

BRAZIL – *Condor Expands Travel Network*

COLOMBIA – *Spirit Airlines Adds Cartagena from FLL*

GUATEMALA – *Clark Tours Provides Variety of Tours*

MEXICO – *New York-Monterrey Non-Stop with Mexicana*



LATIN AMERICA
TRAVEL WORLD NEWS - SECTION THREE - APRIL 2008

BOLIVIA

Andeans Roots



C **T**
rillon **T**ours s.a.
Bolivia
since 1958

CELEBRATING



AS PIONEERS OF TOURISM IN BOLIVIA

www.titicaca.com



• LA PAZ, BOLIVIA: P.O. Box 4785 E-mail: titicaca@entelnet.bo - andes@entelnet.bo
• USA INFORMATION OFFICE: Phone.: (305) 358-5353 / E-mail: darius@titicaca.com

EXPERIENCE ALL GUATEMALA OFFERS WITH CLARK TOURS



Clark Tours is the number one Tour Operator/Travel Agent in Guatemala, having been founded in 1927 by Alfred Clark, an adventurous American living in Guatemala. Since day one, Clark Tours of Guatemala has been dedicated to serving tourists in a highly professional and personalized manner, providing the most efficient and reliable travel service in the country.

Today the staff follows their founders love for this beautiful

Central American nation and are courteous, friendly, professional and have unparalleled knowledge of every region and custom of the country, ensuring thorough enjoyment of every Clark Tours experience.

Their communications equipment and computer systems are at the cutting edge of technology. During the years, they have established a local and nationwide network of contacts, becoming one of the country's main specialists on local tours. They are constantly updating their products in order to offer travelers the latest attractions and the most popular destinations.

Clark Tours provides a variety of tours, including full day tours, archaeological tours, and Highland tours. Special tours offered include "A Taste of Guatemala" which is four-days/three-nights featuring Tikal, Chichicastenango, Lake Atitlan, and Antigua. "Guatemala, Relive its Mystery" is 14-days /13-nights visiting Baul and Democracia, archaeological sites, markets and churches. "Guatemala Highlights" is 14-days /13-nights including Iximche, Lake Atitlan, Quetzaltenango, Huehuetenango, Chichicastenango, Quirigua, Rio Dulce, Copan, Tikal, Ceibal, and Yaxha. "Guatemala, Heart of the Mundo Maya" is eight-days /seven-nights covering Tikal, Rio Dulce, Quirigua and Copan. "Guatemala, Land of the Mayas" is 12-days/11-nights, featuring Tikal, Ceibal, Yaxha, Rio Dulce, Quirigua, Copan, Chichicastenango, Lake Atitlan and Antigua.

Visit their website for the latest information and tours available. Clark Tours, info@clarktours.com.gt, www.clarktours.com.gt



Providing your travel programs an extra boost

Our Escrow products and services enable you to:

- **Promote** professionalism and dependability to the travel agents and consumers you serve.
- **Comply** with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), as required by charterers and air carriers.
- **Streamline** your records with an automated escrow accounting system.
- **Be efficient** with online capabilities to view account activity.
- **Be cost effective** by releasing funds to providers of transportation or travel services to cover initial deposits and prepayments as required.
- **Earn** interest while the funds are on deposit in an FDIC-insured deposit account.

We offer a variety of products to meet your varying travel industry needs – from our recognized Travel Funds Protection Plan™ to public charter depository escrows, trust agreements and special purpose depository agreements. Please call us today.

David Valpredo, Senior Vice President
Phone: 248-729-8375
David.Valpredo@NationalCity.com

Our Travel Funds Protection Plan is endorsed by the National Tour Association® (NTA) and American Society of Travel Agents® (ASTA). Also, our plan has been approved as a consumer protection escrow plan under the California Seller of Travel Law and is in compliance with various states with Seller of Travel Law.





Member FDIC • ©2007, National City Corporation.
Allegiant Asset Management Company ("Allegiant") is an SEC-registered investment advisor and a subsidiary of National City Corporation.
Allegiant provides travel escrow products and services through Allegiant Institutional Services, a division of National City Bank.
CS-27632



TOUR GUATEMALA WITH VIAVENTURE



KEEL-BILLED TOUCAN

Guatemala is a fascinating country in which to travel due to its spectacular scenery and its strong Mayan culture – both past and present. There are around 22 indigenous languages still spoken in Guatemala and many communities wear bright, individually designed, traditional textiles. As well as enjoying the Mayan communities of today, Guatemala has an unrivaled number of ancient Mayan Temple sites for the traveler to explore. The Spanish colonial influence has also impacted here and left some beautiful colonial cities such as La Antigua, a jewel of a town with cobblestone streets, palaces, cathedrals and beautiful locations in which to stay, eat, and shop.

Viaventure is a full-service tour operator and destination management company based in Antigua, Guatemala. Co-founded by U.S., British, and Swiss travel experts, the Viaventure team delivers the very best in personalized, on-time service to destinations throughout Guatemala, Belize and Honduras. They take special care to ensure that every itinerary offers an inspiring, exciting, and enriching experience for each of their guests. Comprised of knowledgeable, enthusiastic and innovative travel professionals, Viaventure offers a wide selection of activities, with a special focus on tailor-made, unique itineraries that fit guests' specific interests and budget. From minivans to helicopters, sailfishing to mountain biking, or boutique hotels to resorts, Viaventure are happy to work with you to create a perfect itinerary.

BIRD WATCHING TOURS

Guatemala boasts 145 bird species endemic to the region and during the months of October to March about 200 species

from North America pass through the country. In a few weeks, a birdwatcher may identify more than 300 species in a fabulous trip that goes through seven different ecosystems from ranging from Tropical Rainforest through Mountain Forest to Dry Scrub visiting at the same time Guatemala's incredible archaeological and cultural legacy.

Some key locations for bird watching include Lake Atitlan, the Peten Jungle, Los Tarrales, Corazon del Bosque, Pacific Mangroves, and Cerro san Gil. The two important seasons for bird watching are October to April and June and July.

Viaventure can custom build tours to mix in the highlight cultural destinations, including the colonial town of Antigua with bird watching in the cloud forest on the foothills of ancient volcanoes; Lake Atitlan; Tikal and Yaxha, world famous Maya temple sites situated in prime tropical rain forest with excellent birding opportunities; Petexbatun Lake; and Rio Dulce. Viaventure can also arrange extensions into Belize and Honduras for extended bird watching opportunities.

Sample bird watching itineraries include a 10-day Endemic Species of Guatemala Tour, which takes guests to the five principal destinations for observation of endemic birds of Guatemala; a 12-day All Over Guatemala Bird Watching Tour; a seven-day Highland Highlights – Altiplano, Volcanoes and Mangroves Tour; a nine-day Cloud Forest, Caribbean and Northern Jungle Tour; a six-day Northern Rainforest Explorer Tour; and a nine-day Extended Northern Rainforest Explorer Tour.

