



THE WOMEN'S TRAVEL CLUB®

DESIGNED BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN

VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 5 • DECEMBER, 2008

TRAVEL FOR WOMEN



Allison O'Sullivan, WTC Managing Director

Hello Ladies,
In preparing a presentation recently, I googled the 3 words above and was amazed by the magnitude of the results . . . **125 million hits!**

Just for fun, I tried *recipes for chicken soup* (1.35 million), *sports websites* (4.3 million) and *music videos* (119 million) . . . and we still dwarfed those popular searches. OK, so *online shopping* beat us out at 144 million, but the fact remains that the women's travel market is the fastest growing segment of the hospitality industry. And WTC is delighted to be a front runner at this very exciting time for women on the move. Yes, the economic climate is a downer, and we have adjusted our tour offerings in response . . . selecting destinations with the best value such as Costa Rica, Portugal, Mexico, China, Budapest & Prague among others. We also heard a few requests that we add some domestic tours – with shorter travel time and without currency fluctuations – so we are working to add Napa Valley, Sedona, New Orleans, Santa Fe and Asheville to our repertoire, as well as bringing back New York City for next fall. On the international scene, we are introducing our new **WOW!** tours (see next column), and developing trips that offer the special interests you've asked for, such as art & architecture, antiquing, and culinary tours. You will also see more trips that are fully escorted, instead of locally hosted, to provide the full-time quality of service that many of you want. We recently launched a brand new calendar listing which you can click to from our home page. Please note that tours for the second half of the year are still in the building stage and will be posted shortly. Your voice is so important! Let us know where you'd like to go. Email us at info@womenstravelclub.com. I love hearing from you! And thank you for your great support of The Women's Travel Club. Happy Holidays,

Allison O'Sullivan

Allison O'Sullivan
Managing Director

OUR NEW WOW! TOURS

WTC is proud to introduce **WOW!** (Women Of the World) tours. We are ALL women of the world when we travel. Connecting our members with local women on the global scene adds a profound impact to the experience, the emotion, of getting beyond traditional sightseeing, and into the local rhythms of a culture. On select tours, we will meet and/or dine with women of distinction, women making a difference . . . be it in fundraising, politics, the media, education, or simply at the grassroots level in a third world society. Costa Rica and Morocco head our 2009 schedule. Look for the tours marked with **WOW!** on our calendar page and join us in meeting other fabulous women of the world!

RAVES FROM THE ROAD

Pictures and glowing comments from recent tours:

Amalfi Coast – June

"Pompeii was fantastic. Our guide (Lucia) was perfect and did a great job giving us the tour. The hotel was nice, very clean rooms, good air conditioning (it was so hot that week!), excellent breakfast spread, and beautiful scenery." *Lois C., Hammond, LA*



Amalfi Group in Caserta

"Capri was just such an awesome day, all went smoothly." *Dawn F., Flemington, NJ*

"I had a wonderful time on the Amalfi coast tour with the other 10 women on the trip. My second trip with your club and I have enjoyed each one. The women were great, the tour guide efficient and the days comfortably full. If anything, adding another day would be great, just for some free time for shopping! I recommend your club to anyone I see!" *Elaine V., Queensland, Australia*

Hong Kong & China – July



Soroptimists at Forbidden City, Beijing

WTC was honored to provide the extension tours for the Soroptimist International biennial convention, held in Taipei this summer. Just one month prior to the Beijing Olympics, the most overwhelmingly popular tour – with 58 members! – spent a week touring Hong Kong and mainland China. Soroptimist, which means "Best for Women" is an international volunteer service organization with worldwide membership.

"It totally broadened my appreciation of who I am, and where I am privileged to live. I learned a lot from this trip that has changed me profoundly for the better." *René B., Paradise, CA*

"I've been fortunate to have traveled to several different countries with different cultures from my own over the years. To me this is one of the joys of traveling. As far as this trip was concerned, I hadn't expected Hong Kong to have as much British influence as it appeared to have. Was pleasantly surprised with Beijing, especially enjoying the trip to The Hutongs. I enjoy history and people. Also Xian was wonderful." *Joan M., Ontario, Canada*

Ixtapan Spa – August



Marguerita Party at Ixtapan, Mexico

Here is what everyone had to say on our August spa retreat, pictured above:

"Abbbbbb" (need we say more?)

