

Beth's Corner



Welcome to the June/July edition of the wanderings newsletter!

Welcome to the winter (June/July) 2011 edition of Wanderings!

While you're reading this edition, I will be travelling with a group of around 25 fellow travellers across South America on our annual Small Group Tour. There'll be lots of memories and stories to tell upon our return.

The 2012 South America tour has also just been released and you'll find details in this edition of Wanderings. If you're keen to experience one of the most amazing destinations on earth, make sure you book early as this tour ALWAYS books out.

It's that time of year when all the European River Cruise Early Bird offers are out in the market place and this year is no different. All operators have some great specials and offers on the table so as they say 'the early bird catches the worm'. Get in while these deals are available and plan for your next European holiday.

We at Travel Masters have also been busy planning and developing our 2012 range of cruise specials and Small Group destinations. Over the next few months keep an eye out for our exclusive Russia tour departure and don't forget there is still a limited opportunity to join Bob and I on the North West Passage cruise in August 2012. Already 34 people have signed on so it looks like being a fantastic experience for those who join us for an absolutely 'one off' opportunity.

Our senior consultants and cruise specialists are on hand at all three offices to assist with your travel plans no matter what destination or requirement. Give them a call or drop in to the offices as they will be only too pleased to handle your travel booking.

Until next issue,
Happy Travels

Beth Malcolm

Managing Director - Travel Masters Group

**Australian Federation of Travel Agents
International Cruise Council of Australasia
Member of Travel Compensation Fund**

European River Cruising 2012 Earlybirds Out Now!

Gliding down Europe's great waterways is a soothing experience and a refreshing way to absorb the beauty that has inspired poets and artists through the centuries. You'll often pass through several countries, each with its unique history, architecture and stunning scenery. From the colourful canals of Amsterdam to the captivating baroque elegance of Vienna and graceful bridges of Budapest, dynamic Moscow, imperial St Petersburg, quaint villages, lush vineyards, medieval castles and sparkling European cities... see it all!

In order to negotiate low bridges, river vessels are long and low. Although small when compared to ocean going cruise ships, they certainly don't lack in facilities, atmosphere and friendliness. These beautiful boats are air-conditioned and offer the discreet luxury of a small floating hotel, most with several public rooms – dining room, observation lounge, bar, heated swimming pool (some are indoor), sauna, solarium, whirlpool, gymnasium, massage, hairdresser and shop kiosk.

The new season's programmes are now being released by all major operators. At this time of year, you have an amazing opportunity to take advantage of the many Earlybird Offers that are offered. Current offers even include Fly Free ex Australia! The deals are extremely attractive and you are sure to save big dollars by booking early. Contact any of our Senior Cruise Specialists at our three offices for the latest information on Earlybird Specials.

It's time to go River Cruising.....and SAVE!



2012
Brochure
Just Released
CALL TODAY

SPECTACULAR SOUTH AMERICA

Outstanding Attractions- Ancient Cultures - Colourful Lifestyles

A Travel Masters Signature Tour – Recognised as Australia's Most Inclusive, Luxurious Best Value Tour!

Nazca Lines, Lima, Cusco, Sacred Valley of the Incas, Machu Picchu, Ollantaytambo, Puno, Lake Titicaca, Amazon River, Manaus, Rio De Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires

GREAT CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Gaucha Fiesta, Tango & Samba Shows, Andean Markets, Scenic Rail Trips, Wildlife excursions & 3 day Amazon Cruise

Finest & Best Located Hotels – All Inclusive Sightseeing – Exclusive & Unique Experiences

28 Amazing Days - Departs 21 May 2012

Cost: \$14,300 per person, twin share

5 Night Galapagos Island Extension Also Available

Your say

Bob & Beth – thank you so much for your great contribution to our 'Holiday of a Lifetime'. Having your presence on board and the wonderful 'extras' you arranged was fantastic. Kevin will never forget his most memorable birthday. From the cute sign on the door, the card and present (Kevin finds the binoculars great for checking out the waves from my balcony), the cocktail party for Zoe & Kevin, through to dining on the Captain's Table, the cake and the Filipino chorus! The 46 days on board just flew and time never dragged. Only back for a week and already thinking of a Caribbean cruise on 'The Spirit'. Once again many thanks to you both.

