

# FLEETRIDGE TRAVELER

## 16 Days in China, a travel journal by Melita

After many years of isolating itself from the rest of the world, China today has developed into a modern and open country. During our tour we were able to explore the ancient and imperial sites while experiencing the new and dynamic China first hand.

We departed San Diego on March 4<sup>th</sup> to start our journey which took us from Beijing to Xian, Guilin, Chongqing, the Yangtze River, Suzhou and finally Shanghai. Beijing is the capital of China and during our first day here we explored the famous Summer Palace. Built as an imperial garden during the Qing Dynasty it is included today on the World Heritage List as a “masterpiece of Chinese landscape and garden design.” This afternoon we took a brisk walk in Tiananmen Square. Here massive rallies took place during the Cultural Revolution. Our tour proceeded through the giant gate to the Forbidden City, a great complex which was home to 24 emperors during the Ming and Qing dynasties. The next day was spent visiting the snow covered Great Wall where we tried to negotiate the dangerously steep steps.

In Xi’an, just a short 1 hour flight from Beijing, we admired the life-sized terracotta warriors and horses. This museum is included in the Unesco Heritage list and is also known as the Eighth Wonder of the world. The following day we were off to scenic Guilin. The area has a pleasant climate and we could finally shed our shawls and mittens and enjoy

the sunshine. During a cruise on the Li River we marveled at the unique rock formations and most unique landscapes along the way.

One of the highlights of our trip was a 3 day cruise on the Yangtze River between Chongqing and Wuhan. Flowing over a distance of nearly 4000 miles, the mighty Yangtze is the longest river in China. The most impressive parts of the river are the scenic Three Gorges and the very beautiful Lesser Gorges. We also took a tour of the Three Gorges Dam which unfortunately on that day was totally fogged in and invisible. Our tour ended in the cosmopolitan city of Shanghai also called the “Paris of the East”. Here, East truly meets West. During our visit we watched as the city was spruced up to welcome the world for Expo 2010. The best view of Shanghai is from the top floor of the Oriental Pearl Tower. At a height of 468 meters it’s the world’s 3<sup>rd</sup> tallest TV tower after Toronto and Moscow. Here, after 2 weeks of Chinese food we all pigged out on steak and potatoes.

China is a wonderful country and certainly worth an extended visit especially for those of us who love history and architecture. Prices have increased over the past 20 years and the exchange rate of approximately 6.7 Yuen to 1 US \$ is strictly controlled by the government and offers excellent value.

**So where would you like to go on your vacation? Please call me and I will get you all set! 619-275-6555**

FleetrIDGE  
Travel Service

SUMMER/FALL  
2010



---

### Inside this issue:

**Azamara Club Cruises....** [2](#)

**A Message from** [2](#)

**Trips for your Bucket List.....** [3](#)

**FYI from FleetrIDGE** [4](#)

## Azamara Club Cruises:

If you are like me and love a memorable cruise experience, you will enjoy traveling with Azamara Club Cruises. They currently operate 2 ships, the Azamara Quest and the Azamara Journey, both with a maximum passenger capacity of 680 guests. The cruise line has recently upgraded their complimentary amenities which now include the following:

Gratuities,

Bottled Water, Sodas and specialty Coffee & Teas. Also Azamara's preferred red and white wine will be poured at lunch and dinner.

Self service laundry.

Butler service will be provided for guests in suites. Specialty dining is complimentary for suite guests. Stateroom guests will be charged a \$15 cover for dining in Prime C & Aqualina. Pouring wine included. Destination-influenced entertainment & enrichment programs.

Harry and I will be sailing aboard the Journey on a 12 day cruise to the Baltic states from Copenhagen on June 30th. So please look for my feedback about our experiences aboard and abroad in the next newsletter. Space is currently still available, call me for more details on this cruise or for any of Azamara Club Cruises wonderful itineraries.

## A Message from Marilyn.....

**COME JOIN ME in October, 2011  
FOR A MOST INTERESTING VOYAGE!**

**Athens to Istanbul – Silversea**

**280 passenger *Silver Wind***

**October 18, 2011 – October 30, 2011 –  
12 days**

**Athens** – ship leaves at 11 p.m. allowing time to visit the Acropolis

**Nauplia, Greece** – a lovely seaport town in Peloponnese.

**Heraklion, Crete** – this port city is the capital of Crete

**Alexandra, Egypt** – this ancient seaport is steeped in history

**Port Said, Egypt** – located at the mouth of the Suez Canal thrives as a duty free port

**Ashdod, Israel** – a beautiful port city 45-minutes from Jerusalem

**Haifa, Israel** – Israel's busiest port located only 45-minutes from Tel Aviv

**Limassol, Cyprus** – Museums and archaeological sites

**Rhodes, Greece** – Citadel of Rhodes is one the most well preserved medieval towns as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

**Kusadasi, Turkey** – starting point for a visit to Ephesus, a must see destination

**Istanbul, Turkey** – stay on in this fabulous city and visit The Blue Mosque, St. Sofia Mosque, The Grand Bazaar & Topkapi Palace and more.

