

SPECIALIZED TOURS IN PERU FROM AQP PERU



AQP Peru is offering three specialized tours in Peru: Traditional Machu Picchu, Amazon Adventure, and Northern Archaeology.

Traditional Machu Picchu is four-days/three-nights visiting Lima and Cusco. Highlights include Sacsayhuaman, considered to be among the new Seven Wonders of the World; a full day excursion to Machu Picchu, including a Vistadome train ride; and full day excursion to the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Price is from \$551 per person. Trip includes transfers; three nights in hotel in Cusco; all excursions with professional bilingual guides, transportation and entrance fees; Vistadome train ticket; corresponding taxes; and

meals as mentioned in the program.

Amazon Adventure is four-days/three nights at Sandoval Lake Lodge. Guests will explore the Lake and experience amazing wildlife viewing, including an encounter with a family of Giant Otters. Walk the forest while a guide explains the ecology of the rain forest and its diverse flora and fauna. Package includes roundtrip ground transportation in Puerto Maldonado; three nights and all meals at the lodge; guide services in English, French or Italian; and evening nature presentations. Prices start at \$295 per person. Children under 10 receive a 20 percent discount.

The four-day/three-night Northern Archaeology program includes Trujillo and Chiclayo.

Take an excursion to the Sun and Moon Temple; a city tour of Chan-Chan which, considered the most extensive pre-Inca adobe city in the Andean region; and the most important tourist places in Trujillo, including the main square, the cathedral, and the casona Urquiaga. Visit the Archaeological Museum of the National University of Trujillo, the Sicán museum, the Museum of the Tumbes Reales, and the National Museum Royal Tombs of Sipán. Program includes transfers; two nights in hotel in Trujillo; one night in hotel in Lima; meals; all excursions with professional bilingual guides, transportation and entrance fees; and corresponding taxes. Price is from \$423 per person.

AQP Peru, tours@saaqp.com.pe, www.saaqp.com.pe



The South & Central American Travel Association (SATA) is a not-for-profit association that improves tourism by bringing awareness and education of South & Central America to travel agents throughout the United States. Airlines, Cruise Expedition operators, Hotels, Media Boosters, Tour Operators and Tourist Boards serving the region are invited to join SATA. Our members are committed to the education and promotion of their specialized destinations and promise to be very resourceful to travel agents.

www.sata-usa.com

DISCOVER ARGENTINA'S NATIONAL PARKS



Argentina has been working for more than a century on its policy for parks and protected areas that today are home to species facing extinction, fossilized forests, lakes and volcanoes. Argentina has 35 national parks across all its territory, which are the preferred destination of million of tourists visiting the country. These places offer the opportunity for restless tourists to discover and witness the true natural monuments that have withstood as treasures of nature.

One out of every three tourists that visit Argentina pay a visit to Iguazu Falls, located in the northern area of the country. Covering more than 135,000 acres of tropical rainforest, in Iguazu National Park live more than 2,000 species of plants, 400 types of birds and typical wildlife like tapirs, giant anteaters, howler monkeys, ocelots, jaguars and caymans.

After Iguazu the most visited parks are Glaciers National Park, Nahuel Huapi, Lanin, Tierra del Fuego, Los Alerces and Lake Puelo, all of them located in Patagonia; and El Palmar National Park, located in the southern area of the vast mesopotamic region.

Glaciares Park which has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO, has been covered in ice over more than 30 percent of its surface. It is home to more than 47 big glaciers. The most famous glacier is called Perito Moreno and it grows over the South Branch waters of the "Argentino" Lake.

The Nahuel Huapi, next to the city of San Carlos de Nariloché has many free and organized camping zones, as well as hotels, inns, cottages and bungalows. Guests can practice kayaking, canoeing and rafting, as well as horse riding, diving, cycling, climbing and sport hunting.

In Tierra del Fuego National Park, stroll to the "Mirador" which leads straight to Lapataia Bay, through the Lengas Woods. From the Mirador one can enjoy a panoramic view of the Bay. There is also a walk to the "Castorera" to see the dikes system built by the beavers.

Argentina, press-usa@argentina.travel, www.argentina.travel

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES TO LAUNCH NEW NONSTOP SERVICE BETWEEN HOUSTON AND RIO

Continental Airlines has announced new nonstop seasonal service between its Houston hub and Rio de Janeiro.