Marlie & Kev

I would like to give you some very positive feedback on our dealings with Dave Oakes, Senior Cruise Specialist. We initially contacted Dave in December with regard to a P&O Cruise. He was able to reserve us an Oceanview cabin on a Guarantee basis. He was so helpful in explaining what this entailed as no other Travel Agent had offered this to us in the past. Today we received by Express Post our travel pack and documents, which was so professionally organised. I was impressed with very useful inclusions (bags, luggage straps, ID holder etc). We were also upgraded to an E grade cabin on a higher level – fabulous. I would have no hesitation in booking with Dave in the future. He is a credit to the Travel Masters Team and I applaud him on his professionalism and attention to detail.

Carolyn & Peter Knobloch

JUMP ONBOARD - Great Cruise Specials

ITALY TO INDIA

INCLUDING TRANSIT OF SUEZ CANAL

Venice (Italy), Ravenna, Split (Croatia), Dubrovnik, Kotor (Montenegro), Brindisi (Italy), Corfu (Greece), Katakolon/Olympia, Athens/Piraeus, Rhodes, Suez Canal, Muscat (Oman), Mumbai (India)

24 Nights - Departs 16 November 2011

Fly & Cruise from \$4,725pp

Oceanview from \$5,015pp - Balcony from \$5,465pp

Prices include return air ex Brisbane, 24 night cruise, onboard tips, wine with lunch & dinner, port charges & taxes.



SAN FRANCISCO TO BRISBANE

BONUS £60pp ONBOARD CREDIT

San Francisco (USA), Hilo (Hawaii), Honolulu, Apia (Western Samoa), Pago Pago (American Samoa), Port Denarau (Fiji), Auckland (New Zealand), Bay of Islands, Sydney, Brisbane

24 Nights - Departs 24 January 2012

Fly & Cruise from \$4,975pp

Oceanview from \$5,885pp - Balcony from \$6,115pp

Prices include one way air Brisbane to San Francisco, 1 night San Francisco, 23 day cruise, port charges and taxes.



SINGAPORE TO SYDNEY

AMAZING VALUE - 27 NIGHTS

Singapore, Chan May/Danang (Vietnam), Hong Kong (China), Manila (Philippines), Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia), Cairns, Hamilton Is, Brisbane, Sydney

Onboard 'Black Watch'

27 Nights - Departs 9 February 2012

FLY, CRUISE in an Oceanview Cabin & STAY from \$3,995pp

Incl air Bris to Sing, 2 nights Singapore, 25 night cruise

INCAN EMPIRES WITH PANAMA CANAL

SAVING up to 53% on CRUISE!

USA, Bahamas, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama Canal Transit, Panama, 3 ports Peru including 3 days Callao/Lima, 2 ports Ecuador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, 3 ports Mexico, USA

32 Days - Departs 19 November 2011

Onboard Premium 'ms Rotterdam'

FLY, CRUISE & STAY from \$5,899pp

Incl return air ex Bris, 2 nights Ft Lauderdale, 30 day cruise

INTO INDONESIA SINGAPORE TO BALI

INCLUDES SHORE EXCURSIONS & TIPS

Singapore, Semarang (Java), Kurimunjawa Islands (Indonesia), Probolinggo (Java), Padang Bay/Bali, Maumere (Flores), Kalabahi (Alor), Kupang (West Timor), Waingapu (Sumba), Komodo (Indonesia), Benoa/Bali

Onboard 'Spirit of Adventure'

14 Nights - Departs 17 Nov 2011

FLY & CRUISE from \$4,555pp

Incl return air ex Bris, 14 night cruise, onboard tips & shore excursions

ALASKA 2012 ON SALE NOW

Alaska's Inside Passage & Spectacular Glacier Bay

Seattle (USA), Cruise Inside Passage, Juneau (Alaska), Skagway, Cruise Glacier Bay, Ketchikan, Victoria (BC, Canada), Seattle (USA)

Onboard 'Norwegian Pearl'

9 Nights - Departures June to Aug 12

FLY, CRUISE & STAY from \$3,499pp

Incl return air ex Bris, 2 nts Seattle, 7 nt cruise & tips

Sensational Package Deals

SNOW TRAIN TO THE ROCKIES

2 nights Vancouver, 2 nights Jasper, Lake Louise, 2 nights Banff, Calgary

Overnight train from Vancouver to Jasper - views of snow-capped peaks, Pyramid Falls, the expansive glaciers of the Albretha Icefields and Mount Robson.

