

Volume 15

Issue 4

June Bugs

# The Women's Travel Club



Dear Members,

I recently read an interesting analysis of the stages people go through when deciding to take a trip. Although the article was actually about deciding to go to a spa, the stages are similar for all travel decisions and we can hear them in your voice when you call. The stages are Pre Contemplation, Contemplation, Preparation, Action, and Maintenance. So what does this psycho-babble mean? **Pre-contemplation** for most of you is probably a certain unease with routine and a yen to bring new stimuli into your life. **Contemplation**, you begin to look at travel brochures, surf the internet, check on your frequent flyer miles, rifle glossy travel magazines in Borders! Maybe you look at our website for the first time, re-read our newsletter, even call the office for a 'feel good chat' (not unusual by the way- part of our job is not just finding you the right trip but hand holding until you feel comfy). I personally know when I am ready for a vacation: I start staring at turquoise water in ads for the Caribbean (I don't even go there but the warm water craving tells me I need a getaway).

Now comes **preparation**, this is 'calendar and bank statement' review time. This is asking everyone you know if they will join you! And when all your friends have budget constraints- are decision challenged and- have to baby sit their ill cocker spaniels, this is when you should be calling us for details on upcoming trips. Common questions: AGE RANGE? WHO WILL MEET ME? HAVE YOU DONE THIS TRIP BEFORE? CAN I MEET WOMEN AHEAD OF TIME? AND SO FORTH. **Action**, You choose a trip and book it! As most of you know, we accept telephone, web and mail bookings and we send you insurance information and additional details at that time. If you want Cathy helps you fill out the insurance application. **Maintenance**, though this stage is more relevant to a spa vacation, its importance to us is that you stay in the loop: return insurance forms and booking form promptly. When you get jittery about a possible airline strike, a newspaper headline, an outbreak of some weird disease, we would hope you call us for accurate answers!

So Ladies: move into 'action'. Summer is always a busy time and now that we are regularly posting specials on our site, you will not make it to the next stage and get a spot on our **Turkey** or **India** which were posted this week. If you are in the action phase, ask why we love Oaxaca in Summer or grab the last cabin on the Galapagos Trip. Book Canyon Ranch in the Berkshires during Tanglewood Festival. Check our new Holiday trips and Rome Special. But LOOK LOOK and call us.

**Last Chance:**

**May 22 Kenya you missed this one!**

**Peru July 1-7 Ecuador July 7-15 including 4 nights in the Galapagos. Again you waited too late and you missed out. Call for one share possible.**

**July 21-29 Oaxaca Mexico: Colonial Charm including Puebla, Cuernavaca and Oaxaca, during a major cultural festival. Holland America Baltic Cruise with 2 nights in St. Petersburg. August 9-21 Cabins released at original rate.**

**Yukon and Alaska, limited to a small group. And all time favorite Canyon Ranch in The Berkshires with FREE tickets to Tanglewood. Ltd. Space left til June 2 then \$500 pp.**

**India EARLY BIRD TIL JUNE 15**

*Phyllis Stoller*

**Why Colonial Mexico is for women who love Europe?**

**The setting:** Mexican colonial towns were designed and inhabited by the Spanish and until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Homes, gardens, cafes, pottery, remind us of Mediterranean life. The zocalo or central square still has bands at night and in smaller villages you will see older couples dancing.

**Hotels:** hotels are personal and charming, often with quiet flower filled court yards, and elegant dining, terraces with cascading flowers. Music and country décor remind of villages in S. Europe.

**History:** Places like Monte Alban and Mitla (both on our trip) thrill as do Roman ruins. The famous **museum** in Mexico City has the same importance as museums in Europe and ancient churches and monasteries rival medieval areas of European capitals.

**Safety:** in colonial Mexico you walk the country's safest and friendliest streets.

Mexico, closer and half the price as Europe. Weather? Mexico sits on a plateau giving it lovely summer weather: 55-79. Sophisticated food (Oaxaca is a renowned gourmet area), music that is 'not in your face' shopping that is unfathomable. And people who are unspoiled and indigenous

And our trip goes during a major Indian festival!!! The largest and most colorful outdoor dance festival in Mexico: tribes from all over will participate and you will never see this one again.

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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**

SUMMER 2006

**THIS NEWSLETTER WILL FOCUS ON WHAT IS AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER 2006**

**Kenya and other Specials**

If you look at our site regularly, you see specials, which appear and disappear as they expire or are filled. If you do not look, you missed Kenya, Rome 5 nights at \$999 inclusive, China for \$2995 in Sept including Yangtze Cruise, big swing band trip to Italy in June and more and more.

