

Volume 15

Issue 5

Sizzle

The Women's Travel Club



Dear Members,

What a nice feeling, when returning Club members send us personal accounts of their trips and lists of tips. It tells the office that the group has become friends. The best comment received recently was from Sherry of GA: "I went to Portugal in March 2006 with 14 wonderful women I did not know, but knew within a day! Some were single, married, and there were two sets of mother-daughters". She then described the trip to us and ended with "Great morale and ego booster!"

Another group who went to Tuscany with The Club April 2006 sent a list of suggestions for travel in that area. These were probably written over wine, good job! Change money at the Post Office. Get local currency before you leave from your bank or at the airport. Bring a wash cloth, European hotels have lovely towels, no wash cloths. Some plumbing fixtures have on/off dials on the floor, don't pull the cord in the bathroom—it is an emergency cord, not a flush. Tell your credit card company you are going abroad. Don't wear new shoes! Be prepared to buy water. Bring an openness to new experiences, flexibility, and sense of humor—things don't always go the way we are used to. Be prepared for an adventure. Next trips to Italy: Oct. 2006, Nov 2006 and March 2007.

From Pola in Miami: The trip to Central Asia April 2006 was amazing. I took 450 photographs and will write about it. With Pola, the Club arranged a special visit to the Jewish community in Bukhara over Passover, which made her trip even more special. Next trip to that area: Turkey October 2006.

A few more tips from our reading: Debit card fees are generally cheaper in ATM usage. For safety, unlink the debit card from all but one account. Do bring more than one card with you in case the machine eats your card. Check hotel telephone connection charges before you make that call; the cheapest way to call home is with a locally purchased card, used in a public phone. Want to check the situation in an overseas area? The most honest way is to read a local online English language newspaper. A list is on www.onlinenewspapers.com. You can read about local crime, special events, sales etc. Why bring fishing net on a trip? Use it to fix eyeglasses, retie a suitcase or your shoes and packages, as a clothes line, to drag a suitcase on wheels, even go fishing! For least delays, fly early. For best fares, check the internet a few minutes after midnight ESTime. Stuck in an airport for a long layover? Take one of the free airport shuttles to a nearby hotel and relax there!

And for those with no patience. Before you criticize someone walk a mile in their shoes. That way, if they get angry, they are a mile away and barefoot! Sent in by another member.

Seen the site recently? Shocked? Amazed? Lower prices. Group airfares. New destinations. We will post full year 2007 by end Summer. Early birds India & Iceland going gone. New trips to Argentina & Brazil, Tuscany, China, North and South India, Spain, Turkey, Morocco and more! INTERNET SPECIAL ROME \$999 from NY only 5 nights great hotel!!

Great new biggies:
Turkey Oct 1-15 or stay on
India Nov. 4-17 or 20 EARLY BIRD TIL JUNE 15
Argentina and Brazil Nov. 30-Dec. 12
Phyllis Stoller

New trends for women in travel. In the last few months we have been talking to women in all aspects. Women are sneaking into every corner of the industry.

Travel gear: Christine Columbus www.christinecolumbus.com. sells travel gear, specifically for women. We both started in 1992 and we are both still around! This site is a must for women who travel.

Julie Brosterman started Women and Wine, a consultant to the industry on how to appeal to women consumers. We hope to do wine trips with their organization in future. Her site has weekend trips relating to the wine country in CA.

Liz Mateo here in NY started a group for Latin women in the financial sector, for networking, travel and fun. And Kelly did the same for women in BC, Canada.

Golf: women and golf is everywhere and, where I practice, they offer clinics just for women. (Chelsea Pier in NYC). Again we hope to start golf trips in 2007.

15 years ago when The Club started, all this was unheard of or just plain eccentric. Today according to the Travel Industry Association, 16.4 million women traveled solo 2003-2005

We can customize trips for your local group. Any theme but not those plastic surgery trips to Brazil. We do draw the line!

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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!

New New New New New

If you have looked at our site recently, you are surprised, right? Prices dropped; flights added for your convenience and we are planning further out than before. Big trips like India, Turkey, Argentina are lengthier. Why go to India and only see the North? We include the North and a bit of the South during the best month for both. And Argentina? Why just do BA, we added Bariloche and Rio. Turkey, all the way to Ankara for a full sweep.

Many of you ask about extensions to trips. This is how it works: you inform us you wish to stay on and we create a fun addition to the base trip. We notify others as the trip books and voila!, an extension is born. PS one member asked about extending Spain trip in NY over New Year's Eve! Great idea.

ALSO NEW WE HAVE INTERNET SPECIALS LIKE THE ROME TRIP POSTED FOR MONTHS. BUT REPRINTED HERE. SOMETIMES WE ARE OFFERED A PIECE OF A TERRIFIC DEAL AND WE PASS IT ON TO YOU. OUR HOTEL IN ROME IS GRAND HOTEL GRAND PALAZZO.

Summer 2006

Last Call for Summer 2006!

