

2024 / VOLUME 1

Winter Tours and Cruises

U.S.A. • VICTORIA, BC • MEXICO • CARIBBEAN • CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA • CRUISES



EUROPE (TOURS AND SUN HOLIDAYS) • MIDDLE EAST • ASIA • SOUTH AFRICA

Senior
Discovery
Tours

ABOUT US



PEACE OF MIND

At Senior Discovery Tours, we take care of all the travel details, so all you have to do is sit back and enjoy every minute of your trip. As Canada's largest and most trusted group tour operator for over 45 years, our tours are designed to provide peace of mind and a carefree experience for the mature traveller. We offer over 100 different tour programs which deliver outstanding service, value and discovery, so get ready to fill your minds and cameras with beautiful images, striking landscapes and special moments.



EXCEEDING YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Our Tour Planners travel the globe seeking new destinations, vetting every element of the tour - from perfectly planned itineraries, to personally inspected hotels, and even the menu choices. We don't just try to meet your expectations, we aim to exceed them. We include more meals at local restaurants for authentic dining, not-to-be-missed iconic sights, cultural immersion and off-the-beaten-track experiences, and a number of surprises along the way!



TRAVEL MADE EASY

Our travellers love our tours because, unlike most other tour operators, we include everything: flights, carefully selected hotels, most meals, all tips, all taxes, insurance for cancellation and health while outside Canada, and even transportation between your home and the airport (from most Canadian cities). All prices are guaranteed in Canadian dollars, and there are never any surprise costs or hidden surcharges.

TOUR MANAGERS GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

Our Tour Managers are the best in the business. They go above and beyond to ensure your trip runs smoothly, and that everything is delivered at a superior level of service. Their experience enables them to expertly handle unexpected situations, and their enthusiasm for travel enlivens every tour.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND PEACE OF MIND

TRAVEL SAFETY IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY

The world of travel has changed, but what hasn't changed is our commitment to the health and safety of our guests. As a company that has been specializing in tours for those 55+ for over 45 years, we remain committed to being the best-in-class for your health and safety. Our team consults with health and security experts worldwide to ensure that your health, well being and enjoyment remain our top priority.

Enhanced Health & Safety Highlights:

- Those travelling outside Canada will be covered by **our Manulife Out-of-Country Health Insurance Plan**, (unless you choose to decline it),
 - * Manulife terms and conditions apply
 - * Benefits for Covid-19 related claims for those who are unvaccinated will vary from our standard Manulife policy.
- We strongly encourage that our travellers **wear a mask while on our motorcoaches.**
- If there are any health protocols necessary for your tour **we will keep you informed** well in advance of the trip. Should any specific requirements be imposed by airlines and/or authorities in the destinations visited, our guests must fully comply.

SPECIAL CANCELLATION TERMS

Please rest assured that you can book your Senior Discovery Tours holiday with complete peace of mind. We will continue to be the travel industry leader by offering a refund policy far more flexible and generous than other tour operators.

- Up to 60 days prior to the departure of your tour (120 days prior for cruises) you may decide, at your sole discretion, whether or not you want to proceed on the trip. If you inform us by that time that you choose not to go, we will send you a full refund of your deposit / payment (less the \$75 administration fee).
- If you cancel your tour less than 60 days prior to your trip (120 days prior for cruises), for a reason not covered in our Cancellation Policy, we have negotiated with our travel partners to obtain reduced cancellation charges. More details can be found under our "Terms and Conditions" on the back page of our brochure.

CANCELLATION AND TRIP INTERRUPTION INSURANCE INCLUDED!

- **Included in the cost of your tour is our Cancellation Insurance Policy**, which provides coverage in case of emergency injury or illness (including Covid), right up to your date of departure (terms and conditions apply).
- **Our Manulife Out-of-Country Health Insurance Plan covers expenses related to Trip Interruption** in case of emergency injury or illness (including Covid). For tours within Canada, Senior Discovery Tours will cover such expenses (terms and conditions apply to the policies of both Manulife and Senior Discovery Tours).

#SAFETRAVELS



We're delighted to announce that we've been awarded the *Safe Travels Stamp* by the World Travel and Tourism Council, recognized globally for adopting safety and hygiene standards issued by government and health authorities around the world, designed specifically to address outbreaks such as COVID 19.

MORE REWARDING TRAVEL



A WELCOME GIFT THE MOMENT YOU JOIN

Enjoying unforgettable travel experiences with Senior Discovery Tours is now even more exciting as we launch our Discovery Rewards program. From exclusive travel items to savings on future tours with us, Discovery Rewards offer exciting ways to get more out of every trip. The more you travel, the higher your Discovery Rewards tier level status and rewards.

- Great travel-related gift items
- Rewards and savings on future tours
- Easy tier levels mean quick member status upgrades



SHARING THE JOY OF TRAVEL

Senior Discovery Tours enjoys some of the best reviews in the travel industry, and we want to reward your loyalty by introducing our exciting new referral program, Blue Sky Referrals. If you're a member of our Discovery Rewards and opt-in to BlueSky Referrals, you may refer 5 family and friends right away! If your referrals stay subscribed to our promotional communications for at least 6 months, you will both be rewarded! Plus, if your referrals complete a trip with us, you will receive savings towards your future tour with Senior Discovery Tours. For over 45 years, Senior Discovery Tours has sent more satisfied senior travellers on more tours than any other Canadian tour operator, and we will continue to measure our success through your positive reviews.



THE CLUB THAT TAKES YOU FURTHER

Senior Discovery Tours has always welcomed the opportunity to offer clubs and associations an exclusive reward for their loyalty when their members travel with us. We offer a 4% commission that will be paid directly to the club/association AND there is no minimum number of bookings required to receive the commission.

If you have any questions or would like to book a virtual presentation for your club/association, please contact us at info@seniordiscoverytours.ca or call **1-800-268-3492**.

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

Thank you to all clients who have posted positive reviews. We appreciate your feedback and would love to continue to hear about your past travels and memories with Senior Discovery Tours - it's an integral part of helping us plan future tours so we can continue to provide you with superior travel experiences. Please continue to leave us Google and Facebook reviews and share your travel photos using #SeniorDiscoveryTours. Be sure to subscribe to our monthly eNewsletter or request a brochure on our website to get all the latest news about our exciting tours and cruises. Let's connect on social media!

For Full Program Details and Easy Enrollment
visit SeniorDiscoveryTours.ca

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SeniorDiscoveryTours.ca

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Quebec Permit #701756
CPBC Licence #3292

ALWAYS INCLUDED IN OUR EXPERTLY PLANNED TOURS

- **Round-trip transportation between your home and the airport (from many Canadian cities)**
- **All airfare, airport taxes, and fuel surcharges. (Airline baggage fees are *not* included)**
- **Carefully selected accommodations, including hotel taxes, gratuities, and luggage handling (where available)**
- **All gratuities for hotels, drivers, local guides, and cruise staff**
- **Most meals, highlighting local flavour**
- **Comprehensive insurance plan (health while outside Canada, cancellation, trip interruption, loss of luggage, etc.)**
- **Plenty of unparalleled sightseeing, and entrance fees**
- **Expert local guides**
- **Experienced, professional, and engaging Tour Managers**
- **Prices include all taxes and are guaranteed in Canadian funds!**

You have the option to arrange your own flights - air rebate will be applied. If you choose this option, home pick-up and airport transfers not included.

TO BOOK

- Phone one of our offices, with credit card info, to reserve your space.
- A deposit of \$300 per person for regular tours, or \$700 per person for tours including a cruise, is due upon booking.
- \$75 of your deposit is a non-refundable administration fee.
- For those paying by cheque - please send your deposit to one of our offices within 7 days of making your booking.
- Balance of payment is due 60 days prior to departure for regular tours, or 90 days prior for tours including a cruise, train or entry visa.

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HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Superior accommodation
- Full breakfast daily
- 6 dinners and 2 lunches
- 2 Afternoon Teas
- 11 guided excursions as described
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

British Columbia's capital, Victoria, boasts Canada's mildest winters – so no wonder it has the country's fastest-growing retirement community!

Victoria lies in a beautiful natural setting on Vancouver Island, surrounded by hills and looking out to the snow-clad Olympic mountains. It is a charming city with (it has been said) the atmosphere of a seaside resort. With its turn-of-the-century buildings and tweed and wool shops, you might be inclined to think Victoria is a transplanted corner of Britain! It is an ideal city for those who love to walk, and active seniors with an appetite for adventure. You will find a vast array of delightful side trips available (in addition to the many included in our program). So this winter, don't bother with your passport, exchange rates or bottled water. Just come with us to this Canadian jewel!

Our hotel in Victoria will be the *Royal Scot Hotel & Suites*. This superior Canada Select 4-star, AAA 3-diamond hotel is perfectly-located one block from the Inner Harbour and within easy walking distance to the BC Parliament Buildings, downtown and the iconic Empress Hotel. The hotel has an indoor pool, sauna, exercise room, billiards and games room, an onsite restaurant and lounge, gift

18 DAYS • 3 DATES IN 2024

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 14

MARCH 19 - APRIL 5

APRIL 9 - 26

shop, guest laundry facilities, free WiFi and a free shuttle service that runs from the hotel to the downtown core for the exclusive convenience of hotel guests.

Three types of rooms are offered:

- *Standard Room* (1 or 2 Queen Beds) has a microwave, small fridge, coffee maker, kettle, dishes and utensils.
- *Studio Suite*, ideal for couples or singles, has a comfortable seating area, fully equipped kitchen, dining table and chairs. The bedroom with a Queen Bed is set apart with a partition wall.
- *One Bedroom Suite* has a separate bedroom (2 Twins or 1 King Bed), living room and a full kitchen/dining room.

** This tour is suitable only for the active traveller who enjoys walking.*

1. A tour of the **highlights of Victoria** including a visit of Craigdarroch Castle.
2. A **walking tour of Victoria's fabled downtown** area with an entertaining local guide.
3. A tour to famous **Butchart Gardens**, a 50-acre showplace comprising various incredible gardens. Lunch is included (afternoon tea menu). We also visit the **Victoria Butterfly Gardens**, with tropical fish, birds and an orchid display.
4. Our full-day island tour begins at the **Malahat Skywalk** - a 600m tree walk through a beautiful arbutus forest leading to a spectacular lookout with views of the surrounding waterways and mountains. We continue to **Chemainus**, where we'll explore the town's beautiful murals. We'll also visit **Duncan**, famous for its Totem Poles.
5. We enjoy an **Emily Carr themed walking tour** which will take us through the famed painter's Victoria neighbourhood.
6. **Afternoon Tea at the Pendray Tea House**. A magnificent Victorian manor house with old-world charm.
7. We visit the world-renowned **Royal BC Museum**, complete with a Ceremonial Bighouse and turn-of-the-century replica town. A highlight will be the IMAX movie presentation.
8. A full-day tour to the charming **seaside community of Sidney**, including a visit to the BC Aviation Museum. After our included lunch we will enjoy some time to explore the shops in Sidney.
9. **Victoria Harbour Ferry** – Choose between 2 narrated routes - an Inner Harbour Cruise, (stopping at Fishermen's Wharf) or a cruise up the historic Gorge Waterway. You may join your choice of cruise any time during your stay.
10. **Chinatown by Night** – After a presentation on Chinatown's history, we'll enjoy a guided walk through Fan Tan Alley, and a traditional Chinese Dinner.
11. **Miniature World** features over 80 exciting miniature displays, including the World's Largest Doll Houses circa 1880, the Great Canadian Railway, one of the World's Largest Model Railways and Olde London Towne of 1670.

COST (per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Winnipeg)

**DEPART FEBRUARY 26
OR MARCH 19**

Standard Room - \$5397
Studio Suite - \$5597
One Bedroom Suite - \$5797

DEPART APRIL 9

Standard Room - \$5197
Studio Suite - \$5397
One Bedroom Suite - \$5597

SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS

Standard Room - \$1190
Studio Suite - \$1390
One Bedroom Suite - \$1590

- Montreal or Ottawa - add \$90
- Halifax - add \$190
- Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - deduct \$300



Gulf Coast of Florida

Escape the winter with us on this sun-filled holiday to Indian Rocks Beach, on Florida's beautiful Gulf Coast.

This leisurely tour provides the perfect combination of touring popular nearby attractions, fun get-togethers with your fellow travellers and time to relax and enjoy the abundant sunshine and white sand that the Gulf Coast of Florida is so famous for.

Indian Rocks Beach is conveniently situated on the Gulf inter-coastal waterway between Clearwater Beach and St. Petersburg, with easy access to the many activities available in the area. There is a local trolley which stops a few steps from our hotel, and will take you to great shopping areas, restaurants and downtown St. Petersburg (a one-day trolley pass is included during your stay).

We will stay at the charming moderate First Class *Holiday Inn Harborside*. This friendly and casual property features a distinct Key West influence and is located just a short stroll from the beach.

15 DAYS • 2 DATES IN WINTER 2024

JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 13

FEBRUARY 14 - 28

Hotel amenities include 2 swimming pools, hot tubs, patios and sundecks, a fitness centre, two restaurants, a games room and a miniature golf course.

You may select from 3 types of suites:

“Key West Studio Rooms” have an indoor courtyard view, 1 king or 2 queen-size beds, mini-fridge, microwave, stove top burners and coffee maker.

“Marina View Suites” have all the amenities of the Sunset View Suites, with a waterfront view.

“Marina View Villas” - 2-storey villas with stairs, a fully equipped kitchen, and a waterfront view.

- Flights with Air Canada Rouge
- Moderate First Class hotel
- Full breakfast daily, 4 dinners and 1 lunch
- A 1-day trolley pass
- **Tour of St. Petersburg**, including a visit to the Salvador Dali Museum
- **Tour of Tampa**, including the Latin Quarter, Ybor City and a visit of the Florida Aquarium which features over 10,000 aquatic animals and plants
- The picturesque old Greek village of **Tarpon Springs** and a scenic boat ride
- A visit to **Sunken Gardens**, a 4-acre paradise of plants, flowers and exotic birds
- A scenic **luncheon cruise** on the Intercoastal Waterways aboard the *Starlite Majesty*
- An excursion to charming **Sarasota** and a visit to the Ringling Circus Museum
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST (per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal)

In a *Key West Studio Room* January tour - \$4797 February tour - \$4997

In a *Sunset View Suite or Marina View Villa*

January tour - \$5197 February tour - \$5397

Single Supplements

Key West Studio Room - \$1390 *Marina View Suite or Marina View Villa* - \$1690

Triples - deduct \$150 per person (cots are not available)

Gateway Add-ons

Ottawa - add \$90

Halifax - add \$190

Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$490 (*includes an overnight in Toronto en route to Florida*)



Arizona 2-Centre Holiday Spacious Suites in Phoenix and Tucson

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada Rouge
- First Class hotels - Suite accommodation
- Full hot breakfast daily
- 10 dinners and 4 lunches
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$7797
.....
- Single Supplement - \$2490
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax - add \$190
- Calgary - deduct \$100. Vancouver - deduct \$200.
* *Add-ons below include an overnight in Vancouver en route to Arizona.*
- Edmonton - add \$190. Winnipeg - add \$390.

The combination of endless sunshine, a warm and dry climate, and unrivalled natural beauty makes Arizona one of America’s most popular vacation destinations.

This 2-Centre Holiday includes 7 nights in each of Phoenix and Tucson. Both cities are located in the stunning and unique Sonoran Desert and are rich with history, culture, arts and entertainment. A wonderful diversity of food and culinary delights, galleries, and shopping are available wherever you turn in these charming “Old West” towns.

Phoenix is located in the “Valley of The Sun” - so called because there are more than 300 days of sunshine every year. In addition to the desert, lush with Saguaro and Prickly Pear cactus, the nearby Superstition Mountains offer an incredible diversity of wildlife.

Tucson (the “City of Sunshine”) is a fascinating mix of Wild Western, Spanish, Mexican, and Indian cultures. Nearby is the famous Wild West town of Tombstone - home to the legendary Wyatt Earp and the OK Corral.

In both locations we will stay at the *Embassy Suites by Hilton* (the *Biltmore* in Phoenix and *Tucson East*). The spacious suites are tastefully decorated and contain a separate bedroom with either two Queen beds or one King. The living/dining area in the suites have a wet bar with microwave, coffee-maker, fridge, and sink.

15 DAYS • FEBRUARY 7 - 21

Both hotels have a restaurant, heated outdoor pool, complimentary Wi-Fi, beautifully landscaped courtyards, a fitness centre, made-to-order breakfasts, and complimentary evening receptions. Our Phoenix hotel is within a mile of Camelback Mountain (a great place to walk and experience the local flora and fauna), golf courses, the Biltmore Fashion Park, and Old Town Scottsdale.

Tour Highlights:

- Desert Botanical Garden
- Heard Museum - internationally acclaimed museum of Native heritage
- Canyon Lake – stunning shorelines and red rock cliffs
- Musical Instrument Museum– the largest and most extraordinary musical museum in the world
- “Taste of Tucson” - a culinary and cultural tour of the historic sights and local eateries of Downtown Tucson
- Sabino Canyon tram tour through the desert oasis
- Sonoran Desert Museum & Desert Botanical Garden
- Tombstone – “The Town Too Tough to Die”

Day 1: Phoenix. We depart for Phoenix, and upon arrival transfer to our all-suite hotel. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: Phoenix City Tour. Our city tour will include both a coach tour of Phoenix and a walking tour of historic Old Town Scottsdale - a great place to revisit on a free day! Highlights include the Arizona State Capitol (with artifacts of the USS Arizona - flagship of the fleet that was sunk during the attack on Pearl Harbor), the beautiful campus of Arizona State University, Camelback Mountain and more. Dinner tonight will include live entertainment.

Day 3: Phoenix at leisure. There is so much to do in Phoenix. You may want to visit Old Town Scottsdale, or Fashion Square. Golfers may want to get in a round at the Biltmore Golf & Country Club, or venture into the nearby Superstition Mountains for a hike or stroll. Your Tour Manager will be on hand to assist you.

Day 4: Canyon Lake / Phoenix. Morning at leisure. This afternoon we will enjoy spectacular scenery as we take a boat ride on Canyon Lake, known for its interesting rock formations that resemble people and animals, and listen to tales and legends of the area. Later, we'll stop in Goldfield - an old gold mining Ghost Town located along the historic Apache Trail.

Day 5: Desert Botanical Garden / Heard Museum. We begin the day with a visit to the Desert Botanical Garden, which showcases the diversity of plants of the US Southwest. Then we visit the internationally acclaimed Heard Museum, which features the vibrant arts and cultures of the local indigenous people. Lunch is included at the famous "Organ Grinder" with its mighty Wurlitzer.

Day 6: Phoenix at leisure.

Day 7: Musical Instrument Museum / Phoenix. A visit to this unique state-of-the-art museum that allows one to hear and feel the sounds of more than 10,000 instruments from all over the world. This evening we enjoy a fun farewell at the legendary Rustler's Rooste, complete with a spectacular panoramic view of the valley lights, a BBQ feast, live country and western music and a guided session of line dancing.

Day 8: Casa Grande National Monument / Tucson. En route to Tucson we will stop to explore the mystique of the Ancestral Sonoran Desert People's community and the "Great House" (known as the Casa Grande Ruins), whose origin and purpose remains unknown. We continue to our all-suite hotel in Tucson.

Day 9: Tucson. This full-day tour in and around Tucson begins with a tram ride in the Sabino Canyon - a desert oasis in the foothills of the mountains. Our guided tour will take us to the Presidio San Agustin del Tucson (an 18th century Spanish fort), the Railroad Station (where Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday gunned down Frank Stilwell), Hotel Congress (where gangster John Dillinger was captured), Sentinel Peak (where Tucson was born), and more. We end with a visit to the beautiful baroque Mission San Xavier del Bac - the "White Dove of the Desert" - built by Spanish Jesuits in the 18th century, it is now used by the Tohono Indians as a spiritual center.

Day 10: Taste of Tucson. Today we concentrate on the cultural, historic and culinary aspects of the downtown area. The "Taste of Tucson" - a guided culinary walking tour, offers pre-selected tastings at downtown eateries with up front personal conversations with chefs and restaurant owners. What better way to enjoy the history of this area than with food tastings along the way.

Day 11: Tucson at Leisure. On your free days you may soak up the sun, swim, shop or explore Tucson on your own. Perhaps visit the Old Tucson Studios (where many westerns were filmed), the Pima Air and Space Museum (one of the world's largest aerospace museums), the Biosphere (a unique research facility on the future of our planet) or Kitt Peak National Observatory (site of the first telescope). This evening we take in some entertainment at the local theatre.

Day 12: Tombstone / Tucson. An excursion to Tombstone - a frontier silver mining boomtown. After a walking tour with a local guide, we'll watch a "shoot-out" with Wyatt Earp and the gang at the OK Corral, or visit the historic landmark of the area, the Bird Cage Theatre - a former theater, saloon, gambling parlour and a brothel. We finish at the Boot Hill Graveyard known for its witty epitaphs.

Day 13: Sonoran Desert Museum / Tucson. We visit the Sonora Desert Museum - both a world-renowned zoo and botanical garden. The museum re-creates the natural landscape of the Sonoran Desert with more than 300 animal species and 1200 kinds of plants along 2 miles of paths. Dinner will be at Pinnacle Peak - a western-themed steakhouse with a vintage cowboy atmosphere.

Day 14: Tucson at Leisure. Enjoy your last day in Tucson. This evening is our Farewell to Arizona Dinner.

Day 15: Home. We transfer to the airport and fly home.



Grand Tour of Arizona plus Las Vegas

- Tucson • Phoenix
- Grand Canyon • Las Vegas

Spectacular scenery, arid desert lands, a clear sunny climate with very low humidity, fascinating Spanish and Indian cultures, the romantic allure of the Old West, and an easy-going lifestyle, are just a few of the reasons why Arizona has become such a popular resort area.

We begin with four days in Tucson - the “City of Sunshine” with a fascinating mix of Wild Western, Spanish, Mexican, and Indian cultures. Tucson is known for the flourishing beauty of the surrounding Sonoran Desert.

Next is Phoenix in the “Valley of The Sun”, which boasts more than 300 days of sunshine every year. The city is rich in arts, culture, and a wide array of culinary delights. The surrounding desert and the nearby Superstition Mountains offer an incredible diversity of wildlife.

After Phoenix we explore Northern Arizona, and finish in the desert playground of Las Vegas - a lively way to end our tour!

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada Rouge
- Mainly First Class hotels
- Full breakfast daily
- 10 dinners and 1 lunch
- “WOW - the Las Vegas Spectacular”
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Ottawa - \$7997
-
- Single Supplement - \$2190
- Montreal - add \$90
- Halifax - add \$190
- Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - deduct \$200
- Winnipeg - add \$290 (includes an overnight in Vancouver en route)

15 DAYS • FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 8

Tour Highlights:

- Tombstone - “The Town Too Tough to Die”, home of the legendary Wyatt Earp, Doc Holiday, and the OK Corral
- Sonora Desert Museum - world-renowned zoo, natural history museum, and botanical garden, all in one
- Musical Instrument Museum - a world of music focusing on cultures from all over the world.
- Canyon Lake - wonderful scenery along the red rock cliffs with various wildlife sightings
- Sedona - stunning “Red Rock” monoliths
- Grand Canyon - one of the World’s Natural Wonders
- Antelope Canyon - jeep ride through the most photographed (and breathtaking) canyon in the USA.
- “WOW - the Las Vegas Spectacular”

Day 1: Tucson. We depart for Phoenix. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel in Tucson (about a two-hour drive). This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: Tucson. We have a full day of sightseeing in and around Tucson. We see the city sights first before heading to Sabino Canyon, a desert oasis in the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains. The highlight here will be a tram tour through the stunning canyon.

Day 3: Tombstone / Tucson. Today we visit Tombstone - "The Town Too Tough to Die". As one of the most famous of all the old Arizona Mining towns, many treasure hunters came here to strike it rich. The town had a reputation for lawlessness, culminating with the infamous Gunfight at the OK Corral. An entertaining guide in period costume will bring the town to life with fascinating stories of the Old West, and the likes of "Big Nose Kate", Wyatt Earp, The Bird Cage Theater, and more. We'll have a chance to walk among the tombstones and read the unusual and clever epitaphs.

Day 4: Sonora Desert / Tucson. We travel through beautiful Saguaro National Park to the Sonora Desert Museum - a world-renowned zoo and botanical garden. The museum re-creates the natural landscape of the Sonoran Desert with more than 300 animal species and 1,200 kinds of plants along almost two miles of paths traversing 21 acres of beautiful desert. A light lunch is included onsite.

Day 5: Phoenix. We transfer to Phoenix, but before we check-in at our hotel we will visit the Musical Instrument Museum. With state-of-the-art technology, this unique museum allows one to hear and feel the sounds of more than 10,000 instruments from all over the world.

Day 6: Phoenix. This area is known as the Valley of the Sun, as it receives more than 4,000 hours of sunshine annually. Our city tour includes the beautiful campus of Arizona State University, the Capital Building, and Camelback Mountain. We also enjoy a walking tour of Old Town Scottsdale - a great place to revisit on a free day. This evening we enjoy a dinner and show at the Arizona Opry Theater.

Day 7: Canyon Lake / Phoenix. Morning at leisure. This afternoon we will enjoy more spectacular scenery as we take a boat ride on Canyon Lake, known for its interesting rock formations resembling people and animals. Listen to the tales and legends of the area told by the captain.

Days 8 & 9: Phoenix. Two days of leisure in which to soak up some sun, swim, shop, or just explore more of the Valley of the Sun. Your Tour Manager will offer suggestions. A wonderful western BBQ, with live country and western music, is included one of these evenings.

Day 10: Sedona / Flagstaff. A busy and very scenic day as we first visit Oak Creek Canyon, enjoying views of the marvellous strands of red rocks, and beautiful streams and valleys. Then we stop in Sedona - a quaint artists' colony town known for its magnificent red rock formations. We will enjoy a trolley ride to the most fantastic sights, and learn about the Western movies filmed here as well as Native American history. Later we proceed to Flagstaff.

Day 11: Grand Canyon / Flagstaff. Today we visit the Grand Canyon - one of the Natural Wonders of the World. The canyon is 15 miles wide, a mile deep and formed over millions of years. The most wondrous aspect of the canyon is that the walls change hue with every change of light throughout the day. There are many scenic lookouts, so bring those cameras. We return to Flagstaff and overnight.

Day 12: Antelope Canyon / Page. On this marvellous day of sightseeing we pass two Indian reservations and the vibrant Painted Desert. We enter the spectacular Antelope Canyon and enjoy a Navajo guided jeep tour through the Canyon's petrified sand dunes - a natural marvel created by wind, water and sand! We overnight in Page.

Day 13: Las Vegas. We travel to Las Vegas and our First Class hotel right on The Strip. The rest of the day is free for gambling, shopping, or some of the best people-watching in the world!

Day 14: Las Vegas. Our city tour begins at The Strip with its theme hotels. Look out for erupting volcanoes, dancing fountains, an Egyptian pyramid, the Eiffel Tower, and the Statue of Liberty. A visit to the historic downtown ("Glitter Gulch") includes a stop at the legendary Golden Nugget Hotel (one of the few hotels remaining from the Rat Pack era), displaying "The Hand of Faith" - at 61 pounds the largest gold nugget in the world! We'll also visit the Mob Museum and the amazing Freemont Street Light Show, which stretches 5 blocks with the world's largest video screen! After our Farewell Dinner, we'll attend *WOW the Las Vegas Spectacular*, featuring dancers, acrobats, jugglers, comedians, stunning choreography, 3D projections, and awe-inspiring holograms.

Day 15: Home. We fly home from Las Vegas.



Southwest Explorer

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada Rouge
- First Class hotels
- Full hot breakfast daily
- 10 dinners and 1 lunch
- “WOW – The Vegas Spectacular”.
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Winnipeg, or Edmonton - \$7997
- Single Supplement - \$2490
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$490
- Calgary - deduct \$100
- Vancouver - deduct \$300

- Las Vegas • Phoenix • Palm Springs
- Los Angeles • San Diego

On this holiday we enjoy the dry, warm climate of the U.S. Southwest and the area’s spectacular scenery and attractions. We will stay in:

Las Vegas (2 nights) - “Entertainment Capital of the World”. Our hotel is the *Horseshoe Las Vegas*, located right on “The Strip”. The hotel has a spa area, an outdoor swimming pool surrounded by palm trees, and a range of restaurant and bars.

Phoenix, Arizona (4 nights) - The “Valley of the Sun” is one of America’s most popular vacation areas with spectacular desert scenery, canyons and mountains. Our hotel, *The Embassy Suites Biltmore*, has spacious suites and offers a daily Evening Reception. The hotel is within a mile of Camelback Mountain - a great place to walk and experience the local flora and fauna; golf courses; the Biltmore Fashion Park, and Old Town Scottsdale with its great boutiques and art galleries.

Palm Springs (4 nights) - Surrounded by lush canyons and splendid mountains, this resort area lures the rich and famous, the nature lover and sunshine seeker. The

16 DAYS • FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 8

town’s ideal location ensures warm sunny weather year round. Our hotel, the *Homewood Suites by Hilton Cathedral City*, is located 5 miles from the renowned downtown Palm Springs district (regular shuttles provided) where one can find great boutiques, restaurants, galleries, and casinos. The hotel has an outdoor heated swimming pool.

Los Angeles (1 night) - Our hotel, the *Sheraton Universal*, is nestled below the Hollywood Hills, just steps away from Universal Studios and a short walk to the metro Redline, with easy access to Hollywood and other LA attractions. It offers a pool to unwind and lounge by along with a rooftop Starview Room for a spectacular view of Hollywood.

San Diego (4 nights) - We finish at the *Best Western Plus Hacienda Old Town Hotel*, which features a classic Spanish and Southwestern setting with colourful courtyards, patios and lush landscaping. It is located in the heart of Old Town San Diego - rich with restaurants, shops, and old adobe structures, and close to the Old Town Trolley, enabling further exploration!

Day 1: Departure to Las Vegas. We depart for Las Vegas (a direct flight from Toronto). Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel right on The Strip. Tonight is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: Las Vegas Tour. Our tour begins with a visit to the scenic Red Rock Canyon, with its dramatic sandstone rock formations. Then we return to the city and Glitter Gulch - the old downtown section, and also "The Strip" with all its theme hotels featuring volcanoes, a spectacular water fountain show, and reproductions of the Colosseum, the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty, and the Pyramids. Afternoon at leisure. This evening we enjoy the internationally acclaimed production "Wow – The Vegas Spectacular". Prepare to be transported into a world of fantasy with water walls, holograms, breathtaking acrobatics, dazzling choreography, and magnificent music!

Day 3: Phoenix, Arizona. We drive across the Mojave Desert to Phoenix, located in the Valley of the Sun - so-called due to its 4,000 hours of sunshine annually. A Western style BBQ dinner awaits us this evening, including live country and western music, and a chance to do some fancy line dancing.

Day 4: Phoenix / Scottsdale Tour. On our full-day tour of Phoenix and Scottsdale we see the beautiful campus of Arizona State University, the man-made lake at Tempe, the Country Club Estates, Camelback Mountain, and more. We finish in Old Town Scottsdale for a stroll through the pedestrian streets with their many art galleries, boutiques, cafes, restaurants, and bars. This evening we enjoy an entertaining dinner-show.

Day 5: Heard Museum / Canyon Lake. We first visit the internationally acclaimed Heard Museum, to discover the rich Native heritage of the Southwest. You will enjoy the extensive collection of native artifacts. In the afternoon spectacular scenery awaits as we enjoy a cruise on an old fashioned boat on Canyon Lake. We see interesting rock formations that resemble people and animals while being entertained by the tales told by the ship's Captain. Dinner will be at the famous Organ Stop with its' mighty Wurlitzer.

Day 6: Phoenix / Scottsdale at Leisure. A full day of leisure to enjoy Phoenix & Scottsdale. Perhaps visit the Musical Instrument Museum (one of the largest such museum in the world with a collection of over 15,000 musical instruments from 200 countries), or Taliesin West (A Historic Landmark of Architect Frank Lloyd Wright). There is so much to see and do, and your Tour Manager will be on hand with suggestions.

Day 7: Palm Springs. A drive through the desert brings us to the Palm Springs area for a 4-night stay.

Day 8: Palm Springs Tour. Our guided tour of Palm Springs includes the homes of some of the movie stars, past and present. We will also see some of the beautiful desert scenery, including a gentle walk in Indian Canyon. Tonight, enjoy "Villagefest" - the lively Street Fair of Palm Springs!

Day 9: Joshua Tree National Park / Palm Springs. Today we visit Joshua Tree National Park, a veritable treasury of wildlife and plants. The wildflowers, palm groves, colourful canyons, surreal geological features, and breathtaking vistas make this one of the world's richest living museums.

Day 10: Palm Springs at Leisure. A day of leisure to just relax by the pool or enjoy the many things to do in Palm Springs. Your Tour Manager will offer suggestions.

Day 11: Los Angeles. We head to Los Angeles, and on our guided city tour we'll see many famous landmarks of the "City of Angels" including architectural icons of the downtown area, Beverly Hills, Farmer's Market, and Rodeo Drive. We'll also walk the star-lined streets of Hollywood.

Day 12: Coastal Tour / San Diego. We tour the California Riviera - Dana Point, Laguna and Newport Beach, where we'll enjoy a leisurely cruise in the harbour. We'll also visit the beautiful Sherman Gardens, and Mission San Juan - one of the most important of the 18th century Franciscan missions. We end up at our hotel in San Diego for a 4-night stay.

Day 13: San Diego Tour. On our guided city tour of both the Old and New Towns we see Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument (spectacular views of San Diego), Balboa Park (1,200-acre urban cultural park and home to the world-famous San Diego Zoo), Mission Bay, and finish with a walk through Old Town.

Day 14: San Diego at Leisure. A day of leisure to enjoy this coastal city. You may wish to explore in the Gas Lamp Quarter or Seaport Village, or visit Mission San Diego, the San Diego Zoo, or even hop on the local tram to the border of Tijuana!

Day 15: San Diego / Harbour Cruise. This morning we'll hop on the trolley in Old Town, ride to the waterfront and embark on a narrated cruise - an opportunity to see this beautiful city from different vantage points such as Point Loma, the North Island Naval Station, the Submarine Base, and the Coronado Bridge. Later you may want to take the trolley to different areas of the city. Tonight is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 16: Home. We fly home from San Diego.



Palm Springs California

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada Rouge (direct flights between Toronto or Vancouver, and Palm Springs)
- First Class hotel accommodation as described
- Full hot breakfast daily, 8 dinners and 4 lunches
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

February 8 *1-Bedroom Suite* - \$7197
 2-Bedroom Suite - \$7797

.....
February 22 *1-Bedroom Suite* - \$6997
 2-Bedroom Suite - \$7597

-
- Single Supplement (*1-Bedroom Suite*) - \$2190
 - Montreal - add \$190. Ottawa - add \$290. Halifax - add \$390
 - Edmonton or Calgary - add \$90 (includes a Vancouver overnight)
 - Winnipeg - add \$590 (includes a Toronto overnight)
 - Vancouver - deduct \$300

Since its early days in the 1930s as a magnet for Hollywood stars, Palm Springs has lured not only the rich and the famous, but also the nature lover ... plus anyone who craves winter sunshine!

The Cahuilla Native Americans named this area Agua Caliente (Hot Water) due to the healing waters of its warm mineral springs. The desert's stunning natural beauty, a unique setting that remains warm, dry, and balmy all year round (the area boasts 350 days of sunshine annually), and the pure clean air are major reasons for the area's popularity. In and around Palm Springs there are splendid mountains, lush canyons and thousands of palm trees. Despite all the changes over the years, the town of Palm Springs continues to preserve its intimate village feeling.