**July 1-7 and July 7-15 Peru and Galapagos Islands.**

We changed this trip slightly to add an extra night in the Galapagos at minimum cost. That is the good news. The bad news is that the ship is almost full. Each year the Galapagos is more protected and more \$\$\$.

So if you are even in the Pre-contemplation stage this is the year to see a blue booby bird. Add Peru, the snow capped volcanoes of The Andes, the largest Indian market in S. America and the pre-Columbian gold for which the Spaniards sailed all this way **Peru alone: \$1695 and Galapagos alone \$2595 twin basis**

**SHARE AVAILABLE.**

**Peru and Macchu Picchu: we dare you to find a more spiritual place or a better photograph. Neither of these trips is difficult. All Cub trips can be done by anyone. Peru: inventor of chocolate, nuff said.**

**July 12-24 From Wales to Ireland**

Celtic charmers and green patch-hills, covered with sheep and stone villages, centered on medieval abbeys and rushing rivers, castles, crafts, cathedrals and cream. Once over the Severn Bridge you are in a Welsh movie! We touch on both the village life, ancient history, Celtic and Roman legacy, the British castles that ring the borders of Wales, and inevitable magnificent national parks and forests we drive through. Then we visit Ireland: Dublin, SW Ireland- Ring of Kerry Blarney, Waterford, Cliffs of Moher, Galway, Kilkenny **\$2595 + air or for time in London.**

**July 21-29 Oaxaca + Puebla, Mex City**  
**Aug. 2-6 Canyon Ranch MA + Tanglewood.**

**August 4-13 Yukon to Alaska**  
**Aug. 8-21 Holland America Copenhagen to The Netherlands**  
**August 13-20 Ixtapan de la Sal spa S discount with 21 treatments and 2 side trips.**

**Oct. 1-15 Turkey Ankara to Istanbul**

**Oct 5-10 Iceland getaway**

**Oct. 18-22 and 25-29 Canyon Ranch Lenox MA group deal. NYCity Oct. 20-23**

**Nov. 4-17 or 21 North and South India, Dec. 1 Argentina/ Brazil**

**Nov. 22-26 Thanksgiving in Italy: cook your dinner in a villa farmhouse Assisi, Cinque Terra Montecatini. \$1499 air included,**

**Dec. 24-30 Madrid & Barcelona. \$1455 air included**

**March Chiang Mai to W. Chinese plateau and Bangkok. March Florence and**

The English countryside is so beautiful, that God they cannot cook it. Said Oscar Wilde years ago. Well today they can cook it but you get the point. Don't miss the most breath taking scenery in Europe. \$550 from JFK+taxes.

✂ The coast is ringed by 13c castles abutting walled medieval towns. Wales has some of the most spectacular castles in the world. Bring your cameras!

✂ Snowdonia National Park, a favorite of in the know, outdoorsy Brits, is a magical, mysterious and majestic place. Waterfalls, mountains, villages tucked into knoles. Gorgeous and cool.

✂ The picture you take of Tintern Abbey against the Welch mountains will go on your breakfront! Guaranteed to be the poetry of your memory.

✂ Spring Welsh lamb, farm cheeses, crumbly brown bread, eggs that never met a chemical, crisp ale in the local, Wales is famous for its food and the charming pub garden in which you might eat it.

✂ **An itinerary well mixed with Roman, Welsh. British, and natural history, with stays in family run hotels.**

✂ On to Celtic cousin Ireland, a short ride across the Irish Sea. Sophisticated Dublin, yuppie capital, then the magnificent SW coast that bade good bye to 40% of all Americans as they sailed to a better life.

✂ **Save some swooning for the Ring of Kerry and Cliffs of Moher. Save some \$ for Waterford and the craft town of Kilkenny.**

**Wales on to Ireland- July 12-24 or continue to London. \$2595 Single \$675. Includes: escort for 13 days, 11 nights, 3/4 star hotels (nice small 3 star!). Meals/ sightseeing as noted. Ferry. Not Included: air but ask.**

