



SALT LAKE SUMMER:
*Apres-Ski at
Solitude,
Alta and
Snowbird*

PROFITABLE WORLD
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Salt Lake Summer: Apres-Ski at Solitude, Alta and Snowbird

Warm weather reveals what lies beneath winter's snows: fun and adventure.

MARJORIE KLEIN



Solitude's village provides a cozy European atmosphere in the mountains of Utah.

What in winter is glacially white, dotted with green tips of buried evergreens, becomes in summer a kaleidoscopic burst of color, fired by the wildflowers that blanket the slopes. Utah, a favorite of serious skiers, has become a summertime destination for mountain-lovers. The Ski Salt Lake resorts of Solitude, Brighton, Alta and Snowbird offer rugged outdoor adventures within just a short drive from Salt Lake City. Each resort has its own unique personality; all draw ever-increasing crowds of visitors with special summer attractions and rates.

Solitude: Flower Power

"There's not one place in this state that isn't absolutely beautiful," says Bob, our enthusiastic wildflower guide as we huff and puff up a steep path surrounded by a colorful quilt of flowers. We're at Solitude Mountain Resort in Big Cottonwood Canyon. It's the July Wildflower Festival Weekend, and the mountain is crawling with groups led by naturalists, like our Bob, who admits, "Every season there's so much here to see and do that my wife complains there's no time for her 'honey-do's.'" He stops short at one cluster of blossoms, stoops down and stares one in its little purple face. "This one is so cool," he says, more to it than to us. "Isn't it cool?"

Someone in the group flips through her wildflower book to identify the flower, but Bob doesn't need a book. He knows its name—the coneflower—knows its growing pattern, knows

that those tiny little spikes we thought were petals are actually flowers themselves. He beams, his smile a ray of sunshine that seems to make the little flower tip in his direction. We move on to a cluster of frilly pink blooms. "Oh, wow," says Bob. "Aren't they gorgeous? Aren't they cool?"

Hiking a rainbow mountain is just one of the activities that attract summertime visitors to this European-styled village. Lift service takes bikers and scooter riders to the top of the mountain, the start of a heart-stopping ride down the trails; those who prefer mellower moments may prefer fly fishing in nearby Big Cottonwood Creek, or, for kids, the resort's pond. We watched what appeared to be a Frisbee-throwing contest on the mountain; this, we learned, is disc golf, a growing sport whose popularity attracts crowds to their annual tournament, the Full Throttle Challenge, in September. The first hole of the 18-hole course is up the mountain, so a lift ticket is part of the \$20 beginner rental package.

Dinner is on the patio of the Creekside Restaurant, specializing in Tuscan-grilled meat and seafood with a side order of fantastic mountain views. Foodies gather here for an entire day of feasting in August, when Utah's chefs converge on the resort to create their specialties for the annual Taste of the Nation benefit.

Summer accommodations (May through October) at Solitude's hotels and condos range from \$125/day for a studio to \$280/day for a Creekside three bedroom unit. Our one-bedroom condo at Eagle Springs East was a large, well-appointed apartment with living and dining areas, full kitchen,

porch, and cool summer breeze. Winter rates are \$260/day for a studio to \$716/day for a Creekside three-bedroom, with holiday rates proportionately higher.

Solitude Mountain Resort,
800-748-4754.www.skisolitude.com

Alta: Moose Watch

After a hefty mountain breakfast at Silver Fork Lodge, we're off to Alta and another wildflower hike, this time up Little Cottonwood Canyon in the Wasatch National Forest. "Little" is relative, since we are once again climbing steep slopes, incandescent with sunlit blossoms; over 100 varieties of wildflowers grow here. By lunchtime, we're starved. We invade the restaurant of the Alta Lodge like a pack of hungry bears, parking ourselves beneath the shade of an umbrella on the deck, gazing at the view while we wait for our food.

"Moose!" someone cries, and we take turns with the binoculars. Sure enough, there he is, having his own lunch on the mountainside, nibbling away at a salad of leaves in the area we had just passed on our hike. He's a big guy, with towering antlers that sway gently as he dips his head for each nibble. We wonder how he would have reacted had he seen us on the hike.

The Alta Lodge is an original, built in 1939 by the Denver and Rio Grande railroad. Owners since 1959, Bill and Mimi Levitt have seen generations of families come back year after year; many make it a tradition to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas here. This is a lodge in the truest sense, where visitors feel like family being welcomed upon return. Eighty percent of their guests return yearly; this year, they will notice a change. The lobby and deck room have undergone remodeling, updating their look while retaining the lodge's rustic, homey atmosphere.

Special events attract visitors year-round, luring trend-setters with the winter and summer wine pairing package, beginning at \$125/pp for a guided hike, six-course dinner paired with nine wines (optional \$30 extra), one night's



Lunch is served with a slopeside view at the Alta Lodge.

lodging and Sunday brunch. Families go for the Alta in April package, where kids stay and eat for free (\$887 per adult, double occupancy, minimum four nights). Fall's packages include the September Knitters' Retreat and the October Yoga Retreat.

Rooms are comfortably lodge-like, ranging from corner rooms with sitting areas and fireplaces to dorm rooms with bunks. Summer rates range from \$94-\$140; additional charge for modified American plan (full breakfast and four-course dinner).

Alta Lodge, info@altalodge.com,
www.altalodge.com

Snowbird: Mellow Mountain Madness

Just over the mountain lies Snowbird, Alta's flashier sister resort. The two are conjoined now by the newly constructed tunnel, and together have attained first place in Skiing Magazine's rating of ski resorts for the past five years. The Lodge at Snowbird, Iron Blossam Lodge and The Inn attract year-round visitors, as does the flagship property, the Cliff Lodge and Spa, which dazzles with luxurious guest rooms and suites, conference center, numerous restaurants, and a world-class spa.

Summer at Snowbird is crammed with activities: horseback and ATV tours, tram rides, off-road scooters, mountain

biking, fly fishing, and, of course, hiking. Within the village, delighted shrieks fill the air; with attractions such as the alpine slide, ziprider, bungee trampoline, mechanical bull and climbing wall, this is kiddie heaven, and one of the reasons Snowbird attracts families. Snowbird hosts the July Rock and

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SKI SALT LAKE FROM PAGE 3

Blues Festival, the Cool Air summer concert series, the Folk and Bluegrass Festival, and the Wasatch Wildflower Festival.

We donned helmets for a wild and woolly ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle) tour of the mountain. It took us down, then up the mountain over what, in winter, would be the ski catwalks, now a jolting two hour trail ride over rocks and fallen tree trunks that left us breathless, exhausted and exhilarated. Fortunately, we were scheduled for a massage at the Cliff Spa, followed by a good hot soak in the rooftop whirlpool and a swim in the pool. Ahhhh. Now this is mountain living.