**TOTAL COST per person: \$5,883.00 – *air included* - deduct \$800 without air**

**Vista Suite** – 240 sq.ft. large picture window, walk-in closet, separate tub and shower.



**LIMITED AVAIL-  
ABILITY – book  
now to hold space.**

**Deposit:  
\$1,667.40 per  
cabin – refund-  
able until June**

## **Trips for your “Bucket List”**

**-Oceania Cruises will offer Alaska itineraries for the first time in 2011. Special offers include 2 for 1 cruise rates and free airfare. 14 days roundtrip from San Francisco departs May 12, 2011. Fares from \$3999.00 per person plus taxes. The Regatta will sail the Alaskan waters all summer and many more options are available.**

**-The Passion Play at the village of Oberammergau in Germany traces its origins back to the Middle Ages and is performed once every 10 years. Currently, there are still limited 3 day/2night packages available for this years event. Prices start at \$1277.00 per person.**

**-Once again the Norwegian fjords have been rated the best destination in the world by National Geographic Traveler. We have found a wonderful summer trip aboard the Ryndam called North Cape Splendors. This is a great vacation for your entire family. The ship departs from Rotterdam on July 10, 2011 and stops at the most scenic places in Norway, crosses the Arctic Circle and ends in Dover on July 24. Rates start at \$2299.00 per person plus tax and airfare.**

**-Tauck Tours is offering a unique and unusual tour to South Africa and Namibia. Highlights of this 12 day tour are a 2 night stay at Bushmans Kloof (voted World's best Hotel in 2009), a braai BBQ at a private home, biking through vineyards sampling wine and not to forget view big game up-close. Rates start at \$4590.00 plus international and on tour airfare.**

**-Sail Alaska on Regent in Luxury. If you've never experienced Regent Seven Seas this 7-day voyage with everything included may be for you! Departs June 15, 2011 from Vancouver to Anchorage on the 490 passenger Navigator. Rates start at \$3999.00 per person and virtually everything is included. We have also secured a \$350.00 onboard credit and booked a special shore event. Please call Marilyn for more details. 858-454-1876.**

**-Experience the grandeur and treasures of Peru. Visit the splendid landscapes of the Sacred Valley, Lake Titicaca and the legendary lost City of Machu Picchu. This is a wonderful tour which offers affordable luxury. Travel in a small group of no more than 16 passengers. Rates for this 10 day tour start at \$3899.00 per person. Bring a friend or two and save between \$50.00 and \$150.00. This is a tour I can highly recommend.**

**-Step back in history with a voyage to the Galapagos Islands, a destination so isolated that many of its creatures cannot be found anywhere else on earth. The Galapagos islands afford visitors the chance to observe a living laboratory of adaptation. The land and cruise combination by Celebrity Xpedition Cruises is ideal for families and is virtually all inclusive. Cruise tour packages range from 7 to 13 days and can be combined with a visit to Peru and Machu Picchu. Please call for more details including date availability and prices.**

**There are so many more great trips available which can greatly enrich your lives. So whichever trip you chose, please plan early, remember to call us first, keep your passport current and never stop traveling!**

## **Fletridge Travel Service**

---

2225 Milton Ct.  
Suite B  
San Diego, Ca 92110

Phone: 619-275-6555 or 800-617-0171

Fax: 619-785-3170

email:fletridgevl@sbcglobal.net

Website:www.fletridgetravel.com



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

  
**CA-CST# 2063522-50**

## **FYI from Fletridge Travel**

**Travel Insurance is important and one of the key elements to an enjoyable travel experience is to be prepared before departure !**

**2010 so far has been the year for major world travel problems. First, earthquakes in Chile and China followed by the eruption of Eyjafjallajokul volcano. Now we are dealing with a British Airways strike and unrests in Greece, the list goes on. Reality is that troubles can occur when you**

**least anticipate them, forcing you to cancel or interrupt your trip, lose your vacation investment, and incur unplanned expenses.**

**Circumstances can force you to cancel your trip at the last minute, return home early or seek emergency medical treatment overseas. That's why we highly recommend a comprehensive travel insurance plan which are designed to give you broad coverage and let you enjoy a worry free vacation. Please ask for a quote when planning your next trip!**