

Volume 15

Issue 1

2006 is here

The Women's Travel Club

“designed by women for women”



Dear Members,

Women seem to be all over these days! And in travel where we were once ignored, the guys on the executive floor are trying to figure us out! Town & Country, ever posh but addictive magazine, polled female readers who were turning 60 this year—baby boom-ettes. 40+% said that travel was one of their top five financial goals over the next few years! Westin Hotel chain just concluded a study about niche markets: and who did they identify as worth pursuing? Women. The Tourist Authority of one Caribbean country recently worked with The US State Department to determine which US markets might be lucrative to their new tourist industry. Again women. It is no surprise that they invited our President to visit the island and work with authorities to reach the female market. Gail Sheehy in her new book describes women as becoming more adventurous as they get older. And women of all ages make most of the travel arrangements in this country and do most of the adventure travel. So what does that mean to us as women who love to travel? Is the industry catering to our needs?

What do women want? And we are not referring to Mel Gibson's movie. From our members we hear, compatible fellow travelers and small groups. Safety. Meaty itinerary. All inclusive. Guide with good English. We need different pre-trip information about clothing, hair dryers, the bathrooms. And we have been told by you, that meeting fellow travelers ahead of a trip would be ideal. **THUS THE BLOG ON OUR WEBSITE** use it to talk to members on your trip.

In future we will be emailing you prior to the trip to remind you that you may chat via the blog. You may chat anonymously or with your name; but this is a fun way to meet others before the airport. We send you the list of women going and some of you do ask for telephone numbers so you can call each other but here is another way to coordinate.

So what needs do women have? We want to gather thoughts and sprinkle them over the industry while the spot light is on us. A questionnaire is below. Please participate. Email answers are ideal.

1. What are the 3 items you look for when reading a travel brochure?
2. Do you look at the photos of people in the brochures? Travelers? Guides? Staff?
3. What concerns do you have about sharing a room?
4. Do you think age of group matters to your fun?
5. Do you identify certain types of places as non woman friendly? Which ones?
6. How important is making new friends in your travel decisions?
7. Are there specific sites you read to make travel decisions?
8. **WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT TO TELL US?**
9. How do you feel about free time on trips?

LAST MINUTE BOOKINGS ON:

Tuscany, Florence with a day in Venice March 31-April 8

The Silk Route April 5-17 It is easy to add to this trip.

Provence April 13-21

Paris April 20-27 (these two coordinate) do Provence and Paris and take \$100 off your combined price.

Red Mountain Spa in St. George Utah: national parks and more

Last shot Tuscany and Florence. March 31-April 8.

GOOD AIRFARES AVAILABLE.
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Ten reasons to grab a spot. 1.

Florence is a walking museum.

Each corner leads to another sup-presso. And did you know about its **4 ancient gardens?** **2.** Don't miss the **Farmacia Santa Maria Novella** near the church of same name.

This medieval "pharmacy", founded by monks; today sells the most beautifully packaged personal products in Italy. But ask the charming staff to show you the original cloisters and chapel behind the store! **3.** Our tour is very inclusive with most meals and **day trips** to top places in the surrounding countryside, all with our lovely guide. **4.** Want a day in **Venice?** We have one planned and our guide will take you on the train to not yet sunken Venice **5. The Mall** outside the city and reachable by public transportation is the largest designer discount mall in Italy. **6.** Want to write home about the trip? Florence produces some of the **loveliest paper in the world?** And throw in a few paper wrapped pencils at \$1 each. **7.**

Like to cook? the olive oil is some of the best in the world: check it out at the Central Market. **8.** Our hotel is a historic gem, former home of royalty and we stay there the whole trip. **9.** Talk about art! There are over 50 museums in this town. And churches contain famous works as well. **10.** And we have a few spots left!!!!

2050 twin basis \$595 single

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25-30 trips a year...first-class/superior first-class hotels unless noted...group airfares (flights from many cities)...transfers...room shares on first-come, first-served basis for non-smokers...all sightseeing...English-speaking guides...meals as noted...private deluxe buses...complete pre-trip packages...and new: Travel Companion Bulletin Board! Ask about airfare from your hometown-we are a national group with different time zones and hometowns.

MEMBERS' PRICES QUOTED BELOW Keep your membership Current to void surcharges on trips..... within 60 days of departure, prices increase And sometimes so does airfare!

Florence and Tuscany March 31-April 8 7 nights in Baglione Hotel (historic 4 star), many meals with wine, day trips to Lucca, Siena, Pisa, Chianti territory, San Gimignano and more. Services our wonderful guide and private bus.
FULL DAY VENICE OPTION

CALL US FOR AIRFARE QUOTES THE FLORENCE AIRPORT IS CLOSED; THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT IS PISA AND OUR NEW TIME TO ARRIVE IS 3PM. If you are already booked to Florence, call your airline and they will change it for you.

