

Beth's Corner



Welcome to the
December/January
edition of the
wanderings
newsletter!

While you're reading this new edition of Wanderings, Bob and I will be completing a short escorted group tour along the Mekong River in Vietnam.

As always I'm sure you'll find this edition packed with great specials that are sourced by Travel Masters and offered to our regular client base.

This issue is focusing on Europe and the many significant offers and tour opportunities currently available for travellers to this always popular destination. Take the time to read through the contents and consider taking advantage of the many 'Early Bird' offers available BUT only for a limited time.

Whether it be Coach Touring across Europe, Mediterranean Cruising or the ever popular River Cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest, you'll find a wealth of information and tour experiences to consider within this issue.

Our Small Group programme continues to grow and our 2012 tours to both Africa/Egypt and also Silk Road/ Tibet have just been released. Give any of our three offices a call if you'd like to receive a free colour brochure. South America in May is almost booked out and there are now only a couple of spaces remaining. If you're considering this trip, I'd suggest you move quickly before it's gone for 2012!

I'd finally like to thank you all for booking with us over the past year (or at least giving us the opportunity to quote on your requirements). On behalf of Bob and myself along with all our experienced staff, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year in travel.

Until 2012.....Happy Travels!

Beth Malcolm

Managing Director - Travel Masters Group

It's Time to Start Thinking ABOUT EUROPE!

As Christmas approaches and our thoughts turn to family, exchanging gifts and preparing for another New Year, it's also a time when many travellers start thinking about Europe.

This is the season when Early Bird specials are appearing everywhere from the world's leading European Tour and Cruise Specialists....and Travel Masters has them all.

While many of our clients are aware of our position as the leading cruise agency in Queensland, most would be surprised to also learn that Europe is our number one revenue based destination in the world.

This issue we have decided to focus on Europe and some of the many options available to you, the traveller, in 2012.

Whether you are interested in a Scenic, APT, Globus, Tauck, Insight or any of the quality tour operators out there, we can assist you with your complete travel plans. In these pages, we have selected a number of tours that combine the iconic wonders of Europe but also allow you to visit some of the more unique places, cultures and destinations across this vast land mass.

So whether it's River Cruising, Mediterranean Cruising or Trans Europe Luxury Coach Touring, Travel Masters can help you find the product which suits you best. Read on and enjoy Europe in 2012.



CENTRAL EUROPE & RUSSIA WATERWAYS OF THE CZARS

Stunning Scenic Beauty and Outstanding Cultural Centres

10 DAY COACH TOUR OF CENTRAL EUROPE

Spectacular Budapest, Vienna, Prague, Dresden & Berlin

12 DAY WATERWAYS OF THE CZARS CRUISE

Moscow, Uglich, Yaroslavl, Kuzino, Kizhi Island, Mandrogy, St Petersburg
Onboard One of the Best Ships in Russia, the 'Viking Rurik' (formerly Peterhof)

26 Amazing Days - Departs 26 June 2012

Cost: \$11,875 per person, twin share

Showcasing the epic history, culture and vitality of Russia & Central Europe, at a leisurely pace, & at the very best time of year

Includes: All flights ex Brisbane, Superior deluxe accom, comprehensive sightseeing, brilliant entertainment, most meals, plus services of the best Guide & Tour Escort.

Your say

Roger and I had a marvellous trip, the Aegean Odyssey was a very lovely small ship, charming company, excellent food and most of all the port excursions were excellent. Guides enthusiastic and knowledgeable and skilled at group control. The lecturers were excellent. The back to back tour was long enough for us to enjoy the shipboard life but not so long to get bored. We had a smooth transition in Istanbul to our independent hotel before joining our "Jewels of Turkey" tour. We thoroughly enjoyed all the fabulous sights of Turkey so much! Thanks to all – quite an adventure!

Anna & Roger Wellman

Holiday was wonderful and went according to plan. Greatly appreciated the flowers from Travel Masters which was a lovely way to start our holiday.

Nigel & Christine Brown

Thanks so much for our beautiful flowers and the excellent lunch in the Pinnacle Restaurant on board the Ryndam. Lee Bavin has always provided us with excellent service. Her overall expertise has ensured our travel has been most enjoyable and hassle free. Lee often makes suggestions to improve our holiday arrangements. She always goes the extra mile. We now look on her as a friend.

Merv & Denise Mitchell

Make your European Holiday Something out of the Ordinary!



Ask About Different Forms of Accommodation

Resorts... Boutique Hotels... Castles/Chateaux... Villas... B&Bs... Houseboats... Cottages... Motor Homes... Self Contained Apartments... even perhaps a Gypsy Caravan...

You Could do Different Things

Theatres... Plays... Musical Events... Cultural Events... Museum Passes... Sightseeing Tours... Rail & Bus Passes... Ski Packages... Heritage Passes... Sporting Events... Hotel Passes...

Tour in Comfort & Safety with the Best Companies

Tauck... APT... Insight... Scenic... Globus... Tempo... Trafalgar... Bentours... Albatross...

Perhaps Try Different Ways of Getting Around

Train... Plane... Hire Car... Cruise Ship... Canal Barging... Ferries... Narrow Boat... Self Drive Boat... River Cruising... Bicycling... Walking Tours...

