

# Dive Into Exciting Belize



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TRAVEL WORLD NEWS - SECTION FOUR - JUNE 2007

# Dive Into Exciting Belize

Known as the Adventure Coast, Belize and its amazing underwater wonders is a must-visit dive destination.

BY JENNIFER M. LANE

**B**elize, located on the eastern coastline of Central America, is often referred to as one of the Seven Underwater Wonders of the World. The world's second largest barrier reef runs parallel to its coast and many of the small islands, known as "cayes," that lie off the coast of the Belizean mainland have their own coral reefs, with spectacular underwater gardens teeming with sea life of all types.

The "Blue Hole" is located in the center of Lighthouse Reef Atoll. Popularized by a Jacques Cousteau television special, this has become the most famous dive site in all of Belize. Originally a cave, the roof fell in 10,000 years ago as the land receded into the sea. Visible from outer space, the Blue Hole is nearly a perfectly circular hole 1,000 feet in diameter and 412 feet deep.

For those interested in diving the Blue Hole, or any of the other incredible dive sites in Belize, including The Belize Barrier Reef, Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Shark Ray Alley, Turneffe Atoll, Glover's Reef, or Lighthouse Reef, to name a few, the following hotels and tour operators can help you plan the perfect underwater getaway:



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Scuba diver swimming over Elkhorn coral.

## Monkey Business Travel Shoppe/ Banana Beach Resort

Monkey Business Travel Shoppe is a full service activities planning center, offering packages including snorkeling, kayaking, sailing, fishing, scuba diving, parasailing, and land tours. Their diving excursions feature the best of what Belize has to offer.

There are three basic types of dives in Belize, the Blue Hole, Turneffe Islands, and other local reef dives (San Pedro). A one tank dive is \$45 per diver, two tank dives is \$75 per diver, and three tank dives are \$105 per diver.

The Combo (half day) trip is where snorkelers and divers travel in the same boat to enjoy Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark Ray Alley. Divers do one shallow tank dive at Hol Chan and snorkel at Shark Ray Alley. Price is \$70 per diver and \$40 per snorkeler.

Night dives are also offered where divers can see the nocturnal marine life as never before. There is a minimum of two people and the price is \$50 per dive.

The Blue Hole day trip features spectacular diving at the world famous Great Blue Hole and Lighthouse Reef, renowned for its sheer walls and impressive drop-offs. This adventure includes three dives. The first stop is the Blue Hole, where a limited variety of fish species can be found here, such as lemon and black-tip shark and horse-eye jacks. The second dive is to Half Moon Caye Wall to marvel at the abundance of its marine life. Numerous varieties of sponge and sea fans compete for space, amongst a profusion of coral species. After the second dive, a beach picnic lunch will be served on Half Moon Caye, one of the most beautiful marine and terrestrial sites. The third dive is at the Aquarium, so

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called because of the tremendous variety and abundance of fish found at this site. The price for the day trip to Blue Hole is \$250 per diver and \$185 per snorkeler. Price includes breakfast, lunch, water, sodas, transportation, tour guide, entrance fee and tax. The minimum is eight people.

Turneffe Atoll (South Elbow) is the ultimate in wall diving. The Elbow, at the southern most tip of the atoll, is where this diving trip begins.

The currents here supply a natural concentration of food which accounts for the huge numbers of fish and other marine life. The second dive is Billy Bob's. The formations here have created many exciting canyons, tunnels, and swim-throughs. This area is heavily populated with the many reef fish that inhabit this part of the Caribbean. The next stop is Myrtle's Turtles, so called because of a large green turtle named Myrtle that appears here almost every spring. There is a minimum of eight people and the price is \$185 per diver, including tax.

Island Spree two tanker is a dive to two pristine sites up north. Dive into and emerge into an underwater tapestry of colors. Trip includes lunch, drinks, fruits, tanks, belts, and weights. Minimum of six divers are required to make the trip. Price is \$100 per diver including tax.

Rental Equipment is available and they also offer instruction and certification.

**Monkey Business Travel Shoppe/  
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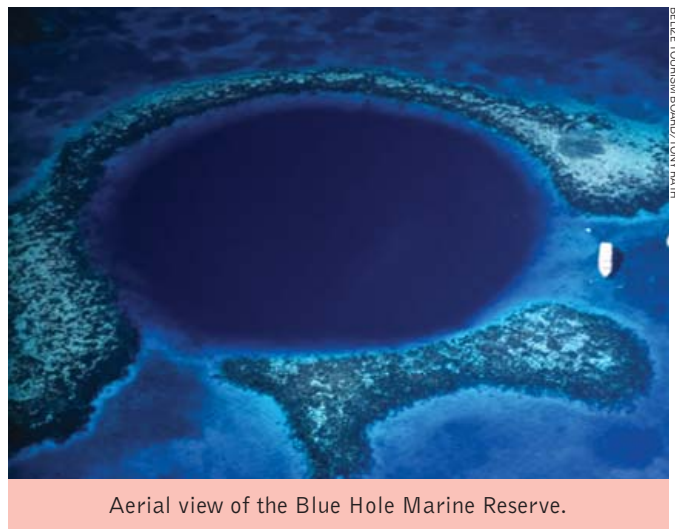
### Tranquility Bay

Tranquility Bay, which opened in February 2006, is located on 12 acres on Ambergris Caye. The only resort to reside inside the new Bacalar Chico National Park and Marine Reserve, recently named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Tranquility Bay Resort also lies parallel to the magnificent Belize Barrier Reef.

Tranquility Bay Resort offers guests 11cabanas to choose from during their stay. While the resort embodies a serene, relaxing getaway, adventure lies close at hand. Situated in the heart of the best fishing, sailing, snorkeling and diving in all of Belize, Tranquility Bay Resort offers on-hand expert staff to assist with top-of-the-line water sports equipment, excursions to the mainland and day trips by boat to provide guests with an unforgettable adventure travel experience.

At Tranquility Bay, world-class diving, snorkeling and fishing is located right at the front door. The reef's majestic undersea world boasts three magnificent atolls (immense rings of coral), nearly 400 species of fish, and 70 types of hard corals.

Divers can explore an undersea paradise of mid-reefs, shallow sea gardens and deep precipitous walls. An abundance of colorful marine life grace this area. It's not unusual for divers to encounter friendly dolphins, nurse sharks, trunkfish, turtles, spotted eagle rays, groupers, huge green morays and



Aerial view of the Blue Hole Marine Reserve.

giant jewfish. During certain times of the year, even migratory whales can be seen. Belize's most fascinating phenomena, the Blue Hole, is reason enough for divers to visit the area. At a depth of 130 feet, the dimly lit cavern's great upside-down monoliths hang from the ceiling, extending over 25 feet.

The hotel can also arrange excursions for guests looking for adventure, excitement and insight into the history and wildlife of Belize. Day trips by boat can be coordinated through the resort that includes diving or snorkeling at Hol Chan National Marine Preserve, Shark-Ray Alley or the Blue Hole. The resort can also arrange trips to the mainland, allowing guests to visit the countless historical and ecological sites. Visits can be arranged to the Belize Zoo, the world-famous Community Baboon Sanctuary, Five Blues Lake National Park, Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park, Mountain Pine Ridge and Guanacaste National Park.

