

THE SERIOUS TRAVELER™

TOUR LISTING FROM TRAVEL CONCEPTS INTERNATIONAL, INC. • FALL 2007



Carol and Vasant Bhide of Jacksonville, Florida
survey the walled city of Dubrovnik, Croatia

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to present our 2008 tours. They will appeal to the most seasoned travelers as well as our soon to be *Serious Travelers*. Have a look at our new trips to **Croatia, Albania, Eastern Anatolia, Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia and Armenia**. Start your Silk Road expedition in **Beijing** in its pre-Olympic grandeur. Be dazzled with the opulence of **Dubai** in the Emirates. When legally possible we'll also return to **Libya** and **Cuba**.

Keep traveling! Travel expands our minds and souls in so many ways. We are introduced to different cultures, cuisines and religions. Saints and prophets of two major religions alike have shared an appreciation for those who have pushed to places beyond the ordinary. Come with us and learn about the world, yourself and your place in it.

-Gwen Erwood

The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.

Saint Augustine (354-430 A.D.)

Don't tell me how educated you are; tell me how much you have traveled.

The Prophet Muhammad

Why Travel With TCI?

We are not your typical tour company. We are different in the places we visit, the way in which we travel, and the people who join us! And we're proud of our differences!

Pre-trip Study Material

Since we believe that enjoyment of the journey begins long before departure when you begin learning about your destination, we prepare you with informative pre-trip study material and a reading list.

Expert Guides

All of our tours are led by hand-picked, local guides who are fun, friendly and knowledgeable. They meet you upon arrival and stay with you throughout. In addition, noted experts lead many of our special-interest tours. Among our group leaders are jewelry designer Ron Ho and Lloyd Herman, former curator of the Renwick Gallery.

Personalized Attention

You are unique and not just a number to us. We are available to assist—before, during and after your tour. The greatest compliment we receive is that so many travel with us again and again. We happily provide references.

All Inclusive

Everything is clearly explained in our detailed brochures. Many of our tours include airfare (but tour-only options are offered), many or all meals, tips, entrance fees, transportation, and lots of extras. No hidden costs on our trips.

We Go Everywhere

We travel down the small roads that conceal hidden wonders—where the large tour buses can't go! Yes, we go to Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. And we also go to those much less visited places like Uzbekistan, Jordan, Libya and even Iran.

Cultural Visits

We include musical programs, cultural exchanges, performances, counterpart meetings, embassy visits, home visits, trips to schools and crafts centers, and private lectures by local experts.

Small Groups

Most of our groups are 10 to 15 citizen diplomats, both men and women, singles and couples of all ages. We offer room shares for single travelers. Our travelers are simply the best. You'll fit right in!

Detailed Brochures

The descriptions herein are only brief summaries. If the dates and pricing meet your needs, learn more. Rather than produce huge catalogues, we provide a detailed brochure for each specific tour. These are available by PDF or post. Just call or email to order. As a preview, you may see the itinerary on our website. If you need help in navigation, please call.

Cultural Tours to Better Understand the World and its People
1-800-762-4216 • www.SeriousTraveler.com



ASIA 2008

Arts & Splendors of SE Asia Burma with Ellen Mayer

Classic Myanmar (Burma) tour featuring Yangon, the magnificent UNESCO site of Bagan, Mandalay. Don't miss the excursion to Luang Prabang and Angkor Wat too!

JANUARY 4 - 14 • \$4340 FROM LAX VIA THAI AIRWAYS • LAOS & CAMBODIA EXT JAN 14 - 20

Culinary Tour of Vietnam

Join our connoisseur Dana Hill as we combine the culture and cuisine of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. We will visit Ha Long Bay, Hanoi, Hoi An, Saigon, Hue, Danang, Cholon, enjoy demos by chefs and see the way the locals tend to and harvest their gardens.

JANUARY 8 - 19 • \$3990 FROM LAX VIA CATHAY PACIFIC • LAOS & CAMBODIA EXT JAN 19 - 25

Vietnam - Pearl of SE Asia

Terraced mountainsides of Sapa in the north to the Mekong Delta in the south. The ancient temples, misty mountains, colorful markets and the people will long remain engraved in your memory.

MARCH 3 - 16 • \$3990 FROM LAX VIA CATHAY PACIFIC

Crafts of Jordan with Lloyd Herman

Full array of crafts visits: Bani Hamida Weaving Project, Madaba—the City of Mosaics. Nabataean city of Petra, one of the new Seven Wonders of the World, Wadi Rum and Aqaba.

MARCH 25 - APRIL 4 • \$4395 FROM JFK VIA ROYAL JORDANIAN AIRLINES

Turkey Kaleidoscope of Civilization

Come with us to the Golden Horn of Istanbul (Constantinople), Ankara, eerie Cappadocia to Antalya. Cultural exchange with the Turkish-American University Association. Extend to Pamukkale, the Turquoise Coast, Bodrum, Ephesus and Pergamum.