MEMBER ONLY ACCESS

Password: *your WTC member #*

Code: *your zip code*

We frequently update our Members Only section of the website with club specials, subscription savings and more. Be sure to check back often. Also, the Club Bulletin Board is a great way to connect with other members. Let us hear from you! Email us at our info@ address.

Iceland – October

The economy was in turmoil, the currency was devalued, but 10 members of The Women's Travel Club went to Iceland and had the experience of a lifetime.

"Iceland was incredible!!! I feel so enriched by having gone there. The Golden Circle Tour was wonderful. The Icelandic landscape is like something I've never seen before - steam arising here and there, beautiful waterfalls at random and my favorite, a geyser out in the middle of a field. We were able to walk right up to it and look down into the hole to watch the water get sucked down and then watch it start filling up again and begin bubbling and getting ready to erupt all over again (every 5 minutes). I know I will never be able to get that close to a geyser anywhere else. We learned about how the lava eruptions build land and saw the different stages of how first there's the black lava field, and then after time, it's covered with green moss and then becomes covered with grass and finally becomes pasture land. We passed fields on one side of the road that looked like they were from another planet and then on the other side would be pastures that looked like rural California."

Sue C., Lakewood, CA



Iceland Group on Golden Circle Tour

"Inga was the best tour guide possible; personable, warm and really friendly. She even brought us home-made Icelandic goodies and cognac for the Northern lights tour. On

Monday, four of us chose the Horse riding followed by the Lagoon trip. That was just sensational. Lastly, the hotel was perfect...a kettle in every room, breakfast delivered to my room at no charge and most importantly the location. Thank you for your attention to all the details and for making such a memorable trip possible. This was one of the best things I've ever done for myself, and yeah you can quote me on that."

Susan T., Newton, MA

Costa del Sol – October

"YES! I was pleased with the trip. For me this trip was about many things: a celebration of my "special" birthday, the opportunity to meet other like-minded women and perhaps form friendships and future "travel friends" as well as



Lunch on arrival day on the Costa del Sol

going away on my own without the support/company of my daughter or friends from home. On all fronts the result was/is positive as I now know that I can do this and will travel again."

Donna T., MA

UPCOMING TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Tour dates with air count the first night on overnight flights. See our website for in-depth information on these and other tours. In the event of a printing error here, please see our website for correctly published tour prices.

Ixtapan Spa, Mexico Throughout 2009

7 Nights \$1,599 Land Only (Jan-Apr)
+ \$260 single supplement

WTC's ever popular Mexican retreat at unbeatable cost, all meals and many spa services included. Our specially priced Spa and Golf package is so popular, we are offering getaway dates every month in 2009. Rates for May and beyond will be posted shortly.



Heaven in Mexico

Costa Rica January 13-19 a WOW! Trip

6 Nights \$1,599 Land Only
+ \$400 single supplement

Join us as we start the year off with this exceptional **WOW!** tour. Highlights include: Lunch at Miss Junie's Restaurant to hear this local legend tell her story; Painting workshop with the "Brave Heart" women of Corazones Valientes; Dinner at Grano de Oro Restaurant where all proceeds fund the Casa Luz halfway house for young women; and Spanish lessons with our guide. Also included are 6 nights hotel accommodations (San Jose, Tortuguero, Arenal, San Jose), professional English-speaking local tour manager throughout the program, airport/hotel group transfers, private land transfers between San José-Tortuguero-Arenal-San José, all in air-conditioned vehicles, delicious meals to include 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 5 dinners, sightseeing, guided tours and special **WOW!** activities, including admission fees where applicable.



Amazing Wildlife in Costa Rica

Magical Morocco February 17-26 a WOW! Trip

8 Nights \$2,970 with AIR*
+ \$575 single supplement

*Air subject to increase after November 15. Call us soon!