Not to be missed is a trip through the new Peruvian Gulch tunnel blasted through the mountain just this past year, making it possible to ski directly from Snowbird to Alta without removing skis. Skiers ride the Peruvian Chairlift to the moving walkway in the tunnel, emerging on the Alta side of the mountain. The chairlift ride is fast, scenic and spectacular; the tunnel itself is a wonder. In summer, the cool breeze that blows through its length is nature's air conditioning.

It's hard to choose among the multitude of restaurants within Snowbird village, but breakfast at the Forklift was hearty and fresh, and our gourmet dinner at the Lodge Bistro had a view, not just of the mountain, but of the busy M&M-colored hummingbirds that zipped around the patio feeders, as well-fed as we.

Summer rates at Cliff Lodge range from \$119-\$165/double; the Mountain Spa Getaway package is \$185 and includes accommodations at The Cliff, full breakfast and a 50-minute massage.

**Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort,
800-453-3000, www.snowbird.com**

Salt Lake City: Home Base

The hub of these resorts is Salt Lake City, and the heart of the city is Temple Square, the physical and spiritual center of the Mormon community, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. A 35-acre city within the city,



The Monte Carlo suite is just one of the whimsical yet luxurious suites at the Hotel Monaco.

Temple Square includes the Temple, Tabernacle, museum, conference center, park, gardens and several restaurants. If you've ever wondered whether your great-great-great grandfather was Billy the Kid, Henry VIII or the Seventh Samurai, you can check out your genealogy at the Family History Library. Although non-believers are not permitted within the Temple, the Tabernacle welcomes visitors. If you miss the Choir's Sunday performance, their Thursday evening rehearsals are free and open to the public.

Red Butte Garden, one of several gardens around the city, is a vast expanse of theme-based planting areas (herb, medicinal, fragrance, water, florals) that lead one into the other in a sensuous bouquet. The Salt Lake Connect Pass discounts twelve of Salt Lake's attractions, including Red Butte Garden, Clark Planetarium, Living Planet Aquarium, Olympic Park, and several other attractions. Passes come in 1-to 7-day increments, and range from \$18/adult, \$14/child (one day) to \$50/adult, \$40/child (seven days).

Hotel Monaco is a restored historic

landmark, formerly the Continental Bank Building. Pet-friendly, they will supply upon request a goldfish companion for the evening. A member of the Kimpton Hotels, Hotel Monaco lives up to the Kimpton's theme: "Every hotel tells a story." With a Moroccan flavor to its furnishings, the story of the Monaco seems lifted from the Tales of the Arabian Nights. The rooms are luxurious, brightly colored and whimsical; you expect Scheherazade to pop in with a bedtime story.

The "Simply Love" package (\$169/\$299 for a deluxe room) is a romantic overnight getaway that includes champagne and chocolate-dipped strawberries; optional perks include an in-room massage for two, roses, or a dessert sampler from Bambara, the hotel's popular restaurant.

Hotel Monaco's summer rates range from \$169 to \$299/double, more for suites.

**Hotel Monaco,
www.Hotelmonaco.com
Salt Lake Convention & Visitors
Bureau, abarker@saltlake.org
www.VisitSaltLake.com**

THE VOLGA DREAM TO MAKE ITS FIRST TRIP TO ASTRAKHAN

Exeter International has introduced a ground-breaking vessel: the first truly deluxe riverboat, the *Volga Dream*. While many Soviet-era boats have been offering a basic level of comfort for years, the *Volga Dream* is the first of its kind, offering luxury and style never before seen on the waterways in Russia. Large staterooms (starting at 97 square feet versus 70 on standard vessels, and reaching 264 square feet in an Owners Suite), full en suite bathrooms with separate showers, flat screen satellite televisions, and in-room climate control and fine dining are all features never before introduced on Russian riverboats.

In October, 2007, the *Volga Dream* will make its first-ever trip down the southern Volga River to the famed city of Astrakhan on the Caspian Sea. This extraordinary departure will feature stops in Uglich, Yaroslavl, Plyos, Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan, Samara, Saratov, and Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad) before reaching the famed city of Astrakha, known for its tsarist history, as well as the center for all caviar production in Russia. Offered exclusively by Exeter

International, with VIP touring throughout, prices start at \$4,450 ppdo for the 12-night trip, starting in Moscow on October 3 and ending in Astrakhan on October 15. The *Volga Dream* runs the itinerary in reverse starting October 15 (ending in Moscow on October 26), and prices are the same in either direction.

Exeter International, 800-633-1008, www.exeterinternational.com

SPIRIT OF NANTUCKET TO BE RENAMED SPIRIT OF GLACIER BAY

Following the announcement that the *Spirit of Nantucket* will be repositioned to Alaska in 2008, the small-ship cruise line Cruise West has renamed it to befit its new home. Next year, the 102-guest ship will ply the waters of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, and, given this itinerary, the name will be officially changed to *Spirit of Glacier Bay*. A rechristening will occur in Seattle in Spring 2008 before the ship sails to Alaska. The ship is currently sailing East Coast itineraries through 2007.

"The name *Spirit of Glacier Bay* not only reflects the itinerary this ship will be sailing, but also celebrates the history of Cruise

West and Glacier Bay. Cruise West was one of the pioneers to take guests by ship into this magnificent park," said Dick West, Chairman and Managing Director. "In 1990, we introduced the 52-guest *Spirit of Glacier Bay* that sailed a similar itinerary and this ship was retired in 2001. It just makes sense to reintroduce this name and get back to our roots."

For the 2008 Alaska season, the *Spirit of Glacier Bay* will sail three-and four-night Glacier Bay Highlights cruises that will feature two days in Glacier Bay, cruising roundtrip from Juneau. The four-night cruise also makes a port call at Haines or Skagway. This cruise was previously offered on the 78-guest *Spirit of Alaska* that will sail the Alaska's Whales & Wilderness cruise in 2008.

Cruise West Alaska cruises are offered May through late August, with three Grand Voyages aboard the flagship, *Spirit of Oceanus*, four itineraries in Alaska's Inside Passage, and a cruise in Prince William Sound. The company has more permits than any other line to enter the 3.3-million-acre Glacier Bay National Park.

Cruise West, 800-689-1783, www.cruisewest.com

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LCL'S NEW *M/V CRISTAL* COMMENCES GREEK ISLAND CRUISES



Louis Hellenic Cruises sails into a new era of East Mediterranean cruising with the launching of the *m/v Cristal*, formerly the "Leeward" and "Superstar Taurus" of Norwegian Cruise Line/Star Cruises Group. For the remaining season, the *m/v Cristal* will sail a series of three and four-day cruises from Piraeus to Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Heraklion, Santorini and Rhodes through November 12.

The *m/v Cristal's* 480 well appointed staterooms and suites boast stylish furnishings, individually controlled air-conditioning, telephone, hair dryer and TV. Many of the 317 outside staterooms also feature large picture windows and suites with balconies. The Riviera Pool with its retractable glass cover is one of the impressive features of the *m/v Cristal*. There is also a Wellness Center and Beauty Salon.