APRIL 18 - 27 • \$3730 FROM CHICAGO VIA TURKISH AIRLINES • WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD EXT APRIL 27 - MAY 4 • \$2330

China Silk Road Expedition

Visit Beijing as the city prepares for the Olympics. Fly to Ürümqi and Kashgar. Make your way by train from Dunhuang to Turpan and Xi'an. Finish in Shanghai.

APRIL 22 - MAY 13 • \$4990 FROM SAN FRANCISCO VIA AIR CHINA

Iran - Passage Through Persian History & Culture

See the bath houses and bazaars of Kerman; Shiraz the city of poets and roses; Achaemenid Persepolis; Pasargadae capital of Cyrus the Great. Stay in a five-star Caravanserai in exquisite Isfahan. Refresh in the tea rooms under the bridges and shop for Persian carpets. Tehran's museums and palaces are an inspiration. Tabriz, Ardabil, Masuleh Caspian extension.

MAY 14 - 29 • \$5190 FROM JFK VIA TURKISH AIRLINES • CASPIAN EXT MAY 29 - JUNE 2

History, Mystery & Medicine of Tibet, China

Join Dr. Scott Walker as we journey through the mystical regions of Tibet Beijing and Shanghai. Developed for those with interest in traditional Chinese medicines and Tibetan healing.

MAY 31 - JUNE 14 • FROM SAN FRANCISCO VIA AIR CHINA

Mongolia for the Solar Eclipse

Our solar eclipse tour to Libya was sold out last year. Here's your chance to see this awesome event from Hovd in the vast Mongolian Steppe. This cultural tour with a nature bonus takes you from Ulaanbaatar to Lake Hovsgol, the Gobi Desert, the Hongor sand dunes and Bayan Zag—the flaming cliffs—cemetery of the dinosaurs.

JULY 22 - AUGUST 4 • \$5980 FROM LOS ANGELES VIA KOREAN AIRLINES

Georgia On My Mind

Georgia (the country) is abundant with culture featuring Orthodox Christian monuments dating back to the 6th century. On the eastern side of the Black Sea the former Soviet republic has experienced a rebirth. Tbilisi, Mtskheta, Gudauri, Kazbegi, Gori, Borjomi, Vardzia, Kutaisi, David Gareji, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Omalo, Chigo, Dartlo, Shilda, and Nukriani. It boasts snowy alpine peaks in the Caucasus Mountains. Enjoy meeting local folk artists to learn about felt, embroidery, silk dying, kilim, and gobelen weaving.

AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 12 • \$4650 FROM CHICAGO VIA TURKISH AIRLINES

Armenia

In the Shadow of Mt. Ararat

See the biblical mount, ancient churches and mountain lakes. Enjoy local wine. Stroll through the picturesque town of Dilijan, see Yerevan.

SEPTEMBER 12 - 24 • \$2450 AS EXTENSION TO GEORGIA

Distinctively Different Southeast Anatolia (Turkey)

Visit Mardin, a city which cascades down mountainsides to Mesopotamian plains. See Urfa of Abraham and Nimrod fame. Shop in the bazaars of Sipahi. See beehive houses, eat baklava and pistachios. Visit 8th century Ulu Camii Mosque, cave church of St. Peter in Antioch, Gaziantep, Harran and Adana.

SEPTEMBER 11 - 19 • FROM JFK VIA TURKISH

Uzbekistan

Jewels of the legendary Silk Road: UNESCO city reserve, Khiva, the *Eden of the Orient*, Samarkand, the Ark of Bukhara, the caravan crossroads, Tashkent. Shakre Sabz, birthplace of Tamerlane.

OCTOBER 18 - 27 • \$4280 FROM JFK VIA TURKISH AIRLINES

Arabian Emirates Interlude

Visit six of the seven Emirates including: Dubai, Sharjah, Um Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah, Al Ain and Abu Dhabi. Learn of Dubai's pearl history and rise to present stardom. Extend to Sri Lanka.

DECEMBER 4 - 12 • FROM JFK VIA EMIRATES AIRLINES • SRI LANKA EXTENSION

COMING IN 2009

Bali and Beyond with Ellen Mayer

Experience the sophistication of Singapore, the beauty and arts of Bali and the fascination of the island of Sulawesi.

JANUARY 2009

Art & Tradition of Korea with Ron Ho

FEBRUARY 2009

EUROPE 2008

Yachting the Dalmatian Coast

Our luxurious vintage 32-passenger yacht will sail the Croatian Islands of Mljet and Marco Polo's Korcula to the walled city of Dubrovnik. From Zagreb visit Plitvice Lakes' falling waters, oriental Mostar in Bosnia Herzegovina and Makarska. Step back in time at Diocletian's Palace in Split and picturesque Trogir. Slovenia extension.