FAMILY TOURS

Highlights of the nine-day Guatemala Family Tour include a walking tour of Antigua, and a visit to the local woodcarvers in the village of Jocotenango and the Azotea Coffee Farm & Maya Traditions Museums. In addition, visit Comalapa Market and Lake Atitlan, the village of San Juan Laguna to the textile cooperative, and the famous market at Chichi. On day seven, visit the Ixpanajul canopy tour where guests can choose between the exhilarating zip line and the more tranquil canopy bridge walk. Then, transfer to Yaxha National Park for a picnic lunch. On day

eight, transfer to Tikal National park to explore the amazing UNESCO protected Mayan Temple site of Tikal where huge Mayan temples rise above the jungle canopy and monkeys and tropical birds are abundant in the surrounding rainforest. Extensions to Honduras or Belize are available.

ROAD LESS TRAVELED MULTI-ACTIVITY TOURS

The 2008 Guatemalan Road Less Traveled Multi-Activity nine-day tour is an exhilarating multi-sport itinerary that takes travelers off the beaten path to explore Guatemala like few can. The tour offers climbing an active volcano and journeying deep into the remote and traditional Mayan highlands, where you will bike through spectacular volcanic scenery on local trade routes and see remote, colorful local markets. Stay in a local homestay to learn more about the typical way of life and visit the Maya God Maximon after kayaking on the high altitude of Lake Atitlan with her majestic volcanoes. Climb temples in the jungle at the world famous site of Tikal.

The following tours are a short list of the most common tours in Guatemala that Viaventure operates. They include a five-day Mini Guatemala tour visiting Antigua, Lake Atitlan, Chichi and Tikal; five-day Colonial & Maya Splendor to Antigua, Yaxha and Tikal; five-day Guatemala Short & Sweet visiting Antigua, Lake Atitlan, Santiago, and Chichi; nine-day Maya Magic & Mystery to Antigua, Lake Atitlan, Chichi, Coffee Farm, Comalapa, Santiago, Yaxha, and Tikal; 12-day Maya Archaeology Highlights with Copan which takes in Antigua, Lake Atitlan, Chichi, Coffee Farm, Santiago, Copan, Rio Dulce, Livingston, Yaxha, and Tikal; and 12-day Highland Maya Markets to Antigua, Lake Atitlan, Chichi, Coffee Farm, Santiago, Highland Villages, Yaxha, and Tikal. There is also a 12-day Rainforest and Archaeology with Copan tour and a nine-day Semana Santa (Easter) in Guatemala.

These example itineraries are just an idea of what Viaventure can offer. They are more than happy to custom design an itinerary that matches perfectly with the wishes and needs of your clients.

Viaventure, info@viaventure.com,
www.viaventure.com

BELIZE VACATION PARTNERS CONDUCT PRESENTATION ON TOURISM



Belize Vacation Partners, the parent company of four of Belize's most prestigious hotels and resorts including Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel, Sun Breeze Hotel, Sun Breeze Suites, and Hidden Valley, was the host of a breakfast presentation at the Westin Camino Real in Guatemala City on Thursday February 21, 2008. Approximately 35 companies from Guatemala City including tour operators, wholesalers, travel agents, the Belize Embassy in Guatemala, press and corporate partners attended the presentation.

Mr. Oliver Del Cid, from the Embassy of Belize in Guatemala gave the welcome address on behalf of the Belize Vacation Partners. During the presentation the Spanish version of "Now you are Thinking Belize," was presented which showcased the wonders Belize has to offer to tourists.

During the presentation, the four properties were featured under one umbrella: "Belize Vacation Partners," a one-stop-shop to explore Belize. Two of the properties are located on the premier island of Ambergris Caye: SunBreeze Hotel and SunBreeze Suites; one is located in the old capital of Belize City, the vibrant hub of Mother Nature's best kept secret: Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza; and Hidden Valley Inn is located in the pristine Mayan Mountains in Western Belize's beautiful Cayo District. All four companies are part of the Roe Group of Companies and Camino Real Corporation.

At the event, a very important point was brought forward by one of the attendees, Mr. Mynor Cordon, General Manager of Taca Airlines in Guatemala. He noted that there is a great need for an airline to start a direct route from Guatemala to Belize, and Taca

Airlines is committed to open that route in the near future.

Several prizes were raffled after the presentation courtesy of BW Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel, Sun Breeze Hotel, Sun Breeze Suites, Hidden Valley, Discovery Expeditions and Tropic Air.

Belize Vacation Partners is committed to providing their guests the best possible service in Belize in customizing packages to cater to their needs.

Belize Vacation Partners, ttejada@belizebiltmore.com, www.belizebiltmore.com, www.sunbreeze.net, www.sunbreezesuites.com, www.hiddenvalleyinn.com

EXPLORE THE GUATEMALA MARKETS WITH SOUTH STAR TOURS

Central America offers extraordinary destinations and now guests can explore the Guatemala Markets with South Star Tours. Guests will be enthralled by this colorful country and its friendly people.

Antigua is a virtual museum of Spanish Baroque architecture. Lake Atitlan and its picturesque fishing village will captivate visitors with its beauty. Chichicastenango is renowned for its Indian marketplace.

The arts and crafts in Guatemala are unparalleled and will be experienced with this program. Dates are June 9-16, 2008 and October 6-13, 2008. Land price is \$997. Air out of MIA starts from \$339. Travel agents enjoy 11 percent commission. South Star Tours, 800-654-4468, sales@southstartours.com, www.southstartours.com

SUNBREEZE HOTEL & SUNBREEZE SUITES

AMBERGRIS CAYE, BELIZE



The perfect combination offering facilities to suit the needs of most travelers seeking a somewhere off the beaten path. A five minute stroll apart, located in the town of San Pedro, yet out of the hustle and bustle. The SunBreeze Hotel features 43 rooms offering the facilities and services of a resort while the SunBreeze Suites has 20 oceanfront fully equipped suites. A variety of packages are available.

SUNBREEZE HOTEL
email: sunbreeze@btl.net
www.sunbreeze.net
toll free: 1-800-688-0191

SUNBREEZE SUITES
email: sunbreezesuites@btl.net
www.sunbreezesuites.com
toll free: 1-800-826-1631

NEW FLIGHT PLAN A PATHWAY FOR AVIAN SURVIVAL –CENTRAL AMERICAN PROTECTED ZONE FIRST OF ITS KIND

by Chris Higgins, Margo Malcolm and Jamie Gripich

Staring up into the rainforest canopy, it's almost like looking into a living Impressionist painting, your eyes dazzled by the flash of colors, your ears picking up the extroverted squawks and screeches of green and blue colored Macaws, orange and green Motmots, and multi-hued Toucans.

You're in Central America's first bird route. Now the 400 plus bird species that inhabit the Sarapiquí region of Costa Rica will have a greater chance of survival, and birders from around the world a chance to see these grand winged masters of the sky.