In keeping with the Louis Hellenic Cruises' tradition, *m/v Cristal* has Greek Officers, a well trained international crew, and fully complies with U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Public Health requirements.

For 2008, the *m/v Cristal* will perform a series of 29 seven-day Greece and Turkey sailings from Piraeus every Friday, commencing April 11 through to October 31. Calls include Istanbul with an overnight stay, Mykonos, Patmos, Kusadasi, Rhodes, Heraklion and Santorini. The season will conclude with four seven-day Greece, Turkey and Egypt sailings from Piraeus on October 31, November 7, 14, and 21 to Istanbul, Kusadasi, Rhodes, and Alexandria with an overnight stay, and Santorini.

The acquisition of the *m/v Cristal* brings the total number of cruise vessels in the Louis Cruise Lines fleet to 14.

Louis Cruise Lines,
LCLUSA@louiscruises.com, www.louiscruises.com

THE WORLD INTRODUCES NEW 2007 GOLF VOYAGES

The World is the only private residential community at sea. Often called a floating village, the vessel strives to offer its residents and guests every service and amenity imaginable.

For golf enthusiasts, *The World* has announced its new Golf Voyages. Each Golf Voyage is two weeks and includes luxurious accommodations, meals, and three rounds of golf. *The World's* Golf Voyages visit country clubs and courses of distinction all over the globe, as well as little-known, yet world-class courses. In 2007, golfers can choose from Voyages throughout Europe as well as Morocco. While those taking part in a Golf Voyage are not out on the course, they can take advantage of *The World's* Country Club, a comprehensive golf club on board that offers state-of-the-art facilities.

The Country Club includes three artificial grass greens, a sand bunker, sophisticated simulator that portrays 52 famous courses around the world, and golf pros available for individual and group lessons, as well as golf clinics.

Highlights of *The World's* 2007 Golf Voyages include Norway to France, a Mediterranean Excursion, and Spain and Morocco.

Norway to France takes place from September 13 – 27. Passengers will begin their excursion teeing off at Norway's oldest golf course, at the Oslo Golf Club. In London, golfers will encounter a challenging 27-hole course at Stoke Park Club. In Rouen, just outside of Paris, golfers will play a round at the Golf des Yvelines course. Guests will also be welcomed to the following country clubs during their journey: London's Sunningdale Golf Club, Royal Hertfordshire Golf Club, and Wentworth Golf Club; and France's Golf de St. Julien, and Golf des Yvelines. Voyage starts at \$11,275 ppdo.

Another Mediterranean Excursion, October 10 – 25, travels to Lisbon, where golfers will enjoy a round at the Praia D'El Rey course. Continuing on, players will experience the Glyfada Golf Club in Athens. Participants will also visit other fine courses during this excursion, including some in Lisbon, Tunis and Catania. Voyage starts at \$11,625 ppdo.

Spain and Morocco, December 4 – 20, takes golfers along Spain's Mallorcan coastline, to experience the Golf de Andratx course in Palma de Mallorca. In Morocco, players will enjoy a round at the country's oldest course, the Royal Golf d'Anfa, built in 1925. Visits to other notable courses in Malaga, Casablanca and Tangier will round out this two-week winter voyage. Voyage starts at \$12,350 ppdo.

Golf Voyages include accommodations aboard *The World*, green fees, dining, select wines and spirits, gratuities, and port fees. Voyage fare is based on double occupancy in Verandah Suites. Other accommodations are available upon request. Each Golf Voyage includes three rounds of golf, over 18 holes, per person. For residents and guests that are not onboard during an organized Voyage, the vessel's Sport and Golf Director can create outings in various ports around the world. Additional rounds can be arranged.

The World, 800-970-6601, www.aboardtheworld.com

FRENCH COUNTRY WATERWAYS OFFERING 30% AGENT COMMISSIONS FOR 2008

French Country Waterways continues to show its strong support of the travel agent system with the announcement of a 30 percent agent commission on 2007 bookings of any of 45 departures in July and August, 2008. The commission increase to 30 percent is good on individual bookings, group bookings and charters on all five of the company's luxury barge cruises. Prices have not yet been set for 2008 but 2007 all-inclusive prices range from \$4,495 to \$5,995 pppo and \$42,360 to \$84,510 for whole barge charters. Weekly departures are scheduled from April 6 to October 26, 2008.

The five-barge fleet carries eight to 18 passengers on six-night cruises that give an intimate view of the changing landscapes, culture and history of Champagne, Burgundy, Alsace-Lorraine and the Upper Loire Valley.

Signature characteristics of the cruises are a dinner ashore at a Michelin-starred restaurant; creative cuisine prepared by talented young chefs; four-course candlelit dinners; attentive service from a crew fluent in English and French; daily sightseeing excursions; time for relaxing on the sun deck and walking or bicycling along canal towpath; and no smoking inside the barges and coaches.

The quietly elegant, all-suite 12-passenger Nenufar plies the canals of Champagne. She has been totally renovated and rebuilt. Guests aboard the 18-passenger Esprit take in the heart of Burgundy's Côte d'Or wine region. The 12-passenger Adrienne, launched in 2005, sails in the Upper Loire, gateway to the châteaux country.

The eight-passenger Horizon II cruises the historic Burgundy on the Canal de Bourgogne, and the eight-passenger Princess, formerly the private barge of shipping magnate Daniel K. Ludwig, makes its way between Strasbourg and Nancy, capitals of Alsace-Lorraine.

Elegant dinners ashore with a special menu gourmand prepared by some of France's leading chefs are held at Les

Templiers in Les Bézards, Le Relais Bernard Loiseau in Saulieu, Les Crayères in Reims, Lameloise in Chagny and Le Cerf in Marlenheim.

French Country Waterways, which owns and operates the entire fleet, s Suites and staterooms feature full-sized beds, generous storage space, individual air-conditioning and heating controls, private bath, hair dryer, extra pillows and fresh flowers.

Cruise rates include suite or stateroom accommodations, all meals, estate-bottled wines at lunch and dinner, one dinner ashore at an acclaimed Michelin-starred restaurant, open bar, tours and excursions, private wine tasting, bicycles, services of the bilingual crew and escorted transfers between Paris or Strasbourg and the barges. Hot-air ballooning is an option.

The barges are available for individual bookings and for charter by families, friends and groups of six to 18 persons. Special room rates are offered at luxury hotels in Paris and in Strasbourg. French Country Waterways, Ltd, 800-222-1236, www.fcwl.com

AZAMARA CRUISES JOINS CLIA

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has announced that Miami-based Azamara Cruises has joined its membership, making it the association's 24th cruise line member. The new, "deluxe" cruise brand was announced by Celebrity Cruises in May with the launch of Azamara's first vessel.