Our hotel, the *Homewood Suites by Hilton Cathedral City* is in Greater Palm Springs (on the border of Palm Springs and Cathedral City), nestled up against the San Jacinto Mountain Range with magical sunsets as a colourful backdrop. The hotel is located just 5 miles from the renowned downtown Palm Springs district, with its dazzling options for shopping and dining, and our coach will be with us at the hotel throughout our stay in order to

15 DAYS • 2 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 8 - 22

FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 7

provide shuttles into town during our days at leisure. The hotel offers fine amenities and services, and is located near golf courses and diverse recreational facilities.

Our suites will include a kitchen with a breakfast bar and living room, and separate bedroom(s). Choose between a *1-Bedroom Suite* (king-sized bed or 2 queen-size beds in the bedroom) or a *2-Bedroom Suite* (king-size bed in each room). Other hotel features include:

- Weekly Evening Socials offering beer, wine and snacks
- Backyard BBQ Pavilion and an outdoor fire pit
- Outdoor heated swimming pool
- An onsite 24-hour convenience store as well as a 24-hour Fitness Room
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Self-service laundry room

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Palm Springs and transfer to our hotel. This evening we enjoy a Welcome Reception.

Day 2: “Rich and Famous Tour”. Since the 1930’s, Palm Springs has been the playground of the well-to-do. Today we enjoy a guided “Rich and Famous” tour, visiting famous neighbourhoods of star-studded homes such as the Las Palmas area, comprised of custom-built homes of diverse architecture. You’ll hear stories and secrets of the stars who frequented Palm Springs including Bing Crosby, Hedy Lamarr, Elvis Presley, the Rat Pack, Marilyn Monroe, Liz Taylor, Zsa Zsa Gabor, and more! This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Coastal Tour / Harbour Cruise / Mission San Juan Capistrano. Our full-day guided tour of California’s picturesque coast begins with a casual harbour cruise at Newport Beach. Then we stop in the artistic resort town of Laguna, and finish with a visit to the historic landmark of San Juan Capistrano Mission - legendary for the cliff swallows that migrate 6,000 miles from Argentina to San Juan Capistrano in large groups each year.

Day 4: Indian Canyon / Date Farm. We begin with a leisurely nature hike into the famous Indian Canyon, one of the many beautiful natural highlights of this area. Our guide will give us information about the plants, animals, native lore, and history of the area. Later, since the Coachella Valley is known as the Date Capital, we will visit a date garden.

Day 5: At Leisure / Jazz Show. A free day to enjoy Palm Springs and area. There is a wide array of attractions and activities to enjoy. Your Tour Manager will be happy to offer suggestions. Our coach will be on hand to provide shuttles to and from Palm Springs’ renowned downtown district with its restaurants, boutiques, galleries, and casinos. This evening we enjoy a jazz show at *Jazzville* - a live jazz scene featuring state-of-the-art sound and lighting with pristine acoustics and plush seating. Cocktails and wine are available throughout the show.

Day 6: Sunnylands Center and Gardens. A visit to the Sunnylands Center and Gardens, where many political leaders and celebrities of the 20th century enjoyed (and continue to enjoy) relaxing as guests at Sunnylands. The list includes the British Royal family and Hollywood icons such as Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Jimmy Stewart, Ginger Rogers, and many others. Seven U.S. presidents have used the estate to host world leaders, sometimes using this escape for reflection and to advance important international

agreements. The gardens and setting are spectacular, with the imposing San Jacinto Mountains as a backdrop. Our visit includes a guided tour (exterior) of this architecturally-significant mid-century modern home and its gardens.

Day 7: Living Desert Museum / Evening Street Fair. A visit to the Living Desert Museum, including a guided safari tour of this unique wildlife and botanical park. Lunch is included. This evening, we enjoy the weekly “Village Fest” Street Fair of Palm Springs, featuring craft vendors and food stands.

Day 8: At Leisure / Theatre Production. This evening we enjoy an entertaining show at one of the local theatres.

Day 9: Agua Caliente / The Taking of the Waters. We visit the Agua Caliente Cultural Center, where we will learn about the culture of the local Cahuilla Native Americans, and enjoy the opportunity to bathe in one of the most luxurious hot mineral spring spas in the USA. The site also features a boutique fitness area, an acoustic wellness lounge, tranquility garden, menthol dry sauna, eucalyptus steam room, halotherapy salt caves, and more.

Day 10: Los Angeles and Hollywood. We head to Los Angeles for a day of touring in the “City of Angels”. We begin our tour in LA’s downtown area featuring Olvera Street (where LA began), the Walt Disney Concert Hall, and more before heading to Beverly Hills and Hollywood. On our stroll along Hollywood Boulevard we’ll see the renowned TCL Chinese Theatre displays of celebrities’ hands and footprints; the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and an epic view of the legendary Hollywood sign!

Day 11: At Leisure.

Day 12: Joshua Tree National Park. Today we visit the stunning Joshua Tree National Park, a veritable treasury of wildlife and plants. The wildflowers, palm groves, colourful canyons, surreal geological features, and breathtaking vistas make this one of the world’s richest living museums. Lunch is included.

Day 13: Mount San Jacinto. A morning departure for Mount San Jacinto, where we will take the tramway to the summit and enjoy the glorious views of Palm Springs and its desert setting. Lunch will follow.

Day 14: At Leisure / Farewell Dinner. Our final day in the Palm Springs area, followed by our Farewell Dinner.

Day 15: Home. We transfer to the airport and fly home.



California Split

2 Centre Holiday

San Diego and Palm Springs

With a pleasant climate, varied scenery and endless sightseeing opportunities, it's no wonder California is one of North America's most popular holiday destinations.

San Diego. The sparkling oceanside city has a wonderful climate year-round and is great for sightseeing with its lovely parks, numerous bays and beaches, museums and art galleries, superb restaurants, excellent shopping, and close proximity to the Mexico border. Our hotel for 7 nights will be the *Hacienda Hotel Old Town* - in a classic Spanish and Southwestern setting surrounded by colourful courtyards, patios, and lush landscaping. The hotel is in the heart of Old Town, a historic part of the city with many restored buildings, old adobe structures, restaurants, cafes, and shops – a wonderful place in which to stroll.

Highlights in San Diego:

- San Diego Zoo - a world-renowned icon for 100 years, considered one of the finest in the world
- Harbour Cruise – the perfect way to see the sights, from historic landmarks to marine wildlife
- Temecula - historic town surrounded by vineyards

Palm Springs. The desert resort town is surrounded by splendid mountains, canyons and, of course, countless palm trees. The desert's natural beauty, warm dry

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast daily, 10 dinners, and 3 lunches
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal, in a 1-bedroom suite in Palm Springs
Depart February 21 - \$7397
Depart March 6 - \$7497

-
- 2 bedroom suite in Palm Springs - add \$250 per person based on double occupancy
 - Single Supplement - \$2190 (1 bedroom)
 - Ottawa - add \$190 (ground transport to Montreal)
 - Vancouver or Calgary - deduct \$200
 - *Add-ons below include an overnight in Vancouver
 - Edmonton - add \$190 Winnipeg - add \$290

• 15 DAYS • 2 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 6

MARCH 6 - 20

climate, and clean air make this the perfect winter getaway. Our hotel for 6 nights is the *Homewood Suites by Hilton Cathedral City*, located 5 miles from downtown Palm Springs (regular shuttles provided) where you can find boutiques, restaurants and casinos. Choose between a 1-Bedroom Suite (one king-size bed and a pull-out couch) or a 2-Bedroom Suite (a king bed in each room).

Highlights in Palm Springs:

- Natural wonders of Indian Canyon and Joshua Tree National Park
- Living Desert Museum - a desert botanical garden and zoo located in Palm Desert
- Theatre – professionally-produced Broadway musical

Our last overnight will be in Los Angeles, including a tour of the city and Hollywood.

All hotels have heated swimming pools, whirlpool and fitness rooms, or privileges at a nearby health club.

Day 1: Departure - San Diego. We fly to LA and drive along the stunning coastline to our San Diego hotel in Old Town.

Day 2: San Diego Tour. A full-day tour of San Diego and the surrounding area, which will take in Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument, Mission Bay, Balboa Park, and the Old Town. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

Day 3: San Diego Zoo. This morning we visit the world famous San Diego Zoo, with its renowned 100-acre botanical gardens which is home to more than 777 species of 3,200 animals. A guided bus tour covers most of the zoo grounds and aerial trams allow for viewing the animals from a higher altitude. The zoo is classified as a must-see, and one of the world's finest.

Day 4: Mission San Diego. As the Mexican border is just a tram ride away, today our guide will touch on the rich history, traditions, and culture of Mexico, and how it has influenced San Diego and Southern California. Then we'll take the trolley to the Mission San Diego de Alcalá (known as the "Plymouth Rock of the West Coast") - the first mission founded by the Franciscans in "Upper California". The road connecting the missions was known as the El Camino Real, or "The Royal Highway"!

Day 5: At Leisure. There is much to see and do, especially since your hotel is located in Old Town. You may want to return to Balboa Park's art galleries, museums and restaurants, or to Seaport Village - a charming area with a boardwalk, horse-drawn carriages and an 1890 carousel.

Day 6: Harbour Cruise. This morning we hop on the trolley in Old Town and ride to the waterfront, where we board a narrated cruise/tour of San Diego Harbour and Shelter Island. On the cruise we will see Point Loma, North Island Naval Station, the Submarine Base, as well as the Coronado Bridge and much more.

Day 7: At Leisure. Another day at leisure in San Diego.

Day 8: Temecula / Palm Springs. We leave San Diego, and make our first stop and visit in the quaint historic town of Temecula. The town is in an area known as "Southern California's Citrus and Wine Country", as there have been hundreds of award-winning wines produced by the 35 wineries in the area. After some free time in town we'll visit a winery for a Tour and Tasting, as well as a picnic lunch. After our visit we proceed to Palm Springs.

Day 9: Tour Palm Springs. On our morning guided tour we experience the world of the 'rich and famous'. Relive Hollywood's golden era as we pass by the former homes of such stars as Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, Clark Gable, Bob Hope, Liberace and Frank Sinatra, to name a few. We'll also enjoy a casual nature hike into the famous Indian Canyon - a lush oasis located within desert scenery. Since the Coachella Valley here is known as the Date Capital, later we will visit a Date Garden!

Day 10: Joshua Tree National Park / "Villagefest". Today we visit the stunning Joshua Tree National Park - a veritable treasury of wildlife and plants. The wildflowers, palm groves, colourful canyons, surreal geological features, and breathtaking vistas make this one of the world's richest living museums. Lunch is included. This evening is Palm Springs "Villagefest - a weekly colourful street fair with craft stalls and food stands

Day 11: At Leisure / Theatre Show. A morning at leisure. Our coach will be on hand to provide shuttles to and from Palm Springs' renowned downtown district. Or, relax at the hotel, take a swim in the heated pools or use the fitness room. In the afternoon we'll enjoy an entertaining performance at one of the local theatres.

Day 12: Living Desert Museum. We visit the Living Desert Museum, where we will enjoy a guided safari tour through this unique wildlife and botanical park. Lunch is included.

Day 13: Aerial Tramway. The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway - the world's largest rotating tram car, travels over 2 miles along the cliffs of Chino Canyon into the pristine wilderness of Mt. San Jacinto State Park. The tram rotates slowly, offering spectacular vistas of the valley below as it elevates to almost 9000 ft.! Stunning viewpoints, trails, and hikes can be found at the top.

Day 14: Los Angeles. We proceed to Los Angeles, where we'll first have some free time at the Farmer's Market. Then on our city tour we'll pass by famous sights such as Rodeo Drive, Sunset Strip, Beverly Hills, Hollywood, and more. A walking tour will take us into the heart of Hollywood to see the famous celebrity hand and foot prints on the Walk of Fame, and also Awards Walk - home to the Academy Awards. Tonight is our Farewell Dinner!

Day 15: Home. We transfer to the LA airport and fly home.



Hawaii

3-Island Tour

Oahu, Maui, and Kona

A string of lush islands set in a cobalt blue ocean, Hawaii is a tropical paradise where you can experience Polynesian culture, swim in waterfalls, enjoy a wide diversity of scenic wonders, and soak up the sun on golden-sand beaches.

Each of the islands has its own distinct personality and unique attractions, but perhaps Hawaii's most enchanting feature is the "Aloha Spirit" you will find in the Hawaiians.

We begin with a 5-night stay in the legendary beachfront Waikiki district of Honolulu on the island of Oahu. Waikiki brims with cultural activities, entertainment, shopping, and culinary delights. Our hotel is the *Courtyard by Marriott*, located in the heart of Waikiki and just a short walk from the famous Waikiki Beach. The hotel has a restaurant, spa, pool area and gardens, and all our rooms have kitchenette facilities and a balcony.

Our next stop is the Island of Hawaii (also known as the "Big Island"), home to a wide array of scenic wonders including Volcanoes National Park, the snow-capped peaks of Hawaii's highest mountains, lush rainforests and the jet-black sands of Punaluu Beach. It is also home to sacred Hawaiian historical sites, such as Hawaii's first missionary church. Our hotel, the *Royal Kona Resort*, has a dramatic oceanfront setting overlooking picturesque Kailua Bay. It is conveniently located within walking

15 DAYS • 2 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 9 - 23

FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 8

distance of the town of Kona which has a great assortment of restaurants, shops, historic sites and activities. The hotel has a restaurant, bar, oceanfront swimming pool, lush gardens and lovely, spacious guestrooms.

Our final stop is the island of Maui (the "Valley Isle"). Designated as the World's Best Island to Visit by most major travel publications, Maui offers a wealth of activities (on land and sea) and scenic wonders which include black, red, and white sand beaches, the soaring summit of the Haleakala Volcano, and the emerald peaks that tower above the lush Iao Valley. Our hotel, the *Royal Lahaina Resort*, is located right on Kaanapali Beach with its 3 miles of fine white sand, a championship golf course, a daily sunset cliff-diving ceremony, and the Whaler's Village shopping complex. Kaanapali, a historic whaling village which is now a lively resort town with world-class art galleries, is also a short drive from Lahaina. Our hotel has a restaurant, 2 bars, a beach activity centre, 2 oceanfront swimming pools, tennis courts, fitness centre with classes, scheduled activities, nightly live Hawaiian entertainment, lush gardens, shuttle service to Lahaina, and lovely, spacious guestrooms with balconies.

Holiday Inclusions for Hawaii 3-Island Tour

- 13 nights accommodation as described, plus late check-out on the last day
 - Full breakfast daily
 - Flower Lei greeting upon arrival
 - Full day tours of each of the 3 islands
- Honolulu city tour including the Pearl Harbour site and memorial
 - Spectacular Polynesian Dinner show
 - Visit of Volcano Park on Kona
 - Visit Maui's spectacular Iao Valley and the Tropical Plantation
- Special Farewell Luau - with traditional Hawaiian buffet dinner, cocktails & entertainment
 - All inter-island airfare and taxes (airline baggage fees not included)
 - *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST per person, based on double occupancy, from Toronto or Ottawa - \$9797

Single Supplement \$3990
 Montreal or Halifax - add \$190
 Winnipeg, Calgary, or Edmonton - deduct \$300
 Vancouver - deduct \$500



Bermuda

This little island in the middle of the Atlantic has one of the most beautiful settings in the world.

In Bermuda you will find legendary pink sand beaches, an ocean that is a hundred shades of turquoise, 170 varieties of semi-tropical flowers splashing colour and fragrance everywhere you go, pastel houses, stately mansions, ancient forts, narrow country lanes and Bermuda shorts (yes, local businessmen do wear them!) Add to that a warm, sub-tropical climate (good to know that Bermuda is not in the Caribbean) and old-world charm that's both historic and romantic, and it's no wonder Bermuda has been voted "Best Island to Visit in the World" by Condé Nast Travel Magazine 18 times since 1994.

The British heritage adds a colourful touch to your holiday; in Bermuda they drive on the left; serve tea promptly at 4:00; the policemen are known as bobbies; and cricket is the national sport. In the UNESCO World Heritage town of St. George some lanes are wide enough just for horses and carriages, and in the town you will also find superb museums and art galleries.

Our hotel in Bermuda is the First Class *Grotto Bay Beach Hotel*, located on a secluded and charming cove with 21 acres of naturally landscaped gardens with spectacular views of Bermuda's azure blue waters. The guestrooms

15 DAYS • 3 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 9

MARCH 18 - APRIL 1

MARCH 23 - APRIL 6

are beautifully-appointed with two doubles or one king bed, mini-fridge, coffee maker and an ocean view with private balcony or patio. Hotel facilities include a restaurant, bar, convenience shop, 3 private beaches, jacuzzi, tennis courts, exercise room, swimming pool, in-house movies, guest laundry and occasional evening entertainment. Tee-off times can be arranged at a nearby golf course, and there's nothing like riding the reliable, pink local buses for a fun mini-adventure!

The hotel is a 10-minute bus ride from historic St. George and 20 minutes from the capital, Hamilton (the bus stops at the resort entrance). There are many nearby attractions that you can visit by local transportation.

This relaxing holiday is best suited for those who enjoy exploring at their own pace, and the simple pleasures of the beach and tropical surroundings.

** Those joining this tour must be able to climb stairs, as there are steps and stairs in and around the hotel.*

Holiday Inclusions for Bermuda

- Flights with Air Canada Rouge (passengers from all cities fly each way via Toronto)
- First Class hotel
- Full breakfast and dinner daily
- Afternoon tea daily
- Manager's weekly cocktail party
- Panoramic island tour
- Bermuda Transport Pass - allows access to all buses and ferries on the island
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

February tour - \$6797

March tours - \$6597

Single Supplement - \$1990

** All add-ons below include an overnight in Toronto en route to Bermuda*

Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax - add \$290

Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$490



Cuba Towns and Villages 3-Centre Tour

• Varadero • Trinidad • Havana

Cuba is one of the Caribbean's most scenic, hospitable and safe destinations. This tour offers a wonderful opportunity to experience Cuba's vibrant culture, enchanting countryside, colourful history, pristine beaches, and friendly people.

We begin with a 3-night stay in the classic beach resort town of Varadero, known for its beautiful white sandy beaches and turquoise blue waters.

Next is a 3-night stay in Trinidad, the crown jewel of Cuba's colonial cities. The city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its historical importance, and is one of the Caribbean's best-preserved cities with cobblestone streets and neo-classical architecture. We'll enjoy an excursion to Cienfuegos, featuring Cuba's most beautiful bay.

Then we proceed to the lively capital of Havana for a 5-night stay, stopping en route in Zapata for a show of Cuban music and dance. In Havana we will sightsee in both the old and modern sections, visit the Ernest Hemingway Museum and take an excursion to Pinar del Rio - an area of picturesque valleys and dramatic landscapes.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Westjet
- First Class hotels
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily
- Local beverages throughout the tour (mineral water, soft drinks, and beer with all lunches, wine with all dinners). All beverages and local spirits while in Varadero
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$5797
-
- Single Supplement - \$1190
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$390 (includes an overnight in Toronto on the way to Cuba)
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$290 (includes overnights in Toronto in each direction)

15 DAYS • FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 5

We end with 3 nights back in Varadero, where we will enjoy 3 excursions.

Tour Highlights:

- Beaches of Varadero
- Cardenas, known as the "Flag City"
- Cienfuegos - *Pearl of the South*
- Boat ride through mangroves to visit an Indian village
- Trinidad, Cuba's most well-preserved old city
- Playa Giron Museum
- Old and New Havana
- Performance of Cuban music and dance
- Pinar Del Rio

* *This tour is recommended for the fit and active traveller who enjoys walking.*

Day 1: Departure / Varadero. We depart for the lively beach resort town of Varadero, and upon arrival we transfer to our hotel.

Day 2: Varadero. A day to relax, stroll or swim at the beach or enjoy the activity program and facilities of our All-Inclusive resort.

Day 3: Cardenas / Varadero. We first visit Cardenas City - known as the "Flag City" (we will see where the Cuban national flag was raised for the first time). We also visit a traditional sugar mill factory, where we will stroll through the sugar cane plantation and sample the island's famous guarapo juice. Then we board a century-old steam train for a memorable journey across Cuba's scenic countryside - past sugar cane fields, banana and orange groves and lush green hills. Finally, we visit the Oscar Maria de Rojas Museum - Cuba's second-oldest museum with important collections of art and history.

Day 4: Trinidad. We proceed to Trinidad for a 3-night stay. En route we stop in Guama where we visit a crocodile farm. Raised wooden platforms provide vantage points to admire these awesome beasts. We will take a boat ride through the mangroves to visit the historic indigenous village of Taino where we'll see first-hand how Cubans lived centuries ago. A delicious seaside lunch is included.

Day 5: Trinidad. We enjoy a tour of Trinidad, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its historical importance as a centre of the sugar trade in the 18th and 19th centuries. It is Cuba's most well-preserved colonial city. During our walking tour we'll visit Cantero Palace, the famous Canchanchara Bar (located in an 18th century mansion), and the Plaza Mayor in the town centre. There will be free time to explore colonial Trinidad on our own.

Day 6: Cienfuegos / Trinidad. We enjoy an excursion to Cienfuegos, a well-preserved colonial city with European flavour. The city has wide Parisian-style boulevards and elegant colonnades. Our city tour includes a visit to the colonial-style Terry Theatre and De Valle Palace, with its ornate architecture. We also enjoy a boat excursion on Cienfuegos Bay, and then explore Cuba's oldest botanical garden, which consists of more than 2,000 plants, including 280 breeds of palm trees, 65 species of figs and 23 varieties of bamboo, before returning to Trinidad.

Day 7: Havana. Our first stop today will be a visit of the Playa Giron Museum, located on the landing site of the Armed Cuban Exiles during the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961. Then we continue on to the town of Jagüey Grande, where we visit the Commander Museum of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. This museum of Cuba's historical and cultural heritage displays photographs, documents, furniture, armaments and other artifacts related to this building when it served as Command Post during the Bay of Pigs invasion. After our visit we proceed to Cuba's capital, Havana, for a 5-night stay.

Day 8: Old Havana. Our tour of historic Old Havana will include a visit to the General Captain's Palace and the Rum Museum where we will enjoy a sampling, of course!

Day 9: Pinar Del Rio / Havana. We tour the Vinales Valley in Pinar del Rio, where the world's finest tobacco is grown and the sight of ox-drawn plows will transport us back in time. Then we'll enjoy a boat ride through a local cave where guides will point out fascinating rock formations.

Day 10: New Havana. We enjoy a city tour of New Havana, including a visit to Revolutionary Square where you will see the Memorial of José Martí. We will also visit the Decorative Arts Museum.

Day 11: Havana. Today we visit the Ernest Hemingway Museum, one of the most popular museums in Havana. Located in a villa that was owned and occupied by the writer, this was the cradle of many of Hemingway's best works, including *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. Later we will enjoy a dance and music performance by the local community.

Day 12: Varadero. We proceed to Varadero and our All-Inclusive hotel for a 3-night stay.

Day 13: Varahicacos Ecological Reserve. Today we'll enjoy a city tour of Old Varadero before visiting the Varahicacos Ecological Reserve, with its natural caves, ancient burial grounds and unique flora and fauna. Later we'll see a lively dolphin show, always an exciting and heartwarming experience.

Day 14: Varadero. A day at leisure to relax on the beach and to enjoy the many facilities of our All-Inclusive resort.

Day 15: Home. We fly home from Varadero.



Trinidad and Tobago

Hailed as the true Caribbean, the dual-island nation of Trinidad and Tobago offers a unique holiday experience found nowhere else.

The warm, tropical marine climate here is especially enjoyable during the winter months, and while the lush rainforests and pristine white-sand beaches combine to make a perfect winter escape, it's the country's rich history, lively culture and warm, welcoming people that will make you feel totally at home.

On this holiday we will experience the best of both islands, starting with a 7-night stay in Trinidad's bustling capital of Port of Spain. This exciting city hosts the famous Carnival festival, great restaurants and shopping, popular Cricket matches and historic buildings layered within a multicultural setting and homegrown calypso attitude. While in Trinidad our touring will include a city tour of Port of Spain, a breath-taking coastal drive and beach excursion, renowned wildlife sanctuaries, a cultural tour highlighting the island's strong Indian influences, and an evening "Panyard" visit to experience the original steel drum music the country is passionately dedicated to. In Trinidad we stay at the *Hilton Port of Spain*, ideally situated in the hills overlooking the city, featuring all the

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast daily, 7 lunches, and 8 dinners
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on the inside cover*

COST:

- per person double occupancy
from Toronto - \$7797
.....
- Single Supplement - \$1990
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$190
(includes a Toronto overnight on the way
home from Trinidad)
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver,
or Edmonton - add \$890 (includes Toronto
overnights in each direction)

15 DAYS • FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 5

amenities of a First Class Hilton hotel, including a restaurant, bar, gift shop, room service, pool, tennis court and fitness room. Guestrooms are modern and include a private balcony.

We then take a short flight to the smaller island of Tobago - a relaxing tropical paradise where time almost stands still. Beautiful beaches, active coral reefs and lush rainforests with exotic flora and fauna make Tobago a nature lover's dream. An island tour and exhilarating glass-bottom boat cruise show off the island's endless beauty. Our accommodation for our 7 nights in Tobago is the *Coco Reef Resort & Spa*, a perfect combination of Old World charm and modern amenities. The private white sand beach is one of the best on the island with a specially built lagoon that creates a tranquil swimming area. You can choose from a range of water sports, book a spa treatment, or simply relax by the pool. Excellent local cuisine is available in two restaurants offering both buffet and a la carte dining options. Guestrooms include a balcony or terrace.

Day 1: Trinidad. We depart for Port of Spain, and upon arrival transfer to our hotel. Our Welcome Dinner will be at the hotel this evening.

Day 2: Maracas Beach. Today we drive the stunning North Coast Road to popular Maracas Beach. Admire the views of the Paramin Hills to the west with its plantations of herbs and spices, and thick rainforest to the east. Upon reaching the Caribbean Sea we stop for a spectacular panoramic view of the ocean, small islands that dot the coast, and surrounding bays. There will be free time to enjoy a stroll on the beach, perhaps take a short swim, or relax in the sun. Lunch at the beach will be “Shark & Bake” - a local Trinidadian specialty.

Day 3: Asa Nature Centre and Caroni Sanctuary. Today we visit the Asa Wright Nature Centre - the oldest of its kind in the West Indies and world renowned for bird watching. Join a leisurely nature walk or relax on the viewing veranda and spot wildlife and birds (more than 150 species of birds have been recorded). A buffet lunch is included before we depart on our visit of the Caroni Bird Sanctuary, where we take a scenic boat ride through the mangroves. Keep your eyes peeled for kingfishers, flycatchers, cardinals, and the national bird of Trinidad - the Scarlet Ibis.

Day 4: Port of Spain. Today our city tour shows us the historic buildings including the Parliament, Holy Trinity Cathedral, the National Library, and Independence Square. A visit to the Lady of Young Lookout offers a wonderful view over this unique port city. We will visit the Angostura rum factory, where the Caribbean’s leading brand of rum is produced, to see the distillery, learn about the founding family, sample a variety of local rums, and enjoy a lunch of traditional local fare.

Day 5: Trinidad. A day at leisure to enjoy the hotel amenities or explore the city further.

Day 6: Central Island Tour. Our tour of Central Trinidad highlights the island’s diverse culture. First, we visit a local market with fresh produce, then see Hindu temples including the Temple in the Sea, (built when the South Asians of the island were not permitted to build on cane land). We will have an opportunity to gaze up at the 85-foot-high Hanuman Statue. Considered a protector of the gods from evil powers, this sculpture is the largest

such statue outside of India. Lunch is included before we visit the East Indian Museum, and enjoy a demonstration of pottery making at a local shop.

Day 7: Port of Spain. Today is at leisure to relax at the hotel pool or explore more of historic Port of Spain. This evening we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and visit an authentic “pan yard” practice to enjoy the incredible sounds of the steel drum - the instrument for which Trinidad is famous.

Day 8: Tobago. We take a short flight to the small but beautiful and serene island of Tobago. Upon arrival we’ll transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure until dinner at the hotel this evening.

Day 9: Island Tour / Tobago. Today’s full day island tour begins in the capital, Scarborough, where we visit historic Fort George - one of the last old colonial forts in Tobago to be built, and the best preserved on the island. We then continue up the coast through typical Tobago countryside to Argyle Cocoa plantation, for a tour (and of course a sample of the chocolate!) Lunch will be at Jemma’s famed tree house restaurant with an array of local dishes. We return to our hotel via a drive across Tobago’s main mountain ridge, passing many small coastal villages, secluded beaches, and lush tropical vegetation.

Day 10: Tobago. At leisure to enjoy our beach resort, take an optional tour, or visit nearby Pigeon Point. This evening we will have dinner at the Blue Crab Restaurant in Scarborough, an experience you won’t soon forget!

Day 11: Glass Bottom Boat and BBQ Lunch / Tobago. Today we enjoy a glass bottom boat ride to Coral Gardens to see the wonders of Tobago’s marine diversity. We will visit Nylon Pool where we can take a dip in the crystal-clear water. We then head to Shearbird Point for a delicious BBQ lunch on the beach with time for a swim and a stroll on the beach.

Days 12 & 13: Tobago. At leisure.

Day 14: Tobago. A final day at leisure to relax at our resort hotel or explore the island further. This evening will be our Farewell Dinner.

Day 15: Port of Spain. We take a short flight back to Port of Spain to connect with our flight back to Canada.



Dominican Republic

All-Inclusive Holiday (Beyond the Beach)

The Dominican Republic is one of the Caribbean's most geographically diverse countries, with sandy beaches, tropical forests, stunning mountain scenery, tranquil mangroves, and amazing waterfalls.

If you delve deeper you will discover romantic colonial architecture, beautifully restored monasteries, charming cobblestone streets, timeless rural villages, and lively fishing ports. There is also a friendly, informal hospitality that invites relaxation, and it is the warmth of the people here that keeps visitors returning year after year.

We will stay on the popular north coast (Costa Dorado) of the island by the beautiful golden beach of Playa Dorada - one of the most stunning beaches in the Dominican Republic. Just ten minutes east of downtown Puerto Plata, this reef-protected beach boasts stunning, wide golden stretches that are Blue Flag certified for their water quality and user-friendly conditions. During our stay we will enjoy a coastal tour to the secluded Gri Gri Lagoon, stroll through a mangrove forest, and tour the charming fishing village of Rio San Juan. We will also visit two of Dominican Republic's most popular nature-based

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Air Transat flights (all flights via Toronto)
- First Class hotel as described
- Full breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages to enjoy any time
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person double occupancy, from Toronto - \$5497
.....
- Single Supplement - \$990
- * *All add-ons below include an overnight in Toronto en route to the Dominican Republic*
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$790
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$1090

15 DAYS • FEBRUARY 14 - 28

attractions: Ocean World Park for an exciting Dolphin Encounter, where you can meet these amazing mammals up close, and Monkeyland - a 5-acre nature sanctuary where we will have time to hold and interact with playful squirrel monkeys.

Our hotel is the First Class *Sunscape Puerto Plata Resort*. This All-Inclusive hotel is perfectly situated on the beach with manicured grounds of palm trees and tropical gardens. Make yourself at home and enjoy the tranquility! Amenities of the hotel include endless dining options: four à la carte restaurants, a buffet, a grill, two snack bars, and a café. The 24-hour dining options allow guests to enjoy late night bites. The variety of bars and lounges on the resort serve unlimited international and domestic brand beverages to enjoy any time. Our bright and spacious Deluxe Pool View guest rooms include air-conditioning, coffee / tea maker, in-room safe, minibar, and terrace or balcony.

Day 1: Departure / San Juan. We depart for the Dominican Republic, and upon arrival transfer to our hotel on the Costa Dorado.

Day 2: Costa Dorado. This morning we will have an information briefing after breakfast. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to enjoy the resort.

Day 3: Puerto Plata City Tour. Called the Amber Coast because of its rich deposits of the fossilized resin, Puerto Plata is a coastal resort city at the foot of the Isabel de Torres Mountains. Our tour will include the Brugal Rum factory, the Fortaleza San Felipe, the Amber Museum, Plaza Independencia, the Town Hall and Victoria House. We will complete our tour with a scenic cable car ride and lunch before returning to the Costa Dorado.

Day 4: Costa Dorado. At leisure. There is so much to do at our 5-star All-Inclusive resort. You may want to participate in one of the many offerings of the resort's activity program.

Day 5: Ocean World Park (Dolphin Encounter). Today we visit Ocean World Park, near the town of Puerto Plata. The park is a complete entertainment complex, elegant marina, and unique adventure park, and so it is a "must-see" attraction for both locals and tourists. It is the most advanced marine interaction park of its kind and boasts the largest man-made dolphin habitat in the world. Included in our tour will be an exciting Dolphin Encounter where you will have the opportunity to interact up close and personal with these fantastic mammals. A light lunch will be included along with some free time to explore the other attractions of the park on your own time before returning to the hotel.

Day 6: Costa Dorado. At leisure.

Day 7: San Juan / Gri-Gri Lagoon. This afternoon we will depart by coach for the town of Rio San Juan for a walk in the village, followed by a visit of the tranquil Gri-Gri Lagoon, where mangroves surround us as we enjoy wonderful views of the old city.

Days 8 & 9: Costa Dorado. At leisure.

Day 10: Cabrera Village. Today we visit a countryside school and a typical country house to see how the local farmers live off the land. We will enjoy sampling their organic products - fresh Caribbean fruit, roasted coffee and cocoa, then take a walk in the village of Cabrera and have lunch at a popular beach restaurant.

Days 11 & 12: Costa Dorado. At leisure.

Day 13: Monkeyland / Countryside House Visit. Today we visit Monkeyland - a natural jungle habitat in the Dominican Republic, home to friendly squirrel monkeys! After a scenic drive through the Dominican countryside, we'll have the opportunity to interact with these cheeky, friendly creatures in their natural environment. The sanctuary is also home to beautiful botanical gardens of native flora, well worth a stroll to view all the colourful medicinal plants, flowers and fruit trees native to the Dominican Republic. On the way back to our resort, we will visit a typical countryside home, where we'll learn about the history and culture of this beautiful Caribbean Island, discover traditional customs, and sample local organic coffee and cocoa.

Day 14: Costa Dorado. At leisure.

Day 15: Home. We say farewell to this friendly island and fly home.



Barbados - All Inclusive

Classy and chic, Barbados is famed for its soft white-sand beaches, perfect climate and distinct personality. The arts scene is vibrant here, shopping amongst the best in the Caribbean and visitors are warmly welcomed at local events from cricket matches to live concerts.

From the rugged beauty of the east coast to the serene elegance of the west coast, with acres of sugar cane in the middle, it is one of the most varied and scenic islands.

As the “Culinary Capital of the Caribbean”, Barbados brings together the influences of African, Caribbean, West Indian and European delights to create a unique culinary experience. Of course fish is a mainstay, including Flying Fish - a national symbol of Barbados, but your options range from elegant sophistication to funky street food.

Sightseeing on the island is a pleasure with many historic UNESCO World Heritage sites, splendid architecture and rich cultural attractions. But it is the friendliness of the people that will leave a lasting impression.