"Responding to the needs of our corporate customers, we're pleased to offer convenient nonstop service between these two important oil markets," said John Slater, Continental's Managing Director Latin America. "This new service will also provide easier access to one of the most exciting tourist destinations in the world."

The new service will operate three times weekly from December 17, 2008, through February 28, 2009. Flights will depart from Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 9:00 p.m. and arrive at Rio's Galeão International Airport at 11:10 a.m. the following day. The return flights will depart from Rio de Janeiro on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 11:40 p.m. and arrive at Houston at 6:00 a.m. the following day.

The new nonstop flight is timed to provide convenient roundtrip flight connections at Continental's Houston hub to more than 160 cities throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

The airline currently operates two daily flights between the U.S. and Brazil. Daily service is offered between Continental's New York hub at Newark Liberty International Airport and São Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport, and between Houston and Rio de Janeiro, via São Paulo. Continental will utilize a Boeing 767-400 aircraft on the route, with 35 seats in BusinessFirst and 200 seats in economy.

Continental Airlines, continental.com

ENJOY PERU IN A UNIQUE WAY: OFF ROAD WITH PERU 4X4 ADVENTURES

The best way to enjoy a trip to Peru is by taking full control of the itinerary. That means being in command of both time and space. Peru 4x4 Adventures has come up with a unique program to get around the country with the best and most modern 4x4 vehicles. Travelers can drive to places with the most professional chauffeurs, and visit places and things which are not usually available in a normal and conventional tour. These tours bring you the excitement of driving on the wilderness, the adventure of arriving to places and remote villages on the route, and most importantly, the ability to be able to stop anywhere to admire the landscape or just to take a picture.

This is a one-of-a-kind adventure from any single point of view: cultural, historical, adventure, or ecological (bird watching). This trip will be memorable and enriching.

These programs are aimed to individuals who also privately want to travel around Peru without using inland flights. Programs are reasonably priced.

Peru 4x4 Adventures, www.peru4x4adventures.com, www.turisticalperu.com

CRUISE WEST ANNOUNCES QUITO & GALAPAGOS 2009 ITINERARY

Cruise West will now offer Quito & the Galápagos Islands cruise available on select dates throughout 2009. The cruise sets sail onboard the luxurious 40-guest yacht, Isabela II. In the company of naturalist guides and a Cruise West Exploration Leader, guests will explore the natural museum of flora and fauna on the Galápagos Islands as well as Quito, celebrated as the best-preserved Colonial historic center in Latin America.

"The Galápagos are a natural progression for Cruise West guests," said Dick West, Chairman & Managing Director. "Many of our Quynan members or past guests have already cruised with us to Alaska, the Sea of Cortés, Panama and Costa Rica and have loyalty to Cruise West's up-close, casual and personal way of travel. I personally scouted these destinations and I know our guests will be as inspired as I was by the rich culture of Ecuador and Peru and the incredible beauty and abundant wild and marine life of the Galápagos Islands."

The Galápagos journey lasts 10 days and starts in Quito. Guests fly to Baltra Island to board the Isabela II and set sail for North Seymour Island known for its bird colonies. The highlights of Point Cormorant on Floreana Island include nature hikes to see the flamingos, as well as snorkeling and kayaking opportunities.

Thousands of frigate birds, red-footed and masked boobies, gulls, herons, finches and mockingbirds are found at the beautiful natural harbor Darwin Bay, Tower Island. More island exploration is found on James and Bartolome Islands.

The fully guided Cuzco and Machu Picchu post-cruise land program includes six days of visits to Cuzco, the historical capital of the Inca Empire; and "The Lost City of the Incas", Machu Picchu.

Three departures will be offered on August 23, August 30 and September 6, 2009. The Ecuador and Galápagos Cruise Program begins in Quito and ends in Guayaquil and starts at \$6,399 ppdo including internal flights and the Galápagos



GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

National Park Fee. The Cruise Program plus Peru extension, commencing in Guayaquil and ending in Lima, starts at \$10,659 ppdo including internal airfare in Ecuador and Peru.

Cruise West, 800-296-8307,
www.cruisewest.com/destinations/galapagos

PRE-HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN BUENOS AIRES FROM SOUTH STAR

South Star Tours, the leading Latin America Tour Operator in the West Coast has a brand new end of summer/fall promotion to the cosmopolitan capital of Argentina, Buenos Aires (which is nicknamed the "Paris of South America" for preserving the European traditions in South America over the years).