Azamara Cruises is designed to offer exotic, destination-driven travel experiences on two 710-guest vessels. Azamara Journey set sail May 5, and sister ship, Azamara Quest, will enter service in October. The cruises present a more intimate onboard experience, while allowing access to the less-traveled ports of call experienced travelers want to visit. Together, the ships will visit 175 ports in over 60 countries around the world.

Richard D. Fain, Chairman and CEO of Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited, said: "Azamara Cruises was created to fill an area of the market that they believe is underserved. This new line falls into what we consider the deluxe category - a category

between premium and luxury."

Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited is the parent company to Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises, which operates Azamara Cruises. Dan Hanrahan serves as President of both Celebrity and Azamara brands; however, the Azamara brand is a separate cruise line from Celebrity.

"We're thrilled to introduce Azamara as a new product in a new cruise category that our invaluable travel agent partners can sell to their clients to grow their business and ours, while expanding the industry as a whole," said Mr. Hanrahan.

While CLIA is always energized with the addition of a new cruise line into our membership, Azamara is particularly exciting," said Terry Dale, CLIA's President and CEO "Azamara is a perfect example of a unique market with strong potential that a cruise line identified and then developed a product to specifically serve those guests."

Azamara Cruises, 877-222-2526, www.azamaracruises.com; Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), www.cruising.org

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ISLANDSESCAPES OFFERS PACKAGES TO THE "WORLD'S BEST HONEYMOONS" DESTINATIONS

The annual "World's Best Honeymoons" survey has just been unveiled by Modern Bride magazine and IslandsEscapes...by Goway offers numerous escapes to a variety of destinations selected as the top 20 around the globe. The following destinations, (with ranking listed after) are just a handful of places to embrace newlywed bliss: Tahiti (3), Maldives (7), Fiji (9), Seychelles (14), Bali (15), and Thailand (20).

IslandsEscapes offers a seven night getaway to Tahiti from \$2,879 including free dinner and breakfast daily which represents a savings of \$1,050 per person. This escape includes roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles, four nights in the island of Moorea, three nights in the island of Bora Bora, airport welcome with flower lei, inter-island flights, and all relevant airport/resort transfers.

Other air-land inclusive escapes include 10 nights in Dubai and the Maldives from \$3,029 per person; seven nights in Fiji from \$2,099 per person; 10 nights in Seychelles from \$3,639 per person; 12 nights in Bali from \$1,299 per person; and 10 nights in Ko Samui, Thailand from \$1,579 per person.

IslandsEscapes is the exclusive division of Goway Travel that specializes in Romance and Escape packages to idyllic island destinations.

IslandsEscapes, 800-667-6601,
www.IslandsEscapes.com

LE BLANC SPA RESORT ANNOUNCES FALL PROMOTION



The Le Blanc Spa Resort, located in Cancun, Mexico, has introduced a special "Fall Promotion" that offers guests a \$150 credit per room/per stay towards a spa treatment at the Spa at Le Blanc, or a round of golf at either Moon Spa & Golf Club or at Playacar Spa & Golf Club when they stay for three nights or longer now through December 23, 2007.

"The 2007 Fall Promotion is our way of welcoming guests into a world of relaxation and luxury," said Roberto Chapur, President of Palace Resorts. "With Le Blanc's fresh, modern look and top-of-the-line amenities, we're confident that all our guests will enjoy their stay at this beautiful resort."

At the Spa at Le Blanc, guests can unwind in their own personal sanctuary. From the Spa Suites that feature private bamboo gardens, elegant wood fixtures and marble floors, to the unique Le Blanc D'Or Spa Suite that features its own sauna, steam room, and Jacuzzi, this spa speaks of the finer things in life through its subtle sophistication.

From the elegant décor to the relaxing Jacuzzi built for two, to the fully stocked in-room liquor dispenser that offers premium night caps, guests will know that Le Blanc Spa Resort has thought of everything. The resort also offers five varieties of pillows on their "Pillow Menu" that range between the "Lavender Pillow," which ensures a relaxing sleep through the scent of natural lavender, to the "Orthopedic Pillow," which guarantees a restful sleep through the use of orthopedic foam that conforms to the body's natural shape. To take care of any unforeseen requests, Le Blanc offers full-service butlers who are there to cater to each guest's every need.

The resort also features 24-hour room service, three outdoor pools, two of which are infinity pools complete with swim-up bars, and world-class haute cuisine that can be found in any of the resort's four gourmet restaurants.

To cap off the perfect evening, the resort offers the Blancstage where guests can continue to unwind while listening to the sounds of relaxing music along with their favorite drink.

A Le Blanc Spa Resort vacation package ranges from \$502 - \$528 per room, per night, depending on the time of year.
Le Blanc Spa Resort, 877-753-2526,
www.leblancsparesort.com

TRAINS UNLIMITED, TOURS ANNOUNCES 2008 PROGRAMS

Trains Unlimited, Tours of Reno, Nevada has posted their 2008 train tours and private luxury railroad car excursions for 2008. Next year is shaping up to be their most exciting since 1984 when they started operating worldwide train tours. In 2008, 30 tours are scheduled in 15 countries that include the United States, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Japan, Turkey, Germany, Poland, England, Eritrea, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Tibet.

Also 12 luxury private railroad car excursions are being offered in California, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon and New Mexico. Commissions are given to travel agents.

Trains Unlimited, Tours,
www.trainsunlimitedtours.com



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SEEING EUROPE GETS EASIER FOR EURAIL PASSENGERS

Eurail Group, the provider of Eurail Passes for flexible rail travel around Europe since 1959, hails Railteam as a revolution in European train travel. Formed in July 2007 to ensure optimal co-ordination between high-speed routes throughout Europe, Railteam is a partnership between Europe's leading high-speed rail operators, currently DB (Germany), SNCF (France), Eurostar (UK, France and Belgium), NS Hispeed (Netherlands), ÖBB (Austria), SBB (Switzerland) and SNCB (Belgium), as well as two of their high-speed subsidiaries Thalys and Lyria.

The full range of Eurail Passes, including the new single country National Passes, are accepted on board all the participating high-speed networks except Eurostar, a Eurail Bonus Partner that offers significant discounts to Eurail Pass holders. Much like airline partnerships, a principal benefit of the new Railteam alliance will be improved services for international cross-border routes providing a stress-free experience from booking to arrival.

Railteam spokesman, Mr. Gunnar Meyer, explains that: "Railteam's aim is to offer travelers seamless high-speed train travel across international borders in Western Europe." Consequently, "Eurail passengers, as international travelers, will benefit immediately from the first services of Railteam."

Aside from multi-lingual information in stations and onboard trains, helping overseas travelers feel more assured, connections will also be smoother, with improved co-ordination of departure

and arrival times. Furthermore, if passengers miss their connection because of a late running service, Railteam will ensure they are on the next available train.