**Tranquility Bay, 888-THE-CAYE (843-2293),  
www.tranquilitybayresort.com  
Belize, www.belize.com  
Belize Tourism Board, www.travelbelize.org**

### BOHIO DIVE RESORT – TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS



Located on award winning Pillory Beach, this intimate resort guarantees a personal service in idyllic Caribbean surroundings. Offering a variety of water sports including diving, snorkeling, deep sea fishing, sting ray encounters, whale watching, sailing & kayaking. Lasting memorable experiences for divers of all levels from novice to expert. PADI courses and Nitrox available

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## DIVE THE GALAPAGOS FROM THE NEW LUXURIOUS GALAPAGOS ECO EXPLORER I

At the end of February 2007, 14 passengers boarded the brand-new *Galapagos Eco Explorer I* in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, San Cristobal, for the inaugural week-long voyage of Explorer Ventures' newest and most luxurious vessel.

Completed in late January in Guayaquil, Ecuador, the *Galapagos Eco Explorer I* is a 95 foot long, 32 foot wide power catamaran, designed to be the roomiest, fastest and most stable way for 16 divers to join the vessel's crew of 10 and two naturalist/dive guides to visit the remote diving locations of Wolf and Darwin Islands.

With all of the large staterooms located on the main deck or above, and featuring twin or queen beds, desks, large bathroom with tub and shower, TV/DVD, storage and full-length windows which can be opened, the vessel is among the most comfortable and luxurious dive vessels in the world.



Due to the topography and sea and diving conditions in the Galapagos, all diving is done from the pangas as drift dives; regulatory requirements also dictate that a guide accompany each group of divers.

An easy backward roll off the panga marks the beginning of each dive, which is limited to 50 minutes both for safety (given the remote nature of these islands) and to make sure that the group stays together.

The number of large pelagics is generally limited only by the visibility. Galapagos sharks, white tips and schooling hammerheads are commonplace and form the backdrop as flights of eagle rays serenely fly by.

Divers will also spot moray eels, mantas, silky sharks or even a whale shark (especially between June and November) sharing the ocean. And of course penguins, sea lions, iguanas and even blue-footed booby birds may also want to share the dive.

Resting up for the next dive, relaxing on board and socializing with the other guests is a big part of the comfort factor on a liveaboard dive trip. The expansive common areas of the boat, from the luxuriously appointed main salon to the outdoor salon (on the first deck), partially covered upper deck, open-air third deck, walk-around upper decks offering sight-seeing in every direction, and bow observation areas all offer comfortable areas to take in the sights, photograph the Galapagos scenery or wildlife, or find some seclusion.

After three days at Darwin and Wolf, plus diving at North Seymour, Gordon's Rock, and Cousin's Rock and a snorkeling/beach trip and land excursion to see the volcanic spatter cones on Bartolome, guests will arrive back in San Cristobal on the following Monday morning.

Explorer Ventures Ltd. 800-322-3577, [info@explorerventures.com](mailto:info@explorerventures.com), [www.explorerventures.com](http://www.explorerventures.com)

## REGISTER NOW FOR DEMA SHOW 2007

DEMA Show 2007 will be held October 31 – November 3, 2007 in Orlando, Florida at the Orange County Convention Center.

DEMA Show 2007 is the world's only event for dive, adventure travel and action water sports professionals.

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## BOHIO DIVE RESORT CELEBRATES THIRD YEAR ON GRAND TURK WITH SPECIAL PROMOTION

The Bohio Dive Resort, an intimate resort situated on Pillory Beach on Grand Turk, is offering 20 percent off of hotel rates from May to October 2007. With 16 rooms just steps from the ocean, Bohio offers diving, watersports, fine cuisine and relaxation.

This idyllic spot, part of a protected marine park, was awarded the accolade of best diving beach by the U.S. magazine Men's Journal.

Conditions are perfect for beginners and advanced divers alike. Grand Turk's "breath-taking wall," just a few hundred yards off the beach is listed among the top 10 advanced dive sites in the world and is recognized as a "must visit" for divers. The dramatic plunge from shallow reefs to ocean trench a mile deep, with chutes and tunnels to explore, attracts a wealth of wildlife.

Witness the rare black corals at Black Forest dive site, or the teeming fish life at Amphitheatre. The resort's dive boat will drop guests at the more remote dive sites, or they can just stroll in right off the beach.

For those looking for a little less drama, take advantage of Bohio's unique location with their natural sandy pool and shallow house reef, perfect for snorkelers, swimmers or those just starting out. Bohio is Grand Turk's only dedicated dive resort and their ecologically minded team boasts both international and local expertise, offering a wide selection of PADI courses, Nitrox, and the latest dive equipment available for hire.

When not diving, Hobie cats, kayaks and bicycles, and lessons or guided trips are available.

Grand Turk welcomes migrating Humpback whales from January through April, and a whale-watching tour, with the chance to see mothers with their new calves, is not to be missed. There are excursions to other islands, plus trips to outer cays to see the tame stingrays, and at Gibbs Cay join the local dive masters free-diving for conch; they will demon-



strate how to extract it from its shell and transform it into a conch ceviche.

On a fishing trip, even novices have a good chance of catching a mahi mahi or a wahoo under the guidance of local gurus. The cooks will prepare your catch for dinner.

At the end of the day guests can enjoy a sunset yoga session, or relax in a hammock. The laid back island wakes up at night; guest can enjoy a mix of local bands and quaint beach bars.

Fine dining is offered at the resort's restaurant, The Guanahani. The menu has a French, Italian and Asian influence with a Caribbean twist and specials created from the local catch of the day.

The resort has 16 rooms, four of them suites with kitchenettes and king-size beds, all with sea views and balconies. All rooms are air conditioned, with ensuite facilities, ceiling fans, fridges and cable TV. There is also free wireless internet access. Car hire, baby-sitting services, and spa treatments can be arranged.

Bohio Dive Resort, [info@bohioresort.com](mailto:info@bohioresort.com), [www.bohioresort.com](http://www.bohioresort.com)

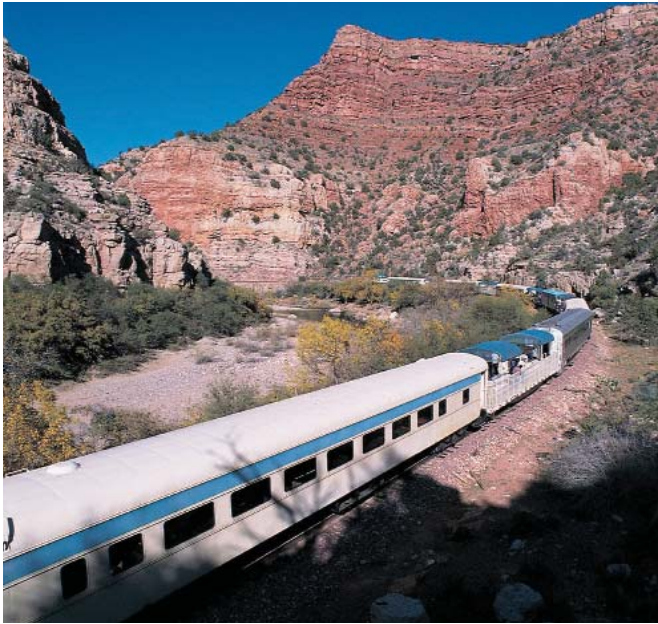
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## ENJOY THE SUMMER WITH A JOURNEY ABOARD THE VERDE CANYON RAILROAD



Passengers aboard Verde Canyon Railroad's Friday and Saturday evening trains this summer will enjoy the fresh, high desert breezes as the train passes through a nocturnal wonderland. It's a great summer adventure aboard the Saturday Starlight trains beginning on June 23 and continuing through September 15, while the ever popular Grape Train Escapes (wine-tasting) run on select Fridays

beginning May 25.