Include Wonderful Stopovers

South America... Africa... China... India... Taiwan... USA... South East Asia... Japan...



GRAND CHRISTMAS TIME EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE

Zurich, Basel, Black Forest, Strasbourg, Speyer, Heidelberg, Frankfurt, Rudesheim, Miltenberg, Wertheim, Wurzburg, Rothenburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg, Munich, Regensburg, Passau, Linz, Melk, Vienna

15 Nights - Departs 26 November 2012
On Board 'ms Visionary'

CRUISE from \$4,486pp

Incl Sightseeing, Tips & Wine with Dinner



EL TRASCANTABRICO LUXURY TRAIN JOURNEY, SPAIN

GRAN LUJO JOURNEY

A new, exclusive service

Travel Between Santiago de Compostela & San Sebastian

Includes Sightseeing Tours, 7 Nights on board Grand Suite Accom, Meals
7 Nights - Departs Mar to Dec 12

COST from \$5,357pp

INCL EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT



GOTA CANAL CRUISE ACROSS SWEDEN

Stockholm to Gothenburg

From the Baltic Sea to the River Gota
8 LAKES - 66 LOCKS

Stockholm, Trosa, Motala, Lake Vanern, Trollhattan, Gothenburg

3 Nights - Regular Departures 2012

On the World's Oldest Passenger Cruise Ship, the MS Juno

CRUISE from \$1,846pp

Add this Unique Cruise to your Holiday



HIGHLIGHTS OF MOROCCO

Casablanca, Rabat, Volubilis, Meknes, Fes, Midelt, Merzouga, M'Goun Valley, Ait Benhaddou, Marrakech, Essaouira

16 Days - Regular Departures 2012

TOUR from \$2,275pp

Includes Sightseeing, Services of an English Speaking Local Tour leader and local guides at some sites, Transport by Private Air-Con Bus, 9 Nights Comfortable Hotel, 2 Nights Mountain Guesthouse, 1 Night Desert Camp, 3 Nights Traditional Riad, 15 Breakfasts & 3 Dinners

Holiday Packages - Coach Touring - Airfares - Cruises
Get the Best Value for your Dollar - Contact us Today!



GRAND TOUR OF TURKEY

Istanbul, Canakkale/Gallipoli, Izmir, Troy, Pamukkale, Aphrodisias, Kusadasi, Ephesus, Cappadocia, Adana, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Harran, Mount Nemrut, Mardin, Van, Dogubeyazit, Kars, Erzurum, Trabzon

Departures May, June & September 2012

21 Night Tour from \$6,846pp

Includes Comprehensive Sightseeing



SPECTACULAR NORWAY

Oslo, 2 Nights Bergen incl Sightseeing

11 Night Hurtigruten Cruise, The World's Most Beautiful Voyage

Bergen via Kirkenes to Bergen

Visiting 34 ports in just 12 days, experience the natural, unspoilt beauty of Norway's Coastline

Daily Departures Jan to Dec 2012

14 Day Cruise & Tour from \$3,636pp

Oceanview from \$3,746pp



THE BALKANS EXPLORER TOUR

Croatia - Bosnia & Herzegovina

Exploring the two main countries in the Balkans, offering contrasting scenery and distinctive cultures.

Dubrovnik, Split, Plitvice, Sarajevo

9 Days

Departs May, June, Sep & Oct 2012

TOUR from \$2,520pp

Includes Accommodation, Sightseeing, Most Meals and more!



ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Retrace the steps of the 'Diggers' throughout the Allied battles of the Western Front, from the staggering devastation of the trench warfare of the Somme Battlefields, to the moving 'Last Post' under the Menin Gate

1 night Paris, 3 nights Ypres, 3 nights Amiens, Paris

8 Days - Departures Apr to Sep 12

Luxury Albatross Tour with Specialist Battlefield Tour Manager

TOUR from \$2,289pp

Includes Accom, Sightseeing and more!



CANAL BARGING LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE

From the chateaux of the Loire to private wine tastings and gastronomic delights created by your on-board chef, this cruise along the River Cher introduces you to some of the best that France has to offer.

6 Nights - Regular Departures 2012

Luxury Barge 'Nymphaea' - 6 Passengers

CRUISE from \$3,869pp

Includes Sightseeing, Regional Wines with Lunch & Dinner, Open Bar, Use of Bicycles, All Meals On Board



AMALFI COAST WALKING TOUR

Guided Walking Tour - Based in 2 Contrasting Centres so you can enjoy the very best bits of this Beautiful Corner of Southern Italy.

Ravello, Minori, Atrani, Pontone, Amalfi, Sentiero degli Dei, Pompeii, Annunziata, Punta Campanella

An Exciting Walk with Breathtaking Scenery at Every Step

7 Nights - Departures to Oct 2012

TOUR from \$2,539pp

Includes Accom, Breakfast & Dinner Daily

CRUISING THE DANUBE RIVER

Lori Locke, Senior Travel Consultant at The Travel Studio, has recently cruised the Danube aboard Scenic's new ship, the Scenic Pearl...