Maligne Canyon Ice Walk - certified guides will lead you along the frozen canyon floor and its ice-clad limestone walls
Evening Sleigh ride beside Lake Louise

11 Days - Departures December 2011 to April 2012

Fly ex Bris & Tour from \$3,749pp (based on 1 Dec departure)



HAWAIIAN ISLANDS DISCOVERY

3 nights Honolulu, 2 nights Kona, 2 nights Maui, 2 nights Kauai

INCLUDES SIGHTSEEING:

Full Day Tour of majestic Diamond Head

Tour of Volcanoes National Park

Sunset Cruise from Kaanapali Beach

Tour to tranquil Iao Valley and Iao Needle

Full day Kauai Island tour visiting Bali Hai, Hanalei Bay and Waimea Canyon

11 Days - Departures June to October 2011

Fly ex Syd & Tour from \$4,150pp (based on 19 Oct departure)



Escorted Small Group Tours

HARBIN ICE & SNOW FESTIVAL

Once in a Lifetime Experience



A Truly Unique & Special Escorted Package ex Brisbane

HIGHLIGHTS: The world's most spectacular Ice and Snow Sculptures at Ice & Snow World, Sun Island & Zaolin Park, Siberian Tiger Park, St Sophia Church, Watch locals Ice Swimming, Buddhist Precinct & MORE!

6 Days - 15 January 2012

\$3,350pp ex Brisbane

Includes: Return air ex Brisbane, 5 nights accommodation at 4 Star Holiday Inn, almost all meals, entrance fees, transfers and all tipping.

SENSATIONAL EXPERIENCE

CENTRAL EUROPE & RUSSIA WATERWAYS OF THE CZARS

ONE ONLY SPECIAL DEPARTURE



Viking Kirov

Stunning Scenic Beauty & Unique Cultural Centres

CENTRAL EUROPE

Spectacular Budapest, Vienna, Prague, Dresden & Berlin

WATERWAYS OF THE CZARS

Onboard the 'Viking Kirov'

One of the Best Ships in Russia

Moscow to St Petersburg

27 Amazing Days - Departs 24 June 2012

Brochure Out Soon - Don't Miss Out REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW

Call Today!

EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISING

.... A dream destination

If the thought of unpacking only once and yet waking up to a new city everyday sounds very appealing.... it is!

We boarded our Tauck riverboat, the Swiss Emerald, in Budapest for a leisurely cruise along the Danube. Visiting busy cities like Vienna, we also had the opportunity to wander the cobblestone streets of quaint Melk, Salzburg, Passau and Regensburg.

Tauck Cruises staff were there to make the holiday all that more relaxing. Smiling faces that greeted us when we left the ship for a day's exploration were the same ones greeting us with a warm towel and a drink upon our return. Cabins are very comfortable and it really is great to wake up in the morning, open the door, get that fresh river air and watch castles drift by, without even having to get dressed!

Tauck is an all-inclusive experience...from tips, three gourmet meals a day and shore excursions, to free-flowing wine at dinner...even free wi-fi is available on board. In addition to your fridge in your cabin, which is restocked daily with soft drinks and water, you are also provided with a bathrobe and a pair of slippers.

Sadly we all too soon had to farewell our European riverboat experience, finishing with some time in Prague before our departure home.

Now settled back at work, I can still imagine myself up on deck, enjoying the afternoon sun with a glass of wine and a complimentary platter of cheese and crackers.

You too can soak up a European River Cruise with the time right to take advantage of the many special deals currently on offer.

Sit back, relax and watch the world go by! You won't regret it.

By: Tanya Lollback

"It is a strange thing to come home. While yet on the journey, you cannot at all realise how strange it will be."

CALL FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

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

World Famous PARTIES...

Venice

Carnevale in Venice is acknowledged as the world's best-known baroque fancy-dress party and has been celebrated since at least the 15th century. The festivities hit a high point with the Gran Ballo delle Maschere (Grand Masked Ball), or Doge's Ball, which takes place in different locations around the city. Anyone with proper costume and mask who is able to dance the quadrilles and other steps of a few centuries ago may join in. Piazza San Marco is the scene for a parade of the best and most ornate costumes and on the Sunday, a beautiful procession of decorated boats and gondolas carrying masked passengers wends its way serenely down the Grand Canal.