A PATHWAY TO SURVIVAL

At roughly the size of West Virginia, Costa Rica has a greater variety of bird species than all of North America. It is home to five percent of all the world's known animal and plant species, including 850 bird species.

The Costa Rican Bird Route is the brain child of the Rainforest Biodiversity Group, and partially funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The route consists of 12 birding sites, teaming up established and newly created biological reserves, to offer a variety of bird watching opportunities and programs in the San Juan – La Selva Biological Corridor of northeastern Costa Rica.

The birdwatching industry is a global phenomenon, and has seen the largest increase in participants over the last 10 years. Birding is the fastest-growing outdoor activity in the U.S., and according to a survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 51.3

million Americans report that they watch birds. And more are taking it up all the time.

LIGHTENING OUR FOOTPRINT

The first of its kind in Central America, the Bird Route not only gives visitors access to primary rainforest, but also gives land owners access to tourism income and an alternative income to other activities that are not as environmentally sustainable.

"We want to be able to provide a way for locals to sustain their forests," explained Andrew Rothman, President and Founder of the Rainforest Biodiversity Group. "If we can take a little bit of pressure off of them by providing an economic alternative, we think that is a good thing."

Andrea Holbrook, proprietor of Selva Verde Lodge and Rainforest Reserve, one of the established sites on the birding route, says there needs to be a way to maximize the potential of protecting the rainforest.

"Eco-tourism is a way for landowners to protect habitat, and it will be significant step toward protection of the rainforest, the habitat within Central and South America," says Holbrook.

Selva Verde Lodge, a pioneer of the eco-tourism movement in Costa Rica, is strategically located in the vital biological corridor of the Sarapiquí – critically important in connecting rainforests in the region. It was founded in 1985 by Andrea's mother, Giovanna Holbrook who purchased the 500 plus acres to protect and conserve the land.

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS

Selva Verde Rainforest Reserve has been identified as a critical piece of the San Juan-La Selva Biological Corridor, part of the greater Mesoamerican Biological Corridor initiative in Central America.

The Great Green Macaw Project is part of the San Juan – La Selva Biological Corridor initiative. It is considered an emblematic species with less than 200 remaining in Costa Rica as its habitat is being destroyed.

At one time, Almedo (Almond) trees were quite common in Costa Rica, but illegal logging has cut the numbers down severely.

This poses a formidable threat to the Green Macaw, which uses the tree for nesting and mating.

Protecting the bird's habitat also protects 515 bird, 139 mammal, 135 reptile and 80 amphibian, and countless plant species in the region.

BIRDING SAFARI

Established sites, such as Selva Verde, already offer comfortable accommodation and a myriad of activities, while the newly created sites will offer a more remote experience.

Birders will get off the beaten path and be able to explore new areas and meet Costa Ricans not previously part of the tourism industry.

Selva Verde Lodge offers onsite birding, day trips to remote bird route sites and an extensive birding safari package where guests can see and experience the lodge's ultimate purpose.

"I call on everybody to come and support places like Selva Verde because it is only through visitors and usage that we can sustain the rainforest," says founder Giovanna Holbrook.

Costa Rican Bird Route,
rainforestbiodiversitygroup@riseup.net,
www.costaricanbirdroute.com;
Selva Verde Lodge and Rainforest
Reserve, 800-451-7111,
info@selvaverde.com,
www.selvaverde.com

Over 16 years of Uniquely Crafted Tours to



CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA
SOUTH STAR TOURS

- Custom FIT's, Groups, Incentives
- Special Interest, African & Jewish Heritages
- Senior, Student, Adventure Tours

Guaranteed Commission on all tours!

(800) 654-4468
www.southstartours.com

CST# 1020650-40

A UNIQUE WEDDING DAY AWAITS IN BELIZE

Nothing says paradise and originality like a destination wedding in Belize. English-speaking Belize offers couples a selection of exotic settings that range from the conventional beach ceremony to the more unique and unusual.

Brides and grooms can choose to exchange vows at the foot of an ancient Mayan temple, beneath a waterfall, inside a crystallized cave, surrounded by a botanical garden or even underwater along Belize's 184-mile barrier reef.

BEACHFRONT WEDDING AT BELIZE LEGACY BEACH RESORT



Located on Ambergris Caye, Belize Legacy Beach Resort is a luxurious and romantic destination for a wedding, which happens to be the property's specialty. From small intimate ceremonies to large bridal parties, the staff at Belize Legacy Resort can easily accommodate each couple's specific requests.

With 32 beachfront and sea view suites, world-class amenities, a freshwater swimming pool, and activities, a tropical dream wedding can easily become a reality.

Belize Legacy Beach Resort offers the "Premium Wedding Package," which includes a ceremony on the beach, a floral arch or circle of love, bride's bouquet, groom's boutonniere, minister's fees, marriage license documents, wedding certificate and champagne for \$995.

Couples can also customize their experience with extras such as photo/video packages, make-up and hair, floral centerpieces, and open bar, among other choices.

Belize Legacy Beach Resort,
866-210-2267, www.belizelegacy.com

JUNGLE WEDDING AT HIDDEN VALLEY INN



For those seeking an incredible mix of flora and fauna on their special day, then the jungle waterfalls at Hidden Valley Inn can provide this ideal, untraditional setting. Situated amidst 7,200 acres of private nature reserve in the Mountain Pine Ridge of the Cayo District, this 12-cottage property is truly an intimate and special wedding locale for nature lovers.

Couples can choose between two private and spectacular waterfall locations to say their "I dos."

The "Wedding Package" at Hidden Valley Inn is available for \$850 and includes marriage license, flowers, cake, transportation to the waterfall from the Inn, and a bottle of sparkling wine. The costs to obtain the marriage license and officier are also included.

Hidden Valley Inn, 866-443-3364,
www.hiddenvalleyinn.com;
Belize, www.travelbelize.org

AQUA DIVES BELIZE UPGRADES AT SUNBREEZE HOTEL

SunBreeze Hotel has announced that Aqua Dives Belize, their onsite dive operator and preferred dive service provider for SunBreeze Suites, is now a PADI Gold

Palm five-star resort facility and Belize's Ultimate Dive Center, providing underwater and above-water tours since 1998.

Since the beginning of 2008 Aqua Dives have now upgraded the dive operation with all new rental dive equipment for guests and non-guests.

On Ambergris Caye, Aqua Dives boasts the newest and largest dive boats, all with new engines, marine heads, and dive platforms for easy access. They are all spacious and carry all modern safety and navigational equipment, beginning with a 26ft, a 36ft, four 43ft and the newest, a 57ft Blue Hole Dive boat.

Aqua Dives motto has always been to offer the best, most modern and safest ways available for divers. With this in mind they have invested in three New Bauer Compressors, making them the only dive center with an oxygen generator capable of producing all percentages mix of Nitrox.