This seven-day/five-night program starting at \$569 ppdo (land only) is designed for those clients who plan ahead, like to take advantage of the favorable dollar exchange rate, and want to enjoy an amazing pre-Holiday shopping opportunity and some leisure time. The package includes five nights hotel accommodation, transfers in and out, daily breakfast, half-day city tour, half-day shopping orientation tour, and evening dinner and tango show. Travel agents receive a 13 percent commission.

A round-trip airfare from Miami starting at \$299 per person is now available. Other gateways are available upon request at additional cost. Fuel surcharges and U.S. departure tax are not included. This offer is valid for travels ending by December 3, 2008, subject to space availability. Not applicable on special holidays and local events.

South Star Tours, 800-654-4468,
[info@southstartours.com,](mailto:info@southstartours.com)
www.southstartours.com

SITA PRESENTS PERU AND BOLIVIA EXCURSION

SITA World Tours is presenting a South America Peru and Bolivia Excursion. The program is 14 days visiting Lima, Cuzco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Puno, Lake Titicaca, Uros, La Paz, Sucre, and Potosi.

Trip includes all transfers per the itinerary; Vistadome train to Machu Picchu; Hydrofoil at Lake Titicaca; twin/double room accommodations; daily breakfast and other meals as listed; all sightseeing as per the itinerary; local English-speaking guides during touring; and entrance fees. There are daily departures through March 2009 priced from \$3,090 per person sharing.

SITA World Tours, 800-421-5643,
[sitatours@sitatours.com,](mailto:sitatours@sitatours.com)
www.sitatours.com

KA'ANA BOUTIQUE RESORT NAMED TOURISM EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR



The Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry named Ka'ana Boutique Resort Tourism Employer of the Year. This is the first tourism award for Ka'ana, which opened in September 2007.

"Ka'ana is not only the premier boutique resort in Belize, but also the most respected place for tourism professionals to work," said Eva Garfield, Deputy General Manager at Ka'ana.

The prestigious award was accepted by Resort Director Ian Lizarraga at the First Annual Employer of the Year Gala Event, held on August 15 in Belize City. The Rotary Club of Belize developed and co-sponsored the Employer of the Year competition along with the Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

"One of the greatest ways to give back to a community is through its people," said Colin Hannan, Owner. "The Ka'ana family strives to make a positive impact on Belize."

The Employer of the Year competition is intended to encourage employment practices that follow the tenets of the Four Way Test, a four-question ethical guideline used by Rotarians. Ka'ana Boutique Resort was one of two tourism finalists nominated for the award.

With a perfect balance of luxury, adventure and relaxation, Ka'ana Boutique Resort is a haven for travelers seeking the ultimate Belizean experience. Located 70 miles outside of Belize City, Ka'ana Boutique Resort offers 15 first class cottages, a swimming pool, gourmet restaurant and petite spa.

Ka'ana Boutique Resort, 877-KAANA21, www.kaanabelize.com



BRIAN GARDINER

BRIAN GARDINER INTRODUCED AS MACHACA HILL'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Brian Gardiner has recently packed up more than 20 years of eco-luxury hospitality experience in Africa and made his new home at Belize's Machaca Hill.

Born in Zimbabwe, Gardiner worked throughout South and East Africa manag-

ing safari companies, including Abercrombie & Kent, focusing in luxury environmental escapes. With his bags recently unpacked, his passion for nature conservation and eco tourism is already showing at Machaca, which has always specialized in environmentally-friendly vacations while creating experience after memorable experience for guests.

"Gardiner is a visionary who has successfully managed, directed and coordinated award-winning luxury safari experiences," said Rich Zermani, of the parent company Outpost International. "Gardiner has an understanding of luxury hospitality and eco-tourism paired with a strategic mindset. Under his supervision, luxury lodges have been recognized internationally by notable publications including *Travel + Leisure* and *Conde Nast Traveler*. We plan on making Machaca Hill a premier eco-destination resort unlike anything else in Central America or the Caribbean."



A soft opening will take place in January 2009 and the resort's grand re-opening, with all the upgrades in place, will be in November 2009.



Keeping a focus on sustainable tourism, Gardiner will handpick his staff from surrounding communities, training and equipping them to provide top-notch services and experiences. The new guide education program will certify local employees as local field experts on fauna, flora, astronomy, climate, geography and Belizean history.