In April of this year I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to experience a Scenic Tour European River Cruise aboard the Scenic Pearl and what an experience it was!

I boarded the brand new Scenic Pearl in Budapest and departed for Bratislava, our first stop on the itinerary where there was ample time to wander the city for around an hour before continuing on to Vienna.

Overnight dining in Portobello's Restaurant on board was a great treat which set the standard for each night along the way and the whole shipboard ambience was first class.

As we progressed the rivers of Europe some magical cities and attractions were visited - Vienna's Liechtenstein Palace Opera and Schonbrunn Palace, Melk's Benedictine Abbey, Salzburg's stunning gardens and well maintained city streets (ideal for walking and exploring). The ancient medieval town of Old Cesky Krumlov - over 700 years old!, Durnstein's magnificent castle ruins - a tough walk but the view is worth every bit of pain!

A European River Cruise has to be experienced to truly understand what makes them so popular. This cruise focused primarily on the Danube River area and provided me with many wonderful memories and a desire to see more of these fascinating waterways. The cruise was great value and fun to travel on a brand new ship that provides value for money and offers a wonderful and enriching experience of the Danube river area.

Overall if you're looking for a snapshot of Europe and an area so rich in history, I can recommend travelling on the Scenic Pearl.

I know you'll enjoy it!

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow mindedness"



Foreign Currency - BEST RATES ON THE COAST

See us to get your currency for your holiday at the best rates, all day, everyday



The Bucket List

Europe has some of the most luxurious hotels in the world...here's just a taste...

ARGOS in CAPPADOCIA

Turkey

A stunning hotel in a stunning location! Restored from an original dwelling that dates back thousands of years. With an exquisite location, accommodation is spread gracefully over the grounds with landscaping that connects the living areas to one another. Only 41 rooms and some come with their very own private cave pool! A unique experience for the discerning traveller.

HOTEL LE BRISTOL

Paris, France

Harmony, well being, elegance and luminosity are the key words to describe this hotel's timeless luxury and art de vivre! The recently renovated Hotel le Bristol offers a perfect balance between old-world elegance and cutting-edge features. The rooftop swimming pool provides breathtaking views over Paris and along with a top rated Michelin restaurant ensures every guest will have a memorable experience in this city of love!

KING GEORGE PALACE

Athens, Greece

Located in the heart of Athens, on Constitution Square the King George offers spectacular views of the Acropolis and has played host to celebrities, politicians and the international business elite. Rooms are individually decorated with fine art and collectibles. For those lucky enough, the Royal Penthouse Suite is considered one of Europe's most spectacular! The King George is a historical landmark that sits at the heart of Athen's buzzing centre.

THE LANDMARK

London, England

The Landmark lives up to its name and evokes the romance of a long gone era. Built in 1899 during the golden age of steam, this magnificent hotel combines classic British elegance and grandeur with deluxe facilities. Perfectly located in Marylebone Road, one of London's most fashionable and close to main attractions, the Landmark is considered one of the grand dame hotels in the city. A stay at the Landmark is something to be savoured and remembered. It will make any holiday that little bit more special!

SMALL GROUP TOURS FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER

Traditionally, travel has and always will be a personal thing - being free to explore the world with a partner, wife, husband or friend. There are still many parts of the world where travel as an independent couple or individual is totally possible and trouble free.

Conversely there are areas of the world, although quite safe for travellers, that create an aura of self doubt and confidence when dealing with language, culture and the tyranny of distance from the comforts of western civilization.

These destinations offer a smorgasbord of sights, sounds and people sure to appeal to any person wanting to get off the beaten track.

These countries or areas of the world are very much available to Discerning Travellers - in the form of Small Group packages. Bob and Beth Malcolm, joint Managing Directors of Travel Masters, have devoted the past 30 years concepting, researching and then producing tour product aimed to satisfy the whims and demands of this very confident and travel 'savvy' demographic.

Travel Masters, long acknowledged as one of the leaders in Small Group Travel, understand these attitudes and expectations. During the last 3 decades they have fine tuned travel experiences to exotic locations to the point where the services and comforts on trips are as close to what one would get at home, even though the actual location could be as remote as far western Kashgar in China or the Amazon River. If you want to see something special in the company of like minded individuals and / or couples give us a call. Informative brochures are available on all the below tours.

SMALL GROUP TOUR PROGRAMME 2012



HARBIN ICE & SNOW FESTIVAL

January



RUSSIA & CENTRAL EUROPE

June



BHUTAN & BRAHMAPUTRA

February



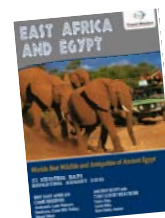
NORTHWEST PASSAGE

August



CHINA - A PLATINUM EXPERIENCE

May



EAST AFRICA & EGYPT

August



SPECTACULAR SOUTH AMERICA

May

ALMOST SOLD OUT!



SILK ROAD & TIBET

September

All offers are subject to change and some conditions may apply. Please contact us for more information.

Privacy Policy: Your information will not be passed on to any third parties and will only be used to communicate travel related information. Please contact us if you do not wish to receive information from us.