Aqua Dives Belize's devotion to the diver continues, and now special dive only packages or dive packages with accommodation are being offered with the option to upgrade to dive Nitrox for free for certified nitrox divers.

For those wanting to become a certified Padi Nitrox diver at an affordable rate, their knowledgeable instructor awaits.

SunBreeze Hotel, SunBreeze Suites and Aqua Dives Belize offers a one stop dive facility, continuing to offer first class diving to all their customers.

SunBreeze Hotel, 800-641-2994,
www.sunbreeze.net,
www.sunbreesesuites.com,
www.aquadives.com



COSTA RICA'S TOURISM SECTOR ON THE RISE



Unquestionably, 2007 was a year of growth for Costa Rica's national tourism industry and the beginning of 2008 confirms consistency.

January of 2008 marked a good start in tourist air arrivals according to the preliminary data gathered by the Costa Rica Tourist Board (ICT).

Despite economic worries in the main North American markets, the first month of

2008 shows optimism.

International tourism arrivals registered at the Juan Santamaría International Airport (SJO) and Daniel Oduber Quirós (LIR) have showed a steady growth. According to the ICT, 127,647 international visitors arrived by plane in January of 2008, marking a 13.7 percent over the same month of 2007.

For Costa Rica Tourism Minister, Carlos Ricardo Benavides, these numbers indicate a positive trend for the current high season already taking place, and at the same time committing the government and sector to improve efforts to promote tourism activities.

In the case of the national airport Juan Santamaría, the numbers indicate an estimated increase of 15 percent, representing approximately 121,000 tourists. The Daniel Oduber airport has an expected increase of 7.3 percent, with 23,000 visitors.

Expansion began last year with U.S. and European airline companies including Spirit Airlines, Frontier, Champion Air, Sunwing Airlines, First Choice, Air


Caraibes, and Air Comet flying across Costa Rican skies.

Costa Rica closed 2007 with a total of 1.9 million international tourist arrivals, an 11.5 percent increase in comparison to 2006. Revenue generated by international tourists reached a historic high of \$1.9 billion, up \$300 million from last year.


In terms of investment, in 2007 Costa Rica received an estimated \$800 million in tourism investment; excluding investment in real estate development.

Hilton, Marriott, Crown and Express are among some of the hotel chains that decided to invest in Costa Rica's tourism industry.

In 2008, Costa Rica will be the host of the next United Nations' International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development. In that sense, sustainable tourism will continue being a pivotal goal for 2008. Costa Rica has set a goal to become a zero carbon dioxide emissions (CO2) tourist destination by the year 2021. Costa Rica Tourist Board, 866-267-8274, www.visitcostarica.com



THE BELIZE JUNGLE LODGE FOR
ADVENTURE TRAVEL, BIRDING,
HORSE RIDING, CAVING, MAYAN RUINS...



Experience Belize's most
amazing eco retreat!
The
duPlooy's Jungle Lodge
is unique.

Join us and...
make sure you stay long enough!

www.duplooy.com



Belize Biltmore Plaza



**Ruins • Rainforest • Diving • Snorkeling
Fishing • Adventure and Entertainment
All Close To You**

- 3 miles from Belize City
- 7 miles from International Airport
- Full Tour Desk
- Business Center
- Buffet Restaurant

- 75 Spacious and comfortable rooms with A/C, Ceiling Fans, Cable TV, Direct Dial Telephone, Safety Deposit Boxes & Room Service.
- Fitness Center & Swimming Pool
- Conference Facility for up to 500 pax

Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel
Tel # 501-223-2302 – Fax: 501-223-2301
E-mail: sales@belizebiltmore.com
For reservations dial: 1-800-528-1234
www.belizebiltmore.com

ARTA
100%
Travel Agents.

We're proud to say
that ARTA
does not accept
airlines or
other suppliers
as members.

We work
ONLY
for agents!

Sign up for our
FREE
30-day trial membership:
www.artaonline.com

12 WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO COLOMBIA FROM AVIANCA

Effective May 17, 2008 Avianca will offer 12 weekly flights from New York to Bogotá with excellent connections within Colombia and major cities in Latin America through their HUB operation.

Currently, flights leave JFK for Bogotá at 8:00 a.m. daily and arrive at 1:05 p.m.

Effective May 17, there will be an additional departures from JFK on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 12:55 a.m., arriving in Bogotá at 5:30 a.m.

Avianca, www.avianca.com

LAN AIRLINES SELECTED BEST AIRLINE AND BEST BUSINESS CLASS

Global Traveler magazine's GT Tested Awards and *Business Traveler* magazine's Reader's Choice Awards have recognized LAN Airlines for its overall service and Business Class respectively.

The readers of *Global Traveler* magazine

expressed their appreciation for LAN Airlines' overall service naming it the Best Airline in South/Central America.

In addition to its Premium Business Class, LAN Airlines has made important enhancements to the overall fleet.

LAN flights between the U.S. and South America now offer newly designed Economy Class cabins featuring spacious interiors that add to the warmth and hospitality that LAN is known for.

Larger individual video monitors with high definition and widescreens in each seatback are also part of the upgrade.

Eva Leonard, Editor-In-Chief of *Business Traveler* magazine recognized the foreign carriers such as LAN Airlines for their success in the industry:

"This year's Business Traveler Best In Business Travel Awards survey, compiled solely from the responses of our readers, proves yet again foreign carriers are outpacing their American counterparts by a wide margin when it comes to serving travelers' needs and ex-

ceeding expectations."

LAN Airlines recently made a key investment worth more than \$100 million with the re-design of its Premium Business Class and new Economy cabins, placing the airline in the forefront of the industry and the leader in the region.

Key amenities such as full-flat seats, more than 300 on-demand entertainment options, gourmet cuisine and a wine list selected by the only Master Sommelier in Latin America gives LAN a deep competitive advantage over its competitors.

"The feedback from such savvy travelers tells us that we are going in the right direction. We will continue to exceed our passengers' expectations throughout their LAN experience," commented Pablo Yunis, Vice President North/Central America.

More than 80 percent of LAN's long haul Boeing 767 fleet now offers the new cabins with outstanding design and service.

LAN Airlines,
866- I FLY LAN, LAN.com



Providing your travel programs an extra boost

Our Escrow products and services enable you to:

- **Promote** professionalism and dependability to the travel agents and consumers you serve.
- **Comply** with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), as required by charterers and air carriers.
- **Streamline** your records with an automated escrow accounting system.
- **Be efficient** with online capabilities to view account activity.
- **Be cost effective** by releasing funds to providers of transportation or travel services to cover initial deposits and prepayments as required.
- **Earn** interest while the funds are on deposit in an FDIC-insured deposit account.

We offer a variety of products to meet your varying travel industry needs – from our recognized Travel Funds Protection Plan™ to public charter depository escrows, trust agreements and special purpose depository agreements. Please call us today.