Sydney

Sydney's famous gay and lesbian Mardi Gras is now the biggest annual tourist-attracting date on the Australian calendar. While the straights focus on the parade, the gay and lesbian community throws itself wholeheartedly into the entire festival and events. Held on the first Saturday in March, the Mardi Gras features film festivals, theatre, art exhibitions, talks, gay zoo tours and exotic harbour cruises. On the big night itself, the parade kicks off around sunset and is an extravaganza in every sense of the word – attended by over 16,000 revellers.

Rio de Janeiro

Officially, Carnival is just five days of revelry – from Friday to Tuesday before Ash Wednesday – but Cariocas (residents of Rio) begin partying months in advance. The culmination of the big festival is the brilliantly colourful parade through the Sambódromo, with giant mechanised floats, pounding drummers and whirling dancers. There's also lots of action in Rio's many neighbourhoods for those seeking more than just the stadium experience. Out-of-towners add to the mayhem, joining Cariocas in the street parties and costumed balls erupting throughout town.

For more information on these events, contact any of our senior consultants.

LAST MINUTE DEALS

Get in Quick! These Won't Last!



MEDITERRANEAN

INCL TIPS & WINE WITH LUNCH & DINNER – Book by 30 June

Rome/Civitavecchia (Italy), Florence, Monte Carlo (Monaco), Nice (France), Barcelona (Spain), Granada/Motril, Gibraltar (UK), Cadiz (Spain), Lisbon (Portugal)

13 Nights - Departs 3 October 2011

Onboard 5 Star 'Azamara Journey'

FLY, CRUISE & STAY from \$4,295pp

Incl return air ex Bris, 1 nt Rome, 11 night cruise, 1 nt Lisbon

TALL SHIP CRUISING

Cruise in casual elegance onboard tall ship 'Star Clipper'. Experience what it is like to have 3500sqm of white billowing sails majestically unfurl above you as you glide serenely out of the harbour.

Athens (Greece), Camilimani (Turkey), Kusadasi/Ephesus, Patmos (Greece), Amorgos, Mykonos, Monemvasia, Athens

7 Nights - Departs 10 September 2011

FLY & CRUISE from \$5,549pp

Incl return air ex Bris, 7 night cruise

MALAYSIA & THAILAND

FREE UPGRADES:

from Inside (DC) to Window (CC) or Window (CC) to Balcony (BC)

Singapore, Penang (Malaysia), Phuket (Thailand), Singapore, Malacca (Malaysia), Kuala Lumpur/Port Klang, Singapore

7 Nights - Departures Oct 11 to Mar 12

Onboard 'SuperStar Virgo'

FLY, CRUISE & STAY from \$2,319pp

Incl return air ex Bris, 1 nt pre-cruise in Singapore, 5 night cruise, 1 nt post-cruise in Singapore

SICILY - FLY FREE

INCL TIPS, BEER & WINE WITH DINNER & SHORE EXCURSIONS

Athens/Piraeus (Greece), Naupila, Taormina (Sicily), Syracuse, Valletta (Malta), Argigento (Sicily), Trapani, Palermo, Lipari Islands (Italy), Salerno, Sorrento, Civitavecchia/Rome

16 Nights - Departs 24 August 2011

Onboard Premium 'Aegean Odyssey'

FLY, CRUISE & STAY from \$4,794pp

Incl FREE return air ex Bris, 2 nts Athens, 14 nt cruise in an oceanview cabin

These deals were correct and available at time of print. Please contact us as soon as possible to secure your reservation. Full payment is required at time of booking.

A Friendly Reminder...We are a Major Selected Representative for the following...



...and many more!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

Orion Expedition Cruises | 12 July – 2.30pm

Lakelands Golf Club, 100 Lakelands Drive, Merrimac

Russia & Central Europe | 21 July – 7.00pm

Broadbeach Senior Citizens Centre

Cnr T.E Peters Drive & Gold Coast Highway, Broadbeach

RSVP – Call Cheryl on 555 42 777 or

Visit: www.travelmasters.com.au/events



All offers are subject to change and some conditions may apply. Prices are per person, twin share. 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.