The highlight of our Morocco tour will be the opportunity to meet some of the nation's most outstanding women. Allison O'Sullivan will be joined by co-leader and women's advocate, Carol Edgar, for

an unforgettable visit with some of Morocco's most dynamic women leaders. Included is round-trip air from JFK to Casablanca, 8 nights hotel accommodations at 4- and 5-star hotels in Rabat, Fez, Marrakech and Casablanca, with 2 daily meals (breakfast and generally dinner), and extensive sightseeing.



Marrakech, Morocco

Italian Lakes April 27-May 5

8 Nights \$3,249 with AIR
+\$350 single supplement.

Enjoy the beauty and serenity of the Italian Lakes, with lovely Lake Maggiore and Lake Como. Our base is the Grand Hotel Bristol in Stresa, where the lake front, palm trees and flourishing gardens offer a breathless sight. The hotel, newly reopened in 2007 after a complete renovation, showcases such refined furnishings as candoglia marble, antique carpets, beautiful woodwork, crystal chandeliers and Tiffany glass. Included is round-trip air from JFK to Milan; 7 nights hotel accommodations; continental breakfast daily; dinner with wine each evening; 2 lunches; half-day tours to Lake Orta, Villa Taranto and a cruise of the Borromean Islands, including Palazzo Borromeo; full day tours by rail to Centovalli, Milan and Lake Como.



Lake Maggiore

Refer a Friend, Earn \$100

in a travel voucher when your friend travels within 12 months of joining. Visit www.womenstravelclub.com for details. Your support of WTC is greatly appreciated. Spread the word!

Egypt with Nile Cruise March 27-April 5

8 Nights \$2,599 with AIR
+\$500 single supplement
Optional extensions to Petra, Mt. Sinai and Istanbul

Tour the great wonders of the ancient world! Sail up the Nile River on a deluxe "floating hotel," visit the unforgettable Temple of Luxor and the treasure-filled tombs of the Valley of the Kings. Accommodations at the 4-star Ramses Hilton in Cairo and deluxe air-conditioned Nile River Cruise ship with outside staterooms. All shore excursions during the cruise are led by experienced Egyptologists; plus half day Giza Pyramids and Sphinx tour; visit to the famed temples at Abu Simbel. All meals included during the cruise, plus full breakfasts daily at the hotel in Cairo. Round-trip air from New York JFK on Egypt Air, including flights from Cairo to Aswan and Abu Simbel, and from Luxor to Cairo.



The Camel Express!

Holland Tulip Festival April 24- 28

4 Nights \$1,699 Land Only
+\$600 single supplement

As one of the greatest small cities in the world, Amsterdam is a sightseers dream. From its canals to world-famous museums and historical sights, our Dutch destination is even more incredible when it involves a parade or special observance . . . and what better occasion for such festivity than when the greatest flower show on earth is held each April! Our tour catches it in full bloom and you will not believe the magnificent colors and heavenly scents of the flower fields until you come along with us and see for yourself. We include 4 nights hotel accommodations, a professional English-speaking local tour escort throughout the program at designated times, round-trip group airport/hotel transfers, meals to include 4 hot buffet breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 dinners with wine, sightseeing and guided tours, including admission fees where applicable (Anne Frank House, the Flower Auction and Keukenhof Park).

Emerald Ireland June 6-14. Escorted

by our own Allison O'Sullivan
7 Nights \$3,999 with AIR
+\$500 single supplement

Explore some of Ireland's most beautiful, rugged and storied lands, beginning in Dublin, one of Europe's liveliest capitals, and concluding in the gorgeous countryside of Killarney with return flight home from Shannon Airport. This is not your Blarney Stone tour! The highlights of our trip include: Dublin sightseeing; Trinity College and the Book of Kells; a step back in time to 1794 in the Georgian house at No. 29 Fitzwilliam Square; visit to Bantry House and gardens in the region known as the "Garden of Ireland" with romantic beauty and picturesque villages; tour of Helen Dillon's Gardens by Ms. Dillon herself, followed by tea and biscuits inside her antique-filled home; Scone making at Ballyknocken House & Cookery School; tour of historic Leap Castle by the owner; the magnificent Gap of Dunloe Tour; see some of the finest coastal scenery of the Dingle Peninsula and so much more! With 7 nights accommodations at two 4-star hotels, full Irish breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 4 dinners (2 at wonderful pubs), lots of traditional Irish music and entertainment (with one evening at renowned Kate Kearneys Cottage), and of course, we'll raise a glass or two - your choice of Baileys, whiskey or Irish coffee!