Provence April 13-21 and continue to Paris if you wish. Provence The best of southern France- between the Alps Maritime and the Mediterranean: Marseilles to Arles, Aix en Provence and Avignon. Romans, Popes, Princes, then Impressionists lived here, now come meet the locals. Even the French Tourist Office calls many parts of Provence-Gordes which we visit- the loveliest countryside in France! WOW

Our trip will take you thru the villages, churches, vineyards, antique markets and museums of Provence. Is it the smell of home made tarts? Or the breeze from the ocean? Is it the lavender that gets to you? Or the cassis you dribble into your champagne? Was it Peter Mayle's books on the Luberon which captured your travel gut? Whatever, Provence is the perfect last chapter of winter. Continue to Paris and take \$100 of combined trips.

April 5-17 The Silk Route. Tea with Genghis Khan! Begin in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan We cover Samarkand + Bukhara, ancient trading towns. I loved the mosques, desert, people, Jewish history. Bukhara is Asia's oldest living city. In walled Khiva, you see wedding parties march past turquoise tiled towers. Check out "1000 Places to See Before You Die". Finally Turkmenistan: with is not to be believed. Sunday market. Accommodations: all with private bathrooms, from high rise hotels to renovated former mansions of the wealthy. Food: simple but hearty, safe. Shopping: unbelievable from antique carpets, caviar, jewelry, silk, hand embroidered clothes. MY PHOTOS OF THIS AREA ARE MY PRIZE PIX.

May 11-15 Red Mountain Spa near Las Vegas, Brice and Zion parks.

June 16-20 Canyon Ranch AZ discount July 1-7 Peru

July 7-15Ecuador and The Galapagos *this year with 4 nights in the islands.*

July 12-24 From Wales to Ireland

July 21-29 Oaxaca Mexico including Puebla, Mex City and more. Galapagos/Peru August 2-6Canyon Ranch Lenox with Tanglewood.

August 4-13 Yukon to Alaska from Whitehorse. **Aug. 8-21 DEAL on Holland America Cruise line from Copenhagen to**

The Netherlands, 2 days in St. Petersburg.

August 13-20 Ixtapan Summer deal with 2 side trips this year.

October onwards: Canyon Ranch Lenox deal, India, Argentina and Brazil, New York City, and much more. Short and long Keep in touch. Remember within 60 days trips increase in price. Libya Ladies, stay tuned for next adventure: Dubai, Oman and more.

Paris 2006

Never been or been many times? Our Paris week is for all of you. We stay in elegant Concorde Ambassador Hotel, on the right bank near the Opera, and for 6 nights and 7 days we really get to know Paris. **April 20** Depart for Paris. **April 21** Transfer to our 4 star hotel, meet for welcome dinner in a restaurant. **April 22** Full day sightseeing from our private bus: the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and more. Lunch in a local restaurant included. **April 23** Half day Sightseeing in Le Marais, medieval section of Paris with lunch together in a local restaurant. **April 24** Half day tour of The Louvre, followed by a walking tour of the area. **April 25** Today we visit two elegant museums: Marmottan and Jacquemart Andre. The former is in a 19c mansion in the Bois de Bologne Park, full of Monet's works. The latter, is housed in a mansion open only since 1996 with a spectacular collection and original furnishings. Lunch in the lovely tea room. **April 26** Orsay Museum on the Left Bank, with the national collection of modern art, then a walking tour and lunch, Dinner tonight together before we start packing! **April 27** Transfer back to the airport and flights home.

Details available now- we already have bookings. Yu can do Provence first-these two trips coordinate with a savings of \$100 if you do both!!!

Price: \$1999. Single \$490. 60 days prior to April 20, price increases 5%. Deposit \$500. Airfare and portorage at the airport not included. A local host will be in attendance each am and a guide will be with you on sightseeing trips. .

Tips for Travel in Provence and Paris.

Bread vocabulary : baguette, time honored long crunchy bread-- pain complet, wholewheat-- pain de seigl rye and whole wheat mixe-- artisanal, home made breads with family recipes. You will devour bread at breakfast, at meals and on the street!!! No shame involved when in Paris.