The Eurail network already delivers a reliable, high quality city center to city center service with an unparalleled on-time record. Railteam aims to further improve the experience in high-speed trains, with new lines in the next few years including the recently launched TGV Est serving 33 destinations in Eastern France, Western Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

Rene de Groot, Eurail Group Managing Director said "Railteam is a most welcome step toward the seamless internationalization of rail travel in Europe and toward becoming even more competitive with low-cost air carriers – and that's not only good for Eurail customers, it's good for the environment."

Trains emit far less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than flying to the same destinations with only a tenth to a quarter of aircraft emissions. Add this to being able to move about freely, dine, use a mobile phone, work online, as well as avoid long security lines and security checks, and trains appear an even more attractive alternative to planes.

Apart from the high-speed rail network, which is growing rapidly and expects 25 million international travelers by the year 2010, Europe's traditional trains include some excellent local and scenic trains allowing travelers to enjoy the scenery and passing landscapes at a more relaxed pace.

Railteam, www.railteam.eu; Eurail, www.EurailGroup.com

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BOHIO DIVE RESORT ANNOUNCES LATE SEASON SPECIAL DEAL



The Bohio Dive Resort, situated on Pillory Beach in Grand Turk is offering a late season special offer. Book by end of December 2007 and enjoy 30 percent off of hotel rates (vacation must be taken by end of January 2008).

Now in its third season, divers are returning each year to this intimate resort. With 16 rooms close the ocean, guests can relax and enjoy diving, watersports, and fine cuisine. Now is the perfect time to take advantage of some great low season prices and

experience this idyllic spot, named Best Diving Beach by Men's Journal magazine.

Beginners and advanced divers alike will feel at home here. One of the top 10 advanced dive sites in the world, Grand Turk's "breath-taking wall" is a "must visit" for divers in the know. Bohio's unique location with a natural sandy pool and shallow house reef is perfect for snorkelers, swimmers or those just starting out. The resort's dive boat will drop guests at the more remote dive sites, or they may simply stroll in from the beach. "I've seen eagle rays and sting rays, schools of squid and lots of juvenile fish, including my favorite, the juvenile spotted drum, just snorkeling off our beach" says owner Kelly Shanahan.

Hobie cats, kayaks, bicycles, lessons and guided trips are also available. Enjoy excursions to nearby islands, plus trips to outer cays to see the tame stingrays. At Gibbs Cay guests can join the local dive masters free-diving for conch. 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.

Fishing plays an important part in the daily life of the Turks and Caicos Islands and on a fishing trip even novices have a good chance of catching a mahi mahi or a wahoo. Hand over your fresh catch to the cooks at Bohio and they will prepare it for dinner. At the end of the day, enjoy a sunset yoga session, or relax in a hammock with a house cocktail. A mix of local bands and beach bars provide the ideal setting to mix, share a rum punch, enjoy a beach barbecue, then hit the dance floor with the friendly islanders. Alternatively, opt for fine dining at the resort's restaurant, The Guanahani. The menu has a French, Italian and Asian influence with, of course, a Caribbean twist and imaginative specials created from the local catch of the day.

The resort has 16 rooms which were refurbished in August, four of them suites with kitchenettes and king-size beds, all just steps from the ocean and featuring sea views and balconies. All rooms are air conditioned, with ensuite facilities, ceiling fans, fridges and cable TV. And guests can stay in touch with the rest of the world with

free wireless internet access. Car hire, baby-sitting services, plus relaxing spa treatments in the comfort of the room can be arranged.

Bohio Dive Resort, info@bohioresort.com, www.bohioresort.com

A DIVE & SNORKEL PACKAGE TO HONDURAS WITH VIAVENTURE

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 every guest. Comprised of knowledgeable, enthusiastic and innovative travel professionals, Viaventure offers a wide selection of activities, with a special focus on tailor-made, unique itineraries to fit the specific interests and budgets of guests.

With fall and winter approaching, escape to sunny Honduras for a fun filled week of adventure at Anthony's Key Resort in Roatan, Honduras. The packages include hotel taxes, seven nights hotel accommodations (minimum seven night stay required), full American meal plan (three meals daily), welcome cocktail and orientation, roundtrip airport transfers, tropical picnic, Island Fiesta night on the Key, daily dolphin show presentation, horseback riding daily, kayaking and canoeing daily and entrance to the Roatan Museum.

Snorkel packages also include two guided snorkel trips daily, snorkel gear, reef ecology lecture, one dolphin beach encounter and one dolphin swim. This offer is valid from September 1- October 6; October 20 - November 17; and November 24 - December 22, 2007. Rates for the seven night Dive & Snorkel Package range from \$928 to \$1,360 pppo and include hotel taxes. Rate for children is \$899 for ages five to nine in a room with an adult. Rates are 10 percent commissionable for travel agents.

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

SUNBREEZE SUITES COMES TO SAN PEDRO

The Roe Group of Companies and Camino Real Corporation, owners of SunBreeze Hotel, have announced the acquisition of Aqua Marina Suites, which is being renamed SunBreeze Suites.

SunBreeze Hotel and SunBreeze Suites, separated by a 10 minute walk through the quaint town of San Pedro, have combined room capacity of 64 units. The newly named SunBreeze Suites is an all ensuite hotel and now joins its sister three category room hotel, SunBreeze Hotel, in excellent management and attention to comfort and care for guests.

Ambergris Caye is one of the most popular dive destinations in Belize and both SunBreeze Hotel and the Suites, with its dive operator Aqua Dives Belize, are featuring their "UnBelizeable Summer Buster" Dive Special. The package includes seven nights accommodations, four day local two tank boat dives, one tank night dive (weights, belts, and tanks included), a free snorkel stop at Shark Ray Alley, and round trip air transfer Belize International-San Pedro. The price until October 31 is \$692 ppdo; \$592 for a non diver accompanying a diver; \$642 pp triple occupancy diver; and \$1,043 single. Guests may upgrade the night dive to a Blue Hole Trip for an extra \$144 per diver. For groups with 11 paid, the 12th person pays \$110.

SunBreeze Hotel, 800-688-0191, sunbreezehotel@sunbreeze.net, www.sunbreeze.net

"MANATEES: ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION" EXHIBIT FINDS HOME IN BELIZE

The world class exhibit, "Manatees: On the Edge of Extinction," has found its permanent home in Belize with the Hugh Parkey Foundation for Marine Awareness and Education at the Spanish Bay Conservation & Research Center on Spanish Lookout Caye, which is also home to Hugh Parkey's Belize Adventure Lodge.

The exhibit is a focal point for students and teachers participating in the Hugh Parkey Foundation's Educational Outreach Program. With this addition, students can take a walk through time and see the natural history of manatees unfold before their eyes through the life size dioramas, picture boards, interactive modules, and articulated fossils of modern day manatees and their Pacific cousins, the dugongs.