Our hotel during our stay is the beachfront *Barbados Beach Club* - a great-value, informal All-Inclusive resort located on the south coast in laid back Maxwell Gap. You may prefer to lounge by the beachfront poolside with a rum punch in hand. This is also the spot for an early

15 DAYS • 3 DATES IN WINTER 2024

JANUARY 25 - FEBRUARY 8

FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 9

MARCH 14 - 28

morning dip or to join a water aerobics class. Enjoy the water toys such as kayaks, paddle boats, and snorkelling equipment - available on-site and included in your stay. Within walking distance or a short taxi ride away is bustling St. Lawrence Gap with its many fun restaurants and pubs including karaoke venues, sports bars, and classic old rum shops.

3 meals daily, afternoon tea and unlimited beverages (soft drinks, juice, beer, wine, local spirits, cocktails and smoothies) are all included at the Barbados Beach Club. Choose between two on-site restaurants featuring an array of local and international cuisine throughout the day. There is low-key local entertainment during the evenings.

Hotel rooms are simply furnished and include individual air conditioning, safe, mini-fridge, complimentary WiFi, and private balcony.

1. Island Tour: This tour, which takes us all around the island, begins with a visit to Oistins village - once a major seaport and now home to one of the world's best open-air parties. Then we visit the historic capital, Bridgetown, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we see the 19th century Parliament Buildings and a synagogue (with attached museum) built in 1654 (one of the oldest Synagogues in the Western Hemisphere). On the west coast we'll stop in Holetown - the landing site of the first British settlers in 1627. On the rugged east coast we'll see the roaring waves pounding the shore, carving out natural pools in the coral. Lunch is included at a scenic spot on the east coast.

2. Gardens and Abbey Tour: We first visit the important historical site of St. Nicholas Abbey Great House and Distillery. Built almost 350 years ago, this sugar plantation is well maintained and has retained its architectural beauty. The distillery here produces award-winning rums, and our local guide will educate us on the history and rum making process at the Abbey. We will take a ride on a steam locomotive through the plantation fields and mahogany woods, ending with a breathtaking view from Cherry Tree Hill of the rugged East Coast and Scotland District. Our last stop will be at the Flower Forest Botanical Gardens, 53 acres of tropical trees and flowering plants which bloom year-round.

3. Caves and Critters: Our first visit is the geological wonder of Harrison's Cave. We'll board the electric trams and travel underground to discover the stalactites and stalagmites in their quirky formations, naturally flowing waterfalls and crystal-clear pools. We then visit the Barbados Wildlife Reserve and stroll through the four acres of forest, looking out for the famous Barbadian Green Monkey, deer, tortoise and beautiful peacocks roaming the grounds. The aviary here features brilliantly-coloured parrots and macaws.

4. Catamaran Cruise: We enjoy a scenic catamaran cruise along the stunning coast of Barbados. There will be several stops for a chance to swim in a tranquil secluded bay, snorkel at a sunken shipwreck and an opportunity to see the incredible sea turtles that inhabit these waters! An on-board lunch of local specialties and drinks is included.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS

- Flights with Air Canada.
- Moderate accommodation as described
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, as well as afternoon tea
- Unlimited beverages (soft drinks, juice, beer, wine, local spirits, cocktails and smoothies)
- 4 excursions as described above
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

Depart January 25 - \$7197

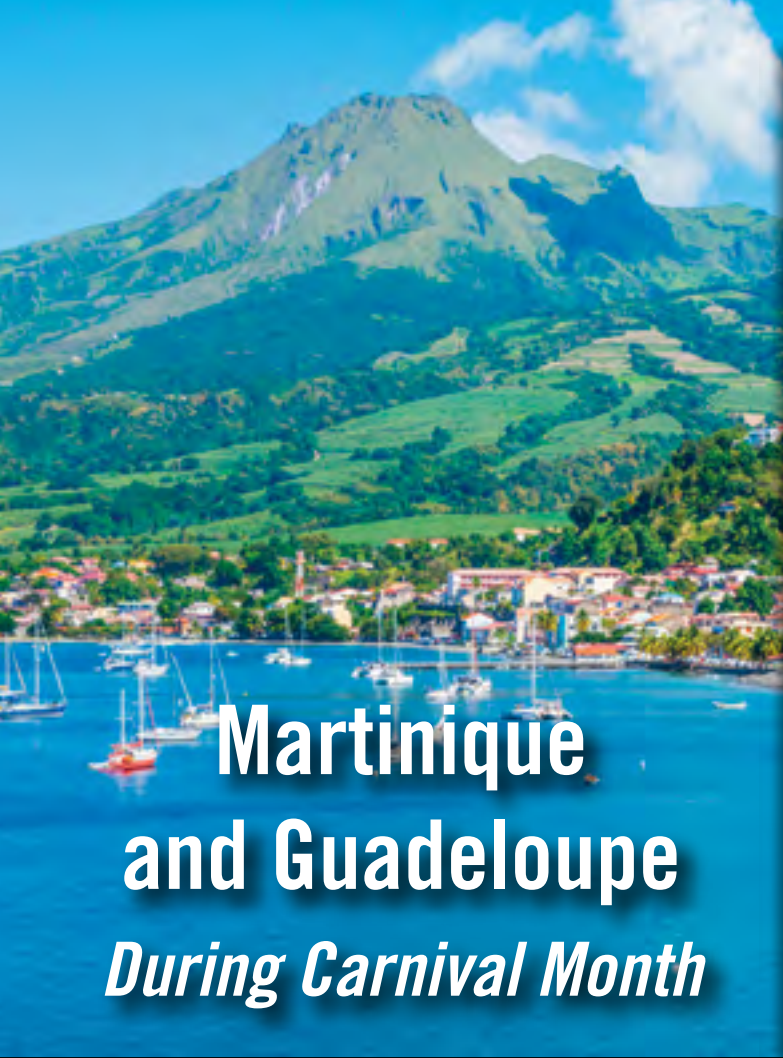
Depart February 24, or March 14 - \$7597

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Single Supplement - \$1590

Ottawa or Montreal - add \$190 (*including a hotel night in Toronto en route to Barbados*)

Halifax, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, or Vancouver - add \$290 (*including hotel overnights in Toronto each way*)



Martinique and Guadeloupe During Carnival Month

Exceptional natural beauty, a rich history, vibrant culture, distinctive cuisine and legendary hospitality, all combine to make the French Caribbean islands among the most enchanting destinations in the New World.

We begin with 6 nights at *La Pagerie Hotel* in Martinique's most famous beach resort area, La Pointe du Bout. The hotel is in the colourful town of Les Trois-Islets overlooking the "Baie des Flamants" and the capital - Fort-de-France.

Next is Guadeloupe - an archipelago of 5 islands with distinct landscapes, breathtaking azure seas, and white sand beaches. We will enjoy 6 nights at *La Créole Beach & Spa* - a beautiful beachfront property with daily activities, entertainment and delicious international buffets.

We will be here during the month of Carnival - one of the world's best carnival celebrations, featuring local music and colourful parades in villages all over the island.

Tour Highlights in Martinique:

- Southeast Region - Authentic villages, La Pagerie Museum, l'Habitation Clément, and Les Salines Beach

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada and Air France
- First Class hotels
- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 10 dinners (wine, water, and coffee included with dinners)
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Montreal, Toronto, or Ottawa (Village View Rooms in Martinique and Superior Rooms in Guadeloupe) - \$6997
- Toronto price includes an overnight in Montreal en route to Martinique (on February 1st)
- Ottawa price includes round-trip transportation to the Montreal Airport
- Single Supplement - \$1390
- Upgrade to Garden View Rooms in Martinique and Seaview Rooms in Guadeloupe - \$290 per person in double occupancy. \$550 single occupancy.
- Halifax, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$290 (*including an overnight in Montreal in each direction*)

13 DAYS • FEBRUARY 2 - 14
(From Montreal)

- Guided walking tour of Fort-de-France
- Northern Region - Balata Botanical Garden, Award winning Depaz Rum Distillery, St. Pierre's coastline and Volcano Museum, Mount Pelée, Carbet Mountain Range Rainforest and Beach, and more!

Tour Highlights in Guadeloupe:

- Guided tour of the lively town of Pointe-à-Pitre
- Scenic Grande Terre Island, including the Grand Fonds countryside and spectacular cliffs, Saint-François Pointe des Châteaux Peninsula, Sainte-Anne market
- Northern Basse-Terre Island - volcanic mountains covered in lush vegetation, charming hamlets, and marine cul-de-sac lagoons
- Guadeloupe National Park with its Crayfish Waterfall, Deshaies Botanical Garden & Sainte-Rose Ecomuseum

Day 1: Martinique. We depart Montreal for Martinique. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel in Pointe du Bout, Les Trois-Islets. The rest of the day is free until this evening's Welcome Dinner at the hotel's fine dining restaurant.

Day 2: Fort-de-France. We walk over to the marina and board the sea-shuttle to the capital, Fort-de-France. Our guided walking tour will show us the main highlights; the colourful central market with its endless stalls of local spices and produce, the Aimé Césaire Museum, and the famous Fort-de-France landmark - the Bibliothèque Schoelcher (library), built in France for the World Exposition of 1889, then dismantled and shipped here. Afternoon at leisure to further explore Fort-de-France or to relax at our hotel.

Day 3: North Island Highlights. We cross the bay by sea-shuttle and embark on a full-day tour of the Northern Region. We first visit the beautiful Balata Botanical Garden with its collection of tropical flowers and view points. Then we travel through the lush rainforest flanking Mount Pelée to a local restaurant for a delicious Creole lunch. We continue along the coast and visit the Depaz Distillery for a taste of award-winning rum. Next we discover the Volcano Museum, and learn how the former capital (St. Pierre) was destroyed by a volcanic eruption. We finish with a stop at lovely Carbet Beach before returning to our hotel.

Day 4: At Leisure. A free day to explore the colourful streets, boutiques, and galleries of Pointe du Bout, or to enjoy the local beach or the beautiful tropical gardens of our hotel.

Day 5: Southeast Island Highlights. Our full-day tour begins at Le Musée de la Pagerie (Pagerie Museum), housed in a well-preserved house on an old plantation (the birthplace of Napoleon's first wife). Then we visit Habitation Clement - an 18th century sugar plantation and rum distillery. The garden here is a designated "Remarkable Garden". We continue to the southern tip of the Island and the famous Les Salines beach, where we enjoy lunch and some time to stroll and swim in the turquoise water.

Day 6: At Leisure. A full day to unwind and enjoy our hotel facilities. You may also want to visit La Savane des Esclaves (the Savannah of Slaves) - a re-creation of a "free slave" village (circa 1800) depicting the life of slaves who escaped plantations to live off the land. Or, you may visit the Pottery of Trois-Islets - one of the oldest active brick factories in the New World. The village is home to many authentic Creole cafes and houses occupied by artisans and potters.

Day 7: Point-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe. We fly to Guadeloupe's Grande Terre Island, for a 6-night stay. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 8: Basse-Terre Island Highlights. Our tour of beautiful North Basse-Terre Island begins with a drive over the bridge and then along the "Route de la Traversée" through the tropical forest that leads to the National Park. After a stop at the pretty Crayfish Waterfall, we'll follow the coastline to the commune of Deshaies, where we visit the Botanical Garden showcasing exceptional tropical plants and rare varieties of birds (colourful Lorikeets, Macaws, Caribbean Flamingos, etc.) Then at the unique Ecomuseum we'll have a walking tour and learn about the history and traditions of the local medicinal garden. We finish with a workshop on cocoa (roasted cacao beans) and the traditional 'baton de Kako' - a 100% cocoa paste. Lunch is included today.

Day 9: At Leisure. Relax at our beach resort, or perhaps visit another Island of the Archipelago.

Day 10: Pointe-a-Pitre. We discover Pointe-à-Pitre, with its busy seafront and port, lively markets with fresh fish, spices and produce, monuments, traditional homes, and street arts. Included is a visit of the impressive Mémorial ACTe Museum (Slave Trade Museum), with its symbolic architecture and unique exhibits.

Day 11: Grande-Terre Island. The first stop on our tour of Grande-Terre is the commune of Sainte-Anne, known for its market offering culinary specialties and souvenirs. Then at Pointe des Châteaux (where the Atlantic meets the Caribbean), we'll see cliffs sculpted by the sea into dramatic castle-like formations, and the panoramic view that takes in neighbouring islands. After driving through cane fields and old plantations, we'll enjoy a delicious lunch before continuing to Morne-à-l'eau Cemetery - an historic monument featuring tombs decorated with black and white tiles. As we return to our hotel we'll enjoy the hilly landscape of lush valleys, planted with fruit trees and crops, enclosed by limestone hills.

Day 12: At Leisure. A final day of leisure in this incredible place. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 13: Home. We bid a warm farewell to Guadeloupe and head back home via Montreal.



Mexico Yesterday & Today

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast daily, 10 dinners (with wine), and 4 lunches
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$6997
-

- Single Supplement - \$990

** Add-ons below include a Toronto overnight en route to Mexico*

- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax - add \$90
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver, or Edmonton - add \$290

2-Centre Holiday in Mexico City and Puebla

Mexico has long been a favourite holiday destination for Canadian sun-seekers, however there's much more to Mexico than sun and sand. On this tour we'll go beyond the beach and experience the magic of Mexico City, where the history extends back many centuries and lives on in daily activities. We'll stay 10-nights in this wonderful city (at the *Sevilla Palace Hotel* right on Reforma Avenue, or similar) and explore the city's parks and monuments, colourful murals, friendly people, and rich history. Sample traditional foods in the busy markets and listen to the sounds of the street hawkers as they pass by.

From here, it's on to Puebla, for a 4-night stay at *Hotel Real de Puebla*, or similar. A popular destination for tourists, this city is culturally rich and connected to the past through art and architecture, street parades and pre-Hispanic artifacts.

From the first moment to the last, you're sure to fall in love with the culture and history of Mexico on this hand-crafted tour.

15 DAYS • FEBRUARY 7 - 21

Tour Highlights:

- Boat ride in Xochimilco Floating Gardens, a World Heritage Site
- Chapultepec Castle & the National Museum of History
- Visit the magnificent archaeological sites, Teotihuacan, Cholula and Cacaxtla
- Visit to the home of famed Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo, in the charming neighborhood of Coyoacan
- Visit to Puebla, The City of the Angels, and Cholula, the largest pyramid in the world
- Tour of the Casa Museo Mural Diego Rivera to see the mural "Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in the Alameda Park" and the remarkable Museum of Popular Arts
- Visit to Taxco, one of Mexico's most beautiful Silver Cities

** This tour is suited only for the fit and active traveller.*

Day 1: Depart / Mexico City. We fly to Mexico City and transfer to our hotel located in the most beautiful area of the city, the famous Reforma Avenue. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: Historic Centre of Mexico City. This morning we enjoy a city tour of Mexico City, including a panoramic tour of Reforma Avenue and guided walking tour of the Historic Centre.

Day 3: Coyoacan and Xochimilco. We tour the lovely neighborhood of Coyoacan including Frida Kahlo's famed Blue House / Museum, followed by a boat ride in Xochimilco Floating Gardens. Lunch included in Coyoacan.

Day 4: San Angel neighborhood and Saturday Market. San Angel is an elegant and very old neighborhood with cobblestone streets, magnificent colonial homes, historic churches and a wonderful bazaar that takes place every Saturday. For over 60 years, artists, artisans and designers have displayed their imaginative works at the bazaar, a true magnet for visitors and locals alike.

Day 5: Mexico City at Leisure. A day at leisure to enjoy this wonderful city. Your Tour Manager will provide suggestions.

Day 6: Teotihuacan and Guadalupe Shrine. We begin with a visit to the fascinating pre-Hispanic city of Teotihuacan, one of the world's most impressive archaeological sites. After lunch in Teotihuacan we drive back to Mexico City, and visit the Shrine to our Lady of Guadalupe, a powerful symbol of Mexican identity.

Day 7: Chapultepec Castle and Ciudadela Artisan Market. We begin with a tour to Chapultepec Park, where we'll see the Chapultepec Castle, which dates back to the colonial period and was the official residence of Mexican heads of state until the 1940s. After a pleasant stroll through Chapultepec Park, the city's largest urban park, we head to La Ciudadela, the most visited arts and crafts market in Mexico.

Day 8: Taxco. We depart for Taxco, one of Mexico's most charming "silver cities". We'll enjoy a fascinating walk along the colourful cobblestone streets, lined with impressive architecture and glittering silver shops. We'll stop at the Penitents' Sculpture, then at the main plaza we'll find Borda's house and the magnificent Santa Prisca Church funded by José de la Borda, a miner who became the richest man in Mexico.

Day 9: Diego Rivera Mural Museum and Popular Art Museum. Today we will learn about one of Mexico's most

important artists, Diego Rivera, husband of Frida Kahlo. We'll visit the Museo Mural Diego Rivera, home to one of his most beautiful murals "Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in the Alameda Park". After learning about this larger-than-life artist, we head to the Museum of Popular Art housed in an old fire house, which features Mexican arts and crafts.

Day 10: Puebla. We leave Mexico City and head south to the beautiful city of Puebla. En route we will stop and admire the view of Mexico's two most famous volcanoes, the Popocatepetl and the Ixtlaziuhatl. Upon arrival in Puebla we will visit a Talavera pottery factory and enjoy lunch in the main plaza before checking in to our hotel located in the heart of the city.

Day 11: Historic Center of Puebla. We enjoy a walking tour to the main plaza and the magnificent Cathedral, the Candy Street, the Plaza of the Frogs, the Palafoxiana Library (opened in 1646 and the first public library on the continent), the Chapel of the Rosary and the Artists' Corner. All in all, a memorable day! Dinner tonight will be in a very interesting museum/restaurant, La Casa del Mendrugo.

Day 12: Cholula, Santa Maria Tonantzintla and San Francisco Acatepec. We take a tour to the magical town of Cholula, just 30 minutes from Puebla, and known as "The Sacred City". It is said that Cholula may be the oldest settlement in America, inhabited without interruption from around 1100 BC. We will see the Great Pyramid of Cholula built by the Olmecs, and visit the site museum to learn more about this ancient culture. We continue to visit the extraordinary and colourful Church of Santa Maria Tonantzintla, which combines Christian and Pre-Hispanic features, and is considered the best example of Indigenous Baroque Architecture.

Day 13: Cacaxtla, Tlaxcala. We enjoy a tour to Cacaxtla Archaeological Site in the state of Tlaxcala - one of the most impressive archaeological sites in the country, famed for frescos painted over 1,000 years ago in pure Mayan style. After visiting the site, we will drive to the state capital, Tlaxcala de Xicohtencatl, for a traditional lunch and a special tasting of the pre-Hispanic drink, pulque. We return to Puebla in the afternoon.

Day 14: Mexico City. We drive back to Mexico City for some free time before we go to the restaurant where we will enjoy our Farewell Dinner, complete with live music.

Day 15: Home. We bid a fond "adios" to Mexico, and fly home.



Mexico's Yucatan

Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula has long been a Canadian favourite, and for good reasons: the blue waters and white sands along the coast, the friendly culture, and the fascinating history of the Mayans, all combine to provide the perfect antidote to a Canadian winter.

This active tour combines the perfect amount of beach time, with archaeology and history. The first four nights (and last four nights), of our tour will be in Cancun at a First Class beachside resort (tentatively the *Flamingo Cancun Resort*), situated on a beautiful stretch of white sandy beach, where we'll enjoy the relaxed pace of Mexico's Caribbean coast.

From Cancun we'll head inland to explore the massive Mayan site of Chichen Itza, where thousands of years worth of history has only been partially uncovered. The gigantic pyramid dominates the landscape but the stone carvings, temples, and ancient ballcourts will fascinate even the most casual observer. From here, we'll head to the thriving city of Merida, a charming and friendly city that is a favourite with retirees from Canada and the US. With Merida as our base, we'll visit several different archaeological sites, and learn about the Mayan culture.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast daily, 4 lunches, and 10 dinners (with wine)
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Ottawa, or Montreal - \$6997
-
- Single Supplement - \$990
- Winnipeg or Halifax - add \$190
- Calgary, Vancouver, or Edmonton - add \$390

15 DAYS • FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 4

Of course, it's not all about ancient history - Mexico is a vibrant blend of old and new, with lively traditions living on through street festivals, art, and music.

So join us for a colourful view of Mexico as we venture beyond the usual tourist hotspots to explore more of this fascinating part of the world.

- 8 nights First Class beach resort
- The white sands and blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico
- Guided Tour of Chichen Itza archaeological site - one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World"
- Spectacular Light and Sound Show in Chichen Itza
- Visit to Uxmal archaeological site
- Tour of Dzibilchaltun archaeological site
- Visit to Ek Balam archaeological site
- Tour of Tulum archaeological site

** This tour is suited only for the fit and active traveller.*

Day 1: Departure / Cancun. We depart for the bustling Mexican resort town of Cancun. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel.

Day 2: Cancun. This morning we will have an orientation tour of the town and a panoramic drive along Ocean Drive. The afternoon is at leisure. Before dinner this evening we will enjoy a welcome cocktail party.

Days 3 & 4: Cancun. Time to take in the sea, sun, and long sandy beaches. Perhaps enjoy a spa visit or take the local bus along the coastline to the town centre. An optional tour will be offered to Xcaret, home to a theme park featuring all of the old traditions of Mexico, with plenty of entertainment.

Day 5: Chichen Itza. We depart Cancun, and travel through the verdant countryside to the unforgettable ancient site of Chichen Itza. Designated as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, the stone temples and monuments here have a mystical appearance, situated deep in the lush greenery of the surrounding jungle. After our visit we head to our hotel to enjoy lunch and time to relax. Tonight, we return to Chichen Itza for the spectacular “Sound and Light” show at the Pyramids.

Day 6: Merida. We proceed to the beautiful colonial city of Merida, for a four-night stay. The afternoon is at leisure to check out our hotel’s spectacular pool and possibly explore Merida. Perhaps take a taxi to the old city centre for dinner. Your Tour Manager will offer suggestions.

Day 7: Merida. The Spanish Conquistadors built Merida, like many other cities in Mexico, directly on top of a Mayan city - but it is still possible to find many traces of pre-Hispanic history (even the stones of the city's cathedral come from destroyed Mayan temples). Our tour takes us to the Plaza Mayor, the commercial and cultural hub of Merida. It is surrounded by some of the town's most impressive buildings, including the main cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace, and the town hall. We also visit the old shopping area and colourful central market.

Day 8: Uxmal / Merida. Today we visit one of the most amazing Mayan sites, Uxmal. This spectacular site has buildings decorated with thousands of small, polished stones that make it unique among Mayan sites. We also

see the Nunnery Quadrangle and the Pyramid of the Soothsayer, both incredible sights. We'll have lunch in Uxmal before driving back to Merida.

Day 9: Dzibilchaltun / Merida. This morning we have a chance to deepen our understanding of Mayan history and culture with a fascinating lecture by a local expert. Then, we'll bring our knowledge to life with a visit to the impressive Mayan site of Dzibilchaltun. Dating back to 500 BC, this site was inhabited right up to the arrival of the Spanish, making it one of the longest continually inhabited sites in the Mayan world. We'll have a chance to explore, including the numerous stele that are considered masterpieces of Mayan sculpture.

Day 10: Valladolid. Our first stop is the splendid ruins of Ek Balam, once a very influential Mayan city, which features monumental architecture. We continue on to the beautiful colonial town of Valladolid for our overnight.

Day 11: Valladolid / Cancun. On our city tour of Valladolid we'll admire the majestic mansions and cathedrals the city is known for, before enjoying the sounds and colours of a local market. After lunch, we make our way back to Cancun, where we'll stay for the remaining four nights of our tour.

Day 12: Cancun. A day at leisure. After all of the sightseeing of the past week, you may just want to enjoy a relaxing time at one of the two pools at our hotel, kick back on the glorious beach and admire the Caribbean Sea, or sample a fine tequila at one of the hotel bars. Optional excursions will be offered.

Day 13: Tulum. Today we visit Tulum, one of the most famous and popular archaeological sites in the Yucatan. Three towering walls and a steep cliff that overlooks the Caribbean Sea guard this Mayan ceremonial centre. The site has more than 60 restored structures and was very important to the Mayan culture. After lunch in Tulum, we return to Cancun.

Day 14: Cancun. This is our last day to enjoy the beach or the pool, or perhaps do some shopping in the town centre. Tonight, we have our Mexican Fiesta Farewell Dinner.

Day 15: Departure. We bid a fond adios to Mexico as we depart for home.



Costa Rica

- 3 nights San Jose with excursions
- 4 nights Arenal Volcano and Hot Springs
- 7 nights All-Inclusive Guanacaste Resort

Chances are, anyone who has been to Costa Rica remembers this admirable Central American country to be a paradise on earth. This is a land of towering waterfalls, breathtaking cloud forests, simmering volcanoes, mist-covered hot springs and unspoiled jungles, where remarkable flora and fauna thrive (there is no place on earth with such an abundance of both tropical plant and animal species). This is a destination where you can see Blue Morpho butterflies resting in the trees, comical capuchin monkeys chattering amongst themselves and scarlet macaws gracefully soaring along their flight path.

We begin with 3 nights in the capital San Jose. Our hotel, the first class *Aurora Holiday Inn*, is conveniently located right downtown. Then we travel to Arenal with its dramatic volcano, and stay 4 nights at the beautiful *Arenal Paraiso Hotel* with its gorgeous series of natural thermal mineral pools. After Arenal we proceed to the province of Guanacaste on the Pacific Coast for a 7-night stay. Our all-inclusive resort, the *Occidental Tamarindo*, is located oceanfront near the charming coastal town of Tamarindo.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada (all flights via Toronto)
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast and dinner daily, and 12 lunches
- All drinks at the All-Inclusive resort
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person double occupancy, from Toronto

Depart February 1 - \$7397

Depart February 15 or March 1 - \$7597

-
- Single Supplement - \$1790

- Montreal - add \$190

**Add-ons below include an overnight in Toronto on the way home*

- Ottawa, Halifax, Winnipeg, Calgary, Winnipeg, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$390

15 DAYS • 3 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 1 - 15

FEBRUARY 15 - 29

MARCH 1 - 15

Tour Highlights:

- San Jose City Tour
- Britt Coffee Plantation Tour
- Irazu Volcano
- Orosi Valley
- Sarchí Handicraft Village
- Mineral Hot Springs
- Sky Tram and Sky Walk in the rainforest.
- Caño Negro Wildlife Reserve
- Palo Verde boat tour
- Catamaran Sunset Cruise

** This tour is suited only for the fit and active traveller .*

Day 1: Departure / San Jose. We depart for San Jose, and upon arrival transfer to our hotel for a 3-night stay.

Day 2: San Jose. This morning we see the historical monuments, museums and parks of San Jose, including the commercial district, Metropolitan Cathedral, National Theatre (an historical landmark), and the university campus. Then, since coffee is the country's main export, we learn about its production in an entertaining way - through a multi-medium, interactive tour. Of course we will have an opportunity to taste Costa Rica's finest blends. Lunch is included. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Irazu Volcano National Park. Today's tour takes us to the highest volcano in the country. The huge crater at Irazu is surrounded by an eerie moonscape and has a small lagoon at the bottom. From the top you can enjoy the wonderful view over the forest of Braulio Carrillo National Park and the Caribbean coast. Later we visit the Orosi Valley, which offers some of the richest scenery in Costa Rica - a landscape of rolling hills terraced with shade-grown coffee plantations, and expansive valleys dotted with pastoral villages. We will stop in the town of Orosi and see the oldest church in Costa Rica.

Day 4: Arenal Volcano and Hot Springs. We transfer by coach to Arenal. En route we will visit the town of Sarchi - a traditional craft centre where we can see the artisans at work, including on their trademark colourful oxcarts. The local church is one of the prettiest in the country.

Day 5: Arenal Volcano and Hot Springs. This morning we will experience the rainforest from the truly unique perspective of the Sky Tram and Sky Walk. We'll travel up the mountain in an open-air gondola to an observation platform to enjoy the view. Then we'll embark on our Sky Walk - a spectacular combination of suspension bridges situated 30 meters off the ground, and pathways through the rainforest. In the afternoon we have the opportunity to relax and rejuvenate in the thermal mineral pools, surrounded by lush vegetation.

Day 6: Arenal Volcano. A day at leisure to enjoy the hotel's hot springs or to spend time in the town of La Fortuna. Your Tour Manager will be happy to offer suggestions.

Day 7: Cano Negro Boat Tour / Arenal. A very scenic day as we head out to the lush countryside and take a leisurely cruise on the Sarapiquí River. While one can enjoy the glorious scenery on these trips, the emphasis is on observing animals and birds in the trees and on the riverbank. You might see howler monkeys, sloths, caimans, river otters and a variety of birds. Our boatman/guide will be spotting for us and you will be amazed at how quickly you can spot them too. Be sure to bring your binoculars and camera. Lunch is included.

Day 8: Guanacaste. We proceed to the coast for a 7-night stay at our all-inclusive resort.

Day 9: Guanacaste. A day at leisure to enjoy the sun and sand, or an optional tour offered by the hotel.

Day 10: Palo Verde / Guanacaste. Today we visit Palo Verde, one of the most important National Parks in Costa Rica. The park has some 12 different habitats including mangroves, swamps, swamp forests, marshes and saltwater and freshwater lagoons. Included will be a boat tour on the Tempisque River to enjoy the fabulous array of wild birds and myriad creatures such as howler monkeys (yes, they do howl!), green iguanas, crocodiles, and more.

Days 11 & 12: Guanacaste. 2 days at leisure to enjoy the sunshine and resort facilities.

Day 13: Catamaran Sunset Tour / Guanacaste. This afternoon we enjoy one of the highlights of our tour, as we embark on the ultimate catamaran tour along Costa Rica's Golden Coast. This adventure offers a perfect blend of relaxation and excitement, with an opportunity to snorkel and view incredible marine life. On board there will be a buffet of delectable snacks, and cocktails will be offered, as we view the stunning landscapes and seascapes of Guanacaste

Day 14: Guanacaste. At leisure to enjoy the beach, resort facilities, or one of many optional tours offered by the hotel. The last evening will be our Farewell Dinner.

Day 15: Departure. We transfer to the airport for our flight home.



Wellness Yoga Retreat in Costa Rica

This small-group retreat is ideal for anyone looking to fully relax and rejuvenate, while experiencing an authentic cultural experience, and nature at its best.

Our program includes twice daily yoga classes to align mind and body, along with activities to experience Costa Rica's traditions and impressive biodiversity.

The Talamanca Mountain Range is the perfect place to unwind and immerse yourself in an unspoiled and inspiring tropical setting. The climate here is very comfortable: warm and sunny during the day and cool in the evening. Here, nestled by the Chirripó River amidst the lush tropical forest, is the family-owned *Rio Chirripó Lodge* - a quaint 3-star boutique style hotel with rustic charm, charmingly-appointed rooms and breathtaking views of the valley and the Chirripó Mountain. Amenities of the lodge include a wonderful open-air lounge with a bar, stone fireplace and comfortable seating for evening gatherings, a fully-equipped yoga room, and a restaurant serving delicious cuisine with locally-sourced organic produce (some of which is grown right at the hotel). There are colourful gardens, a lovely pool and hot tub area with comfortable lounge chairs and hammocks, a spa room for treatments and massage and a cedar hot tub by the flowing Chirripó River.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Moderate First Class hotels
- Full breakfast daily, 7 lunches, & 8 dinners
- Twice daily yoga classes at *Chirripo Lodge*
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person double occupancy, from Toronto - \$7397
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- Single Supplement - \$990
- Upgrade to Deluxe room or private cabin (double occupancy only)
- add \$490 per person
- Ottawa, Halifax, or Montreal - add \$190
- Vancouver, Edmonton, or Calgary - add \$290
- Winnipeg - add \$490

9 DAYS • FEBRUARY 8 - 16

Tour Highlights:

- Multi-level yoga classes every morning and afternoon led by a certified yoga teacher while at the Lodge (10 classes in total and of course completely optional)
- Cloudbridge Nature Reserve guided wildlife walk
- Ballena Marine National Park visit including a gourmet lunch
- San Gerardo Secret Gardens guided visit
- Canaan de Rivas Butterfly Dome visit
- Coffee plantation guided visit, tasting and lunch
- Sound Bathing Meditation experience
- Interactive River Spa Treatment
- Costa Rican cooking class led by the lodge's Chef, and chocolate tasting

** Many other activities and sites can be enjoyed near the Lodge including; hiking and birding tours, river rafting, the Arte Mia Gallery, a visit with local food artisans, etc. Your Tour Manager will be happy to suggest and assist.*

Day 1: Departure / San Jose. We depart for San Jose. Upon arrival we transfer to *La Riviera Hotel*, and this evening we enjoy our first dinner in Costa Rica.

Day 2: Canaan de Rivas. After our Welcome Breakfast we head south to our hotel, located in the Canton of Pérez Zeledon and the community of Canaan de Rivas. After check-in and a lovely lunch, we will have an orientation tour of the lodge facilities, followed by some free time to unwind before our first sunset yoga class and delicious dinner.

Day 3: San Gerardo's Secret Gardens / Sound Bathing Meditation. We start the day with an invigorating yoga class and hearty breakfast. Then we take a leisurely walk to the neighbouring community of San Gerardo de Rivas and the marvellous "Jardines Secretos" (Secret Gardens). These exquisite gardens represent several decades of lovingly tended plant collections. Here we enjoy a guided visit and meander along the many paths through delicate orchids, bromeliads, heliconias, and tropical trees. Benches are scattered throughout so that you can enjoy the spring-fed pools and abundant bird life. We return to the lodge for lunch and the afternoon is free to enjoy the amenities until our yoga class. This evening we will gather by the fireplace and experience a Sound Bathing Meditation to the sound of musical instruments and crystal bowls - a relaxing meditation like no other!

Day 4: Cloudbridge Nature Reserve / Canaan's Butterfly Dome. Following our yoga class and breakfast, we drive to the Cloudbridge Nature Reserve, dedicated to the conservation and reforestation of the cloud forest habitat. We enjoy a guided tour and easy hike along the river trail past a huge waterfall, spotting birds and other wildlife, while learning about this special cloud forest and the reforestation work that has evolved over the last several decades. After lunch, we take a short walk to Canaan de Rivas' newest attraction, the beautiful Butterfly Dome - a true sanctuary full of flowers, fishponds, dragonflies, and a place to witness the mystical emergence of butterflies from their chrysalids. We return to the lodge for our evening yoga class and dinner.

Day 5: Ballena National Park. We take an excursion to Ballena National Marine Park, one of the most unique reserves in Costa Rica. The reserve was named after the

migrating humpback whales that frequent its waters most of the year. Visitors to the park and its pristine beaches may see the magnificent creatures and many other interesting animal species; colourful macaws, marine iguanas, dolphins, frigate birds, brown footed boobies, pelicans, sloths and the entertaining capuchin monkeys just to name a few. We will take some time here to explore this serene and peaceful place (and you may want to take a dip here too!) Afterwards, we will enjoy a gourmet lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the lodge for our sunset yoga class.

Day 6: Cooking Class and Chocolate Tasting. After our morning yoga class and breakfast we will join the Lodge House Chef for an entertaining Costa Rican cooking class, and tour that will take us through the journey of chocolate production from the cacao tree to the final chocolate product. Learn about the history, cultivation and harvesting of cacao beans before having the pleasure to enjoy various flavours and blends of organic chocolate. After lunch enjoy the opportunity to enjoy the lodge amenities or a relaxing massage before our sunset yoga class. We end the day with a lovely dinner.