August spa trips are cool, calming, cultural and a comfortable way to meet for the 1st or 10th time. **Canyon Ranch** is a health resort. You concentrate on your life style not just on relaxation. This is the trend in American health resorts: quality of life, an integration of conventional and alternative medicine, mind, body and spirit as one functioning unit. There are also the amazing walks, talks, food, 40-50 classes daily each day. The Ranch offers a customized lifestyle for you--\$\$\$ group savings August 2-6.

Overseas spas are of 2 types: destination resorts or the 'taking of the waters type'. **Ixtapan de la Sal** in Mexico is one of the former: in mountains of central Mexico, we offer two sightseeing trips and 21 treatments. The 18 hole golf course beckons new golfers and women ahead of the golf curve \$1200 twin and \$1350 single. August 13-20 and booking quickly Full week inclusive. Plus Taxco for silver shopping and more.

Hotel Grand Vittoria, Montecatini

Italy is a traditional European spa hotel, our base for Thanksgiving with the Club. Nov. 21-27. This 4 1/2 star facility sits in a fashionable town near enough to Florence, Lucca, Cinque Terra. The hotel is near the "terme" or curative waters and the spa is called the "Beauty Farm". Food is Tuscan not necessarily dietetic. This trip has mostly sightseeing. See the magnificent photo on our site.

TRY THEM ALL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Autumn and onwards

Oct. 1-15 Turkey Ankara to Istanbul from ancient Cappadocia to Greco-Roman Med. coast and on to Byzantine Istanbul. **\$1750 + air** - almost full. Not Turkey of the cruise ships. Airfare bookable here: \$959.

Oct 5-10 Iceland \$1199 + taxes. Like sitting on top of a bubbling pot. This land is full of geysers, steam seeping from underground. No wonder the Vikings had such good skin. From JFK or Boston, we fly to magnificent green swirls where E/ W. Hemispheres meet.

Oct. 18-22 and 25-29 Canyon Ranch Lenox MA group deal. **GOOD TIL AUGUST 18 then you pay more.**

Oct. 20-23 New York City

Nov. 4-17 or 20 North and South India, **Nov. 21-27** Thanksgiving in Italy: cook dinner in a villa farmhouse Assisi, Cinque Terra Montecatini. \$1499+ taxes air included to Rome

Nov. 30-Dec.12 Argentina on to Brazil **Dec. 24-30** Madrid & Barcelona. \$1455+ taxes air included. How about staying on in NY for New Year's Eve?

Jan. 28-Feb 4 tentatively Ixtapan in Mexico

Winter Florida: golf & more warm trips.

March 16-24- Florence and Tuscany our annual. Oman Dubai coming.

May Chiang Mai to W. Chinese plateau and Bangkok, Hong Kong

WE ARE PLANNING A BIG YEAR.

And trips will first go on our website.

INTERNET SPECIAL ROME FOR \$999

October 28-Nov. 3, great hotel, one full day tour, transfers, farewell dinner.

Breakfast daily Air include from New York area. What a deal. Single \$299.

North and South India Nov 4-17 or 20 2006

Includes: air priced from JFK but available for many other cities, 5 star hotels, touring, BD, 1 lunch, internal flights, dance/ music evenings, private bus and guide, special Delhi welcome. Air France from any gateway. Just ask Visas required for this trip.

\$4899 both / \$4399 North only + taxes. Single North \$1155 South \$310. Deposit \$500.

Nov. 4 Depart on overnight flights to Delhi with a stopover in Paris.

Nov. 6 Arrive Delhi 11PM with a special welcome. Depart for hotel and overnight.

Nov 7 Delhi late AM half day tour of this ancient walled city. Start in a rickshaw to see Red Fort, the most opulent of the Mughal palaces, Chandni Chowk, with bazaars, memorial of Gandhi, largest mosque and market. PM free Special Dinner and Dance show.

Nov 8 Delhi After breakfast a half day of New Delhi, designed in the 1920's, with wide boulevards impressive buildings, parks and gardens. You visit Qutub Minar and Humayun's tomb, India Gate. PM free. Our bus and guide will be at our disposal.

Nov 9 Delhi drive to Agra PM visit the Taj Mahal, built by an emperor in memory of his queen. Construction began in 1631, and took 18 years. What makes the Taj unique is its proportions and ornamentation. It is inlaid with precious stones. Also visit the Fort and royal residence.

Nov 10 Agra drive to Jaipur stopping at Fatehpur Sikri. Keep your camera handy for glimpses of desert, camels, maybe a holy man. Fatehpur Sikri - the deserted city, built by Akbar is a fairy tale in its 'ruins'. Arrive in Jaipur the "Pink City" and the capital of colorful Rajasthan.

Nov 11 In Jaipur visit Amber Fort, with its terraces and ramparts. Go up the fort on the back of decorated elephants. The interiors have intricate ivory, mirror and glasswork and paintings. After lunch we visit the Palace Museum with traditional Rajasthani and Mughal robes, carpets, weapons, paintings and the awe inspiring Jantar Mantar (an observatory built in 1726 AD) then a photo visit at the Palace of Winds - a five storied wonder with pyramidal facade.