The exhibit, created by the Potomac Museum Group, is a top quality natural history museum exhibit that took four years to design and build. After a five-year tour in the U.S., it was acquired by the Hugh Parkey Foundation and installed by the original technicians, Hal and Janine Halvorson, with oversight from Dr. Daryl Domning, Paleontologist from Howard University in Washington, DC., and marine scientist, Caryn Self-Sullivan (manatee researcher and the foundation's science & education advisor).

"Manatees: On the Edge of Extinction" is open to the public daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. For guests staying at the Lodge access to the Manatee Museum is complementary.

Hugh Parkey's Belize Adventures, info@hpbelizeadventures.com, www.hpbelizeadventures.com

FALL FANTASEA DIVING PACKAGE AT SUNSET HOUSE IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Sunset House is Grand Cayman's hotel "for divers by divers." Accommodations include Courtyard Rooms, Oceanview Rooms, apartments and suites. Sunset House offers afternoon dives, night dives, and more. Their esteemed dive operation, Sunset Divers, the infamous "My Bar" (Best of the Caribbean 2006), and "SeaHarvest" restaurant, along with the beautiful grounds, complete this diver's Caribbean paradise.

Sunset House has something on Grand Cayman that most dive operators do not: world class shore diving on the property. Unlimited shore diving is included in all dive packages.

Sunset House is offering their Fall Fantasea diving package. Fall is a great time to visit the island, since the corals are spawning, the trade winds are blowing consistently for some calm water on the horizon of the resort, and air fare prices are substantially lower.

The package is offered until October 31, 2007 and includes air-conditioned accommodations with digital cable TV and telephone with data port; full made to order breakfast; daily two-tank boat trips, except day of arrival and departure; complimentary off-shore diving every day except day of departure; tanks, weights and belt; complimentary dive gear locker; welcome rum punch; surprise package; taxi transfers from and to the airport; and all tax and service charges. Dive shop gratuities are not included.

Sunset House, 800-854-4767, reservations@sunsethouse.com, www.sunsethouse.com

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PAY FOR FOUR STAY FOR SEVEN AT BANANA BEACH IN BELIZE

Located on the Caribbean shores of Ambergris Caye, Banana Beach is a luxurious haven in one of the most scenic places on earth, San Pedro, Belize.

Their accommodations include Deluxe Ocean Front Suites, Ocean Front Suites, Courtyard Suites, Private Balcony Rooms, and Veranda Rooms. The Ocean Front suites all have private balconies and a king size bed in the bedrooms. The Courtyard suites all have queen size beds. All suites are equipped with air conditioning, two or more ceiling fans, cable TV, direct dial telephone, and safe.

Guests may rely on their full service activities planning center, Monkey Business Travel Shoppe, to fulfill all their activity planning needs.

From planning snorkeling, kayaking, sailing, fishing, scuba diving (the second largest barrier reef in the world), or parasailing packages, Monkey Business has everything covered. If you are not sure what would suit you best, they can suggest a wide variety of island-wide excursions to keep busy. Their staff specializes in providing suggestions to suit every need, from the adventurer to the sun-worshipper.

Country wide day trips to Mayan ruins, jungle rivers including cave tubing, bird watching and zip lines through the rain forest canopy are all available. A myriad of Ambergris Caye island-wide excursions, sight-seeing tours and day trips are sure to keep guests busy, along with plenty to do right at the resort. They can also arrange massage treatments, baby sitting services, windsurfing, golf cart rental, air transportation and hotel reservations.

Rates from now through December 20, 2007 begin at \$110 (nightly), \$440 (five night package) and \$88 for additional nights. Pay for four nights and stay the fifth night for free. For September and October they are offering a special: pay for four nights and stay for seven.

Banana Beach, 877-288-1011, info@bananabeach.com, tours@bananabeach.com, www.bananabeach.com

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC AT RAMON'S VILLAGE RESORT

Ramon's Village Resort is located on the picturesque island of Ambergris Caye in Belize.

Ramon's Village offers island accommodations in true tropical style with 61 thatched-roof cabanas providing secluded hideaways for those who are ready for relaxation. For those who need room for the entire family, they also offer multi-room suites.

Ramon's Village Resort is a PADI Gold Palm IDC Resort facility and their Dive Center is Belize's largest and most respected. A full staff of PADI professional instructors and dive masters ensure a dive experience unequalled anywhere. Their dive shop is equipped with an excellent selection of gear for sale or rent.

Dive two rare and breathtaking atolls, plus Jacques Cousteau's famous Blue Hole aboard their Pro 42 dive boat, The Miss Gina. Enjoy snorkeling with nurse sharks and stingrays at Shark Ray Alley, explore the ancient Mayan ruins, discover the amazing beauty of the jungle while navigating a stunning river, or choose an

afternoon of fly fishing for tarpon or deep sea fishing for marlin or sailfish.

Above the surface, windsurfing, sailing, glass-bottom boat tours and jet skiing are other activities readily available on the island. Belize is a great place to bring the kids too. There is a beautiful beach at Ramon's with abundant shoreline and a great snorkeling area at the end of their pier. The historic fishing village of San Pedro is a five minute walk up the beach from the resort.

Belize has one of the most interesting mainlands of all the Central American countries. The jungles are lush, the wildlife is abundant and the rivers range from mild to wild. Belize is rich in archaeological sites and guests can experience one of the most mysterious civilizations of all, the Maya.

Excursions to these sites are available by car or by river. River trips offer rare photographic opportunities to see river life, such as crocodiles, monkeys, birds and, with a little luck, the manatee, in its natural environment.

Ramon's Village, 800-MAGIC-15, info@ramons.com, www.ramons.com

ENJOY AN EXCLUSIVE LUXURY VACATION AT ALMOND BEACH

Almond Beach is a luxury resort in Belize, located beside the famous Jaguar Reef Lodge. It is an ideal locale for honeymoons, anniversaries, family vacations, fishing and diving vacations. They offer several private, waterfront casitas that provide a luxurious place to rest after an active day of diving, snorkeling, or exploring the magic of Belize.

The Belize reef is one of the greats in scuba and snorkeling circles and Almond Beach offers a marvelous experience with daily trips to different spots where the colors of the reef and the amazing fish and wildlife is astounding.

The shallow inner reef offers the opportunity for both those snorkeling for the first time and those who snorkel as a way of life a great diversity of experience. First timers will be shown the wonders of the reef by experienced guides who will point out colorful tropical fish of all sizes and types and beautiful coral formations.

Scuba divers have a choice of locations to visit and will come back with once in a life-time pictures and stories to take home. Almond Beach's experienced team will prepare those new to diving for the trip and accompany them on the dive. PADI certification can be obtained from the experienced dive shop team.

Almond Beach's location is near to a less-busy area of the reef and so it is still pristine and natural. The location also provides for a day off from diving to enjoy a leisurely kayak up a jungle river, a visit to the Mayan Ruins, or a jungle trek to the world famous Jaguar Reserve.

Green Season Dive Package rates (from now until December 21) start at \$866 (four nights/three dives) and include air conditioned standard bedroom or beachfront one bedroom suite (upgrades available), transfers from Dangriga airport, all meals, tanks and weights, and all taxes and service charges.