Janice, Allison & Laurie at NJEA in November

WTC AT TRADE SHOWS

Club ABC and WTC shared a booth in our first appearance at the NJEA annual convention in Atlantic City for the New Jersey Education Association. Our two clubs include many NJEA members and it was wonderful to have so many of you stop by to say hello and to book your next vacation. And welcome to the new members who enrolled as well. Our next shows include The New York Times Travel Show, February 6-8 and the Tampa Bay Travel Show, May 22-24. Stop by if you're in New York or Florida and register to win a trip.

OUR FEATURED TOUR

Unusual itinerary with Value pricing!

Tuscan Table – May 1-9

Cooking and Sightseeing in Montecatini

7 Nights \$2,849 with AIR

+ \$300 single supplement

Who doesn't love Italian food? This tour is designed for wine and food enthusiasts looking to combine the fun of a little cooking with some historical perspective of the region, including scenic half-day sightseeing in the countryside, and a touch of luxurious spa relaxation. Over the next week you will experience the local, simple, but often hearty cuisine of Tuscany. Packed with flavor, it is peasant cooking at its best . . . heavily infused with olive oil, tomatoes and beans. You will learn how to shop for fresh ingredients, prepare traditional dishes and above all, enjoy eating authentic and delicious food, the best of the region. Included is round-trip air on Delta Airlines from JFK to Pisa, round-trip airport transfers in Italy based on the group air schedule, 7 nights hotel accommodations at the glorious Hotel Vittoria, professional English-speaking



Charming Tuscan Street

local tour escort throughout the program; private coach transportation on all tours in air-conditioned vehicles; all meals to include 7 hot buffet breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners with wine and water, welcome reception on arrival night with orientation, 3 half-day sightseeing tours to Lucca, Pisa, and Chianti, 3 exclusive morning cooking classes with lunch, 1 afternoon spa treatment at the Hotel, plus lots of extras: visiting an olive oil "press," shopping in the local food markets before class, wine tasting in a castle, and cooking school graduation ceremony. *Salute!*

All trips are subject to the terms and conditions of The Women's Travel Club. Penalties for cancellations, changes, deviations apply. A deposit indicates agreement with terms and conditions on our website or sent with your written confirmation. You may book a trip by phone, fax, or online. If by phone, we will read our policies to you, if you require. Fewer than 20 women a surcharge can, but does not usually apply 30 days pre-departure. Travel insurance protects if you need to cancel for any reason! Membership Non-refundable.

Experience the adventure of a lifetime!

- Meet other women who love to travel.
- Our groups are small and include top executives, working professionals, full-time moms and adventurous retirees.
- Come with a companion or come solo, all are welcomed.
- Personalized service.
- All the arrangements, itineraries and logistical details are taken care of for you.
- Plenty of itineraries to choose from on all five continents.
- Local guides, top notch hotels.
- Everything is planned by our travel experts who are women.

Why Join?

200 Broadacres Drive • Bloomfield, NJ 07003-7021

— DESIGNED BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN —

THE WOMEN'S TRAVEL CLUB

FIRST CLASS
PRESORTED
US POSTAGE PAID
SUMMIT, NJ 07901
PERMIT #552

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALL 800-480-4448

MEMBERSHIP STATUS
www.womenstravelclub.com

Join or Renew Online

1-year for \$30 2-years for \$45 3-years for \$60

list for non-members.

To keep prices fair & quality high, we do not maintain a mailing