Day 7: River Spa Treatment. After our morning practice, we will have some free time to relax and reflect, or participate in additional optional activities or tours. This afternoon at the lodge we will meet by the river for an Interactive Spa Treatment using local organic ingredients and the rejuvenating power of the Chirripó River. Then we enjoy our last sunset yoga followed by a scrumptious dinner - a memorable ending to our retreat.

Day 8: Coffee Plantation Tour / San Jose. After a last yoga class and a delicious breakfast we depart for San José. En route we'll stop at a working coffee plantation for a guided tour and to learn about the secrets behind growing great coffee. Starting in the nursery, we'll follow the growing cycle through to the harvest and selection of the finest beans. Learn how Costa Rica's unique climate provides perfect growing conditions for gourmet coffee beans. We proceed afterwards to *La Riviera Hotel* for our last night and Farewell Dinner.

Day 9: Home. We bid a warm adiós to Costa Rica and fly back home.



Panama

The Canal, the Culture and the Coast

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada Rouge
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast and dinner daily, and 7 lunches
- While at the All-Inclusive Resort - all drinks (wine, beer, spirits, water, and soft drinks) available all day
- Dinner-show with dance performance
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$7497
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- Single Supplement - \$1990
- Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax, or Winnipeg - add \$190
- Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$290

Panama is famous for its canal, of course, but did you know that this little country is also a cradle of a fascinating history dating back centuries; with abundant wildlife for the birder and nature enthusiast; and sunny beachfront getaways?

Add a welcoming climate and hospitable people and you've got a great vacation destination.

On this tour, we've combined the best Panama has to offer. We begin with 10 nights in the lively and historic capital, Panama City (at the *Radisson Decapolis Hotel*, or similar). We will explore the photogenic old quarter of the city, visit the diverse National Parks (which showcase the remarkable biodiversity of Central America), and we will enjoy a partial transit of the Panama Canal - locks and all! And to top off this interesting tour, we've included a stay in a Pacific oceanside all-inclusive resort (the *Sheraton Bajío Beach Resort*, or similar). This gem of a country will surprise and impress you.

Tour Highlights:

- Tour of Miraflores locks & IMAX movie about the Canal
- Walking tour in Casco Viejo with dinner in Plaza Bolívar

16 DAYS • FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 8

- Tour of sights along the Amador Causeway with a visit to Frank Ghery's BioMuseo with lunch
- Dinner at Tinajas - the #1 traditional dinner and dance restaurant in Panama
- Visit to Soberania National Park with a boat tour to Monkey Island and an authentic Indigenous Village
- Historic Panama Canal Railway train ride to Colon with visits to Aguaclara Locks, Chagres National Park to see the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Fort San Lorenzo and US Fort Sherman
- Panama Canal Partial Transit tour aboard a passenger ferry, cruising under the Bridge of the Americas, transit 2 famous locks, and pass through the Culebra Cut. Lunch included onboard.
- Trip to El Valle, Panama's famous valley, to visit the Golden Frog Exhibit, Macho Waterfall, the butterfly garden, and famous artisan market with lunch.

* *This tour is suited only for the fit and active traveller.*

Day 1: Panama City. We depart for Panama City, and transfer to our hotel for an afternoon at leisure. This evening is our Welcome Dinner

Day 2: Panama City and Canal. An unforgettable day at the Panama Canal Miraflores Visitor Center as we observe a parade of vessels, from cruise ships to freighters, transit the locks from specially-designed viewing platforms, followed by a film about the construction of the Canal. Next, we will explore Panama City, the historic sites, the Panama Canal Authority headquarters, and head down the Amador Causeway to view the famous PANAMA sign before our visit to Frank Gehry's BioMuseo. Enjoy lunch at a local Panamanian-style restaurant before a relaxing afternoon at leisure. This evening we will have a short walking tour of the old town of Panama, exploring Casco Antiguo, also known as Casco Viejo, a World Heritage Site, before we dine in Plaza Bolivar. Return to the hotel by shuttle, or remain in the city to enjoy a nightcap before making your own way back to the hotel.

Day 3: Panama City. A day at leisure for sightseeing, dining, or shopping. You may want to return to Casco Viejo to explore the markets and artisan shops. Your Tour Manager will be happy to provide suggestions. Tonight, we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant Tinajas, the #1 traditional dinner and dance restaurant in Panama.

Day 4: Monkey Island / Lake Gatun / Indigenous Village. Our excursion today takes us to Soberania National Park. Known for its birding, Soberania teems with wildlife and is the perfect place to watch for monkeys, sloths, the harpy eagle and more. A boat tour gives us the opportunity to spot wildlife in Lake Gatun's hidden bays and along the Chagres River. We will visit the authentic Embera village to learn about the community's history, art, music, and dance.

Day 5: Panama / La Vieja Ruins. This morning we embark on a drive to the first site of Panama City, founded in 1519. The new world-class museum complements the old world construction that remains today. Return to the hotel or, if you wish, visit the famous seafood market for lunch and free time in Casco Viejo.

Day 6: Panama City. Enjoy a day at leisure. Your Tour Manager will be pleased to provide you with suggestions and ideas.

Day 7: Colon / Aguaclara Locks. Today we head to the province of Colon on a historic Panama Canal Railway train ride. Our first stop is the brand-new visitor centre at Aguaclara Locks. Completed in 2016, the centre allows us to view larger ships transiting the lock. Next is Chagres National Park where we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Fort San Lorenzo, standing guard at the mouth of the Chagres River. Return to Panama City this afternoon. A buffet dinner at the hotel is included.

Day 8: Panama City. Enjoy a day at leisure. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant along the Amador where we will experience great views of the causeway, watch the sunset and see the city skyline come alive.

Day 9: Panama Canal Partial Transit. This will surely be a tour highlight for many! We experience the thrill of a partial transit through half of the Panama Canal on a comfortable passenger ferry. We board at the Amador Causeway, and cruise under the Bridge of the Americas, transiting both the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel Locks and passing through the Culebra Cut, the narrowest section of the Canal. Lunch will be served on board. Disembark at Gamboa and transfer back to our hotel to enjoy a delicious dinner and compare memories.

Day 10: Panama City. Enjoy your final day at leisure in Panama City before we transfer to our all-inclusive resort.

Day 11: El Valle. Today head to the hills and visit Panama's famous valley, El Valle, home to the nearly extinct golden frog. We will visit the Golden Frog exhibit, take a short walk to Macho Waterfall, and check out the butterfly garden before having time to experience Panama's most famous artisan market. A typico lunch will be included before we head to the all-inclusive Sheraton Bijao Beach Resort where we will spend the next 5 nights.

Day 12 - 15: Santa Clara. Your days at this Pacific Beach Resort will be spent at leisure enjoying the beautiful coastline, entertainment and amenities of our accommodation. We'll enjoy a Farewell Dinner on Day 15.

Day 16: Santa Clara. Final day at leisure before it is time to return to the airport for our flight home.



Wonders of Peru

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with United Airlines
- First Class and moderate hotels
- Full breakfast daily, 10 dinners, and 10 lunches
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$10797
- Single Supplement - \$1990
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$690
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$990

With the rare combination of breathtaking Andean landscapes, abundant wildlife, rich history, and exotic culture, Peru captivates visitors perhaps more than any other South American country.

On this tour we will explore 5 very diverse areas of Peru. We start and finish in the capital city of Lima, which features ruins from the Inca period, art galleries and museums, churches and cathedrals that date from the 16th century, and other major historical sites.

Our next stop is the Paracas Nature Reserve (a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site), dedicated to the conservation of local wildlife, and to the history of pre-Inca culture. From here we board a small aircraft to see the famous Nazca Lines - huge line drawings on the coastal plain that pre-date flight by many centuries, yet they can only be seen from the air - a mystery that remains unsolved!

Then we head to Arequipa, surrounded by snow-capped volcanoes, thermal hot springs, and the world's deepest canyons. From Arequipa we visit the Colca Canyon to marvel at the scenery and the flight of the Andean Condors.

Then we continue to Lake Titicaca and visit the man-made floating islands, where we discover an ancient way of life that has remained unchanged for centuries.

17 DAYS • FEBRUARY 7 - 23

Our last stop is the lovely colonial city of Cusco, with an excursion to the fabled Machu Picchu. This magical and spectacular site, discovered less than 100 years ago, is located 13,000' above sea level in a deep valley of the towering Andes Mountains. It is considered one of the most well preserved and beautiful ancient cities on the planet.

Tour Highlights:

- The capital city, Lima
- World Renowned Nazca Lines
- Arequipa, known as the "White City"
- Colca Canyon - twice as deep as the Grand Canyon!
- Lake Titicaca and the man-made floating islands
- Machu Picchu - a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Cusco - a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Inca ruins of Pachacamac, Andahuaylillas, Ollantaytambo and many more!

** This tour is suitable only for the fit and active traveller.*

Day 1: Departure. We fly to Lima, via Newark. Upon arrival we transfer to our centrally located hotel.

Day 2: Lima. Our city tour shows us the Old Town, Plaza Mayor, the Government Palace, the Cathedral, and the House of El Oidor. We also enjoy a guided tour of the Rafael Larco Herrera Museum, built on the site of pre-Columbian pyramid houses. Tonight is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Paracas. We drive along the ocean to Paracas, stopping en route at Pachacamac to visit the country's second largest Inca ruins - a sacred city dating to 900 BC, featuring temples and other ancient structures.

Day 4: Nazca Lines / Paracas. Today is one of the tour's highlights. We board a small aircraft for a flight over the world renowned Nazca Lines, which can only be seen from the air. We'll learn about the many theories regarding the mysterious Lines' origin and meaning. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 5: Paracas / Lima. This morning we enjoy a boat tour to Ballestas Island. During our short sea crossing we can see the famous El Candelabro, a huge etching in the sandy hill - considered the beginning of the Nazca Lines. The island is home to huge colonies of birds, as well as sea lions, penguins, and seals. Then we head back to Lima.

Day 6: Arequipa. We fly to the "White City" of Arequipa, high in the Andes. On our city tour we see the extraordinary architecture of the Convent of Santa Catalina, the Main Square, the cathedral, and the exhibit of the Sarita "Juanita" - a Virgin of the Sun who was sacrificed to the mountain spirits - recently discovered in a glacier.

Day 7: Colca Canyon. We proceed to the town of Chivay, located at the midpoint of the Colca Valley. Along the way see the surrounding volcanoes, a variety of flora, and possibly some of the local wildlife.

Day 8: Colca Canyon / Puno. We enter the Colca Canyon - twice as deep as the Grand Canyon! We proceed to the Cruz de Condors, a famed viewpoint to watch the condors gliding on the air currents which rise from the canyon - a spectacular scene with the river 1,200 meters below! We'll enjoy a boxed lunch, then continue our scenic drive to Puno.

Day 9: Puno. We embark on a cultural journey as we head out across Lake Titicaca to explore the islands of Uros and Taquile, and learn about the indigenous people and traditions. These man-made floating islands were constructed entirely out of reeds. The friendly local people are happy to welcome you to their islands, and share their history, culture and traditions.

The islands are untouched by the mainland's modernity. The local inhabitants wear traditional clothing and are known for their high-quality handicrafts. While the women make yarn and weave, knitting is actually done exclusively by men!

Day 10: Cusco. We transfer to Cusco and our hotel in the Sacred Valley, former home of the Inca's wealthy families. En route we view the magnificent La Raya mountain range and visit Pukara - a ruin of the fortifications built by the natives of the Andes, and the Inca archeological site of Andahuaylillas with its beautiful baroque St. Peter Church.

Day 11: Cusco. We first visit the Cathedral of Cusco and Temple of the Sun - the most important temple in the Inca Empire. Later we proceed to the ancient fortress of Saqsayhuaman, and then the picturesque San Blas - known as the "neighborhood of the artisans".

Day 12: Cusco / Sacred Valley. This morning we visit the small town of Chinchero where we'll enjoy an Andean weaving demonstration. Next, we'll explore historic Moray to see the magnificent terraced circles built for planting experiments. Later we visit the Inca fortress of Ollantaytambo where steep stone staircases and terraces lead to an inner temple.

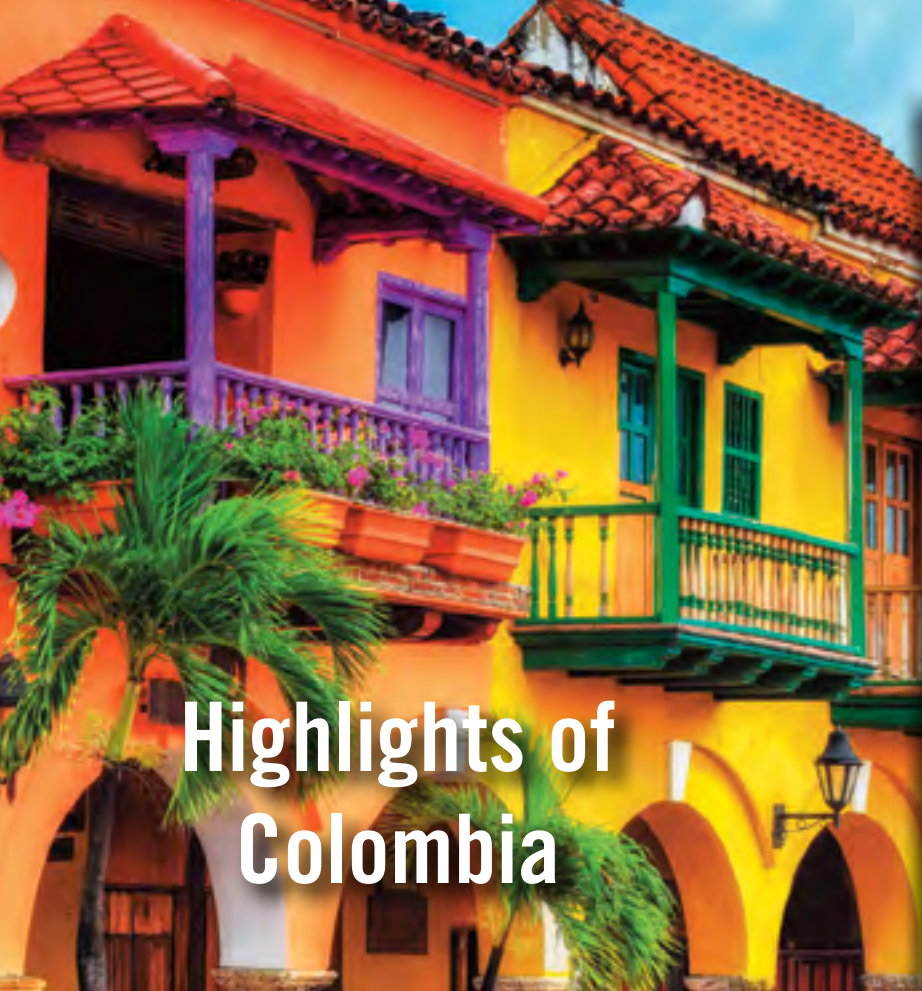
Day 13: Machu Picchu. We take a train to the incredible mountaintop ruins of Machu Picchu. Our guided walking tour will illustrate what the city looked like centuries ago. It was once a flourishing ceremonial and agricultural site, and today it remains a beautiful jewel in a remarkable setting between two peaks of the Andes. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 14: Machu Picchu / Cusco. After further touring of mysterious Machu Picchu we take the Vistadome train to Ollantaytambo. Overhead windows on the train enhance the views of the journey as we wind our way along the Urubamba Valley. Upon arrival we transfer back to Cusco.

Day 15: Lima. We fly to Lima, and the afternoon is at leisure.

Day 16: Barranco / Lima / Depart. Today we explore Barranco - considered to be Lima's most romantic and bohemian district, being the home and working place of many of Peru's leading artists, musicians, and designers. There are many colonial era houses, flower-filled parks and streets, and lovely beaches. Included will be a visit to the Museo de Arte Colonial Pedro de Osma - a private museum housed in a historic mansion. This evening we enjoy our Farewell Dinner, and then transfer to the airport for our flight back to Canada.

Day 17: Canada. We change planes in Newark and fly home.



Highlights of Colombia

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Copa Airline, and all domestic flights
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast, 10 dinners, and 4 lunches
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal - \$8397
-
- Single Supplement - \$1190
- Ottawa - add \$190 (with round-trip transportation to the Montreal airport)
****Add-ons below include overnights in Toronto in each direction*
- Halifax - add \$890
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$1190

From the mist-shrouded Amazon jungle, and soaring Andean mountains, to the ruggedly spectacular Caribbean coastline, and bustling 21st century cities, Colombia is a country of limitless diversity.

Tour Highlights:

Bogotá, Colombia's capital city is scenically set high in the Andes, and is bursting with culture and a rich heritage. A stroll through the narrow streets of the Old Town offers a glimpse into the city's illustrious history.

The beautiful green hills of the **Coffee Zone** (after all, Colombian beans are renowned as, 'the best of the best'). We will visit a typical coffee hacienda in order to learn about the growing and processing of the beans.

The **Cocora Valley** must be seen to be believed. Here, the velvet green mountains in this natural Cloud Forest are dotted with countless towering wax palms, and around every bend in the road is another charming colonial village. From some of the world's rarest orchids, to beautiful handicrafts, each town has its' own specialty.

Barichara. This Spanish colonial town is one of the most beautiful and well-preserved in South America. It

14 DAYS • FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 11

boasts golden-hued cobblestone streets and whitewashed buildings with red-tiled roofs and balconies covered in bougainvillea that have remained unchanged for 300 years. The town is a designated National Monument.

Cartagena is the undisputed "Queen of the Caribbean Coast". This fairy-tale city of romance and legends is surrounded by impressive centuries-old stone walls. The Old Town is a designated Unesco World Heritage Site, as it is one of South America's most superbly preserved colonial cities.

Aside from the main highlights listed above, there is no shortage of breathtaking scenery and fascinating history in Colombia. From amazing cable cars through the mountains, to the pristine white sand beaches of the magnificent Rosario Islands, we will certainly experience the best of Colombia.

We recommend this tour for only experienced travellers who are fit and active.

Day 1: Bogotá. We fly to Bogotá (with a change in Panama City), and upon arrival we are met and transferred to our centrally-located hotel. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: Bogotá. The first stop on our city tour is Monserrate, a vantage point offering panoramic views over the city. Then we will walk through the old city's narrow streets to the Plaza Bolívar - Bogotá's main square. We continue our walk to the Gold Museum, with its unique collection of pre-Columbian gold jewelry. Here we learn more about Colombia's indigenous population and the mythical story of the "Golden El Dorado". We end up at the Botero Museum (housed in a beautifully restored colonial house), which has a versatile collection of Colombian and world-renowned artists.

Day 3: Coffee Zone. This morning we proceed to the coffee growing region, enjoying en route the scenery of mountains covered by light green vegetation. We will visit a hacienda and follow the process of growing, harvesting, and peeling the coffee beans.

Day 4: Filandia, Cocora Valley, and Salento. We first visit the charming colonial town of Filandia, where we will stroll through the narrow streets admiring the colourful houses. Then on to the scenic Cocora Valley. This cloud forest is part of Los Nevados National Park, and this is where you will find the national tree and symbol of Colombia - the Quindío Wax Palm. We will drive in jeeps along the valley to admire the landscape and the palms. Our included lunch will be in a restaurant with wonderful views over the valley. After lunch we will visit the charming town of Salento. Here, we will enjoy the view from the mirador (look-out point) which provides extensive views of the valley and mountains of the National Park.

Day 5: Birds and Orchids. Today we will visit a finca (farm) with one of the country's biggest orchid collections (more than 200 species). The numerous hummingbirds attracted by the sweet water in the gardens round out our experience here.

Day 6: Zipaquirá / Villa de Leyva. We fly back to Bogotá and then drive to the salt cathedral in Zipaquirá - an imposing underground structure located within an active salt mine. We will marvel at the Stations of the Cross and the three naves of the cathedral - all of which are made out of only salt! The reflecting lights and shadows on the figures provide a mystical atmosphere to our visit. We then proceed to Villa de Leyva - a peaceful colonial town with narrow cobblestone streets. This evening we may admire one of the biggest main squares in Latin America (1.4 hectares) and the very well-preserved colonial buildings surrounding it.

Day 7: Villa de Leyva / Ráquira. We begin with an easy hike through the hills of Villa de Leyva, from where we can enjoy the beautiful views over the town and its surroundings. Our journey continues to Ráquira - a small traditional town unchanged since colonial times. On our way back to Villa de Leyva we'll visit a fossil museum to view an 8-metre long Ichthosaur (extinct marine reptile) that was discovered in the area. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 8: Barichara. We drive through a narrow canyon, then through the broad valley of the Suarez River with its hills blanketed in green foliage until we reach the gracious colonial town of Barichara. This afternoon enjoy a stroll through the tranquil, peaceful streets.

Day 9: Barichara. On our tour of Barichara we will visit several parks and squares, and also the very unique cemetery. This afternoon we will visit an artisanal paper workshop where we will learn how paper is made. We'll also learn about the construction method using the locally-mined adobe, a material that allows the rooms to remain cool on hot days.

Day 10: Barichara / Cartagena. We head to Panachi Park where we'll cross the Chicamocha Canyon in a cable car and enjoy the spectacular views of the canyon. We then transfer to the airport for our flight to Cartagena on the Caribbean Coast.

Day 11: Cartagena. As we enjoy the warm Caribbean breeze we will embark on a city tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Cartagena's walled city and fortress. We will visit the most important attractions in the city, and walk the streets that are bursting with boutiques, galleries, restaurants, colourful houses, and people from all walks of life. Afternoon at leisure. Your Tour Manager will offer suggestions.

Day 12: Rosario Islands. We take a private boat to the Islas del Rosario. Once we arrive we will drive along the coast until we reach the lagoon of Cholón. This mangrove area is protected from wind and waves and has many small private islands. Cholón's vegetation, climate and the views of the Caribbean Sea combine to provide the visitor with a uniquely wonderful experience. You may go kayaking, snorkeling, explore the mangrove area or just relax on the beach in the warmth of the Caribbean Sea. The underwater world of the mangrove is particularly impressive, with hundreds of starfish inhabiting the coral. A seafood lunch is included.

Day 13: Cartagena. A day at leisure to absorb the colonial atmosphere of Cartagena. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 14: Home. We fly home to Canada (via Panama City).



Southern Italy (Calabria)

Special Value Holidays

Late winter and spring is a lovely time of year in Southern Italy, as the pleasant mild climate is ideal for walking and exploring the small villages and towns of the Calabrian region - the “toe” of the boot of Italy.

Calabria is one of Italy's most untouched regions, off the major tourist routes, where old traditions thrive, and ancient festivals and customs are still enjoyed. Each turn of the road here reveals secluded valleys, remote hilltop villages, and architectural gems ranging from Greek and Roman ruins to Norman castles, Byzantine monasteries, and Romanesque cathedrals. The dramatic coastline features secluded sandy beaches and bustling resorts, including the city of Reggio Calabria with its lovely wide promenades.

We will stay in the seaside town of Siderno, which has a pleasant boardwalk along the seafront. Our hotel is the moderate *Grand President*, owned by a local family with a long experience of welcoming visitors. It is modern in design and conveniently located on the main route between Catanzaro (the region's capital) and Reggio. The hotel overlooks the Ionian Sea, which is accessible via the hotel's private pedestrian tunnel. The centre of town and its boardwalk are 2 km away and can be reached by road or a stroll along the beach. Visiting the nearby towns and villages is easily done by public bus.

16 DAYS • 3 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 4

MARCH 13 - 28

MARCH 20 - APRIL 4

Facilities of the hotel include a main restaurant, bar, tennis court, and fitness centre.

Guestrooms of the hotel are comfortably furnished with a balcony or terrace. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included daily, with complimentary wine and mineral water served with lunch and dinner (which are “table service” meals). WiFi is complimentary throughout the hotel.

Hospitality is a way of life in Calabria and this tour offers a unique opportunity to engage with the country and its proudly independent people in a personal way, to gain insight into their hearts and minds. We will explore the vibrant markets, visit tiny hilltop villages where time seems to have stood still for centuries, discover typical dishes of the region at a local farm, and enjoy language lessons, folklore and dance performances at our hotel.

Once you've immersed yourself in Calabria you'll no longer be a tourist, but forever regarded as a welcome guest.

**Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

1. We first visit **Gioiosa Jonica**, a typical village with an open-air market offering local produce. Our lunch today will be at the home of a Calabrese family.
2. A half-day tour to **Gerace**, called the "tiny Florence" of Calabria, thanks to its medieval appearance, many churches and a cathedral dating back to 1045.
3. A visit to **Siderno Antica**, a small and ancient village, to see how the villagers live and work. We'll enjoy a typical lunch with local products.
4. A full-day tour to **Reggio Calabria**, the region's largest town. Our sightseeing includes the surrounding countryside and a stop to view the Bronzi di Riace at the National Museum. We'll also stop in Scilla to visit the old fishing district.
5. A visit to **Locri**, one of the oldest Magna Grecian cities in southern Italy. The site was established by Greek colonists between 710 and 683 BC. A small museum houses locally excavated finds including Hellenistic pottery and votive statues.
6. A visit to a **local farm** to see how olive oil and wine are produced.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS

- Flights with Air Canada
- Accommodation as described
- Continental buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, (including 2 special Calabrese dinners with a local musician, and a gala Farewell Dinner). Wine and water included with all lunches and dinners.
- Cultural programme (Italian language lessons, cooking, music, dance, folklore and artisan presentations)
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST (per person, double occupancy, from Toronto)

Depart February 18 - \$4997

March departures - \$5197

Single Supplement - \$790

Montreal or Ottawa - add \$290

Halifax or Vancouver - add \$590

Winnipeg, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$690



Magic of Sicily

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Generous continental breakfast and dinner daily. Wine, mineral water, and coffee included with all dinners
- 4 lunches while touring
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Ottawa, or Montreal

March 14 - \$7797

March 21 - \$7997

-
- Single Supplement - \$990
 - Winnipeg, Halifax, or Calgary - add \$390
 - Edmonton or Vancouver - add \$590

Sicily is the Mediterranean's largest island and boasts a proud culture distinctly different from the rest of Italy.

It's a destination rich in culture, customs and tradition as evident in the local art, music, cuisine, architecture, and even its own language – and a wonderful choice for the history buff. It is also incredibly scenic, with a coastline of pristine sandy beaches, dramatic cliffs, and rocky shores with crystal-clear azure waters. Inland, you'll find rolling hills, fruit and olive orchards, ancient villages, and archaeological treasures.

We begin with 2 nights in Palermo, followed by 6 nights on the western side of the island in Mazara del Vallo, famous as one of Italy's foremost fishing harbours. Mazara is a diverse, multi-ethnic city where the people are known for their warm hospitality. The area has seen myriad rulers (including Arabs and Normans) which is apparent in the great variety of architectural styles.

We'll then stay 2 nights in Agrigento, enjoying the rich archaeological legacy of this region, before travelling to the eastern coast of Sicily for a 6-night stay in the elegant cliff-top resort town of Taormina.

Our tour will also include a sampling of local wines and regional specialties.

18 DAYS • 2 DATES IN MARCH 2024

MARCH 14 - 31

MARCH 21 - APRIL 7

Tour Highlights:

- Palermo's Duomo (Cathedral), Capo Market and Monreale
- The Greek archaeological site of Segesta
- Arab-influenced town of Mazara del Vallo
- Boat trip to the island of Mozia
- Historic centre of Marsala with lunch at a winery
- Valley of the Temples in Agrigento
- Cliff-side town of Taormina
- Giardini Naxos seafront boardwalk
- Riviera of the Cyclops and city of Catania
- Sicilian hilltop towns of Savoca and Forza d'Agro
- The ancient city of Syracuse

** Those participating in any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Sicily, with a change of planes in Rome.

Day 2: Palermo. We arrive in Palermo and transfer to our hotel for a 2-night stay.

Day 3: Monreale / Palermo. We travel to the hilltop town of Monreale, renowned for its Arab-influenced Cathedral covered in mosaics dating back as far as 1194 AD. We then visit the city of Palermo, including the Duomo (Cathedral) and the old town to see the Capo market selling fresh food and artisan products.

Day 4: Segesta / Erice / Mazara Del Vallo. Today begins with a visit of Segesta, one of the best preserved and most beautiful Greek archaeological sites. We then enjoy some time in the historical town of Erice, located on a mountaintop 750 metres above sea level overlooking the city of Trapani. Our included lunch will feature typical Sicilian fare. We then continue to Mazara del Vallo for a 6-night stay.

Day 5: Mazara del Vallo. This morning we enjoy a guided visit of the historical centre of town, to see the many Moorish and Norman churches and the beautiful cathedral. We will visit the Museum of the Dancing Satyr to see the famous bronze statue dragged from the sea by a local fisherman, and take a stroll in the Kasbah. The afternoon is at leisure.

Day 6: Mazara del Vallo. A day at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore the area at your own pace. This is a city with a fascinating mix of culture, history, ethnicity, and art. Stroll through the labyrinthine North African Kasbah in the city centre, see the bustling fishing harbour, and the beautiful Piazza delle Repubblica. We recommend to enjoy a coffee at an outdoor cafe in one of the city squares - you will not find a better place for people-watching than here!

Day 7: Mozia / Marsala. We enjoy a boat ride to the island of Mozia to visit what was once an ancient Phoenician city. We will see the original landscape of the salt marshes, windmills, and vineyards. We then see the historic centre of Marsala and enjoy a light lunch (and tasting) at a winery.

Day 8: Trapani. We enjoy an excursion up the coast to Trapani, a historic city with one of the best views of the nearby Egadi Islands off the western coast of Sicily. Upon arrival in the town we will meet with our guide who will show us Trapani's historical centre, including the iconic 17th century watchtower and the famous cathedral, built in 1102, with its impressive ceiling artwork.

Day 9: Mazara del Vallo. At leisure to visit, or revisit, some of the sites of this charming city.

Day 10: Selinunte / Agrigento. We travel to the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, and visit the archaeological park of Selinunte, which was a rich and extensive ancient Greek city on the south-western coast of Sicily. Then we proceed to our hotel in the Agrigento area for a 2-night stay.

Day 11: Agrigento. We meet with our guide and explore one of the most important sights in Sicily, the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento - considered one of the world's largest archaeological parks and one of the most impressive complexes of ancient Greek Buildings outside of Greece.

Day 12: Piazza Armerina / Taormina. We proceed to Piazza Armerina and visit the Villa Romana del Casale, one of the finest examples of ancient Roman villas, featuring enchanting mosaics. We then proceed to our hotel in the elegant cliff-top resort town of Taormina.

Day 13: Taormina / Giardini Naxos. We begin with a walking tour of Taormina, followed by some free time to enjoy the spectacular views, elegant gardens, cafes, and shops of this old-world resort town. We then enjoy the drive along the seafront of Giardini Naxos, and a stroll along the boardwalk.

Day 14: Catania / Taormina. Today we tour Catania, with its historical centre and famous fish market. We will have some free time in the main square, the lovely Piazza Duomo and main shopping street before we return to our hotel via a scenic drive along the Riviera of the Cyclops - a legendary stretch of coast north of Catania.

Day 15: Godfather Tour / Taormina. We visit the unspoiled and typical Sicilian hilltop towns of Savoca and Forza d'Agro as seen in Francis Ford Coppola's famous Godfather trilogy! We will enjoy lunch at a local pizzeria before we return to our hotel for an afternoon at leisure.

Day 16: Syracuse / Taormina. A full day tour to the ancient city of Syracuse on the island of Ortigia. We will visit the archaeological zone to see the Roman Amphitheatre and the Spring of Arethusa Fountain. There will be some free time to enjoy the historical centre.

Day 17: Taormina. A day at leisure to enjoy the lovely cliff-top town of Taormina or take an optional tour to legendary Mt. Etna. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 18: Home. We fly home, via Rome.



Malta Stay-Put Holiday

Blessed with a climate that's warm and sunny year-round and friendly, hospitable people, the Mediterranean island of Malta has been a favourite vacation spot of our travellers for many years. Bonus? Thanks to its British heritage, English is widely spoken.

Located off the coast of Sicily, Malta has played host to a great many cultures: Roman, Greek, Arab and of course British, all leaving their mark on its historic monuments, cuisine and traditions. There are many areas for you to explore on your own, each with its own charm, and thanks to an extremely efficient and affordable public bus system that traverses the island, exploring is easy and fun. Attractions include the picturesque harbour, the narrow shopping streets of Sliema and the pretty, hilly capital Valetta and its colourful craft markets.

We stay at the First Class *AX ODYCY Hotel*, a seaside resort located in Qawra on the promenade overlooking

16 DAYS - 2 DATES IN 2024

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 14

MARCH 12 - 27

Salina Bay. The small town of Bugibba is just a few minutes walk from the hotel and features a number of shops, cafes, bars and restaurants. Facilities of the hotel include a wide array of restaurant and bars, indoor and outdoor pools, and nearby fitness centre and spa. Guest rooms are modern, with contemporary design, and comfortably furnished. All rooms are *seaview with a balcony*. WiFi is complimentary throughout the property.

** Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

1. **Orientation Walking Tour:** An orientation stroll in the area around our resort as well as the town of Bugibba.
2. **Harbour Cruise:** An enjoyable cruise around the Grand Harbour with beautiful views of Valletta.
3. **Valletta 1:** An orientation tour of the capital Valletta, which includes a viewing of The Malta Experience - a delightful movie featuring the highlights of the island. We will then visit The Upper Barrakka Gardens and St. John's Cathedral.
4. **Valletta 2:** More sightseeing in Valletta, including a visit of the Casa Rocca Piccola Palace, the Living Museum, the National Archaeological Museum, and more.
5. **Malta - Grand Island Tour:** A full-day tour to take in many of Malta's major historic sites. We visit the catacombs in Rabat, and the old medieval walled silent city of Mdina.
6. **Marsaxlokk:** A visit to Malta's largest and most picturesque fishing village. See the vividly painted luzzu (fishing boats) bobbing in the clear blue waters of the harbour. Typical of Malta, the eye of Osiris is painted on the bow of the boats to ward off evil at sea. Enjoy a coffee by the harbour while enjoying the unhurried lifestyle of the village.
7. **Island of Gozo:** A full day tour to the island of Gozo, Malta's sister island, which has barely changed in hundreds of years. We will see small farms, churches, a cathedral and the citadel. Lunch is included.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS

- Flights with Air Canada and Air Malta (via London).
- First Class seaview accommodation as described
- Full buffet breakfast and dinner daily (wine, beer, mineral water, and coffee with all dinners) and 2 lunches
- 7 guided excursions
- A folklore night and talk on Maltese customs and traditions
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Ottawa, or Montreal - \$5797

Single Supplement - \$790

Halifax - add \$90

Winnipeg - add \$190 (includes a Toronto overnight on the way home)

Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$390



Sicily and Malta

Join us at the perfect time of year to visit two of the Mediterranean's most interesting and historic islands, each so different from the other.

We begin this delightful tour on the beautiful island of Sicily, filled with art, archaeology, history, distinct cuisine and famous wines. Sicily has been a Greek colony, a Roman province, an Arab emirate, and a Norman kingdom: truly an eclectic history. With a diversified landscape of orange and lemon orchards, lush forests, ancient olive groves, rugged shorelines, and crystal blue waters, there is no other place on earth quite like this Mediterranean gem.