Almond Beach Resort, 866-624-1516, almondbeachreservations@yahoo.com,

A DIVING PARADISE AT BLUE MARLIN LODGE

The Blue Marlin Lodge offers vacationers simple pleasures to help them relax. The southern atolls, the barrier reef, and the cayes off the lower Belizean coastline offer an untainted mecca for divers and fishermen to explore and preserve. They offer guests the best fishing, diving, and relaxing on their private island.

As an official PADI Dive Center, Blue Marlin Lodge offers its guests the best diving variety along with the best in dive service and equipment. Blue Marlin's experienced staff is always prepared, allowing guests more leisure time before, during and after dives.

Morning and afternoon single tank boat trips are the normal daily offering. One or two night dives are available each week. An unusual aspect of Blue Marlin is the very generous bottom time allowed; dives start deep and end shallow, allowing for about 50 minutes of average bottom time per dive. Computer diving is encouraged.

The divemaster leads the dive but there is freedom of movement within the buddy teams. The types of fish that can be seen on any one dive include spotted eagle rays, moray eels, dolphins, rock snappers, and smaller species of fish.

Snorkeling is as spectacular for the diver and non-diver alike. The lagoon and foreereef habitats have healthy coral reefs. Patch reefs and mound-like formations called spur and groove abound throughout the barrier reef making it ideal for snorkelers. Even those that do not swim well will find plenty of shallow, protected reefs.

Belize is a natural blend of tropical, cultural and historical diversity. To experience the wonders of Belize, Blue Marlin Lodge can take guests on a number of exciting excursions. Roam with the elusive jaguar in the Jaguar Preserve in the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, the heart of Belize's lush tropical rain forest. Enter the mystical world of the ancient Mayan civilization and share the history of one of the most advanced ancient civilizations. Blue Marlin Lodge can handle arrangements for all excursions to create a worry-free way to experience the natural wonders of Belize.

Rates for Dive & Snorkel Packages start at \$1,030, and rates for Dive Packages start at \$1,165 (three nights, double).

Blue Marlin Lodge, 800-798-1558,
reservations@bluemarlinlodge.com, www.bluemarlinlodge.com

REEF AND RAINFOREST PACKAGE OFFERED AT HAMANASI

Hamanasi is the ideal boutique Belize resort hotel nestled in 21 acres of rare coastal forest teeming with birds, flora and orchids. Vacation and relax in a spacious treehouse, beachfront room, or honeymoon suite with handcrafted hardwood furnishings, air conditioning, and private porches.

The friendly, attentive staff provides exceptional service and the resort is an eco-resort, which promotes responsible, sustainable nature based eco-tourism.

Belize is one of the world's top dive destinations. At Hamanasi, a PADI 5 Star Gold Palm Resort, guests will experience Belize's best

diving combined with a personal service touch. Their professional, PADI certified staff will help guests explore miles of the pristine Southern Barrier Reef, and three of the Caribbean's four atolls. They dive the Southern Barrier Reef, Glover's Reef Atoll, Turneffe Islands Atoll, the Elbow, Lighthouse Reef, the Blue Hole, Half Moon Caye and more. Seasonally, they dive with the largest, and perhaps most awesome fish of the sea, whale sharks.

Belize boasts the Western Hemisphere's longest continuous barrier reef. The Southern Barrier Reef offers several different snorkeling sites for both beginners and experienced snorkelers in a pristine environment.

With visibility ranging from 60 to 100ft, snorkelers often have close encounters with eagle rays, southern stingrays, octopus and even dolphins. The majority of snorkeling takes place in the South Water Caye Marine Reserve where conservation and safety are the two key words. A certified Belizean tour guide accompanies all snorkelers. Hamanasi offers two different snorkeling trips: island based snorkeling and snorkeling from a dedicated snorkel boat.

Hamanasi's Reef and Rainforest Package is ideal for guests who wish to explore Belize's marine and mainland activities or for guests traveling with companions who have divergent interests. The package features accommodations; Continental breakfast, lunch and dinner; roundtrip air transfers from Belize International airport to Dangriga and roundtrip ground transfers from Dangriga to Hamanasi; welcome drink upon arrival; and service charge, hotel and sales tax. Tanks, weights and belts are included with diving.

Guests may choose from the following adventures: Two Tank Barrier Reef Diving; Barrier Reef Snorkeling; Mayflower Waterfall Hike; Cave and Jungle Experience; Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary and Jaguar Preserve; Tropical Birding; Jungle River Kayaking or Canoeing; or Mayan History Tour. Rates (double) range from \$706 (four days/three nights) to \$1,527 (eight days/seven nights).

Hamanasi, 877-552-3483, info@hamanasi.com,
www.hamanasi.com

BOHIO DIVE RESORT – TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS



Located on an 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

Bohio Dive Resort
Grand Turk
Turks & Caicos Islands, BWI
For more information:
www.bohioresort.com
Tel: +1 649 946 2135

BOHIO Just breathe...

DISCOVER THE WINES OF WESTERN SICILY AT KEMPINSKI HOTEL GIARDINO DI COSTANZA



The western area of the island of Sicily produces important wines and the Kempinski Hotel Giardino di Costanza, near Mazara del Vallo in the province of Trapani, is the best place for a luxurious stay in Sicily while discovering the wines of the region.

The hotel offers various packages including "Lasciati deliziare dai profumi del vino" (Delights of Wine) which includes: two nights in Superior double room; buffet breakfast in the Ristorante Dubbesi; transfer to and from the historic Cantine Florio in Marsala; one tasting tour of the Cantine Florio in Marsala; one supper (beverages excluded) with suggestions on accompanying wines from the Cantine Florio; one "Spremuta di limone per la pelle" (relaxing beauty treatment using freshly squeezed lemon juice at the Spa); and free access to the pools, sauna and fitness center. The cost of the entire package for two persons starts at approximately \$1,028. Kempinski Hotel Giardino di Costanza is the ideal base for discovering Sicilian wines due to its perfect position where three Wine Roads meet. The hotel has both indoor and outdoor pools, a gourmet restaurant, a spa offering the latest beauty treatments, and a Kid's Club for families, as well as a private beach with sea-view restaurant within easy reach.

Kempinski Hotel Giardino di Costanza,
info.mazara@kempinski.com, www.kempinski-sicily.com

HIGH COUNTRY PASSAGE ANNOUNCES EAST ASIA ITINERARY FEATURING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Educational travel specialist High Country Passage has announced customized itineraries for its next exclusive World Leaders travel programs, including a March 2008 China and East Asia symposium featuring George H.W. Bush.

With major economic, political, and cultural changes sweeping the Asian continent, the 2008 World Leaders program, Rising Global Powers: China and East Asia featuring former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, will turn its attention to the East.