David Valpredo, Senior Vice President

Phone: 248-729-8375

David.Valpredo@NationalCity.com

Our Travel Funds Protection Plan is endorsed by the National Tour Association® (NTA) and American Society of Travel Agents® (ASTA). Also, our plan has been approved as a consumer protection escrow plan under the California Seller of Travel Law and is in compliance with various states with Seller of Travel Law.



Member FDIC • ©2007, National City Corporation.

Allegiant Asset Management Company ("Allegiant") is an SEC-registered investment advisor and a subsidiary of National City Corporation.

Allegiant provides travel escrow products and services through Allegiant Institutional Services, a division of National City Bank.

CS-27632



SOUTH STAR TOURS PRESENTS SOUTH AMERICA HIGHLIGHTS PROGRAM



South Star Tours Inc., which offers travel agents an 11 percent commission, is featuring a South America Highlights Tour featuring Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. Travel to four of the most famous destinations in Latin America: Santiago, Buenos Aires, Montevideo and Iguassu Falls. Santiago is a very sophisticated city, famous for its gourmet food and the best wines of South America. Enjoy the cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires, the "Paris of South America," with great restaurants, museums and the sensual tango. Take a ferry ride across the De la Plata River to reach Uruguay. Montevideo has its pleasing charm expressed on its Old and Modern part of the city. Admire the natural beauty of Iguassu Falls, the widest waterfall in the world, with over 275 falls, situated on a National Park shared between the two countries. Date is September 10-21, 2008. Land Price is \$2,389. Air out of MIA starts from \$1,449.

South Star Tours, 800-654-4468, sales@southstartours.com, www.southstartours.com

CONDOR TRAVEL EXPANDS INTO BRAZIL – SIXTH LATIN AMERICA COUNTRY

The premier South American destination management company, Condor Travel, has expanded its business tourism operations into Brazil – now marking the sixth Latin America country where the company has a dedicated DMC division.

The strategic move into Brazil not only provides the international tourism community with an entire regional division devoted exclusively to the conference and incentive markets but also consolidates the benefits of Condor Travel's One Continent, One Brand synergy, which optimizes the client's investment and unique travel experiences.

"Condor Travel is not simply a Tour Operator or Destination Management Company; the company is a complete chain of services committed to quality and an effective communications network capable of anticipating and carefully adjusting every detail for incentive travel programs or business meetings, right down to the selection of hotels, restaurants and special services, making every group incentive and event an unforgettable experience," said Mr. Sammy Niego, Group Managing Director.

Condor Travel offers a wide variety of travel programs throughout Brazil, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador and Bolivia, including fixed departures, adventure programs, eco-tourism, customized special interest tours and destination management specializing in cruising, meetings and innovative incentives programs.

With a team of 36 experienced professionals based in their Rio de Janeiro corporate office and dedicated DMC divisions based in Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia, Condor Travel is now the best DMC operations throughout the Continent.

"The Condor Brand is all about providing unique travel experiences within Latin America so our goal is very simple. And that is to exceed beyond all client expectations, from the moment we receive the first group or incentive inquiry to the actual product delivery, with each program expertly hosted from start to finish by knowledgeable bilingual staff," says Mr. Niego.

Condor Travel's dedication has earned the company the highest levels of professional recognition. Along with the company's quality service certified ISO 9001, Condor Travel also received the "Crystal Award" for Most Outstanding Incentive Travel Program from Chicago-based Society of Incentive and Travel Executives (SITE). Condor Travel was the first destination management company in Latin America to be awarded this prize.

Condor Travel, dmc-peru@condortravel.com, www.condortravel.com

"SPOIL YOURSELF" PACKAGE AT HILTON HOTELS IN LATIN AMERICA

For the perfect pampering weekend experience, guests can relax, revitalize, and rejuvenate with the "Spoil Yourself" package. The package, available now through December 31, 2008, offers upgraded accommodation, daily breakfast, two beauty treatments per stay, and late check-out until 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Spoil Yourself package is available at the following starting rates: Hilton Buenos Aires \$229; Hilton São Paulo Morumbi \$247; Hilton Cartagena \$319; Hilton Colon Guayaquil \$299; and Hilton Colon Quito \$249. Request booking code P3 for São Paulo and Guayaquil, and booking code P1 for all other participating hotels.

Package is valid for stays Friday to Sunday, through December 31, 2008, based on availability, and requires a two-night minimum length of stay. Rates vary by property and are per room per night based on double occupancy, taxes not included. Upgraded accommodation is next best available room type from the room type booked. One beauty treatment per person per stay. Certain restrictions may apply.

Hilton Hotels, 800-HILTONS, www.hilton.com

PROEXPORT ANNOUNCES TWO NEW POSTS IN MIAMI OFFICE



**CARMEN STEWART
REGALADO**

Carmen Stewart Regalado has been named Director of Leisure Tourism for Proexport Miami, replacing Maria Claudia Lacouture, who is now managing Colombia's country image from Bogota, Colombia. Carmen takes this new role with more than 10 years of experience working with Proexport and the international business community. In her past role, she served as liaison between the United States Department of State and Proexport USA, and was responsible for the success of all events, trade shows and conferences of the various business units promoted by the organization.



**BEATRIZ E. DAZA
ARIZA**

At the same time, Proexport Miami has named Beatriz E. Daza Ariza, Director of Corporate Tourism. Beatriz joined Proexport Miami in March 2007, following one year of experience in Proexport Bogota as Director of Cooperations and Agreements. This high-level role positions

her as an ideal candidate for corporate, meetings and incentive travel negotiations.

Proexport, www.proexport.com.co

SPIRIT AIRLINES ANNOUNCES NEW SERVICE BETWEEN FORT LAUDERDALE AND CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

Spirit Airlines has announced that starting May 8, 2008, it will begin new service uniting its Fort Lauderdale home with Cartagena, Colombia, marking the first ultra low cost airline to service the important tourist destinations of Colombia.

The daily flights between the two cities will be operated by Airbus 319 aircraft – currently the youngest fleet operating in Latin America and the Caribbean – with a capacity of 144 passengers.

Discussing Spirit Airlines' new service to Cartagena, Oscar Rueda García, Vice Minister of Tourism of Colombia, said "the arrival of Spirit marks a new stage in the history of Colombia's tourism, initiates flying to Cartagena, and we hope that very soon will cover other tourist destinations in the country.

It is important to accompany this operation with a promotional campaign so that the occupancy of the flights is mainly citizens of the United States coming to Colombia."

"We are extremely pleased to be able to liberate Cartagena from high fares, as we have already done in other cities of the region, by offering a new ultra low cost alternative for Colombia," said Spirit's Chief Marketing Officer Barry Biffle. "This new destination in the Caribbean will be offered to more than 81 million North Americans by way of our connecting network from 13 cities in the United States."