Nov. 12 Jaipur Jodhpur (approx. 7 hrs- note there are few flights- you are entering the India less visited), stopping en route for photos and bathrooms. Check into our hotel. PM free.

Nov. 13 Jodhpur Half day tour Jodhpur, home of Rathore Rulers. A high wall protects this fortified hill city. Within it stands a fort founded in 1459, intricately adorned. We visit Jaswant thada, a white marble cenotaph. PM proceed to Mandore Garden, ancient capital. At the foot of the hills, commemorative cenotaphs line the silent city. Visit the local market. **RIGHT OUT OF AN OLD BRITISH MOVIE-** in the desert dunes with forts and castles.

Nov. 14 Jodhpur – Ranakpur – Udaipur Udaipur visiting Ranakpur Jain Temple en route. This is one of the biggest Jain temples in India. Extremely beautiful complex lies in a remote valley. Lunch in a restaurant in Ranakpur. We continue to Udaipur. .

Nov 15 Udaipur Enjoy a tour of the lake city, a cool oasis. The city palace towering over Lake Pichola is the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. Proceed to the Jagdish temple which enshrines Lord Vishnu. The temple is still in use by colorfully dressed pilgrims. Also visit Sahelion Ki Bari the spectacular garden. PM cruise on the Lake Pichola. Visit the market behind the Palace.

Nov. 16 Udaipur-Mumbai-home or continue to the South! AM flight to Mumbai. If you are continuing to Chennai (Madras) fly on. If going home, we included a tour of Mumbai, then dinner and hotel rooms til our flight home. **Nov. 17** arrive back in JFK on **Nov. 17** afternoon.

Hotels are five star: Delhi: The Meridien// Agra: Mughal Sheraton// Jaipur: Rajputana Sheraton// Jodhpur: Taj Hari Majal// Udaipur: The Grand Laxmi Villas Palace// Mumbai: Leela Kempinski (day rooms)// Madras: Taj Connemara// Covelong: Fisherman's Cove, sea facing rooms.

Visas are required for India; we send you information when you book. In the meantime make sure your passport is valid 6 months from Nov. 20, 2007.

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.

The South of INDIA

Nov. 16-20

A few days in a different world.



Nov 16 Fly Mumbai to Chennai. After a rest, we continue with a tour of Madras. Madras (Chennai) is the capital of Tamil Nadu. Only the cathedral and the Fort of St. George are reminders of its British past. Visit the Marina Beach-second longest beach in the world, Fort St. George-the first foothold of British from where Clive started the expansion of British rule. Return to the hotel in Madras.

Nov 17 Chennai - Covelong Full day to Mahabalipuram & Kanchipuram Temples. Mahabalipuram was an ancient coastal port. Built by the Pallava kings, it was a seaport to connect their empire with SE Asia. Here you see a world of S Indian design in a complex that resembles Angkor Wat. Also see the famous Shore Temple lashed by the sea. The sculptures at Mahabalipuram are special. Next is Kanchipuram, the Golden city of Temples, one of the 7 sacred cities of India. This major center of Hindu worship and Tamil culture is also famous for amazing silk. Overnight Covelong.

Nov. 18 Free day in Covelong to enjoy some optional Ayurvedic treatments in our sea side resort. Our guide will be available to help you. **Nov. 20** Depart for Madras for flights to the US arriving **Nov. 20** in time to brag India over turkey. **PS IF YOU WANT A DAY TOUR OF BOMBAY AS ON NOV. 16. Ask!!**

Notes from Phyllis : India is exotic band hotels deluxe. Flower petals might decorate your hotel lobby or incense swirl in the garden. A fortune teller's card might be next to the room service menu! A white faced holy man might bless you in the street, while camels, monkeys, cows, peacocks join in. The silk you see will be 4 ply and iridescent; the green beads you admire are probably emeralds. Women in the field wear hot pink while they toil and the ghosts of maharajas hide in the shadows of the old forts. See it all: on elephant back, by rickshaw, launch on the lake, and from the comfort of our air conditioned bus. JOIN US

NEWS THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY

THE GOOD: Rome \$999 plus taxes: 5 nights, transfers, breakfast, one dinner, one full day tour, air from JFK. A steal!!!

THE BAD The early bird has flown away for India and Iceland, but check our site all the time for discount coupons and updates. India: Nov. 4-17 or 20 if you stay for the South: \$4899 for North and South and \$4399 fo North only- both + taxes. Iceland Oct. 5-10: \$1199+ taxes.

THE UGLY What we look like mid August in office clothes coming home in the heat. But you will not look like a rag, if you take a cool August trip! Canyon Ranch in The Berkshires of W. MA or Ixtapan de la Sal in the mountains of Mexico. A few spots left at this time.

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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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