Café vs. Bistrot vs. Restaurant: An outdoor café is an easy place to eat in Paris, menus are limited but the prix fixe meal is usually a good deal with 2-3 courses and a price under \$18. Wine will be totally acceptable and bread always perfect. **Bistrot** these used to be family owned small restaurants with a few simple meals; today some are the baby restaurants of famous chefs who specialize in regional cooking. \$50 per person. **Restaurants:** what you would expect but look for some of the reasonable chains: L'Amanquier, Au Poivre and others for a deal meal. Really want a splurge: well the Euro is lower these days. ALWAYS ASK IF SERVICE IS INCLUDED "Inclus"

Shopping a la French: Soldes is the word for sales; but for smart tourists, ask the hotel for a tourist discount card and do all your shopping at one large store like Printemps or Galeries Lafayette who pass on additional savings to tourists. Others: La Samaritanine, Le Bon Marche.

Museums : We include special museums in our trip: but here are a few more recommendations: Carnavelet and Picasso in The Marais. Nissim de Camondo, Arts Decoratifs of the Louvre, Pompidou Modern Art, and the small but lovely smelling Perfume Museum near the Opera.

Food gifts: You may bring home canned food such as pate, cheese that is pasteurized and spices. Best place to buy mustard, pate, cookies, jams, kitchenwares etc. : the food department of major department stores and the basement of Monoprix, the Woolworth of France.

Additional sightseeing: in Paris, buy a copy of the weekly magazine, Pariscope for the insert on English speaking walking tours, theater, events. And whatsonwhen.com is full of ways to spend your time in Europe.

Our trips to Tuscany, Provence and Paris are full of events and meals and fairly priced. This year you can still get decent airfare and the Euro is cooperating. Our hotels are lovely, mostly historic, and our guides welcome you with knowledge and an understanding that we are women, many traveling alone and sometimes in need of a bit of extra attention. Special dietary needs? Special room mate needs? We are here to make sure you have a comfortable and stress free time. BOOK ON LINE OR ON THE PHONE.

All trips 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 specific reasons! Membership Non Refundable.

2006

Why did we choose Red Mt Spa in Utah for our May trip?



Each year we pick a few spas, which offer special benefits to our members. I was lucky enough last year to go with our group and what a thrill. This is an opportunity to visit National Parks and get healthy. Red Mountain sits between Zion, Bryce, Four Corners and Snow Mt. Parks. The air is cool, the sky azure and red rock bluffs surround, reasons why the resort is called 'the best outdoor fitness program in the most gorgeous spot on the planet'.

Peak Season discount! All meals-- some with Western themes and all classes included! Early AM and moonlight magnificent walks! Spirit Hikes! Star Party! 82 delightfully decorated rooms! Pools, golf, excursions to our nation's superb parks. And all near Las Vegas which can be added to your trip.

What the spa journalists say: NOT YOUR MOTHER'S SPA! AFTER 2 DAYS MY JAW UNCLINCHED AND MY STEP WAS LIGHTER. THE LAST TREATMENT OF MY STAY WAS NOT A REWARD, IT WAS AN INTER-VENTION.

Red Mt. Spa Our Second Group May 11-15 or stay on. Our package is a group discount based on 10 going: \$1028.57 twin and \$1235.11 single which includes taxes and an \$85 resort credit to use as you wish. Bring your camera for the glorious mountains.

BOOKING NOW. AIRFARE EXTRA TO ST. GEORGE UTAH OR LAS VEGAS.
Deposit is 50% of the trip cost.



Holland America Discount for US: From Copenhagen to Russia ending in Rotterdam. Save \$\$\$\$ with us.

Features: 2 days in St. Petersburg (on a ship you do not need a pricey Russian visa), scenic cruising Oslo Fjord, The Baltics including Estonia. Finland, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Norway. Holland America does your airfare and transfers to the ship. When we organize a group cruise: we mail each of you a list of all Club cabins so you can get in touch. We organize a dinner table or two for our group. We help you with room shares to save substantially on the cost. Our Alaska ladies last year loved being part of a dining group with freedom during the day to pick and choose what they wanted to do.

Cabins from: \$2819 for this 12 day cruise on elegant Holland America's Rotterdam.



Upcoming jaunts: April 7-9, The Club will have a booth at the Miami Herald Travel Show. Our old home and in the company of many of our Florida friends including Jane Wooldridge of The Miami Herald Travel Section.

The Women's Travel Club®
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The Club was founded in 1992 by Phyllis Stoller, a then banker with a non-traveling husband. We are nationally known. Berkeley Insurance protects your funds. We donate to women's charities. **To keep prices fair quality high, we do not maintain a mailing list for non-members. Dues are \$35 1-year/\$65 2-years. Members of less than 3 months pay a surcharge. Membership non refundable.** Need help with email specials or a password? Email us// **do not call our office for email help**

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