

# FLEETRIDGE TRAVELER

FleetrIDGE  
Travel Service

## A Message from Melita

"Airlines are going up, the dollar is at an all-time low" that's what we hear whenever we turn on the news these days. Fortunately, the travel industry has some great products with real value available and it is during the current tough economic times that travel consultants like myself and **my associate, Marilyn**, can assist you to find just the perfect cruise or tour for you. By now our clients know that we don't just book tickets. Just think of us as your advocate, personal assistant, friend and more.

With today's currency fluctuations, especially the decline of the value of the dollar against the euro, European cruise vacations prepaid in dollars become

a tremendous value. We have some very unique cruises to offer you for 2009 listed in this newsletter.

I recently returned from a trip to the Dreams Resort Puerto Vallarta. This is a great, all inclusive property, ideally located on a secluded beach 10 minutes south of downtown. 5 different gourmet restaurants to choose from, and never a bill, just a friendly smile from your waiter - tips and all drinks were also included in one price. This is a great place for couples and families. Please call me if you like more information.

**"I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list"** - quote from Susan Sontag

## No Air required.....

As fall is getting closer, so is the next Mexico cruise season. Holland America Line will again have several ships home based right here in San Diego. Cruise rates for a 7 day **Mexican Riviera** Cruise start at only **\$499.00**

per person plus tax and fuel surcharges, 10 night **Sea of Cortez** and Mexican Riviera trips are offered from **\$799.00** per person. You can also choose a 15 day **Hawaiian Islands** cruise from **\$1499.00** per person.

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## Galapagos Islands anyone?...

Here is your chance. We have limited availability on a 10 day all inclusive cruise Nov. 29, 2009 aboard the 90 passenger **Expedition**. Rates start at \$3655 per person includes 3 nights hotel in Quito and transfers.

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## VIKING River Cruises-A Unique Experience:

If you read my newsletters regularly, you know that I love River Cruises. I have sailed on the Mighty Mississippi, the Rhine, Mosel, Rhone and Saone, the Danube and the Nile. The big attraction for me is that these ships are not only smaller and more intimate than the deep water cruise ships, but the itineraries are very different as well. A River Cruise vacation is all about the destination. They go right into the heart of the city, docking only steps away from the downtown attractions. You step off the boat for a leisurely stroll or some lines now provide you with a bike to ride around town.

The ships themselves offer a casual atmosphere.

All rooms offer panoramic river views with a continuous change of scenery. The ships are designed with a flat bottom which means that there is no rolling and pitching and therefore no worry about motion sickness.

The itineraries offered blend capital cities with charming towns as well as folkloric entertainment and chances to try local dishes. Viking River Cruises also includes 95% of all shore excursions, 3 wonderful meals per day and plenty of entertainment.

**The new 2009 itineraries just arrived with up to \$1200.00 early booking savings. So don't delay and call me for more information 619-275-6555.**

## On VIKING Your Companion Travels Free.....

If you act quickly you can take advantage of special savings on selected 2008 European sailings with **Viking River Cruises:**

**Paris and the Heart of Normandy** 8 days with 7 guided tours from **\$2480.00 per couple**. There are 7 departure to choose from.

**Paris to Prague** 12 days with 11 guided tours from **\$3980.00 per couple**. 4 departures in August, 1 in September and 2 in November.

**Burgundy & Provence** 8 days with 7 guided tours from **\$2680.00 per couple**. 7 departures available.

Remember that all meals are included. Don't delay, offer **expires July 10, 2008** and availability is limited.

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Interesting web sites: The ultimate source for airplane seating, in-flight services and airline information check out: **[www.seatguru.com](http://www.seatguru.com)**

## Insider's Travel Tips .....

I found these 5 tips for finding hidden treasures when traveling in the spring addition of "Bon Vivant"

**1-Get up early!** It's often the best time to see local life. As the sun is rising, the world is getting ready for another day.