Evening departures are magical. The setting sun paints the towering red rock cliffs with dramatic shadows, making for unique photo opportunities. Even the novice shutterbug can be sure of stunning mementoes. Evening light lingers to the Perkinsville turnaround, assuring excursioners the full effect of the incredible natural wonder of the Verde Canyon in the last light of day.

Passengers riding in first-class can enjoy margaritas and other top-shelf offerings. For the exclusive Grape Train Escape, fine wine is the libation of choice, accompanied by finger foods, specially prepared to enhance the wine.

Verde Canyon Railroad's Father's Day tribute (Throw Papa on the Train) on Sunday, June 17, includes a special gift for all fathers. The Firecracker Express rolls into the depot on Wednesday, July 4, highlighting the mid-summer season. Guests can celebrate America with a picnic on the patio and good old-fashioned, patriotic music.

Verde Canyon Railroad, 800-293-7245, [www.verdecanyonrr.com](http://www.verdecanyonrr.com)

## VISIT MAHARASHTRA'S UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES ABOARD THE LUXURIOUS DECCAN ODYSSEY

Concluding a successful season, the Deccan Odyssey, India's newest and Maharashtra's only luxury train, often grouped in a select league of upscale trains including The Orient Express and The Blue Train, is already taking reservations for its new season to begin in October 2007. The Deccan Odyssey takes tourists on an eight-day/seven-night journey through the kingdom of the Marathas, departing from Mumbai (Bombay) and visiting Ganapatipule, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Tarkali, Sawantwadi, Goa, Kholapur, Pune, Aurangabad, Ellora Caves, Ajanta Caves and Nasik, returning to Mumbai (Bombay). The 21 air-conditioned coaches are painted midnight blue and gold. The carriages, individually named after famous forts, monuments and sites within the state of Maharashtra, exude old-world India with heavily draped windows, warmly lit dining cars and butlers in attendance. Twenty-first century India is evident on board via hi-tech creature comforts such as plasma televisions, CD players, two world-class restaurants, spa, gym, hair salon, steam/sauna, massage and yoga center. Plumeria, the on-board spa offers signature services including native Ayurvedic "science of life" treatments. A meeting room accommodating up to 50 guests is available on board.

Departing every Wednesday from the Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) in Mumbai (Bombay) between the months of October and April, the train traverses the Deccan Plateau traveling 1,500 miles, visiting the most popular attractions in Maharashtra. For those who wish to experience the Deccan Odyssey yet may not be able to participate in the full journey, a three-night journey is offered departing from Mumbai (Bombay) and ending in Goa. Prices for the seven-night journey range from \$240 per night, per person for standard accommodations to \$700 a night per person for the Presidential Suite.

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC), [www.maharashtratourism.gov.in](http://www.maharashtratourism.gov.in)

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 GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILFAN DAY / Sept 21 - Steam charters with many run-bys  
 RIO GRANDE DURANGO RAIL ADVENTURE / Sept 26 - 29 - Charters-all RG lettering  
 RIO GRANDE LE VETA PASS RAIL ADVENTURE / Sept 23 - 24 - Starts in Alamosa  
 MODOC RAIL ADVENTURE / Oct 5 - 8 - Former SP Modoc Line and Lake County RR's  
 NEW ENGLAND FALL COLORS RAIL SPECTACULAR / Oct 6 - 14 - MA-VT-NH-ME  
 BLACK HILLS CENTRAL RAILFAN DAY / Oct 8 - Three steam locomotives-run-bys  
 ROCKY MOUNTAIN EXPRESS / Oct 13 - 18 - Private rail cars SF Bay Area-Denver RT  
 GREAT ARGENTINIAN RAIL ADVENTURE / Oct 26 - Nov 10 - Four countries visited  
 MEXICAN COPPER CANYON RAIL ADVENTURE / Nov 8 - 15 - Starts in Tucson, AZ  
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## ORIENT-EXPRESS ACQUIRES FULL OWNERSHIP OF THE ROYAL SCOTSMAN AND AFLOAT IN FRANCE

Orient-Express Hotels Ltd. owners or part-owners and managers of 49 luxury properties, including hotels, restaurants, tourist trains and river cruises in 25 countries, has announced that it has acquired the remaining 50 percent of The Royal Scotsman luxury tourist train from the L&R Group. This news comes just two weeks after OEH purchased the remaining 50 percent of Afloat in France, a luxury canal- and river-cruise company.

The Royal Scotsman, which offers fully inclusive itineraries throughout Scotland, elegantly accommodates 36 guests served by a staff of 18 (including two chefs).

Traveling through breathtaking landscapes, private visits are arranged to Scotland's most prestigious estates, gardens and distilleries. The train currently operates from April through October and has been in operation since 1985.

"The Royal Scotsman established itself as a Scottish travel icon more than 20 years ago and fits very naturally with our trains portfolio," Nick Varian, Vice President, Trains and Cruises said. "The train remains one of the best ways to experience Scotland's scenic beauty, as well as its cultural and sporting highlights."

The itineraries are tailor-made to reach into the heart of rural France, extensively featuring Burgundy, Provence, the Rhone Valley and Languedoc-Roussillon.  
Orient-Express, [www.orient-express.com](http://www.orient-express.com)

## TRAINS UNLIMITED TOURS ANNOUNCES NEW TOURS INCLUDING CHINA/TIBET AND NEW ZEALAND

Trains Unlimited, Tours announces four new railroad tour adventures in China/Tibet, New Zealand, Canadian Rockies and Santa Fe, New Mexico with a total of 12 departures in 2007. The brand new private train SHANGRI-LA EXPRESS that will run between Beijing, China and Lhasa, Tibet over the highest railroad pass in the world, at 16,640 feet in the Himalayan Mountains. This new train is privately owned and operated. The onboard accommodations is all luxurious first class sleepers with showers, dining car and lounge car and the entire train is equipped with oxygen for the comfort of the passengers. Up in the Canadian Rockies the Rockies Rail Experience excursion will run between Calgary and Vancouver and return in July and be pulled over the entire route by a Canadian Pacific steam locomotive. Nights are spent in first class hotels along the route. Also in July four luxury first class private rail cars will take clients from Los Angeles to Santa Fe, New Mexico and return through the great southwest with several days of sightseeing in central New Mexico. This is the Santa Fe, Taos & Sangre de Cristo Country tour July 3-8, 2007. Looking towards the South Pacific on October 12, the New Zealand Steam Spectacular excursion will depart Auckland for a 16-day rail tour of both the north and south islands pulled all with classic steam power.

Trains Unlimited, Tours, 800 359-4870,  
[www.trainsunlimitedtours.com](http://www.trainsunlimitedtours.com)

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## AVALON WATERWAYS ADDS NEW SHIPS AND ITINERARIES



Avalon Waterways has announced the addition of two new ships to its fleet. The *Avalon Tranquility* and *Avalon Imagery* were christened in Trier and Nuremberg, respectively, just days before beginning their inaugural season on Europe's waterways. The christenings occurred amidst the highest demand for river cruises in the company's history; more than 90 percent of the *Avalon Imagery's* staterooms – and 85 percent of the *Avalon Tranquility's* staterooms – have already been sold for the 2007 season.