MAY 8 - 18 • \$4280 FROM CHICAGO VIA LUFTHANSA ISTRIAN PENINSULA EXT MAY 18 - 22 • \$1640

Albania and Macedonia

From Saranda visit Butrint World Heritage Site, ancient Phoinice, Gjirokastra, and Korça "little Paris". In Macedonia, we'll see Lake Ohrid and the famous monasteries of Saint Naum. Flights via Ioannina and Corfu, Greece.

MAY 23 - JUNE 1 • \$4220 FROM JFK VIA OLYMPIC AIRLINES

Individual Brochure Request Form

We can provide a detailed brochure for each individual tour. Please call or complete form, cut out and mail to:

Travel Concepts International • 5500 Bucks Bar Road • Placerville, CA 95667

Your address should be on the reverse side. Please check and make any necessary corrections.

Name (if not on the reverse side) _____

Phone Number _____ Affiliation (if any) _____

Tour _____ Dates _____

Tour _____ Dates _____

Tour _____ Dates _____

How would you like to receive the brochure(s)?

- Please mail a hard copy of brochure(s)
- Please email the PDF of the brochure(s) to my address
- Please email the PDF and mail a hard copy for those brochure(s) to my email address: _____
- Please send a brochure and newsletter to my friend(s): Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
- Please remove my name from your mailing list

Tel 1-530-621-3007 • Tollfree in U.S.A. 1-800-762-4216 • Fax 1-530-621-3017 • Email info@tci-travel.com

Legends of Romania

Let us transport you to a bygone era. Bucharest a city of contrasts; to the German city of Sibiu the Saxon village of Sighisoara, Transylvania. Traverse the Carpathian Mountains to the famous painted monasteries of Bucovina. See Brashov and Wallachia's castles at Sinaia and Cotroceni Palace.

JUNE 17 - 29 • \$5350 FROM JFK VIA DELTA

Seven Wonders of Bulgaria

From Bucharest to the Black Sea port of Varna with its 5th Millennium BC gold treasures, the Thracian Tombs of Sveshtari, the Kamchiya Wildlife Preserve, Plovdiv, Sofia, the UNESCO site of Rila, Arbanassi and Veliko Tarnovo.

JUNE 28 - JULY 6 • \$3860 FROM JFK VIA DELTA

Sacred Sites of Ireland

Join Martin Byrne for a pilgrimage to the oldest and best-preserved megalithic monuments in western Europe. Follow the main route of passage cairns. Sojourn in Sligo. Experience the UNESCO sites of Newgrange and Knowth.

JULY 9 - 17 • \$2180 FROM IRELAND

"MEET YOU AT THE CASTLE" EXT • JULY 17 - 20

Baltic Capitals

Former Soviet Republics, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were once long hidden to most Americans. Now opening their doors, our journey will take us not only to the capital cities of Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius, but also through the picturesque Baltic countryside, past quaint villages, national parks and country castles.

AUGUST 1 - 11 • \$4620 FROM JFK VIA FINNAIR

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The Best of Russia

From St. Petersburg's museums, palaces and gardens take the Red Arrow Express to Moscow. Then head to the countryside visiting Vladimir and Suzdal, two of the oldest Medieval Russian towns. Here's a unique opportunity to see and purchase authentic black lacquered hand painted paper maché boxes at Fedoskino.

AUGUST 11 - 23 • \$5190 FROM JFK VIA FINNAIR

Germany

Castles, Cathedrals & Cuisine

Glide down the Moselle river on a deluxe 32-passenger chartered barge. Dine elegantly and visit Cochem Castle, Trier, Remich in Luxembourg. See the Roman mosaics at Nennig and Metz in France. Pre-cruise extension visits Erfurt, city of cathedrals and spiritual home of Martin Luther, Moritzburg, Meissen, Potsdam, Dresden and Berlin with its Pergamum Museum and Checkpoint Charlie.

SEPTEMBER 13 - 19 • \$2690 FROM FRANKFURT

PRE-TRIP SEPTEMBER 8 - 13 • \$1880

Precious Stones of Puglia

Still relatively undiscovered and free of crowds, the *heel* of Italy retains the cultural charm of the simple life combined with a rich historical heritage inherited from the Normans, Pisans, Romans and Greeks. Stay in one of the stone, cone-shaped Trulli in Alberobello. See Baroque and medieval architecture in Bari, Castellana, Taranto, Lecce, Martina Franca and Cisternino. Taste authentic cuisine made from fresh local ingredients.

SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 3 • \$3150 FROM

BARI, ITALY • AIRFARE ADDITIONAL

Roseto Valfortore & Gargano

More of Puglia. From Bari, north to the village of Roseto Valfortore for a local festival and winemaking. On the Gargano: San Giovanni Rotondo where Padre Pio lived and built his hospital; the massive new church; Monte Sant' Angelo, the crusaders pilgrimage site; the rugged coastline that rivals Amalfi.

OCTOBER 3 - 10 • \$2490 FROM BARI, ITALY
AIRFARE ADDITIONAL

Iceland, Top of the World

Travel with our favorite guide, Fridrik Brekkan. The Great Geyser, volcanoes, glaciers, the world's oldest parliament, the Blue Lagoon, and those adorable puffins! Heated with geothermal power, the fresh air and clean water in Iceland are exhilarating. Enjoy a farm stay to round out the tour.

OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 1 * FROM BOSTON
VIA ICELANDAIR

AFRICA

Ethiopia's Timkat Festival

Let us take you to a colorful place of legendary rulers, fabulous kingdoms and ancient mysteries. Visit Axum, Gondar and Bahirdar. Experience Timkat ceremonies in Lalibela. In Omo Valley meet Konso, Hamar, Bena, Ari and Mursi women with their lip plates. See "Lucy" in Addis Ababa. From from Arbaminch to Addis Ababa.

JANUARY 12 - 22 • \$4790 FROM WASH. D.C.
VIA ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES • OMO VALLEY
EXTENSION JANUARY 22 - 31 • \$2940

TRAVEL CONCEPTS INTERNATIONAL

22nd Year

5500 BUCKS BAR ROAD
PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95667 U.S.A.
WWW.SERIOUSTRAVELER.COM

Return Service Requested

2008 TOURS SAVE FOR REFERENCE!



So. Africa, Zimbabwe & Botswana

Learn about the turbulent past with six days in Cape Town including Robben Island. From Johannesburg we go to Alexandra Township. In Zimbabwe we'll spend two days at the powerful Victoria Falls. Off to Botswana to visit the world famous Chobe National Park for game drives.

MARCH 3 - 17 • \$6850 FROM WASHINGTON, IAD
VIA SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

Grand Tour of Libya

When visas are issued again, we're going! Please let us know if you'd be interested. We're hoping to make the trip in the fall.
OCTOBER 15 - 27

Magic of Morocco Road to 1,000 Kasbahs

Fly to Casablanca and see the impressive new Hassan II Mosque, drive up the coast to see the Imperial City of Rabat, explore the souks of Fez and get to know Marrakech. Road to 1,000 Kasbahs: cross the Atlas Mountains; visit Berber Villages; bivouac at a desert camp in the Sahara.

OCT 27 - NOV 2 • \$2990 FROM NEW YORK
EXTENSION NOV 3 - 10 • \$3990 FROM NEW YORK
VIA ROYAL AIR MAROC

THE AMERICAS

Patagonia

To the End of the Continent

Nature enthusiasts and birders will enjoy Chile and Argentina in the good company of our ornithologist. Destination Tierra del Fuego! Travel from Santiago, south through Patagonia. Fly to Punta Arenas. Relax in Puerto Natales, hike in Torres del Paine National Park and the Serrano Glacier, explore El Calafate and Perito Moreno Glacier. Fly to Ushuaia. See the penguins in the Beagle Channel and Birds Island, Trelew and Peninsula Valdes to Buenos Aires.

FEBRUARY 2 - 17 • \$5480 FROM MIAMI VIA LAN AIRLINES

Bolivia

Legacy of the Sun Empire

A less discovered country of South America presents breathtaking scenery of the Andes. The Valley cities of Sucre and Potosi, both World Heritage Sites, Lake Titicaca and Uyuni Salt Flats, the largest in the world.

JULY 24 - AUGUST 2 • \$3990 FROM MIAMI VIA AMERICAN AIRLINES

Peru - Land of the Inca

Fly to Cuzco. See Chincheros and visit the Ollayantambo archaeological site in the Sacred Valley. Take in the Tuesday Market in Pisac. Then, marvel at the highlight—Machu Picchu—one of the new Seven Wonders of the World!

AUGUST 3 - 11 • \$3310 FROM MIAMI VIA AMERICAN AIRLINES

Crafts & Culture of Ecuador

Stand on the Equator. Tour the colonial town of Quito. Crafts: demonstrations, colorful Naif paintings, silver jewelry, embroidery, wood carvers and leather.

AUGUST 11 - 20 • \$3820 FROM MIAMI VIA AMERICAN AIRLINES

We've positioned these tours so that Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador can be combined.

Coming: Cuba

Please let us know if you'd be interested.



ALL DATES AND RATES ARE AS OF SEPTEMBER 2007 AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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