Machaca Hill, www.machacahill.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:sunbreesesuites@btl.net
www.sunbreesesuites.com
 toll free: 1-800-826-1631

HILTON ANNOUNCES PROMOTION OF DANIEL HUGHES TO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT - MEXICO, THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA



DANIEL HUGHES

Hilton Hotels Corporation has announced that Daniel Hughes has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Latin America. In this role, Hughes will form part of the company's senior operating team for Hilton's full-service hotels: Hilton, Conrad Hotels & Resorts, Doubletree, Embassy Suites Hotels, and The Waldorf-Astoria Collection, and will support the company's focus on growth in the region and

quality in operations.

Hughes will run a portfolio of all Hilton Hotels Corporation managed properties from Mexico and the Caribbean down to Argentina. In addition, he will be the face of Hilton in the regions working to cement the company's presence in key markets, while overseeing the current pipeline including, among others, upcoming new full-service hotels in Iguazu Falls and Ushuaia, Argentina; Bimini Bay, The Bahamas; Bogota, Colombia.

A 20-year Hilton Family veteran, Hughes most recently acted as Area Vice President, Caribbean, Central America, and Cancun, holding operational responsibility for 14 Hilton Family of Brands hotels throughout the region. He served as the architect of the region's expansion plans and has played a key role in its growth, contributing to an array of success stories from new hotel openings to major makeover campaigns. In addition to his work with the Caribbean, Central America, and Cancun properties, he looked after operations at the Conrad Miami and Hilton Miami Airport.

Prior to this, Hughes has held several management positions across the globe, serving in roles such as Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Regional General Manager, General Manager, Director of Food and Beverage, and Director of Sales.

Hilton Hotels Corporation, www.hiltonworldwide.com

LORETO BAY OFFERING VILLAS FROM \$199 PER NIGHT

Loreto Bay, an 8,000-acre, seaside community neighboring the historic town of Loreto in Baja California Sur, Mexico, is offering nightly rentals in its private villa homes starting at \$199 a night for one bedroom, \$299 a night for two bedrooms and \$399 a night for three bedrooms. Rates are based on season and subject to availability at time of reservation. Designed to embrace the distinct heritage of the Baja region, each one-, two- or three-bedroom home, with square footage ranging from approximately 1,200 to 5,000, is furnished with carefully-selected fixtures, appliances and decor that blend modern luxuries with Old World beauty and charm.

Guests will appreciate their fully-equipped villa, complete with full-size kitchen, indoor fireplace, wireless internet, outdoor court-

yard, swimming pool access, rooftop patio, and being steps away from the beach and the Sea of Cortez. An optional grocery delivery service can also stock guests' pantries prior to arrival.

Some of the homes also feature expansive outdoor kitchens and rooftop terraces with 360 degree views of the Sea of Cortez and the Sierra de la Giganta Mountains.

Loreto is home to The Mission of Our Lady of Loreto, the first of the California missions and the 300-year-old jewel of Loreto, and is located on the Sea of Cortez, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Loreto Bay community includes plans for 6,000 authentic Baja-style homes, mixed-use buildings along pedestrian-friendly streets and 1,500 acres dedicated for a nature preserve. Visitors to Loreto Bay enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities including kayaking, snorkeling, scuba diving, golf, and plenty of sunshine. Loreto Bay, 877-522-9466, www.discoverloretobay.com