Sister ships to the *Avalon Tapestry*, which was christened in 2006, this family of vessels features new architectural and technological elements, designed to enhance travelers' cruising experience.

All three ships incorporate the Silent Drive System (SDS), which places the navigational bridge in the stern – and away from the passenger compartment – allowing for a smoother and quieter cruise experience, as well as more spacious interior designs. Because of the SDS, the Sky Deck is also more spacious providing a vast area for outdoor activities, sightseeing and relaxing. Just like the *Avalon Tapestry*, the lounge and restaurant are both located at the front of the *Avalon Tranquility* and *Avalon Imagery*, offering unobstructed views of the passing landscape. Additionally, the new ships include a new outside observation deck which allows passengers an up-close-and-personal experience as the ship enters locks and passes under bridges.

"With the launch of the *Avalon Tranquility* and *Avalon Imagery*, we're continuing to lead the phenomenal trend of river cruising by introducing the most modern ships, built specially for the demands of our market" said Stewart Williams, Managing Director for Avalon Waterways, a part of the Globus family of brands. "We remain confident that the demand for river cruising will continue to grow.

We already have plans for additional ships in 2008 and 2009, and we've also expanded our offerings around the world, including new cruise itineraries in hot destinations such as China, Egypt and the Galapagos Islands."

Each stateroom aboard the vessels faces outside and features individual climate control, satellite TV, and modern bathroom with shower.

In addition, the ships boast non-smoking interiors, an exercise room, fitness centre and hair salon. Finally, as is the case with all Avalon Waterways ships, the *Avalon Tranquility* and *Avalon Imagery* also provide wine with dinner and a full team of English-speaking staff members.

The lineup of 2007 cruise itineraries for *Avalon Tranquility* and *Avalon Imagery* include "Waltzing the Danube," "Legendary Danube," "Jewels of Central Europe" (new in 2007), "Central European Experience" (new in 2007), "Magnificent Europe," "The Blue Danube Discovery" and "Christmastime Cruise." Avalon Waterways, [www.avalonwaterways.com.au](http://www.avalonwaterways.com.au)

## BRIDES SAIL AT HALF PRICE WITH STAR CLIPPERS IN TAHITI

On seven-night cruises in French Polynesia during 2008 on Star Clippers' mega-yacht *Star Flyer*, brides sail at half price when the groom pays the regular fare.

Honeymooning couples also receive a complimentary bottle of wine and a fruit basket in their stateroom, as well as a special gift and a certificate signed by *Star Flyer's* captain. Newlyweds who book their flight through Star Clippers' air/sea program will receive a one-night post-cruise stay at the Radisson Plaza Resort Tahiti in an ocean-view room including complimentary breakfast.

"*Star Flyer* is simply the best honeymoon choice for Tahiti," said Jack Chatham, Vice President of Sales and Marketing. "When you combine the romance of French Polynesia with the adventure of a real sailing ship, it makes for a truly unique way for newlyweds to begin a life together."

Sunday departures provide another advantage to newlyweds. Following a Saturday wedding, the couple easily can make convenient flight connections to arrive at *Star Flyer* in time for its Sunday evening departure.

*Star Flyer's* size enables the four-masted vessel to easily circle the islands for scenic cruising and glide inside and anchor overnight at atolls that larger ships are unable to visit, giving passengers exclusive access to some of the most spectacular landscapes and marine environments in the world. Sailing with 170 guests, *Star Flyer* provides newlyweds ample opportunity for intimacy in a casual, relaxed ambiance.

Hallmarks of a Star Clippers honeymoon include an authentic sailing experience in harmony with the environment, a full range of water sports, international cuisine and superb service.

Star Clippers, ranked one of the Top 10 Small-Ship Cruises by "Travel + Leisure," combines the luxury of mega-yacht cruising with the thrill of sailing aboard an authentic clipper ship. Guests rediscover what sailing was like during the golden age of tall ships while visiting intimate ports of call untouched by larger cruise ships.

Couples must reserve at least four months prior to the seven-night sailing date in an outside cabin. The 50 percent savings applies to the brochure cruise-only rate for the bride. Free one-night hotel stay is provided with purchase of air from Star Clippers.

Proof of marriage within three months of sailing date must be provided.

This offer is capacity controlled and cannot be combined with other promotions. This honeymoon package is available only to residents of the United States, Canada and Latin America. Other restrictions apply.

Star Clippers, 800-442-0551, [brochures@starclippers.com](mailto:brochures@starclippers.com), [www.starclippers.com](http://www.starclippers.com)

## LUXURY AND PERSONALIZED SERVICE FROM SEADREAM YACHT CLUB

SeaDream Yacht Club began on September 1, 2001 when Atle Brynstad and his partner Larry Pimentel started a new venture. They created a luxury travel product based on the concept that small was beautiful and that there was a new breed of luxury consumers waiting to try a new kind of yacht-like travel product.

In the first quarter of 2007 the revenue of SeaDream Yacht Club increased by 19 percent over the same period in 2006. Also for the first quarter of 2007 yield from that revenue was up 24 percent over the same period in 2006.

In the first quarter of 2007 utilization of staterooms was 101 percent compared to 97 percent over the same period in 2006. This is based on two guests per stateroom. Year end utilization is expected to be between 99 and 100 percent full based on current booking trends. In the first quarter of 2007 there were nine voyages fully chartered for business meetings or by private families compared to seven in the same period in 2006. Family charters were at an all-time high with five weeks of the first quarter's inventory utilized for this purpose. SeaDream's new Caribbean schedules are showing highly active booking patterns on voyages that are shorter (five nights) or longer (nine nights); and those exploring islands and ports-of-call larger vessels cannot engage.

*SeaDream I* and *II* shared the top Five Star Club award in the authoritative Berlitz Ocean Cruising and Cruise Ships 2007 guidebook. Berlitz guide author Douglas Ward, who first recognized SeaDream in his 2002 Berlitz Guide, created a special category "Utterly Exclusive" for only three vessels he said were above luxury. Of the three, two were *SeaDream I* and *II*. Conde Nast Traveler Magazine named SeaDream Yacht Club the "World's Best Small Passenger Shipping Line" for 2006. Additionally, SeaDream scored higher than any other cruise line, large or small, in this Readers' Poll and was the only cruise line rated in the top 100 "World's Best Travel Experiences." Early in 2007 SeaDream Yacht Club was rated one of the World's Best Values by Travel & Leisure Magazine. Further, Cruise Magazine, leading UK travel publication, named *SeaDream I* "World's Best Small Cruise Vessel" for 2006.

SeaDream Yacht Club, 800-707-4911,  
[www.seadreamyachtclub.com](http://www.seadreamyachtclub.com)


## LOUIS CRUISE LINES ANNOUNCES ACQUISITION OF M/V OPERA




Louis Cruise Lines has announced the acquisition of the *M/V Opera* (soon to be renamed) at a cost of \$49 million. This new addition to their fleet reaffirms their commitment in the Greek island cruise market, with an excess of 6,000 berths per week for the three and four-day cruise program alone. The acquisition of the *M/V Opera* follows the charter of the *M/V Ruby* operating three and four-day cruises ex Piraeus until July 2007. Thereafter, from July 2007 onwards *M/V Opera*, as the permanent replacement of the *Sea Diamond*, will perform three and four-day cruises ex Piraeus, along with *M/V Perla*.