Spirit Airlines, www.spiritair.com

SATA ANNOUNCES 2008 TRADE SHOW DATES

The South & Central American Travel Association (SATA) has announced the rest of its 2008 Trade Show dates. SATA represents the South and Central American travel trade within the United States and seeks to promote education and understanding of the many countries that exist within the region.

The events have already been held in California and Florida with excellent attendance and will hit other key markets around the nation within the next few months. The events are open to any travel agents interested in selling the region.

SATA suppliers will exhibit at each event and present different product to different countries in Central and South America. The evening events will feature a trade show, an informative presentation from the sponsors, dinner and door prizes.

The upcoming events will be held in White Plains, NY (May 13), Boston, MA (May 14), Portland, OR (June 10), Seattle, WA (June 11), Chicago, IL (October 14), Indianapolis, IN (October 15), Atlanta, GA (November 18) and Savannah, GA (November 19). Supplier registration is available five-six weeks in advance of each event and three-four weeks out for travel agents.

SATA, www.sata-usa.com

Discover the world's richest rainforest, only 40 minutes from Cusco

Manu Wildlife Center

"The most intense wildlife experience in the Amazon" (Condé Nast Traveler). Includes Macaw Lick, Tapir Lick, Giant Otters, Spider Monkeys, Emperor Tamarins, canopy platforms, scientific trails, private hot-water bathrooms. Fixed departures from Cusco. Manu National Park also available.

InkaNatura Travel
www.inkanatura.com

MEXICO'S CONSUL GENERAL TO NEW YORK OPENS BOOTH AT NEW YORK TIMES TRAVEL SHOW



On March 1, 2008, Rubén Beltrán Guerrero, Mexico's Consul General to New York, joined Mariana Pedrero, Director of the Mexico Tourism Board's New York Office, for a ribbon cutting ceremony and opened booth 550 to the New York Times Travel Show consumer population.

Fifteen representatives were part of this year's booth, representing an array of tourism opportunities. These included the beach destinations of Cancun, Puerto Vallarta and Acapulco and the Colonial states of Puebla, Yucatan and Jalisco, as well as Aeromexico and Mexicana Airlines. Posadas Hotels, Excellence Resorts, Casa Dorada and Marquis Hotels were also present with representatives of Sian Kaan Community Tours.

This year Mexico presented the state of Jalisco (birthplace of mariachis, charros and tequila) to visitors with a number of activities. On Saturday Queen's Mexicans United Folkloric Ballet was joined by the Mariachi Sólido de México to perform traditional dances. On Sunday, Rodrigo Esponda, Director of the Mexico Tourism Board's Chicago Office, gave a seminar on Mexico's Colonial Cities and Magical Towns, which includes Jalisco's renowned cultural center, Hospicio Cabanas and the city of Tequila. The Mexico Tourism Board (MTB), www.visitmexico.com

NEW LOMA DEL MAR RESORT OFFERS ROMANCE, FAMILY AND GOLF PACKAGES

Terraced on a forested hillside (loma) above Ixtapa, Mexico, the 16 spacious suites of the new Loma del Mar Resort overlook the property's landscaped grounds that include two swimming pools, lounging areas, palapa-topped restaurant, bar, and recreational facilities. Tree-shaded paths meander through the five-acre property which borders the Palma Real Golf Course-nature reserve. Enhancing the resort, additional facilities will be completed for summer 2008 including a saltwater swimming pool with thalassotherapy treatments, a Turkish-style hamam, and an extraordinary new-age wellness chamber with myriad water sensations.

Spacious one- and two-bedroom suites provide apartment-style

luxury with living and dining areas, veranda-terraces, and fully equipped kitchens. Ideal for couples and honeymooners are three one-bedroom penthouses and the one-bedroom presidential suite with a private outdoor minipool.

Especially appealing for families are the two-bedroom suites featuring a living room and dining area, two baths, and a separate "children's room."

There is also an on-premise kid's club with games and activities. Babysitters are available. The resort is adjacent to the 14th hole of Ixtapa's Palma Real Golf Course. Golfing guests receive special amenities and easy access to the course. Appropriately, Loma del Mar offers three special-interest Getaway Packages: Romance, Family and Golf.

From their terraces, guests can enjoy views of the golf course and the tropical forest. A spa treatment facility offers body scrubs, massages and facials, and a sauna. The Luna de Shiva restaurant serves a fusion of Mediterranean and Thai specialties, as well as superb Mexican cuisine.

La Pampa Argentine Steakhouse has a spectacular hilltop view of Ixtapa. An on-premise "extreme zone" features rappel, canopy and a hanging bridge. Water skiing, windsurfing and parasailing are available at the beach. Facilities accommodate small group meetings, and staff specialists organize sunset weddings and banquets in the gardens or terraces.

Rates at Loma del Mar range from \$485/night for a Luxury Suite (Summer 6/1-10/1) to \$763/night for the Presidential Suite (Winter 12/17-03/31), single or double occupancy, plus government tax and service.

Loma del Mar, 866-496-1082, res@lomadelmar.com, www.lomadelmar.com

BREAKFAST SOUTH OF THE BORDER IN PUERTO VALLARTA

This summer, CasaMagna Marriott Puerto Vallarta Resort and Spa is inviting guests to indulge in the resort's new Breakfast South of the Border Promotion and enjoy a free upgrade to an Ocean View room.

Guests will explore the beauty of Puerto Vallarta and benefit from warm Mexican hospitality.

Available May 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008, the Breakfast South of the Border Promotion starts at \$179 for a Deluxe Garden View Room and includes complimentary full breakfast daily for up to two adults and children ages 12 and under; express check-in; and, when guests book a Garden View room at a rate of \$179, they automatically will receive a free upgrade to an Ocean View room. Rates are per room, per night, based on availability.

Children's breakfast is from the children's menu and only when in the same room as an adult.

Promotion requires a Friday or Saturday night stay and day of week availability may vary. Not applicable to groups of 10 rooms or more. Rate does not include tax. Blackout dates and other restrictions may apply.

The CasaMagna Marriott Puerto Vallarta Resort, 888-PARADISE, www.casamagnapuertovallarta.com

LAS VENTANAS NAMES LIONEL ALVAREZ MANAGING DIRECTOR



LIONEL ALVAREZ

Rosewood Hotels & Resorts, the premier manager of ultra-luxury hotels and resorts, has appointed Lionel Alvarez Managing Director of internationally renowned Las Ventanas al Paraíso, A Rosewood Resort.

Mr. Alvarez is an accomplished hotelier with three decades of distinguished experience operating luxury properties worldwide. He comes to Las Ventanas from one of Portugal's most exclusive properties,

Aquapura Vale Do Douro Hotel, Villas and Spa, where he was General Manager.

"Lionel is the ideal executive to take the reins of Las Ventanas at this historic juncture as the resort enters its second decade of leadership in the ultra-luxury market," said Bob Boulogne, COO, Rosewood Hotels & Resorts. "With his proven skills and savvy, Lionel will continue the unprecedented success and international recognition of the first 10 years and take Las Ventanas to an even higher level."