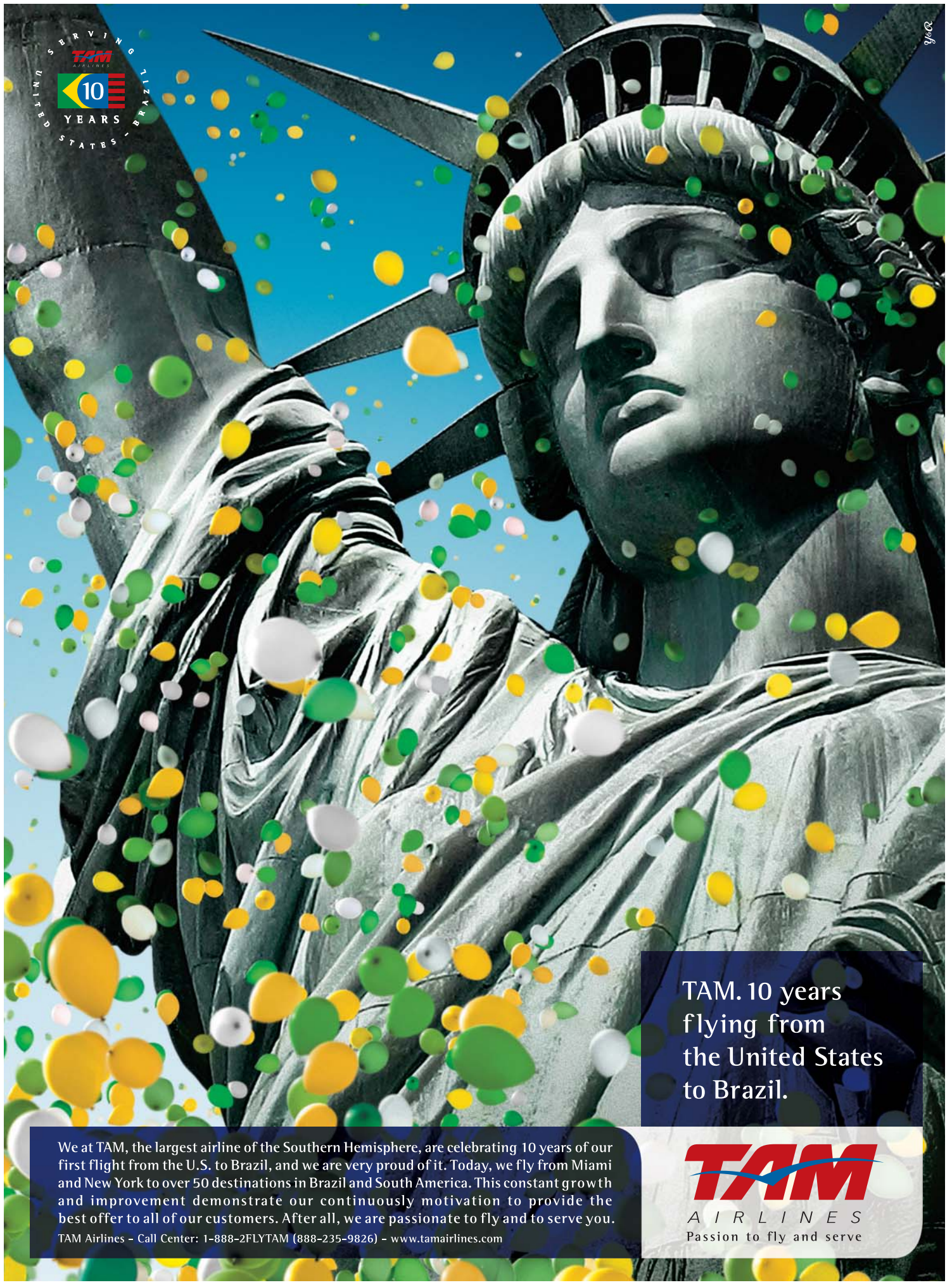
MAZATLÁN LAUNCHES VIRTUAL LEARNING COURSE FOR TRAVEL PLANNERS

Mazatlán Hotel Association invites travel professionals to experience the real Mazatlán through its new Mazatlán Mazters online training program. Featuring interactive study courses and a digital travel library, this free program also offers a dedicated support hotline, educational credits, sales rewards, and more. Mazatlán Mazters uncovers the abundant growth, warm hospitality, savory culinary traditions and vibrant heritage of this major destination on Mexico's Pacific Coast.

"We are extremely pleased to unveil Mazatlán Mazters as a valuable tool for travel professionals exploring our beautiful city," says Carlos Berdegue, Vice President, Mazatlán Hotel Association and Tourism Board.

To enroll in Mazatlán Mazters, travel planners can visit the program's official web site at www.Mazatlán-mazters.com. Agents can study via the series of free training courses, including "A Welcome to Mazatlán" and individual resort lessons. Each interactive course features virtual-tour maps of Mazatlán, as well as electronic reference materials that include a study guide and extensive insider tips. Students can take notes online, post class bulletins and chat with virtual classmates. For course study questions or technical support, a toll-free hotline is available to provide live assistance.