*M/V Opera* is a luxury cruise ship of modern design, with a cruising speed of 19 knots, featuring an array of amenities, with all the comforts of an upscale vessel. She can carry 1,278 passengers in 483 staterooms and suites. Her 318 outside staterooms, most with large windows and some with balconies, and 165 inside spacious staterooms, all above sea level, feature individually controlled air-conditioning, shower or bath tub, toilet, TV, telephone and hair dryers, amongst other amenities. Most outside staterooms are fitted with mini bars and several cabins are two room suites offering in-room meeting facilities for six to eight persons. Additionally, *M/V Opera* features various restaurants and dining areas, a large double tiered show lounge, a large number of bars, spa facilities, beauty salon, outdoor swimming pool with a retractable glass cover, casino, and large duty free shop area. Meeting and conference facilities are also available for groups of up to approximately 100 people. This technologically advanced cruise ship was built to comply with the US Coast Guard requirements and sanitation standards of U.S. Public Health.

Louis Cruise Lines, 877 Louis US (877-568-4787),  
[www.louisrcruises.com](http://www.louisrcruises.com)

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 [www.northpolevoyages.com](http://www.northpolevoyages.com)

## UNIQUE DESTINATIONS TO THE NORTH POLE AND BEYOND WITH POSEIDON ARCTIC VOYAGES



Poseidon Arctic Voyages (PAV) Company, operating Arctic and the North Pole voyages aboard the nuclear icebreaker *Yamal* has been announced as part of International Polar Year by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The International Polar Year is a large scientific program focused on the Arctic and Antarctic. It is a good chance for travelers to contribute to the Arctic science development by taking part in expedition cruises to the Arctic. "Every year we make financial support to Franz Josef Land Nature Reserve recreation program," says a press secretary of PAV, "Franz Josef Land is the Arctic archipelago, which we visit on our way to the North Pole. Besides, when there is an opportunity PAV invites scientists to take part in the Arctic cruise and to carry out their science researches during the expedition."

The North Pole is not the only unique destination offered by Poseidon Arctic Voyages. In 2007 due to demand of its travelers, the company started expedition cruises to the Russian Far East on the *Marina Tsvetaeva* expedition vessel including Kamchatka Peninsula, Kuril Islands, and Commander Islands.

The Kamchatka peninsula with the world's highest number of volcanoes and the Kuril Islands being a part of the Pacific Ring of Fire seem to contradict the very name of the Pacific Ocean splashing around them.

However, these "hot" lands are blessed with uniquely rich wildlife and breathtakingly beautiful landscapes. A fleet of zodiac type boats aboard *Marina Tsvetaeva* take passengers to remote places difficult to access by other means of transportation.

Aboard the ship historians, naturalists and photographers introduce the passengers to various aspects of life and history of the visited region.

Poseidon Arctic Voyages, [info@northpolevoyages.com](mailto:info@northpolevoyages.com),  
[arctic@northpolevoyages.com](mailto:arctic@northpolevoyages.com), [www.northpolevoyages.com](http://www.northpolevoyages.com)

## VISIT RUSSIA'S "FAR EAST" WITH THE GREAT CANADIAN TRAVEL COMPANY

The Kamchatka Peninsula and the Commander Islands are travel destinations that are truly off the beaten path. They're part of Russia in that country's "Far East" and their most immediate neighbors are Japan and the United States.

Guests can visit this remote and beautiful region via an inclusive 10-day cruise package, "Hidden Paradise on the Edge of the World" offered by The Great Canadian Travel Company, North America's foremost experts in travel to "The Top of the World." Great Canadian specializes in adventure-filled vacations to such northern destinations such as Greenland, Iceland, Yukon and Alaska, as well as to Denmark's Faroe Islands and Scotland's Shetland Isles.

The Kamchatka Peninsula is one of the world's prime destinations for observing volcanoes. The peninsula is home to about 160 volcanoes, 29 of them still active. The highest, Klyuchevskaya Sopka, rises 15,584 feet.

This region is known for its abundance and variety of wildlife that includes a large population of brown bear. Fauna also includes lynx, wolf, wolverine, sable, bighorn sheep, reindeer and moose. The peninsula is breeding ground for one of the largest eagle species, the rare Steller's sea eagle along with the golden eagle and gyrfalcon. One of the rarest whale species, Stejneger's beaked whale, inhabits the waters of the Bering Sea.

Both islands belong to Kommandorsky Nature Preserve and in 2002 were designated as a biosphere reserve by UNESCO. They are frequented by the polar fox and have unusual flora that includes giant mushrooms that in late summer grow taller than nearby dwarf birches and willows.

The surrounding waters provide habitats for whale species that include sperm whale, killer whale and humpback whale. Before boarding the cruise vessel at the port of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, there is an excursion around the city. Arrangements also can be made for optional post-cruise tours of the city and environs.

This 10-day/nine-night package is based on a cruise aboard the *Marina Tsvetaeva*. It includes on-board accommodations, four meals daily, all shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage (including travel via Zodiacs), a program of lectures by noted naturalists and the services of an experienced guide.

Also included are pre-departure materials and expedition log and all miscellaneous services and taxes and port charges throughout the program, plus luggage transfers between airport and ship.

Departure dates for 2007 are June 30, July 9 and July 18, the latter two dates offering specially priced packages. These begin at \$2,100 per person (for triple non-private accommodations).

The Great Canadian Travel Company Ltd.,  
800-661-3830,  
[www.greatcanadiantravel.com](http://www.greatcanadiantravel.com)

## WELLNESS PACKAGES OFFERED AT LA PLETA HOTEL & SPA

La Pleta Hotel & Spa, Spain's premier resort in the Pyrenees, is offering three new Occitania Spa Wellness packages.

The 70-room La Pleta Hotel & Spa, a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World portfolio, is offering three, five and seven night packages at its 2,000 square foot spa, featuring modern design with exquisitely lit, glass-floored treatment rooms that still retain the regional rustic feel amid décor of slate, local stone and wood.

The three-night package includes accommodation in one Occitania superior room, breakfast buffet, transfers service from/to Barcelona, one spa honey massage per person, and one bottle of Cava sparkling wine in the room.

Rate is from \$1,870.42 per room, per stay, exclusive of seven percent tax.

The five-night package includes accommodation in one Occitania suite room, breakfast buffet, transfers service from/to Barcelona, one mineralized aromatic exfoliation, one facial treatment, one hot stones treatment per person, and one bottle of Cava sparkling wine in the room.

Rate is from \$2,780.28 per room, per stay, exclusive of seven percent tax.

The seven-night package includes accommodation in one Occitania suite, buffet breakfast, transfers service from/to Barcelona, one flower elixir treatment, one anti stress treatment, one hot stones treatment, one facial treatment, one bottle of Cava sparkling wine in the room, and champagne and Vin Caud (Catalan hot wine).

Rate is from \$3571.83 per room, per stay, exclusive of seven percent tax.