**July 12** Depart to London's Heathrow Airport. **July 13** Transfer 1PM to Windsor area for D and o/n. Welcome dinner **July 14** Continental breakfast. Depart Windsor via Severn Bridge. Stop at Chepstow, to explore **Chepstow Castle**. On to **Tintern Abbey** in the wooded Wye Valley. Next Caerleon to visit **Roman barracks, amphitheatre, baths**. Continue to Cardiff. D and o/n. **July 15** Full breakfast. AM sightseeing, to include the **Castle**. PM Llanrindod Wells via **Brecon Park** with mountains, moors, waterfalls. B. D. **July 16** Full breakfast. AM to Llanberis via Llongollen, Betws - y - coed and **Snowdonia Park**. B. D. **July 17** Full breakfast. Depart Llanberis for Caernarfon via Conwy. Visit the **Castle**, which hosted the investiture of Prince Charles. Continue to Holyhead ferry to **Dublin**. On arrival, transfer to our city hotel. B. **July 18** Irish breakfast. AM Dublin guide takes us passed St. Patrick's, Phoenix Park, Trinity College. PM free B. **July 19** Full Irish breakfast. Depart Dublin/ for Galway. PM our guide will take us on a tour of colorful Galway. B. D. **July 20** Full Irish breakfast. Today Galway Bay + **Cliffs of Moher**-- rising to 200 meters. Continue to **Killarney**. B. D. **July 21** Full Irish breakfast. Today **The Ring of Kerry**--captivating coastal scenery. Later a **Jaunting Car Ride**, a 200 hundred-year-old cart pulled by a horse, unique to Killarney, through National Park including Muckross Lake, Abbey & House. B. D. **July 22** Full Irish breakfast. Depart Killarney--travel to **Blarney Castle**. Next is Cork & Waterford Continue to Wexford for farewell dinner and o/n. B. D. **July 23** Irish breakfast. Depart Wexford for Kilkenny - medieval city dominated by Norman Castle and Cathedral. Then historic Kildare. And Dublin. B. **July 24** Irish breakfast. AM, transfer to Airport for flight to the USA. Or London. B. **London 4 star hotel \$175 a night- includes continental breakfast.**

**Yukon and Alaska: the most remote trip in North America August 4-13. Whitehorse to Whitehorse on the Klondike Highway to Dawson then on the Alaska Highway to Fairbanks. Then on to Denali before the cruise crowds arrive.** Here we are in wilderness and solitude beneath the peak of Mt. McKinley, the highest peak in N. America. We go to Anchorage and from there to Seward across the Kenai Peninsula where we take a 6 hour cruise past the fjords. Kenai has high mountains with glaciers extending into the ocean where we might encounter whales, sea lions, otter, all kinds of birds.

Now we round Tok Tok-Haines and we are in a milder part of Alaska: valleys, across the massive Copper River to the largest protected area in the world: Wrangel and Kluane National Park in Canada. Many visitors in the area feel Kluane is the most spectacular part of their journey: especially the highest active volcano in N.America: Mt. Wrangel. Here you will have the option of taking a helicopter to Kaskawulch Glacier in the park. (Note our trips have very few options). Then we drive thru the Yukon National Park

**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.**

**New Stuff  
And you will  
Be totally  
SHOCKED**



We are in the process of adding a ton of trips many of them have group airfares included. **Beginning in October with \*\*Turkey from Ankara to Istanbul as requested by several of our members. \$1750 (land only).**

**\*\*We added Iceland for some Boston women Oct. 4 for 5 nights: \$1099+ taxes. Air included from JFK or BOS til June 16 then add \$100.**

**\*\*India from the North to the South on Nov 4-21 ( you can do the North alone for a shorter trip , but that is a pity). \$4899+taxes with an early bird of \$150 savings. Air included. North only: \$4399.**

**\*\* Nov 21-26 Thanksgiving Rome thru Assisi to elegant Montecatini with a cook your Italian Thanksgiving dinner in a villa farmhouse, plus a day in Cinque Terra and time to explore the wealthy spa town of Montecatini. \$1499+\$220 taxes, air included**  
**\*\*Dec. 24-30 Christmas in Madrid and Barcelona \$1455+taxes. Air included.**

**\*\* Argentina and Brazil Dec. 1.**

**\*\* Rome on Sale Deal air from JFK, 5 nights Rome great hotel many extras \$999 plus \$220 taxes. Grand Palazzo Hotel. Open to men friends of the Club air included.**

**\*\* Shangri La: from Chiang Mai thru Western China and back to Bangkok, March 2007.**

**They will keep coming including some winter warm up trips for our Northern members. Suzy Gershman of Born To Shop might work with us on a China trip and we are hopeful she will do more in future.**

**Groups: did you know we also do private groups??? And can design tours like walking for your health club members, Jewish Spain for your synagogue, NY for your shopping friends, London for your book group,**

Siberia for your ex husbands.

Summer: as they say on The Sopranos: fageddaboutit. This is our last warning about final space for July and August trips. Still available is Colonial Mexico, Yukon, Wales and Ixtapan de la Sal. And Canyon Ranch Lenox for August if you move fast!

But The Real news is The New New New Women's Travel Club trips. Inside you will see a

**Blitz of new stuff Turkey, Italy, India, Iceland, New York, Spain. And more and more. All on the web and booking now!!! Specials are peppering the website; they come and go so put on your glasses and go to it.**

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Return Service Requested

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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