After our stay in Sicily we take a flight to Malta. Blessed with a warm, sunny climate year round, friendly, English-speaking people, and 7,000 years of intriguing history, Malta, which had a long association with Britain, is a wonderfully-surprising vacation destination. The diverse nationalities that have occupied Malta over the centuries have blended to result in a uniquely-Maltese culture. The narrow meandering streets of the towns and villages are crowded with Renaissance cathedrals and Baroque palaces, and the countryside is dotted with some of the

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- First Class hotels
- Breakfast and dinner daily (wine and mineral water included with dinners)
- 3 lunches
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto
Depart March 7 - \$7597
Depart March 21 or March 28 - \$7797
-
- Single Supplement - \$990
- Montreal - add \$190
- Ottawa - add \$390 (with round-trip ground transportation to the Montreal airport)
- Halifax, Winnipeg, or Calgary - add \$490
- Vancouver or Edmonton - add \$690

16 DAYS • 3 DATES IN WINTER 2024

MARCH 7 - 22

MARCH 21 - APRIL 5

MARCH 28 - APRIL 12

oldest known human structures in the world, which is why Malta has often been described as an open-air museum.

In Malta we stay at the First Class *AX ODYCY Hotel*, a seaside resort located in Qawra on the promenade overlooking Salina Bay. The small town of Bugibba is just a few minutes walk from the hotel and features a number of shops, cafes, bars, and restaurants. Facilities of the hotel include a wide array of restaurant and bars, indoor and outdoor pools, and nearby fitness centre and spa. Guest rooms are modern, with contemporary design, and comfortably furnished. All rooms are *seaview with a balcony*. WiFi is complimentary throughout the property.

**Those participating in any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Palermo, Sicily with a change of planes in Rome.

Day 2: Palermo. We arrive in Palermo and transfer to our hotel for a 2-night stay. The balance of the day is at leisure.

Day 3: Palermo. Today our city tour of Palermo will show us the Old and New quarters, the Cathedral of Monreale – a stunning architectural treasure, the theatres of Massimo and Politeama, and the Capo Market.

Day 4: Erice / Marsala / Mazara del Vallo. Our tour of western Sicily continues with a visit to the medieval city of Erice, built an impressive 750 metres above sea level. In the afternoon we visit the ancient seaside town of Marsala, well known for its famed quality wines. Later we proceed to Mazara del Vallo for a 3-night stay.

Day 5: Mazara del Vallo. Today we enjoy a full day tour of Mazara del Vallo. This is one of Italy's foremost fishing harbours, and this region of Sicily boasts one of the most beautiful coastlines in the Mediterranean. Lunch is included at a local winery.

Day 6: Mozia. Today we enjoy a boat ride to the island of Mozia to visit what was once an ancient Phoenician city. We will see the original landscape of the salt marshes, windmills, and vineyards.

Day 7: Agrigento / Catania. We travel inland to the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, one of the most outstanding examples of Greek architecture, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lunch is included before we proceed to the eastern side of Sicily. Upon arrival in Catania we enjoy a walking tour of the historical centre of the city, before proceeding to our hotel for a 2-night stay.

Day 8: Syracuse / Taormina / Catania. We drive to the ancient city of Syracuse, and we'll visit the Archaeological Park with its Greek theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the island of Ortigia, and the Spring of Arethusa Fountain. After our visit of Syracuse we proceed to the charming cliff-side town of Taormina for a scenic walking tour, before returning to our hotel in Catania.

Day 9: Flight to Malta. We fly to Malta and upon arrival transfer to our hotel for a 7-night stay in seaview rooms!

Day 10: Grand Harbour Cruise. Morning at leisure. In the afternoon we will have a welcome orientation, followed by a delightful cruise around the Grand Harbour with beautiful views of Valletta.

Day 11: Valletta. Our city tour of Malta's capital, Valletta, will include the Upper Barracca Gardens, St. John's Cathedral, the Casa Rocca Piccola Palace, the Living Museum, and a viewing of the film *The Malta Experience*. The afternoon is at leisure and you may want to take advantage of the very user-friendly, inexpensive public bus system that Malta is known for.

Day 12: Gozo. On today's full day excursion we take the short ferry ride to Malta's second largest island, Gozo. Here we visit the sites of Calypso's Cave, the Citadel, Gozo Cathedral, Xlendi Bay, and the pre-historic temples. Lunch is included while in Gozo.

Day 13: Senglea / Cospicua / Vittoriosa. This morning our excursion takes us to "Malta's Three Cities": Senglea, Cospicua, and Vittoriosa. Afternoon at leisure. In the evening a local historian will give a talk on Malta and its traditions.

Day 14: Mdina. Our morning excursion to Mdina, Malta's old capital city, includes a visit to the Cathedral and the catacombs in Rabat. We finish at Ta' Qali Crafts Village where you can admire the local artisans at work and find some souvenirs.

Day 15: Malta, at Leisure. A free day to enjoy a stroll along the harbour, visit St. Julian's, see the countryside or try your luck at Sliema's popular casino. This evening will be our Farewell Dinner.

Day 16: Home. We transfer to the airport for our flight home via Rome.



Greece

Seaside Holiday

Ancient sun-bleached ruins, stunning blue skies year-round, a scenic mountainous mainland, an endless picturesque coastline, a timeless welcoming culture, and some of the world's freshest seafood are just some of the features that have been attracting visitors to Greece for centuries.

In the springtime the climate is mild and pleasant - ideal for walking and exploring. This lively holiday is perfect for those looking for a relaxing vacation with the opportunity to explore some of the towns, villages and historic sites for which Greece is world renowned.

Our hotel for this value-packed holiday is the First Class *Kinetta Beach Hotel & Spa*, set amidst expansive gardens, and located on a pebble beach by the sea in Corinthos, about 50 kms from Athens and 7 kms from the village of Theodori. Facilities of the hotel include a lounge, bar, gift shop, and main restaurant serving buffet meals. A special feature of the hotel is its spa facility, including a sauna, gym, heated indoor pool, and various spa treatments

16 DAYS • 2 DATES IN SPRING 2024

MARCH 31 - APRIL 15

APRIL 11 - 26

available at a nominal cost. There is also an inviting outdoor pool surrounded by deck chairs and lounges. Guest rooms are comfortably furnished, and feature a balcony or patio. There is free Wifi throughout the hotel.

In order to give insight into life in Greece and allow opportunities to meet with the local people, an activity program will offer Greek language and cooking lessons, folkloric shows, movie nights, visits to a monastery and a vineyard, as well as a series of lectures on mythology, ancient history, and modern Greece.

** Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

1. Athens. City sightseeing includes Hadrian's Arch, the Temple of Zeus, The Stadium, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the former Royal Palace. A highlight will be the Acropolis and the unforgettable Parthenon. After our included lunch at a restaurant in the city there will be free time to explore the Plaka - the colourful neighbourhood in the shadow of the Acropolis that's famed for its narrow lanes lined with shops, cafes and family-run tavernas.

**Visiting the Acropolis involves climbing many stairs. There may, or may not, be an elevator available at the time of our visit.*

2. Cruise. A one-day cruise to the Saronic Islands, including Aegina, which was a busy port in antiquity and is now a tranquil resort. We dock at Poros to enjoy a stroll through its enchanting harbour, and then on to another colourful harbour at Hydra. Lunch is aboard.

3. Delphi. A full-day tour through the mountains and magnificent scenery to Delphi, once known as the centre of the world. Here we visit the temple of the Greek god Apollo, a beautiful site that evokes the classical past of this area. Those who wish may climb to the top of the theatre for lovely views of the countryside. Lunch today is at a taverna.

4. Countryside Tour and Orientation. We see the Corinth Canal (the world's smallest ocean canal) and surrounding countryside, picturesque villages, and towns. A winery visit is included.

5. Athens by Night. We drive into Athens to see all the iconic sights beautifully illuminated. A special dinner with wine and a lively folklore show is included.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS

- Flights with Air Canada (non-stop flights between Toronto and Athens)
- First Class accommodation
- Buffet breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily, plus afternoon tea (wine, tea, and coffee are included with hotel lunches and dinners)
- 5 excursions as described above (optional tours will also be offered locally)
- Scheduled activity program as described
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST per person, double occupancy, from Toronto

Depart March 31 - \$6197

Depart April 11 - \$6397

Single Supplement - \$1190

Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$90

Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$290



Spain's Costa Del Sol

Located on the southern coast of Spain on the romantic shores of the Mediterranean, the Costa del Sol (“Coast of the Sun”) boasts 320 days of sunshine every year, enabling visitors to enjoy miles of sandy beaches, in addition to the delightful mix of Spanish culture, fascinating sites, and spectacular scenery.

Stretching for miles in both directions is the famous Paseo Marítimo promenade, a popular waterfront boardwalk that begs to be strolled along both day and evening. Kiosks and shops of every description stretch as far as the eye can see, and on the beach, rows of striped sun umbrellas dot the shoreline. You can walk to the centre of Torremolinos - a charming town with a bustling pedestrian-only main street that is home to myriad colourful boutiques, cafes, and bars.

Our hotel will be the lovely “all-suites” *Sol House Costa del Sol* located directly on the seafront promenade and famous Carihuela Beach, steps away from the luxurious Puerto Marina with its sleek white yachts and charming sailboats, along with many unique art galleries, shops,

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with British Airways, via London
- First Class accommodation
- Buffet breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily while in the Costa del Sol (mineral water, wine, beer, and soft drinks with all hotel lunches and dinners)
- Overnight in London on the way home, including breakfast and dinner
- Daily afternoon tea (except on touring days)
- 7 excursions as described
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

• 3 OR 4 WEEKS

DEPARTURES ALL WINTER

and restaurants. The hotel lobby is beautifully designed with polished marble floors and natural wood décor. There are 5 outdoor seafront pools (one is heated during the winter), an international buffet restaurant, and a nightly entertainment program with a variety of live music and shows.

Guest suites feature a large picture window and sliding doors out to a private terrace or balcony (mountain view). There is a separate living area with sofa and bedroom (queen or twin beds), and complimentary Wi-Fi. A limited number of upgrades are available to “Puerto Marina Sea View”.

Full breakfast, lunch and dinner (with wine and water), plus afternoon tea and coffee, are included daily.

Due to flight scheduling, we will overnight in London on the way home, breakfast and dinner included.

Included Excursions in the Costa Del Sol

1. A full-day tour to **Malaga**, Picasso's birthplace. A special Tapas lunch is included.
2. A full-day tour to **Granada** and the **Alhambra**.
3. A half-day tour to visit the prehistoric **Nerja Caves** and the mountain village of **Frigiliana**.
4. A half-day coastal tour to the resort areas of **Marbella and Puerto Banos**.
5. A half-day tour to the medieval town of **Antequera** including **Alcazab Castle and Najera Palace**.
6. The colourful **Fuengirola Saturday Market** - bargains galore, and the traditional village of **Mijas**.
7. A **Countryside Tour** - whitewashed villages and a plantation visit.

DATES & COSTS (per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal)

3 WEEK TOURS (22 DAYS)

- #1. February 1 - 22 ... \$5497
- #2. February 15 - March 7 ... \$5797
- #3. February 22 - March 14 ... \$5797
- #4. March 4 - 25 ... \$5797
- #5. March 19 - April 9 ... \$5997

4 WEEK TOURS (29 DAYS)

- #1. January 31 - February 28 ... \$6197
- #2. February 14 - March 13 ... \$6397
- #3. February 21 - March 20 ... \$6397
- #4. February 28 - March 27 ... \$6597
- #5. March 15 - April 12 ... \$6797

Ottawa - add \$190 (including round-trip ground transportation to Trudeau Airport, Montreal)

Halifax - add \$690 Vancouver - add \$790

Winnipeg, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$990

Passengers from western provinces - for an additional \$99 p.p. double occupancy (\$189 single)
you may overnight in Toronto before or after the tour.

Single Supplements 3 week tours - \$990. 4 week tours - \$1350.

Upgrade to "Puerto Marina Seaview" 3 week tours - \$275 per person, double. \$550 single
4 week tours - \$375 per person, double. \$750 single



Costa Blanca Special Value All-Inclusive Holiday

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air France
- Moderate hotel as described
- Buffet breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily (except for 1 lunch)
- All beverages (local wines, beers, and spirits) while in Benidorm
- 8 guided excursions (2 of which include lunch in a local restaurant)
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

The region of Spain known as the Costa Blanca (“White Coast”) is scenically centered on a large bay ringed with low hills - the perfect setting for our tour which combines the convenience of an all-inclusive resort stay with numerous day trips to the surrounding attractions.

A longtime favourite with British sunseekers, the region is flat (perfect for strolling!) and runs along a beautiful stretch of shoreline with long, white, sandy beaches blessed by the Mediterranean sun and sparkling-blue sea. This holiday is based in the classic beachfront resort town of Benidorm, which is fronted by a palm-fringed promenade. This esplanade is an ideal place on which to stroll and visit the shops and outdoor cafes and bars.

Our hotel in Benidorm is the moderate *Poseidon Resort* which comprises the *Poseidon Hotel* and the *Poseidon Palace*, joined by an extensive garden area with swimming pool. Best of all, the Poseidon is ideally situated near shopping, restaurants and the wonderfully inviting beach - the Playa de Levante.

The facilities of both hotels include a heated indoor pool, an outdoor pool with chaise lounges and umbrellas, a gym and Jacuzzi, which are available to all guests (although guests have access only to the restaurant at their own

18 DAYS • 2 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 8

MARCH 5 - 22

hotel). There are several bars and lounges, sports activities, games and daily entertainment with shows, and live music performances. Guest rooms are simply furnished with twin beds, private bathroom, satellite TV, central heating / air conditioning, safety deposit box (optional for a small fee), mini-bar, hair dryer, and balcony. WiFi is available throughout the hotel.

All meals are buffet style offering an ample selection and a wide variety of cuisines featuring local specialties. There are live cooking demonstrations and table service for beverages. All-inclusive beverages are available throughout the resort any time you please, and include local wines, beers, spirits, and soft drinks.

We will fly via Paris in each direction. In order to make our flight schedule more convenient we will spend our final night in Valencia (Costa Blanca’s international gateway).

** Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

- 1. Villajoyosa:** We visit the coastal village of Villajoyosa and enjoy a walking tour of the charming old quarter to see the colourful fishermen's houses along the beach. We will then visit the factory and museum of Chocolates Valor (with a sampling of course!) before returning to Benidorm.
- 2. Guadalest:** We visit the old town here, a fine example of one of southern Spain's Arab villages, and we'll enjoy a stop at the Belem Museum of Miniatures.
- 3. Novelda and Bodega Winery:** An excursion to the city of Novelda, famous for its magnificent vineyards and beautiful marble. We visit the 8th century Arabic-Christian Castle followed by a tour of a wine cellar and a chance to taste the local Alicante wine.
- 4. Elche:** Elche is known today as Spain's palm capital and the palm fronds from here are dried and used in Easter celebrations. We'll see a palm forest that was planted centuries ago by the Moors and see the ruins of the castle and its surrounding gardens in the old quarter of town. Elche is also Spain's shoe producing capital and so we'll visit a shoe factory, where we'll enjoy a local liqueur and see a demonstration.
- 5. Alicante:** This town has a delightful palm fringed promenade paved in marble. We see the Santa Barbara Castle, the cathedral and the town hall with its beautiful statue of Saint John made by Salvador Dali. There will be some free time for those who wish to visit the Modern Art Museum.
- 6. North Coast:** We tour the Costa Blanca's north coast to see some of the small villages and towns with a visit to the famous Virgin de Loreto's church.
- 7. Murcia:** We visit the typical Spanish town of Murcia to see its famed cathedral and also the Orchard Museum. Free time for shopping on the streets and the El Corte Ingles department store.
- 8. Valencia:** On the last day of the tour we visit Valencia - the third largest city in Spain. Our sightseeing will take us to the old quarter with its 14th century cathedral, the World Heritage building of Lonja, Plaza Mercado and the beautiful bridges spanning the river that runs through the city. We overnight in Valencia before the following morning's flight home.

COST per person, based on double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal - \$5397

Single Supplement \$790

Ottawa - add \$190 (with round-trip transportation to Trudeau Airport, Montreal)

Halifax - add \$690

Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$990



Marvellous Majorca

A sunny mild climate, leisurely lifestyle, and spectacular scenery are just a few of the reasons why the Spanish island of Majorca is such a popular vacation destination.

The island is known for its stunning coastline, beautiful beaches, sheltered coves with azure waters, limestone mountains, and Roman and Moorish cultural and architectural influences. There are wonderful historic sites such as the medieval Santa María Cathedral, Moorish Royal Palace, and the Old Quarter in the capital, Palma. Inland you will find honey-stone villages, old manor estates and old farmhouses surrounded by olive, carob and almond groves. The modern side of the island has yacht marinas, art galleries, modern museums, and fashionable boutiques.

Our hotel for this relaxing holiday is the Deluxe *Hotel Palma Bellver by Melia* situated in the lively city of Palma de Mallorca. Ideally located on the seafront promenade of Palm Bay with lovely views of the marina and a famous

20 DAYS • 2 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 11 - MARCH 1

MARCH 3 - 22

Cathedral, there are many shops and restaurants nearby, and the charming Santa Catalina district with its popular outdoor cafes, bars, and restaurants is within a short walk.

Facilities at the hotel include a large sundeck, outdoor pool (not heated) and a pool bar with beautiful views. Breakfast and dinners are served in the main international restaurant. The bright, sunny guest rooms are comfortably furnished and include air conditioning, satellite TV, room safe, and **a balcony with a seaview**. There is complimentary WiFi throughout the hotel.

** Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

1. **A half day tour of Palma** to discover the history and architecture of the city, including a visit of Castle of Bellver, the Cathedral, and the Old Quarter.
2. **A full day tour to the Port of Pollensa.** Included will be a stop at Mirador de Es Colomer for views of the mountains and sea.
3. **A full day tour to Valldemosa,** where Chopin wrote some of his finest compositions. We will also visit both the Port of Soller and Alfabia Gardens, and enjoy a visit to an olive oil mill, and tasting.
4. Today we explore **the famous Caves of Drachs** with their peculiar stalagmites, grottos, and the largest underground lake in Europe. We will also visit the charming fishing village of Porto Christo.
5. A half-day visit of **the colourful local market in the village of Sineu** at the very centre of Majorca, typical of the quaint, rural communities that can be found on the island.
6. **Half day tour to Els Calderers,** a beautiful 13th century mansion surrounded by lush vegetation, beautiful gardens, and natural fountains. Greatly valued in Roman times for the vast quantity of water which flowed here, it still has a magnificent natural spring. A tasting of “sorbrasada” (a paprika flavoured sausage spread) is included.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS

- Flights with Lufthansa and Air Canada, via Frankfurt
- 18 nights seaview rooms in a Deluxe hotel in Majorca
- Full breakfast and dinner daily (wine and water with all dinners) while in Majorca
- 6 guided excursions
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST

per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$7797

Single Supplement - \$1790

Ottawa or Montreal - add \$690

Calgary or Vancouver - add \$990

Halifax - add \$790 (includes a Toronto overnight on the way home)

Winnipeg or Edmonton - add \$1090 (includes a Toronto overnight on the way home)



Canary Islands

Spain's Canary Islands – located off the northwest coast of Africa - have long been a popular holiday destination with Europeans, thanks to their year-round warm, sunny climate and lovely beaches.

Each island has its own personality and geography, resulting in extremely varied landscapes of dramatic volcanoes, broad beaches, lush pine forests, prehistoric sites, lunar-like landscapes, and Sahara-style sand dunes.

The local “Canarios” are a blend of Spanish and South American heritage with a touch of African influence.

We will stay on Tenerife, the largest island, which features a well-developed tourism infrastructure, sandy beaches, cosmopolitan cities, historic towns, small villages, a huge expanse of National Park, and the highest mountain in all of Spain - the towering Mount Teide.

Our hotel for this relaxing holiday is the First Class *Hotel Best Semiramis* situated on the north coast of Tenerife in the peaceful area of La Paz, approximately 1.5 km from the centre of Puerto de la Cruz. The hotel itself features lovely sub-tropical gardens and facilities include a main buffet-style restaurant with “show cooking” offering local and international cuisine, a lounge and pool bar, a heated

20 DAYS • 4 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 13 - MARCH 3

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 10

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 16

MARCH 4 - 23

pool, freshwater pool, and jacuzzi. There is a fitness centre, full-service spa, gift shop, beauty salon, and games room. The spacious and airy guest rooms are all oceanview with a balcony or terrace. Several evenings a week there is live music, and WiFi is complimentary throughout the hotel.

We have included 7 wonderful excursions in our program. Please note that many of the attractions we visit require quite a bit of walking.

Due to flight scheduling we will stop in Dublin (with hotel day room) en route to Tenerife, and we will overnight in Dublin on the way home from Tenerife.

** Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

1. **Orientation of Puerto de la Cruz and Orotava Valley.** We enjoy the panoramic view of the Orotava Valley, and visit La Orotava's Town Hall Square, the Church of La Concepción and Casa de Los Balcones. In Los Realejos we see the Church of Santiago Apóstol then return along the picturesque north coast.
2. **Full-day La Gomera.** Our excursion to the island of La Gomera will take in the Hermigua Valley, the village of Agulo (for lunch in a traditional restaurant), Garajonay National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Laguna Grande (where it is said the ancient witches of the island used to meet), the imposing Roque de Agando (a steep volcanic lava formation), and San Sebastián (site of the final strongholds of Christopher Columbus before sailing to North America).
3. **National Park Las Canadas del Teide.** We drive through lush tropical scenery to Las Canadas National Park - one of the world's largest craters. Enjoy spectacular views of volcanic Mount Teide and the "Roque Garcia", rock formations.
4. **Santa Cruz, Anaga and Teresitas.** We visit the island's capital - the port city of Santa Cruz, which features old-world charm and beautiful parks and gardens. After visiting some of the typical squares and buildings, we'll enjoy the panoramic view from Teresitas Beach, then drive along the Anaga Mountains with stops at scenic lookouts.
5. **Candelaria / La Laguna.** We visit Candelaria, site of the Patron Saint of the Canary Islands. We'll visit the impressive basilica and the statue-lined square, before proceeding to the university town of La Laguna (a World Heritage Site), for a walking tour of the old town centre with its narrow streets, pastel-hued houses, inviting cafes and quaint shops.
6. **Icod de los Vinos / Garachico.** We visit Icod de los Vinos to see the famous thousand-year-old "dragon" tree, then proceed to Garachico - a charming town in a deep valley flanked by forested slopes and a rocky coastline. We will enjoy the panoramic viewpoint of the town, then continue to El Tanque for an optional camel ride!
7. **Masca.** We take a scenic drive to the mountaintop village of Masca, and enjoy the stunning views of the land and sea, the cliffside buildings and the small local museum. Isolated for centuries, Masca is like stepping back in time.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS

- Flights with Aer Lingus
- First Class oceanview accommodation
- Full buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner daily while in Tenerife (except for one lunch while in La Gomera).
Wine, beer, and mineral water included with all lunches and dinners
- Daily afternoon tea/coffee and cookies
- "Day Room" accommodation in a Dublin hotel on the way to Tenerife, breakfast included
and an overnight at a Dublin hotel on the way home, breakfast included
- 6 half-day, and 1 full-day, guided excursions
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$6797

Single Supplement - \$1390

Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax - add \$690

Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$990



Portugal's Algarve (All-Inclusive)

Plus Lisbon

Portugal's southernmost province, the Algarve, offers hundreds of kilometres of golden beaches, plenty of sunshine year-round, stunning coastline vistas, medieval Moorish villages, and smiling, friendly people.

On this relaxing holiday we stay 16-nights in one of the most attractive resort towns in the Algarve - popular Albufeira, with its charming old town, narrow cobblestone streets and white-washed buildings. The lively town square is the ideal place to enjoy the cafes, people watch and shop for local handicrafts. Fisherman's Beach (Praia dos Pescadores) is where local fishermen used to bring in their catch in the days before Albufeira had a harbour. Today the beach is an inviting scene of holiday makers strolling the golden sand, bathing in the sun and enjoying the views of the sea and surrounding cliffs.

20 DAYS • FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 13

Our hotel, the First Class *Vila Gale Cerro Alagoa*, is situated in the modern section of town within a few minutes walk of everything: shops and restaurants, the old quarter of Albufeira, as well as Fisherman's Beach. Amenities of our hotel include a heated indoor pool, outdoor pool, fitness centre, jacuzzi, and games room. Spacious guest rooms are twin-bedded with a pool view and balcony. Buffet breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner are included daily while in the Algarve. Local wine, beer, soft drinks, and mineral water are included with all lunches and dinners. WiFi is complimentary throughout the hotel.

Following our stay in the Algarve we will travel by coach to Lisbon (with a stop in Evora en route), for a 2-night stay including a city tour and Farewell Dinner.

** Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

1. **A tour of the resort town of Albufeira.** The Moorish flavour of the town is evident in the architecture and in the labyrinth of narrow streets that lead down the hillside to the central square. A tunnel at the end of the pedestrian-only shopping area brings you to the town's main beach.
2. **We visit the medieval city of Silves** where we see the 12th century Cathedral and visit the Moorish Castle. We then enjoy a scenic drive in the Monchique Mountains, visit the quaint spa in Caldas and stop in Foia for magnificent views from the highest point in the Algarve.
3. **An excursion to the elegant village of Alte**, perhaps the most picturesque of the Algarve, to see the 16th century church and natural hot springs, followed by the authentic village of Salir surrounded by olive and almond trees.
4. **We explore the historic town of Lagos and the picturesque fishing village of Sagres.** Lagos retains many architectural features of its ancient past and several interesting statues of famous figures, while Sagres and Cape St. Vincent offer some the Algarve's most dramatic scenery of serene beaches and sea-carved cliffs.
5. **A tour of Faro**, the provincial capital of the Algarve and thriving university town. We will wander the walled old town with its maze of cobblestone streets, then proceed to the fishing village of Olhao to discover the old port and waterfront.
6. After our stay in the Algarve we will depart for **Evora** - one of Portugal's most beautifully preserved medieval towns, for a walking tour and lunch, then continue to Lisbon.
7. **A city tour of Lisbon.** Portugal's capital is a legendary city with over 2000 years of history. On our city tour we'll stroll through the winding streets and alleys of the old quarter of Alfama, we'll visit Jeronimos Monastery, see the Tower of Belem and Monument to the Discoveries, and we'll taste the famous "Pasteis de Belem".

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS

- Flights with Air Transat (all flights via Toronto)
- First Class hotels (including early check-in upon arrival)
- Full buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner daily while in Portugal (except for one lunch while in Lisbon)
In the Algarve - tea and cookies are served each day at 4 p.m.
- Beverage service as described - local wine, beer, soft drinks, and mineral water with lunch and dinner
 - 7 half-day excursions as described above
 - *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$6997

Single Supplement - \$1390

Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$690

Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, or Calgary - add \$990



Portugal 2-Centre Holiday

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Transat
- First Class hotels (sea-view rooms in Cascais)
- Full buffet breakfast and dinner daily, plus 1 lunch
- Beverages with dinner (mineral water, soft drinks, house wine, and local beer)
- 7 excursions
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

Cascais and the Algarve. Many excursions included!

Castles, history, sunshine, beaches, scenery, seafood, and above all, friendly people. These are some of the features that make Portugal a perfect travel destination.

The Algarve is a wonderful resort region deep in the south of Portugal with much more to offer than its golden sand beaches and temperate climate. We will stay in the lively town of Albufeira, a perfect base for exploring the nearby Moorish towns, charming fishing villages, historic castles and churches, mountain views and spectacular cliff-edge vistas of the Atlantic Ocean. Albufeira is one of the Algarve's most popular towns with picturesque white-washed buildings, a main central square, cobblestone streets and many shops and cafes to enjoy.

Our hotel in the Algarve for our 8-night stay is the *Vila Gale Cerro Alagoa*, within walking distance of the town centre, beach, shops and restaurants. Facilities of the hotel include a buffet restaurant, pub, outdoor pool, fitness centre with an indoor heated pool, jacuzzi, games room, and complimentary WiFi. Our comfortable and modern guestrooms here overlook the lovely pool area.

17 DAYS • 4 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 10

MARCH 1 - 17

MARCH 8 - 24

MARCH 15 - 31

We then travel to Cascais, stopping en route for a visit of the beautiful historic city of Evora. Once a quaint fishing village, Cascais is now a much-loved resort area on the Estoril coast just outside Lisbon. The harbour and square are wonderful for people-watching and catching sight of returning fishing boats. The main square is pedestrian-only and features many outdoor restaurants, cafes, and shops.

We will stay 7 nights at the *Hotel Vila Gale Cascais*, a short walk from the town centre. Facilities of the hotel include a restaurant serving buffet meals with a live-cooking station, 2 bars, health club, and delightful gardens with an outdoor swimming pool. We will enjoy comfortable and modern seaview guestrooms during our stay here.

** Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

1. **Santa Maria Coast.** Faro - capital of the Algarve, the typical Moorish fishing village of Olhao, and Tavira with its medieval castle and famous 4th century Roman bridge.
2. **Monchique Mountains.** We begin with a visit to Silves, the old Moorish capital of the Algarve, where we'll view the cathedral and visit the castle. Then on to the wonderful panoramic views from Foia, the highest point in southern Portugal.
3. **Lagos and Sagres.** Lagos is known for its beautiful church and castle walls, while Sagres is where Portuguese explorers learned their navigation skills. We also visit Cape St. Vincent - the westernmost point in Europe.
4. **Evora.** We transfer from the Algarve to Cascais, and visit Evora en route. Portugal's Golden Age lives on in this beautiful, historic city. On our walking tour we see the Roman temple and wall, the Gothic Cathedral, the Aqueduct and its fountains. This historic centre is on UNESCO's Heritage List. Lunch is included today.
5. **Queluz, Sintra, Cascais and Estoril.** We begin with a visit of the magnificent royal palace in Queluz, the country's finest example of Rococo architecture. Then we take a short walk in the old city centre of Sintra (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), stop at the seaside town of Cascais and drive along the coast back to Estoril to see the famous casino and gardens.
6. **Lisbon.** On our panoramic tour of Portugal's capital city we'll stroll in the Baixa district, considered the heart of Lisbon. Then we'll enjoy the scene along Rua Augusta - a lively pedestrian street with beautiful mosaic pavement, outdoor cafes, cosmopolitan shops and the occasional street artist and peddler. We continue to Belem to see the Tower, the Monument to the Discoveries and Jeronimo's Monastery before sampling the famous custard tarts - "pasteis de Belem".
7. **Obidos, Nazare and Fatima.** A full-day tour to the medieval town of Obidos, the fishing village of Nazare, and Fatima - home to one of the most important catholic shrines in the world which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

COST per person, double occupancy, from Toronto ... \$5997

Single Supplement - \$1290

Ottawa, Montreal or Halifax - add \$690

Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, or Calgary - add \$990



Madeira (Portugal) and Lisbon

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with TAP Air Portugal
- Deluxe & First Class hotels - 14 nights in seaview rooms in Madeira, 2 nights Lisbon
- Full buffet breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily while in Madeira
- Beverages with dinner in Madeira (house wine, mineral water, local beer, and spirits)
- Breakfast and dinner daily in Lisbon
- 5 excursions
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

Voted the best island destination in the world for the 6th time in a row by the World Travel Awards, Madeira is a land of unique natural features, and spectacular landscapes and seascapes.

This volcanic island out in the middle of the Atlantic, famous for the wine that bears its name, has scenic green mountains, flowers everywhere (the whole island is like a tropical garden), black and gold sand beaches, and lush coastal cliffs towering over the ocean (where dolphins and whales are regular visitors). The climate is balmy year round, the food is fresh and delicious, and the local people are known for their warm hospitality.

The perpetually sunny capital of Madeira is Funchal, located with the sea on one side, and the mountains on the other. It is an ideal city for strolling, with picturesque streets lined with flowers and palm trees, wide sidewalks, outdoor cafes, a pleasant harbour, and lovely old churches to view. The city centre is lively in the evening, with many bars, restaurants, shops, and casinos.

Our hotel in Funchal is the 5 star *Enotel Lido*. This recently renovated oceanfront hotel is steps from a beautiful beach and walking paths, and a 5-minute drive from the

18 DAYS • FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 9

center of Funchal. The hotel features a world class spa offering a full menu of treatments. There is an infinity pool in the hotel gardens, as well as a heated indoor pool. There is also a daily entertainment program featuring live music, themed shows, and other recreational activities. Optional excursions by land and sea are also available.

3 meals daily are included, with wine, beer, spirits and other drinks included with all dinners. Meals in the main dining room are all buffet style, offering a wide choice of fare, and you can also choose to dine at one of the 3 theme restaurants at the hotel.

All rooms have a balcony with a lateral seaview, with WiFi, safe, minibar, hairdryer, pool towels and comfortable bathrobes, and slippers.

Following our stay in Madeira we will enjoy a 2-night stay in Portugal's fascinating capital Lisbon, including a city tour and Farewell Dinner.

** Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

1. **Funchal City Tour (Half day).** Madeira's capital is a beautiful city-by-the-sea, surrounded by impressive green hills. On our city tour we'll see the centuries-old Cathedral, City Hall Square, and the 17th century São Tiago Fortress which overlooks the harbour. We'll enjoy a stroll through the Fruit and Flower Market (the "Mercado dos Lavradores") with its exotic fruits and fresh flowers. We continue to the Monte district, where we can visit the Church of Our Lady of Monte (where Emperor Karl I, the last monarch of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, is buried) and stroll through the flower garden there which blooms throughout the year.
2. **Cabo Girão and Eira do Serrado (Half day).** This morning we visit Pico dos Barcelos, a viewpoint that overlooks the city of Funchal, surrounding villages, and the spectacular surrounding landscape around the Bay of Funchal. Then we proceed to Eira do Serrado, overlooking Curral das Freiras village, situated in the Crater of an extinct volcano. Next is Cabo Girão - Europe's highest sea cliff at 580m, which provides another fantastic view to the sea and the surrounding mountains. We finish at Câmara de Lobos, the fishing village where Sir Winston Churchill famously painted the quaint red-tile roofed houses clustered on the rocky point, and the brightly painted fishing boats anchored in the harbour.
3. **West Coast Tour / Porto Moniz (Full day).** We travel along the Estrada Monumental to Encomenda, where we'll have views of both sides of the island. Then we continue to the Laurisilva Forest, which contains various species of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Driving along the beautiful western coast we arrive at Porto Moniz, famous for its natural swimming pools hollowed out of lava. We'll pass through Paul da Serra - a UNESCO protected nature park which features views from 1500m, on the way back to Funchal.
4. **Eastern Region Tour / Santana (Full Day).** Our first stop will be at Pico do Arieiro - the second highest mountain on Madeira. On the way down to Santana there will be a short stop at Ribeiro Frio to see a trout hatchery surrounded by a beautiful garden, rare trees, and endemic plants of the island. We'll walk along the "Levada dos Balcões" to enjoy the beautiful panorama. At Santana we'll see the typical thatched roofed houses of the region. On the way back to Funchal we'll stop at Portela for one of the island's best viewpoints.
5. **Lisbon (Half day).** Portugal's capital is a legendary city with over 2000 years of history. On our city tour we'll stroll through the winding streets and alleys of the old quarter of Alfama, we'll visit Jeronimos Monastery, see the Tower of Belem and Monument to the Discoveries, and we'll taste the famous "Pasteis de Belem".

COST per person, double occupancy, from Toronto ... \$6797

Single Supplement - \$2490

Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$690

Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, or Calgary - add \$990



Spain & Portugal

2-Centre Resort Holiday

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with TAP Air Portugal
- First Class hotels
- Buffet breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily (except for 2 lunches). Wine, water, and beer included with all dinners
- 10 guided excursions as described
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

This holiday to Spain's Costa del Sol and Portugal's Algarve will suit those who want to explore both countries while enjoying a relaxing vacation.