This customized 18-day itinerary, from March 3 to 20, 2008, includes an unparalleled panel of speakers aboard one of the most luxurious cruise vessels afloat, the all-suite Silver Whisper. The specially designed educational component spanning art, culture, religion, and politics, includes excursions in Beijing, Hong Kong, and Shanghai in China; Seoul, South Korea; Nagasaki, Japan; and

Taipei, Taiwan. In addition to former President Bush, study leaders include William Perry, former U.S. Secretary of Defense; Harvard professor Roger Porter; Yale professors Jonathan Spence and Anping Chin; and Edmond Mathez, a curator at the American Museum of Natural History. This symposium is limited to 360 participants, and prices start at \$15,995.

High Country Passage, www.highcountrypassage.com

GOURMET, ARTISTIC, ACTIVE AND ROMANCE PACKAGES AVAILABLE AT PALAZZO TERRANOVA IN ITALY

Palazzo Terranova is located on a green hillside in the north of Umbria near the Tuscan border. This beautiful 18th century Italian villa has the intimacy of a private family house and is also an architectural jewel. With the best of traditional Umbrian food provided by its resident chef, this house is one of the most desirable places to stay in Italy.

For 2007, Palazzo Terranova has a variety of packages available, including Gourmet, Artistic, Active and Romance. All packages begin with a welcome drink on the front terrace and include a three nights stay in a Luxury room with Continental breakfast.

The Gourmet Package begins with a trip to the wine growing region of Umbria-Montefalco. The next day will be spent looking for some elusive truffles, learning interesting facts about them and finally, eating them. To finish the Gourmet stay, enjoy a candlelit dinner at Palazzo Terranova with an Umbrian menu and a bottle of Umbrian red wine. Rates from May 1 to October 14 are approximately \$2,588 for two and from October 15 – November 15 price is approximately \$2,315 for two.

With the Artistic Package, choose to see Assisi, Gubbio, or Perugia for a five hour journey to see the culture and arts of these ancient places with a specialized guide. Guests can also visit neighboring Tuscany to Sansepolcro to see the works of Piero della Francesca at the Civic Museum, or to Anghiari to learn the arts of the linen weavers at Busatti. The final artistic pursuit will be to see the works of Alberto Burri in Citta de Castello. Rates from May 1 to October 14 are approximately \$2,451 for two and from October 15 – November 15 price is approximately \$2,179 for two.

The Active Package begins with a swim. Go for a trek through the Umbrian hills to a local restored castle-on-a-hill at Monte Santa Maria Tiberina. The next day, go for a horse ride through the Appenine mountains. Rates from May 1 to October 14 are approximately \$1,770 for two and from October 15 – November 15 price is approximately \$1,498 for two.

On the morning of choice of the Romance Package, Italian Champagne and strawberries will be brought to the room so couples can relax over a lazy breakfast. Take time to be guided through Umbrian hills to a perfect picnic destination or choose to take in the sights on horseback. Couples will also enjoy an hour long relaxing massage in their room. Rates from May 1 to October 14 are approximately \$2,043 for two and from October 15 – November 15 price is approximately \$1,770 for two.

Palazzo Terranova, bookings@palazzoterranova.com,
www.palazzoterranova.com

RIVER ROCK LODGE ANNOUNCES GOLF UNDER THE BIG SKY VACATION PACKAGE



River Rock Lodge, located in the heart of Meadow Village in Big Sky, Montana, has announced its new "Golf Under the Big Sky" Vacation Package.

The new Golf Vacation package features 18 holes of championship golf for two on Big Sky's scenic 18-hole, par 72 golf course, the use of a golf cart, and Montana-chic accommodations at River Rock Lodge, Big Sky's only western-style inn. The package also includes a 90-minute massage for two at the Ozsage Spa located in Meadow Village.

Located down the mountain in Meadow Village, the Big Sky Golf Course was originally designed by Arnold Palmer and has a classic links style of play.

The course meanders along the banks of the West Fork of the Gallatin River. Guests can tee up with beavers, geese, deer, marmots, rainbow trout and the occasional moose as their gallery. The Big Sky course is 6,200 feet above sea level, offering vacationers and golfers spectacular vistas and long drives. The course

offers a premium driving range and a putting range.

The River Rock Lodge Golf under the Big Sky Vacation Package includes three days, two nights accommodations at River Rock Lodge (double occupancy); American Continental breakfast each morning; 18 holes of championship golf for two; golf cart; massage for two; and a hot tub to relax in at night.

The package is priced at \$670 per couple. For those who enjoy vacationing with friends, River Rock offers a second package for \$620 per couple. This offer runs through October 7, 2007.

River Rock Lodge, 866-995-4455, www.riverrocklodging.com

TCS EXPEDITIONS ANNOUNCES EXCLUSIVE AGENT PROMOTION

TCS Expeditions, the world leader and pioneer in private jet travel, is offering a special agent incentive for one of its most unusual 2008 Expeditions, called Empires & Explorers. The journey departs from London on February 20, 2008. Agents who sell eight seats on the departure will receive a choice of either free passage on the Empires & Explorers Expedition or an additional five percent commission in addition to the company's minimum 10 percent commission policy.

The trip is priced starting at \$51,950 per passenger based on double occupancy. By selling only eight seats the agent will have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to personally experience the luxury of travel with TCS Expeditions.

"We think it is important for agents to experience our trips firsthand in order to be

able to promote them to their most well-to-do clients," said Martha Wharton, Director of Marketing for TCS Expeditions.

Travelers begin the journey in London, where they board a private Boeing 757 that has been specially outfitted to seat just 74 guests in ergonomic leather seats. During their three-week odyssey, guests will discover Ghana's Ashanti Kingdom where they will enjoy a private audience with Nana Osei Tutu II – the Ashanti king; The Maldive Islands for three days to enjoy beaches and lagoons; and Dogon Culture in Mali where, at a privately arranged exhibition, guests will enjoy a special ceremonial dance performed by the Dogon people, renowned for their beautiful, symbolic art and elaborate costumes.

Additionally, Empires & Explorers will take guests to Timbuktu, Mali; Skeleton Coast, Namibia; Victoria Falls/Victoria Falls Hotel, Zambia; Angkor Wat, Cambodia; Shwedagon Pagoda, Burma (Myanmar); Inle Lake, Burma (Myanmar); Jaipur's Palace of Winds, India; Sintra, Portugal; and Lisbon's Museum Clauste Gulbenkian, Portugal.

As with all TCS Expeditions programs, travelers will be accompanied by a team of distinguished experts who offer lectures along the way, and share insights and experiences of each upcoming destination prior to landing. The jet's pilots gain clearance to land at smaller airports close to the unique destinations, minimizing travel.

Guests stay in at the finest properties, including Victoria Falls' Royal Livingstone Hotel, deluxe Maldive Islands villas, and the Rambagh Palace Hotel in Jaipur. TCS Expeditions, 206-727-7300, www.tcs-expeditions.com

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