, ask us about these amazing options created by a Winnipeg based adventure company.

You can spend 9 days driving yourself around the circumference of Iceland for as little as \$1,960 Cdn. per person sharing twin accommodation with breakfast daily

for 8 nights. The price also includes an economy rental car with manual transmission.

Another interesting option is a 4-night Aurora Escape to Yellowknife and Blachford Lake Lodge to view the awe-inspiring Northern Light spectacular. Priced from \$2,220 + GST per person including meals during your 2 night stay at the Lodge.

Or the extreme south?

Keeping with colder climates, Abercrombie & Kent is currently offering special savings on various Antarctica trips for the 2015/16 season. You can save up to \$7,000 US per couple when you book a category 1, 2 or 3 cabin on the exclusively chartered, 199-guest *Le Boreal* before March 31, 2015. By all reports, a trip to Antarctica is a "life-altering, soul-stirring, evocative experience that will elevate and expand your sensibilities."

If travelling to warmer places is more your style, Egypt is one of the world's most fascinating destinations and with A & K, you are sure to be well looked after. Whether you want to travel independently or in a small group, there is no better choice than A & K when you travel to Egypt. Their 2015, 10-day private journey starts at just \$3,995 (down from \$6,495) US per person sharing double on select dates. This includes an intimate all-inclusive 4-day Nile cruise and a day in Abu Simbel.

TRAIN-BASED JOURNEYS

Incredible adventures aboard world-famous railways

G Adventures has launched a new suite of tours based on the world's iconic railways.

Rail tours combine the small-group adventures you love with ease, efficiency and cultural access. There are 24 train-based adventures including India's Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, the Trans-Siberian Railway and the Glacier Express in Switzerland.

Prices for the 12-day Northeast India and Darjeeling Rail trip start at \$1,299 per person with standard accommodation.

If you have more time, consider using rail to travel all the way from London to Istanbul! This 25-day trip includes a Eurostar ride through the Chunnel and the Glacier Express to Zermatt. Priced from \$4,849 per person.





TAHITI BY WINDSTAR

MANY ISLANDS, BEST SEEN BY YACHT.



NOW OFFERING YEAR-ROUND VOYAGES

This is Tahiti as it was meant to be seen, under tall sails and kissed by gentle breezes. A yacht goes gracefully into places that can only be seen from a small ship, allowing guests to soak up the distinct personalities of the islands. There's no better way to access this island nation than directly from its sapphire blue waters.



SEE TAHITI MORE COMPLETELY

- Experience drift snorkeling among coral gardens
- Discover the secrets of Tahiti's mysterious black pearl
- Gaze into a fiery sunset and watch for the green flash as it melts below the horizon
- Spend an evening on a private islet, or "motu," with other Windstar guests savoring a traditional Tahitian feast on our complimentary Private Event
- Get used to secluded beaches with fewer annual visitors
- Settle into your vacation more quickly than you think, with just an 8-hour flight from Los Angeles

World's Best Small Ship Cruise Line

WINDSTAR
CRUISES
100' FROM ORDINARY®





I N F I N I T Y

Travel Concepts



OCEANIA CRUISES®
Your World. Your Way.®

- EXCLUSIVE OFFERS!**
- 2-for1 cruise fares**
- Free Airfare**
- Early Booking Savings**
- FREE Pre-Paid Gratuities**
- FREE Unlimited Internet**
- \$200 per stateroom**
- Shipboard Credit**



In addition to Oceania's Exclusive Offers shown above for prepaid gratuities, free internet and shipboard credits, Travel Concepts will give you even more! On these selected sailings, you'll receive on-board spending credits of up to \$700 per stateroom. If you're new to Oceania, an excellent cruising experience awaits. Their mid-size ships, the on-board attention to detail, the outstanding food and unusual itineraries all combine to make an Oceania cruise one to remember.

Call Travel Concepts today for details (604) 926-8511

ALASKAN GRANDEUR

Regatta

San Francisco to Vancouver

May 9, 2015 | 10 Days

Astoria (OR), Sitka (AK), cruising the Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Ketchikan, Victoria with 3 sea days

Early Booking Fare From (per guest):
\$2,899 US

Total shipboard credits available (per stateroom):
\$700 US

TREASURES OF THE NORTH

Marina

Stockholm to London

July 7, 2015 | 14 Days

3 days St. Petersburg, Tallinn, Riga, Klaipeda, Gdansk (Gdynia), Berlin (Warnemunde), Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Bruges (Zeebrugge), London (Southampton)

Early Booking Fare From (per guest):
\$7,399 US Ocean View

Total shipboard credits available (per stateroom):
\$650 US

CONTINENTAL GLORY

Insignia

London to Barcelona

Aug 16, 2015 | 11 Days

2 full days Bordeaux, Biarritz, Gijon, La Coruna, Oporto, Lisbon, Seville (Cadiz)

Early Booking Fare From (per guest):
\$4,699 US Ocean View

Total shipboard credits available (per stateroom):
\$650 US

NORTH AMERICAN PASSAGE

Regatta

Vancouver to New York

Aug 23, 2015 | 28 Days

Wrangell, Hubbard Glacier cruising, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria, Astoria, San Francisco, Cabo San Lucas, Huatulco, San Juan Del Sur, Puntarenas, Daylight Transit of Panama Canal, Cartagena, Charleston. 13 sea days

Early Booking Fare From (per guest):
\$8,199 US Deluxe Ocean View

Total shipboard credits available (per stateroom):
\$200 US

Your World. Your Way.®

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

*Fares expire 3/31/15. All fares are per person in U.S. dollars, valid for residents of United States and Canada, based on double occupancy (unless otherwise noted), for new bookings only and may be withdrawn at any time. Free Unlimited Internet and Shipboard Credit are one per stateroom. Not all promotions are combinable. 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, LGA, MCO, MDW, MIA, ORD, PHL, PHX, SAN, SAV, SEA, SFO, TPA, YOW, YUL, YVR, YYZ. Airfare is available from all other U.S. and Canadian gateways for an additional charge. Any advertised fares that include the "Free Airfare" promotion include all airline fees, surcharges and government taxes. Airline-imposed personal charges such as baggage fees may apply. For details visit exploreflightfees.com. Ships' Registry: Marshall Islands. PRO28702