In Costa del Sol we stay 9 nights at the lovely seaside resort town of Torremolinos situated on the inviting Mediterranean Sea. Our hotel here will be the lovely “all-suites” *Sol House Costa del Sol* located directly on the seafront promenade and famous Carihuela Beach, steps away from the luxurious Puerto Marina with its sleek white yachts and charming sailboats, along with many unique art galleries, shops and restaurants. The hotel lobby is beautifully designed with polished marble floors and natural wood décor. There are 5 outdoor seafront pools (one is heated during the winter), an international buffet restaurant and a nightly entertainment program with a variety of live music and shows. Guest suites feature a large picture window and sliding doors out to a private terrace or balcony. There is a separate living area with sofa and bedroom (queen or twin beds), and complimentary Wi-Fi.

After our stay in the Costa del Sol we transfer by coach to the Algarve region in Portugal, enjoying en route a sightseeing tour of the historic Spanish city of Seville. In the Algarve we stay 9 nights in the popular resort

21 DAYS • 5 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 15 - MARCH 6

FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 13

MARCH 9 - 29

MARCH 16 - APRIL 5

MARCH 23 - APRIL 12

town of Albufeira, one of the most picturesque areas of the Algarve with a sandy beach that stretches for miles, azure waters and impressive cliffs and rock formations. Our hotel here is the First Class *Vila Gale Cerro Alagoa*, located within a 5-minute walk from the town centre and the beach. Facilities of the hotel include a restaurant, bar, outdoor pool, fitness centre with an indoor heated pool, jacuzzi and a games room with billiards and card tables. Guest rooms are simply furnished and all have a balcony. Wine, beer, soft drinks, and water are included with dinners.

After our stay in Albufeira we enjoy a scenic drive to Lisbon where we enjoy a city sightseeing tour, and dinner and overnight in a centrally located hotel.

**Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

WHILE IN SPAIN

1. **MALAGA** (Half day tour). Our tour of the modern yet historic port city of Malaga will take in the ancient Roman Theatre, Picasso's birthplace, entrance to Alcazaba - a palatial fortification built during Muslim rule, and entrance to the Cathedral - one of the best examples of Spanish Renaissance architecture, featuring paintings by famous Spanish artists.
2. **MIJAS** (Half day tour). Situated in the foothills of the Sierra de Mijas, this picturesque village is known as the "Essence of Andalusia" for its white houses, windows full of flowers and narrow streets. During our walking tour we will see the Shrine of the "Virgen de la Peña", the Parish Church, the Bullring and the Auditorium.
3. **ALFARNATEJO** (Full day tour with lunch). A tour through the olive oil route to see the largest and oldest olive groves in the region. We visit a rural oil production plant to sample different varieties before continuing to the charming mountain village of Alfarnatejo. A special lunch with a local family showcases the world renowned gastronomy of the region.
4. **MARBELLA and PUERTO BANUS** (Half day tour). We visit the well preserved Old Town of Marbella, with its iconic white streets and flowered balconies. The Castle here is the only local structure remaining from the Muslim period. Then on to the marina of Puerto Banus - popular with international celebrities and harbouring some of the world's most luxurious ships.
5. **SEVILLE** (Transfer day). Known for its impressive monumental heritage, Seville boasts beautiful gardens at Maria Luisa Park, the Plaza de España and the typical, delightful district of "Santa Cruz" (the former Jewish Quarter). We also see the 15th century Cathedral, the largest Gothic Church in Christendom, with its magnificent chancel, carvings and paintings.

WHILE IN PORTUGAL

1. **ALTE and SALIR** (Half day tour). We visit elegant Alte - a typical Algarve village of whitewashed houses with lattice work, handcrafted chimneys and narrow, cobbled streets nestling in the foothills of the Serra do Caldeirão. There are many little cafes in which to relax and soak up the tranquility of the village. We then step back in time as we travel to Salir where a white row of charming houses are surrounded by the typical Algarve Carob, olive and almond orchards.
2. **LAGOS and SAGRES** (Full day tour). Lagos still has many architectural signs of its ancient past, with one of the buildings dating back to 1445 and recorded as Europe's first slave market. After some time here we visit Sagres and nearby Cape St. Vincent - the most southwestern point of Europe. The lighthouse here provides safety for the many ships that pass the Cape. The surrounding cliffs provide a dramatic backdrop with their sheer height and the constant pounding of the ocean.
3. **FARO and OLHAO** (Half day tour). The provincial capital of the Algarve, Faro is a thriving university town with a maze of twisting lanes and a lovely marina. Olhao is the Algarve's main fishing port and we will see the town centre, charming waterfront and visit the municipal market (mercado) with its display of an exceptional variety of seafood.
4. **SILVES and MONCHIQUE MOUNTAINS** (Half day tour). Silves, located in one of Portugal's best citrus growing areas, was historically the most fought over place in the Algarve. Its 1000-year-old sandstone castle is the best preserved Moorish castle in Portugal. After our visit we drive to Foia - the highest point in the Algarve, with beautiful panoramic views.
5. **LISBON CITY TOUR** (Half day - upon arrival from the Algarve). Portugal's capital is a legendary city with over 2000 years of history. On our city tour we'll stroll through the winding streets and alleys of the old quarter of Alfama, we'll visit Jeronimos Monastery, see the Tower of Belem and Monument to the Discoveries, and we'll taste the famous "Pastéis de Belem".

COST per person, from Toronto ... \$7597 Single Supplement - \$1190

Add-on fares below include an overnight in Toronto on the way home, due to late arrival.

Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$790. Winnipeg, Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton - add \$1090.



Highlights of Spain & Portugal

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with TAP Air Portugal
- First Class hotels
- Full buffet breakfast daily
- Dinner daily with local wine and coffee
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto
 Depart March 4 - \$7197
 Depart March 20 - \$7397

- Single Supplement - \$1190
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$690
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$990

During this memorable holiday we visit many of the great cities and sightseeing highlights of Spain and Portugal, with time to enjoy the seaside, sunshine, and relaxation offered by each country's prime resort areas.

First, we discover the magic of Spain including the parks and gardens of Madrid, the Gothic Cathedral of Cordoba, the amazing Alhambra Palace in Granada, the British colony of Gibraltar, the lovely mountain town of Ronda, and the lively atmosphere of Spain's old capital, Seville. We also enjoy some relaxation in Torremolinos, Spain's most popular Mediterranean seaside resort town.

In Portugal we discover why visitors return again and again. We see the magnificent coastal scenery of the Algarve, the gentle Monchique mountains, old churches, castles and cathedrals, picturesque fishing villages, olive groves, and vineyards. We spend some time in Evora, one of Portugal's most beautiful and historic cities, before finishing with the historic capital, Lisbon.

* *Those joining any of our tours to Europe must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

18 DAYS • 2 DATES IN WINTER 2024

MARCH 4 - 21

MARCH 20 - APRIL 6

Tour Highlights:

- Madrid's old quarter and Royal Palace
- The walled city of Toledo
- Cordoba's unique Mosque-Cathedral / Jewish Quarter
- The famous Alhambra Palace in Granada
- Gibraltar, commonly known as the "The Rock"
- Mountain-top Ronda with its incredible bridges
- The romantic city of Seville
- Algarve's charming villages of Alte, Lagos, and Sagres
- Monchique Mountains panoramic views
- The beautifully preserved medieval town of Evora
- Lisbon, the hilly coastal capital of Portugal

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Madrid, via Lisbon.

Day 2: Madrid. We arrive in Madrid and transfer to our hotel. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Madrid. On our morning city sightseeing tour we start at the Puerto del Sol old quarter, with its narrow winding streets, countless bars and cafes, colourful squares, churches, and historic monuments. We will also visit the Royal Palace and the Cervantes Monument. Afternoon at leisure to further explore this lively capital. Tonight we enjoy a tapas dinner - a specialty of Spain.

Day 4: Toledo. We travel to the walled city of Toledo. Here we visit the Gothic cathedral, centuries' old synagogue, and the Church of Saint Tome with its El Greco paintings. This small and charming city is delightful for strolling.

Day 5: Cordoba. We proceed to Cordoba, via Consuegra, the "Windmill City" made famous in the novel Don Quixote. Afternoon at leisure in Cordoba.

Day 6: Cordoba / Granada. On our tour of Cordoba we see the magnificent 8th century mosque supported by hundreds of columns of marble and onyx, and illuminated by 4,000 bronze and copper lamps. Around the mosque are the tiny shops and historic buildings of the old Jewish quarter. After our tour we drive through the Andalusian countryside, enjoying the spectacular views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, before arriving in Granada.

Day 7: Granada / Torremolinos (Costa del Sol). In Granada we visit the famous Alhambra Fortress, Spain's most beautiful Moorish building and former residence of Moorish Kings. It has imposing towers and halls, rooms decorated with lace-like carvings, coloured tiles, and gold mosaics. The exterior has courtyards with fountains and lush gardens. It is unparalleled in Europe. We also visit the Palace, and Generalife Gardens. After our tour we continue on to the lively resort town of Torremolinos.

Day 8: Torremolinos. At leisure to enjoy the sun, beach, and the lively boardwalk along the Mediterranean Sea.

Day 9: Gibraltar / Torremolinos. We take an excursion to Gibraltar. "The Rock", as it is commonly called, remains very British. We will visit St. Michael's Cave, the Ape's Den, and more. During our free time you may want to enjoy a pint in a typical English pub before returning to our hotel.

Day 10: Torremolinos. At leisure.

Day 11: Ronda / Seville. This morning we visit Ronda, which has an unforgettable setting perched over a rocky deep ravine spanned by three bridges. We visit the oldest bullring in Spain, the gardens and the church, which was once a mosque. We continue to the beautiful city of Seville.

Day 12: Seville / Algarve (Portugal). The romantic city of Seville was influenced by the Moors who occupied the area for 700 years. A fine example of their heritage is the Giralda Tower, which we will visit. We also visit the Gothic Cathedral, and see the Alcazar and the fountains of Maria Lusitana Park. Later we enter Portugal and head for the country's famed coastal resort area, the Algarve, which features sandy beaches that stretch for miles, and impressive cliffs and rock formations. We will stay 4 nights in the lively resort town of Albufeira, where we will enjoy 3 half-day excursions.

Day 13: Lagos and Sagres. We begin in Lagos where we see the beautiful church and castle walls. Then we proceed to Sagres, where Portuguese explorers learned their legendary navigational skills. We finish off in Cape St. Vincent, the westernmost point in Europe.

Day 14: Typical Moorish Villages. Our first stop today is Alte, considered the Algarve's most picturesque village. We will stroll the narrow flower-decked streets and see the 16th-century church. There are several natural hot springs here. Later we will stop at other quiet hill towns and villages in the region.

Day 15: Monchique Mountains. We visit the old Moorish capital of Silves, and then Foia for panoramic views from the highest point in southern Portugal.

Day 16: Evora / Lisbon. We proceed to Evora (a UNESCO World Heritage City), a beautiful city where Portugal's Golden Age lives on. Our walking tour takes in the Roman Temple and wall, the Gothic Cathedral, the Aqueduct and its fountains, and more. We then proceed to Lisbon.

Day 17: Lisbon. On our city tour we visit Jeronimo's Monastery, and see the Old Quarter, Belem Tower, and the monument to Henry the Navigator. Afternoon at leisure for strolling and shopping, followed by our Farewell Dinner.

Day 18: Home. We fly home, direct to Toronto.



Wonders of Ancient Egypt

Featuring a Deluxe Nile Cruise

On this tour we journey through ancient history and experience the fascinating culture of Egypt.

To visit some of the most enduring historical monuments on earth, we start our Egyptian adventure in Cairo - “City of a Thousand Minarets” - a fascinating blend of ancient and modern. Nearby is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Pyramids. As you will see however, Cairo has a lot more to offer - grand mosques, bustling bazaars and plenty of ancient landmarks around every turn.

After Cairo we will glide back in time to the “Land of the Pharaohs” on our unforgettable Nile cruise, and see the vast collection of temples and tombs that serve as an eternal museum for the world’s oldest civilization. The cruise takes us to Karnak, Kom Ombo, Edfu, Philae Temple, Luxor, and the Valley of the Kings & Queens, while we experience the renowned Egyptian hospitality. We will cruise in the comfort of our Deluxe riverboat – the *MS Mayfair* (or similar), built specifically for Nile cruising.

We cap off our tour with a 4-night stay at a Deluxe All-Inclusive resort in Hurghada - Egypt’s foremost beach resort town. Our hotel, the *Tropitel Sahl Hasheesh*, is located in a prime location on a private beach on the Red Sea coast, near Hurghada’s bustling old town, with magnificent views of the sea. The hotel features a diverse range of global cuisines and bars, modern stylish rooms, various water activities, and in-house entertainment.

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Lufthansa
- Deluxe and First Class hotels and riverboat
- Full breakfast, lunch, & dinner daily
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$8197
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- Single Supplement - \$2190
- Montreal, Ottawa, or Halifax - add \$690
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$990

15 DAYS • 3 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 4 - 18

FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 10

MARCH 17 - 31

Tour Highlights:

- Visit the Great Pyramids of Giza and the mighty Sphinx
- Cairo, including a guided tour of the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, and Khan El Khalili Bazaar
- Sail in a felucca across the Nile
- The Valley of the Kings and tombs of Tut Ankh Amun and Ramses VI
- The Temple of Karnak, Luxor, Queen Hatshepsut, and the Colossi of Memnon in Luxor
- The massive rock-cut temples of Abu Simbel
- The Ramses II statue and Alabaster Sphinx in Memphis
- Deluxe All-Inclusive beach resort
- Desert Safari and Bedouin dinner

** Those joining our tours to the Middle East must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Cairo, via Frankfurt.

Day 2: Cairo. We arrive in Cairo and transfer to our centrally located hotel. The balance of the day is free until our Welcome Dinner this evening.

Day 3: The Pyramids / Cairo / Memphis / Sakkara. This morning we travel to Giza where, overlooking the Nile Valley and Cairo, we visit the 3 Great Pyramids - one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the Great Sphinx - a colossal lion with a Pharaoh's head. Then we drive past small villages to visit the towns of Memphis and Sakkara. The highlight will be the Step Pyramids of King Zoser - the oldest stone building in the world!

Day 4: Cairo / Aswan. This morning we visit the world-famous Egyptian Museum, including the fabulous collection of Pharaonic antiquities, especially the golden treasures of the Tut Ankh Amun Exhibit. The museum houses over 50,000 artifacts that span 7000 years. After our museum visit we fly to Aswan.

Day 5: Abu Simbel. We visit Abu Simbel - a site which consists of some of Egypt's most impressive and unique temples. These are two massive rock-cut temples built by Ramses II. One temple is dedicated to King Ramses II, and the other is dedicated to his beloved wife, Queen Nefertiti. The most notable feature of the temples are the four colossal statues of Ramses II on the exterior.

Day 6: Aswan / Nile Cruise. In Aswan, the Nile parts into many arms divided by immense granite rocks and islands, particularly the island of Elephantine. There is only a small area of fertile land producing what are considered the finest dates in all of Egypt. We visit the Temple of Philae, dedicated to Goddess Isis, and the High Dam. In the afternoon, we board our Deluxe riverboat, and then we sail in a felucca to view Kitchener's Island, the Botanical Garden, and the Aga Khan Mausoleum.

Day 7: Nile Cruise / Temple of Horus / Kom Ombo / Edfu. This morning we visit the ancient, yet remarkably intact, Temple of Horus. Horus (the Sun God) is always pictured as a man with a falcon's head, often with a solar disk. Then we sail past small desert villages where life goes on much as it has for thousands of years. See camels, water buffalo, and donkeys at work on the small farms. We arrive at Kom Ombo to visit the Sobek Temple, dedicated to two gods: Haroeris - a hawk-headed god, and Sobek - the

crocodile god. In order not to offend either, a twin shrine was built on a hill overlooking the Nile. Then we sail to Edfu via the locks of Esna.

Day 8: Nile Cruise / Luxor (Valley of the Kings) / Karnak. Luxor is home to some of the richest treasures in the world, including the tomb of Tut Ankh Amun, and other royal tombs including Ramses VI in the Valley of the Kings. At the Temple of Luxor we'll see the granite statue of Ramses II, and the many halls and pillars that make up this incredible temple. We'll also visit Hatshepsut's funerary temple at Dier El Bahari and the Colossi of Memnon. After lunch we'll visit the most impressive of all temples - Karnak, and see the Great Temple of Amon, the Hypostyle Hall, the Obelisk of Queen Hatshepsut, the Granite Scara of Amenophis II, Sacred Lake, and many shrines.

Day 9: Hurghada. We disembark and drive to Hurghada - a beach resort town stretching some 40km along Egypt's Red Sea coast. The old town, not far from our hotel, is home to traditional Egyptian coffee shops and souks. We will stay at a Deluxe All-Inclusive beach resort.

Day 10: Hurghada. After all the sightseeing over the past several days, some time at leisure will be most welcome. Today is free to enjoy the facilities and entertainment of our beach resort, or optional activities.

Day 11: Hurghada / Desert Safari / Bedouin Dinner. We venture into the desert to experience its natural beauty and Bedouin culture. Those who wish may ride a camel, and meet Bedouin villagers. We finish with a Bedouin dinner.

Day 12: Hurghada. Another day at leisure to enjoy the facilities of our beach resort, or optional activities.

Day 13: Cairo. We transfer to Cairo. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 14: Cairo. Our sightseeing of Old Cairo begins with a visit of the Alabaster Mosque and the Great Citadel. Built by Saladin, rising majestically over the city, the mosque offers a panoramic view of Cairo and the Nile. We visit the Church of Abu Serga, Moallaqa Church (Hanging Church) and the Ben Ezra Synagogue - the oldest Jewish synagogue in Egypt, and finish off at the Khan El Khalilii Bazaar - rich in silks and carpets, where craftsmen use age-old traditions in creating their wares. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 15: Home. We fly home to Canada, via Frankfurt.



Magnificent Morocco

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with TAP Air Portugal
- Deluxe and First Class hotels
- Full breakfast and dinner daily
- Mineral water, tea, and coffee with all dinners
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$5997
-
- Single Supplement - \$990
- Montreal or Ottawa - add \$690
- * Add-ons below include an overnight in Toronto on the way home*
- Halifax - add \$790
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$1090

Located where Africa meets Europe, the ancient kingdom of Morocco has long been known as “the Gateway to Africa”. It is a land of cultural and scenic contrasts with exotic old-world charm that delights every visitor.

The Moroccan people, famous for their hospitality, are a mix of Arab and Berber, and their rich culture lives on in their dress, food, customs, and festivities. The best place for people-watching is the markets, where the shopping is colourful in both the wares and also the crowds. In the local bazaars you might see acrobats, snake charmers, water sellers, and the occasional camel vying for your attention – truly a feast for the senses!

On our tour we will see medieval walled cities rich in culture and history, with palaces, mosques, and local markets. The wonderful scenery along the way includes snow-capped mountain peaks, deserts with sand dunes, deep gorges, and beautiful fertile valleys.

Join us and discover why Morocco has been attracting so many visitors for so many centuries.

** This tour is suitable only for the fit and active traveller.*

16 DAYS • 2 DATES IN WINTER 2024

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 6

MARCH 5 - 20

Tour Highlights:

- Romantic Casablanca
- Imperial Marrakech and its famous traditional market
- Spiritual Fez - a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Hassan II Mosque - 3rd Largest Mosque in the world
- Chefchaouen, known as the “Blue City”
- Roman Volubilis - a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Sunrise jeep excursion over the Merzouga sand dunes
- Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou - a 16th Century UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Dades Gorge and “Valley of One Thousand Kasbahs”
- Tichka Pass – Morocco’s highest pass with breathtaking views of the High Atlas Mountains
- Farewell Cultural Dinner-Show

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Casablanca, via Lisbon.

Day 2: Casablanca. We arrive in Casablanca and transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. This evening we enjoy dinner at *Rick's Cafe*, designed to recreate the bar made famous by the Humphrey Bogart movie "Casablanca".

Day 3: Casablanca / Rabat. Our tour of Casablanca, Morocco's largest city, begins at the old quarter, the Medina - a labyrinth of streets, barbers, butchers, ironmongers, and grocers. Nearby is majestic Mohammed V Square with its combination of French and Moorish architecture. We also see the Royal Palace and the famous Hassan II Mosque (the world's third largest mosque) situated directly on the ocean. Then we proceed to Morocco's capital Rabat, the seat of the Royal Family and home to many palaces and mosques. Our city tour will show us the imposing exterior of the Royal Palace, the official residence of King Mohamed VI and the Royal Mausoleum of Sultan Mohammed V, the man who led Morocco to independence, as well as the exquisite Hassan Tower.

Day 4: Chefchaouen. Chefchaouen is one of the most beautiful cities in the Rif mountains, famous for its white houses with blues doors, wrought iron windows, and tile roofs. It is also known for its leather and weaving workshops that line its cobbled lanes, the red-walled Kasbah, and 15th-century fortress. The local markets here are animated with traditionally dressed locals and colourful goods beautifully displayed.

Day 5: Meknes. Like a mirage looming up out of the rock in the countryside, the former royal city of Meknes is yet another unexpected delight of Morocco. This beautiful city has old city walls, monumental gates and palatial ruins. We visit the city walls, the Royal stables and the intricate Bab Al Mansour Gates. We then visit the remarkable ancient Roman ruin of Volubilis (a UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Day 6: Fez. We proceed to Fez - the spiritual centre of Morocco.

Day 7: Fez. We spend the day touring the amazing city of Fez. The old town's maze of alleys, houses, and shops lie in the shadow of the mosque's minarets. From their workshops in the back alleys, potters, charcoal burners, goldsmiths, and weavers still practice their ancient trades. The Jewish Quarter here has long had a reputation for producing the finest ironwork in the country. On our full-day tour we will see the Medina (a UNESCO World Heritage site), the Najjarine Fountain, the Moulay Idriss Mausoleum, the Karaouine Mosque, and more.

Day 8: Midelt / Merzouga. We travel through the mountains, passing Azrou - an important handicraft centre, and reach Midelt - a town located between the High Atlas and Middle

Atlas Mountains with wonderful landscape views. After some free time for lunch we'll proceed to Merzouga, where we will see its famous sand dunes, some of which are 160 metres high.

Day 9: Erfoud / Merzouga. We travel through the Ziz Valley - the date source for the annual local date festivals, to the town of Erfoud, built by the French and famed for its red sand buildings that contrast with the surrounding desert.

Day 10: Merzouga / Dades. Early this morning we embark on a jeep excursion to see the sunrise over the sand dunes of Merzouga. Then we continue to the holy city of Rissani, where we will have lunch at a restaurant situated at the feet of a canyon, and visit a 17th century kasbah. We proceed through the magnificent 250 metre high Todgha Canyons to our overnight stop in Dades, site of the famous Dades Gorge.

Day 11: Ouarzazate. We visit the imposing Dades Gorge, then travel through Dades Valley, or "Valley of One Thousand Kasbahs", to Ouarzazate on the edge of the Sahara.

Day 12: Taouirt / Ouarzazate. We visit the kasbah of Taouirt - one of Morocco's most beautiful kasbahs, and the 16th century Ait Ben Haddou - the most spectacular fortress in the south of Morocco, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fortress has served as the setting for many films such as "Lawrence of Arabia". We'll have lunch at the terrace of the restaurant facing the kasbah, then return to Ouarzazate.

Day 13: Marrakech. We proceed to Marrakech via the Tichka Pass, Morocco's highest pass. The views of the High Atlas Mountains interspersed with small Berber villages typical of the region, are breathtaking.

Day 14: Marrakech. A full-day tour of exploring Marrakech. The 1,000-year-old "Red City" is drenched in culture and history. Our tour includes the Majorelle Gardens, the Saadian Tombs, El Bahia Palace, and the Medina. At Djemaa El Fnaa Square we see snake charmers, acrobats, and scribes writing letters for the illiterate. Another Moroccan feast for the senses!

Day 15: Essaouira / Marrakech. En route to the coastal town of Essaouira we will visit an Argan co-operative to see how local women produce Argan oil. In Essaouira, our city tour includes the beautiful medina (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Orson Welles Square and Memorial, dedicated to the famous director's filming of *Othello*. If we're lucky we may even spot the famous tree-climbing goats in the Argan trees. Our Farewell Dinner will include the wonderful Fantasia folklore show.

Day 16: Home. We fly home from Marrakech via Lisbon.



South Africa

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Ethiopian Airlines
- First Class hotels
- Full breakfast and dinner daily, plus 8 lunches
- All visa fees and arrangements
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$11997
.....
- Single Supplement - \$1490
- Montreal, Ottawa or Halifax - add \$690
- Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, or Vancouver - add \$990

- **Plus Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) and Chobe National Park (Botswana)**

South Africa is one of the world's most beautiful countries, and we are sure you will agree after your first visit. The incredible scenic beauty includes nearly 2,000 miles of beautiful coastline, snow capped mountains and tropical splendour. The magnificent National Parks and game reserves boast an unparalleled diversity of wild life. Other features that make this destination so desirable include a wonderful climate, ancient forts and historic monuments, tribal dancing, museums and art galleries. Above all, South Africa's hospitality is legendary.

In addition to our tour of South Africa's highlights we will also visit Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) and safari in Chobe

20 DAYS • 2 DATES IN WINTER 2024

MARCH 9 - 28

MARCH 16 - APRIL 4

National Park (Botswana). Victoria Falls are the largest waterfalls in the world (they are three times as wide and twice as high as Niagara Falls), and the spray can be seen 20 miles away! Chobe National Park is world renowned for its splendid and unique variety of wildlife.

So join us on this remarkable adventure and experience the diversity and beauty that is South Africa.

** This tour is suitable only for the fit and active traveller.*

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Johannesburg.

Day 2: Johannesburg. We arrive in Johannesburg in the late afternoon and transfer to our hotel.

Day 3: Johannesburg and Soweto. We start with a tour of the Johannesburg township of Soweto - the most populous black residential area in the country. Soweto sets the trends for South Africa in politics, fashion, music, and dance. We will visit Mandela House, Vilakazi Street, and enjoy lunch in a typical Shebeen. This evening we enjoy welcome cocktails and our Welcome Dinner

Day 4: Victoria Falls. We fly to Victoria Falls and transfer to our lovely lodge hotel. This afternoon we embark on a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River before returning to our lodge for dinner.

Day 5: Victoria Falls. We enjoy a morning tour of the Falls - a sight to behold! The afternoon is free, and there will be an opportunity to take an optional helicopter flight over the falls. Dinner will be a special African experience.

Day 6: Chobe. This morning we proceed to our safari lodge near Chobe National Park - home to a splendid variety of wildlife, including hippo and elephants that stroll the river paths to drink. We take our first game cruise this afternoon.

Day 7: Chobe. On our morning game drive we enjoy the wonderful surroundings of wild Africa! In the afternoon we take a boat ride along the river and get up close with the bounty of Chobe as we view herds of kudu, waterbuck and possibly elephants coming to the river to drink.

Day 8: Johannesburg. We fly from Victoria Falls back to Johannesburg, and then proceed to our hotel en route to Kruger National Park.

Day 9: Kruger National Park Area. We proceed to Kruger National Park for wildlife viewing at its best! The park offers an experience in beauty, tranquility and variety not found anywhere else in the world. En route we visit the majestic Blyde River Canyon to see God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes - true natural wonders! Our hotel is located just outside the Park.

Day 10: Kruger National Park Area. A full day of game viewing in open safari vehicles. We start early in the morning, the best time to find the world's largest variety of wildlife including the Big Five (lion, elephant, rhino, leopard

and buffalo), hippo, cheetah, giraffe, zebra and crocodile. The park is also home to more than 400 bird species.

Day 11: Kruger National Park Area. A morning at leisure to enjoy the various activities at the hotel. Relax by the pool, do some game or bird watching or take a nature walk. Later we depart for our evening game drive to see if we can catch some nocturnal animals in the spotlight.

Day 12: Garden Route. We return to Johannesburg for our flight to George, on South Africa's fabled Garden Route.

Day 13: Garden Route. We travel over the mountains to Oudtshoorn to visit an ostrich farm, followed by a visit of the Cango Caves, whose stalagmites and stalactites will leave a lasting impression.

Day 14: Garden Route. Today we visit a township near George, where we will have a chance to meet the children at a local primary school. Then we travel to Knysna and ferry over to the Featherbed Nature Reserve, dedicated to the protection of the local flora.

Day 15: Garden Route / Cape Town. Our Garden Route drive takes us along the coast, around lakes, mountains, golden beaches and cliffs - an enchanting drive with a romantic history. We arrive in Cape Town and take a cable car ride up Table Mountain for panoramic views.

Day 16: Cape Town. Our city tour shows us the Malay Quarter, the Botanical Gardens and more. In the afternoon we embark on a ferry ride and guided tour of the Robben Island Prison Museum (weather permitting) where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years.

Day 17: Cape Town. A Winelands tour through lovely scenery of vineyards, oak shaded rivers and old Dutch colonial homes. We enjoy a tasting in a wine cellar and lunch at a private estate. In Stellenbosch we visit the Village Museum.

Day 18: Cape Town. A full-day tour to Cape Point. After a boat ride to Seal Island we continue to Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope, where we see colonies of penguins and seals in their natural environment. This evening is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 19: Departure. After a morning at leisure, we transfer to the airport for our flight home, via Addis Ababa.

Day 20: Home. Arrival back in Canada.



Incredible India

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Emirates Airline
- Deluxe & First Class hotels
- Full breakfast and dinner daily, and 8 lunches
- Visa fees (arranged by our office)
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto - \$8797
.....
- Single Supplement - \$1490
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$690
- Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$990

A feast for all the senses, India is a vivid kaleidoscope of magnificent historic sites and royal cities, medieval forts and palaces, scenic lakes and misty mountains, rich culture, fascinating people, and lively festivals.

On this classic tour of India we will discover the most incredible man-made and natural wonders this vast and fascinating country has to offer. From bustling Mumbai on the Arabian Sea, to the open spaces of Rajasthan, and the famous “Golden Triangle” (Delhi, Jaipur and Agra), India boasts a veritable treasure trove of sites and attractions. Along the way we have included a variety of unforgettable “Real India” experiences; a cultural dance performance, dinner with a local family, jeep drives, serene boat trips, and exciting rickshaw rides.

The best part of all - when you arrive in India you will be greeted by a graceful *namaste* – a warm and inviting gesture that denotes both welcome and respect.

** Those joining any of our tours to Asia must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

19 DAYS • FEBRUARY 9 - 27

Tour Highlights:

- India’s largest city and port, Mumbai.
- Udaipur’s glittering lake and palaces
- A stay at medieval Deogarh Fort
- Temples and countryside of Rajasthan
- The enchanting “Pink City” of Jaipur
- A stay at the 300-year-old fortified Chomu Palace
- A game drive in Ranthambore National Park - home of the Indian Tiger
- Amber Fort
- The romantic and awe-inspiring Taj Mahal
- Holy Varanasi and the sacred River Ganges
- The bustling capital city Delhi

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Mumbai, via Dubai.

Day 2: Mumbai. We arrive in Mumbai and transfer to our hotel.

Day 3: Mumbai. Our city tour begins with the Gateway of India – Mumbai’s most famous landmark commemorating the 1911 visit of King George V and Queen Mary. We’ll drive along the Sea Front Boulevard (known as the Queen’s Necklace when lit up in the evening), visit the marble Jain temples, and ascend Malabar Hill for amazing panoramic views. After lunch at a local restaurant we visit the Prince of Wales Museum – a Victorian Gothic style building with beautiful gardens that houses a priceless collection of art, sculpture, and more. Next is the Dhobi Ghat, where Mumbai’s “dirties” are scrubbed, bashed, and hung out to dry. We finish with a stroll through the bustling Crawford Market.

Day 4: Mumbai / Udaipur. We take a boat trip to visit the 1,200-year-old Elephanta Caves, housing some of India’s most beautiful rock-cuts. Later we fly to the romantic city of Udaipur.

Day 5: Udaipur. Our city tour includes the City Palace, now a museum overlooking the lake, Jagdish Temple with its sculpted figures and ornamental interiors, and Sahelion-ki-Bari (Garden of the Maids of Honour) – for centuries the scene of royal parties. Afternoon at leisure. In the late afternoon we take a boat ride on Lake Pichola, surrounded by hills, splendid palaces, temples, and bathing ghats, and visit the island palace of Jag Mandir.

Day 6: Deogarh. Our first stop is the exquisitely carved Nagda Temple and the Sas-Bahu temples, which date back to the 10th century. Later, we’ll enjoy a jeep drive through rural landscapes, where we’ll see locals tending their cattle, stop at a cave temple, and visit a lake inhabited by migratory birds. We end the day at one of Rajasthan’s most magnificent medieval castles, Deogarh Fort. This grand architectural marvel captivates with its grandeur, featuring monumental entrances, majestic gateways, and impressive arches and domes. We’ll spend the night in this magnificent medieval fort, now converted into a Heritage hotel.

Day 7: Jaipur. We travel to the “Pink City” of Jaipur, with a stop at beautiful Bijay Niwas Palace for lunch.

Day 8: Jaipur. This morning we visit the Amber Fort, which offers fantastic views over the hills of Rajasthan. The fort looks time-ravaged on the outside, but the interior is splendid with paintings, precious stones, and mirrors. We also see the famous facade of Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds). Later we’ll see the Maharaja’s Palace and Jantar Mantar, the world’s largest stone and marble crafted observatory. Our dinner will be with a local family, who will share some of the secrets of Indian cuisine.

Day 9: Chomu Palace. We depart for Chomu Palace, a 300-year-old fortified palace now converted into a fabulous hotel. This evening we enjoy a lively dance performance.

Day 10: Ranthambore National Park. We travel to Ranthambore National Park (former hunting grounds of the Maharajas, and now a renowned wildlife reserve) and enjoy a game drive to search for the famous diurnal tiger, as well as leopards, hyenas, jackals, crocodiles, wild boar, and various species of deer.

Day 11: Ranthambore National Park. We spend the morning on safari in the park to observe the animals and the great variety of birds: quail, gray-legged goose, woodpecker, Indian gray hornbill, kingfisher, sandpiper, owl, flycatcher to name a few! Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the facilities of the hotel.

Day 12: Agra. We take a morning train to Bharatpur, then proceed by motorcoach to Agra. After lunch we visit the Agra Fort – a fine example of Moghul architecture combining military features with beauty and design.

Day 13: Taj Mahal / Delhi / Varanasi. A day to remember! We visit the Taj Mahal – arguably the most beautiful man-made structure in the world. It was built in 1630 by Shah Jahan (who brought 20,000 craftsmen in from all over the world) for his queen to enshrine her mortal remains. This white marble masterpiece took 17 years to complete. After our visit we drive to Delhi airport for our flight to Varanasi.

Day 14: Varanasi. We take an early morning boat ride on the sacred River Ganges. Here thousands of pilgrims descend the steps to the river and immerse themselves in the sacred waters, washing away their sins – rites that can be deeply moving to witness. We then walk the narrow lanes of Varanasi. Throughout history, millions have passed these lanes seeking “Nirvana” at the river. This afternoon we visit the gold-plated Vishwanath Temple, and in the evening we witness the spectacular sight of Arti of Ganges (collective nightly prayer to the river).

Day 15: Varanasi / Delhi. We visit Sarnath, where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon, and we also see Dharmarajika Stupa, Mulgandha Kuti Vihar Temples, and the Archeological Museum with its collection of Buddhist sculptures. Later we fly to Delhi.