His resume includes serving as General Manager of such properties as the Beau Rivage in Mauritius, Aman Resorts' Hotel Bora Bora, and Paraiso de la Bonita in the Riviera Maya.

Christian Tavelli remains the resort manager overseeing the day-to-day operations of Las Ventanas al Paraíso.

Since it opened in 1997, Las Ventanas has been among the world's most acclaimed resorts, recognized particularly for its exceptional guest experience. The resort pioneered the luxury market in Los Cabos and remains the destination's only Five Diamond property.

Las Ventanas, 888-ROSEWOOD (888-767-3966)

MEXICANA INITIATES DIRECT SERVICE ON NEW YORK - MONTERREY ROUTE

Mexicana Airlines has announced that direct services will be available between New York and Monterrey, Nuevo León, as of May 1, further consolidating the carrier's leading position in terms of international flights and on the U.S. market in particular.

Flights will be operated using modern Airbus A319 aircraft with 12 seats in the airline's award-winning Clase Ejecutiva and 108 in coach class.

A convenient flight schedule has been designed for this route, departing from New York's JFK airport at 2:00 p.m. and arriving in Monterrey at 5:30 p.m., with return flights departing from Monterrey at 8:00 a.m. and landing at New York at 1:00 p.m.

The new route is of special importance to residents of Monterrey, who will no longer have to fly to Mexico City to catch connecting flights to New York, facilitating travel to Europe, Canada and other major U.S. cities.

Additionally, Mexicana passengers holding Executive, Elite and

Infinite Frecuenta membership can enjoy the VIP services offered by "The Lounge" at New York's JFK airport.

Likewise, the new route affords New Yorkers the opportunity to conduct their business in Mexico more efficiently, with convenient connections from Monterrey to Mexico City, Mexico's world-famous beach resorts, and major cities in Central and South America.

Furthermore, Monterrey and New York are cities with well-established congress and convention markets, equipped with world-class infrastructure and services. As such, they stand to benefit from the group travel facilities offered by the new route.

"We are extremely proud of the efforts Mexicana is making and we know for a fact that this route will be very successful, because we expect an occupation factor close to 70 percent. We will be promoting the new service by offering attractive introductory fares and the chance to earn extra air-miles under our Frecuenta frequent-flyer program," said Mexicana Chief Sales and Marketing Officer Isaac Volin.

This new route is part of Mexicana's ongoing efforts to consolidate its presence on the North American market, while diversifying the services it offers within Mexico.

Mexicana Airlines, www.mexicana.com

AAA ACCOLADES FOR VALLARTA PALACE

Palace Resorts, the company that set the standard in five-star, all-inclusive resort accommodations, has announced that Vallarta Palace, Palace Resorts' first venture onto the Pacific coastline of Mexico, was recently awarded the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Award for 2008.

This is the second consecutive year that Vallarta Palace has enjoyed the honor of being counted among the select group of AAA Four Diamond winners.

"This is a great distinction for Vallarta Palace to be recognized for a second year with such a prestigious award," commented Roberto Chapur, President of Palace Resorts. "Throughout the Palace Resorts line of all-inclusive properties we make it a point to offer all of our guests superior personal service and first-class amenities. To receive an award for what we have always prided ourselves on is a wonderful tribute."

Vallarta Palace is pleased to be the only Four Diamond rated, all-inclusive hotel in Nuevo Vallarta. It is also honored to be among the select group of AAA Four Diamond Award winners that for 2008 represent only 3.2% of the 60,000 AAA Diamond Rated lodgings and restaurants that have received this prestigious designation.

Four Diamond lodgings account for just 3.6% of the more than 32,000 AAA Rated lodgings.

AAA's Diamond Rating System is the only ratings system that covers all of North America and one of only two that conduct physical, on-site evaluations. It is the only system that uses full-time, professionally trained evaluators to inspect each property on an annual basis using a set of guidelines that are made available to all establishments.

Palace Resorts, 800-635-1836, www.palaceresorts.com



LOS CABOS

LOS CABOS CELEBRATES ITS CELEBRITY; IDEAL DESTINATION WEDDING SPOT

Luxurious hotels, world-class cuisine and breathtaking scenery have made Los Cabos the premier destination for the Hollywood jetset, including the most talked about celebrity couple Jessica Simpson and Tony Romo.

A favorite retreat for celebrities, Los Cabos has welcomed the Who's Who of Hollywood, including Jennifer Aniston, George Clooney, Susan Sarandon, Brad Pitt, Justin Timberlake, Cameron Diaz, Eva Longoria, Tony Parker, Beyonce, Penelope Cruz, Matthew McConaughey, Oprah, Jessica Alba, Kate Hudson, Halle Berry, Enrique Iglesias, Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher, Jennifer Lopez, Marc Anthony, Gwyneth Paltrow, Adam Sandler, Dustin Hoffman, Sienna Miller, Sara Jessica Parker, Courteney Cox, David Arquette, Fergie, Josh Duhamel, Sandra Bullock, John Travolta, Barbara Streisand and Teri Hatcher, as well as old timers Bing Crosby and John Wayne, who started the celebrity exodus to Los Cabos.

Also in keeping with Los Cabos celebrity status, the destination was recently added to the list of top 10 hot spots for winter luxury private jet travel as measured by Flight Options, LLC.

Los Cabos' new campaign theme, "Leave it all Behind," speaks to everyone needing to get away from it all and discard the everyday cares for an escape to the "end-of-the-earth," where they will find space, peace and a renewed spirit.

Families, honeymooners, mature travelers, golfers, eco-tourists, artists, photographers, sightseers and others find what they are looking for when they visit Los Cabos.

Located at the southern tip of Mexico's Baja Peninsula, Los Cabos offers travelers an exotic escape within easy reach of most U.S. cities.

With non-stop flights or convenient connections available from Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego, San Francisco and Sacramento, California; Houston and Dallas, Texas; Portland, Oregon; Kansas City, Missouri; Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, New York/ Newark, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Seattle and more, Los Cabos is both accessible and exciting.

Los Cabos, 866-LOS-CABOS, www.visitloscabos.travel

NEW DREAMS HUATULCO RESORT & SPA TO OPEN WINTER 2008

The newest Dreams resort, Dreams Huatulco Resort & Spa, is set to debut in November 2008 following a multi-million dollar enhancement. Located in the Southern state of Oaxaca, Mexico, Dreams Huatulco becomes the brand's first property in the upscale tourism destination of Huatulco and sits on one of the Pacific Coast's most pristine beaches overlooking Tangolunda Bay.

The newly-enhanced resort will close in May 2008 to undergo the transformation, and then reopen in November with an extensive offering of first-class amenities and services.