Packages are available June 23 through September 19, 2007. Packages are 10 percent commissionable to travel agents.

La Pleta's Occitania Spa offers two treatment rooms; one double treatment room for couples; a room dedicated to facials; a wet treatment room with a Vichy Shower, its own private wooden bathing tub for the exotic bath treatments and a steam room used for the Occitanian Herbal Massage; an Aroma shower with

10 different programs; a cold pressure shower; a Kneipp reflexology path with four programs; a cold water bath; two relaxation areas; a Jacuzzi and a steam room.

La Pleta Hotel & Spa offers world-class skiing in the winter and endless soft adventure in the summer. Tucked away in Val d'Aran, Baqueira, Spain, the five-star resort is a scenic two hour drive from the Toulouse Airport and three and a half hours from the Barcelona Airport.

La Pleta, 800-525-4800,  
www.lapleta.com, www.slh.com

## VANTAGE WORLD TRAVEL PRESENTS GOURMET TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

Vantage World Travel presents a series of Gourmet travel experiences; a string of incredible journeys circling the world to discover its grassroots regional cuisines and wines, learning about history and local cultures, while traveling through breathtaking wine regions and celebrating the diversity of the earth's bounty.

Join, for instance, a week exploring the gastronomic delights and hidden beauty of Sicily. Cooking lessons by expert chefs, wine tasting, special dinners, country lunches and the essence of Sicily's magnificent cuisine are what you can expect from this Gourmet Tour combining the influences of a dozen cultures ranging from Greek to Norman to Arab. Guaranteed departures are May 24, June 7, June 21, July 12, August 9, September 6, September 20, October 4, October 18, November 1, December 20 and December 27, 2007 and start at \$3,200.

Be it a Tuscan feast or a Provence picnic, a Chinese dim sum ritual or a traditional Spanish paella, food and wine are the essential ingredients that go hand in hand with travel and celebration.


Whether you're a food lover, wine lover, inquisitive traveler or a cultured adventurer, planning a holiday with these focuses is a natural next step, as you can learn as much about the history and art of a people from the methods and ingredients used in their cooking as you could in any other way.

Vantage World Travel's gourmet tours


are designed for small groups or individuals and cater to every need, providing the best value for experts and novices alike. All tours go beyond the standard tourist itineraries so guests will stay in chateaux, inns, boutique hotels and unique villas to get to know the local people. Explore medieval castles and hilltop villages, taste wine in private vineyard, enjoy gourmet picnics, take cooking classes in the chef's kitchen, sip a glass of wine in a local trattoria, or relax by the pool. Every day is full of history, art, friendly people, and unforgettable experiences.

For those who dislike being part of a group, they operate most of their itineraries as self-drive tours, allowing guests to set their own agenda and determine their own level of services. A self-drive tour features detailed mapped-out driving itineraries with directions to each selected accommodation and a listing of all venues for visits in each region giving complete flexibility.

Vantage World Travel, 800-826-8260,  
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## DUDE RANCHERS' ASSOCIATION KEEPS THE BAR RAISED HIGH FOR INDUSTRY



Making reservations at a member ranch of the Dude Ranch Association is like making reservations at a favorite restaurant. One expects a set of standards and gets them.

Started in 1926, The Dude Ranchers' Association, or DRA, was established as the governing body of the West's dude ranch industry. Today, the organization has just over 100 members in 12 states and two Canadian provinces.

While the DRA receives numerous applications each year, membership doesn't come easy. That's because the DRA is highly selective. So selective that only 30 percent to 40 percent of applicants within a given year are able to meet standards required for membership.

In fact, it takes two years just to get a foot in the door. All prospective members must have impeccable references from guests, appear before the Board of Directors, and pass an on-site inspection during operations, and that's just to be admitted under probation.

After the one-year probationary period, the ranch must pass a second on-site inspection. Only then are they admitted to full membership. On-site inspections are conducted every five years and each member must complete the DRA Horse Safety Certification program.

Ranch lodging can range from rustic to luxurious. What's critical is that guests don't encounter any surprises. Rates, additional charges, cleanliness, safety, and condition of accommodations, activities, and food service are scrutinized to make sure they meet DRA standards and are portrayed accurately to prospective guests. **The Dude Ranchers' Association,**  
866-399-2339, [colleen@duderranch.org](mailto:colleen@duderranch.org),  
[www.duderranch.org](http://www.duderranch.org)

## MANY EDUCATORS TURNED TOUR OPERATORS NOW MEMBERS OF SYTA

Many members of the Student and Youth Travel Association (SYTA) are former educators who bring a deeper understanding of the needs of the student traveler, according to SYTA, a leading trade association and "The Voice of Student and Youth Travel." With their extensive experience in the travel industry, unique in-

sight, and hands-on educational expertise, they are able to design tours that provide maximum educational value.

"The in-depth knowledge and experience of all our members in the youth travel industry are essential to providing quality service. For those who also bring an educational background, the experience enhances their understanding of the market and its many challenges," notes Michael Palmer, SYTA's Executive Director. "It is an additional facet to our memberships that ensures every tour is an effective and integral part of the education process."

Illinois-based Hemisphere Educational Travel owner, Jack Golen, was a high school geography teacher. When he retired from teaching, he started the company. "I loved teaching and I loved travel. By integrating my educational background with my travel experiences, I was able to continue to teach and motivate kids," he said.

Kim Pretzer, President of Summit Tour and Travel in Florida, was a high school band director and school district music coordinator. His experience in education has shown him that student travel is collaboration between administration, parents and students. He knows what needs to be done from all angles in order to put a trip together and that flexibility is key to satisfying everyone. "Each group has different perspectives and needs when selecting activities and venues," said Pretzer. "My experience in education gives me insight into what students are looking for."

Ontario-based MPO Educational Travel is one of SYTA's newest members. "Our company only works with educators. After I attended SYTA's conference in Boston last year and heard Michael Palmer speak, I knew that becoming a member was the right thing to do," said Partner/Vice-President of Marketing, Martin Plante.

"Our operator members know what works, how to best customize a trip, including understanding the market from the viewpoint of an educator, so that the student's learning opportunities are maximized," said Palmer.

"Teachers and other educators work very closely with their students, and having an educational past helps SYTA's tour providers better understand school travel needs and what will benefit both students and educators most."

Orlando, Florida-based Keynote Arts Associates President, David Patrick, taught music and musical theater at the college level, and continues to be active in the arts community. His educational background allows him to be familiar in dealing with administration and students. "When I'm at festivals and talking with choir directors, we're having a colleague-to-colleague talk. I talk their language," he said. "My personal experience is reflected in the quality and relevance of the tours that our company develops."

Owner Jim Ashby of Taylor Tours in Tell City, Indiana was also a former high school band teacher and offers this advice. "When planning trips, the first thing we look at is 'what type of activities will make for the best educational and musical experience?'"

"The tour operators with the benefit of an educational background quickly form a trusting relationship with their clients, because they are dealing with someone who understands their needs," said Palmer.

**The Student & Youth Travel Association (SYTA),**  
800-509-7982, [www.syta.org](http://www.syta.org)

## ADLER THERMAE SPA OFFERS TOTALLY TUSCAN WELLNESS PACKAGE

ADLER THERMAE in Orcia Valley, the heart of Tuscany, has announced its "Totally Tuscan" package. Taking advantage of the rich indigenous products of the region, ADLER THERMAE has designed a four night stay that cannot be experienced any other place in the world. Orcia Valley's olive trees producing unique oils, seed oils from the celebrated region's grapes and local sheep's milk and honey have become the basic ingredients in a precious line of Tuscan treatments found only at the ADLER THERMAE.