Day 16: Delhi. Our city tour includes an unforgettable rickshaw ride through 300-year-old Chandni Chowk Market, a maze of lanes crowded with shops selling a huge variety of items. We will see Jama Masjid (India’s largest mosque), the Red Fort (Delhi’s most famous landmark), Raj Ghat (a beautiful memorial to Mahatma Gandhi), and Humayun’s Tomb. Tonight is our Farewell Dinner.

Day 17: Delhi. Our final touring of Delhi continues with the 12th century monument of Qutab Minar, India Gate, the Presidential Palace, and Parliament House. The afternoon is at leisure until our late evening transfer to the airport.

Day 18 / 19: Home. We depart for Canada, arrival the next day.



Ancient Kingdoms of South East Asia

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Eva Air
- Deluxe and First Class hotels
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily (except for one lunch)
- Visa fees (arranged by our office)
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Winnipeg - \$11397
- Single Supplement - \$2190
- Ottawa - add \$290
- Montreal or Halifax - add \$690
- Calgary or Edmonton - deduct \$100
- Vancouver - deduct \$300

• Vietnam • Laos • Cambodia

Southeast Asia is an exciting region of great contrasts, from rural villages and French colonial cities to modern skylines. Spectacular scenery abounds with lush tropical vegetation, misty mountains, terraced rice paddies, magnificent temples, open-air markets and traditional villages. Much of the beauty of this region lies in the peacefulness and warmth of the people who have lived much the same way for hundreds of years.

Delightful Vietnam stretches from the Chinese border to the tropical Mekong Delta, offering unspoiled nature, beautiful islands, bustling cities, fantastic cuisine and friendly people. Cambodia is a country of wondrous beauty and, as successor to the Khmer Empire, home to Angkor Wat and the other incredible temples of 12th century Angkor - a collection of monuments unrivalled in grandeur in all of Southeast Asia. Laos is a mountainous country long isolated from the outside world, where many of the traditions that have disappeared elsewhere remain. Rural life here is timeless, with stilt houses, paddy fields and saffron-robed monks.

18 DAYS • FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 8

Tour Highlights:

- Ho Chi Minh City, a buzz of commerce and culture
- Charming temples and pagodas of Hanoi
- The magical islands of Halong Bay
- Vientiane, the elegant French colonial capital of Laos
- Vang Vieng's fish market and Nam Ngum Lake
- Luang Prabang - a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Boat trip on the Mekong Delta
- Incredible Angkor Wat - Cambodia's national symbol
- Le Sap Lake's floating villages (Siem Reap)
- The architectural wonders of Phnom Penh

** Those joining any of our tours to Asia must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

Day 1: Depart. We depart for Vietnam via Taipei.

Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). We arrive in Ho Chi Minh City and transfer to our hotel. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Ho Chi Minh City. Our city tour begins with a walk in the historic centre - the heart of old colonial Saigon, followed by a visit of the Reunification Palace - former residence of the South Vietnamese president which was stormed by tanks in 1975 signifying the fall of South Vietnam. We continue to the War Remnants Museum, which documents the long Vietnam War. In the afternoon we explore Chinatown and Ben Thanh market.

Day 4: Hanoi. This morning we visit the famous Cu Chi Tunnels - the incredible underground military base dug out by hand by the Viet Cong for the Vietnam War. Later we fly to Hanoi.

Day 5: Hanoi. Vietnam's capital still retains the mystery and charm of past centuries with narrow laneways and traditional shops. We will visit the Temple of Literature - a perfect example of traditional Vietnamese architecture, followed by the miniature One Pillar Pagoda and the Stilt House. Later we visit Hoan Kiem Lake, Ngoc Son Temple and the tiny Tortoise Pagoda. Tonight we attend a traditional Water Puppet Show and traditional dinner at a Vietnamese home.

Day 6: Halong Bay. We travel by coach to Halong Bay, and board a traditional wooden junk to spend the day cruising through beautiful islands, granite towers and rock formations with names such as Stone Dog, Incense Burner and Fighting Cock. Many islets have wonderful caves and grottos.

Day 7: Vientiane (Laos). We return to Hanoi and visit the Ethnology Museum before we fly to Vientiane - capital of Laos.

Day 8: Vientiane. Vientiane has a relaxed charm, with beautiful temples, tree-lined boulevards and colourful markets. Our city tour includes That Luang - a golden Stupa which is Laos' most important national monument, the former Royal Temple - now a museum with fine Buddhist sculptures, and the "morning market" - the best place to buy traditional Lao fabrics.

Day 9: Vang Vieng. We enjoy a scenic drive to Van Vieng. En route we'll visit the Fish Market in Huay Mor, enjoy a boat trip on serene Nam Ngum Lake and visit a farm that teaches organic farming methods to the local community.

Day 10: Luang Prabang. We continue our drive to Luang Prabang, stopping en route at a local village and Elephant Cave with its Buddha images and elephant shaped stalactites.

Day 11: Luang Prabang. This enchanting town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site filled with historic temples and colonial style buildings. We'll visit the most important monasteries and

temples, including the oldest living temple dating back to 1513, and the National Museum (the former Royal Residence). Later we visit Wat Mai - a collection of small temples atop a hill offering beautiful views over the city, river and countryside.

Day 12: Luang Prabang. We travel by boat up the Mekong River to the steep limestone cliffs and Tham Pak Ou Caves. These extraordinary caves are filled with Buddha images of every style and material imaginable. On the return journey we stop at a local village for a glimpse of daily village life.

Day 13: Luang Prabang. We drive through the Laotian countryside, with its rice paddies and small villages, to Kuang Si Falls. These beautiful waterfalls cascade over calcified tiers down several hundred feet into cool, turquoise pools. After exploring the falls on the walkways and bridges we'll enjoy a picnic lunch. On our way back to Luang Prabang we'll stop at a paper making village to learn about this ancient artistry.

Day 14: Siem Reap (Cambodia). We fly to Siem Reap, and on arrival proceed to Ton Le Sap Lake for a cruise among the floating homes and small fish farms to observe daily life on the lake. This evening we enjoy a cultural dance show.

Day 15: Angkor Thom / Angkor Wat / Siem Riep. We first explore the fortified city of Angkor Thom, which includes many of Angkor's most famous sights - the Terrace of the Elephants and Leper Kings, and the mysterious Bayon Temple with its giant smiling stone faces. Next is Ta Prohm - embedded in the jungle it is one of the most popular attractions of Angkor. We finish at the extraordinary Angkor Wat - Cambodia's national symbol and the highlight of any visit to this fascinating country. We will thoroughly explore this temple which impresses with its sheer scale, graceful proportions and artistic carvings.

Day 16: Phnom Penh. A scenic drive takes us across ancient laterite bridges, to visit an important grouping of pre-Angkorian monuments en route to Phnom Penh.

Day 17: Phnom Penh. Cambodia's capital is a fascinating city of graceful tree-lined boulevards and riverfront promenades. We begin at the Royal Palace with its Silver Pagoda, followed by the National Museum which contains an interesting collection of Khmer art. This afternoon, those interested can visit the Museum of Genocide - the interrogation and torture facility for the Khmer Rouge. Kept largely unchanged, this prison showcases photographs and exhibits about the thousands of victims. Those who wish may also visit the Killing Fields - a peaceful rural setting where thousands of people were killed in the 1970's and buried in mass graves.

Day 18: Home. We fly home via Taipei.



Wonders of Thailand Phuket & Bangkok

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Eva Air
- Deluxe hotels
- Breakfast and dinner daily, 4 lunches
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Winnipeg - \$10797
- Single Supplement - \$2990
- Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$390
- Calgary or Edmonton - deduct \$500
- Vancouver - deduct \$700

Exotic, tropical, historic and cultured - Thailand radiates a golden hue from its glittering temples and tropical beaches, to the smiles of the friendly Thai people.

Beyond the mist-shrouded temples, colourful night markets, dense jungles, and rugged mountains, lies an island paradise called Phuket - one of the world's most famous dream destinations. We begin our holiday with a 12-night stay here, where we will enjoy leisurely excursions to take in the stunning views, and visit landmarks such as the famous temple of Wat Chalong and the landmark Big Buddha. We will swim and snorkel at some of Phuket's pristine beaches, enjoy a dinner cruise on a traditional wooden junk on Chalong Bay, and visit two of Asia's most beautiful islands, Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Ley.

A highlight of our tour will be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure to the Phuket Elephant Sanctuary to learn about elephant conservation, and an opportunity to feed some of the elephants! Time on tranquil Phang-Nga Bay will give us breathtaking views of the towering cliffs of the Karst Islands, which are dotted with mangrove forests and hidden caves. We also visit the famed "James Bond Island", setting for "The Man with the Golden Gun", and you will want your camera to capture the image of a delightful floating Sea Gypsy Village built on stilts.

Our hotel in Phuket will be the *Katathani Phuket Beach Resort*, located on tropical grounds along Kata Noi Beach on the Andaman Sea. This Deluxe beachfront hotel and

17 DAYS • FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 8

spa features 6 pools and 6 dining options, including casual beachside barbecues and fine dining, and a range of cuisines including traditional Thai, authentic Italian, fresh seafood, and oven-baked pizzas. There is also 24-hour room service and cooking lessons. Enjoy soothing massages and treatments at the spa, or simply relax by the pool. Other leisure options include water sport facilities, a games room, and library. Shuttle services to Phuket Town and Patong Beach are also available.

The spacious rooms have Thai-style furnishings, with complimentary WiFi, safe, coffee maker, hairdryer, bathrobe and slippers, and refrigerator.

Following our stay in Phuket, we enjoy a 3-night stay in Bangkok - an incredible city with a uniquely exotic flavour. The city is filled with glittering temple spires, lively street markets, and shaven-headed orange-robed monks walking barefoot on the street. While in Bangkok we'll see The Grand Palace, with its sparkling mosaics, Wat Phra Kaew temple (home to the Emerald Buddha), cruise on the Chao Phraya River and the river markets of Thonburi, and enjoy a special Thai dinner while being entertained by classical music and dance performances!

** Those joining any of our tours to Asia must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Phuket, via Taipei and Bangkok.

Day 2: Phuket. We arrive in Phuket and transfer to our hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure.

Day 3: Phuket Island Explorer Tour. We enjoy the scenic drive along the coast, passing the beaches of Patong, Karon, Kata, and Rawai. The breathtaking 'Three Beaches' viewpoint offers stunning seascapes. We'll go into Phuket Town to admire the Sino-Portuguese architecture and visit the local market and notable attractions like Wat Chalong - a renowned monastery, and the impressive Big Buddha at Chalong. Finally, we enjoy the famous sunset viewpoint at Promthep Cape - one of Phuket's most beautiful panoramas.

Day 4: Phuket Elephant Sanctuary. We visit the Phuket Elephant Sanctuary - a truly unique adventure. We will observe the rescued elephants from a 600-metre-long canopy walkway, and enjoy the opportunity to take stunning photographs, while maintaining a respectful distance to allow the elephants to roam freely. Our tour guides will tell each elephant's story and share fascinating facts about these majestic creatures. There may also be an opportunity to feed the elephants.

Day 5: At leisure. A day at leisure to enjoy the resort's facilities.

Day 6: Phi Phi Island. We enjoy an exciting island-hopping trip to the Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Ley islands aboard a speedboat. Phi Phi Ley is famous as the filming location of the movie "The Beach." We'll discover stunning limestone cliffs, pristine sandy beaches, and crystal-clear emerald water at Phi Phi Don, and we'll stop by the Viking Cave or Monkey Beach for a swim or snorkel in the vibrant reefs teeming with colourful tropical fish. After a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, we continue with a visit to Bamboo Beach or Rang Yai Island - a secluded and picturesque setting for swimming and relaxation.

Days 7 & 8: At leisure.

Day 9: Phang Nga Bay. We embark on a remarkable tour to the enchanting limestone karsts of Phang Nga Bay. Following a scenic road trip from Phuket, we continue by speedboat, through stunning scenery to Hong Island - a captivating gem with towering limestone formations and crystal-clear waters. Peley Beach on the island has fine powdery sand, and Koh Hong reveals a hidden lagoon surrounded by majestic rocks, mangroves, and intriguing

caves. We'll enjoy guided sea canoe and long-tail boat rides to explore the caves up close. Along the way, we'll visit the famous "James Bond Island", renowned for its appearance in "The Man with the Golden Gun" and other movies. We'll also stop at the floating sea gypsy village of Koh Panyi, known for its stilt-built structures and a unique floating football field.

Days 10 - 12: At leisure.

Day 13: At leisure / Sunset Dinner Cruise. Our last day to soak up the sun in Phuket. Tonight, we'll embark on a captivating sunset dinner cruise aboard a traditional Chinese Junk. As we sail into the tropical sunset, we'll enjoy the breathtaking reflections of the setting sun in this picturesque tropical region, as well as a delectable buffet dinner.

Day 14: Bangkok. This morning we fly to Bangkok, Thailand's cosmopolitan capital city. The rest of the day will be at leisure.

Day 15: Bangkok's Grand Palace. The Grand Palace is a must-see attraction in Bangkok, renowned for its magnificent architecture adorned with golden stupas and vibrant mosaics. Once the residence of Thai kings, palaces on the property include the Reception Hall, Coronation Hall, Throne Hall, Royal Guest House, and Wat Phra Kaew (which houses the sacred Emerald Buddha, carved from a single piece of jade). After the visit, we'll enjoy lunch at a riverside restaurant, and the afternoon is free to further explore the city.

Day 16: Thonburi Klong Canals / Thai Classical Dinner and Dance Show. This enchanting boat tour through the heart of Bangkok offers a unique perspective of the city as we cruise along the Chao Phraya River and explore the canals of Thonburi, known as the "Venice of the East." This tranquil journey reveals a traditional way of Thai life, with picturesque views of wooden homes on stilts, Buddhist temples, and small family businesses along the waterways. Marvel at the iconic Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun) and capture stunning photographs of its magnificent multi-coloured porcelain-studded tower. Tonight's dinner, in a traditional teak pavilion, will have us indulging in authentic cuisine representing the four fundamental tastes of Thai food: sweet, sour, salty, and bitter. As well as the culinary delights, we'll enjoy classical Thai dance performances.

Day 17: Home. We fly home via Taipei.



Japan and South Korea

Japan and South Korea both combine fabled history and rich traditions with some of the world's most modern achievements.

Japan is a complex country with scenic beauty, ancient temples, colourful shrines, distinct cuisine, fascinating street markets and much more. We begin in Tokyo, where we will experience modern Japan. Then we travel through the beautiful mountainous region around sacred Mount Fuji to the cultural capital, Kyoto, which hosts Japan's largest concentration of temples, shrines and traditional arts. Next is Hiroshima - completely rebuilt after WWII, and the picturesque island of Miyajima, home of the Itsukushima Shrine (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Our final stop in Japan is the lively harbour city of Fukuoka, with a cruise on the Yana River. Much of our travel within Japan will be aboard the high-speed Bullet Train.

South Korea is a mountainous country with scenic hills and valleys alongside stunning coastlines and beaches. We will take a jet ferry from Japan to the port city of Busan, and then proceed to Gyeongju (considered one of the world's most historic cities), where we discover a treasure trove of priceless artifacts and ancient sites, including the oldest astronomical observatory in the

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Air Canada flights
- DeLuxe and First Class hotels
- Full breakfast daily, 14 dinners, and 4 lunches
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, or Winnipeg - \$13497
-
- Single Supplement - \$2190
- Ottawa or Montreal - add \$190
- Halifax - add \$290
- Vancouver - deduct \$400

17 DAYS • MARCH 25 - APRIL 10

world. We finish in Seoul, the capital, where one can find traces of its 5,000 year history in the palaces and temples

Tour Highlights:

- Tokyo's Imperial Garden & Asakusa Kannon Temple
- Cruise on Lake Ashi with panoramic views of Mt. Fuji
- Cultural capital of Kyoto
- Okayama Castle and Koraku-en Garden
- Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park
- Kintai Bridge and Iwakuni Castle
- Ferry to South Korea and port of Busan
- Gyeongju, the ancient capital of the Silla dynasty
- Traditional village of Yangdong
- Gwanghwamun Plaza, temples and markets of Seoul

** Those joining any of our tours to Asia must be able to walk fairly long distances and climb stairs easily.*

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Tokyo.

Day 2: Tokyo. We arrive in Tokyo and transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure until our Welcome Dinner this evening.

Day 3: Tokyo. Our touring of Japan's capital includes the Imperial East Garden and Asakusa Kannon Temple. We will enjoy a cooking class to learn how to make sushi. Following a lunch of our creations we'll take a stroll through the famous Ginza area.

Day 4: Tokyo at leisure. A day at leisure to explore this fascinating city at your own pace.

Day 5: Mount Fuji / Hakone. A very scenic day as we will skirt the Japanese Alps with constant panoramic views of Mount Fuji. We enjoy a cruise on Lake Ashi, then take the Hakone Ropeway to climb Mount Komagatake for views of the lake and surrounding countryside.

Day 6: Kyoto. We take an express Bullet Train to the cultural capital, Kyoto - a treasure trove of art, architecture and landscaping. Our tour will include the Golden Pavilion Temple (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), the former residence of the Imperial family, Nijo Castle and Heian Jingu Shrine - built in 1895 to commemorate the 1100th anniversary as the capital.

Day 7: Okayama / Hiroshima. We travel by train to the unique city of Okayama to visit Okayama Castle and Koraku-en Garden, considered the most beautiful in Japan. We then continue by train to Hiroshima.

Day 8: Miyajima / Hiroshima. Our full day tour includes visits to the Peace Memorial Park, the Atomic Bomb Dome and the Itsukushima Shrine - a UNESCO World Heritage Site located on the deer filled island of Miyajima.

Day 9: Iwakuni / Fukuoka. We drive to Iwakuni to visit Kintai Bridge, an historic wooden arch bridge, and the impressive Iwakuni Castle, originally built in 1608 and rebuilt in 1962 conforming exactly to the original construction. We then continue to Fukuoka.

Day 10: Fukuoka. This morning we visit Fukuoka Tower, the tallest seaside tower in Japan and the Hakata Machiya Furusatoka, a folk museum with exhibits on local history, handicrafts, weaving and religious festivals. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 11: Busan (South Korea). We take a jet ferry to the port city of Busan, home to some of Korea's most beautiful beaches. After lunch we visit the largest fish market in Korea - the symbol of Busan.

Day 12: Busan. Our full day tour of Busan includes visits to the Beomeosa Temple, Haeundae Beach and the UN cemetery. We also visit the famous international market, Gukje Sijang.

Day 13: Gyeongju. We travel to Gyeongju, ancient capital of the Silla dynasty and recognized as one of the ten most historic cities in the world. Our touring of Gyeongju includes visits to two World Heritage temples, the Seokguram Grotto - home of the 8th century serene stone Buddha, and Bulguksa, built during the glorious period of the Silla kingdom. Later we visit the Gyeongju Museum with its thousands of priceless treasures. Other visits include Cheomseongdae - the world's oldest astronomical observatory, and Tumuli Park with its rare exhibits of ancient tombs.

Day 14: Yangdong / Seoul. This morning we visit Yangdong Maeul, a traditional village from the 15th century and UNESCO World Heritage site. We will see the tile and thatched-roofed homes built throughout the dense forest, many of which have been preserved for more than 200 years, along with ancient folk customs. We then depart for Seoul, the capital and largest city in South Korea.

Day 15: Seoul. Our city tour of Seoul includes visits to Gwanghwamun Plaza (the landmark of Seoul), the National Folklore Museum, Jogyesa Temple and Insa-dong, known as the centre of traditional Korean art and antiques. We finish with some time to explore Cheonggyecheon, a lively district filled with huge markets and arcades.

Day 16: Seoul. Our touring of Seoul continues today with a visit to the Bukchon Hanok Village, a traditional village preserved to show a 600-year-old urban environment. We will also visit Namdaemun Market, widely acknowledged as one of Seoul's best attractions. Tonight's Farewell Dinner will be at N Seoul Tower, South Korea's first general radio wave tower, offering awe-inspiring cityscape views.

Day 17: Home. Morning at leisure. This afternoon we transfer to the airport for our flight home.



Beautiful Bali

2-Centre Holiday

Known as the 'Land of the Gods', Bali is the jewel at the heart of Indonesia's Island Nation.

This tropical island offers a varied landscape of sandy beaches, rugged coastline, lush rice terraces, volcanic peaks, and mountains that all provide a picturesque backdrop to a spiritual and unique culture. Age-old traditions come alive in fascinating temple ceremonies, cultural performances, exquisite flower-petal offerings and processions of joyfully garbed locals celebrating. While Bali no doubt has all the natural beauty to make for a perfect tropical holiday, it is the smiling inhabitants that will make you feel genuinely welcome.

Our explorations on the island will showcase the country's wondrous landscape, fascinating village temples and artisan towns specializing in silver jewelry, traditional ceramic and tile making. Sightseeing will include the Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary, Goa Lawah Temple built in the form of a cave and home to thousands of bats, the most sacred temple - Batukaru with its tiered roofs and fragrant gardens, the majestic stone carvings at Ubud Palace, a magical walk through vast rice fields, and a vibrant dance performance. We'll also see the largest and most important temple Besakih (Mother temple) and the original Balinese village of Bali Aga where traditional weaving is still practiced. On our days of leisure you can enjoy a massage on the beach, take a refreshing swim, indulge in the fresh local cuisine, and explore the open air markets, browsing for world renowned handicrafts.

17 DAYS • FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 15

We stay our first 7 nights in the Ubud district of Bali, set amid jungle ravines and rolling emerald foothills. Our hotel, the *Sthala Ubud Bali* is a deluxe boutique resort overlooking the lush green Ubud landscape, dense rainforests and the Wos River. Guestrooms are air-conditioned and feature a balcony or terrace, complimentary Wi-Fi, private bathroom with deluxe amenities and safety deposit box. The hotel also features a variety of wellness facilities including 2 swimming pools, a spa and wellness centre, a gym and yoga classes. A free scheduled area shuttle is also available.

Our final 7 nights will be at the Deluxe *Melia Bali Nusa Dua Beach Hotel*, set on 11 hectares of tropical gardens along the beautiful white sands of the Nusa Dua peninsula. Guest rooms are traditionally furnished in Balinese style with a balcony or terrace, air conditioning, tea and coffee making facilities, safety deposit box and complimentary Wi-Fi. There are five restaurants offering local and international cuisine, a lobby and pool bar, full-service spa and fitness centre, a large lagoon style pool and direct access to a private beach. The resort offers myriad activities including canoeing, snorkeling, water fitness and yoga with golf available nearby.

1. **Ubud Highlights Tour.** Today's full-day tour starts in Manukaya Village to visit Tirta Empul water temple, where local purification rituals take place. Then, continue to Tegallalang to see impressive rice terraces and Pakudui village, famous for its intricately-carved statues, carved out of albesia wood. We will meet a local artisan who will give us a short demonstration of his work. Next stop is the Sacred Monkey Forest where we'll explore the vast jungle with a local guide and learn about the 700+ monkeys, 186 tree species, and 3 temples that inhabit this magical forest. The tour ends at Ubud Palace, which showcases traditional Balinese architecture and is a hub for arts, dance, and literature.
2. **Karangasem.** Our tour of Karangasem includes a visit to the 17th century Klungkung Palace, which was largely destroyed by the Dutch in 1908. All that remains are the court of justice, the Kerta Gosa Pavilion and the main gate. We continue to Kusamba, a fisherman's village with a black sandy shoreline and colourful outriggers. Then, we visit Goa Lawah - a temple famous for the thousand bats living in the cave opening around which the temple is built. The final stop is Tenganan Village, a photogenic traditional Balinese village inhabited by the Bali Aga. The village is a walled community reflecting the unique and colourful customs of Bali's indigenous people. The friendly villagers welcome visitors in to explore their homes, learn more about daily life and observe traditional weaving.
3. **Batukaru / Jatiluwih.** We visit Batukaru Temple in the north of Bali. Constructed in the 11th century, it is one of nine temples that are said to protect the Balinese people from evil spirits, and the temple is often visited by the Balinese people as part of their pilgrimage. The road from Batukaru to Jatiluwih offers beautiful scenery that can be fully enjoyed with easy-to-use e-bikes. Jatiluwih is famous for its impressive rice terraces, lush jungle with giant bamboo trees, and views of Mount Batukaru and Mount Agung. A local lunch will be enjoyed amongst the calming greenery. The tour then continues to Bedugul, home to three crater lakes, and Ulun Danu Temple, an iconic temple located on the shores of Lake Bratan. The temple's style follows the Trimurti belief, representing the three gods: Shiva, Brahma, and Vishnu.
4. **Bukit Peninsula Uluwatu Temple / Nyang Nyang Beach.** Today we tour the Bukit Peninsula, where the coastline is home to some of Bali's best beaches. Hop aboard a classic open-top Volkswagen Kubelwagon as we cruise along the coastal roads, passing through beachside communities and arriving at Melasti Beach for lunch. The journey continues along the southern coast to Uluwatu Temple, perched on a cliffside above the Indian Ocean, with archaeological remains and monkeys as guardians. The final stop is Nyang Nyang Beach, a secluded and pristine coastline where you can feel completely off the grid as there is no phone signal. A couple of small wooden warungs serve up ice cold beers and coconuts!
5. **Traditional Kecak Dance Performance.** An evening out to enjoy a traditional Balinese Kecak Dance and fire performance held in the candle-lit amphitheater of the *Tanah Ganja Hotel*. Dinner tonight is in the style of "rijsttafel", a dining ritual that was once reserved for Balinese kings and members of royalty.


HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS

- Flights with Cathay Pacific, with a change in Hong Kong each way (overnight in Hong Kong on the way home)
- Deluxe hotels as described
- Breakfast and dinner daily, plus 4 lunches
- 5 guided excursions as described above
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Calgary, or Edmonton - \$10397

Single Supplement - \$1990

Ottawa, Montreal, or Winnipeg - add \$290. Halifax - add \$390. Vancouver - deduct \$300.



Central Caribbean Cruise aboard the *Sky Princess*

Join our group of friendly Canadians and cruise with us to some of the Caribbean's most exciting ports of call.

On this cruise we will discover unique destinations such as San Juan, Puerto Rico with its vibrant culture and old-world elegance; Turks & Caicos with its stunning beaches, salt ponds and iconic windmills, and the Dominican Republic known for its colonial sites and architecture situated in beautiful natural settings.

We will cruise in style and luxury aboard the *Sky Princess*. The ships of Princess Cruises are among the most beautiful and hospitable, and have more of everything you would expect in a 5-star floating resort. Princess' award-winning shore excursions and fascinating onboard programs bring the culture and colours of this

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Cruise as described, port taxes, all meals daily, all activities and entertainment
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COSTS:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal
 - Inside cabin \$3497
 - Outside cabin with balcony \$3997
 - Deluxe balcony cabin \$4197
 - Mini-Suite \$4397
-
- Single Supplement - add 50% to costs above
 - Ottawa - add \$190 (with round-trip ground transportation to the Montreal airport)
 - * *All add-ons below include an overnight in Toronto en route to Fort Lauderdale*
 - Halifax, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$490
 - Winnipeg - add \$690

8 DAYS • FEBRUARY 10 - 17

region to life. Talented chefs will take you on a culinary journey, with freshly prepared and carefully crafted dishes that celebrate the Caribbean.

Take in some of the finest cruise ship entertainment as the theatre lights up the top deck day or night with feature films, or watch a lavish Broadway production complete with dazzling stage sets and international performers in the state-of-the-art Princess theatre!

* *All shore excursions are optional, and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website, or onboard the ship.*

Day 1: Departure. We fly to Fort Lauderdale and upon arrival transfer to our cruise ship, the *Sky Princess*. This evening we enjoy our first delicious dinner onboard, and get to know our fellow travellers.

Day 2: Princess Cays, Bahamas. Relax on the sandy beach and take in the island's natural beauty while lazing on your own comfortable beach chair. Or, try snorkelling and explore the underwater paradise hidden within the unspoiled waters of the Bahamas.

Day 3: At Sea. Time to relax, get acquainted with the ship and enjoy the endless array of facilities, activities, and entertainment. Visit the health club for a massage or beauty treatment, join an exercise class, try line dancing, or perhaps a wine tasting.

Day 4: San Juan, Puerto Rico. San Juan is known as the walled city and is one of the biggest and best natural harbours in the Caribbean. It is also the second oldest European founded city in the Americas. Explore Old San Juan, with its 400 carefully restored 16th and 17th century Spanish colonial buildings. Visit the 16th century National Historic Site fort of El Morro, which covers over 70 acres and features six levels that rise from sea level to 145 feet.

Day 5: Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos. This small island is bursting with 19th century Caribbean charm. The Bermudan British colonial architecture sits alongside the marine-blue waters of the Caribbean. Grand Turk is blessed with miles of quiet sugary beaches and is close to several uninhabited cays just waiting to be explored.

Day 6: Amber Cove, Dominican Republic. On the north coast of the Dominican Republic, Amber Cove (named for the translucent gemstone found on its shores), sits just seven miles from the town of Puerto Plata. This cinematic locale was used as the backdrop for the first Jurassic Park film. Just steps from the dock you can take in the sparkling beach, which offers a host of water activities, or enjoy the serene, natural beauty of the scenery. You may also want to explore the 450-year-old San Felipe Fortress in Puerto Plata.

Day 7: At Sea. Relax and enjoy all of the activities and entertainment on board our ship.

Day 8: Fort Lauderdale / Home. We arrive back in Fort Lauderdale in the morning and transfer to the airport for our flight home.



Eastern Caribbean Cruise

aboard the
Enchanted Princess

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Cruise as described, port taxes, all meals daily, all activities and entertainment
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COSTS:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal
- Inside cabin \$3997
- Outside cabin with balcony \$5197
- Deluxe balcony cabin \$5397
- Mini Suite \$5997

- Single Supplement - add 50% to costs above
- Ottawa - add \$190 (with round-trip ground transportation to the Montreal airport)

** All add-ons below include a hotel overnight in Toronto en route to Fort Lauderdale*

- Halifax or Vancouver - add \$390
- Calgary or Edmonton - add \$490
- Winnipeg - add \$790

Join our group of friendly Canadians as we cruise to exotic landscapes brimming with natural, unspoiled beauty, world-renowned beaches, and vibrant cultures.

On this cruise we will venture deeper into the Caribbean to smaller, less visited islands teeming with lush rainforests, waterfalls, rare birds and spices unique to the region. We will also discover aquamarine seas ablaze with brightly coloured coral reefs teeming with technicolour fish, breathtaking national parks, and world-renowned beaches.

We will cruise in style and luxury aboard the new *Enchanted Princess*. The ships of Princess Cruises are among the most beautiful and hospitable, and have more of everything you would expect in a 5-star floating resort.

11 DAYS • JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 6

Princess' award winning shore excursions and fascinating onboard programs bring the culture and colours of this region to life. Talented chefs will take you on a culinary journey, with freshly prepared and carefully crafted dishes that celebrate the Caribbean.

Take in some of the finest cruise ship entertainment as the theatre lights up the top deck day or night with feature films, or watch a lavish Broadway production complete with dazzling stage sets and international performers in the state-of-the-art Princess theatre!

** All shore excursions are optional, and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website, or onboard the ship.*

Day 1: Departure. We fly to Fort Lauderdale and upon arrival transfer to our cruise ship, the *Enchanted Princess*. This evening, join our group as we enjoy our first delicious dinner onboard.

Days 2 & 3: At Sea. Time to relax, get acquainted with the ship and enjoy the endless array of facilities, activities, and entertainment. Visit the health club for a massage or beauty treatment, take in an onboard lecture, try line dancing, or perhaps a wine tasting.

Day 4: Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Tortola is the largest of the British Virgin Islands. The island's capital, Road Town, has vibrant shops and delightful cafes by the harbour. The spectacular beach at Cane Garden Bay is world renowned. For a real treat, take a ferry across the channel to Virgin Gorda, home of the famous Baths.

Day 5: St. Kitts. With so much natural beauty, it's no wonder the English defended the "Gibraltar of the West Indies" from Brimstone Hill. Take it all in - from Piccadilly Circus and an island version of Big Ben to the pink salt pond, the lush gardens, and rainforests.

Day 6: Antigua. Dive into British naval history at Nelson's Dockyard where you can explore the museum and Blockhouse Ruins for nautical lore. Or indulge your sense of wonder snorkelling above rainbow reefs. Or if all of this seems too active, you may just want to pick one of the legendary 365 beaches and soak up the sun!

Day 7: St. Maarten. The Dutch capital of Philipsburg charms with colonial architecture, historic buildings, wonderful shopping, and sunswept beaches. Just a few blocks wide, delights can be found around every corner in the city. On the other side of the island, the hub of French St. Martin is filled with designer boutiques, sidewalk cafes, bistros and trendy art galleries. Wander through the charming streets and experience a taste of France.

Day 8: St. Thomas. A small island surrounded by a series of jagged bays, inlets, and coves with miles of sandy beaches and green mountains. Enjoy exploring the colourful waterfront and cobbled streets with outstanding duty-free shopping in the lovely capital of Charlotte Amalie.

Day 9: Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos. This small island is bursting with 19th century Caribbean charm. The Bermudan British colonial architecture sits alongside the marine-blue waters of the Caribbean. Grand Turk is blessed with miles of quiet sugary beaches and is close to several uninhabited cays just waiting to be explored.

Days 10: At Sea. Enjoy a culinary demonstration, afternoon tea, or take in a movie under the stars. Catch up on your reading, or enjoy the company of your fellow travellers.

Day 11: Fort Lauderdale / Home. We arrive back in Fort Lauderdale in the morning and transfer to the airport for our flight home.



15-Day Caribbean Adventure Cruise

aboard the *Emerald Princess*

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Cruise as described, port taxes, all tipping, all meals daily, all activities & entertainment
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Montreal
- Inside Cabin\$4597
- Outside Cabins with obstructed view...\$4797
- Outside Cabin with private balcony\$6397
- Mini Suite\$7597

- Single Supplement - add 50% to costs above
- Ottawa - add \$190 (with round-trip ground transportation to the Montreal airport)

** All add-ons below include an overnight in Toronto en route to Fort Lauderdale*

- Halifax, Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$390
- Winnipeg - add \$590

Come along with a group of like-minded Canadians as we cruise to some of the most exciting ports in the Caribbean, aboard the *Emerald Princess*.

With a fusion of European and Latin American influences, the Caribbean islands are known for their quaint towns alive with culture, and also for their breathtaking backdrop of swaying palm trees, powder white beaches, turquoise waters, and blue-green mountains.

We will cruise in style and luxury aboard the *Emerald Princess*. The ships of Princess Cruises are among the most beautiful and hospitable, and have more of everything you would expect in a 5-Star floating resort. Princess' award-winning shore excursions and fascinating onboard programs bring the culture and

15 DAYS • FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 6

colours of this region to life. Talented chefs will take you on a culinary journey, with freshly prepared and carefully crafted dishes that celebrate the Caribbean.

Take in some of the finest cruise ship entertainment, as the theatre lights up the top deck day or night with feature films, or watch a lavish Broadway production complete with dazzling stage sets and international performers in the state-of-the-art Princess theatre!

** All shore excursions are optional, and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website, or onboard the ship.*

Day 1: Departure / Fort Lauderdale. We fly to Fort Lauderdale and upon arrival transfer to our cruise ship, the *Emerald Princess*. This evening we enjoy our first delicious dinner on board.

Days 2 & 3: At Sea. Time to relax, get acquainted with the ship and enjoy the endless array of facilities, activities, and entertainment. Visit the health club for a workout or beauty treatment, join an exercise class, line dancing, or perhaps wine tasting.