**2-Visit a Market.** You'll learn so much about how a community lives just by strolling through the local market. And you might discover a new favorite fruit.

**3-Have a conversation.** The best way to find out what life is like in a country is just to ask. Even if you don't speak the language, there are many ways to communicate.

**4-Take a walk.** Get off the beaten path and explore.

**5-Keep your eyes open.** Often the most memorable experiences are found where least expected. Always be ready for the extraordinary and you'll often find it!

## OCEANIA CRUISES.....worth a try!

**Oceania** was founded in 2002 and is now considered by many the world's largest upper premium cruise line. Currently they operate 3 intimate ships with a maximum passenger capacity of 684 passengers. The 400 staff members guarantee personalized service unmatched by any other line. The ships are refurbished every 2 years to keep them looking new without wear and tear.

**Oceania** offers fabulous itineraries visiting ports all over the world and can often dock at piers the larger vessels cannot access. You will also find many overnight stops in popular cities where you will overnight aboard ship and avoid pricey hotel

costs. All itineraries are designed to showcase some of the most rewarding and enriching destination experiences possible.

The "foodies" among you will appreciate the gourmet cuisine offered aboard. There are 4 restaurants to choose from, all offering open seating where you can dine when and with whom you wish. The menus are designed by renowned master chef **Jacques Pepin** who is the Executive Culinary Director of Oceania Cruises. There are no cover charges at any of these restaurants.

Please check out our special group departures for 2009 below:

## OCEANIA is ready to take you to Europe:

Sail the **INSIGNIA** and experience some new ports. Cruise along the Dalmatian Coast visiting Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Malta, Italy and France. This 16 day cruise starts on May 15, 2009 in Venice and ends on May 31st in Rome. Just imagine enjoying a cocktail on deck or on your private veranda while watching the glittering lights of Venice....

**Rates start at \$4299.00** per person and include airfare from over 100 departure cities in the US. Or you can hop aboard the **NAUTICA** and visit

the sites where gods and goddesses ruled over ancient civilizations of Greece and the Mediterranean . Start your 12 day exploration with a 2 day visit of Venice on October 17, 2009. **Rates for this cruise start at \$3499.00 per person** including airfare. In addition to these special rates all our group members **will also receive a welcome bottle of champagne, prepaid gratuities and shipboard credits.**

Space is selling fast so please call me now for more information at **619-275-6555!**

## Maximize your \$\$\$\$ :

Do you have **Dreams** about traveling to warm destinations and to experience Unlimited Luxury? If yes, I can make those a reality for you and your family and they are surprisingly affordable.

**Dreams Resorts** are located in Mexico and the Dominican Republic. All of these resorts feature gourmet dining, nightly entertainment and supervised children's programs. You can enjoy shimmering pools, and fully-equipped fitness centers,

world-class spas and great bars. Rooms feature daily maid service, fully stocked mini-bars and more. Value options include **free wedding and anniversary packages as well as kids stay free programs** from September 1 to mid Dec 16. If you are looking for a relaxing vacation where virtually everything is included in one price, a trip to one of the Dreams Resorts is perfect. Call me and I will share my personal experience with you.

## **Fletridge Travel Service**

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Your Cruise and Travel Specialists  
Melita Hein and Marilyn Bohle are  
looking forward to hearing from you

  
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### **Summer Savings:**

Are you

- Tired of long transatlantic flights?
- Tired of missed connections and missing luggage?
- Tired of bad airline food and service?

Here is your solution for an opportunity not to be missed :

Experience the legendary Transatlantic Crossing onboard one of the grandest ocean liners—Queen Mary 2 and enjoy special

savings with fares starting from only \$999.00 per person.

Choose a 6 day eastbound sailing from New York to Southampton on either July 22, August 7, September 4 or October 16, 2008—or a 6 day westbound sailing from Southampton to New York on July 16, August 13, 29 or November 15.

Space is limited since these voyages are about to set sail, so call us today to make your reservations to travel in style.