The "Totally Tuscan" package includes these treatments and adventures into the countryside: four nights accommodation in Superior double room with terrace or balcony and panoramic view (arrival on Sunday); daily breakfast with freshly prepared breakfast specialties, home made bread and "Vitality juices;" gourmet dinners with Tuscan specialties; daily mid-afternoon snack buffet with fresh fruit salad and home made cakes and tarts; unlimited access to thermal pools and sport pool; unlimited access to Finnish sauna, Turkish bath, herbal steam sauna, and saline steam sauna; unlimited access sport classes (yoga, acqua gym, pilates, Zen stretch, body tonic, etc.); free use of our mountain bikes; one body exfoliation with olive pits that purifies the skin; one nourishing bath with Tuscan extra virgin olive oil; one revitalizing massage with Tuscan Olive Cream; one red grape body wrap; one Sangiovese (local wine) red grape facial treatment giving a lifting effect; and one set of "Tuscan Spa" products.

ADLER THERMAE is located 15 minutes from Pienza and Montepuciano. It was created by the Sanoner family who opened their first resort in the Dolomites in the 1800s and is recognized as a pioneer in the wellness industry.

"Totally Tuscan" package is approximately \$1,381 per person in high season, April 1 to November 4, 2007, and approximately \$1,277 per person in low season, November 4 to December 20, 2007. The package is not available during bank holidays, Easter, or New Year.

ADLER THERMAE, [www.adler-thermae.com](http://www.adler-thermae.com)

## MATERNITY SPA ANNOUNCES FAMILY BABYMOON PACKAGE

Couples who missed the opportunity to enjoy a babymoon getaway before their first child can take advantage of a newly announced family babymoon getaway, "And Baby Makes Four." Available only at Barefoot & Pregnant @ Casa Madrona in Sausalito, California, the three-day/two-night package gives small families the chance for a vacation bonding experience before the newest arrival – while pampering parents with specialized spa services.

Nestled in the lush San Francisco Bay hillside, Casa Madrona offers 63 guest rooms, suites and cottages with breathtaking views, private balconies overlooking the bay, a full-service spa and restaurant. The first maternity destination spa nationwide, Barefoot & Pregnant @ Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa meets the unique needs of mothers and mothers-to-be with specialized spa services. The "And Baby Makes Four" package rounds out the spa's romantic baby-

moon packages for two: the three-day/two-night "Expecting the Best" babymoon and the even more relaxing five-day/four-night "And Baby Makes Three." Soon, a four-day/five-night "And Baby Makes Four" package will also be available. The spa also offers a girlfriends pregnancy getaway package.

The "And Baby Makes Four" package includes specialized spa services for mom and dad, transportation to and from the airport (or hotel parking), Garden or Bay view accommodations, complimentary gift basket, family dinner, in-room continental breakfast each morning, ferry service to San Francisco's Pier 39, and tickets to the Aquarium of the Bay. Price for three-days/two night is \$1,600 for two adults and one child.

Barefoot & Pregnant @ Casa Madrona also offers a variety of optional add-ons including a trip to the nearby Discovery Museum, or Angel Island; tours of Alcatraz; tickets to a San Francisco Giants baseball game (seasonal) or babysitting service.

From traditional services such as massages, facials and scrubs to more unique offerings including acupuncture, belly masks and lightening facials, the maternity spa has services designed to suit each stage of pregnancy.

For those who would like to customize their treatments, the spa offers add-ons such as mini hand and foot massage, neck and shoulder massage, or popular nap time. According to Health Magazine (December 2005), Barefoot & Pregnant offers "the most extensive mommy menu we've seen." At Barefoot & Pregnant, therapists and staff undergo extensive training.

Barefoot & Pregnant, [www.barefootandpregnant.com](http://www.barefootandpregnant.com)

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## 'TAKE A HIKE' FAMILY GETAWAY AT TETON RIDGE RANCH

Family bonding climbs to new heights with Teton Ridge Ranch's new "Tell Your Family to Take a Hike" getaway. Families are invited to explore the ranch's 4,000 acres during exciting outdoor adventures each day. At night, they retreat to an elegantly-appointed, yet kid-friendly private lodge.

With more than 18 miles of trails to choose from, a new hiking adventure awaits families each day. Groups can opt for a guided hike or set off on their own with maps. Picnic lunches and snacks are provided. For an additional fee, hikers can head off-property for a ride up the Grand Targhee chairlift and walk down through fields of wild flowers. The property can also direct hikers to a number of more difficult trails into the Grand Tetons.

After exploring the trails, families will angle-up for a lesson in fly-fishing. Kids and parents compete to catch the biggest trout on one of the ranch's stocked fishing ponds. Fly-casting equipment is provided by the ranch.

As the sun sets in the west, the group heads up to the hills in a horse-drawn wagon for an old-fashioned cook-out complete with s'mores. As night falls, families gather around a campfire for amazing views of the stars.

Home base for this family getaway is the property's special retreat, the Aspen Lodge. Just a short walk from the main lodge, this

private log house includes two bedrooms, three bathrooms, a living area and private porches to take in the mountain views.

Guests of the Aspen Lodge join other ranch guests in the main lodge's dining room for all meals. The main lodge also features a Great Room, library, games room, fitness room, computer room and massage room.

The ranch experience includes three gourmet meals per day, plus snacks and a bottomless refrigerator stocked with juices, water, soda, beer and wine. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet-style from an open kitchen. In the evening, guests meet in the Great Room for appetizers and drinks by the fire before a dinner in the dining room. Special dietary requests and kids' food preferences are easily accommodated.

The "Take a Hike" experience can be customized with any of the other activities offered at the ranch including mountain biking and horseback riding. Families are also welcome to venture off-property for a number of fun excursions just a short drive away such as white water rafting, hot air balloon rides, scenic float trips and walking tours through Yellowstone National Park.

The "Take a Hike" family getaway, based on four people occupying the Aspen Lodge is \$1,260 June and October, and \$1,380 July-September. Rates are per day and include all lodging, meals and activities. Additional persons per room are \$125 per day. Also available are five guest suites in the main lodge. A three-night minimum is required.

Teton Ridge Ranch, 800-926-3579,  
[www.tetonridge.com](http://www.tetonridge.com)

## APT'S KINGS CANYON WILDERNESS LODGE NOW OPEN

Australia's newest Outback accommodation property, Australian Pacific Touring's Kings Canyon Wilderness Lodge has opened. APT also operates wilderness lodges in the Kimberley in Western Australia.

The lodge is exclusively located amongst Desert Oak trees (some believed to be over 400 years old) in a remote part of Kings Creek Station, 22 miles from Kings

Canyon, 300 miles southwest of Alice Springs by paved road and 190 miles north-east of Uluru (Ayers Rock).

The lodge site has 10 deluxe tented cabins with full en-suite (hot showers) and private decking looking into the outback and a separate dining/lounge facility and outside dining-campfire area.