Day 4: St. Kitts. With so much natural beauty, it's no wonder the English defended the "Gibraltar of the West Indies" from Brimstone Hill. Take it all in - from Piccadilly Circus and an island version of Big Ben, to the pink salt pond, the lush gardens, and rain forests.

Day 5: Guadeloupe. This butterfly-shaped island is actually a region of France (the Euro currency is used here). Grande-Terre on the eastern side of the island has an extensive stretch of sandy beaches, dotted with colourful beach towns. The mountainous Basse-Terre on the western side is home to the wonderful Guadeloupe National Park. The park is dense with lush rainforest foliage, waterfalls, and incredible wildlife and bird species.

Day 6: St. Lucia. St. Lucia is famous for its twin peaks formed by the upheaval of a now extinct volcano. It is one of the truly unspoiled islands of the Caribbean. Here you will find a variety of landscapes and eco-systems not found anywhere else in the region, including rain forests, mountains, and beaches that truly deserve the pristine designation.

Day 7: St. Vincent. St. Vincent is one of the 33 islands and small cays forming the Grenadines. Featuring a rugged coastline, lush rainforest, stunning waterfalls, and black-sand beaches, this island has long been famous for its breathtaking natural beauty. Due to its rich soil and abundant rainfall, St. Vincent is one of the most cultivated islands in the region.

Day 8: Trinidad & Tobago. Trinidad is the birthplace of steel pan and calypso music. There is plenty to see here. The Asa Wright Nature Center is devoted to naturalists and bird watchers. The more traditional tourist attractions are the Queen's Park Savannah, the Royal Botanic Gardens, and the Magnificent Seven - a strand of impressive colonial houses reflecting Trinidad's unique heritage.

Day 9: Grenada. Breathe in the scent of the wild nutmeg trees that this "Spice Island" is famous for as you stroll past the heliconia and ginger lilies to Grand Etang Lake. Be sure to bring along your swimsuit because the crystal-clear pool at the base of Seven Sisters Falls is hard to resist.

Day 10: At Sea.

Day 11: Curacao. The colourful capital, Willemstad, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most recognizable spots in the Caribbean. While the shops in town offer great bargains, there is also an array of pristine beaches as well as the fascinating Hato Caves.

Day 12: Aruba. Although this unique Dutch island has blossomed as a sophisticated Caribbean destination, the real attraction is under water. Aruba is surrounded by colourful coral. The abundant sea life around Arashi Reef or the wreck of the Antilla is simply breathtaking. If you would rather stay dry, view it all by taking an excursion from the air conditioned comfort of an Atlantis submarine or a glass bottom boat.

Days 13 & 14. At Sea. After all the exciting sightseeing of the past few weeks, a couple of days at sea to enjoy the activities and entertainment on board our ship will come most welcome. Enjoy a culinary demonstration, afternoon tea, watch a movie under the stars, catch up on your reading, and enjoy the company of new-found friends.

Day 15: Home. We disembark the ship in Fort Lauderdale and transfer to the airport for our flight home.



Panama Canal Cruise (Full Transit) aboard the *Emerald Princess*

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Cruise as described, port taxes, all meals daily, all activities and entertainment
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COSTS:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto
 - Inside Cabin (various decks).....\$5197
 - Outside Cabin (obstructed view)
Emerald Deck.....\$5397
 - Outside Cabin (clear view)
Plaza Deck.....\$5997
 - Outside Cabin with private balcony
(various decks).....\$6597
-
- Single Supplement - add 50% to costs above
 - Calgary, Edmonton, or Vancouver - add \$390
 - Winnipeg - add \$590
 - Ottawa, Montreal, or Halifax - add \$390
(includes overnight in Toronto en route to LA)

Join a group of friendly Canadians on this exciting journey through the Panama Canal.

By creating artificial lakes and immense lift locks, the Americans performed one of the greatest engineering feats in history, completing the canal in 1914. A canal crossing is memorable. The scenery around this 8th Wonder of the World is lush and tropical and the intricate workings of the locks and sheer immensity of the achievement are awe-inspiring.

We sail from Los Angeles to Fort Lauderdale aboard the *Emerald Princess*. Princess Cruises, whose ships are considered among the most beautiful and hospitable, was one of the first cruise lines to traverse the canal. Their ships are luxurious, floating resorts with all the pleasures of a deluxe resort hotel.

16 DAYS • FEBRUARY 6 - 21

Princess' award-winning shore excursions and fascinating onboard programs bring the culture and colours of this region to life. Talented chefs will take you on a culinary journey, with freshly prepared and carefully crafted dishes that celebrate this part of the world.

Take in some of the finest cruise ship entertainment as the theatre lights up the top deck day or night with feature films, or watch a lavish Broadway production complete with dazzling stage sets and international performers in the state-of-the-art Princess theatres!

** All shore excursions are optional, and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website, or onboard the ship.*

Day 1: Departure / Los Angeles. We depart for Los Angeles, and upon arrival we transfer to our cruise ship. This evening we enjoy our first delicious dinner on board, and a chance to get acquainted with our fellow travellers.

Days 2 & 3: At Sea. Time to relax, and enjoy the endless array of facilities, activities, and entertainment on board. Visit the health club for a massage or beauty treatment, join an exercise class, line dancing, wine tasting, practice your short game on the putting green, or participate in a game of shuffleboard.

Day 4: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Explore this bustling city with its cobblestoned lanes, red-tiled roofs, and palm covered hills. You may want to spend the afternoon at Bahia de las Banderas with its glistening blue waters and powdery beaches.

Day 5: At Sea.

Day 6: Huatulco, Mexico. Made up of nine bays on the coast of Oaxaca, Huatulco is an unblemished tropical site for rest and relaxation. Tourists can engage in local customs and shop for beautiful native clothes in plazas such as La Nata, located on the main square.

Day 7: At Sea.

Day 8: San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua. Once a sleepy fishing village, San Juan del Sur is now the most popular travel and vacation destination on Nicaragua's Pacific coast, offering a lively mix of local culture and wonderful natural attractions.

Day 9: Puntarenas, Costa Rica. Perched at the tip of a sandy peninsula (its name means "sandy point"), the entire city of Puntarenas is within easy walking distance from the port. The people of this city have a reputation for friendliness and have long welcomed tourists to the sunny beaches that encircle the city.

Day 10: At Sea.

Day 11: Panama Canal - Full Transit. Today we experience the full transit of the Panama Canal. See the immense lift locks raise and lower the passing vessels and great volumes of water rushing by. Enjoy the scenery on either side of the canal with mangrove swamps, tropical plants, trees, and bird life. As we cruise through the canal there is a detailed narration of this colossal undertaking that cost \$367 million in 1914!

Day 12: Cartagena, Colombia. In the 17th century this walled city was a target for every pirate on the high seas. It has many architectural treasures along its narrow streets with Spanish inspired facades and balconies. You may want to take a ride to the top of La Popa Hill for great views of the city, the old fort, and a 17th century monastery. Purchase and take home some of, what is widely considered, the best coffee in the world!

Day 13: At Sea

Day 14: Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. Grand Cayman, the largest of the three Cayman Islands, is home to white sand beaches, coral gardens, and a unique array of exotic flora and fauna. Experience the vibrant culture of the island as you explore the capital, George Town, the lively districts of the town, and its bustling markets.

Day 15: At Sea.

Day 16: Fort Lauderdale / Home. We disembark in Fort Lauderdale and transfer to the airport for our flight home.



Hawaiian Island Cruise

aboard the *Crown Princess*

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- Cruise as described, port taxes, all meals daily, all activities and entertainment
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COSTS:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto or Edmonton
 - Inside Cabin (various decks)..... \$4997
 - Outside Cabin (obstructed view)
Emerald Deck..... \$5197
 - Outside Cabin (clear view), *Plaza Deck*... \$6197
 - Outside Cabin with private balcony
Aloha or Baja Deck \$7397
-
- Single Supplement - add 50% to costs above
 - Vancouver - deduct \$200
** Add-ons below include a hotel overnight in Toronto or Vancouver en route to San Francisco*
 - Ottawa - add \$590
 - Edmonton or Calgary - add \$790
** Add-ons below include hotel overnights in Toronto in each direction*
 - Montreal or Halifax - add \$790

Cruising is an ideal way to explore the tropical paradise we call Hawaii.

On this cruise we visit the big island of Hawaii, known for its orchids and volcanoes, Maui, with its green hills and gentle valleys, Kauai (*The Garden Isle*), and Oahu, where you'll discover the excitement of Honolulu.

We will cruise in style and luxury aboard the *Crown Princess*. The ships of Princess Cruises are among the most beautiful and hospitable, and have more of everything you would expect in a 5-star floating resort. Princess' award-winning shore excursions and fascinating onboard programs will bring the cultures and colours of Hawaii to life. Talented chefs will take you on a

17 DAYS • FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 9

culinary journey, with freshly prepared and carefully crafted dishes that celebrate Hawaii.

Take in some of the finest cruise ship entertainment as the theatre lights up the top deck day or night with feature films, and watch a lavish Broadway production complete with dazzling stage sets and international performers in the state-of-the art Princess theatre!

** All shore excursions are optional, and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website, or onboard the ship.*

Day 1: Departure / San Francisco. We depart for San Francisco. Upon arrival we transfer to our Princess cruise ship which sails later in the afternoon. This evening we enjoy our first delicious dinner on board.

Days 2 - 5: At Sea. Time now to enjoy the many pleasures of our cruise ship. Pamper yourself in the spa, play a game of shuffleboard, perfect your golf swing or partake in afternoon tea. Browse the boutiques, take in a movie at the theatre or just curl up in your deck chair with a good book - a time honoured seafaring tradition.

Day 6: Kauai. The oldest inhabited island in Hawaii, the "Garden Isle" boasts Waimea Canyon, known as "The Grand Canyon of the Pacific". You may want to take a boat ride on the Wailua River or visit Fern Grotto and hear a performance of "The Hawaiian Wedding Song".

Day 7: Honolulu / Oahu. Honolulu is Hawaii's largest city and the state capital. It is probably most famous as the home of Waikiki Beach. You may want to visit Iolani Palace, the only royal palace on U.S. soil, or see the *USS Arizona Memorial* and the "Mighty Missouri" at Pearl Harbor.

Day 8: Lahaina (Maui). Maui is the second largest of the Hawaiian Islands. It's largest town, Lahaina, was once a whaling port and is now a lovely resort area. It is a great place in which to stroll, camera in hand. The surrounding hills are planted with sugar cane and pineapple and the excellent beaches welcome sunbathers and swimmers. Well worth a visit is the Haleakala Crater, the highest point on the island.

Day 9: Hilo (the Big Island of Hawaii). On the lush rainforest side of Hawaii's Big Island, the "City of Rainbows" offers a look at the power and beauty of nature. You may enjoy the breathtaking views of the 420 foot thundering Akaka Falls or drive around Crater Rim at Volcanoes National Park.

Days 10 - 14: At Sea. We leave Hawaii and begin our cruise back to the mainland. Keep an eye out for whales and dolphins! As we head for the mainland you will be able to really take advantage of all the activities, relaxation, events and socializing available on board.

Day 15: Ensenada, Mexico. This friendly port on the Baja Peninsula boasts more than just a warm Mediterranean climate. Optional excursions will be offered to Bodegas de Santo Tomas, Baja's oldest winery.

Day 16: At Sea. A final day to enjoy the many pleasures of our luxurious cruise ship.

Day 17: San Francisco / Home. Farewell to our friends on our Princess cruise ship as we disembark and transfer to the airport for our flight home.



Persian Gulf Cruise

- Abu Dhabi • United Arab Emirates • Oman
- Qatar • 3 night stay and touring in Dubai

Join us as we cruise to some of the most fascinating port cities in the Middle East, and visit many of the amazing attractions in and around the dazzling city of Dubai.

We begin in Dubai, which has gone from a sleepy pearl-diving village to one of the world's most talked-about cities. The business capital of the United Arab Emirates has breath-taking architecture, towering skyscrapers, man-made islands and a glittering cityscape, as well as old, traditional Middle Eastern buildings, souks and traditions.

We then board our cruise ship and sail through the Persian Gulf, visiting various ports in Oman and Abu Dhabi before returning to Dubai. We will sail in comfort aboard the *Costa Toscana*. This new and moderate European-style floating resort is in the grand size class of

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- 7-night cruise, port taxes, all meals, all tipping, activities and entertainment
- In Dubai - 3 nights First Class hotel with touring, and breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COSTS:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto
 - Premium Inside Cabin\$6197
 - Premium Outside Cabin\$6397
 - Premium Outside Cabin & balcony ..\$6997
-
- Single Supplement - add 50% to costs above
 - Ottawa or Halifax - add \$190.
 - Montreal, Winnipeg or Edmonton - add \$390.
 - Calgary - add \$490. Vancouver - add \$590.

13 DAYS • FEBRUARY 6 - 18

ships, so there are many options for entertainment, dining and activities. Features of the ship include 4 swimming pools, jacuzzis, skywalk, and Spa centre offering a full range of beauty, health and relaxation treatments. There are theme parties, dance lessons, a casino and boutiques. And there's no shortage of choice when it comes to dining, with 11 restaurants to suit all tastes. And with 9 bars and lounges there is always a place to relax and enjoy your favourite cocktail. The theatre for evening shows is spread over 3 levels. Our spacious Premium guestrooms are well appointed, and you have the choice of an inside, outside, or balcony cabin.

** During the land portion of the tour all excursions are included. During the cruise portion all shore excursions are optional. Those interested will pay on board the ship.*

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Dubai on a non-stop flight from Toronto.

Day 2: Dubai. We arrive in Dubai and transfer to our hotel.

Day 3: Dubai. Our touring in Dubai begins with the twin minarets of the Jumeirah Mosque - a magnificent example of Islamic architecture and one of Dubai's most famous sites. We drive around the Bastakiya area with its old merchant houses and wind towers, and then visit the Shindagah Museum. An abra (water taxi) will take us across the Dubai Creek to browse the spice and gold souk (market). Lunch is included on our tour. Afternoon at leisure. This evening we enjoy a *Dhow* Dinner Cruise along Dubai Creek with spectacular views of the city.

Day 4: Dubai / Al Ain. Today we enjoy a full-day tour to the oasis city of Al Ain located in the Hajar Mountains. One of the oldest cities in the UAE, Al Ain was for thousands of years an important caravan stop on the ancient trade routes across Arabia. We visit the Camel Market, Qasr al Muwaiji Heritage Museum, and the Sheikh Zayed Palace Museum - the residence of the Sheikh and his family. Lunch is included, followed by a visit to Al Hili Archaeological Park - famous for its excavations.

Day 5: Sharjah / Embarkation. This morning we enjoy a tour of Sharjah, where we will discover a unique Arabian lifestyle and Islamic culture. We will visit Sharjah Fort, see the grandiose King Faisal Mosque and learn about local life through the ages at the Heritage Museum. After lunch we visit Dubai Frame. It has been described as "the biggest picture frame on the planet". The location of the frame was carefully chosen to give the best view of old and new Dubai. Later we transfer to the pier to board our cruise ship.

Day 6: Dubai. At leisure to enjoy the activities on board or take an optional excursion.

Day 7: Abu Dhabi. Situated on a peninsula and surrounded by a cluster of islands, Abu Dhabi is the ultra-modern capital of the United Arab Emirates, with wide avenues separating bold skyscrapers. This capital of luxury sparkles day and night. If you take the optional city

tour, you will see the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque - considered the foremost architectural treasure in the UAE. You will also see the ultramodern glimmering skyscrapers, and visit Heritage Village - a reconstructed traditional oasis which will give you a glimpse of life here before oil revenues changed so much here.

Day 8: Doha (Qatar). Doha is a vibrant capital with a mix of modern skyscrapers and picturesque souks. The Mosque of Phanar is a newly-built Mosque, and is a fine example of Islamic architecture with the particular spiral minaret which is perfectly symmetrical from every angle. At night the Mosque is enhanced by magnificent lighting effects. Today you can also visit the nearby souks, and immerse yourself in the ambience of the Middle East.

Day 9: At Sea. At leisure to enjoy all the ship has to offer.

Day 10: Muscat (Oman). Relive the history of Oman's capital by venturing among its ancient walls and visiting the colourful stalls of its bustling souks. Explore on your own or choose an optional excursion to see the impressive Grand Mosque and the Bait Al Zubair Museum.

Day 11: Dubai. Last day to enjoy the facilities of our ship or take an optional excursion.

Day 12: Disembarkation / Future Dubai and the Lost Chamber. We disembark our ship and proceed on a full day tour. We first see the Burj al Arab, the world renowned 7-star luxury hotel. We then drive along Jumeirah Beach to see the incredible man-made island residence, "The Palm", followed by a visit to the incredible Lost Chambers, where the legend of the lost mythical underwater city of Atlantis comes alive. We will also see the Dubai Marina and Souk Madinat Jumeirah before visiting the Mall of the Emirates - home to the world's largest indoor ski slope, as well as the floating water dance show. After lunch, we ascend by high speed elevator to the observation deck of Burj Khalifa - the tallest building in the world, for a breathtaking 360 degree view of the city, ocean and desert. Later we enjoy our Farewell Dinner, then board our direct flight to Toronto.

Day 13: Home. We arrive back in Canada.



South America Cruise and Tour aboard the *Sapphire Princess*

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- 14-night cruise, all port taxes and tipping, all meals daily, activities & entertainment
- 3 nights First Class hotels (2 nights Buenos Aires and 1 night Santiago) with breakfast and dinner daily, and 2 lunches
- Touring in Santiago and Buenos Aires
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COST:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto
 - Inside Cabin (various decks)\$9397
 - Outside Cabin (obstructed view)
Emerald Deck.....\$9597
 - Outside Cabin (clear view)
Plaza or Fiesta Deck.....\$9997
 - Outside Cabin with private balcony
Aloha or Baja Deck.....\$11397
-
- Single Supplement - add 50% to costs above
 - Ottawa, Montreal or Halifax - add \$190
 - Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton or Vancouver - add \$590

This cruise and tour combination holiday is sure to appeal to the adventurous traveller who wants to experience some of South America's most exciting cities, along with some lesser-known ports-of-call.

On the cruise we will enjoy spectacular scenery, intriguing towns and villages and the opportunity to try various activities such as river rafting, fishing and hiking.

We will cruise in style and luxury aboard the *Sapphire Princess*. The ships of Princess Cruises are among the most beautiful and hospitable, and have more of everything you would expect in a 5-star floating resort. Princess' award-winning shore excursions and engaging onboard programs bring the cultures and colours of South America to life. Talented chefs will take you on a culinary

20 DAYS • FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH 7

journey with freshly prepared and carefully-crafted dishes that celebrate South America.

Take in some of the finest cruise ship entertainment as the theatre lights up the top deck day or night with feature films, or watch a lavish Broadway production complete with dazzling stage sets and international performers in the state-of-the art Princess theatre.

As well as the cruise, our program includes 2 nights in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, and a night in Santiago - capital of Chile, with touring in both cities.

** All shore excursions are optional, and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises' website, or onboard the ship.*

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Santiago, Chile.

Day 2: Santiago: We arrive in Santiago and proceed on our city tour. We'll see the Cathedral, San Francisco Church, Plaza des Armas, Santa Lucia Hill and more. This evening is our Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Embarkation. We transfer to our cruise ship, and this evening we enjoy our first delicious dinner onboard.

Day 4: At Sea. Time to relax, get acquainted with the ship and your fellow passengers, and enjoy the endless array of facilities, activities and entertainment onboard.

Day 5: Puerto Montt, Chile. Puerto Montt is the gateway to Patagonia, and optional tours include the breathtaking scenery of Patagonia's Lake District and snow-covered Osorno Volcano.

Day 6: At Sea.

Day 7: Amalia Glacier, Chile (Scenic Cruising). Located in the central part of the Southern Patagonia Ice Fields, the Amalia Glacier descends from the Andes Mountains and towers above the sea. The Amalia's mammoth blue mountain of ice is constantly changing. Keep an eye out for dolphins, frequently spotted swimming by ships.

Day 8: Punta Arenas, Chile. Punta Arenas is the hub for many adventures – penguin colonies, Antarctica and Patagonia to name a few. Explore the city's sights or visit a living museum dedicated to the sheep ranchers who settled Patagonia.

Day 9: Ushuaia (Tierra Del Fuego), Argentina. Ushuaia is the southernmost town in the world, and is located on the island territory of Tierra del Fuego. "The Land of Fire" features unforgettable scenery and trails of discovery.

Day 10: Cape Horn Scenic Cruising. A notable day! Today we round the southern tip of South America. You will be awestruck by the rugged beauty and imposing vision of Cape Horn – a massive rocky point that was the bane of early explorers.

Day 11: Stanley, Falkland Islands. The capital of the Falkland Islands is still considered very British. Here you can visit a penguin rookery, learn of the island's tumultuous past at the Historic Dockyard Museum or enjoy a pint at a local pub.

Day 12: At Sea.

Day 13: Puerto Madryn, Argentina. Puerto Madryn is known today for its animal life, which Argentina protects in this scenic, remote wildlife preserve. Puerto Madryn is also the gateway to Punta Tombo National Reserve and Argentine Patagonia – a small city that serves as a base for exploring the remote wildlife preserves.

Day 14: At Sea.

Day 15: Montevideo, Uruguay. Uruguay's charming capital overlooks the River Plata and has plenty of unique architecture, parks and monuments. The waterfront promenade is a great place to stroll and people watch.

Day 16: Buenos Aires. We arrive in Buenos Aires – a city of wide boulevards, 19th century mansions, French colonial architecture and colourful traffic-free shopping areas. You can explore the city, take an optional excursion or enjoy your last day of activities onboard the ship. This evening is the Captain's Farewell Dinner.

Day 17: Disembarkation / Buenos Aires. We disembark and proceed on our Buenos Aires city tour. We will see the famed major sights such as the Obelisk, the Plaza San Martin, the main square – Plaza de Mayo and Plaza Alvear. Then we see the green area of Palermo with its parks and artificial lakes, and the Recoleta area with its many elegant boutiques and restaurants. The grave of Eva Peron is located in the cemetery of Recoleta. During the tour we will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Day 18: Buenos Aires. We enjoy a tour of the charming resort town of Tigre and the Parana River Delta. Tigre is known for its summer residences and yachting. We'll take a boat excursion on the channels of the Tigre Delta to see some of the many beautiful green islands. This evening we enjoy a Tango Dinner Show – a must when you are in Buenos Aires!

Day 19: Buenos Aires / Depart for Canada. The morning is at leisure before we transfer to the airport for our direct flight to Toronto.

Day 20: Morning arrival in Canada.



Cruising New Zealand

Plus 2 nights Sydney

What a lovely way to experience New Zealand – along with a taste of Australia. On this delightful cruise / tour we experience the “wonders-down-under” in style and luxury.

We begin with a 2-night stay in Sydney, including a city tour, and a beautiful waterfront dinner.

Then we board our cruise ship and sail to some of the most popular ports in New Zealand. During our cruise we will see snow-capped mountains, waterfalls, hot springs, rugged coastlines and experience the rich Maori culture.

Cruising is a wonderful way to see the South Pacific, especially when you are aboard the *Royal Princess*. The ships of Princess Cruises are considered among the most beautiful and hospitable, and have more of everything you would expect in a 5-star floating resort: more spacious staterooms, more dining and entertainment options, and

HOLIDAY INCLUSIONS:

- Flights with Air Canada
- 13-night cruise, port taxes, all tipping, all meals daily, all activities & entertainment
- 2 nights First Class hotel in Sydney with breakfast and dinner daily, and touring
- *All Tour Inclusions listed on Page 3*

COSTS:

- per person, double occupancy, from Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton or Vancouver
 - Inside Cabin\$9997
 - Outside Cabin with balcony\$10797
 - Deluxe Balcony Cabin\$10997
-
 - Single Supplement - add 50% to costs above
 - Montreal, Ottawa or Winnipeg - add \$290
 - Halifax - add \$390

18 DAYS • JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 5

more services and activities, including swimming pools, sauna, a spa with masseuse, aerobics and dance classes, duty-free boutiques and lectures by onboard experts on the history and highlights of the ports we visit. Princess’ talented chefs will take you on a culinary journey, with freshly prepared and carefully crafted dishes that celebrate the South Pacific.

Evening activities include after-dinner drinks in one of the elegant lounges, first-run films, a casino and professionally produced Broadway-style entertainment with dazzling stage sets and international performers in the state-of-the-art Princess theatre.

** All shore excursions are optional, and may be purchased in advance on Princess Cruises’ website, or onboard the ship.*

Day 1: Departure. We depart for Sydney, via Vancouver.

Day 2: Crossing the International Date Line.

Day 3: Sydney. We arrive in Sydney and transfer to our hotel. Afternoon at leisure, with dinner at the hotel.

Day 4: Sydney. Our included tour takes us to the Rocks area (Sydney's birthplace), the magnificent and iconic Opera House, Chinatown, beautiful South Head (where the harbour meets the Pacific), Vaucluse House (where the Australian Constitution was signed) and Mrs. Macquarie's Chair, a sandstone rock carved into the shape of a bench (for spectacular city and harbour views). Dinner this evening will be at a lovely restaurant at the harbour.

Day 5: Sydney / Embarkation. This morning we visit the Taronga Zoo for a guided walking tour of the unique native wildlife (koalas, kangaroos, etc.) Later we board the *Royal Princess* for our first delicious lunch and dinner onboard.

Days 6 & 7: At Sea. Time to get acquainted with the ship and your fellow travelers, and enjoy the endless array of facilities, activities and entertainment on board.

Day 8: Fjordland National Park, New Zealand. Here on the South Island, many fjords cut the coastline with peaks rising thousands of feet straight from the sea.

Day 9: Dunedin, New Zealand. Hailed as the "Edinburgh of New Zealand", this town has Scottish roots and still retains its Celtic flavor. Enjoy a stroll in the parks and gardens and admire the beautiful surrounding scenery. Optional tours will be offered such as a ride on the Taieri Gorge Railway, the Otago Wildlife Cruise and many more.

Day 10: Christchurch, New Zealand. Christchurch is known as the "most English city outside England". In fact the river that flows through the town is called the River Avon and is crossed by 37 stone bridges. There is a pleasant botanical garden and the Canterbury Museum has a large Maori and Antarctic collection.

Day 11: Wellington, New Zealand. Set on a beautiful waterfront, Wellington is known for its vibrant arts scene and active lifestyle. There are actually more cafes, bars, and restaurants here than in New York City. You may want to explore the winding streets and many museums, or take the cable car from Lambton Quay, the main shopping street, to the top of the hill for incredible views of the city and surrounding area.

Day 12: At Sea.

Day 13: Tauranga, New Zealand. With hundreds of miles of white sand beaches, plenty of sunshine and a temperate climate, the Bay of Plenty is New Zealand's favourite holiday destination. There are heritage buildings, historic battle sites, museums, Mount Maunganui, the famous hot saltwater pools and White Island – New Zealand's only active marine volcano. There will be a wide range of optional activities to choose from.

Day 14: Auckland, New Zealand. New Zealand's former capital boasts scenic beauty, historical interest and a cosmopolitan collection of shops, restaurants, museums and galleries. One Tree Hill, once home to Maori earthworks, overlooks the city. There is much to explore.

Day 15 Bay of Islands, New Zealand. Thanks to this region's subtropical climate, it's a hub for many water activities, nature walks and fishing. The Bay of Islands is referred to as the "birthplace of New Zealand" due to the numerous events that have taken place here over the centuries. It is also home to many Maori sacred sites and legends.

Days 16 & 17: At Sea. On the last night we enjoy our final dinner on board.

Day 18: Home. We fly home via Vancouver, arriving the same day.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please read this page carefully before booking your Senior Discovery Tours (SDT) holiday.

- SDT acts solely as agent between the passenger and supplier for providing services as described in the brochure. SDT will not assume **responsibility** for any claims, damages or expenses arising from situations beyond our control.
- **All itineraries are “tentative”**. While we make every effort to follow the original itinerary, we may make changes to improve the tour, or for reasons beyond our control. If any component of a tour cannot be honoured by the contracted supplier, SDT will make every effort to provide a **comparable alternative**, however no liability should be inferred from these efforts.
- Please read the details of your insurance coverage carefully. If you have a **pre-existing condition** please inquire about your insurance validity at time of booking.
- Those who choose to decline our comprehensive insurance package will be issued a rebate on their tour cost, the amount to be informed by your Tour Consultant. The following schedule of cancellation fees applies to you (and your travelling companion) **only if you have declined our insurance package, or if you cancel a tour for a reason not covered in our insurance package** (applies to tours without a cruise portion. Cruise penalties may vary).
 - Cancel 61 days or more prior to departure: \$75 admin. fee
 - Cancel 60 days to 31 days prior: 25% of tour cost
 - Cancel 30 days to 8 days prior: 50% of tour cost
 - Cancel 7 days or less prior: 100% of tour cost
- Our cancellation insurance policy does not include **“upgrade to single accommodation”** in case your partner cancels. In this case you may either pay the single supplement and travel as a single (space permitting), or cancel the tour and receive a full refund, less the \$75 administration fee, (assuming the cancellation is for a reason covered by our cancellation insurance policy). Also, while our cancellation insurance policy covers the partner of a person cancelling, it does not cover their friends who are not sharing accommodation with the cancelling party. **If you must cancel your tour you must notify us within 48 hours** of learning that you are unable to travel, otherwise the cancellation insurance policy is null and void.
- If a **tour is cancelled** for any reason our liability is limited to your full refund. No tours will be cancelled due to **international events**, unless the government specifically advises not to travel to your specific destination.
- We are unable to refund those who do not participate in any **included meals or excursions**, as they are prepaid.
- All **gratuities** are included for all services provided in our tour package. For extra services such as optional excursions, meals on your own, room service and any exceptional services, tipping is at your discretion. If you wish to show appreciation to your Tour Manager please do so on an individual basis - collections are not permitted!
- Please be advised that there may be **different standards** in utilities, services and accommodations outside Canada. Our classifications for accommodation are made in terms of local standards. Please note that outside North America coffee, tea and drinking water are generally not included with lunch or dinner. All rooms are non-smoking.
- **Single travellers** must pay a supplement due to hotel charges. However this does not imply that they will necessarily be assigned a room as large as those assigned to two people sharing. We can often team up **those without a partner!**
- **Passports** are required for travel outside of Canada, and must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of your expected return to Canada.
- **Luggage handling** is included wherever possible, however in some situations it does not exist - especially when removing your luggage from airport carousels. You should be capable of handling your luggage in such situations. Luggage carts are generally available at all airports worldwide.
- **Flight schedule changes** are beyond our control. We are therefore occasionally forced to change airlines, and/or routings, and/or date of travel for your benefit. In such cases we provide as much notice as possible, and do everything possible to ensure your convenience and comfort. Should a schedule change result in an unplanned overnight enroute to or from your destination, the cost will be borne by the traveller.
- SDT will attempt to accommodate **special requests** by notifying the suppliers in writing, however we cannot guarantee that requests such as room locations or meal requirements for flights or hotels will be adhered to by our suppliers, and therefore we cannot be held responsible. **Please note that advance seat selection for flights on our group tours is not permitted**, as per the conditions of our contract with the airlines. Sea view or pool view rooms are not guaranteed unless specifically noted in our brochure.
- **On cruises - all shore excursions are optional**, and are paid for on board the ship, unless stated otherwise in our brochure. Our local tour operators may also offer optional excursions (sometimes on a cash-only basis). While we do our best to monitor their quality, SDT is not responsible for the operation or costing of these optional excursions.
- Our tours are designed for those who are **physically fit**. Tour members must be able to walk fairly long distances at a reasonable pace and climb stairs easily. Our tours are not suitable for those requiring wheel chairs or walkers. If you have walking limitations, we recommend a cruise on which the excursions are optional. If you are concerned about your physical ability to join a tour, please discuss which of our tours is suitable for your activity level with one of our travel experts.
- SDT supports **an environment of respect** toward our staff and clients. Harassment or abuse of any kind will not be tolerated. Our Code of Conduct can be found on our website.
- **If you join a tour beyond your physical or cognitive ability, or if you do not abide by our Code of Conduct, SDT reserves the right to send you home**, at your own cost and with no refund for unused services. We reserve **the right to decline anybody** as a tour member at any time for any reason at our sole discretion.
- Generally you will receive your **tour documents** 7 to 10 days prior to departure, unless we are held up by a supplier providing documentation, in which case you may not receive them until closer to departure.
- You may buy our tours on a “land only” basis and **arrange your own flights** - an air rebate will be applied. If you book your own flights, home pick-up and drop-off is not included. If you book different flights from the rest of the group, arrival / departure airport transfers at the destination are not included. If you book your own flights, please protect yourself with cancellation insurance as we cannot be held responsible for schedule changes, or if a tour is cancelled for any reason.
- You may not make any **changes to your flight arrangements** after the final payment due date.
- There may be occasions in which the **flight portion** of your SDT holiday is **unescorted**.
- All of our tours are conducted in **English only**. Reg.#2160711

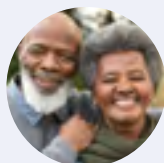
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Wherever in the world you wish to explore, we look forward to welcoming you aboard soon on one of our exciting, value-added, and carefully planned group tours.

Eight ways we make your journey better

- 1 All flights, hotels, and most excursions are included:** plus, all transfers, taxes, and tipping!
- 2 Carefully selected hotels:** we personally inspect each property for quality, service, and value.
- 3 Most meals are covered:** and they are delicious ones too, allowing you to sample the best of local cuisine.
- 4 Exceptional Tour Managers:** who go above and beyond to make sure that everyone has a wonderful experience – and each day’s activities are at just the right pace.
- 5 Round-trip transportation right from your doorstep to the airport:** and safely back home again (from most Canadian cities).
- 6 Health and cancellation insurance:** yes, we take care of that too, so you can travel carefree.
- 7 More than 100 destinations worldwide:** endless choices for your next journey!
- 8 Tour types to suit everyone:** we offer a wide range of tour styles, including stay-put relaxed vacations, two or three centre holidays, rail journeys, walking tours and cruises.

“



Very impressed with your tour manager.

Our tour to Sicily was wonderful. The planning and general arrangements were well thought out – and David the tour manager’s unfailing unflappable good humour, patience and flexibility made it a very special holiday! – Ann and Louis, AB

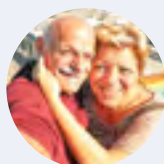
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They even picked me up at home!

When I returned home from my beautiful tour to California I was directed to a car and driven home. It couldn’t have been easier. Love it! – Celine, QC

“



Our trip was more than we ever expected!

We just returned from an incredible tour to Southeast Asia – better than we ever expected. The hotels were exceptional, the excursions fascinating – and the guides were entertaining and made sure everyone was well taken care of. – Grant and Barb, ON

LOCATIONS

TORONTO

225 Eglinton Ave. West
M4R 1A9
416.322.1500

OTTAWA

392 Richmond Road
K2A 0E8
613.722.9400

LONDON

649 Colborne St. Suite 201
N6A 3Z2
519.433.2300

CALGARY

215-11012 Macleod Trail S.E.
T2J 6A5
403.225.2900

VANCOUVER

6450 Roberts St. Suite 110
Burnaby, V5G 4E1
604.647.0100

Call to Book

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At Senior Discovery Tours, we know how to make great travel experiences happen. For nearly 50 years, we've been Canada's largest and most trusted operator of escorted tours for travellers over 55 – offering trips to more than 100 destinations worldwide. Wherever you yearn to explore – and whatever your tour style (from walking adventures to stay put holidays) – we can take you there!

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