Dreams Huatulco Resort & Spa will feature 419 luxurious suites and 24-hour room and concierge services, daily refreshed mini bars, and more. A choice of six specialty themed restaurants, as well as six bars throughout the premises, will offer a selection of premium beverages and gourmet dining experiences. In addition, guests of all ages can indulge in a variety of activities and entertainment including kayaking, snorkeling, volleyball, dance classes, and many others.

The resort also offers a Preferred Club area, which provides guests with an even higher level of service including daily afternoon and evening hors d'oeuvres, upgraded amenities, balconies with Jacuzzi areas, and more.

"We are thrilled to bring Unlimited-Luxury to this beautiful region of Mexico with the new Dreams Huatulco Resort & Spa," said Kevin Wojciechowski, Vice President of Sales & Marketing of AMResorts, Dreams Resorts & Spas' parent company. "We are confident that both new and returning guests will be delighted by all the enhancements underway throughout the resort."

Couples with children will appreciate the resort's Explorers' Kids Club, which is for younger guests ages 3 – 12 and features fully-supervised activities. For those seeking relaxation, the Spa will offer an atmosphere of pure indulgence combining hydrotherapy and soothing signature treatments. Additionally, the property's planned Convention Center makes it the perfect venue for meetings and incentive travelers.

Dreams Resorts & Spas, 866-2 DREAMS,
www.dreamsresorts.com

RIVIERA NAYARIT'S WEDDING PACKAGES SHOWCASE REGION'S CHARACTER

The essence of Mexico's newest tourism destination - Riviera Nayarit - is its originality: the perfect blend of world-class comforts and luxury with natural beauty and uniquely authentic culture, traditions and history.

The choices for special romantic occasions in Riviera Nayarit range from full-service resorts to intimate, local-flavored B&B's. A wide range of options are available for honeymoons and romantic vacations.

Grand Velas Resort & Spa is a member of The Leading Hotels of the World and a recipient of the AAA Five Diamond Award. A "Lounge Wedding Package" includes a legal wedding ceremony; all preparations and floral arrangements; hot and cold hors d'oeuvres; a buffet menu for 50 people, including a cake; three hours of open bar and three hours of DJ entertainment.

Vallarta Palace offers an extra incentive to wedding couples with its "Free Wedding Package."

The resort wedding features use of the beachside wedding gazebo; beverages during the ceremony; dinner reservations for the wedding party; a candlelit dinner and breakfast in bed for the bride and groom; special room amenities; and the services of a wedding coordinator with a minimum stay of three nights.

Understanding the importance of eco-friendly tourism, the Palladium Vallarta Resort took into account its surrounding jungle environment when constructing the hotel, maintaining the indigenous flora and fauna.

With this in mind, those seeking to marry and help protect the environment are offered the "Premium Wedding Package" which includes wedding coordinator; upgrade to ocean view or Royal Suite for a nominal extra charge; decorations and floral arrangements; a wedding cake and beverage for up to 10 people; dinner, breakfast in bed and a special spa service for the wedding couple.

For romantics, Villa Varadero, with its

B&B style, is certain to please. The hotel's wedding package includes on-site wedding coordinator; decorations; bride's bouquet and groom's boutonniere; and wedding cake. Dining and accommodations are arranged separately.

Other ideal choices for romantic escapes in Riviera Nayarit include the Four Seasons Resort, Punta Mita, Marival Grand & Club Suites, and, opening this summer, the Riu Palace Pacifico.

Riviera Nayarit,
www.RivieraNayarit.com

FIESTA AMERICANA GRAND ANNOUNCES NEW UPDATES AT MEXICAN PROPERTIES

Fiesta Americana Grand hotels are situated in Mexico's most premier destinations and offer the finest in world-class accommodations and amenities.

Created specifically for discerning travelers in search of privileged locations, personalized attention and unequaled hospitality, Fiesta Americana Grand includes three long-renowned properties and one recent newcomer, further enhancing the brand's rich portfolio.

Now boasting added accolades, a vino-inspired spa and an historic setting for meetings and events, Fiesta Americana Grand has driven its offerings to a new level.

For the 14th consecutive year, the Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach Cancun has been presented with the AAA Five Diamond Award.

The 602 all-suite, oceanfront Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach Cancun boasts three award-winning culinary op-

tions: the five-diamond, French Mediterranean restaurant, Le Basillic; the four diamond, gourmet Mexican restaurant, La Joya; and the two-diamond, seaside restaurant, Isla Contoy.

A first for Mexico and Latin America, the SOMMA Wine Spa at the Fiesta Americana Grand Los Cabos offers a variety of anti-oxidant wine treatments, also known as vinotherapy.

SOMMA utilizes the best grapes from Baja California's Guadalupe Valley. As just one of the more than 30 vino-inspired facial and body treatments, the 60-minute Chardonnay mud wrap, a favorite among white wine enthusiasts, detoxifies and conditions skin.

A favorite among even the most selective business travelers is the Fiesta Americana Grand Chapultepec. Just steps outside the hotel lobby, guests have easy access to the city's business, commercial and entertainment districts, while inside the hotel, business travelers will find a modern business center and superior meeting and event facilities.

The newest addition to the Fiesta Americana Grand portfolio, the Fiesta Americana Grand Guadalajara Country Club, has added a new sense of style and sophistication to the vibrant city of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Located on Avenida Americas in the heart of Guadalajara's most exclusive corporate and financial district, the property boasts 208 rooms and a modern meeting facility. The hotel also proudly features a chic, contemporary restaurant, 4 Estaciones.

Grupo Posadas, www.posadas.com

Travel World NEWS

The Magazine for Destination Travel Specialists

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

50 Washington Street • South Norwalk, CT 06854-2710
Voice: 203-853-4955 • Fax: 203-866-1153

www.travelworldnews.com

Charles Gatt, Jr., Publisher
charlie@travelworldnews.com

Jennifer M. Lane, Editor
editor@travelworldnews.com

Linda Rogers, Design Production Manager
production@travelworldnews.com

For Online Subscription, Renewal or Change of Address: www.travelworldnews.com/subscribe

Cover Photo Credit: Central Fountain, Antigua, Copyright: www.viaventure.com



GUATEMALA

Maya Spirit

RELIVE ITS MYSTERY

The Number One
Touring Service in Guatemala.

Clark Tours has a solid reputation for excellence throughout the beautiful Central America country and abroad.

After 80 years, it still maintains its position as the number one touring service in Guatemala.

Special Interest Tours – Archaeological and Highlands Clark Tours feature new buses equipped with air-conditioning, stereo and 2-way radios. English/Spanish speaking airport personnel and tour guides on board.

 **clark tours**

www.clarktours.com.gt

P.O. Box 526150 Miami, Florida 33152

GUATEMALA - Dial Direct (502) 241-24700 - Fax: (502) 241-24701

E-mail: info@clarktours.com.gt - www.clarktours.com.gt

Service Desks in the following hotel lobbies:

Biltmore Express, Guatemala City Marriott, Holiday Inn and Westin Camino Real - Guatemala