APT U.S. Sales Manager, Ward Reid, said the lodge offered a quiet, stylish and private Outback bush accommodation experience. "Extremely comfortable, roomy and well-appointed cabins combined with a very high quality of dining, a quiet, true Outback bush setting and just 20 guests maximum, make this lodge a special place for visiting Kings Canyon," he said. "As a dinner-bed-breakfast experience, it offers high value."

Eleven new packages from Alice Springs have been designed with exclusive short touring to the surrounding region. See ancient petroglyphs (Aboriginal rock carvings), chance to spot wild camels, kangaroos and other wildlife, guided Kings Canyon walk, overnight Kings Canyon Wilderness Lodge.

Existing short break tours visiting Kings Canyon (ranging from two days to 14 days) operated by Australian Pacific Touring have the option to upgrade to stay at the exclusive Kings Canyon Wilderness Lodge.

Kings Canyon Wilderness Lodge is available for special interest groups and private self-drive travelers, on available status. Prices are \$180 twin share per person and \$315 single, which includes dinner and breakfast. Bookings are essential.

Three course dinner includes entrée of Morton Bay bugs, mains of barbecued bar-mundi/kangaroo/camel combination with vegetables and salads, dessert and tea/coffee followed by campfire chat with fellow guests, APT guides and lodge staff as well as night sky telescope viewing. The Lodge is licensed and offers a quality selection of beverages.

Breakfast is cereals and cooked meals to order, provided by chef-host team Rowan and Jacinta Wilson, formerly of Hinchinbrook Island on the Great Barrier Reef.

Australian Pacific Touring,  
800 290 8687,  
[www.aptouring.com](http://www.aptouring.com)

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www.sunbreeze.net

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www.sunsethouse.com

### **Palau Visitors Association**

www.visit-palau.com

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www.rivieramaya.com

## **LUXURY**

### **Marbella Options**

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marbella@marbellaoptions.com  
www.marbellaoptions.com

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### **Riviera Maya Tourism**

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www.rivieramaya.com

## **NATURALIST/ CLOTHING OPTIONAL**

### **Caliente Resorts & Spas**

www.calienteresorts.com

## **RAIL**

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www.AlaskaRailroad.com/TWN

### **Eurail Group**

www.eurail.com

### **Goway**

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www.goway.com

### **India Government Tourist Office**

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www.incredibleindia.org

### **Trains Unlimited Tours**

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530-836-1745  
tut@psln.com  
www.trainsunlimitedtours.com

## **SPA**

### **Almond Beach Belize**

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almondbeachreservations  
@yahoo.com  
www.almondbeachbelize.com

### **Ceiba Del Mar Spa Resort**

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info@ceibadelmar.com  
www.ceibadelmar.com

### **Hotel Parador**

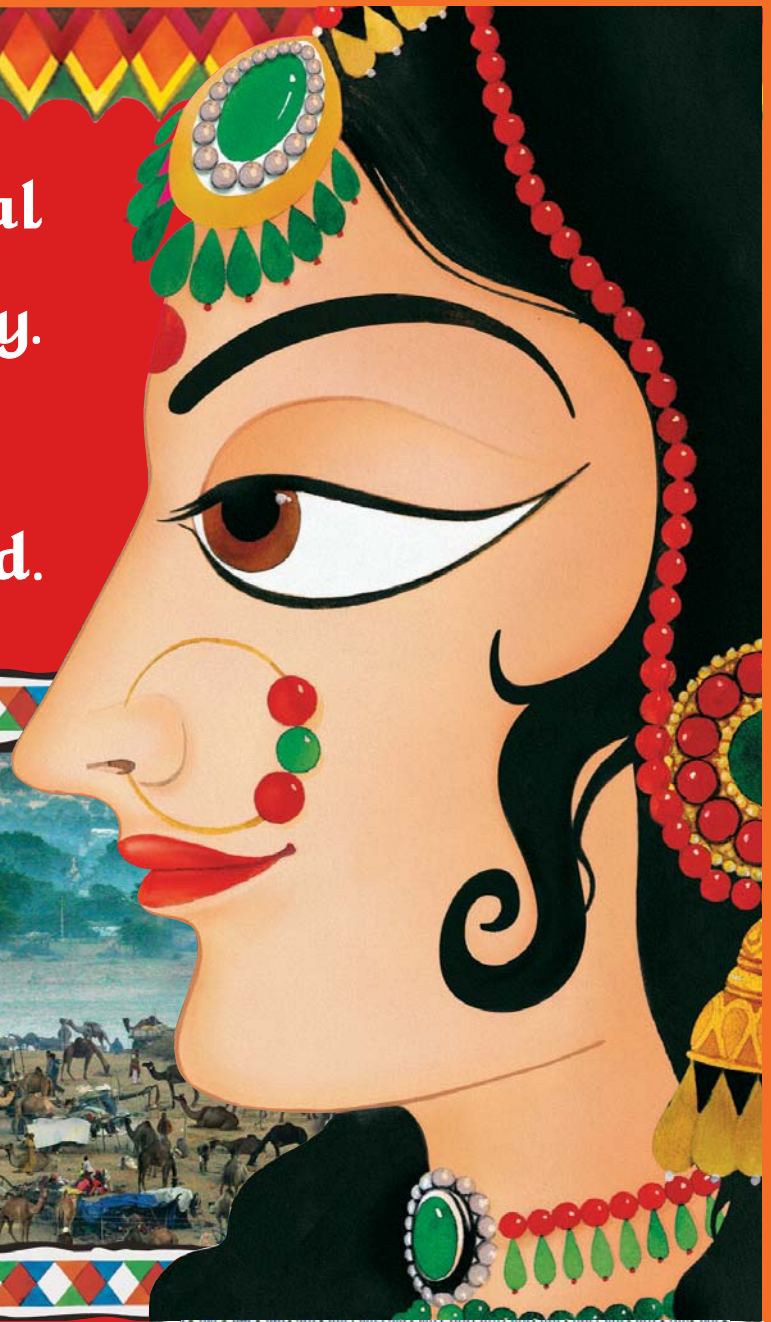
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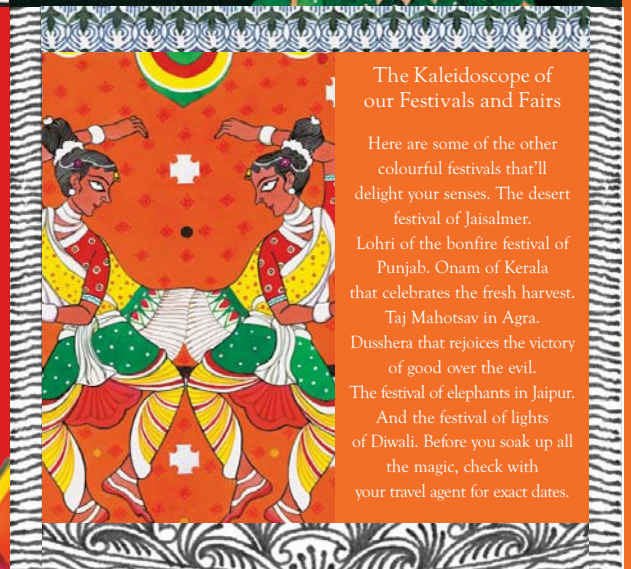
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Lohri of the bonfire festival of  
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Taj Mahotsav in Agra.

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of good over the evil.

The festival of elephants in Jaipur.  
And the festival of lights  
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the magic, check with  
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