The Mazatlán Mazters program also features a variety of benefits and exclusive offers. Course graduates will earn continuing education credits from The Travel Institute (U.S.) and Canadian Institute of Travel Counselors (CITC) towards the professional Certified Travel Counselor (CTC) program. Coming in 2009, the "Camarón Credits" sales reward program will award each Mazatlán booking with points toward rewards that can be used, transferred or sold. Also premiering next year, Mazatlán Mazters immersion trips to the destination and a consumer lead program generated by The Mazatlán Hotel Association online database. Mazatlán Mazters, www.Mazatlán-mazters.com; Mazatlán, www.gomazatlán.com



gpc



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NEW COOKING AND WINE VACATIONS IN LOS CABOS



Los Cabos is the destination of choice for many of the world's most renowned chefs and their first-class restaurants. Even the most discerning palate will be impressed by the delicious cuisine and tantalizing flavors offered at "Land's End."

Travelers to Los Cabos may further explore the destination's delectable gastronomy by participating in any of the numerous interactive and personalized culinary programs offered. From wine tasting events to cooking classes, the following select Los Cabos hotels offer a unique way to experience the flavors of Baja.

At the majestic **Esperanza**, Executive Chef Sergio Howard and his staff host cooking classes at La Cocina del Sol. In the main kitchen, Chef Howard works side by side with guests to teach hands-on new ways to prepare fresh, simple and flavorful dishes. Price for the cooking classes is \$95 per person plus tax and service fee with a maximum of four people per session.

Esperanza, www.esperanzaresort.com

New at the **Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort** is the "Tequila & Wine Connoisseur" package. Available until December 20, 2008, guests can enjoy a one-hour private tasting session to explore the finest wines and tequila found throughout Mexico. This cultural experience is available starting at \$897 for three nights based on double occupancy.

Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort, www.hiltonloscabos.com

Guests can learn the secrets of the award-winning cuisine of **Las Ventanas al Paraiso** by participating in cooking classes with the resort's chefs. Cooking class price is \$125 per person plus tax and

service fee. Also available are tequila lessons, where guests can gain knowledge of the distillation process, different types of tequila and the appropriate way to drink it.

Las Ventanas al Paraiso, www.lasventanas.com

Marquis Los Cabos Beach Golf Spa and Casitas Resort offers cooking classes with the property chef as well as wine tasting with a certified sommelier. Also on the menu is the "Blue Cabo Food, Wine, & Tequila Getaway" hosted by leading food and wine expert Anthony Dias Blue. This package is only available from December 11-14, 2008 and celebrates Mexico as a premiere destination for culinary tourism. Package highlights include a wine pairing dinner, dinner at Chef Margarita Salinas' Don Emiliano in San Jose del Cabo, a tequila seminar and dinner, and a ceviche yacht cruise. Package price is \$495 per night, per person and includes suite accommodations, breakfast, one massage and roundtrip airport/hotel transportation.

Marquis Los Cabos Beach Golf Spa and Casitas Resort, www.marquisloscabos.com;

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

THE CROWNE PLAZA MAZATLÁN COMPLEX TO OPEN DECEMBER 2008

IHG (International Hotels Group), the largest hotel group in the world, has announced the opening of the Crowne Plaza Mazatlán for December 2008.

The Crowne Plaza Mazatlán is the first hotel that will open on the large Marina Mazatlán complex, the largest integrated tourist community of the Mexican Pacific. The complex contains an 18-hole golf course, a marina, commercial centers, offices, and residential zones with houses and condominiums.

Located on the beach on Boulevard Sábalo Cerritos, in the tourist development Marina Mazatlán, the Crowne Plaza Mazatlán is 10 minutes from the historical center, restaurants, and Mazatlán's exciting nightlife.

This private and exclusive resort has a total of 72 minimalist luxurious rooms, offering views of the Mexican Pacific. With 35 Master Suites including two rooms with double Jacuzzi and ocean views, it is the perfect place to enjoy with the family or for a romantic getaway.

Crowne Plaza Mazatlán will offer superior comfort for mind, body and soul with Relaxation, Health and Harmony programs in their organic "Collection Spa" which will feature the most advanced equipment and treatments.

Guests can create personalized vacations with their 'Collection Plans', which include a Romance Collection Plan, a Gourmet Collection Plan, a Spa- Holistic Collection Plan, or a Golf Collection Plan.

"With the great support of the IHG brand, excellent ownership, and the combined forces of the tourist authorities of the State and of Mazatlán, surely the planned goals will be reached," commented Jose Luis Smithers Jiménez, Corporate Director of Sales.

Crowne Plaza Mazatlán, www.crowneplazamazatlan.com